

DATE : 05 MAY 2019

DAY : Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

C/

05 MAY 2019
DATE

DENR project to eliminate use of mercury in small-scale mining

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The Philippines has begun to eliminate the use of mercury in small-scale mining through a five-year project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The GEF-Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development (GEF-GOLD) project, which will be implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), aims to promote legislation to legalize and support artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), while encouraging miners to extract gold using environment-friendly alternatives to mercury.

DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebueta Teh said the project was a way to help small-scale miners who are willing to abide by government policies on responsible mining practices.

Teh said the project is expected to help the Philippines "contribute to the elimination of mercury in ASGM through a supply chain approach from miners to refiners."

"We hope that small-scale miners

will see mercury-free gold mining as viable," said Teh, who also serves as operational focal point person of GEF-Philippines.

Mercury, also known as quicksilver, is widely used in ASGM as a "magnet" to extract gold that is mixed with soil and other sediments in ores.

This practice exposes miners to the metal, which is known for its toxicity that could affect the nervous, immune and digestive systems.

Aside from the Philippines, the GEF-GOLD project which has an allocation of \$45 million is also being implemented in Peru, Colombia, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Burkina Faso and Mongolia.

In the Philippines, the project sites are the towns of Maco in Compostela Valley, T'boli in South Cotabato, and Rosario in Agusan del Sur.

The components of

the project include a review of policies and legal frameworks supporting the ASGM sector; introduction of financing schemes allowing miners to invest in sustainable mercury-free technologies; upscaling of these technologies; dissemination of information to ensure replication; and monitoring and evaluation.

Based on the data by the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau, there are a total of 38 small-scale mining sites in Caraga Region, while 78 exist in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Aside from promoting mercury-free

gold mining, the GEF-GOLD project also aims to address issues involving ASGM such as working conditions, child labor and gender gap.

The project is also one of the strategies as the Philippines aims to be mercury-free under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which is yet to be ratified by the Senate.

Apart from ASGM, mercury has also been detected in some fuels, recycled metals, and consumer products like whitening cosmetics, batteries and dental fillers.



Paggamit ng mercury sa pagmimina, itinigil

Sinimulan ng Pilipinas na itigil ang paggamit ng mercury sa small-scale mining sa pamamagitan ng limang taong proyekto na pinondohan ng Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Ang GEF-Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development (GEF-GOLD) project, na ipatutupad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ay layuning palaganapin ang legislation nag awing legal at suportahan ang artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), habang hinikayat ang mga minero na maging environment-friendly at hindi na gumamit ng mercury.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta Teh, ang proyekto ay paraan upang matulungan ang mga minero na handang sumunod sa mga polisiya ng pamahalaan para sa responsableng pagmimina.

Aniya, ang proyekto ay inaasahang makatutulong sa Pilipinas "contribute to the elimination of mercury in ASGM through a supply chain approach from miners to refiners."

"We hope that small-scale miners will see mercury-free gold mining as viable," ani Teh.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



42
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 MAY 2019
DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Enforce ban on silver cleaners – – EcoWaste

THE environment-advocacy group EcoWaste Coalition yesterday reiterated its call for continuing law enforcement action against those importing, manufacturing, distributing and selling cyanide-laced silver jewelry cleaning products.

The group through its chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon made the call after a seven-year-old boy from Makati City has become

the latest victim in a string of tragic deaths linked to the ingestion of cyanide-containing silver jewelry cleaner.

“We urge the authorities to conduct sustained law enforcement operations to rid the marketplace of silver jewelry cleaners containing cyanide and other toxic substances,” stated Dizon.

Dizon stressed that any lapse in law enforcement will mean more consum-

ers having access to this poison that had already fully harmed many people, including children.

According to Dizon, the victim, Rain Mendoza of Barangay Rizal, on Wednesday morning accidentally drank a silver cleaning solution placed in a soft drink bottle. His parents Jennifer and Sherwin believed the boy had mistaken it for a soda and drank it.

Reports showed that

Mendoza’s younger brother Prince saw the victim lying unconscious on the toilet floor as if having a convulsion.

Concerned neighbors then rushed him to the Ospital ng Makati in nearby Barangay Pembo where he was given medical attention at the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Early Thursday morning, Mendoza was declared dead by attending physician Dr. Geraldine

Alcantara from cyanide poisoning.

Dizon, who went to the residence of the Mendozas on Friday morning to commiserate with the grieving family, has been campaigning against the deadly silver jewelry cleaner since 2009.

The group likewise reiterated its advice to the public not to buy and use unregistered silver jewelry cleaning products with cyanide and other toxic

chemical ingredients.

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), cyanide “is classified as poisonous which can be rapidly absorbed by the body through inhalation, ingestion and dermal absorption.”

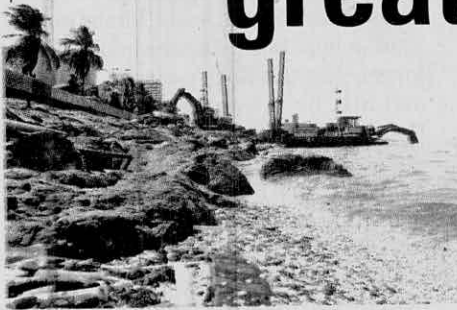
“It blocks utilization of oxygen in all organs and liable to cause serious injury to human health that may lead to acute poisoning or death,” the FDA said.

Responding to the rising number of cyanide poisoning cases due to the accidental as well as deliberate intake of silver jewelry cleaning products, the government issued in 2010 through the Department of Health and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources a ban on the sale of silver jewelry cleaners containing cyanide and other toxic substances.

Cory Martinez



Making Manila Bay great again



By **VIANCA GAMBOA**

Efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay still have a long way to go. But, since the project kicked off earlier this year, there have been remarkable results—the government, together with mandated agencies, the private sector, and civil society groups, has been very busy.

For the initial phase of the restoration project, over 5,000 government workers and volunteers helped in collecting 45 tons of garbage. This included the cleanup of esteros, waterways, and coasts along an area stretching from the Manila Yacht Club to the US Embassy.

The bay is also undergoing desilting and dredging operations, especially at the mouth of major river systems in NCR. So far, over 25,000 tons of plastic and silt were extracted along the US Embassy alone.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – NCR Regional Public Affairs Office (DENR-NCR), there has also been a decrease in the amount of fecal coliform bacteria found in Manila Bay waters. The levels, however, are still significantly high, which is why the bay area is still unsafe for swimming.

As of now, the DENR is in the process of gathering data on pollution levels and accounting of environmental compliance of establishments in Metro Manila to make way for stronger enforcement and management. The agency needs to determine the extent of the bay's degradation to ascertain the causes and sources of pollution. "[This is] to enable us—in consultation with experts and stakeholders—to offer concrete, effective, and sustainable solutions to the problem," the DENR-NCR told *The Manila Bulletin*. "Indeed, all our efforts will be for naught if we fail to create a complete, scientific, and verified assessment of the situation of Manila Bay."

They have also set up additional water quality monitoring stations and increased the frequency of collecting water samples for

analysis. This will help determine what proper interventions need to be done.

The second phase covers the rehabilitation of old sewer lines in NCR and the relocation of informal settlers living near the area. Initial studies by the DENR identify four major causes of pollution along the Manila Bay: Solid waste, septage or sewage, informal settler families living along waterways, and the degradation of riparian and coastal ecosystems. Solid waste appears to be the most visible pollutant and deadly levels of coliform come from the direct discharge of waste from sewer lines and septic tanks.

"In Metro Manila, for example, only 20.45 percent of the 13,040,123 customers of Maynilad and Manila Water are connected to sewer lines," DENR-NCR explained. "The rest of its customers—roughly 10 million—rely on septic tanks, most of which are defective. And of these 10 million or so, the water concessionaries are only able to provide sanitation service to 1,894,175, or a mere 14.53 percent. This would explain the high levels of coliform found in our rivers, esteros, and canals."

Although brimming with high hopes, the DENR believes the rehabilitation has a long way to go. That poverty is prevalent among the 7,000 families residing along the waterways and creeks of the bay does not help. Unfortunately, their houses, some of which even sit directly on top of major rivers, prevent the free flow of water into the bay. Their waste is also directly discharged into the bay, causing more pollution. As a temporary fix, the families in surrounding waterways were given access to temporary sanitation facilities while the rehabilitation and major planning for their formal relocation sites are ongoing.

The third phase is all about the sustainability of efforts and the education of citizens to ensure that Manila Bay will remain clean. Government will also continue to enforce environmental laws strictly. The physical process to rehabilitate the bay will take a while. But what's more challenging is getting the support and cooperation of people in maintaining the results, especially in waste management and with compliance to the environmental laws.

"Inspiring as well as sustaining positive behavior change is a major challenge," the DENR-NCR notes. "This applies not only to ordinary citizens but also [to] people from both the government and private sector. We need them to be on board and convince them that helping [with] the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project will benefit them in the long run." (With reports from Dom Galeon)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE

P-1

THE ROAD ALONG MANILA BAY

At a leisurely pace of 12.5 minutes per kilometer, you can walk from one end of Roxas Boulevard to the other in roughly one hour and 27 minutes, that is if none of its many attractions delay you.

Let's just say you start after brunch at the Manila Hotel and end with dinner at the Solaire steakhouse, Finestra, or at Nobu, the world's most famous Japanese restaurant at City of Dreams.

Just by walking past them, you may enjoy a glimpse of some of the Philippines' most important edifices, from the revival-style US Embassy to Bangko Central ng Pilipinas (Central Bank, BSP) and the

Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), both of which have museums in them that deserve a look, the Money Museum at the BSP and the Museo ng Kalinangang Pilipino at the CCP. There is also the Japanese Embassy, close to the former head office of the Department of Foreign Affairs, at the far end on a portion of the boulevard that doesn't run along the shores of Manila Bay anymore.

But yes, Roxas Boulevard is a jewel that might have lost its luster as a great city promenade, if only because it has lost many of its sidewalks; if only because, despite its aesthetic and historic significance and its

great potential as a tourist magnet and cultural hub, it has become the route of rusty, rickety, disorderly cargo trucks on their way to and from the Port Area; and if only because Manila as a city has become only a shadow of the vision out of which it was planned back when Roxas Boulevard, based on the proposed design of American architect Daniel Burnham in the early-1900s, was called Dewey Boulevard, renamed from the original Cavite Boulevard.

The ongoing cleanup of Manila Bay, an initiative of the Duterte administration, is an attempt to restore not only the lost glory of Manila Bay but also that of Roxas Boulevard. It is also an invitation to the many attractions that continue to thrive on its path despite decades of neglect on the part of both central and local government, the businesses along the road, and the people who live there or pass through it every day.

Roxas Boulevard is lined with museums, from Museo Pambata in Ermita to the Metropolitan Museum next to the BSP and the Hiraya Gallery on U.N. Avenue.

There is also the Philippines' most important park, Rizal Park at Luneta, where the National Hero Jose Rizal was executed in 1898. At the park, once a picnic ground for the old families of Manila, is home to many things that tell so much about Philippine history and culture, such as Kilometer Zero right between the Rizal Monument, from which Jose Rizal looks out dreamily on the horizon, and the Memorial Clock. Kilometer Zero is a reference point from which all road distances are measured on the island of Luzon and the rest of the country.

Also within the park complex are the Japanese Garden, the Chinese Garden, and the 40-foot Lapu Lapu statue at Agrifina Circle, a gift of the people of South Korea in honor of the first Filipino to ever fight foreign invasion. And then there is the Quirino Grandstand, at which the annual Independence Day celebration is held, along with many presidential inaugurations, starting with that of former President Elpidio Quirino in 1949.

Other places of interest in the area of Luneta are the just-opened Rizal Park Hotel, the former Manila Army and Navy Club, which was founded all the way back in 1898, and Manila Ocean Park, which boasts of its 55-meter Oceanarium and also its aquarium-inspired H2O Hotel. The National Museum of the Philippines, as well as the National Museum of Natural History, and the National Library, is within walking distance from the Quirino Grandstand. From Luneta, you can also walk to the Walled City of Intramuros.

Across the



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE

P-2

The Road along Manila Bay

US Embassy, there used to be a pocket park called Nuestra Señora de Guia, which could match the quaint charm of the many park squares on the 2.5-kilometer Andrassy Avenue, a Unesco World Heritage Site in Budapest. Like its Hungarian counterpart, it was leafy and breezy, its park benches a daydreamer's dream. Sadly, a couple of years ago, enclosed in chicken fencing, it was converted into a basketball court.

Of course, there's the Baywalk, from which the sunset is best viewed. It is at this spot where the phrase "Sunset by the Bay" is best applied. In the proximity lies a cluster of bars and restaurants, such as the iconic 91-year-old Aristocrat on the south side of Rajah Sulayman Plaza in front of the Our Lady of Remedies Parish, more popularly known as Malate Catholic Church.

Further down Roxas Boulevard, just across the BSP and a stone's throw away from the CCP, is the Manila Yacht Club, Asia's oldest.

Past the yacht club, you can go straight along the boulevard

to EDSA, even all the way to Airport Road, where Roxas Boulevard gives way to Coastal Road or the Manila-Cavite Expressway. This stretch is also lined by hotels, big and small and of any number of stars, such as the Midas Hotel and Casino and the Heritage Hotel Manila. Or you can turn right at any point beyond the yacht club, either at Bukaneg Street or Vicente Sotto Street into the CCP Complex, or at Gil Puyat Avenue toward the World Trade Center, or at EDSA toward the SM Mall of Asia. This part is Las Vegas on the rise. Called the Entertainment City, it is home to hotel complexes, replete with world-class entertainment facilities like The Theater at Solaire, Dream Play at City of Dreams, the upscale mall S Maison at Conrad, and the \$30-million fountain show at Okada Manila.

So much to do in Manila and all of these only by the bay. The dream is to make Roxas Boulevard pedestrian-friendly, designed as it was as a promenade, and maybe all other streets in Metro Manila can dream to be walkable, too.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



05 MAY 2019

DATE



Clearing the borders

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Usec. Sherwin Rigor (second from right) together with representatives from Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and Manila Yacht Club (MYC) met to discuss issues and to update the desilting process from the US Embassy to MYC. Over 25,000 tons of silt and plastics have been extracted near US Embassy. Extraction will take several months and technological support is expected. Others in photo (from left) are Randy Dabu of Cleaf Leaf Int'l Corp, Eng. Mario L Marasigan and Eng. Rimeo Susin, both of DPWH, MYC Commodore Robert Lim Joseph, and Emmanuel Garme of Clean Leaf.



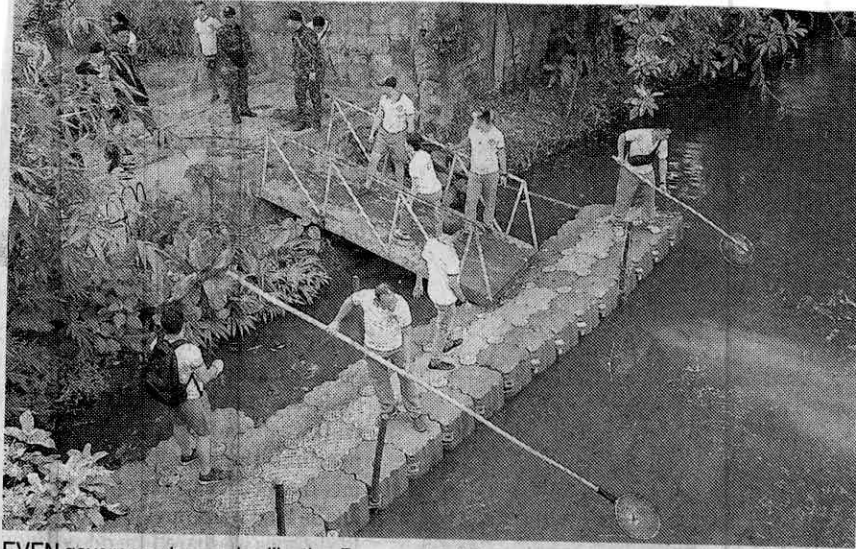
STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

05 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



EVEN government agencies like the Bureau of Jail Management have made the rehabilitation of esteros a national concern as they cleaned up the Estero de San Miguel in Quiapo, Manila.



Founded Since 1898

The Manila Times

A4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BACKLIER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

Editorial

Comprehensive cleanup must go beyond Manila Bay

WE are encouraged to see the Manila Bay cleanup, which has been long overdue. But so long as the effort focuses only on the beachfront and the bay itself, this much-awaited initiative may be all for nothing soon after the cleanup crew is gone.

For greater impact and longer-lasting benefit, what is needed is a comprehensive program that addresses not only Manila Bay itself, but also the Pasig River system, Laguna de Bay and its surrounding mountains. We need to address the sources of pollution and not merely pick them where they are deposited.

First, the government should also clean up the Pasig River. This river is the major body of water that flows to and from Manila Bay, along with the tide. We stress our support for the rehabilitation of part of the shoreline and the requirement for establishments along Roxas Boulevard to develop their respective sewerage treatment plants (STPs). But that should not only be replicated along other areas around Manila Bay, such as Southern Metro Manila and Cavite and other provinces, but also throughout the 27-kilometer stretch of Pasig River and its tributaries.

Pasig River has the unfortunate reputation of being the toilet bowl of Metro Manila. Some 65 percent of the pollution there is effluent from households, which should be serviced by a sewerage treatment infrastructure developed by the two water concessionaires. So far, they have not delivered. They should be made to do so.

The rest of the pollutants come from industrial and solid wastes, based on reports. And so if the river is the toilet bowl, then Manila Bay is the septic tank, because the Pasig empties enormous volumes of water into the bay.

Imagine the foregone revenues from tourism and recreational activities because Manila Bay and the Pasig River are unsafe, in fact, toxic in some parts. If tiny Boracay can account for a third of all tourism output, imagine how much more potential may be offered by Metro Manila and its environs.

Natural endowment

Much of that can also be said of Laguna de Bay, where swift action is also needed to preserve the rapidly diminishing qualities needed to sustain life in the greater metropolitan area and Calabarzon. For our foreign readers, Calabarzon is the acronym for Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon — all provinces near Metro Manila.

Like the Pasig River and Manila Bay, Laguna de Bay is in peril because of pollution and overdevelopment. That body of water is one of the biggest freshwater lakes in Southeast Asia, making it an important source of drinking water and freshwater fish for the capital region.

In fairness, there have been initiatives to develop parts of the lakeshore, but much more needs to be done. Also, the cleanup drive to manage the commercial fish pens in the lake needs to be sustained and enforced without letup.

Like Manila Bay and Pasig River, the lake has tremendous tourism and transportation potential. Imagine if a commuter can bypass EDSA and cut across by ferry from Metro Manila to Rizal and Laguna provinces.

Regretfully, the lake is heavily silted like the bay and the river. The average depth of the lake is only 2.8 meters. Worse, dredging was halted during the Aquino administration and the issues have not been resolved under the Duterte government.

Looking beyond dredging, we also wish to see a massive reforestation program to prevent more silt from the mostly denuded mountains around it from flowing further into the lake. That requires more tree-planting activities in the Sierra Mountain range that bounds the Laguna de Bay in the north-east. The same goes for the Caliraya volcanic plateau to the east of the lake, and the mountains of Laguna and Batangas to the south and the southeast.

We are not experts, though. But the bottom line is that the cleanup should go far beyond the Manila Bay shoreline.



05 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DILG: Show cause order vs 1,000 brgy. captain sa Manila Bay clean up drive

NAKATAKDANG ipatawag ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang nasa higit 1,000 kapitan ng barangay na bigo umanong makasunod sa direktiba ng pamahalaan na tumulong sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi DILG Usec. Martin Diño, pinadalhan na nila ng show cause order ang ilang barangay captain sa Metro Manila at kalapit

na mga lalawigan na konektado ang mga ilog sa Manila Bay.

Posible umanong patawan ng parusang pagkakakulong o multa ang mga opisyal na mapapatunayang nagpabaya sa kabila ng utos ng gobyerno.

Kung maaalala, sinibak kamakailan ang isang alkalde sa Capiz matapos mabigo sa pagpapanatili ng kalinisan sa isla ng Boracay. (Mula sa Bombo Radyo)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



05 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Cruise ship ban sought in Boracay

By **CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE**

Cruise ships should not be allowed to dock in Boracay at any time given the limited carrying capacity of the resort island.

This was the suggestion of reelectionist Sen. Nancy Binay, who said the presence of cruise ships with over 3,000 tourists does not really translate to increased income for the locals in the island.

Binay stressed a study should first be conducted on whether tourists from cruise ships really spend money while in Boracay.

Binay noted Boracay has not been fully rehabilitated, months after the island reopened in October 2018. President Duterte ordered the island off limits to allow a massive rehabilitation.

Binay also suggested that tourism officials should conduct briefings for tourists on the "dos and don'ts" before they get to Boracay.

She cited reports that Chinese tourists topped the number of violators of environmental regulations in the island.

"There were those reports. At the moment, Boracay needs to be fully rehabilitated for full accommodation. We do not want to go back to that cesspool problem, we should take it easy in promoting Boracay," Binay said in an interview with *dwlz*.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) earlier implemented "close-out" dates in barring cruise ships from docking in Boracay.

The DOT implemented the close-out dates from April 16 until the end of May.

The DOT said it will also implement more close-out dates within the year, particularly from Oct. 26 to November in observance of All Saints and All Souls Days and on Nov. 23 to Jan. 25 the following year for the SEA Games, Christmas and New Year holidays.

The DOT said the close-out dates were agreed last year during the meeting with the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), the Philippine Ports Authority, Aklan Port, Tourism Congress of the

Philippines, Boracay Foundation and all cruise lines, port agents and shore excursion companies operating in the Philippines.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the DOT is looking to add more block-off dates for the entry of cruise ships to Boracay, in a bid to ensure the carrying capacity of the island is met.

Puyat added they might list Aug. 24 to 26 as block-off dates in line with the celebration of National Heroes Day since many

tourists are expected to flock to Boracay due to the long weekend.

She added the good thing about these block-off dates is that cruise ships are diverted to lesser known destinations in the country such as Ilocos Norte and Sur, Subic and Iloilo, among others.

As this developed, the number of accredited establishments in Boracay have reached 347, the BIATF said in its latest bulletin.

Based on the updated list, eight more establishments with a total of 793 rooms have been cleared to

operate by the BIATF. This brings the total accredited number of rooms to 12,876.

Only accommodation establishments that have complied with the requirements of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the DOT are accredited by the BIATF.

Puyat earlier said the BIATF would continue to accredit compliant accommodation establishments. — **With Catherine Talavera**



DENR, TUMANGGAP NG SOLAR-POWERED VEHICLES PARA SA PAGPAPATRULYA AT PAGRE-RESCUE SA BORACAY

NAPAIGTING ang mga pag-susumikap ng pamahalaan na gawing sustainable ecotourism destination ang Boracay nang makatanggap ng limang solar-powered vehicles na gagamitin sa pagpapatrolya at rescue service sa sikat na isla.

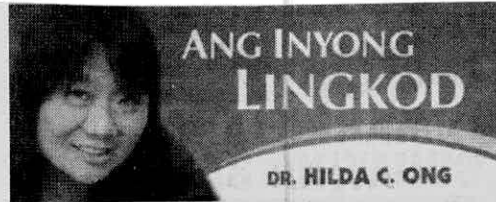
Ang mga sasakyan - isang patrol boat, tatlong e-bikes, at isang ambulansya - ay binigay ng Star 8 Green Technology Corp at ng Southwest Travel and Tours sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ang donasyon ay sinakop ng isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) na nilagdaan ng dalawang kompanya at ng DENR na siyang nangunguna sa Boracay Inter-agency Task Force (BIATF)

sa pagpapanumbalik ng sigla ng Boracay.

Kasama ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na lumagda sa MOA sina Star 8 Green Technology Corporation President Jacob Maimon at Southwest Travel and Tours President Cedric Sazon. Ginanap ang pirmahan ng kasunduan noong Abril 25 sa Boracay.

Base sa MOA, nag-donate ang Star 8 Green Technology Corporation ng isang unit ng solar-powered patrol boat, tatlong unit ng electric bike at isang unit ng solar-powered medical rescue van o ambulance. Nakasaad pa sa kasunduan, gagamitin ang solar-powered banca sa pagpapatrolya sa mga baybayin ng isla, ang tatlong unit naman ng



DR. HILDA C. ONG

electric bike ay magagamit sa pagbibigay ng seguridad sa kalupaan, habang ang medical rescue van ay para sa disaster and rescue operation.

Tungkulin naman ng Southwest Travel and Tours ang pagbibigay ng operation at maintenance support para sa mga ibinigay na donasyon ng Star 8 Green Technology Corporation sa loob ng dalawang taon.

Sasagutin naman ng DENR ang mga gastos sa pagpapagawa at pagpapalit ng piyesa ng mga ipinagkaloob na donasyon mula sa Star 8 Green Technology Corporation at maaari lamang gamitin ang mga ito sa mga paraan na nakasaad sa MOA.

Bilang chairman ng Boracay Inter-agency Task Force (BIATF), pinasalamatan

ni Cimatu ang dalawang kompanya.

Sinabi rin ni Cimatu: "The donated vehicles will not only help sustain enforcement and sustainability efforts, but also minimize air and noise pollution in Boracay."

Sinabi naman ni Star 8 chief executive officer Jacob Maimon na ang pagdonasyon nila ng mga nasabing sasakyan "is their way of helping maintain a green environment in the island."

Ang e-bike ay may speed na 100 kilometer per hour at range na 150 kilometers bago muling i-charge, samantalang ang ambulansya ay may maximum speed na 90 kph.

Ang solar-powered na patrol boat naman ay may speed na 5 knots, at tumatagal ng 8 oras bago ire-charge.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

E4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE

#MoreFunForever

LaBoracay no more, but LoveBoracay now and always

PARADISE ON
EARTH The
sunset view of
the beautiful
Boracay



By **JOHN LEGASPI**

Among the jewels in the crown of Philippine tourism is Boracay, considered one of the best beaches in the world. Its name alone conjures up images of sand and sea.

Paradise Lost and Found

After all, “bora” in Inati means bubbles or the froth of the sea current that matches the color of the sandy shore against which it crashes, and “bocay” is the Inati word for that color—white. But, as Boracay lured throngs of sun-worshippers and beach lovers, not to mention entrepreneurs and businessmen, the island idyll gave way to champagne parties and beer bongs and dance-a-thons on the sand that, with all the infrastructure needed to ac-

commodate the swell of arrivals, soon took its toll on the island.

Nothing lasts forever, if taken for granted. Thankfully, the island’s cry for help did not go unheard. In an unprecedented move, the national government, through the order of President **Rodrigo Roa Duterte**, closed down Boracay for a period of rehabilitation and to ensure all systems are in place to keep it safe for generations to come.

As Boracay reopened last October after a six-month closure, it was almost back to the pristine state in which the first batch of tourists found it when they came to the island in the 1970s, particularly after German writer **Jens Peter** described it as “Paradise on Earth” in his book about the Philippines in 1978.

In October last year, a limited number of visitors were given permit to see

Boracay again. Its white, powder-fine sand was still there but without the atmosphere of loud music, the dancing fire, and all the drunken mess.

It is paradise again, an oasis, where sometimes, under the clear blue skies, the only sound is the whisper of wind, the woosh of waves, and the seabird-screams.

The initiative to clean up Boracay, despite protests and the risk of economic losses, came from the realization that Boracay was not a commercial haven but, more than a patrimony of the nation, was also nature’s endowment that needed to be preserved for the future.

Forever Is Enough

Launched on April 29 was #MoreFunForever, which is part of the refreshed #ItsMoreFunInThePhilippines campaign. The new campaign encapsu-



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

E4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

p. 2 More Fun Forever

lates DOT's new focus on sustainable tourism, whose beneficiary, by its very nature, is the future generations.

"The #MoreFunForever celebrates the framework that we have in Boracay. We hope to inspire other LGUs to adopt to this sustainable tourism model," said **Howard Lance Uyking**, assistant secretary for branding and marketing of DOT.

#MoreFunForever is composed of a three-part framework: promoting responsible tourism, ensuring environmental compliance by stakeholders, and achieving inclusive growth, where

local communities will benefit from tourism development.

DOT undersecretary **Art Boncato, Jr.** sees it as a "unilateral decision of the Philippines," that the sustainable move on the tourism system is a responsibility of a country as a whole in educating the market and tourists. "It's not a one-way thing, but a two-way thing," he said. "We invite tourists to come and enjoy our natural sites and destinations, but there is a price to pay, which is that they have to behave in a certain way."

Through the help of other partner departments and agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Interior Local Government (DILG), and the Boracay Interagency Task Force (BIATF), to mention a few, DOT has been able to implement the "No Accreditation, No Operation" rule along the four-kilometer White Beach.

There is also the discipline zone that implements beach regulations against littering, smoking, eating, playing of loud music, etc. Most important is the 25+5 easement rule that prohibits all structures to encroach beyond the 30-meter mark on Boracay's shoreline.

Labor of Love

#MoreFunForever aims to make Boracay tourism benefit the local community by encouraging business establishments on the island to prioritize locals when hiring personnel or manpower. With the help of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the skills and talents of the locals are developed and honed to match what Boracay needs to flourish. The sub-campaign is also geared to promote local products, supplies, and materials.

The first day of May is Labor Day, a salute to the workforce. But in Boracay over the past years, it had been LaBoracay, where party-monsters would converge on the island shoulder to shoulder.

This year, the first of May signals a new beginning for the island paradise, as LaBoracay transitions to LoveBoracay.

No more bombastic music, foam machines, and rave by the beach, LoveBoracay is all about celebrating the beauty of the island in its natural essence.

LoveBoracay mixes leisure and sustainability with activities and events where tourists can participate. One such activity is the sustainability talks where experts have been invited to share their views on how to conserve the island. Another is the Boracay Food Festival in which travelers can savor a sampling of the region's cuisine and delicacies, including street food. Ocean Jump is an observance of Ocean Month and its "Free the Seas from Marine Debris" theme, during which rehabilitated sea turtles will be tagged and released from Puka Beach, a "Say No to Plastic Straw" will be launched, and talks on marine tourism will be given for the benefit of residents, tourists, and operators.

Defying Time

DOT aims to bring #MoreFunForever to other local destinations such as Palawan, Bohol, Siargao, Sagada, and even Manila Bay, which is currently under rehabilitation. Boracay serves as a testament that it can be done. If we do it together and fast, we can even raise the Philippine flag over what promises to be the model for sustainable tourism in Asia.

Now that DOT is set to observe this program in other areas of the Philippines, the department encourages the public to play their part in taking care of the country's natural resources by practicing responsible tourism and help tourism destinations become sustainable.

"As a people, we've been recognized as hospitable, friendly, and warm. Our genuine smiles are a key why things are definitely 'More Fun in the Philippines.' Still, it is a great and serious responsibility that we share stewardship of these special, wonderful destinations. It's on us to ensure all our natural wonders stay more fun, forever," said DOT secretary **Bernadette Romulo-Puyat**.



GOV'T ASKED TO HEED SC WRIT ON PH REEFS

STORY BY JEROME ANING AND PATRICIA DENISE M. CHIU

Former Foreign Secretary Del Rosario urged the Duterte administration to enforce the Supreme Court's writ of kalikasan order in the West Philippine Sea. Failure to protect the marine environment could prompt the high tribunal to hold the government in contempt, according to a maritime law expert.

AG

By Jerome Aning
and Patricia Denise M. Chiu
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte and other government officials must enforce the Supreme Court's writ of kalikasan order directing them to protect and rehabilitate the marine environment in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), former Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said on Saturday.

Failure to heed the special order, which covers three-Philippine-claimed reefs in the disputed waters, could prompt the high court to hold the Duterte administration in contempt, according to a maritime law expert.

"The recent writ of kalikasan [ordered] by the Supreme Court practically imposes an obligation on our government to enforce the July 12, 2016 arbitral ruling," Del Rosario said, referring to the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration invalidating China's sweeping claims in the South China Sea.

In issuing the protection order on Friday, the Supreme Court granted the petition of a group of Palawan fisherfolk and Zambales residents seeking to prevent environmental law violations in the disputed waters.

The writ covers Panatag



Albert del Rosario

(Scarborough) Shoal, Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal and Panganiban (Mischief) Reef in the West Philippine Sea, waters within the Philippines' 370-kilometer EEZ in the South China Sea.

The fisherfolk and the residents were represented by lawyers from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

The Supreme Court also ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and other officials to reply to its decision.

There was no immediate comment from Malacañang on Saturday.

Del Rosario, who led the country's team in arguing its case in the arbitral tribunal in The Hague, said the high court order went along with recent surveys that showed nearly nine out of 10 Filipinos wanted the

government "to claim what is ours" in the South China Sea.

"With the latest development ... our people are now supported by the highest court of the land. With the Supreme Court standing with our people, our partners, allies and friends would no doubt like to know if our country finally stands as one," said Del Rosario, chair of the board of trustees of the think tank Stratbase ADR Institute.

Jay Batongbacal, director of the University of the Philippines Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, said the writ of kalikasan was "enforceable," though it was up to the government to take action.

Panatag Shoal is part of Masinloc, Zambales, while Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban Reef are part of the municipality of Kalayaan, Palawan.

China has built a military-grade facility on Panganiban Reef, controlled access to Panatag Shoal and surrounded Ayungin Shoal with coast guard vessels despite the presence there of the BRP Sierra Madre, which the Philippine Navy deliberately ran aground in 1999 to mark the country's claim to the reef.

Consequences of defiance

Asked about possible consequences if the Duterte administration defied the Supreme Court's directive, Batongbacal said it could be held civilly or criminally liable.

"If the Palace refuses to report and act, then the executive [department] could be declared in contempt of court, and officials may become liable for civil or criminal prosecution," he said.

Batongbacal said the gov-

With the latest development ... our people are now supported by the highest court of the land. With the Supreme Court standing with our people, our partners, allies and friends would no doubt like to know if our country finally stands as one



P-2

Govt Asked to heed SC writ on PH Reefs

ernment's refusal to implement the Supreme Court order "could lead to a legal and constitutional crisis."

"If the government refuses to act against Chinese fishermen despite orders of the court ... the sitting administration's legitimacy before the eyes of the people could also be seriously undermined," he added.

Right to healthy environment

Introduced by the Supreme Court under then Chief Justice Reynato Puno in 2010, the writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy that provides protection of one's constitutional right to a healthy environment.

It invokes Section 16, Article II of the Constitution, which states the "state shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology."

Part of the power of the writ, Batongbacal said, is that it "forces" the Duterte administration to report what it has actually done so far on the issue.

If the government's actions are deemed unsatisfactory, the writ also compels it to take action to remedy the situation and protect the fishermen's rights and interests.

Batongbacal said that while the writ was enforceable, it did not guarantee that Chinese fishermen would be forced to vacate Philippine waters.

"The writ is enforceable but

it is directed [at] the government, not Chinese fishers. It requires the government to take action to enforce Philippine law and report thereon," Batongbacal said.

Solidifying PH claim

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said the Supreme Court's order would strengthen the Philippines' claims in the South China Sea.

"It would solidify our claim and compel our authorities to do what they have to do," Trillanes said in a radio interview.

But Senate President Vicente Sotto III said the administration was bent on protecting the marine environment in these areas anyway.

Party-list group Bayan Muna on Saturday urged the government to increase its presence in the West Philippine Sea.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said the Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard should conduct more patrols in areas covered by the writ.

"With the Supreme Court ruling, we hope that the Coast Guard and the Navy would have more patrols around these areas and protect not just the reefs but our fisherfolk as well," he said.

Neri Colmenares, Bayan Muna chair and Makabayan senatorial candidate, described the Supreme Court decision as a "positive development." —WITH

REPORTS FROM MELVIN GASCON AND
LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1

STORY



BANNER

STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE



VIOLATIONS FOUND – Environment and Natural Resources Region 13 Director Felix S. Alicer (seated at the top end of the table) presides over a meeting of the Task Force Siargao to review the data analysis of the 1,298 business establishments in the popular island destination. (Photo courtesy of DENR 13/ Mike U. Crismundo)

DENR task force discovers 361 establishments violating easement zone in Siargao

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BUTUAN CITY – The findings of Task Force Siargao of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have showed that 361 tourist establishments have extended their structures within the easement zone.

As such, the task force has ordered the owners and operators of these establishments to voluntarily demolish their structures.

The discovery of easement violations came after a 14-day assessment and evaluation analysis undertaken by the Task Force Siargao in General Luna town that was bared by the Environment Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR recently.

DENR 13 Regional Executive Director (RED) Felix S. Alicer presided over a meeting of the task force to review the data analysis of the 1,298 tourist establishments and homestays evaluated with compliance to environmental laws, rules and regulations held at the DENR 13 Regional Conference Room in Butu-

an City on Labor Day.

Alicer said that the task force may compel the owners and operators of some establishments in the tourist surfing hub in General Luna, Siargao Islands to voluntarily demolish their structures that encroached on the easement regulations of the government.

The “Task Force Siargao” reported that of the 1,298 establishments assessed and evaluated, 361 establishments were found to have extended their structures beyond the regulated 25-meter shore-to-land easement which is set aside by law for public access.

The DENR 13 is set to issue a letter on Monday to the erring owners and operators of identified tourist establishments, informing them of their violation with request to “tear down” or demolish the structures that they have built inside the regulated access way.

The DENR is likewise expected to coordinate with the building official of the Mayor’s Office in General Luna about the findings.



05 MAY 2019
DATE

EDITORIAL

CANADA KUKUNIN NA ANG BASURA NITO SA PINAS

SINABI ni Global Affairs Canada Spokeman Adan Austen na kukunin na ng kanyang bansa ang mga basurang-Canada na itinapon sa Pilipinas noong 2013-2014.

Matatandaang nasa 103 container van ang magkahiwalay na dinala sa bansa laman ang mga basura at natagpuang 1/3 lamang ang plastic habang mga basurang pangkusina, electronic at gamit na diaper ang pinakamalaking bulto.

Unang idineklarang mga plastik para sa recycling ang mga basura ngunit dahil kumatas at bumaho na ang ilang container van, dinala ang mga ito sa landfill o basurahan sa Tarlac.

Noong una, ayaw kunin ng Canada ang mga basura sa dahilang mga pribadong tao at kompanya umano ang nag-usap dito at walang kinalaman ang pamahalaang Canada.

Sa huli, ayaw pa ring kunin ng Canada ang mga basura kung hindi gagastusan ang pagpapabalik nito ng kompanyang Filipino na tumanggap nito.

Nitong nagdaang mga araw, naglatag si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng takdang panahon para sa pagbabalik ng basura sa Canada, gusto man nito o hindi.

At makalipas lang ng isang linggo, heto na nga at sinasabi ng Canada na kukunin na nito ang mga basura at nakikipag-ugnayan na ito sa pamahalaan Pilipinas kung paaano ito isasagawa.

Sana naman hindi hanggang laway lang ang aksyon ng Canada kundi seryosohin ang pagpapabalik nito ng basura gaya ng ginawa ng South Korea sa basurang itinambak naman nito sa Mindanao.

Linabag ng Canada ang Basel Convention na nagbabawal ng pagtapon ng basura ng isang bansa sa iba at ang batas sa Pilipinas ukol sa tamang pagtatapon ng solidong basura.



FOR RECYCLING

TGP PUSHES PROPER SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Party-list group Talino at Galing ng Pinoy (TGP) aims to intensify the proper implementation of Republic Act No. 9009, otherwise known as the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

TGP first nominee Jose "Bong" Joson Teves Jr. said the implementation of RA 9009 should be intensified to preserve the environment through proper waste disposal and stressed that it should start at the barangay level.

Teves said that each barangay should be given a 5 percent environmental fund to buy recyclable materials from residents instead of selling them to others.

TGP will also pursue the expansion of the Philippine Recycling Association and Linnis Ganda Federation to assure local government units that they would have partners in the implementation of the said law.

'Recycling centers'

Teves also proposed changing the name of junk shops to "recycling centers" in the hope of elevating the industry of recycling in the country.

Junk shop owners welcomed Teves' proposal, saying it would have a good impact on their business.

Evelyn Lizardo, a junk shop owner from Payatas, said the change might help improve not only their community but also the state of the environment.

Another junk shop owner emphasized that proper education and awareness in recycling were the main keys to the waste issue.

Teves said that TGP was the only environmental group in the country that focused and encouraged people to recycle.

TGP's objective is to focus not only on the environment but also on the health and education sectors by providing funds to barangays and public hospitals, and by giving scholarships to out-of-school youth.

Teves said that purpose of their party-list group was to protect the environment, health and future of the youth.

TGP will have a nationwide motorcade dubbed "Arankada para sa kalikasan" today.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

SAVINGS FROM E-WASTE THRU BROTHER PH

IT'S not uncommon for Filipino households to have one or two printers, copiers, scanners collecting dust from misuse. They might have upgraded to better models, found repair costs too expensive for a malfunctioning machine, or have no further use for the items. More often than not, these households found it too inconvenient to dispose of the machines—too bulky to throw out with the trash and virtually nowhere to pass them over for recycling.

E-waste disposal can be a challenge—especially since the components within machines cannot be simply categorized to non-recyclables or biodegradable. At some point, we need e-waste disposal experts to come in and help.

Finding an opportunity to provide a little help for Filipino households with their e-waste dilemma, Brother Philippines initiated regular trade-in promotions, currently dubbed the "Switch to Tank" promotion, encouraging customers to use the genuine Brother Ink Refills only.

"The mechanics we've always had are very simple," said Glenn Hocson, Brother Philippines President. "We ask customers to bring in their unwanted printers, copiers, fax

machines, and scanners to select location, which will garner them discounts for their next printing equipment. Not only was this promotion a good opportunity for us to allow customers to try and purchase our products for less, but also for them to properly dispose their unused machines sitting around in their homes."

For several years now, trading in machines for a Brother model of their choice enabled customers to experience all the practical yet impressive features of these products for themselves. But what happens to the machines that Brother Philippines collect?

"The trade-in events are a good way to boost sales," said Hocson. "But at some point, we have to think about the proper disposal of the machines brought to us. Obviously, we can't store these in our own facilities or just throw everything out for the garbagemen to collect. So, we worked with a local e-waste, DENR-accredited recycling company, HMR Philippines, to help us responsibly deal with the machines our customers traded."

HMR Philippines takes the traded machines from Brother Philippines, and break each machine down to its individual parts. Anything that



Brother Philippines offers opportunity for savings from e-waste—and a way to deal with unwanted electronics the right way

can be reused safely (without potential risk of harm) will be saved for recycling, and the residual materials will be passed on for final treatment with another service provider.

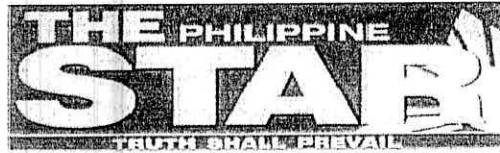
"We made sure that our e-waste recycling partner will not just take the machines off our hands, but is also accredited in handling, transporting, and actually disposing the e-waste properly," added Hocson. "It's a small step toward becoming fully green, but along

with our push for refill-tank printer systems to reduce waste from consumables like cartridges, we hope to contribute to efforts to help the environment."

To learn more about the brand and its products, visit the Brother Philippines website at www.brother.com.ph, like its Facebook page (facebook.com/BROTHERatyourside), and follow @BROTHERPhils on Twitter and @BrotherPhils on Instagram.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



05 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Manila ready for water distribution

The local government of Manila is ready to distribute water if supply interruption hits the city, Mayor Joseph Estrada announced yesterday.

Estrada said eight firetrucks are on standby and ready to distribute water for residents in the city's six districts.

He said he ordered personnel of the disaster risk reduction management office to be prepared amid reports that the water level in Angat

Dam has breached critical mark.

Angat Dam is the main source of Metro Manila's water supply.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said the dam's water level dropped to 180.73 meters and would further go down to 178 meters by the end of the month.

The NWRB was prompted to reduce allocation for irrigation to ensure enough water supply for Metro Manila households.

- Jose Rodel Clapano



Editorial **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

Tiis-tiis sa water shortage

H INDI pa rin tapos ang water interruption sa Luzon dahil sa patuloy na nararanasang El Niño sa bansa.

Kaugnay nito, marami pa ring residente ang apektado.

Naghahanda na ang pamahalaan sa pagsasagawa ng cloud seeding operation sa susunod na linggo sa ibabaw ng Angat Dam sa Bulacan.

Sa advisory, sinabi ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na kasado na ang operasyon sa lugar base sa forecast ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Kailangan ang tamang klase ng ulap upang madaling makita sa gagawing operasyon.

Samantala, patuloy pa rin ang pagbaba ng water level sa mga pangunahing dam sa Luzon.

Mula 177.05 meters noong Biyernes, nasa 177.03 meters na lamang kahapon ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Sa Ipo Dam naman, mula 101.98 meters, bumaba ito sa 101.02 meters habang sa Ambuklao Dam ay bumaba mula sa 740.19 meters hanggang 740.13 meters.

Hangga't hindi naibabalik sa normal ang suplay ng tubig, tiis-tiis muna sa limitadong suplay na ibinibigay ng mga awtoridad.



05 MAY 2019

DATE

Scientists found an edible mushroom that eats plastic, and it could clean our landfills

By ELIAS MARAT

WHETHER we like it or not, our society has become completely reliant on plastic. From food preservation to water transportation, computer technology to healthcare and medicine, plastic can be found in nearly every facet of the human experience.

But as we well know, plastic is a double-edged sword, with massive amounts of plastic waste not only piling up in landfills, but floating in the most remote depths of our oceans and water supplies. And despite our knowledge of plastic's harmful effects on the environment, we've become so reliant on plastic that there seems to be no end in sight. In fact, plastic production is growing on a yearly basis-- and posing a potentially mortal threat to us all.

However, a newly-discovered type of mushroom could not only play a crucial role in slashing plastic pollution, but could have myriad other uses in addressing the environmental crises the planet faces.

Discovered in 2012 by Yale University students, *Pestalotiopsis microspora* is a rare species of mushroom from the Amazon rainforest that's capable of subsisting on a diet of pure plastic, or more accurately, the main ingredient in plastic--polyurethane--before converting the human-made ingredient into purely organic matter.

And not only can *Pestalotiopsis microspora* live off of our plastic waste, it can also live without oxygen-- meaning that the rare breed of mushroom would make an ideal agent for landfill clean-up, literally from the bottom-up.

While the idea sounds fantastic, some scientists have expressed hope that the plastic-consuming fungi can form the basis of the community waste treatment centers of the future--replacing our current practice of dumping our trash into centralized, massive landfills with small, mushroom-centered community composting centers or even home recycling kits, according to Epoch Times.

And as it turns out, *Pestalotiopsis microspora* isn't alone in the world of plastic-eating mushrooms-- and some of its plastic-consuming kin are event perfectly safe for us humans to consume.

In a study led by Katharina Unger for Utrecht University in the Netherlands, oyster mushrooms and other types of mushrooms were placed in agar cups with plastic waste and held in a climate-controlled dome-shaped environment. After about a month, the roots of the mushroom consumed and transformed the plastic into an edible biomass--or food--that was completely free of any toxicity from the polyurethane.

Not only was the finished product completely free of plastic, but they also had an appealing taste, according to Unger, who described them as "sweet with the smell of anise or licorice."

Yes, that's right: for the very first time in history, plastic trash could be a part of our food chain--in a deliberate and surprisingly healthy way. Indeed, such a discovery--if refined--could be a part of a novel solution to food scarcity in a world brimming-over with plastic waste yet scarce on food for hundreds of millions of people.

"Our research partner [Utrecht University] expects that the digestion will go much quicker once processes are fully researched and optimized," Unger told *Dezeen* magazine, adding that her team "imagined it as being used with a community or small farm setting."

The benefits of plastic-eating mushrooms seem limitless. At the State of the World's Fungi 2018 event in Kew Gardens, London, fungi that process polyurethane were also found to be suitable as "mushroom bricks," or a durable and sustainable building material that could be suitable for building homes.

The management and elimination of plastic waste is among the greatest challenges we face in saving our environment. But if the natural rate of decomposition can be reduced from 400 years to a mere few months, then these fungi could soon be taking over the world.



Trusted Since 1939

The Manila Times



C 5 MAY 2019

DATE

Why the climate is changing

THE students are on the streets, waving banners, banging drums, singing, chanting and calling for an end to the causes driving climate change that is wrecking the planet. They see the global warming caused by huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane gases heating up the environment and causing the melting of the ice cap on a gigantic scale never seen before. They want to close coal-fired power plants and governments to install renewable wind and solar power farms and geothermal generators to provide the electricity we need.

They are the voice of the planet; they are its feelings and its cry for help. The planet is, in many ways, dying and the human species, its magnificent creation, is a vengeful child killing its parent by savage greed. The warmer atmosphere is



REFLECTIONS

FR. SHAY
CULLEN, SSC

evaporating more water from the oceans, causing more frequent powerful rainstorms as never before. They, the children, the teenagers, the youth, want and demand a clean planet free from poison chemicals and pollution and the burning of fossil fuels.

They say enough, stop it and give us and our future children a clean planet. They want to stop the acid rain. It is poisoning the fish and the land and the people that eat the fish. They are demanding the skeptical reluctant politicians to take political action to cut CO2 gases and stop the damage to the planet.

I saw the negative and damaging impact of climate change on the

lives of ordinary Filipino people when I went to visit the Aeta indigenous farmers in our Preda fair trade mango project sometime ago. They live on the mountains of Zambales. They were once forest dwellers, hunters and gatherers. They survived for 30,000 years, anthropologists say.

They are an amazing people, with a culture and customs that would put many a Western community to shame. They have more gender equality — women as tribal leaders, men that carry the children on their backs, a plant-based medical practice that has kept them alive for thousands of years. They are under threat from climate change. They have lost their rainforests, and the climate will never revert again to be a balanced harmonious influence for growth if we do not stop the

warming. The greed of the ruling elite families with international corporations devastated the rainforests by cutting and exporting logs to rebuild Europe and Japan after the Second World War.

Only 3 percent of forest cover is left in isolated areas around the nation. The bare hills were stripped of their topsoil by the increased rainfall. The brown earth was eroded and washed into the sea. This soil covered the coral and the smaller fish died out and the bigger fish migrated to deeper waters. Coastal fisher families were catching less and in the deeper waters, foreign fishing fleets raided the Philippine seas as the Chinese do today.

Only rough grass and bushes grow on the bare mountains. The climate has changed as a result. The

➤ CullenA5

rice harvest that should feed millions of people has been lost in recent years. Prices have risen through corruption and mismanagement.

Rural poverty has increased, and the poor have abandoned the land and the shores and migrated, like refugees, to the slums of the big cities. There they live in squalor, a once proud self-sufficient people, reduced to barely surviving. They squat in the shadows of the rich that live in luxurious condominiums. They eat *pagpag* to survive — that is the boiled leftovers scraped from the food plates of the rich that eat in the posh restaurants and hotels.

But the Aetas have not become refugees in their own country. They have struggled to survive by continuing to adapt to climate change by planting and growing their own root crops, vegetables in a natural and organic way. They produce fair trade organic mangoes, the only such group to do so internationally certified by Naturland. They live in poor villages but eat and produce healthy, nutritious, natural grown food.

Susan, an Aeta village chief, explains how they experience climate change. She tells of the unexpected rainstorms that destroy the mango blossoms. There have been no mango fruits for three years on

their mountains. It is the rebuke of a wounded and hurt nature. It feels the pain of neglect and convulses in agony with the death of plants and forest animals driven to extinction. Landslides scar the hills, rivers are polluted, chickens die, children cry and sickness visits more frequently.

We are destroying our own habitat and eliminating our role as the planet's self-awareness. When we are at war with the earth, we are at war with ourselves. When we hurt planet Earth, we hurt ourselves for we are one with it. We, humans, have evolved from its soil, its chemistry and its life forms. The earth is our mother that gave us life, and we are its consciousnesses.

Through us, the planet and the universe reflects and contemplates its own self because we are its brain, the thinking being and the planet is conscious and self-aware through us.

Every one of us has to redeem the failures of the human race that is destroying ourselves and the earth. We must cry out and take to the streets in peaceful nonviolent protest and claim our rights as belonging to a clean healthy planet, of which we are an intimate part.

www.preda.org



Angat Dam strengthened vs quakes

By RHODINA
VILLANUEVA

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has been adopting measures to strengthen Angat Dam and other water

structures in the wake of recent earthquakes that rocked various parts of the country.

MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco said K-Water and its local partner San Miguel Corp. successfully facilitated the

Angat Dam and Dyke Strengthening Project (ADDSP), which he claimed was a big step toward ensuring the structural integrity of the dam for it to withstand a magnitude 7.2 earthquake.

Velasco said that

immediately after the recent earthquake in Luzon and Metro Manila, the MWSS dispatched engineers to assess the Angat, Ipo and La Mesa dams.

"Despite the challenges and difficulties

Turn to Page 4

that may arise, we have to be aggressive in putting on track our disaster preparedness program as well as in developing dependable alternative new water sources since 96 percent is supplied by the Angat Dam," Velasco said.

He said specific projects have been undertaken to ensure the structural integrity of Angat such as the P260-million flood forecasting and warning system on dam operation and the P292-million flood control protection works, which have been completed under the ADDSP.

Velasco cited the need for a pragmatic and doable water security plan to cushion the effects of an earthquake that could potentially damage Angat Dam, the primary water source for Metro Manila and neighboring provinces of Rizal and Cavite.

"The need for a new water security plan is now a major concern of the government, especially for the Philippines with growth centers like Metro Manila that greatly depend on one water source like Angat Dam," he said.

In a joint meeting between officials of the National Disasters Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Earthquake Resiliency Team for the Water Sector, a total of 109 existing deep wells that could be re-activated in case of a disaster were identified.

To ensure water potability, regular maintenance check-up is to be conducted.

An agreement between the MWSS, through its concessionaires, and the National Water Resources Board mandates the conduct of periodic monitoring of

water quality.

In case of a disaster, there are nine available mobile water treatment plants, 43 static water tanks and 79 mobile water tankers that can be deployed.

There are also 64 water reservoirs with a total capacity of 1,222 million liters per day (MLD).

The Maynilad facility reservoirs have a 711MLD capacity while Manila Water has 511 MLD.

The MWSS crafted a water security roadmap that will provide potable and sustainable water supply in the next five to 10 years and even 50 years at an increase of at least 1,518 MLD by 2022.

Authorities are fast-tracking projects under the new water security roadmap. These are the 150 MLD Putatan, 100 MLD Cardona, 188 MLD Sumag, 50 MLD Rizal Wellfield, 80 MLD Calawis Wawa, 100 MLD Putatan 3 and the 250-MLD Lower Ipo dam projects.

There is also the 600-MLD Kaliwa Dam project, whose implementation begun in 2017 and is expected to be completed in 2023.

To complement the New Water Security Roadmap 2019-2022 is the need to fast-track the completion of Aqueduct 6 and Tunnel 4, both expected to be operationalized by January 2020, Velasco said.

The MWSS also expects to complete by June 2022 the Aqueduct 7 and Tunnel 5, which are now on stream to provide another 1,600 MLD to the La Mesa reservoir.

The completion of these aqueducts and tunnel system will optimize the flow of excess water from Angat to La

Mesa Dam.

Velasco cited the need to closely collaborate with all stakeholders especially with its concessionaires Manila Water, Maynilad and Bulacan Bulk Water.

He said the water shortage being experienced in the East Zone since March demonstrated how teamwork can address a crisis.

"Cross-border sharing between Manila Water and Maynilad was among the short-term solutions to the water crisis," Velasco said.

"The water crisis also resulted in the activation of deep wells to augment dwindling water supply," he added.

Quake rocks Mindoro

A magnitude 5.5 earthquake rocked the municipality of Rizal in Occidental Mindoro yesterday morning, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The epicenter of the tremor, which occurred at 9:05 a.m., was located 23 kilometers southwest of Rizal.

The quake, which was tectonic in origin, was felt at Intensity 5 in Rizal and San Jose, both in Occidental Mindoro as well as in Calapan in Oriental Mindoro.

Intensity 4 was felt in Abra de Ilog, also located in Occidental Mindoro, and Intensity 3 in Lipa, Batangas; Malay, Nabas & Ibajay towns, all in Aklan; Libertad in Antique and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro.

The quake was felt at Intensity 2 in El Nido, Palawan; San Nicolas, Batangas and Manila.

Although no damage has been reported, the quake was expected to generate aftershocks.



05 MAY 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

EMISSION TESTING ORDER DRAWS PROTEST

PRIVATE emission testing centers asked President Rodrigo Duterte to put on hold the implementation of the Department of Transportation Department Order No. 2019-002 which was eventually revised through Memorandum Circular No. 2019-009 which threatens them out of the motor vehicle emission testing business.

Spearheaded by Alagaan Natin Inang Kalikasan led by its president Macario Evangelista, Jr., the stakeholders said "D.O. No. 2019-002 entitled Revised Order on Privatizing the Motor Vehicle Inspection Centers through Authorization once implemented will eventually displace around 5,000 workers and affect 25,000 members of their families".

"It will also increase the testing fee three to four times the current rate to the prejudice of the motoring public," the stakeholders said.

Evangelista said the swift changes in the rules were meant to confuse and diffuse participation by interested PETCs. "Worse, these new rules revealed the preference of key officials of the DOTr for expensive European technology suppliers, prioritized granting of emission inspection centers to selected affluent individuals who can initially afford to post P10-million bond and be immediately issued provisional authorizations even without submitting a single legal document [business permits, articles of incorporation, financial statements, BIR licenses] other than mere application forms," he said.

"The PETCs can prove that they have, singly and collectively, the capability and resources to evolve into a reasonably sized PMVIC and provide the same efficient and Asian based technology at par, if not better, than its European counterparts preferred by the DOTr," Evangelista said.



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

B2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE

Save the environment, save taxes

WHO would have thought that having a green mind will actually save you taxes? In 2016, President Benigno Aquino 3rd signed into law Republic Act (RA) 10771, the "Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016," granting special tax deductions and duty-free importation of capital equipment for companies that provide and sustain "green jobs" as certified by the Climate Change Commission (CCC). The CCC is the sole policy-making body responsible for coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating government programs toward mitigating climate change.

"Green jobs," as defined in RA 10771, refer to employment that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment, be it in the agriculture, industry or services sector. Quite recently, the Department of



THE FINE
PRINT

RON
ARRIEGADO

Finance (DoF), together with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Regulations (RR) 5-2019, implementing the tax provisions of RA 10771. We look into the salient provisions of RR 5-2019.

Only qualified "business enterprises" as certified by the CCC may avail of the tax incentives. These refer to establishments engaged in the production, manufacturing, processing, repacking, assembly, or sale of goods and services, including service-oriented enterprises; self-employed or own-account workers; micro, small; and medium enterprises (MSMEs); and community-based business enterprises.

A qualified business enterprise shall be entitled to a deduction from its taxable income equivalent to 50 percent of total expenses for skills training and research and development subject to the following conditions:

- The deduction shall be availed of during the taxable year the expenses were paid or incurred;
- The taxpayer can substantiate the amount of the deduction with sufficient documents (invoices, official receipts, and other adequate records) that show that the expenses for skills training and research and development generate and sustain green jobs;
- The deduction is in addition to the allowable, ordinary, and necessary business deductions under the Tax Code.

In order to avail of the tax incentives under the regulations, business enterprises shall:

- File an application with the NCC for a certification that the enterprise is qualified to avail of the tax incentives under RR 5-2019;
- Submit the certification issued by the NCC with the BIR Revenue District Office (RDO) to update the enterprise's registration;
- Submit the following documents with the RDO upon filing of the taxpayer's income tax return/annual information return:

A sworn list of the total expenses paid for skills training and research and development for the year;

A sworn list of the activities and projects undertaken, indicating the amount, place, and manner the expenses were paid or incurred;

A sworn declaration that the expenses paid for skills training and research and development have a direct connection to the activities and projects that generate and sustain green jobs.



Coca-Cola partners with Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force for environmental stewardship

THROUGH the World Without Waste vision, the Coca-Cola System in the Philippines once again demonstrates its firm commitment toward environmental preservation and stewardship by providing a top-of-the-line cleaning machinery to the municipality of Malay, Aklan, which aims to service and help the community in their thrust for a continuous responsible care of Boracay's beaches. The partnership strives to be among the perfect examples of the private sector and the public sphere coming together for the responsible stewardship of the nation's natural resources.

"The collaboration with the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force [BIATF] attests that we are a staunch partner of the government in looking for opportunities to further the country's goals toward environmental preservation," says Gareth McGeown, chief executive and president of Coca Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. (CCBPI), the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in the Philippines. "This endeavor also reaffirms our dedication to attaining the vision of a World Without Waste, and we are committed to working with all stakeholders toward realizing this goal. We are grateful for this opportunity to join hands and work earnestly with like-minded institutions in government."

Together, CCBPI and the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines held on March 28 a ceremonial turnover of the equipment to the Municipal Government of Aklan and to members of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), represented by Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, and Tourism Undersecretary Edwin Enrile, to further pursue environmental stewardship via a sustainable and holistic plan that begins with the introduction of the Surf Rake. A signing of the Memorandum of Agreement will be held at a later date with Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat.

"This interagency, intersector collaboration is a significant development that we hope will go a long way in addressing an urgent concern

regarding one of the Philippines's most beloved beaches," says Cecile Alcantara, president of the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines. "The Coca-Cola System is proud to be part of this endeavor, which is testament to the possibilities realized by strong, genuine partnerships between stakeholders with a common goal."

The Surf Rake by H. Barber and Sons, manufactured in the USA, is the most popular tractor-towed beach cleaner in the world—this is because it is the fastest and most efficient beach-cleaner in the market. Operated by an individual from the seat of a towing tractor, the Surf Rake provides safe, fast and efficient beach cleaning.

Close coordination with the local government of Malay, Aklan, will be undertaken to ensure the proper and efficient use of the Surf Rake, toward a genuine multistakeholder collaboration for the benefit of our environment. Coca-Cola will also work with the DOT and the local government of Malay to further establish a holistic and sustainable environmental preservation plan that will also enjoin both locals and tourists to take action, and do their part in the solid-waste management efforts in the island.

In all, the introduction of the Surf Rake, as part of this plan, complements the national government's aims for the preservation of our world-famous beaches—and it also ties in with Coca-Cola's global vision of helping create a World Without Waste.

"We recognize that there is a global waste problem and, like every one, we have a responsibility to help solve it," says McGeown. "As the bottler, our presence and deep foundation in the communities where we are present places us in a unique position to fully understand the waste management and recycling situation at a local level. This then enables us to help advocate for new solutions that can help address the specific needs of the communities we serve—making the vision of a World Without Waste more accessible and possible for everyone."



Remate

ANG DIARYO NG MASA

7
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

CEASE AND
RESTART STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

GRAFT, IKINASA VS LIAN MAYOR

IPINAGHARAP ng kasong katiwalian at paglabag sa Philippine Mining Act sa Ombudsman ang alkalde ng Lian, Batangas kaugnay sa pakikipagsabwatan sa ilang malalaking korporasyon na ikinasalaula ng kailikasan.

Sa pitong pahinang reklamo, nais ng complainant na si Dennis Ilagan na patawan ng preventive suspension at masampahan ng kasong kriminal si Mayor Isagani Bolompo kasama si Exequiel Robles, pangulo ng Sta. Lucia Land Incorporated.

Bukod sa kasong graft at

paglabag sa Philippine Mining Act, ipinagharap din ang alkalde ng kasong paglabag sa Code of Conduct of Government Employees.

May kinalaman ito sa pagbibigay ni Bolompo ng developmental permit sa korporasyon sa proyekto nito sa bayan ng Lian kahit walang environmental clearance certificate mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, gayundin ng mga certification mula sa Department of Agrarian Reform at Housing and Land Use and Regulatory Board.

Sa katunayan, nagpala-

bas ang DENR ng cease and desist order laban sa anomang development sa Lian na magdudulot ng pagkasira ng bundok at polusyon sa karagatan.

Sa kabila ng kautusan ng DENR, nagpatuloy naman ang operasyon ng illegal mining o quarrying sa 84 hektaryang lupain sa Barangay Matabungkay.

Nahaharap din anya si Bolompo sa kasong malversation of public funds dahil sa pangongolekta ng environmental users fee.

"Parang toll fee dahil ang sinomang papasok sa Matabungkay kahit hindi naman

pupunta sa beach at may bibilhin lamang sa tindahan ay hihingán agad ng P25 para umano sa environmental fee," saad ni Ilagan.

Ayon kay Ilagan, kwestionable ang mga public hearing at mga meeting na isinagawa para makapagpalabas ng resolusyon sa paniningil ng P25 na sinasabing para sa environmental fee.

Bukod dito, hindi rin maipaliwanag ng lokal na pamahalaan kung saan napupunta ang kanilang koleksiyon gayung walang mga programang pangkalikasan na inilulunsad sa kanilang lugar. **RNT**



BULGAR

2
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05 MAY 2019

DATE

BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN

MAYOR, TINULUYAN SA ENVIRONMENTAL FEE

IPINAGHARAP ng kasong katiwalian at paglabag sa Philippine Mining Act sa Ombudsman ang alkalde ng Lian, Batangas kaugnay sa umano'y pakikipagsabwatan sa ilang korporasyon upang masalaula ang kanilang kalikasan.

Sa pitong pahinang reklamo, nais ng complainant na si Dennis Ilagan na patawan ng preventive suspension at masampahan ng kasong kriminal si Mayor Isagani Bolompo kasama si Exequiel Robles, pangulo ng Sta. Lucia Land Incorporated.

Ipinagharap din ang alkalde ng kasong paglabag sa Code of Conduct of Government Employees.

May kinalaman ito sa pagbibigay umano ni Bolompo ng developmental permit ang korporasyon sa proyekto nito sa bayan ng Lian kahit wala umanong environmental clearance certificate mula sa Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR), gayundin ng mga certification mula sa Department of Agrarian Reform at Housing and Land Use and Regulatory Board (HLURB).

Nauna nang nagpalabas ang DENR ng cease and desist order laban sa anumang development na magdudulot ng pagkasira ng bundok at polusyon sa karagatan.

Sa kabila ng kautusan ng DENR, nagpatuloy naman ang operasyon ng illegal mining o quarrying sa 84 hectares ng lupain sa Bgy. Matabungkay.

Nahaharap din umano si Bolompo sa kasong malversation of public funds dahil pangongolekta ng environmental users fee. "*Parang toll fee dahil ang sinumang papasok sa Matabungkay kahit hindi naman pupunta sa beach at may bibilhin lamang sa tindahan ay hihingan agad ng P25 para raw sa environmental fee.*" ani Ilagan. (Mylene Alfonso)