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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



epartment of Environment and Natural Resources
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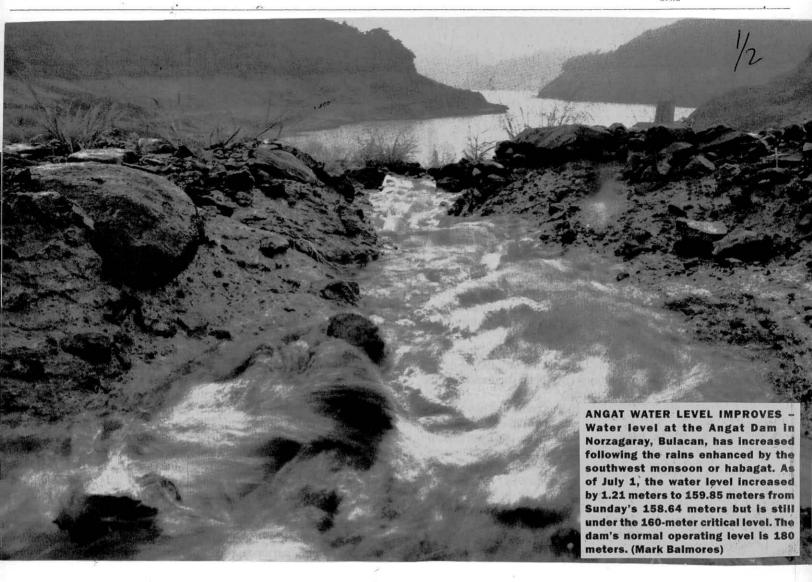
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02 JUL 2019

DAIF



Angat Dam water up by 1.21 meters

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

he cyclone-enhanced southwest monsoon or habagat has brought significant improvement in Angat Dam's water level which increased by 1.21 meters as of Monday.

Based on the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) monitoring, the water level at Angat Dam has increased to 159.85 meters, or 1.21 meters above the 158.64 meters recorded last Sunday.

Since the Angat Dam reached its 160-meter critical level last June 22, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has implemented a lower water allocation for domestic needs, which affected the availability of tap water in many areas in



epartment of Environment and Natural Resources RATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE









02 JUL 2019

Angat Dam water...

Metro Manila, and parts of Cavite and Rizal provinces.

"For now allocation is still maintained at 36 cms (cubic meter per second) considering the (water) level is still below the critical," NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said.

"We have to monitor if there is a steady increase in the elevation before we make any adjustment in the allocation," he added.

Angat Dam's water level started to gradually increase last Sunday, amid the enhancement of habagat that brought varying rainfall intensities over a large portion of Luzon in the past few

Before Monday noon, tropical de-pression "Egay" remained almost stationary over the Philippine Sea. While it is still not expected to make landfall over any part of the country, its outer cloud band will bring stormy weather over the tip of northern Luzon, PAGASA said.

Tropical cyclone warning Signal No. 1 has been raised over Batanes and Babuyan group of islands, as Egay

moves generally northwest. It was 195 kilometers (km) east-northeast of Aparri, Cagayan or 205 km east of Calayan, Cagayan around 10 a.m. Monday.

Egay has been enhancing the habagat, which could bring more monsoon rains over Metro Manila, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Apayao, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, and Palawan this Tuesday.

It has maximum sustained winds of 45 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 60 kph, as of mid-Monday. But PAGASA said the cyclone, which gradually weakened over the weekend, could further weaken into a low-pressure area (LPA) within 12 to 24 hours.

The weather bureau warned that moderate to rough seas will prevail over the seaboards of Northern Luzon and the western seaboards of Central and Southern Luzon. Those with small seacraft should not set sail into these

areas.

Classes suspended

Due to the inclement weather, classes were suspended in several areas on Monday:

Metro Manila

- Quezon City all levels (public and private)
- Manila starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)
- Caloocan City starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)
- San Juan City starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)
- Valenzuela City starting 12 pm for all levels (public and private)
- Malabon City preschool to senior high school (public and private)
- Navotas City preschool to senior high school (public and private)

Rizal

Rodriguez - starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)

Bulacan

- Balagtas all levels (public and private)
- Baliwag all levels (public and private)
- Bocaue all levels (public and private)
 - Hagonoy all levels (public

and private)

- Marilao all levels (public and private)
- Meycauayan City all levels (public and private)
- Paombong all levels (public and private)
- Sta Maria all levels (public and private)
- Pulilan afternoon classes in all levels (public and private)
- Bulakan preschool to senior high school (public and private)

Pampanga

- Angeles City preschool to elementary (public and private)
- Macabebe Candelaria Riverside, Sta. Maria (public only)
- Masantol Sapang Kawayan ES and HS
- Porac Camias, Diaz, Katutubo, Sapang Uwak, Villa Maria (public only)
- Sasmuan Mabuanbuan ES, Malusac ES and HS, Sebitanan ES, Batang 2nd ES

Bataan

- · Mariveles all levels (public and private)
- · Morong all levels (public and private)
 - Pilar all levels (public and private)
- Hermosa starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)
- Limay starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)
- Orani starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)
 - Dinalupihan day care
 - Samal day care

Zambales

Olongapo City-starting 12 p.m. for all levels (public and private)

Batangas

Lian - preschool to senior high school (public and private)

PAGASA also said that that an LPA was spotted outside the Philippine area of responsibility and was estimated 575 km west of Northern Luzon.

But it is less likely to enter the country's vicinity.













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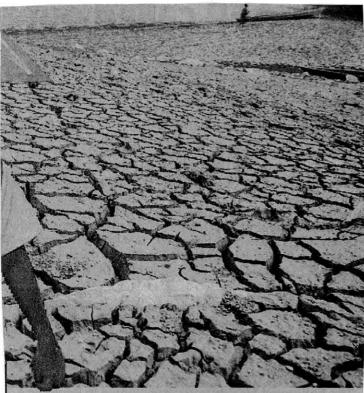


Photo taken on June 27 shows the arid ground at Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan. Left photo shows rain clouds looming over Makati as seen in Sta. Mesa, Manila yesterday. Inset shows students in the rain, which forced the suspension of classes yesterday in several areas in Metro Manila.

AFP, MIGUIEL DE GUZMAN

Rains boost dam levels, but water rationing to continue

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Even with the continuous monsoon rains helping increase the water level at Angat Dam, consumers may have to bear with rationing for a few more

days as the supply is yet to go back to normal.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) decided to retain the 36 cubic

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Rains From Page 1

meters per second (CMS) allocation for domestic supply in Metro Manila as the dam's water level is still below critical level.

"There have been improvements but this is still below the critical level of 160 meters. As of now, we will maintain the 36 CMS allocation," NWRB executive director Sevillo David Jr. said yesterday. "We will continue to look if there will be a steady increase of water level before we evaluate and decide on another adjustment."

Water allocation for concessionaires Maynilad Water Services and Manila Water has already been slashed to 36 CMS from 40 CMS. This is a huge cut from the average allocation of 48 CMS on normal days.

Because of this, supply interruptions will continue to persist in most parts of Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

As of yesterday after-

noon, the dam's water level increased to 159.91 meters — a slight increase from Sunday's 158.64 — but is still below the critical level of 160 meters. The normal level is at 180 meters.

David .said the NWRB would have to monitor if there is a steady increase in the water elevation before making any adjustment in the water allocation.

"We still have to evaluate if the increase in water level is steady as well as check on PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) projections before making any decision concerning allocation," he added.

PAGASA earlier said consumers might have to endure more months of unstable water supply as the water level in Angat Dam reaches its normal level only by September or October.

Both Maynilad and Manila Water hope that the water level would continue to go up so NWRB can finally increase the raw water allocation for Metro Manila and enable them to distribute more supply to customers.

"We will still continue with the rotational interruptions until NWRB decides on a new allocation," Manila Water spokesman Jeric Sevilla said.

"The current reduced allocation of 36 CMS is still short of what we need to provide uninterrupted water service for our customers," Maynilad spokesperson Jennifer Rufo added.

This further cut in water allocation for Metro Manila and nearby provinces has caused longer hours of interruption for the more than 12 million combined consumers of both concessionaires.

Allocations for the agriculture sector will also resume only when Angat returns to 180 meters. The NWRB started reducing allocation for farms last April and eventually removed it earlier this month.

- With Rhodina Villanueva, Louise Maureen Simeon, Ramon Lazaro, Evelyn Macairan



After rains brought by Tropical Depression Egay, water elevation in La Mesa Dam continues to rise (inset).



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Malaya **Business Insight**



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Angat water level steadily going north

BY VICTOR REYES

ANGAT Dam, the main source of Metro Manila's water, registered another increase in water elevation yesterday due to rains brought by the southwest monsoon enhanced by tropical cyclones.

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, water level at Angat stood at 159.85 meters, up by 1.21 meters from the previous day, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Last Sunday, the dam's water elevation was at 158.64 meters, up by .68 meter from last Saturday's mark.

"It's still low. It's (increase) just 1.21 meters. Nevertheless, it's still an increase in water level and hopefully in the coming the coming days, it (increase) will continue because of the anticipated southwest monsoon rains," said Perez.

Water level at La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, another source of Metro Manila's water, also increased by .26 meter to 71.76 meters as of 6 a.m. yesterday, from 71.50 meters on Sunday.

The southwest monsoon was

See ANGAT ➤ Page B3

ANGAT

enhanced by tropical depression "Egay," which at 3 p.m. yesterday had weakened into a low pressure area, according to PAGASA. It was 190 kms east northeast of Calayan, Cagayan, packing maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 60 kph.

It is forecast to be 80 kms west of Basco, Batanes this morning. Signal No. 1 remains hoisted over Batanes and the Babuyan Group of Islands.

Perez said a low pressure area that PAGASA has been monitoring for the past days remains outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

"It's possible it will develop into a tropical depression but it's moving further away from the country, either towards southern China or Northern Vietnam," Perez said.

Perez said they are expecting

two to three tropical cyclones this month. He said if they make a landfall in the Luzon area, it's possible that Angat wil reach a "safe level" or operational level or 180 meters.

The agency said the southwest monsoon is expected to continue bringing rains over Metro Manila, Ilocos Region, Cordillera, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Mindoro provinces and Palawan.



Daily Tribune www.DailyTribune.com

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Angat's rise raises hopes

But Metro's water crunch to persist?

At 159.85 masl, dam's level way below 210 masl normal

By Sundy Locus

Metro Manila's water woes may ease up but just a bit as Angat's water level rose for the second straight day at 6 a.m. on Monday with the continuous rainfall brought about by tropical depression "Egay."

Angat's water level rose to 159.85 meters above sea level (masl) from Sunday's 158.64 masl, just a tad below its critical low level of 160 masl. La Mesa Dam's level also rose to 71.76 masl from Sunday's 71.50.

About seven kilometers downstream of Angat, also located in Norzagaray, Bulacan, water level at the Ipo Dam was at 100.06 masl Monday from Sunday's 100.61 masl which was close to its normal level of 100.1 masl.

Normal water level for Angat is 210 masl while for La Mesa, it's 80.15 masl. Angat and La Mesa are part of the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system.

Angat supplies about 90 percent

of NCR's water needs through the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. It also irrigates about 28,000 hectares of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga.

Exiting so soon?

In a country pummelled non-stop by tropical storms, the rainy weather needed to bring water levels at the dams to normal levels may not persist as "Egay" is expected to exit the Philippine area of responsibility by Tuesday morning.

The low water levels at Angat and La Mesa have impacted negatively on the capability of water concessionaires in Metro Manila, especially Maynilad, to provide potable water to their customers.

The decline has resulted in rotational water service interruptions for months now, with the two concessionaires hard-pressed to explain to lawmakers their failure to meet their obigations.

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Maynilad and Manila Water have yet to issue definite statements as to when the water supply for their customers would normalize.

Rains not enough

On Sunday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the heavy monsoon rains in the past few days may not be enough to bring water levels to normal.

The agency said a lot would depend on whether other weather systems would bring about rains over watersheds that feed Angat, including the Sierra Madre Mountain watershed near the boundary of Quezon and Rizal provinces.

PAGASA hydrologist Richard Orendain said over the weekend that water levels at dams may increase even if there's less or no rains on Monday as "the waters from the mountains will take some time to travel to the watershed." PAGASA said it expects at least two to three storms this month. "Egay" was not expected to make landfall, but it still brought monsoon rains to Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mimaropa and the provinces of Bataan, Pangasinan and Zambales on Monday.

Yellow warning

Yellow rainfall warning was raised over the metro on Monday with "Egay," according to PAGASA, "almost not moving" at 205 kilometers east of Cagayan.

Senior weather specialist Ghris Perez said Signal No. 1 remained over Batanes and the Babuyan Group of Islands.

He said the southwest monsoon or "habagat" will bring light to moderate and at times heavy rains over Luzon, including Metro Manila, as well as Western Visayas.

Monsoon rains are expected to continue over Metro Manila, the Ilocos Region, Cordillera, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Mindoro Provinces and Palawan, the weather bureau said.

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News TUESDAY July 2, 2019

The Manila Times www.manilatimes.net

Monsoon rains elevate Angat Dam level

BY DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ

ONSOON rains have increased the water level at Angat Dam, but not enough to meet the 180-meter level hoped by the state weather bureau.

Water level increased by 1/21 meters to 159.85 meters Monday due to rains brought by tropical typhoon "Egay." However, this is still below the critical level of 160 meters and still a stretch from the 210-meter normal operating level. "Napakababa pa rin po nito,

around 1.21 [meters]. Ang hi-ni-hit po natin ay around [a] 180-meter level. Currently, nasa-around 159.85 [meters] parin po tayo (This is still very low, around 1.21 meters. We are aiming for a 180-meter level. Currently, it is still at 159.85 meters)," Philip-pine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Chris Perez, said in a

Perez advised the public to t main conserving water as rainfall during the past few days were insufficient to significantly raise water levels at Angat.

Ang nangyari po kasi, 'yung mga ulan noong mga nagdaang mga araw, dahil dry ang area, ang nangyari napunyan nangyari napupunta muna sa mga kalupaan sa paligid nito, until the soil around the area becomes saturated. Pag naging saturated na 'yung kalupaan, 'pag umulan pa; saka pa lang po talagang mapupunta sa water reservoir (Since the area was dry, the rains in the past few days had the tendency to be absorbed by the surrounding land until the soil becomes satu

rated. Water would only fill up the reservoir once the land becomes saturated)," Perez explained. Meanwhile, Pagasa hydrologist Edgar de la Cruz said the water level at Angat might increase above the critical mark of 160 meters if sustained rains persist.

However, he said increase might slow down if a monsoon break occurs after the prevalence of the monsoon rain.

"Pero 'yun nga, 'pag nagkaroon na naman tayo ng lull ng mga afna mann taye ng uut ng mga at ter four or five days na ngakaroon tayo ng wala na namang pag-ulan, makkita natin, tunt-unti na namang mag-istabilize yan, hindir gagalaw (If we would have a lull after four or five days and there would be no rains, the water level might stabilize and maintain its

level)," de la Cruz said. National Water Resources Board Director Sevillo David Jr. said water allocations for Metro Manila would remain to 36 cubic meters

Water concessionaires have

scheduled rotating interruptions due to the decreased supply for Metro Manila.

David, however, said even if water level reaches above 160 meters, water allocations would not be adjusted, unless there was

steady increase.

"We expect that the increase must reach a comfortable level before we can gradually increase allocation to its normal level,"

he said. Perez_e ho ever, said it was p sible for a sustained increase in the water level of Angat further in July if southwest monsoon rains persist and if the expected two to three tropical cyclones would make landfall in the Northern

Luzon area. Meanwhile, typhoon Egay has weakened into a low pressure area (LPA) on Monday afternoon, but might still affect parts of Luzon on

Tuesday, Pagasa said.]
On its latest bulletin, the staterun weather bureau said the LPA might dissipate in the next 24 to 48 hours, but would still bring light to moderate and at times heavy rains over Batanes and the northern portions of Ilocos Norte, Apayao and Cagayan (including Babuyan Group of Islands) until early morning on Tuesday.

Pagasa last spotted the LPA at 190 kilometers East Northeast of Calayan, Cagayan at 4 p.m. on Monday.

It added that the southwest monsoon or habagat would continue to bring light to moderate with at times heavy mon-soon rains over Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) and Mimaropa (Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) until early morning on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Visavas and the rest of Luzon were likely to experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms, the weather bureau said.

Pagasa warned of possible flooding and landslides in the affected areas

venturing of the seaboards Northern Luzon and the western seaboards of Central and Southern Luzon due to moderate to rough seas that would

Yellow Warning was still up at 5 p.m. on Monday over Caloocan, Malabon, Marikina, Manila, Navo-tas, Quezon City and Valenzuela in Metro Manila; Bataan; Pampanga and Bulacan due to prevailing or expected heavy rainfall of 7.5 to 15

Pagasa warned of possible flood-ing in low-lying areas and near river channels. Classes were suspended in some areas in Luzon and Central Luzon on Monday due to the effect of heavy rains.

From 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mon-day, Pagasa recorded highest rain-fall in Subic, Zambales at 22 millimeters (mm); Clark, Pampanga at 20 mm; Tanay, Rizal at 17 mm; Iba, Zambales at 9 mm; Sangley Point, Cavite at 8 mm; Tanauan, Batangas at 5 mm; and Quezon City and Pasay City at 4 mm.







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Angat water level improves further

The southwest monsoon or "habagat" enhanced by tropical depression "Egay" brought significant improvement in the water level of Angat Dam yesterday.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration monitoring as of yesterday disclosed that the water level at Angat Dam has increased to 159.85 meters or 1.21 meters above the 158.64 meters last Sunday.

Since the Angat Dam reached its 160-meter critical level last June 22, the National Water Resources Board has implemented a lower water allocation for Metro Manila's domestic needs, which affected the availability of tap water in many areas in Metro Manila and parts of Cavite and Rizal.

"For now allocation is still maintained at 36 cms (cubic meter per second) considering the (water) level is still below the critical," NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said. "We have

to monitor if there is a steady increase in the elevation before we make any adjustments in the allocation," he added.

Angat Dam's water level started to gradually increase last Sunday, amid the enhancement of the habagat that brought varying rainfall intensities over a large portion of Luzon in the past few days.

Egay remained almost stationary over the Philippine Sea at noon yesterday. While it is still not expected to make landfall in any part of the country, its outer cloud band will bring stormy weather over the tip of Northern Luzon, PAGASA said.

Tropical cyclone warning Signal No. 1 has been raised over Batanes and Babuyan Group of Islands as Egay moves generally northwest. It was 195 kilometers east-northeast of Aparri, Cagayan or 205 kms east of Calayan, Cagayan around 10 a.m. yesterday. (Ellalyn V. Ruiz)







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Tubig sa Angat, nadadagdagan

Patuloy na umaangat ang tubig sa Angat Dam dahil sa pag-uulang dala ng habagat hanggang kahapon. Batay sa monitoring ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) kahapon, tumaas sa 159.85

metro ang tubig sa Angat Dam, o mas

mataas ng 1.21 metro sa 158.64 metrong naitala nitong Linggo. Simula nang bumaba sa 160-metrong critical level ang tubig sa Angat nitong Hunyo 22, binawasan na ng National Water Resources Board

(NWRB) ang supply sa Metro Manila, na nagbunsod sa arawang rotating water service interruptions sa maraming lugar sa Kamaynilaan, gayundin sa Cavite at

Rizal. "For now allocation is still maintained at 36 cms (cubic meter per

second) considering the (water) level is still below the critical," sabi kahapon ni NWRB Executive Director Sevillo

David Jr.

"We have to monitor if there is a steady increase in the elevation before we make any adjustments in the

allocation," dagdag niya.

Bago magtanghali kahapon, halos
hindi kumikilos ang bagyong 'Egay'
sa Philippine Sea, at hindi inaasahang
magla-landfall sa bansa, ayon sa
PAGASA.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz







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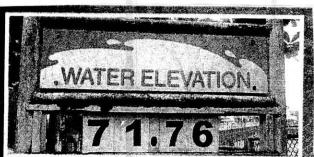






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TRIBAL SAIL. This photo, taken on June 27, shows a fisherman of the Dumagat tribe commuting on a boat at Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan. Angat Dam, supplies Metro Mantla and nearby provinces with water. Manila has been hit by its worst water shortage in years, leaving bucket-bearing families to wait for hours for a fill-up from tanker trucks and some hospitals to turn away less urgent cases. (inset) Afaway less urgent cases. (Inset) After continuous rains from tropical depression 'Egay,' La Mesa Dam has increased the water level to 71.76 water elevation. AFP with Manny Palmero













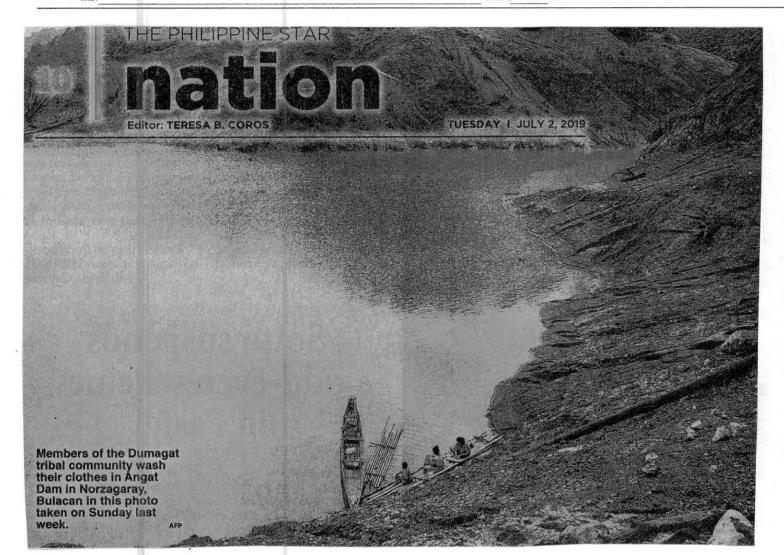


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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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EDITORIAL CARTO

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'IKA nga sa awit ng Apo Hiking Society, 'Pumapatak na naman ang ulan sa bubong ng bahay...' Tag-ulan na po at damang-dama na natin ang lamig ng panahon. Kasama na rito sa panahon ng ulan ay ang pagbaha at malalang trapik sa lansangan.

Subali't may kapalit na magandang balita sa pagsapit ng tag-ulan. Ayon sa Pagasa ay untiunting tumataas na ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat at La Mesa Dams dulot ng sunod-sunod na malakas na buhos ng ulan.

Noong Sabado, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay 157.96 meters. Noong Linggo ay umakyat sa 158.65 meters na ang lebel. Kahapon naman ay walang puknat ang buhos ng ulan. Dahil nga rito ay biglang nag-anunsiyo ang ibang mga mayor ng Metro Manila sa pagsuspinde ng klase.

Ayon din sa Pagasa, ang kasalukuyang bagyong 'Egay' ay magbapatuloy tumulong sa paghigop ng hanging habagat na siyang magbibigay ng patuloy na pag-ulan. Medyo perhuwisyo ito sa atin, subali't isipin na lang natin na matatapos na rin ang pahirap sa karamihan sa ating mga mamamayan na nawalan ng suplay ng tubig ng ilang buwan noong panahon ng tag-araw.

Hindi lamang sa ating mga konsyumer ng tubig ang magandang balitang ito. Mababawasan na rin ng sakit ng ulo ang Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewage System (MWSS), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Maynilad at ang nakatanggap ng pinakamalaking dagok sa problema ng kawalan ng suplay ng tubig nitong nakaraang apat na buwan, ang Manila Water.

Dagdag pa ng Pagasa na maaring bumalik ang normal ng estado ng lebel ng Angat sa buwan ng Septyembre pa. Nguni't nagsabi rin ang Pagasa na dalawa hanggang tatlong bagyo ang mararanasan ng ating bansa sa buwan ng Hulyo. Ang hindi lang natin alam kung ang mga bagyong ito ay dadaan sa lugar ng Metro Manila oga lalawigan ng Bulacan.

PAGPASOK NG TAG-ULAN, MAIIBSAN NA BA ANG WATER SHORTAGE?

Ang dasal na lang natin na sana hindi naman ganoon kalalakas o mapinsala ang lakas ng mga bagyong ito.

Ang ating Inang Kalikasan ay tumutulong na sa kakulangan ng suplay ng tubig, ano naman ang gagawin natin upang hindi na maulit ito? Ayon kay dating MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco na siyang chairman ngayon ng nasabing ahensiya sa isang pagdinig sa Kongreso, isinisisi niya ang problemang ito sa nakaraang administrasyon. Ipinaliwanag niya na alam na ng administrasyon ni dating Pangulong Noynoy

Aquino ang nagbabadyang krisis sa suplay ng tubig sa Luzon subali't wala raw silang ginawa.

May mga nakakasang plano na sa pagpapagawa ng karagdagang mga dam upang makaipon ng tubig sa lumalaking populasyon sa Mega Manila. Ayon kay Velasco, binalewala ang isang water supply masterplan na isinagawa noong 2012. Ayon daw sa nasabing pag-aaral noong 2011, magkakaroon daw ng kakulangan ng suplay ng tubig pagsapit ng 2016 at lalala pa pagdating ng 2021.

Kaya naman may mga proyekto ang

kasalukuyang liderato ng MWSS na ipatupad ang nasabing 2012 water supply master plan. Magdadagdag na sila ng mga dam. Isa na rito ay ang Kaliwa Dam. Subali't tila may malaki rin na isyu rito dahil may mga katutubo sa nasabing lugar na mawawalan ng tirahan. Dagdag pa rito ay ang posibleng paglubog ng isang national park sa lalawigan ng Quezon at Rizal. Pati ang mga lokal na pamahalaan ay tutol sa nasabing proyekto. Mukhang wala pang linaw ang solusyon sa krisis sa tubig sa mga susunod na taon.



TUWANG-TUWA ang mga batang ito na naliligo sa ulan sa isang kalye sa Mandaluyong City.

Kuha ni **RUDY ESPERAS**



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Calida seeks dismissal of kalikasan petition on WPS

By EDU PUNAY

Solicitor General Jose Calida has asked the Supreme Court (SC) to dismiss the petition of fishermen seeking to compel the government to protect disputed shoals in the West Philippine Sea where Chinese fishermen have reportedly been harvesting marine resources.

Calida argued that the petition filed by a group of fishermen from Palawan and Zambales last April for the issuance of a writ of kalikasan and writ of continuing mandamus ordering the government to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the environment in Panatag Shoal, Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban Reef should be junked for lack of merit.

In a 30-page verified return of writ obtained by **The STAR**, Calida told the SC that there is no need to compel the government as sought in the petition because it has been performing its duties to protect the environment in the West Philippine Sea.

Calida explained that the respondents – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police (PNP), and Department of Justice – have "complied with environmental laws and regulations."

He informed the Court of actions taken by the agencies for this purpose, including the implementation of the West Philippine Sea Marine Protected Areas Network Strategic Action Plan and Coastal Assessment for Rehabilitation Enhancement that included scientific expeditions in the WPS in 2017.

The programs resulted in the proposal by DENR last year for declaration of Pagasa Island and Eastern Kalayaan as protected areas. Calida said another marine scientific research was conducted last April and May.

The solicitor general further revealed that the agencies have also moved to pursue legal actions against China for the destruction of the marine environment in the WPS.

"Different government agencies, together with the DENR, requested Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr. of the National Security Council who is also the chairperson of the National Task Force on West Philippine Sea, to organize a legal team that would explore and study all possible legal actions against the Republic of China for its destruction of the marine environment and indiscriminate extraction of resources in the West Philippine Sea," he bared.

Calida said the DA, on the other hand, made several apprehensions of foreign fishing vessels in the West Philippine Sea and conducted continuing seaborne operations at Panatag Shoal and the Kalayaan Group of Islands through its Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources along with the Philip-pine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard and the PNP's Maritime Group. He said the Philippine Navy has been providing "logistics for the Unified Command to reinforce actions of the relevant commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines which perform their respective mandates in the West Philippine Sea.

Calida said the Philippine Coast Guard, for its part, has been "conducting seaborne and airborne patrolling missions in the West Philippine Sea" and "also constructing lighthouses and aids of navigation in the different islets in the Kalayaan Island Group."

The solicitor general also

argued that the incidents cited by petitioners were already raised by the government in its case against China before the Permanent Court of Arbitration that ruled in favor of the Philippines in 2016.

"The filing of the case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration was the consolidated action of the Philippine government, made possible through the actual on ground efforts of the public respondents, particularly, by the Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and Philippine Navy, among others," he recalled.

among others," he recalled.

While the government is doing its mandate in the WPS, Calida argued that such duty "transcends mere enforcement of environmental laws" and involves matters that are beyond the power of the judiciary.

The petition seeks more than its supposition that public respondents should be directed to enforce environmental laws. The actions required are diplomatic and, therefore, political in nature... In reality, the actions demanded by the petitioners are complex, highly sensitive and political in nature, which, we respectfully submit, are not within the province of the judiciary, unless the public respondents have acted with grave abuse of discretion," read the comment.

"Given the country's national interest, national policies and evolving strategic landscape, a more deliberate and coherent approach in addressing the West Philippine Sea issue is being pursued for the purpose of orchestrating the national effort and achieving unified action in the West Philippine Sea," it pointed out.

Apart from these substantive arguments, Calida also cited technical grounds in seeking dismissal of the petition.



Malaya Business Insight

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Oral arguments held today on 'kalikasan' petition

BY ASHZEL HACHERO

THE Supreme Court is set to hold oral arguments today on petition filed by fisherfolk from Palawan and Zambales seeking to compel government to protect and save the environment in the West Philippine Sea from foreign poachers, mostly Chinese, and from construction and reclamation activities in the area.

The petition for the issuance of a writ of kalikasan filed by a group led by Monico Abogado and assisted by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines was originally scheduled to be heard last June 25 but the court en banc decided to move the oral argument today to give the petitioners and respondents time to prepare.

The court on May 3 ordered the government to answer the petition.

A writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy that provides for the protection of one's right to "a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature" as provided for in Section 16, Article II of the Constitution.

The petitioners said there is a need for the High Court to act on violations of Philippine environmental laws in Philippine waters and in the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

They said foreign poachers have been harvesting vulnerable, threatened, and endangered marine life such as corals, giant clams, and turtles through the use of cyanide and dynamite, and other illegal methods.

They said this is based on evidence submitted by government before the Netherlands-based Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2013 challenging China's massive claims in the South China Sea, part of which is the West Philippine Sea.

Also based on the evidence, foreign construction and land reclamation entities have caused massive environmental damage in Philippine waters and its EEZ, they said.

The petitioners said the extent of the environmental damage at the Panatag and Ayungin Shoals and Panganiban Reef -- the main focus of their

Petition -- is documented in reports of government agencies including the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

They said the respondents have "refused or failed to take the necessary legal actions" as mandated by Philippine laws such as Republic Act 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code to "stop, prevent and prosecute the perpetrators of these illegal acts."

The respondents are Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, Navy chief Vice Adm. Robert Empedrad, Coast Guard Commandant Elson Hermogino, PNP chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde, PNP-Maritime Group Director Rodelio Jocson, and Eduardo Gongona, director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.



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BusinessWorld





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CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: BAGUIO CITY

New Baguio mayor vows environmental protection as one of priorities as city gov't appeals to residents to manage waste following Irisan dumpsite closure

THE LOCAL government of Baguio issued an appeal to households and businesses "to find ways to manage their biodegradable wastes" following the cease and desist order (CDO) against the operation of the city's Irisan open dumpsite. "We are requesting our residents to find ways to manage their biodegradable wastes by way of composting if there is space, if none we have to collect. We are asking the cooperation of our citizenry most specially our businessmen in the market to help reduce or manage their bio wastes." Eugene Buyucan, head of the General Services Office (CSO), is quoted in a post on the city government's official Facebook page. "We are hoping that the closure will be lifted as soon as possible so that we will be back to normal collection," he added. The 5.2-hectare dumpsite, which was already ordered closed by the National Solid Waste Management Commission in 2012, was issued a CDO following a visit to the site last week by Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Mr. Antiporda said the order will be in effect pending the local government's explanation of non-compliance to the closure order and the submission of a Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan as required under Republic Act No. 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. Meanwhile, newly-elected Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong, in his speech during his oath-taking ceremony Sunday, listed "Revitalizing the environment" as the number two priority of his three-year administration. Among Mr. Magalong's marching orders were: "For CEPMO (City Environment and Parks Management Office) and GSO, in coordination with DENR, to immediately undertake inspection of establishments and other structures to ensure compliance with environmental laws and ordinances. Violators will be dealt with accordingly." The new mayor, a retired police general, called on all sectors to help achieve a "better Baguio." He said, "Together, we can and we will efficiently and effectively govern Baguio with a breath of fresh air."



BENJIE MAGALONG FB PAGE

LAST JUNE 13, then Mayor-elect Benjamin S. Magalong led the inspection of the Irisan dumpsite and Environmental Recycling Systems machines for a preliminary evaluation and assessment, which will be used for waste management measures that will be proposed under his term.



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ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA: ZAMBOANGA CITY

Zamboanga City to convert dumpsite to eco-park, solar energy farm

THE ZAMBOANGA City government is planning to convert the 4.6 hectare former Lumbangan dumpsite into an ecological park with waste recycling facilities and a solar energy farm. In a statement released last week, Gerry R. Pollisco of the Office of City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR) said

post closure activities being undertaken by the City Engineer's Office at the dumpsite, which ceased operation in 2015 with the opening of the Pasobolong sanitary landfill, is now almost 90% complete. Mr. Pollisco explained that the waste recycling facilities at the planned eco-park will help prolong the lifespan of the sanitary landfill. The park is also being considered for use as an input source for waste-to-energy facilities that will be open to private investors. Based on OCENR's waste characterization survey, plastics compose 39% of the total waste disposed at the sanitary landfill while 61% is biodegradable waste.



ZAMBOANGA CITY GOVT FB PAGE

BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: TONE DAÑAS





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Baguio quandary over garbage

By Aldwin Quitasol

BAGUIO CITY — Residents of this highly-urbanized city are advised to temporarily dispose of their biodegradable trashes in the household level while the local government is yet to find permanent solution following the closure of an open dumpsite.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong, at the same time, clarified that the city government has not re-opened the dumpsite in Barangay Irisan which was closed down a week ago for rehabilitation.

The dumpsite was actually ordered closed in 2012 but was used to receive Baguio City's biodegradable garbage in the absence of proper disposal area.

Magalong said he is giving the City General Services Office 12 months to do something on the rehabilitation of the Environmental Recycling System (ERS) facility at the dumpsite.

The city's ERS machines, designed to transform biodegradable wastes into fertilizer, are currently not working and need rehabilitation.

Meantime, the newly-installed mayor appealed to Baguio residents to temporarily dispose their biodegradable refuse

in their household level.

Magalong added that they will look for a location to properly dispose of biodegradable wastes coming from the Baguio City Public Market.

For his part, City General Service Office head Eugene Buyuccan said they are still awaiting orders from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the Irisan dumpsite.

While the site is closed, Buyuccan said they will contain the biodegradable waste on a certain location on a temporary basis.

Buyuccan called on Baguio City residents to cooperate with the local government to ensure the proper disposal of biodegradable wastes.

The 6th Division of the Court of Appeals issued a Writ of Kalikasan and Writ of Continuing Mandamus on 1 August 2012 against the Baguio City government to cease and desist from using the 5.2 hectare in Barangay Irisan as open dumpsite.

In 2011, neighboring municipal government of Tuba, Benguet sued Baguio City after one of the retaining walls of the dumpsite collapsed resulting in a trash-slide that claimed the lives of six persons.



Closed down Even biodegradable wastes are now banned at the open dumpsite in Barangay Irisan.

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DENR bares plan to rehab Baguio river

Fecal coliform level worse than Manila Bay

By CORY MARTINEZ

THE Balili River in Baguio City is the

Baguio City is the next water body to be rehabilitated as its coliform level is worse than that of the Manila Bay.

Benny Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said plans to rehabilitate the river is a result of their recent inspection on the recent inspection on the waste management of the country's nation summer capital. Antiporda bared they

Antiporda bared they inspected the city's 33-year-old Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) and found out that the Balili River, to which the treated waters of the STP drains has somethed. drains, has severely de-teriorated.

The inspection, Anti-porda explained, is part of the impending reha-bilitation of the city. Data from the

Data from the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau in the Cordillera Administhe Cordillera Administrative Region (EMB-CAR) showed the river's fecal coliform level was at 1.6 trillion most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml).

"This is far worse than Manila Bay which holds a record of 35 million mpn/100ml," Antiporda said.

da said.

As per DENR Administrative Order 2016-08, the acceptable fecal coliform level for Class A coliform level for Class A coliform level for Class A rivers, such as the Balili River, is only 4 mpn/ 100ml.

Meanwhile, DENR-- thro DENR-- through the EMB-CAR-- is constantly



monitoring the renova-tions at the STP to make sure it would continue to

meet its demands.
The STP, which started operating in 1986 is designed to treat 8,500 designed to treat 8,500 cubic meters (cu.m) per day. At present, the facility treats 6,500 cbm/day and peaks up to 12,000 cu.m/day during the

cu.m/day during the rainy season.

In October 2018, the DENR approved a compliance action plan (CAP) for the STP pursuant to DAO 2016-08. The CAP was revised and approved last April, with validity until December 2022.

Earlier, the DENR or-dered the temporary clo-sure of Irisan dumpsite after finding out during a surprise inspection a surprise inspection made by Antiporda's team that it was operating as an open dumpsite, which is strictly prohibited under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

of 2000.

Antiporda and other
DENR officials also went
around Camp 7 to check
on a number of pig pens
and discovered that animal wastes were being
discharged directly into waterways.

Incoming Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, who was also present during the inspection, assured Antiporda's group that immediate measures will be implemented, such as

implemented, such as building a common facility for hog raisers in a more suitable place, probably in the nearby municipality of Tuba.

Antiporda said the DENR will make sure that the three-meter easement along waterways will be strictly enforced once the much anticipated rehabilitation of Baguio City has started.

ed. "This would be a necessary deterrent to possible dumping of household waste along rivers that add up to their contamination," Antiporda stressed

stressed.
For his part, DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph C. Pablo sought the cooperation of the residents in the restoration of Balili River.
Pablo cited as example the Lamut River in Ifugao province which

Ifugao province, which won the first prize and named cleanest river in the country during the recently concluded R.I.V.E.Rs for Life Award organized by the DENR. R.I.V.E.Rs stands for Recognizing Individuals/ Institutions towards Vi-brant and Enhanced Riv-



epartment of Environment and Natural Resources RATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Coliform level worse than in Manila Bay Balili River clean-up is next - DENR

By Cory Martinez

THE Balili River in Baguio City is the next water body to be rehabilitated as its coliform level is even worse than that of Manila Bay.

Benny Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and partment of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said the plan to rehabilitate the river is a result of their recent inspection on the waste management of the country's summer capital.

Antiporda said they inspected the city's 33year-old Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) and found out that the Balili River, to which the treated waters of the STP drains, has severely dete-

The inspection was

part of the impending re-habilitation of the city. Data from the DENR's Environmental Manage-ment Bureau in the Cor-

dillera Administrative Region (EMB-CAR) showed that the river's fecal coliform level was at 1.6 trillion most proba-ble number per 100 milli-liters (mpn/100ml). "This is far worse than

Manila Bay which holds a record of 35 million mpn/100ml," Antiporda said.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources TRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE













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'KANTALIKASAN' songs inspire public to care for environment

A MUSIC album featuring nature aimed at inspiring and promoting environmental awareness and change

and promoting environmental awareness and change capped the month-long celebration of the Philippine Environment Month last June.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), launched the KANTALIKASAN which features the winning entries in the KANTALIKASAN Environmental Song Writing Competition organized by the EMB-Central Office last year.

Aside from the launching of the album, this year's celebration dubbed "Beat Air Pollution," also paid tribute to the so-called "Battle for Manila Bay," an ongoing effort to restore the heavily polluted water

ongoing effort to restore the heavily polluted water body to its former glory.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu expressed optimism that the music album would serve its purpose of encouraging more people to care for the environment even as he congratulated the producers, composers and others who have taken part in the undertaking

ronment even as he congratulated the producers, composers and others who have taken part in the undertaking.

"We are optimistic that through this medium, we can deliver the message across that all Filipinos should be empowered to take care of our environment and natural resources," Cimatu said.

He also urged everyone to "not just listen to the songs, but also share and apply the message behind each song—that we only have one life to live, one planet to love, and many chances to make a difference for our environment and natural resources."

Interpreted by the DENR's KANTALIKASAN Environmental Singing Ambassadors, all songs are original compositions focusing on environmental protection, conservation and preservation. The songs are in various genres, such as pop, ballad and classical.

On the other hand, EMB-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan said the EMB's Environmental Education and Information Division produced the album featuring environmental songs "Kalikasan at Pagibig" composed by KANTALIKASAN champion Oliver Narag; "Kayamanan" by Bejay Fabia; "Para sa mga Musmos pang Darating" by Rochelle Anne Rodriguez; and "Liliwanag Din ang Ating Mundo" by Arnold Ramos.

Other songs in the album are "Kalikasan ay Kayamanan," "Kalikasan," "Himig ng Inang Kalikasan," "Katapusan," "Kalikasan ay Kalakasan," and "Tayo nang Gumising."

The album is featured in streaming sites Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, Deezer and YouTube.

Cory Martinez





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Single-use plastic banned in BARMM government t offices

COTABATO CITY—The chief minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has ordered a ban on single-use plastic in all government offices in the region.

Chief Minister Murad Ebrahim directed the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy to impose the ban on plastic bags, straws, cups, plates, utensils and polystyrene (such as Styrofoam) containers and similar items.

"Caterers are also advised to place food in containers either made of paper, plant-based wrappers or reusable plastic containers," Ebrahim said.

— Inquirer



Daily Tribune



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Always, they come back Despite the massive cleanup drive of the government on Manila's waterways, tons of trash still emerge after a heavy downpour as debris are carried by strong waves.









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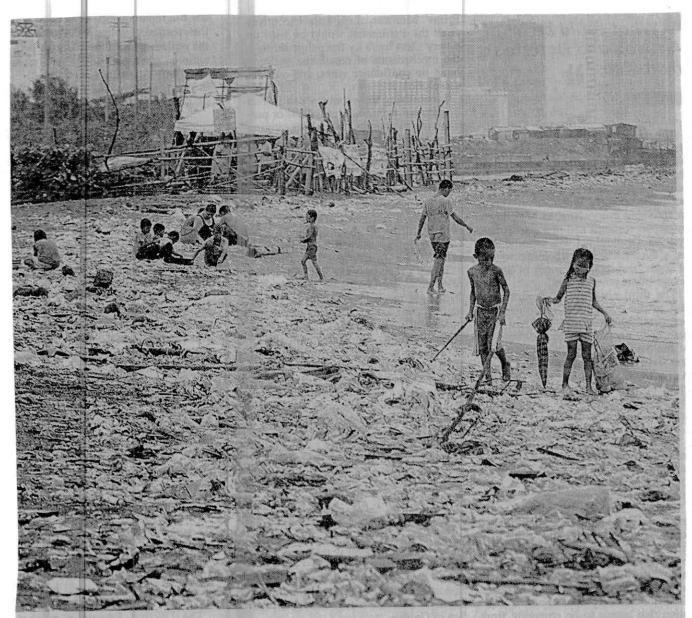
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GARBAGE GALORE. Children, off school after some cities in the metropolis declared Monday the suspension of classes due to expected heavy rains from tropical depression 'Egay', play among debris and trash washed ashore in Manila's Tondo shoreline. **Norman Cruz**









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RESIDENTS collect recyclable materials from garbage washed ashore due to inclement weather caused by tropical depression 'Egay' at Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila. (Jansen Romero)















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HINAHAKOT ng mga tauhan ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang mga basurang napadpad sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Blvd., Manila dahil sa malakas na ulan na dala ng bagyong Egay sa Metro Manila. Kuha ni NORMAN ARAGA







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PH-Canada 'cordial ties' back after return of trash

AFTER the tons of garbage, which were illegally dumped in the Philippines in 2013, was shipped back to Canada over the weekend, Malacañang said it expects ties between the two countries to turn from being "trashy" to "cordial."

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo made this remark following reports that the ship containing 69 containers of garbage had finally reached a port in Vancouver on Saturday (June 29).

"Siguro cordial na ulit (Perhaps, it's cordial again)," Panelo said when asked about ties between the two countries after the arrival of the ship in Canadian shores.

"Di na basura ang relasyon (The rela-

tionship is no longer garbage)," he added.
Panelo said that with the trash row resolved, the Department of Foreign Affairs () could now send back their ambassador and consuls to the North American country.







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Relasyong PH-Canada na basura

INAASAHANG ma-nunumbalik na ang maayos na relasyon ng

Pilipinas sa Canada matapos maisauli ang kanilang
tone-toneladang basurang itinapon sa bansa.
Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na posibleng
maging 'cordial' ulit
ang pakikisama ng Pilipinas sa Canada matapos magkalamat dahil
sa ilang taong pagiging sa ilang taong pagiging bingi ng Canada sa isyu ng kanilang itinambak na basura sa bansa. "Siguro cordial na

ulit, 'di na basura ang relasyon' ani Panelo.

Batay sa impormasyong nakarating sa Palasyo, dumating na sa Vancouver, Canada noong Sabado ang 69 containers na naglalaman ng basurang itinapon sa Pilipinas.

Sinabi ni Panelo na ngayong naibalik na ang kanilang basura, maaari na ring pabalikin ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) sa

Canada ang mga pinau-wing ambassador at consul.

consul.

Matatandaang kasabay ng banta noon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na gigiyerahin ang Canada kapag nagmatigas na kunin ang kanilang mga basura ay pinauwi ng DFA ang ambassador at consuls na itinalaga sa nabangit na bansa para ipakitang seryoso ang gobyerno sa isyu ng kanilang basura.









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FROM THE STANDS

DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS

Gingoog under a new regime



On the plus side for international relations (and a stellar example of the other end of the spectrum and how the president has fought for our country), the trash that the Canadians dumped on our shores has – at last – returned to Canada. This has been something that the president has been hounding Canada about repeatedly giving them strict deadlines to remove their garbage or face the consequences. In fact, it's a stark contrast to how he has been reacting to the incident with China and it shows. I believe it's this version of the president that Filipinos hoped would emerge during the boat sinking accident. Unfortunately that was not the case.

And as for Canada, relations between the Philippines and Canada are "cordial" once again now that the latter has kept its promise and reclaimed the garbage once left on our shores. Not only is this good news in the sense that we no longer have to deal with someone else's trash (we have enough to deal with as it is), but it serves as a good statement to other countries that would look to the Philippines as a dumping ground. The message is clear – don't dump your waste here.

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When enough is enough

The

shipment

becomes

the most

expensive

Records.

and worthy

Mr. Duterte's action has spurred other countries like Malaysia and Indonesia to also reject future exports of garbage from Canada and other more developed countries.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) described the event as a homecoming unlike any other.

It was for the 69 containers of garbage shipped back by the Philippines to Canada. It took an almost month-long journey to the British Columbia where the trash will meet its fate, on a scorching incinerator machine in which it should have been fed more than six years ago.

The cost of the garbage disposal should have been no more than Can\$335,000. But the Canadian government had spent Can\$1.14 million to reclaim the trash which had threatened its relations with the Philippines.

What a waste of money, really. The shipment

becomes the most expensive garbage ever, and worthy of ink in the Guinness Book of World Records.

President Rodrigo Duterte had even threatened to go to war against Canada had it refused the Philippines' demand that it took its garbage back.

Several sectors laughed at the warning, or the threat. But Mr. Duterte had effectively sent his message and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau knew that it was a clear statement of exasperation on the Canadian non-action, and that he needed to do something about it.

The trash was back at the Tsawwassen terminal on B.C.'s West Coast Saturday morning.

The Anna Maersk ferried the containers of Canadian garbage and e-waste and docked just after 7 a.m. before they were unloaded to be moved to an incineration facility in Burnaby.

A man on the street interviewed by CBC supported the Philippine stand to send the garbage back to its country of origin, saying "It's our responsibility. If this is where it came from, this is where it

should return.'

Mr. Duterte's action has spurred other countries like Malaysia and Indonesia to also reject future exports of garbage from Canada and other more developed countries which look towards the smaller countries in Asia as recipients of their refuse.

They could not take more, they say, as they follow the Philippine example in standing up even against the more powerful countries like Canada.

The Philippines, from now on, will also be hard on plastics coming into the country even if these are for recycling - a cover many unscrupulous traders use to import/export garbage, including dangerous hospital wastes into third world nations like the Philippines.

Canada, however, has learned it lesson well and garbage ever;

it will stick.

It will take two to three days before the garbage is of ink in the fully burned at the Burnaby facility. The Canadians do Guinness not view the even with pride. It is one of the shameful Book of World acts committed by one of them

The now defunct Canadian export company Chronic Inc. sent the shipment to the Philippines for recycling in 2013.

But it became a diplomatic issue as the plastics had been

contaminated with ordinary garbage.

The CBC report admitted to this. Even Canadian authorities will no longer open the containers for fear of contamination and the garbage will go straight into the Burnaby plant.

The event is a big score for Mr. Duterte. And Mr. Trudeau is equally admirable for saving the Philippine-Canada friendship. He did not allow it to be marred with garbage.

It is also a warning to the other countries looking at the smaller nations as their dumpsites.

In the recent Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Thailand, the ASEAN countries also adopted the Philippine stand against garbage coming into the region from the other countries.

Enough is enough, the ASEAN leaders collectively

The world should listen. Because the worth of an Asian (or ASEAN) word has the same weight as that of the people from the other regions.











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REGIONS

Pulag zoning to curb farm expansion

KABAYAN, BENGUET—The Ibaloy and Kalanguya communities want to take part in talks on forming management zones, which will prevent vegetable gardens from intruding further into the 11,560-hectare Mt. Pulag National Park. Settlements and farms have taken over 25 percent of the park, and these have expanded into commercial enterprises because of "tamed law enforcement." —STORY BY KARLSTON LAPNITEN

By Karlston Lapniten

@karlstonlapnitenINQ

KABAYAN, BENGUET—Ibaloy and Kalanguya communities here want to take part in talks on forming management zones at the Mt. Pulag National Park that will prevent vegetable gardens from intruding further into one of the country's most biologically diverse regions.

MT. PULAG ZONING SOUGHT TO

ONE OF COUNTRY'S BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE REGIONS THREATENED

CURB FARM, SETTLEMENT

EXPANSION

Each management zone will define the metes and bounds of mountain settlements and vegetable gardens, to set them apart from the dwarf bamboo grasslands and pristine mossy forests, which are home to rare species such as the greater dwarf cloud rat (Carpomys melanurus).

Mt. Pulag, Luzon's highest peak, had been inhabited before a presidential proclamation established the 11,560-hectare national park, comprised of Mt. Pulag, Mt. Tabayoc and Mt. Panotoan. It straddles Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias towns in Benguet; Tinoc town in Ifugao; and Kayapa town in Nueva Vizcaya.

A census detailing how many people live within the park has not been made public but inhabitants have been barred from pursuing traditional activities such as hunting and gardening inside the protected area since the proclamation's issuance in 1987.

Best strategy

Tension has also grown among the park's managers, environment officials and residents, who resent seeking the agency's permission every time they improve their homes, build classrooms or undertake livelihood programs, said incoming Mayor Faustino Aquisan.



HIGHLAND FARM Agriculture is the main industry at the village of Bashoy, located some 15 kilometers from the summit of Mt. Pulag, in Kabayan, Benguet. – KARLSTON LAPNITEN





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Setting up zones remains the best strategy to preserve the environment with the help of Pulag's indigenous residents, although "any plan not involving the community will be met by resistance," he said.

"[But] while Mt. Pulag is our home, we also recognize its importance as a watershed and national park," said Aquisan, who served as mayor from 2007 to 2016.

"Conflicts arose because the Ibaloys and Kalanguyas were never consulted on the establishment of a park in their an-

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cestral lands," he said.

Eight of Kabayan's 13 villages make up 80 percent of the park. To the Ibaloy, Mt. Pulag is a sacred ground where the souls of the dead reunite with their ancestors and Kabunian, their divine creator.

Like many Benguet towns, some Pulag inhabitants have developed vegetable gardens to profit from a huge market demand for cabbages, carrots, beans, cauliflower and lettuce.

In 1992, the Department of Agrarian Reform granted eight certificates of land ownership award (Cloa) to Pulag dwellers farming 2,000 ha of land.

But the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nullified the Cloa in 1998 after farmers asked for irrigation projects inside the protected area.

Tamed law enforcement

Settlements and farms have taken over 25 percent of the park, which have expanded into commercial enterprises, some encroaching further up the mossy forests 2,500 meters above sea level, because of "tamed law enforcement," according to the 2010 book "Biodiversity and natural resources management in the Mt. Pulag National Park."

The book says the expanding farms are the "single most destructive activity that threatens all biodiversity and natural resources" of the park.

The book's findings were confirmed by the DENR in 2015 when it completed the delineation of the park.

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Four management zones were

first proposed in a Mt. Pulag National Park general management plan in 2000 to preserve the forest, under a joint project called the "National Integrated Protected Areas Program" of the government and the European Union.

The plan was rejected and Pulag residents have since fortified their stake over inhabited lands by paying tax declarations or by getting recognition that their properties are ancestral lands under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997.

Indiscriminate approval

Overlapping ancestral domain and the indiscriminate approval of tax declaration certifications made it difficult at the start to put up a management zone for the inhabited portions of the park, said Ralph Pablo, DENR director in Cordillera.

Arguing they have prior rights as indigenous dwellers, the farmers have converted vast forest areas into vegetable farms in Bokod and Buguias, said Emerita Alba, Pulag's protected area superintendent.

She said forest denudation worsened when the government built roads into the park, allowing farmers to use heavy equipment such as excavators and bulldozers to develop more gardens.

In 2014, forest rangers found 10 ha of forest had been cleared and more than 200 pine and oak trees had been destroyed in Bokod.

In 2016, then Kabayan Mayor Gideon Todiano said the management of the park should be delegated to the Ibaloy given the DENR's failure to protect the forest. INQ

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER





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Farmers ui

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte – Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico L. Petilla is encouraging farmers to plant bamboos to augment their farm incomes. Petilla said that his province is aspiring to export bamboo as there are thousands of hectares available for bamboo planting. Petilla said that more or less 7,000 hectares along the Binahaan River which supplies the potable water for this city, are suitable for bamboo planting and another thousands of hectares more in other areas of the province that can be planted to bamboos. Petilla pointed out the economic benefits and he is encouraging farmers in the province to plant bamboos to help increase their income saying there is now a huge demand of bamboos in the world market. Petilla said that aside from economic benefits bamboos are good in erosion prevention along rivers and deterrent to landslides especially in hilly or mountainous areas. (Restituto A.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
TRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Interagency task force to inspect \$100,000/a night Palawan resort

By Ma. Stella F. Arnaldo

@akosistellaBM

Special to the BusinessMirror

N interagency task force with representatives from the Departments of Tourism (DOT), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will be inspecting Banwa Private Island in Roxas, Palawan, tagged as the "most expensive resort in the world."

DOT Assistant Secretary for Tourism Regulation Coordination and Resource Generation (TRCRG) Ma. Rica C. Bueno said in a text message to the BUSINESSMIRROR, "[Banwa] is still fixing their documentary requirements."

The three agencies form the core task force that had recommended the closure of Boracay Island, another popular beach destination in the Philippines, for six months in 2018 from April 26. The inspection team for Banwa will come from the three agencies' regional offices, said Bueno.

DOT Regional Director for Mimaropa (Southwestern Tagalog region) Daniel B. Intong, whose office covers the Palawan province, also explained: "Banwa submitted documents for accreditation a month or so ago, but our office requested them to request for star rating so that it gets a premium accreditation." The star-rating system is aligned with global hotel rating standards ranking tourism establishments from one to five stars.

After their global multimedia publicity splash announcing their opening and tagging it the most expensive resort in the world, Banwa abruptly stopped accepting bookings after it was discovered they had yet to secure accreditation from the DOT. (See, "No DOT accreditation for costliest resort," in the BusynessMirror, May 21, 2019.)

SEE "PALAWAN RESORT," A2

In an e-mail to this paper, Banwa General Manager Rochelle Kilgariff said the resort's owners are "committed to complying with all government requirements, applicable laws, rules and regulations," adding that they have been able to secure "the relevant permits from the local government and an ECC [environmental clearance certificate] from the DENR."

The owner, Ecoresort Development Corp. (ERDC)—not the Aguos Foundation Inc., as an Aguos official earlier claimed—filed its application for accreditation with the DOT in February 2019, according to Kilgariff, and is readying for the task force inspection next week.

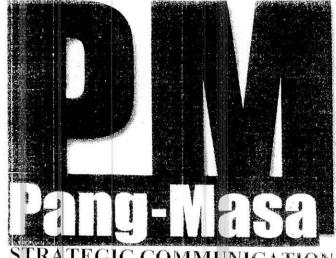
She stressed, "pending the actual issuance of the DOT accreditation, ERDC has not commenced actual operations and accepted any bookings from paying guests." Industry sources, claimed, however, there have been a number of guests that had already stayed at the island resort, said to cost \$100,000 (P5.2 million) a night, for a minimum of three nights or \$300,000 (P15.6 million). The amount covers the nightly accommodations in villas, food and other amenities for 48 persons.

After its worldwide publicity promotion in a number of international publications, would-be guests were encouraged to call the resort's private concierge and sales staff listed on its web site. The site now has notification saying, "Banwa Private Island will become wholly available for charter upon finalization of pending regulatory documentation, which is expected imminently."

The Duterte administration, through the interagency task force, has tightened its regulations on the opening of hotels and resort establishments, after indiscriminate building on Boracay Island was partially blamed as the cause of overtourism on the island, leading to environmental pollution. The task force has been monitoring other island destinations in the country for possible pollution and easement issues, as well as accreditation problems. Among these are Panglao Island in Bohol, Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte, El Nido and Coron in Palawan.

DOT sources said Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat was incensed that the resort had opened sans accreditation, quickly instructing the agency's TRCRG department to make sure Banwa's papers were in order.

The DILG has also investigated why the local government of Roxas, Palawan, allowed Banwa to be issued a business permit to operate without the DOT accreditation. (See, "Most expensive resort in the world' under DILG probe, faces closure," in the Business Mirror, May 24, 2019.)



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Nakamamatay ang air pollution

Ang Pilipinas ay ikatlo sa mga bansa sa Asia na marami ang namamatay dahil sa air pollution. Nangunguna ang China at ikalawa ang Mongolia. Tinatayang 120,000 Pilipino ang namamatay bawat taon dahil sa mga sakit na nakukuha sa hangin na may lason. Karaniwang pinagmumulan ng hangin na may lason ang ibinubugang usok ng mga sasakyan partikular na ang mga dyipni na karaniwang yumayaot sa mga kalsada. Walumpong porsiyento na pinanggagalingan ng air pollution ay mula sa mga sasakyan. Pinakamalala ang air pollution sa Metro Manila.

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang maruming hangin ay nagdudulot ng noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Kabilang sa mga sakit na idinudulot ng air pollution ay ang allergies, acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases. Ayon pa sa DOH, nakaamba ang panganib sa mga pasahero at pedes-



trians dahil sila ang nakalantad sa maruming hangin. Araw-araw, nalalanghap ng mga pasahero at pedestrians ang maruming hangin na dulot ng mga sasakyan. Bukod sa usok ng mga sasakyan, nalalanghap din ang mga usok ng sinunog na basura, goma, at harmful wastes na lubhang delikado sa kalusugan.

Ayon sa data na nilabas ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau ang air pollutant concentrations sa Metro Manila ay umabot na sa 130 micrograms per normal cubic meter (NCM). Ang maximum safe level ng air pollutant concentration ay 90 micrograms per NCM. Ngayong 2019, tiyak na mas mataas na ang level ng air pollutant concentrations.

Sabi ng isang health official, hindi nabibigyang pansin ng gobyerno ang isyu ukol sa air pollution. Lulubog-lilitaw daw ang isyu sa air pollution at hindi ito binibigyang halaga. Dapat daw unahin ang problema na nakasalalalay ang buhay ng mamamayan.

Ang DENR ang dapat kumilos para masawata ang mga nagpaparumi sa hangin sa Metro Manila. Kung nakaya ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na linisin ang Boracay at Manila Bay, makakaya rin ang air pollution sa Metro Manila. Magkaroon ng puspusang paghuli sa smoke belchers partikular na ang mga lumang sasakyan. Lagyan ng pangil ang Clean Air Act. Huwag nang hintayin na marami ang mamatay dahil sa pagkalason sa hangin.









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How will climate change impact on fresh water security?

THE GUARDIAN

Fresh water is crucial to human society - not just for drinking, but also for farming, washing and many other activities. It is expected to become increasingly scarce in the future, and this is partly due to climate

Understanding the problem of fresh water scarcity begins by considering the distribution of water on the planet. Approximately 98% of our water is salty and only 2% is fresh. Of that 2%, almost 70% is snow and ice, 30% is groundwater, less than 0.5% is surface water (lakes, rivers, etc) and less than 0.05% is in the atmosphere. Climate change has several effects on these proportions on a global scale. The main one is that warming causes polar ice to melt into the sea, which turns fresh water into sea water, although this

has little direct effect on water supply.

Another effect of warming is to increase the amount of water that the atmosphere can hold, which in turn can lead to more and heavier rainfall when the air cools. Although more rainfall can add to fresh water resources, heavier rainfall leads to more rapid movement of water from the atmosphere back to the oceans, reducing our ability to store and use it. Warmer air also means that snowfall is replaced by rainfall and evaporation rates tend to increase. Yet another impact of higher temperatures is the melting of inland glaciers. This will increase water supply to rivers and lakes in the short to medium term,

but this will cease once these glaciers have melted. In the sub-tropics, climate change is likely to lead to reduced rainfall in what are already dry regions. The overall effect is an intensification of the water cycle that causes more extreme

floods and droughts globally.
When planning future water supplies, however, the global picture is less important than the effect of warming on fresh water availability in individual regions and in individual seasons. This is a much more complicated thing to predict than global trends. The IPCC technical report on climate change and water concludes that, despite global increases in rainfall, many dry regions including the Mediterranean and southern Africa will suffer badly from reduced rainfall and increased evaporation. As a result, the IPCC special report on climate change adaptation estimates that around one billion people in dry regions may face increasing water scarcity

However, the degree to which this will happen cannot be predicted with confidence by current models. In many regions different models cannot even agree on whether the climate will become wetter or drier. For example, a recent study of future flows in the River Thames at Kingston shows a possible 11% increase over the next 80 years relative to the last 60 years. However, under an identical emissions scenario, the same report shows an alternative projection of

a 7% decrease in flows.

Especially little is known about future declines in regional groundwater resources because of lack of research on this topic, even though around 50% of global domestic water supply comes from groundwater. Although scientists are making progress in reducing uncertainty about fresh water scarcity, these kinds of unknowns mean that water supply strategies must be adaptable so that they can be effective under different scenarios.

The direct impact of climate change is not the only reason to be concerned about future fresh water scarcity - a fact highlighted by a recent United Nations Environment Programme report. The increasing global population means more demand for agriculture, greater use of water for irrigation and more water pollution. In parallel, rising affluence in some countries means a larger number of people living water-intensive lifestyles, including watering of gar-dens, cleaning cars and using washing machines and dishwashers. Rapidly developing economies also result in more industry and in many cases this comes without modern technology for water saving and pollution control. Therefore concerns about climate change must be viewed alongside management of pollution and demand for water.

The most common solution to increasing demand, and a way of insuring against possible climate change impacts, is the engineered redistribution of freshwater

over space and time: reservoirs to store it, pipelines to transfer it, and desalination to recover freshwater from the oceans. Efforts are also being made to increase water saving, reuse and recycling, and in the UK there is currently major investment into education and water-saving technology by the government and water industry.

Continued investment in education and research will be essential to providing the knowledge, skills and technology needed to combat fresh water scarcity

(This article was written by Dr Neil Mcintyre of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Imperial College London, in collaboration with The Guardian.)



Malaya **Business Insight**







0 2 JUL 2019

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G20 plastic trash reduction goal doesn't address 'excessive' production: Activists

TOKYO. - Activists welcomed a goal set by the Group of 20 major economies to reduce additional plastic trash leaking into the ocean to zero by 2050, but said it avoided getting at the heart of the problem - slashing the output of wasteful, single-use plastics in the first place.

They also said the target date was too far away and the limited number of steps proposed by the G20 was voluntary, not legally binding, limiting their effectiveness.

"It's a good direction," said Yukihiro Misawa, plastics policy manager at WWF Japan. "But they're too focused on waste management. "The most important thing is to reduce the excessive amount of production on the global level," he said.

The world produced about 242 million tons of plastic waste in 2016, according to the World Bank. Some 8 million of that enters the ocean annually, with China and Indonesia being the biggest offenders, a study in the journal Science showed.

Plastic ocean trash has sparked public outrage with the spread of images of plastic debris-strewn beaches and dead animals with stomachs full of plastic.

G20 host Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wanted to make tackling the issue a priority at the G20 summit in Osaka this past weekend. He has said he wants Japan to lead the world in this mission, including by developing biodegradables and other innovative alternatives.

The final communique released on Saturday said the group had adopted an "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" to reduce additional marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, but provided few details on how that would be achieved.

Members would adopt a "comprehensive life-cycle approach" by improving waste management and finding innovative solutions, it said.

At a gathering of G20 environmental ministers two weeks before the summit, delegates drew up a framework of steps that countries could take to address plastic ocean waste, but made it clear the measures were voluntary.

For these goals to stick, they need to be legally binding, activ-

To reach this objective, Japan said it will provide developing countries with financial and practical help to develop capacity to cope with plastic garbage and draw up national action plans. It will also provide waste management training for 10,000 officials in countries around the world by 2025.

Many countries, including more than two dozen in Africa, have banned plastic bags, and the EU has voted to outlaw 10 single-use plastic items, including straws, forks and knives, by 2021.

Japan, which is the world's No. 2 consumer of plastic packaging after the United States, is considering a bill that would require retailers to charge customers for plastic bags.

While steps to improve recycling and waste management and change consumer behavior are important, authorities are avoiding taking steps to restrict plastic waste and plastic production, activists said.

"Ultimately, this is very disappointing," said Neil Tangri, global plastics policy adviser at the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives in Berkeley, California, said of the G20 statement. - Reuters



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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FOR

FEASIBILITY STUDY (FS) FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY (RRF) IN REGION 7

- 1. The ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES REGION VII, Banilad Mandaue City, through the CY 2019 GAA. Fund intends to apply the sum of TEN MILLION PESOS (PhP 10,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Feasibility Study (FS) for the establishment of a Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Region 7. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

 2. The ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES REGION VII now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for Feasibility Study (FS) for the establishment of a Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Region 7. Eligibility documents of interested consultants must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat on or before July 5, 2019 at ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES REGION VII at DENR-7 Compound, Greenplains Subd., Banilad, Mandaue City. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary 'passifial' criterion.

 3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.
- Interested biddiers may obtain further information from the ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES REGION VII at DENR-7 Compound, Greenplains Subd., Banilad, Mandaue City and inspect the Bidding Documents from Monday to Friday 8:00 Am to 5:00pm.

Decomens than manually at these states to be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000).

Environmental Management Bureau

Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region VII (EMB- DENR VII)

Greenplains Subdivision, Banifad, Mandaue City, Cebu

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted Expression of Interest, including the eligibility documents, and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

Experience and Capability of the Firm a. Years in the Consulting	60 points
b. Related Experience/Previous Engagements	
i. Similar Experience	
ii. Relevant Experience	
ii. Qualification of Organic Personnel or Personnel Who May be	30 points
Assigned to the Study*	30 points
8. Education	
b. Training	
c. Related Expereince	
Financial/Job Capacity**	10 points
Grand Total	100 points

Personnel noministed for the purpose of eligibility and shortisting should submit a signed written commitment stating that he/she shall work for the Study once awarded the contract. The Team Leader may only be nominate by one (1) firm.

**Financial Capacity = Current Assets - Current Liebilities - Z months of all ongoing contracts

2 months of Re*mbursable Expenses

- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "passifail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives, and partnerships or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Phillippines.
- The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS procedure). The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBES) procedure at a weight ratio of 80% for the Technical Proposal and 20% for the Financial Proposal. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of proposals shall be provided in the Instructions to Propohents/Bidders.
- The contract shall be completed within Twelve (12) months.

 The ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES REGION VII reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:
 Engr. Annabeth G. Roble
 BAC Chairman
 Environmental Management Bureau
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Region VII (EMB- DENR VII)
 Greenplains Subdivision, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu 6014
 Tel Nos. (032) 260-9777; Telefax No. (032) 346-9426
 Email Address: 17 (Zemb. gov. ph.
 www.smb.gov.ph/portal/r07/Home.aspx

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Engr. William P. Cufiado Regional Director EMB - DENR VII

Engr. Annabeth G. Roble BAC Chairman

P.S. July 2, 2019

MBC Clean-Up Run listup set

CLEANLINESS efforts to save Manila Bay continued to get a big boost as Olympic Village outlets at Robinson's Forum, Festival Mall and Farmers Plaza as well as the registration center at the MBC-DZRH lobby in Pasay go into full throttle to enlist runners for the Manila Bay Clean-Up Run scheduled on July 7.

Open to all intercents.

Open to all interested par-ticipants in male and female divisions, the Manila Bay Clean-Up run will feature races in the 3K, 5K, 10K and 21K divi-

sions.
The event, a project of Manila
Broadcasting Company and Star
City, is meant to support efforts
to clean our marine and coastal

resources under the umbrella program of Land Bank and various establishments along Manila Bay which comprise the Sunset Partnership.

which comprise the Sunset Partnership.

Since 2011, funds generated by the fun run have been used to institute systematic long-term solutions to environmental sanitation problems that have beset the country's coastal resources and tributaries.

The event is the prelude to the 80th anniversary celebration of MBC's flagship radio station DZRH—the country's oldest surviving radio network.

For details, log onto the official Facebook page of the Manila Bay Clean-Up Run, or call Runners Linkl at 0926-205-2787.