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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

28 APR 2019

DATE

Angat Dam to breach minimum level; NWRB to reduce supply for irrigation

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

With Angat Dam projected to breach its minimum operating level of 180 meters in three days, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) will be implementing lower water allocation for irrigation in Central Luzon starting May 1 to preserve the supply for Metro Manila's domestic water requirements during the dry season.

The water level at Angat Dam, which is the main source of 96 percent of Metro Manila's domestic water requirements and irrigation of about 27,000 hectares of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga, continued to decline due to lack of rain and increase in demand.

As of Thursday morning, NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. said Angat Dam's water elevation was at 181.15 meters. This is further down by 0.48 meters from 181.63 last Wednesday.

"It is projected to breach the minimum operating level of 180 meters in three days," David said.

Angat Dam's normal high water level during the rainy season is 212 meters.

Under the National Water Resources Board's (NWRB) protocol in the release of water from Angat Dam, water releases for irri-

gation needs in Bulacan and Pampanga will be temporarily halted or reduced once the dam's level falls below its 180-meter minimum operating level.

In this scenario, the domestic water supply for Metro Manila is prioritized over irrigation and power generation.

"The Board has approved a reduction of allocation for irrigation from an average of 35 cubic meters per second (cms) in April to 10 cubic meters per second in May," David said.

Meanwhile, NWRB will maintain the 48 cms allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for distribution to its concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

David pointed out that the lower water allocation for the National Irrigation Administration "will not have

significant impact on irrigation as they (farmlands) are near the harvesting period."

However, the NWRB official reiterated their call to the public to continue to conserve water amid the continuous decline in Angat Dam's water level.

Meanwhile, Senator Grace Poe appealed on Thursday to the Manila Water to provide its customers a steady water supply, aside from paying the P1.13-billion fine over the water crisis in the east zone of Metro Manila last month.

The chair of the Senate public services committee made the call as she noted that residents in the affected cities supplied by the east zone concessionaire still suffer from water service interruptions, including her.

"Maganda naman na magbabayad

silang multa, maganda rin na magbibigay silang refund, pero ang tanong din naman natin ay hanggang kailan tayo magkakaroon ng water interruption kasi hanggang ngayon meron pa rin 'yan." (It is good that they are settling the fine, and that they will give a refund; but our question is until when will we have these water interruptions), Poe said in an interview over radio DZMM.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on Wednesday slapped the Manila Water with a P1.13-billion fine for failing its 24/7 service obligation under their concession agreement.

Manila Water said it will abide by the MWSS' decision and pay the amount, which includes the

P534-million penalty and another P600 million that will be used, according to the MWSS, to develop a new water source.

But Poe said Manila Water, not the government, should be the one looking for new water sources. (With a report from Vanne P. Terrazola)



26 APR 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE

Water in Angat low

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Angat Dam's normal high water level during the rainy season is 212 meters. **(Ellalyn Ruiz)**



DENR GUMAGAMIT NG RADAR SA Paghuli sa Nakabaong Illegal Drain Pipes sa El Nido Beachfront

BINAKLAS ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang natuklasang drainage pipe na nakalagay sa beachfront zone ng El Nido.

Ang naturang pipe na naglalabas ng marumi at mabahong tubig na direktso sa Bacuit Bay ay pag-aari ng Outpost Beach Hostel na matatagpuan sa Barangay Corong-Corong. Ang nasabing establisimiyento ay nakatanggap na rin ng notice of violation mula sa Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ng DENR dahil sa direktang pagtatapon nito ng wastewater sa tubig-dagat.

Agad na ipinatanggal ni DENR Mimaropa Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado ang natuklasang sewage pipeline na may sukat na anim na pulgadang lapad at may habang anim na metro na nakakonekta sa nabanggit na hostel.

Nilagyan na lamang ng buhangin ang pinaghukayan

ng tubo habang ang dulo na pinutol ay binuksan upang makakuha ang EMB ng sampling at analysis.

Ayon kay Adornado, ang ginawang pagtatago ng hostel ng sewage line ay isang malinaw na pagwawalang-bahala sa kapaligiran at isa rin itong paglabag sa Water Code of the Philippines sa ilalim ng Presidential Decree 1067 at Republic Act 9275 o mas kilala sa tawag na Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

"We have no choice but to prevent them from further degrading nature. They are putting the lives of tourists and residents in danger as they continue to pollute Bacuit Bay," sabi pa nito.

Inamin naman ng isa sa may-ari ng Outpost Beach Hostel na nakilalang si Paul Sepulveda na kanila ang naturang tubo.

Sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng radar ay natuklasan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

ng DENR ang mga nakatagong waste pipelines kung saan ay sinimulan ang operasyon noong Marso 18 sa paligid ng El Nido.

"You cannot hide them (pipes) forever. We will eventually uncover them so we advise you to remove your illegal sewage lines and comply with the laws for your own good," sabi pa ni MGB Regional Director Roland de Jesus kasabay ng pagbibigay nito ng payo sa mga establisimiyento sumunod sa batas upang hindi matulad sa Outpost Beach Hostel na nahinto ang operasyon.

Samantala, pinaalalahanan naman ni EMB Regional Director Michael Drake Matias ang mga residente at mga negosyante na ang Bacuit Bay ay isang Water Quality Management Area kaya't kinakailangan ang kanilang kooperasyon upang mamantine ang kalidad ng

tubig nito.

"We shall be conducting regular water sampling and analysis not only to Outpost Beach Hostel but also to other establishments to ensure that they do not discharge untreated wastewater into Bacuit Bay," sabi pa ni Matias.

Bukod sa nabanggit na hostel ay patuloy namang nagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon ang EMB upang matukoy kung may iba pang nagtatapon sa dagat ng kanilang wastewater.

Simula nang umpisahan ng DENR noong isang taon ang pagsasaayos ng Palawan na itinuturing na



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

26 APR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Earth Day Jam 2019:

Protecting our wildlife species

Going strong on its 19th year, *Earth Day Jam* puts the spotlight on wildlife species protection as the yearly environmental summer concert takes place today. The theme places emphasis on living species, their natural habitats and protection from threat of extinction.

As a prelude to *Earth Day Jam's* 20th year in 2020, *Earth Day Jam 2019* returns to its original Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City concert venue for this year's campaign. It is a special treat to fans who have been following *Earth Day Jam* since it started 19 years ago.

"The international Earth Day theme is protect the species. We use this by focusing on the Philippines' wildlife species. It is a shift from *Earth Day Jam's* Save Mother Earth campaign that has been used in previous summer events," says Lou Bonnevie, founder and chairman of Earth Day Jam Foundation.

"We have invited resource speakers from the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, Earthday Network Philippines, Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Forest Foundation of the Philippines, Winner Foundation. Overall, the message we want to share with our very young audience is diverse yet presented in a very interesting manner



Lou Bonnevie

like games and Q&A segments so we can relate to everyone," she adds.

Earth Day Jam visitors will have a field day enjoying best live performances from some of the A-List Philippine music artists. They are Abra, Autotelic, Chicosci, Gracernote, Itchyworms, Kjwan, Mayonnaise, Moonstar88, Noel Cabangon, Nyoy Volante, PI Jazzfest, Rouge, Sandwich, Tanya Markova, The Joyrides and Lou herself. Apart from regular speaker intervals, *Earth Day Jam* will feature surprise celebrity guests.

The event is presented by Earth Day Jam Foundation's partners, namely, Quezon City Government through Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte's Office, The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), First Gen Corporation, Maynilad, PRRC, Tagbalay Foundation, Lifebank Foundation, Barangay South Triangle, Hive Hotel, Hop Inn, Pagcor, MiniStop, ChopChop Chicken, David's Salon, 83k, **The Philippine STAR**, *Business Mirror*, MYX and ABS-CBN.

For details, check out the Facebook event page of Earthday Jam Foundation and log on to www.earthdayjamfoundation.com.



Exploit-the-Earth Day



FROM WHERE
I STAND
ERIC
JURADO

EARTH DAY is intended to further the cause of environmentalism. However, environmentalism is an anti-human ideology. Therefore, those who care about human life should not celebrate Earth Day; they should celebrate Exploit-the-Earth Day.

Why?

Either man takes the Earth's raw materials—such as trees, petroleum, aluminum, and atoms—and transforms them into the requirements of his life, or he dies. To live, man must produce the goods on which his life depends; he must produce homes, cars, computers, electricity, and the like; he must seize nature and use it to his advantage. There is no escaping this fact. Even the allegedly “noble” savage must pick or perish. Even if a person produces nothing, as long as he remains alive, he indirectly exploits the Earth by parasitically surviving off the exploitative efforts of others.

Exploiting the Earth—using the raw materials of nature for one's life-serving purposes—is a basic requirement of human life. According to environmentalism, however, man should not use nature for his needs; he should keep his hands off “the goods;” he should leave nature alone, come what may.

Environmentalism is not concerned with human health and well-being—neither ours nor that of generations to come. If it were, it would advocate the one social system that ensures that the Earth and its elements are used in the most productive, life-serving manner possible: capitalism.

Capitalism is the only social system that recognizes and protects each individual's right to act in accordance with his basic means of living: the judgment of his mind. Environmentalism, of course, does not and cannot advocate capitalism, because if people are free to act on their judgment, they will strive to produce and prosper; they will transform the raw materials of nature into the requirements of human life; they will exploit the Earth and live.

Environmentalism rejects the basic moral premise of capitalism—the idea that people should be free to act on their judgment—because it rejects a more fundamental idea on which capitalism rests: the idea that the requirements of human life constitute the standard of moral value. While the standard of value underlying capitalism is human life (that which is necessary for human beings to live and prosper), the standard of value underlying environmentalism is nature untouched by man.

The basic principle of environmentalism is that nature—“the environment”—has intrinsic value—value in and of itself, value apart from and irrespective of the requirements of human life—and that this value must be protected from its only adversary: Man. Rivers must be left free to flow unimpeded by human dams,

which divert natural flows, alter natural landscapes, and disrupt wildlife habitats. Glaciers must be left free to grow or shrink according to natural causes, but any human activity that might affect their size must be prohibited. Naturally generated carbon dioxide (such as that emitted by oceans and volcanos) and naturally generated methane (such as that emitted by swamps and termites) may contribute to the greenhouse effect, but such gases must not be produced by man. The globe may warm or cool naturally—via increases or decreases in sunspot activity but man must not do anything to affect its temperature. And so on.

“To live, man must produce the goods on which his life depends; he must produce homes, cars, computers, electricity, and the like.”

In short, according to environmentalism, if nature affects nature, the effect is good; if man affects nature, the effect is evil.

Stating the essence of environmentalism in such stark terms raises some illuminating questions: If the good is nature untouched by man, how is man to live? What is he to eat? What is he to wear? Where is he to reside? How can man do anything his life requires without altering, harming, or destroying some aspect of nature? In order to nourish himself, man must consume meat, vegetables, fruits, and the like. In order to make clothing, he must skin animals, pick cotton, manufacture polyester, and the like. In order to build a house—or even a hut—he must cut down trees, dig up clay, make fires, bake bricks, and so forth. Each and every action man takes to support or sustain his life entails the exploitation of nature. Thus, on the premise of environmentalism, man has no right to exist.

It comes down to this: Each of us has a choice to make. Will I recognize that man's life is the standard of moral value—that the good is that which sustains and furthers human life—and thus people have a moral right to use the Earth and its elements for their life-serving needs? Or will I accept the notion that nature has “intrinsic” value—value in and of itself, value apart from and irrespective of human needs—and thus people have no right to exist?

There is no middle ground here. Either human life is the standard of moral value, or it is not. Either nature has intrinsic value, or it does not.

Let the world know where you stand. Don't celebrate Earth Day; celebrate Exploit-the-Earth Day—and let your friends, family, and associates know why.

eric.jurado@gmail.com



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

A14
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

26 APR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

A14

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INFORMATIVE ART A worker puts the finishing touches on a commissioned artwork of a dead blue whale beached on the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The artwork aims to educate the public on the dangers of ocean pollution. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



26 APR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



TINATAPOS ng mga manggagawa ang replica ng patay na balyena sa harapan ng Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Complex sa Pasay City upang ipaalam sa publiko ang panganib ng polusyon sa dagat. Kamakailan ay inanod sa dalampasigan ang isang patay na balyena at sa tiyan nito ay nakuha ang 40 kilong plastic na siyang dahilan ng kamatayan nito.
Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

8
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

26 APR 2019

DATE

Palace: Canada should take back its trash 'pronto'

By GENALYN D. KABILING

BEIJING—Canada should take back its garbage dumped in the Philippines “pronto” or else years of bilateral relations will be “put to naught,” Malacañang warned Thursday.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the government’s position against Canada’s garbage was “non-negotiable,” lamenting that Canada has neither made any decisive action nor expressed regrets on the waste issue.

“Our stand against its making our country a garbage bin of their waste is non-negotiable. It cannot dilly dally on its getting them back. It must retrieve them pronto or we throw them back to its shores,” Panelo said.

“The seventy years of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be put to naught if Canada will not act with dispatch and finality the resolution of this undiplomatic episode to which we take outrage,”

he added.

He noted that Canada’s “outlandish” disposal of garbage to an ally was “dangerously disruptive of our bilateral relations.”

“Its offensive act cannot be countenanced and any further discussion on the matter is unwelcome and unnecessary,” he said.

President Duterte earlier threatened to go to war if Canada would not retrieve the tons of garbage shipped to the Philippines years ago. Canada has reportedly promised to work with the Philippine government for a “timely resolution” to remove the waste shipment from the country.

Panelo hit back at Canada for its “vague statement” in relation to the President’s call on the waste issue.

“We take note that its response is not appropriate to the strong statement we made against its throwing its garbage to our land,” he said.

“Not only has it not taken any decisive action on this arrant hostile demeanor, it has not likewise expressed regrets thereto,” he added.



1/2

Trash terms 'not negotiable'

By Kristina Maralit
and Elmer N. Manuel

The indefinite
vow of the Canadian
government in relation
to taking back tons
of trash dumped into
the country after

President Rodrigo
Duterte's "war" threat
is not good enough, as
the Palace underlined
that the demand for
an immediate retrieval
was "non-negotiable."

The President said

Turn to page 6

From page 1

last Tuesday in San Fernando, Pampanga that he will sail personally to Canada to send back the garbage sitting at the country's ports for the past five years.

"I want a boat prepared. I'll give a warning to Canada maybe next week that they better pull that thing out or I will set sail to Canada and dump the trash there," Duterte said at a situation briefing in San Fernando, Pampanga. He even asked Canada to prepare for "a grand reception" to welcome their trash back home.

The President gave Canada until next week to settle the issue.

Malacañang similarly warned of a "diplomatic fallout" if Canada fails to act swiftly on Mr. Duterte's demand.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the response of Canada to the President's call is "vague" and slammed Ottawa for failing to say when it will heed Duterte's call for them to take back its trash.

I want a boat prepared. I'll give a warning to Canada maybe next week that they better pull that thing out or I will set sail to Canada and dump the trash there.

The Canadian Embassy in Manila said Wednesday that a joint technical working group, consisting of officials from both countries, is "examining the full spectrum of issues related to the removal of the waste with a view to a timely resolution."

Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna indicated a solution can be found "in the coming weeks."

A Global Affairs Canada official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are still underway, told the Canadian media it's expected that the garbage will be returned to Canada.

"It's likely that is the resolution," said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Ambassador John Holmes said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is committed to allowing the containers back in Canada.

Act pronto

Panelo, however, described Canada's response as "quick but vague," noting that it was not an appropriate response to the strong statement of Mr. Duterte.

"We take note that its response is not appropriate to the strong statement we made against its throwing its garbage to our land," Panelo said.

"Our stand against making our country a garbage bin of their waste is non-negotiable. It cannot dilly-dally on getting them back. It must retrieve them pronto or we throw them back to its shores," he added.

Panelo said failure of Canada to act could harm its current bilateral relations with the Philippines.

"The 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be put to naught if Canada will not act with dispatch and finality the resolution of this undiplomatic episode to which we take outrage," Panelo said.

"That it even considered performing such outlandish disposal of its garbage to an ally is dangerously disruptive of our bilateral relations," he added.

Panelo said no amount of discussion could resolve what he described as Canada's "offensive act" to turn the Philippines into a dumpsite.

"Its offensive act cannot be countenanced and any further discussion on the matter is unwelcome and unnecessary," Panelo said.

The response of Canada to the President's call is vague.

"Not only has it not taken any decisive action on this arrant hostile demeanor, it has not likewise expressed regrets thereto," he added.

Hunt local culprit

Top government officials are also calling for the "head" of the Filipino who was responsible in shipping garbage from Canada into the country.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. stressed that while Canada should really take back the garbage, authorities should run after the importer.

"It had to be done. I hope we shoot the Filipino importer. The UN (United Nations) must accept that is the best thing to be done to certain characters," Locsin posted on social media.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana echoed Locsin's call for the government to run after the importer. Lorenzana, however, downplayed Mr. Duterte's "war threat" as mere dramatization of his disappointment.

"That was just a figure of speech to dramatize his extreme displeasure. But if it were me, I would run after the importer of those garbage," said Lorenzana in a



2/2

message to reporters.

Manila has conveyed its objection to the shipment to the Canadian government through diplomatic notes.

Choppers on strings

The Department of National Defense (DND) for its part lamented that Canada continues to harp on rights in a helicopter deal with the Philippines when, in fact, it shipped garbage to Manila.

DND spokesman Arsenio Andolong branded as "ironic" Canada's frequent citation of human rights in questioning the \$233-million chopper deal when it disregarded environmental issues.

"Remember what they said long time ago which led to the cancelation of the contract regarding the combat utility helicopter. It is indeed ironic that they harp about human rights yet they have no regard for the environment, especially if it's in someone else's backyard," Andolong said.

In February 2018, President Duterte ordered the scrapping of the \$233-million helicopter deal between the DND-Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Canadian Commercial Corp. (CCC).

The DND-AFP contracted 16 Bell 412 choppers from CCC for the Philippine Air Force (PAF), but Ottawa subsequently expressed concerns that the aircraft could be used in counter-insurgency operations.

Andolong, at the same time, said that Mr. Duterte's "war declaration" was meant to highlight his displeasure over Canada's inaction to the garbage.

"He is just a human being... I think it's not what the President meant literally,"

Andolong said.

Basel deal raised

A resolution to the row over rotting refuse appears imminent as it had reached Canada's House of Commons.

New Democratic Party Member of Parliament Gord Johns said Canada's reputation is taking a hit over this dispute.

"It actually takes away our credibility in having conversations on these issues when we don't take action when a company, say, hasn't fulfilled their obligation," he said.

"I think Canadians expect our government to not just use rhetoric but actually take real action when it comes to disposing of our garbage and trash and plastics in a responsible way."

Canada falls under the UN Basel Convention, which aims to stop countries from shipping garbage to developing countries without their consent.

It cannot dilly-dally on getting them back. It must retrieve them pronto or we throw them back to its shores.

Also, if the containers were mislabeled and toxic waste was inside of them, then Canada likely violated the Basel Convention, an international hazardous waste treaty, the Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation told *The Canadian Press* last week.

Sabrina Kim, a spokeswoman for Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, said Canada is collaborating with the Philippines government and is aware of the court order. "Currently, a joint technical working group, consisting of officials from both countries, is examining the full spectrum of issues related to the removal of the waste with a view to a timely resolution," she said. "In 2016, we amended our own regulations around hazardous waste shipments to prevent such events from happening again. We are committed to working collaboratively to ensure the material is processed in an environmentally responsible way."

Under the Basel Convention, if parties can't reach a peaceful agreement, they can take matters to the International Court of Justice. As of Wednesday, the government official said things were looking good for a resolution within weeks, not months, which "will most probably require Canada to take back the waste." We're probably going to miss Duterte's deadline, though.



'PH stand vs Canada trash non-negotiable'

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

MALACAÑANG on Thursday maintained that the Philippine government's stand for Canada to take back the trash illegally shipped to the country was "non-negotiable."

Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo made the statement as he warned Canada that it would risk its decades-old diplomatic ties with the Philippines if it failed to recover its garbage from the country.

"Our stand against its making our country a garbage bin of their waste is non-negotiable. It cannot dilly dally on its getting them back," Panelo said in a statement.

"The 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be put to naught if Canada will not act with dispatch and finality the resolu-

tion of this undiplomatic episode to which we take outrage," he added.

On Wednesday, Canada affirmed its commitment to work with the Philippine government over the garbage problem after President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to declare war over the issue.

"A joint technical working group, consisting of officials from both countries, is examining the full spectrum of issues related to the removal of the waste with a view to a timely resolution," the Canadian Embassy said in a statement.

Panelo said the Palace recognized Canada's "quick but vague statement" on the issue but noted that it has not "taken any decisive action on this arrant hostile demeanor, it has not likewise expressed regrets thereto."

"We take note that its response is not appropriate to the strong statement we made against its throwing its garbage to our land," he said.

But the Palace official said Canada's inaction of not taking the trash back six years after it was sent to the Philippine was "offensive."

"Its offensive act cannot be countenanced and any further discussion on the matter is unwelcome and unnecessary," Panelo said.

"That it even considered performing such outlandish disposal of its garbage to an ally is dangerously disruptive of our bilateral relations," he added.

Duterte, in a situation briefing in Pampanga after the magnitude 6.1-quake that hit parts of Luzon on Tuesday,

threatened to declare war on Canada if it would not take its trash back.

"I want a boat prepared. I'll give a warning to Canada maybe next week that they better pull that thing out or I will set sail *doon sa Canada, ibuhos ko 'yang basura nila doon* (in Canada to bring back their trash)," Duterte said.

"I cannot understand why they are making us a dumpsite, and that is not the only case on point. They keep on dumping their trash on us. Well, not this time. I'll declare a war. We'll wage a war against Canada. We'll declare war against them, we can defeat them," he added.

In 2013, the Philippines found that Chronic Inc., a private firm in Ontario, shipped 103 container vans of garbage mislabeled as "recyclable plastic materials" to Manila. The shipment was consigned to Philippine company Chronic Plastics.

The Basel Convention prohibits the trade of toxic and hazardous wastes, unless a country consents to it.



Palace: Canada garbage

issue is nonnegotiable

By BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS [@BNicolasBM](#)

MALACAÑANG has rejected any further discussion with Canada for the pullout of the rotting hazardous waste Ottawa has dumped in the country five years ago, saying that the matter is “nonnegotiable.”

The Palace was outraged that Canada has since not taken any decisive action on its “arrant hostile

demeanor” and for not even expressing regrets for the matter.

“Our stand against it making

our country a garbage bin of their waste is nonnegotiable. It cannot dilly-dally on getting them back. It must retrieve them pronto or we throw them back to its shores,” said Presidential Spokesman and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador S. Panelo in a news statement issued on Thursday.

“It’s [Canada’s] offensive act can not be countenanced, and any further discussion on the matter is unwelcome and unnecessary,” he added.

Malacañang also slammed Canada for its “quick but vague” statement following President Duterte’s threat

that he will declare war if Canada would not take action on the trash they dumped in the Philippines.

“We take note that its response is not appropriate to the strong statement we made against it throwing its garbage to our land,” Panelo said.

On Wednesday, Canada said it is working with the Philippines to resolve the issue, noting that it is aware of the court decision ordering the importer to ship the trash back to Canada.

Moreover, Panelo even warned that the seven-decade diplomatic relations between the two countries

will be put to waste if Canada will not act appropriately.

“The seventy years of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be put to naught if Canada will not act with dispatch and finality the resolution of this undiplomatic episode to which we take outrage. That it even considered performing such outlandish disposal of its garbage to an ally is dangerously disruptive of our bilateral relations,” he said.

On Tuesday, President Duterte ordered the Department of Finance, which oversees the Bureau of Customs (BOC), to return the

trash immediately back to Canada next week, or else, he will be the one to set sail and dump their garbage back there.

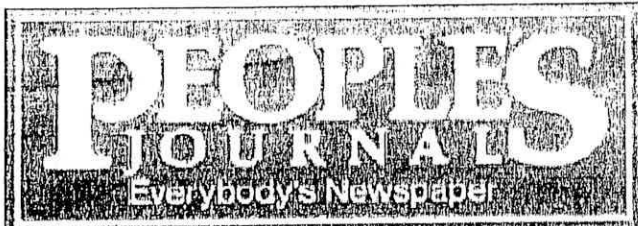
About 103 containers of Canadian waste comprising of household trash, newspapers and used adult diapers, among others were illegally shipped in batches to the country from 2013 to 2014.

The trash had been rotting since then at a dump in Tarlac.

Should Canada illegally ship hazardous trash to the Philippines anew, President Duterte has said he would order the BOC to bar these ships from the docks.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service



2
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

26 APR 2019

DATE

Canada, PH 'war' on trash heats up

By Efrén Montano

MALACANANG yesterday warned of a diplomatic fallout between the Philippines and Canada if the latter fails to act swiftly on Manila's demand for Ottawa to take back tons of Canadian waste shipped to the Philippines.

In a strongly-worded statement, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo slammed Canada's "vague" response to President Rodrigo Duterte's call for Ottawa to remove the dozens of shipping containers filled with trash in one week or risk "war" with the Philippines.

The Canadian Embassy in Manila said on Wednesday that a joint technical working group, consisting of officials from both countries, is "examining the full spectrum of issues related to the removal of the waste with a view to a timely resolution." Canada did not say when it will take back the trash.

"We take note that its response is not appropriate to the strong statement we made against its throwing its garbage to our land," Panelo said.

"Our stand against its making our country a gar-



bage bin of their waste is non-negotiable. It cannot dilly dally on it getting them back. It must retrieve them pronto or we throw them back to its shores."

Panelo added that the dumping of Canadian waste was an "offensive act" that "cannot be countenanced and any further discussion on the matter is unwelcome and unnecessary."

He said Canada has not even expressed regret over the illegal garbage exports which arrived in batches at the port of Manila in 2013 and 2014. At least 26 containers were dumped on a Tarlac landfill.

"The 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be put to naught if Canada

will not act with dispatch and finality on the resolution of this undiplomatic episode to which we take outrage," Panelo said.

"That it even considered performing such outlandish disposal of its garbage to an ally is dangerously disruptive of our bilateral relations."

Manila had previously conveyed its objection to the shipment to the Canadian government through diplomatic notes. Canada insisted the dumping was not backed by its government and that it was a private transaction.

In 2016, Canada amended its regulations around hazardous waste shipments to prevent such incidents from happening again.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PEOPLES JOURNAL Tonight

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

26 APR 2019
DATE

PH stand vs Canada's trash non-negotiable

MALACAÑANG yesterday warned of a diplomatic fallout between the Philippines and Canada if the latter fails to act swiftly on Manila's demand to take back tons of Canadian waste shipped to the Philippines.

In a strongly-worded statement, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo slammed Canada's "vague" response to President Rodrigo Duterte's call for Ottawa to remove the dozens of shipping containers filled with trash in one week or risk "war" with the Philippines.

The Canadian Embassy in Manila said on Wednesday that a joint technical working group, consisting of officials from both countries, is "examining the full spectrum of issues related to the removal of the waste with a view to a timely resolution."

Canada did not say when it will take back the trash.

"We take note that its response is not appropriate to the strong statement we made against its throwing its garbage to our land. Our stand against its making our country a garbage bin of their waste is non-negotiable. It cannot dilly dally on it getting them back. It must retrieve them pronto or we throw them back to its shores," said Panelo.

Panelo added that the dumping of Canadian waste was an "offensive act" that "cannot be countenanced and any further discussion on the matter is unwelcome and unnecessary."

The Palace official said Canada has not even expressed regrets over the illegal garbage exports which arrived in batches in the port of Manila in 2013 and 2014. At least 26 containers were dumped in a Tarlac landfill.

"The 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be put to naught if Canada will not act with dispatch and finality the resolution of this undiplomatic episode to which we take outrage.

Efren Montano



Editorial

Basura ng Canada ibalik na!

NGAYON na lang uli napag-usapan ang basura ng Canada. Biglang naalala ni President Duterte ang tungkol sa basura nang dumalaw sa Pampanga noong Miyerkules para alamin ang pinsala ng lindol sa Porac. Sabi ng Presidente, magdedeklara siya ng giyera sa Canada dahil sa basurang dinala nila sa bansa pitong taon na ang nakararaan. Sa galit ng Presidente nasabi niya sa Canada na huwag gawing basurahan ang Pilipinas. Naasar na si Duterte sapagkat walang aksiyon na ginagawa si Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau ukol sa basura.

Noong Nobyembre 2017, nag-usap na sina Duterte at Trudeau tungkol sa basura. Nagpahayag ang Canadian leader na aaksiyunan na ang problema sa basurang umaabot sa mahigit 100 containers. Pero lumipas ang mahigit dalawang taon mula nang mag-usap ang dalawa, wala pa ring aksiyon si Trudeau.

Dumating sa bansa ang Canadian trash noong 2013 at 2014. Pawang household at hospital wastes ang laman ng containers. Dalawampu sa containers ng basura ay itinapon sa Tarlac noong Mayo 2015 samantalang ang karamihan ay nangatili at nabubulok na sa Port of Manila at Subic.

Nang tanungin si Trudeau noon ng mga reporter kung ibabalik na sa kanilang bansa ang sariling basura, wala itong malinaw na sinabi. Meron na raw solusyon na dinidebelop sa problema pero hindi naman sinabi kung ano iyon.

Ang hinihintay na sabihin ni Trudeau noon ay ipag-uutos niya ang agarang pagbabalik ng basura sa kanilang bansa. Pero hindi ganun ang nangyari. Kaya walang nakuhang pag-asa sa kanya ang mamamayang Pilipino.

Narapat ibalik sa Canada ang mga basura sapagkat nakasaad sa Basel Convention na anumang hazardous wastes na dumating sa bansa ay dapat ibalik sa pinanggalingang bansa. May karapatang tanggihan ng Pilipinas ang basura. Alam ng Canada ang batas dahil isa sila sa mga pumirma sa international treaty noong 1992.

Ngayong nagpakita na ng galit si Duterte, dapat nang ibalik ang basura. Dapat lang na huwag gawing basurahan ang bansa. Ibalik ang basura sa Canada!



BULGAR

3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

26 APR 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN

“KUNIN ang basura o magdedeklara ako ng giyera”, matapos itong sabihin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, sa wakas ay naglabas na ng pahayag ang Canadian Embassy sa Pilipinas na nangangako silang resolbahin ang isyu sa basura na itinapon nila sa bansa.

Base sa pahayag ng Canadian Embassy, makikipagtulungan sila sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan para masolusyunan ang nasabing problema.

Sa ngayon ay mayroong technical group mula sa magkabilang kampo na nagsasagawa ng pag-aaral kung paano maiaalis ang basura na hindi makaaapekto sa kapaligiran.

Gayunman, ngayong taon ay ginugunita ang ika-70 taong relasyon ng dalawang bansa kung saan sinabi ng embahada na matibay ang relasyon ng mga ito at may iisang layunin na patatagin ang political, economical at cultural relations.

Matatandaang, ilang beses nang ginawa sa bansa natin ang ganitong senaryo kung saan kuwestiyunable kung paano ito nakalulusot, gayung dapat mahigpit ang gobyerno sa



BOSES
NI RYAN B. SISON

Pagtatapon ng basura ng iba't ibang bansa sa Pilipinas, nakaiinsulto!

pagpapasok ng mga gamit mula sa ibang bansa — Bureau of Customs (BOC), anyare?

Dagdag pa rito, hindi ba, nakaiinsulto para sa mga Pilipino na ‘yung bansang ating pinakamamahal ay ginagawa lang basurahan ng iba? Mayroon pa ngang nagsasabi na ‘probinsiya’ lang daw nila. Hays!

Sa totoo lang, nakalulungkot dahil mismong mamamayan sa bansa, eh, kulang sa disiplina para itapon ng maayos ang kanilang mga kalat sa tamang tapunan, daragdagan pa ng ibang bansa. Tsk!

Samantala, hiling natin na matapos na ang isyung ito at huwag nang maulit pa.

Pero, mangyayari ito kung patutunayan natin sa kanila na ang Pilipinas ay hindi tapunan ng basura kundi bansa na kayang umunlad kahit dumanas pa ng pagsubok na napakahirap!



Returning Aklan mayor greeted with dismissal

Order served as Malay exec ends 6-month suspension over Boracay neglect

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@npburgosjrINQ

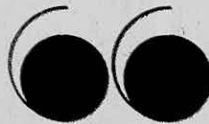
BORACAY ISLAND, AKLAN—Mayor Ciceron Cawaling of Malay town in Aklan province returned to his post on Wednesday morning amid fanfare, with hundreds of his supporters waving red flaglets and wearing campaign shirts in a caravan of motorcycles, tricycles and other vehicles along the main streets of the town before proceeding to the municipal hall.

Cawaling was in his office at 8 a.m. and resumed his functions after serving a six-month preventive suspension in relation to the administrative complaint filed against him and 16 other officials for their alleged negligence in the management of Boracay Island.

In the afternoon, as Cawaling was on his way to Metro Manila, officials of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) posted on his office an order from the Office of the Ombudsman dismissing the mayor from government service.

The Ombudsman decision dated April 15 found Cawaling and municipal licensing officer Jen Salsona guilty of grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, conduct unbecoming of a public official and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

The Ombudsman also or-



There is no reason for the timing and implementation of this order but political harassment

Ciceron Cawaling
Malay Mayor



dered the forfeiture of their retirement benefits and perpetual disqualification from government service.

The complaint against Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, Malay Vice Mayor Abram Sualog and Councilors Natalie Cawaling-Paderes, Jupiter Gallenero, Frolibar Bautista, Lloyd Maming, Dalidig Sumndad, Maylynn "Nenette" Aguirre-Graf, Danilo de los Santos and Dante Pagsuguiron were dismissed "for lack of substantial evidence."

The Ombudsman also dismissed the complaint against provincial environment and natural resources officer Valentin Talabero, the three former village chiefs of Boracay Island

(Hector Casidsid of Yapak, Lilibeth Sacapaño of Balabag and Chona Gabay of Manoc-Manoc), and municipal environment and natural resources officer Edgardo Sancho.

Harassment

Cawaling, who is seeking reelection, said he would consult with his lawyers on the legal actions he would take.

"But I will continue with my candidacy. There is no reason for the timing and implementation of this order but political harassment by my political rivals," he told the Inquirer on Thursday.

Cawaling can still appeal the dismissal order up to the Supreme Court and remains a can-

didate in the May 13 elections.

The Ombudsman ordered the preventive suspension of Cawaling on Oct. 25, 2018, on the eve of the reopening of Boracay to tourists after a six-month closure to undergo rehabilitation.

In June 2018, the DILG filed the complaint in the Office of the Ombudsman over the officials' alleged laxity in the issuance of building permits and their alleged failure to address illegal development activities on the resort island in Malay.

Degradation

Cawaling, who served as mayor from 2001 to 2010, is running for reelection under the Nacionalista Party against former Mayor John Yap of the Nationalist People's Coalition and independent candidate Rodgiet Ranara.

Many residents, business operators and environmentalists have blamed local officials as well as national government agencies and offices for decades of unregulated development and tourism activities that led to the environmental degradation of Boracay, the country's top tourist destination.

They are pushing for the creation of an administrative authority composed of experts and representatives from the public and private sectors to manage the island instead of being under the local governments of Malay and Aklan. INQ



Founded 1859

The Manila Times

17
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

26 APR 2019

DATE

Aklan mayor fired over Boracay mess

BY EUGENE Y. ADIONG

BACOLOD CITY: The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) dismissed from the service Mayor Ciceron Cawaling of Malay, Aklan for negligence over the management of Boracay Island.

On April 23, DILG-6 Regional Director Ariel Iglesia ordered Roy Defiño, DILG-Aklan director, and DILG-6 Legal Officer Cedric Jaranilla to enforce the dismissal order

signed by Ombudsman Samuel Martires.

The Ombudsman also fired municipal licensing officer Jen Salsona.

The case stemmed from an administrative complaint filed against 17 officials, including Cawaling and Salsona, after the closure of the island resort in 2018.

Also facing charges were Aklan environmental officer

Valentin Talabero, environmental officer Edgardo Sancho; *barangay* (village) chairmen Hector Casidsid of Yapak, Chona Gabay of Manocmanoc and Lilibeth Sacapaño of Balabag; Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores; Malay Vice Mayor Abram Sualog; and Malay council members Natalie Cawaling-Paderes, Jupiter Gallenero, Frolibar Bautista, Lloyd Maming, Dalidig

mandad, Maylynn Aguirre-Graf, Danilo delos Santos and Dante Pagsugiron.

The charges against them, however, were dismissed for lack of evidence.

Similarly, the counter charges for serious dishonesty, grave misconduct and oppression against DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing 3rd were also dismissed for lack of merit.

Densing filed the complaint

against the Aklan officials for allowing the illegal operation of some businesses in Boracay without a mayor's permit, allowing structures on no-build zones such as wetlands, tolerating violations of easement rules, issuing mayor's permit without the Fire Safety Inspection Certificate from the Bureau of Fire Protection and violating other laws and regulations.



DILG dismisses Malay town mayor, licensing officer for Boracay mess

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has formally served a dismissal order to Malay, Aklan, Mayor Ciceron S. Cawaling and the town's licensing officer for alleged gravem misconduct and other offenses that led to the environmental degradation of the world-renowned Boracay.

The pollution-challenged Boracay, a remote island in Malay, Aklan, was closed for six months—from April 26 to October 26—to pave way for its rehabilitation.

In a news statement, Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año said that the Office of the Ombudsman found Cawaling and Licensing Officer Jen F. Salsona also guilty of gross neglect of duty, conduct unbecoming of a public official and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of service.

Boracay's three island-barangays, Yapak, Manoc-Manoc, and Balabag were declared under a state of calamity by President Duterte who tagged the island paradise as "cesspool" because of the high level of fecal coliform of its surrounding waters. Boracay was also facing serious solid waste management problem, perennial flooding and severe traffic congestion.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) was formed to address Boracay's environmental degradation, and reported the massive encroachment of establishments in supposedly "no-build zones" like beachfront, forestland and wetlands, many of which with no per-

mit to do business. Many establishments were found to have violated the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

DILG Regional Director Ariel Iglesia of DILG Western Visayas served the Ombudsman dismissal order against Cawaling by posting it at the mayor's office.

The order was also received by the Business Permits and Licensing Office.

According to Año, the Ombudsman in its decision found substantial evidence against the duo considering that during their incumbency as local government officials, some establishments operated without the requisite fire safety inspection certificate and some did not even possess the necessary permits.

Some of the businesses also encroached upon the 25+5 meter easement and violated Malay Municipal Ordinance 2000-131.

"By not implementing this Ordinance, Cawaling violated Section 444 (b) (2) of Republic Act 7160, which commands him to enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the governance of the Municipality of Malay," the decision stated. The DILG chief said the dismissal order on Cawaling and Salsona comes with forfeiture of retirement benefits (except accrued leave credits) and perpetual disqualification for reemployment in the government service.

The Ombudsman's by decision was approved on April 22, 2019 Ombudsman Samuel R. Martires and was received by the DILG on the same day.

The case against Cawaling and Salsona stemmed from the admin-

istrative complaint filed by the DILG against 18 local government officials based on the findings of the Boracay Investigating Team (BIT).

The Office of the Ombudsman initially ordered a six-month preventive suspension, without pay, for alleged violation of the Local Government Code or Republic Act 7160, and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices or Republic Act 3019. Ironically, Cawaling received the preventive suspension order just a day before Boracay Island reopened to the public on October 26 following its six-month rehabilitation and the dismissal order two days ahead of the end of preventive suspension.

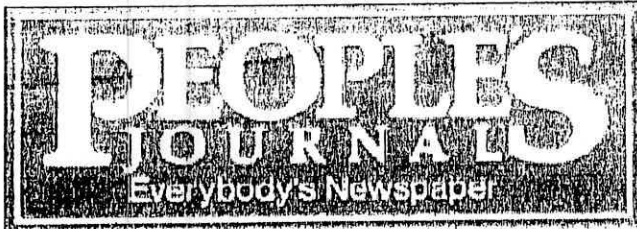
Interior Undersecretary and Spokesman Jonathan Malaya said that he hopes that the Ombudsman's decision will serve as a warning to all local chief executives that violation of environmental laws has serious repercussions.

"We hope that other LGUs will now be more proactive in protecting the environment and will not wait for the DILG to file cases against them. We urge other LGUs especially in the Manila Bay Watershed area to take their responsibilities seriously and work closely with the DILG in the rehabilitation and cleanup efforts," he said.

Malaya also said that the case lodged against Aklan Provincial Gov. Florencio T. Miraflores, Aklan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Valentin Talabero, Malay Vice Mayor Abram Sualog, and Malay Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Edgardo Sanchow was dismissed by the Ombudsman for lack of substantial evidence.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



13
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1 STORY
 BANNER STORY
 EDITORIAL
 CARTOON

26 APR 2019

DATE

Aklan mayor dismissed for Boracay negligence

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government yesterday said that the dismissal of Malay, Aklan Mayor Cicero Cawaling should serve as warning to all local government officials that abuse and misconduct are not tolerated under the leadership of Secretary Eduardo Año.

Cawaling and his licensing officer Jen Salsona were ordered dismissed from the service for grave misconduct and other offenses in connection with the environmental degradation of popular island paradise Boracay.

Año thanked Ombudsman Samuel Martires for acting with dispatch on the complaint filed by the DILG against Malay, Aklan officials for mismanaging the world-famous resort.

"We hope that local officials will not wait for the DILG to file cases against them just like what happened in Boracay, but will take proactive steps to follow the law and protect and preserve the environment in their respective localities," he said.

Año urged local government officials to work closely with the DILG, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism in protecting Boracay, the Manila Bay Watershed Area, and other critical areas in the country.

The DILG has renewed its commitment to the Manila Bay clean-up, rehabilitation, and preservation.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PEOPLES JOURNAL Tonight

7
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

26 APR 2019

DATE

DILG dismisses Aklan town mayor over Boracay crisis

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Wednesday served a dismissal order against Malay, Aklan Mayor Cicero S. Cawaling and the town's licensing officer for grave misconduct and other offenses that led to Boracay's environmental crisis.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said that the dismissal order was implemented in connection with

an Ombudsman decision which found Cawaling and Licensing Officer Jen F. Salsona also guilty of gross neglect of duty, conduct unbecoming of a public official, and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of service.

DILG Regional Director Ariel Iglesia of DILG Western Visayas served the Ombudsman dismissal order against Cawaling by posting it at the Mayor's office. The order was also received by

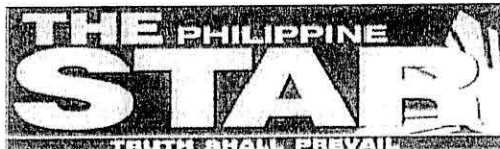
the Business Permits and Licensing Office.

According to Año, the Ombudsman in its decision found substantial evidence against the two considering that during their incumbency as local government officials some establishments operated without the requisite fire safety inspection certificate and some did not even possess the necessary permits.

Jun I. Legaspi



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



26 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

PNP eyes raps vs Porac execs, supermarket owner

1/2

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

Charges could be filed against local officials of Porac, Pampanga and the owner of a supermarket that collapsed during a strong earthquake last Monday, Philippine National Police

(PNP) chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde said yesterday. rac, could face a civil suit after at least 12 people died in the incident.

'Use calamity fund for repair of quake-damaged churches.' Story on Page 6.

He said Samuel Chu, owner of the four-story Chuzon Supermarket in Po- Chu and local officials who issued the building permits could face criminal

charges for reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and physical injuries if there is substantial evidence to prove that the supermarket was constructed using substandard materials.

Albayalde said Porac officials who

Turn to Page 12

issued the permits to the supermarket might have violated the Building Code.

He clarified that probers of the PNP Criminal Investi-

gation and Detection Group (CIDG) are still gathering statements from survivors and relatives of the dead as well as documents related to the

supermarket's construction.

"We will file a case once we get all the statements of those who are interested to file," Albayalde said.

He said they are also waiting for the assessment of engineers from the Department of

Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The PNP has activated search and rescue teams to assist in rescue operations in Porac, Pampanga.

Maj. Gen. Ma-O Aplasca, PNP director for operations,

ordered the deployment of teams from the National Capital Region Police Office, Special Action Force, Maritime Group, Crime Laboratory Ilocos Region police to assist in search and rescue.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) spokesman Edgar Posadas said that as of yesterday, there was no sign of life underneath the rubble.

"We are still on search and rescue operations as we have yet to account for the 14 individuals who were reported missing," Posadas said.

He said search and rescue continue floor to floor, starting from the rooftop of the establishment.

The operations, he added, will continue until the last areas where these missing individuals could possibly be found have been thoroughly searched.

"We Filipinos never say die. What's important for us now - good or bad - is to return the missing individuals to their respective families," Posadas.

He added that for now, all they could hope for is that the missing 14 were somewhere else and not inside the supermarket when the quake struck.

Five persons died while nine others were rescued from the Chozun Supermarket, where 86 others sustained injuries.

As of yesterday, the NDRRMC reported that 542 houses, 142 of them totalled, were damaged by the magnitude 6.1 quake that jolted Central Luzon, specifically Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales provinces.

The quake also affected 1,203 families or 4,991 individuals in the affected cities and towns in Central Luzon.

In Samar, 21 persons were injured when a magnitude 6.5 quake shook the province Tuesday. The strong tremor also affected 68 families or 272 persons from 13 villages in Eastern Samar.

The quake also damaged 67 houses, four of which were totally destroyed, the NDRRMC, in an updated report said.



2/2

Damaged bridges

Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said that three bridges, including the Guadalupe Bridge in Makati City, sustained minor cracks as a result of the magnitude 6.1 earthquake last Monday.

In a statement, Villar said that they have so far inspected 275 national bridges, flyovers and viaducts in Metro Manila wherein they noted three bridges to have sustained minor damage.

The Guadalupe Bridge had a crack on the girder while the Tenejeros and Tanza bridges both in Malabon City suffered minor cracks at the railings.

But the DPWH explained that the Guadalupe Bridge is already being prepared for major retrofitting under the department's Unified Project Management Office.

Tanza Bridge will undergo a second stage inspection while the minor damage on Tenejeros Bridge does not require immediate repair since the railings do not carry load.

The DPWH had also inspected 452 school buildings and 142 other public buildings in the metropolis.

A total of 53 school buildings in Metro Manila have minor damage, mostly cracks on walls, columns, beams and ceiling, but three school buildings in Las Piñas were recommended for immediate structural evaluation.

The DPWH identified one of the schools as the Las Piñas National High School (M. Vil-

lar Building) that reportedly sustained large cracks on the corridor wall and flooring from the second to third floor. Cracks were also seen at the separation of the wall from beam to column.

The other schools are the Las Piñas North National High School (Department of Education [DepEd] Building) found with multiple major cracks including wall near the stairs; while the Captain Albert Aguilar (CAA) National High School High School (annex building) had major cracks from ground floor to the second floor.

Villar said they are coordinating with DepEd for the restoration especially of structures with major damage.

DPWH-National Capital Region director Ador Canlas yesterday said that based on their ongoing assessment of national roads and bridges, Metro Manila sustained minor damage and only had "minimal impact" from the tremor last Monday.

Immediately after the quake, the department deployed rapid assessment teams to check on the condition of the national roads and bridges in the metropolis.

The DPWH also has an ongoing retrofitting program of bridges that helps strengthen these structures and ensure that they would be able to withstand strong earthquakes.

On the leaning building of the Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC) in Ermita, Manila, Canlas said there is a composite team conducting further investigation into the condition of the structure.

Immediately after seeing posts in social media that the EAC building along San Marcelino Street was leaning on another building, they sent a rapid assessment team and closed it off to students.

As to reports that parts of Metro Manila are prone to liquefaction, Canlas said that there are hazard maps, even those that pinpoint the areas prone to liquefaction, that are with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

But he believes that even if there are areas prone to liquefaction, there are remedies that would improve a building's resiliency against strong earthquakes. "As far as I know, there are building designs that have provisions for liquefaction factor, seismic factor and others."

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) pushed for the adoption of a new policy to protect workers during earthquake and other calamities.

TUCP president Raymond Mendoza said there are no existing government standards that address workplace safety and health during emergency situations such as earthquake, fire and other disasters.

Mendoza said mandatory workplace emergency protocol standards are necessary after the recent earthquake showed that many employers refused to evacuate their employees and maintained a business as usual attitude.

He said some companies adopt their own evacuation protocols and hire safety officers and implement safety evacuation plans voluntarily, but many firms do not have or are even unaware of such employee evacuation procedures.

- With Evelyn Macairan, Delon Porclla, Mayen Jaymalin, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Jaime Laude, Rainier Allan Ronda



Why not bamboo instead of large-scale dams?

COMMENTARY

ANA CELIA A. VER-PAPA

The Inquirer editorial on Holy Wednesday asked how much sacrifice it would require from the Dumagat Agta people, the Filipino taxpayers, and the environment if the Kaliwa Dam project meant to provide water to Metro Manila consumers would proceed. In the same issue was a report that the Manila Water Company's (MWC) chief operating officer, Geodino Carpio, had retired early.

Part of the area Kaliwa Dam would traverse is Laiban, Tanay, Rizal. We have worked with some of the people in the community including those in adjacent communities. There are many more families than the 46 that Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) administrator Reynaldo Velasco had claimed. About Carpio's early retirement, the report stated that in response to MWC's proposal to tap the Laguna Lake for the increasing demand from its east zone customers, Velasco had said: "There is no looming water shortage...."

The MWC and MWSS exchanges happened, it seems, only in 2018. But it wasn't just last year that we learned about global warming, climate change, El Niño and La Niña. Every year, government and non-government organizations would hold water conventions. Meanwhile, no one remembers the law on rainwater harvesting, while authorities almost always ignore rampant logging, mining, quarrying and garbage dumping. Poor forest guards are killed and communities suffer from the blasting of mountains, from erosion, landslides, toxic emissions, leachate and pollution of water bodies from garbage dumpsites.

The massive planting of bamboo could be an alternative to large-scale dams. A

bamboo seedling 2 feet high would grow much taller than a regular one-story setup in one year, and by then would have much water stored in its roots. A large dam would take at least three years to build, displace communities, and leave us heavily indebted. With bamboo stands in as many areas as possible, groundwater supply would increase and be easily tapped from small water-impounding dams, shallow tube wells, irrigation canals and the like, without risking subsidence—just one of the many benefits derived from bamboo.

Small-scale water sources are safe; large dams overflow during storms, inundate communities and destroy lives and property, as happens when water from the Angat and La Mesa dams is released during rainstorms.

Big business must help arrest the deteriorating condition of the environment, by designing and carrying out a truly ecological business orientation that will preserve and protect our water, land, air, as well as human resources increasingly threatened by the ever-expanding commercial and residential complexes owned by big business. Many of these complexes encroach on converted, prime agricultural land and watersheds—with the consent of government.

Big business and government should work together to repair the damage. Plant bamboo, for example, and more trees in as many areas as possible; restore mangroves

and harvest rainwater; guard watersheds from illegal loggers, quarrying, mining and garbage dumping; initiate and invest in ecological resource management projects, and manufacture environment-friendly products and packaging; introduce, develop, adopt innovative processes that will recycle and reuse environment-friendly materials, and conserve raw materials like water and energy; reduce waste; prevent pollution and other environmentally destructive consequences; and so on.

Only in a sound environment, where the greater majority of the people are safe, healthy and have purchasing power, can business thrive, and government rule, best.

Mr. President, we could still back out of the Kaliwa and Chico River Dam loans.

China, listen: Why destroy our giant clams, a process that is also destroying other resources in the waters you want to claim? Your environment will also be destroyed in the long run, because there are no boundaries in nature and your people will suffer because wealth wrested from us poor Filipinos will not serve your people well; they need more than just material wealth. But you have the most extensive bamboo forests in the world, the most beautiful buildings made of bamboo, plus so much more, in addition to your great people. Even with bamboo alone, you could regain your position in history as one of the greatest civilizations of the world.

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COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
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TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

UN urges: Tackle climate change

Marking International Mother Earth Day, the United Nations (UN) debated how best to build “an equitable and sustainable future” for all, through enhanced education and climate action, on the road to a key international

summit on the issue due to take place in September.

Billed officially as an Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature, the UN General Assembly session involved member states and top officials discussing the need to take urgent action against the pace of global warming, in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, to keep carbon dioxide emissions to well-below two degrees Celsius.

In a tweet to mark Earth Day, UN chief António Guterres said it was vital “every day” to “commit to taking better care of our planet. Please do everything in your power to tackle climate change – the defining issue of our time,” he said.

“Climate change is one of the largest threats to sustainable development globally,” said the concept note prepared for the General Assembly meeting, “and is just one of many imbalances caused by the unsustainable actions of humankind, with direct implications for future generations.”

President of the General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, said that taking care of nature was, in essence, “taking care of people.” She also noted the importance of respecting life-cycles of the natural world, and contributing to biological diversity so that the world can “continue and prosper.”

“We are the last generation that can prevent irreparable damage to the planet and to its inhabitants,” she tweeted. “We are at a crossroads; this is the moment in which we decide the path we wish to take, to avoid reaching a point of no return in global warming. We already know the results of inaction.”