

DATE : 11 - 15 - 19

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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



EMB shuts trash dumps in Pampanga

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:10 AM November 15, 2019



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CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— Mayor Edwin Santiago has disputed an Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) report that this Pampanga capital has been operating an open dump in Barangay Lara here in violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act No. 9003).

Santiago said the Lara facility was a transfer station for garbage hauled to Kalangitan landfill, which is operated by the Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. (MCWMC) in Capas town, Tarlac province.

He said the Lara station could not be closed, despite a shutdown order issued by the EMB on Tuesday. The agency also closed a dump at Barangay Maliwalo in Bacolor town and two others in the villages of San Jose Mitla and San Jose Mitla Dos in Porac town.

The San Fernando government has a contract with the landfill operator, according to Rufo Colayco, MCWMC president.

“[The city government] owes us P23 million but we never stopped getting their waste,” Colayco said in a telephone interview.

Compliance

Bacolor Mayor Diman Datu and Porac Mayor Jing Capil, both first-term mayors, asked the EMB for time and assistance in order to comply with RA 9003.

The Bacolor government is relocating its materials recovery facility (MRF) from Barangay Maliwalo to Barangay Talba, according to Rio Villapeña, municipal environment and natural resources officer.

He said the EMB had basis to order a closure, adding that garbage had occupied 200 square meters of the 500-sq-m site.

Bacolor has paid MCWMC P1.7 million for the use of the landfill from January to September, Villapeña told the Inquirer.

The local government has earmarked P2.5 million to start the MRF in Talba.

A statement from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said an agency inspection team found plastics, diapers, Styrofoam food containers and packaging materials, and even hospital waste in the [tps://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1190064/emb-shuts-trash-dumps-in-pampanga](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1190064/emb-shuts-trash-dumps-in-pampanga)

“Poor waste management [in these dumps] pose serious threats not just to the environment, but also to public health. That is why we are taking our messaging [as to how we] uphold proper waste disposal to a higher level to encourage communities, especially our local government units, to not make open fields as repository areas for waste,” the DENR said.



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DENR closes 3 Pampanga dumps

By **DING CERVANTES**
and **RHODINA VILLANUEVA**

SAN FERNANDO; Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the closure of dumps in three areas in this province for violating environmental laws.

The DENR said the dumps were located in Barangays Mitla in Porac, Maliwalo in Bacolor and Lara in this city.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, who led the inspection of the dumps, said they found hospital wastes, such as tubes for dialysis machines and syringes, as well as diapers.

Concerned mayors were given seven days to explain the operation of the dumps and provide the necessary documents, clearances or permits or face administrative and criminal charges.

“Poor management of dumps poses serious threat not just to the environment but also to public health. This is the reason why we are taking our message to uphold proper waste disposal to a higher level,” Antiporda said.

Under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, no open dump or disposal of

solid waste in open dumps shall be allowed.

Transfer station

San Fernando Mayor Edwin Santiago said there is no open dump in the city.

Regina Rodriguez, city environment and natural resources officer, explained that the former dump was converted to a transfer station when it was rehabilitated through the city’s greening program.

“We are fully implementing Republic Act 9003. From garbage collection to sorting and transferring, our system works. We will never tolerate the existence of an open dump here in San Fernando,” Rodriguez said.

She said the transfer station was approved by the DENR regional office pursuant to Administrative Order 9 or the guidelines in the closure and rehabilitation of open dumps and controlled dump facilities.

Rodriguez noted that San Fernando was among the recipients of the Seal of Good Local Governance by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, of which environmental management is among the criteria.

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Pasig River rehab agency abolished

By: Jhesset Enano, Julie M. Aurelio - @inquirerdotnet Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:28 AM November 15, 2019



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Describing the historic Pasig River as “uncleanable” President Rodrigo Duterte has abolished the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) and consolidated all its current efforts to improve existing waterways in Metro Manila.

Executive Order No. 93 signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea transfers the functions of the PRRC to government agencies with related responsibilities.

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On Thursday, the PRRC expressed hope that the agencies now mandated to clean up Metro Manila’s main waterways will continue its ongoing projects.

In a statement, the PRRC also vowed to assist the concerned agencies “in winding up (its) operations, as well as in the transfer of functions, obligations, assets and liabilities pursuant to the order.”

Successful in 2018

The PRRC was created in 1999 through an executive order issued by former President Joseph Estrada and was designed to rehabilitate the 27-kilometer waterway connecting Manila Bay to Laguna de Bay.

In 2018, the commission was recognized for its successful efforts to bring Pasig River back to life.

It was given the first Asia RiverPrize Award by the International River Foundation.

In September, Mr. Duterte transferred the chairmanship of the PRRC to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Budget and Management.



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Pasig River rehab agency abolished

He also removed PRRC executive director Jose Antonio Goitia amid allegations of corruption.

President Duterte's executive order mandates the Manila Bay Task Force to update and lead the overall implementation of the Pasig River rehabilitation master plan.

Functions

Among its functions, the task force was asked to harness the river's potential for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes, and to undertake the rehabilitation and restoration of marine life.

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The DENR was tasked to ensure that easements provided for in the Civil Code and other laws are enforced in all the creeks and waterways that drain into the Pasig River.

The department was also expected to stop the dumping of untreated industrial wastewater and sewerage into the river.

'Uncleanable'

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development was assigned to expedite the relocation of informal settlers and other unauthorized or unlawful occupants along the banks of the river, while the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways were to oversee the dismantling and removal of all structures and other encroachments built along the Pasig River.

The two agencies will also undertake civil works such as the dredging and cleaning of the river and all the inland channels, esteros and waterways that drain into it.

The agencies were to coordinate with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, local government units and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group in carrying out these functions.

The President earlier remarked that the Pasig River was "already uncleanable" because houses and factories along its banks had been dumping waste into it since the Spanish colonial period.



Rody abolishes Pasig River body

By ROBERTZON RAMIREZ

President Duterte has ordered the abolition of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), more than 20 years after it was created in January 1999.

Executive Order (EO) No. 93, dated Nov. 8 and signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, stated that the PRRC's functions and powers will be transferred to the Manila Bay Task Force, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The Manila Bay Task Force will take over the implementation of the Pasig River rehabilitation master plan while the DENR will work on easements and other functions, especially those involving waterways that drain into the river.

The DHUD will work on the relocation of informal settlers and other unauthorized occupants, while the MMDA and the DPWH will dismantle all illegal structures along the banks of the Pasig River.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) are tasked to coordinate with the MMDA and the DPWH in doing their functions.

In the process of dissolving the PRRC, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will supervise the winding up of its operations and the final disposition or transfer of its functions, obligations, assets and liabilities in coordination with the DENR and the MMDA within 60 days from the effectivity of the EO.

The PRRC said in a statement that it respects Duterte's decision. It vowed to abide by the order and assist the DENR and the MMDA in the transfer of powers.

"Rest assured that the efforts of the rehabilitation of the Pasig River shall carry on as planned and we remain hopeful that the mandated agencies will continue the legacy of the commission and the predecessors of the Pasig River rehabilitation program," the PRRC said.

Duterte floated the idea of abolishing the PRRC in September after he claimed that the Pasig River is "uncleanable" and sacked its former head, Jose Antonio Goitia, for alleged corruption.

The Office of the President constituted the Presidential Task Force on Pasig

River Rehabilitation (PTFPRR) through Administrative Order No. 74 in 1993 to oversee the

implementation of the government's master plan on the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

The PTFPRR was abolished in 1999 through Executive Order No. 54, which led to the creation of the PRRC, an inter-agency body tasked to bring back Pasig

River "to its historically pristine condition conducive to transport, recreation and tourism."

The DBM was the chair of the PRRC when it was created in 1999. It was transferred to the DENR only this year.

- With Rhodina Villanueva



Duterte scraps Pasig River rehabilitation body

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS
and ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

President Duterte has formally ordered the abolition of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) nearly two months after floating the idea of dissolving the body because the river was already "uncleanable."

In Executive Order (EO) No. 93, the President transferred the functions of the Pasig River rehab body to the Manila Bay Task Force; the **►9**

Duterte scraps Pasig...

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departments of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH); and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The PRRC on Thursday said it would respect the decision of Malacañang to abolish the agency.

In a statement, the PRRC said it will "abide by the order immediately and assist the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in the winding up of the operations, as well as the transfer of functions, obligations,

assets and liabilities pursuant to the order."

"Rest assured that the efforts for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River shall carry on as planned and we remain hopeful that the mandated agencies will continue the legacy of the Commission and the predecessors of the Pasig River rehabilitation program," it added.

Under the EO, the Manila

Duterte scraps Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

BY BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS [@BNicolasBM](#)

TWO months after firing the head of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) over allegations of graft and corruption, President Duterte has now abolished the body tasked to clean and transform the Pasig River.

“We shall abide by the order immediately and assist the DBM, the DENR and the MMDA in the winding up of the operations, as well as the transfer of functions, obligations, assets and liabilities pursuant to the order.”—PRRC

Duterte signed Executive Order 93 on November 8, directing the disestablishment of the PRRC, citing the “need to consolidate ongoing rehabilitation efforts in all river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay region,” as

well as to streamline rehabilitation functions.

In signing the new EO, Duterte also repealed EO 54 (Series 1999) signed by former President Joseph Estrada.

SEE “PASIG RIVER,” A5

“The PRRC is hereby disestablished,” read the EO, a copy of which was released to reporters on Thursday.

Thus, the functions of the PRRC are transferred to different agencies, including the Manila Bay Task Force, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The Manila Bay Task Force under its mandate in Administrative Order 16 shall update and take the lead in overall implementation of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Master Plan, which shall harness the Pasig River’s potential for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes while undertaking the rehabilitation and restoration of its marine life.

Meanwhile, the DENR shall ensure the easements provided for in the Civil Code and other relevant laws are enforced, especially in all the esteros and waterways that drain into the Pasig River, as well as abate the dumping of untreated industrial wastewater and sewerage into the river.

The DHSUD shall expedite the relocation of informal settler and other unauthorized or unlawful occupants along Pasig River.

The MMDA and DPWH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, local government units concerned and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group, shall ensure the dismantling and removal of all structures, constructions and other encroachments established or built along the Pasig River, as well as undertake civil works, such as the dredging and cleaning of the Pasig River and all the inland channels, esteros and waterways that drain into it.

Moreover, the Chief Executive also tasked the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with the DENR and the MMDA, to supervise the winding up of operations of the PRRC, as well as the final disposition or transfer of its functions, obligations, assets and liabilities, and the separation or transfer of its personnel, as may be necessary.

In response, the PRRC officials also said in a statement on Thursday that they respect the decision of the Palace. “We shall abide by the order immediately and assist the Department of Budget and Management, the DENR and the MMDA in the winding up of the operations, as well as the transfer of functions, obligations, assets and liabilities pursuant to the order,” PRRC said.

Two months ago, Duterte also signed EO 90 ordering the transfer of chairmanship of the PRRC from the DBM secretary to the secretary of DENR.



Pasig River rehab agency abolished

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has signed an executive order (EO) that will abolish the agency tasked to revive the Pasig River.

The presidential palace yesterday released EO 93 dated Nov. 8, which will axe the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) created in 1999.

In September, Mr. Duterte asked Congress to abolish the body that had been marred by corruption allegations. The president later fired Executive Director Jose Antonio E. Goitia for alleged corruption.

Mr. Duterte also complained that the Pasig River had not improved and the government was wasting money paying PRRC officials.

Under the order, the agency's power will be transferred to other agencies such as the Manila Bay Task Force, Environment department, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Public Works department.

The task force will be in charge of the Pasig River Rehabilitation master plan, which would "harness the Pasig River's potential for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes while undertaking the rehabilitation and restoration of its marine life," according to the order.

The Environment department will ensure compliance with laws on proper drainage and monitor dumping violations.

The Public Works department and MMDA will remove infrastructure and other encroachments that violate the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992.

The newly created Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development will head the relocation of informal settlers along the edge of the polluted river. — **Gillian M. Cortez**



Pasig River agency scrapped

By Francis T. Wakefield
@tribunephil_FTW

President Rodrigo Duterte has signed an executive order ordering the disestablishment of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC).

Executive Order 93 signed by the President on 8 November but only released yesterday, the functions of the PRRC, as indicated in EO 54, were transferred to the following agencies/offices consistent with their respective mandates: Manila Bay Task Force, Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and Metropolitan Manila

Development and Authority (MMDA).

Under Section 1 of the EO, the Manila Bay Task Force under Administrative Order 16 shall update and take the lead in the overall implementation of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Master Plan, which shall harness the river's potential for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes while undertaking the rehabilitation and restoration of its marine life.

The DENR, meanwhile, shall ensure that the easements provided for in the Civil Code and other relevant laws are enforced, especially in all the esteros and waterways that drain into the Pasig River, as well as abate the dumping of untreated industrial wastewater and sewerage into the river.

The DHSUD, for its part, shall expedite the relocation of informal settlers and other unauthorized or unlawful occupants along the banks of the Pasig River and effectively enforce Proclamation 704, in collaboration with the DENR and the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor.

While the MMDA and DPWH, consistent with their respective mandates, and in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), local government units concerned and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group, shall ensure the dismantling and removal of all structures, constructions, and other encroachments established or built along the Pasig River which are in violation of RA 7270, as well as undertake civil works, as may be necessary such as dredging and cleaning of the Pasig River and all the inland channels, esteros and waterways that drain into it.

Within 60 days from the effectivity of the order, the DBM, in consultation with the DENR and MMDA, shall supervise the winding up of the operations of the PRRC, as well as the final disposition or transfer of its functions, obligations, assets and liabilities.

The order shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.



Duterte abolishes Pasig River agency

By MJ Blancaflor

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte was true to his word he would abolish the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission as Malacañang on Thursday released an executive order scrapping the government body and transferring its functions to other agencies.

Signed on Nov. 8, Executive Order 93 says the disestablishment of the PRRC

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which would take effect immediately, citing the need to "consolidate" the continuing rehabilitation efforts in all river systems and tributaries within Manila Bay.

President Duterte bared his plan to dismantle the commission last month, adding the Pasig River "is already clean."

"If the Congress is listening, congressmen, abolish it. There is nothing to clean in the Pasig River. It is already clean," Duterte said in a speech.

The new order came two months after he fired PRRC executive director Jose Antonio Goitia over his alleged involvement in corrupt activities.

Formed in 1999 by former President Joseph Estrada, the PRRC is primarily

tasked to implement programs and projects aimed at reviving the polluted Pasig River connected to the Laguna de Bay and Manila Bay.

EO 93 transferred the PRRC's functions to the Manila Bay Task Force, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The Manila Bay Task Force is tasked to "update and take the lead" in the overall implementation of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Master Plan, which aims to harness the water's potential for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes.

Under the EO, the DENR is mandated to stop the dumping of untreated industrial wastewater and sewerage into the river.



Pasig rehab agency abolished

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte has formally dissolved the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) whose head he fired three months ago for allegations of corruption.

Meanwhile, the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) said it has submitted to the President its findings on two Cabinet secretaries it investigated for corruption. The officials remained unnamed.

On the PRRC, Executive Order 93 was signed by Duterte on November 8 but was released by Malacañang only yesterday.

The PRRC's functions were transferred to several agencies including the Manila Bay Task Force which will lead the implementation of the Pasig River rehabilitation master plan, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development was designated to lead the relocation of informal settlers and other unauthorized occupants along the banks of the Pasig River.

The Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways, in coordination with the Department

of the Interior and Local Government, concerned local chief executives, and the PNP Maritime Group shall ensure the dismantling and removal of all structures, constructions, and other encroachments established or built along Pasig River, among others.

The President in September fired PRRC executive director Jose Antonio Goitia for alleged involvement in corrupt activities and announced his plan to abolish the agency. He also transferred the chairmanship of the PRRC to the DENR.

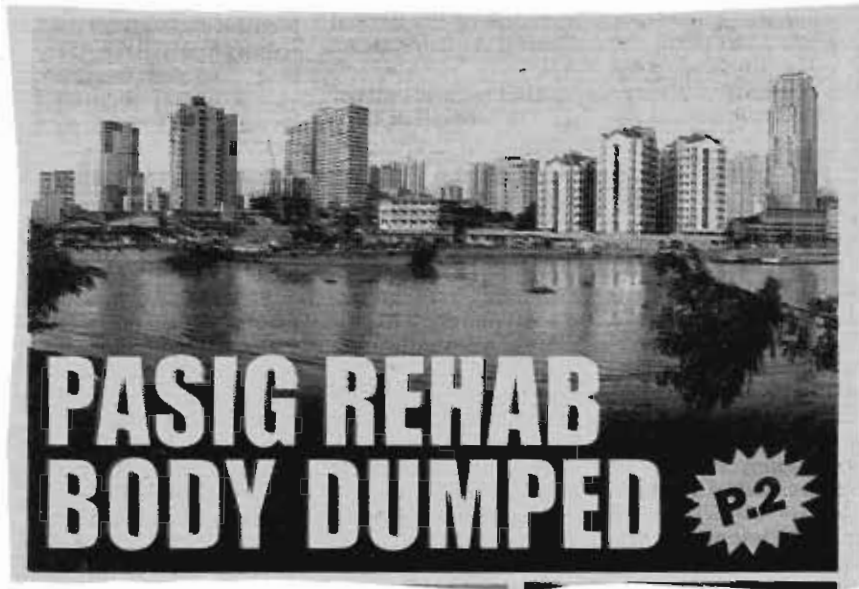
On the Cabinet secretaries, PACC Commissioner and spokes-

man Greco Belgica said the body submitted its recommendations to the President before the All Saints'/All Souls' Day break.

Belgica declined to name the Cabinet members that were investigated and reiterated the probe started in August was based on complaints of corruption received by the PACC.

He also did not provide details of the complaints.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo, concurrent presidential spokesman, said the President would have the PACC report reviewed and validated before making a decision.



PASIG RIVER REHAB BODY SCUTTLED

By Efren
Montano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has abolished the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), according to a document released by Malacañang yesterday.

Signed on November 8, Executive Order 93 directed the "disestablishment" of the PRRC and transfer of the body's tasks to other agencies.

"[T]here is a need to consolidate ongoing rehabilitation efforts in all river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay Region and streamline rehabilitation functions by transferring them to agencies with relevant core mandates," the order stated.

Under the EO, the Manila Bay Task Force will now be in charge of the overall implementation of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Master Plan, which aims to harness the river's potential for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes while undertaking the rehabilitation and restoration of its marine life.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is tasked to ensure the enforcement of easements provided for in the Civil Code and other relevant laws, especially in estuaries and waterways that drain into the Pasig River, as well as abate the dumping of untreated industrial wastewater and sewage into the river.

Duterte also ordered the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development to expedite

the relocation of informal settlers and other unauthorized occupants along the banks of the Pasig River.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways were ordered to ensure the dismantling and removal of all structures, constructions, and other encroachments established or built along Pasig River which are in violation of the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 (Republic Act 7279).

Within 60 days from the effectivity of the EO, the Department of Budget and Management, in consultation with the DENR and MMDA, should supervise the winding up of the operations of the PRRC and the final disposition or transfer of its functions, obligations, assets and liabilities as well as the separation or transfer of its personnel.

The PRRC was created in 1999 by then-President Joseph Estrada through an executive order. The inter-agency body was established to ensure that the waterway was restored to its historically pristine condition, and was conducive to transport, recreation, and tourism.

Duterte had floated the possibility of abolishing the PRRC in September when he said the river was "uncleanable" and sacked the agency's former head, Jose Antonio Goitia, due to allegations of corruption.



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Duterte scraps Pasig River rehab body

President Duterte has formally ordered the disestablishment of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, nearly two months after floating the idea of dissolving the body because the river was already "uncleanable."

Duterte issued Executive Order No. 93 transferring the functions of the Pasig River rehab body to the Manila Bay Task Force, the departments of the Environment and Natural Resources, Human Settlements and Urban Development, and Public Works and Highways, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Under the EO, the Manila Bay Task Force was tasked to update and take the lead in the overall implementation of the Pasig River rehabilitation master plan, which shall harness the Pasig River's potential for transportation, recreation, and tourism purposes while undertak-

ing the rehabilitation and restoration of its marine life.

The DENR was designated to ensure that the easements provided for in the Civil Code and other relevant laws are enforced, especially in all the esteros and waterways that drain into the Pasig River, as well as abate the dumping of untreated industrial wastewater and sewerage into the river and other related laws.

The DHSUD was ordered to expedite the relocation of informal settlers and other unauthorized or unlawful occupants on the banks of the Pasig River.

The MMDA and DPWH, meanwhile, shall ensure the dismantling and removal of all structures, constructions, and other encroachments established or built on the Pasig River which are in violation of the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992. The two agencies

were also ordered to undertake civil works, as may be necessary, such as dredging and cleaning of the Pasig River and all the inland channels, esteros, and waterways that drain into it.

The MMDA and DPWH were tasked to do their functions in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, local government units, and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group.

The PRRC was formed through an EO No. 54 signed by then President Joseph Estrada to rehabilitate the river connecting the Laguna de Bay and the Manila Bay.

The President earlier transferred the chairmanship of the PRRC to DENR and the Department of Budget and Management. Later on, he sacked the body's former head Jose Antonio Goitia due to corruption allegations. **(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**



PRRC binuwag ni PDU30

TULUYAN nang binuwag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission matapos makitang bagsak pa rin ang kalidad ng ilog Pasig.

Sa pamamagitan ng Executive Order 93 ay tuluyan nang nabuwag ang komisyon.

Sa isang liham na may petsang Nobyembre 12 at naka-address kay PRRC officer-in-charge Assistant Secretary Joan Lagunda, nagsuhile ang Pangulo ng certified copy ng EO 93, kung saan pormal na ipinag-utos ang "disestablishment of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission."

Sa ilalm ng EO 93, binigyang-din ni Pangulong Duterte ang "consolidate ongoing rehabilitation efforts in all river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay Region and streamline rehabilitation functions by transferring them to agencies with relevant core mandates."

"The PRRC is hereby disestablished," ang nakasaad sa EO, kung saan epekto na ito matapos lagdaan ng Chief Executive noong Nobyembre 8.

Ang paglagda sa EO 93 ay nangyari makaraang ihayag ng Pangulo ang kanyang plano na buwagin ang PRRC noong Setyembre 18.

Batay sa executive order number 93, ipapasa o lilipat ang mga tungkulin ng PRRC sa ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan gaya ng Manila Bay Task Force, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Minamandato ng naturang EO ang Manila Bay Task Force na pangunahan ang kabuuang implementasyon ng Pasig River Rehabilitation Master Plan upang magamit ang potensyal nito para sa transportasyon, recreation at maging sa turismo.

Pinatitiyak naman sa DENR na nalpatutupad ang iba't ibang environmental laws upang maibalik ang dating ganda at kalinisan ng ilog Pasig.

Samantala, sa Human Settlements and Urban Development iniatas ang relocation ng mga informal settler sa paligid ng Pasig River banks habang sa DPWH naman pinatitiyak na mai-aalis ang mga istruktura at obstructions sa paligid ng ilog. KRIS JOSE



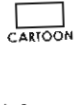
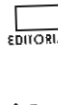
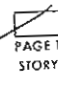
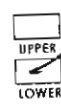
Pasig River Commission binuwag na ni Digong

Pormal ng binuwag ni Pangulong Duterte ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) base sa Executive Order (EO) 93 na nilagdan ng Pangulo nitong November 8.

Inilipat na lamang sa Manila Bay Task Force ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Metro Manila Development Authority at Department of Public Works and Highways ang magiging trabaho ng PRRC.

The Manila Bay Task Force under AO No. 16 shall update and take the lead in the overall implementation of the Pasig River rehabilitation Master Plan, which shall harness the Pasig River's potential for transportation, recreation, and tourism purposes while undertaking the rehabilitation and restoration of its marine life," nakasaad pa sa kautusan ni Pangulong Duterte.

Magugunita na noong Setyembre ay sinibak ng Pangulo ang executive director ng PRRC na si Jose Antonio Gotia dahil sa isyu ng corruption. (Rudy Andal)



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Pasig River rehab commission nilusaw ni Digong

TULUYANG nilusaw ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) na nangangasiwa sa paglilinis at pangangalaga sa Pasig River. Sa inilabas na Executive Order No. 39 ng Malacañang, iniutos ng Pangulo ang 'disestablishment' ng komisyon.

Inilipat sa ibang ahensiya ang kapangyarihan ng PRRC partikular ang Manila Bay Task Force para mapakinabangan ang potensiyal ng Pasig River sa aspeto ng transportasyon, turismo at iba pa.

Bago inilabas ang direktiba ay hiniling ng Pangulo sa Kongreso na buwagin na ang PRRC dahil hindi naman umano malinis-linis ang Ilog Pasig.

Inilipat na rin ni Pangulong Duterte sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pangangasiwa sa rehabilitasyon ng Pasig River at tinanggalan ng kapangyarihan ang komisyon.

Ipinagkatiwala na ng Presidente sa DENR ang responsibilidad sa implementasyon ng mga batas para sa rehabilitasyon ng Ilog Pasig.

Itinatag ang PRRC sa pamamagitan ng executive order na pirmado ni dating Pangulong Joseph Estrada noong Enero 6, 1999 para isalba ang ilog na nag-uugnay sa Laguna de Bay at Manila Bay. **(Aileen Taliping)**



Pasig River rehab commission, binuwag

Matapos makitang bagsak pa rin ang kalidad ng ilog Pasig, tuluyan nang binuwag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC).

Isinagawa ang hakbang sa pamamagitan ng Executive Order (EO) 93.

Sa isang liham kay PRRC officer-in-charge Assistant Secretary Joan Lagunda na may petsang Nobyembre 12, nagsumite ang Pangulo ng certified copy ng EO 93, kung saan pormal nang ipinagutos ang "disestablishment of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission."

Sa ilalim ng EO 93, binigyan-diin ni Pangulong Duterte ang "consolidate ongoing rehabilitation efforts in all

river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay Region and streamline rehabilitation functions by transferring them to agencies with relevant core mandates."

"The PRRC is hereby disestablished," ang bahagi ng EO kung saan epektibo na ito matapos lagdaan ng Chief Executive noong Nobyembre 8.

Ang paglagda sa EO 93 ay nangyari makaraang ihayag ng Pangulo ang kanyang plano na buwagin ang PRRC noong Setyembre 18.

Matatandaang sinabi ng Pangulo na walang silbi ang tanggapan ng PRRC kaya hinimok niya ang Kongreso na i-abolish na ito.


Beth Camia



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ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

HABANG pinag-uusapan pa lamang ng lahat ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng mga single-use na plastik, sinimulan na itong pairalin ng kompanyang Meralco.

Nagsimula ang pagbabawal nitong Oktubre 1, 2019 at lahat ng kompanyang pag-aari o kontrolado ng Meralco ay dapat umanong ganap na ang pagbabawal ng SUP pagdating ng Enero 1, 2010.

Tatlong buwan, mga Bro, ang paglalata ng programang SUP ban.

Sakop ng SUP ban ang mga kompanyang Meralco Industrial Engineering Services Corporation (Miescor) Group, CIS Bayad Center, Inc. (Bayad Center) Group, Meralco Energy, Inc. (Mserv), Radius Telecoms, Inc. (Radius), MSpectrum, Inc. (Spectrum), MRAIL, Inc. (MRAIL), Meralco Powergen Corporation (MGen) Group, and eSakay, Inc. (eSakay) as well as affilia-

ted companies, Comstech Integration Alliance, Inc. (Comstech), Clark Electric Distribution Corporation (CEDC).

SAMPLE NG SUP

Narito ang mga sampol ng SUP na ipagbabawal ng Meralco.

Polystyrene foam at mga katulad nito gaya ng styrofoam na gamit bilang mga plato, baso at iba pa, plastic grocery bags, plastic bottle sa inumin, gamit sa food service plastik na kutsilyo, plato, baso, straw, stirrer o panghalo, at container para sa mga likidong panlinis.

Dapat bawal na ang lahat ng ito sa mga opisina, bakuran at pasilidad ng Meralco, kasama na ang mga operation center, business center, subsidiary at kaugnay ng mga kompanya at bawal din sa lahat ng mga okasyong gaganapin dito.

TULONG

Sinabi ni Meralco President and Chief Executive Officer Atty. Ray C. Espinosa, obligasyon ng kom-

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN NA SA MERALCO

panya na protektahan ang kalikasan at kapaligiran hindi lang para sa mga mamamayan ngayon kundi para na rin sa mga darating na ating lahi.

Kailangan umanong isagawa o pairalin ang programa sa lahat ng lugar na may operasyon ang kompanya at sa lahat ng kaniyang mga pook pangmanggagawa.

Dagdagi ni Atty. Espinosa, upang maging matagumpay ang programa, kailangan din ang programang pang-edukasyon para sa lahat ng empleyado ng kompanya at business partner nito.

Makatutulong din umano nang malaki ang SUP ban sa pagbabawal ng plastik na itinatapon sa mga landfill o basurahan at polusyon sa katubigan at karagatan.

BIGAT NG PROBLEMA

Ayon pa rin kay Atty. Espinosa, malinaw sa kanilang kaalaman ang ulat ng United Nations Environment Program na nalulund na ang mundo sa plastik.

Nasa siyam na pors-

yento lamang umano ng 9 trilyong kilong nagagawang plastik ang nare-recycle at karamihan sa mga ito ang itinatapon sa mga basurahan.

Kung hindi umano magagawang kontrollin ang paggamit ng plastik, may 12 trilyong kilong plastik na ang magagawa pagdating ng 2050 o 30 taon mula ngayon.

Maaari umano kalait na kalat na kahit saan ito sa mundo pagdating ng panahong ito.

Pagwawakas niya, handa ang Meralco na lumilos upang magtagumpay ang laban sa gabundok na SUP na karaniwang itinatapon kahit saan hanggang sa mapuno na ang mga katubigan, ilog at dagat araw-araw.

MGA RESTORAN AT CONVENIENCE STORE:

Habang tinitipa natin ito, mga Bro, sumagi ang isipan ng ULTIMATUM ang mga luto nang pagkain na nakalagay sa mga plastik na ibinebenta ng mga restoran at convenience store.

Alam ba ninyong lumilikha ng sakit na kanser

ang mga ito kung iniinit sa mga microwave oven?

Masdan ninyo, makaraang isalang sa oven, nagkakalukot-lukot ang mga ito at humahalo na ang ilang natutunaw na plastik sa mga pagkain.

Nakakalason ang plastik bilang pagkain at dapat na makontrol o maiipagbawal din ito.

Ginagawa ring baso ang mga styrofoam o kaya'y parang mug para sa kape.

Dapat ding ipagbawal ito.

PAULIT-ULIT NA GAMIT

Ang totoo, hindi naman ipinagbabawal nang buo ang lahat ng plastik.

Kapag ang plastik ay pupwedeng gamitin nang paulit-ulit dahil nahuugasan o nailinis ang mga ito, tanggap itong gamitin.

Kagaya rito ang mga plastik container ng mga tubig-inumin na idinedeliber sa mga bahay-bahay na may lamang 4-5 galon.

Nariryan din ang mga plastik na gamit nang permanentemente bilang bintana ng mga bahay o sasakyan o piyasa ng mga sasakyan.

Meron ding mga produktong petrolyo na garnit ang mga plastik upang hindi magkaroon ng apoy kung nagpi pingkian ang

mga ito sa mga pagbibiyaha.

NABUBULOK AT 'DI NABUBULOK

Pansamantala, dahil wala pang batas na nagbabawal ng paggamit ng mga SUP, dapat nating pairalin sa ating mga bahay o establisimiyento ang batas sa paghihiwalay ng mga nabubulok at 'di nabubulok.

Ang mga lokal at panrehiyong pamahalaan ang bahalang magtapon ng basura natin sa mga tamang basurahan.

Kung may pang-aabuso namang mga nasa pamahalaan sa pagtatapon ng basura, nariryan naman ang mga tamang aksyon ng pamahalaan.

Nariryan ang pag-sasara ng mga dumpsite, pagdisiplina sa mga kompanyang humahakot ng ating mga basura at pagdisiplina sa mga taong pamahalaan.

Magtulong-tulong tayong maglunsad ng giyera laban sa single-use plastik na talaga namang mapanira sa kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa baniporda@yahoo.com.



Prove gov't planted more than billion trees – Recto

By VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto on Thursday asked the government to prove that it had planted more than a billion trees before lawmakers agree on increasing its budget for the National Greening Program (NGP) for next year.

Recto made the call during the Upper Chamber's plenary debates on the proposed 2020 budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Under the Senate's version of the General Appropriation Bill, the NGP was given a ₱4.5-billion budget under the DENR outlay, said Senator Cynthia Villar, finance committee vice chairperson.

The amount was lower than the ₱5.15 billion proposed by the Department of Budget and Management, but is almost double that this year's ₱2.6-billion budget.

The Senate leader was skeptic about the budget increase especially

as proposed government allocations for health and education for next year suffered decreases from their current budgets.

For this reason, he said the results of the DENR's forest rehabilitation program would have to be proven first to the Senate before they decide to grant the proposed NGP budget.

Recto said the NGP was given a total of ₱38.9 billion in allocations from 2011 to 2019.

With this fund, he said the DENR should have planted more than 1.8 billion trees in 2.1 million hectares of land over the past nine years.

Citing NGP data from 2011 to 2018, Recto said the government has so far planted some 1.6 billion trees in 1.9 million hectares of land.

"What we have been shown so far is a forest of newsprint of reports and vouchers of spending on NGP. Show us the actual greenery," Recto appealed in his statement sent earlier.

The government should also be able to report the reason for the low survival rate of the seedlings, he added.

Speaking in behalf of the

DENR, Villar said the agency will be providing the Senate photos and documents showing the outputs of the NGP over the years. She said survival rate of the trees planted is currently at 65 percent.

Villar admitted not being satisfied with the output of the NGP as she lamented that the trees being planted do not survive.

Former President Benigno Aquino III in 2011 issued Executive Order (EO) No. 26 which authorizes the implementation of the National Greening Program as a government priority program to reduce poverty, ensure food security, conserve biodiversity, and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Under the program, 1.5 billion seedlings should be planted in 1.5 million hectares of public lands nationwide in six years, until 2016.

In 2015, Aquino signed Executive Order No. 193 or the Enhanced National Greening Program, to rehabilitate all the remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands estimated at 7.1 million hectares from 2016 to 2028.



Where's the forest? Recto presses DENR to account for P39-B tree-planting program

AN incredulous Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph G. Recto is pressing for an accounting of the government's P39-billion tree-planting program.

"Where are the 1.7 billion trees in 2 million hectares of land funded by P39-billion tree program?," Recto asked.

Recto raised the issue during Thursday's plenary deliberations on the Palace-proposed P4.1-trillion national budget for 2020.

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, sponsoring the proposed 2020 budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources agreed with Recto that the DENR should show some results.

Recto revealed that under the proposed 2020 national budget, funding for the tree-planting program will even be doubled, from P2.6 billion to P5.15 billion.

Reviewing the budget bill, the senator noted that the DENR's National Greening Program (NGP) is "one of the very few pro-

grams that will be gifted with almost a 100-percent budget increase."

He lamented that budgets for health, the Philippine General Hospital and college scholarships are "like trees being cut by chainsaws. But the one for NGP has assumed the status of a protected species."

In a news statement issued on Thursday, Recto reminded that before the Senate votes to approve the 2020 budget bill, "some throwback is needed."

"From 2011 to 2019, NGP's total budget is P38.9 billion. I think I shall never see a project as large as the one to plant

lovely trees," the Senate president pro tempore said.

He pointed out that "out of this money, the NGP should have planted 1.807 billion trees in 2.141 million hectares of land over the past nine years, ending this December."

"Since 2019 is not yet over, let us just look at the planting scoreboard from 2011 to 2018: 1.669 billion of trees planted in 1.998 million hectares of land," the senator added, noting that the 1.998 million, or 2 million hectares of land reforested represents 1 in 15 hectares of the total land area of the country.

"Two million hectares is 32 times Metro Manila's land area. Two million hectares is also four times the size of Cebu island. If NGP is to be believed, *ganito na kalawak ang tinamnan nila ng puno*," he said. After counting the number of trees planted, Recto recommended that the DENR should now "show the forest" to taxpayers.

"The carpet of green from sea to shining sea. *Ila-bas na ang NGP map*. The proof of the planting is in the photos. *Ipakita sa aerial maps, before and after photos, ang resulta ng isang P38.9-billion project*," the senator suggested." *Butch Fernandez*



DENR asked: Where are 1.7-b trees under NGP?

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATE President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto yesterday asked for the whereabouts of the 1.7-billion trees supposedly planted in the 2 million hectares of land funded by P39-billion tree program.

Under the proposed 2020 national budget, he said the budget for tree planting would be doubled—from the current P2.6 billion to P5.15 billion.

He noted that the DENR's National Greening Program is one of the very few programs that will be gifted with almost a 100-percent budget increase.

He also described the budget for health, the Philippine General Hospital and college scholarships are like trees being cut by chainsaws.

"But the one for NGP has assumed the status of a protected species," he said.

But before the Senate approves it, he said some throwback is needed. He recalled that from 2011 to 2019, NGP's total budget is P38.9 billion.

"Think I shall never see a project as large as the one to plant lovely trees," said Recto.

Out of this money, he said the NGP should have planted 1.807-billion trees in 2.141 million hectares of land over the past nine years ending this December.

"But because 2019 is not yet over, let us just see the planting scoreboard from 2011 to 2018: 1.669 billion of trees planted in 1.998 million hectares of land," said Recto.



Recto to DENR: Show us the P38.9B worth of 'forests'

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

SENATE president pro tempore Ralph Recto yesterday said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should first show proof where the 1.7 billion trees it planted under the National Greening Program this year before its request to double the project's budget in 2020 can be approved.

Recto noted the DENR asked that the budget for tree planting be increased from P2.6 billion in 2019 to P5.15 billion in 2020.

"The DENR's National Greening Program (NGP) is one of the very few programs that will be gifted with almost a 100 percent budget increase. Budgets for health, the PGH (Philippine General Hospital), college scholarships are like trees being cut by chainsaws. But the one for NGP has assumed the status of a protected species," Recto said.

Recto said that from 2011 to 2019, the NGP's total budget stood at P38.9 billion. With the amount given, he said the DENR should have planted 1.807 billion trees in 2.141 million hectares of land the past nine years ending December this year.

But because the year has not yet ended, he said the trees planted from 2011 to 2018 should have been 1.669 billion in 1.998 million hectares of land.

He said 1.998 or 2 million hectares of land represents 1/15 hectares of the total land area of the country. Two million hectares, he added, is 32 times the land area of Metro Manila, and also

See RECTO ► Page B3

RECTO

four times the size of Cebu island.

"If NGP is to be believed, ganito na kalawak ang tinaniman nila ng puno (If NGP is to be believed, it has planted trees in big sizes of land)," Recto said.

After counting the number of trees planted, Recto said it is high time the DENR "to show us the forest."

"Ilabas na ang NGP map. The proof of the planting is in the photos. Ipakita sa aerial maps, before and after photos, ang resulta ng isang P38.9 billion project.

(Bring out the NGP map. The proof of the planting is in the photos. Show us the aerial map, before and after photos, the results of the P38.9 billion project)," he said.

He added: "Assuming that saplings planted had a mortality rate of 62 percent (which is actual versus the target 85 percent), the large swaths of successfully reforested lands would still be impressive. The trees may not have yet reached towering heights but they are no longer green shoots that are hard to see."

Recto said DENR should also explain why the survival rate of saplings is low in the some areas

where they were planted.

"Tree planting is a climate change resilience measure. It is a program that aims to boost the forest stock of our country so it can absorb carbon dioxide, while providing livelihood and enriching our biodiversity. What we have been shown so far is a forest of newsprint of reports and vouchers of spending on NGP. Show us the actual greenery," he said.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, who defended the DENR budget, said the department promised to furnish Recto's office proofs of the trees planted nationwide.



IN BRIEF

'Safety a priority in cutting trees'

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Thursday said public safety is a major consideration in granting a tree-cutting permit.

Undersecretary Rodolfo Garcia, who is also the concurrent chief of staff, clarified the issue on the cutting of roadside trees in Naga City and Carcar City, Cebu to give way for ongoing road widening projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Century-old trees, which are diseased and dying, already pose a high risk to public safety, he said.

"The aims of development projects and protection of the environment are guided by practicality and making sure we conduct consultation with the people—consideration will be easing the lives of the people," he added.

Trees had to be removed because these already encroach the highway, including carriageways and sidewalks, thus endangering the lives of motorists and nearby residents. **Rio N. Araja**



The Kaliwa Dam predicament: Whose interest should prevail?

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

A NETWORK of cause-oriented groups opposed to the construction and activation of Kaliwa Dam on Thursday said President Duterte may have been misled in his decision to push through with the project seen as a solution to Metro Manila's shrinking water supply.

According to the Stop Kaliwa Dam Network, the multibillion, China-funded 600 million liters per day (MLD) water reservoir project in Rizal and Quezon provinces is not even for the "greatest good for the greatest number."

Responding to President Duterte's statement to the Southeast Asian leaders during the 35th Asean Summit to "not sacrifice the environment and the region's rich biodiversity...in its quest for progress," the Stop Kaliwa Dam Network urged Duterte to prove his sincerity by scrapping the controversial Kaliwa Dam Project altogether.

In a news statement, the group said the water security concern is not just a "Metro Manila versus indigenous communities" issue.

They insisted that the issue of water security should not be used to put the concern of Metro Manila residents for reliable water supply against the legal rights of the indigenous peoples over their ancestral domain.

According to the Stop Kaliwa Dam Network, there are practical, alternative water solutions available which are less costly and would cause minimal impact to the environment compared to P12.2 billion Kaliwa Dam project.

They said that drawing more water from Laguna Lake, fast-tracking the rehabilitation of the Wawa Dam, tapping idle supply from the National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) facilities, and curbing wasteful water use are some of the solutions to the perennial water supply shortage in Metro Manila.

"Combined, these can provide the same, or even more water, than the planned Kaliwa Dam. These options are just as viable and will not entail the same negative impacts as the Chinese-funded Kaliwa Dam project that will cost at least P12.2 billion and is anticipated to cause massive damage to Sierra Madre's biodiversity, as well as displace thousands of indigenous peoples from their ancestral domains," Fr. Pete Montallana, one of the conveners of the broad Stop Kaliwa Dam Network said in the statement.

For Rovik Obanil of the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), Duterte is either misinformed or he

is deliberately misinforming the public about the project.

"While it is true that the indigenous people of Quezon and Rizal have a major stake in this issue, the impacts of the project go far beyond the concerns of IPs or Metro Manila's residents. The fact that the funding for the dam project will largely come in the form of a bilateral loan with a sovereign guarantee means that all Filipinos are guaranteeing this loan against default. Unless a mechanism is created whereby only Metro Manila's residents are made to pay for the dam, in general, a bilateral loan is paid for with taxpayers' money. This means that ultimately, the cost will be borne even by those who will not see one drop of water from Kaliwa Dam," Obanil added.

Belinda de la Paz of the Haribon Foundation, for her part, said equally important is the issue of potential biodiversity loss in pursuing the project.

She said there are identified species which are vulnerable, threatened or endangered, and some of them are found nowhere else in the world.

"There are 21 threatened tree species under DAO 2017-11 and 19 globally threatened tree species under the IUCN's red list of threatened species that will be affected by the proposed development project," she said. Other significant species, such as the Philippine Eagle, Northern Rufous Hornbill, Philippine Warty Pig and Philippine Brown Deer are found only in the country. "So indeed the stakes are high, not just for Filipinos but, in fact, for the entire world. We have a duty to do what we can to preserve these species for future generations," she said.

Lastly, Montallana warned that the recent spate of earthquakes, including the 5.5-magnitude quake in Quezon last November 7, should serve as a wake-up call given that experts have said that the seismicity study for the Kaliwa Dam is inconclusive and that the construction of a 60-meter high dam itself could compromise the ground in the area.

"A dam break would put tens of thousands of people in the towns and villages downstream in serious danger," Montallana warned.

"If President Duterte is truly thinking about the 'greater good,' he should listen to the experts who criticized the failure to employ good science in the Environmental Impact Statement submitted by the project proponent and slammed the EIS of the Kaliwa Dam as a 'technically deficient, inconclusive and poorly written document used to justify the issuance of the environmental compliance certificate," Montallana said.



Congress eyes water dep't, traffic czar; DU30 takes a rest

Congress has moved to avert an impending water crisis and check worsening traffic congestion in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

Time to act smart. No to water shortage and traffic snarls.



PUNCHLINE
FRED. M. LOBO

mously approved the bill, pre-sented by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chairman of the Technical Working Group (TWG) which consolidated 35 bills on the proposed creation of the Department of Water Resources.

"Water is a basic human right. Water is a public utility so it should be regulated by the government," Salceda said.

The House of Representatives has moved for the creation of the Department of Water Resources.

A separate agency to address vital water concerns, it urged.

The House Committee on Government Reorganization and Committee on Public Works and Highways jointly approved a substitute bill creating the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that would ensure reliable, safe, quality, and affordable water supply.

Let's prevent water crisis in the country, the solons agreed.

The two House panels unani-

Salceda said the new department will be the primary national agency responsible for the comprehensive and integrated planning, policy formulation, and management of water resources in the Philippines.

A Water Regulatory Commission (WRC) will be created as an independent regulatory and quasi-judicial body under the umbrella of the new department, he said.

Proposed to be transferred to the DWR are the functions of the following water agencies - River

Basin Control Office Manila Bay Coordinating Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Flood Management Planning and Sediment Functions of the DPWH, Water Supply and Sanitation Unit of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Water Quality Management Section of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR

The measure also provides that the following agencies shall be attached to the DWR: Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), and

National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as an infrastructure arm.

The DWR may also create subsidiaries, instrumentalities, and entities to engage in water-related programs, projects and activities.

In the Senate, Sen. Grace Poe sponsored Senate Bill No. 1157, the proposed Mobile Relief Act to address traffic congestion in urban areas of the country.

Time for a mobility czar, she urged.

Under the bill, the mobility czar will be under the President and will be "ultimately responsible

for transportation and related functions.

Meanwhile, President Duterte will just work at home instead of taking a planned three-day rest, Malacanang announced.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said despite the advice of friends, colleagues, and mostly likely even doctors, there is really no need for the President to take a leave of absence from work.

Just a little rest in Davao home is enough for Pres. Digong, he said.

Panelo added there was no medical concern about the President and that Duterte's problem seems to be lack of sleep.



NWRB IGINAWAD BILANG OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTING OFFICE PARA SA TAONG 2018

nagsipagdalo din sa nasabing pagtitipon ang mahalagang parangal.

Base sa rekomendasyon ng Commission on Audit (COA) at FY 2018 financial reports on quality, timeliness and accuracy ang batayan ng pagkilala. Isa ang NWRB sa forty-one (41) offices sa buong bansa na may maayos na Sistema ng pananalapi at pag-sisinop.

Ang AGAP ay samahan ng mga government accountants sa buong bansa na naglalayon na bagamat isinusulong ang interes ng sektor ay nananawagan din para sa isang episyenteng government accountancy kung saan ay wala na ag korupsyon at red tape na nagpapahirap sa ating mga mamamayan.

Dahil nga mga propesyu-

nal at teknikal na mga empleyado ang mayroon ang NWRB, sa kabuuan ay maayos ang paghahatid nito ng serbisyo sa publiko. Isa ito sa mga ahensiyang masasandigan ng sambayanan pagdating sa good governance.

Mabuhay kayo sa NWRB!

-ooOoo-

ANG National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Accounting and Financial Division (AFD) ay kinilala bilang isa sa mga "Outstanding Accounting Offices for fiscal year (FY) 2018" ng Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines (AGAP). Ang parangal ay iginawad sa panahong pambu-ngad na seremonya ng kom-bensyon sa AGAP Convention-Seminar sa Atrium Limketkai Center sa Cagayan de Oro City noong October 23, 2019.

Tinanggap ni AFD chief Belen Tomon kasama sina Marites P. Marcelo, officer-in-charge, Budget and Accounting Section, at Anabelle Lusung at Cristine Torrevillo na mga



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HEADLINES



DENR bars visitors from Zambo's turtle isle

By: Leah D. Agonoy - @inquirerdotnet Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:20 AM November 15, 2019



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01:45

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TOURIST MAGNET Panikian island, also called "turtle island" for its large population of "pawikan" (sea turtles), has been attracting tourists to Zamboanga del Sur's Pitogo town. LEAH AGONROY

PITOGO, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has closed Panikian Island, a popular tourist site here, in a bid to save the nesting place of endangered green sea turtles, locally known as "pawikan."

On Tuesday, DENR personnel installed signages announcing the temporary closure of the island to tourists while vulnerability assessments and cleanup are done.

ADVERTISEMENT

4) According to Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez, DENR regional director in Zamboanga Peninsula, the island is among the spots in the country that hosts a large number of nesting turtles. hence the need to protect its beaches from being disturbed by human activities.

"Green turtles are facing various threats such as harvesting, habitat degradation, pollution in feeding and nesting areas, and [the impact of] climate change," Rodriguez said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1190066/denr-bars-visitors-from-zambos-turtle-isle>



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DENR bars visitors from Zambo's turtle Isle

Tourist influx

The common sight of green sea turtles and the pristine white sand beaches have been drawing a regular stream of tourists into Panikian, especially during weekends.

Locals refer to Panikian as "turtle island," owing to its turtle population.

Cipriano Caupit, who works at the turtle hatchery run by the Pitogo town government, said people came to Panikian to see turtles roaming the beach or laying their eggs.

Images and videos of turtles in their natural habitat uploaded on social media have been attracting more people to the island.

Caupit said the temporary closure would be an opportunity to revisit the island's management practices as visitor surge had led to increasing volume of trash on its beaches.



"panikian" (sea turtles)-GO GREEN DUMALINAO

Distraction

Humans have become a distraction to the sea turtles' egg-laying ritual, he added.

The Pitogo government provides resources for conservation initiatives in Panikian and runs the turtle hatchery set up by the DENR in 2017.



Bataan fetes *pawikans*

By Jonas Reyes

MARIVELES, Bataan — In an effort to further promote the conservation and protection of sea turtles frequenting the coastal areas of this municipality, the local government unit will celebrate the annual Pawikan Festival on 1 December in Barangay Nagbalayong.

The annual event, with the theme "Help Save the Pawikan," is also held to raise awareness on other coastal areas where sea turtles usually nest while promoting tourism programs and activities of the province, according to Tourism Operations Officer Danica Tigas.

Several activities will be conducted for the event including an environmental forum, a "Galing Bataan" trade fair and provincial and regional dance competitions. The opening program will be graced by Hon. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

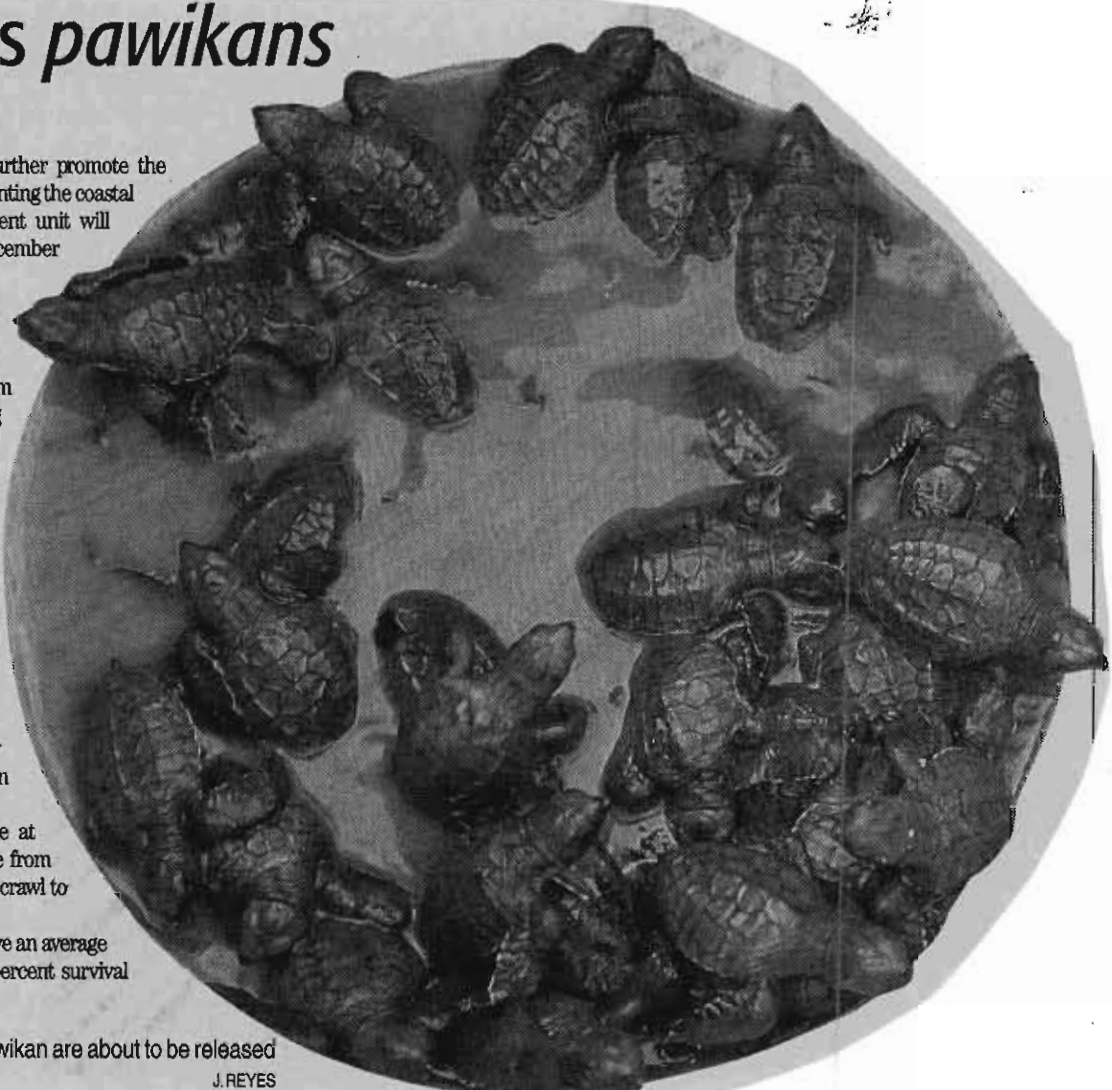
According to marine experts, a female sea turtle becomes sexually mature within 15 to 50 years, depending on the species. The female sea turtle will crawl onto a beach, just like the coastal areas in Bataan and Zambales, to lay her eggs at night in a nest large enough to fit an average of 100 eggs.

The hatchlings, which also usually emerge at night, would rely on the light of the moon aside from their smell and magnetic cues to guide them to crawl to the water to be released.

According to conservationists, sea turtles have an average of 90 percent hatching success, but only one percent survival rate up to their sexual maturity.

To freedom These baby sea turtles or pawikan are about to be released into the ocean.

J. REYES



Coal substitute stays elusive

By Elmer Recuerdo

TACLOBAN CITY — Coal will remain a dominant fuel for the country, particularly among fast-developing regions, since it is the cheapest and most available source of electricity.

For instance, Eastern Visayas, which is a disaster-prone region, remains heavily dependent on energy sourced from coal despite the abundance of geothermal fields.

This reality faces the progressing provinces despite a worldwide movement to shift to clean and renewable energy to minimize global warming and reduce chances of devastating storms like super typhoon “Yolanda” that hit the Visayas

area in November 2013 that left over 6,000 people dead.

Aside from “Yolanda,” Eastern Visayas also experienced another weather-induced catastrophe from typhoon “Urduja” in December 2017 where 33 people

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Coal remains the preferred energy source in disaster-prone Eastern Visayas

From page A1

died and 23 went missing as a result of a landslide in Biliran province caused by continuous rain.

The looming implementation of a 15-year contract entered into by 11 electric cooperatives in Eastern Visayas under an aggregation scheme preempted any possible shift to clean and renewable energy, which may not find realization in the next decade or so.

“Our major concern is the member-consumers. If you see, Tacloban City is booming now, and one reason that we see is the low cost of electricity,” said Fernan Paul Tan, general manager of Leyte II Electric Cooperative (Leyeco 2), whose service franchise include Tacloban City and its neighboring towns of Palo and Babatngon.

“We do not care where the electricity came from as long as we can provide our member-consumer with cheap electricity. That is what we do,” Tan added.

He said Leyeco 2 obtains electricity from four power producers — GN Power, state firm Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp, Korea Electric Power Corp, and Green Core.

Green Core produces electricity from geothermal sources, while the three others come from coal. He said the current electricity mix is 60 percent from coal and 40 percent from clean energy.

Separate contracts were made for the baseload, intermediate loading and peak loading due to variation of prices in certain hours of a day.

“We do that so that unnecessary exposure on a certain price is minimized,” Tan explained.

Leyeco 2 power demand has been continually increasing over the last four years, from a base load demand of 65 megawatts of electricity in 2015 to 93 MW

in 2018 and current projection is that it will triple in the next decade.

Energy-hungry economy

The predicament of Leyte province in relying on supposed environment-threatening coal despite its being a victim of the effects of changing global weather patterns is replicated in other parts of the fast progressing nation in which the demand for energy had multiplied.

Department of Energy (DoE) Secretary Alfonso Cusi had anticipated the surge in energy demand, which he said would have coal-fired power plants remaining as a dominant energy source in the coming decade.

He said that his department would be “technology-neutral” in the approval of new power plants. He has also maintained his position that fixed and subsidized rates for renewable energy is over.

“The technology-neutral approach taken by the DoE since I came into office has seen our generation capacity grow while maintaining our renewable energy mix and reducing our dependence on expensive oil imports,” Cusi had said.

“All energy options are considered on the basis of affordability, reliability, security and sustainability,” he further stated.

Coal power plants accounted for 39 percent of the country’s 21,241 megawatts (MW) of installed energy capacity last year, followed by renewable energy with 31 percent, while natural gas and oil-based plants had 16 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

Hosting clean energy

Ironically, Leyte hosts the biggest geothermal source in the country, which is the Tongonan facility that used to be run by the state-owned Philippine National Oil Company but was privatized and sold to the Lopez-owned First Philippine Holdings Corp.

The Tongonan facility, now under

the Energy Development Corp., has four geothermal power plant, namely Tongonan 1, Upper Mahiao, Malitbog and Mahanagdong, generating a total baseload capacity of 711.4 MW of clean and reliable electricity.

Tan said while geothermal energy is local to Eastern Visayas, electric cooperatives in the region could not patronize because the price it offers is beyond the means of local electric coops.

“We should understand what is geothermal to us. When EPIRA (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001) came into life, it gave the government the chance to sell this entity, the geothermal, which we consider as ours. But now, as Leyeco 2, why should we buy electricity at P7 from them if there is coal that sells for only P3?” Leyeco 2’s Tan said.

EPIRA instituted reforms in the energy sector, including the restructuring of the power industry to introduce competition in the generation sector mainly through privatization of power plants.



Philex begins initial works for Silangan Mine

The Boyongan deposit, eyed as the maiden phase, will be fully developed within two and a half years. It has an initially estimated mine life of 22 years

Pangilinan-led Philex Mining Corp., the country's largest gold producer, on Thursday confirmed the \$2-billion Silangan Mine project started the pre-full development phase after the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) approved the declaration of mining project feasibility (DMPF) of the venture.

In a regulatory filing, Philex said the MGB's approval of the mining method incorporated a three-year work program beginning the second half of 2019 until the first half of 2022.

"We are targeting to conclude the strategic partner and finalizing contracts within the first half of 2020, paving way for the development," Philex Mining President and Chief Executive Officer Eulalio Austin Jr. said in an ambush interview.

Dubbed as one of three big-ticket mining projects, Austin said the project is a large-scale high-grade copper-gold development in Surigao del Norte, Mindanao.

Silangan's tenements are composed of the Boyongan deposit and Bayugo deposit, covering Bayugo-Silangan and Bayugo-Kalayaan, with the latter being held by the company through a joint venture with Manila Mining Corp.

Based on the development timeline, the Silangan Project will be developed in phases.

The Boyongan deposit, eyed as the maiden phase, will be fully developed within two and a half years. It has an initially estimated mine life of 22 years.

For this initial stage, Silangan is expected to yield high-grade mineable ore grades of 0.63 percent for copper and 1.20 grams per ton for gold.

"The mine is designed for four million tons per year... We will start lower, then in the second year, which is in 2023, it will be a full four million tons per year," Austin explained.

The second phase, which will be comprised of the Bayugo deposit (covering Bayugo-Silangan and Bayugo-Kalayaan), has an ongoing preliminary feasibility study utilizing the underground mining method and PFS will be completed within 2019.

María Romero



Mindanao 2019

Martial law has been successful. The Department of Defense has proclaimed that they no longer need the powers of martial law. They have to be congratulated. That type of martial law has been good. It shows that martial law can be administered to help peace rather than oppression of people. What we need now is jobs in Mindanao. We have to give every able-bodied citizen a job so that he can support himself and his family. The soldiers of the insurgents are recruited by offering them jobs. We can give them better jobs.

There are many industries that we can support in Mindanao like rubber and bamboo industries that have huge markets waiting for supplies. Of course the banana and pineapple industries have long way to go in filling the big demand for their products. In the hills of Mindanao there are potentials for white potato and strawberry industries besides of course, what the indigenous people are used to, the abaca industry. There are other agricultural products waiting to be developed with the provision of farm-to-market roads and equipment.

There are thousands of hectares in the name of lumad tribes as ancestral domains but they need financing to develop them. They are rich with land resources but dying of hunger. They do not even have the funds to plant camote. A real possibility is following the example of Malaysia's Felda. They do the planting and preparation of the agricultural products before

they are allocated to the farmers who will then amortize the expenses incurred for the developing of the land. Malaysia developed about 2,000 hectares every year in this fashion and have been very successful. Mindanao is still the Promised Land. All we have to do is gather the resources that we need. And they are available.

Mining is still the promise of Mindanao. It has the power resources to provide for good mining. The first metal that is available is gold. We still smuggle thousands of ounces gold out of Mindanao. Then we have nickel which is of high grade in Mindanao. The minimum for nickel ore is .5% if it is to be viable but we have huge deposits that go up to 2% grade of Nickel is needed all over the world for stainless steel. Then we have other metals like copper and iron that are still untouched.

The misunderstanding in mining is that it coops large areas of potential agricultural land. This is not the case. Large areas are needed only for searching for where the minerals are. But the actual mining areas are infinitesimal compared to the available land. Then good mining practices can recover this land for agricultural purposes after the minerals have been extracted. Mindanao has huge faults that go from north to south that have welled up these treasures ready for exploitation.

The recent earthquake disasters in Cotabato have brought out the good in many Filipinos. The major source of problems have been the mountain side that came down

in Makilala. Our building regulations, where they are followed, make it hardly possible for

r structures to collapse. Minor damage can occur but in general our building codes make it unlikely that our building structures will collapse. Where there have been structures that collapse is where they have been negligent in following our building codes. We are in earthquake-prone islands and we have to anticipate this. The washing away of a mountain side is not something we can prevent but we have enough information to pinpoint where they are probable or even possible.

Marawi is still waiting for rehabilitation. The destruction of Marawi is to be lamented but, in a sense, a blessing. Marawi was the main source of shabu and illegal drugs for half of Mindanao. Lawlessness abounded there, the climate of Marawi is excellent so that the Americans wanted to make it the capital of Mindanao, many American families were based in Marawi. Most of them have moved back to the United States. Even the half-breed Americans have mostly moved to the US.

Marawi can have a real new start in life. It has many natural resources that can still make it the capital of Mindanao.

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VOICE FROM THE SOUTH

FR. EMETERIO BARCELON, SJ



EVERYMAN

Missing from the climate change battle: The worker

By Purple Romero

CAN a waste picker or a jeepney driver be the face of climate change mitigation?

The answer is yes. Both depend on industries that contribute carbon emissions, the culprit behind climate change. Both will also be affected immensely when these industries shift to clean energy as they face the possibility of losing their sources of income.

They, therefore, are in the best position to show how the transition can be done in an inclusive manner, with them getting new jobs that are more environmental-friendly done in a pace that is neither too slow nor too hasty, through a process that will take into account their situation, their reality and the future of their own families.

This is called just transition. "Just Transition—the idea that justice and equity must form an integral part of the transition towards a low-carbon world—is increasingly being mobilized both to counter the jobs versus environment binary and to broaden the debate on low-carbon transitions," the 2018 report "Mapping Just Transition(s) to a Low-Carbon World," explained.

The report, done by the Just Transition Research Collaborative, cited the example of Canada, where coal miners are expected to be laid-off following the government's announcement of a national phase-out of coal-fired electricity generation by 2030.

Labor unions and organized groups such as The Alberta Federation of Labour and United Steelworkers asked the government to provide measures that will cushion the impacts of such phase-out on their livelihoods.

The government of Alberta hence introduced a Coal Community Transition Fund and a Coal Workforce Transition Program.

Such steps are also imperative in the Philippines to also prevent the demonization of workers who demand just transition. They are being painted as enemies of change, when they are not.

Jeepney drivers who held a transport strike did not stage one because they opposed the modernization of public transportation per se. They did it because the costs of switching to vehicles that are Euro 4-compliant are too big, hence their demand for a higher government subsidy.

"We also know about climate change and we do not object to steps that the government wants to take to fight it, but what we are asking for is just transition. The change that they want could not just happen overnight," Jaime Aguilar, president of the National Confederation Transport Union said in an interview.

A modernized jeepney costs around P2 million. The government has only allotted an P80,000-subsidy for each unit; the jeepney drivers would have to pay the rest using their own money. A jeepney driver, Aguilar said, only earns around P800 a day.

Waste pickers, on the other hand, could be affected by the disruptions in the recycling industry caused by proposed ban on waste imports. Waste

pickers perform an important role in collecting and segregating items that are still recyclable.

Both a ban on waste imports and recycling done right are needed however in order to minimize plastic pollution and pave the way for reduced plastic production. Plastic is derived from fossil fuels, with carbon emitted from its whole life cycle.

"Plastic & Climate: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet," a study of the Center for International Environmental Law said that the annual emissions in 2019 from the plastic life cycle are equal to emissions from 189 coal plants.

In order to help waste pickers sustain their source of livelihood amid a waste import ban, the local market for recycling, focusing on local waste, should be energized and supported by the government.

Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator of Ecowaste Coalition said the Philippines already has the needed law—the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000—in place in order to improve the local market for recycling. What's left to be done is for it to be enforced properly.



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Manila Standard

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"The Philippine government should enforce the Recycling Program as stipulated under RA 9003 otherwise known as The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 Section 26 that states "The DILG and other concerned agencies and sectors, publish a study of existing markets for processing and purchasing recyclable materials and the potential steps necessary to expand these markets. Such study shall include, but not limited to, an inventory of existing markets for recyclable materials, product standards for recyclable and recycled materials, and a proposal, developed in conjunction with the appropriate agencies, to stimulate the demand for the production of products containing post-consumer and recovered materials," she said.

Training for green jobs or jobs in the renewable energy industry should also be made available to other workers who stand to lose employment as the country shifts to clean energy. There's already a law which promotes green jobs, defined as "employment that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment, be it in the agriculture, industry or services sector" in Republic Act 10771 or the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016.

The Climate Change Commission is tasked with designing and developing standards and certification system for companies that will provide green jobs.

Such options for formal just transition measures must be made known to workers' groups, cooperatives representing the informal sector and labor unions, which in turn should not also be afraid to have their voices heard in the revolution to have a world that is not dependent on dirty energy.

Ms. Romero is a freelance journalist who has written about environment and human rights issues for local and international news organizations.



Flood, fire and plague: Climate change blamed for disasters

SINGAPORE. – Extreme floods in Venice, fires in Australia and even an outbreak of plague in China have been attributed to climate change this week, while researchers have warned that global warming could saddle future generations with life-long illness.

Venice declared a state of emergency on Wednesday after “apocalyptic” floods swept through the lagoon city, flooding its historic basilica and inundating squares and centuries-old buildings.

“This is the result of climate change,” city mayor Luigi Brugnaro said on Twitter.

City thoroughfares were turned into raging torrents, stone balus-

trades were shattered, boats tossed ashore and gondolas smashed against their moorings as the lagoon tide peaked at 187 cm (6ft 2ins).

It was the highest since the record 194 cm set in 1966, but rising water levels are becoming a regular threat to the tourist jewel.

“Venice is on its knees,” said Brugnaro. “The damage will run into hundreds of millions of euros.”

On the other side of the world, parts of Australia have been ravaged by wild bushfires this week, with four people killed and communities forced to flee the flames.

Since 2016, parts of northern and inland New South Wales, along with

southern Queensland, have been in drought that the Bureau of Meteorology says is being driven, in part, by warmer sea-surface temperatures affecting rainfall patterns.

Air temperatures have also warmed over the past century, increasing the ferocity of droughts and fires.

But links between climate change and extreme weather events have become a political football in Australia.

The coal-industry supporting government accepts the need to cut emissions while arguing that stronger environmental action would cripple its economy.

That pits the country against its

Pacific island neighbors which are particularly susceptible to warmer temperatures and rising seas.

Globally, concern about effective action has surged since U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the international Paris Accord on climate change and took steps to dismantle environmental protections.

Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro are among the world’s only leaders who publicly question the science of climate change, despite devastating fires in their countries - in California and the Amazon basin - that environmentalists at least partly blame on global warming. – *Reuters*



420 barangays in 4 regions alerted for landslides, floods

BY VICTOR REYES

AROUND 420 barangays are at risk of flooding and landslides from tropical storm "Ramon," the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said yesterday.

Citing information from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the NDRRMC said these barangays are in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, and Bicol regions and Cordillera Administrative Region.

The NDRRMC could not immediately say how many residents are living in the 420 barangays.

Ramon is forecast to make landfall on Sunday morning between northern Isabela and Cagayan and will leave the land mass of Ilocos Norte early morning Monday, said weather specialist Raymond Ordinario.

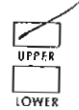
Signal No. 2 remained up over Catanduanes. Under signal No. 1 are the eastern portion of Isabela (Divilacan, Palanan and Dinapigue),

northern Aurora (Dilasag, Casiguran and Dinulungan), Polillo Island, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Albay.

PAGASA, in a weather bulletin, said the center of Ramon was some 500 km east of Baler, Aurora as of around 4 p.m. yesterday. Ramon was packing maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph, moving north northwest at 15 kph. It is projected to be some 335 km east of Baler, Aurora this morning.

Director Allan Tabell, of the Creative Services Division of the Department of Interior and Local Government, said all local government units should be ready for possible evacuation of residents in areas susceptible to landslides and flooding.

The NDRRMC told residents near rivers, creeks, lakes, and seas affected by continuous rainfall to head for higher ground and to stay away from floodwaters.



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PAGLIKHA NG SIERRA MADRE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, ISUSULONG NATIN

ANG Sierra Madre ang itinuturing na pinakahuling bahagi ng kagubatan sa Luzon na nangatiling buo at hindi pa tuluyang nasisira.

Ito ang pinakamahalagang bulubundukin sa buong Filipinas na umaabot sa 1.4 milyong hektarya na lupang saklaw kung saan binabaybay ng bulubunduking ito ang 10 probinsiya, kabilang na ang lalawigan ng Rizal.

Dahil sa haba, taas at laki na saklaw ng Sierra Madre, ito'y matibay ring depensa laban sa

mapaminsalang bagyo dahil kaya nitong basagin o napapahina ang malakas na hanging dala ng bagyo kapag tumama sa kabundukang ito.

Kabilang din ang Sierra Madre sa ilang natitirang old-growth forests sa bansa kaya nangangahulugan ito ng napakataas na level ng biodiversity o pag-iiba-iba at pagiging katangi-tangi ng nabubuhay na mga hayop at halaman dito.

Nagsisilbing tahanan ito ng pinakamalaking bilang ng samu't saring

halaman at hayop na karamiha'y matatagpuan lamang sa Filipinas.

Ilang magagandang atraksiyon din ang maaaring makapag-ambag sa industriya ng turismo ng ating bansa.

Subalit sa paglipas ng mahabang panahon, ang Sierra Madre ay patuloy na kumakaharap sa mga banta ng degradasyon at pagkawasak.

Bilang sentro ng biodiversity at tahanan ng samu't saring likas na yaman, palagi rin itong puntirya ng mapaminsalang mga gawain ng tao sa ngalan ng negosyo't kapital na gaya ng pagmimina, illegal logging,

ilegal na pangangaso at iba pang uri ng pang-aabuso sa kalikasan.

Kaya bilang kinatawan ng Ikalawang Distrito ng Rizal, nais kong maghain ng panukalang batas sa Kongreso para likhain ang Sierra Madre Development Authority na layuning mapangalagaan ang naturang kagubatan.

Maglalagay tayo ng mga probisyon sa ating panukala na dapat magkaroon ng rehabilitasyon sa mga watershed, maproteksiyonan ang rainforest nito at ang mga katutubong naninirahan dito ang itatalagang taga-bantay ng Sierra Madre.

Dapat na tayong kumilos para hindi tuluyang masira at masalaula ang Sierra Madre.

Kailangang pangalagaan ng gobyerno ang likas yamang taglay nito gayundin, igalang ang karapatan at kapakanan na mga katutubong namuhay rito gaya ng Dumagat - sila ang pinakamasugid na mga tanod at pinakamagiging na tagapagtanggol ng kagubatan at likas-yaman nito.

Huwag nating hayaan na tuluyang mawasak ang Sierra Madre, sama-sama tayong kumilos upang mapanumbalik ang sigla at ganda ng kagubatan nito.



SOCCSKSARGEN: KIDAPAWAN CITY, COTABATO Cotabato starts rehabilitation planning for earthquake victims

THE COTABATO provincial government held a planning workshop on Wednesday as a first step to drafting the recovery and rehabilitation program for residents displaced by the series of earthquakes in October. The meeting - led by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) and the Provincial Planning and Development Office - was attended by the regional heads and representatives of various national agencies and local government units (LGUs). "*Makakaya natin ang kalamidad dahil sa suporta ng* (We can deal with the calamity given the support of the) national government, local governments and individuals and private organizations as well as local and international NGOs (non-government organizations) and other sectors... together we help rebuild our heavily affected LGUs," Acting Governor Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza said in a text message. The rehabilitation plan will use the report of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology's (Phivolcs) Quick Response Team, which was presented to Ms. Mendoza earlier this week. The report includes maps, extent of damage, and other documents showing areas that have been "assessed as safe for permanent relocation sites," the Cotabato provincial government said in a statement. Phivolcs also reported the installation of six temporary seismic stations around the earthquake areas for continued monitoring and assessment.



EASTMINCOM

ARMY engineers build a temporary shelter prototype for Cotabato residents displaced by the series of earthquakes in October.

DENR-DAVAO



TEAMS from the regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau record and assess the impact of the three strong earthquakes that affected Davao del Sur and other parts of Davao Region in Oct.

are within the four towns of Bansalan, Magsaysay, Kiblawan and Hagonoy. The two villages in Hagonoy, said Mr. Irag, also showed soil liquefaction. — with reports from **Maya M. Padillo and Carmelito Q. Francisco**

DAVAO DEL SUR

In Davao del Sur, nine barangays will be recommended for permanent relocation due to dangers that have emerged following the series of earthquakes. The Davao Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) said field assessments by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau show big cracks in these areas, which put residents in surrounding communities at risk, especially if another strong earthquake occurs. "The big tension cracks may cause landslides due to further shaking or heavy downpour. These barangays need to be relocated," Franz N. Irag, manager of the DRRMO's Emergency Operations Center, said. The nine barangays

>> See full story on <https://qrqo.page.link/xVchK>



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