

DATE : 10 MAY 2019

DAY : Friday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**

# DENR closes Bataan dump

**Exec says continuous use of trash site may waste efforts to clean Manila Bay**

LIMAY, BATAAN—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday ordered the shutdown of an open dump here after the local government allegedly failed to comply with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003).

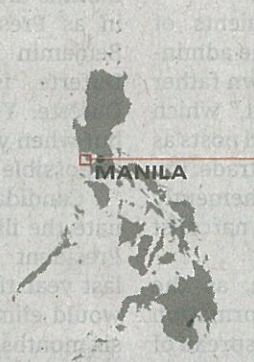
Environment officials who inspected the dump said the waste pile, which had reached as high as a two-story building, was a "Smokey Mountain" in the making. The dump sits on a 7-hectare property owned by the Limay government at Sitio Mamala in Barangay St. Francis here.

RA 9003 prohibits the establishment and operation of open dumps. It mandated that within three years after its effectivity, all local governments should convert its open dumps into controlled dumps. The law, however, was passed way back in 2001.

## Manila Bay cleanup

A two-page order dated May 7 directed Limay Mayor Lilvir Roque to immediately cease and desist from operating the dump. The order was served the following day to Roque's office by local and regional DENR officials.

Benny Antiporda, environ-



## LIMAY, BATAAN

INQ GRAPHICS



ment undersecretary for solid waste management and local government concerns, summoned the mayor, along with municipal councilors led by Vice Mayor Robert Arvin Roque, to the DENR office in Quezon City to present their immediate plans for action for the closure and rehabilitation of the dump.

The dump is located near a creek that flows to Mamala River, which feeds into Manila Bay. Environment officials raised fears that leachate from rotting garbage may leak to the bodies of water.

"Our efforts to clean Manila Bay would only go to waste if

this dump continues to operate," Antiporda said.

## Defying MOA

In 2015, the same dump was ordered closed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Antiporda said the Limay municipality had entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. to dispose of its garbage at the sanitary landfill in Capas town, Tarlac province.

But he said the DENR's initial investigation showed the local government had failed to comply with the agreement and contin-

ued to defy environment laws.

Antiporda also said the dump had no municipal recovery facility to process and segregate waste, causing the garbage to pile up.

"Manila Bay is near the area ... there are lots of garbage. This is another Smokey Mountain in the making," he told reporters during the site inspection, referring to a landfill once located in Tondo, Manila.

## Rehabilitation

The dump does not also have a garbage effluent treatment and other important facilities, Antiporda said.

"The creek has turned into a canal. They cannot explain where the water goes. In our theory, it ends up in the river," he said.

The local government has been following the DENR's safe closure plan, Roque said, adding that the dump is "under rehabilitation."

He said it was working to have their garbage removed from the dump after it was ordered by the Environmental Management Bureau in the region to stop its operations before the end of May. —REPORTS

FROM GREG REFRACCION AND JHES-  
SETO. ENANO INQ

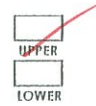


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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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## Supposedly closed long ago, Limay dump still operating

By **JONAS REYES**

LIMAY, Bataan – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) plans to summon the mayor and councilors of this town to explain why a dump that was supposedly closed was still operating.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said the dump was ordered shut by the government in 2015. But Antiporda said the dump was still operating when they inspected it last Wednesday.

Antiporda went to the mayor's office to hand out the cease and desist order that same day.

DENR acted upon a report that the dump was still being used by the local government as a transport station before the garbage is brought to the Kalangitan landfill in Capas, Tarlac. It said the garbage at the dump had turned black, after sitting in the area for years.

Antiporda described the situation as another Smokey Mountain in the making, with the only difference being the garbage is not being incinerated.

He said that DENR will also investigate where the leachate from the dump goes. Since there is a river within one kilometer of the dump, there is a huge possibility the leachate flows to the river that connects to Manila Bay.



## DENR cracks down on open dump sites near Manila Bay

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has started the crackdown against the illegal operation of open dumps near the shores of Manila Bay with the recent closure of an open dump site in Limay, Bataan.

The DENR, led by Undersecretary for Local Government Units Benny D. Antiporda, issued a cease-and-desist order against the municipal government of Limay, Bataan Province for operating an open dump in Barangay San Francisco de Asis I.

The DENR official, along with the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), earlier vowed to close open dumps within Manila Bay as part of the rehabilitation effort to restore of the bay.

According to the NSWMC, there are 27 open dumps within the Manila Bay area. Manila Bay covers a total of 190 kilometers coastline from Cavite to Bataan Province.

The establishment and maintenance of an open dump is strictly prohibited under Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

In a two-page order dated May 7, 2019, and signed by Antiporda, the DENR directed Mayor Lilvir Roque to “immediately cease and desist” from operating the dumpsite and “conduct immediate rehabilitation of the area.”

Roque and members of the Limay Municipal Council led by the vice mayor, Robert Arvin Roque was also summoned to Antiporda’s office at the DENR headquarters in Quezon City to present their immediate plan of action for the closure and rehabilitation of the dumpsite.

They were told to “bring the necessary documents, clearances, and other permits issued pertaining to the implementation of the disposal site.”

“Failure to appear in the said meeting and submit the required explanation would mean a waiver on your part and this Office shall resolve the case based on our records in accordance with the rules,” the order stated.

Section 37 of RA 9003 states that “no open dumps shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGUs, which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid

wastes, is allowed.”

Under Section 48(9) of the same law, the establishment or operation of an open dump is prohibited and penalties await violators. Any person found violating the law for the first time, shall upon conviction, face a fine of P500,000, plus an amount equivalent to up to 10 percent of his net annual income during the previous year.

Administrative charges may also be filed against local and national government officials who fail to comply with and enforce the rules and regulations relative to RA 9003.

The order was served on May 8 to Roque’s office by DENR’s Bataan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Raul Mamac, Dinalupihan (Bataan) Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) Marife Castillo and staff members from the DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau in Region 3. Antiporda said the operation of the Limay dumpsite must be stopped to prevent it from reaching the nearby Manila Bay, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation.



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# The Manila Times

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## DENR shuts down Bataan open dumpsite

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the closure of an open dumpsite in Limay, Bataan found to be illegally operating since 2015.

Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said they already issued a cease and desist order against the municipal government of Limay, and summoned Mayor Lilvir Roque, Vice Mayor Robert Arvin Roque and the town councilors to explain the persistent operations of the illegal dumpsite.

"It is like a Smokey Mountain in the making. We already closed the area to stop the operations and I doubt that they will be permitted by the MGB ( Mines and Geosciences Bureau) to operate even after they rehabilitate the area. But definitely the rehabilitation must start now," Antiporda told *The Manila Times*.

He noted that establishment and

maintenance of an open dumpsite was strictly prohibited under Republic Act 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

The DENR feared that various types of wastes from the open dumpsite located in Barangay San Francisco de Asis in Limay would reach the nearby body of waters, noting several connecting creeks and rivers in the area.

Antiporda said Limay entered into a memorandum of agreement with Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. based in Pampanga for the disposal of its wastes after the dumpsite was closed three years ago.

"We learned they have coordinated with Metro Clark, but it was only for a year. What we expected was that they would transfer their wastes to Clark, but unfortunately they resumed operations in the supposed-to-be closed dumpsite in Limay as it is illegal," Antiporda added.

**EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ**

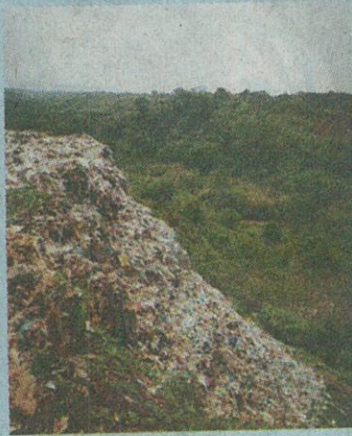


## #nationataglance

CENTRAL LUZON: LIMAY, BATAAN

### DENR orders closure of Limay dumpsite

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued a cease and desist order (CDO) against the municipal government of Limay, Bataan for the operation of an open dumpsite in Barangay San Francisco de Asis I. In a statement on Thursday, the DENR said the dumpsite is located on a seven-hectare property owned by the local municipal government, which has an existing memorandum of agreement with Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. (MCWMC) for the dumpsite's closure and rehabilitation, signed in 2015 and due to expire on December this year. Mayor Lilvir B. Roque and members of the municipal council were also summoned to the DENR headquarters in Quezon City to present their plan of action for the rehabilitation of the area. Under Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, open dumpsites are prohibited and local officials who violate this face a fine of P500,000, and an amount equivalent to 10% of his or her annual net income during the previous year as well as administrative charges. Mr. Antiporda also said that the operation of the dumpsite must be stopped because it is among the threats to Manila Bay, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation. The dumpsite is located beside a creek that flows to Mamala River, which drains into the Manila Bay. — Vincent Mariel P. Galang

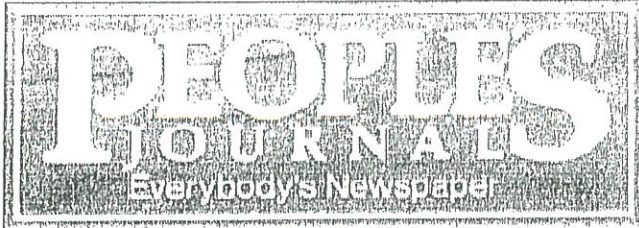


PHOTOS FROM: DENR

**BATAAN Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Raul H. Mamac padlocks the Limay Solid Waste Management Processing Facility after serving the cease and desist order to the office of Limay Mayor Lilvir B. Roque.**



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## DENR summons Limay, Bataan officials over illegal dumpsite

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has summoned officials of Limay, Bataan for operating an illegal dumpsite and warned them of charges if they ignore the invitation.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda said that Limay Mayor Lilvir Roque and members of the Municipal Council headed by Vice Mayor Robert Arvin Roque should present their immediate plan of action following the closure of an open dumpsite which sits at a seven-hectare property owned by the local government. **Joel dela Torre**



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# Business sector urges Duterte to do a 'Boracay' on Laguna Lake

By **BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT**

**T**he business community has strongly urged President Duterte to do a "Boracay" by ordering a "Save Laguna Lake action" directing all national and local government units and instrumentalities to immediately implement all existing laws, rules, regulations and directives to protect and rehabilitate Laguna Lake and the forest cover of its watershed in the surrounding hills and mountains.

In a statement, the Management Association of the Philippines said the President should issue an Executive

Order to effect a holistic rehabilitation of Laguna Lake to address water security and the environment.

MAP cited Duterte "for seeing the despoilage of Boracay and exercising strong political will by taking draconian measures, including its temporary closure, to rehabilitate and save it from human overexploitation. Now we see the very rewarding positive results even after just a brief period." Duterte closed the island paradise for 6 months to undergo thorough rehabilitation.

In the case of Laguna Lake, MAP wants the government to strictly enforce existing laws that prohibit,

under pain of penalty, the dumping of waste into the lake. Polluting industries, such as factories, fish culture, poultry and livestock farms, must be strictly regulated and restricted to a sustainable level.

Other sources of pollution must be prohibited, and these include the use of vessels powered by fossil fuels. Only vessels using clean energy, such as electric or natural gas, shall be allowed as is required in environmentally protective countries.

The business group has pushed for the banning of all development and structures within a no-build zone starting from its high water mark to within preferably no less than fifty meters, especially in populated areas, to allow space for public recreation and enjoyment of a national resource.

"We urge PRRD to direct the national and local water boards to render and tap Laguna Lake as a dependable, inexhaustible and proximately-located source of raw water for Metro Manila and the lake's surrounding communities, with other sources such as dams serving a complementary role to ensure water security under all circumstances, including potentially catastrophic earthquakes. Further, that all resources, including funding from whatever source, be devoted for the said purpose," MAP said.

Necessarily, massive reforestation must be undertaken in the surrounding hills and mountains to enhance the productivity of the watershed. Ideally, indigenous wood species, fruit-bearing trees and bamboo should be utilized.

The group also urged Duterte to direct the Department of Transportation to plan and implement a lake ferry transportation system to provide convenient, affordable and reliable connectivity between the towns and cities around the lake.





## Saving Laguna Lake



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TODAY, I use my column space for the position paper of the Management Association Paper urging what it calls "a holistic Laguna Lake rehabilitation for water security and eco-tourism." MAP has more than 700 CEOs in its ranks.

Here is the statement:

Water security and the environment are major concerns of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

It is for these reasons that MAP urges an immediate effort by the national government together with local government units and the private sector to clean, conserve, rejuvenate and preserve Laguna Lake and its watershed.

Laguna Lake is the largest freshwater lake in our country and among the largest in Southeast Asia. It is an ideal and logical source of potable water and has a vast potential for eco-tourism.

Unfortunately, the water quality of Laguna Lake has, despite sporadic efforts, continuously degenerated from neglect and wanton disregard for the lake's wellbeing much like other natural resources of our country.

We strongly applaud President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD) for seeing the despoilage of Boracay and exercising strong political will by taking draconian measures, including its temporary closure, to rehabilitate and save it from human overexploitation. Now we see the very rewarding positive results even after just a brief period.

We urge PRRD to take similar action and order a Save Laguna Lake action by issuing an Executive Order to direct all national and local government units and instrumentalities to immediately implement all existing laws, rules, regulations and directives to protect and rehabilitate Laguna Lake and the forest cover of its watershed in the surrounding hills and

mountains.

The public must be warned that the government will strictly enforce existing laws that prohibit, under pain of penalty, the dumping of waste into the lake. Polluting industries, such as factories, fish culture, poultry and livestock farms, must be strictly regulated and restricted to a sustainable level.

Other sources of pollution must be prohibited, and these include the use of vessels powered by fossil fuels.

“Here’s what more than 700 CEOs have to say.”

Only vessels using clean energy, such as electric or natural gas, shall be allowed as is required in environmentally protective countries.

All development and structures must be banned within a no-build zone starting from its high water mark to within preferably no less than fifty meters, especially in populated areas, to allow space for public recreation and enjoyment of a national resource.

We urge PRRD to direct the national and local water boards to render and tap Laguna Lake as a dependable, inexhaustible and proximately-located source of raw water for Metro Manila and the lake's surrounding communities, with other sources such as dams serving a complementary role to ensure water security under all circumstances, including potentially catastrophic earthquakes. Further, that all resources, including funding from whatever source, be devoted for the said purpose.

Necessarily, massive reforestation must be undertaken in the surrounding hills and mountains to enhance the productivity of the watershed. Ideally, indigenous wood species, fruit-bearing trees and bamboo should be utilized.

We also urge PRRD to direct the Department of Transportation to plan

## Saving...

From A4

and implement a lake ferry transportation system to provide convenient, affordable and reliable connectivity between the towns and cities around the lake.

Further, for the Department of Tourism to plan, develop and implement eco-tourism projects to fully exploit the lake's potential, and for the Biodiversity Management Bureau (formerly Parks and Wildlife Bureau) to recommend public recreational parks for implementation and maintenance of the relevant agencies.

nance of the relevant agencies.

This Save Laguna Lake Movement must be participated, supported and sustained by all. Ideally, this Movement should be adopted by private corporations as among their primary social responsibility projects. Civil society, including all environmental protection organizations, are stakeholders and must participate.

Lastly, let the Save Laguna Lake Movement be the model for the protection and rehabilitation of all our freshwater lakes, and replicated all over the country.

[biznewsasia@gmail.com](mailto:biznewsasia@gmail.com)



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## Over 162k of waste hailed from Pasig River

THE Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission hauled 162,390 kilograms of waste (5,413 sacks of garbage), which were pushed by the high tide in Manila Bay into the Pasig River, during a series of massive clean-up operations which started last April 27.

The huge volume of waste along Pasig River at present is caused by the backflow of Manila Bay—a natural phenomenon observed especially this time of the year, by the San Juan River and some esteros draining garbage and polluted water after the recent heavy rains.

PRRC's River Warriors, River Patrols, River Watch, and other employees are doing manual cleanup daily with the use of limited cleaning implements and utilizing two small trash boats.

Cleanup operations are done in San Juan River and Manila, including the Malacañang area.

PRRC is now placing new trash traps and continuously cleaning up San Juan River—one of the major tributaries of the 47 identified waterways connected to the Pasig River and carries the wastes of the cities of Manila, Mandaluyong, San Juan, and Quezon. **PNA**



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### **PRRC huhulihin ang nagtatapon ng wastewater sa Marikina River**

Nagsasagawa ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) ng masusing imbestigasyon sa sinasabing ilegal na pagtapon ng wastewater sa Marikina River.

Ikinasa ang operasyon nang mai-tag ang mga

opisyales ng PRRC sa Facebook viral video na ipinaskil ni Abdusalla Monakil, isang concerned netizen, kung saan makikita ang nagdidiskarga ng kemikal na isang ebidensiya ng liquid waste pollution sa Marikina River.

Dahil pangunahing tributaryo ang Marikina River ng Pasig River, inatasan ni PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio "Ka Pepeton" E. Goitia ang agarang imbestigasyon sa ilang mga establisimyento na

hinhinalang sanhi ng polusyon sa ilog at para matiyak na rin kung sumusunod ang mga ito sa mga regulasyon.

"Gagawin namin ang lahat ng administratibo

at legal na aksyon upang matiyak nating maipasara ang lahat ng mga establisimyentong komersiyal at industriyal na sanhi ng polusyon sa ating mga ilog," sabi ni Goitia.



## NAGTATAPON NG WASTEWATER SA MARIKINA RIVER, HUHULIHIN NG PRRC

**NAGSASAGAWA ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) ng masusing imbestigasyon sa sinasabing ilegal na pagtapon ng wastewater sa Marikina River.**

Ikinasa ang operasyon nang mai-tag ang mga opisyales ng PRRC sa Facebook viral video na ipinaskil ni Abdulla Monakil, isang concerned netizen, kung saan makikitang nagdidiskarga ng kemikal na isang ebidensiya ng liquid waste pollution sa Marikina River.

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E. Goitia ang agarang imbestigasyon sa ilang mga establisimiyento na hinihinalang sanhi ng polusyon sa ilog at para matiyak na rin kung sumusunod ang mga ito sa mga regulasyon.

"Gagawin namin ang lahat ng administratibo at legal na aksiyon upang matiyak nating maipasara ang lahat ng mga establisimiyentong komersiyal at industriyal na sanhi ng polusyon sa ating mga ilog," sabi ni Goitia.

Binigyang diin din ni Goitia na dapat suportahan ng mga local government units (LGUs) na nasa tabing ilog ang pagkilos ng pamahalaan upang maprotektahan ang mga

daanang tubig.

Bukod pa rito, patuloy rin ang pagkuha ng PRRC ng mga basurang lumulutang sa Manila

Bay patungong Pasig River na isang indikasyon dahil sa paggalaw ng alon ngayong panahon ng tag-araw.



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## Isko vows to restore 'deteriorating' Manila, opposes Manila Bay reclamation projects

By **ERMA R. EDERA**

Manila mayoral candidate Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso vowed to revitalize what he described as Manila's "deteriorating" physical development by building more green projects

and more breathing spaces in the city should he be elected in the May 13 mid-term elections.

He likewise expressed his opposition to Manila Bay reclamation, saying his priority is to develop the commercial districts of Binondo and Ermita.

"We need to maximize the limited land space and we need to catch up with other Metro Manila cities that have been constructing commercial and modernize hubs," Domagoso said during the Manila Bulletin's MB Hot Seat roundtable dis- ▶9

**PLANS FOR MANILA - Manila mayoral bet Isko Moreno lays out his plans for the city before senior editors of Manila Bulletin Thursday.**  
(Albert Garcia)





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## Isko vows to restore...



discussion on Thursday.

The former vice mayor plans to pattern his development plan for Manila from Singapore's hybrid city development perspectives without consuming too much space. This will be part of Domagoso's 10-year infrastructure plan intended to boost jobs, healthcare, and tourism.

One of his projects include building a new city hall at Liwasang Bonifacio to give employees spacious working spaces. The historic old city hall will be converted into a museum, cultural and retail center.

"I will build a new city hall. But it will not look modern. It is modern in terms of technology and structure. But in design, I would rather go back to history," he said.

"The city hall, when it was designed by architect Burnham, ang ina-address lang noon ay few thousand Manileños but that was years ago. Today, Manila has about 1.8 million people and 42,000 business establishments," he said.

Another project that he bared is the Manila Skydeck, an elevated walkway similar to the OCBC Skyway of Singapore's Gardens by the Bay. It will be built along Roxas Boulevard, in front of the Malate Church and Rajah Sulayman grounds.

The plan to build the Skydeck is in line with his plan to revive the Manila Baywalk to enable citizens and tourists to enjoy the spectacular sunset, the open-air cafes, and the outdoor restaurants

He also proposed a "City Walk" where there will be a massive urban concrete overpass exclusively for pedestrians and bikers along Ermita, Manila.

For informal settlers, he will also build in-city vertical housing units. He planned to put up commercial structures for street vendors in Divisoria, Binondo, and C.M. Recto Avenue to avoid traffic congestion in the area.

### No to Manila Bay reclamation

Moreno opposed the Manila Bay reclamation as the old district of Binondo and Escolta can be improved to develop the capital city.

"It's not my priority. Why? There's so much to develop in the middle part of the city," he said.

He also promised to preserve Arroceros Forest Park, Manila's last lung, also where the present administration wants to build a gym for the Unibersidad de Manila.

"I will not sell Arroceros Forest Park. We will protect... payayabungin, aalagaan pa namin," he said.

"We will never forget the old Manila but we will make Manila ready for the challenge of the new generation," he added.

The former Manila vice mayor and Social Welfare undersecretary also said that his first directive if he wins the midterm elections is to "clean up Manila."

"Managing waste is my expertise since I was once a garbage collector when I was a high school student," he said.

He would address the waste management problem of the city by improving garbage collection and having an incentive program for village clean-up, and provide permanent job opportunities through the Metro Aide Program.

He would also introduce the Pagkain sa Basura (Food from Garbage) Program through the collection of

recyclable materials and trading them into coupons for free food.

Asked about same sex marriage, Domagoso said that he is not in favor of it.

"I'm not in favor. Ayun ang batas. In a civilized world, we are guided by the law. If there is a law, I will support it," he said.

But he will support the LGBT community by organizing and showcasing activities such as Pride Parade in the city.

"Pride Parade should be in Manila. Because Manila alone, demographically speaking, is the melting pot of the country. Lahat ditto, welcome. It's a statement from the capital of the country that we respect people," he said.

With four days left before the elections, Moreno hopes that he can reach more Manileños to share his platforms.

"We'll do motorcades, more consultations, forums. We'll do house to house, miting de avance until 11:59 of May 11," he said.

For the 44-year-old actor-turned-politician, he saw his age both his strength and weakness.

"Mas lamang sakin yung dalawa sa edad, sa edad nagkakaroon ng wisdom. Kung sisiyasatin natin base sa edad. Imagine the experience that they have gathered through the years of public service. Pero napagbigyan na namin sila. I know Manila physically, demographically," he said.

"So kung ano man ang kalamangan ko sa kanila, I have more energy, I can take the risk of trying things," he said.

"We are giving Manila a better option," he said.

Moreno served in Manila's first district in 1998. After three terms, he ran for vice mayor in 2007 and served for two consecutive terms.



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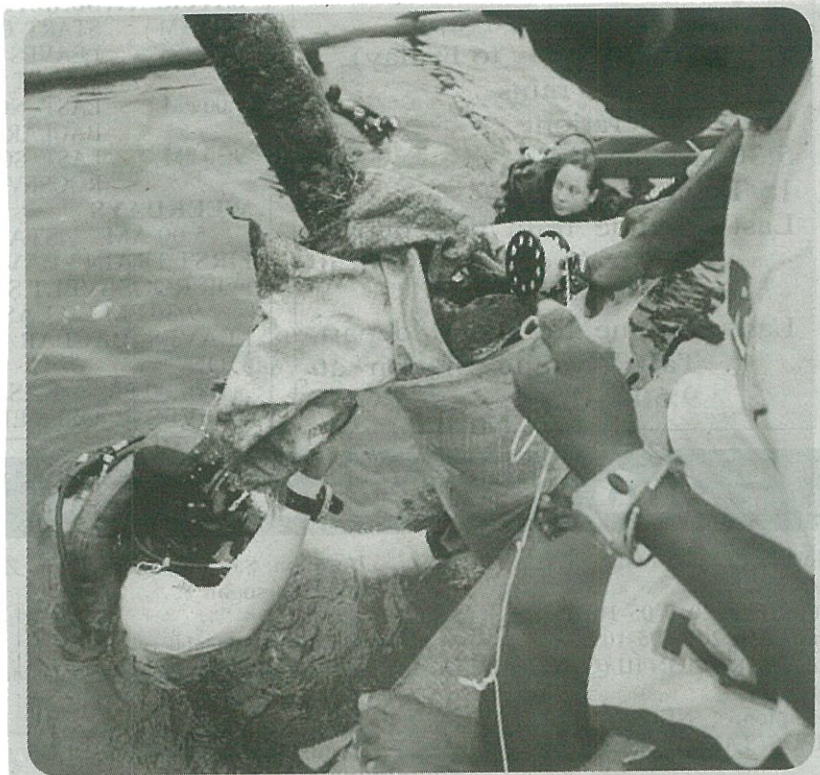
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**TUMULONG** ang isang grupo ng kalikasan sa pag-aalis ng mga basura sa ilalim ng dagat sa Cavite City bilang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Kuha ni **RUSTY ROMAN**



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# Cloud seeding conducted over three dams

By **DING CERVANTES**

CLARK FREEPORT, Pampanga – An aircraft commissioned by the Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM) has started cloud-seeding operations over three dams to create artificial rain and increase the water level in the facilities.

The BSWM, which is under the Department of Agriculture, reported that cloud seeding was done over the Ipo, La Mesa and Angat dams on Tuesday.

The dams supply the water needs of Metro Manila and irrigate rice fields in Central Luzon.

The BSWM used a BN-2 Islander air-

craft in the cloud-seeding operations.

The aircraft took off from the Plaridel airport in Bulacan with 25 sacks of iodized salt, according to BSWM project officer Mary Joy David.

Despite heavy rains in Metro Manila and parts of Bulacan on Wednesday night,

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## Cloud seeding From Page 1

officials said Angat Dam's water level continued to drop.

The provincial disaster risk reduction management office of Bulacan monitored the water elevation in Angat Dam at 174.78 meters yesterday, way below its 180 meters critical mark.

Sevillo David Jr., executive director of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), said the dam's water level dipped slightly from 175.10 meters on Wednesday.

"We have to wait for the next few days to know if the rains and cloud seeding would help increase the water in Angat Dam," David said.

The NWRB said it would temporarily stop irrigation supply to rice plantations in Bulacan and Pampanga effective May 16 as the water level in the dams continued to drop.

Ted Elipio, division manager of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Angat-Umiray Transbasin Operations, said the situation was worse in 2010 when the dam's level dropped to only 157 meters.

Manila Water said the intermittent rains in the past days as a result of thunderstorms are not enough to refill La Mesa and Angat dams.

Jeric Sevilla, Manila Water group head for corporate strategic affairs, said the situation may get worse.

"The rains are not sufficient to refill La Mesa Dam to its normal operating level

of 78 to 79 meters," he said.

Sevilla said the water in La Mesa Dam was at 68.55 meters on Wednesday, which is below its critical level of 69.

### End of dry season seen

Rains that caused floods in parts of Metro Manila on Wednesday were an indication of the dry season's looming end, the state weather bureau said.

Robert Sawi, weather forecaster of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), said the rains were caused by a frontal system or boundary between air masses with different temperatures, which enhanced the two low-pressure areas over Philippine waters.

"This is a sign that the rainy season is coming. We expect that almost every day, there will be rains," he said.

The state weather bureau said rains would continue to affect Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"Thunderstorms are likely to continue within the week, especially in the afternoon or evening," PAGASA weather forecaster Jamaila Garrido said.

PAGASA issued advisories warning residents of thunderstorms in Metro Manila and other areas.

The frontal system is affecting Central and Southern Luzon, the weather bureau said. — **With Ramon Efren Lazaro, Rhodina Villanueva**





TIME EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## La Mesa Dam water level up slightly

La Mesa Dam in Quezon City saw an increase in its water level on Thursday since reaching its lowest mark in 21 years last March.

Heavy rains unleashed by thunderstorms contributed to the slight increase in the level, from 68.45 meters last Wednesday to 68.55m on Thursday.

Although it is still lower than the dam's 80.15-meter normal level, this has been the first time that La Mesa saw an improvement in its water level since hitting a 21-year low last March 14.

Meanwhile, the level at Angat Dam in Bulacan continues to drop despite the cloud seeding conducted last Wednesday.

Angat's level further decreased to 174.78m on Thursday, or 0.36m lower than last Wednesday's 175.14m.

National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. pointed out that the rate of decline was lower than on previous days.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) earlier said the rate of decline was between 0.47 and 0.49 meters.

"We have to wait for the next few days to know the effect of the heavy rainfall including the cloud seeding operations last Wednesday," David said.

NWRB earlier announced that it is suspending the allocation for the irrigation requirements of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga from Angat Dam starting May 16 to conserve water and reduce the water level decline in the Angat reservoir. (Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



## Despite rains, dam water levels still below normal

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**W**ATER levels at La Mesa Dam and Angat Dam remain below normal levels despite a spate of sporadic rains for the past few days.

As of 6 a.m. on May 9, the water level at La Mesa is 68.55 meters above sea level (asl). This is still below its normal level of 78 to 79 meters above sea level.

As of the same period, the water level at Angat is 174.78 meters. The minimum operating water level at Angat is 180 meters.

Angat Dam is the source of about 96 percent of water for Metro Manila's close to 12 million population.

While the two private water contractors and agents of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) are drawing water from Laguna de Bay, recent conditions such as the algae bloom—because of the warm weather—limit their water

production capacities.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagsasa) said recent sporadic rains that occurred in the afternoon and in the evening is brought about by localized thunderstorms and should not be mistaken as the start of the rainy season.

Although sporadic rains are expected within the next two days, weather forecaster Jomaila Garrido said the rain can normally last up to an hour or two, not enough to raise the water level at Angat or La Mesa dam to ensure adequate raw water supply.

She explained that, while there are rains, these rains may not necessarily fall directly on the right watershed to increase existing water reserves at dams, such as La Mesa or Angat.

SEE "WATER LEVELS," A2



AFTER heavy rains on Wednesday night, La Mesa Dam's water level rose by a mere 0.10, from 68.45 to 68.55. NONOY LACZA



# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business



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## Water levels. . . CONTINUED FROM A1

"These rains are brought about by localized thunderstorms and they can usually last one or two hours, not enough to increase the water level at La Mesa Dam or Angat," Garrido said.

Garrido said the El Niño weather system continues to affect the Philippines, which means that the dry season may be extended up until June, or worse, July or August.

"We are still experiencing El Niño, that's why we are not expecting enough amount of rains that can refill our dams," she said in Filipino.

The water level at La Mesa dropped to a critical level in March this year, causing severe water service interruption that affected millions of customers within the East Zone Concession Area.

In the last two years, Manila Water, the concessionaire for the East Zone, was compelled to draw water from the La Mesa water reservoir to augment supply for its 6.8 million customers. Of the maximum daily water allocation for Metro Manila's domestic water consumers, Manila Water is receiving 1,600 million liters per day of raw water from Angat, while Maynilad Water Ser-

vices Inc.—the concessionaire for the West Zone—gets 2,400 MLD.

In a statement, Jeric Sevilla, Manila Water group head for Corporate Strategic Affairs, warned that the situation may actually get worse before it gets better.

"We welcome the rains that have been pouring over Metro Manila these past few days. But we cannot rest easy with it. First, the rains are still not sufficient to refill La Mesa Dam to its normal operating level of 78 to 79 meters. While the heavy rains last night added 10 centimeters to the level of La Mesa Dam, the level of 68.55 meters, as of 5 a.m., May 8, is still way below the critical level of 69 meters," he said.

Sevilla said Manila Water needs continuous days of that much rain to refill La Mesa.

"Second, even if we are able to refill La Mesa, and we begin to draw water from it again to augment the still-deficient water supply, it is certain that we will encounter water-quality issues," Sevilla added.

Since La Mesa is coming from subcritical levels, the soil that was previously submerged has since been exposed and may turn to mud

when watered by rains, raising the level of the raw water's turbidity, he explained. "We need to prepare for this eventuality because it takes time for water to return to normal turbidity levels," Sevilla added.

Nonetheless, Sevilla assured customers within the East Zone concession area that, should this occur, Manila Water will continue to ensure that the water it distributes passes the stringent Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water (PNSDW), as set by the Department of Health (DOH).

Sevilla reported that Manila Water continues to make progress on its service recovery efforts. As of May 8, the company has achieved 98-percent water availability of at least eight hours at 7 psi, or at ground-floor level. It has also reached 72-percent, 24-hour water availability at 7 psi.

The company continues to work on various distribution solutions to address pocket areas of less than eight hours of supply. The Cardona Water Treatment Plant has been producing 50 million liters per day, and deep wells have augmented the Angat Water Supply with the production of 30 MLD. Cross-border flows are at 16 MLD.

Jonathan L. Mayuga



## La Mesa umangat; Angat pababa pa rin

**Bahagyang tumaas ang water level ng La Mesa Dam sa Quezon City, dahil sa pag-uulan sa nakalipas na mga araw.**

Ayon kay National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Seville David, Jr., malaki ang naging ambag ng pag-uulan sa pag-angat ng water level sa dam — mula sa 68.45 metro nitong Miyerkules, nasa 68.55 metro na ito kahapon.

Sinabi ni David na ito ang unang insidente ng pag-angat ng water level sa La Mesa, makaraang maitala ang 21-year low level nito noong Marso 14.

Salungat naman ito sa nararanasan ng Angat Dam sa Bulacan, na patuloy na bumababa ang tubig, kahit pa naisagawa na ang cloud seeding.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), kailangan pang maghintay ng ilang araw bago

maramdaman ang epekto ng malakas na lan, kabilang na ang cloud seeding operations.

Samantala, maliit lang ang pag-asang maging bagyo ang low pressure area (LPA) na pumasok sa Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), kahapon.

Sa abiso ng PAGASA, huling namataan ang sama ng panahon sa layong 1,025 kilometro sa silangan ng Surigao City, kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon sa PAGASA, hindi inaasahang maapektuhan ng LPA ang bansa dahil posible itong malusaw anumang oras.

Sinabi pa ng PAGASA na mapapadalas na ang pag-uulan, lalo na dakong hapon at gabi, bunsod ng papalapit na panahon ng habagat, na karaniwan tuwing huling bahagi ng Mayo o unang linggo ng Hunyo.

**Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz**



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# Void Kaliwa Dam project, SC asked

By EDU PUNAY

**The Supreme Court (SC) was asked yesterday to strike down the government's \$211.21-million loan agreement with China for construction of the Kaliwa Dam.**

The Makabayan bloc of lawmakers led by senatorial candidate Neri Colmenares said the loan agreement, which was signed in November 2017 with the Export-Import Bank of China and to be implemented by China Energy Engineering Corp., should be declared null and void.

The petitioners sought the issuance of a temporary restraining order to stop the implementation of the project.

They said the SC should also order the government to submit all documents pertaining to the dam project as well as other loan agreements with China.

Last month, Makabayan questioned also before the SC the \$62-million loan agreement with China for the Chico River Irrigation project in the Cordilleras.

"The confidentiality clause in the Preferential Buyer's Credit Loan Agreement is a brazen disregard of the constitutional right of the Filipino people to information on foreign loans obtained or guaranteed by the government, and is considered inimical to the national interest," the petition read.

The agreement violates Section 20, Article 7 of the Consti-

tion, which requires prior approval by the Monetary Board, the petitioners added.

"The choice of the laws of China as the governing law of the agreement and the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center as the tribunal circumvents Section 7 of Article 2 of the Constitution," the petitioners said.

They said the loan agreement, which awarded the project to a pre-selected Chinese contractor, violates the constitutional preference to qualified Filipinos and procurement laws.

The agreement is an "express waiver of sovereign immunity over the state's assets in favor of a foreign government," which also violates the Constitution, Makabayan said.

The Department of Finance justified the loan agreement, saying it has an interest rate of only two percent per annum compared to the three percent slapped on the \$116.6-million deal for the Angat Dam projects during the Arroyo administration.

While both loan agreements have a maturity period of 20 years, the Kaliwa Dam deal has a longer grace period of seven years compared to Angat Dam's five years.



# Kaliwa loan questioned

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**  
@dpazzibuganINQ

Makabayan lawmakers have contested the constitutionality of a second loan agreement between the Duterte administration and China.

The bloc of militant legislators led by former Bayan Muna congressman and now senatorial candidate Neri Colmenares asked the Supreme Court on Thursday to temporarily stop and later, void altogether the \$211.2-million loan agreement with China to build the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project in Tanay, Rizal.

The loan deal with the Export-Import Bank of China was reportedly finalized in November 2017.

According to the Makabayan congressmen, the loan agreement's confidentiality clause violated the public's constitutional right to information, the same argument they used when they questioned last month the government's \$62-million loan agreement with China for the Chico



**DAMNING KALIWA DAM** Members of the Dumagat-Remontado tribe from Quezon and Rizal provinces hold a rally in front of the office of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in Quezon City in March this year to protest plans to build the Kaliwa Dam. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

River Pump Irrigation Project in the Cordilleras.

Awarding the project to a preselected Chinese contractor also violated the constitutional preference for qualified Filipino contractors, the group said, adding that the dam will be built by China Energy Engineering Corp.

The Makabayan bloc also cited Section 7, Article II of the Constitution which called for an "independent foreign policy," that, it said, the contract violated when it chose China's laws as the governing law of the agreement and the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre as arbiter in case of dispute. INQ



# Nature's dangerous decline unprecedented



A hard-hitting report into the impact of humans on nature shows that nearly one million species risk becoming extinct within decades, while current efforts to conserve the earth's resources will likely fail without radical action, UN biodiversity experts said.

Speaking in Paris at the launch of the Global Assessment study – the first such report since 2005 – UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay said that its findings put the world “on notice.”

“Following the adoption of this historic report, no one will be able to claim that they did not know,” the head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization said.

“We can no longer continue to destroy the diversity of life. This is our responsibility towards future generations.”

Highlighting the universal importance of biodiversity – the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems – Azoulay said that protecting it “is as vital as fighting climate change.”

Presented to more than 130 government delegations for their approval at UNESCO headquarters, the report features the work of 400 experts from at least 50 countries, coordinated by the Bonn-based Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

## Without such measures there will be a “further acceleration” in the global rate of species extinction.

In addition to providing exhaustive insights on the state of nature, ecosystems and how nature underpins all human activity, the study also discusses progress on key international goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The report also examines five main drivers of “unprecedented” biodiversity and ecosystem change over the past 50 years, identifying them as: changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change, pollution and invasion of alien species.

On at-risk fauna and flora, the study asserts that human activities “threaten more species now than ever before” – a finding based on the fact that around 25 percent of species in plant and animal groups are vulnerable.

This suggests that around one million species “already face extinction, many within decades, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of drivers of biodiversity loss.”

Without such measures there will be a “further acceleration” in the global rate of species extinction, which is already “at least tens to hundreds of times higher, than it has averaged over the past 10 million years,” the report states.

It notes that despite many local efforts, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, by 2016, 559 of the 6,190 domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture were extinct – around nine percent of the total – and at least 1,000 more are threatened.

NATURE is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating. UN PHOTO



# Globe Telecom joins Boracay cleanup

IN support of the government's call for responsible and sustainable tourism, Globe Telecom joined the week-long celebration of Boracay's rehabilitation aimed at encouraging residents, tourists, and other stakeholders to be more environmentally conscious.

Almost 300 participants from the Globe Store in Boracay, Boracay Foundation Inc., Boracay Inter-agency task force, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, Team Boracay Cyclist, Philippine National Police, Malay Solid Waste, and Asean Centre for Biodiversity worked together to ensure that the country's favorite summer getaway retains its pristine condition. The team

gathered 32 bags of plastic waste and trash scattered along the popular White Beach where local and foreign tourists often converge.

Globe put up an Eco Booth in D'mall where anyone can exchange their plastic bags with eco bags to encourage a more sustainable practice.

Six months prior to Love Boracay, Globe, in partnership with Manila Water Foundation, has initiated several sustainable long term rehabilitation activities for Boracay such as the construction of a communal septic tank in Sitio Ilaya, Barangay Balabag and the provision of two months worth of Virgomin organic water treatment for septic tanks to all

4,000 households.

These efforts were aimed to ensure that locals, especially the low income households, are presented with options on how to contribute to the rehabilitation of the island through proper septage containment and management.

Alongside the sanitation projects, Globe, together with Save Philippine Seas, has conducted a three-day workshop on Marine Biodiversity attended by local business owners, students and teachers.

The workshop focused on ways to protect marine life by adopting sustainable approaches to business operations such as reducing the use of single-use plastic.



The Globe team gathers several plastic bags full trash during the Boracay beach clean up.





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**NAGPAHAYAG** si Department of Tourism (DOT) Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat na pagtutuunan niya ng pansin ang ilan sa mga kilalang beach destinations sa ating bansa upang suriin kung sila ba ay sumusunod sa mga polisiya at alituntunin ng ating gobyerno upang panatilihin ang kalinisan at protektahan ang kalikasan sa nasabing mga lugar.

Alam naman natin ang nangyari sa isla ng Boracay kung saan ang kuntsabahan ng mga resort owner at lokal na pamahalaan ay nagresulta sa pagsira ng natural na kalikasan ng Boracay. Tumaas din ang lebel ng tinatawag na coliform bacteria sa karagatan ng Boracay na sanhi ng walang habas na pagtatapon ng basura at dumi sa dagat.

Ngayon naman ay inilantad ni Sec. Puyat na mayroon pa ring mga lokal na opisyal na pasaway sa mga pangako nila na tutulungan ang ating pamahalaan na bantayan ang mga resort owner na kanilang nasasakupan upang sumunod sa pagsasaayos ng kalinisan ng ating kalikasan.

Partikular na tinukoy ni Sec. Puyat ang El Nido

sa Palawan. Nagbanta ang kalihim na ipasasara ang mga indibidwal na resort pati na ang nasasakupang beach ng lokal na pamahalaan kapag hindi sumunod sa utos ng ating pamahalaan. Binigyan ng palugit ni Puyat ang LGU ng El Nido at ang mga resort owner na hanggang Mayo 30, kung hindi ay pasensiyahan na lang tayo.

Sa mga hindi pakapupunta sa El Nido, ito ay isang napakagandang lugar sa Palawan. May mga magagandang isla na makikita sa El Nido. Subalit hindi ang mga isla ang tinutukoy ni Sec. Puyat dito. Ito ay ang mga nagsulputang resorts sa mainland ng El Nido na nag-aalok ng 'island hopping' sa nasabing lugar.

Ang mga iba kasi sa atin ay inihahambing sa kanilang pag-iisip ang hitsura ng El Nido na tulad ng isla ng Boracay. Hindi po ganito sa El Nido. Ang mga regular na turista ay bumabiyaha mula sa Puerto Princesa sa pamamagitan ng sasakyang panlupa papunta sa munisipiyong El Nido.

Pinag-aaralan na ng ating pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng isang presidential executive order na i-takeover

## KALINISAN NG EL NIDO DAPAT BANTAYAN

ang ano mang LGU sa pamamahala ng kanilang tourist spots. Magkakaroon ng isang inter-agency management team na magkakaroon ng representasyon mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), DOT, kaugnay na LGU at mula sa pribadong sektor.

Huwag sanang balewalain ang bantayan ito

ni Sec. Puyat. Mata-tandaan ang desisyon ni Pangulong Duterte na ipasara at ayusin ang Boracay. Marami ang hindi makapaniwala sa pangyayaring ito ngunit may political will ang administrasyon ni Duterte at ipinatupad ito. Marami ang nagreklamo subalit hindi bumigay ang ating pamahalaan. Tingnan ninyo ang Boracay ngayon. Maayos at malinis na!

Kaya payo ko la-

mang sa mga opisyal ng mga LGU at resort owner na apektado sa banta ni Sec. Puyat, umaksiyon na kayo. Huwag na kayong umasa na lilipas ito. Habang pinatatagal ninyo, mas lalala ang lugi ninyo sa negosyo. Parang sakit na kanser lang 'yan. Mas madaaling magamot habang maaga pang madiskubre ang sakit. Kapag napabayaang, mas mahirap nang ayusin ito.



# Sapol

NI JARIUS BONDOC



## China kriminal na bansa: winawasak ang kalikasan

NU'NG Abril 2012 nagsumbong ang mga Pilipinong mangingisda sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Inaani ng mga Hainanese ang taklobo (giant clams), fan corals, at sea turtles sa Scarborough Shoal. Labag lahat 'yon sa batas ng Pilipinas at mundo. Dahil hindi agad masamahan ng Philippine Coast Guards ang BFAR, humingi ng tulong sa dumadaan na barko ng Philippine Navy. Sinita ng Pilipino sailors ang 24 na bangkang Hainanese na puno ng kontrabando. Sinaklolohan ang huli ng siyam na armadong barko ng Chinese coast guards at maritime enforcement. Nagkagirian bago umatras ang barkong Pilipino. Nanatili ang mga mapangwasak na Hainanese at mga armadong alalay nito.

Nu'ng 2013-2014 inagaw ng Beijing ang pitong bahura sa 200-mile exclusive economic zone ng Pilipinas. Tinambakan ng na-dredge na buhangin ang gitna. Nagkonkreto ng mga pier at landing strips para gawing artificial island fortresses. Winasak ang mga pangisdaan.

Abril 2016 nabisto sa aerial photos ang sitwasyon sa Scarborough. Mahigit 500 ektarya ng corals ang winasak sa pag-ani ng taklobo. Pagkain at gamot ang laman, dekorasyon at alahas ang shells. Hindi tumigil ang Hainanese. Sinusuportahan pa ng gobyerno nila.

Hulyo 2016 pinasya ng UN court na labag sa international law ang pagbawal ng Beijing sa mangingisdang Pilipino sa Scarborough Shoal. Hindi pinansin ng Beijing ang korte; kesyo raw sa kanila ang bahura.

Setyembre 2016 itinatag ng Beijing ang fisheries militia sa Sansha, garrison sa Hainan. Binigyan ng kagamitan at sinanay ang libu-libong Hainanese sa paghuli umano sa mga mapanirang mangingisda, lalo na ng taklobo; fan corals, sea turtles, pating, at dolphins.

Pero pinaligiran ng Chinese militia ang Pag-asa Island, bahagi ng Palawan, para mangisda sa teritoryo ng Pilipinas. At na-video ng ABS-CBN nung Abril 2019 ang patuloy na pagbareta ng corals sa Scarborough para hakutin ang mga taklobo. Kriminal na bansa ang China.