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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Estero Rangers

PROTECTORS OF THE BAY

We would like to impress upon the public that we really need to overhaul the disposal system in Metro Manila, make it efficient and for the public to stop dumping trash into our waterways

By **Kontle Manalo**

Manila Bay has a new protector.
Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has approved the filing of "estero rangers" to protect Manila Bay and its tributaries against indiscriminate waste disposal, as well as assist local government units (LGU) to improve garbage collection within their respective jurisdictions.

Initially, 2,000 estero rangers will be deployed in the nearly 2,500 barangays encompassing the National Capital Region and peripherals that discharge their waters in the bay.

At the same time, Cimatu assigned senior officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as "river commanders" to oversee rehabilitation activities under the so-called "Battle for Manila Bay."

"We would like to impress upon the public that we really need to overhaul the disposal system in Metro Manila, make it efficient and for the public to stop dumping trash into our waterways," Cimatu, head of the inter-agency Manila Bay Task Force, said.

The DENR chief said two estero rangers will be initially deployed to 711 barangays where there are alleys traversed by esteros and not reached by garbage trucks. These alleys are mostly populated by informal settler families.

Cimatu said he already gave a directive to look into the possibility of increasing the number of estero rangers to at least 2,000 so that four may be deployed to each barangay.

DMM releases budget

The creation of the estero rangers came full swing after the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ordered the release of more than P2 billion to augment the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program fund in accordance with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to clean Manila Bay.

According to DBM, the augmentation fund was sourced from the P13-billion



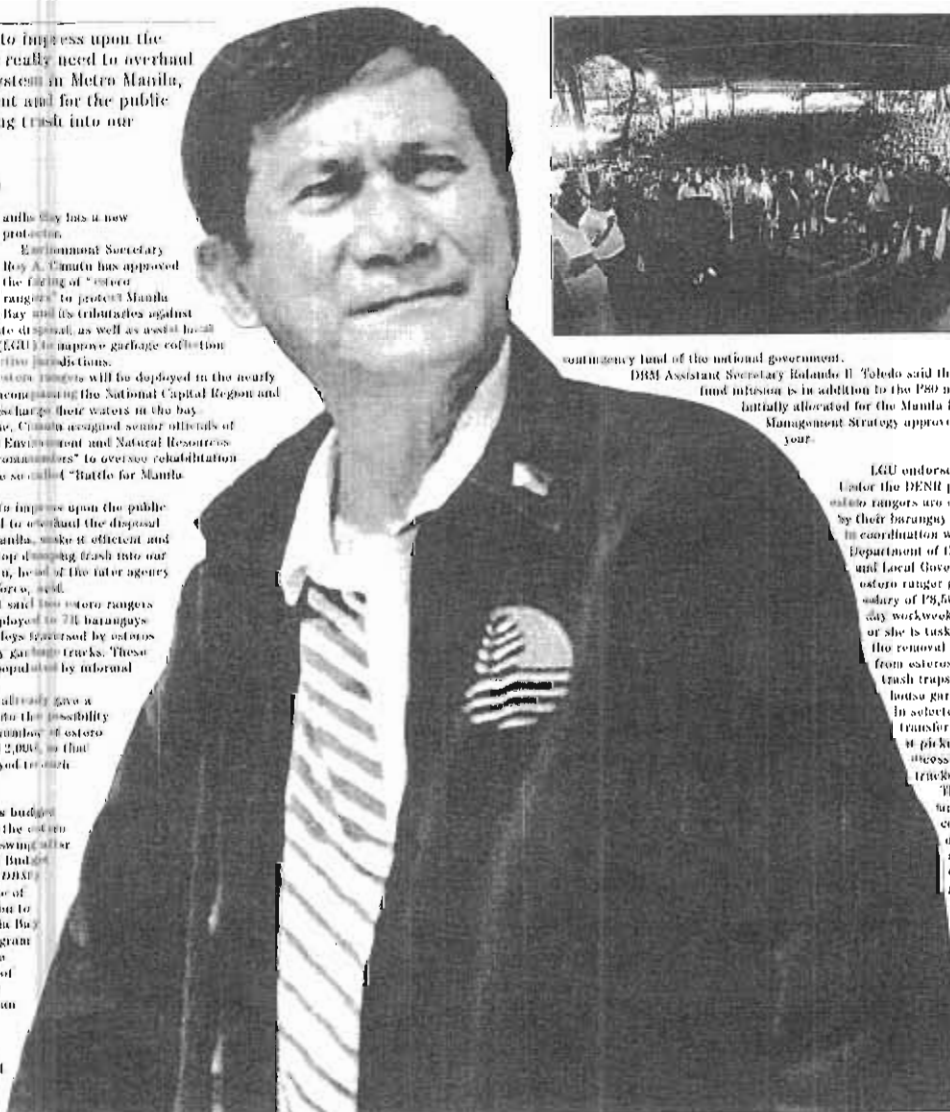
contingency fund of the national government.

DBM Assistant Secretary Rolando B. Toledo said the fresh fund infusion is in addition to the P89 million initially allocated for the Manila Bay Coastal Management Strategy approved early this year.

LGU endorsement

Under the DENR program, the estero rangers are endorsed by their barangay officials in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The estero ranger gets a monthly salary of P8,500 for a five-day workweek schedule. He or she is tasked to conduct the removal of garbage from esteros fitted with trash traps and house-to-house garbage collection in selected alleys for transfer and storage at pickup points accessible to garbage trucks.

The estero rangers were commissioned on 15 November at the DENR central office grounds in Quezon City. At least 200 cracks and alleyways favoring the 711 barangays will be serviced by



TITLE:

Estero mangroves

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The estero mangroves. Cimuta's move to lure estero mangroves addresses the dumping of garbage in esteros, which the environment chief observed to have been partly due to the poor collection of garbage from informal family settlers living in narrow alleys near esteros.

Battle over this year

In his previous statement, Cimuta expressed optimism the battle for Manila Bay could be won. This will become evident once a

portion of Roxas Boulevard becomes safer for swimming by early 2020.

The probability of Manila Bay being fit for swimming was brought up by the DENR chief during the agency's presentation of its proposed P25-billion budget for 2020.

Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cimuta, the DENR official, whom Cimuta said is his "ground commander" in the ongoing battle, said the weekly cleanup mandated by the DDO to all barangays is regularly undertaken



The DENR is also coordinating with the Metro Manila Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways and the Laguna Lake Development Authority to ensure compliance with sewage treatment facilities by the different establishments, so that fecal coliform levels are strictly monitored.

"Since the Battle for Manila Bay was launched last 27 January, we have witnessed a lot of improvement in terms of solid waste

that we see floating in the bay," Cimuta said.

"We respect all esteros flowing in Manila Bay. In fact, the Secretary assigned particular undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors to oversee particular rivers and esteros, and we have been coordinating with the barangays and other agencies to ensure that they are clean and primarily to stop the loading of pollution," he added.



Restoring a flowing cemetery

Relocation is our priority. We will take immediate action. We will remove and relocate the ISF in coordination with the National Housing Authority

By Vernor Valusco

"Where is the battle? I asked JB when he thought I was about to go. I was surprised, but I didn't think it occurred to him that I was just off to what I want."

JBs was not a family of caricatures who the film goes down to a chain as that they could make them outside a solid construction of mud and freshly yanked eyeballs.

But I saw her mother turning away her head out of the window to shoot wads of spit into the river, pressing one of the holes of her nose so that she could use the other as a nostril.

"Yes, as we have a better?" I said. "Yes, you brought them clamber up the hill and then you have it. All to justice!"

Like any other informal settler families (ISF) dwelling in clusters of makeshift houses, some of the tight smacks along this side of the San Juan River, JB refers to the river as "the backyard," where a children play network signal to deposit their loads when old wives are not busy dishing up pilonig or composing of refuse and dead dogs.

"Why bother?" I said. "The river is dead anyway." "I made to hold it off, I went to the 'bos' and cased into the river, urine trickling into the small beads lacking signs of life and looking thick to the touch, the river is really dead. And it felt like peeing on somebody's grave."

Biologically dead

San Juan River is one of the 10 Manila declared in 2003 by the DENR as biologically dead. In other words, it is devoid of any life-form, save for 12,000 and other local estero bacteria, which thrive in infested loads of water where you would contract typhoid fever and cholera.

San Juan City officials claim on the demise of the San Juan River on surrounding informal businesses and dense residential areas, which transformed the

river into an open-air dump, and which make polluted waterways so difficult to restore.

Periodically, the city is able to hunt over 50 tons of loads of rubbish clogging the river using heavy equipment.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimuta, ministerial inspection of the Pasig River in September, pointed to the degree to which the San Juan River, a major tributary and is considered to be the most polluted river in the country, has been overgrown.

"The water is gurgling," he said. "And it is pitch black."

Cimuta, who took over the reins of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Council (PRRC) after its dissolution, has assessed the importance of the clean-up of creeks and rivers that flow into the Pasig River, the main artery of Manila waterways, because these are contributors to its water quality.

To mitigate water quality degradation and revive the dead river, PRRC adopted a multi-pronged approach, aside from sanitation technology, plastic remediation methods and partnering with private entities.

The DENR is very particular with the relocation of informal settlers.

"We have the authority to restore the three-meter easement, and MMDA and PRRC are working on this," Cimuta said.

Based on the law, banks of rivers and streams and seasonal streams and lakes throughout their entire length shall within a zone of three meters in urban areas are subject to the easement of public use.

The Environment of 1964 law says PRRC is not 100% fit for banks and spreaded across the San Juan River, and known to be private for them.

"Relocation is our priority. We will take immediate action. We will remove and relocate the ISF in coordination with the National Housing Authority," he said.

Cimuta added that, during his recent meeting with local government officials, including barangay captains, he advised the most administrative units should relocate ISF to return to their permanent abode.



MANILA BAY REHAB: IN REVIEW

This is one battle that will be won not with force or arms, but with the firm resolve to bring Manila Bay back to life," Cimuta said then, as he led thousands of volunteers from across the nation on a solidarity walk from the Quirino Grandstand to Manila Bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources under Secretary Roy A. Cimuta started a simultaneous cleanup of creeks and tributaries on January 27, 2019. In partnership with other national government agencies, local government units, sector barangays, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the private sector, schools and civil society organizations.

What was intended to be a small gesture to show the Duterte administration's sincerity in bringing back the old glory of the famous Manila Bay spawned nationwide awareness of the need to be responsible for the upkeep of the environment, that we must do our share to secure a future that is viable, clean and sustainable.

"This is one battle that will be won not with force or arms, but with the firm resolve to bring Manila Bay back to life," Cimuta said then, as he led thousands of volunteers from across the nation on a solidarity walk from the Quirino Grandstand to Manila Bay. The event also marked the declaration of the start of the Manila Bay rehabilitation and the participation of the 13 national government agencies, local government units and private sector.

The 'Battle for Manila Bay'

The Manila Bay rehabilitation has three phases of implementation:

Phase 1 - Cleanup/Water Quality Improvement

- Cleanup of designated sectors and waterways.
- Review for discharge level and toxic discharges from houses and establishments by causing common sense for existing sewerage treatment plants and requiring SUT by government, commercial, industrial, and educational establishments.
- Inspect and repair leaks in old sewer lines.
- Provide a report on sanitation facilities to inform on those residing along esteros and shorelines pending relocation.
- Implement solid waste management.
- Start planning for the relocation of informal settlers.

Phase 2 - Rehabilitation and Resettlement

- Rehabilitation of old sewer lines in the National Capital Region.
- Relocation of informal settlers.
- Ensure completion of 110 million liters per day requirement of Maynilad and Manila Water by 2022.

Phase 3 - Education and Sustainability

- Continuing education of citizens to protect the gains of rehabilitation.
- Sustained law enforcement and monitoring.
- Fast tracking or earlier completion of the sewerage system in Metro Manila from 2027 to 2028.

The Manila Bay area consists eight provinces and 103 local government units (LGU) in three regions of the country, namely NCR, Region III and Region IV-A.

Of the eight provinces, Laguna coastal (Calamba, Balayan, Cavite and Panapa) will have the most coastal hectares. Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Tarlac 2.

The drainage area covers 1,093 square kilometers, or 89,000 hectares, while its coastline measures some 190 kilometers.

There are 17 regional river systems draining to Manila Bay, namely Angat, Bincuan, San Mateo, Marikina, Maysajon, Mayanay, Robinson, Baguio, Parangal, Zambo, Yangyang, Cainta, Gumbi, Navotas, Malabon, Tuguegarao, Tullahan, Tubay, Tigay, and Pangasinan rivers and Rio Grande.

On 18 January 2019, the Supreme Court issued SC Mandamus on Manila Bay (GR 178745) directing the government agencies to clean up, maintain and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make it fit for swimming, skin diving and other forms of contact recreation.

The DENR-associated Administrative Order (AO) of 1999 defining coastal and marine waters under Class SB classification are areas regularly used by the public for bathing, swimming and skin diving, and as spawning areas for Clupea species, or langas, and similar species.

The 13 mandating agencies include the DENR, Department of Local Government, Education, Health, Agriculture, Public Works and Highways, and Budget and Management, Philippine National Police Maritime Group (Philippine Coast Authority), MMB, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Local Water Utilities Administration.

The SC ordered the DENR to fully implement its operational plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy (MPBCS) that is within its mandate pursuant to Executive Order 192 to regularly coordinate with mandating agencies and other concerned agencies involved in the management of Manila Bay on the effective implementation of the MPBCS, and pursuant to Executive Order 19 of Republic Act 10555, to manage the water quality of Manila Bay through standards setting, regular monitoring and rehabilitation of Water Quality Management Areas (WQMA).

The mandating agencies ordered the dismantling and removal of illegal structures along the following waterways: Pasig, Marikina-San Juan, NCR (Panapaque-Zapote, Bag Pasay), Navotas-Malabon-Tullahan-Timberland, connecting waterways and esteros in Marikina, and rivers in Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite and Laguna de Bay and those connecting waterways and esteros that discharge wastewater into the Manila Bay.

Only 10 percent, or 2.1 million, of 16.3 million, of the water-served population in NCR are connected to a sewerage system, while only 48.1 percent, or 16,000, of 33,200, of the population outside NCR are provided with sanitation services.

Annual 251,000 informal settler families residing along the waterways of the Manila Bay area are directly discharging their wastes into its waters. Unfortunately, only about 76 percent of LGU have approved 10-year Solid Waste Management Plans.

On 19 February, President Duterte signed Administrative Order No. 10 issued Administrative Order No. 10 suspending the rehabilitation and restoration of Manila Bay by creating the Manila Bay Task Force. **Paolo Antonio**



Congress should impose heavy tax on single-use plastic bags – DENR

By **CHARISSA M. LUCI-ATIENZA**

As far as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is concerned, single-use plastic bags should be heavily taxed by Congress to discourage its use and help address the alarming plastic pollution in the country.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid

Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda made the call as the House Committee on Ways and Means is set to invite the DENR to ask its position on House Bill 178 which seeks to impose P10 excise tax for every kilo of single-use plastic bag removed from the place of production, or released from the customs house.

"I propose that rather than banning it, we should tax it. We should impose heavy tax," Antiporda said.

He said the P10 excise tax for every kilo of single-use plastic bag as proposed under Suansing's bill is not enough to deter the use of plastics.

"It should be higher because when we impose higher tax, the cost will be shouldered by Juan dela

Cruz and they will be discouraged to buy that. They will definitely go for cheaper products," Antiporda said.

The DENR official said they will come up with a proposal that will not only discourage the use of single-use plastics, but even residuals or garbage or thrash that cannot be recycled.



Obligasyon ng mga plastic manufacturers



NI ALLAN ENCARNACION

NAMALENGKE ako sa isang supermarket sa Congressional, QC nito lang nakaraang araw. Natuwa tayo dahil totally ay wala na silang pinag-

bibiling plastic bag. Ipatutupad na pala ng QC government ang pagbabawal sa single used plastic mula sa January 2020. Noong nakaraang buwan, inihayag ni Pangulong Duterte ang planong pagbabawal sa single used plastic sa buong bansa. May mga traders na umaangal sa ganitong plano ng QC. Para sa ibang tao, maliit na bagay ang plastic ban. Ang hindi nila nalalaman, sa bawat isang plastic na bumabara sa ating mga waterways, may isang iresponsableng Pilipino ang gumagala. Isipin nating mabuti, kung may 100 milyong Pinoy ang gagamit ng plastic

at itatapon lamang kung saan, baka kailangan na natin ng 100 na barko ni Noah para makasakay naman ang mga walang kinalaman sa pagkakalat ng plastic. Huwag natin pasasakayin sa barko ang mga gumagawa ng non-biodegradable plastic dahil sila iyong unang tutol sa plastic ban para kapag nagbaha, sila lang ang malulunod! Noong una pang lumutang ang isyu sa plastic ban, umangal agad ang mga plastic manufacturers. Masyado raw mahal ang puhunan para makapag-produce ng biodegradable plastic bags.

Iyong biodegradable plastic ay kusang nalulusaw makalipas ang ilang araw, lalo na kapag nababad sa tubig. Ang totoo, mas gusto ko sana iyong tao na nalulusaw na lamang bigla kapag iresponsable sa pagtatapon ng mga basura. Palagay ko marami-raming malalagas sa populasyon natin kung totoo ngang nalulusaw agad ang mga walanghiyang Pilipino na walang malasakit sa kanyang kapaligiran. Naalala ko tuloy nang matrapik ako minsan sa isang tulay sa Nueva Ecija. May humintong isang mamahaling pickup at bumaba silang buong

pamilya. Akala ko naman tatanaw lang sa ilog dahil traffic, iyon pala, magtatapon ng napakaraming basura! Hindi ko lang alam kung buhay pa ang mag-anak na iyon kung natupad ang gusto kong malusaw silang mga walanghiya sa kalikasan. Ang tanong, sa matagal na panahon ay nakinabang na nang husto ang mga plastic makers, ngayong may aggressive campaign laban sa mga non-biodegradable plastic, hindi pa ba sila makagawa ng nalulusaw na produkto? May tinatawag na corporate social responsibilities, ito na ang pagkakata-



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Workers collect garbage washed up by Typhoon Tisoy at the Baseco Compound in Manila yesterday.

EDD GUMBAN

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

metro

EDITOR: DULCE A. SANCHEZ

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 5, 2019



BULOK NA SOFA, REF AT GULONG INANOD NG BAHA

MAKATI CITY – INIHAYAG ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na karamihan sa mga basurang kanilang nakolekta mula sa Metro Manila pumping stations ay mga sofa, refrigerator at mga gulong matapos ang bagyong "Tisoy".

Sa pahayag ng MMDA, nasa 304 cubic meters na mga basura na nakuha mula sa Vitas pumping station na siyang pinakamalaki sa Metro Manila ay mula lamang

sa dalawang drainage system.

Sa kasalukuyan ay may walong truck ang napuno ng basura na nakolekta ng MMDA mula sa walong pumping stations.

Ayon pa sa MMDA hindi lamang sa mga waterways sila kumokelakta ng basura na nagkalat kundi pati na rin sa Aurora Boulevard dahil sa bagyo.

Sa pahayag ng MMDA na kung ang bagyong Tisoy ay mas falong lumakas at tumagal pa ay maaring ang mga basurang

naanod ng baha ay bumalik sa mga tao lalo na sa may 579 na barangay na madalas bahain dahil malapit ito sa mga river at creeks.

Pahayag pa ng MMDA na karamihan sa mga basurang nakolekta o 'di kaya ay 80% ay mula sa mga informal settler kung kaya hiniling ng MMDA sa mga ito pati na rin sa mga local government unit na magkaroon ng koordinasyon sa pagkolekta ng mga solid waste.

MARIVIC FERNANDEZ



EDITORIAL

It could be the start of a solution

THE problem of accumulating mountains of plastic garbage around the world today is the result of years of unthinking human behavior. In the beginning, plastics were hailed as new material for wrapping, packaging, retailing, and preserving goods of all kinds – food, medicine, drinks, common household goods. They replaced paper, cloth, leather, wood, and other natural materials. They were easily manufactured and the supply was inexhaustible.

Paper, wood, cloth, and other natural materials are such that they decay and return to the earth to become new plants which, in turn, become food for animals. In time, the animals too return to the earth, to become parts of new plants and animals.

But not plastics. This human invention does not follow the natural order of decaying after certain periods of time. This makes them useful for keeping food and drinks, medicine and other human needs for long periods of time. They are so good at this that, according to scientific studies, they can last for over 450 years. Thus the plastics created decades ago remain as they are to this day, undiminished in substance or shape. And they are turning into mountains of garbage on land and sea.

The world's oceans are said to be filling up with plastics of all kinds – bottles and bottle caps, wrappers and bags, plastic spoons and forks, stirrers and straws, sachets for selling medicine tablets, cigarette stubs. And the Philippines is the world's No. 3 source of plastic garbage today, next to China and Indonesia.

The world's foremost users of plastics to sell their products – mostly food and medicine – have awakened to the irresponsibility and have pledged to stop using plastics by a certain year. Restaurants around the world have stopped the use of single-use plastics such as straws, knives, and forks.

Last week, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte announced the approval of Ordinance 2876 banning the use of all kinds of disposable plastics in the city's restaurants and grocery stores. The city government has decided to do its part to solve the plastics problem. If all the other local governments in the country and around the world and all individuals and families similarly do their part, the mountains of plastic garbage around the world would stop rising.

Scientists could then take over and devise ways to break down the plastics already dumped around the world. And they could invent biodegradable plastics – looking like the same kind of useful wrappers and bags and knives and forks, but with a big difference – they would be like wood and paper and leather that would disintegrate in time and become part of the natural order of things.

That may well be off far into the future. We need more local governments like Quezon City, more food and medicine producers and more consumers who will stop now – not later – the purchase of consumer goods of all kinds that use plastics. If this move gains support around the world, that would be the start of a solution to this hazard of our times.



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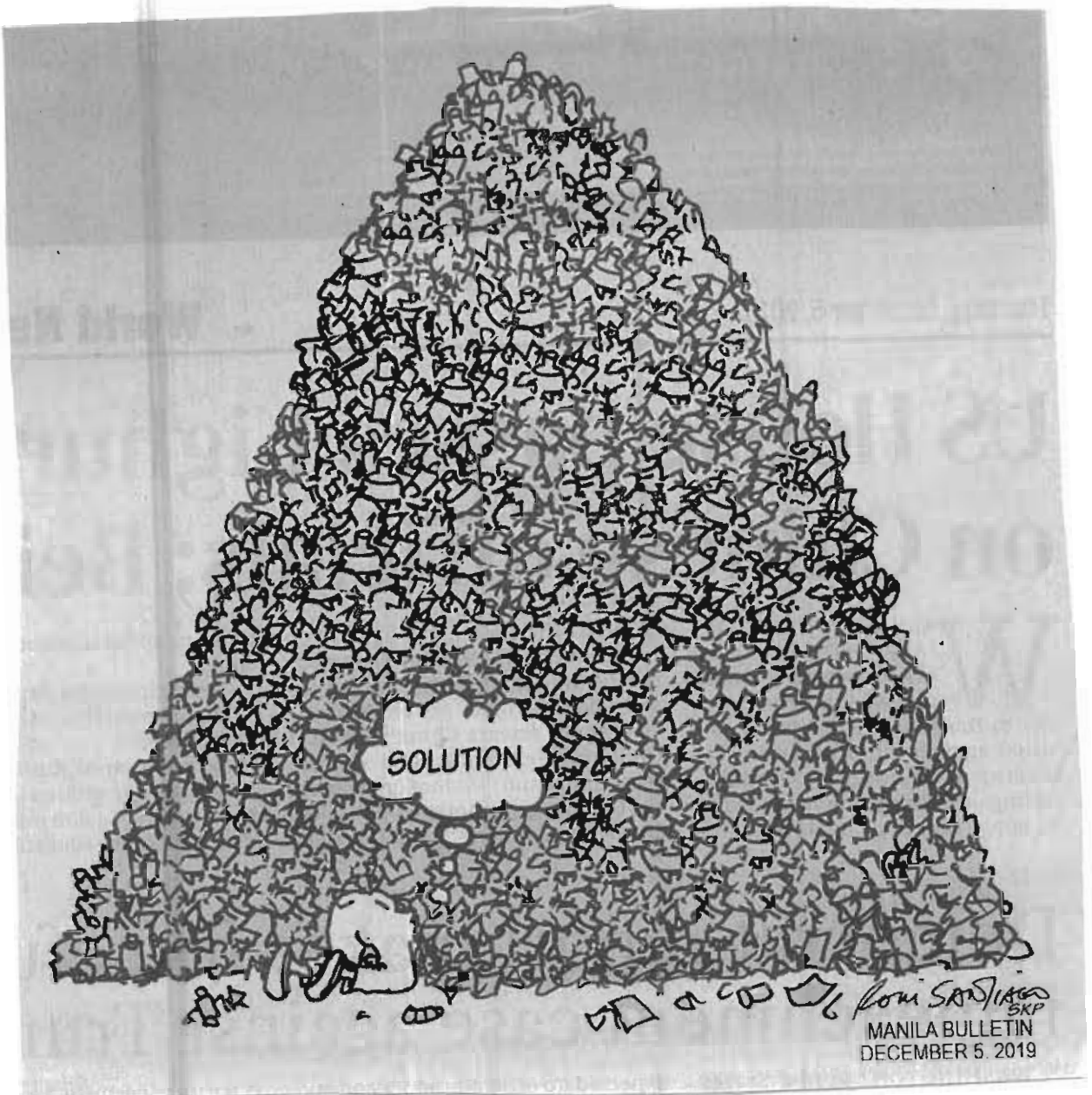
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Navoteño families gain land titles

By Jun David

MAYOR Toby Tiangco recently led the distribution of land titles to residents of Brgy. North Bay Boulevard North.

Some 190 members of Samahan ng Mamamayang Nagkakaisa ng NBBN Inc. received land titles from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"I'm happy that after 23 years, you now hold in your hands the title to your property. You may now sleep soundly, assured in the knowledge that you have legal ownership of your land," Tiangco said.

"I trust that you will take care of your property and you will be responsible in paying your real property tax," he added.

The mayor noted that the processing of the land titles started when he was still vice mayor.

"Back then, this area was classified for industrial use. We had to convert it to residential so the DENR could proceed with the processing of land titles," he explained.

The Navotas Revised Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which contained the reclassification or conversion of land use, was approved in 2018.



190 indibidwal, tumanggap ng land title

Eksaktong 20 araw bago sumapit ang Pasko, labis ang kasiyahan ng may 190 indibidwal, matapos na mabigyan ng titulo ng lupa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Navotas.

Isa-isang tinanggap ng mga kasapi ng Samahan ng Mamamayang Nagkakaisa ng Inc. (SAMANA) sa Barangay North Bay Boulevard (NBBN) ang titulo ng lupa mula sa Office of the Mayor ng lungsod, at sa DENR National Capital Region (NCR)

na kinatawan ni regional executive director Jacqueline Caancan.

Ayon kay sa lokal na pamahalaan ng lungsod, 23 taon din ang hinintay bago napasakamay ng mga residente ng nabanggit na barangay ang kanilang land title.

Dating industrial area ang nasabing lugar kaya kinailangan pa itong baguhin ng DENR upang maging residential para ma-proseso ang mga titulo.

Orly L. Barcala



Pamilyang Navoteños nakatanggap ng titulo

PINANGUNAHAN ni Mayor Toby Tiangco noong Lunes ang pamamahagi ng titulo ng lupa sa mga residente ng Brgy. North Bay Boulevard North (NBBN).

Nasa 190 kasapi ng Samahan ng Mamatayang Nagkakaisa ng NBBN Inc. (SAMANA) ang nakatanggap ng mga titulo ng lupa mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Natutuwa po tayo na pagkatapos ng 23 taon, napasakamay n'yo na ang titulo sa inyong pag-aari. Makatutulong na kayo nang mahimbing dahil alam ninyong legal na kayong may-ari ng inyong lupa," ani Tiangco.

"Nagitiwala po ako na pangangalagaan ninyo ang inyong pag-aari at magiging responsable kayo sa pagbabayad ng inyong amilyar," paalala

niya. Binanggit din ng alkalde, sinimulan ang proseso ng mga titulo ng lupa noong siya ay vice mayor pa lamang.

"Dati, industrial pa ang gamit ng lugar na ito. Kinailangan itong baguhin para maging residential at maituloy ang pagproseso ng mga titulo," paliwanag ni Tiangco.

Ang Navotas Revised Comprehensive Land Use Plan, na naglalaman ng mga reclassification o conversion of land use, ay naaprobahan noong 2018.

Kabilang sa dumalo sa pamamahagi ng titulo sina DENR-National Capital Region Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanac, NBBN Punong Barangay Melvin Manalo, at mga opisyal ng SAMANA Inc., na pinangunahan ng kaniyang pangulong si Amalia Igot. (JUN DAVID)



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SUCCESS STORY IN BOLINAO

HOW NATIONAL SCIENTIST EDGARDO GOMEZ SAVED DYING GIANT CLAMS' POPULATION



LEGACY Residents of Bolinao credit the late National Scientist Edgardo Gomez (left) for putting this coastal town in Pangasinan province on the world's marine conservation and tourism maps through his work at the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute. —PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA AND WILLIE LOMIBAO

By Yolanda Sotelo
@yzsoteloINQ

DAGUPAN CITY—He may be gone but a legacy of National Scientist Edgardo Gomez in the once sleepy coastal town of Bolinao in Pangasinan province, will transcend generations.

It was in 1985 when Gomez, the founding director of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI), put up the UPMSI-Bolinao Marine Laboratory on Silaki Island in Bolinao for clam research programs and conservation.

The laboratory maintains a hatchery for giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*), locally known as "taklobo," that began to breed clams from Solomon Island more than three decades ago.

Gomez's initiative was a success and even earned for Bolinao the moniker "Giant Clams Capital of the Philippines," former Mayor Jesus Celeste said.

Before his death on Sunday at 81, Gomez's taklobo project has already cultured 35,000 adult and 11,000 juvenile giant clams, saving these from impending extinction.

"It was because of Dr. Gomez that Bolinao was opened to the scientific world, and it was because of him that the community learned about the importance of the marine environment to their lives," environmental activist Margaret Celeste told the Inquirer on Wednesday.

Fight vs cement plant

Celeste and other residents of Bolinao are crediting Gomez not only for bringing back the giant clam population in the country but also for helping local tourism grow.

"First, it was the local and international scientists who came here [in Bolinao]. They may have informed others of the town's beauty, encouraging more tourists to pay a visit. So the town earned a spot in tourism because of him (Gomez)," Margaret said.

The UPMSI, through Gomez, quietly supported the protracted war against an international consortium of companies that wanted to establish a cement plant in the town in the 1990s.

The UPMSI issued science-based statements on how the multimillion dollar cement



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plant would have torn apart the town's pristine land and marine environment.

"Because of the support of the UPMSI, that help from different national and international organizations poured into the town. We owe it to Gomez's leadership that Bolinao reached the environmental consciousness it has now," the former mayor said.

The town is the source of giant clams resceded in over 50 reefs in

different coastal provinces, securing its survival for at least a generation, according to World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines.

Coral reef regeneration

It was also Gomez who started the coral reef regeneration projects in the town and other areas.

Ronaldi Torres, president of Bolinao Business Tourism Association, said it was from Gomez that they learned how tourism

was tied with the environment.

"He told us, 'Without environment, there is no tourism,' and now that is the mantra that we live by. Business, without considering the environment, is bound to fail, so we take care of our environment, which is the core of the town's tourism programs and projects," Torres said.

But what most residents remember is the way Gomez mingled with them.

"He was an internationally acclaimed scientist but he never showed he was superior even to the marginal fishermen. He was an intellectual person but he was very humble and knew how to deal with everyone. He listened to what everyone had to say. And he was always smiling," Torres said.

'People person'

"He was a people person," he added.

At the UPMSI, Gomez's colleagues described him as "a visionary academic leader, a great mentor and an honest and dedicated public servant."

According to the National Academy of Science and Technology, Gomez was a known researcher, scientist, conservation advocate, and mentor in invertebrate biology and ecology, giant clam culture and restoration, and coral reef assessment and conservation.

Gomez was also recognized for his outstanding contributions and researches on marine ecosystems, which became the bases for management of and the conservation programs for the country's marine resources. INQ



11 TIKLO SA PAGPUPUSLIT NG GIANT CLAMS .

CAGAYAN - LABING-ISANG katao ang inaresto dahil sa pagpupuslit ng taklobo o giant clams nang masita sila sa inilatag na checkpoint ng awtoridad sa Barangay Lum-bia.

Nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Philippine Fishers Code of 1998 ang 11 katao na inaresto matapos makuhanan ng 8,000 kilo ng giant clams o taklobo na tinatayang nagkaka-halaga ng ilang milyon piso.

Kinilala ang mga suspek na sina Diosdado Abellana, 29; Ronel Pilarea, 30; Christopher Pomia, 28; Ricky Sunogan, 50; Larry Salvan, 45; Arnel Sanchez, 49; Peterson Suan, 55; Ricky Allones, 35; Jed Ragmac, 29; Ramil Villagracia, 19; at Michael Paler, 24-anyos.

Ide-deliver ng mga suspek ang mga giant clams shell sa kanilang buyer lulan ng isang truck nang masabat sila sa checkpoint.

Ayon sa City Mobile Force Battalion commander Lt. Col Alexy Sonido, alam naman ng mga suspek na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagkuha at pagbebenta ng mga taklobo na itinuturing na endangered species.

Sa ngayon, hawak na ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang mga nakumpiska nilang taklobo.

VERLIN RUIZ



Mangrove keeps 15,000 residents in Surigao del Sur safer from storm surges



Photo shows officials and personnel of Bislig City CENRO planting mangrove propagules along a coastal stretch in a town facing the Pacific Ocean

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

About 15,000 residents along the 162-kilometer stretch of coasts in the three towns at the northwest seaboard of Bislig City in Mindanao will stand to survive the onslaught of strong seawater surges from powerful typhoons due to the fully-developed mangrove plantations initiated by the Bislig City Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Surigao del Sur.

This was the assessment made by CENR officer Victor B. Sabornido and other government foresters and environmentalists when they inspected the vast plantation of mangrove under the National Greening Program (NGP) along the coastal waters of Bislig City, Hinatuan, and Lingig in Surigao

del Sur.

"I felt happy of the accomplishment made by the four people's organization that participated in the NGP since 2011 to present," Sabornido said.

"It's really amazing to see these organizations put their best efforts to develop the mangrove plantation."

The organizations engaged in the NGP are the Mangrove and Beach Forest Development Project (MBFDP), the Yolanda Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Program (MBFDP-YRRP), the Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program (CMEMP), and the Bamboo and Mangrove Development Program (BMDP) with more than 100 members involved in the monitoring of the 1,387.89 hectares mangrove plantation.

Mangroves protect shorelines from damaging storm and hur-

ricane winds, waves, and floods. Mangroves also help prevent erosion by stabilizing sediments with their tangled root systems. They maintain water quality and clarity, filtering pollutants, and trapping sediments originating from land.

Sabornido said there are more than 3,985,225 mangrove propagules that act as strong barriers from strong waves and seawater surges in 30 coastal barangays.

"These mangroves serve as defense from destructive waves like walls that protect the residents along the 162.57 kilometers stretch of coast lines from Bislig to Lingig," he said.

He said the people are assured of safety from strong calamities and storms and could cushion a worst impact similar to what the people in Tacloban had experienced at the height of Yolanda Typhoon.

Baguio proposes tree-planting in landslide areas

By Aldwin Quitasol

BAGUIO CITY – Members of the City Council approved the development of an ordinance to push for tree-planting programs in identified landslide-prone areas in the city.

According to Baguio City Councilor Arthur Allad-iw who authored the proposal, public lands which are prone to landslides can be planted with trees or other appropriate species to hold the soil and mitigate landslide effects.

These areas then can be targeted for tree-planting programs also as a contribution to increase the city's forest cover that had been declining for years.

"It is also our contribution to contain climate change," he added.

Allad-iw said that the City Engineers Office will identify landslide-prone areas of the city from the map of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of those locations that can be feasible for tree planting.

The identified areas will be added in the

planning of the City Environment and Parks Management Office to ensure appropriate tree species availability for planting in the area by capable tree planters.

The City Planning Office and the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office were also tapped to be part of the project.

Allad-iw said that Baguio was identified as a geo-hazard prone area in a study by the MGB, adding that landslides or erosions are occurrences in the city caused by either earthquakes or rainfall.

He furthered that the study showed that fault lines are located within and near the city, hence tremors induce many of these landslides particularly those in the unstable slopes.

The country, too, is visited by more than 20 typhoons yearly, wherein the city usually experiences long and heavy rains which usually weaken the grounds causing landslides.



PLANTING more trees in the mountains is needed to mitigate the possible occurrence of landslides.



BETTER SUPPLY

'TISOY' IMPROVES WATER LEVEL AT ANGAT DAM RESERVOIR

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

After months of receding elevation, the water level at the Angat watershed in Bulacan improved significantly after the onslaught of Typhoon "Tisoy" (international name: Kammuri).

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the reservoir's water level increased to 193.47 meters above sea level (masl) on Tuesday morning.

It was up by 4.5 m from the previous day, following the onslaught of Tisoy, the agency added.

But it's still far from the normal high water level at 210 masl, although it was better than the operating

level at 180 masl.

Angat supplies most of the water needs of Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Ipo Dam, too

Water level in Ipo Dam, also in Bulacan province, similarly increased to 101.2 masl on Tuesday, up by 1.05 m from the past day.

Elevations in Ambuklao Dam in Benguet province and La Mesa Dam in Quezon City also rose by less than a meter with levels recorded at 741.72 masl and 77.55 masl, respectively, compared to 741.57 masl and 77.42 masl the previous day.

Tisoy has weakened to a severe tropical storm and is expected to leave Philippine territory on Wednesday or Thursday. INQ



Angat Dam's water level up by 3 meters

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – As expected, the water level in Angat Dam has increased due to rains spawned by Typhoon Tisoy.

Monitoring by the Bulacan provincial disaster risk reduction and management office (PDRRMO) showed that from 189.97 meters on Tuesday, the dam's water level rose by more than three meters or 193.64 meters as of 8 a.m. yesterday.

However, the water level is still below its normal operating mark of 205 meters.

Rains dumped by Tisoy also raised

the water level in Bustos Dam. Two of the dam's sluice gates were opened at around 5 p.m. on Tuesday after the water level increased to 17.61 meters or .21 meters higher than its spilling level.

The dam's gates were closed yesterday morning when the water level receded to 17.53 meters.

Rains due to the typhoon also filled Ipo Dam. Water from one of the dam's

radial gates was opened at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. The gate was closed at 6 a.m. yesterday.

Sevillo David Jr., executive director of the National Water Resources Board, assured the public that water supply from Angat Dam for Metro Manila residents remains a priority. The dam provides 97 percent of Metro Manila's water needs.

Early this year, the NWRB reduced the allocation for Metro Manila when the water level breached its critical mark of 160 meters. The move led to rotational water service interruptions.



Level ng tubig sa Angat Dam tumaas

By **JUN I. LEGASPI**

TUMAAS ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam makaraang magbuhos ng malalakas na pagulan ang bagyong Tisoy, ayon sa mga authorities.

Ayon kay Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Danilo Flores, halos umangat ng 4.5 meters ang water level sa Angat Dam, na

nagsisilbing pangunahing source ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Na pag-alaman ang bagama't umakyat na sa 193.37 meters ang tubig sa naturang dam, malayo pa rin ito ayon kay Flores sa ideal na 210-meter level.

Bukod pa rito, sinabi rin ni Flores na sa susunod na dalawang araw, inaasahan ng PAGASA na marami pang tubig ang dadaloy sa reservoir sa Bulacan mula sa mga kalapit na bu-

lubundukin.

Bagama't inaasahan ng PAGASA na may isa pang bagyong tatama sa bansa ngayong Disyembre, wala naman aniyang katiyakan na dadaan ito sa Angat watershed.

Inaabisuhan ang mga residente sa Metro Manila at mga kalapit na lugar na kumukuha ng supply ng tubig sa Angat Dam na huwag magsayang ng tubig. Ang lahat ng tao ay kailangang tumulong na mag-conserve ng tubig.



PAGLIKHA NG DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES ISASALANG NA

NAKATAKDANG isalang sa pagdinig sa Senado ang panukalang paglikha ng Department of Water Resources Management at Water Regulatory Commission.

Isasagawa ang pagdinig sa Martes, Disyembre 10 sa pamumuno ni Senadora Grace Poe bilang Chairman ng Senate Committee on Public Services.

Layunin ng pagdinig na imbestigahan

ang magiging benepisyo ng sambayanan sakaling magkaroon ng sariling departamento na siyang tututok sa supply ng tubig sa bansa.

Maging si Senador Francis Tolentino ay pabor at naniniwalang napanahon na para maglikha ng departamento na siyang mamamahala sa supply ng tubig.

Aniya, tama lamang na ang gobyerno na mismo ang tututok sa pagsu-supply ng tubig

sa pamamagitan ng paglikha ng Department of Water Resources Management at Water Regulatory Commission.

Nasa priority list ang pagbuo ng nasabing departamento makaraang ihayag ito ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang naging State of the Nation Address (SONA).

VICKY CERVALES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT
OF THE ESTATE OF MARIANO P.
TAYAG AND CORAZON S. TAYAG

MANILA WATER OPEN TO 'WORKABLE SOLUTION' ON

P7.4-B AWARD



MANILA WATER
CARE IN EVERY DROP

NEWS

'Workable solution' OK with water firm

A day after President Duterte threatened to put its officials behind bars for economic sabotage, Manila Water Co. said it was more than willing to find a "workable solution" to the ruling of an international arbitration court directing the government to pay it P7.4 billion. The publicly listed company said the award stemmed from actions committed by officials of the Aquino administration. —STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

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Manila Water Co. has said it was more than willing to find a "workable solution" to the decision of an international arbitration court directing the Philippine government to pay the company P7.4 billion in compensation for preventing it to raise rates.

But President Duterte is upping the ante against the firm and another water distributor he both accuses of economic sabotage.

The President has ordered the filing of criminal, civil and administrative charges against the parties, including government lawyers and agents, involved in crafting what he considered onerous water concession agreements, his spokesperson, Salvador Panelo, said on Wednesday. (See related story on Page A7.)

Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc. have been distributing water in Metro Manila and parts of Cavite and Rizal provinces since the Ramos administration privatized water distribution in Metro Manila in 1997.

In a statement, Manila Water said the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Singapore was in connection with the "breach of the [concession] procedure committed by officials of the previous administration."

The publicly listed company said that before the arbiter's decision became public, its chair, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, and other senior officers met with Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III for guidance.

"We informed him [Dominguez] that we are willing to come up with a mutually acceptable manner of implementation of the arbitral award considering that this case was filed due to a violation incurred not during this administration," Manila Water said.

'Workable solution'

It added that it "is more than willing and have started to work with the incumbent administration to come up with a workable solution to the arbitration decision."

When sought for comment, Maynilad officials said they were still preparing a statement.

A day after Mr. Duterte threatened to put behind bars officials of Manila Water, its shares of stock slumped 6 percent.

The President on Tuesday accused Manila Water and Maynilad of treating water like a commodity and not a natural resource. He also ordered the drafting of new contracts that would be favorable to the state.

His outburst came after the Department of Justice (DOJ) found 12 provisions in the concession agreements disadvantageous to the government and the public, including the prohibition against government interference in rate-setting and indemnity for possible losses in case of such government interference.

Because of these provisions, the government was ordered by the Singapore arbitration court to pay Maynilad about P3.6 billion and, recently, Manila Wa-

ter, P7.4 billion as compensation for "losses or damages," Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said on Tuesday.

Money-making venture

In a statement, Panelo pointed out that under the Constitution, the country's natural resources belong to the state, and it was indisputable that water was intended for the use, enjoyment and welfare of the citizens.

"Our water concessionaires in Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite, however, have not only abused the arrangement of delivering and distributing the state-owned water to the citizens but have treated the same as a commodity and a money-making venture, instead of considering it as a public service," he said.

Distributing water has been a highly profitable business for both Maynilad and Manila Water, earning them billions of pesos every year.

Maynilad's net income was P4.78 billion in 2010, P5.83 bil-



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lion in 2011, P6.38 billion in 2012, P6.94 billion in 2013, P8.26 billion in 2014, P9.55 billion in 2015, P6.75 billion in 2016, P6.85 billion in 2017, and P7.37 billion in 2018.

The net income of Manila Water was P5.78 billion in 2013, P5.83 billion in 2014, P6.13 billion in 2015, P6.19 billion in 2016, P6.14 billion in 2017, and P6.64 billion in 2018.

Panelo said Mr. Duterte's directive was part of his constitutional mandate to serve and protect the Filipino people, and that it would be complied with regardless of the power or influence of the groups involved.

He blasted the government personnel who allowed these contracts to be drafted and signed.

"It is apparent that some members of the government have not only looked the other way but have, in fact, purposely guided the hands of those who have raped our economy for their own personal gain," Panelo said.

Take-it-or-leave-it basis

But Manila Water said it was the government that unilaterally determined the terms of the agreements, which were offered to bidders on a take-it-or-leave-it basis.

Since winning the concession that covers the eastern portion of Metro Manila as well as Rizal, it has spent at least P166 billion to improve water and wastewater services, the company said.

"Because MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System) decided to pay our services and reimburse our costs with the water tariff that we collect, the concession agreement contains a procedure for the adjustment of water rates in accordance with the MWSS Charter," it said.

"The [Philippine government] undertook to respect the procedure, which is under the full control of MWSS from beginning to end," it added. —REPORTS FROM LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, RONNEL W. DOMINGO AND INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ



Water concession review pushed

By Marlon Ramos and Melvin Gascon
@Team_Inquirer

Senators and congressmen voiced bicameral support for President Duterte's plan to go after the country's two major water firms for taking advantage of "onerous" provisions in their concessions from the government.

"After hearing his explanation (on Tuesday) night on how we are being taken for a ride by these (water) concessionaires, I told him I'm supporting him 100 percent on the issue," Senate President Vicente Sotto III said in a Viber message.

Human right to water

Sen. Imee Marcos also agreed with the President's position, arguing that access to potable water was "universally recognized as a human right, not merely a commodity."

"I support (the President's) desire to assail these onerous

contracts that deprived Filipinos ... their right to (clean) water as well as (the government's right to) impose liabilities ... when (their) service and supply fail," she said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said senators like him had nothing to do with crafting concessionaire agreements with private firms.

Senatorial assistance?

Recto issued the remarks after Mr. Duterte claimed Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon might have been involved in crafting the alleged onerous contracts awarded to Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. by the Ramos administration in 1997.

In the House of Representatives, even opposition lawmakers expressed rare praise of the President.

Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza, in a privilege speech, said he salutes the President "with

both hands" in calling out Maynilad and Manila Water for "shortchanging" consumers.

"Again, [Mr. Duterte] has proven that he has the political will to stand up to these oligarchs and free the Filipino people from their clutches," he said.

Atienza challenged Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and the members of Congress to follow the President's lead in calling for a review of the concession agreements.

"It is only now that we have a President who is not afraid to speak out against these corporate giants in behalf of the Filipino people," Atienza added.

Questioned premises

Citing the firms' disclosures at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), the Buhay lawmaker disputed concessionaires' claims that they have been losing money due to the refusal of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to approve

water rate hikes.

The Singapore-based Permanent Court of Arbitration recently ordered MWSS to pay Manila Water P7.4 billion for unrealized "guaranteed profit" since 2015.

"According to [PSE] records, [water concessionaires] have been declaring billions of profits and giving out dividends to their shareholders," Atienza said, flailing printed sheets of paper.

Review and revoke

He said it was time for Congress to review the concession agreements, and, if necessary, revoke this in light of the Department of Justice findings that several provisions in the agreements were found to be onerous and disadvantageous to the government and to the public.

"Where have you seen a business contract where the concessionaires cannot lose and always end up making hundreds of billions of pesos at the expense of the people? Any business contract can make money for the principal or you can lose money at the same time," Atienza said.

He expressed disgust that under its agreement, Maynilad and Manila Water can raise water rates even without the government's permission.

"Isn't that onerous?" Atienza asked, adding that the President's complaints against the two water firms highlights that privatization can be a bane for Filipinos.

In a statement, ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro backed the call of the President to investigate the water supply agreements, which, she said, has caused misery of millions of their consumers.

"If the President is really serious about his statements, [the review of the agreements] should start now, and should not end with some heads rolling," she said. INQ



POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Why pay for water, a free gift of nature?

WATER is a free gift of God (or of Nature if you don't believe in Him) so why should we pay for it? Will the time also come when we have to pay for the air we breathe?

We tested these questions years ago on an official of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System before Metro Manila was split between private concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services.



His answer: We don't pay for the water, but for the cost of processing and bringing it to consumers. To simplify billing, we use as basis the volume of water delivered. But untreated or raw water is still free to those who can draw it themselves from springs, aquifers, and such natural sources. As for air, the oxygen and other elements extracted from it are sold to those needing them.

Aside from the cost of processing and distribution, the value-added items in the water business include taxes, operating expenses, foreign exchange differentials for loans, profits, dividends and other expenses that make costly this supposedly free gift of God.

May the exclusive concessionaires force anyone in their franchise areas to get (buy) water only from them? No. In this free market, there are some people who still purchase processed water in plastic containers and those who draw it from deep wells.

Not a few analysts have predicted that the next world war could be over water, the global supply of which is said to be dwindling and unevenly distributed or whose sources are being controlled by states favorably situated on the face of the globe.

Another kind of war erupts now and then in this country where greed motivates those whose wealth and influence have placed them in a vantage to exploit their fellows over something basic that God intended for everyone.

On Tuesday, President Duterte threatened to file charges of economic sabotage against the private concessionaires that he accused of milking captive consumers of billions over the years.

Duterte said the contracts of Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services Inc. are disadvantageous to the public because they prevent the government from adjusting water rates.

Speaking in Malacañang during the signing of two laws, Duterte said: "I will file economic sabotage and I will arrest them, all of them... I will let them experience how it's like to go to jail. If they drag me, I will join them in prison. There's no problem."

Duterte said he has ordered Solicitor General Jose Calida and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez to draft a new concession contract that is favorable to the public and the government.

He was reacting to the order of a Singapore-based arbitration court for the Philippine government to pay P7.39 billion to Ayala-led Manila Water for the firm's losses incurred with the rejection of its water rate increases since 2015.

Duterte claimed Manila Water won the case because the company is "part of the club," without explaining what he meant. He added: "We cannot raise or lower the rates. They are the only ones who can do it."

He also adverted to the concessionaires' collecting sewerage fees without doing their obligation to connect sewerage lines of their 14 million consumers to a sewerage system. Despite this failure, the firms have raised the specter of higher water rates.

The concessionaires have been raking in billions in profits, partly from the 20-percent environmental charge and 30-percent sewer charge that they have been collecting from customers without connecting them to a sewerage system.

The Supreme Court upheld in August a 2009 Department of Environment and Natural Resources order penalizing the two suppliers and the MWSS with P1.84 billion in combined fines for violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act.

• Lessons offered by Argentine polls

A FILIPINO would be amazed by the display of magnanimity in victory and graciousness in defeat in the recent Argentine presidential elections that was a study in class and decency, something seldom seen in Philippine politics.

When the trend became clear hours after the polls closed showing the slightest of margins, conservative Mauricio Macri, the incumbent, immediately conceded to his center-left challenger Alberto Fernandez, who then accepted the concession big-heartedly.

Macri even invited Fernandez for a breakfast chat at the Pink Presidential Palace, vowing an orderly transition that shifts Latin America's No. 3 economy back toward the left after it was battered by economic crisis.

Fernandez promised that he would collaborate, saying he would focus on "stopping the suffering of all Argentines."

The post-election congeniality and show of statesmanship were a departure from the great amount of muck raked, a lot of names called, and not a few skeletons dragged out of closets during the campaign.

Their election system may have helped ensure an early orderly turnover. The lightning-fast speed with which results were transmitted and published gave the elections credibility and helped create a climate where even mortal rivals can accept the results.

The Argentine election commission showed itself to be dead-serious in modernizing the country's polls. Its technology provider is the same Smartmatic that has helped our Commission on Elections since 2010.

The Comelec used 92,509 vote counting machines in 2016 leased from Smartmatic. In 2019, around 97,000 VCMs were bought for P2.1 billion over a quarter of the Comelec's P8 billion budget for that time.

The vote counting in Argentina was way faster than that in the Philippines because its system is not a hodge-podge of suppliers. Points of failure/delay were minimized.

The Argentinian experience makes a sick joke the observation that in the Philippines, no politico loses an election but is only cheated.

* * *

NOTA BENE: All Postscripts can be accessed at manilamail.com. Follow author on Twitter as @FDPascual. Email feedback to fdp333@yahoo.com



Govt legal goofs boost Manila Water, Maynilad bottomline



Val A. Villanueva

BUSINESSWISE

YEARS ago, to justify her ostentatious lifestyle, Imelda Romualdez Marcos declared that the Philippines is “a rich country pretending to be poor.”

Sarcastically, I say, yes. Just take a brief historical review on how previous and the present governments had squandered taxpayers' money due to legal ineptitude.

Consider these:

Bataan Nuclear Plant—After the collapse of the Marcos dictatorship, the \$2.3-billion, 621-megawatt Bataan Nuclear Power Plant was mothballed in 1986 by the government of the late Corazon Cojuangco Aquino due to safety and corruption concerns. In October 1995, Aquino's successor, President Fidel Ramos, agreed to a \$100-million settlement with Westinghouse which mandated the Philippines to pay the US company \$300,000 in daily interest alone. Ramos in 1993 lost the bribery, fraud and racketeering suits his government filed against Westinghouse Electric Co. and New Jersey company Burns and Roe for conniving with former strongman President Ferdinand Marcos and his crony Herminio Disini in the construction of the power plant. After spending a total of P64.7 billion—P43.5 billion for principal amortization and P21.2 billion in interest—for 21 years, the power plant has not generated a single watt of electricity.

Laguna Lake Rehabilitation—The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) ordered the Philippine government to pay P800 million to Baggerwerken Decloedt En Zoon (BDC) for scrapping the P18.7-billion Laguna Lake Rehabilitation Project (LLRP) in 2011. The award was issued on January 23, 2017, six years after former President Benigno S. Aquino III

junked the deal that was twice declared by then-Justice Secretary Leila M. de Lima as “legal and binding.” The project was originally crafted to dredge the 94,900-hectare Laguna de Bay and deepen its average depth of 2.5 meters, and called for the creation of navigational channels in the waterway, which has Class C water quality deemed to be inappropriate for human consumption.

Piatco—In November 2018, the government lost its bid before the Court of Appeals to compel the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) to pay the amount of \$6 million, or more than P300 million, representing the cost of the arbitration proceedings before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration. In a three-page resolution penned by Associate Justice Ramon M. Bato Jr., the CA's former Special Eleventh Division held that the government, through the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), failed to raise new arguments that would warrant the reversal of its June 4, 2018, amended decision. The appellate court, in its amended decision, reversed its order for Piatco to pay the government \$6 million in arbitration.

Malampaya—In March this year, with a unanimous vote of 3-0, the operator of the multibillion Malampaya gas field project led by Shell Philippines Exploration BV won its landmark \$1.1 billion (approximately P53 billion) tax case before the ICC in Singapore. Voting in favor of the Malampaya consortium had been designated arbitration Chairman Yves Fortier, SPEX-led

consortium arbitrator David Williams, and Philippine arbitrator and former Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno.

I could go on and on. Consider how the aggravating dismissal of nearly all the graft and corruption charges against the Marcoses and their cronies means a loss of billions of pesos for the country, represented by both previously recovered and still-to-be-claimed ill-gotten wealth. It would take probably more than six full pages of this paper to document all of the government's legal mortifications.

Now this—In 2013, Manila Water lost the case it filed before the ICC questioning the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for slashing its basic charge of P25.07 per cubic meter by 29.47 percent, a reduction of P7.25 per cubic meter for the rate rebasing period of 2013 to 2017. The arbitration panel ruled that Manila Water is a public utility and, therefore, cannot pass on its corporate income tax to consumers. But from the same court, Maynilad was able to secure a favorable ruling. The ICC appeals panel upheld Maynilad's alternative rate rebasing adjustment which would result to a 9.8-percent increase in the 2013 average basic water charge of P31.28 per cubic meter, inclusive of the P1 currency exchange rate adjustment that the MWSS incorporated into the basic charge. What kind of legal gobbledygook is this? How could the same court hand conflicting edicts? Could it be that Maynilad got the “right” lawyer?

Just recently, however, the Singapore Arbitration Panel ordered the MWSS to pay Manila Water P7.4 billion for refusing the concessionaire's demand to increase water rates in 2015. This follows a favorable July 2017 ruling the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc. got from the Singapore court that the government owed it P3.42 billion in compensation for the delayed implementation of upward tariff adjustment for the rebasing period of 2013 through 2017 (Note that Maynilad still elevated its case for arbitration



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Govt legal goofs boost

Manila Water, MWSS

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despite its legal victory in 2013. I can only surmise that it did so to ensure compliance by the Philippine government). On why the government failed to raise before the Singapore Arbitration Panel the 2013 ICC ruling that public utilities cannot pass on its corporate income tax to consumers is beyond me.

Clearly, the losers in these recent legal setbacks by the government are the Filipino consumers. The crux of the legal victory by both water concessionaires was the supposed "guaranteed profit" under the concession agreement it signed with MWSS. Whatever you sugarcoat it with, guaranteed profit is plain and simple "sovereign guarantee" which this and the previous governments are supposed to have stricken off in every contract it entered into with the private sector. It is a guarantee given by the state to a private contractor to compensate it if it runs into some financial straits.

Sovereign guarantee compels all of us—whether you are a customer of either Maynilad or Manila Water to make up for each company's losses through the taxes we pay. This is just crudely appalling, a kick right in the gut of Filipino consumers, especially those living in large swathes of these concessionaire's service areas still without steady water supply. Asking Congress to investigate the matter seems futile, given the way that branch of government is being run these days.

A lone voice in the wilderness, House Deputy Minority Leader Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, branded the tribunal's decision as "a mockery and an insult to Filipino consumers and exposes the 'tragedy and lunacy of privatization.'" Lawyer Neri Colmenares, Bayan Muna chairman, also backed the proposed inquiry and eventual scrapping of the concession agreements. But we're a rich nation pretending to be poor, right? The government can just gloss over its legal faux pas, because our coffers are brimming with cash. Geez!

*For comments and suggestions, e-mail me at
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Floods predicted to uproot 50 M people a year as climate heats up

MADRID (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - The number of people at risk of being forced from their homes by river flooding could surge to as many as 50 million a year by the end of the century if governments do not step up action to tackle climate change, researchers warned on Tuesday.

That would be five times the average of 10 million displaced a year from the mid-1970s to 2005, ▶7

Floods predicted to uproot... 1◀

and would happen as populations grow and as rainfall intensifies and ice melts on a warmer planet, causing more frequent and severe floods, said study author Justin Ginnetti.

About half the predicted increase would be caused by the effects of climate change and the rest by expanding populations, he noted.

The head of data and analysis for the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) said the forecasts were only a partial picture but as flooding accounts for more than half of climate-related displacement, the outlook was "grim."

The numbers pushed out of their homes by river floods could be kept to 20 million a year if governments stepped up efforts to keep a rise in temperatures to a globally agreed lower limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, he add-

ed.

But current plans put the world on track for warming of at least 3 degrees, scientists say.

"Climate displacement poses a huge global challenge," Ginnetti said in a statement.

"We expect even more extreme weather in the future, so it's imperative that we understand the magnitude of future risk, what's driving it, and what we can do about it."

The IDMC will broaden its analysis to predict future displacement by storms soon, it said.

On Monday, aid agency Oxfam said wilder weather and fiercer wildfires drove more than 20 million people a year from their homes in the last decade, and the problem would worsen unless leaders act swiftly to head off surging climate threats.

IDMC's Ginnetti said good practic-

es to prevent people being displaced by floods include urban planning that does not allow homes to be built on river floodplains and more investment in setting up systems to evacuate people threatened by floods.

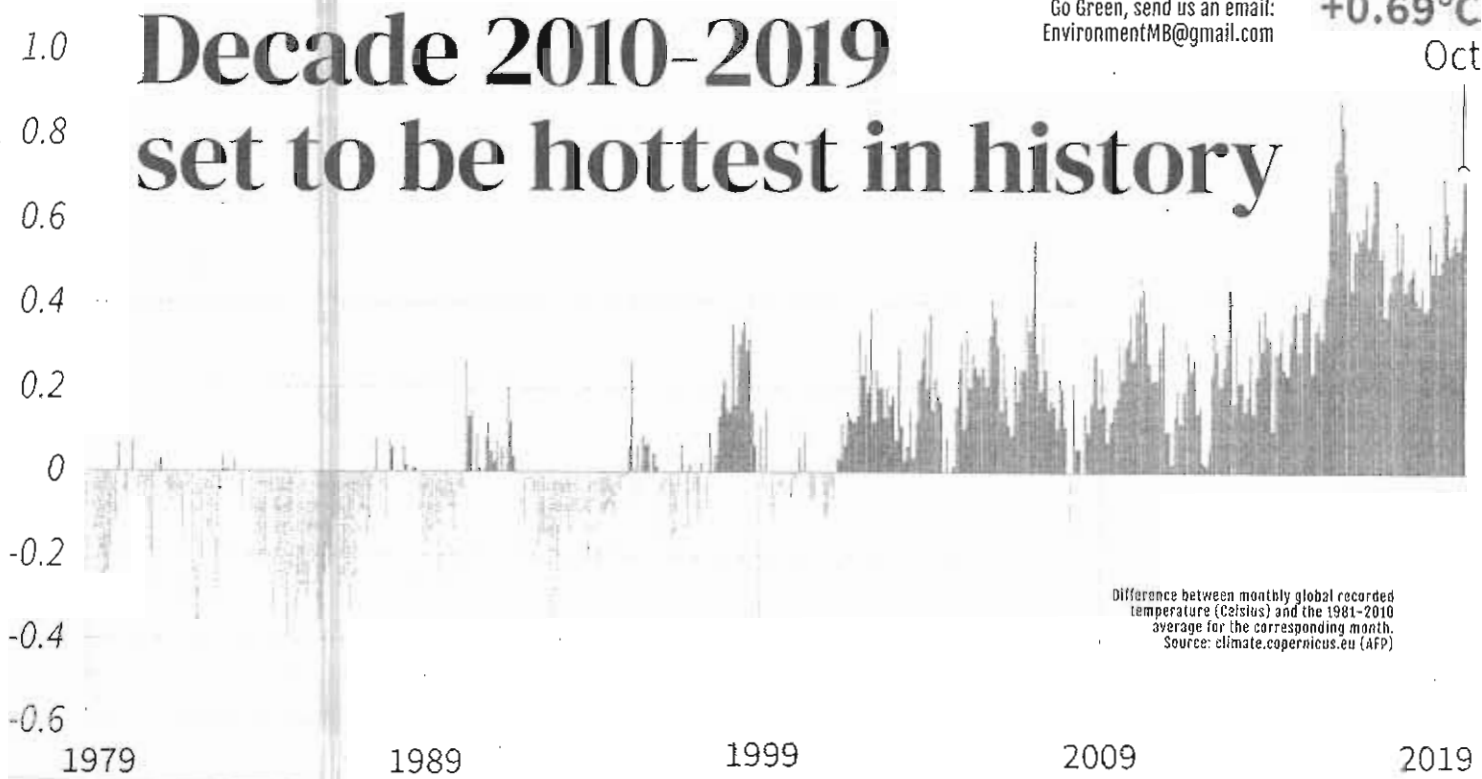
Some Asian countries, in particular India, Bangladesh and China, have developed the capability to move millions of people out of harm's way ahead of storms - and such efforts need to be replicated in sub-Saharan Africa, Ginnetti told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

And it is not just poorer states that will be hit by river floods, he added. For example, construction on flood plains is still occurring in the United States and other rich countries, in some cases subsidized by government money.

"Those are investments that are just going to waste and are resulting in displacement. That's got to stop," Ginnetti said on the sidelines of U.N. climate talks in Madrid.

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Difference between monthly global recorded temperature (Celsius) and the 1981-2010 average for the corresponding month. Source: climate.copernicus.eu (AFP)

This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to adapt to it.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average between 1850 to 1900.

That puts 2019 on course to be in the top three warmest years ever recorded, and possibly the hottest non-El Nino year yet.

Man-made emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure, growing crops, and transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations, locking in further warming, the WMO said.

Oceans, which absorb 90 percent of the excess heat produced by greenhouse gases, are now at their highest recorded temperatures.

The world's seas are now a quar-

ter more acidic than 150 years ago, threatening vital marine ecosystems upon which billions of people rely for food and jobs.

In October, the global mean sea level reached its highest on record, fuelled by the 329 billion tons of ice lost from the Greenland ice sheet in 12 months.

Up to 22 million displaced

Each of the last four decades has been hotter than the last.

And far from climate change being a phenomenon for future generations to confront, the effects of humanity's insatiable, growth-at-any cost consumption means millions are already counting the damage.

The report said more than 10 million people were internally displaced in the first half of 2019 – seven million directly due to extreme weather events such as storms, flooding, and drought.

By the end of the year, the WMO said new displacements due to

'Each of the last four decades has been hotter than the last. And far from climate change being a phenomenon for future generations to confront, the effects of humanity's insatiable, growth-at-any cost consumption means millions are already counting the damage.'

weather extremes could reach 22 million.

"Once again in 2019, weather and climate related risks hit hard," said WMO secretary-general Petteri Taalas. "Heatwaves and floods which used to be 'once-in-a-century' events are becoming more regular


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TITLE: Decade 2010-2019 set to be hottest in history PAGE 1/ 2/2

occurrences.”

At just 1C hotter than pre-industrial times, 2019 has already seen deadly heatwaves in Europe, Australia, and Japan, superstorms devastate southeast Africa, and wildfires rage out of control in Australia and California.

Not adapting

Nations are currently in crucial talks in Madrid aimed at finalizing rules for the 2015 Paris climate accord, which enjoins countries to work to limit global temperature rises to “well below” 2C.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) last year outlined how vital it was for mankind to aim for a safer cap of 1.5C – ideally by slashing greenhouse gas emissions and retooling the global economy towards renewable energy.

The UN said last week in its annual “emissions gap” assessment that the world needed to cut carbon emissions by 7.6 percent each year, every year, until 2030 to hit 1.5C.

Instead, emissions are rising.

And while governments spend hundreds of billions of dollars subsidizing fossil fuels, there appears to be no consensus in Madrid over how countries already dealing with climate-related catastrophe can fund efforts to adapt to the new reality.

“Our economic activities continue to use the atmosphere as a waste dump for greenhouse gases,” said Joeri Rogelj, Grantham Lecturer in Climate Change at Imperial College London.

Even if all Paris pledges were honored, Earth is still on course to be more than 3C warmer by the end of the century.

“There is no indication of a fade out of the warming,” Taalas said. “The numbers will be higher if we continue our current behavior.”

Part of the discussions in Madrid is aimed at getting countries to increase their climate action ambition ahead of a deadline next year. (AFP)



UN's climate agenda is so extreme its experts can't defend it

First word

THE Mises Institute, (short name for Ludwig von Mises Institute for Austrian Economics), a nonprofit organization of economic education and think tank based in Auburn, Alabama, published last September a commentary on the climate policy goals of the United Nations that pulls the rug from under its goal of limiting global warming to either 2 degrees Celsius (C) or the even more stringent ceiling of 1.5 C.

Amazingly, Mises contends that the peer-reviewed economics literature does not support the UN's climate policy goals.

Its full commentary reads:

"Advocates of aggressive government intervention in the name of fighting climate change have posed as the defenders of 'consensus science,' labeling any who dissent from their agenda as 'deniers' with all of the baggage that term entails.

"And yet, the peer-reviewed economics literature does not support the popular United Nations policy goals of limiting



OBSERVER

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MAKABENTA

global warming to either 2 C or the even more stringent ceiling of 1.5 C. Back in 2014, I used the latest issue of the UN's own authoritative report — the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) — to make my case, and last fall I explained that the new Nobel laureate, William Nordhaus, had a career in climate modeling that did not come anywhere close to supporting the aggressive UN goals.

"In the present post, I will show that one of the lead authors from the UN's 'Special Report' on the 1.5-C target is a co-author of a 2018 paper that admits the goal is difficult to justify. This should be shocking to naïve citizens and those who assumed that 'the science' must all support the UN's temperature goals. Yet as this ex-

ample demonstrates, the UN's new goal is so extreme that it's difficult for even sympathizers to come up with a way to try justifying it using conventional economic analysis.

"Last fall, the United Nation's IPCC released a special report telling policymakers various ways to [attempt to] hit the goal of limiting cumulative global warming to 1.5 C. The third chapter of the report summarized the recent economic research that had been published since the previous IPCC report (the Fifth Assessment Report or AR5). Rachel Warren of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (located at the University of East Anglia in the UK) is one of the lead authors of the chapter. Furthermore, Warren was author or co-author on at least four of the publications cited in the chapter. Here is an excerpt from her bio:

"Rachel Warren is professor of global change and environmental biology at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia, UK.

Her research focuses on the production of policy-relevant science related to climate change and sustainability. A particular recent focus has been the quantification of the climate change impacts that can be avoided by timely mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, in particular in relation to risks to biodiversity. She was a coordinating lead author of the 5th (2014) assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and lead author of the 4th assessment, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Presently she is a lead author of the IPCC's 'Special Report on 1.5 C warming. She has produced over 70 peer-reviewed publications and over 40 scientific reports to government departments...

"Her academic background and training is in physics and the natural sciences at Cambridge University. After completion of her PhD she pursued an interest in atmospheric sciences and rap-

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idly became involved in policy-relevant research, a purpose to which she remains committed today. She has assisted in national, European and international policy development relating to combating stratospheric ozone depletion, acid deposition, eutrophication, and (since 2002) climate change. In particular her former work at the NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories provided evidence on the environmental acceptability of CFC substitutes, leading to inclusion of fluorocarbons in the Kyoto Protocol, winning the NOAA Aeronomy Laboratories Outstanding Scientific Paper Award.

"As the above description makes clear, we are not dealing with a 'denier' or a 'stooge for Big Oil' here. Warren is a leader among scientists who are advising governments on various

policies through which they can intervene in the market to reduce emissions from businesses.

"Given her background, it is extremely revealing to see that Warren [and co-authors] have a 2018 paper titled, 'The Economics of 1.5 C Climate Change.' Now because I know just how ludicrous (given standard modeling assumptions) this latest UN target is, I was curious to see how Warren and her co-authors could possibly try to justify it.

"The reader can hopefully appreciate my shock when I read the first two sentences from the abstract of their paper: 'The economic case for limiting warming to 1.5 C is unclear, due to manifold uncertainties. However, it cannot be ruled out that the 1.5 C target passes a cost-benefit test.'

"Believe it or not, the authors — including a lead author on the

UN special report which advises governments on how to hit the 1.5 C limit — are arguing that because we understand this area so poorly, for all we know the UN target makes economic sense.

"Is that the slam-dunk 'consensus science' that citizens have been assured undergirds the suggested power grabs? Hardly.

"This is profoundly disturbing. If the lead author of the IPCC's report on 1.5 C warming cannot justify the policy goal, why is the UN led by the secretary general forcing it down the throat of the whole world with talk of a climate apocalypse?

"Where are the scientists who will defend the UN's climate agenda against scientists who believe the contrary. And why won't Secretary General Antonio Guterres convene a meeting (summit?) of scientists, both pro or contra its

climate agenda, to discuss conclusively the facts and myths behind the climate controversy?"

Goal is to destroy capitalism

"This is not all. UN officials are now also on record saying that the real goal of the climate agenda is not to save the world from ecological calamity, but to destroy capitalism.

The government leaders and activists who are attending COP 25 in Madrid this December do so under the illusion that they are working to save the world or the environment. This is the standard narrative.

Critics contend that the UN climate agenda is really about power and wealth. More precisely, it is about getting the power to redistribute global wealth — through carbon taxes, carbon pricing, carbon trading,



FILE: UN's climate agenda is so extreme its
experts can't defend it.

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and carbon regulation, etc. UN officials have said so themselves.

At a news conference in Brussels, Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), admitted that the UNFCCC has a goal not to save the world from ecological calamity, but to destroy capitalism. She said very casually:

"This is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of intentionally, within a defined period of time, to change the economic development model that has been reigning for at least 150 years, since the Industrial Revolution."

She is not alone. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer, a big name in climate policy circles, says frankly, "We redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy."

From 2008 to 2015 Dr. Edenhofer was co-chairman of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change working group on "Mitigation of Climate Change."

In an interview in 2010, Dr. Edenhofer candidly declared, "One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with the environmental policy anymore, with problems such as deforestation or the ozone hole... We redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy."

All this makes plain that all the talk about man-made global warming and climate change is about politics — socialist, collectivist politics — masquerading under the false labels of science and environmental concern.

yenobserver@gmail.com



2010-2019 hottest decade ever – UN

UNITED NATIONS: This decade is set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said on Tuesday (Wednesday) in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to adapt to it.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average between 1850 to 1900.

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The world's seas are now a quarter more acidic than 150 years ago, threatening vital marine ecosystems upon which billions of people rely for food and jobs.

In October, the global mean sea level reached its highest on record, fuelled by the 329 billion tonnes of ice lost from the Greenland ice sheet in 12 months. Each of the last four decades has been hotter than the last.

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rectly due to extreme weather events such as storms, flooding and drought.

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"Once again in 2019 weather and climate related risks hit hard," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

"Heatwaves and floods which used to be 'once in a century' events are becoming more regular occurrences."

At just 1 C hotter than pre-industrial times, 2019 has already seen deadly heatwaves in Europe, Australia and Japan, superstorms devastate southeast Africa, and wildfires rage out of control in Australia and California.

Nations are currently in crucial talks in Madrid aimed at finalizing rules for the 2015 Paris climate accord, which enjoins countries to work to limit global temperature rises to "well below" 2 C.

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Instead, emissions are rising.

And while governments spend hundreds of billions of dollars subsidising fossil fuels, there appears to be no consensus in Madrid over how countries already dealing with climate-related catastrophe can fund efforts to adapt to the new reality.

AFP



State workers to get P10,000 incentive

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

Government employees will be getting an incentive of up to P10,000 on top of their 13th month pay and Christmas bonuses.

President Duterte recently signed Administrative Order 19, which authorizes the grant of service recognition incentive to government employees for this year.

The move aims to "recognize and further encourage the unwavering commitment and dedication of government employees in performing their work, their continued support and collaborative efforts in the delivery of services to the public," he said in his order.

The President's move came after he announced on Monday that employees from the executive

branch will be getting P60,000 each as Christmas bonus.

He said government employees deserve to be rewarded to recognize their collective and unceasing participation in and invaluable contribution to the administration's continuing efforts toward the establishment of streamlined government processes and a more responsive delivery of public service.

Under the Service Recognition Incentive (SRI) for Employees in the executive department, Duterte directed the grant of a one-time SRI at a uniform amount not exceeding P10,000.

The grant covers civilian personnel in national government agencies, including those in state universities and colleges and

government-owned or controlled corporations occupying regular, contractual or casual positions.

Apart from civilian employees, military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines under the Department of National Defense and uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Bureau of Corrections under the Department of Justice, Philippine Coast Guard under the Department of Transportation and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will also receive the additional cash incentives.



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HINAHAMON ang Pilipinas para maging host ng Asian Games sa 2030 o 10 taon mula ngayon.

Nagmula ang hamon mula mismo sa Olympic Council of Asia.

Nakita kasí ni OCA Vice President Wei Jizhong ang world class na pasilidad na pang-sports na itinayo ng ating pamahalaang Duterte para sa idinaraos na 30th SEAG o South East Asian Games.

Nakita nito sa partikular ang athletics at aquatic facilities na itinayo sa Clark City na sakop ng bayan ng Capas, Tarlac.

PARTISIPASYON NG MGA FILIPINO

Ang isa pang mahalaga para sa OCA ay ang masidhing partisipasyon ng mga mamamayan sa palaro at maayos na pamamahala ng pamahalaan at pribadong organisasyon dito.

At nakita niya ito sa pagdalo ng mga mamamayan sa iba't ibang lugar na pinagdarausan ng SEA Games.

Sa partikular, dinumog ng libo-libong Filipino ang opening day at halos magiba sa hiyaw nila ang 55,000 Philippine Arena na ipinatayo ng Iglesia ni Cristo ni Kapatid na Eduardo Manalo, lalo na nang magpakita na ang mga beterano at kampiyong atleta natin na sinamahan ng ating mga awtoridad, sa pangunguna mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Dinumog din ng tao ang pagsisindi ng cauldron ni Senador Manny Pacquiao, 8-division boxing champion, bagama't maagang ginawa ito para hindi matamaan ng bagyong Tisoy.

Pero kabilang sa mga susi ng partisipasyon ng mga tao ang inutos mismo ni Pangulong Dìgong na libreng tiket para sa Philippine Arena na noong una ay ibinebenta para kumita naman sana ang mga organisador, pribado at pampamahalaan, na gumastos nang malaki para magawa at maayos ang lahat ng pasilidad, transportasyon, pagsalubong sa mga dayuhang atleta at turista at iba pa, kasama na ang upa sa coliseum.

PARANGAL

Umani rin ng parangal mismo ang Philippine Sea Games Organizational Committee (PHISGOC) sa kakayahang nitong maghanda at mamahala ng malaking sports event na world class.



NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

HAMON SA ASIAN GAMES AT AYUDA SA NAKALAMIDAD

kilalang Sports Industry Awards Asia (SPIA) ang nagbigay ng parangal sa PHISCOG na 80 porsyentong binubuo ng mga taong pamahalaan.

Ang SPIA ang nagbigay ng parangal sa mga Best Sportsman, Best Sportswoman at iba pa sa mga palarong ginaganap para sa Asian Games na higit na mas malaki sa SEAG.

Mismong is SPIA CEO Eric Gottschalk ang personal na nagbigay ng award kina PHISGOC Chairman Alan Peter Cayetano at PHISGOC Chief Operating Officer Ramon Suzara.

Simula nang itatag ang Asian Games, limang bansa lamang ang naging host dito gaya ng Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia at Pilipinas.

Naging ASIAD host tayo pero minsan lang at naganap iyon noong 1954 o 65 taon na ang nakaraan.

SALUDO SA ATLETANG PINOY

Hindi pa natatapos ang kabuuang SEAG.

Pero lumalabas na maaaring masungkit muli ng Pilipinas ang ikatawang pagkakataon na pangkalahatang kampeon.

Naganap ang pangkalahatang kampeon natin noong isinagawa ang SEAG sa Manila noong 2005.

Pagkatapos nito, naging malamya na ang ating ranggo na nasa ikatanim na lamang.

Dala ito umano ng mga korapsyon at kapabayaang ng mga pamahalaan at sports officials sa mga nagdaang administrasyon.

Sana naman, ang ipinakitang galing ng mga atleta ay tutugunan, lalo na ang pamahalaan, sa usapin ng pinansya, pasilidad, uniporme, pagkain, training at maraming iba pa.

Kung tuloy-tuloy na maipakita natin ang ating kakayahan sa pagdaos ng mga international na palaro, magbubunga rin ito ng maganda sa ekonomiya ng bansa.

Bukod sa dangal nating makakamtan sa mata ng mundo, magkakaroon din ng kita ang lahat sa

mo at iba pa.

Saan pa tayo kung isama natin ang pamosong HOSPITALITY ng mga Filipino?

ANG KALAMIDAD

Sinasabing may nasawing 13 katao mula sa apat na rehiyon ng ating bansa na dinaanan ng bagyong Tisoy.

Matindi talaga ang bangis ni Tisoy na umabot sa super bagyo ang bugso nito na 230 kilometro kada oras.

Bukod sa mga nasawi, nawalan din ng kuryente at nasiraan ng ari-arian ang libo-libong nating mamamayan.

Sana, magtulung-tulong ang mga mamamayan para maayudahan ang mga biktima ng kalamidad.

Siyempre, obligasyon una ng pamahalaan ang pagkalinga sa mga biktima subalit hindi masama na maghatid tayo ng tulong sa abot ng ating makakaya.

PAG-AYUDA

Kung paano tayo kumilos lahat para mag-ing matagumpay ang SEAG, higit dapat ang pagkilos natin sa pagtulong sa mga biktima ng kalamidad.

Hindi madali ang makalamidad gaya ng mawalan ng tahanan, mamatayan ng miyembro ng pamilya, mawalan ng trabaho't hanapbuhay.

Ang talagang mabigat ay kung pangmatalagan ang pinsalang tinamo ng mga biktima at hindi makukuha sa isang araw o linggo lamang kundi maraming buwan o taon kaya.

Ang mamatayan lang ng isang ama o ina ng tahanan o tagataguyod ng pamilya ay napakabigat na isipin.

Gayundin ang mga nasiraan ng mga puhunan sa pagsasaka, sa pangngisda, negosyo, nawasakan ng bahay at maraming iba pa.

O tara na, mga Bro.

Ang maliit na maiaambag natin, kung pagsama-samahin, ay hindi masusukat ang halaga.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantipor-