

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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DENR
IN THE NEWS

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Government readies wider environmental audit

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) may start by next month its review of around 800 permits issued to various projects identified as environmentally sensitive, a senior official said yesterday.

"*Pagdating ni* (Environment) Sec(retary Regina Paz L. Lopez) *malalaman na natin ang schedule* for the review," Jonas R. Leones, DENR undersecretary for International Affairs and Foreign Assisted Programs said in a phone interview, confirming that the review could start before yearend.

Mr. Leones was one of the department's senior officials who discussed in previous press briefings the impending review of more environmental compliance certificates (ECC) after a July audit of metal mines that put nearly three-fourths of 41 such facilities nationwide at risk of shuttering.

Ms. Lopez left for Marrakesh, Morocco on Sunday to attend a climate change meeting and is due to return to Manila on Saturday.

Sought for details, Ms. Lopez replied in a mobile phone mes-

sage: "OMG! Some of the ECCs are unbelievably bad: no concern for the common good and cause a lot of suffering."

"Given the Duterte administration's stand for the common good, they must all be reviewed," she added, saying the department will also tighten procedures for issuing ECCs.

The impending new review, according to Mr. Leones, may start with an initial list of the "most pollutive industries."

Mr. Leones added that the department has already drawn

up guidelines for the new audit, telling reporters separately on Monday: "My information is that there is already a draft on that..."

Approval of the guidelines by a DENR executive committee will pave the way for start of the review which, among others, will cover all coal-fired power projects: the 12 in operation, 12 under construction, 13 others that have not started construction but already have ECCs, and two more with pending applications for such final permits.

Audit, S1/5

Audit,
from S1/1

Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) was the first coal-fired power plant owner to undergo review. To recall, the DENR asked the firm in August to explain why its operations in Antique should not be suspended in the wake of complaints like siltation in 2008 and a mine collapse due to a landslide in 2013.

NOT THAT SIMPLE

But the Environment chief herself had acknowledged the difficulty the department faces should it find cause to shut down coal projects.

Coal-fired plants, according to the Energy department's Web site, accounted for 31.5% of the country's installed capacity and 34.2% of total dependable capacity as of end-December, with Luzon — where Metro Manila and the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon region combined contribute more than half to total national economic output — particularly dependent on that power source.

Asked if the evaluation of SMPC's ECC will be completed by yearend, Mr. Leones replied: "*Siguro. Dapat lang naman...* We are still evaluating very carefully the results, the

information... and then soon it will be released *na sa media.*"

Mr. Leones added that the audit will not spare plants running on renewable energy sources, saying "they are not exempted" from complying with the law.

"For those that we will determine *na* not complying with our standard, we will be suspending them and we'll be giving them time to address pollution problems..." Mr. Leones said.

"But after a certain time — if they fail to address their concerns — we will be compelled to suspend their permits or even revoke *'yung* ECCs *nila.*"

DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-30 — or the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Presidential Decree No. 1586 that established the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System — provides that the ECC contain specific measures and conditions that a project proponent has to take or meet before and during the operation of a project, as well as during the venture's abandonment phase in order to mitigate environmental impact. —

Janina C. Lim

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VILLAGERS LEAVE AS GROUND CRACKS IN CAPIZ TOWN

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—For more than two weeks, Teresita “Angging” Gayas, has been living in a makeshift house in a private lot in a hinterland village in Capiz province. Her house is just a kilometer away but she, along with nine family members, fears returning home because of a possible landslide.

Gayas’ family is among 64 families, composed of 300 villagers, who left Sitio Laugan in the village of Aglinab in Tapaz town in Capiz when soil fissures, some as wide as 2.43 meters (8 feet) and as deep as 1.21 meters (4 feet), started appearing in the village, damaging houses and farmlands.

Tapaz Mayor Roberto Palomar ordered the evacuation of residents after the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) declared the area unsafe.

Leo Van Juguan, MGB Western Visayas director, said the area should be permanent-

said the area used to be classified as “moderately” susceptible to landslides but now, they needed to upgrade its classification to “high” and “very high” susceptibility.

Gayas said the ground fissures, which affected some 10 hectares of land in the village, appeared after two earthquakes and nearly two weeks of rains. Several houses in the village have started to lean and are in danger of collapsing. She said the displaced villagers are now living in “kurob,” or makeshift houses usually used during typhoons.

“We do not know where to go,” Gayas said. “We just appealed to the owner of the land to let us stay temporarily. But we need a permanent relocation,” she told the Inquirer.

Most of the evacuees are Tumandok, Panay’s largest indigenous group living mostly along the Jalaur and Pan-ay Rivers, the island’s major tributaries.

Gayas, a day care worker

have yet to get the P5,000 financial aid that the Tapaz town promised. “The amount is not enough to rebuild or transfer our houses,” she said.

But Palomar said they are still working for its release. The town is also negotiating with a landowner for a donation of some 2.5 to 3 ha of land intended for relocation. He said the site will accommodate 50 families while others can stay with their relatives.

He said Tapaz town, a first-class municipality (average annual income: P55 million or more) dependent on the Internal Revenue Allotment, cannot afford to buy the land.

“We have no allocation for the procurement of land. Lots in the area are also classified as agricultural,” Palomar said.

Aside from the loss of their houses, villagers said they also fear losing their farms.

They left their farm animals when they evacuated but they keep returning to their village to feed these. “Where will we

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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FIGHTING LOGGERS

FOREST GUARDS RISK LIVES FOR SIERRA MADRE

LUCENA CITY—Armed with nothing but the simplest of food provisions and determination, a group of forest rangers has been combing the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in the northern section of Quezon province to prevent illegal logging activities.

"There's always a surge in illegal logging activities during the Christmas season. We have to penetrate the forest to prevent [these]," said Rexter Telan, head of a team of six forest rangers from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Real town.

Telan said logging activities increase as the Christmas holidays near because this has become a source of easy money needed by illegal loggers and their protectors for the annual celebration.

"Illegal loggers [become] daring because so much is at stake. Their armed men often have powerful weapons and shotguns," he said.

During operations that normally last for a week, Telan's group would bring a few cans of sardines, dried fish, "bagoong" (fish paste) and rice. No weapon is needed, only gadgets like a camera, global positioning system (GPS) device, binoculars and solar-powered LED light.

"We have no firearms to defend ourselves from armed loggers. What we have is our sincere belief that God will pro-

Ofentimes, operations of forest rangers were not assisted by government troops.

"Having armed security [escorts] often invites grave consequences. We call them only when the need arises," he said.

The harsh conditions in the Sierra Madre no longer affect them. "We're already used to it. What we're worried about is our protection from armed men," Telan said.

He said forest rangers need firearms to protect themselves.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) agrees that the task to protect Sierra Madre, which stretches from Quezon to Cagayan province, is too risky.

In June, the DENR honored five workers—two forest rangers, two tree markers and a forester—who were killed while performing their jobs.

A week ago, Telan's group recovered sawn flitches of hardwood species and a power saw in Sitio Tabi, Barangay Umiray in General Nakar town.

Last month, Telan and his team also recovered more than 3,000 illegally cut logs abandoned in remote mountain villages in General Nakar and Real towns. —DELFIN T.

MALLARI JR. INQ.

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Paris climate agreement opens investment opportunities in PH

BY MADELAINE CORTAJO

The historic global agreement on climate change adopted in Paris last year helped open up nearly \$23 trillion worth of investment opportunities for emerging markets like the Philippines between now and 2030.

Since the Paris Agreement was adopted in December, 2015, a total of 189 countries have submitted na-

tional plans that target aggressive growth in climate solutions — including renewable energy, low-carbon cities, energy efficiency, sustainable forest management, and climate-smart agriculture.

These plans, according to a study released by International Finance Corp., offer a clear roadmap for investments that will target climate-resilient infrastructure and offset higher upfront costs through effi-

ciency gains and fuel savings.

IFC's study, based on the national climate-change commitments and underlying policies of 21 emerging-market economies, identifies sectors in each region where the potential for investment is greatest.

This includes green buildings in East Asia and the Pacific — where China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam show a climate-smart investment potential of \$16 trillion.

"There has never been a better time than now for climate-smart investing," said IFC Executive Vice President Philippe Le Houérou.

"This reflects the dramatic reduction in the price of clean technologies and the rise of smart policies that are driving businesses to invest. In this context, it is important to set ambitious goals — which is why IFC has pledged to increase our climate investments

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Paris climate... ◀B-1

to a goal of US\$3.5 billion a year by 2020 and catalyze another US\$13 billion through other investors," he added.

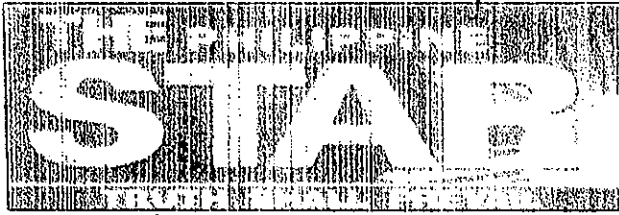
The report also finds that government action will be critical to take advantage in order to unlock the full scale of investment potential.

It recommends that governments integrate national climate commitments into their development strategies and budget processes, strengthen the investment climate for climate-smart industries, and deploy public funds strategically to mobilize private capital

— by reducing risk and providing project support, for example.

Just last month, the Philippines hosted Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment lead by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The forum is a convergence that will integrate efforts among countries for better environments and better health across all the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



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EDITORIAL

Change of heart

Even during his campaign, President Duterte had been critical of the landmark climate deal hammered out in Paris last year and approved by 197 states and economies including the Philippines. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force last Nov. 4 with 109 of the 197 parties ratifying it so far.

But the President last week had a change of heart, saying all but one of his Cabinet members had advised him to sign the Paris Agreement. Yesterday the President reaffirmed this, announcing unequivocally that he would sign the deal, after he met with his mentor former president Fidel Ramos.

The change of heart not only bodes well for Philippine efforts to confront climate change but also indicates an improvement in presidential decision-making. In many of his public pronouncements, the President has given the impression that he consults no one in policy-making. This has led to an increasingly common phenomenon of the President issuing a statement one day and his Cabinet members the next day clarifying, contradicting or flatly denying what has been said. This erodes the President's credibility and creates

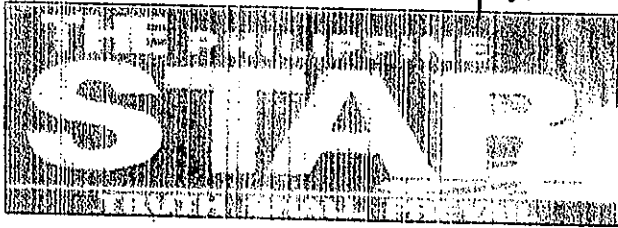
an atmosphere of uncertainty, so it's a welcome improvement to learn that he is now getting his Cabinet's consensus on controversial matters.

The President's complaints against the climate deal have been expressed by leaders of several other nations. He resents the idea that advanced economies, after being among the principal sources of greenhouse gas emissions for many decades on their way to industrialization, now want poorer nations to avoid the same path even if it slows down development efforts. Duterte also wants advanced economies to bear the heavier burden and assist developing nations in fighting global warming.

Such sentiments, however, can be discussed during subsequent meetings on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The climate deal aims to maintain the global temperature increase within this century below 2 degrees Celsius, and to limit it further to 1.5 degrees.

The President may dislike the UN and international conventions, but he can consider enlightened self-interest in ratifying the climate deal. The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable to the impact of global warming. Confronting climate change is a matter of national survival.

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Editorial: change of heart



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Baguio to get waste bins for program

BAGUO CITY—The management of Tiong San Harrison and Tiong San La Trinidad has donated to the City Government several garbage bins as its contribution to the local government's clean and green campaign.

Official sources said this was also in support of the green economic program of the trade and industry as well as environment departments.

Jasper Golangco, the company vice president, said the environment-friendly garbage bins were now being fabricated and hoped their department store would be able to turn over to the local government at least three dozens to be distributed in areas of the central business district.

"We also want to contribute to the local government waste management efforts by providing our people garbage bins for their use and help them avoid littering anywhere that depicts a bad image of the city," Golangco stressed.

He said the company thought of donating to the local government the garbage bins in line with the green economic program advocated by the trade and industry and environment departments to instill awareness and solicit cooperation among local businessmen in efforts to inculcate the importance of waste management discipline among local residents.

Golangco said the distribution of the garbage bins in the city's central business district must go hand in hand with the proper information and education campaign for the people to understand that the available bins would be for litter only and not for household waste. **Dexter See**

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Malaya
Business Insight

DENR starts review of all ECCs with coal

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that it will be starting the review of all environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) awarded to various industries within the month with an initial focus on coal plants and other mining activities.

"We will start the review of ECCs especially on coal power plants, we will actually be doing the same thing like the mining audit. It will be conductive audit of all industries that were issued with ECCs. We will be looking at those industries that are pollutive, so we will check if they are complying with our laws like for example clean water act and clean air act," DENR undersecretary, Jonas Leones told reporters during the sidelines of the National Convergence Initiative meeting in Quezon city.

He added that the environmental management bureau has already crafted a draft on the guidelines of the planned ECCs review as they will also prepare an initial list that will be prioritized from the thousands that will be checked.

"It may be more than thousands since aside from coal, there are also other industries issued with ECC. Under PD (presidential decree) 1586, all vertical and horizontal development needs ECCs like dams, coal plants, extractive activities that are pollutive and has emissions," Leones further explained.

The official also noted that the results of the review of the ECCs of the coal mining operations of Semirara Mining and Power Corp. in Antique and the Tampakan mining prospect will likely be released within the year.

"There are reports that we already reviewed but we don't want to release it without the complete basis since the industry will suffer if we release it prematurely. We are still evaluating very carefully the results, the information that we gathered will soon be released," Leones assured.

Earlier, the DENR completed an audit on 41 metallic mines wherein only 11 garnered positive results. The agency also expressed before that non-metallic mines are set to also undergo an audit.

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PAWIKAN HATCHLINGS slowly make their way to the sea after their release on a beach at the Subic Bay Freeport. PHOTO BY PATRICK ROXAS

Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings released

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT: Ninety-six Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings, a seriously endangered species of sea turtles, slowly crawled their way to the sea after they were released at the beach here last Saturday.

Amethya dela Liana Koval, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Ecology Center manager, said the ritual is a tradition these turtles must follow for them to remember their footprints when they decide to come back to the same place years later to nest and lay their eggs.

The All Hands Beach, like most other coastal areas in this former US naval base that is now a bustling freeport and economic zone, regularly hosts turtles on its shores and the owner of the beach has ensured that they return to their nesting ground without being "disoriented" and the eggs laid will be protected until they hatch and are ready to make their trip to the open sea.

According to experts, these turtles have a

very small chance of survival once they are in the sea and only a mere one percent of them are likely to survive the perilous journey.

"There are actually 105 in this batch of turtle eggs but six did not make it that's why only 96 are being released now," says Nick, a turtle expert at the beach who watches over the eggs throughout their hatching period.

According to him, female turtles lay about a hundred eggs but may nest up to three times in a year.

The nesting season starts somewhere in the latter half of the year and lasts until December.

Aside from SBMA Ecology Center officials and other Subic investors, beach goers joined in releasing the hatchlings.

Koval said more people should be encouraged to help in preserving the endangered pawikan turtles as well as other sea creatures by avoiding the use of plastics and throwing them in the sea.

"These turtles sometimes mistake the plastic for jellyfish and ingest them, resulting

in their death," she added.

The Olive Ridley, which has a lifespan of up to 50 years, feeds on jellyfish, snails, crabs, shrimp and occasionally eat algae and seaweeds.

Hatchlings, most of which perish before reaching the ocean, are preyed on by crabs, raccoons, pigs, snakes and birds while adults are often taken by sharks or sometimes hurt by fishermen or boats and ships.

Though widely considered the most abundant of marine turtles, the Olive Ridley is described as a turtle specie in trouble. It is a very rapidly declining population, according to experts while other turtle populations are just threatened.

The Philippines, like many other governments, have initiated actions for the protection of Olive Ridleys but face difficulties as eggs are still being taken and nesting females are slaughtered for their meat and skin.

Fishing nets also exact a huge toll on them, frequently snagging and drowning these turtles.

PATRICK ROXAS

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Govt scouts for new water sources as shortage nears

By CAI U. ORDINARIO [@cuo_bm](#)

THE government is now identifying possible raw-water sources for Metro Manila, after the University of the Philippines National Engineering Center warned of a water shortage starting next year.

And in the draft final value engineering study commissioned by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) that was obtained by the BUSINESSMIRROR, Manila Bay was identified as the most viable raw-water source for

the megacity of 12 million people.

"It was projected that Metro Manila will experience a water-supply deficit by 2020, if no buffer capacity for demand is assumed; or around 2017, if a 15-percent buffer capacity for demand

2017

The year when water shortage is expected in Metro Manila, given the demand and production capacity

is provided, given the anticipated water demand vis-à-vis the current production capacity of the concessionaires," Neda documents stated.

SEE "GOVT," A2

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WATER SOURCE

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Govt. . .

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"Apart from the looming water-supply deficit, the Angat Dam and its downstream waterworks seem to be at risk, given the country's susceptibility to various natural disasters, such as earthquakes and drought (especially during El Niño events). Possible damage to the dam, as well as prolonged drought, may severely affect water-supply service provision in Metro Manila," the NEDA added.

The study evaluated five raw water sources and three water measures, particularly in the use of nonrevenue water reduction, reuse of treated wastewater and reuse of treated stormwater.

The five water sources are Manila Bay, which ranked first, followed by Laguna Lake; Kanan and Laiban Dams ranked third; and Agos dam ranked fourth. The water measures, such as reusing treated storm water, ranked fifth. Reusing treated wastewater ranked sixth and nonrevenue water reduction ranked seventh.

These were evaluated and scored according to technical, financial and implementation. The technical aspect entailed the ability to meet water demand by 2037; capacity to provide further growth of the population and industries; and good quality of water source.

The technical aspect also includes possessing drinking-water quality at point of distribution; sustainability in terms of yield

and potential redundant source.

The parameters for the financial component are the low-capital cost of investment; low operations and maintenance cost of facilities; and high potential to attract financing from investors.

In terms of implementation, the criteria included implementability, which considers resettlement, land acquisition, compliance to government regulations, etc., and timeliness of infrastructure completion.

The results showed that the desalination of the Manila Bay scored higher than the technical, financial and implementation thresholds of 55 percent, 25 percent, and 21 percent, respectively.

Manila Bay received a total score of 248.53. In terms of cost, it will take around 40 million to 50 million per million liters per day (MLD).

"The Manila Bay, which has potentially unlimited supply, would require a desalination plant. The plant could be on the eastern shore or on barges stabilized by fender piles," the draft final report stated.

This was followed by Laguna Lake, which had a score of 234.55; Kanan and Laiban Dams, 232.42 each; and Agos Dam, 221.82.

The parameter costs for Laguna Lake is around P15 million to P20 million per MLD. If this will become the source of raw water, the government needs to build a submerged pipe on the lake bottom.

The water from the lake could be pumped directly to the main transmission line or the treatment plant.

Meanwhile, making Kanan Dam a raw water source for Metro Manila will cost \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion. It was recommended by the consultant that the dam be used to supply the long-term water requirement of Metro Manila.

"Two other dams were considered—Laiban Dam and Agos Dam. Laiban Dam (based on past studies) has outstanding social/resettlement issues, which have not been resolved for more than 10 years now. With regard to Agos Dam (also studied in the past), pursuing it would likely result in Kaliwa Dam (currently under bidding) being submerged, rendering the latter ineffectual and the investment wasted," the report stated.

Reusing treated storm water garnered a score of 209.1, while reusing treated wastewater and nonrevenue water reduction got scores of 201.35 and 179.04, respectively.

Water reclamation, such as reusing treated storm water and reusing treated wastewater, are both seen as critical to achieving water security for the Philippines. The only possible constraint is the "cultural stigma" against the use of gray water, or wastewater, and storm water.

The safe use of these as raw water sources require upgrading existing water-treatment plants, according to the Singapore model, which undertakes water reclamation.

"The proposed investments could be financed by the private sector or with government contribution, and the costs would be recovered through tariffs," the report stated.

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MANILA WATER

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MANILA WATER RENEWS PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE TOKA TOKA ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT



OFFICIALS of Manila Water, headed by Jeric Sevilla Jr. (third from left), Corporate Strategic Affairs Group head; and Fernando Busuego III (second from left), Advocacy and Research Department head, are joined by employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region, headed by Regional Director Lourdes Wagan (fourth from left), during the partnership renewal of the Toka Toka commitments of both agencies.

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MANILA WATER PAGE 2/2

By LEONY R. GARCIA

GOOD partnership, coupled with trust, dedication and focus to a common goal, defines the success of any project or initiative. Such is the case of Manila Water Co.'s Toka Toka program, the first and only used-water movement in the Philippines that advocates proper management and treatment of used water in every household to help revive the waterways in Metro Manila through the four ownable acts as *toka* (the vernacular term for share or stake): solid-waste segregation; sewer-line connection; septic-tank desludging every five years; and information and education efforts within the community.

Since its inception in 2012, the program continues to foster and strengthen partnerships with various national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs) and the private sector to further advance the movement. Manila Water recently renewed agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) to further advocate the program that focuses on used-water management.

Manila Water Corporate Strategic Affairs Group Head Jeric Sevilla Jr. said the East Zone concessionaire is pleased that the DENR-NCR will continue to promote Toka Toka through the numerous activities it will undertake with the different LGUs.

The environment department has been a staunch partner of Manila Water since 2013, and has been successful in jointly implementing several projects, such as tree-planting activities at the La Mesa Watershed; strengthening the awareness program through the installation of Toka Toka billboards in their office; and inclusion of Toka Toka in their information, education and communications campaigns.

The DENR-NCR has been a very vital partner in the Lingap Sapa program, a cleanup drive that covers Maytunas Creek that straddles between the cities of Mandaluyong and San Juan.

For the past years since the partnership started, the DENR-NCR has also donated seedlings to various barangays in the East Zone and promoted Toka Toka in its IEC learning sessions conducted for different barangays.

Sevilla also said the movement hopes to achieve cooperative volunteerism across different stakeholder groups through the sharing of duties as mentioned above.

For its part, DENR-NCR Regional Director Lourdes Wagan said the department will continue to participate in the Toka Toka Lingap Sapa program by providing technical supervision, continuing to provide seedlings to be donated to various barangays; content sharing of both agencies to co-promote related projects and activities in various social-media tools and web sites; and supporting all water and used-water projects of Manila Water.

The new Toka Toka Partnership Agreement aims to expand the reach of the advocacy to communities within waterway systems. The goal of the program is to help barangays to become strengthened and effective waterway champions by educating and engaging not only the community leaders but the residents, as well.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has also renewed its commitment for the environmental movement. Former LLDA Executive Director Nereus Acosta said the partnership is also aimed at further securing individual and institutional commitments to do their share to revive rivers in the metropolis as a major component of environmental protection.

"You cannot protect what you cannot and do not value. You have to learn to value the environment first, so that you'll have greater involvement and stake in its protection and conservation," Acosta said.

He said the agency would also take part not only in Manila Water's Lingap Sapa project or the cleanup of creeks, but also in the information and education campaigns for the international coastal cleanup.

As of the end of 2015, 28 partners have committed into the movement and have developed various projects that revolve around the following:

RAISING AWARENESS

■ **Toka Toka Pahayagan sites**—Together with selected partner agencies, strategic locations were identified to install Toka Toka Pahayagans, which contain messages of different *tokas* an individual can commit to, as well as the *toka* of the partner-agency. (Partners: MMDA, DENR-EMB-NCR, Denr-Calabarzon, DENR-NCR, Cainta, Pasig, Antipolo, Taguig)

■ **Toka Toka presentations**—Partner-agencies have incorporated the presentation of Toka Toka in some of their training programs and seminars, such as Basic Pollution Control Officers Seminar (DENR-EMB-NCR) and Barangay Assembly

■ **Toka Toka goes to cinemas**—One partner LGU, the city of Mandaluyong drafted a resolution to air Toka Toka advocacy ads in all cinemas in its jurisdiction for free to further raise public awareness of the movement.

■ **Toka Toka magazine**—To further widen its reach, Toka Toka launched its informative magazine in 2012 which contains information about used water and the different Toka Toka pledges and commitments. The info magazine is distributed to partner-agencies to serve as an additional reading material in their offices. It is also distributed to participants of seminars organized by the different partner agencies.

STRENGTHENING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

ASIDE from campaigning for proper waste segregation and disposal, Toka Toka has donated over 300 sets of trash bins to NGAs and LGUs to be turned over to their partner-beneficiaries. Through the National Housing Authority (NHA), segregation bins were placed on strategic locations of relocation sites to encourage waste segregation from the relocatees.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

■ **Tree planting**—Teaming up with various partners, such as Rodriguez, Rizal Provincial Government, Pasig, DENR-NCR, MMDA, NHA and other institutions, tree-planting activities were undertaken to protect watershed areas.

■ **Waterway cleanup**—Whether it be river, creek or bayside, Toka Toka has opened its doors to helping organize cleanup drives in various waterways to reduce pollution.

■ **Desludging caravan**—Advocating the importance of regular desludging every five years, Toka Toka, with partner LGUs, conducts desludging caravans in various barangays to promote hygiene and sanitation in the community.

DEEPENING THE COMMITMENT

FOR 2015, with many partners having completed their original commitments, Toka Toka launched Project Lingap Sapa to develop a sustainable plan in rehabilitating creeks and tributaries of the three major river systems: Pasig, San Juan and Marikina rivers.

Manila Water said part of the partnership is the creation of barangay champions in compliance with Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and RA 9775, or the

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Editorial

Earthquake drill ipagpatuloy

MALAKAS ang lindol na tumama sa New Zealand noong Linggo, magnitude 7.4 at may iniulat na namatay. Itinaas naman ang tsunami warning. Hindi pa natatagalan, nilindol din ang Italy at maraming nawasak na bahay at mga gusali.

Ang Pilipinas ay hindi exempted dito. Noong nakaraang linggo, lumindol sa Metro Manila, Quezon, Batangas, Laguna at iba pang lugar. Wala namang naitalang pinsala ang lindol na may magnitude 5.

Walang sinuman ang nakaaalam kung kailan tatama ang lindol. Pero mapaghahandaan ito sa pamamagitan ng mga drill. Kung nakahanda ang lahat, walang gaanong mapipinsala. Kung alam ng mamamayan ang gagawin, marami ang makakaligtas.

Noong nakaraang taon, inihayag ng Philippine Institute on Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs)

na ang faultline ay nagsisimula sa Montalban, Rizal at nagtatapos sa Carmona, Cavite. Sinabi ng Phivolcs na kung tatama ang 7.2 na lindol sa nasasakop ng faultline maraming mamamatay. Noong 2013, nagbabala na ang Phivolcs na kapag tumama sa Metro Manila ang 7.2 magnitude na lindol, 37,000 katao ang mamamatay at ang pinsala ay aabot sa P2.4 trillion. Natukoy ang West at East Valley Fault nang magsagawa ng pag-aaral ang Phivolcs katulong ang PAGASA, Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa tulong ng Australian government.

Ang babala ng Phivolcs ang naging daan para magkaroon nang malawakang earthquake drill sa Metro Manila noong Hulyo 30, 2015 na pinangunahan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). Sa kasalukuyan, tila walang naririnig na nagsasagawa nang malawakang drill sa Metro Manila. *Ningas-kugon* na naman ba at kung kailan may nangyari nang paglindol saka magkakaroon ng drill?

Nararapat manguna ang DepEd sa pagsasagawa ng earthquake drill. Imulat ang mga estudyante sa tamang gagawin sa pagtama ng lindol. Ang kahandaan sa anumang panganib ang magsasalba sa lahat. Kung may kahandaan tiyak na walang magpapanik. Makiisa ang lahat sa mga gagawing drill. Mahalaga ito.



Remate

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REMATE 9

PINANGUNAHAN ni Executive Director Dr. Sevil-lo D. David, Jr., ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), isang tanggapan sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang pagtitipon kasama ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan at pribadong institusyon upang talakayin ang kasalukuyang isyu na may kaugnayan sa tubig at paglikha ng National Water Plan (NWP).

Sa naturang pagtitipon, bilang kinatawan ni DENR

Secretary Gina Lopez, ibinahagi ni DENR Assistant Secretary for Operations Juan ang mensahe ni kalihim, "The key word is convergence.

We, in this sector, need to work together, in one direction, towards one goal.

We are gathered here today to discuss the concerns of your respective institutions and the strategies you have in mind to resolve these. What we need are new, untypical yet practical and realistic solutions and translate these to a tangible National Water Plan."

and Academic Engagement." Lahat ng mga dumalo mula sa iba't ibang ahensya ay nagsalita tungkol sa kanilang mga hamon at ang mga

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

PINANGUNAHAN AT TINALAKAY NG NWRB ANG KAHALAGAHAN NG NATIONAL WATER PLAN

paglikhang climatological data. Sa panahon ng dialogo, ang mga kinatawan ay masigasig sa pagbuo ng National Water Plan.

Mahalaga ang kontribusyon ng bawat isa lalo na ng mga government agency or water upang magkaroon ng isang National Water Plan na magbibigay-pansin hindi lamang sa domestikong gamit ng tubig kundi maging ang esensiya nito sa agricultural sector, health and sanitation, manufacturing and production, tourism and recreation, at marami pang iba.



iba't ibang grupo ang ibinuod ng water stakeholders, napagkaisahan nilang lahat gawing "six thematic clusters namely Water Utilization; Water Quality, Sewerage, and Sanitation; Watershed Management and Integrated Area Development; Flood Management, Water-related Disasters and Climate Change; Data Collection and Research; and Advocacy

kaukulang diskarte para malutas ang isyu.

Sa panahon ng "open forum", mas tinalakay nila ang mga paksa ukol sa regulasyon ng LGU, pagbabahagi ng impormasyon sa lahat ng partner agencies, data access sa mga mamamayan lalo na para sa mag-aaral na nagsasaliksik, at ang kontribusyon ng mga pribadong institusyon sa

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