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# ACCELERATE CLEANING OF LAKES AND CANALS

*THE ESPRESSO, 7-13 May 2020*

***TOA BAJA - With the change of administration in January 2017, this Municipality woke up with a high deficit in its finances, the bankruptcy of the central government, the destruction of two hurricanes that claimed several lives, earthquakes and the current coronavirus pandemic.***

Both hurricanes destroyed part of the Levittown, which is the main business center of this municipality. The powerful and raving overflow of the Rio La Plata river has ultimately caused several deaths. Another threat may arise in June next year; the new hurricane season, which is anticipated to be equally active and dangerous. Faced with this new eventuality, the administration of Mayor Bernardo (Betito) Marquez Garcia, is preparing for the worst.

“Because I have to live through Maria’s disaster, I have grave concern because I know the severity and destruction the floods will bring to my town. I said to myself: ‘this is the moment; We have to start, ’” Mayor Marquez Garcia told El Espresso.

The maintenance of the water bodies has already begun as a preventive measure, and to avoid recurring of the tragic flood caused by Hurricane Maria. “Before the pandemic, we were working on the maintenance of the water channels.

When the pandemic happened, all work has to stop, but I never lose sight of the preparation processes and be ready by the next hurricane season even though we are in the middle of the pandemic.”

## **CLEAN GRAINS**

I assure you that these tasks are well prepared in advance. “Our Public Works staff continue to carry out flood mitigation and control works in various communities. We continuously cleaning the ditches in the communities, as well as preventive maintenance work of the coastal drainage system, this as part of essential services during the emergency “, I am committed to it.

The work has been carried out in the communities of Villa Hostos, Villa Quintero, Campanillas and Levittown. The municipal Water Corps team remains intact, however, due to the COVID-19 situation, the team was reassigned with other priorities; to disinfect areas such as shops, offices, etc., he added.



*(Photo from The Espresso Newspaper)*

“We have been cleaning, but not up the desire result. We believe we are on the right path,” said Marquez Garcia, who has recently managed to open neglected channels for years, such as those that connect to the Rio Cocal.

“As we have the ‘pantenera’ [amphibious excavator of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources], roads were made through the area of the canos, because all of this was covered and those canals flow into the river. To the extent that this is covered with settlements and weeds ground along the river, resulted in high probability of flooding “ he said in an interview with EL ESPRESSO.

*(Article translated by Google)*