

DATE : 10-25-18

DAY : Friday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# Strictly comply with ECC terms on dam, MWSS told

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Thursday warned the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) that it could lose its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the P18.7-billion Kaliwa Dam project if it did not strictly comply with the conditions set by it.

Cimatu said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), would strictly monitor the agency's compliance to ensure that appropriate environmental and social safeguards are met in the implementation of the project.

"We expect the MWSS, as project proponent, to ensure that all activities related to the project are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable," he said in a statement.

The water regulator should implement the measures presented in the Environmental Impact Statement that is intended "to protect and mitigate



Roy Cimatu

the project's adverse impacts on community health, welfare and the environment," he said.

## Big-ticket projects

On Oct. 11, the EMB issued the ECC for the controversial project amid stiff resistance from environmental groups and the indigenous communities in Quezon and Rizal provinces that would be displaced by the

dam construction.

The dam, which is intended to provide water for Metro Manila, is among the Duterte administration's big-ticket projects to be built with loans from China.

The issuance of the ECC allows the project to proceed to the next stage of implementation, which is to secure additional permits from other government agencies.

It directs the MWSS to conduct an effective information, education and communication program among the contractors and workers involved and the local residents.

Moreover, it requires an inventory and assessment of "threatened species," which may be affected during clearing operations, including maps showing their habitat.

The ECC calls for adaptation of mitigation measures to protect the Tinipak Spring and Tinipak White Rocks, a popular ecotourism site in Tanay, Rizal, famous for pristine waters and

white marble rock formations.

## Dev't plan for IPs

The MWSS also must submit a development plan for indigenous peoples and ensure that their sacred sites and burial grounds, as well as the culture and livelihood of the indigenous communities, are preserved.

According to the ECC, no activity shall be allowed before the MWSS shows compliance with the requirements of the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and until necessary certifications are acquired from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

MWSS also cannot start the project until disposal sites of excavated materials have been identified and approved and the proper documents, permits and clearances are obtained from concerned government agencies.

Any violation could result in the withdrawal of the ECC plus a fine of up to P50,000 per offense. —JHESSET O. ENANO INQ



## D.E.N.R. GIVES KALIWA DAM PROJECT ECC, VOWS STRICT MONITORING

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) vowed to place the implementation of the multibillion-peso Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project under strict monitoring to ensure the project proponents' compliance with the conditions under the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) the agency granted.

The DENR had given the green light for the project despite strong opposition from would-be affected communities in Rizal and Quezon provinces.

The issuance of an ECC for the P12.5-billion, China-funded large dam project means the proponents may now proceed with the planned construction along the Kaliwa River in Teresa and Tanay, in Rizal and the towns of General Nakar and Infanta, Quezon.

However, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu reminded

the project proponent Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to ensure that appropriate environmental and social safeguards are met in the implementation.

The project is being strongly opposed by various groups under the banner of the Save Sierra Madre Movement. The groups said the project will cause irreparable damage to the ecosystem of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range and endanger hundreds of people in low-lying areas along the path of the Kaliwa River.

In a statement, Cimatu said DENR through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) will strictly monitor MWSS's compliance with the conditions in the ECC.

"Any serious violation or noncompliance with the conditions will result in the cancellation of the ECC," the DENR chief warned.

The ECC granted to MWSS covers the construction and operation of a gravity dam.

The dam will be 60 meters tall with a riverbed elevation of 100 meters. Its reservoir surface area will cover 291 hectares at full supply level volume of 57 million cubic meters.

Kaliwa Dam, one of the Duterte administration's big-ticket projects under the "Build, Build, Build" project, will provide an additional water source for the estimated 20 million people in the National Capital Region and nearby towns in the outskirts of Metro Manila.

This is expected to ease pressure on the Angat Dam, the main source of raw water for Metro Manila for over 60 years.

The EMB said it issued an ECC for the Kaliwa Dam project because it satisfied the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement System under Presidential Decree 1586, and its implementing rules and regulations. "Environmental considerations shall be incorporated in all phases and aspects of the project," Cimatu added.



## IN BRIEF

### DENR to monitor MWSS compliance

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu on Thursday vowed to strictly monitor the environmental compliance certificate in the construction of the Kaliwa Dam project.

Cimatu reminded the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to ensure that appropriate environmental and social safeguards are met during project implementation of the Kaliwa Dam project.

He warned to cancel the project's ECC for any violation in its provisions.

The Environmental Management Bureau under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued the ECC for the Kaliwa Dam project after it satisfied the requirements of the environmental impact statement system under Presidential Decree 1586 and its implementing rules and regulations.

"We expect the MWSS, as project proponent, to ensure that all activities related to the project are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable," Cimatu said.

"Any serious violation or non-compliance with the conditions will result in the cancellation of the ECC," he warned. **Rio N. Araja**



STRATEGIC  
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TITLE:

# TIGHT

DENR vows to ensure MWSS compliance with environmental conditions for controversial Kaliwa Dam project

STORY ON

# WATCH

Kaliwa Dam

Photo courtesy of IBON Foundation

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NEWS

## DENR TO WATCH KALIWA PROJECT

By Cory Martinez

ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu yesterday said that they will strictly monitor the compliance of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) with conditions stipulated in the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) recently issued for the Kaliwa dam project.

Cimatu stressed that the MWSS must ensure that appropriate environmental and social safeguards are met in the implementation of the Kaliwa Dam project.

"We expect the MWSS, as project proponent, to ensure that all activities related to the project are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable," Cimatu said.

"Any serious violation or non-compliance with the conditions will result in the cancellation of the ECC," Cimatu warned.

The ECC granted to MWSS covers the construction and operation of a gravity dam along Kaliwa River located in the towns of Teresa and Tanay in Rizal

province, and General Nakar and Infanta in Quezon province.

The dam will be 60 meters tall with a riverbed elevation of 100 meters. Its reservoir surface area will cover some 291 hectares at full supply level volume of 57 million cubic meters.

Kaliwa Dam is meant to be an additional raw water source that will augment the supply from Angat Dam, which supplies about 96 percent of Metro Manila's water requirement.

The EMB issued an ECC for the Kaliwa Dam project after it satisfied the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System under Presidential Decree 1586 and its implementing rules and regulations.

With the ECC issuance, Cimatu said the MWSS is expected to "implement the measures presented in the EIS intended to protect and mitigate the project's adverse impacts on community health, welfare and the environment."

"Environmental considerations shall be incorporated in all phases and aspects of the project," Cimatu added.



## DENR grants ECC to Kaliwa Dam project

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has granted an Environmental Compliance Certificate for the implementation of the Kaliwa Dam project in Rizal and Quezon.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the department, through its Environmental Management Bureau, will strictly monitor the compliance of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System with the conditions stipulated in the ECC.

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quirements of the Environmental Impact Statement System under Presidential Decree 1586 and its implementing rules and regulations.

With the ECC issuance, Cimatu said the MWSS is expected to "implement the measures presented in the EIS intended to protect and mitigate the project's adverse impacts on community health, welfare, and the environment."

He reminded MWSS to ensure that appropriate environmental and social safeguards are met in

the implementation of the Kaliwa Dam project.

"Environmental considerations shall be incorporated in all phases and aspects of the project," Cimatu said. "We expect the MWSS, as project proponent, to ensure that all activities related to the project are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable," he added.

"Any serious violation or non-compliance with the conditions will result in the cancellation of the ECC," he warned. **(Ellalyn Ruiz)**



**BUT WISH LIST DRAWN UP**

# QUEZON TOWN DIDN'T ENDORSE KALIWA PROJECT, SAY OFFICIALS

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**  
@dtmallarijrINQ

LUCENA CITY—Municipal officials of General Nakar in Quezon province have taken a pragmatic stand on the controversial Kaliwa Dam project that will submerge parts of their town.

“Contrary to the information being spread by those antidam, the local government is not endorsing the project, not even its ECC (environmental compliance certificate),” Vice Mayor Leovigildo Rozul said in a phone interview on Thursday.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is pushing for the construction of the P18.7-billion dam as a major component of its New Centennial Water Source Project to ease a projected water crisis in Metro Manila.

Rozul admitted that since President Duterte supported the project, local officials were

resigned to the fact that they could not do anything to stop it.

“Therefore, we have submitted a wish list to the dam proponents like riprapping of Agos River, roads, bridges and electricity among many others. They are the demands of mountain communities which will be affected by the project,” said Rozul, a former mayor.

But he blasted the dam proponents and other concerned government agencies for conducting “pretentious consultations using technical information that are mostly strangers to us and won’t help in enlightening the people about the project.”

He urged the government to hold serious consultations with the affected communities.

Environmental, religious and activist groups and concerned local officials in Quezon have long opposed the project. INQ



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## NICP dared: Oppose Kaliwa Dam project

BY WENDELL VIGILIA

MILITANT lawmakers yesterday challenged the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) to stand up with the Dumagat people and oppose the construction of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam, saying it would destroy their homes and livelihood.

"Where is the NCIP in the face of the Kaliwa Dam issue?" said Bayan Muna party-list group Rep. Eufemia Cullamat, a Manobo tribal leader. "Does the NCIP know the

See NICP ► Page B3

### NICP

situation which will directly affect 5,173 households in 11 barangays and one sitio in Tanay, Rizal and Gen. Nakar?"

Cullamat said most of the affected families who might be displaced are members of the Dumagat tribe which the NCIP should defend.

She said issue would test the NCIP's mettle because it would show if the agency can really defend the indigenous communities.

"The NCIP should never sign a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) or any document that would pave the way for the destruction of the houses and natural resources to build the Kaliwa Dam," Cullamat said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, meanwhile, said that with the grant of an environmental compliance certificate by

the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, it seems that the Duterte administration "is hell-bent to push through with the Kaliwa Dam even if it located over a faulty line."

"It would displace the Dumagat people, destroy thousands of hectares of watershed areas and even if there are other less destructive options to supply Metro Manila with water like the rehabilitation of the Wawa Dam," he said.

"Why is the Duterte administration so obsessed with this China-funded loan even if it would put our country on a severe disadvantage against China? It is in this light that we filed House Resolution No. 15 to probe the Kaliwa dam," added the deputy minority leader.

Zarate urged the House leadership to immediately schedule a hearing on the issue so that we can "hear the voices of the Dumagat

people and other sectors that would be affected."

Zarate earlier said he was hoping that the new round of water interruptions is not another ploy to push for the start of the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, which he said "is full of anomalies and is onerously pro-China."

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

The Commission on Audit earlier said the bidding for the Official Development Assistance-funded project was done "in the guise of being a competitive procurement process. It cited the alleged intentional non-compliance to qualification requirements of two of three Chinese contractors that joined the bidding.





## Manila Bay fish kill, shellfish mortality due to natural causes—DENR

**T**HERE'S nothing to worry about the massive fish kill and shellfish mortality in Las Piñas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Cavite since the incidents were due to "natural causes," officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured on Thursday.

This, even as the Department of Agriculture, through its Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), earlier declared that the fish kill could have been caused by the high levels of ammonia and phosphate in the waters of Manila Bay, on top of the low concentrations of dissolved oxygen, particularly in Las Piñas and Parañaque City.

DENR officials also said that the water quality in Las Piñas and Parañaque where the fish kill was observed have improved, while shellfish gathering in mussel farms in Bacoor and Sangley Point is "back to normal."

Initial water quality test results conducted by the DENR confirmed

the low concentrations of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water.

"Fish, like all other complex life forms, need oxygen to survive. They get theirs in the form of oxygen gas dissolved in the water," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a news statement.

Citing results of the laboratory tests conducted by the DENR, Cimatu said the DO for 3 out of 4 stations in the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park did not conform to the water quality guidelines (WQG) for Class "SB" waters, which is 6 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Dissolved oxygen is the volume of oxygen that is contained in the water and is vital in supporting aquatic life, while Class SB water classification means that the water is "suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and intended as spawning areas for milkfish."

According to Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region (EMB-NCR) Director Domingo Clemente, low levels

of DO "may have resulted from the recent heavy rains that caused the flushing of decomposed organic matter from the surface run-offs and inland water tributaries eventually polluting the open seas."

Based on the results, the DO for Station 1 (Long Island, approximately 30 meters from shoreline) was 3.3 mg/L; Station 2 (Long Island, approx. 20 meters from shoreline in front of Pier Area), 3.4 mg/L; Station 3 (the boundary of Long Island and Freedom Island, approx. 30 meters from the shoreline), 5.9 mg/L; and Station 4 (Freedom Island, approx. 30 meters from shoreline), 9.8 mg/L.

All four stations also exceeded the WQG for fecal coliform, which is 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters. Station 2 recorded the highest concentration of fecal coliform at 350,000 MPN/100 ml, while the levels in the three other stations ranged from 23,000 to 24,000 MPN/100 ml.

The DENR report did not say

whether it conducted similar tests for ammonia and phosphate which the DA-BFAR had found and identified as the cause of death of the assorted fish species that could reach up to 5,000 kilos.

Nevertheless, the DENR official said traces of cyanide—a chemical that is lethal to most fish species and invertebrates as it blocks the absorption of oxygen by cells and causes the species to suffocate and die—were also found in all four stations, exceeding the WQG of 0.02 mg/L for Class SB waters.

Cimatu, however, said the water pollution measures days after the fish kill on November 8, 2019, showed improvement during the follow-up tests conducted on October 14, or just four days after the fish kill occurred.

He said the DO concentrations increased and the fecal coliform levels went down significantly.

"Based on the results of the follow-up tests, a significant increase in the DO was observed in Stations

1, 2 and 3, and all stations passed the WQG," Cimatu said.

"Also, the results of the fecal coliform count decreased, which now range from 540 to 1,600 MPN/100ml from a high of 350,000 MPN/100ml on October 10," he said.

The EMB-NCR and the LPPWP management inspected the area and interviewed some fishermen who claimed the shellfish mortality was brought about by the phenomenon they call *alig*.

"The fisherfolk said that it was due to *alig*, a natural phenomenon characterized by the mixing of freshwater and saltwater, in addition to continuous rains and rising water temperature," Clemente said.

"Also, the concentration of the death of mussels was only in the outskirts of Barangay Longos and Barangay Sinaguelasan," he added.

During the inspection, Clemente said, they observed the ongoing harvesting of mussels in the area, which indicates that fishing business there "is back to normal." *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



## DENR to verify reported land-reclamation activities in Bacoor and Sangley Point

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will look into the reported land-reclamation activities in Bacoor City and Sangley Point, a Naval Base, in Cavite City.

"We will have to verify first if the reports are true. If it is true, we will then investigate and have to look into documentary evidences like ECC [environment clearance certificate], permit," DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Benny D. Antiporda said.

Antiporda, also deputy spokesman of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu urged the public to report suspicious activities like land reclamation, also called dump-and-fill, in Manila Bay which is the subject of ongoing rehabilitation effort by the Manila Bay Task Force.

"If they have proof or evidence, I encourage them to file a complaint before the DENR and we will look into it," Antiporda assured.

He said complainants should identify the area and dates the alleged land-reclamation activity took place or is taking place.

"We will immediately send a team to that area to investigate," the DENR official said.

To recall, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) reported early this week the land-reclamation activity in a privately-owned land near the Bacoor public cemetery despite the supposed ban on land-reclamation imposed by the DENR.

DENR officials earlier vowed not to issue a permit to proponents of a 420-hectare development project being pursued by the Bacoor local government to develop the city's would-be commercial and central business district.

The project will involve the massive land reclamation in the coastal barangay of Maliksi III in Bacoor City leading to the economic dislocation of hundreds of small fishermen and mussel growers living in the area.

On Wednesday, Pamalakaya issued a statement condemning another land-reclamation activity happening near the former Naval Station Point of the United States Navy in Cavite City. It is now operating as a military base of the Philippine Air Force.

Pamalakaya took photos of the ongoing land reclamation activities in Bacoor and Cavite City.

In the photos that were taken by local members on Wednesday near Sangley Point, a backhoe was caught dumping and filling soils in the coastal waters adjacent to the military base.

There is a long-standing plan to reclaim at least 2,700 hectares of south Manila Bay for the construction of an international airport, costing around P500 billion.

The airport project is proposed by the Cavite provincial government under a joint venture with China's state-owned Chinese Communications Construction Co. (CCCC) and a local business group led by Luis "Buboy" Virata.

However, Pamalakaya said the project is still pending approval by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

The group chided the DENR for allegedly doing nothing to stop such destructive activity with irreversible environmental impact to Manila Bay, when, in fact, it is tasked to lead the Manila Bay Task Force to restore the historic bay's water to its pristine state.

Under a decade-old Supreme Court continuing mandamus, the DENR is one of the 13 government agencies ordered to rehabilitate Manila Bay. Specifically, the DENR is mandated to monitor the activities in Manila Bay. Moreover, the group said the DENR is empowered to disapprove any project that is detrimental to the environment by simply rejecting applications for an ECC for environmentally critical projects or projects within or near an environmentally critical area.

Pamalakaya also cited the DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau's (ERDB) report and discovery of live coral covers as one good reason why it should protect the coastal and marine resources in Manila Bay.

The agency claimed that 72 percent of estimated reef area in Manila Bay is found in Cavite.

"Despite apparent nondisclosure of project details and other pertinent documents, the reclamation has already been taking place at the coastal area which used to be a traditional fishing ground for small fisherfolks. Moreover, why is the DENR seemed to be mum on this apparent environmental destruction? Unless they have dubiously issued an ECC to the questionable project, we demand them to transparently probe the project and publish the environmental impact statement [EIS], if such one even exists," Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chairman, said in a statement.

"While study shows that the majority of coral reefs lie across the coastal waters of Cavite, thousands of hectares of reclamation projects, on the other hand, are also pending and already operating in the province," added Hicap.

"Scientists and experts have long proven that there is no science in the world that tells us that reclamation is good for the marine and aquatic environment," added Hicap.

Pamalakaya said that on top of the environmental catastrophe of the Sangley Point reclamation, it would adversely affect at least 26,000 fishing and coastal families in 7 towns in Cavite; namely, Cavite City, Noveleta, Tanza, Naic, Rosario, Kawit and Bacoor City.



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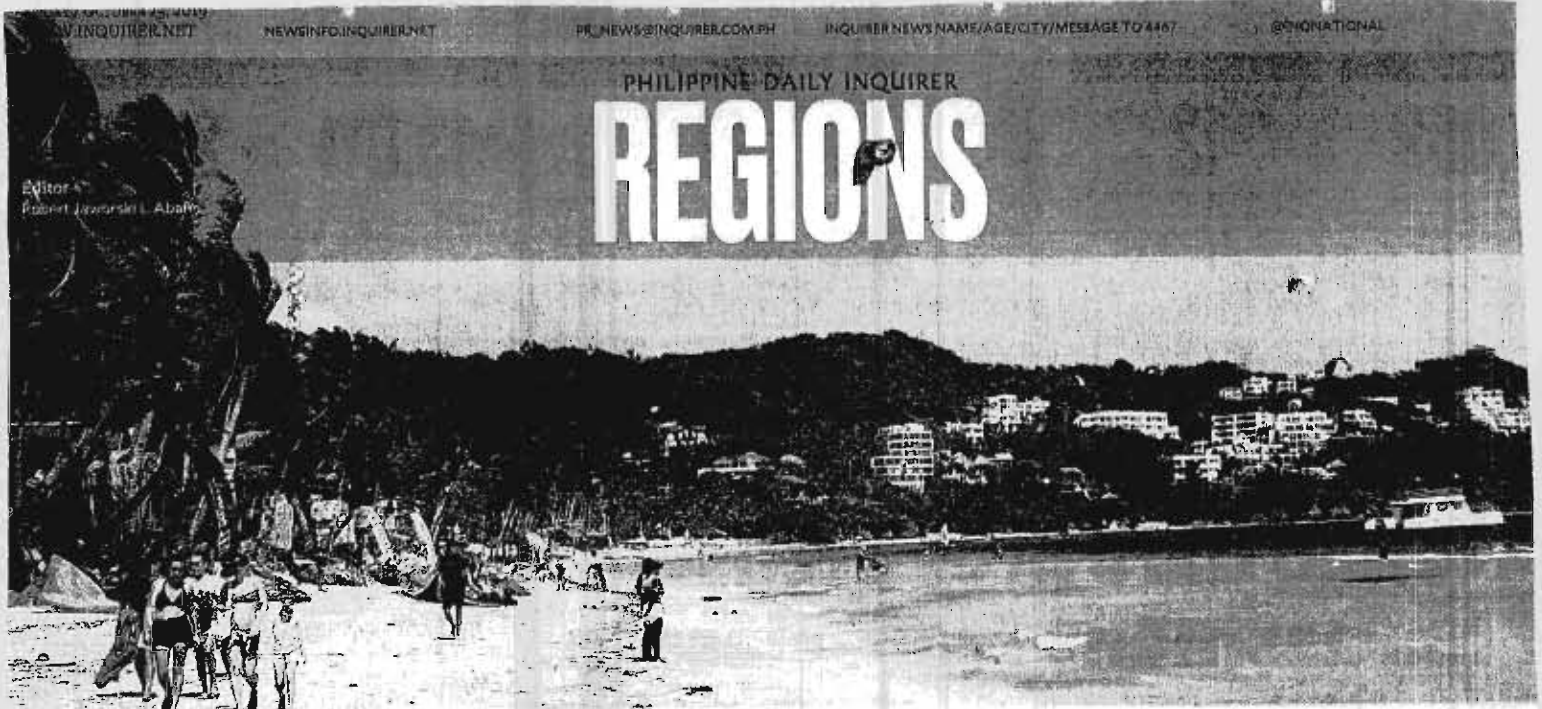
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REHAB CONTINUES Rehabilitation work is ongoing in Boracay's Bulabog Beach, which is popular for water sports. —NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

**PROTECTING GOV'T INTEREST**

**DENR SEEKS COURT APPROVAL TO INTERVENE IN BORACAY SUIT**

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has asked a court in Aklan province to include it as a party in the civil case filed by property owners on Boracay Island opposing the demolition of their residential and commercial buildings.

In a hearing at the Kalibo Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 7 on Monday, the DENR manifested before presiding Judge Ronald Exmundo that the agen-

cy, through the Office of the Solicitor General, would file a motion for intervention. The court directed the DENR to file the motion within five days.

**Priority project**

According to lawyer Jiana Joselle de Guzman of the DENR central office, the environment department is seeking to intervene in the case to protect the interest of the agency because it heads the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, a body

managing rehabilitation activities on the resort island.

Owners of 10 residential and commercial structures along Bulabog Beach have filed a civil complaint against the municipal government of Malay, asking the court to declare demolition orders as illegal and null and void.

The demolition orders were among those issued on properties purportedly encroaching on the 30-meter beach easement.

The clearing of the beach easement is among the priority projects in Boracay's rehabilitation efforts. The island was closed to tourists for six months, from April to October last year, to give way to a massive cleanup, demolition of illegal structures and repairs of roads, drainage system and sewer lines.

But the property owners insisted that they built their properties after complying with building and other rules and

regulations and after they were issued the required permits and licenses by the local government and the DENR.

**Compliance**

On Oct. 15, the Kalibo RTC Branch 7 issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) barring the demolition of 10 residential and commercial buildings along Bulabog Beach. The 20-day TRO directed the Malay government, led by acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista, to "cease and desist"

from implementing its demolition orders.

Bautista has recalled the demolition orders to comply with the court order.

This was the first time that a court barred the demolition of structures in Boracay since the island's closure last year.

Hundreds of property owners had torn down sections of their buildings amid warnings from government agencies that these would be forcibly demolished. —NESTOR P. BURGOS JR. INQ



## DENR recommends ending suspension on Tampakan copper-gold project

MANILA — The Philippine mining regulator has recommended lifting a three-year suspension of the environmental permit for what could be one of the world's largest copper mines, although other issues are also holding up development of the Tampakan project.

The environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the Tampakan copper-gold project has been suspended by the environment department since 2016. The project is also held up by a ban on open-pit mining in place since 2010 in South Cotabato province on the southern island of Mindanao.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued the

permit suspension, at the time under the supervision of a staunch environmentalist — the late Gina Lopez — who had described Tampakan as “a 700-football field open-pit mine on ... agricultural lands, affecting four provinces and six rivers.”

Ms. Lopez, who was environment minister from July 2016 until May 2017, strongly opposed open-pit mining and ordered dozens of mines shut or suspended for environmental violations.

Tampakan, the biggest stalled mining project in the Philippines, in which commodities giant Glencore previously had a controlling stake, has estimated resources of 15 million tons of copper and 17.6 million ounces of gold.

Investment to develop the mine has been estimated at \$5.9 billion. Philippine miner Sagittarius Mines, Inc, which holds the concession for the Tampakan project, spent at least \$500 million on pre-development work prior to the suspension in 2016.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), together with the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), now see no need to keep the environmental permit suspended.

“The MGB and EMB have recommended to lift the suspension, but there is no timeline,” MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano told Reuters on Thursday. — **Reuters**



John Derrick Dizon vowed to lead NHA to victory against GSIS when they clash on Sunday in the UNTV Cup at the Pasig City Sports Center.

## DENR Warriors shoot for 3rd straight win

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources guns for its third straight win when it battles two-time champion Judiciary on Sunday while Department of Agriculture tries to get back on winning track in the 8th UNTV Cup at the Pasig City Sports Center.

One two newcomers in the annual tournament for public servants, the DENR Warriors collide with the Magis at 2 p.m. of Group B-eliminations, while the DA Food Masters tackle the PhilHealth Plus at 5 p.m. in the lone Group A encounter.

The other Group B match is the 3:30 showdown between the NHA Builders and GSIS Furies with the former out to improve their 2-1 mark in the event organized by UNTV president and CEO Daniel Razon.

Out to lead the Warriors are Ralph Lansang and Melvin Bangal who both scored 21 points in the team's stunning 88-77 win over the Philippine National

### Games Sunday (Pasig City Sports Center)

2 p.m. - DENR vs Judiciary

3:30 p.m. - GSIS vs NHA

5 p.m. - Agriculture vs PhilHealth

Police Responders last Oct. 2.

Out to provide additional firepower for the Warriors are Paul Parreno, Ed Rivera and Des Ayson while former PBA players Chester Tolomia and Warren Ybanez spearhead Judiciary's attack.

The Food Masters absorbed a stinging 91-84 defeat to group front-runner Armed Forces of the Philippines last Sunday despite getting 28 points from former UST star Emerson Oreta and 15 from ex-Cebuano standout Henry Fernandez.

The Builders of coach Bennet Palad will be bannered by Alvin Vitug and Marvin Mercado.

The 12-team tournament offers P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion.



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## DENR squares off with Judiciary in UNTV Cup

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources guns for its third straight win when it battles two-time champion Judiciary on

Sunday while Department of Agriculture tries to get back on the winning track in the 8th UNTV Cup at the Pasig City Sports Center.

One of two newcomers in the annual tournament for public servants, the DENR Warriors collide with the Magis at 2 p.m. while the DA Food Masters tackle the PhilHealth Plus at 5 p.m.

The other match set at 3:30 features the showdown between the NHA Builders and GSIS Furies, with the former out to improve their 2-1 mark in the event organized by UNTV president and CEO Daniel Razon.

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**GAMES SUNDAY**  
(Pasig City Sports Center)  
2 p.m. - DENR vs. Judiciary  
3:30 p.m. - GSIS vs. NHA  
5 p.m. - Agriculture vs. PhilHealth

who both scored 21 points in the team's stunning 88-77 win over the Philippine National Police Responders last Oct. 2.

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## PHEA to conduct 71st national conference, training

Philippine Home Economics (PHEA) president Susana Guinea with the PHEA board of directors will be conducting its 71st national conference and training today up to Sunday at the Chali Beach Resort and Convention Center at Cagayan De Oro City.

The theme of the event is "The Development of Home Economics and its Allied Discipline for the Aspiration of the People to Live a Better Life". It was adapted to the theme of the 20th Biennial International Congress of the Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) held last Aug. 19-23 at Hangzhou China wherein Albert Rosarda, PHEA vice president was elected in absentia as the ARAHE vice president for administration.

A tree planting activity chaired by PHEA secretary Christine Banzuela will be conducted to mark the start of the event. Susana Guinea will deliver her opening remarks and the participants will be welcomed by Dr. Arturo Bayocot, regional director of Region 10. An inspirational message will be delivered by Dr. Edita Burgos, PHEA's former president. Plaques of recognition will be awarded to Christine Banzuela, Carmelina Tan



The PHEA board of directors headed by president Susana Guinea (third from the left) with Dr. Lulu Trias, PHEF corporate secretary (right), Dr. Maria Teresa Namoro, assistant schools division superintendent of DepEd QC (second from left) and Virgilio Santos, chief of DepEd Manila's school governance and operations division (left).

and Albert Rosarda for their meritorious accomplishments as PHEA officers for the past ten years.

The signing of the memorandum of agreement between PHEA, DepEd Region 10 and the Provincial Environmental Natural Resources Office (PENRO) for the Adopt a Forest Program as well as the Deed of Books Donation from the Manila Public Schools Home Economics Teachers Association (MAPSHETA) to PHEA will be conducted. Lanie Salvador, PHEA apprentice from the division of Nueva Ecija will host the opening ceremony.

The invited keynote speaker is NCR regional director Dr. Wilfredo Cabral. Plenary

speakers are Alexander Ericson Pedron Jr., president of I-Influence and Prof. Allan de Guzman, PhD of the Pontifical and Royal University of Sto. Tomas. The concurrent sessions tomorrow afternoon will be facilitated by PHEA's corporate partner Focus Global Philippines, distributor of DMC threads and KitchenAid.

DTI representatives from the Cagayan de Oro office will be sharing their expertise in their entrepreneurial activities. Researches will also be presented by invited teachers from the various regions of the country.

During the closing ceremonies, Dr. Erlinda Serrano PHEA auditor will present the evaluation of the participants. Susan Guinea will have the

President's Report and Carmelina Tan the Treasurer's Report. The recipient of the PHEA Tulong Aral sa Kaguruan Scholarship Program will also be awarded as well as the working committee chairpersons and members of the conference. Albert Rosarda of Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros Manila will be the emcee for the plenary sessions and closing ceremony.

PHEA after having been founded in 1948 by the late Dr. Helena Benitez has grown and developed into a national non-government organization bringing together individuals, institutions, and organizations to improve Home Economics education and its allied disciplines.



## Romualdez thanks colleagues for backing farmers aid proposal

By CHARISSA M. LUCI-ATIENZA

House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez welcomed the House Committee on Agriculture and Food's approval of a substitute House Joint Resolution (HJR) urging Congress to authorize the use of the rice subsidy as provided in this year's ₱3.757-trillion national budget for the purchase of palay (unhusked rice) from farmers.

Romualdez expressed the House's commitment to extend assistance to poor farmers following the continued drop in palay prices as a result of the implementation of Republic Act No. 11203, or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

"I thank my colleagues for the immediate passage of this measure to help our distressed farmers," Romualdez, one of the principal authors of the House joint resolution, said.

"We want to ensure that our farmers are given assistance to address their concerns," he said.

Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, urged Malacañang to certify the joint resolution as urgent to ensure its speedy adoption in both houses of Congress.

He said the resolution could be passed on Nov. 4, when Congress resumes sessions, if there is a certification from President Duterte.

"Assuming there is certification, once we return, we will be asking the Committee on Rules and the speaker if we could prioritize this for sponsorship for second reading. Being certified, on that same day, we can have our third reading approval," Enverga said in an interview.

On Wednesday, the Enverga panel approved the still unnumbered joint resolution, which seeks to ease the plight of the country's poor farmers.

The substitute joint resolution mandates the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), to buy palay directly from local farmers and distribute the rice subsidy in the form of actual rice, instead of cash.

The joint resolution substituted House Joint Resolution No. 16 and House Resolution No. 322, filed by Deputy Speaker for Finance Luis Raymund Villafuerte of Camarines Sur, and Tingog Sinarangan party-list Rep. Yedda Romualdez and House Majority Leader and Romualdez.

Enverga said expected to be tapped for the implementation of the joint resolution are the DSWD's last payout amounting to ₱2.7 billion under the rice subsidy program and the DND's remaining allocations of ₱2.89 billion that are allotted to the rice subsidy programs for military uniformed personnel.

According to the unnumbered House joint resolution, the 2019 GAA provides a total allocation of ₱33.9 billion for rice subsidies, the largest of which is given to the beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) that can be utilized to buy palay directly from local farmers "at a very competitive and reasonable price."





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**RUNNING LOW ON SUPPLY** With water service interruptions looming in parts of Metro Manila due to Angat Dam's dipping water level, one wonders if these plants on Kalayaan Avenue in Makati City will survive a dry spell. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

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## Maynilad, Manila Water assailed over rotational service interruptions

BY MARIO B. CASAYURAN

Some 15 million consumers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces are expected to be affected by the daily rotational service interruptions scheduled by Maynilad and Manila Water, prompting Senator Imee Marcos to assail the two water concessionaires.

Marcos, a neophyte lawmaker, noted that the daily rotational service interruptions will reach up to 18 hours a day, beginning October 24, 2019.

The lady senator said Maynilad and Manila Water should have prepared for this water crisis, especially since the poor would be the most affected.

"Kawawa naman ang mga mahihirap na pamilya at ang mga maliliit na negosyo, gaya ng karinderya, car wash, at laundry shops na gumagamit ng tubig sa araw-araw (Pitiful are the poor families and those with small businesses such as eateries, car wash, and laundry shops that use water every day)," Marcos said.

Marcos noted that this was the second time this year that water consumers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces experienced water shortages during the dry season.

"Didn't President Duterte warn that he would terminate the water concession agreements of these two firms last March because of their shortcomings? They knew of water supply shortages but why should

the consumers bear the brunt of such an irresponsible act?" Marcos pointed out.

Marcos said the Senate might just have a look at the concession agreements of the two corporations that allowed them to operate for a number of years.

These concession agreements spelled out the provisions to implement their contracts in order for them to recover their investments.

Affected by the scheduled water supply interruptions are the 15 million consumers in the cities of Manila, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Navotas, Muntinlupa, Malabon, Makati, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Parañaque, Pasay, and Quezon City.

The provinces of Rizal, Cavite, and Meycauayan in Bulacan are likewise affected.

Maynilad blamed the continued decrease in the water levels of Angat and Ipo dams due to lack of rain as reason for the 18-hour water supply interruptions.

Manila Water, on the other hand, stated that its water allocation from the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has remained at 40 cubic meters per second (cms), which is below the normal 48 cms.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Administration (PAGASA) said the usual 187.53-meter water level of Angat Dam has gone down to 180 meters.



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# Water interruptions start

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

People waited in line to fill up water containers while hospitals and other establishments stored water as Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. began rotational service interruptions yesterday.

The service interruptions were re-implemented in some portions of the concession areas due to the decreasing level of Angat Dam, the main water source for Metro Manila.

Maynilad-affected areas are Navotas, Muntinlupa, Manila, Malabon, Makati, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Parañaque, Pasay, Quezon City and Valenzuela.

It will also impact Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Noveleta and Rosario in Cavite and Meycauayan in Bulacan.

For Manila Water, affected areas are Makati, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, San Juan, Taguig, Quezon City, Pateros, Parañaque and Pasig.

Angono, Rodriguez, Cainta, Binangonan, Antipolo, San Mateo, Taytay, Teresa, Baras and Jalajala in Rizal are also included.

"As we have consistently warned since last week, since the water level at Angat Dam continues to decline, Manila Water

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## Water From Page 1

will begin implementing rotational water service interruption," the firm said.

"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 added.

As of Thursday morning, Angat Dam was at 185.87 meters, slightly below the 186.23 meters the other day. Angat's normal level is at 180 meters.

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

Since raw water allocation from Angat Dam 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 raw water entering its treatment facilities is short by around 250 million liters per day.

Both concessionaires called on their customers to use water wisely and responsibly. They encouraged consumers to store water when available, at amounts enough to serve their needs during hours of service interruption.

### Concessionaires slammed

Sen. Imee Marcos said Maynilad and Manila Water should be held accountable for the water crisis being ex-

perienced by over 15 million customers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, pointing out that the concessionaires should have prepared for the situation to protect their clients from inconvenience.

"Because of this water crisis, poor families and small businesses that use water every day have to suffer," said Marcos.

Maynilad announced that the implementation of 18 hours of rotational service daily from Oct. 24 as the water levels in Angat and Ipo dams continue to go down.

Manila Water, on the hand, pointed out that the water allocation from National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has dropped by a sixth from normal.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported a 187.53-meter water level of Angat Dam, which is 7.53 meters higher than the normal level while Ipo Dam remains at 100.76 meters, slightly lower than the 101-meter maintaining level.

Last March, President Duterte threatened to scrap the concession agreements of water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad after millions of their customers were left waterless.

Duterte also warned Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) officials that they would get fired if he was not satisfied with their



Children haul water in Batasan, Quezon City yesterday.

MICHAEL VARGAS

ruptions being experienced in Metro Manila and nearby areas, water concessionaires should no longer be allowed to collect the remaining rate hike.

"It appears that since the water crisis broke out in March 2019, there has been no significant improvement in the sourcing of water aside from that which comes from Angat Dam," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary

actions to address the water shortage.

"President Duterte already admonished and warned them that he would terminate concession agreements last March because of their failures, but now they still don't have a solution to the water crisis. They already know the shortage of water supply, why do the people need to bear the brunt of this problem?" Marcos said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Marcos added that the Senate could again look into the concession agreements of the two water companies, which were given exclusive rights to operate and maintain water utilities for several years.

She said that the agreements spelled out the duties and responsibilities of the concessionaires to the government and to their customers.

Militant groups, meanwhile, said that given the frequent water supply inter-

general Renato Reyes.

"Both private concessionaires should explain what steps they have taken to address the apparent shortage. Manila Water at the time was being pressed to bridge the deficit in its supply through the operation of the Cardona plant. We wonder what is the status of this," he added.

Both Maynilad and Manila Water were given substantial water rate hikes since October last year.

"Are they now saying that the service interruptions are expected to last until summer? Is this now a permanent water crisis? What is the real status of alternative water sources?" asked Reyes.

The MWSS, meanwhile, said that the interruptions are necessary because they need to preserve the main water source until summer next year.

Reyes also noted that "Manila Water is set to jack up its rates by P2/cubic meter by



January 2020. Maynilad will also impose a P1.95/cubic meter increase by January of next year. These increases are unconscionable given the massive service interruptions."

"We demand for them to return the rate hike collected in 2018 and bar the private concessionaires from collecting increased rates in January 2020," Bayan said.

### Cloud-seeding

The NWRB, meanwhile, is looking into the possibility of having cloud-seeding operations over the Angat Dam reservoir to help replenish its dwindling water level.

Sevillo David Jr., NWRB executive director, said in a text message to **The STAR** that they would discuss with the MWSS the possibility of reactivating cloud-seeding over the Angat, Ipo and La Mesa watersheds.

The dam provides more than 90 percent of Metro Manila's domestic water use.

The meeting will be scheduled soon and will be made in consultation with PAGASA of the Department of Science and Technology and the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) of the Department of Agriculture, David added.

On April 10 this year, the BSWM started cloud-seeding over the Angat and La Mesa dams to help replenish their dwindling water levels, but this was halted in July as the typhoon season started.

On the other hand, Emelita

Lingat, the provincial environment and natural resources officer in Bulacan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said that several factors are affecting the fast dwindling water elevation in the watersheds of Angat, Ipo, Bustos and La Mesa.

These include the increasing population of Metro Manila leading to the increase of water demand and climate change, Lingat noted.

Environmentalists, mountaineers and outdoorsmen groups also blamed illegal logging operations and charcoal-making activities within the watersheds as primary reasons for the fast receding water level in the reservoirs.

To correct the problems, Lingat said the government has embarked on a national greening program, particularly in watershed areas to help maintain their water-holding capacities.

To provide alternative livelihood to informal settlers usually involved in illegal logging operations within watershed areas, Lingat said DENR in Bulacan will be pushing for the planting of bamboo species.

Bamboo helps increase the water-holding capacity of the watershed and at the same time eliminate carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that can help mitigate the worsening climate change in the country, Lingat noted. - **With Ramon Efren Lazaro, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Rhodina Villanueva**



## House TWG finalizes bill on Department of Water

A HOUSE of Representatives' Technical Working Group headed by Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda is currently finalizing a bill creating the Department of Water Resources to integrate under one roof the government's fragmented water resources management systems and pursue a sustainable and science-based program for the wise use and conservation of the country's vital water resources.

The National Water Act bill, responds to the urgent public clamor for better water services which President Rodrigo Duterte has echoed in his recent calls. It consolidates about 30 proposals, two of which (HBs 2997 and 4944) were authored by Salceda himself, chairman of the House ways and means committee. It also seeks to establish a Water Regulatory Commission under the DWR.

Salceda said the House expects to pass in January next year the measure which lays out the National Framework for Water Resource

Management, to ensure and accelerate universal public access to water and sanitation services, in a regulatory regime that encourages responsible private sector participation and involvement, fosters and prioritizes infrastructures which adopt innovative solutions and international best practices to address the challenges of climate change.

Salceda said the DWR shall be responsible for the formulation of a comprehensive and integrated policies and programs on water, as well as the management system for the ownership, appropriation, development, utilization, and protection of the country's water resources. It will ensure the optimal use of water for domestic, commercial, hydropower, irrigation, sanitation, industry, navigation, recreation, fisheries and aquaculture. It will also be tasked to implement PD 1067 and RA 9275 or Water Code and Clean Water Act, respectively.



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**BIZ BUZZ**



**W**hile on the brink of a shareholder turnover, the country's leading cement maker, Holcim Philippines Inc., was slapped with a P530,000-penalty in relation to wastewater emanating from its terminal at Manila Harbor Center, Industrial Park in Vitas, Tondo, Manila. The fine was meted out by the Laguna Lake Development Authority, which was under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Holcim uses the port terminal at Manila Harbor for the easier dispatch of its products. The terminal gives Metro Manila customers a more accessible pickup point for cement purchases.

To date, conglomerate San Miguel Corp.'s \$2.15-billion takeover of Holcim is still undergoing phase-two review by the Philippine Competition Commission, which has 60 calendar days from Aug. 23 to conduct this review. Phase two means that a more detailed analysis of the transaction is required using additional information necessary to complete the review.

Holcim owns and operates cement manufacturing facilities in Bulacan, La Union, Batangas and Davao City.

—DORIS DUMLAO-ABADILLA



# PCCI affirms support to PHL's shift to low-carbon economy

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**T**HE Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has vowed to mobilize its members composed of 35,000-strong small, medium and large enterprises from its 124 local chapters nationwide and about a hundred industry associations to do their share in support of the country's transformation to a low carbon economy.

Speaking during the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Climate Change Act, the law that also created the Climate Change Commission (CCC), and its launching of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land, Jose P. Leviste Jr., PCCI director in charge of environment, climate change and urban development acknowledged that

climate change is happening as evidenced by the increased temperature brought about by global warming with an average of 20 typhoons that visit the country every year.

"The Special Report you launch today is very alarming and calls for concerted action not just by governments but by all of us. We, in the private sector, recognize that and are eager to cooperate and support the government to implement these actions," Leviste stated.

He cited as an example of how the private sector can help. For one, he said, the food industry can contribute in reducing greenhouse-gas emission (GHG) from food systems by creating products mostly sourced from low-carbon intensity raw materials and using production technology and processes that minimize carbon emissions, he said.

According to Leviste, the pri-

ivate sector supports the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a promise made by governments in signing the Paris Agreement.

He said the private sector is awaiting the finalization of the country's NDC submission and is currently looking at its role in the implementation of these actions.

"Green investments is starting to take off and we see these in initiatives like the Green Hospitals, Green Buildings and Green Banking and more important, in the Green Jobs Act. As long as there is an enabling environment for private-sector participation, the sector will always be willing to cooperate," he said.

PCCI met with CCC Commissioner Emmanuel de Guzman Tuesday to discuss how the private sector can participate and access available funds from various international

financing institutions including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The PCCI has been in partnership with the government through the CCC. Annually, the PCCI brings the private sector together in a Business Summit which we now call Annual Business Climate Action Summit during which the private-sector initiatives to help combat climate change are showcased.

Leviste said this time around, sustainable low carbon pathways that the private sector is pursuing will be the focus of the event to be held next month to learn more about what the private sector is doing to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

De Guzman, in his welcome remarks and message said since the CCC was established, the commission has worked to bring life to the law that created it. These include the crafting of the National Frame-

work Strategy on Climate Change and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) which is now currently being reviewed to make it more responsive to the needs of the communities.

De Guzman said one of the requirements in updating the NCCAP is the recommendation in the IPCC Special Report.

While most of the discussions on climate action happening now are focused on energy, industry and transport, the new IPCC report unequivocally states that land is critically important as well, both as a source of greenhouse-gas emissions and as a climate-change solution.

The report, de Guzman said, should guide the Philippines in its pursuit of low-carbon and climate-resilient development path. He said the CCC is likely to employ robust public information drive, education, and communication strategies

to communicate the IPCC report and ensure risk-based planning and implementation of plans, programs and activities.

Launched in August this year, the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land states that land is already under growing human pressure and climate change is adding to these pressures.

It also warned that keeping global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius can be achieved only by reducing greenhouse-gas emissions from all sectors including land and food. The IPCC, the world body for assessing the state of scientific knowledge related to climate change, its impacts, and potential future risks, and possible response options, saw the Summary for Policymakers of the Special Report on Climate Change and Land approved by the world's governments in Geneva, Switzerland.





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# Companies told to change solutions on plastic waste

By Meg Adonis  
@MegINQ

Environmental organizations on Wednesday called on the world's top plastic-producing companies to drop the "false solutions" they had proposed to reduce their plastic waste.

The Break Free From Plastic movement, together with member organizations Gaia Asia-Pacific, Mother Earth Foundation, Greenpeace Philippines, EcoWaste Coalition and Healthcare Without Harm Asia, launched Branded Volume II, a 2019 global brand audit report that aims to hold top corporate polluters accountable for their single-use packaging that pollute the environment.

The top three brands identified in the report were Coca-Cola, Nestle and PepsiCo. Others named in the report include Mondelez International, Unilever, Mars, P&G, Colgate-Palmolive, Philip Morris and Perfetti Van Mille.

Von Hernandez, Break Free From Plastic movement global coordinator, said the top three companies in this year's audit were also the same brands that produced the most plastic waste last year.

The brand audits, defined in the report as "identifying, counting and documenting the brands found on plastic and other collected packaging waste to help identify the corporations responsible for pollution," were done across 51



BRAND AUDIT Members of environmental group EcoWaste Coalition show crowns adorned with product labels by the top companies. —LYN RILLON

countries in six continents from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.

Break Free From Plastic was able to gather 72,451 volunteers to conduct 484 brand audits and collect 476,423 pieces of plastic. Of this number, 43 percent were found to be marked with a clear consumer brand.

Volunteers collected 11,732 pieces of plastic in 37 countries that bore the Coca-Cola brand, which is more than the combined pieces collected from the Top 2 and 3 companies, with Nestle having 4,846 pieces in 31 countries and PepsiCo with 3,362 in 28 countries.

In the Philippines, of the 37,016 total plastic collected, 2,804 were Coca-Cola PET bottles, while collected waste

from Nestle were 1,755.

### Sponsored cleanups

"[Conducting] brand audits is actually a step up, because we can conduct cleanups every day but the problem would only persist ... and most of these cleanups are sponsored by the very companies producing these plastic wastes," Hernandez said at a press conference.

Ben Jordan, Coca-Cola's senior director for environmental policy, was quoted in the report as saying that although there were plenty of people who wanted to rid the world of plastic, "we know that's not going to happen ... We're all going to be using plastic for years and years, right?"

Coca-Cola, in a state-

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# COMPANIES TOLD TO CHANGE SOLUTIONS ON PLASTIC WASTE

**FROM AG**

ment, said it was working toward solutions "to make reports like this a thing of the past."

"We want to help build a system where plastic packaging never becomes waste," the Coca-Cola Company said, adding that, "Any time our packaging ends up in our oceans—or anywhere that it doesn't belong—is unacceptable to us."

A Nestle spokesperson told Agence France-Presse (AFP) in a statement, "As the world's largest food and beverage company, we know we have an important role to play in shaping sustainable solutions to tackle

the issue of plastics waste."

A PepsiCo spokesperson told AFP, "Changing the way society makes, uses, and disposes of packaging is a complex challenge and we're playing our part."

## 'False solutions'

The companies cited in the study had reportedly proposed solutions to the global plastic waste problem, but the environmental groups denounced these as "false solutions."

Greenpeace Southeast Asia regional campaign coordinator Abigail Aguilar said these companies should prioritize reduction, invest in more long-term solutions, and be transparent

in their progress and disclose the number of plastics they were actually producing.

"We need to solve the problem at its source and reduce the total number of single-use plastics ever produced. The problem with their [proposed] solutions is that they focus on lightweighting and not reducing," she said.

Aguilar also emphasized the need for these companies to develop alternative delivery systems, or the use of refillable and reusable containers.

Hernandez added that they could encourage their consumers to go back to the "tingi" system, in which people could

bring their own containers even to "sari-sari" stores where they could ask for refills of various products such as shampoo and toothpaste rather than buying sachets.

"Back in the day, we had the 'tingi' system. But corporations introduced the single-use sachets, which spread to the sari-sari store level," he said.

Hernandez stressed that consumers should not be blamed in this global crisis. Rather, corporations should be held accountable for producing packaging that has encouraged a "disposable mentality" and "throw-away culture." —WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ



# COKE, NESTLE, PEPSI, UNILEVER, COLGATE, P&G PINAKADUGYOT!

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## COKE, NESTLE, PEPSI, UNILEVER,

ANG mga multi-national corporation na Coca-Cola, Nestle, at PepsiCo ang kinilalang pinakamalalang polluters sa buong mundo, ayon sa The Brand Audit Report 2019 na ini-release kahapon.

Ang Brand Audit Report ay bunga ng World Clean-Up Day nitong Setyembre kung saan ang mga miyembro ay ang Break Free From Plastics movement sa 51 bansa. Umabot sa 72,451 ang mga volunteer worldwide at nakakolekta sila ng 476,423 na piraso ng mga plastic at malinaw pa sa 43% ng mga ito ang mga brand na gumamit ng mga plastic na pinulot na bilang basura.

Umabot sa 3,751 ang volunteers sa Pilipinas at 37,016 na piraso ng basura ang na-

kolekta.

Ito ang pangalawang kasunod na taon na nangunguna ang Coca-Cola bilang pinakamalalang polluter sa mundo, sabi sa report.

Ayon sa Brand Audit Report 2019, ang tunay na problema ay ang mentalidad ng mga kompanya na gumamit ng mga bagay na itinatapon na lang dahil mas madali ito para sa kanila.

"The real problem is the continuation of the throwaway culture which is at the core of the company's business model," sabi sa report.

Sa buong mundo, ang pinakamalaking polluter ay ang Coca-Cola. Umabot sa

## COLGATE, P&G PINAKADUGYOT!

11,732 ang piraso ng basura mula sa mga produkto nito na pinulot sa 37 bansa. Sumunod dito ang Nestle na may 4,846 na piraso ng basura na pinulot sa 31 bansa at pangatlo ang Pepsico na may 3,362 na basura sa 28 bansa.

Ang iba pang mga polluter ay: Mondelez International, 1,083 basura sa 23 bansa; Unilever, 3,328 basura sa 21 bansa; MARS, 543 na basura sa 20 bansa; Procter&Gamble, 1,160 na basura sa 18 bansa; Colgate-Palmolive, 642 na basura sa 18 na bansa; Philip Morris International, 2,239 na basura sa 18 bansa; at Perfetti van Melle, 1,090 na basura sa 17 bansa.

Plastic bags, sachets at plastic bottles

ang pinakamadalas na makitang basurang pinulot.

Sabi pa ng report, ang China, Indonesia, Pilipinas, Vietnam at Sri Lanka ang pinangagalingan ng pinakamaraming basura na napupunta sa karagatan.

Ang mga plastic na napulot sa Pilipinas ay ang tinatawag na LDPE o low-density polyethylene na malinaw o puti na kadalasang ginagamit sa bag, plastic tray, holders at dispensers; PET o polyethylene terephthalate o malinaw o tinted na plastic na ginagamit bilang boteng iniinumang o cup at pouches; at bioplastics at iba pang mga bagay na may kahalang plastic. **(Eileen Mencias)**



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**NAGING kontrobersyal ang panloob ng leang mall ng nasa 15 kalalakihan sa kamakalian.**

At lalong naging kontrobersyal ang krimen nang may mapatay sa mga suspek dahil may mga haka-haka rito ng foul play.

**15 SUSPEK**

Sa imbestigasyon ng mga pulis, isang linggo pa lang nangupahan ang mga suspek sa isang bahay malapit sa ninakawan nilang J Center Mall sa Brgy. Bakilid, Mandaue City sa lalawigan ng Cebu.

Pinag-aralan nila nang husto ang mga mall, ang nanakawan nilang jewelry shops at pawnshop sa loob ng mall, ang kanilang pagpasok at pag-escape at paggamit ng mga sasakyan patakas malayo sa mall.

Gayundin ang seguridad ng mall na mahina ang pwersa dahil iilan lang ang amadong security guard.

Pinamunuan ng gang ang isang Glen Tairos, 47, na taga-Talisay City na napatay habang tumatakas ito sa pantalan ng Bogo City, Cebu.

Kasama sa mga napatay sina Kevin Plaza Andales, Wilfredo Suerte Enguito, Philip Faburada at Tairos.

Kabilang din sa mga miyembro ng armadong gang sina Roel Sumingit, Juliyvn Quirante, Arnel Cimafranca, na taga-Tanggub City, Misamis Occidental; James Gomez na taga-Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental; Jun Candelaria na taga-Naga, Bicol; na taga-Tondo, Manila.

Ozamiz robbery group umano ang mga suspek na may mga pagnanakaw nang ginawa sa Liloan, Cebu, Consolacion, Talisay at Bacolod.

Nabuking ang grupo nang pabiyaha ang pito sa mga ito sakay ng Toyota Innova na ginamit nila sa pagtakas sa Mandaue City, nakasakay na sa RoRo.

Si Police Staff Sergeant Jojit Potot ang nakasakote sa mga suspek batay sa nasabing easakyan.

Pumalag ang tatlo sa mga ito kaya sika napatay sa labanan kina Potot.

**P136M ALAHAS AT**

**SALAPI**

Nakatsamba ang mga anak ng ipadong na



**GIYERA VS NOTORYUS NA MGA KRIMINAL**

ito sa kanilang pagnanakaw.

Umabot sa P136 milyon ang halaga ng alahas, cash at cellphone ang nakulimbat nila.

Ayon kay Police Captain Marvin Fegarido, Mandaue City Police Station chief, ninakawan nina Tairos ang Ginros Gem and Jewelry na nawalan ng P20M alahas; Oro China Wedding and Engagement Rings, P10M; M Lhuillier Jewellers, P50M; at Jay-Ann Jewelry; P50M.

Ang Ichange Money Forex, isang shop para sa palitan ng salapi ay nawalan din ng P6M na cash.

Kasama sa insidente ang pagpukpok kay Joseph Zanoria, security guard, nang pumalag ito at nagpapagaling na sa isang ospital sa tinamo niyang sugat.

Pero walang nakuha ang mga pulis sa mga nakulimbat ng gang.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Ngayon ay nagreklamo ang ilan sa mga magulang ng mga napatay.

At makikisali na rin umano ang Commission on Human Rights sa pag-iimbestiga sa patayan.

May sumbong kasi umano na maaaring isa na namang extra-judicial killing ang naganap.

'Yun bang — walang nanlaban pero pinagbabaril ng mga pulis ang mga napatay.

Kung ano ang lalabas sa imbestigasyon ng mga ito, maaaring may laban sa mga pulis ang ilang resulta.

Pero tiyak namang maninindigan ang mga pulis na lehitimo ang mga pangyayaring nagtapos sa pagkamatay ng apat sa mga suspek.

**ANONG MASASABI NG MAMAMAYAN?**

Bukod sa krimeng naganap sa nasabing mall, may ulat na may ninakawang bangko sa Fuente Osmeña, Cebu City noong 2011.

Dalawang security guard at tatlong magnanakaw ang namatay ito.

Nitong 2016 naman, dalawang sekyu ang nasugatan sa shootout ng mga sekyu at magnanakaw na nanloob sa jewelry store sa loob ng department store sa Brgy. Valdadolid, Carcar City.

Iniiimbestigahan pa kung ang mga suspek sa J Center Mall robbery ay konektado sa mga nanakawan sa Cebu City at Carcar City.

Paano kung konektado ang mga krimeng ito?

'Yun bang — gawa ng grupo ni Tairos?

Eh paano kung magkakontra ang paniwala ng mga mamayan at taga-CHR at pamilya ng mga napatay na suspek?

Paano kung ang mahalagang usapin na kailangang magbayad nang mahal ang mga kriminal sa ginawa nilang krimen sa pinakamadaling panahon ang lilitaw na kagustuhan ng mga biktima?

Wala bang halaga ito sa mga taga-human rights na laging mas mahalaga "nanatiling inosente ang isang akusado hangga't napatutunayan na sila'y nagkasala?"

Paano naman ang agarang pagpatay ng mga suspek o akusado sa mga biktima?

**PARTE NG BIKTIMA**

Sana, darating ang araw na higit na pahalagahan ng mga taga-human rights ang mga biktima ng mga kriminal kaysa ang mismong mga kriminal.

Sa paraang ito, higit na mapalalambot ang mga kriminal at mas mapigilan silang gumawa ng krimen.

Ang pagtatanggol kasi lagi sa mga kriminal sa ngalan ng "human rights" ang nagpapatibay ng loob ng mga ito na gumawa ng mga labag sa batas na sa maraming pagkakataon ay may nakikitil na buhay.

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