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# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# Maynilad warns of service interruptions

## Metro crisis worsens as Angat water level continues to dip

### FROM B1

By Ronnel W. Domingo  
@RonWDomingoINQ

Maynilad Water Services Inc. yesterday warned of "rotational service interruptions throughout its concession area" once regulators reduced supply when water level at Angat Dam went down to the critical low of 160 meters above sea level (masl).

According to monitoring by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, the stock at Angat was at 161.78 masl at 6 a.m. of June 18, down by 0.61 meter from 162.33 masl a day before.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) forecast that Angat level would be at 160 masl by this weekend.

"The NWRB announced that it will reduce allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and

Sewerage System (MWSS) once water level in Angat Dam dips to 160 meters," Maynilad said in a statement.

NWRB executive director Sevillo David said on Monday that allocation of raw water to MWSS—which is in turn treated by Maynilad and Manila Water Co. Inc. to produce potable water—had been reduced to 46 cubic meters per second from 48 cu. m effective June 1 on account of the continuous reduction of Angat's stock.

"At an allocation below 46 (cu. m), Maynilad will be constrained to implement rotational service interruptions throughout its concession area to maximize the limited supply and ensure that all customers will have some water supply, even within a few hours daily," the company said.

The West Zone concessionaire added that it had measures in place to mitigate the impact of this reduced allocation.

These include the extension of operating hours of our pumping stations, prompt repair of pipe leaks and reactivation of deep wells, among others.

"If necessary, Maynilad will send out mobile water tankers and install static water tanks for severely affected areas," the company said.

Also yesterday, Manila Water issued a service advisory that it would be implementing rotational water service interruptions for

the entire East Zone.

"Despite the rains we have been experiencing these past days, the water level at Angat and Ipo Dams continue to decline, thereby affecting water availability and our ability to refill our reservoirs. The (NWRB) will reduce allocations for the water concessionaires. Release of raw water in Angat (yesterday) will just be 38 cu. m per second instead of 48 cu. m," it said.  
INQ



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## 12 million customers to experience low water to no water pressure for 6 to 12 hours

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR** and **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

As much as 12 million customers of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) and Manila Water Company, Inc. (Manila Water) will experience low to no water pressure for 6 to 12 hours straight starting today as the water level in Angat Dam continues to diminish.

The decision was made after the National Water Resources Board (NWRB)

further reduced the Angat Dam's water allocation to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Based on the PAGASA's monitoring as of Tuesday, the water level at Angat Dam has further declined to 161.76 meters, which is just 1.76 meters short of its 160-meter critical level for domestic water supply. ▶9

## 12 million customers...

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With the country currently experiencing a monsoon break, the chance of rainfall, especially over the Angat watershed, has been lessened.

If the water level at Angat Dam falls below 160 meters by June 22 (Saturday), NWRB said another water allocation adjustment will be implemented simultaneous with the shutting down of the auxiliary unit.

The auxiliary outlet, which is being used at the moment, could no longer be utilized once the water level falls below 160 meters.

NWRB assured that it will allocate at least 36 cms to MWSS should the dam further decline to 150 meters.

But the implementation of lower water allocation could adversely affect the normal delivery of water services to Maynilad and Manila Water, the agency said.

"Expect rotational water service interruptions, which will be announced the soonest possible time," NWRB advised the public.

It appealed to the public to "conserve water and pray for heavy rains" to help elevate the dwindling water level at Angat Dam.

"We are really entering unprec-

edented levels for Angat," Manila Water President and Chief Executive Officer Ferdinand Dela Cruz said earlier.

Angat Dam had its lowest water level back in 2010, but it only went down to as low as 157 meters.

Right now, the dam releases about 4 million liters of water per day (mld). Of this, Manila Water gets an allocation of 1,600 mld, while Maynilad is allowed to get the rest or about 2,400 mld.

With allocation for MWSS reduced, low-water pressure can be expected both for Manila Water and Maynilad customers.

Company officials estimate that about 6.9 million or 70 percent of Maynilad customers will start experiencing low water pressure or rotational interruption, while as much as 5.4 million or 80 percent of Manila Water customers will suffer from the same ordeal.

"We are constrained to implement a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire East Zone for about 8 to 12 hours during night time. We will post the schedule of water interruptions in our social media platforms. We will continue to provide regular updates regarding water supply outlook for the East Zone," Jeric Sevilla,

head of Manila Water's corporate communications, said.

Manila Water, which currently has 6 million customers, provides water to 23 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila and Rizal. These include Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasig, Pateros, San Juan, Taguig, Marikina, and parts of Quezon City and Manila. The towns of Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jalajala, Morong, Pililia, Rodriguez, Tanay, Taytay, Teresa, San Mateo and Antipolo in the province of Rizal are also part of the East Zone.

Maynilad, on the other hand, has 9 million customers from cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana), Quezon City (west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Avenue, the northern part starting from the Districts of Holy Spirit and Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Pinas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon, all in Metro Manila; the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in the Province of Cavite.

NWRB and MWSS are now appealing to the public to conserve water and "pray for heavy rains to come in the Angat watershed area."

# Interruptions set for bulk of Maynilad, Manila Water customers

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

A huge portion of Metro Manila and nearby provinces should expect service interruptions until this weekend after the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) decided to further cut allocation amid the continued drop in the water level at Angat Dam, the metro's main water source.

The NWRB is reducing the allocation for Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to 40 cubic meters per second (CMS) from the current 46 CMS starting today until this weekend.

The NWRB meanwhile is

fine-tuning preparation of the low-level outlet as a back-up water discharge before the Angat Dam level reaches 160 meters and lessen the significant effect of limited water supply in the coming days.

With the cut in allocation, 70 percent of the customer base of west zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. will be affected while 80 percent of east zone Manila Water Co. Inc. will be hit.

Angat Dam's water level dropped further to 161.78 meters yesterday and is expected to hit critical level this weekend.

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, the water supply of Angat Dam,

which supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water demands, was 18.22 meters below its normal operating level of 180 meters.

MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco said Angat Dam's water level would dip to a low-level mark of 160 meters if it will not rain by June 20.

"If the (monsoon break) forecast of PAGASA continues, we would reach 154 meters by end of June," Velasco said, referring to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, in an interview with radio station *dzMM*.

"This will affect water supply going to our treatment

plants and consequently, our ability to refill our reservoirs. We are therefore constrained to implement a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire east zone for about eight to 12 hours during nighttime," Manila Water spokesman Jeric Sevilla said.

"Of the 70 percent, 20 percent will be severely affected, where only eight hours will be the supply window. The remaining 50 percent, they have roughly nine to 16 hours of water supply," Maynilad Water Supply Operations head Ronaldo Padua said.

Maynilad said it has mitigating measures in place, in-

cluding the extension of the operating hours of pumping stations and the reactivation of deep wells. It will also deploy mobile water tankers and install static water tanks for severely affected areas.

Further, NWRB executive director Seville David Jr. said another adjustment will be undertaken on Saturday or once the 160-meter level is breached because the auxiliary unit will be shut down.

"However, it is assured that at least 36 CMS will be allocated to MWSS until the dam further declines to 150 meters, assuming that there is no significant inflow," David added.

While there were intermit-

tent rains in the past few days, the NWRB said these have not significantly improved the water elevation in Angat Dam.

"It continuously declines despite the PAGASA pronouncement of the onset of rainy season. A monsoon break is present in the country which lessens the chance of rainfall in the coming days. Earliest downpour is expected in the last week of June," David said.

The NWRB is urging the public to conserve water to reduce the water demand from Angat Dam to prevent the rapid decline of water level and contribute to its recovery.

- **With Helen Flores, Rhodina Villanueva**



## Water interruption seen as Angat Dam nears critical level

By Vincent Mariel P. Galang *Reporter*

ROTATIONAL interruptions in water service are expected in Metro Manila after the Angat Technical Working Group (TWG) proposed to reduce the water allocation to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), with Angat Dam's level seen to breach 160 meters in the next few days.

"The TWG is proposing to reduce the allocation to MWSS from 46 CMS to 40 CMS starting June 19 to 21 to fine-tune the preparation of the low level outlet (LLO) as a back-up water discharge before the Angat dam level reaches 160 meters. This is to lessen the significant effect of limited water supply in the coming days," TWG said.

As of June 18, 6:00 a.m., the dam's water level is at 161.7 meters, which is expected to further decline despite the onset of the rainy season.

The reduction in allocation will affect 70% of customers of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and 80% of Manila Water customers.

In a statement, Manila Water said this development "will affect water supply going to our treatment plants and, consequently, our ability to refill our reservoirs. We are therefore constrained to implement a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire East Zone for about 8 to 12 hours during night time. We will post the schedule of water interruptions in our social media platforms. We will continue to provide regular updates regarding water supply outlook for the East Zone."

Maynilad, for its part, said, "We are constrained to implement rotational service interruptions throughout our concession area to maximize the limited supply and ensure that all customers will have some water supply, even within a few hours daily."

"Maynilad has measures in place to mitigate the impact of this reduced allocation, including the extension of operating hours of our pumping stations and reactivation of deep wells, among others. If necessary, Maynilad will send out mobile water tankers and install static water tanks for severely affected areas."

In a statement and subsequent clarification note, the National Water Resources Board said it is "constrained to implement a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions" in all of Metro Manila.



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# Angat Dam level alarming— —MWSS

By Rio N. Araja and Alena Mae S. Flores

**T**HE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System on Tuesday raised the alarm over the poor water supply at Angat Dam in Bulacan, saying its elevation could further dip below the critical level of 160 meters.

In a dzMM radio interview, MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco said the dam's water level "a little above" the 160-meter critical mark.

He said the rains in the past week were not enough to help replenish the dam's dwindling supply.

According to Elmer Karingal, a Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's hydrologist, as of yesterday 6 a.m., the dam's water level went down to 161.78 meters from Monday's 162.39 meters.

"We observed the water elevation go down by .61 meters yesterday, or more than half a meter," he said.

"We have projected that should there'll be no rain on June 20, the level would plunge to 160 meters," Velasco said.

Karingal, for his part, said the dam's elevation could even dip below 160 meters.

"On July 18, 2010, Angat Dam was at its lowest at 157.56 meters. In July 2014,

its elevation went down to 160 meters something. But based on our hydrograph or manual graph, despite the prevailing El Niño phenomenon during those years, Angat Dam was able to recover from its low water supply," he said.

"We are hoping rains would come on the third week of July or first week of August since typhoons are expected to enter the country and to spawn rains," he added.

The enhancement of the southwest monsoon due to a typhoon could trigger downpour, he said.

Velasco fears that Angat Dam's level would reach 154 meters by end of June, saying the two water concessionaires of MWSS—the Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.—might end up adopting rotational service or service interruption, and water rationing.

The two water firms advised their over 15-million customers to prepare for pos-

sible water interruptions. A rotational service interruption in the East Zone concession area would start Tuesday night, Manila Water said.

The National Water Resources Board has reduced the volume allotted to concessionaires from 46 cubic meters per second to 40 cms.

Meanwhile, grid operator National Grid Corporation of the Philippines placed the Luzon grid on red alert due to shortage of power generation capacity for three hours on Tuesday, the 11th red alert raised since January this year which resulting to rotational brownouts in selected areas.

Manila Electric Co. implemented manual load dropping or removing loads from the grid starting from 1:19 p.m. yesterday which affected areas in Calumpit, Hagonoy and Malolos in Bulacan. Meralco also implemented MLD in some areas in Metro Manila namely Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas.

Meralco put on standby participants of its interruptible load program in the wake of the supply deficiency.

"Corporations and commercial establishments participating under the ILP are ready to use their generator sets to help prevent / minimize incidents of power outage," the company said.



# Consumers hit by double whammy

BY JED MACAPAGAL

CONSUMERS may have to bear more rotating brownouts and rotating water interruptions due to the limited supply of power and water in the coming weeks.

Luzon Grid was placed under red alert yesterday due to extreme insufficiency in the amount of available power reserves as peak power demand hit 11,114 megawatts (MW) against an available supply of 11,402 MW.

Water level in the Angat dam is expected to breach the 160-meter critical elevation level within the next three days.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said as of 6 a.m. yesterday, Angat's level was at 161.78 meters.

It said the technical working group is proposing to reduce the allocation to the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) from 46 cubic meters per second (cms) to 40 cms starting today June 19 to June 21 to fine-tune the preparation of the low-level outlet as a back-up water

discharge before the Angat dam level reaches 160 meters. This is to lessen the significant effect of limited water supply in the coming days," the agency explained in a statement.

NWRB said assuming that the 160 meter level is breached on June 22 based on the projection, another adjustment will be undertaken in the MWSS allocation because the auxiliary unit will be shut down. But it assured at least 36 cms will be allocated to MWSS until the dam further declines to 150 meters assuming that there is no significant inflow.

"This will considerably impact the normal delivery of services of both Metro Manila concessionaires, Maynilad and Manila Water and the Bulacan concessionaire. Expect rotational water service interruptions which will be announced the soonest possible time," the agency said.

Manila Water said the reduction will affect its water supply going to its treatment plants and

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### CONSUMERS

consequently, its ability to refill its reservoirs.

"We are therefore constrained to implement a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire East Zone for about 8 to 12 hours during night time," Manila Water said.

Maynilad said at an allocation 40 CMS, about 70 percent of its customer base will be affected. "We are constrained to implement rotational service interruptions throughout our concession area to maximize the limited supply and ensure that all customers will have some water supply, even within a few hours daily," the company said in a statement.

Maynilad said has measures in place to mitigate the impact of this reduced allocation, including the extension of operating hours of our pumping stations and reactivation of deep wells, among others. If necessary, Maynilad will send out mobile water tankers and install static water tanks for severely affected areas.

Meanwhile, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) said yesterday's power situation resulted to a total of

32 yellow alerts and 11 red alerts since the power supply deficiency was experienced in the Luzon Grid way back from March.

NGCP said the scenario caused power interruptions for customers of Cagayan Electric Cooperative, Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Quezon Electric Cooperative, Camarines Sur Electric Cooperative and the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

Meralco said its customers from the municipalities of Hagonoy, Calumpit and Malolos in Bulacan were affected as well as some parts of Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas.

A total of 231.38 MW of capacity from 116 participants of the interruptible load program ran their own generator sets in order to decrease the demand from the grid.

The Department of Energy said that the power supply deficiency yesterday was caused by the unplanned outages of four coal power plants with a total capacity of 765 MW as well as the de-rated capacity of six power plants, mostly hydro plants caused by the low water level in dams.



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# Water supply interruptions start today

By **MELISSA LUZ LOPEZ, CNN Philippines**

**METRO Manila residents will face a fresh round of water supply interruptions starting today, water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water said.**

The announcements were made yesterday afternoon, shortly after the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said they will reduce the water allocation for Metro Manila. The supply interruptions are seen to affect over 12 million homes.

NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. said the allocation for Metro

Manila will be reduced to 40 cubic meters per second (cms) on June 19 to 21 from the current rate of 46 cms to prevent a drastic plunge of the water level in Angat Dam, which is Metro Manila's biggest water source. Water utility firms will have to come up with their own schedules for the rotating supply interruptions, he added.

The water level in Angat Dam further dipped to 161.78 meters as of 6 a.m. of Tuesday. The agency projects the dam will breach the critical level of 160 meters this week, which would then trigger a reduction of water supplied to Metro Manila concessionaires. The dam's minimum operating level – or the rate it can comfortably

cover the region's needs – is at 180 meters.

However, another adjustment will be made to the amount of water released from the reservoir should the dam breach its critical level. By June 22, the allocation may drop to 36 cms until the dam's water level slips further to 150 meters. "This will considerably impact the normal delivery of services of Metro Manila concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water, and the Bulacan concessionaire. Expect rotational water service interruptions, which will be announced at the soonest time possible," David said in a press briefing.

The NWRB said the adjustment will mean a

reduction of 500 million liters per day – a volume equivalent to 50,000 water trucks.

Maynilad Water Supply Operations head Ronald Padua said roughly 6.9 million homes will see reduced water supply by Wednesday. Half of their customers in the west zone will have 10 to 16 hours of steady supply, while 20 percent will have eight hours of flowing water. Prior to this, the water firm has been implementing rotating service interruptions between 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. to manage dwindling water supply.

"Pipilitin namin na off-peak lang ang reduction pero baka maramdaman na kahit peak hours o sa araw [We will try to sched-

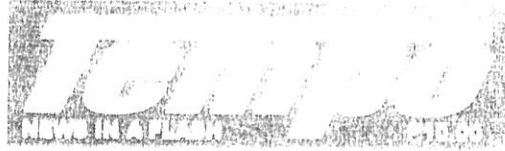
ule the water interruptions during off-peak times, but this may be felt even during the day]," Padua said after their meeting with the NWRB.

Manila Water communications manager Dittie Galang said separately that 5.4 million households will have weak or no water supply for four to 17 hours starting tomorrow. This comes three months after the Ayala-led concessionaire had to implement week-long rotating service interruptions in March, which was blamed to a huge supply deficit for Manila Water customers.

Manila Water corporate communications head Jeric Sevilla said they have "not fully recovered" from the March supply shortage, with a remaining a daily deficit of about 40 million liters. "This lowering of the levels of the Angat and Ipo dams and the possible reduction in the allocation will further aggravate our very volatile and unstable water supply situation," he told CNN Philippines' New Day.

To date, only about 90 percent of Manila Water's clients have round-the-clock supply, while 99 percent are assured of at least eight hours of flowing water per day, Sevilla said. Manila Water has advised customers about a fresh round of supply interruptions last Sunday.





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## Water supply reduced

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is set to further reduce the allocation for domestic water supply starting today, as Metro Manila's main water source, the Angat Dam, is now almost at its

critical level.

In a meeting yesterday with the technical working group composed of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration, National Power Corporation, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad, NWRB has proposed to reduce the water allocation to MWSS from 46 cubic

meters per second (cms) to 40 cms starting between June 19 and 21.

This is to fine-tune the utilization of the Angat Dam's low level outlet as a back-up water discharge before the water reservoir reaches the 160-meter critical level by the end of the week.

Based on the PAGASA's monitoring as of Tuesday, the water level at Angat Dam has further declined to 161.76 meters. **(Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz)**



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## WATER SUPPLY SA MWSS BABAWASAN

**B**ABAWASAN ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ng hanggang 13% ang dami ng tubig na nakalaan araw-araw sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) simula sa Miyerkoles.

"There will be reduction starting tomorrow to

40 cubic meters per second (cu.m/s)," wika ni NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr.

Aniya, ang water supply sa MWSS ay babawasan pa sa sandaling pumalo ang water level sa Angat Dam sa critical 160 meters.

Hanggang Martes ng umaga, ang water level sa

Angat reservoir ay nasa 162.39 meters.

"Then to 36 cu.m/s, once we breached the 160 meter level," ani David.

Ang adjustment ay makaaapekto sa supply ng water concessionaires Manila Water at Maynilad Water sa mga lugar na sineserbisuhan ng mga ito.



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## Water supply ng Metro, babawasan pa

Babawasang muli ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang alokasyon nito ng water supply sa Metro Manila simula ngayong Miyerkules, dahil aabot na sa critical level ang tubig sa Angat Dam.

Sa pulong kahapon kasama ang technical working group, na binubuo ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, National Irrigation Administration, National Power Corporation, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, at ng mga water concessionaire na Manila Water at Maynilad, nagpanukala ang NWRB na babawasan ang alokasyon sa MWSS mula sa 46 cubic meters

per second (cms) ay gagawin na lang 40 cms simula ngayong Miyerkules hanggang sa Biyernes, Hunyo 21.

Ito ay upang tiyaking tataagal ang tubig sa Angat Dam, na batay sa monitoring ng PAGASA kahapon ay bumaba pa sa 161.76 metro, o 1.76 metro na lang ang lamang bago umabot sa 160-meter critical level nito para sa domestic water supply.

Dahil sa El Niño, mas kakaunti ang tyansa ng bagyo sa bansa kahit pa tag-ulan na.

Sakaling umabot na ang tubig sa Angat Dam sa mas mababa sa 160 metro sa Sabado, Hunyo 22, sinabi ng NWRB na muli itong magpapatupad ng water allocation adjustment,

kasabay ng pagsasara sa auxiliary unit nito.

Ayon sa NWRB, bababa pa sa 36 cms ang ilalaan ng Angat sa MWSS sakaling bumaba pa ang tubig sa reservoir sa 150 metro.

Kinumpirma rin ng NWRB na ang mas mababang alokasyon ng tubig ay makaapekto sa normal delivery ng tubig ng Maynilad at Manila Water sa mga customer nito.

"Expect rotational water service interruptions, which will be announced the soonest possible time," paabuso ng NWRB sa publiko, at nanawagan ng pagtitipid sa paggamit ng tubig.

**Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz**



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# PAG-ULAN MAKATUTULONG SA LEVEL NG ANGAT DAM

**TIWALA ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na makatutulong ang mga inasahang pag-ulan para mapataas ang water level ng Angat Dam.**

Sinabi sa DWIZ ni NWRB Executive Director Dr. Seville David

na dalawang metro na lamang ay maituturing nang nasa critical level ang antas ng tubig sa nasabing dam.

"Umaasa nga po sana tayo na dumating na 'tong mga pag-ulan na sinasabi ng Pagasa at at ito po ay ipaabot sa mga

water shed... mas gusto po sana natin na du'n s'ya sa watershed, mag-extend sa watershed ang pagbagsak para po ma-recharge 'yung mga dam. Pero sa ngayon po hindi pa po ganoon ang nangyayari at patuloy pong bumababa ang Angat Dam," pahayag ni David.

Kapag nagtuloy-tuloy ang pagbaba ng water level ng Angat Dam, inihayag ni David na kailangan na talagang bawasan ang supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

"So, sa ganito pong senaryo, ang tinitignan po natin pagka patuloy pong bumaba 'yan ay posible na po tayong magkaroon ng kabawasan ng alokasyon kapag ito po ay bumaba sa 160 meters na elevation po at magiging dulot po nito, hahatiin

po natin, maaapektuhan po 'yung regular na supply na nararanasan ng mga kababayan natin dito po sa Metro Manila sa tubig," dagdag pa ni David.



Angat Dam



# Water interruption sa MM magsisimula na

ASAHAN na ang rotational water service interruption sa Metro Manila at Bulacan kapag binawasan na ang suplay ng tubig mula sa Angat dam.

Sa isang pahayag sinabi ng Manila Water, isa sa mga water concessionaire

sa National Capital Region, na magkakaroon ng epekto sa kanilang normal na serbisyo ang pagbabawas ng suplay ng tubig mula sa Angat.

"Expect rotational water service interruptions which will be announced

the soonest possible time," saad ng Manila Water.

Umapela naman ito sa publiko na magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig. "We again appeal to the public to conserve water and pray for heavy rains to come in the Angat water-

shed area."

Kahapon ng umaga, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat dama ay 161.78 metro, malapit na sa 160 critical level nito na maaaring maabot sa susunod na tatlong araw.

Ipinanukala ng Tech-

nical Working Group na bawasan ang suplay na tubig sa Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System mula sa 46 cubic meters per second at gawin na lamang 40 cms simula sa Hunyo 19 hanggang 29 bilang preparasyon sa Low-Level Outlet. Sa MWSS nanggagaling ang tubig ng Manila Water at Maynilad.

"This is to lessen the significant effect of limited water supply in the coming days."

Kung tuluyang bababa ang lebel ng tubig ay babawang muli ang isinusuplay na tubig sa Metro Manila at Bulacan.

"On June 22, assuming that the 160-meter level is breached based on the projection, another adjustment will be undertaken in the MWSS allocation because the auxiliary unit will be shut down. However, it is assured that at least 36 cms will be allocated to MWSS until the dam further declines to 150 meters assuming that there is no significant inflow," dagdag ng kumpanya. —Leifbilly Begas



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# Puerto reminded of worsening landfill

Velasco added that while the environmental permit given to the city government could not expire, there should be no complaints against the landfill from local residents

**By Andrio Atienza**

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging the Puerto Princesa City government to act on the worsening situation of its sanitary landfill in Barangay Sta. Lourdes.

Edna Velasco, officer-in-charge of Palawan-EMB, said they have been reminding the officials of the city government about the unwanted condition of the sanitary landfill where tons of garbage collected daily are dumped into.

"The city government must be doing a better job in the maintenance of the landfill because the result of water testing could not pass in the standard of the DENR," Velasco said.

Velasco added that while the environmental permit given to the city government could not expire, there should be no complaints against the landfill from local residents.

According to Velasco, a complaint against Barangay Sta. Lourdes sanitary landfill was already filed before the Pollution Adjudication Board of the EMB for resolution.

"Penalty will not be necessary if they will follow the required guidelines," Velasco said.

City administrator Arnel Pedrosa said the city government is considering another landfill as temporary solution but is inclined to have a waste-to-energy plan as an alternative to the present use of landfill.

He noted opposition by local residents in a new site being considered.

"There is a new site in Barangay Bahile but I heard that some of the residents are opposing it. Also, we are still expecting for the waste-to-energy project to push through. We consider the second option more viable and a long-term solution. While the first one will just be like the old landfill, a temporary solution," Pedrosa said.



## 1M tree seedling reserve ng BARMM

**I**BINAHAGI kamakailan ng Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MENRE-BARMM) na umabot na ang tree seedling reserves ng rehiyon sa halos isang milyon.

Bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng Environment Month, nagdaos ang mga Environment officials at mga empleyado ng isang soil-bagging activity at nursery sa Barangay Dimapatoy, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

"It (soil bagging) is a continuing effort is to prepare the young trees for future tree-planting events in the region," pahayag ni MENRE-BARMM Minister Abdulraof Macacua.

Upang masiguro ang tuloy-tuloy na paglago ng regional seedling nursery, nangako si Macacua at ang iba pang environment worker na magpapatuloy sa pagpapaunlad ng nursery kasama ng iba pang seedling nurseries sa bahagi ng Bangsamoro region.

"Soil-bagging activities would be considered a part of the ministry's greening program amid the effects of climate change," ani Macacua.

Ayon kay Macacua, regular niyang bibisitahin ang mga seedling nurseries sa rehiyon upang mataya at matukoy ang mga kailangan ng mga nursery sites at gawin ang aksiyon para sa pagpapaunlad nito.

Ang BARMM ay binubuo ng mga probinsiya ng Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi at mga lungsod ng Cotabato, Marawi at Lamitan.

Noong 2014, tagumpay ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao sa pangangalaga at pamamahagi kalaunan ng isang milyong tree seedlings sa rehiyon sa pamamagitan ng regional tree seedling nursery.

**PNA**



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## Illegal logger arestado sa pagputol ng narra

HULI ng mga awtoridad ang isang lalaki sa bayan ng Romblon na naaktuhan na nagpuputol ng puno ng narra nang walang kaukulang permit.

Ayon kay Captain Lendilyn Ambonan, tagapagsalita ng Romblon Police Provincial Office, ang suspek na kinilalang si Norberto Marino, 42-anyos, ay naaresto nitong makalawa matapos maaktuhan ng mga tauhan ng pulisya na nagpuputol ng puno ng mahogany at narra.

Wala umano ng maipakitang permit ang suspek sa pagputol at sa gamit nitong chainsaw nang siya ay hanapan ng mga awtoridad kaya agad siyang inaresto.

Dinala naman sa Romblon Municipal Police Station ang mga lumber na nakuha sa suspek na aabot sa mahigit P50,000 ang halaga.

Ayon sa pulisya, magsumbong agad sa mga kinauukulan kung sakaling may kahinahalang mga taong nagpuputol ng puno sa kanilang lugar na walang mga permit para maprotektahan umano ang kalikasan. (Paul Jaysent Fos)





# LGUs push for non-renewal of OceanaGold's Didipio FTAA

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The province of Nueva Vizcaya is appealing to President Duterte not to renew OceanaGold Philippines' financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA), which expires today (Wednesday).

The renewal of the FTAA will allow OceanaGold to continue operating the Didipio gold and copper mine for another 25 years.

OceanaGold has supposedly been causing more than P20 billion in damages to Nueva Vizcaya's rice fields, watersheds, mountains and communities.

"That is just an estimate, it could be much more as the damage inflicted on the rice fields is unquantifiable. We are already having a hard time asking them to pay taxes, how much more this?" Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos Padilla told The

STAR yesterday.

An FTAA is entered into between a contractor and the government for the large-scale exploration, development and utilization of gold, copper, nickel, chromite, lead, zinc and other minerals. It is granted to foreign-owned corporations seeking to operate in the Philippines.

The President has the final decision on the grant and renewal of an FTAA upon the endorsement of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

However, the DENR and MGB are pushing for the renewal of OceanaGold's FTAA, **The STAR** learned.

MGB assistant director Danilo Uykieng and Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones confirmed they endorsed OceanaGold's renewal application to the Office of the President.

Department of Environ-

ment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Analiza Teh, on the other hand, said the FTAA has yet to be approved and signed by President Duterte.

Padilla argued that the 300 workers in the mine site were nothing compared to the thousands of farmers being affected.

"Which one will we sacrifice? Plus, we will be providing livelihood to these workers and they are better off once OceanaGold is gone. We will develop agriculture and tourism," he said.

"I refused to have a dialogue with them because what's the use? Any effort or initiative for a dialogue is for them to protect their interest," Padilla said.

Meanwhile, environmental alliance Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) is also calling on Duterte to immediately rule in favor of mining-affected communities and

stop the destructive open-pit mining operations of the firm.

"The mine audit conducted by DENR in 2016 has allegedly revealed that OceanaGold not only violated several environmental laws, but also failed to comply with its contractual obligations to deliver social development to residents affected by its mining operations," ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera said.

Nueva Vizcaya is host to two of the largest mining projects in the country, OceanaGold's Didipio mine and FCF Mineral's Rurnruno Gold-Molybdenum project.

The local government and communities in the province have long been opposed to the mining industry due to the negative impacts on the people and the environment. They are pushing for more developments related to ecotourism and the agriculture sector.



## Anti-mining groups want Duterte to cancel OceanaGold's FTAA

**A**NTI-MINING groups have asked President Duterte to cancel the financial and/or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) of Australian-Canadian mining firm OceanaGold.

OceanaGold through its Philippine subsidiary, OceanaGold Philippines, operates the Didipio mine in the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

OceanaGold's 25-year FTAA license is set to expire after 25 years on June 20, 2019.

"OceanaGold's destructive big mining has been barricaded by indigenous communities, recently opposed in a unanimous provincial council resolution, and is even currently investigated by nine United Nations special rapporteurs. It is high time for the Duterte government to cancel OceanaGold's FTAA license and compel the destructive mine to answer for its various rights violations," said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, one of the national support groups for the Nueva Vizcaya-wide campaign against the foreign mining company.

Representatives from various Nueva Vizcaya-based people's organizations, Kalikasan PNE, Alyansa Tigil Mina, and the Greenthumb Coalition, together with Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Carlos Padilla and CBCP NASSA Secretary Fr. Edwin Gariguez raised the call for OceanaGold's FTAA cancellation before Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu in a dialogue at the DENR Central Office.

"We believe that more than a decade of human-rights violations and other negative impacts against communities and ecosystems in Nueva Vizcaya are a strong basis for denying the mining company's extension," Dulce said. Kalikasan-PNE said in 2007, Oxfam Australia

came out with a Mining Ombudsman Report narrating how villagers accused OceanaGold of engaging in "harassment and the use of strong-arm tactics to pressure them to accept its plans to develop a large gold and copper mine."

"In 2011, the Commission on Human Rights found OceanaGold complicit in the forced evictions of indigenous and peasant families that included the indiscriminate burning of homes from 2008 to 2009," Kalikasan-PNE added.

Meanwhile, a 2014 environmental investigation mission (EIM) led by independent scientist group Agham found damage to forests, air pollution from dusty roads and stockpiles, and massive water pollution, all affecting the health and livelihood of affected residents. In 2017, former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez ordered the suspension of OceanaGold's operations, but the order was stayed by the Office of the President after the company made an appeal. In the same month, at least 133 families were forced to evacuate their homes and local community leaders experienced threats and intimidation, after military combat operations swooped across the mine's operational and expansion areas.

"To date, villagers in OceanaGold's host barangay of Didipio have yet to be given their due just compensation from the company. Worse, the villagers have been forced to pay with their rights and civil liberties for being vocal in demanding accountability," Dulce said.

A communication last February by nine special rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Council, including Special Rapporteur on Environment Prof. John Boyd and Chair-Rapporteur on Business and Human Rights Surya Deva have sought answers

from the Duterte administration on the series of violations involving the Didipio mine.

On Monday, the Provincial Council of Nueva Vizcaya came out with a unanimous resolution calling for the non-extension of OceanaGold's FTAA.

"We will exercise constant vigilance to make sure the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Duterte administration revoke the pro-plunder, pro-polluter FTAA license of OceanaGold. Its license's expiry will mark the start, not the end, of our watch," Dulce ended.



**MINERALS ACCOUNTING.** Government agencies accountable for monitoring responsible mining in the Philippines visit Taganito Mining Corp. (TMC) for a pilot project of the national government referred to as "Minerals Accounting". The objective of the said project is to do an accounting of the country's minerals resources in order for the government to draft a roadmap that will effectively define the economic characteristics of the mining industry and other related industries.

TMC, a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), with mining operations in Claver, Surigao del Norte, is the first company the group is engaging for relevant data for this important economic project.

The delegation, headed by the Philippine Statistics Agency (PSA), attended a detailed tour of the TMC mine site as well as the plant site of THPAL, a minerals processing plant in Taganito.

The delegation also had representatives from the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Natural Resources (DENR), and the Environment Management Bureau (EMB).



## From Wattah! celebration to conservation

IT HAS been a tradition for citizens of San Juan, Metro Manila to celebrate the birthday of the city's patron saint, St. John the Baptist, through "*basaan*" or dousing of water. This activity, which simulates the act of baptism, is one of the staples of the city's Wattah! Wattah! Festival.

But with the recent water crisis, San Juan residents have begun to rethink the execution of the festival, turning a revered festival into a showcase of conservation efforts.

Earlier in March, a water crisis hit many parts of Metro Manila. Around 52,000 households experienced water shortage, with countless residents lining up for water rations. The intense heat of summer brought the water level of La Mesa Dam to its lowest level in 12 years.

In response, the Wattah! Wattah! Foundation plans to not only highlight the religious aspects of the festival, but also the environmental awareness of the celebrators. Through water conservation activities, the festival will demonstrate the faith of San Juanenos to their patron and their responsible use of limited natural resources.

"While the city has already been advocating water conservation campaigns, we think it is about time that the festival itself will highlight the environmental aspect," said Dante Santiago, Head of San Juan's City Environment and Natural Resources Office. "We can all have fun and be responsible to our mother nature at the same time."

This year's Wattah! Wattah! Festival began by observing the World Environment Day on Wednesday, June 7. The festival's grand weekend will kick off on Friday, June 21, and will culminate in the grand celebration on June 24, Monday.

Wattah! Wattah! will hold waterways and river clean-up programs, water caravan, and tree-planting. Organizers will also launch an online water conservation campaign.



## 'Wattah Wattah' Festival, tipid-tubig sa San Juan

Tuloy pa rin ang basaan, pero konting tubig na lang! Ito ang magiging eksena sa magaganap na Wattah! Wattah! Festival sa San Juan na ipagdiriwang sa Hunyo 24.

Dahil sa kakulangan ng suplay ng tubig sa ilang bahagi ng Metro Manila, titipirin muna ang mangyayaring basaan bilang pagdiriwang ng pista ng patron saint ng San Juan, St. John the Baptist.

Ayon sa kautusan ni San Juan Mayor Guia Gomez, water conservation muna ang mangyayari sa kanilang pagdiriwang ng kapistahan pero tuloy pa rin ang basaan at kasiyahan.

Maglalaan lamang ang lungsod ng 16 fire truck na gagamitin sa basaan na kung saan ay umabot ng 50 fire truck ang nagagamit nila noong nakaraang taon.

Ayon kay Dante Santiago, hepe ng San Juan City Environment & Natural Resources Office, "Magdidiwang pa rin tayo ng basaan pero magiging responsable sa paggamit ng tubig."

Ang Wattah! Wattah! Festival ay sinimulan kasabay ng World Environment Day noong Hunyo 7 habang ang grand weekend ay magaganap sa Biyernes, Hunyo 21 at magaganap sa Lunes, Hunyo 24 ang Wattah! Wattah! kasabay ang mga waterways and river clean-up program, water caravan, at tree planting.

Samantala, kasado naman ang San Juan City Police sa pagsasagawa ng monitoring at police visibility sa lahat ng barangay sa siyudad na kung saan nasa 50 kapulisan mula sa Eastern Police District ang itatalaga. **(Vick Aquino)**



## SI MAYOR ISKO AT ANG BASURA NG MAYNILA

YAMAN din lamang na mauupo na sa darating na July 1, 2019 ang bagong alkalde ng Lungsod ng Maynila na si Mayor-elect Francisco 'Isko' Moreno Domagoso, marami nang Manilenyo ang nananabik na pag-upo ng isang dating magbabasurang aktor, pinalad na maging 3-termer na konsehal sa 1st District ng Maynila at may bonus pa bilang bise-alkalde ng Maynila, ay tuloy-tuloy na ang pag-asenso ng Maynila.

Ano nga ba ang dahilan kung bakit kumandidatong mayor si Isko?

Kung si Mayor Isko lang ang tatanungin, para sa kanya ay mas gusto pa niya na asikasuhin ang kanilang negosyo at samahan ang kanyang pamilya dahil daw sa naglalakihan

na ang kanyang mga anak samantalang ang pulitika ay nandiyan lang naman.

Aniya, halos nauubos daw ang kanyang oras sa public service at nagkukulang na ang panahon niya para sa kanyang pamilya.

Nandiyan naman umano ang mga offer sa kanya sa showbiz na kayang-kayang sagipin ang pamumuhay nila ng kanya pamilya.

Kuntento na siyang buhayin niya ang kanyang pamilya bilang pribadong mamamayan.

Sa panayam kay Mayor Isko, sinabi niyang hindi niya puwedeng tanggihan ang pakiusap ng mamamayan ng Lungsod ng Maynila dahil sa napakarami na raw problema na kinakaharap nito.

Kaya nagdesisyon siya na



## JUAN DE SABOG

ni JOHNNY MAGALONA

kumandidato muli para sa mayor ng lungsod.

Kaya sa pagbabalik ni Mayor Isko, ang unang naging prayoridad niya ay ang kalkalin ang basura ng Maynila dahil wala raw pinipiling katayuan ang basura sa lipunan.

Walang mahirap, walang middle class at walang mayaman dahil kahit sinoman ay walang makalalagpas sa sanidad dahil ang kawalan ng sanidad ang isa sa lumilikha ng sakit at ang sakit daw na ito ay walang pinipiling katayuan sa lipunan.

Ayon pa kay Mayor Isko, dati siyang basurero at ito raw

ang kanyang linya.

It is a challenge raw ngayon para ipakita sa tao kung anong gusto niyang ipakahulugan sa business about addressing the serious garbage problem.

Sinabi pa ni Isko, kailangan ng lungsod ang unity, one city at ayaw niyang maghati-hati ang mga tao sa Manila.

Kailangang nagkakaisa ang bawat tao, para sa Manila Aasenso.

Anomang puna o reklamo, i-text sa 09189274764, 0926-6719269 o i-email sa juandesabog@yahoo.com o juandesabog48@gmail.com.



## BPI FOUNDATION TO REFOREST 100 HECTARES OF DENUDED WATERSHED IN BANGSAMORO

**I**N pursuit of inclusive development in provinces, BPI Foundation, in partnership with Hineleban Foundation, has committed to rehabilitate 100 hectares of denuded watershed in the Bangsamoro region of Amai Manabilang, Lanao del Sur, and provide livelihood to 20 families in Barangay Pagunayan.

Maricris San Diego, BPI Foundation executive director, said that this is part of the foundation's Mindanao rainforestation and transformational business project.

"We see this partnership will significantly help restore the ecosystem and consequently bring more rain to increase agricultural production. This initiative will provide food security in the area and sustainable, disposable income for 20 families in the identified project site," San Diego said.

The project brings back the flora and fauna in the mountain range in Amai Manabilang, which is inhabited by settlers of different origins and other smaller ethnic groups.

The main source of livelihood in the area is farming, mainly crop production. The municipality is one of the largest corn producers in the province. The major crops planted in the area include sugarcane, corn, soba and buckwheat.

With this partnership, the foundation seeks to engage local communities to become custodians of the site by providing them sustainable livelihood opportunities and becoming their partners in ensuring the conservation of the reforested area.

Major components of the project include social preparation, family food-security cycle, sustainable disposable-income component, rainforestation, values and leadership transformation program, and community development planning.

The project began with social preparation and engagement with local leaders, as well as an orientation and assessment of the community members. A family food-security cycle, or 3,500 square meters of shared farming land for the community's consumption, was also established. Technical support and marketing efforts for the products of Hineleban Foundation were also strengthened.

This year's rainforestation will follow a natural succession process that will eventually lead to the planting of indigenous dipterocarp, oak and select commercial species. Throughout the project's implementation, meeting the needs of the community, as well as instilling stewardship of different project components, remain essential.

"It has always been our commitment to work with communities and experts in developing solutions to create a more sustainable environment for the benefit of generations to come," San Diego said.

Established in 1978 as the social development arm of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, BPI Foundation works toward improving the social and economic well-being of the Filipino people through education, entrepreneurship and environmental sustainability.



## Holcim supports call for global water conservation

**L**EADING cement maker Holcim Philippines participated in the celebration of the World Water Day (WWD), a global initiative advocating the importance of freshwater conservation, through various programs in its facilities across the country.

Holcim Philippines has been implementing projects to conserve water in its facilities and help improve access to this resource to its communities since 2015 as part of its sustainability commitments. These are part of its pledge to support global building materials leader Lafarge-Holcim Group in contributing to the attainment of 14 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to improve the lives of people worldwide.

Holcim Philippines Environment Man-

ager Stephanie Frogoso said the initiatives are designed to reduce the company's water consumption by at least 30 percent by 2030, as its sites are among the top water consumers in the areas it operates in.

"We continued to raise our efficiency in using this resource in 2018 by improving water-recycling facilities in our plants and consumption in the process lines. Our expansion project in the pipeline will also consider water-efficient operations, such as a closed-loop system to reduce water consumption," Frogoso added.

In its Bulacan plant in Norzagaray, Holcim currently utilizes an old quarry to collect rainwater for use in operations. This initiative can potentially provide 30 percent of the total water requirement of the plant. It is also part of the sustain-

able water management initiatives being implemented aside from other conservation programs in the plant.

Holcim sites also actively participate in regular cleanup activities, water quality monitoring, and information and education campaigns. In Misamis Oriental, the Lugait plant implemented the "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" project for community day-care centers to improve access of children there to such facilities. A total of 263 students from Mauswagon and Masikalon Daycare centers benefited from the project. In Davao, the Holcim plant is a partner of the local government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in protecting the Ilang River, which is used for recreation and household needs of a nearby community.

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HOLCIM Philippines's participation in the recent World Water Day activities is part of its commitment to improve its overall sustainability performance by 2030 to support the LafargeHolcim Group and the United Nations in meeting long-term goals in improving lives of people.





# Social enterprise brand joins global drive to cut plastic waste, save seas

By RIZAL RAOUL S. REYES [@brownindio](#)  
Contributor

**H**UMAN Nature, the country's social enterprise brand that manufactures genuinely natural products, has joined global efforts to save the seas from plastic pollution by opening refilling stations for its home-care products.

"Home care is one of our fast-moving lines, and customers have long been asking for refills because of the volume of usage. This refilling system came from several months of research, sourcing and prototyping because we wanted to ensure safety, traceability and adaptation—that the system is effective and the cost isn't a barrier for scaling up. We are working with design experts and social innovators to come up with a simpler and more scaled down model for refilling stations that can be implemented all over the country," Human Nature President and Cofounder Anna Meloto-Wilk said in an interview.

Human Nature home-care refilling stations are at SM City North Edsa and its flagship store in Commonwealth Avenue.

The co-founder of Human Nature said the launch of the refilling station is in response to the development of a holistic approach to the recycling program.

## 12M tons

Estimated quantity of plastic waste dumped into the oceans each year

Through its latest project, Human Nature hopes to educate the behavior of consumers on the importance of recycling toward sustainability. "First, you have to clean the bottle to refill and dry it," she said.

"In terms of behavior, buy only what you need. You have to control your own desires. You will realize later you accumulated a lot of stuff and end up not using it. It will later land in the landfill," Meloto-Wilk pointed out.

A 2018 article from the United Nations Environment Program, "Our planet is drowning in plastic pollution," noted that 79 percent of plastics end up in the natural

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MELOTO-WILK

environment. Of this proportion some 8 to 12 million tons of plastic waste go into oceans each year.

And so, Meloto-Wilk said, "if we continue business as usual, by 2050, there could be more plastic than fish in the sea by weight."

Before launching the initiative, Meloto-Wilk said, engineers of Human Nature conducted several tests to determine the quality of the bottles. "These are [made of] sturdy materials and I think you can reuse several times," she said.

Meanwhile, Human Nature is teaming up with environmental groups and eco-conscious brands to call for standardized refilling policies to make refilling more widely accessible, while ensuring consumer safety.

Currently, because refilling is classified under "filling," a manufacturing activity, Meloto-Wilk said, the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 9711, or the

Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009, make it highly challenging for the safe refilling of cosmetic products accessible and available to most Filipino consumers.

According to Meloto-Wilk, the presence of safe, appropriately regulated cosmetics and home-care refilling stations that are as accessible as water refilling stations can potentially spark a radical change in the way people and organizations consume goods and manage plastic waste.

Human Nature has also formed an alliance with environmental groups such as Save Philippine Seas, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, WWF Philippines, and several more environmental advocacy organizations and eco-conscious brands to create safe, sustainable, and accessible refilling stations to reduce plastic waste nationwide.

Nevertheless, Meloto-Wilk said, it is a huge challenge to wean people

away from using plastics. "People are so attached to plastics because they are good in protecting food and are affordable."

"But we need a way to change the use of plastic. Instead, we can use it over and over again so that we can reduce the volume of plastic that end up in our landfill," she added.

Meloto-Wilk said all Human Nature bottles can be returned to all Metro Manila branches. She added Human Nature is working with a recycling facility to repurpose old bottles.

The project started on March 30.

Meloto-Wilk said consumers can bring their empty, clean, and dry Human Nature home-care bottles to Human Nature SM City North Edsa The Block, or to the Human Nature Flagship Store on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, and get up to P10 off for every 500 milliliter, 950 ml or 1 liter bottle refilled.

The discount varies as Human Nature charges the refill by the gram to assure that in case of human error, a consumer will just pay for any excess.

Founded in 2008 by Dylan Wilk, Anna Meloto-Wilk, and Camille Meloto, Human Nature products are made in the Philippines and free from harmful chemicals. In 2012, Human Nature was recognized by the World Economic Forum's Schwab Foundation as a Champion for Social Entrepreneurship. In 2016, Human Nature became the first Asian brand to receive a Sustainability Pioneer Award from Eco-via Intelligence (Organic Monitor), a globally recognized think tank for the organic beauty industry.



## World without waste: a transformational initiative

**THINKING  
BEYOND  
POLITICS**  
VANESSA PEPINO

**This year has seen promising  
solutions to plastic pollution  
in the Philippines.**

The last two months have been replete with small victories related to the Philippines' waste problem. After languishing in our ports for years, shipping containers of garbage — plastics, household kitchen waste, shredded electronic wastes, and contaminated trash — were recently shipped back to their places of origin. Whether it was low business costs, ineffective checks, or regulatory oversight that led these piles of garbage to our shores, using another country as a dumping ground is an utterly deplorable practice.

The reality is, it is cheaper to export trash to low- or low-middle income countries where recycling costs are cheaper than disposing of it at home. However, it is also a reality that low-income and lower-middle income economies, such as the Philippines, are

the least equipped when it comes to proper waste disposal, efficient collection systems, and recycling and recovery processes. It becomes an even more massive task to think of other countries' waste when we already have a problem in managing our own waste polluting our water bodies, affecting our health and biodiversity. In 2017 alone, Ocean Conservancy reports that the Philippines had 2.7 million tons of plastic waste, of which 17% of collected waste and 31% of uncollected waste leaked into the ocean. Not to mention, we bear the brunt of social, environmental, and economic consequences of waste pollution.

Be that as it may, there are local innovations or community-based projects that have the potential to contribute to a nationwide and long-term sustainable approach to waste management. In a recent

publication titled *Plastics and Circular Economy: Community Solutions*, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) draws attention to the need to shift from a linear model of "take, make, use, and dispose"—which has led to our current waste problem—to a circular economy approach. The latter is a closed loop of "reduce, reuse, and recycle" even at local levels, where habits and behaviors are entrenched and contribute to the problem of plastic pollution. UNDP highlights best local practices around the world in "material engineering and product design, shifting consumer use and behavior, and developing sound approaches to waste collection and management" in Burundi, Jamaica, Gambia, Afghanistan, etc.

A common and outstanding theme in these countries is the

VANESSA PEPINO is a Non-Resident Fellow of the Stratbase ADR Institute. She is the author of "A Balanced Approach to Solid Waste Management: Governance and Total Stakeholder Participation," the study cited in this piece.

# The Philippines adopts the coral reef, or 'bangkota,' as theme of Expo 2020 Dubai

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) gave a sneak preview of the country's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai set from October 2020 to April 2021.

The Philippines has adopted "Bangkóta"—the ancient Tagalog word for coral reef—as its theme for the Expo.

The theme focuses on the country's natural resources, and how the Filipinos are like the coral reefs: they thrive in colonies throughout the world.

Expo 2020 Dubai is the latest edition of the World Expo that started in London in 1851. Dubai's 428-hectare expo grounds will showcase the pavilions of 190 countries, including the Philippines.

Some 25 million tourists are expected to visit the pavilions.

The Philippine pavilion will occupy a 3,000-sqm space with a 1,300-sqm enclosed area. It will be designed by Budji+Royal Architecture+Design and curated by Marian Roces. It will feature five exhibits, an artisanal café, and Go Lokal! stores.

The Philippine exhibit will be installed permanently in New Clark City, Tarlac, after the Expo.

"Our most important goal in participating at the Expo is to present a country brand that reflects our rich history and our values as caring, compassionate and creative people," said Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez.

Although the Expo is not a trade fair, Lopez said that the government's allotted budget of less than P1 billion will be earned back through tourism, trade, services and investments, as the DTI will also organize an investment mission to maximize the opportunity.

He added that President

Duterte himself was receptive to the idea of joining the Expo because there are around 700,000 Filipinos in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Duterte has issued Administrative Order 17 assigning DTI to lead the Philippine Organizing Committee (POC) in Expo 2020 Dubai. The POC is also composed of the Departments of Tourism, Foreign Affairs, Budget, Labor, Science and Technology, and Information and Communications Technology.

#### Mesh as primary material

DTI Assistant Secretary Rosvi Gaetos said that Expo 2020 Dubai's organizers think that the PH pavilion is "humble, honest, yet progressive."

Architect Royal Pineda of Budji+Royal Architecture+Design said his group used mesh instead of concrete as primary material to depict the Philippines truthfully, rather than compete with the affluence of the other countries.

Roces curated five main exhibits—"4,000 Years Young," "Modern Becomes Filipino," "The Muslims of the Philippines," "The Coraline People" and "Oceans Pacific"—to illustrate the country's history and culture before the arrival of the Spaniards.

The exhibits seek to change the world's mindset about the Philippines, and the Filipinos' mindset about themselves.

The POC has set March 16, 2021, as Philippine National Day to mark the 500th anniversary of Ferdinand Magellan's arrival in the country. The event aims to change the old perspective that March 16, 1521, was the day Magellan discovered the Philippines; rather it was the day the country discovered Magellan.



STRATEGIC  
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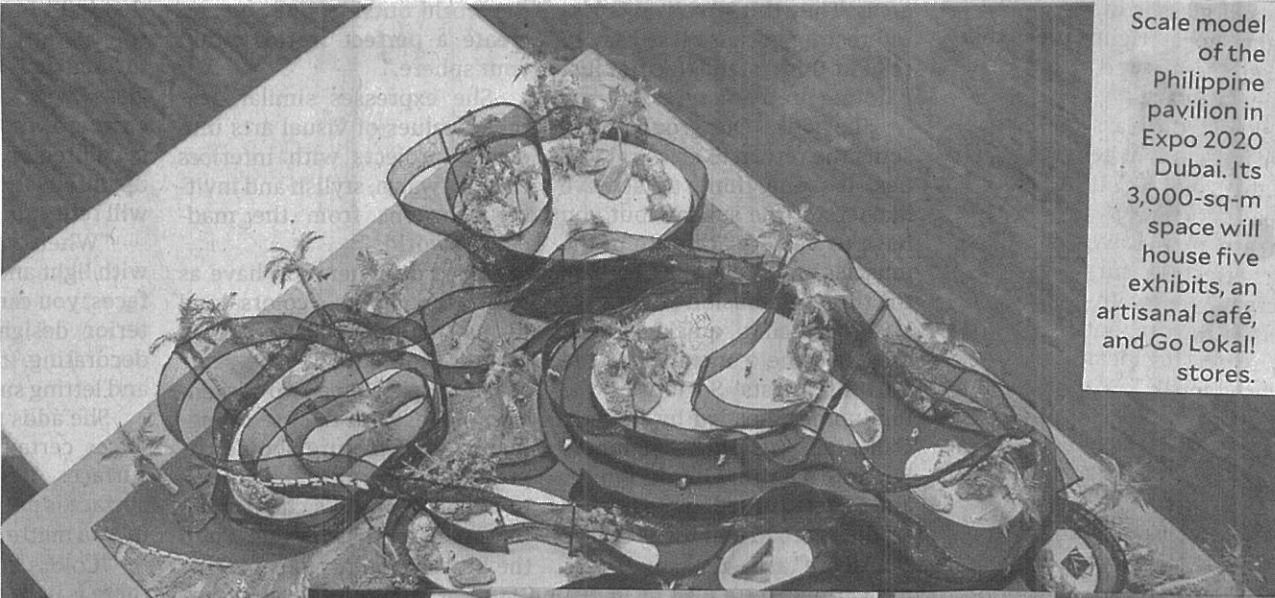
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Scale model of the Philippine pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai. Its 3,000-sq-m space will house five exhibits, an artisanal café, and Go Lokal! stores.

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At the sneak preview, from left: Budji Layug, Marian Roces, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, architect Royal Pineda, DTI Assistant Secretary Rosvi Gaetos, and Undersecretary Rowel Barba



Mesh, instead of concrete, will be used to build the Philippine pavilion inspired by the coral reefs, in the Expo 2020 Dubai, as shown in this scale model.



# Writ of *kalikasan* hearings on WPS reset

By EDU PUNAY

The Supreme Court (SC) has reset oral arguments on the petition of fishermen from Palawan and Zambales to compel the government to protect disputed areas in the West Philippine Sea where Chinese fishermen have reportedly been harvesting marine resources.

In session yesterday, the SC justices decided to move the public hearing on the writ of *kalikasan* case from June 25 to

July 2.

Insiders revealed that the magistrates moved the oral arguments to a later date to allow longer preparation by petitioners and respondents.

The petition filed by the group led by Monico Abogado through the Integrated Bar of the Philippines sought the issuance of writ of continuing mandamus to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the environment in Scarborough or Panatag Shoal, Ayungin Shoal and Mischief or Panganiban Reef.

Last May 3, the court ordered the government to answer the petition filed last April 16.

Petitioners sought relief from the SC against what they called "neglect of performance of the duties of the government in violation of environmental laws resulting in environmental destruction of damage in the shoals."

They specifically accused respondents – Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of

Agriculture, Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police and Department of Justice – of "failure to perform their duties as mandated in the above-mentioned environmental laws and regulations."

They said the government specifically failed to act on activities of Chinese fishermen in those areas, which violate the country's environmental laws.

Petitioners also cited the island-building activities in

Panganiban Reef as found by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in its 2016 ruling.

The group explained that Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban Reef are part of the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as declared by the PCA. They said Panatag Shoal, on the other hand, is part of the EEZ under Republic Act 9522 or the Philippine Baselines Law.

Since the three areas are part of the country's EEZ, they

said these should be covered by environmental laws of the country such as the Philippine Fisheries Code.

Petitioners said they sought relief from the SC because they "have no other plain, speedy and adequate remedy as petitioners are complaining of acts by the government agencies themselves who are supposed to be upholding Philippine environmental laws and protecting the environment and resources in Philippine territory."



# US ambassador vows to protect PH's international rights amid new tensions in the West Philippine Sea

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

**D**AVAO CITY - The Philippine government can bank on the support of the United States to protect its international rights amid the tensions stemming from the issues over the disputed West Philippine Sea, US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim said on Tuesday.

In a press conference at the Seda Abreeza Hotel in Davao, Kim underscored the need to protect international rights such as the freedom of navigation and the freedom of life in light of the recent maritime incident at the Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea where a Filipino fishing boat was reportedly

rammed by a Chinese fishing vessel.

The 22 fishermen aboard the sunken Gem-Ver fishing boat at the Recto Bank were rescued by a Vietnamese fishing vessel hours after they were reportedly rammed and abandoned by a Chinese fishing vessel.

Kim said the sinking should serve as a reminder that "there needs to be a responsible maritime behavior and activities that are consistent with the international law" and called on the Philippine and Chinese governments to investigate the incident and hold the responsible party accountable.

"We believe very strongly that we all should protect international rights like freedom of navigation and freedom of life. This is why the US Navy has

continued to conduct freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea. I think it is an important reminder to all concerned including China that the US will continue to take actions to protect international rights," he said.

He said the US government would continue to work with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and other law enforcement agencies to "build capacity," so that the agencies would be able to deal with these types of situations more effectively.

"I think it is more important to note that what we're doing in general is to work with the Philippine military and Philippine law enforcement agencies to build capacity. I am very pleased that we have such a robust partnership with AFP

including the Coast Guard," he said.

Citing US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Kim vowed the US will protect the Philippines as part of its commitment under the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty.

He said any armed attack "against the Philippine forces, Philippine aircraft, and Philippine public vessels will trigger our obligations under the Mutual Defense Treaty."

"It's a very important clarification of our commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty. And I think that clarification stands on its own. We are honestly very committed to the mutual defense treaty through our alliance, which is our oldest alliance in the Pacific region," Kim added.



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## SC resets oral arguments on 'kalikasan' case over WPS

By Rey E. Requejo

THE Supreme Court has rescheduled its oral arguments on the petition of fishermen from Palawan and Zambales to compel the government to protect disputed shoals in the West Philippine Sea where Chinese fishermen have reportedly been harvesting marine resources.

During its en banc session on Tuesday, the SC resolved to defer the public hearing on the writ of kalikasan case from June 25 to July 2.

Court insiders disclosed that the SC magistrates decided to reschedule the public arguments to a later date to allow longer preparation by petitioners and respondents.

The petition filed by the group led by Monico Abogado through the Integrated Bar of the Philippines sought issuance of writ of continuing mandamus to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the environment in Scarborough or Panatag Shoal, Ayungin Shoal and Mischief Reef or Pangani-

ban Reef.

Last May 3, the Court ordered the government to answer the petition filed by the group led by Monico Abogado last April 16.

Petitioners sought relief from the SC against what they called "neglect of performance of the duties of the government in violation of environmental laws resulting in environmental destruction of damage in the shoals."

They specifically accused respondents—Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police and Department of Justice—of "failure to perform their duties as mandated in the above-mentioned environmental laws and regulations."

The petitioners said the government specifically failed to act on activities of Chinese fishermen in the said areas, which violate the country's environmental laws.

The petitioners also cited the island-

building activities in Panganiban reef as found by the PCA in its ruling.

The group explained that Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban Reef are part of the exclusive economic zone where the country has jurisdiction, as declared by the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. They said Scarborough Shoal, on the other hand, is part of the EEZ under Republic Act 9522 to the Philippine Baselines Law.

Since the three areas are part of the country's EEZ, they said these should be covered by environmental laws of the country such as the Philippine Fisheries Code.

The petitioners said they sought relief from the SC because they "have no other plain, speedy and adequate remedy as petitioners are complaining of acts by the government agencies themselves who are supposed to be upholding Philippine environmental laws and protecting the environment and resources in Philippine territory."





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## Oral argument for writ of kalikasan petition reset

THE SUPREME COURT has moved the oral argument for the April 16 petition for writ of kalikasan filed by fisherfolk in Palawan and Zambales and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) seeking to enjoin the government to protect the country's shoals in the West Philippine Sea. In an advisory, the SC Public Information Office said the justices moved the oral argument from June 25 to July 2. The petitioners said the government has refused to take legal action against violators of environmental laws and thus sought the Court to compel it to protect Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) and Panganiban Reef (Mischief Reef). The respondents include Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, and Philippine Coast Guard Admiral Elson E. Hermogino.



## 'House no place for OJT Speaker'

By Maricel V. Cruz

THE next Speaker should hit the ground running to implement the legislative reforms wanted by President Rodrigo Duterte from day one of the coming 18th Congress, a returning congressman said Tuesday.

Duterte is on the second half of his term and should have good point men in Congress if he was to achieve the reforms that he envisioned, the legis-

lator said.

Anakalusugan Party-list Rep.-elect Mike Defensor said there was no room for a candidate who could be compared to a student on an on-the-job training.

Defensor said candidates for Speaker Martin Romualdez of Leyte and Alan Peter Cayetano had an edge in terms of experience and competence over their rivals that included Marindue Rep. Lord Alan Velasco and former Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

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"They are all my friends and [any of them] can serve [as] Speaker. But Congressmen Martin Romualdez and Alan Cayetano have the leadership depth and the capacity to navigate the House in terms of needed legislation. They have the experience, competence and caliber to lead the members of the House," said Defensor, who served three terms as a district congressman and later as Presidential Chief of Staff and Environment secretary during the Arroyo administration.

"The next Speaker should be Speaker from day one. He should know what to do the very minute he sits as the country's fourth highest official of the land," said Defensor in underscoring the urgent need to help Duterte's efforts in pursuing structural reforms to guarantee the country's economic takeoff.

Among the candidates, Defensor said, Romualdez had the most excellent interpersonal relationship with his colleagues as attested by the manifesto of support for him to be the next Speaker initially signed by more than 153 lawmakers.

Defensor said interpersonal relationship was very crucial in shepherding the swift passage of Duterte's legislative measures.

"When you speak of speakership, you need to have an excellent interpersonal relationship with each and every member of the House and clearly with the mandate given to Congressman Romualdez, it goes to show his good relationship with the majority of the lawmakers," Defensor said.



## LUPAIN NG BLAAN: DOLE ANG NAKIKINABANG?

SA halip na ang BLAAN TRIBE ang mismong makinabang sa 18,000 ekaryang lupain sa POLOMOLOC, SOUTH COTABATO na dapat ay kanilang pag-aari... tila ang mga ito pa ang nagmistulang dayuhan sa sarili nilang lugar matapos na mamonopolyo ng mga maiimpluwensiyang personalidad partikular ng DOLE PHIL INC. at ng DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR).

Ito ang naging pagbubunyang ni Attorney-in-fact DATU HILARIO ABBATUAN sa weekly forum ng BALITAAN SA MAYNILA na ang moderator dito ay ang veteran broadcaster na si ANGEL ALMONTE at veteran journalist DAVE VERIDIANO... na iginiit ng naturang DATU na ipairal sa kanilang lugar kung ano ang irinatakda ng batas patungkol sa karapatan ng mga katutubo.

Bunsod nito ay umaapela ang mga BLAAN sa pangunguna ni DATU ABBATUAN kay PRES. RODRIGO DUTERTE na ang lupain nirentahan ngayon ng DOLE PHIL INC ay ibalik sa mga katutubo dahil pagmamay-ari ito ng mga BLAAN TRIBE.

Lumalabas na ang naturang lugar ay inokopa ng DOLE PHIL INC sa paraang nirenta ang lupain at nagbabayad ng renta ang naturang kompanya sa DAR. Ang 18,000 ekaryang lupain ay nirenta sa halagang P35,000 kada-ektarya bawat taon.

Libo-libong BLAAN umano ang dapat makinabang sa lupain subalit 42 pamilyang BLAAN lamang ang pinalad na napagkalooban ng CERTIFICATE OF LAND OWNERSHIP AWARD (CLOA).

Sa naturang forum ay naihayag ni DATU ABBATUAN na ginawa na nila ang lahat ng pakikipagkomunikasyon para matulungangan sila tulad ng PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-CRIME COMMISSION (PACC); DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR); NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDEGINOUS PEOPLE (NCIP); DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD); DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) at sa lokal na pamahalaan ng SOUTH COTABATO, subalit walang naging aksiyon sa ilang taon nilang pangangalampag hinggil sa kanilang ipinaglalaman.

Aniya, ang mga IP's ang dapat na makinabang at maging benipesaryo sa ibinabayad na renta ng DOLE PHIL na napupunta sa DAR.



"Kami po ay nagbabayad na ng amilyar sa mga loteng inookupahan namin dahil nilagyan na rin kami ng mga muhon na pinagkontribusyon pa po naming mga katutubo para lang sa legalidad, pero sa sitwasyon ngayon ay iilan lamang sa mga Blaang ang sinuwerte na nagkaroon ng CLOA gayong dapat e lahat ng mga pamipamilyang Blaang ang dapat na makaukupa sa lugar namin. Ang kaso, dahil sa manipulasyon ng mga maiimpluwensiya sa probinsiya namin e may-orya sa mga katutubo ay pinagkaitan ng kanilang mga karapatan," pahayag ni DATU ABBATUAN kasunod ang pagpapahayag nito na mayroon na siyang natatanggap na pagbabanta sa kaniyang buhay dahil sa puspusan niyang pakikipaglaman para lamang makamit ng kaniyang mga katrigo ang lahat ng mga karapatang dapat maangkin.

Dapat ang mga GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ay umaksiyon hinggil dito dahil mayroon tayong batas hiinggil sa karapatan ng mga katutubo at kung hindi ito maresolba e baka humantong sa pag-aalburuto ng mga katutubo at magkaroon na namang muli ng mga pag-aalsa sa bahagi ng MINDANAO o sa SOUTH COTABATO.

Natatandaan ko noong panahon ng kampanyahan ay aktibong nakikipagdayalogo at inaalang ni SENATOR ELECT BONG GO ang iba't ibang kinakaharap na problema ng mga katutubo at pinanganakuan naman niya na gagawin niya ang kaniyang kakayahan na maresolba ang mga problema ng mga katutubo.

PAGING INCOMING SEN. BONG GO... sa iyong pag-upo ay mabigyan mo sana ng panahon na maasistehan ang ipinaglalaman ng BLAAN na nirerepresenta ni DATU ABBATUAN upang magkaroon ng katiwasayan ang kabuhayan ng mga nasabing katutubo sa gawi ng POLOMOLOC, SOUTH COTABATO!

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Kung kayo po ay may mga puna o reklamo lalo na sa mga nababatikos ng ARYA ay maaari kayong mag-email sa [irwincorpuz22@gmail.com](mailto:irwincorpuz22@gmail.com) para sa inyong panig o kaya ay magtext sa 09997806557.