

DATE : 08 AUG 2019

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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CARTOON

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DENR brings land titling to villages

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

To provide a more accessible and transparent public land titling, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is bringing operations down to the villages to accept applications for titling of public alienable and disposable lands.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu has issued DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-08 instructing all Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) to accept public land titling applications at the barangay level.

"This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline, and fast-track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents, and we are doing this in strong partnership with local government units (LGUs)," Cimatu said.

He has tasked the DENR's Land Management Bureau (LMB) to provide further guidance and technical assistance to ensure maximum results in the implementation of DAO 2019-08,

titled "Applications of Public Land Titling at the Barangay Level."

LMB Director Emelyne Talabis said the DAO essentially brings land titling services closer to the people through the barangay.

"We are thrilled that with this new policy, we can impact land owners' lives by providing a more accessible and transparent service of the government," Talabis said.

Under the DAO, PENROs, and CENROs — in coordination with LGUs and barangay officials — would accept applications for public land titles submitted through the barangay office.

To help facilitate the process, land-related information such as cadastral maps, procedures, streamlined requirements, and corresponding fees would also be posted in conspicuous places at barangay halls for easy viewing by the public.

LMB clarified that the initial rollout would only allow acceptance of applications in barangays where titling operations are ongoing, and advised the public to be aware of any schedule in their respective villages.



Barangay land titling now possible

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is bringing operations to different barangays across the country to accept applications for titling of public alienable and disposable lands in a bid to make public land titling more accessible and transparent.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu recently issued DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2019-08 which instructs all Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENRO) to accept public land titling applications at the barangay level.

"This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline and fast track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents, and we are doing this in strong partnership with local government units (LGU)," Cimatu said.

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To help facilitate the process, land-related information such as cadastral maps, procedures, streamlined requirements and corresponding fees would also be posted in conspicuous places at barangay halls for easy viewing by the public.

"Instead of the people going to the CENRO which may be far from their residence, it will be the CENRO staff who will go to the barangays to conduct information dissemination and encourage the community to apply for land titling," Talabis said.

She added that applications can be accepted on-site as long as the requirements are complete.

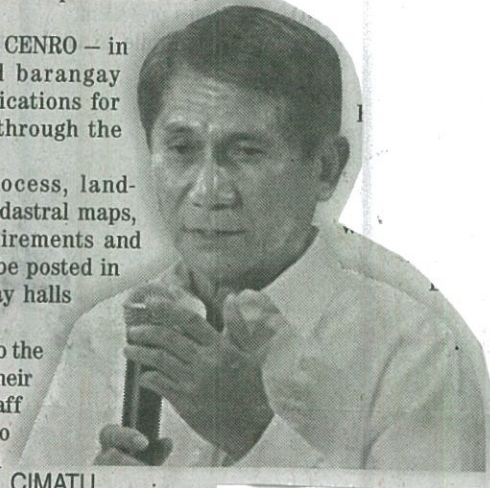
The LMB, however, clarified that the initial rollout would only allow acceptance of applications in barangays where titling operations are ongoing, and advised the public to be aware of any schedule in their respective villages.

This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline and fast track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents.

In preparation for the full implementation of the DAO, LMB personnel have already been conducting rapid land tenure appraisal in different regions of the country to determine lots with potential for titling.

The LMB has also started training DENR field personnel and LGU representatives on how to hasten the application process for public land titles.

The DAO tasks the concerned regional offices to submit written and video documentation of the proceedings of the titling operation and submit these to the LMB for monitoring purposes. The documentation shall form part of the database of the





DENR moves to bring land titling accessible down to barangay level

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is bringing its land titling operations down to the barangay level by accepting applications for titling of public alienable and disposable lands.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu recently issued DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2019-08 instructing all Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Penros) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Cenros) to accept public land titling applications at the barangay level.

"This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline and fast-track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents and we are doing this in strong partnership with local government units [LGUs]," Cimatu said in a news statement.

Cimatu has tasked the DENR's Land Management Bureau (LMB) to provide further guidance and technical assistance to ensure maximum results in the implementation of DAO 2019-08, entitled "Applications of Public Land Titling at the Barangay Level."

LMB Director Emelyne Talabis said that the DAO essentially brings land-

titling services closer to the people through the barangay.

"We are thrilled that with this new policy, we can impact landowners' lives by providing a more accessible and transparent service of the government," Talabis said.

Under the DAO, Penros, and Cenros—in coordination with LGUs and barangay officials—would accept applications for public land titles submitted through the barangay office.

To help facilitate the process, land-related information such as cadastral maps, procedures, streamlined requirements, and corresponding fees would also be posted in conspicuous places at barangay halls for easy viewing by the public.

"Instead of the people going to the Cenros which may be far from their residence, it will be the Cenro staff who will go to the barangays to conduct information dissemination and encourage the community to apply for land titling," Talabis said.

She added that applications can be accepted on-site as long as the requirements are complete.

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DENR to accept titling applications

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources will now accept public titling applications of alienable and disposable lands at barangay level.

Secretary Roy Cimatu issued DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-08, instructing all provincial environment and natural resources offices, and community environment and natural resources offices to accept public land titling applications at barangays.

"This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline and fast-track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents, and we are doing this in strong partnership with local government units," Cimatu said.

He tasked the agency's Land Management Bureau to provide further guidance and technical assistance to ensure maximum results in the implementation of DAO 2019-08 entitled "Applications of Public Land Titling at the Barangay Level."

Emelyne Talabis, LMB director, said the order essentially brings land titling services closer to the people through the barangay.

"We are thrilled that with this new policy, we can impact land owners' lives by providing a more accessible and transparent service of the government," she said. **Rio N. Araja**



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Land titling applications now accepted in barangays

By Joel dela Torre

LAND titling can now be accessed in barangays across the country.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that operations to accept applications for titling of public alienable and disposable lands have been brought down to different barangays in a bid to make it more acces-

sible to the public.

According to Secretary Roy Cimatu, DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2019-08 instructs all Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) to accept public land titling applications at the barangay

level.

"This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline and fast track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents, and we are doing this in strong partnership with local government units (LGUs)," Cimatu said.

Tasked to the job was

DENR's Land Management Bureau (LMB).

Under the DAO, LMB has to provide further guidance and technical assistance to ensure maximum results in the implementation of the order entitled "Applications of Public Land Titling at the Barangay Level."

LMB Director Eme-

lyne Talabis said that the DAO essentially brings land titling services closer to the people through the barangay.

"We are thrilled that with this new policy, we can impact land owners' lives by providing a more accessible and transparent service of the government," Talabis said.



PAGPAPATITULO NG LUPA PWEDE P.2 NA SA BRGY--DENR

DENR: Pagpapatitulo ng lupa tatanggapin na sa barangay

UPANG maiwasan ang red tape sa gobyerno at mapadali ang proseso ng pagpapatitulo ng mga public land, tatanggap na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources ng aplikasyon para sa pagpapatitulo ng public alienable and disposable lands sa mga barangay sa bansa.

Sa ipinalabas na DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-08 ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, inatasan nito ang lahat ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office at Community Environment and Natural Resources Office na tumanggap ng aplikasyon sa pagpapatitulo ng lupa sa mga barangay.

Inatasan ni Cimatu ang Land Management Bureau ng DENR na magbigay ng patnubay at technical assistance upang matiyak na magiging maayos ang implementasyon ng DAO 2019-08 o ang "Applications of Public Land Titling at the Barangay Level."

Ayon kay LMB Director Emelyne Talabis, sa pamamagitan ng naturang DAO ay mapalalapit na sa publiko ang pagpapatitulo dahil dadalhin na ito sa kanilang barangay.

Upang maging madaling maintindihan ng publiko ang proseso at malaman ang ibang pang-impormasyon na may

kinalaman sa pagpapatitulo, ang LMB ay magdidikit ng mapa ng kadastro (cadastral maps), daloy ng aplikasyon, streamlined requirements at halaga ng kaukulang bayarin sa isang lugar sa barangay hall na madaling makita ng lahat.

Tatanggap din ng on-site application sa barangay basta't kumpleto ang mga kinakailangang dokumento.

Nilinaw ng LMB na sa simula ng pagpapatupad ng DAO, tatanggapin lang sa barangay ang aplikasyon kung may nagaganap na pagpapatitulo.

Pinapayuhan din nito ang publiko na alamin ang schedule ng pagpapatitulo sa kanilang mga barangay.

SANTI CELARIO



APLIKASYON SA LAND TITLE PUWEDE NA SA BARANGAY

MAS pinadali na ang pagpapatitulo ng mga public land makaraang magpahayag ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na kanilang tatanggapin ang aplikasyon para sa pagpapatitulo ng public alienable and disposable lands sa mga barangay sa buong bansa.

Sa ipinalabas na DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-08 ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, inatasan nito ang lahat ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) at Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) na tumanggap ng aplikasyon sa pagpapatitulo ng lupa sa mga barangay.

"This is part of our continuing effort to simplify, streamline and fast track the disposition of public alienable and disposable lands through free and homestead patents, and we are doing this in strong partnership with local government units (LGUs)," wika ni Cimatu.

Inatasan ni Cimatu ang Land Management Bureau (LMB) ng DENR na magbigay ng patnubay

at technical assistance upang matiyak na maging maayos ang implementasyon ng DAO 2019-08 o ang "Applications of Public Land Titling at the Barangay Level."

Ayon naman kay LMB Director Emelyne Talabis, sa pamamagitan ng naturang DAO ay mapalalapat na sa publiko ang pagpapatitulo dahil dadalhin na ito sa kanilang mga barangay.

Nakasaad sa DAO na ang mga Penro at Cenro, sa pakikipagtulungan ng LGU at mga opisyal ng barangay, ay tatanggap na ng aplikasyon para sa pagpapatitulo ng lupa na isinumite sa tanggapan ng kani-kanilang barangay.

Upang maging mading maintindihan ng publiko ang proseso at malaman ang iba pang impormasyon sa pagpapatitulo, ang LMB ay magdidikit ng mapa ng kadastro (cadastral maps), daloy ng aplikasyon (procedures), mga streamlined requirements at halaga ng kaukulang bayarin sa isang lugar sa barangay hall na mading makita ng lahat.

Idinagdag pa nito na tatanggap din ng on-site application sa barangay, subalit kailangan lamang

na kumpleto ang mga kailangang dokumento.

Nilinaw ng LMB na sa simula ng pagpapatitulo ng DAO, tatanggapin lamang sa barangay ang aplikasyon kung may kasalukuyang nagaganap na pagpapatitulo rito. Pinapayuhan din nito ang publiko na alamin ang schedule ng pagpapatitulo sa kani-kanilang mga barangay.

Bilang paghahanda sa implementasyon ng DAO, kasalukuyan nang nagsasagawa ang mga

tauhan ng LMB ng "tenure appraisal" sa iba't ibang rehiyon upang matukoy ang mga lote na maaaring patituluhan.

Sa ngayon ay nagsasagawa ng training ang LMB para sa field personnel ng DENR at mga kinatawan ng mga LGUs kung paano mapabibilis ang proseso sa aplikasyon ng public land titles.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.



Cimatu to LGUs: Enforce environmental laws

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has urged local officials not to balk at enforcing environmental laws, saying governors and mayors should show "decisive environmental leadership."

"You have control over business permits and land use and development," Cimatu said, as he warned of adverse environmental impacts if such control is not properly exercised. "LGUs have the autonomy, as well as the duty, to improve environmental conditions in their areas."

He reminded them of their mandate "to create conditions that can determine whether or not the pursuit of local development can or cannot

be environmentally sustainable."

Cimatu met with 74 governors and 1,538 city and municipal mayors at an assembly in Manila recently.

At the same time, Cimatu assured the governors and mayors of support from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to boost their capabilities in addressing and implementing priority environmental concerns and projects within their respective jurisdictions.

"The DENR can and will provide technical support on a broad range of concerns from geohazard mapping to reforestation, to the management of solid waste and air and water pollution," Cimatu said, noting that the local governments of Coron and El Nido in Palawan, Panglao Island in Bohol, and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro have acknowledged this support.

He said he is mobilizing the entire DENR workforce from the central, regional, provincial and community levels to assist them "as long as they do their part."

Cimatu also urged LGUs to help address the country's vulnerability to climate change hazards through

a convergence approach that highlights the key role of local authorities in the transition to more sustainable ways of environmental governance.

The eight provinces identified as most vulnerable to climate change hazards are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands.

Climate change hazards include sea-level rise, drought and other climate-induced disasters like landslides and flooding.

Cimatu heads the Cabinet cluster on climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, with 24 government agencies as members.



AFTER SUPREME COURT ORDER

DENR TO WATER FIRMS: PAY P2-B FINE, HELP CLEAN UP BAY

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday urged the two water distributors in Metro Manila to comply with the Philippine Clean Water Act instead of fighting a Supreme Court order fining them al-

most P2 billion for violating the environmental law.

Hailing the high court's decision handed down on Tuesday, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda asked both Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. to expedite their compliance with the law, particularly with the requirement

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for them to connect homes and business establishments to the sewerage system.

"Rather than spending their money on legal remedies, they should just comply with the order that can help us in the ongoing rehabilitation of our waterways and of Manila Bay," Antiporda told reporters.

'Jointly and severally liable'

"They need to double their efforts to show that they are

sincere in helping us in saving the environment," he added.

Voting 14-0, the Supreme Court held the two companies liable for a total amount of P921,464,184 each, covering the period from May 7, 2009, to Aug. 6, the date of promulgation.

The companies were held "jointly and severally liable" with regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), meaning any of the parties can be held liable to pay the fine.

"They shall pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of

the decision," Supreme Court spokesperson Brian Keith Hosaka said in a statement on Tuesday.

Beyond the date of promulgation, if the MWSS and the two water distributors are still not compliant with Section 8 of the Clean Water Act—which requires them to connect the sewage lines in subdivisions, homes, complexes, commercial buildings and other establishments to the available sewerage system—they will be fined P322,102 daily until they fully comply with the law.

The daily fine is subject to a 10-percent increase every two years, Hosaka said.

The case stemmed from a DENR decision in 2009 to fine the MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water P29.4 million for violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act. In 2011, the Court of Appeals affirmed the decisions of the environment department.

"Sad to say, [up to] this very moment, these water companies remain noncompliant," Antiporda said. "Our cleanup [in Manila Bay] will be in vain if they do not

double their efforts."

Manila Bay cleanup

The MWSS is among the 13 government agencies ordered by the Supreme Court in 2008 to clean up Manila Bay.

Over a decade later, however, Manila Bay and the waterways that discharge into it remain heavily polluted, with untreated wastewater dumped directly into the bay.

Earlier this year, the MWSS admitted that only 15 percent of water consumers in Metro Manila are connected to sewer

networks. It said it was aiming for full sewer and sanitation coverage by 2037.

It is hoped that the hefty penalties would be a wake-up call to other big businesses that continue to pollute and violate environmental laws, Antiporda said.

"Big establishments can afford to secure themselves with sewerage treatment plants, but they have chosen to ignore it, making the Clean Water Act their last priority," he said.

—WITH A REPORT FROM TINA G. SANTOS INQ



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Quick P2-B for bay rehab

Penalties in pipeline

SC ruling came after President Rodrigo Duterte whacked the two water concessionaires for failing to maintain an efficient sewerage system

By Alvin Murcia

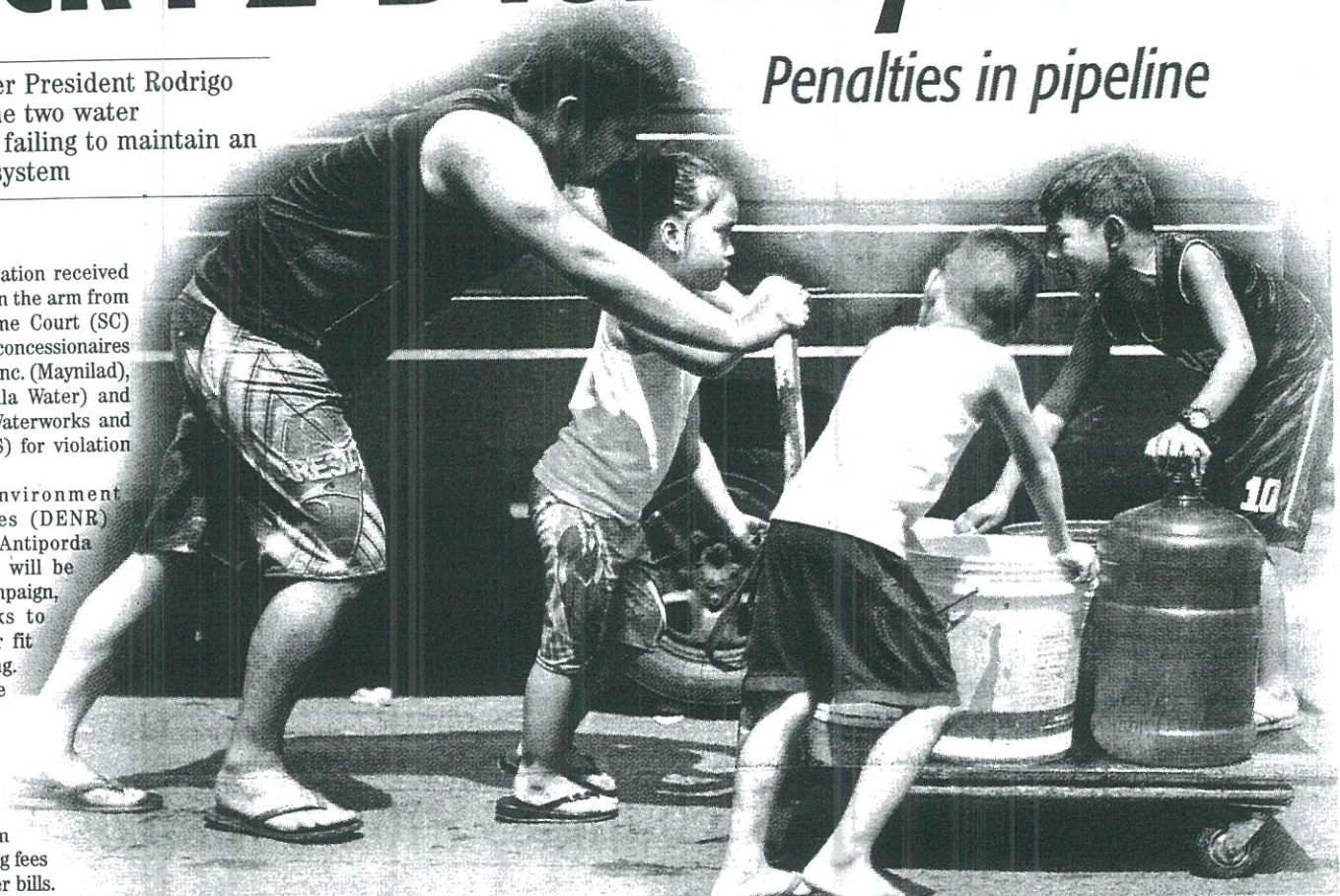
Manila Bay's rehabilitation received a needed P2 billion shot in the arm from the fine that the Supreme Court (SC) imposed on water service concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad), Manila Water Co. (Manila Water) and regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for violation of the Clean Water Act.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the entire amount will be spent for the clean-up campaign, which ultimately seeks to make the body of water fit for swimming and dipping.

The SC ruling came after President Rodrigo Duterte whacked the two water concessionaires for failing to maintain an efficient sewerage system despite regularly collecting fees through the monthly water bills.

In an exclusive interview with the **Turn to page A2**

Duped, abused Poor water service equals indignity for a family who needs to scurry through streets to fetch the life-giving liquid which is regularly paid for, plus some services which are not rendered such as the provision of non-existent sewerage service.





Quick P2-B for bay rehab

The chicanery has been going on for so long, if you say that they have been collecting for so many years... it would really amount to plunder

From page A1

Daily Tribune, a miffed Mr. Duterte said the two private firms do not have water treatment facilities contrary to the requirement under the Clean Water Act.

"They have been duping consumers," he said. "The chicanery has been going on for so long, if you say that they have been collecting for so many years... it would really amount to plunder."

"There are several buildings fronting the river and the back. We have to ask everybody to provide a new system of sewerage, so that they can collect the water and they need to set up big pipes that would run and go to the water treatments. We need to do that," Mr. Duterte said.

The President also met with officials of the water firms in which they were told to shape up or the government will revoke their concessions after water rationing happened amid the onset of the dry season.

12-0 ruling

The SC issued a clarification yesterday that the voting in the consolidated decision finding the three water agencies liable for violation of Section 8 of the Philippine Clean Water Act was 12-0 and not 14-0, following the abstention of two Associate Justices.

Assistant Court Administrator and SC spokesman lawyer Brian Hosaka said Justice Diosdado Peralta and Justice Andres Reyes Jr. did not take part in the deliberations in the consolidated cases involving the three firms.

In the said decision penned by Justice Ramon Paul Hernando, the court *en banc* denied the petitions filed by Maynilad, Manila Water and MWSS and affirmed with modifications the decisions of the Court of Appeals (CA) regarding the cases.

Hosaka said Justice Peralta did not take part in the case because his wife, CA Justice Fernanda Lampas-Peralta, concurred in the assailed CA decision in the case. Justice Reyes also did not take

part in the deliberations of the case because he was a member of the division which ruled in CA GR SP 113023, when he was still in the CA.

Hosaka said the court *en banc* voted unanimously and directed Maynilad and the MWSS to pay P900 million and Manila Water and MWSS another P900 million for noncompliance with the law.

Court *en banc* denied the petitions filed by Maynilad, Manila Water and MWSS and affirmed with modifications the decisions of the Court of Appeals regarding the cases.

The two firms and MWSS were ordered fined an additional P322,000 per day for violation of the law.

The ruling resolved the consolidated cases of Maynilad Water Services Inc. vs The Secretary of DENR, *et al.* GR 202897; Manila Water Co. Inc. vs The Sec. of DENR *et al.* GR 206823; and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System vs The Pollution Adjudication Board, *et al.* GR 207969.

Failed services

Hosaka said the "petitioners are found liable for violation of Section

8 of the Philippine Clean Water Act."

The details of the penalties imposed were as follows:

· Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for a total amount of P921,464,184 covering the period 05 July 2009 to the date of promulgation;

· Manila Water Co. Inc. shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount and period;

· The firms shall pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of the decision;

· From receipt of the decision until petitioners have fully paid the amount stated, petitioners shall be fined the initial amount of P322,102 per day subject to a further 10 percent increase every two years as provided under Section 28 of the Philippine Clean Water Act, until full compliance with Section 8 of the same law; and,

· Legal interest of 6 percent per annum until fully satisfied.

The DENR in 2009 imposed on MWSS and the two water concessionaires a P29.4 million fine for the period 7 May to 30 September 2009 per day for failure to fulfill obligations under RA 9275, which required the two concessionaires to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewage lines in all establishments to a sewerage system.



What's not counted Meters of concessionaires measure only water and sometimes air that pass through pipes but not the poor quality of service that is inflicted on most of its customers.



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FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

Fined

Manila Water, Maynilad and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System were ordered by the Supreme Court to each pay a fine of P921.4 million for violating the Clean Water Act. The decision affirmed a 2013 Court of Appeals ruling upholding an order issued by the DENR.



The ruling was upheld by unanimous vote. This will be a landmark case.

The High Court ordered the respondents to pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of the decision. Failing to do so, they will each pay P322,102 per day subject to a 10 percent increase after two years.

At least one of the water concessionaires indicated they would file a motion for reconsideration. Considering the unanimity behind the ruling, the chances for such a motion prospering is nil.

This is the second time this year the two water concessionaires are being financially penalized. The first time was when severe water shortages hit the metropolitan region. Although the shortages were blamed on drought, the two companies were contractually obligated to ensure adequacy of water supply.

The financial penalties will be more than painful for the two concessionaires. They may feel the law imposed obligations on them that are very difficult to comply with. But the law, be it harsh, is the law.

The Clean Water Act requires the concessionaires to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect to sewage lines all establishments and homes within five years after the law takes effect. That law took effect on March 6, 2004.

Exactly five years after, as the law provided, the DENR ordered the concessionaires penalized. The concessionaires went to court. Last week, over a decade since, the Supreme Court ruled.

If the water distribution companies attempt to comply with the law, they will have to put in massive investments to ensure that all wastewater is treated before being returned to the environment. They face hefty fines on a continuing basis if they do not.

After all, they have been collecting money for that purpose the last 22 years.

Environment

We can never clean up Manila Bay until we have a fully functioning water treatment system for the metropolitan area.

Lito Atienza realized this when he was secretary of the DENR and tried cleaning up both the Manila Bay and the Laguna de Bay. In both crucial bodies of water, waste was continuously flowing in.

The contract for the two water concessions required them to set up water treatment facilities. In fact, from the very start, fully 20 percent of the water bill customers get went to sewage treatment. But since their contracts commenced in 1997, the two concessionaires have done little to set up water treatment facilities.

As DENR secretary, Atienza issued a department order in 2009 fining the two companies P200,000 per day until they set up the treatment plants. This continuing fine is the basis for the High Court ruling. He used the expiration of the five-year grace period provided for by the 2004 Clean Water Act as the opportunity to fine the concessionaires as a method for forcing them into compliance with their contractual obligations.

Prior to that, the two concessionaires had borrowed money from the World Bank, using its climate change facility, supposedly to build treatment plants. The loans were covered by sovereign guarantees to bring down the cost of money. That makes government party to the borrowing. The two water companies owe their customers an explanation as to how the money was used.

Likewise, the two need to explain to their customers how the money collected for water treatment was used. The fact that they procured trucks to suck our wastewater from establishments does not qualify as water treatment. No one knows where the wastewater is dumped.

A few months ago, the metropolitan area experienced severe water shortages. That would not have happened if water treatment kept the lake clean. Laguna de Bay is, in fact, our biggest fresh water reservoir – except that it is heavily polluted and wastewater continues to drain into it every day.

Currently, government is engaged in an ambitious program to clean up Manila Bay. That will be an exercise in futility unless all wastewater from the megalopolis is treated before being released to the bay.

Atienza dreams of a Mega Manila with ample fresh water from Laguna de Bay and a Manila Bay filled with tourist attractions. Those dreams will remain distant unless we are able to institutionally deal with water treatment as dutifully as Singapore does.

The recent Supreme Court ruling will, we hope, set into motion a process where we are able to arrest environmental degradation, enforce regulations across the board and compel corporations to abide by their contractual obligations.

Things might have been better for all parties concerned if the two concessionaires accepted the penalties imposed by the DENR in 2009 and proceeded to build the treatment facilities they are obliged to do by contract. Instead of doing that, they chose to fight the department order in court. That began a decade-long court saga that ended only this week with the historic Supreme Court ruling.

Why the two companies chose to bring the matter to court instead of comply with clear contractual obligations is an issue worthy of a public hearing. It will take us many more years from today to fully complete a real wastewater treatment system for Mega Manila.

Meanwhile, customers of two concessionaires will dutifully pay that 20 percent of the bill that is supposed to cover construction of the treatment plants.





DRAW MONEY FROM FINES IMPOSED BY SC

REFUND WATER CONSUMERS

'FOR SERVICE NEVER RENDERED'—ATIENZA

By Melvin Gascon
@melvingasconINQ

A lawmaker on Wednesday called on the government to give refunds to consumers in Metro Manila from fines imposed by the Supreme Court on the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its two water distributors for violating the Philippine Clean Water Act.

In a privilege speech, Buhay Rep. Jose Atienza Jr. said Congress should cancel the con-

tracts between the MWSS and the two distributors—Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co.—if they failed to comply with the court order.

“They have been ordered, they should follow. If they fail, we should cancel the contract. The certainty of punishment is the best deterrent to the commission of crime,” Atienza said.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court held the MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water “jointly and severally liable” for violation of

the Clean Water Act and ordered them to pay P921,464,184 each for failing to connect homes and business establishments to the sewerage system.

Sewage fee

Atienza said consumers over the years had been paying a sewage fee, amounting to 20 percent of their monthly water bills, for service that had never been rendered.

“We have asked our lawyers to look into possible ways of re-

funding consumers for the 20 percent sewage fee that they have been paying since 1997 for a service that has not been rendered by the water concessionaires,” he said.

A former environment secretary, Atienza hailed the Supreme Court for doing justice to consumers, who he said had been “abused” by the MWSS and the two distributors for more than 22 years.

He expressed disgust over how the MWSS and the two com-

panies defied his order as environment secretary in April 2009 to abide by the terms of their concession agreement for the installation of sewage treatment plants.

“Instead of complying, they hailed us all the way to the Supreme Court, and for many years managed to dodge the law. But [on Tuesday] justice prevailed,” Atienza said.

Bayan Muna chair Neri Colmenares said the fines should also go to consumers because they were the ones who should

dered the expenses of the concessionaires through the sewage and sanitation fees.

Fees misused

“Obviously, Maynilad and Manila Water are not using these fees for their intended purpose,” Colmenares said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate expressed hope that the decision would make the two concessionaires take environmental protection and sanitation seriously. INQ



TITLE:

Atienza to water concessionaires, MWSS: Pay up

BUHAY Rep. Lito Atienza has hailed the unanimous Supreme Court decision upholding a 2009 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) order penalizing Maynilad Water Services Inc., Manila Water Co. Inc. and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) with a hefty fine for defying the Clean Water Act.

"Punishment now is our best deterrence to violators of our environmental protection laws," said Atienza, who in his capacity as secretary of Environment and Natural Resources in 2009, first issued the order fining MWSS and the two private water concessionaires.

"We first cited the three entities in April 2009 for violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act, which requires them to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system," the lawmaker said.

"The following month, we imposed on them an initial fine of P29.4 million, which has already ballooned to almost P2 billion, and which the Supreme Court now says should be paid inside 15 days, without prejudice to further daily fines until the violators meet the terms of the law," Atienza said.

"Instead of fulfilling their contractual obligation of putting up wastewater treatment facilities, the MWSS and the water concessionaires went to the Court of Appeals, where they lost. They went to the Supreme Court, and now they've also lost. It is the end of the road for them," he added.

"They now have to quickly put up sufficient wastewater treatment facilities, as we've been repeatedly pointing out in Congress, and connect all households and establishments in their concession areas to an available sewerage system. Until they do, they will have to continue paying the P322,102 daily fine, which escalates by 10 percent in two years," Atienza said.

The High Court's decision comes very timely, he said, as government is bent on cleaning up Manila Bay.

"As we understand, some P42



"We first cited the three entities in April 2009 for violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act, which requires them to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system."—Atienza

billion has been allotted to clean up Manila Bay. But as we've been pointing out repeatedly, without the necessary wastewater treatment facilities, household wastewater will just continue to flow directly into our water bodies. This will all be just a big waste of money," Atienza said.

"The Clean Water Act gave them five years to comply—between April 2004 to April 2009—but still they did not. Up to now, they have not complied. They really deserve to be dealt with severely," he said.

Atienza said water consumers over the years have been paying a so-called sewage fee, amounting to 20 percent of their monthly water bills, for a service that has never been rendered.

"Niloloko nila tayo, bayad tayo ng bayad, pero wala namang serbisyonang nabibigay. Hindi nila tinutupad ang kanilang obligasyon kay Juan dela Cruz. [It appears we are being duped into paying for service that was never rendered. They apparently did not deliver what we had paid for, and there is no fulfillment of an obligation they owe Juan dela Cruz]," he said.

Atienza also expressed appreciation for the efforts put in by former Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, who followed up and pursued the case after Atienza left the DENR.

"We have asked our lawyers—Romulo Macalintal and Melchor Monsod—to look into possible ways of refunding consumers for the 20-percent sewage fee that they have been paying since 1997 for a service that has not been rendered by the water concessionaires," Atienza said.



TOTAL OF P1.8B IN PENALTIES

ACCOUNTING OF WATER FEES PRESSED

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@RonWDomingoINQ

Following the Supreme Court's announcement of penalties totaling P1.8 billion for violation of the Clean Water Act, consumer welfare advocates are asking how the environmental fees that water supply providers collected from their customers were used.

On Tuesday, the high court announced that it has fined jointly Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) about P921.5 million for failure to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system within five years upon effectivity of the CAA in 2004.

Also, the Supreme Court

slapped the same amount of joint financial penalty against Manila Water Co. Inc. and MWSS.

The ruling was an affirmation of a decision of the Court of Appeals in 2013 that upheld an order of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that imposed fines against MWSS and concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) welcomed the high tribunal's decision, saying that in 2018, the MWSS admitted that only 14 percent of the total service areas of Maynilad and Manila Water were covered by the proper sewerage facilities.

"What is worse is that residential consumers continue to pay environmental fees, while industrial and commercial users pay sewerage fees," Bayan secretary general Rena-

to Reyes said in an interview.

"If the targets were not met, hence the penalties, where did the money go?" Reyes asked. "Were the fees used for purposes other than putting up the necessary sewerage facilities? Were profits again placed ahead of public interest?"

He said Congress should conduct an investigation on where the fees went amid the concessionaires' failure to comply with the law.

In a regulatory filing, Manila Water said it had yet to receive a copy of the decision from the Supreme Court.

"As such, we will have to defer making a comment or statement on the matter until we are afforded an opportunity to make an informed assessment and evaluation" of the ruling, Manila Water said. INQ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

08 AUG 2019

DATE

Homonhon recommended to be declared as 'critical habitat'

The result of a recent validation process conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 8 in Homonhon Island has prompted the agency to recommend that all of the island be declared as 'critical habitat' and not only the initial three proposed barangays.

"We recommended to declare the island as 'critical habitat' as soon as possible to preserve and protect Homonhon's critically endangered species like the Philippine Cockatoo, locally known as *abukay*, and other vulnerable species, including other fauna which were also recorded in the area," said DENR Region 8 during a dialogue with the Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI).

The proposal stems from the result of the actual validation process conducted by DENR Region 8 in partnership with PENRO Guiuan and PMPI where the team actually spotted cockatoo and recorded six of its kind in Barangay Inapulangan alone.

Likewise, other decreasing and endemic species to the island were also recorded by the agency, like the Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, Hooded Pitta, Barbellied Cuckooshrike, Yellowish bulbul, Guaiabero, and a mammal species of Golden Capped Fruit bat.

In 2017, the PMPI and Visayas State University (VSU) carried out a flora and fauna assessment in the island of Homonhon, Guiuan in Eastern Samar, where they found the critically endangered bird, the cockatoo, and several threatened species of fauna and flora.

The team of PMPI and VSU then informed the residents of these precious species which gave a strong resolve to three barangays namely Inapulangan, Bitaugan, and Habag to protect the said species.

The residents from three barangays have gathered signatures and submitted their petition to their respective barangay leaders to create local ordinance that will declare these three contiguous barangays as critical habitat. They also

lobbied to the municipality council and the DENR to declare the same.

The DENR Region 8 responded to the clamor of the community.

The International Union for Conser-

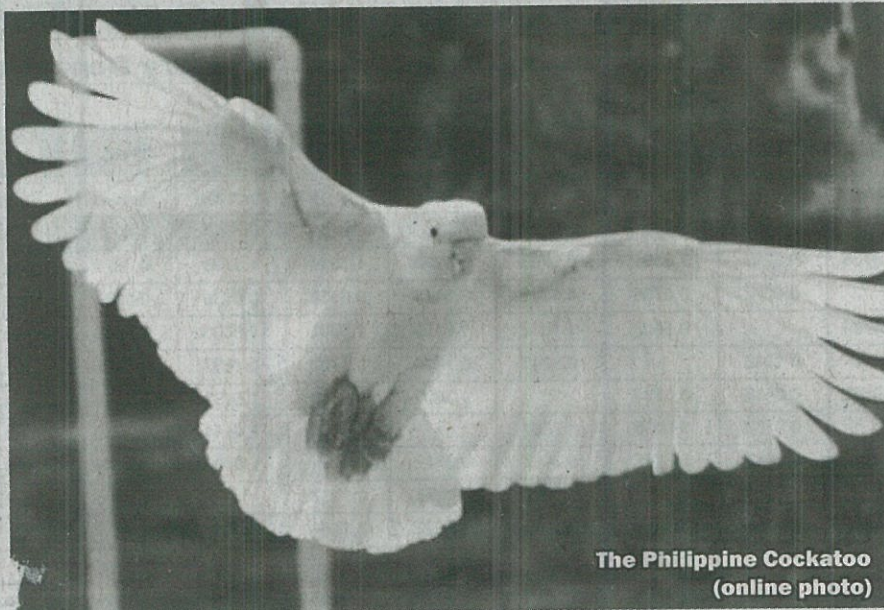
vation of Nature (IUCN) and the DENR DAO 2004-15 identified the Philippines Cockatoo as critically endangered species. The identification is the highest risk category that can be assigned to

species in the IUCN Red List.


PMPI is concerned that the Philippine Cockatoo may perish if the island is not declared as critical habitat the soonest.

"We are happy that the DENR Region 8 proposes more than what the community has requested. To declare all of Homonhon as critical habitat and not only the three barangays will indeed protect that bird and other species living in the whole of the island ecosystem. The effort to declare should be urgent since the island is now under threat from different mining activities, both operating and applying for FTAA's," said Fr. Juderick Calumpiano, PMPI co-convenor for Visayas and Social Action director of Diocese of Borongan.

PMPI is a social development and advocacy network of 250 plus Philippine church/faith-based groups, NGOs and people's organization spread all over the country, in partnership with Misereor, a social development arm of the German Bishops based in Aachen, Germany.



The Philippine Cockatoo
(online photo)



2 trader ng exotic animal hinatulan sa Davao

NAGTAGUMPAY ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) laban sa dalawang illegal wildlife trader na nahuli sa isang raid at nakumpiskahan ng P50 milyong halaga ng wildlife species sa Mati City.

Ikinatuwa ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang nasabing hatol na isang pagpapatunay ng matatag na misyon ng ahensiya na bigyang proteksiyon ang bansa laban sa illegal wildlife trade.

Batay sa ibinabang desisyon ni Judge Semiramis Bituin Castro ng Municipal Trial Court sa Mati City, Davao Oriental, ang mga akusadong sina Jomar Lumakore Toledo at Rompas Manindig Lumakore ay napatunayang nagkasala ng paglabag ng RA 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Nagbabawal sa pagpatay, pananakit, pagkolekta, pagbebenta at pagbibiyaha sa mga threatened at endangered wildlife species.

Sina Toledo at Lumakore ay pinatawan ng kaparusahang pagkakulong ng hindi hihigit sa apat na taon at multang P30,000 bawat isa.

Nag-ugat ang kaso matapos magsagawa ng operasyon ang mga awtoridad isang warehouse sa Brgy. Dahican noong Abril. Nakumpiska ng mga operatiba ang 450 piraso ng ibon, mammal at reptile kabilang na ang endangered Black Palm Cockatoos at Echidna. **(Riz Dominguez)**



Pagpaparami ng bakawan, tinututukan ng DENR

Hinihikayat ng regional office ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga local government units (LGUs) ng mga lugar na malapit sa baybayin ng Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal at Quezon (Calabarzon) na tumulong sa pagpapanatili ng mangrove rehabilitation program.

Sa isang panayam noong Martes kay Ann Hazel Javier, DENR Calabarzon Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Section (RSCIS), binigyan nito ng diin ang pangangailangan sa pag-agapay ng bawat isa para sa mangrove forest rehabilitation sa ilalim ng pangangasiwa ng DENR at iba pang mga katuwang nito.

Binanggit ni Javier ang pag-aaral na ginawa ni Senior Science Research Specialist Violy Gulapo ng DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), kung saan natuklasan niya na mula pa noong 1918, ang kagubatan ng mga bakawan sa bansa ay labis ng nabawasan.

Ayon kay Gulapo, ipinakita sa kanilang pag-aaral na "from a total number of 500,000 hectares of mangrove forest in 1918, this has drastically gone down to only 117,000 hectares in 1995" ngunit bahagya na itong tumaas sa 257,362 ektarya noong 2011.

Dagdag pa nito, ang mangrove restoration ay maiuugnay sa coastal rehabilitation programs na ipinapatupad ng pamahalaan, non-government organizations (NGOs), at ng mga lokal na komunidad.

Aniya pa, bahagi ng mga aktibidad sa mangrove rehabilitation program ay ang malawakang tree planting ng DENR Calabarzon Conservation and Development Division sa Barangay Talisay sa Calatagan, Batangas.

Dagdag pa niya, inayudahan ng DENR regional office ang mahigit sa 60 boluntaryo mula sa Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) sa Calaca, Batangas, DENR-ERDB, mga opisyal ng barangay at Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Mangingisda sa Barangay Talisay (SNMBT) para pagpapatuloy ng mangrove rehabilitation program.

Ang SNMBT ay isang organisasyon ng mga mangingisda at mga residente sa Calatagan na lumahok sa pagpaparami ng mga bakawan bilang paggunita sa World Mangrove Day noong Hulyo 26 ngayon taon sa baybayin ng bayan.

Ipinahayag naman ni Rodrigo de Jesus, SNMBT president, ang kanilang buong suporta sa rehabilitation program, dahil mula pa noong 2007 ay regular nang ginagawa ng grupo ang pagtatanim ng bakawan.

Ayon pa sa DENR, nakapagtanim ng aabot sa 1,200 "Bakawang Lalaki" at "Bakawang Bato" sa isinagawang aktibidad.

"But celebrating World Mangrove Day is not only for observance, but rather a cause to restore the mangrove forests in our midst for their ecological benefits and a sustainable program to also help mitigate the effects of climate change," ani Javier.

Pinuri naman ni Gulapo ang DENR regional office sa pamumuno ng mangrove rehabilitation program, kasabay ng pagpapaalala nito sa mga kaagapay ng DENR na alamin ang mangrove proper zoning.

"Likewise, we have to monitor the success rate of every planting activity," ani Gulapo.



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'Close landfill in SJDM'

SAN Jose del Monte, Bulacan — Residents of this city appeal to President Rodrigo R. Duterte to immediately close the 18 hectares open dumpsite operated by a private company, who had been questioned for its safety and health hazard.

According to Reynaldo Cardona, former bgy. chairman of Barangay Paradise, contaminants could leach into the nearby watershed area and the water drunk could lead to the destruction of Sierra Madre.

San Jose del Monte residents, NGOs and religious leaders yesterday held a prayer rally to protest Bgy. San Isidro landfill operation.

Residents believe that only the administration of President Duterte can stop the open dumpsite operation.

The dumpsite was built in 2007, along the boundary of SJDM City and Norzagaray in Bulacan.



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Tambakan ng basura sa Bulacan hinirit ipasara

Hinirit ng mga residente ng San Jose Del Monte City Bulacan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagpapasara sa 18 ektaryang Open Dumpsite sa nasabing lugar dahil sa perwisyo umanong dulot nito.

Kasabay nito ay nagsagawa ng prayer rally sa kanilang simbahan ang mga residente, religious sector, Barangay officials, farmers group at iba pang NGOs bilang pagtutol sa patuloy na operasyon ng tambakan ng basura na nasa Brgy. San Isidro.

Ayon sa isa sa mga apektado sa tambakan ng basura na si Reynaldo Cardona, dating Chairman ng Brgy. Paradise, labis silang nag-aalala na posibleng madamay

at masira ang watershed area na bahagi ng Sierra Madre dahil na rin sa mga basurang itinatapon mula sa 17 bayan sa lalawigan ng Bulacan at ilan pang lugar sa Metro Manila na sinasabing ino-operate ng Wacuman company.

Naniniwala ang mga residente sa apat na Barangay sa San Jose Del Monte City na tuluyang matitigil ang operasyon ng dumpsite kung mamagitan ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Duterte.

Bukod kasi anila sa pagkakasakit ng mga residente ay apektado na rin ang mga estudyante ng dalawang Elementary school sa Brgy San Isidro at Brgy Paradise sa mabahong singaw ng open dump site.



Dumpsite sa SJDM hinirit ipasara ng mga residente

UMAPELA na kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang iba't ibang sektor para sa tuluyang pagpapasara sa 18 ektaryang Open Dumpsite sa San Jose Del Monte City Bulacan.

Ito ay sa gitna ng pangamba ng mga residente sa apat na Barangay sa San Jose Del Monte City bunsod ng perwisyong dulot ng open dumpsite na pinatatakbo ng Wacuman company mula sa itinatapong basura na galing sa 17 bayan sa lalawigan ng Bulacan at ilan pang lugar sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Reynaldo Cardona, dating chairman ng Barangay Paradise na kasama sa apektado, pinaangambahan din nilang masira ang watershed area na bahagi ng Sier-

ra Madre.

Kanina ay nagsagawa ng prayer rally sa kanilang simbahan ang mga residente, religious sector, Barangay officials, farmers group at iba pang NGOs bilang pagpapakita ng pagtutol sa patuloy na operasyon ng tambakan ng basura na nasa Brgy San Isidro.

Bukod sa pagkakasakit ng mga residente, apektado na rin ang mga estudyante ng dalawang elementary school sa Barangay San Isidro at Barangay Paradise dahil mabahong open dump site na naaamoy ng mga mag-aaral.

Naniniwala ang mga residente na tanging ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Duterte ang makakapagpatigil sa operasyon.



Dumpsite sa SJDM, hiniling ipasara

UMAPELA na kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang iba't ibang sektor para sa tuluyang pagpapasara sa 18 ektaryang Open Dumpsite sa San Jose Del Monte City Bulacan na pinatakbo ng Wacuman company.

Sa gitna ito ng pangamba ng mga residente sa apat na Barangay sa San Jose Del Monte City bunsod ng perwisyong dulot ng open dumpsite mula sa itinatapong basura na galing sa 17 bayan sa lalawigan ng Bulacan at ilan pang lugar sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Reynaldo Cardona, dating Chairman ng Barangay Paradise na kasama sa apektado, pinangangambahan din nilang masira ang watershed area na bahagi ng Sierra Madre.

Taong 2007 ng itayo ang open dumpsite sa boundary ng SJDM City at Norzagaray sa ilalim ng panunungkulan ni dating Mayor Reynaldo San Pedro.

Nilinaw pa ng grupo na ilegal ang operasyon ng Wacuman dahil wala silang permit mula sa San Jose Del Donte City government.

Naniniwala ang mga residente na tanging ang administrasyon Duterte lang ang makakapagpatigil sa operasyon ng Wacuman dumpsite.



Residente ng SJDM umapela kay PRRD na ipasara ang dumpsite

UMAPELA na kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang ibat ibang sektor para sa tuluyang pagpapasara sa open dumpsite sa San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan.

Ito ay sa gitna ng pangamba ng mga residente sa apat na barangay sa San Jose Del Monte City bunso ng perwisyong dulot ng open dumpsite mula sa itinatapong basura na galing sa 17 bayan sa lalawigan ng Bulacan at ilan pang lugar sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Reynaldo Cardona, dating chairman ng Barangay Paradise na kasama sa apektado, pinangambahan din nilang masira ang watershed area na bahagi ng Sierra Madre.

Kahapon ay nagsagawa ng prayer rally sa ka-

nilang simbahan ang mga residente, religious sector, barangay officials, farmers group at iba pang NGOs bilang pagpapakita ng pagtutol sa patuloy na operasyon ng dumpsite sa Bgy. San Isidro.

Taong 2007 ng itayo ang open dumpsite sa boundary ng SJDM City at Norzagaray.

Apektado na rin ang mga estudyante ng dalawang elementary school sa Bgy. San Isidro at Bgy Paradise dahil sa mabahong open dump site na naaamoy ng mga mag-aaral.

Naniniwala ang mga residente na tanging ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Duterte ang makakapag-patigil sa operasyon ng dumpsite.



STILL LOW As of Wednesday, the water level at La Mesa Dam is pegged at 75.73 meters above sea level, still over four meters below the spilling level of 80.15 masl. —EDWIN BACASMAS

SECURE WATER SUPPLY SEEN BY END-2021

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@RonWDomingoINQ

Water consumers in eastern Metro Manila and Rizal province can expect a more secure supply, but not until the end of 2021.

Manila Water Co. Inc. on Wednesday announced that it had signed a supply deal with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and Wawa JVCo Inc. for raw water from the Razon group's Wawa project in Rizal.

Wawa JVCo is a joint venture company formed by Prime Metroline Infrastructure Corp. and San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders and Developers Corp.

The agreement, which covers a 30-year period, involves the supply of raw water from Wawa and Tayabasan rivers through the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project, specifi-

cally with a dam to be built by the joint venture.

"The first phase will involve the supply of 80 million liters per day (MLD) of raw water by Dec. 31, 2021, while the second phase will involve the supply of an additional 438 MLD of raw water by Dec. 31, 2025," Manila Water said in a regulatory filing.

Medium term

It said the Wawa project was one of several measures that had been identified to boost water supply in the medium term for Manila Water's concession area.

Last March, Manila Water signed with Prime Metroline a memorandum of understanding on cooperation for building what water supply authorities were touting as the most immediate available solution to address the shortage.

The MWSS has described the new Wawa Dam that tycoon Enrique K. Razon and builder Oscar Violago are pursuing as the "immediate alternative water source for the metropolis to provide medium-term water security."

The other major solution is the controversial Kaliwa Dam in Quezon province, which can provide 600 MLD but will take longer to build.

The east zone concession area has been under a rotational service interruption program since March when the water level at La Mesa Dam in Quezon City fell below the normal operating level.

The west zone concession area served by Maynilad Water Service Inc. has been experiencing the same problem after the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan province dropped below the critical level. INQ



PAGTANAW AT PANANAW Bert de Guzman

Sagana na sa ulan

NOONG tag-araw na napakainit at kulang ng tubig sa Angat Dam, nalangin ang ating mga kababayan sa sana'y umulan o dumating ang gyo para magbuhos ng ulan. Maging ng mga miyembro ng Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) nakiusap sa mga mamamayan na alin ang Oratio Imperata para maawa ng langit at biyayaan tayo ng ulan.

Sa pagsapit ng tag-ulan, umulan ga halos araw-araw. Bumaha sa araming lugar ng ating bansa, asama na sa Metro Manila. Nagka-

tubig ang mga gripo ng maraming bahay, nakapaligo ang mga estudyante, kawani. Medyo tumaas ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam at La Mesa Dam. Masaya ang mga magbubukid, makapag-aaro na sila sa kabukiran at makapagtatanim ng palay.

Mahabaging langit, salamat po sa ulan. Pakiusap lang po, huwag naman sanang malalakas na ulan na nagpapabaha, huwag naman sanang malalaki at ga-bahay na alon na nagpapalubog sa mga bangka at kumikitil ng maraming buhay.

Sa Iloilo, lumubog ang tatlong bangka na ikinamatay (hindi ikinasawi) ng 31 katao noong Sabado. Sinabi ni Philippine Coast Guard Western Visayas District Commander Commodore Allan dela Vega na sa 92 pasahero at crew ng mga motorisadong bangka, 62 ang nailigtas at tatlo pa ang nawawala. Inaalam pa ang dahilan ng paglubog.

Ang aksidente sa dagat ay nangyari

sa Iloilo-Guimaras Strait noong Sabado bunsod ng malakas na alon at ulan na dala ng habagat. Ang M/B Chi-Chi at M/B Keziah ay nagkabangga at lumubog nang hampasin ng malalakas na alon dahil sa monsoon winds o habagat.

Ang mga bangka, ayon sa report, ay galing sa Iloilo City patungong Guimaras nang sagasaan ng ga-bahay na mga alon sa Iloilo-Guimaras Strait. May tatlo lang crew sa M/Keziah nang maaksidente. Ang M/B Chi-Chi ay may apat na crew at 43 pasahero. Ang 11 ay namatay samantalang 35 ang nasagip.

Ang pangatlong bangka, ang M/B Jenny Vince, ay may lulang apat na crew, 40 pasahero. Ayon sa PCG, 10 ang namatay. Sinabi ng National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), bina-validate pa nila ang mga impormasyon kung ilan ang mga namatay mula sa ibang mga ahensiya, gaya ng PCG at Western

Visayas police.

Laganap na ang sakit na dengue sa maraming parte ng Pilipinas. Libu-libo ang tinatamaan ng karamdamang ito na sanhi ng kagat ng isang uri ng lamok. Maituturing na ito bilang isang epidemya kapag hindi nakagawa ng solusyon ang gobyerno at kinauukulang mga ahensiya.

Sa ulat noong Lunes sa mga pahayagan, pakikinggan daw ni Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang rekomendasyon ng Department of Health tungkol sa panawagan na ibalik ang Dengvaxia vaccine program upang matugunan ang dengue outbreak sa Pinas. Tiyak aalma rito ang Public Attornys Office (PAO) at posibleng magtitili uli si PAO Chief Persida Acosta. Ano ang say mo presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo?



Duterte hinikayat maglabas ng EO vs paggamit ng coal

HINIKAYAT kahapon ng energy environmental think tank ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na maglabas ng isang executive order na babalangkasin kung paano mapapabilis ang pagpaunlad ng renewable energy sources habang nililimitahan ang paggamit ng karbon sa bansa.

Ang panawagan na ito ay base sa ipinahayag ng pangulo sa State of the Nation Address (SONA) nitong nakaraang 22 Hulyo.

"We welcome the positive remarks uttered by the President during his SONA, responding to the clamor of the public against dirty, deadly, and costly energy from coal and fossil fuels," pahayag ni CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances.

"His statements are significant given that existing energy and power policies largely favor coal," dagdag ni Arances.

Ayon kay Arances, sa kasalukuyan, ang halo ng koryente ay dominado ng bahagi ng karbon sa 51%, at nakatakdang patuloy na lumaki dahil ang 30 coal fired power plants ay nananatili na nasa pipeline.

Nakikita ng Department of Energy (DOE) na magtatataas ang coal sa dalawang dekada o higit pa base sa Philippine Energy Plan.

"We urge the President to formalize in an Executive Order the marching orders he gave during his speech to provide clear policy directions to the DOE and the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources (DENR)," giit ni Arances.

Hinimok ni Arances si DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, upang balangkasin ang mga patakaran o polisiya sa pagpapahintulot sa proseso ng energy projects at coal-

fired power plants na nasa pipeline.

"We do not want the offices mainly mandated to pursue this transition to be the ones contradicting the President's commitment to the People," paliwanag ni Arances.



Pagmamahal sa kalikasan, tema ng Batang Pinoy

BAWAL ang plastik sa Batang Pinoy.

Ito ang ipapatupad ng Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) sa pagsasagawa ng Batang Pinoy National Finals sa Puerto Princesa, Palawan sa Agosto 25-31.

Ayon kay PSC Deputy Executive Director Atty. Guillermo Iroy Jr., hindi lamang ang paglinang ng talento sa pamamagitan ng paghubog sa talento ng atleta ang siyang pakay ng ahensiya, kundi ang imulat ang mga kabataan na magpahalaga sa kalikasan.

"I think it's about time na maipakilala ang recyclable tumblers at iwasan na ang paggamit ng mga plastic bottles," pahayag ni Iroy. "We should promote cleanliness hindi ang dito sa Pilipinas kundi Worldwide. We should also start using non-plastic material para mai-save 'yung environment natin, lalo na ang karagatan," aniya.

Sinabi rin ni Iroy na ang mga tumblers lamang ang papayagan na bitbitin ng mga attendees, coaches at lalo na ng mga atleta sa loob ng playing venues, at hindi na ang nakaugalian na

mga bottled water.

Maglalagay umano ng mga water refilling station sa kabuuan ng venue upang may makuhaan ng tubig ang lahat ng taong nasa loob ng venues lalo na ang mga atleta na ang pangunahin kailangan sa pagsabak sa kompetisyon ay tubig.

Bukod dito, ipakikilala na din ng PSC ang Buko Juice bilang isa sa mga pampatid uhaw ng mga atleta pagdating sa mga katulad ng kompetisyon.

"We are now in coordination with the Buko Juice suppliers para 'yun na ang ang introduce natin as one sources of hydration. But of course they can bring their own water tumbler with them," aniya.

Kabuuang 4597 atleta ang inaasahang dadayo sa lalawigan ng Puerto Princesa upara sa nasabing national finals na lalahok sa 20 sports discipline.

Nakamit ng Baguio City ang Batang Pinoy National Finals overall title noong taong 2018, kung saan mismong sila din ang naging punong-abala sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Ompong.

Annie Abad



Dengue and deforestation

It is dengue season once again in the Philippines, and many are rightfully worried about a viral disease that can be both harrowing and life-threatening; one that has already claimed over 600 lives since the start of the year. As a resident physician in San Pablo City, I used to accompany children with severe dengue on ambulances bound for Manila, and I have seen firsthand the anxiety over platelet counts, signs of bleeding, the search for blood donors and out-of-pocket expenditure.

As we try to make sense, however, of what the Department of Health (DOH) has just declared as a “national epidemic,” I would like to underscore the role of human activity over long periods of time in creating environmental conditions conducive to the spread of the disease. Central to this human-virus interaction is the disease vector: the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

Mosquitoes have played an enormous, if underappreciated, role in human history, leading the historian Timothy Winegard to call them “the ultimate agent of historical change.” In the recently released “The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator,” Winegard argues that mosquitoes had a decisive influence in the colonization of the Americas (thanks to mosquito-borne diseases that decimated the local population).

Among mosquitoes, *A. aegypti*—also the vector for chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever—is particularly notorious. While *Anopheles*, malaria’s vector, should also be a contender, a Nature article (Powell 2016) calls *A. aegypti* “the most dangerous animal in the world.”

Recent scholarship in population genetics (Powell et al. 2018) suggests that *A. aegypti* was introduced to the Americas from West Africa via the slave trade, and onward to the Asia-Pa-



SECOND OPINION

GIDEON LASCO

cific via trading ships like the Manila galleon. In a compelling thesis about the role of colonialism in mosquito-borne diseases, Maria Pettis (2017) suggests that dengue itself may have arrived with the merchants and soldiers at the turn of the 20th century. World War II may also have contributed to the further rise of the disease (Ooi and Gubler 2009); the first epidemic would be reported in Manila in 1954.

Mosquitoes thrive in shallow, stagnant pools of water. Because stagnancy usually results from human activity (e.g. the construction of canals and houses), the mosquitoes thrive in densely-populated human settlements.

This is where deforestation comes in: Both the sugar plantations and cities that fulfilled the above conditions required large-scale logging to clear the ground, and for timber to be consumed as fuel and construction material (Pettis 2018). By altering the soil and water cycle, deforestation led to an increased need for irrigation, which in turn led to the proliferation of stagnant pools of water. Moreover, in-

creased temperatures due to reduced forest cover increased the bioactivity of mosquitoes and facilitated the breeding of larvae. Meanwhile, ecological changes brought about by forest loss could have reduced the number of the mosquitoes’ natural predators, further contributing to their spread (Austin 2018).

Writ large, this ecological history—followed by urbanization, the further degradation of our forests and climate change—continues to explain the tenacity of dengue in the country. It also explains why, by virtue of their living conditions, the urban and rural poor end up far more vulnerable to contracting the disease.

Recognizing the link between deforestation and dengue—and more broadly, between environment and health—should make us consider pathogens beyond the microbial, or even the political. Indeed, beyond today’s fractious debates over vaccines and medical populists, and without diminishing the urgency of public health responses like an improved version of DOH’s 4S strategy, we need to address the connections between access to flowing water and the proliferation of mosquitoes, land use and dengue prevalence, stagnant economies and access to health care.

Just as important, this insight should serve as yet another reason for forest conservation and reforestation. Are we counting trees the way we count platelets—with a sense of urgency and grave concern? Perhaps if we recognize the importance of forests in our health, we would care more deeply about the health of our green regions.

glasco@inquirer.com.ph



TITLE:

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MAGANDA ang ginawa ng Department of National Defense laban sa dengue.

Inutusan ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang lahat ng sundalo na sumali laban sa nakamamatay na sakit sa iba't ibang paraan.

At kasama sa aksyon ni Lorenzana ang panawagan sa lahat ng ahen-sya na bumubuo ng National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council na sumali sa Gawain.

Kabilang sa mga kasali sa NDRRMC ang Philippine National Police, Office of Civil Defense, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Department of Social Welfare and Development at sa maraming pagkakataon, sumasali rin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Department of Public Works and Highways.

Kasama rin dito ang lahat ng local government unit at hindi rin maiiwasan ng Department of Education lalo't laging kasama ang mga eskwela sa mga evacuation site sa oras ng kalamidad.

Sa problema sa dengue, ang DepEd at ang Commission on Higher Education ay nararapat lang na sumali dahil nasa hanay ng mga mag-aaral ang karamihan sa tinatamaan ng dengue.

HINDI LANG ANTI-TERRORISTA

Ang mga sundalo, hindi dapat na umupo at magtago lang sa kani-ang mga kampo sa mga panahon ng kawalan ng banta ng terorismo, gi-yera at iba pang kaguluhan na kailangan ang kaniilang pagtugon.

Malakas ang pangangatawan at maganda ang kalusugan ng mga ito at pupwede silang lumaban sa mga malaganap na sakit gaya ng dengue.

Pupwede silang tumulong sa paglilinis sa kapaligiran na karaniwang madamo, mabatura at matubig sa tagulan na paborito ng mga lamok na itilugan at tahanan saka sasalakay sa mga tao sa loob at labas ng bahay ng mga ito.

Sinasabing may mga ospital nang umaapaw ang pasyente sa dengue dahil sa pagdoble ng hi-



ULTIMATUM

ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

MAGTULONG-TULONG VS DENGUE

lang ng natatamaan ng sakit.

Dito pupwedeng tumulong ang mga sundalo sa pagpapatayo ng mga tent bilang ekstensyon ng mga pagamutan.

At dahil may medical na grupo ang mga ito at may mga ospital at klinika sa kaniilang mga kampo, pupwede ring itakbo ang mga pasyente sa kanila.

O mismo ang mga sundalo ang pupunta sa mga komunidad upang sumali sa panggagamot.

CLEARING OPERATIONS

Ang clearing operations sa mga kalsada at bangketa upang maibalik sa mga tumatakbong sasakyan at pedestrian ang mga ito at upang malabanan ang heavy trapik sa buong bansa ay laban din sa dengue.

Sa clearing operations, natatangay ang mga basura at imbak na bagay na nakaiipon ng tubig at iba pang bahay at itilugan ng lamok.

Siyempre pa, kasama sa mga basura ang mga drum, plastic, sasakyang sira at dilapidated na dapat alisin sa clearing operations.

Sa mga sentrong bayan nagaganap ang lahat ng clearing operations, kasama ang mga estero at drainage, at nakikinabang dito ang mga mamamayan sa ganitong mga lugar.

Ibang uri naman ang clearing operations sa mga barangay na malalayo sa mga kabayanan na walang problema sa trapik.

Ang mga damo, ang mga bahay-tubig na hindi gumagalaw, ang nilulumot na sa tubig na kalsada at kanal at iba pa ang mga problema kaugnay ng mga dengue.

Kung may clearing operations sa mga ito, malaking tulong laban sa dengue.

MALAGANAP NA KAHIRAPAN

Ang malaganap na kahirapan ang isang sanhi ng paglala ng dengue.

Dahil sa kawalan ng pambayad sa ospital o pambili ng gamot na ini-

pangmantine sa mga bantay sa mga pasyente sa ospital, maraming pamilya na tinatamaan ng dengue ang hindi agad tumatakbo sa mga doktor at ospital sa takot na lalo silang masadlak sa hirap.

Eh, kung sa paningin ng mga kapitbahay na may kaunting ginhawa sa buhay ay hindi makabayad sa utang ang may sakit, karaniwang hindi basta nagbibitiw ng pantang ang mga ito bagama't namimigay ang mga ito ng kaya nilang iabot kung patay na ang maysakit.

Dito dapat umaksyon nand todo ang pamahalaan.

At ang unang dapat na kikilos ay ang mga pamahalaang barangay, munisipyo at lungsod para hanapin at ayudahan ang mga taong may palatandaang may dengue.

Alalahanin na ang lamok na kumagat sa may dengue, lilipad muli ito at kakagat sa iba para lang magpalaganap ng dengue.

Mapipigilan kahit paano ang pagkalat ng dengue kung magiging aktibo ang mga taong pamahalaan sa health sector na maghanap ng mga may dengue at gamutin at ayudahan ang mga ito.

Hindi dapat na maghintay lang ang mga ito sa mga ospital ng mga may dengue saka sila kikilos.

4 ESTRATEHIYA

Magandang palaganapin at magtulong-tulong ang lahat sa pagpapairal ng apat na paraan para mapigilan ang paglaganap ng dengue.

Binubuo ito ng apat na S na ang ibig sabihin:

S - earch and Destroy;
S - eek Early Consultation;
S - elf Protection Measures; at S - ay yes to fogging only during outbreaks.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-



Tech startup develops 3D geospatial mapping of marine areas

A tech startup has developed capability to undertake marine or underwater three-dimensional geospatial mapping and analytics that can be used for marine resources mapping and conservation.

The 3D underwater geospatial mapping and analytics technology of Antipara Explorations Inc. also has industrial uses as it can be tapped to monitor impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity of commercial shipping and fishing activities as well as oil and natural gas exploration and subsea oil pipeline construction and maintenance.

Aside from the 3D geospatial mapping technology, Antipara Explorations has developed a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) for undersea mapping projects.

Aaron Hilomen, co-founder and CEO of Antipara Explorations, said property developers have tapped

their technology for mapping out coastal areas where they are undertaking residential and tourism related property developments to map out marine flora and fauna resources and draw up sustainable tourism and development measures.

"It has many environmental applications," Hilomen, a civil engineer, as well as a water and environment engineer, told **The STAR**.

"We cater to both industry and the environmental (protection and conservation) sector," Hilomen added.

"Our system is very efficient, and we can cover very large areas," he said. "We can map out all these areas. Basically, we help the marine and maritime sector map and manage their undersea assets... from corral reefs, undersea cables and pipelines."

Hilomen said that they have worked with local government units in Occidental Mindoro and Marin-

duque, and the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources as well of Science and Technology, in mapping efforts of marine resources and protected areas.

With the Philippines having one of the richest and most biodiverse aquatic ecosystems in the world, the 3D geospatial mapping and analytics capability built up by Antipara Explorations will come in handy for the country's environment protection and resource development agencies, as well as the so-called "blue economy."

For this innovation, Antipara Explorations has earned recognition from multinational oil giant Total Corp.

Antipara Explorations had emerged as second prizewinner in the first-ever Startupper of the Year Challenge held last February by Total (Philippines) Corp., where it competed against other startups

judged on their potential social impact to make the world a better place.

Aside from 2nd prize, the Total Challenge jury also awarded Antipara Explorations the Better Energy prize, seeing the huge potential of the startup's 3D geospatial and analytics technology for its own worldwide oil exploration and development activities.

"It's really linked to our business," Malou Espina, Total Philippines Corp. vice president for marketing and communications, said of the mapping technology.

— Rainier Allan Ronda



Hilomen



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The age of responsible consumerism begins

NutriAsia opens condiment refilling pop up store

BY IZA IGLESIAS



■ Bring Your Own Bottle store encourages consumers to refill their reusable bottles with vinegar, soy sauce and cooking oil among others.



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ONE of the global concerns discussed at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in January was the use of plastic — a most common and versatile material used in the home and across every single industry, but whose extreme usefulness pales in comparison to the damage it does to the environment.

Suffice to say, its negative effects can no longer be ignored what with 13,000 pieces of plastic litter found in every square kilometer of ocean, not to mention the the high levels of greenhouse gasses emitted for every four plastic bottles manufactured.

In the Philippines, the *tingi* system has created a market for sachets, small packets or quart-size plastic bottles that contributed to the problem that has engulfed many parts of the world.

A lot of people and establishments have finally come to realize that it is their civic and

social responsibility to mitigate the damage that this material has caused to humanity.

As more and more Filipino companies join the global movement to protect the planet against spiraling plastic production continues, a notable project that is now getting a lot of positive feedback is refilling stations. This is an effort of several consumer brands where shoppers recycle old bottles and refill whichever liquid products they want.

Zero-waste community

NutriAsia, the home of Filipi-

no brands like Datu Puti, UFC, Golden Fiesta and Locally, has been taking part in the movement towards a zero-waste community through projects like Datu Puti's "Jumbahalang Tambalan." It has participated in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau's (DENR-EMB) "Refill Revolution" since 2014.

This year, the leading producer and distributor of sauces and condiments carries on with its vision of a more environmentally sustainable world through a project called "Bring Your Own Bottle (BYOB)," which encourages users to bring their own reusable bottles and refill their favorite condiments and products.

This simple act is expected to raise awareness on responsible plastic use and help build a zero-waste community as a stepping stone to sustainability.

Through the support of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation and The Mind Museum, shoppers can visit and experience the first BYOB refilling station lo-

cated at the Bonifacio Global City (BGC). To participate, consumers have to bring their own clean and dry reusable bottles and have these refilled with their chosen products at discounted prices.

"We don't sell bottles, we don't sell containers. You have to bring your own and make sure that the bottles meet the mechanics. It has to be clean, it has to be dry, not have been a container for chemicals because you will use it for food. After that, pick your own condiment and refill," NutriAsia Corporate Marketing and Communications Head James Lim told *The Manila Times* during the launch.

Repurposing plastic materials

BYOB's store is made from eco-bricks that use plastic discards as

a component, and which come from the Arca South Eco Hub, a project of Arca South, Green Antz and Ayala Land Inc. The store will also serve as a drop-off point for plastic materials for repurposing.

"We have ambitious goals. Aside from creating refilling stations, we're actually also accepting plastic discards. If you have plastic, you can donate it and have it upcycled. With BYOB, we hope to go beyond and create more 'Masarap Masaya' moments by encouraging shoppers to help build a zero-waste community in their own ways," Lim enthused.

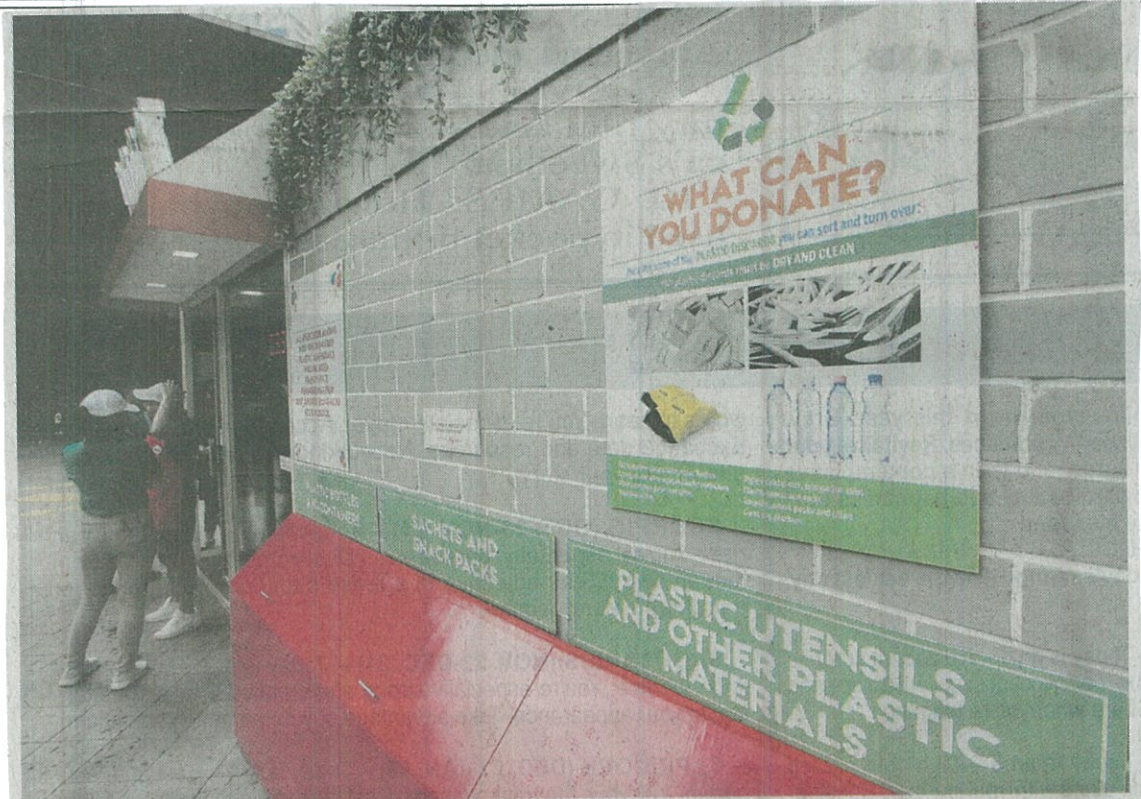
"It's very important for our company because we know the value of having a sustainability program and creating awareness about it, so this is one small step. If all goes well, if a lot of people do

refill, we can extend it or move it to other places as well," he added.

The company also shared that all proceeds from BYOB, along with the plastic materials donated, will be used to produce upcycled furnishings for their beneficiary, GAT Andres Bonifacio High School in Taguig.

"What we'll do, we have this beneficiary Gat. Andres Bonifacio High School in Taguig. We want to give them furnishings like benches, chairs and even pavement made out of discarded plastics. It's a whole cycle. So you don't end the process by just refilling. You can donate, have it upcycled and help the school," Lim ended.

Officially launched on July 30, the BYOB is open through September 12, Mondays to Sundays, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., at The Mind Museum in BGC.



■ The refilling station serves as a drop-off point for donated plastic materials to be used for repurposing.



■ The store was built with eco-bricks that use plastic discards as components.



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Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chairman and administrator Wilma Eisma (center) led the SBMA employees and community volunteers in the recent nationwide observance of Arbor Day at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.



LIFE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Group affirms reforestation efforts

The Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA), through its seven member-companies, has boosted greening efforts as part of ongoing rehabilitation and reforestation in their respective mining areas.

Ensuring environmental and ecological sustainability in areas where nickel is mined, members of the Philippine nickel industry have planted an estimated 5.3 million trees to date in the CARAGA region and in Palawan as part of its Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP).

The number of trees planted has risen 27 percent since PNIA's report of planting 4.2 million trees in June 2018.

"The nickel mining industry has real and continuing accomplishments in caring not only for our communities,

but also of the environment. We contribute at least three to five percent of our operating cost to Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programs (EPEP) programs. No other industry is mandated to do this," said PNIA executive director Charmaine Olea-Capili.

On top of current reforestation efforts, mining companies are mandated to implement the Temporary Revegetation Program (TRP). PNIA member companies have planted over 284 hectares of various vegetation and spent P45 million.

"We are required to plant 100 trees for every one tree we cut down. Our industry has made continued efforts to rehabilitate the areas where we mine since we started operations. With the ongoing TRP, we can provide short-term vegetation growth that can control soil erosion and assist communities during natural calamities,"

Capili added.

Indigenous and endemic tree and grass species have been successfully planted since the start of rehabilitation efforts. These include fruit-bearing trees, cash crops, among others.

Furthermore, PNIA's bamboo reforestation also serves as a strategic complement to ongoing reforestation and rehabilitation programs. To date, more than 22,000 seedlings have been planted by PNIA member companies.

The reforestation and revegetation programs also provides employment to residents and to the indigenous community, and creates livelihood programs that are vital to strengthening the local economy.

These projects range from sponsoring backyard nursery projects; to plantations of coffee, rubber, cacao, and bamboo; and even to the development of areas for productive use.

GREEN IS IN!



GROWING FOR SUSTAINABILITY. Employees of MMDC, a member of PNIA, work at a nursery caring for seedlings of various species used in rehabilitation and reforestation program.



THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
1000

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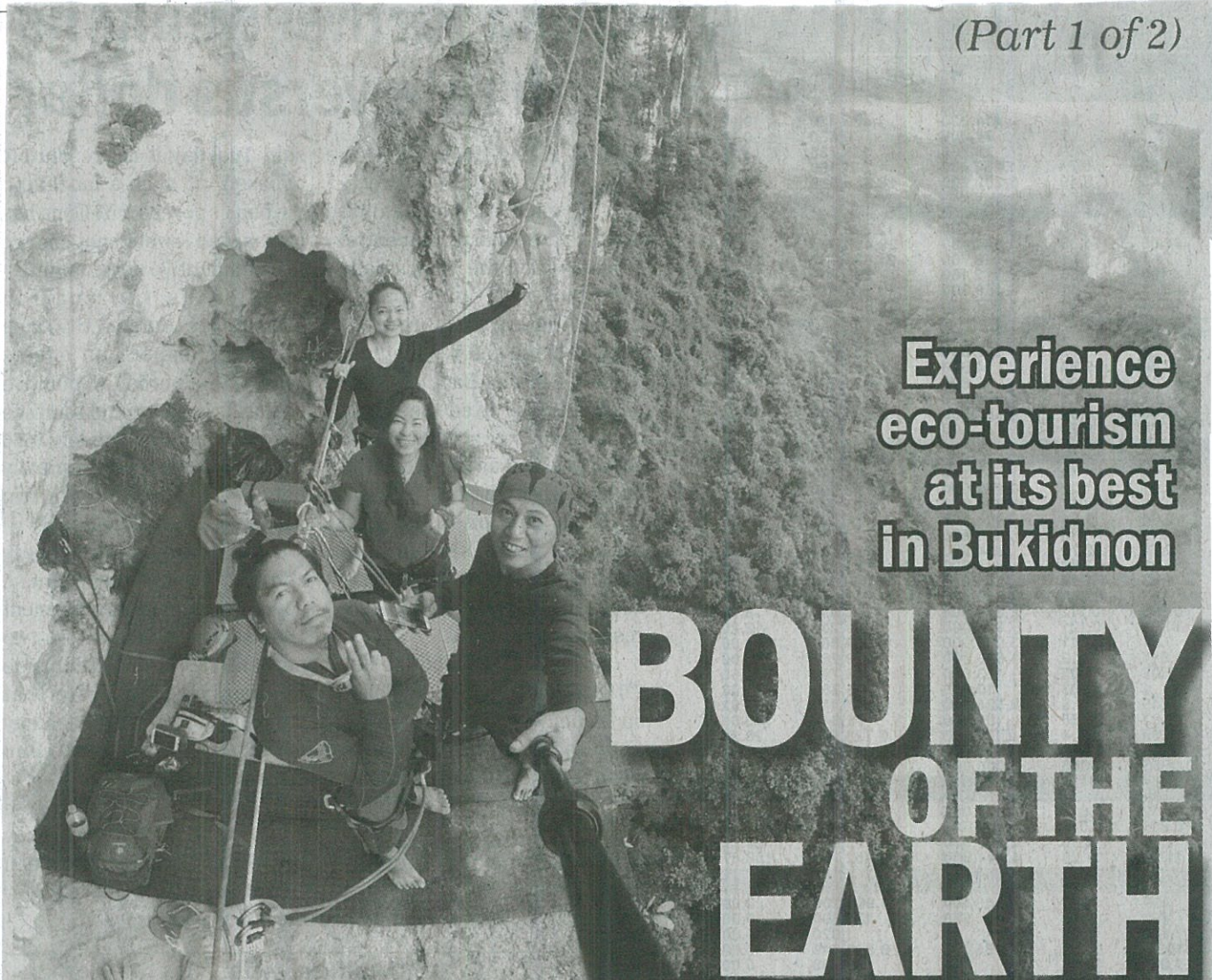
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Experience
eco-tourism
at its best
in Bukidnon

BOUNTY OF THE EARTH

Spend the night on a Cliff

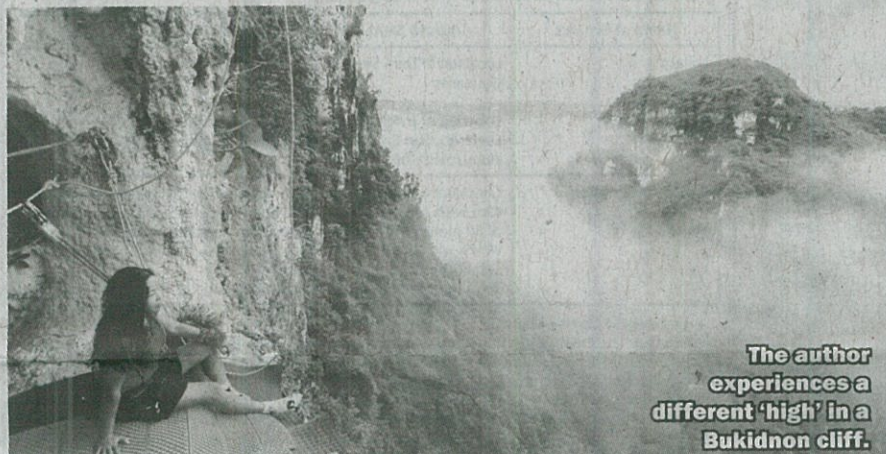
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend the night on a cliff? For those who want to take their outdoor adventures to greater heights, the Vertical Bivouac extreme adventure in Bukidnon is one of the most amazing camping experiences you can try in the country.

This unique adventure involves ascending by SRT (single rope technique) for three to four hours to reach

a two-meter wide cliff ledge 400 feet above the ground and sleeping right there while tethered to a safety harness right under the stars. You wake up to a view of mist-covered mountains before rappelling down from the rock surface.

This activity is operated by Adventure Technology Outfitters (AdTech), a private tour operator based in Bukidnon that specializes in selling safety equipment, so you know you're in good hands.

'When one wants to see the best of how eco-tourism can really bring in people—whether they are locals or first-timers in the Philippines, look at how Bukidnon manages its tourism treasures. It all starts by protecting the environment.'



The author experiences a different 'high' in a Bukidnon cliff.



LIFE EXPONENT OF
RIDGE
PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
MOON

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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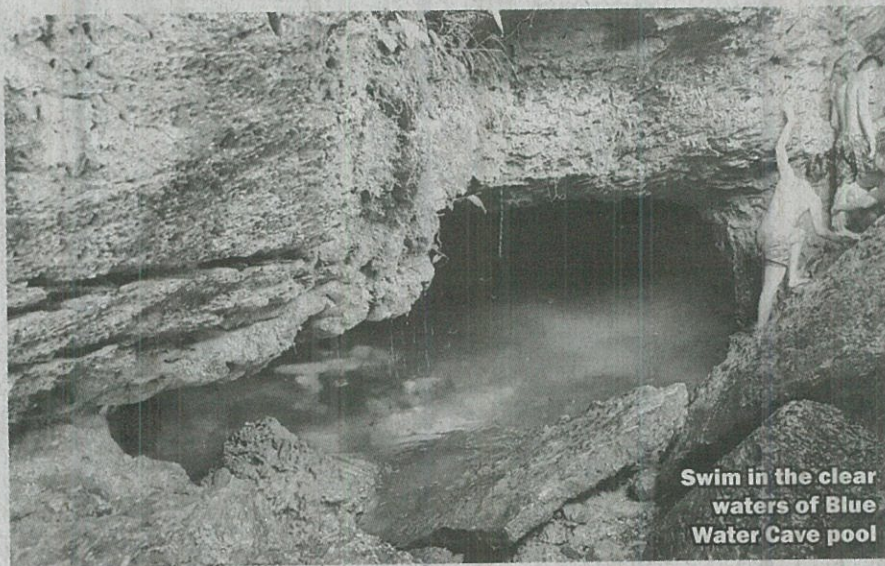
Text & photos by **KARA SANTOS**

In the heart of Mindanao, the highlands of Bukidnon call out to those who love nature and a sense of adventure. Bukidnon is the third largest province in the country in terms of total area of jurisdiction behind Palawan and Isabela. Yet many travelers have yet to explore the province's amazing attractions.

There's lots to discover in this province landlocked by mountain ranges and forest reserves. From the cool climate and rugged mountains, plateaus, canyons, waterfalls, springs, vast pineapple plantations, Bukidnon has a lot of hidden natural wonders.

In fact, when one wants to see the best of how eco-tourism can really bring in people—whether they are locals or first-timers in the Philippines, look at how Bukidnon manages its tourism treasures. Actually, it all starts by protecting the environment.

Here is the first part on how one can truly enjoy the bounty of the Earth in this southern province.



Swim in the clear waters of Blue Water Cave pool

Nature adventure at the Kiokong Eco-Tourism Project

The Vertical Bivouac activity is part of a larger Kiokong Ecological Tourism Project in San Jose, Quezon, Bukidnon.

Within the same site, you get access to several extreme adventures includ-

ing white rock walls for rock climbing, rappelling and bouldering; the Blue Water Cave pool, where you can swim and spelunk in; and the Pulangi River, which is ideal for outdoor and water sports, including water tubing, kayaking and water rafting.

You can also try rappelling off the bridge right over the Pulangi River!



Ultimate adventure: Rappelling above Pulangi River

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THE EXHIBIT OF THE PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SHOW

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CELEBRATION

ASEAN 52nd founding anniversary



THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) marks its 52nd founding anniversary today.

The journey toward the birth of the ASEAN began when five statesmen from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand met in August, 1967, at the Laem Thaen, Bang Saen Beach, in Thailand to craft the final text of

a short and simple document that would mark a new beginning for their countries in the region. On August 8, 1967, they signed the Bangkok Declaration which paved the way for the establishment of a regional organization known as ASEAN that would represent "the collective will" of the nations of Southeast Asia to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and through

joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples the blessings of peace, freedom, and posterity. On January 7, 1984, Brunei Darussalam became a member of ASEAN. The Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar joined on July 23, 1997 and July 23, 1997, respectively. The last country to join was Cambodia, on April 30, 1999. These 10 countries make up the current member states

of the ASEAN.

With Thailand as chairman of ASEAN in 2019, the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (52nd AMM), Post Ministerial Conferences (PMCs), and Related Meetings from July 29 to August 3, 2019, at the Centara Grand and the Bangkok Convention Center at Central World, Bangkok. Thailand's chairmanship of the 2019 ASEAN is anchored on the theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability." Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha stressed the need for ASEAN members to work in unison toward strategic partner-

ships, based on mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit (3Ms). He has urged the people of Thailand and other ASEAN countries to work together to make the ASEAN culture better-known on the global stage.

We greet the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the occasion of its 52nd founding anniversary as it takes up the challenge of moving toward the "4.0" era to keep pace with global changes, and of promoting the global sustainable development agenda - which are envisioned to help build the ASEAN community with the people as the center and without leaving anyone behind.



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Gatchalian seeks inquiry into Phl greenhouse emissions

By **CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian is calling for scrutiny of the level of the Philippines' greenhouse gas emissions and an update on the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) plan to ensure that the country meets its intended commitment to reduce at least 70 percent of emissions by 2030 based on the Paris Agreement.

Gatchalian, chair of the committee on energy, recently filed a resolution directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the country's emissions and NDC.

His call for a probe into the country's greenhouse gases came a week after President Duterte ordered the Department of Energy to transition

into cleaner energy alternatives, including solar and wind, and reduce the country's dependence on coal.

"There is a need for Congress to examine (1) the efforts of various government agencies in arriving at their respective sectoral NDCs and their specific adaptation and mitigation strategies, and (2) the status of the country's GHG emissions in relation to the development of the NDC with the end in view of ensuring compliance with the Paris Agreement," Gatchalian said.

"The State has the constitutional obligation to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature," he added.

Gatchalian said the Philippines has until 2020 to submit its NDC

detailing mitigation and adaptation measures to address climate change.

However, the lawmaker pointed out that the government agencies "have yet to finalize their submissions for the NDCs and some are still conducting their respective consultations," six months before the deadline.

Moreover, Gatchalian said the only available official data on the Philippines' emissions date back to 2000 at 126.879 gigagrams of carbon dioxide equivalent.

On Oct. 1, 2015, the Philippines submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), where the country manifested to undertake a 70 percent reduction in emissions from 2000 levels by 2030 conditioned on external support.



July hottest month on record

PARIS – July was the hottest month across the globe ever measured, and 2019 is on track to be one of the warmest years, according to data released Monday by the European Union's Earth observation network.

Searing heatwaves saw records tumble across Europe last month, with unusually high temperatures around the Arctic Circle as well.

Wildfires unprecedented in scope and intensity burned in Siberia and Alaska, releasing more than 100 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere across June and July.

At the same time, Greenland's ice sheet shed massive amounts of melted ice daily, totalling nearly 200 billion tons in July alone, according to the Danish Meteorological Institute.

"While July is usually the warmest month of the year for the globe, according to our data it also was the warmest month recorded globally, by a very small margin," Jean-Noel Thepaut, head of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, said in a statement.

"With continued greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting impact on global temperatures, records will continue to be broken in the future."

Compared with the 1981 to 2010 period, average July temperatures this year rose highest in Alaska, Greenland, Siberia, central Asia, Iran and large swathes of Antarctica. Africa and Australia were also well above average.

Globally, July 2019 was marginally warmer – by 0.04 degrees Celsius – than the previous record-hot month, July 2016.

The new record is all the more notable because the 2016 record followed a strong El Niño, which boosts average global temperatures beyond the impact of global warming alone.

El Niños are naturally occurring weather events triggered by periodic warming – every three to seven years – in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

"July has rewritten climate history, with dozens of new temperature records at local, national and global levels," World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement a few days ago.

Global warming, he added, was clearly to blame.

"This is not science fiction," he said. "It is the reality of climate change."

Every month so far in 2019 ranks among the four warmest on record for the month in question, with June being the hottest June measured, the Copernicus team said in a press release.

Accurate temperature records extend into the 19th century, starting around 1880.

– AFP



When the polluters are cleaner than the government

President Trump wants to relax auto emission standards. Carmakers say, No thanks.

The New York Times editorial

The Trump administration has expected corporations to cheer its efforts to lower environmental safeguards — to permit poisonous pesticides, to gut mine safety protections, to weaken rules on methane leaks in the energy industry.

It can be assumed, then, that administration officials thought they were offering the auto industry a gift with their continued pursuit to undo Obama-era rules on fuel economy intended to reduce greenhouse gases.

In a remarkable retort on Thursday, though, Ford Motor Company and three foreign automakers — which together represent roughly 30 percent of the American market — announced that their interests lie more with the planet, or at least with those who care about saving it, rather than with the president.

Following weeks of secret negotiations, Ford, BMW North America, Volkswagen Group of America and Honda agreed with California on a set of auto emissions standards that largely preserves the Obama-era rules, which set an average fleet mileage goal of 52.5 miles per gallon by 2025. The new regulations call for a fleet average of about 51 m.p.g. by 2026 and include other incentives. This is a reasonable revision. President Trump's plan would lower the goal to 37 m.p.g.; the national average was 24.9 m.p.g. in 2017.

Granted, it's not as if corporate leaders have suddenly developed a higher level of environmental consciousness. Car companies had initially instigated the lowering of standards. But when 17 car companies asked the administration in June to back off on weakening auto pollution rules, they hinted ever so loudly that undoing regulations was now unhelpful and unwarranted. The automakers did not want to make different models for different states or countries. Their business is global, with global supply chains, and a minimal number of models to maximize the efficiency of design and manufacturing.

An Environmental Protection Agency spokesman called the California agreement "a PR stunt that does nothing to further the one national standard that will provide certainty and relief for American consumers."

But given the market influence wielded by California and the 13 others states — and Canada — that have indicated they will sign on, the automakers say the agreement itself would set one national standard.

"These terms will provide our companies much-needed regulatory certainty by allowing us to meet both federal and state requirements with a single national fleet, avoiding a patchwork of regulations while continuing to ensure meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reductions," the companies said in a statement.

Is some of this automotive environmental embrace driven as much by profit potential as by concern over climate change? Probably, and that would be a good thing. If sustainability produces a good return on investment — as it should — then corporations would be irrational to ignore it. The California deal also gives the automakers a hedge against a Democrat winning the presidency next year and reverting to more stringent rules.

Unlike the Trump administration, scientists and engineers at many corporations — even energy companies — accept the data about global warming. They are acting on those facts: utilities, by dumping coal-fired generating plants for more efficient renewables; car companies, by building more electric and hybrid vehicles. Ford is planning a full EV version of its best-selling F-150 pickup. Harley Davidson just introduced an all-electric hog.

Ford is also investing in sustainable transportation. The company's Ford Smart Mobility division owns Spin, the shared electric scooter platform. Pressure is coming from within, too, as employees become more active in pushing their companies to become part of the solution to global issues.

Unlike America's president, America's corporations are preparing for the severe weather and higher sea levels associated with climate change that threaten their manufacturing and logistics operations.

Corporate leaders are realizing that they have to answer to constituencies other than Trump, and they can no longer ignore the economic, social and political consequences of environmental risks. Especially auto companies, which face what has been defined as carbon risk: financial threat as the world moves toward a lower-carbon economy.

The investment firm Morningstar recently established a Low Carbon Risk Index Family to address investors' increasing interest in backing companies that value sustainability, or avoiding industries, such as oil and gas, overly exposed to carbon risk. These sustainable funds are still relatively small, but they had record inflows in the first half of the year.

"Governments are at loggerheads, so the focus is increasingly on the corporation: what are you going to step up and do," says Jon Hale, Morningstar's global head of sustainability research. "It's becoming a solution-driven debate, rather than sitting on the sidelines."

The automakers that were left out of the negotiations, including General Motors, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Toyota, should hop in and go along for this cleaner ride.



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the proposed NEW CENTENNIAL WATER SOURCE - KALIWA DAM PROJECT of METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) to be located in BARANGAY PAGSANGAHAN (GENERAL NAKAR), BARANGAY MAGSAYSAY (INFANTA) AND TERESA IN QUEZON AND RIZAL PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed NEW CENTENNIAL WATER SOURCE - KALIWA DAM to attend the Public Hearings scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
23 August 2019 (Friday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	General Nakar Sports Center in Brgy. Poblacion
27 August 2019 (Tuesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	Ynares Covered Court located in Magsaysay Avenue, Teresa, Rizal
28 August 2019 (Wednesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	Chateau Marinero, Real-Infanta Road, Brgy. Comon, Infanta Quezon

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in these Public Hearings should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through mail or through email at eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com, at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in this Office.

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 920-2240 to 41 through the project casehandlers Engr. Regina Paula Eugenio, Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, and Engr. Lene Ramboyong.

Protect the environment... Protect life...

P.S. August 8 & 15, 2019



LIFE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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CARTOON

08 AUG 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **SMELTING PLANT AND ROLLING MILL PROJECT** of the **METRODRAGON STEEL CORPORATION (MSC)** located in **3 MGM INDUSTRIAL COMPOUND, BARANGAY BAGBAGUIN, VALENZUELA CITY;**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **SMELTING PLANT AND ROLLING MILL PROJECT** to attend a Public Hearing on **16 AUGUST 2019 (FRIDAY)** at **9:00 AM** (*registration starts at 8:00 am*) to be held in the **COVERED COURT JASMIN ST. CORNER GOLDEN ROD ST., DE CASTRO SUBDIVISION, PASO DE BLAS, VALENZUELA CITY.**

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with MSC's application for the amendment of its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The EPRMP of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

MSC was incorporated on 13 May 2009 under SEC Register No. CS200906528. The proponent engages in the manufacturing and selling of steel deformed bar, plain round bar, square bar, angle bar, steel billet and wire rod. Its operation is covered by an ECC with reference no. ECC-NCR-0501-0021 that was issued on 13 May 2010.

The following is the project fact sheet:

Project Name	Smelting Plant and Rolling Mill Project
Project Location	3 MGM Industrial Compound, Barangay Bagbaguin, Valenzuela City
Project Area	8.0725 hectares
Project Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smelting Plant – 299,520 MT/year • Rolling Mill – 299,520 MT/year • Mini Rolling Mill – 59,904 MT/year

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/ participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through mail or through email at eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in this Office and in the following offices:

- 1.) **EMB National Capital Region**
Address: National Ecology Center Compound, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: (02) 931-1331
- 2.) **City Environment and Natural Resources Office – Valenzuela City**
- 3.) **City Environment and Natural Resources Office – Caloocan City**

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 920- 2240 to 41 and look for the project case handler **Mr. Xairus Rey Guzman** and **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP.**

Protect the environment... Protect life...