

DATE : 10 SEP 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



House panel approves P4.1-trillion national budget bill for 2020

THE House Committee on Appropriations approved on Monday the committee report on the P4.1-trillion General Appropriations Bill.

House Bill 4228, which seeks to appropriate funds for the operation of the government of the Republic of the Philippines from January 1 to December 31, 2020, will now be transmitted to the plenary for deliberations.

House Committee on Appropriations Chairman Isidro Ungab said GAB is a "faithful" copy of the National Expenditure Program submitted by the Palace. According to Ungab, no changes or amendments have been made in the NEP.

Ungab said the panel completed in "record time" the hearings on the 2020 budget proposals of all government departments, agencies and offices.

For his part, House Committee on Appropriations Senior Vice Chairman Joey Salceda said the budget bill reflects the national goals—particularly for providing a safe and comfortable life for all, becoming an upper middle-income country by 2022, and securing an "A" credit rating by 2022.

"We want to approve a budget that really serves our people, serves our constituencies, and of course,

reflects the values of our country," Salceda added.

Ungab said the sponsorship and start of floor deliberations on HB 4228 are scheduled on Tuesday.

He added that the House is sticking to its original target date to pass the proposed national budget, which is before the October 4 recess.

The 2020 budget of P4.1 trillion, which is cash-based, is 11.8 percent more than the 2019 budget and will constitute 19.4 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Social services will receive the largest chunk of the budget with P1.5 trillion or a 37.2-percent share, followed by economic services, which will receive P1.18 trillion or a 28.9-percent share. Meanwhile, the general public services will receive P734.5 billion; debt burden P451 billion; and defense P195.6 billion.

Fiscal deficit

IN the 2020 national budget, the government maintains a manageable deficit of 3.2 percent of GDP to enable a declining debt burden.

For next year, the government will sustain the momentum of rising revenue collection by pursuing the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP).

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Budget. . .

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The government revenue collections are expected to reach P3.536 trillion in 2020, a figure that is 12.3 percent higher than this year's targeted level of P3.1 trillion. This will fund 83.9 percent of programmed disbursements for 2020.

Meanwhile, the total gross borrowings for 2020 amount to P1.4 trillion. With a borrowing mix policy of 75:25 in favor of domestic sources, P1.047 trillion will be sourced locally and the rest, P353.2 billion, will come from abroad.

Of the total gross borrowings, P677.6 billion will finance the deficit, which is equivalent to 3.2 percent of GDP.

Meanwhile, the top 10 agencies to get the biggest allocations next year are: Department of Education, P673 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways, P534 billion; Department of the Interior and Local Government, P238 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development, P195 billion; Department of National Defense, P189 billion; Department of Health, P166.5 billion; Department of Transportation, P147 billion; Department of Agriculture, P56.8 billion, the Judiciary, P38.7 billion and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, P26.4 billion.

Priority measures

THE 2020 NEP will also finance the implementation of priority measures of the administration.

Among the critical programs are measures to implement new laws and policies that provide economic and social assistance to all Filipinos, and enhance the security of the nation, such as the: full implementation of the Universal Health Care Act, institutionalization of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, smooth transition to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, implementation of the Rice Trade Liberalization Act, creation of the Department for Human Settlements and Urban Development, and National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

The government said the UHC program is allocated P166.5 billion; and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act, P108.8 billion. Pursuant to the Bangsamoro Organic Law, P70.6 billion is allocated for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Republic Act 11203, or the Rice Trade Liberalization Act, mandates the creation of the P10-billion Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). Following the enactment of RA 11201, or the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Act, the 2020 budget allocates an amount of P641.6 million to support the initial operations of the department.

Jovee Marie N. Dela Cruz



#nationataglance

MIMAROPA: BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN

Soldier assisting DENR wounded in NPA attack

MILITARY TROOPS assisting Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) personnel in Brooke's Point, Palawan were attacked on Monday by suspected members of the communist New People's Army (NPA), leaving one soldier wounded. In a statement, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said the soldiers were conducting security operations in an area being monitored by the DENR for reported "rampant illegal logging." The AFP said, "it was unfortunate... that the Communist Terrorists have chosen to disrupt the enforcement of environmental laws by government authorities." The attack was carried out by five NPA members at around 10:20 in the morning, according to AFP. More troops have been deployed to the area to pursue the NPAs who fled in "different directions" following the 10-minute exchange of fire. The wounded soldier is already in stable condition, the military said.



Tuesday, September 10, 2019 7

Cimatu wants bill creating DENR Enforcement Bureau

By
Joel
dela
Torre

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has called on Congress to enact a law creating an Enforcement Bureau that will protect his men in the field from fearless and greedy individuals who destroy the environment for their own selfish interest.

The call was made following the brutal killing of a forest ranger in El Nido, Palawan recently.

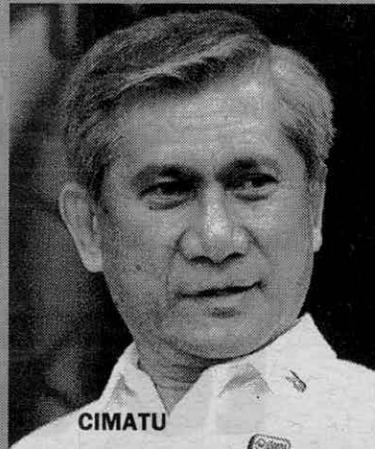
Condemning "in the strongest word" the slaying of Bienvenido Veguilla Jr. by suspected illegal loggers, Cimatu vowed to do everything to prevent another killing similar to Veguilla's.

"We believe that the creation of an Enforcement Bureau under the DENR can effectively stop illegal logging, smuggling of wildlife species and other environmental crimes," the DENR chief pointed out.

Reports reaching the DENR central office in Quezon City showed that Veguilla -- together with fellow forest ranger Jenuel Casel, forest extension officer Herson Caliao, and park rangers Marvin Flamiano, Godensio Caber and Norlito Jongay -- were conducting a forest patrol in the afternoon of Sept. 4 in an area covered by the National Greening Program when they heard the sound of a chainsaw as they passed through Barangay Pasadena.

The sound was traced to a group of men who were slicing a felled tree with a chainsaw.

Upon seeing the authorities, these men scampered leaving behind the chainsaw which Veguilla's group secured.



CIMATU

On their way home, the DENR forest officers were chased by a group of six men armed with a bolo.

Veguilla was able to fire his service weapon as he and his companions were running for safety.

However, Veguilla was cornered and hacked to death, while the others were able to seek help from the nearby barangay and police offices.

One of the suspects identified as Filman Flores was wounded by Veguilla's shots and was brought to the hospital.

Flores and another suspect, Gerardo "Carding" Fulgencio, are now under police custody.

A manhunt operation is ongoing for the remaining four suspects.



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Bishop condemns killing of Palawan forest ranger

A CATHOLIC bishop condemned the killing of a government forest ranger who was trying to catch suspected illegal loggers in Palawan province.

Bishop Socrates Mesiona of Puerto Princesa Diocese said the ranger was only doing his job, adding that protecting the country's environment had become risky and dangerous.

The prelate further expressed his grief saying the killing took place as the Church celebrated the "Season of Creation."

"It is unfortunate that the attack on his life happened when we in the church are celebrating the month of creation," Mesiona posted on the

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines website.

Mesiona said the crime would not "go in vain but awaken our resolve to preserve the environment."

The victim, Bienvenido Veguilla Jr., 44, worked for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as one of El Nido's forest protectors.

On September 4, Veguilla was killed by a group of illegal loggers carrying bolos. Police identified the perpetrators as Filman Flores, Ruel Fulgencio, Carding Fulgencio, Welmer Juancho, Dexter Sumalague and one unidentified person, whom the forest ranger

caught in the act of cutting trees in the protected area.

Veguilla was hacked by Flores, who was in turn was shot in the abdomen by the former. Flores, on Saturday died while getting treatment at the Palawan Northern District Hospital.

Police said the two Fulgencios, Juancho and Sumalague were already arrested while one still remained at large.

Veguilla's case was the latest attack against forest protectors.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu has called for the creation of an enforcement bureau that would protect the department's frontline officers.

EVA CASALJAY



Catholic bishop condemns forest ranger killing

By Raymart T. Lolo

A Catholic bishop on Monday lamented the fate of a forest ranger who was killed while trying to arrest suspected illegal loggers in the Palawan province.

Bishop Socrates Mesion of Puerto Princesa pointed out how heartbreaking it is that the forest ranger was killed for doing his job. "It tells us that protecting our environment can be risky and dangerous," the Bishop said.

Last Wednesday, 4 September, a

forest ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources identified as Bienvinido Severino Veguilla Jr. 44, sustained hack wounds causing his death after he was attacked by six suspected illegal loggers in El Nido.

One of the suspects, Fernan Flores, was arrested.

The prelate also lamented that killing took place as the Church celebrates September as the "Season of Creation."

"It is unfortunate that the attack on his life happened when we in the

church are celebrating the month of creation. May his death not go in vain but awaken our resolve to preserve the environment," the bishop added.

According to Global Witness, an international non-governmental organization, the Philippines is the most dangerous country for environmental activists.

Its 2018 annual report showed 30 of the 164 killings of land and environmental activists worldwide happened in the southeast Asian nation.



DENR-Cordillera umalerto sa illegal logging

Naitala ang Mountain Province na may pinakamataas na bilang ng illegal logging activity mula Enero hanggang Hulyo ngayong taon sa buong bansa, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Cordillera Region.

Inihayag ng DENR-Cordillera na mahigit 6,000 board feet ng mga table na nagkakahalaga ng P222,000 ang nakumpiska sa Mountain Province sa loob ng anim na buwan.

Dahil dito, pinayuhan ng DENR-Cordillera ang mga residente ng nasabing lalawigan na isumbong at makipagtulungan sa pamahalaan para maaresto ang mga taong sangkot sa iligal na pagpuputol ng kahoy para mabigyan ng proteksyon ang mga kabundukan at kagubatan.

Iminungkahi rin ng kagawaran na irebisa ang tradisyonal na 'Batangan System' para masugpo ang iligal na pagputol ng mga puno at pagbiyahe sa mga table sa Mountain Province. **(Allan Bergonia)**



AstraZeneca, DENR, Cavinti ink pact

BIOPHARMACEUTICAL company AstraZeneca has entered into a three-year tripartite agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the municipality of Cavinti, Laguna to support the 'Tayo ang Kalikasan' reforestation management program.

"Taking care of the environment is a monumental undertaking that requires the participation of everyone. So, we're very happy that AstraZeneca is doing its part for this effort," said Vener Garcia, OIC Chief, Policy Studies Division, DENR.

As part of AstraZeneca's Sustainability efforts in environmental protection and in celebration of the World Environment Day, 150 of its employees in the Philippines planted around 1,000 indigenous trees in Cavinti to help offset the CO2 emissions of its car fleet.

Cavinti Mayor Milbert Oliveros expressed his gratitude for this initiative.

"The Caliraya Watershed is very important to our municipality, as it provides water supply for drinking and power generation. We're grateful to AstraZeneca and DENR for their help in rehabilitating our watershed," he shared.

The 1,000 trees planted is the first phase of the partnership. According to Lotis Ramin, AstraZeneca Philippines Country President, the company aims to plant a total of 3,000 trees by 2021 by increasing the number of sites as well as involving more employees around the country.

"At AstraZeneca, our approach to sustainability puts health at the heart of our work.

Sustainability means using our capabilities to make the most meaningful impact where society needs it—health," he said.

Workers of AstraZeneca pose after their tree-planting activity in Cavinti, Laguna. The biopharmaceutical company strengthened its commitment to sustainability by focusing on three pillars of its strategy: Patients, people, and the planet.





Manila Bay cleanup nets 3,810 tons of trash

Some 3,810 tons of garbage, water hyacinth and silt have been collected from coastlines and estuaries draining to Manila Bay since the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) launched its cleanup this year.

In the agency's Manila Bay rehabilitation report, the following items were recovered from Jan. 7 to Aug. 31: 749.72 tons of garbage from Manila Baywalk and other tributaries; 737.12 tons of garbage and water hyacinth removed from Baseco beach area, lagoon, and aplaya; 901.85 tons of water hyacinth and garbage from Pasig and San Juan rivers; 1,422.17 tons of silt from estuaries and drainage laterals to Manila Bay.

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim said the agency expects more garbage from Manila Bay in the coming months due to inclement weather.

"Garbage has accumulated in Manila Bay after the heavy rains but the rehabilitation of Manila Bay never stops. We are inviting more volunteers to help in our clean-up drive held every Saturday in the Baywalk and Baseco areas," Lim said.

In the Manila Bay cleanups organized by the MMDA, some 18,457 volunteers have joined from January to August this year.

- Marc Jayson Cayabyab



Manila Bay cleanup yields 3.8k tons of garbage

THE Manila Bay cleanup campaign initiated by the Metro Manila Development Authority yielded 3,810 tons of garbage, water hyacinth and silt since the government started its rehabilitation program.

In the MMDA's Manila Bay rehabilitation report, collected from Jan. 7 to Aug. 31 were:—2,639 cubic meters/749.72 tons of garbage from Manila Baywalk and other tributaries; 2,594.34 cubic meters/737.12 tons of garbage and water hyacinth removed from Baseco beach area, lagoon, and aplaya; 3,174.5 cubic meters/901.85 tons of water hyacinth/garbage from Pasig River and San Juan River area, and 5,005.5 cubic meters/1,422.17 tons of silt from *esteros* and drainage laterals discharging to Manila Bay

MMDA chairman Danilo Lim said they expect to collect more garbage as piles of trash float at the Manila Bay brought by heavy rains these past few days.

"Garbage has accumulated in Manila Bay after the heavy rains but the rehabilitation of Manila Bay never stops. We are inviting more volunteers to help in our clean-up drive held every Saturday in the Baywalk and Baseco areas," said Lim.

Majority of collected from the bay were bamboo poles and driftwood which had been carried by currents from nearby fish pens, water hyacinths, plastics, household waste, and sorts of garbage thrown indiscriminately into *esteros* and creeks.

Aside from hauling garbage, agency workers are focusing on cleaning major drainages, including Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa de Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, Remedios Drainage Main, to prevent garbage and silt from polluting the bay.

"The government has still has a long way to go in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay but we are on the right track towards restoring the beauty and improve Manila Bay's quality of water," said Lim.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation program is spearheaded by the Department of Environment, and National Resources, with MMDA, various government agencies, local government units, private groups, environmentalists and volunteers.

The Manila Bay cleanup organized by the MMDA had registered 18,457 volunteers who joined the incessant clean-up activities in Manila Baywalk and Baseco area from January to August, this year. **Joel E. Zurbano**



3,810 tons of garbage collected from Manila Bay

Garbage collected during eight months of cleanup included trash, silt and water lily plants

By Alvin Murcia

The Manila Bay clean-up operations yielded more than 3,810 tons of garbage, water hyacinths and silt.

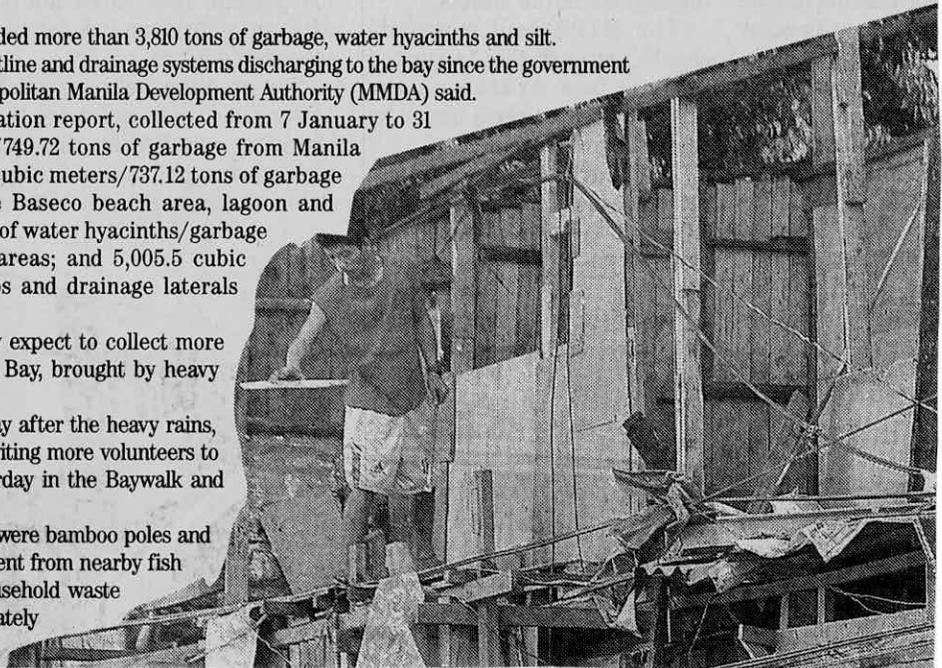
It was removed from the Manila Bay coastline and drainage systems discharging to the bay since the government started its rehabilitation program, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said.

In the MMDA's Manila Bay Rehabilitation report, collected from 7 January to 31 August there were: 2,639 cubic meters/749.72 tons of garbage from Manila Baywalk and other tributaries; 2,594.34 cubic meters/737.12 tons of garbage and water hyacinths removed from the Baseco beach area, lagoon and *aplaya*; 3,174.5 cubic meters/901.85 tons of water hyacinths/garbage from Pasig River and San Juan River areas; and 5,005.5 cubic meters/1,422.17 tons of silt from esteros and drainage laterals discharging to Manila Bay.

MMDA chairman Danilo Lim said they expect to collect more garbage as piles of trash float on Manila Bay, brought by heavy rains these past few days.

"Garbage has accumulated in Manila Bay after the heavy rains, but its rehabilitation never stops. We are inviting more volunteers to help in our clean-up drive held every Saturday in the Baywalk and Baseco areas," Lim said.

Majority of trash collected from the bay were bamboo poles and driftwood that had been carried by the current from nearby fish pens, water hyacinths, plastic material, household waste and all sorts of garbage thrown indiscriminately into *esteros* and creeks.





4 toneladang basura nakuha sa Manila Bay

UMABOT sa 3,810 toneladang basura, water hyacinths, at mga burak ang natanggal sa baybayin ng Manila Bay at mga kanal na nakakonekta rito simula nang gawin ang rehabilitasyon dito batay sa ulat na isinagawa ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Nakasaad sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation Report ng naturang ahensya, ang mga nakolekta mula Enero 7 hanggang Agosto 31 ay 749.72 toneladang basura mula Manila Baywalk at mga kanal na konektado rito; 737.12 toneladang basura at water hyacinths na mula sa beach area, lagoon at aplaya ng Baseco beach sa Tondo; 901.85 toneladang basura at water hyacinths mula sa Pasig river at ilog ng San Juan; 1,422.17 toneladang burak mula sa mga estero at kanal.

Inaasahan naman na ni MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim na mas maraming basura pa ang makokolekta dahil na rin sa malakas na pag-ulan nitong mga nagdaang araw.

Karamihan sa mga nakolekta ay mga naanod na kawayan at mga kahoy mula sa mga kalapit na palaisdaan, mga water hyacinths, plastics, basura mula sa mga bahay, at iba pang basta na lang itinapon sa mga estero at sapa.

Bukod sa paghahakot ng mga basura, nakapokus din ang mga tauhan ng MMDA sa paglilinis ng mga malalaking drainage gaya ng Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa de Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, Remedios Drainage Main para maiwasan ang mga basura at burak na umabot pa ng Manila Bay.

Ang Manila Bay rehabilitation program ay pinangungunahan ng Department of Environment, and National Resources at ng MMDA, iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, lokal na pamahalaan, pribadong grupo, environmentalist at mga volunteer.

Nasa 18,457 volunteers na ang sumasama sa Manila Bay clean-up na inorganisa ng MMDA para sa walang humpay na paglilinis ng Manila Baywalk at Baseco mula Enero hanggang Agosto ngayong taon. **JAY REYES at JAMES CATAPUSAN**



Manila Bay rehabilitation

3,810 tons of garbage collected by MMDA

By **EDD REYES**

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said more than 3,810 tons of garbage, water hyacinth and silt have been removed from the Manila Bay coastline and drainage system discharging to the bay since the government started its rehabilitation program.

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim said they expect to collect more garbage as piles of trash float at the Manila Bay brought by heavy rains these past few days.

"Garbage has accumulated in Manila Bay after

the heavy rains but the rehabilitation of Manila Bay never stops. We are inviting more volunteers to help in our clean-up drive held every Saturday in the Baywalk and Baseco areas," said Lim.

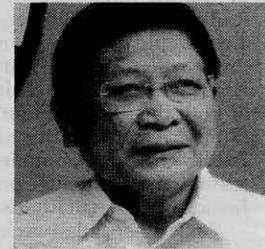
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Aside from hauling garbage, agency workers are focusing on cleaning major drainages, including Estero San Antonio de Abad,

Tripa de Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, Remedios Drainage Main, to prevent garbage and silt from polluting the bay.

"The government still has a long way to go in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay but we are on the right track towards restoring the beauty and improve Manila Bay's quality of water," said Lim.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation program is spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with MMDA, various government agencies, local government units, private groups, environmentalists and volunteers.



Lim

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3,810 toneladang basura nahakot sa Manila Bay

Tinatayang nasa 3,810 tonelada ng basura, water hyacinth, at putik o burak ang nahakot mula sa baybayin ng Manila Bay at mga estero sa Kamaynilaan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) mula nang ilunsad ang paglilinis sa mga ito nitong 2019.

Sa ulat ng Manila Bay

Rehabilitation, mula Enero 7 hanggang Agosto 31, ay 749.72 tonelada ang nakolektang basura sa baybayin ng Manila Bay at mga kalapit na lugar; 737.12 tonelada naman ng basura at water hyacinth ang nahakot mula sa aplaya ng Baseco Compound sa Tondo.

Sa Pasig at San Juan

rivers, nakahakot naman ng 901.85 toneladang basura, habang 1,422.17 tonelada naman ng burak ang nakuha mula sa mga estero at drainage na dumadaloy papunta sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi naman ni MMDA chairman Danilo Lim na inasahan pa nila ang pagdami

ng mga basura sa Manila Bay sa mga susunod na buwan bunsod umano ng tag-ulan at masamang panahon.

"Dumadami ang basura sa Manila Bay tuwing pagkatapos ng malakas na ulan, pero patuloy ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay," sabi pa ni Lim. *(Marc Jason Cayabyab)*



Reclamation sa Manila Bay, ipinatitigil

Nananawagan kahapon sa lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila ang grupo ng mga mangingisda na ipagbawal ang anumang reclamation activities sa nasasakupan ng Manila Bay.

Ayon sa Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) dapat na maglabas ng ordinansa si Manila Mayor Isko Moreno kaugnay ng nasabing pagbabawal.

Ginawa ng grupo ang apela kasunod na rin ng paghahain ng panukalang batas ni Deputy Speaker at Pangasinan Rep. Rose Marie Arenas na nagbabawal ng nasabing aktibidad.

Sinabi ng grupo na lalong lumalakas ang kanilang loob na tutulan ang reclamation projects na lalo pipinsala sa ecosystem ng lawa.

Bukod aniya dito, magreresulta lamang ito ng pagpapaalis sa libu-libong residente sa coastal area, na nabubuhay lamang sa pangingsda.

Ipinababasura rin ng panukalang

batas ang environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) na nailabas na san aturang mga proyekto.

Binanggit din ng grupo na isa sa mga pangako ni Moreno sa nakaraang election campaign ang pagtutol nito sa reclamation sa Manila Bay.

Binanggit ng PAMALAKAYA na apat na reclamation project na ang inaprubahan dati ng alkalde ng Maynila na si Joseph Estrada.

Ito ay kinabibilangan ng 417 ektaryang Horizon Manila Project, ang 497.42 ektaryang New Manila Bay International Community, 148 ektaryang Manila Solar City Project, at ang 50 ektaryang pagpapalawig ng Manila Harbour Center sa Tondo.

Pangamba pa ng grupo, bukod sa gigibain ang kanilang mga bahay ay mawawalan din sila ng pagkukunan ng ikabubuhay kapag naipagpatuloy ang mga nasabing proyekto.

Elialyn De Vera-Ruiz



3,810 TONELADANG BASURA NAKOLEKTA SA MANILA BAY REHAB

NAKAPAGTALA ng mahigit sa 3,810 toneladang basura, water hyacinths at mga burak ang nakolekta ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sa mga baybayin ng Manila Bay simula nang gawin ang rehabilitasyon nito.

Ayon sa Manila Bay rehabilitation report ng MMDA, ang mga nakolekta mula Enero 7 hanggang Agosto 31 ay nasa 2,639 cubic meters / 749.72 toneladang basura mula Manila Baywalk at mga kanal na konektado rito; 2,594.34 cubic meters / 737.12 toneladang basura at water hyacinths na mula sa beach area, lagoon at aplaya ng Baseco beach sa Tondo; 3,174.5 cubic meters / 901.85 toneladang basura at water hyacinths mula sa Pasig river at ilog ng San Juan.

Samantalang, nasa

5,005.5 cubic meters/1,422.17 toneladang burak mula sa mga estero at kanal.

Inaasahan naman ni MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim na mas maraming basura pa ang kanilang makokolekta dahil na rin sa malakas na pag-ulan nitong mga nagdaang araw.

"Dumami ang mga basura sa Manila Bay dahil sa malakas na ulan pero hindi titigil ang rehabilitasyon natin dito. Hinihimok natin ang mas marami pang volunteers na maktiisa sa isinasagawang clean-up tuwing Sabado sa Baywalk at Baseco," pahayag ni Lim.

Karamihan sa mga nakolekta ay mga naanod na kawayan at mga kahoy na mula sa mga kalapit na palaisdaan, mga water hyacinths, plastics, basura mula sa mga bahay, at iba pang mga basurang itinapon sa mga estero at

sapa.

Bukod sa paghahakot ng mga basura ay nakapokus din ang mga tauhan ng MMDA sa paglilinis ng mga malalaking drainage gaya ng Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa de Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, at Remedios Drainage Main para maiwasan ang mga basura at burak na umabot pa ng Manila Bay.

"Marami pang kai-

langang gawin ang gobyerno sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay pero nasa tamang landas naman tayo tungo sa pagpapaganda at pagsasaayos ng kalidad ng tubig," ani Lim.

Ang Manila Bay rehabilitation program ay pinangungunahan ng Department of Environment, and National Resources (DENR) at ng MMDA, iba't ibang ahensya ng

gobyerno, lokal na pamahalaan, pribadong grupo, environmentalists, at mga volunteers.

Nasa 18,457 volunteers na ang sumasama sa Manila Bay cleanup na inorganisa ng MMDA para sa walang humpay na paglilinis ng Manila Baywalk at Baseco mula Enero hanggang Agosto ngayong taon.

MARIVIC FERNANDEZ



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Mayor Isko asked to ban reclamation in Manila Bay

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

A group of local fisherfolk has called on Manila Mayor Isko Moreno to issue a local ordinance prohibiting any reclamation in Manila Bay.

The call of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) was made after Deputy Speaker and Pangasinan Rep. Rose Marie Arenas filed House Bill 3169 seeking to ban reclamation activities in the entire Manila Bay.

PAMALAKAYA welcomed the proposal saying it would strengthen their legal basis to oppose reclamation projects that would further destroy the ecosystem of Manila Bay.

Most of all, it would entail demolition of thousands of fishing and coastal families.

The bill also seeks to revoke all reclamation projects that already acquired environmental compliance certificates (ECCs).

Restoring Manila Bay without reclamation was one of Moreno's campaign promise when he ran for mayor.

According to PAMALAKAYA, there are four reclamation projects in Manila that were approved by former Mayor Joseph Estrada: The 417-hectare Horizon Manila Project, the 497.42-hectare New Manila Bay International Community, 148-hectare Manila Solar City Project, and the 50-hectare expansion of Manila Harbour Center in Tondo.



Mayor Isko urged to fulfill campaign promise, stop all reclamation projects in Manila Bay

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) is calling on Manila Mayor Isko Moreno to enact a city ordinance prohibiting land-reclamation projects and spearhead a rehabilitation program that will restore the Manila Bay's pristine condition and capacity.

The call was made by Pamalakaya after Deputy Speaker and Pangasinan Rep. Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas filed House Bill 3169 seeking to ban reclamation activities in the entire Manila Bay.

Pamalakaya said it welcome Arenas's filing of the bill, saying it would strengthen their legal basis to oppose reclamation projects that would further destroy

the ecosystem of Manila Bay and worse, lead to the force eviction of thousands of fishing and coastal families.

The Arenas bill also seeks to revoke all reclamation projects that already acquired environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) from authorities.

Meanwhile, the Bayan Muna Party-list has also refiled House Bill 257 declaring Manila Bay as "reclamation-free zone" to protect its marine resources and the coastal population situated around it.

"It should have not come to this point when lawmakers will have to file a bill to protect Manila Bay because the Supreme Court had already issued in 2008 an order calling for its protection and rehabilitation. The past and present administration has openly defied this order by allowing destructive land-reclamation projects to

happen," said Fernando Hicap, national chairman of Pamalakaya.

Noting that restoring the Manila Bay without reclamation was one of the campaign promises of Mayor Isko during the 2019 midterm polls, Hicap, a former Anak-pawis Party-list lawmaker challenged the populist Manila mayor to fulfill his promise by moving to stop all land-reclamation projects in Manila Bay—or at least, all projects within his political jurisdiction.

According to Pamalakaya there are at least four reclamation projects in Manila that were approved by former Mayor Joseph Estrada; namely, the 417-hectare Horizon Manila Project, the 497.42-hectare New Manila Bay International Community, 148-hectare Manila Solar City Project, and the 50-hectare expansion of Manila Harbour Center in Tondo.



Tourism benefiting from cleanup drive



Manny B. Villar

THE ENTREPRENEUR

THE road-clearing operations in Metro Manila and the cleanup of Manila Bay and major tourism spots in the Philippines are two government initiatives that must be sustained.

These initiatives give the impression that there is discipline, not chaos, in the Philippines, which foreign tourists will appreciate and remember once they leave the country. Local government officials must be credited for heeding the call of President Duterte to clear the obstructions in Metro Manila and reclaim the roads from illegal vendors.

As I noted earlier in this column, illegal merchants and unscrupulous businessmen have taken over some of the major and busy roads in Metro Manila, compounding the traffic problem and giving the image that lawlessness is the order of the day in the country.

Mayors and local officials, however, must be consistent in the cleanup drive. Their initiative should not be *ningas kugon*, or the negative Filipino trait of passionately doing something in the early going only to lose enthusiasm later.

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora and other local executives in Metro Manila are doing the right things in restoring order in their respective cities. By doing so, I believe they are becoming role models to our youth and hopefully inspire our younger generation to clean up the surroundings of the capital region and also protect the environment.

To prevent *ningas kugon*, Metro executives can review the cleanup and road-clearing program, say after one year, to report on their accomplishments and determine what more should be done to make the initiative a continuing process.

A cleaner Metro Manila, along with the restoration of our beaches and other major tourism destinations and the modernization of airports, meanwhile, will make

the Philippines more attractive to foreign tourists.

President Duterte and the Department of Transportation have taken the right step in privatizing our major airports. The department should complete the process before the end of President Duterte's term to boost the tourism sector. Handing the operations and expansion of the country's airports to the private sector is the only way to modernize these facilities, which have been neglected in the past.

It is encouraging to learn that foreign tourists continue to come in droves to the Philippines despite our disadvantages in terms of infrastructure. Foreign tourist arrivals in the Philippines, according to the latest data of the Department of Tourism (DOT), increased 12.4 percent to 4.8 million in the first seven months of 2019 from 4.3 million year-on-year.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat knows that much has to be done to make the Philippines a favorite tourist destination and competitive with the rest of our Asian neighbors. She conceded that the "Build, Build, Build" program of the government was key to improving the country's competitiveness and attractiveness.

We should not underestimate the contribution of the tourism sector to the gross domestic product. The industry generated P245 billion in revenues from foreign visitors

during the first six months of 2019, up 17.6 percent, from P203.8 billion in the same period in 2018.

The average daily expenditure and average length of stay per tourist, according to the latest DOT figures, reached \$120.60 and 9.01 nights, respectively, or up 28.6 percent and 1.8 percent year-on-year. The DOT based the figures from arrival and departure cards, shipping manifests and visitor sample survey.

"These economic numbers are exciting but the real purpose of why the government is working hard to push these numbers up year after year is for the Filipino people. Tourism in 2018 was responsible for 5.4 million jobs in 2018, contributing 12.7 percent or P2.2 trillion to the country's gross domestic product. At the end of the day, it is the number of lives changed for the better by tourism that would truly count," says Romulo Puyat.

I am confident that we can lure more foreign tourists to the Philippines as long as we pursue the restoration of famous beaches, like Boracay, and the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and other waterways in the metropolis. The road-clearing operations should also continue without letup to enable the national capital region to catch up with the rest of Asia.

For comments, e-mail mbv.secretariat@gmail.com or visit www.mannyvillar.com.ph.



AFTER NGP'S LOW SUCCESS RATE

ANTIPOLO PARK RISES AS GOV'T SHIFTS FROM 'TREE PLANTING' TO 'TREE GROWING'

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

SAN PEDRO CITY—A portion of the Upper Marikina River Basin is being transformed into a government "forest park" seen to sequester a substantial amount of greenhouse gases and mitigate flooding in Metro Manila.

The forest park rising on a 25-hectare land in Antipolo City, Rizal province, would be the first public orchard of indigenous and fruit-bearing trees in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) region, under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) environmental advocacy program "Tayo ang Kalikasan."

Herminigildo Jocson, regional chief of the DENR's Conservation and Development Division, said the planting of the

seedlings would start toward the end of the year.

Jocson said 24 government agencies under the Regional Development Council in August committed to each adopt a hectare for growing the trees. The DENR agreed to provide the seedlings.

"They can choose which species to plant as long as these are indigenous," he said in a phone interview.

Former NGP site

The agencies may also put up structures as long as these are made of natural materials, like bamboo; use these areas for their employees' activities; or open these spaces later to the public for tours.

The forest park at Sitio San Ysiro in Barangay San Jose is part of the 300-ha land earlier identified for the National Greening Program (NGP).



GREENING PH Indigenous trees, like dita and guijo saplings grown at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' regional nursery in Metro Manila, were planted in select spots in the country under the government's National Greening Program.—LYN RILLON

Although located in a remote village of Antipolo City, the area has road networks and is relatively close to the metropolis, Jocson said.

Launched in 2011, the NGP was touted as the government's

biggest greening program with the objective to plant 1.5 billion seedlings in 1.5 million ha of land across the country.

In 2015, however, the Commission on Audit said the NGP failed in the sense that some se-

lected sites turned out to be "nonplantable."

Caring period

Jocson said there were several factors that contributed to the low survival rate of the trees under the NGP.

He said the agencies and their partners signed an agreement extending the "caring period" for the seedlings to five years, longer than the previous three years, in order to improve the trees' chance of survival.

Jocson said conservationists realized that a tree's first five years of growth were crucial for its survival.

"We are no longer just doing tree planting, but tree growing," Jocson said.

After five years, seen as the critical growth period, Jocson said the trees would be turned over to the care of the DENR and would be guarded by forest rangers. INQ



CDO township cradles thriving urban rainforest

Trees are important as they provide shade, mitigate floods, absorb carbon dioxide, filter air pollution, and provide habitats for birds, mammals, and other plants. The rich biodiversity within a rainforest is also important to the wellbeing of humans and the planet.

In an effort to preserve the existing flora and fauna in its 400-hectare township in Cagayan de Oro, Pueblo de Oro Development Corporation (PDO) signed in 2005 a memorandum of agreement for the first urban rainforest in the Philippines with the ICCP Group Foundation, Inc., the Bukidnon local government, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Pueblo de Oro started its preservation efforts by planting more endemic plant seedlings, or "wildlings", sourced from the rainforests of Mt. Kitanglad and other nearby mountains in Bukidnon. By propagating them in areas such as the ridges and knoll of the urban rainforest, native animal species were encouraged to build their nests and thrive.

The Pueblo de Oro urban rainforest is a 40-hectare rainforest in the heart of Cagayan de Oro's growth area, abundant with different plants and animals.

According to PDO management, having a township wherein trees are abundant is not just for aesthetic purposes, but also benefits the species living within the area.

Company representatives also added that for the residential projects, the trees reduce the urban heat island effect through evaporative cooling and minimize the amount of sunlight that reaches parking lots, houses, and other open areas.

As a result of the preservation efforts, the grasslands and creeks in the forest are now home to numerous species of animals – from small insects to beautiful flights of birds.

There are at least 20 species of birds that can be found. They have



Preserving biodiversity

In the years since the project kicked off, PDO has joined forces with other partners and agencies in its efforts to preserve the urban rainforest to welcome and nurture the species that settled in the township.

been seen taking flight over the combination of grasslands and woodlands in the area, including different breeds of kingfishers and the grass owls, which are decreasing in number because of the loss of their home.

PDO has made it a mission to pro-

tect and multiply these endemic species. It is concerned about the reality that our wildlife is affected by the loss of its natural habitats.

The Brahminy Kite, for example, has been spotted in the township, especially on the fairways of the golf

course near the lakes.

These brown and white raptors nest in tall trees on wooded slopes. They are also spotted taking thermals – or rising hot air – found in ridges in Hillsborough Pointe, Philamlife Village, and Golden Glow Village. This hot air gives the kites lift on their wings and allows them to glide for long periods.

Community involvement

The company's employees and the community play a part in the continuous effort to develop the rainforest through regular tree planting activities. Thousands of seedlings have been planted since the launch of the urban rainforest and it continues on until this day.

More recently, 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.

Cacao seedlings distributed by Cagayan de Oro's Agricultural Office were planted during the activity, which also aims to establish an instructional and pilot nursery, products of which would be dispersed to farmers.



Modern steelmaking technology pushed

THE PHILIPPINE Iron and Steel Institute (PISI) is supporting moves by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to tighten environmental standards and push for modern clean steel-making technology to ensure quality and safe steel products.

“We fully support the government’s effort to weed out substandard steel products in the market which are unsafe and have been produced using pollutive

equipment,” PISI President Roberto Cola said.

DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu earlier agreed to review existing environmental standards and production technologies used in steelmaking, following reports that several used induction furnace facilities from China have been set up in the country.

China has banned induction furnaces for steelmaking in 2017 because of their pollution and substandard quality steel products.

“What we need in the country are modern, environmentally friendly technologies that will consistently produce quality products,” Sec. Lopez said in a DTI statement earlier. “We do not want those used pollutive induction furnaces to transfer to our country.”

The Asean Iron and Steel Council (AISC) has already issued an advisory against the importation of the obsolete induction furnace equipment from China to Asean member nations during the Asean Senior Economic Officials Meet-

ing in January 2018.

“In summary, the moving of the induction furnace facilities from China into Asean could result in the bringing in of obsolete technology that is not suitable for carbon steel production. These induction furnaces produce substandard quality steel products and are environmentally unfriendly as they emit uncontrolled harmful gases and particulates and consume higher electrical energy than electric arc furnace,” the AISC said in its paper.



Metal production rises as China demand grows

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The country's production of metals improved in the first half, rising by nine percent to P61 billion amid increasing demand from China.

Data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), however, showed a decline in metal prices during the period.

MGB expects prices to rebound in the second semester, especially for base metals copper and nickel.

"The positive outlook was motivated by expected economic growth and increased demand from China. The growing concern for possible disruptions in the operations of main nickel producers in the world market coupled with the growing demand for electronic vehicles will also push prices higher," MGB said.

A major development in the world market that will

also boost nickel prices is Indonesia's ban on exports of nickel ore with nickel content below 1.7 percent effective end-2019.

The situation will result in lower supply vis-à-vis higher demand as Indonesia is currently the world's largest nickel-producing country with 560,000 metric tons followed by the Philippines with 340,000 MT.

Meanwhile, gold production accounted for 39 percent of the total production value with aggregate earnings rising five percent to P24.1 billion as output increased to 11,078 kilograms.

Gold metal price fell to \$1,307.36 from \$1,318.33 per troy year-on-year.

Direct shipping nickel ore and mixed nickel-cobalt sulfides increased 21 percent to P26.6 billion. Nickel prices also decreased to \$12,316 per MT from \$13,859 per MT.

Revenues from copper production, which comprise 16 percent of the total metal production value, went down five percent to P9.8 billion despite a 14 percent surge in output to 156,745 dry metric tons.

The decline was attributed to the decline in prices of copper.

The production value of silver decreased two percent to P396 million even as production rose seven percent to 15,849 kilos.

The remaining one percent of total metallic production or P620 million came from the combined value of silver, iron ore and chromite.

The Philippine Gold Processing and Refining Corp. was the country's ma-

JOR gold producer in the first semester.

Of the 31 producing nickel mines in the country during the period, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. topped the list with 2.6 million DMT output.

Sixteen nickel mines reported zero production as some mines are under maintenance and care status or have suspended operations due to environment-related issues.

Meanwhile, operations of Toledo Copper Corp. in Cebu accounted for 58 percent of the total output.

To date, the country hosts 50 operating metallic mines, consisting of 31 nickel, 10 gold with silver as co-product, three copper with gold and silver as co-products, three chromite, three iron, and two nickel plants and two gold plants.

These are in addition to the numerous small-scale gold mining operations across the country.



What a tangled web Villar and Romualdez weave over mining deal

They may be political allies, but the family of House Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, it turns out, is suing the family of Sen. Cynthia Villar over, what else, but money.

According to the grapevine, the Romualdez-controlled Benguet Corp. has filed a complaint against St. Augustine Gold and Copper Ltd., a Toronto-listed mining company controlled by the Villars, with Villar son Manuel Paolo listed as chairman, chief executive and president rolled into one.



**VICTOR
C. AGUSTIN**

Benguet has also named St. Augustine's local mining partner, Nationwide Development Corp., chaired by former foreign affairs secretary Roberto Romulo, a correspondent in the suit.

The civil complaint apparently stemmed from the 2011 withdrawal by Benguet from the King-king mining venture in Mindanao, with Benguet now

instructing its counsel, De Castro & Cagampang law firm, to recover an unspecified amount of advances the Romualdez mining company had allegedly extended to the King-king project.

According to that 2011 announcement, St. Augustine said Benguet Corp. had divested itself in favor of the Villar company from the operating agreement that the Romualdez company had entered in 1981 with Nadecor, which holds the mining claims over what is believed to be one of the biggest undeveloped gold-and-copper deposits in the world.

The Villar company said that it had paid Benguet \$10.25 million, in exchange for Benguet relinquishing all rights, title and interest in the King-king project, on top of an initial \$8 million payment to the Romualdez mining company.

Located 35 kilometers east of Davao City and 13 kilometers from the coast, development work for the King-king project has been suspended after the Duterte administration imposed a ban on open-pit mining.

In addition, former environment secretary Gina Lopez had ruled that King-king is located within a protected watershed area.

Reached over the weekend, Nadecor chairman Roberto Romulo was surprised when informed of Benguet filing a collection complaint.

"This is an old story which I thought had already been resolved," he said.

In addition to St. Augustine and Nadecor, Benguet Corp. chairman Daniel Andrew Romualdez has instructed the Benguet counsel to include the "Calalang and Ricafort" shareholding groups within Nadecor as respondents in the civil claim.

Pay peanuts, get Catholic teachers

How times have changed. It used to be that private schools offered better pay and perks to the teaching staff.

Not anymore.

The disparity in teachers' salaries, with those in the private schools now having been left in the dust by their public school counterparts, has apparently become serious enough that a congressman, Nueva Ecija Rep. Rosanna Vergara, has asked the House to conduct a legislative inquiry.

The congressional inquiry is being pushed amid the alarm raised by the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines that the mainly Catholic schools are facing a shortage of teachers given the starting salary for public schools at P23,000 a month versus P13,000 in the private sector.

Prietos, Legardas trounce City Hall

The *de buena familias* Prieto and Legarda have managed to convince the Supreme Court to overturn a 2004 Manila City Council plan expropriating a 2,400-square meter property owned by the landed mestizos.

The *ponente*, Justice Antonio Carpio, agreed with the Prieto-Legarda clan in a recent decision that the Manila City Hall had failed to prove that the contested property was a "blighted slum area," a precondition for government expropriation.

What's more, the intended beneficiaries have gentrified from squatters to professionals such as teachers and nurses who can now afford to buy the land that they are squatting on, Carpio said, adding that the city government proceeded with the expropriation after the Prieto-Legarda clan rejected the P2,000/square meter valuation offered by city government.

The mayor of Manila in 2004 was, incidentally, Lito Atienza.

Heard through the grapevine

The executive compensation in Xurpas is probably the best indication of how deep the once-hot technology stock has fallen into hard times.

From P29.39 million in 2015, the projected compensation of the chief executive and three other highest officers for 2019 has shrunk to P6.1 million.

E-mail: moneygoround.manila@yahoo.com



UN should account for doomsday forecast 30 years ago

First word
MEMBER the year



OBSERVER

YEN
MAKABENTA

1989 well because it was a time of tumult in the Philippines and the world.

At the time, I was serving as editor in chief and associate publisher of the daily newspaper *Philippine Daily Globe*.

► ObserverA4

The work kept me awake all day to follow what was happening in the country and the world.

In 1989, the tumult behind the Iron Curtain burst out in earnest; it would culminate in the color revolutions in all of Eastern Europe and in the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1990. The collapse of communism meant also the end of the Cold War. In the movies, James Bond suddenly became old.

In December 1989, then-Col. Gringo Honasan staged his nearly successful coup against the government of President Corazon Aquino, which plunged the Philippines for a time into darkness and confusion.

In 1989, the United Nations (UN) quietly detonated its forecast that planet Earth had only 10 years to go before it imploded on account of global warming. In doing so, the world body rained down grim tidings on a hapless humanity, even forecasting the disappearance of entire countries. This report forced me to sit up at my desk: The Philippines could be one of the countries that would be drowned by the rising sea levels.

It is now exactly 30 years since that eventful year. Mercifully, mankind and planet Earth are still alive and kicking. Communism is banished. And the Philippines is much better than the sick man everyone used to speak of in patronizing tones.

On September 23, the UN will convene its umpteenth Climate Action Summit in New York City to dramatize the urgency of combating climate change and averting climate apocalypse.

Before UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says one more word about the UN's climate forecast, I believe the world should present him a bill for all the wrong predictions about the climate that the UN made 30 years ago and continues to foist on the world. It is time for

a reckoning.

UN prediction of global disaster in 1989

To show what the UN must account for, I am reprinting here the report of the Associated Press on the UN's forecast of global disaster in 1989.

The report, written by Peter James Spielmann, was issued on June 30, 1989, with the headline, "UN predicts global disaster."

This is what Spielmann wrote:

"A senior UN environmental official says entire nations could be wiped off the face of the Earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the year 2000.

"Coastal flooding and crop failures would create an exodus of eco-refugees, threatening political chaos, said Noel Brown, director of the New York office of the UN Environment Program, or UNEP.

"He said governments have a 10-year window of opportunity to solve the greenhouse effect before it goes beyond human control.

"As the warming melts polar icecaps, ocean levels will rise by up to three feet, enough to cover the Maldives and other flat island nations, Brown told the Associated Press in an interview.

"Coastal regions will be inundated; one-sixth of Bangladesh could be flooded, displacing a fourth of its 90 million people. A fifth of Egypt's arable land in the Nile Delta would be flooded, cutting off its food supply, according to a joint UNEP and US Environmental Protection Agency study.

"Ecological refugees will become a major concern, and what's worse is you may find that people can move to drier ground, but the soils and the natural resources may not support life. Africa doesn't have to worry about land, but would you want to live in the Sahara?" he said.

"UNEP estimates it would cost the United States at least \$100 billion to protect its east coast alone.

"Shifting climate patterns would

bring back 1930s Dust Bowl conditions to Canadian and US wheat lands, while the Soviet Union could reap bumper crops if it adapts its agriculture in time, according to a study by UNEP and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

"Excess carbon dioxide is pouring into the atmosphere because of humanity's use of fossil fuels and burning of rain forests, the study says. The atmosphere is retaining more heat than it radiates, much like a greenhouse.

"The most conservative scientific estimate that the Earth's temperature will rise 1 to 7 degrees Celsius in the next 30 years, said Brown.

"The difference may seem slight, he said, but the planet is only 9 degrees warmer now than during the 8,000-year Ice Age that ended 10,000 years ago.

"Brown said if the warming trend continues, 'the question is will we be able to reverse the process in time? We say that within the next 10 years, given the present loads that the atmosphere has to bear, we have an opportunity to start the stabilizing process.'

"He said even the most conservative scientists 'already tell us there's nothing we can do now to stop a ... change' of about 3 degrees.

"Anything beyond that, and we have to start thinking about the significant rise of the sea levels ... we can expect more ferocious storms, hurricanes, wind shear, dust erosion.'

"He said there is time to act, but there is no time to waste.

"UNEP is working toward forming a scientific plan of action by the end of 1990, and the adoption of a global climate treaty by 1992. In May, delegates from 103 nations met in Nairobi, Kenya — where UNEP is based — and decided to open negotiations on the treaty next year.

"Nations will be asked to reduce the use of fossil fuels, cut the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases such as methane and fluorocarbons, and preserve the rain forests."

This would lead eventually to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Accord.

Mother of doomsday scenarios

I am not alone in monitoring what the UN has been doing during the past three decades in pursuit of its climate agenda.

Other climate skeptics, including top climate scientists, and major writers have been doing the same. They have published statements rejecting the UN's climate change reports and its climate agenda. I have continuously written on their articles over the last two years to keep readers posted on the debate between the climate alarmists and climate skeptics.

One skeptic, Daniel Hunter, came up with the idea of demanding from the UN an accounting for its wrong predictions and fear mongering. He wrote the following comment on Fox News this week:

"Global warming is the mother of all doomsday scenarios. It blew away other environmental issues like candles on a cake....

"Thirty years ago this week, the United Nations issued a global warming report that I distinctly remember. It predicted worldwide disaster...

"[H]ere we are 30 years later, and I look back at that 1989 report, I think only this: What happened?

"The predictions in the report were not just a bit 'off' — like my calculations in my high school math class, my understanding of Shakespeare, or my failed attempt to high jump. The UN report was flat-out wrong. It was 100 percent, complete opposite, 180-degree wrong.

"Can I get an explanation, please?

"[The] UN has a 30-year track record of being wrong on this issue, so I take its reports on climate change and 'we have 12 years left' with a grain of salt the size of the Maldives."



Partners put up BINHI arboretum in Cebu

EDC will provide the seedlings along with technical assistance for the protection and maintenance of the trees

Premium Philippine native tree species such as Narra, Mangkono and Molave will soon be grown and propagated in Cebu City, thanks to the BINHI arboretum that geothermal leader Energy Development Corp. (EDC) recently inaugurated at the University of San Carlos (USC) campus in Talamban.

The arboretum was put up in partnership with USC and Knowles Electronics Corporation that have both committed to ensure the sustainability of this initiative in line with their dedication to environmental conservation.

BINHI is EDC's forest restoration and biodiversity preservation program that aims to save endangered premium Philippine timber tree species by planting their seedlings in school grounds, public parks, and other areas that provide a safe haven for the long-term survival of these future mother trees.

As part of the agreement, USC's campus in Talamban will host a permanent designated area for premium and threatened Philippine tree species, supported by planting and promotional activities as well as funding from Knowles.

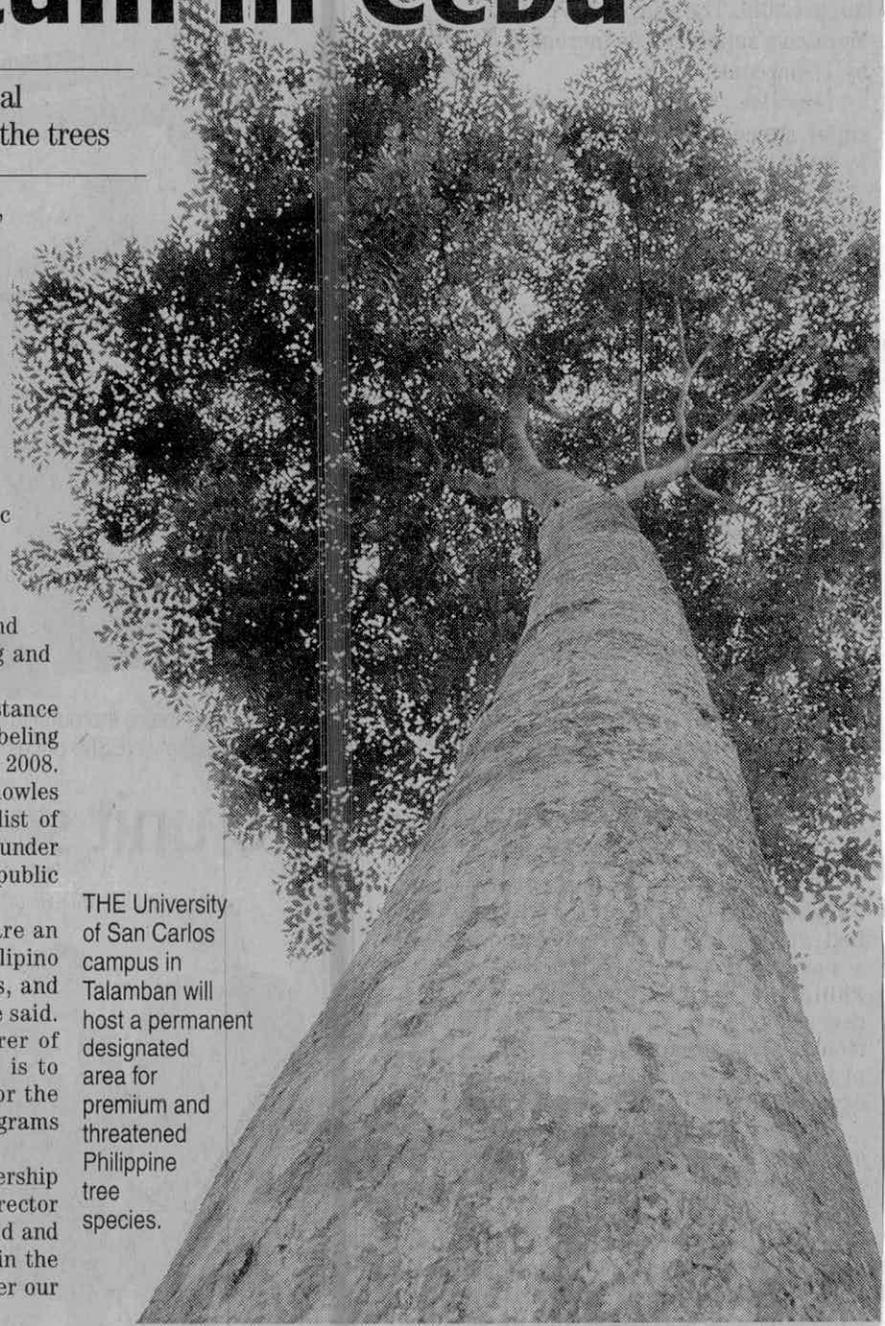
EDC will provide the seedlings along with technical assistance for the protection and maintenance of the trees, including labeling and scientific monitoring. This is EDC's 11th arboretum since 2008.

"This partnership with the University of San Carlos and Knowles Electronics is another valued synergy adding to our long list of collaborations from various sectors of business and society under BINHI," said EDC corporate social responsibility (CSR) and public relations head Allan Barcena.

"We are heartened with these synergies because they are an important indicator of how involved and committed many Filipino stakeholders are in the quest toward sustainable progress, and how they share in our vision for a greener energy future," he said.

Cebu-based Knowles is the world's largest manufacturer of audio-processing and precision device solutions. Its aim is to contribute to a better quality of life not only today but for the future through its business and through its various CSR programs for the community and for the environment.

In his message at the recently concluded BINHI partnership signing ceremony, Knowles vice president and managing director Joseph Emmanuel Liwag said: "With each tree that is planted and grown, may we also sow seeds of inspiration with courage in the hearts of our youth so they may continue to uphold and foster our commitment to Mother Earth."



THE University of San Carlos campus in Talamban will host a permanent designated area for premium and threatened Philippine tree species.

Claver leads the first plastic recycling plant in CARAGA

CLAVER, Surigao Del Norte - The mineral industry supports the proactive solution of Local Government Unit of Claver in beating plastic pollution by turning residual plastic wastes into quality school arm chairs using the newly inaugurated plastic waste recycling plant.

In support to the Municipal Government of Claver and its solid waste management program, the Taganito HPA Nickel Corporation (THPAL), through its Social Development and Management Program, conceptualized and constructed the only plastic recyclable plant in the CARAGA Region. It is capable of processing soft residual plastic wastes into school chairs. The products will then be sold to schools with guaranteed durability and at a reasonable price. The sales will further support the livelihood of garbage collectors and local employees of the waste recycling plant. It adopts the technology of Envirotech Waste Recycling Inc. which has already established similar plastic recycling plants across the country.

The facility was turned over to the Municipal Government of Claver on August 30, 2019. It was witnessed by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) XIII Regional Director Engineer Glenn Marcelo Noble who shared in his

message that the project will not only address the plastic problem of the municipality but will also generate employment and livelihood for the people at the same time lessen the cutting of trees used for wooden school chairs.

Surigao Del Norte Vice Governor Geed Gokiangkee Jr. also expressed that the project does not start and end here but will be a collaborative approach with the grassroots level. He also added that the project will not only produce school chairs in the near future, but for other household furniture as well.

Claver Mayor Georgia Gokiangkee said that the project not only recycles plastic waste, but empowers the people to practice proper waste segregation in their households.

Operation and maintenance of the facility was handed to the Municipal Government of Claver.

THPAL is a mineral processing plant and a major stakeholder in the community.



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Environmental groups conduct brand audit of plastic garbage

We will gather all these plastic items and segregate them according to their manufacturer so we can send them back to these big companies

By Elmer Recuerdo

TACLOBAN CITY – Environmental groups in this city who are participating in the global campaign for coastal cleanup are doing it this year with a different twist – plastic garbage that will be collected will undergo a brand audit to make large corporations accountable.

Sachets, plastic bottles and containers and discarded used items of different products were among the heap of garbage that were collected, aside from unlabeled plastic cups, sando bags, cellophane, plastic straws and other non-biodegradable items that found their way to the city's coastline.

"We will gather all these plastic items and segregate them according to their manufacturer so we can send them back to these big companies," said Mariel Obregon of Waste 360, one of the groups participating in the coastal cleanup.

Led by the Mother Earth Foundation and the environment committee of the city council, the coastal cleanup will be done for three consecutive Saturdays starting last 6 September.

Among the participants is a group of marathon enthusiasts called TOES Tacloban, which have been picking litter on the street and disposing them properly in garbage bins during their regular runs on weekends as part of their advocacy.

City councilor Aimee Grafil, chair of the committee on environment and solid waste, proposed an ordinance banning the use of plastic bags and containers from different business establishments including market vendors and street hawkers. If approved as an ordinance, this will allow to penalize violators with fines and imprisonment for those repeatedly violating it.

The bill is already being deliberated at the city council and Grafil says she hopes it will be approved before the sixth-year anniversary of supertyphoon "Yolanda."

Elizabeth Biagcong of Mother Earth Foundation said that based on a waste assessment characterization study that her group conducted last year, an average of 100 to 121 tons of mixed waste garbage are being collected in the city every day and all of them end up at the city's sanitary landfill.

"About 60 percent of this garbage should not go out of the barangay level, only 40 percent should go to the landfill," Biagcong said.



Phl seen to lead Southeast Asia in carbon emissions in 10 years

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Philippines is expected to lead the growth of carbon emissions in Southeast Asia in the next decade as coal remains to be its largest and least cost option of power.

However, the entry of more solar and gas-fired plants 10 years after would drive the country to have the second cleanest grid in the region by 2050, according to the latest report of BloombergNEF (BNEF).

Based on the latest New Energy Outlook 2019 (NEO) by BNEF, the Philippines would continue to see a steady increase in coal power plant development until 2023.

Power generated from coal plants would peak in 2034 and remain as the largest single source of electricity until 2041.

"While new renewables beat coal on a new-build basis, existing coal is relatively new and cheap to run. Without

policy intervention, therefore, it continues to run at high utilization, with an average capacity factor of 76 percent over the outlook," BNEF Southeast Asia energy analyst Caroline Chua said.

The BNEF report also showed coal would remain the country's largest source of power sector emissions.

"This is due to increasing utilization of the existing coal fleet that remains the cheapest to operate," Chua said.

The report also indicated that the Philippines would fall short of its renewable energy target set under the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) amid the continued growth in coal-fired power capacity.

"The country may also miss its stated 2030 target of 35 percent renewable electricity generation set under the RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standards)," Chua said.

Under the National Renew-

able Energy Program (NREP), the Department of Energy (DOE) is targeting to triple the existing renewable capacity of 5,438 MW in 2010 to 15,304 MW by 2030.

But almost a decade after, the country has only increased its RE capacity to over 7,000 MW.

However, the NEO report said the Philippines would likely see a significant change in generation mix to having more renewables and gas plants by 2050.

This as more renewable energy sources – particularly solar and wind – penetrate the generation mix deeper after 2035.

The BNEF report projected utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) projects would supply 31 percent of electricity in 2050, up from just one percent in 2018, while wind and hydro provide five percent each.

"By 2050, wind and solar provide 46 percent of total

electricity with other renewables providing a further 11 percent. We expect only 43 percent of the country's electricity production to result from burning fossil fuels by 2050, down from 78 percent today," Chua said.

Moreover, gas plant developments are seen to gain ground after 2030, leading the country to have four times more gas-fired capacity by 2050 in the system than today.

"New plants are built to provide dispatchability and flexibility in the system and complement the growth of variable renewables," Chua said.

But despite changes in the generation mix, the country would still see power sector emissions peak in 2036 at 104 metric tons (MT), where it would fall two percent annually but start rising again in 2045, the NEO report showed.

By 2050, the country's power sector emissions would be 57 percent higher than today.


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President's mandate must be followed

ENERGY Secretary Alfonso Cusi says the government will neither favor nor discourage any particular technology for power generation; that all power plants should compete with other types of technology without government support.

This, however, seems to run contrary to President Duterte's statements in his fourth State of the Nation Address, where he sought "to fast-track renewable energy resources to reduce the country's dependence on traditional energy sources such as coal."

More than a few environmental groups have urged government agencies to follow the President's marching orders and ditch the country's reliance on coal energy, especially since cleaner and cheaper alternatives are now available.

Coal still dominates the Philippines's energy mix. A BMI Research study said coal's share is actually increasing over a 10-year forecast period—from just under 50 percent in 2017, to over 55 percent by 2027. This, despite our country's commitment to cut 70 percent of its carbon emissions by 2030 under the United Nations Paris Agreement.

The Department of Energy should not ruin the momentum the government has gained in pursuing renewable-energy projects through corresponding policy adjustments.

The past few years saw the DOE commissioning pioneering renewable-energy projects that it endorsed to the Energy Regulatory Commission upon their validation for commercial operations, including hydropower, geothermal power, wind power, solar power, biomass power, even run-of-river hydroelectric power plants.

Big renewable-energy projects were being given the government's go-signal for development, finally giving teeth to the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) and the Renewable Energy Act of 2008.

Renewable-energy developers were seen boosting the country's power supply with clean energy, enough to meet expected shortages.

Indeed, Cusi has a point. The government should make renewable-energy targets more realistic without raising overall costs to consumers. Subsidies or incentives should only be given to commercially viable projects. This would continue to bring down costs in the long run.

Solar, wind, geothermal and other renewable-energy projects can provide a competitive advantage over coal and other fossil fuels since they are readily available in our country and their costs will remain stable and under our control, unlike coal, diesel and other fossil fuels that the country imports and are subject to price volatility in the international market.

We have also seen how vulnerable the Philippines is to extreme weather events caused by climate change. In fact, our country tops the list of nations most in danger of facing more frequent and more intense storms as climate change worsens.

Renewable energy can significantly slow climate change and help save many lives. Coal is a nonrenewable energy source and a type of fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.

Burning coal may be cheap, but this can only lead to more greenhouse gas emissions and it is countries like the Philippines that would have to cope with the resulting negative climate change impact. The fact that there is a growing confidence among banks to lend money for renewable-energy investments only proves that they, too, believe in a green energy future.

More companies, both big and small, are going into renewable energy, showing that more electricity could be generated without the need for coal-fired power plants. They are showing that there are sustainable energy technologies that could be adopted and they are more likely to succeed since they maximize our country's natural resources and create cost-cutting alternatives.

These renewable-energy investments also generate a significant number of jobs and boost economic activity in their host communities. They require the building and continuous maintenance of facilities that need local human resources. So with renewable energy, investments stay in the communities, creating jobs and helping local economies. When the government or local companies spend dollars to import coal and fossil fuels, there is no positive contribution to the economy.

The Philippines can become a global leader in renewable-energy sources and ditch its dependence on fossil fuels. It already has the right energy policies for doing so. All the government needs to do is stick to the program and implement it. Follow the President's mandate.



TITLE:

KUMPIRMADO nang Asian Swine Fever o ASF ang ikinamamatay ng ilang baboy na inaalaan sa mahal kong Pinas.

Ang maganda, ilang lugar lang naman ang natatamaan ng nasabing sakit sa baboy.

Pero higit na maganda, lahat ng siyentista na nag-aaral sa ASF ay nagsasabing hindi nakaaapekto at hindi nakamamatay sa tao ang ASF.

Ito'y kahit na mabilis na nakamamatay sa baboy ang sakit na ito na gawa ng virus.

MAGANDANG GAWIN

Dahil hindi naman nakahahawa at nakaaapekto sa kalusugan ng tao ang ASF, pwedeng pwede pa ring magulam ng baboy.

Pero dapat na magulam tayo ng mga sertipikado na walang sakit na baboy.

'Yun bang === kinatay talaga sa katayan na reistrado at may mga inspector ng pamahalaan.

Kaya ang magandang gawin ay magtulong-tulong tayong magbantay laban sa mga nagpapalusot ng mayasakit na baboy.

MGA

PALATANDAAN

Maganda ring gawin ng mga mamamayan ang pag komunsulta sa mga health inspector ng mga munisipyo, lungsod at iba pa ukol sa palatandaan ng may ASF na baboy.

Ano-ano ang mga itsura o amoy ng mga maysakit na baboy?

Pareho rin ba ang itsura at amoy ng mga baboy na karaniwang itinuturing na botcha?

Sa nakita nating mga itsura ng botcha, nagkukulay-berde ang ilang karne ng mga ito o sobrang maputla at may malansa o may baho ang amoy.

Sa baboy na may ASF, ano meron ang mga ito?

Maganda ring magbigay ng impormasyon ang mga barangay, munisipyo at lungsod sa sarili nilang palo para sa mga mamamayan.

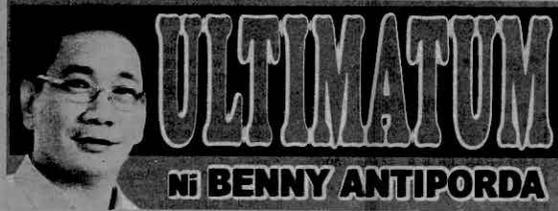
Tumawag sila ng mga pulong-bayan at magbigay sila ng kaalaman sa sakit na ASF.

INDUSTRIYA

BABAGSAK

Halagang P200 milyon ang umiikot na salaping bayan sa industriyang baboy sa Pilipinas.

May halos 13 milyong baboy sa Pilipinas na roon umiikot ang buhay ng mga negosyante



'DI NAKAMAMATAY SA TAO ANG AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

sa baboy, delivery, tindero, restoran at iba pa, kasama na ang mga nagsasardinas ng karneng baboy.

Kung hindi natin kupin ang ating mga magbababoy, mairaragdag ang mga ito sa mga magugutom, lalo na ang mga maliit na nakadepende sa negosyong baboy para mabuhay.

Babagsak din ang mga negosyante rito.

At ang maaaring kapalit nito, magiging puro imported na lang ang ating mga karneng baboy.

ANG MAGPAPALAY

Hindi lang ang mga magbababoy ang nagkaka-problema.

Pati ang mga magpapalay.

May mga lugar talaga na pinuputakti ng mga negosyante sa bigas o rice trader at tinatakot ang mga magsasaka na malulugi sila kung hindi sila magtinda ng palay sa napakamurang halaga.

At meron na ngang natatakot dahil ibinabagsak talaga ng mga negosyanteng buyer ng bigas ang presyo.

Halagang P7-9 kada kilo ang gusto ng mga negosyante sa ilang lugar habang nasa P10-15 kada kilo naman sa ibang lugar.

Pero wala na ang nasa P16-20 kada kilo.

Talaga namang may mga malulugi pero ang iba, hindi lugi at hindi rin kikita.

BILHIN

NG NFA. LGU

Ang kautusan ngayon nina Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ibenta ng National Food Authority ang nasa 3 milyong kabang bigas sa mga mahihirap at nangangailangan at gamitin ang pagbentahan sa pagbibilin ng ani ng mga magsasaka.

Kung may pera rin ang NFA mula sa kita at badyet nito, gamitin din sa pagbili.

Gayundin itinutulak ng Palasyo ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na bumili ng bigas sa mga magsasaka.

Nasa pag-uusap sa pagitan ng lahat kung magkano.

'Yun bang === magagaan para sa NFA at LGU at patas naman para

sa mga ating magsasaka.

BANGGAAN NG INTERES

May nagsasabing nasa 6-12 milyon ang mga magsasaka sa Pilipinas.

Sa kabilang banda, may 84-96 milyon naman ang hindi magsasaka gaya ng mga nasa kabayanan at lungsod.

Ang Metro Manila lamang ay may 15 milyon katao, halimbawa, na hindi magsasaka at milyones din ang mga nasa sentong lungsod at bayan.

Ang reklamo sa mahal na bigas ng higit na nakararaming Pinoy ang tinugunan ng batas na Rice Tarrification Law.

At alam ng pamahalaan na magkakaroon talaga ng hindi magandang epekto sa magsasaka ito.

TULONG

SA MAGSASAKA

Subalit may programa ang pamahalaan upang makabawi sa pagkalugi ang mga magsasaka.

Halimbawa na lang dito ang buwis sa imported rice na ibibigay sa mga magsasaka bilang subidyong at para sa pagkakaroon ng modernong pagsasaka na pakikinabangan pa rin ng mga magsasaka.

Kabilang sa mga modernong pagsasaka ang pagtatanim ng hybrid rice na doble ang ani kumpara sa 100 kabang ani mula sa ordinaryong palay.

Kailangan ding matututo ang mga magsasaka sa grupong pagsasaka upang makinabang nang husto sa murang gastusin sa pagsasaka.

Ang kailangan ay kumontak ang mga magsasaka sa pamahalaan at ilabas ang kanilang hinaing kasabay ng pagkonsulta nila kung paano magkaroon ng maunlad o modernong pagsasaka gaya ng ginagawa sa ibang mga bansa.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.