

**DATE:**

**DAY:**

19 JAN 2019

**Saturday**

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## Clean Water Act mahigpit na ipatutupad ng DENR sa Manila Bay

**NANINDIGAN** ang Department of Environment and Natural Resource na mahigpit nitong ipatutupad ang Clean Water Act upang maging matagumpay ang gagawing rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay at malinis sa basura ang baybayin.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9275 o mas kilala bilang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 ay isa sa mga paraan upang maresolbahan ang problema sa maruming tubig sa makasaysayang karagatan.

Kamakailan ay nagsagawa ng ocular inspection si Cimatu sa Estero de San Antonio de Abad sa Malate, Manila at nadiskubre na direktang itinatapon ng mga establisimyento ang kantiang maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.

"Establishments have to put up their own sewage treatment plants. They cannot discharge their wastewater in the esteros. We are giving them three months to put up their own STPs," sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na sisimulan ang gagawing rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng pagtingin kung saan nanggagaling ang maruming tubig na napupunta sa Manila Bay.

Tatlong bahagi ang gagawing rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay at sisimulan ito sa "water quality improvement" susundan ng rehabilitation at ang pangato ay ang protection at sustainment.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na sisimulan ang Phase 1 ngayong taon sa pamamagitan ng paglilinis sa mga esteros at iba pang daanan ng tubig patungong Manila Bay, pagbabawas sa fecal coliform at nakalalasang kemikal mula sa mga establisimyento, paglalagay ng temporary sanitation facilities para sa mga informal settler na nakatira sa mga estero at tabi ng Manila Bay kung saan plano ring tilpat sa relocation sites ang mga naninirahan sa paligid ng Manila Bay.

Nagsagawa na rin ng inspeksyon si Cimatu sa Paranaque at Don Galo rivers na parehong patungo ang tubig sa Manila Bay at nadiskubre ang mataas ng fecal coliform level ng tubig sa mga ito.

Magugunitang noong 2008 nang maglabas ng kautusan ang Supreme Court na nag-aatas sa DENR at 12 pang kagawaran ng gobyerno na kinabibilangan ng Department of the Interior and Local Government, Education, Health, Agriculture, Public Works and Highways and Budget Management, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, MMDA, MWSS at Local Water Utilities Administration upang linisin ang Manila Bay hanggang sa maaari na itong mapaliguan ng mga tao.

Sa kasalukuyan, umaabot sa 330 million MPN (most probable number) kada 100 milliliters ang fecal coliform level ng tubig sa Manila Bay habang ang katanggap-tanggap na lebel ay 100MPN/100ml at plano ng DENR na maibaba ito sa 270 pag-sapit ng December 2013.

SANTI CELARIO



## MANILA BAY REHAB

# DENR finalizing informal settler relocation plan

A plan to relocate informal settler families living beside Manila Bay will have to be finalized before the ISFs are moved out, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu said yesterday.

"There is a relocation plan that will identify who should go first or be transferred to possible relocation sites. We will forward this plan to the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the latter will take care of identifying these relocation sites," he said.

The DENR said around 200,000 informal settlers living near Manila Bay would have to be relocated to settlements identified by the NHA in coordination with concerned local government units (LGUs), as part of the government's efforts to rehabilitate the bay.

"The planning for the informal settlers' relocation will... overlap with the clean-up of *esteros* and waterways, and the task of reducing the level of fecal coliform and toxic discharges from establishments," Cimatu explained.

Meanwhile, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año said one major issue that should be addressed is that relocated ISFs are displaced from work.

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada yesterday aired his support for the DENR's effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"Full cooperation and assistance of the city will be extended to the national government in clearing the Baywalk of vendors and obstructions," he said.

- Rhodina Villanueva,  
Jose Rodol Clapano



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

THE PHILIPPINE  
**STAR**

10  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

RATHER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

19 JAN 2019

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE: / DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



Visitors walk along the Baywalk following an operation by the city government of Manila yesterday to clear Manila Bay's coastline of informal settlers and street vendors. Inset shows an informal settler being 'rescued' by city government personnel, who will bring him to the local social welfare office.

EDD GUMBAN

B



# Erap orders clearing operations on Baywalk

By RIA FERNANDEZ

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ordered clearing operations to be conducted along Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard in support of the national government's plan to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"Full cooperation and assistance of the city will be extended to the national government in clearing the Baywalk from vendors and obstruction that may hamper the plan of President Rodrigo Duterte," he said.

Estrada reminded city government

teams to exercise maximum tolerance in the clearing operations which are expected to intensify in the coming days. The rehabilitation of Manila Bay, which will be primarily undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will start on January 27.

"I am instructing [them]...to fully observe the proper way of dealing with the vendors or obstructions without resorting to violence and destruction of (the vendors') goods," Estrada said.

On Friday, some informal settlers were rescued in the area by members of the

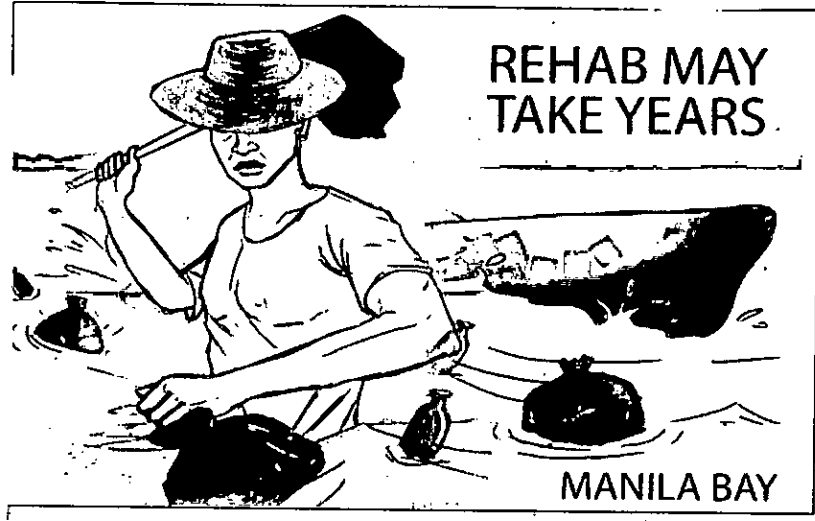
Manila Task Force Clean Up, City Security Force, and Manila Department of Social Welfare, with the help of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The Department of Public Services (DPS) also continued with its regular cleanup along the shoreline.

Fewer waste have been collected compared in the past when the waters usually turned into a sea of garbage especially during bad weather.

Meanwhile, a group of vendors at Baywalk posted signs reminding strollers not to throw their trash in the vicinity.

B



REHAB MAY TAKE YEARS.

MANILA BAY

**EDITORIAL**

**A bigger challenge**

IT is certainly lamentable that Filipino taxpayers, including the poorest of the poor, have to spend P42 billion just to clean up and rehabilitate historic and sun-kissed Manila Bay.

Why should Juan dela Cruz's hard-earned money be used to finance the clean-up of the ancient bay, the site of the famous naval battle of the Spanish-American war in May 1898?

"Dapat tumulong din sa gobyerno ang mga taong sumira at patuloy na sumisira sa Manila Bay para maibalik ang ganda ng isa sa paboritong pasyalan ng mga turista," said an elderly.

Dubbed "Manila Bay Action Plan," the massive undertaking is being spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The rehabilitation is set to start Sunday, January 27, when the DENR releases the initial list of violators found to be dumping untreated wastewater either into the bay or its waterways.

Compared to the just-concluded rehabilitation of Boracay Island, the clean-up of Manila Bay is a much bigger challenge, said Cimatu, a former chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Thus, he urged all stakeholders, including local government units and civil society, to support the undertaking, describing it as "not an impossible mission" as long as all hands are on the deck.

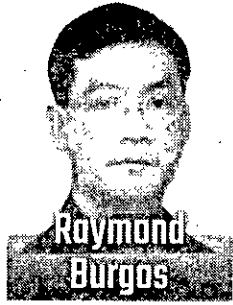
It is the most polluted body of water in the country due to domestic sewage, toxic and hazardous industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations and leachate from garbage dumps.

And certainly, it's high time to hit hard at all violators of environmental laws, rules and regulations.

Ang totoo niyan ay marami pa sa atin, lalo na ang mga iskwater, ang ginagawang basurahan ang mga ilog, lawa at iba pang daanan ng tubig sa ibat-ibang parte ng bansa.



## OUT OF ORDER



Matapos makita na kaya palang gawing malinis muli ang tubig dagat sa Isla ng Boracay sa pamamagitan ng seryosong rehabilitasyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

At gaya ng ginawa sa Boracay, ang pangunahing gagawin ng DENR ay ang pagtukoy sa mga pinanggagalingan ng

polusyon na lumalason sa dagat ng Maynila may ilang dekada na rin ang nakakalipas.

Realistiko ang plano ng DENR sa Manila Bay. Hindi man magiging kasing linaw ng dagat sa Boracay, titiyakin ng DENR na bago matapos ang 2019 ay puwede na muling langyan ang Manila Bay nang walang inaalalang baka magkasakit ang mga lumalangoy dahil wala na ang polusyon sa nasabing dagat.

Matagal na dapat isinailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay lalo pa't taong 2004 pa naipasa ang Republic Act No. 9275 o ang Philippine Clean Water Act kung saan kabilang ang isyu ng polusyon sa karagatan gaya ng sa Manila Bay.

Mahigit 10 taon na rin ang lumipas mula nang ipag-utos ng Korte Suprema sa

iba't ibang aheñsya ng pamahalaan na linisin ang Manila Bay para maibalik sa "Class SB level" ang karagatan ng Maynila pero walang gaanong progresong nakamit dito.

Maliban sa DENR, ang mga ahensyang inatasan ng Korte Suprema ay ang Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DoH), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Ilang administrasyon na rin ang dumaaan sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila pero wala ring nagawa para linisin ang Manila Bay at makikita kung gaano kadumi ang karagatan ng Maynila tuwing may dumadaang bagyo.

Sa ilalim ng "Manila Bay Action Plan" ng DENR na may naka-laang budget na nagkakahalaga ng P47 billion, isang inter-agency task force ang magpapatupad ng rehabilitasyon ng karagatan ng Maynila.

Kabilang sa inter-agency task force ang Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Manila Water Sewerage System at Local Water Utilities Administration.

Bahagi ng Phase 1 ng Manila Bay Action Plan ang paglilinis sa mga estero at waterways at ang pagpapatigil sa nakakalasang discharge sa mga establisyimento pati na ang relokasyon ng mga informal settler o iskwater sa paligid ng Ilog Pasig at mga

estero.

Sa ilalim ng Phase 2 ang aktwal na rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay samantalang ang Phase 3 ay ang proteksyon at pagsustine ng ginawang paglilinis sa tubig ng Manila Bay.

Sa kasalukuyan ay umaabot sa 330 milyon ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay at ang target ng DENR ay pababain ito sa mas mababa sa 270 MPN sa Disyembre 2019.

Ang international standard ay 100MPN/100 ml para sa Class SB o recreational water na magagamit sa pagligo, paglangoy, pangingisda at skin diving.

Inaasahang sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte magiging malinis muli ang Manila Bay lalo pa't nasa Lungsod ng Maynila ang Palasyo ng Malacanang.

ME



# Balita

ADVISORY

2  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
 STORY

MATTER  
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

19 JAN 2019

DATE

Departm  
STRATEG

## Manila Bay rehab: Enero 27

Ikinasa na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang ikatlong bahagi ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa Enero 27.

Ito ang kinumpirma kahapon ni Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, sinabi ng naglabas na ng kautusan si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu kaugnay ng usapin.

Ang paraan, aniya, ng paglilinis sa Boracay Island noong nakaraang taon ay ipatutupad din sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni Antiporda na lilinis ng pamahalaan ang lahat ng ilog at estero na konektado sa Manila Bay.

Irerekomenda rin ng DENR ang pagkakaroon ng waste treatment ng lahat ng establisimyento sa paligid ng Manila Bay.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na paaalisin ng pamahalaan ang mga informal settler sa paligid ng Manila Bay, ngunit bibigyan ng malilipatan sa pamamagitan ng housing project ng pamahalaan.

"Makikipagpulong na ang DENR at local government units sa 220,000 apektadong residente na tataaman ng clearing operations ng pamahalaan," sabi ni Antiporda.

**Jun Fabon**

116



**Police** Nakaalerto  
**24 oras**  
**TONITE**

ISSUE NO. 1656-5631

19 JAN 2019

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**ROXAS BOULEVARD  
 MISTULANG**

ANG MISTULANG na resort na ang kabataan ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Blvd. sa Manila. Namka nang makikita pang mga basura sa baybayin nito, matapos ipag-utos ni Manila Mayor Joseph "Erap" Estrada ang paglilinis dito makaraang ipag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ibalik ang dating ganda at kaayusan ng Dewey Blvd. na kilala ngayong Roxas Blvd. Nakatakdang ilinisin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Manila Bay simula sa sunod na linggo.  
 (NAN RAMOS)

1-16

Police **INMAGSI** Nakaalerto  
24 oras

ISSN NO. 1656-5681

# TONITE

19 JAN 2019

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



**INIREREKLAMO** ng mga residente ng Tibagan Sta. Rosa 2, Marilao, Bulacan ang tambakan ng mga basurang ito dahil sa napakasamang amoy na kanilang nalalanghap at mga langaw sa kanilang lugar. Inilapit na nila ito sa munisipyo pero dedma lang umano ang mayor ng Marilao. Paging DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda.



# Boracay tourist arrivals drop by half

ILOILO CITY – There is a 50-percent drop in tourist arrivals at Boracay in Aklan after it reopened following a six-month clean up.

Data released by the Department of Tourism (DOT) shows that only 930,363 foreign and domestic tourists visited the country's most popular beach destination last year. In comparison, Boracay had more than 2 million tourists in 2017.

"That's a difference of more than 1 million tourists," noted Helen Catalbas, DOT regional director for Western Visayas.

The resort island in Malay town initially had a target of 2.2 million tourist arrivals for 2018, but visitor numbers

fell when President Duterte ordered its closure.

Reda Astronomia, DOT chief regional statistician, said Boracay's tourism revenue also declined by 50 percent, from P56.4 billion in 2017 to P28 billion in 2018.

It is also the first time since 2011 that Boracay's arrivals fell below a million. That year, there were only 908,875 tourists.

Tourists started to return to Boracay in droves beginning 2012, and arrivals breached the 2 million mark in 2017.

Unlike in previous years, there will be no annual target for Boracay's tourist arrivals.

Catalbas stressed that the target is limited to what is stated in the carrying capacity, the study commissioned by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the ideal number of people to ensure Boracay's environmental balance.

Following the policy of the government's inter-agency task force, only 6,405 tourists are allowed to enter Boracay per day. It means there should be 19,000 tourists at any given day considering that each tourist can only stay for as long as three days.

The upside is that tourism officials consider Boracay's closure to have boosted the marketability of other destinations in the country. (Tara Yap)



## Epson, DENR-EMB team up for 1st EcoVision short film competition

Epson, in partnership with DENR-EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) and GREENducation Philippines is extending the submission period for its 1st EcoVision Short Film Competition to Feb. 19.

Open to all college students of any course or degree in NCR, Region III and IV-A, EcoVision's first edition is looking for the best Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos to help GREENducation Philippines, a youth-led group organized by DENR-

EMB, in its campaign to educate Filipinos about various eco-friendly solutions that Filipinos can follow and apply in their daily lives.

To join, entrants must download, fill out, and submit the accomplished submission form along with attachments to [ecovision@epc.epson.com.ph](mailto:ecovision@epc.epson.com.ph). With the theme "Green Solutions for Everyday Life at Home, School, or Office," the qualified entrants may submit PSA video materials with a minimum running time of two minutes to a maximum

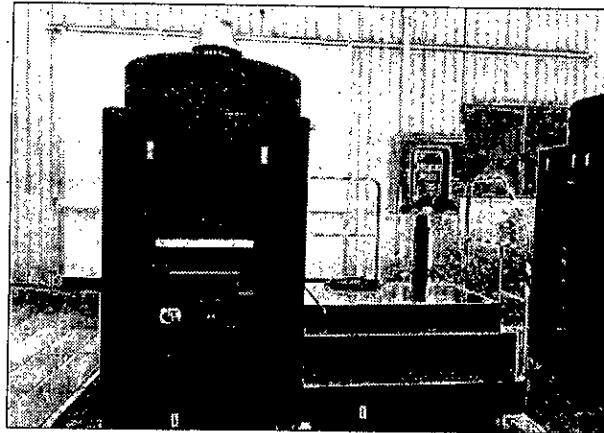
of five minutes until Feb. 19 (11:59 p.m.).

Entries with a strong adherence to the theme, overall excellence in storytelling, cinematic attributes, technical execution and social media engagements will get a chance to win P25,000 up to P100,000 plus Epson products for the winners' respective schools.

To learn more about the 1st EcoVision Short Film Competition and to download the submission form and complete contest mechanics, visit [www.epson.com.ph/ecovision](http://www.epson.com.ph/ecovision).

### THE REAL DEAL ON INCINERATORS:

Proper solid waste management in the Philippines remains a serious problem. In the midst of the alarming increase of garbage Filipinos generate resulting in garbage-filled streets, rivers, and drainage as well as insufficient over-burdened landfills, the country is still searching for an effective solution to waste problem. Incinerators that use the most innovative process called pyrolysis technology break down large molecules of waste, produce no smoke, smell or loud noises, and reduce carbon emission from waste transfer.



14



Trusted Since 1859

# The Manila Times



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



HEADER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

19 JAN 2019

DATE

## Gaps in environmental treaties

INTERNATIONAL environmental lawmaking and diplomacy have gone a long way. However, despite the availability of handbooks on negotiating multilateral environmental agreements



AMBASSADORS'  
CORNER

AMADO S.  
TOLENTINO, JR.

(MEAs) or treaties as reference tools, much remains to be desired in their actual implementation. Proof are the reports or proceedings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) held once every three years to review and plan out strategies for the MEAs' further implementation. COPs are often the venue for identifying implementation problems commonly encountered by developing countries that were not thought of during the treaty formulation stage.

Thus, there is the perception that these treaties have not been an effective means of addressing issues they intended to resolve. Extremely destructive consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss are said to be worsening in spite of implementation strategies employed in accord with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

What are the gaps, deficiencies or limitations of those environmental treaties?

### Climate change and biodiversity loss

Despite MEAs, the rate of fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions continues to increase unabated. With regard to biodiversity, "Species are going extinct at rates 1,000 times the background rates typical of the Earth's past." (*Global Biodiversity Outlook 2*)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the scientific body that reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding climate change. On the other hand, the Convention on Biological Diversity has the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

Some quarters believe that the IPCC could adequately serve the needs of the biodiversity convention. The issues of climate change and biological diversity are closely and mutually interrelated and intricately tied up with other issues such as poverty and development. In short, climate change should not be pushed forward without a thorough analysis of their consequences for biodiversity, food security, health, etc.

Concerned by the negative impacts that climate change and loss of biodiversity have on each other, the UN General Assembly called for synergy between the two conventions as early as 2009. The objective was to address the causes of climate change and biodiversity loss that lie in the patterns of production and consumption around the world. An accurate identification of those causes will be achieved only when the various ecological problems we face are seen in conjunction with one another and equally in relation to problems associated with development.

This perception will necessarily hinge on the participation of those least advantaged not only in the implementation of strategies to deal with the problems but also in the process of understanding and assessing them, and setting the strategy for response.

### Enhancing role of developing countries

The role of developing countries in scientific analysis and agenda-setting should be enhanced even before the treaty negotiation stage. This could be achieved by improving the level of scientific education and practice within developing countries.

Aware of the inadequacy of developing countries in terms of funding, scientific information and staffing, a concerted effort at expert assistance and advice to enhance their capacity in the area of scientific awareness and education should be seriously pursued for an accurate understanding of the environmental crisis itself and for searching an effective strategy to deal with it.

### Effective involvement of indigenous peoples

Environmental treaties, in particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity, are explicit and extensive in their coverage, both in legal articulation and documentation, in support of indigenous peoples. Their role in the political process is encouraged and accepted specifically in the area of benefit sharing of biological resources use. Be that as it may, it is frequently difficult for governments to represent the diversity of their own numerous ethnic groups and it is likewise felt by indigenous peoples that they are not represented by their governments.

Factors that impede indigenous peoples' participation include, but is not limited to, lack of funds and expertise necessary for their participation and representation. For one, the CBD seeks to protect intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples, but under the principle of national sovereignty, control of biological diversity is granted to national governments, not to local populations. Likewise, indigenous peoples are often subject to discrimination and marginalization. For example, their practices are seen by some environmentalists as exploitative and destructive of the environment. Distrust is not conducive to promoting participation by indigenous communities.

The indigenous peoples' voice needs to be heard from the earliest stages of negotiation.

### Conclusion

The environmental crisis is global. No country or region can deal with it in an isolated or totally self-reliant way. It requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. Environmental issues, problems and concerns have to be correlated with one another alongside sustainable development goals, e.g. poverty reduction, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, etc.

Current international efforts at international environmental treaty implementation to meet the crisis should be accompanied by: active interchange and in depth collaboration between conventions; a procedure to broaden the knowledge base in the work of governments, NGOs, indigenous peoples and local communities; and effective representation of developing countries at the earliest stages of problem analysis and strategy-setting.

Finally, there can be no solution to the environmental crisis unless the human activity that gives rise to it is addressed, for example, patterns of consumption and production, political and economic decision-making processes, behavior and conduct toward nature, decisions that paved the way for a society of wealth, affluence and comfort at the expense of the environment. In this connection, it cannot be helped, but to closely examine the link between the environment and the economy especially as it relates to developing countries.

On a note of hope, the maxim "Think globally, act locally" is only partly valid. Today, we need to act both globally and locally.

19 JAN 2019

DATE  
PAGE 6

UPPER HALF  
LOWER HALF ✓

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Poe urges use of hazard maps to lessen impact of disasters

The maps identify the landslide and flood-prone areas in the country.

"This data should be maximized to strategically mitigate the impact disasters such as landslides. These should be effectively integrated in land use planning, land development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation," Poe said.

Poe added that knowledge of the geohazard maps equips local government

units in dealing with the kind of environment they have. She pressed the local governments to train on how to use the maps and cascade the knowledge to the communities.

"Kailangan talaga ay sanayin ang ating mga local government officials na ma-identify iyon (danger zones), lalo na iyong mga kunwari ay katabi ng matarik na bundok na pwedeng mag-landslide o kaya tabi ng ilog," Poe said.

"Itong ilog nga natin dito, Bicol River, itutulak ko na bigyan ng funding para ma-dredge na kasi kaunting ulan ay umaapaw so apektado lahat ng naririto," she added.

Aside from the geohazard mapping, Poe pushed anew for a law that would create the Department of Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management. Filed as Senate Bill 1735, the measure seeks a new agency which will have the



Poe

authority in the policy-making, planning, coordination, implementation and evaluation of programs relating to disaster risk reduction and management.

MC



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

A3  
PAGE

TOP  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

19 JAN 2019

DATE

## IN BRIEF

### Use geohazard maps, Poe urges LGUs

SENATOR Grace Poe wants to find out if local government units are making full use of the government's geohazard maps that could spare communities from the impact of natural disasters, if not lessen their vulnerabilities.

Poe visited Albay and Camarines Sur on Thursday to check the condition of the calamity victims and distribute relief goods to the families affected by Tropical Depression "Usman" last month.

She said the hazard maps could be a good guide to make communities safe from the possible effects of landslides and flooding since the maps can identify the landslide and flood-prone areas in the country.

**Macon Ramos-Araneta**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

A3  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

19 JAN 2010

DATE

## House okays 'Family Tree Planting Act'

THE House of Representatives has recommended for Senate action a bill requiring parents to plant two trees for every child born to them.

House Bill 8727 or the "Family Tree Planting Act" of Baguio City Rep. Mark Go aims to protect and preserve the environment and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

With a vote of 208-0 with no abstention, Go noted that the policy of the state to promote and pursue reforestation programs and encourage tree planting as part of the family's responsibility and legacy to protect the environment and conserve the natural resources of the country for the future generation. **Maricel V. Cruz**





**WOUNDED, BUT ALIVE** — An Osprey hawk eagle, with a wing span of 108 cms., is shown to media after it was rescued in a fish pond in Barangay Bangcusay, San Fernando City. (Erwin G. Beleo)

## Osprey hawk eagle caught by La Union residents

By **ERWIN G. BELEO**

**SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union** — A wild young “osprey hawk eagle,” was turned over Thursday (January 17) here, after it was caught by concerned resident who found it trapped in a fishnet cage in Barangay Bangcusay this city.

According to Rose Ann Valdez of the City Environment Natural Resources Office (CENRO), predator bird had a wing span of 108 centimeters, was 50 centimeters tall, had brown and white feathers with spots, and yellow eyes.

It was going to be brought to the La Union Botanical Garden, for medical treatment and proper care before it will be released back to the wild.

Valdez added that the bird was visibly weak when it was rescued.

She said Al Valdriz, who rescued the animal, found wounds under its wings as it struggled to break free from the net.

“The bird is now under medical care and observation by the city veterinary and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),” Valdez said.



Trusted Since 1998

# The Manila Times

A4  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BATTER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

19 JAN 2013

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Editorial

### Energy conservation bill a good first step

**A**FTER 30 years of on-again, off-again effort, Congress has finally managed to create a law institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation in the Philippines. The much larger and more important task of ensuring the law is followed and has a substantially positive impact now lies ahead.

On Thursday, the Bicameral Conference Committee approved the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, the reconciled version of Senate Bill 1531 and House Bill 8629. Once signed into law, the measure will create an institutional framework at different levels of government to promote energy conservation practices in the Philippines.

According to Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, who chairs the Senate Committee on Energy, the Philippines is the last country in Southeast Asia to pass a law mandating conservation practices and providing incentives for energy-efficient projects.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act will create a new government body, the Inter-Agency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee, which will oversee implementation of the Government Energy Management Program (GEMP), aimed at reducing electricity and fuel consumption by the government.

In addition, the Act calls for the creation of a National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Database to centralize information about energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies and energy consumption data.

The central feature of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act is the development of a National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan, which will create a conservation policy at the national level, including targets, monitoring and evaluation, and energy conservation strategies. The national-level plan will be repeated at the level of local governments, with the creation of local energy efficiency and conservation plans, as well as "the inclusion of Guidelines on Energy Conserving Design on Buildings in the issuance of building permits."

The Act also includes provisions for tax incentives and technical assistance from government agencies to encourage compliance with the conservation standards that will be created by the national and local plans.

As encouraging as the aspirations of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act are, as the old saying goes, "the devil is in the details;" in the fashion that has become typical of Philippine legislation, there are not many in the measure that will be forwarded to Malacañang for President Rodrigo Duterte's signature. This is a cause for some concern.

Over the years there have been many instances when a sweeping, progressive legislative measure has failed to take practical effect, or has fallen short of expectations after being passed, because making the new law operational has not been effectively

managed by the implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

Those who will be tasked to develop the IRR for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act will have their work cut out for them, because a number of key questions need to be resolved. Funding for the new programs, including the proposed incentives, needs to be found, and the details of those incentives — critical information for the investors the Philippines needs to attract in the sustainable energy space — need to be worked out and clearly communicated.

Similarly, the extent to which various parts of the yet to be written energy efficiency and conservation policies will be obligatory or merely encouraged must be determined. For example, will energy-efficient design standards become part of new building codes, or will they just be recommendations whose adoption is encouraged through incentives?

Along with these kinds of questions, the high cost of electricity must also be addressed. No amount of incentives will encourage compliance with new standards if doing so results in even higher power costs or does not offer a sustainable economic advantage.

While complex, these issues can be effectively resolved now given the welcome first step of passing the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act. We urge Congress and the administration to work together to effectively carry this promising measure forward from aspiration to reality.