

DATE : 30 APR 2019

DAY : Tuesday

**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 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 APR 2019

DATE

## Live coral cover found in Manila Bay

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Experts and researchers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have discovered live coral cover in the Manila Bay, buoying hopes that the heavily polluted body of water could still be restored to its pristine condition.

DENR's research arm Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) has conducted an inventory of the coral ecosystems within Manila Bay, and found out that many of them are thriving despite environmental and human pressures.

ERDB supervising science research specialist Jose Isidro Michael Padin said a majority of the coral cover was found in Corregidor and Caballo Islands in Cavite province.

"Nearly 72 percent of the estimated reef area is found in Cavite. The reef sites in Maragondon and few stations in Corregidor and Caballo Islands had fair to good live coral cover," Padin said.

He, however, said these reefs were continually being threatened by sedimentation, nutrient contamination, reduced water clarity, and high fishing pressure due to increased vulnerability harboring the bay.

According to Padin, runoff sediments and nutrients have been documented to cause coral mortality, but the reef areas remaining at the historic bay were located

proximately "at its mouth."

Based on the coastal resource map prepared by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority or NAMRIA, Manila Bay's coral cover spans 293.68 hectares, but this data does not yet include that of Mariveles in Bataan.

ERDB Director Sofio Quintana said that the bureau was conducting "ridge-to-reef" research on Manila Bay.

"We are seeking for a definite connection among risk factors. Right now, we are trying to gather more data on informal settler families, air and water quality, and habitat to make scientific studies relevant for future projects," he said.

Quintana added that the ERDB was trying to come up with a unified framework for such projects which, when consolidated properly, could make an inference on the status of the Manila Bay area.

"We also want to provide reference in the decision process of the policymaking bodies with the data backed-up by research. If there are existing policies, maybe we could harmonize and align researches to these policies," he said.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, who heads the inter-agency Manila Bay Task Force, said that the findings that coral reefs were still thriving in many parts of the bay has given the government more reason to proceed with the rehabilitation.



11-  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 APR 2019

DATE

## Live corals found in Manila Bay

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has expressed high hopes that Manila Bay can still be brought back to its pristine condition with the discovery of several live corals.

"With the vibrant underwater life still teeming in several areas in Manila Bay, there is hope that we can still revive it to what it used to be," Cimatu said.

Ecosystem researchers have spotted coral reefs still thriving in many parts of the bay giving government more reason to proceed with the ambitious rehabilitation mission.

In a recent inventory of the coral ecosystems within Manila Bay, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) found that many corals are still thriving despite environmental and human pressures.

ERDB supervising science research specialist Jose Isidro Michael Padin said majority of the coral cover were found in Corregidor and Caballo Islands in Cavite province. Nearly 72 percent of the estimated reef area was found in Cavite. The reef sites in Maragondon and few stations in Corregidor and Caballo Islands had fair to good live coral cover.

However, Padin said these reefs are continually threatened by sedimentation, nutrient contamination, reduced water clarity, and high fishing pressure due to increased vulnerability harboring the bay.

Runoff sediments and nutrients had been documented to cause coral mortality, but the reef areas remaining at the historic bay are located proximate "at its mouth."

Meanwhile, ERDB Director Sofio Quintana said the bureau is conducting "ridge-to-reef" research on Manila Bay.

**Joel dela Torre**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

30 APR 2019  
DATE

# BUHAY NA CORALS SA MANILA BAY NATUKLASAN

NAKAKITA ng pag-asa si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na muling mabubuhay ang Manila Bay mata-

pos matuklasan ang mga buhay na corals sa ilalim ng tubig ng naturang baybayin.

Ayon kay Cima-

tu na namumuno sa inter-agency Manila Bay Task Force, base sa naging resulta ng pag-aaral, natuklasang

may mga coral reef sa maraming bahagi ng Manila Bay kaya't higit pang pursigido ang gobyerno para sa rehabilitasyon nito.

"With the vibrant underwater life still teeming in several areas in Manila Bay, there is hope that we can still revive it to what it used to be," pahayag ni Cimatu.

Kamakailan lamang ay nagsagawa ng imbentaryo ang Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) ng DENR at natuklasan na buhay ang coral ecosystems sa Manila Bay kahit na matindi ang environmental at human pressures dito.

Ayon kay ERDB supervising science research specialist Jose Isidro Michael Padin, karamihan sa mga nadiskubrang corals ay

matatagpuan sa Corregidor at Caballo Islands sa probinsiya ng Cavite.

"Nearly 72% of the estimated reef area is found in Cavite. The reef sites in Maragondon and few stations in Corregidor and Caballo Islands had fair to good live coral cover," sabi pa ni Padin.

Aniya, ang mga coral na ito ay patuloy na naapektuhan ng "sedimentation", "nutrient contamination", pagbaba ng kalidad ng tubig at pangingsda.

Base sa coastal resource map ng National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), ang coral cover ng Manila Bay ay umaabot sa 293.68 hectares, hindi pa kasama rito ang lugar ng Mariveles, Bataan.

**BENEDICT  
ABAYGAR, JR.**



## DENR: Manila Bay, may pag-asa pa!

Possible pang maibalik ang dating ganda at linis ng Manila Bay kasunod na rin ng pagkakatiskubre ng pamahalaan sa live coral cover nito.

Ayon sa Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), research arm ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), karamihan sa natuklasan nilang coral ecosystem sa lugar ay nabubuhay pa sa kabila ng nararanasang environmental at human pressure.

Paliwanag naman ni ERDB supervising science research specialist Jose Isidro Michael Padin, karamihan sa coral cover ay nadiskubre sa Corregidor at Caballo Islands sa Cavite.

"Nearly 72 percent of the estimated reef area is found in Cavite. The reef sites in Maragondon and few stations in Corregidor and Caballo Islands had fair to good live coral cover," aniya.

Gayunman, patuloy pa ring banta sa coral reef ang nararanasang sedimentation, nutrient contamination, reduced water clarity at mataas na fishing pressure bunsod na rin ng mahinang kondisyon ng lawa.

Sa isinagawang coastal resource map ng National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), aabot sa 293.68 ektarya ang saklaw ng coral cover ng Manila Bay, hindi pa kabilang ang Mariveles sa Bataan.

Nagsasagawa pa rin, aniya, sila ng komprehensibong "ridge-to-reef" research sa Manila Bay.

"We are seeking for a definite connection among risk factors. Right now, we are trying to gather more data on informal settler families, air and water quality, and habitat to make scientific studies relevant for future projects," ayon pa sa kanya.

**Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

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10/51  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 APR 2019

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

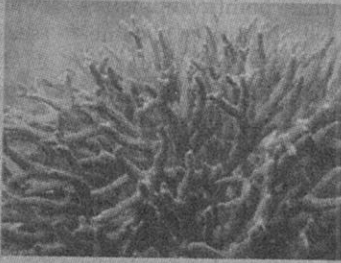
PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MANILA BAY

**Live coral cover in parts of Manila Bay gives hope for restoration**

>> See full story on [bit.ly/ManilaBayCorals](http://bit.ly/ManilaBayCorals)

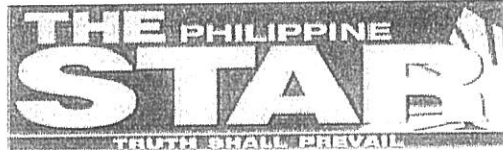


ERDDENR.GOV/PH

**A BRANCHING colony of Seriatopora sp. seen in Maragondon, Cavite.**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



PAGE



30 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

## DILG to LGUs: No septic system, no building permit

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

Local government units (LGUs) should not to issue building permits to establishments with no septic tank or wastewater treatment system, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

In a memorandum circular, DILG Secretary Eduardo Año said owners of commercial establishments should also obtain environmental clearances and permits.

"Let us learn from the lessons of Manila Bay, which became a gigantic septic tank, and Boracay, which was described as a virtual cesspool. Local governments should put their foot down by not issuing business permits to non-compliant establishments," Año said yesterday.

He said LGUs should also ensure that residential, private and public establishments have proper sewage treatment and septic management system.

"Local governments should compel residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and government establishments... to have their own hygienic septic tank or wastewater treatment facility," Año said.

He said septic tanks must be accessible, adding that no wastewater should be discharged to waterways without proper treatment.

Año said establishments with inaccessible or non-compliant septic tanks should connect to existing sewer lines or water utilities.

He said food establishments should also have a working and properly maintained oil and grease trap.



## Año tells LGUs: No septic tank system, no business permit

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo M. Año directed local government units (LGUs) not to issue business permits to firms

without septic tank system (STS). This would prevent further degradation of our waterways similar to what happened to Manila Bay and its tributaries.

He also reminded that the ▶9

### Año tells LGUs...



design of the hygienic septic tank or wastewater treatment facility should conform to existing environmental laws and policies.

"Let us learn from the lessons of Manila Bay which became a 'gigantic septic tank' and Boracay which was described as 'a virtual cesspool'. Local governments should already put their foot down by not issuing business permits to non-compliant establishments," Año said.

He stressed that "no new business permit should be issued unless business owners have obtained the necessary environmental clearances and permits such as discharge permits and environmental sanitation certificates prescribed by laws or required by the Department of Health, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Department of Health and its instrumentalities."

In memorandum circular 2019-62, the DILG Secretary said LGUs should ensure that all residential, private, and public establishments in their areas have proper sewage treatment and septage management system.

"Local governments should compel all residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and government establishments in their jurisdiction to have their

own hygienic septic tanks or wastewater treatment facility," he added.

LGUs, he said must see to it that all septic tanks are accessible and that no wastewater shall be discharged to waterways without any proper treatment.

#### Regular desludging

For establishments with inaccessible or non-compliant septic tanks, the DILG may opt to remodel or restructure and connect these to existing sewer lines of water utilities, or construct communal or shared septic tank.

Food establishments discharging wastes are also encouraged to have a working and properly maintained oil and grease trap installed in their respective areas.

In the same directive, Año stressed the importance of having regular desludging of septic tanks at least once every five years to be performed only by the water utility or a private desludging company accredited by the DOH and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the help of barangay officials.

LGUs, he added should map out programs and implement actions through the Enactment of Sewage Treatment and Septage Management Ordinance (SSMO) to support the drive.





## LGUs told to junk polluters' permit

By Francisco Tuyay

THE government on Monday told local government units not to issue building permits to establishments unless they have wastewater treatment facilities that conform with environmental laws and policies.

"No new business permit should be issued unless business owners have obtained the necessary environmental clearances and permits such as discharge permits and environmental sanitation certificates prescribed by law," said Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

"Let us learn from the lessons of Manila Bay which became a 'gigantic septic tank' and Boracay which was described as 'a virtual cesspool.' Local

*Next page*

## LGUs...

*From A1*

governments should already put their foot down by not issuing business permits to non-compliant establishments," Año said.

In a memorandum circular, Año said LGUs should ensure that all residential, private, and public establishments in their areas have a proper sewage treatment and septic waste management system.

"Local governments should compel all residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and government establishments in their jurisdiction to have their own hygienic septic tanks or wastewater treatment facility," he said.

Año also said that LGUs must also see to it that all septic tanks are accessible and that no wastewater will be discharged to waterways without proper treatment.

For establishments with inaccessible or non-compliant septic tanks, he said they may opt to remodel or restructure it, connect to existing sewer lines of water utilities, or construct communal or shared septic tanks.

Food establishments discharging wastes are also encouraged to have a working and properly maintained oil and grease trap installed in their respective areas.



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SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



30 APR 2019  
DATE

## MERRY-GO-ROUND

# Pros and cons of Manila Bay reclamation

By **FLORO L. MERCENE**

**F**ROM scientific basis devoid of politics and emotions, land reclamation can in fact complement accompanying rehabilitation.

Manila Bay is heavily polluted from the refuse coming from major tributaries like Pasig, Paranaque, and Tullahan Rivers, and about 20 other rivers.

Manila Bay is also the outlet for esteros, refuse from informal settlers, and untreated sewage from business establishments.

If reclamation is done properly, in accordance with sound engineering practices, Metro Manila would benefit from it. How?

First, we must remove years of deposited silt, garbage, and scraps from the sea bed.

This could be done by providing centralized and controlled waste water management thru engineered drainage system and by institutionalizing organized responsibilities for the control of sewage pollution.

The LGUs, in joint-venture arrangement with the private sector, could carry out the Manila Bay rehabilitation more effectively. Funds for environmental protection could be adequately provided.

Moreover since the "mandamus" on Manila Bay places responsibilities on the LGUs, by being integral parts of the institutional plan in reclamation

projects, and in partnership with private sectors, the mandamus can be more effectively carried out.

### The 'no-reclamation' scenario

Without reclamation the socio-economic development plans of urban communities will necessarily be instituted on shore. Assuming contiguous land are available for a realistic development plan, serious obstacles are seen, like maintaining the quality of Manila Bay.

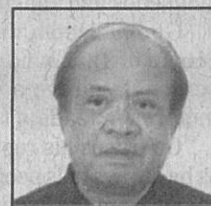
There is extreme difficulty bordering on incapability of the various locators of this on-shore based development plans in complying with Department Admin. Order 2016-18.

Right-of-way issues for the drainage system are also potential challenges.

The LGUs will not be integral part of the organization that will implement the waste water management system, thus emasculating their otherwise effective role. Their role in the exercise of the "mandamus" will also be limited.

Without a central institution monitoring individual sources of waste water discharges, that would create formidable challenges even to the DENR.

The voluminous evidence of successful reclamation projects in the world like New York, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Dubai, and Singapore, to name a few, should be a learning experience and also source of inspiration for Manila Bay reclamation.





## *Irrigation to Bulacan, Pampanga only until mid-May — NWRB*

By **RAMON EFREN LAZARO**

MALOLOS – Bulacan and Pampanga farmlands are given until May 15 to get irrigation water from Angat Dam as water elevation has dropped below its critical level.

As of 6 a.m. last Sunday, water elevation in Angat was at 179.97 meters, which is below the minimum operating level of 180 meters, the National Water Resource Board (NWRB) reported.

“At this stage water supply for Metro Manila is prioritized,” Seville David Jr., NWRB executive director, told **The STAR** in a text message.

David added that the NWRB is maintaining the allocation of 48 cubic meter per second (cms) while water release for irrigation will be reduced to 10 cms next month to support requirements for the harvest season.

At the start of the planting period, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) released irrigation supply last Jan. 9 at 40 cms, based on the approved water allocation by the NWRB and reduced it to 35

cms for April.

“Based on forecast rainfall of PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), it can be said that the requirement for domestic/municipal supply for May and June, or until the onset of the rainy season, is sufficient,” David said

Josephine Salazar, NIA regional director for Central Luzon, told **The STAR** that if ever the water allocation for irrigation for Bulacan and Pampanga farmlands is abruptly cut, the NIA can provide water pumps to the farmers.

Ma. Gloria Carillo, provincial agriculturist of Bulacan, said the reduction of the water allocation for Bulacan farms will likely affect areas in the tail-end service areas of the irrigation system of NIA, including Calumpit, Paombong, Bulacan, Balagtas, Bocaue and this city.

“Part of our contingency plan is to check on available water sources in the affected areas and conduct shallow tube wells and open surface pumps that could be used by the farmers,” Carillo said.



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

30 APR 2019  
DATE

## Angat Dam water level going south

BY VICTOR REYES

WATER level at Angat Dam, the main source of Metro Manila's water supply, went down further yesterday, according to Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The agency said Angat's elevation level stood at 179.5 meters as of 6 a.m. yesterday, or .5 meter below the dam's minimum operating level.

Water level at the dam went below the minimum operating level of 180 meters on Sunday. The agency expects the water level at Angat will reach 173.13 meters by the end of May.

Angat Dam registered its lowest water level in July 2010, hitting 157.56 meters during a similar El Niño phenomenon.

The National Resources Water Board has said water supply in Metro Manila will be "sustainably managed" amid the El Niño phenomenon.

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewage System administrator Reynaldo Velasco reiterated his

See ANGAT > Page B3

### ANGAT

appeal to consumers to save water.

"Our only appeal is let us help conserve water. I saw a presentation by Manila Water and Maynilad to help illustrate how we can save water," Velasco said.

"They said that if every household will save three dippers (tabos) of water every day, that's equivalent to almost 15 million liters per day. That is going to be a big help," Velasco said.

Velasco said the agency does not want a repeat of what happened last month when many parts of

Metro Manila and nearby areas experienced low water supply or no water supply at all.

"We want to make sure there won't be a repeat of the problem. Earlier today, I talked to the two water concessionaires and they gave the assurance there will be no problem," said Velasco.



## Gov't moves forward with Minahang Bayan approval

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The government has declared a new Minahang Bayan in Benguet after nearly two years.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has approved the contract between the government and the Loacan Itogon Pocket Miners Association (LIPMA) in Itogon in Benguet.

The 64.6-hectare site is within the patented mineral claims of Benguet Corp. which earlier endorsed the application.

This is the first Minahang Bayan approved this year.

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said this was in response to calls for the government to fast-track various mining applications.

"There is a clamor that's why we are really fast-tracking. We hope to approve more," Leones told **The STAR**.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) are on track to approve two to three more Minahang Bayan applications within the year.

"We are not yet sure which area will be the next. But we are looking at those with mining operations in Caraga and in Cordillera," he said.

There are 141 pending applications with the government.

"We also have to understand that there are several concerns and the process is not

that easy," Leones said.

Among the issues that need to be resolved include overlapping of areas with the large scale mining sites and being part of the no-go zones and ancestral lands.

It is estimated that more than 60 percent of the gold mined in the Philippines are from unregulated small-scale operations.

Declaring an area as a Minahang Bayan will centralize the processing of minerals within a zone where the government will be able to monitor gold production by small-scale miners better.

It helps the government curb illegal mining and mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of indiscriminate mining operations in the country.

Only about 26 Minahang Bayan, both nationally and locally declared, are operating in the country.

More than 100 applications are pending with the DENR and the MGB. Majority of these are in Cordillera, Bicol, Compostela Valley and Zamboanga.

Being largely fragmented, small scale produces more than the large scale industry, but the Philippines does not benefit from them in terms of taxation as they are not being regulated.

The DENR is crafting a six-year roadmap for the small-scale mining industry to allow them to be viable.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard

B4  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## Quezon LGU, mining firm FCF set tree nursery project in Nueva Vizcaya

**By Ben Moses Ebreo**

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya—FCF Minerals Corp. has established a tree nursery in this town in partnership with the local government.

Ian Moller, FCF acting general manager for operations, said the project is being carried out by their

Community Relations Office after the successful implementation of the Clean and Green Program with the LGU last year.

He said the tree nursery also serves as one of their contributions to the government's National Greening Program headed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"This will also boost our Forest Mining Project in this municipality with the availability of tree seedlings to be planted. This will be undertaken through a Memorandum of Agreement," Moller added.

LGU officials also said the project will enlist various stakeholders who were trained on preparation, planting

and production of various tree species.

Moller also said the management of the nursery will also undergo training on the production of tree seedlings.

The nursery will also be planted with various vegetables, which will also be distributed to villagers for domestic consumption and livelihood ventures.



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SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BC  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 APR 2019  
DATE

## Nickel mining can be sustainable (Part 3)



**T**he way forward for the Philippine nickel mining industry is to integrate sustainable and responsible policies and practices in its core business. The current push for voluntary sustainable mechanisms (codes, policies, guidelines), for example, is a positive step towards integrating social responsibility as part of the mining agenda. At present, there are several methods used to incorporate sustainability into the core business of mining enterprises. Among these are:

- Industry-specific codes of conduct such as the Chamber of Mines Code of Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Company-specific (internal) codes of conduct and policies.
- Sustainability guidelines from international institutions such as World Bank disclosure policy, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI)
- Pressure from civil society. The application of these methods will surely have long-term positive benefits as can be gleaned from the experiences of other mineral-rich countries. These include:
  - Raising the acceptable threshold for mining industry sustainability performance and standards;
  - Providing some leverage upon which mining stakeholders can hold companies accountable if a company fails to implement its own code or policy;
  - Raising awareness of external factors affecting the core business activity and financial viability of mining firms.

It is even more important than ever to demonstrate that industry support for sustainability goes beyond mere rhetoric and is translated into concrete action on the ground. The Philippine nickel industry has to counter prevailing perception that supporting sustainability is only a public relations gimmick but really involves a change of priorities. To accomplish this, the industry can come up with an industry sustainability code which is not only transparent but open to independent monitoring and verification by third party experts and the academe. Some

degree of third-part involvement must be in place to ensure transparency and accountability. Furthermore, for sustainability codes to raise the bar of industry performance, it must be based on minimum internationally agreed standards such as the ILO code of human rights among others. The industry needs to put in place "Disciplinary" measures for members who refuse to sign or adhere to the industry code, policies and guidelines.

More than other economic sectors, the mining industry cannot be left to free market forces alone. The role of the government is indispensable. Experience in other countries has shown that it is vital that governments themselves are genuinely committed to needed mining reforms and these reforms command a strong degree of government support and regulation. In the case of sustainability, the government, or more specifically the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) itself must be strongly committed to the "government case" for pursuing the sustainability agenda. It cannot be achieved by prescription from external agencies. The "government case" has to be built up by a process of dialogue, which in turn means creating or adapting institutional frameworks for discussion, consolation and negotiation. The process by means of which the MGB eventually builds sustainability policies is as important as the policies themselves. Dialogues must be the core in the development of sustainability policy for the nickel mining industry.

It must also be kept in mind that "voluntary" sustainability mechanisms are not easy solutions to all mining dilemmas. It is imperative that partnership with non-corporate stakeholders is established to achieve the necessary improvements. These partnerships can yield the following advantages: they can confer greater legitimacy to mining activities because of multi-stakeholder involvement; they can encourage companies to work together to raise the bar of performance; they can allow mining firms to share capacity building costs; and they can allow corporations to address external factors beyond their core business activity. In this regard, a strong link between academe, industry and government can help the "business case" for sustainability. As an example, the University of Asia and the Pacific, through its Center for Corporate Responsibility, can assist the government and the nickel industry to establish sustainability policy and structure, training and communication, stakeholder dialogue and measurement and verification systems. The products of such partnership among academe, government and business can come out with the following:

- Nickel Industry Sustainability policy and structure. Clear stan-

dards and detailed guidelines are needed to ensure that the industry has a "road map" for incorporating sustainability agenda into its operations. With such details, the industry would be able to measure performance consistently and completely to help meet the stakeholders' expectations.

- Training and communication. Training internal staff is needed because of the recognition that sustainability-type programs require a unique set of skills and competencies. On the other hand, because leadership starts at the top, it is essential for top management to consistently communicate sustainability guidelines internally in order to generate awareness and on convey management support for the program.
- Stakeholder dialogue. Dialogue and sharing of information with external parties (companies, civil society) is one of the fundamental shifts in recent years in policy making. NGOs, other civil society organizations, and companies often have information otherwise unavailable to companies or governments. In the case of the nickel mining industry, an academic institution like UA&P with strong links to business may be able to help the industry develop guidelines and policies that are not only effective, but also acceptable and credible to all the stakeholders.

Monitoring and verification. A research wing or think tank of an academic institution like UA&P may be a more credible institution to effectively assess compliance of nickel mining firms to various voluntary sustainability mechanisms. Because of serious violations of environmental regulations in the past, the mining industry in general continues to face a public that is skeptical of its efforts to respect and protect the environment. The industry may choose to scrutinize sustainability practices of nickel firms in a more transparent manner by inviting external parties, and by issuing public reports on the findings of independent academic or research institutions.

There is no question that the Philippine nickel industry is capable of practising responsible and sustainable mining. As discussed above, what is needed is the political will of all the stakeholders concerned to commit themselves to a continuing dialogue on sustainability practices.

For comments, my email address is [bernardo.villegas@uap.asia](mailto:bernardo.villegas@uap.asia).



# BOC has until May 15 to return Canada trash

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has until May 15 to ship Canadian garbage back to its country of origin.

BOC spokesman Erastus Sandino Austria yesterday said they received orders from Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III to return the containers of trash back to Canada by May 15.

Austria added they are in the process of making arrangements for the containers of waste, consisting of household trash, diapers, electronic garbage and non-recyclable waste, to be returned to Canada.

"We are doing everything now to make this possible," the BOC official said.

The Department of Finance gave the order to the BOC after President Duterte said he would declare "war" on Canada if it would not take back its garbage.

The Canadian government responded by saying that it is working to resolve the issue, as the shipment was a contract between private parties.

A total of 103 containers of garbage arrived in several batches at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) from 2013 to 2014.

Out of the 103 containers, it was reported that trash from 34 have been buried in a landfill in Tarlac. The rest of the containers filled with

Turn to Page 2

garbage are temporarily stored at the Port of Subic and the MICP.

In earlier news reports, in one of the batches of garbage that consisted of 50 containers, the shipment was reportedly misdeclared to contain homogenous plastic scraps, or one kind of plastic, that was later found to be filled with heterogenous or an assortment of scrap plastic materials.

The shipment was assigned to Chronic Plastics, a company based in Valenzuela City, while the shipper was listed as Chronic Inc. in Ontario.

## 'Figure of speech'

Meanwhile, Malacañang yesterday sought to downplay Duterte's statement that he was ready to declare war on Canada over the garbage sent to the Philippines, saying it

was just a "figure of speech."

Last week, Duterte ordered the BOC to return to Canada the garbage shipped to the Philippines six years ago, saying he was ready to declare war on Ottawa if the issue is not acted upon.

The President continued his tirades against the Canadian government last Sunday as he threatened to dump garbage on a Canadian beach if the waste is not returned to Ottawa this week.

Presidential spokesman

Salvador Panelo said Duterte's statements about waging war and throwing garbage on a beach should not be taken literally, but his demand to send the trash back to Canada was serious.

"It was just a figure of speech. But the trash should be returned," Panelo said in a press briefing.

Asked if he thought it irresponsible of Duterte to deliver the remarks, Panelo replied: "No, why would it be irresponsible. If the garbage has

been in the country for years, would you not deliver such statement?"

"That's an expression of outrage, couched in a very strong term," he added.

Panelo could not say what triggered Duterte's tirades against Canada but claimed that the issue really made him angry. Panelo said the waste has been in the Philippines for years but nothing was done to send them back to Canada.

"I don't think any country would want to trigger another

world war because all of us will be annihilated. It will lead to a nuclear war. Diplomatic negotiations can resolve whatever conflict," he said.

Despite the President's tough talk, Panelo said the decades-old ties between the Philippines and Canada would not be severed because of the garbage controversy.

"I said it would be disruptive. I did not say it would be severed. It will be an irritant," the spokesman added.

- With Alexis Romero





## PH won't declare war vs Canada over garbage

THE Philippines would not declare war against Canada over the tons of trash it shipped to the country in 2013 and 2014, as the threat of President Rodrigo Duterte was merely a "figure of speech," Malacañang said on Monday.

President Duterte, in a speech last week, said he would declare war on Canada if it does not take back by next week the trash it shipped to the country in 2013 and 2014.

On Sunday, he said he would dump the trash on Canada's beaches if it did not take it back.

However, Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo, at a press briefing on Monday, echoed Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana's statement that Duterte's pronouncement on the issue was merely a figure of speech.

He said that no country would want to trigger war because the world would be "annihilated."

"So, what I see there will just be a standoff. There will be diplomatic negotiations and it will resolve whatever conflict," Panelo added.

He said President Duterte's statement was merely an expression of outrage.

The Palace spokesman added, however, that the ultimatum to ship the trash back to Canada

was true.

"He was irritated. Our statement, we will send them back to your shores if you do not get that. I think the President last night said throw it to your beach. That is true. He is angry and he will bring it back," he said.

If Canada does not take back the trash, Panelo said it would disrupt ties between the Philippines and Canada, with the issue becoming an "irritant."

"[Duterte] already has an instruction — If you will not take it back, we will bring it back to you. There will be no war, we will just bring it back. We will throw it back to them," he said.

In 2013 and 2014, 103 containers of garbage declared as scrap plastics were shipped to the Philippines from Canada.

In 2015, garbage from 26 of the containers were dumped on a private landfill in Tarlac, which prompted opposition from nature groups.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2017 committed his country was resolving the garbage dumping issue, saying it was "theoretically possible" to get it back.

After President Duterte's statements, Canada also said it was working on taking back the trash.

**RALPH U. VILLANUEVA**



# Duterte threatens to dump garbage on Canada beaches

President Duterte on Sunday renewed his warning to Canada to reclaim the garbage they shipped to the Philippines or else he will transport and dump them on their beaches.

Duterte, in a speech at the opening ceremony of the Palaring Pambansa in Davao City, said Canada has made the Philippines a dumpsite.

"In 2014, there are about 200 containers there sent by Canada para tayong ginagawang dumpsite," he said.

"Sabihin mo sa kanila i-karga ko 'yan next week. 'Pag hindi niyo tinanggap 'yang basura

ninyo, ibubuhos ko 'yan doon sa magandang beach ninyo," he added. "We are not a garbage dump here. The Filipinos are not scavengers."

Before flying to China for the second Belt and Road Forum last week, Duterte warned Canada to take back the garbage they sent to the Philippines in 2013 immediately or he will send it back to them.

"I cannot understand why they are making us a dumpsite, and that is not the only case on point. Papisunodsunod 'yan na pinapadala yung basura sa atin. Well, not this

time. Magkaaway kami ng...," he said.

Duterte also raised the possibility of going to war against Canada's garbage. "Eh, 'di ano, awayin natin ang Canada. We'll declare war against them, kaya man natin 'yan sila," he added.

Duterte has asked the Department of Finance to prepare a boat to enable the country to send Canada's garbage back and even warned that he will dump some of them in front of the Canadian Embassy in the Philippines if they don't take it back. **(Argyll Geducos)**

## Palace: War threat vs Canada figure of speech

Malacañang said yesterday that President Duterte's warning that he will wage war against Canada over their garbage shipped to the Philippines almost six years ago was just a figure of speech but emphasized that the Chief Executive was serious in sending their trash back.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said that Duterte is angry that six years have already passed but Canada still has not taken back their garbage.

However, he said the President was not serious with his threat to go to war.

"It's just a figure of speech... Kumbaga inaaasap lang 'yun. But by statement, we will send them back to your shores if you don't get that," he said. "Ang tagal na noon...Hindi pa nila ginagalaw. Parang pinabayaan na lang nila

dito, eh," he added.

Panelo also said that Duterte's warning that he will dump Canada's garbage on their beautiful beaches is another figure of speech. "Figure of speech din 'yun. Basta ibabalik lang 'yun. Kailangang ibalik na 'yun. Kunin na nila," he said.

Panelo said Duterte is serious that Canada should collect their garbage within the week. He added that they expect Canada to make a statement but insisted that it is time for them to finally get their trash.

"I suppose they will respond. Nag-respond naman sila na, 'di ba? Ang sabi nila, pag-usapan natin. Ang sabi naman namin: 'hindi na, anong pag-usapan? Ang tagal na, kunin niyo na iyan. Kung hindi, ibalik namin iyan sa iyo," he said. **(Argyll Geducos)**



## Duterte presses trash 'war' against Canada

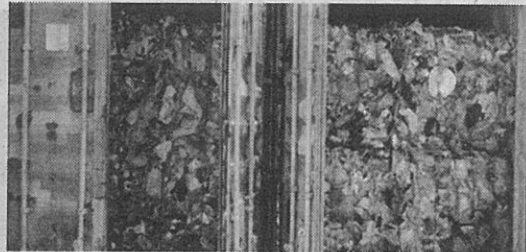
**BARELY** a week after vowing to go to war with Canada over trash illegally dumped in the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to heap the garbage on Canada's "beautiful beaches."

Speaking before young athletes and their parents at the opening of the 2019 Palarong Pambansa in Davao City, the President said the country was not a dumpsite for other nations' garbage.

He was reading from his prepared speech when he veered off-topic upon saying the words, "patriotic fervor."

"Together, let us nurture the talents and patriotic fervor of our youth so that... See, patriotic fervor. There are about 200 containers there sent by Canada, we are being treated like a dumpsite," Duterte said Sunday afternoon.

Recalling his threat to ship back Canada's garbage, he added: "I will tell them to load it onto ships



next week. If you don't accept your garbage, I will dump it on your beautiful beaches."

Last week, the President threatened to "wage war" on Canada if it would not retrieve containers of garbage shipped to Manila in 2013 and 2014.

Duterte vowed to sail to Canada to throw the trash himself, adding that he would dump five trucks of garbage at the Canadian embassy in Manila.

Canada vowed to resolve the matter amid a court order directing the importer to ship the trash back to Canada. Canada did not say when it would take back the garbage.

In response, Malacañang said Canada's re-

ply was "quick and vague" and "not appropriate."

The Palace also stressed that the President's demand was "non-negotiable" and that Canada's inaction will endanger decades of bilateral relations with Manila.

On Sunday, Duterte reiterated that the Philippines was nobody's garbage dump, and that Filipinos were not "scavengers" for other people's trash.

"Do not... We are not a garbage dump. The Filipinos are not scavengers. And you do that to us as I am wont to do... I'm like this, I will really offend you," the President added.



# BULGAR

PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 APR 2019

DATE

**BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN**

## Canada tinaningan sa basura

Binigyan na lamang ng isang Linggo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Canada upang kunin ang kanilang basura dahil, kung hindi, itatambak ito ng Pangulo sa kanilang beach.

"Sabihin ko sa—sabihin mo sa kanila i-karga ko 'yan next week. 'Pag hindi ninyo tinanggap 'yang basura ninyo, ibuhos ko 'yan doon sa magandang beach ninyo. T—i—... Do not... We are not a garbage dump here," wika ng Pangulo sa mensahe nito sa opening ceremonies ng Palarong Pambansa 2019 sa Davao City.

Aniya hindi tambakan ng basura ang Pilipinas at hindi basurero ang mga Filipino."

The Filipinos are not scavengers. And you do that to us as I—as I am wont to do, ganun ako, nagbababoy talaga ng tao," wika pa ni Duterte.

Ayon naman kay Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, figure of speech lamang ang banta ni Pangulong Duterte na makikipag-giyera sa Canada kapag hindi kinuha ang mahigit isang daang toneladang basura na itinapon sa bansa.

Idiniin ni Panelo pang-asar lamang ang pahayag ng Pangulo para kunin ng Canada ang kanilang basura. (*Rudy Andal*)



## INTROSPECTIVE

TONY F. KATIGBAK

### Earthquake, typhoon, and other calamities



#### Trash talk

It doesn't take a genius to know that talk is cheap and promises are often not kept. Being a voter here in the Philippines should have already opened our eyes to that stark reality. So, despite other issues I may have with the president, I think he was spot on when he set a two-week deadline for Canada to pick up the garbage they sent to our country. Honestly – why would they even do that to begin with? We are not a garbage dump, and for them to treat us like one is disrespectful to say the least (and illegal).

I believe President Duterte has everyone's support as far as this issue is concerned and the Canadian ambassador was most likely quite rattled by the remarks the president made regarding the garbage removal. Hopefully they finally come to their senses and address this issue. There is no other solution but removing the garbage which they illegally sent here posthaste.





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
ATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

8  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 APR 2010

DATE

## Heaps of garbage left in grandstand after 'Palaro' opening ceremony

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY — Plastic bottles and other thrash were left in the bleachers of the newly-opened football stadium of the Davao City-UP Mindanao Sports complex after the opening ceremony of the 62nd Palarong Pambansa (National Games) here on Sunday.

The stadium was packed with thousands of visitors cheering for the student-athletes from the country's 17 regions during the two-hour parade, but the unpleasant sight of waste scattered in the bleachers was revealed after the opening ceremony.

The garbage mostly plastic bottles, plastic bags, empty packs of junk food,

food packs, and even flaglets of the Palarong Pambansa were scattered even as trash bins were provided around the sports complex for the proper waste disposal.

The City Government of Davao has an existing Ecological Solid Waste Management Ordinance, which "prohibits littering, scattering, throwing, and dumping of wastes in public places."

The ordinance, which was approved on Feb. 10, 2010, when President Rodrigo R. Duterte was still the mayor of Davao City, also prohibits open burning of solid waste, non-segregation of solid waste, and open dumping and burying of solid waste in flood-prone areas.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

# 'DEAD WHALE' AT THE CCP

It aims to jumpstart discussions on whether generations to come will still get to enjoy or experience the wonders of the ocean

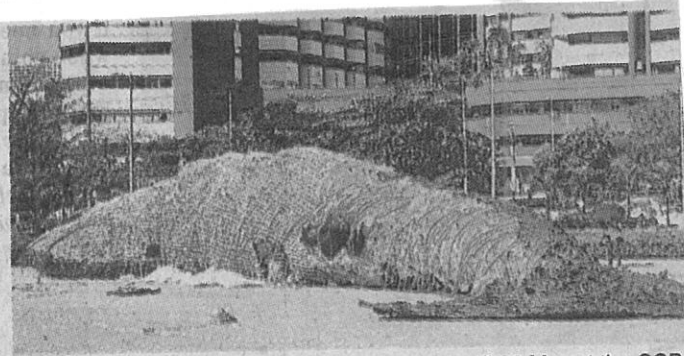
The Cultural Center of the Philippines presents a reworking of the "Dead Whale" for its 2019 Earth Day Outdoor Installation beginning 25 April at the CCP Front Lawn, aimed at urging more people to talk about what can be done regarding plastic pollution.

For the CCP's "The Cry of the Dead Whale" installation, a new element was added — a dead baby whale inside the belly of the dead whale. A representation of the millennials — the generation that will inherit the future of our oceans, it is both a statement and a question directed at the target audience. It aims to jumpstart discussions on whether generations to come will still get to enjoy or experience the wonders of the ocean. It wants people to ask questions such as: "Will our

marine animals, particularly our whale, go extinct soon?" or "Will our grandsons and granddaughters ever get to know living sea creatures?" or "What can I do?" or "Am I ready to give up plastic?" or "Where can I start?"

A supposed "dead whale" was seen on the shores of Naic, Cavite, on 11 May 2017, which was in fact an art installation. What looked like a dead whale from afar was really made of plastic waste up close.

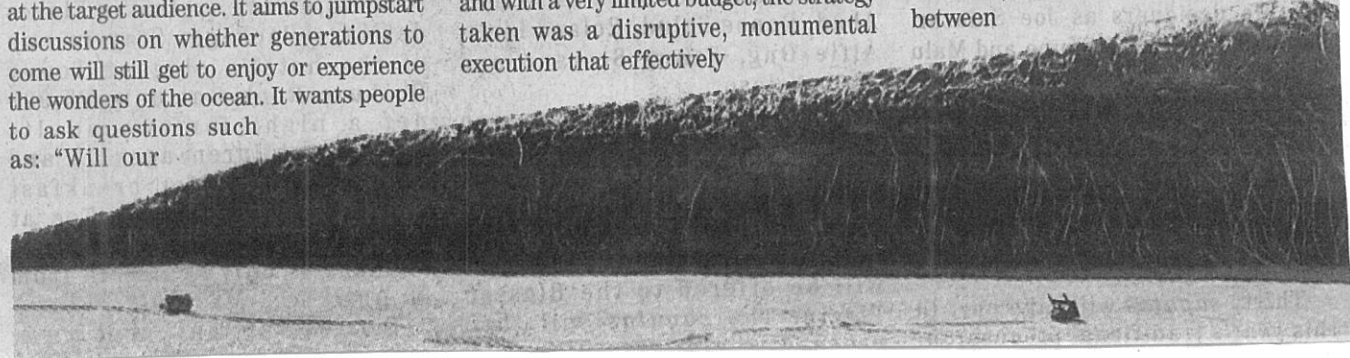
The Philippines ranks third in the list of countries with the most plastic wastes going into the oceans. To address the issue, and with a very limited budget, the strategy taken was a disruptive, monumental execution that effectively



"THE Cry of the Dead Whale" will be on view until 26 May at the CCP.

spread the message on the worsening case of plastic pollution. The sculpture was unveiled on the shores of one of the most polluted water bodies in the country — the Manila Bay.

The original "Dead Whale" installation in Cavite, a collaboration between



immediately to prevent the plastic waste used from going into the ocean. Mounting the "Dead Whale" for a longer period of time will give more people a chance to experience what it might feel like to encounter, or be confronted by, a decomposing whale victimized by the increasing presence of plastic in our oceans.

"The Cry of the Dead Whale" may be viewed at the front lawn of CCP until 26 May.

For more information, contact the Visual Arts and Museum Division, Production and Exhibition Department at (632) 832-1125 loc. 1504/1505 and (632) 832-3702, 0917-6033809, email [ccp.exhibits@gmail.com](mailto:ccp.exhibits@gmail.com) or visit [www.culturalcenter.gov.ph](http://www.culturalcenter.gov.ph).

a non-governmental environmental organization and Dentsu creative was  
Jayme Syfu led by its director Biboy Royong, displayed for only three days and was dismantled



WARNING issued:  
The gigantic art installation aims to remind future generations of the impact of plastic pollution.



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10/51  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 APR 2019

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

## #nationataglance

### Palace asserts no need for China consent in marine protected areas declaration in West Philippine Sea

THE PHILIPPINE government will not need China's consent for its plan to declare some parts of the West Philippine Sea as marine protected areas, Malacañang said on Monday. "*Di ba*, he already said that?" Mr. Panelo said in a news conference at the Palace on Monday when asked if the President is keen on declaring some parts of the highly-contested West Philippine Sea as marine protected areas. Asked if the Philippines will need China's consent for this move, he said: "No.... As far as we are concerned, that's ours. You don't have to ask any consent from anyone." — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

>> See full story on [bit.ly/MarineProtectedAreas043019](http://bit.ly/MarineProtectedAreas043019)





## No need for China consent to declare Pag-asa as marine protected area

THERE is no need for the Philippine government to ask Chinese consent in declaring Pag-asa Island and Eastern Kalayaan in the West Philippine Sea as marine protected areas, Malacañang said Monday.

“No. What do you mean consent? As far as we are concerned, that’s ours. You don’t have to ask any consent from anyone,” Presidential Spokesperson Salvador

Panelo said in a Palace briefing.

Panelo’s statement came following National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.’s statement that the government was looking into the possibility of declaring Pag-asa Island (Thitu Island) and Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) in the West Philippine as marine protected areas (MPAs).

Panelo said that a dec-

laration of MPAs might irritate China, which claims almost all of the South China Sea.

In 2016, the Philippines sealed a historic win with the United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal in The Hague, which invalidated Beijing’s sweeping claims to almost all of the South China Sea.

China, however, has refused to recognize this ruling.

“The will be another

irritant,” Panelo said referring to the declaration of MPAs.

“Ang mangyayari niyan, if you declare a particular stand and they will declare another stand, oh di may deadlock, oh di mag-uusap na naman tayo,” he added.

The Philippines and China have chosen to settle the maritime dispute through the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea established in 2016.

### Irritants

President Rodrigo Duterte, meanwhile, described the continued Chinese aggression in the West Philippine Sea as “irritants,” including the swarming of Chinese maritime militia in the Philippine-occupied Pag-asa Island.

Panelo said Duterte mentioned this to Chinese President Xi Jinping during their bilateral meeting in Beijing on April 25.

“The President said there have been irritants because of that ruling,” Panelo said, referring to

the United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal in The Hague, which invalidated Beijing’s sweeping claims to almost all of the South China Sea but China chose to ignore.

He said Duterte mentioned that “there have been irritants arising from the ruling and there will be challenges.”

While Duterte did not specifically mention the series of incidents in the disputed sea, Panelo explained what the President meant by “irritants.”

“What the President raised were ‘the irritants.’ So it refers to everything there — from the presence of the ships, from the alleged harassment, all of that... those irritants,” he said.

Before his fourth China trip, the Philippines has filed diplomatic protests against China for its incursions into the West Philippine Sea, including the presence of Chinese maritime militia near Pag-asa Island, which is within the country’s exclusive economic zone. —*Inquirer.net*



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# The Manila Times



30 APR 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

## DBP launches 'Linis' program

THE Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has launched a new financing facility aimed at assisting private firms and public entities, including local government units (LGUs) and water districts in the development of water treatment and sanitation facilities, to comply with existing environmental regulations, a senior official said.

DBP president and chief executive officer Emmanuel Herbosa said DBP's Lending Initiatives for Sanitation (*Linis*) program is the bank's contribution to the government's efforts to achieve universal access to sanitation by increasing the compliance of establishments with relevant laws

such as the Clean Water Act of 2004 and Presidential Directive No. 2018-0081.

"The DBP *Linis* program is intended to help private companies, water districts, cooperatives and LGUs comply with environmental rules particularly in the establishment of waste water treatment facilities," Herbosa said. "We are one with government in ensuring water quality in all parts of the country."

DBP is the 8th largest bank in the country and provides loans to strategic sectors of the economy including the environment. The bank financed several water sanitation projects including the Boracay waste water treatment

facility of Boracay Island Water Company Inc., as well as the Parañaque sewerage treatment plant (STP) of Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Under the program, eligible entities can borrow from DBP to finance septage and sewerage system projects as well as waste water collection, transport, treatment and disposal of target borrowers such as LGUs, water districts, hospitals, service providers, participating financial institutions, cooperatives and associations.

Herbosa said the program features a cost sharing scheme for septage and sewerage projects of LGUs under the National Sewer-

age and Septage Management Program (NSSMP), where DBP could finance up to 100 percent of the validated total project cost of the LGU counterpart, subject to certain conditions.

He said target beneficiaries for the cost sharing scheme are the 17 highly urbanized cities (HUCs) outside Metro Manila, all non-HUCs, and first-class municipalities.

"For LGUs and water district projects not covered by the NSSMP, the maximum loan amount shall be up to 100 percent of the validated total project cost," Herbosa said.

For more information, visit [www.dbp.ph](http://www.dbp.ph)

30 APR 2019

DATE

PAGE 1/



## CDO TREE PLANTING.

In line with its commitment to environmental sustainability, property developer Pueblo de Oro Development Corp., and the ICCP Group Foundation conduct a tree planting activity in the 40-hectare Pueblo de Oro Urban Rainforest, which the company maintains in its township in Cagayan de Oro City. PDO employees were joined by the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, represented by members of the Laudato Si and Faith and Light communities, parishioners from the St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy of Pueblo de Oro who have heeded Pope Francis' call to 'Care for Our Common Home'. They planted cacao seedlings distributed by Cagayan de Oro's Agricultural Office that also aims to establish an instructional and pilot nursery, products of which would be dispersed to constituent farmers.