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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



RISKS AND IRREGULARITIES CITED

ECC FOR KALIWA DAM PROJECT ASSAILED

**By DJ Yap, Melvin Gascon
and Mariejo S. Ramos**
@Team_Inquirer

Critics of the controversial Kaliwa dam proposal slammed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) issuance of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) to the P18.7-billion project, and vowed to block its construction.

The ECC was issued despite stiff opposition from environmental groups and indigenous communities that cited the risks and irregularities in the dam project in Quezon province, that was widely touted as the solution to the water shortage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate and other opposition lawmakers accused the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) of "apparent collusion" with its two bulk water suppliers, Maynilad and Manila Water, to force approval of the project to be funded by China.

Environmental groups also accused officials and executives of the DENR, MWSS and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) of conspiring to push the project forward.

"We hope that the round of water interruptions [announced recently] is not another ploy to push the start of the construction of the dam, which is full of anomalies and is onerously pro-China," Zarate said.

Zarate urged his colleagues to act on the Makabayan bloc's proposed House Resolution

No. 10 calling for an inquiry on the privatization of water utilities in the country.

Bayan Muna chair and former congressman Neri Colmenares also demanded a rebate of all previous rate hikes charged by Manila Water and Maynilad.

"The water concessionaires justified their increases because of the billions of pesos they will spend ... [for] new sources of water supply," he recalled.

"Now we are told they cannot give us enough water supply," Colmenares said. "We demand a return of all those rate increases, and the opening of all their books."

The Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance, which has opposed the project from the outset, also blasted how it has become a "conspiracy" among former military officers.

Fr. Pete Montallana, the group's head, charged that Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, MWSS administrator Emmanuel Salamat and NCIP Chair Allen Capuyan—all former military officials—were ordered to shepherd the project's approval.

"With pressure from the President who is tied to China, that ECC will have to be issued on schedule no matter what the science [is] or people's views are," he said.

Montallana said their alliance would ask for reconsideration from the DENR before seeking court action.

Rep. Eufemia Cullamat, a Manobo tribal leader, meanwhile scored the supposed lack of consultation with indige-

nous communities that will be affected by the project.

"Have they conducted any consultation with the Dumagat tribe and other communities who will be displaced by this dam project? If they did, where are the results?" she asked.

Sought for comment, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the ECC was issued because it was a priority project of the government and the agency had no recourse but to approve it.

But the DENR said it would revoke the ECC if the proponents failed to secure the required permits from the NCIP and the host local government units.

The ECC is among the requirements needed to proceed with the construction of a gravity dam on Kaliwa River, which will cover a reservoir surface area of 291 hectares, with a gross reservoir volume of 57 million cubic meters at full supply level.

Six months after receipt of ECC, the proponent should submit a duly signed memorandum of agreement with concerned local governments for a social development program.

It should also ensure that sacred sites and burial grounds as well as livelihood among the natives are preserved.

For groups resisting the project, the promise of easing the water shortage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces comes at an unfair exchange of destroyed ecosystems and environmental risks in Teresa and Tanay in Rizal province, and General Nakar and Infanta in Quezon. INQ



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Kaliwa Dam project gets ECC nod with many conditions

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

Concerns were raised against the "conditions" set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upon its issuance of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the controversial ₱12-billion Kaliwa Dam Project, the biggest water infrastructure project eyed to start within this administration.

Without an ECC, any project that may potentially have an impact to the environment like Kaliwa, which involves the construction of a massive dam in the middle of a forest somewhere in Quezon Province, could not push through.

But, ECC is no longer a concern for the Kaliwa Dam project now because on October 11, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) already released the much awaited environment clearance for the China-funded water source.

And for the project's contractor, EMB had set several conditions to abide by China Energy Engineering Corporation following the ECC issuance.

This includes submitting an inventory and assessment of threatened species that may be affected by the project; ensure that sacred sites and burial grounds, as well as the Indigenous People's culture and livelihood, are preserved and protected; the establishment of a reforestation and carbon sink program using endemic/indigenous species to offset

greenhouse gas emissions; and the preservation and protection of Tinipak Spring and Tinipak White Rocks.

The thing with the issuance of ECCs "with conditions" in general is that it would now be hard to take back the permit if these conditions weren't met, Ipat Luna of the DENR said.

"[Setting] conditions are dangerous [because] you could no longer dial it back in case they are not met. Also, I have always been against conditions that should have been complied with prior to the ECC, such as additional studies," Luna said, citing the presentations she made before joining the DENR.

Gerry Arances, director of environmental think tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, shares the same concern with Luna.

Referring to the ECC issued to Kaliwa Dam, Arances said "the problem is that it clearly violates certain laws specially the social acceptability, in this case that of the IPs [Indigenous People]."

"It's a requisite in the ECC that a project has social acceptability," Arances said in a text exchange.

Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance, Inc. (SSMNA), Alyansa Laban sa Kaliwa Dam, Task Force Sierra Madre, and Tribal Center for Development all argued that the construction of a massive dam at the heart of Quezon and Rizal provinces will be detrimental to the environment and the IP communities living in these areas.



Legislators question grant of ECC for Kaliwa Dam construction

BAYAN MUNA legislators said the grant of an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for the Kaliwa Dam failed to meet the legal requirement to consult indigenous people who could be affected by the construction of Metro Manila's new water source.

Party-list Representative Eufemia C. Cullamat said in a statement that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the agency that issues the ECC, has not shown evidence of consultation for the P18.7 billion dam, to be built in Rizal and Quezon provinces.

"Did the DENR conduct consultation with the Dumagats and other local communities to be affected by the Kaliwa Dam project? If they did, where are the results?" she said.

Another Bayan Muna legislator, Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, said in a separate statement: "We filed House Resolution No. 10 and are calling on the House leadership to immediately schedule a hearing to investigate Manila Water (Co., Inc.) and Maynilad Water Services, Inc.). We hope that this round of water interruptions is not another ploy to push for the start of the construction of the Kaliwa dam that is full of

anomalies and is onerously pro-China."

Manila Water and Maynilad, the capital's two water service concession holders, announced water interruptions this week, citing falling levels at Angat Dam, the current main source of supply for Metro Manila.

The Bayan Muna chairman, former Rep. Neri J. Colmenares, called the ECC issuance "highly irregular" with many steps in the process passed over.

"How can the Chinese contractor and MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System) issue an affidavit of no complaint, a requirement for the issuance of ECC, when there are many complaints lodged against it? The LGU cannot possibly certify that the project is compatible with its land use plan because it covers ancestral domain and impacts on the health, safety and environment of the indigenous peoples and their lands," he said in a statement.

"The DENR should not have issued the ECC unless these issues are settled. Now DENR will also become accountable if injuries and destruction results from the construction of the dam. We demand that DENR recall the ECC pending compliance with

the requirements," Mr. Colmenares said.

Bayan Muna opposes the Kaliwa Dam, which the government is seeking to build with Chinese aid, and backs the rehabilitation of Wawa Dam in Rodriguez, Rizal to address the water shortage in Metro Manila and neighboring areas.

He said Wawa Dam can provide 1.5 billion liters of water daily while Kaliwa Dam can only produce 600 million liters.

The government has said it hopes to meet one last legal requirement, clearance from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, before the end of the year.

The Kaliwa Dam project will be built by China Energy Engineering Corp.

The construction of the water project was first approved by National Economic Development Authority in 2014.

The financing scheme for the project was changed in 2017 from a public-private partnership to official development assistance.

Last year, the MWSS released an initial P565 million to the Department of Public Works and Highways for road construction to the dam work site, taken from the P2 billion government share of the project's funding. — *PhilStar*



WATER! WATER! WATER!

Are we in crisis anew?

Water concessionaires are left with no choice but to implement another rotational water interruption all over Metro Manila

By Maria Romero

Crisis is the only word water authorities have refrained from using. But Metro Manila is leading towards yet another shortage as water rationing is scheduled to be implemented in various parts of the metropolis starting today.

And politics could be a reason why we are parched once again.

The country's water catchment capacity has not improved significantly to provide water supply amid the growing population and economy since the construction of the Angat Dam in the 1960s. Five decades later, Angat Dam remains the primary source of water of Metro Manila, but supply in the watershed is falling unprecedentedly.

Last March, water consumers faced what

economists have been persistently warning the government about – a water crisis. The recent water service debacle should be an eye-opener to the country's great deficiency in water resource investments.

But only a few months since then, water concessionaires are left with no choice

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These water interruption activities do not mean that there is no water. What the two concessionaires are doing is they make sure that there is an equitable distribution of the available water

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but to implement another rotational water interruption all over Metro Manila. Thus, consumers are in fear of likely suffering another repeat of the water crisis until next year.

Economists claim the water woes probably demonstrate the lack of "political cohesion" to deal with the development of better water resources of the country.

Water interruption until 2020

Maynilad Water Services Inc. yesterday announced that it will implement another daily rotational service interruption starting today as the water level at Angat Dam continues to fall. Manila Water Co. Inc (MWC) also said it would take the same step.

"Since water allocation from Angat for Metro Manila and adjacent provinces is still at the reduced level of 40 cubic meters per second (cms) versus the normal allocation of 48 cms, the volume of water entering our treatment facilities is short by around 250 million liters per day (MLD)," Maynilad said in a statement.

In a separate statement, MWC said the service interruptions might be necessary to "ensure that the still limited water supply would last until next summer, and even the whole of 2020, in case the

water level at Angat Dam would no longer reach the expected 212 meters above sea level by the end of 2019."

Based on announcements posted on its social media pages, MWC consumers could see their faucets running dry for as long as 10 hours.

Maynilad customers, on the other hand, may experience water service interruption of up to 16 hours.

In a radio interview on Wednesday morning, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) administrator Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat said the upcoming rotational water service interruption does not necessarily mean there is a water shortage.

"These water interruption activities do not mean that there is no water. What the two concessionaires are doing is they make sure that there is an equitable distribution of the available water," Salamat said.

"We are rationalizing the use of water at a certain level of that of Angat Dam – that's called water level scenario. Since the water elevation in Angat is low, then we also have limited water to supply the consumers," he clarified.

There has been scant rainfall over Angat and Ipo dams over the past days, resulting in the continuous decline of raw water levels in both watersheds. As of Wednesday morning, water elevation in Angat



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Are we in crisis anew?

Dam is at 186.22 meters, slightly below the 186.77 meters recorded last Monday.

Meanwhile, the water level in Ipo Dam is at 100.43 meters, while La Mesa Dam has only 77.53 meters.

Comparing these figures from its year-ago levels, Salamat said there was a huge gap that the government needs to fill by mitigating contingency measures.

Salamat called on the public to be more responsible in stocking up on water and limit themselves to the amount they only need.

Contingency plan

To prevent a full-blown water crisis from happening, the MWSS top official said they are hell-bent to augment Metro Manila's water sources.

"The two water concessionaires are pursuing their ways to close the gap and fill the supply shortage in their areas. Part of their contingency plans include activating mobile treatment plants and deep wells," Salamat disclosed.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. announced on Tuesday that it will implement another daily rotational service interruption starting Thursday as the water level at Angat Dam continues to fall. Manila Water Co. Inc also said it would take the same step.

Apart from those, the two water concessionaires were also directed to initiate cloud seeding activities until December than wait for the summer season when it is tougher to form cloud formations.

The MWSS chief admitted that they ran out of

projects to cushion the looming water crisis. Until now, the construction of the Kaliwa Dam is the only proposed long-term solution to the problem.

"The short-term projects that may curb the shortage until the second quarter of 2020 includes the Sumag River, Wawa River and Calawis Antipolo projects. If these will be completed immediately, then we may be assured that we will have the water supply for the meantime," Salamat said.

Kaliwa Dam gets ECC

On Tuesday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has finally issued an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the controversial P18.7 billion Kaliwa Dam project in Quezon province. This was amid fierce opposition from environmental groups and indigenous communities due to alleged irregularities and risks for being a Chinese-funded project.

The ECC is a small step for the project, which has practically just moved in small phases, despite large investments allocated for it.

Kaliwa Dam, which is among the Duterte administration's big-ticket projects, is seen as the major solution to the looming water shortage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The release of the ECC came after the two private water concessionaires issued their water interruption schedules.

A letter addressed to the MWSS showed that the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has already granted the ECC application for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project since 11 October.



MWSS orders water firms to maximize treated-water output

By Victor V. Saulon
Sub-Editor

METRO MANILA's water regulator said it told the capital's two water concessionaires to maximize the output of their water treatment plants in Muntinlupa and Rizal to mitigate the impact of the water service interruptions which started today.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said it told Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and Manila Water Co. to ramp up the output from their respective water treatment plants in Putatan, Muntinlupa and Cardona, Rizal.

The Cardona and Putatan plants draw water from Laguna de Bay to add to the main supply drawn from Angat Dam in Bulacan. Raw water from Laguna de Bay needs to be specially treated to be suitable for consumption.

In a text message, MWSS Chief Regulator Patrick Lester N. Ty said both companies have also been required to undertake other measures to mitigate the impact of the water interruptions, which the companies said were to slow the rate of depletion from Angat.

"They should strictly adhere to the schedule of water interruptions as announced," he said.

He said the concessionaires must also provide stand-by water tankers or static tanks; and explore cross-border supply if needed. He said they are also to activate stand-by deep wells and make sure there are water allocations to all consumers within 24 hours to allow them to store water.

"Rationing will start tomorrow (Thursday)," Randolph T. Estrellado, Maynilad chief operating officer, said in a text message, confirming published schedules.

"We expect to continue rationing until releases from Angat are increased to the normal level of 48 cms (cubic meters per second)," he said, adding that for the two concessionaires the level is 46 cms, plus 2 cms for the Bulacan bulk water system.

"The reduced releases have been in place since July in an

effort to build up supply in Angat which needs to be filled up before the dry summer months," he said.

"Ongoing and upcoming mitigating measures are the increased production of our second Putatan plant from 100 mld (million liters per day) to 150 mld, activation of around 50 mld of deep wells, 20 mld of mobile treatment plants, and around 100 mld from continuing reduction of NRW (non-revenue water)," he added.

Mr. Estrellado said that although Angat dam's releases

have been constant at 40 cms, the company has benefited from additional flows from Ipo Dam, also in Bulacan, during the rainy season.

"Unfortunately, the recent dry spell has seen both Angat and Ipo dam levels go down and we can no longer get additional flows from Ipo," he said.

Meanwhile, Manila Water said it would begin implementing rotational water service interruption on the evening of Oct. 24, 2019, as it had been warning since last week while the water

level at Angat dam continues to decline.

"This is necessary because we want to ensure that the still-limited raw water supply will last even beyond the summer of 2020 since Angat Dam may not reach its ideal 212-meter level by the end of 2019," it said in a statement.

"As such, we enjoin our customers to use water wisely and responsibly. Please store water when available, and just at enough amount to serve your needs during hours of service interruption," it added.



Water service rotation scheme set

WEAKER than expected rain this month prevented the authorities from raising the water supply allocation in Metro Manila, which will result in an interruption in the water distribution later this week, regulators said Wednesday.

Angat Dam, the region's main water source, was at 186.23 meters as of 6 a.m., down from about 191 meters in the last week of Septeamber, said National Water Resources Board Executive Director Sevillo David Jr.

He made the statement even as

the Makabayan Bloc in the House of Representatives pushed for a congressional inquiry in aid of legislation into the government's contracts with private firms, including foreign-based ones.

This is in the face of the controversial loan deals with China and the interruption in the water distribution in the areas covered by Manila Water Company Inc., one of the private concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

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Water...

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House Deputy Minority leader and Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate slammed Manila Water and Maynilad for the impending water interruptions in Metro Manila and some parts of Southern Tagalog.

"This already happened earlier this year and now it is happening all over again," Zarate said.

"The water concessionaires are truly remiss on their contract and this should be scrutinized. This also shows that the privatization of public utilities is not the way to go because all they care about is profits."

Angat Dam's declining level prompted regulators to slash the water supply allocation in Metro Manila to 40 cubic meters per second from the regular 46.

"The NWRB Decided to maintain the current allocation for the Metro Manila water supply. We want to take care of our supply for this year until the next, especially in the summer," David said.

Water supply will be cut in parts of Metro Manila for up to 18 hours starting Thursday, the concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water warned earlier.

Last March, the taps ran dry in about a million households in Metro Manila as Angat Dam breached its critical level.

But David said this week's service outage would not be as bad as last summer, when Metro Manila's water allocation dipped below 40 cubic meters per second.

"If the distribution will be managed properly, we think that the public will still get water somehow," David said.

The rotational service interruption will continue until Angat Dam's level rises and Metro Manila's water allocation stays at 40 cubic meters per second, said Maynilad media relations assistant manager Grace Laxa.

"We still don't know until when this will be," she said. **Maricel V. Cruz**



WATER RATIONING STARTS

Manila Water, Maynilad asked to share resources

AS residents of Metro Manila and nearby provinces braced themselves for another round of water rationing, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) asked Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to explore the possibility of cross-border sharing or helping each other to ease the impact of the water crisis.

MWSS Chief Regulator Patrick Lester Ty told *The Manila Times* on Wednesday that the agency asked the two water service providers to consider sharing their resources, just like they did when taps ran dry early this year.

In March, Maynilad helped Manila Water by sharing its water allocation.

The sharing of supply is allowed under the concession agreement signed by the MWSS with the two water concessionaires.

The two companies had announced that rotational water service interruptions lasting up to 10 hours would start on Thursday, October 24.

The National Water Resources Board has maintained water releases from Angat Dam for Metro Manila

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■ SHARE FROM A1

Manila Water, Maynilad asked

and adjacent provinces at 40 cubic meters per second (m³/s), lower than the allocation of 48 m³/s on normal days.

The MWSS called a meeting with Manila Water and Maynilad to ensure that mitigating measures are in place as the water level of Angat Dam, the primary source of water in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces, remains low.

The agency told the two firms to provide advance notice to their customers and to adhere to the schedule of water interruptions as announced.

The MWSS also called on both concessionaires to have water tanks and static tanks on standby. They were also urged to activate deep wells and provide water to their customers once a day to allow them to store water.

Affected areas include the cities of Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasig, Pasay, Quezon, San Juan, Taguig and Valenzuela, as well as the municipality of Pateros in Metro Manila; Bacoor, Cavite City, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta

and Rosario in Cavite; Bulacan; and Angono, Antipolo, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Jalajala, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Taytay, and Teresa in Rizal province.

Consumer group Laban Konsummer Inc. (LKI) on Wednesday urged the government to determine if there is basis for the service interruption.

"What is our water supply now? Is the schedule right? This is really a bad timing since it's Christmas season," LKI president Victorio Mario Dimagiba said.

JORDEENE B. LAGARE



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No cloud-seeding operations despite receding water at Angat

By **RAMON EFREN LAZARO**

MALOLOS CITY — No cloud-seeding operations are being undertaken in the watershed areas of Angat, Ipo and La Mesa dams, despite the receding water elevation at Angat Dam that is the main source of water supply for Metro Manila residents.

This was confirmed to **The STAR** by Seville David Jr., executive director of the National Water Resources Board.

In a text message, David said the cloud-seeding operations for the watershed areas were suspended in July. However, he neither confirmed nor denied if

there is a move to conduct cloud-seeding to help increase the water elevation of Angat, Ipo and La Mesa dams.

The receding water elevation of Angat Dam made both Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. come out with customer advisories on rotational water service interruptions for Metro Manila residents and nearby provinces starting today.

The provincial disaster risk reduction and management office of Bulacan has monitored the water elevation of Angat Dam as of 8 a.m. yesterday at 186.22 meters, or 25.78 meters below the

ideal end-of-year water level of 212 meters. It is also only more than six meters above the dam's minimum operating level of 180 meters.

Usually, at the 180-meter water elevation level, irrigation supply to Bulacan farmlands is stopped and water is only allocated for Metro Manila's domestic water use.

With the current water situation at Angat Dam, Larry Ballesteros, provincial manager of the National Irrigation Administration in Bulacan, is apprehensive if there will be water allocation for irrigation to Bulacan farmlands for the coming

dry cropping season.

On the other hand, Felix Robles, head of water control and coordinating unit of Bustos Dam, told **The STAR** that Bulacan's wet season cropping ends in November while cropping schedule for the dry season starts on Dec. 1.

The water requirements or allocation for irrigation supply will be deliberated by the first week of November, Robles added.

Gloria Carillo, provincial agriculturist of Bulacan, said the province has 32,719.30 hectares of irrigated rice lands that depend on water coming from Angat Dam through Bustos.



Maynilad, Manila Water slammed as 'negligent'

BY WENDELL VIGILIA

BAYAN Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate yesterday slammed Maynilad and Manila Water for the new round of water interruptions, saying it only shows how negligent the water concessionaires are.

"This already happened earlier this year and now it is happening all over again. The water concessionaires are truly remiss in their contract and this should be scrutinized. This also shows that privatization of public utilities is not the way to go because all they care about is to have profits," he said in a statement.

Zarate called on the House leadership to immediately start hearings on House Resolution No. 10 which the Makabayan bloc filed earlier to investigate Manila Water

and Maynilad.

"We hope that this round of water interruptions is not another ploy to push for the start of the construction of the Kaliwa dam that is full of anomalies and is onerously pro-China," said the deputy minority leader.

As announced earlier this week, water service interruptions will start today and may last until next year if water level at Metro Manila's major water sources will not improve over the next few months.

Metro Manila, which has a population of 12 million, gets its water supply from the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system. Angat Dam supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water needs, releasing about 4 million liters of

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MAYNILAD

water per day, while La Mesa Dam is supposed to serve as a reserve for Manila Water.

As of last Tuesday, water level at Angat Dam was at 186.44 meters, way lower than its spilling level of 217 meters, while Ipo Dam's water level was at 100.48 meters, also below its spilling level of 101 meters.

Water level at La Mesa is at 77.53 meters, lower than its spilling level of 80.15 meters.

Manila Water, in a statement, said its scheduled water interruption will be felt by all its 6.8

million customers and will range from 4 to 10 hours.

Affected areas include Rizal, Makati, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, Parañaque, Pateros, Quezon City, San Juan, and Taguig, among others.

Zarate said alleged collusion between MWSS and the water concessionaires to force the China-funded Kaliwa Dam project should be exposed.

The Commission on Audit (COA) earlier bared that the bidding for the Official Development Assistance (ODA)-funded project was done "in the guise of being a competitive

procurement process.

COA cited the alleged intentional non-compliance to qualification requirements of two of the three Chinese contractors that joined the bidding.

"As a result, only the China Energy Engineering Corporation Limited (CEEC) qualified which is questionable considering that the two bidders were disqualified in the 1st and 2nd stages of the procurement process due to seemingly intentional purpose of the bidders not to comply with the TWG requirements," state auditors said in their Audit Observation

Memorandum last June 10.

The AOM was addressed to then MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco and deputy administrator for Engineering and Technical Operations Leonor Cleofas and signed by OIC Audit team Leader Rency Meryl P. Marquez and OIC Supervising Auditor Ma. Nancy J. Uy.

"In summary, it can be deduced that the two bidders/contractors were included merely to comply with the 'at least three bidders requirement' as stated under the Procurement law," the report said.



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Water allocation supply sa MM ginawang 40 cubic per seconds - NWRB

Nagdesisyon ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na gawing 40 cubic per seconds ang alokasyong suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David Jr., executive director ng NWRB ang desisyon ay bunga na rin ng hindi na pagtaas pa ng water level sa Angat dam dahil sa kawalan ng ulan sa may dam watershed.

Anyang, ginawa ang hakbang upang mapangalagaan ang dam sa darating na mga pa-

nahon at paghandaan ang mga maaaring maganap sa kondisyon ng mga dam sa ating bansa.

Sinabi ni David na may 12 percent ang naging pagbaba sa normal allocation dahil sa hindi normal ang dami ng naisusuplay na tubig sa mga kostumer na galing sa Angat dam

Niliwanag naman ni David na ang malalayo at liblib na lugar ang higit na makakaranas ng mahinang pressure ng suplay ng tubig.

Anyang hindi naman

magkakaroon ng matinding krisis sa tubig kagaya nang naganap noong nagdaang Marso dahil noong summer ay sobrang baba ng water level sa Angat dam.

"Posibleng magkaroon ng epekto pero minimal lang, hindi na mangyayari yung katulad ng dati na matindi ang kawalan ng suplay, ngayon hindi naman magkakaranun, merong suplay, bumaba nga lang ang dami ng naisusuplay," pahayag ni David. (Angie dela Cruz)



NGAYON pa lang, nagbabala na ang National Water Resources Board na magtipid ang mga taga-Mega Manila sa tubig.

Gayundin na nagbabala ito sa mga magsasaka sa Bulacan na sinusuplayan ng tubig-pang-irigasyon ng Angat Dam.

Ginagawa ang babala dahil sa unti-unting pagkonti ng depositong tubig ng Angat Dam na pinagkukunan ng 96 porsyentong suplay ng inuming tubig para sa mga taga-Mega Manila at patubig para sa libo-libong magsasaka sa Bulacan.

Kumokonti ang tubig dahil sa pagdating ng amihan at tag-araw na normal na walang gaanong ulan at bagyo.

MAGTIPIID

Sabing NWRB, dapat na matuto nang magtipid ang mga taga-Mega Manila o residente ng Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite at Laguna na sinusuplayan ng tubig ng mga konsesyonaryo sa tubig na Maynilad at Manila Water.

Sinasabihan na rin ang mga mamamayan na itsek ang kanilang mga tubo ng tubig kung maayos o may tagas.

At gamitin lang ang tubig para talaga sa mga mahahalagang bagay na nangangailangan ng tubig.

Gawin lahat ito para hindi mabilis na maubos ang deposito ng nasabing dam at mga kaugnay nitong Ipo Dam at La Mesa Dam.

NAPAPANAHONG

PAGTATANIM

Inaabisuhan na rin ang mga magsasaka na habang malaki pa ang deposito ng tubig, ngayon na sila magsaka.

At huwag na huwag silang magsaka sa panahon na nasiya kritikal nang kalagayan ang suplay ng tubig.

Kapag maliit na ang deposito, sapilitang ang tubig-inumin na kailangan ng mga taga-Mega Manila ang pryoridad.

Kaya nga nariryan na ang laban ng kung sino ang dapat na pryoridad.

Klaro na 'di bale nang walang masaka ang mga magsasaka kaysa maubusan ng tubig-inumin ang mga mamamayan.

Kung tutuusin, parehong mahalaga ang pagkainig bigas at inuming tubig subalit lumilitaw na higit na tungkulin ng mga taga-dam ang magbigay ng tubig kaysa tu-



MONOPOLYO SA TUBIG AT BIGAS VS TUBIG

big para sa irigasyon.

KALIWA DAM

Ang Kaliwa Dam ang inasahang makatutulong nang husto sa suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Matatagpuan ito sa lalawigan ng Quezon at posibleng mapagkukunan ito ng 600 milyong litro ng tubig araw-araw.

Kay sinasabing dapat na gawin na ito anoman ang mangyari.

Sa kasalukuyan kasi, mga Bro, maraming kontrobersya ukol sa Kaliwa Dam.

Isa ang pag-ayaw ng mga katutubo na mawalan ng tirhan at kabuhayan sa mga kagubatan.

Ikalawa umano ang pandaraya sa pag-apruba sa paggawa nito gaya ng kawalan ng sapat at tamang konsultasyon sa mga madidiskarilan ng buhay.

Ikatlo, may malakihang korapsyon umano sa pag-apruba at pagtatayo nito.

P10B PONDO

Kabilang sa mga handang magpondo sa paggawa ng dam ang Chinese government dahil hindi na ito isasailalim sa public-private partnership kundi maging official development lahat.

Gobyerno sa gobyerno ang mag-uusap at noramang maaaring ipasubasta ang paggawa nito.

Maaari rin umano ang Chinese company ang pangunahing gagawa, bilang isang kondisyon.

Pero sa kalahatan, wala patalagang klaro rito bagama't malakas ang pagkilos na itayo ito.

KRISIS MAULIT

Dahil sa posibilidad na kakauin ang mga pag-ulan na darating sa mga susunod na buwan, maaari umano ang maliit ang krisis na naganap nitong nakaraang mga buwan.

Sa naganap na krisis, nawalan ng tubig hindi lang ang mga malalayong lugar mula sa Quezon City gaya ng Rizal, Cavite at Laguna kundi maging ang maraming bahagi ng Quezon City at iba't ibang lugar sa Metro Manila, kabilang na ang Mandaluyong City, San Juan at iba pa.

Naunang nawalan ng suplay ng tubig ang sakop ng konsesyon ng Manila Water dahil mas maliit umano ang bahagi nito sa suplay kumpara sa suplay ng Maynilad.

Makaraan ang ilang panahon, maging ang ilang sakop ng Maynilad at nagka-krisis na rin.

PERMISYO

Malaking perwisyo ang idinulot ng krisis sa suplay.

May mga iskul na nagsara, may mga hindi makapasok sa trabaho dahil sa puyat sa paghihintay ng tubig mula sa mga faucet, may mga nagsarang restoran at may mga nasunugan dahil walang suplay sa mga fire hydrant.

Marami ring gumagawa ng bottled water mismo ang nagsara at nakapagtatakwang lumitaw ang de-boteng tubig ng mga konsesyonaryo na for sale.

MONOPOLYO

Bagama't klaro na malaking dahilan ng krisis sa tubig ang tagtuyot, itong monopolyo sa tubig ang dapat ding silipin.

Anak ng tokwa, sinakop ng dalawang konsesyonaryo ang napakalawak na lugar hanggang sa bawal na ang pagkakaroon ng sariling tubig ang mga ito ang mga residente rito.

Ipinagbawal ang mga deepwell at iba pang pagkukunan ng tubig dahil nasisira umano ang lupa na pag-sisimulan ng pagguho ng lupa.

Sa monopolyo, gusto ng mga konsesyonaryo na solihin ang suplay ng tubig kahit hindi na nila kayang suplayan ang lahat.

At sa monopolyo, ang krisis sa suplay ay higit na pagkakataon para sila kumita. Mas mahal ang tubig kung kakaunti ang suplay kaya mas malaki ang tubo ng mga monopolyo.

Paano kaya buwagin ang monopolyo sa tubig?

☪☪

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, iparating sa 092284-03333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



EDITORIAL

Maagang pagrarasyon ng tubig dulot ng madalang na pag-ulan

NTANG magsimulang bumagsak ang ulan noong Hunyo, nakahinga nang maluwag ang mga residente ng Metro Manila, lalo na ang mga naninirahan sa silangang bahagi na dumanas ng matinding kakulangan sa tubig. Nasa panahon na tayo ngayon ng 'ber' months, kung kailan tila nasa pinakamaayos ang buhay sa ating bansa — unti-unti nang lumalamig ang panahon, nagsisimula na ang anihan, habang patuloy na tumataas ang diwa ng parating na panahon ng Kapaskuhan sa Disyembre.

Nitong nakaraang linggo, nag-abiso sa mga residente ang dalawang nagsusuplay ng tubig — ang Maynilad at Manila Water — para sa posibleng pagrarasyon ng tubig dahil sa patuloy na pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat at Ipo dam. Hindi ito isang krisis sa tubig tulad nang naranasan natin noong mga buwan ng tag-init. "We just have to proactively warn our customers about the possibility of our having to implement rotational service interruptions, given the scant rains that have been falling," pahayag ng tagapagsalita ng Maynilad.

At nitong nakaraang Martes, inanunsiyo na ng Maynilad at Manila Water na kailangan na nilang iimplementa ang "rotational water service interruption" simula ngayong araw, na maaaring magtagal hanggang sa susunod na taon, dulot ng patuloy na bumababang lebel ng tubig sa mga dam. Habang una nang binawasan ang alokasyon ng tubig para sa irigasyon.

Walang dudang ang tumataas na bilang ng populasyon ay isang salik dito. Milyon-milyong tao ang ngayo'y naninirahan sa Metro Manila, na lahat ay nangangailangan ng tubig, na isinusuplay ng Angat at Ipo, na may ilang bahaging nagmumula sa Laguna de Bay. Nitong buwan ng mainit na panahon, lumutang ang usapin hinggil sa paghahanap ng bagong mapagkukunan ng tubig, kabilang ang mungkahing Kaliwa Dam at muling pagbuhay sa Wawa Dam. Gayunman, may ilang kontra sa pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam sa probinsiya ng Quezon, mula sa mga katutubo na nakatira sa lugar na maaaring mawalan ng tirahan at sakahan sa puntong malunod sa tubig ang kanilang lupain.

Nariyan din ang salik sa climate change. Hindi tayo nakatanggap nang maraming ulan mula sa habagat o southwest monsoon ngayong taon. At hindi rin natin naranasan ang karaniwang serye ng mga bagyo na nagbabagsak ng tubig sa ating mga isla, habang patungo sa Asian mainland. Sa halip, lumilihis ang mga ito, ang huli nga ay ang 'Hagibis' — na tumama sa Japan.

Ilang solusyon upang maisaayos ang suplay ng tubig ang iminungkahi at inaprubahan na ngunit mangangailangan naman ito ng panahon bago maimplementa. Kabilang dito ang pagtatakda sa mga bagong itatayong proyekto na maisama sa probisyon ang pagtatabi ng tubig-ulan upang umayuda sa suplay ng Metro Manila Water District at ang dalawang pribadong water concessionaries.

Sa mga nakalipas na buwan, maraming suliranin ang dumarating sa atin na nagdudulot ng malaking epekto sa mga ordinaryong mamamayan — ang inflation noong 2018, ang kakulangan sa tubig ngayong taon, ang sunod-sunod na outbreak sa dengue, measles, at polio na patuloy na nananalasa sa ating bansa, at ngayon ang napipintong kakulangan sa tubig.

Tulad sa mga nakalipas na problema ng kakulangan, malalapas natin ito dahil sa 'resiliency' ng ating mga mamamayan at mayroon naman tayong ibang mapagkukunan na maaaring masandalian. Ngunit ang napipintong kakulangan sa tubig sa panahon na hindi naman dapat mangyari ay dapat na tumapik sa balik ng ating mga opisyal para tumindig at simulan na ang kanilang mga plano para sa dam, weir at iba pang water-saving projects. Sa bulto nang tubig ulan na ating natatanggap, hindi natin dapat ito pinoproblema. Kailangan lamang natin itong itabi para sa hindi maiwasang panahon ng kakulangan, sa ating mabilis na lumalagong populasyon.



ADB to invest in Palawan sustainable tourism development

By CHINO S. LEYCO

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will invest in an environment sustainability project for two fast-growing destinations in Palawan known for their pristine natural beauty and diverse marine life.

In a statement, the Manila-based lender said yesterday that the ADB is preparing a tourism development project to ensure an environmentally sustainable environment for El Nido and Coron in Palawan.

ADB said the bank is working with the Department of Tourism (DOT) for the development project, which involves investment in environmentally sustainable urban facilities and marine environment protection.

According to the ADB, the investment is needed ahead of the expected higher numbers of tourists visiting the islands over the next decade.

"Palawan is known as the country's 'last ecological frontier' and we want to ensure its rich marine ecosystem, particularly in El Nido and Coron, will be protected amid the rapid growth in tourist demand," Tourism Secretary Bernadette

Romulo-Puyat said.

The project is part of DOT's Transforming Communities Towards Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Tourism (TouRIST) Program, a coordinated effort by various government agencies and local stakeholders in partnership with multilateral development banks in implementing sustainable tourism development in the country.

ADB will be supporting the DOT-led program by offering solutions and financing to address the immediate need for vital urban infrastructure and services, such as solid waste management, drainage and sanitation, and clean drinking water in El Nido and Coron.

ADB will also help build the capacity of local stakeholders to protect and conserve healthy oceans and rehabilitate key biodiversity-based tourism sites. The project is planned for delivery in the fourth quarter of 2020.

To ensure tourism benefits local communities, ADB will also explore innovative funding to local business enterprises and community-based groups for skills and product development to improve the quality of services in El Nido and Coron.



ADB offers assistance to develop El Nido, Coron

By CZERIZA VALENCIA

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will extend financing solutions for the development of sustainable tourism in El Nido and Coron in Palawan province.

The multilateral bank is now working with the Department of Tourism (DOT) on the preparation of a tourism development project that will equip these two fast-growing tourism destinations with sustainable urban facilities and means of protecting marine life.

El Nido and Coron are both known for their natural beauty and diverse marine life but environmental sustainability is threatened by the increasing number of tourists.

ADB said pursuing sustainability strategies would prepare these destinations for the influx of tourists visiting the islands over the next decade.

The bank's partnership with the DOT is part of the agency's transforming Communities Towards Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Tourism (TouRIST) Program, a joint effort by the national government and local government units with multilateral development banks in implementing sustainable tourism development in the country.

ADB will support the DOT-led program by offering solutions and financing to address the immediate need for vital urban infrastructure and services, such as solid waste management, drainage and sanitation, and clean drinking water in El Nido and Coron.

The bank will also help build the capacity of local stakeholders to protect the ocean and rehabilitate key biodiversity-based tourism sites. The project is planned for delivery in the fourth quarter of 2020.

To ensure that tourism benefits local communities, ADB will also explore innovative funding to local business enterprises and community-based groups for skills and product development to improve the quality of services in El Nido and Coron.

"This project is critically important for ADB because we share with the Philippine government the goal of seeing local economies thrive on an environmentally sustainable path. Tourism, when managed properly, can be a catalyst for inclusive development that can lift residents of El Nido and Coron out of poverty," said Kelly Bird, ADB country director for the Philippines.



ISLAND HOPING IN CORON

ADB to support sustainable tourism project for Palawan's Coron, El Nido

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it is planning to support a tourism development project with the Department of Tourism (DoT) for the Palawan resort towns of El Nido and Coron, to prepare these destinations to handle greater visitor numbers over the next decade.

In a statement Wednesday, the ADB said it sees the need for investment in the two "fast-growing destinations" in sustainable urban facilities and marine environment protection due to projections of "higher numbers of tourists visiting the islands over the next decade".

The DoT-led project is set to launch by the fourth quarter of 2020.

ADB will offer solutions and financing for "vital urban infrastructure

and services" including solid waste management, drainage, sanitation and clean drinking water, as well as build local capacity to "protect and conserve healthy oceans and rehabilitate key biodiversity-based tourism sites."

"This project is critically important for ADB because we share with the Philippine government the goal of seeing local economies thrive on an environmentally sustainable path. Tourism, when managed properly, can be a catalyst for inclusive development that can lift residents of El Nido and Coron out of poverty," ADB Country Director for the Philippines Kelly Bird said.

ADB will also consider other forms of funding for local businesses and community-based groups to improve

the services they offer and maintain tourism benefits for the communities.

"Palawan is known as the country's 'last ecological frontier' and we want to ensure its rich marine ecosystem, particularly in El Nido and Coron, will be protected amid the rapid growth in tourist demand," Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said.

Representatives from ADB and DoT went to El Nido and Coron in Palawan earlier this month to gather preliminary leads for project design, holding consultations with stakeholders.

The project will be carried out via the DoT's Transforming Communities Towards Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Tourism Program. — **Beatrice M. Laforga**

ADB backs Palawan sustainable plan

BY ANGELA CELIS

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it will support the Department of Tourism (DOT) in the sustainable development of El Nido and Coron, Palawan.

The ADB said in a statement yesterday it is working with the DOT in preparing a tourism development project that will ensure a sustainable environment for El Nido and Coron.

A joint ADB and DOT team visited El Nido and Coron earlier this month to hold consultations with local government officials and local stakeholders as part of the preparations in designing the project.

The project is part of DOT's Transforming Communities Towards Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism (TourIST) Program, a coordinated effort by various government agencies and local stakeholders in partnership with multilateral development banks in implementing sustainable tourism development in the country.

ADB will be supporting the DOT-led program by offering solutions and financing to address the immediate need for vital urban infrastructure and services, such as solid waste management, drainage and sanitation, and clean drinking water in El Nido and

See ADB ► Page A2



Cliff view of Coron. (Reuters photo)

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ADB

Coron.

The multilateral bank agency will also help build the capacity of local stakeholders to protect and conserve healthy oceans and rehabilitate key biodiversity-based tourism sites. The project is planned for delivery in the fourth quarter of 2020.

To ensure tourism benefits local communities, ADB will also explore innovative funding to local business enterprises and community-based groups for skills and product development to improve the quality of services in El Nido and Coron.

"This project is critically important for ADB because we share with the Philippine government the goal of seeing local economies thrive on an environmentally sustainable path. Tourism, when managed properly, can be a catalyst for inclusive development that can lift residents of El Nido and Coron out of poverty," Kelly Bird, ADB country director for the Philippines, said.

In conjunction with the DOT, the ADB has identified El Nido and Coron as two localities requiring investments in environmentally sustainable urban facilities and marine environment protection in anticipation of higher numbers of tourists visiting the islands over the next decade.

"Palawan is known as the country's 'last ecological frontier' and we want to ensure its rich marine ecosystem, particularly in El Nido and Coron, will be protected amid the rapid growth in tourist demand," Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, tourism secretary, said.

The tourism chief created a project steering committee composed of senior officials from the National Economic and Development Authority, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, and the Departments of Finance, Public Works and Highways, Interior and Local Government, Environment and Natural Resources, Health, and Transportation.



ADB to fund Palawan's sustainable tourism menu

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

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Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) will finance environmental and sustainable tourism projects in El Nido and Coron in Palawan, two critical islands that government authorities have been monitoring since last year on pollution-related and easement concerns.

In a news statement, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said the projects fall under its Transforming Communities Towards Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism (TouRIST) Program, a coordinated effort by various government agencies and local stakeholders in partnership with multilateral development banks in implementing sustainable tourism destination development in the country.

Among the projects to be funded by a \$100-million ADB assistance are vital urban infrastructure and services such as solid waste management, drainage and sanitation, and clean drinking water in El Nido and Coron. ADB will also help build the capacity of local stakeholders to protect and conserve healthy oceans and rehabilitate key biodiversity-based tourism sites. The projects are planned for delivery in the fourth quarter of 2020.

"Palawan is known as the country's 'last ecological frontier' and we want to ensure its rich marine ecosystem, particularly in El Nido and Coron, will be protected amid the rapid growth in tourist demand," said Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat after a meeting last week with ADB officials led by its Country Director for the Philip-

ines Kelly Bird.

For his part, Bird said, these projects are "critically important for the ADB because we share with the Philippine government the goal of seeing local economies thrive on an environmentally sustainable path."

He added, "Tourism, when managed properly, can be a catalyst for inclusive development that can lift residents of El Nido and Coron out of poverty," he stressed.

To implement the projects financed by the ADB, Romulo Puyat created a project steering committee composed of senior officials from the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap); as well as the Departments of Finance, Public Works and Highways, the Interior and Local Government, Environment and Natural Resources, Health, and Transportation.

A government task force led by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año, and DOT's Romulo Puyat, decided last August to keep El Nido open for tourism despite reports of high fecal coliform levels in several areas around Bacuit Bay. Instead, the task force closed off several outfalls located in Corong Corong, Cabugao, Masagana, and the El Nido Estero to swimming and boat tours.

The task force also threatened to close down hotels and resorts without DOT accreditation, and is monitoring the compliance of several establishments with easement ordinances, business permit regulations, and other environmental laws.

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ADB...

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Earlier, the DOT said it was also tapping some \$300 million in financial assistance from the World Bank for infrastructure projects in Bohol, Siargao, Siquijor, Davao City and Samal Island.

Romulo Puyat said then, "we can keep promoting these destinations, but if they don't have the proper infrastructure, are unable to manage disasters and crises, or the people don't benefit from jobs that are tied to the tourism

activities in the area, then we are not really uplifting tourism and its targeted beneficiaries." She said, this way, the DOT will have a more "holistic approach" to tourism development. (See, "World Bank, ADB make available \$400 million in loans for tourism projects," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, October 3, 2019.)

Palawan has been reaping accolades this year, starting with its inclusion in Travel + Leisure's World's Best Islands Awards for 2019. It came in second after Bali, Indonesia. Earlier this month, Palawan was also chosen by readers of Condé Nast Traveler as among the Best Islands in Asia for 2019.



Climate change making stronger El Niños, study finds

WASHINGTON – Climate change is making stronger El Niños, which change weather worldwide and heat up an already warming planet, a new study finds.

Scientists examined 33 El Niños – natural warming of equatorial Pacific that triggers weather extremes across the globe – since 1901. They found since the 1970s, El Niños have been forming farther to the west in warmer waters, leading to stronger El Niños in some cases.

A powerful El Niño can trigger drought in some places, like Australia and India. And it can cause flooding in other areas like California. The Pacific gets more hurricanes during an El Niño and the Atlantic gets fewer.

El Niño makes winters milder and wetter in the United States, which generally benefits from strong El Ni-

ños. They're devastating elsewhere.

The 1997-98 event caused thousands of deaths from severe storms, heat waves, floods and drought, costing between \$32 billion and \$96 billion, according to a United Nations study.

The shift for the origin of El Niño by hundreds of miles from the east of the International Dateline to the west of that point is important because the water to the west is naturally warmer, said study lead author Bin Wang, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Hawaii.

Before 1978, 12 of the 14 El Niños formed in the east. After 1978, all 11 were more central or western, according to a study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Researchers did not study La Niñas, the cooler flip side to El Niño. – AP



UN-LOCKING THE CLIMATE CHANGE

TAON-TAON mula 1948 ay ipinagdiriwang ang United Nations Day. Ito ay alinsunod na rin sa selebrasyon ng pagkakatatag ng organisasyong United Nations. Sa katunayan, sa darating na 2020 ay magdiriwang na ang United Nations ng kanilang 75th Anniversary. Ngunit ano nga ba ang United Nations? Ang United Nations ay isang intergovernmental organization na responsible sa pagpapanatili ng international peace and security. Tungkulin ng organisasyon ang pagbuklod-buklurin ang mga bansang miyembro nito upang makamit ang pagkakaisa tungo sa anumang layunin na ninanais ng mga kasapi para sa ikabubuti ng lahat.

Isa sa labis na pinagtutuunan ng pansin ng organisasyong ito ay ang usapin tungkol sa Climate Change. Ayon sa United Nations, "Climate change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment." Mula sa pagbago-bago hanggang sa hindi maintindihang klima o lagay ng panahon

na lubhang nakaapekto sa seguridad ng produksiyon ng ating food resources, hanggang sa pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig na nagdudulot ng mapaminsalang pagbaha, talaga namang hindi maitatanggì na isa itong suliranin na dapat nang bigyang pansin. "Without drastic action today, adapting to

these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly," apela ng United Nations.

Taong 2013 nang itinatag ng World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at United Nations ang Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Mula sa pagkakatatag ng IPCC ay nagsimula silang ala-

min kung ano nga ba ang papel ng mga aktibidad ng mga tao sa patuloy na pagbabago at paglala ng pandaigdigang klima. Matapos maisapubliko ng IPCC ang kanilang Fifth Assessment Report, lumabas na ang climate change ay isang tunay na suliranin at ang mga aktibidad ng mga tao ang pangunahing rason sa problemang ito.

Kamakailan lamang ay idinaos ng United Nations ang UN Climate Action Summit sa kanilang headquarters sa Estados Unidos. Layunin ng summit na magtipon-tipon ang mga lider mula sa iba't-ibang bansa upang talakayin ang mga nararapat na aksiyon upang mapababa ang greenhouse gas emissions na isa sa nagdudulot ng pagtaas ng temperatura ng mundo. Sa nasabing summit, inilat ng mga world leader ang kasalukuyan nilang

hakbang at mga plano nila sa hinaharap upang makatulong sa paglaban sa climate change.

Ipinrisinta rin sa UN Climate Action Summit ang Teen Activists at isa



PROBLEM

BY: Edwin Cabrera

childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you! Umani ng

Secretary-General ng UN, "we need more concrete plans, more ambition from more countries and more businesses. We need all financial institutions, public and private, to choose, once and for all, the green economy."

Lahat nawa ng nangbanggit ay magpatuloy at magbigay daan upang



GRETA Thunberg

na si Greta Thunberg na labis na pinag-usapan matapos niyang bitawan ang mga maimit niyang pahayag para sa nagsidalong leaders.

Aniya, "You have stolen my dreams and my

samu't saring reaksiyon ang pahayag na ito ni Greta dahilang upang mas talakayin ang issue ukol sa climate change.

Sa pagtatapos ng Climate Action Summit, wika ni António Guterres,

ang bawat isa sa atin ay gumawa ng hakbang na mas magpapalakas sa mga kasalukuyang proyekto tungo sa environmental protection and conservation para labanin ang climate change.



Fireflies in the rain

SHIRLEY and her husband are part of a fishing community. Typically, a fisherman earns P1,000 a day, but on an exceptionally lucky day, they can make up to P11,000.

You can see why they are against reclamation, but even with two dynamic, outspoken ladies, Sen. Cynthia Villar and Rep. Baby Arenas, championing their cause, Shirley's and 699 other families in Taliptip, Bulacan are worried sick. The floods have been waist-high, several towns being lowland — Obando, Bulakan, Meycauayan. One other thing about Bulacan which I never knew about, they depend on Manila Bay for the fishermen's subsistence; all along I had stupidly thought that we buy our seafood from Cavite and Pangasinan.

As it happens, Bulacan evokes excitement of another kind, for among us crowd-weary city folk, we're impatient with anticipation of a mega-airport coming up five years from now. We deserved a new airport 20 years ago and now that it's almost within reach, the world is changing faster than you can spell environment. Global warming, melting glaciers, extreme climates, oceans drowning in plastics, fish-kills, not to forget frequent earth-



MEDIUM RARE

JULLIE Y. DAZA

quakes.

We're learning new words, liquefaction, subsidence, storm surge, slow-concept disaster. The ground beneath our feet has softened or is sinking, typhoons grow fiercer, destruction strikes without warning, if long in coming. The world shrinks, buildings

rise vertically, land is reclaimed from the sea, 22 plans alone for Manila Bay. Reclamation's other name is dump-and-fill.

To build an airport the builders would need 20 million dump trucks of soil or 150,000 chocolate hills (when Bohol has only 120,000) to fill the site. Unimaginable, the logistics! Shirley and her townmates wish the developers will not forget the small people when they connect the commas and figures and peso signs in summing up the cost of development. "We're not against progress," she said, "but fishing is our life," not just a livelihood. Her husband's grandfather was a fisherman, their home was a gift from him. When she talks about Taliptip her eyes moisten, her face softens, very likely she's remembering a place beloved of her childhood. In the mangrove forest, she said, fireflies blink and glitter at night... if only the trees were forever and the rain did not bring a flood of misery.



METRO MANILA NEEDS MORE TREES

METRO Manila is perhaps one of the most congested and hot cities on earth. With global warming and economic growth, the city will get worse for our children. There is a partial solution to this mess we are in. We should plant trees all over the urban area, on a massive scale. For every six parking spots on roadways and businesses, there should be one medium or large tree planted. Of course, there will be consequences to this, such as the reduction in the number of parking spots available. Digging into streets and parking lots can also hit unmapped sewage and water lines.

Yet, the benefits are numerous. According to a North Carolina State University study, planting trees in urban areas can:

- Cool the air through evaporation of the leaves, and reduce the heat reaching the cement. Roadways give out heat

at night, making cities "heat islands." If the roadway or parking lot remains mostly shaded by trees, the nighttime temperature can be reduced by two degrees centigrade or more.

- Reduce glare, noise and dust.
- Trap carbon dioxide, reducing global warming.
- Benefit future generations, since the trees last so long and grow so big.

The trees planted on private and public areas should not be small palm trees, but leafy trees, perhaps hardy native trees. In the short term, tree-planting might not get a politician elected, but political leaders who mandate the planting of trees will be appreciated by happy future Filipinos.

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PENRO: Clearing excludes trees

There has been massive confusion as to the policies of road clearing and road widening

By Jun N. Aguirre

KALIBO, Aklan – The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) is currently conducting investigations in the cutting of trees during the recent conduct of road clearing policy in the province.

In a media interview Thursday, Aran Rubin of the PENRO said that they received reports that the towns of Banga and New Washington towns cut trees along the highway without proper consultation of the local government with the PENRO.

“There has been massive confusion as to the policies of road clearing and road widening. The policy issued by the Department of Interior and Local Government was only meant for road clearing which excludes the cutting of trees,” he said.

During the investigation, the PENRO also conducted inventory of trees cut and their monetary value wherein the PENRO, after determining the corresponding value, will then fine the local government involved.



Big firm products top worst plastic litter list

TENS of thousands of pieces of plastic littering the planet come from just a handful of multinational corporations, an environmental pressure group said Wednesday.

Coca-Cola, Nestle and PepsiCo were named by Break Free from Plastics, a global coalition of individuals and environmental organizations, who warned the companies largely avoid cleanup responsibility.

The coalition's volunteers collected nearly half a million pieces of plastic waste during a coordinated "World Clean Up Day" in 51 countries a month ago, of which 43 percent were marked with a clear consumer brand.

For the second year in a row, it said Coca-Cola came out on top, with 11,732 pieces of plastic collected from 37 countries across four continents this year, more than the next three top global polluters combined.

"Many of them have made commitments that they claim will make their products more sustainable, but largely protect the outdated throw-

away business model that got us into this mess in the first place," said the report, released in Manila.

China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Sri Lanka dump the most plastic into the oceans, but "the real drivers of much of this plastic pollution in Asia are actually multinational corporations headquartered in Europe and the United States," it said.

Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and Nestle — responsible for the most pieces of plastic collected — did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Others in the top 10 polluters include Mondelez International, Unilever, Mars, P&G, Colgate-Palmolive, Philip Morris and Perfetti Van Mille, the report added.

Single-serve sachets

While global consumer brands now acknowledge their role in perpetuating the crisis, the report said they "have been equally aggressive in promoting false solutions to address

the problem."

Promoting recycling is their way of shifting the responsibility to consumers, it said.

Just 9 percent of all plastic produced since the 1950s has actually been recycled, the report said.

The report deems single-serve multilayered sachets, common in Southeast Asia and aimed at low-income families that cannot afford bigger volumes of consumer products, as "the most damaging type of plastic packaging."

Coca-Cola's promotion of a single-use plastic bottle using plastic collected from the oceans, as well as PepsiCo's efforts to promote recycling, "do not get to the heart of the problem and all but guarantee the plastic pollution crisis will grow worse."

Nestle sells over a billion products a day in single-use packaging "but has no clear plans for reducing the total amount" it puts into the world," the report alleged.

"As companies continue to profit by pumping out excessive single-use

plastic, communities all over the world are being forced to shoulder the burden," it said, calling the situation "unacceptable."

The report said companies should veer away from promoting "false solutions" — such as recycling and "bioplastic" — and instead transition from a throwaway economy.

All the companies named have made public commitments to reduce plastic waste and increase recycling.

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have pledged to make their packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025. The beverage giants have also pulled out of a US lobbying organization that represents the plastics industry.

Similarly Nestle says it wants to make 100 percent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025, and to increase the proportion of recycled material in its plastic bottles to a third.

Break Free from Plastics counts 6,118 individuals and 1,475 organizations around the world as its members, including Greenpeace.

AFP



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REMATE 9

MAKA-KALIKASANG GAWAIN SA KAARAWAN NI MAYOR ISKO MORENO

KAKAIBA at unpredictable talaga itong si Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso ng City of Manila, imbes ba naman kasi na mag-enjoy sa kanyang 45th birthday ngayong araw (October 24) ay hiniling sa lahat ng mga Manilenyo na sama-samang maglinis ng kani-kanilang komunidad.

Kaya naman hanga sa kanya si Pangulong Digong Duterte, sabi pa nga nito, mukhang mas magaling pa sa kanya ang simpatikong Yorme namin sa Maynila.

Sa mga nagtataas ng kilay riyan, hindi lamang po ito publicity ni Mayor Isko Moreno, sabi nga ng staff ko na si Willyan Maglente na isa sa mga dating 'angels' noong unang termino bilang Konse-

hal ni Yorme (1998) talagang hindi nito hilig ang pagpaparty kapag sumasapit ang kaarawan nito.

Noon nga raw, madalas magpakain sa Hospicio de San Jose si Yorme kapag birthday nito na pinangungunahan nina ngayo'y Konsehal Joel Par at mga volunteer youth na bumubuo ng Kabataan para sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan (KKB).

Mas masaya diumano si Mayor Isko Moreno kapag nakapagpapasaya ng mga bata, alam at naranasan kasi niya mismo ang katayuan na salat o may kawalan. Paraan din umano ito para magbalik ng magandang gawain sa komunidad.

Basura ang isa sa mga problema ng Lungsod ng Maynila lalong-lalo na sa may

Vitas area diyan sa Tondo. Sa totoo lang, hindi naman kasalanan ng mga informal settlers families (ISFs) na naninirahan sa ARHELAND o Aroma, Helping Complex at Happy Land ang tambak na basura kunding mga 'haulers' na humahakot ng basura diretso sa mga food chain.

Wala naman sanang masama sa hanapbuhay na pangunguha ng mga tira-tira o hindi nagalaw na manok, pero matapos kasi alisin ang 'pagpag' ay iniwan na lang din ang mga pinaglagaan, kaya kumakalat ang basura.

Kung papasukin mo ang kaloob-looban ng ARHELAND partikular sa Helping Complex, tambak doon ang mga inuod na tambak ng basura, literal na kumakatas sa kalsada at



ANG INYONG
LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

mabaho ang buong paligid.

Dapat na magkaroon ng kontrol sa paghahakot ng mga 'pagpag' sa mga food chain, malinaw na paglabag ito sa Republic Act No. 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Act of 2001. Patawan ng kaparusan ang mga establisyemontong ito.

Kumpara sa nakaraang administrasyon, mas maige na ngayon ang pangongolekta ng basura sa buong Maynila. Kailangan na lamang ipatupad ng mahigpit na pagkuha ng mga nabubulok at hindi nabubulok na basura sa itinakdang mga araw. Dapat maturuan ang mga Manilenyo ng segregation system na malaki ang maitutulong sa solid waste management ng lungsod.

Sa panahon ni Mayor Isko Moreno, ayon sa aking source, ay natigil na ang pandaraya sa bilang ng paghahakot ng basura. Alam n'yo bang nasa Php 3,500.00 ang halaga ng bawat garbage truck na lalabas at maghahakot ng basura. Dati ay kalahati lamang

ang tunay na naghahakot ng basura na ngayon ay hindi pupuwede kay Mayor Isko Moreno.

Bravo, Mayor Isko Moreno sa naisip mong makabuluhan at maka-kalikasang pamamaraan para maipagdiwang ang iyong kaarawan. Tunay na 'Isko Moreno way' na ang pamantayan para sa isang maayos at episyenteng local governance.

Hindi na ako magtataka pa kung mapagkakalooban ka ng Ramon Magsaysay Award for Exemplary Leadership.

Muli, Maligayang kaarawan, Mayor Isko Moreno!

Kung nais ninyo malaman ang **TAMANG IMPORMASYON TAMANG SERBISYO NI AGARANG SERBISYO LADY**, i-search sa **YOUTUBE CHANNEL "HILDA ONG"** at sa Facebook Fanpage **"TV RADIO HILDA ONG"**. Huwag kalimutan i-click ang salitang **"SUBSCRIBE"**, **"LIKE"** at **"SHARE"**.





Pinakamalaking 'caldera' sa mundo nasa Filipinas



MARAMI pang mga bagay na naririto sa ating bansa na hindi pa nadiskubre, tulad ng mga kakaibang species ng hayop at iba pang yamang kalikasan.

Kamakailan, napagalamang opisyal na tahanan ng pinakamalaking caldera na nadiskubre sa mundo, batay sa bagong pag-aaral na isinagawa ng marine geophysicist na si Jenny Anne Barretto na ibinahagi ng University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI).

Natagpuan ang caldera ng New Zealand-based na Pinay scientist, kasama ang kanyang mga co-author na sina Ray Wood at John Milsom, sa bahagi ng Benham Rise – na ngayo'y opisyal na kinikilala bilang

Philippine Rise – na isang seismically active underwater region sa Philippine Sea.

Sakaling hindi ninyo alam kung ano ang caldera, ito ay isang crater-like feature na nabubuo sa sandaling nag-collapse o gumuho ang isang sumabog na bulkan.

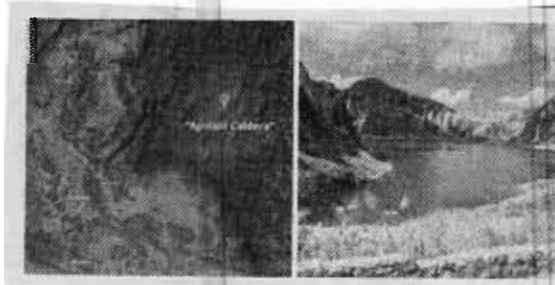
Ang nadiskubrenang higanteng depression, na may sukat na aabot sa 150 kilometro ang diametro, ay doble ang laki sa pinakasikat na caldera sa mundo, yaong nasa ilalim ng pamosong Yellowstone National Park sa Estados Unidos, na tahanan

ng popular na Old Faithful geyser.


"For comparison, Earth's largest calderas, like the Yellowstone, is only about 60 kilometers (km). The size [of the Philippine Rise caldera] is comparable to shield calderas on Mars (Olympus Mons; 80 km x 65 km) and Venus (Sacajawea; 150 X 105 km)," pahayag ng UP MSI.

Pinangalanan nina Barretto at ng kanyang mga co-researchers ang malawakang hubog ng bato na 'Apolaki Caldera' bilang pagpaparangal sa diyos ng araw at digmaan ng mga sinaunang Pinoy.

Sa pag-aaral nina Barretto – inilimbag noong 20 Oktubre at may titulong "Benham Rise unveiled: Morphology and structure of an Eocene large igneous province in the West Philippine Basin" – inilarawan ang Apolaki na mayroong features na tulad ng breached rim, intracaldera benches at isang resurgent dome (na) may indikasyon ng isang multiphase volcanic history na binuo nang tahimik na pagsabog." (Kinalap ni TRACY CABRERA)





 Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

PRIMEWATER TAHAL PAVI MGS CORP.,
Applicant. Case No. 19-2438
x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system and sell water through bulk rates within Barangays Aranguren, Sta. Lucia, O' Donnel, Marughi, Cutcut II, municipality of Capas; and Barangays Sto. Niffo and San Vicente, municipality of Bamban, province of Tarlac, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED RATES	
BULK WATER RATE	₱ 23.40 cu. m.

This application will be initially heard by the Board on November 11, 2019, hearing will start at 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.


At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Tarlac and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.


Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed, as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 19th day of September 2019.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

 Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD

PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.,
Applicant. Case No. 18-2612
x-----x

SECOND NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system and sell water through bulk rates within Starmall Sta. Rosa, Barangay Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED RATES	
BULK WATER RATE	₱ 57.00 cu. m.

This application will be initially heard by the Board on November 11, 2019, hearing will start at 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.


At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Laguna and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed, as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 11th day of September 2019.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director