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PH not a garbage dumpsite – Duterte

By **ARGYLL B. GEDUCOS**

President Duterte has reminded other countries that the Philippines is not a place where they can dispose of their garbage on, saying they should have the basic respect for other sovereign nations.

Duterte issued the statement almost a week after Canada retrieved the garbage a private firm shipped to the Philippines six years ago.

In a speech in Davao City, Duterte reiterated that he was not joking when he threatened to declare war if the North American country will not take back their trash.

The President also said that the decision to ship garbage to other countries all boils down to respect.

"It's a matter of respect. Kung gawain mo lang akong basurahan dito, p***** i** (If you will just treat our country like a garbage bin)..." he said.

"Akala nila nagbibiro ako. Sabi ko sa kanila, isauli ko 'yan pag hindi tayo nagkaintindihan (They think I was kidding. I told them that I will return their garbage and we can't agree on it), I will declare war," he added.

Duterte also revealed plans that he would have ordered the Philippine Navy to take the trash back to Canada if no one made a move to make it happen.

"Kasi kung walang barko magkaraga ng basura, ang navy ang tawagin

ko, Philippine Navy, as Filipinos insulted we will... Karga mo 'yang basurahan, pumunta tayo ng Canada, ihulog mo diyan sa pantalan nila (If there were no ships we can use to ship it, I will call the Philippine Navy to take it to Canada and dump it in their shores)," he said.

"And then, of course, the navy and the police will start to arrest my navy men. Baka magbarilan pa. 'Di kung magbarilan, o 'di mag-giyera tayo. Hindi naman ako papayag nang ganun lang (They may even exchange gunshots. It will end up in a war. If that happens then we'll really go to war. I cannot just let that happen)," he added.

"Whether I like it or not, you accept your garbage because I'm going to send it to you and I will just discharge it in your water. Arestuhin ninyo 'yung sundalo ko, giyera tayo (Arrest my soldiers, then we will go to war)," he continued.

In 2013, a total of 55 container vans of garbage from Canada were discovered by Customs authorities in the Manila seaport. The shipments were allowed into the country because they were allegedly disguised as recyclable plastics.

In late April, President Duterte threatened to declare war against Canada if they will not get back the trash they shipped to the Philippines almost six years ago. Canada, in response, vowed to retrieve their garbage.

Rody on Canada trash: It's about respect

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

Compelling Canada to take back its garbage was all about exacting respect from a sovereign nation and friend, President Duterte said on Wednesday, while emphasizing he was serious about declaring war with the North American nation had it shown defiance.

In remarks at the Eid'l Fitr celebration, Duterte said some Filipinos find his actions and decisions unacceptable because he thinks differently from Westerners.

"It's a matter of respect. If you make us garbage dump (expletive), and they thought I was joking – I told them I would send the garbage back if we don't reach an agreement, I will declare war," the President

said in Filipino.

He said Canada should show respect, as he lamented that the media portrayed his outburst as plain "braggadocio and hubris" because "they don't know me."

When Canada was hesitating to take back its garbage – contained in 69 containers – Duterte said he was already thinking of sending it back on Philippine Navy ships, with instructions to dump it in Canadian ports or in its waters. He said he acknowledged that it would be too hard to get a private vessel to handle the shipment.

He stressed he was prepared for possible hostile actions by the Canadians.

"And then of course, the Navy and the police will start to arrest my Navy men. *Baka*

magbarilan pa. 'Di kung magbarilan, o 'di mag-giyera tayo. Hindi naman ako papayag nang ganun lang (There might be shooting, and if there's shooting, we will fight. I can't just let it pass)," he said.

"Whether I like it or not, you accept your garbage because I'm going to send it to you and I will just discharge it in your water," Duterte said, addressing the Canadian government.

Canada eventually allowed the return of the garbage imported by a private firm between 2013 and 2014. The garbage was shipped back to Ottawa last May 31.

The return of the garbage prompted the Department of Foreign Affairs to send back Philippine diplomats to Canada who had been recalled at

the height of the controversy.

Where are the others?

While the issue appears to have ended on a happy note, EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero said the Bureau of Customs (BOC) should disclose how some of the unreturned garbage had been disposed of.

"BOC has to tell the people where the Canadian wastes in eight container vans went, noting that only 26 were landfilled in Kalangitan, Capas, Tarlac," Lucero said.

"Full disclosure is important to clear the air as we pursue a complete ban on foreign waste importation and disposal to protect the public health and the environment

from the negative effects of the global waste trade," she said.

The group raised the matter to the BOC through an e-mail sent last April 30.

In his response, BOC spokesman Erastus Sandino Austria confirmed that out of the 103 shipping containers of Canadian garbage, 34 were locally disposed of.

Of the 34, 26 were brought to the Tarlac landfill while the whereabouts of the eight containers are still being determined.

On May 15, the EcoWaste Coalition filed an online Freedom of Information request to press the BOC to divulge information pertaining to the local disposal of the eight containers, which the group also forwarded to Austria.

"Rest assured that the mat-

ter is being looked into and verified with concerned offices," wrote Customs Operations Officer Genilyn Minardo in response to EcoWaste's inquiry coursed through Austria.

Environmental groups were worried about the BOC's supposedly not acting fast enough on their request for information regarding the unaccounted garbage shipment.

"Were the mixed plastic wastes incinerated or used as fuel in cement kilns? We are concerned as the burning of unsorted wastes, especially those containing chlorinated and hazardous materials, can produce harmful environmental pollutants such as dioxins," said Sonia Mendoza, chair of Mother Earth Foundation. – **With Jess Diaz, Rhodina Villanueva**



'Beware. Expect more trash shipments'

By Maricel V. Cruz

HOUSE senior deputy minority leader and Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza has warned of a likely increase in containerized foreign garbage shipments headed to the Philippines.

"We've been targeted as a dumping

ground owing to our inadequate controls at the various ports of entry," said Atienza, a former Environment secretary.

"North America and Europe are looking for new destinations for their unwanted materials after China banned the importation of used plastics and other recyclables."

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Where are the other eight container vans of smuggled Canadian waste?

Meanwhile, various environmentalist groups on Friday asked where the other eight container vans of smuggled Canadian waste had gone on Friday, a week after 69 of the 103 seized container vans of garbage left the port of Subic on their way back to the North American country.

"The Bureau of Customs has to tell the people where the Canadian waste in eight container vans went, noting that only 26 were landfilled in Kalangitan, Capas, Tarlac," said Ecowaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero.

Chinese recyclers used to import and process much of the Western world's reusable waste, according to Atienza.

But Atienza said China's "National Sword" policy, adopted in January 2018, put Chinese recyclers out of business.

"Just like prohibited drugs, contaminated trash in shipping containers are sneaking into our ports mainly due to corruption and ineffective checks," said Atienza, a three-term mayor of Manila.

Canada recently pulled out 69 shipping

containers of garbage, mostly plastic and household kitchen waste, unlawfully deposited in the Philippines.

This was after President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to ship back and dump the trash in Canadian territorial waters, and after Manila began downgrading diplomatic ties with Ottawa.

The Philippines also recently shipped back 2.6 tons of shredded electronic and plastic waste from Hong Kong that arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Atienza urged the Bureau of Customs to enforce the compulsory pre-shipment inspection or PSI of containerized imports in order to thwart all contraband trying to enter the country, including illegal trash and narcotics.

PSI is the practice used by governments, mostly in developing countries, of requiring importers to engage accredited third-party surveyors to verify shipment details, such as the price, quantity and quality of goods, before cargoes depart the exporting country.

The practice compensates for inadequacies in the importing country's customs and other administrative controls, and discourages the undervaluation of taxable shipments from abroad. **With Joel E. Zurbano**



Beware of sneaking garbage



FINALLY, after six long years, the country bid goodbye to Canada's trash. Not only did we get rid of an unwanted importation. By standing up to a powerful country like Canada, we now could hold our heads up high.

However, it seems imported trash still seems to be threatening us and the moment we lower our guards, we could find our country serving as dump for some other countries.

This was after outgoing House senior deputy minority leader and Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza warned of a likely increase in containerized foreign garbage shipments headed to the Philippines in the months ahead.

According to Atienza, the Philippines is being targeted as a dumping ground due mainly to our inadequate controls at various ports of entry.

Aggravating the situation, Atienza said, is China's ban on the importation of used plastics and other recyclables, which North America and Europe are producing at a ginormous rate.

With Chinese recyclers who used to import and process much of the Western world's reusable waste closing ships, North America and Europe are now looking for new destinations for their unwanted materials.

“The Philippines is being targeted as a dumping ground due mainly to our inadequate controls at various ports of entry, according to a lawmaker.”

This was put in effect after China adopted the “National Sword” policy, in January 2018.

As such, trash, just like prohibited drugs, are sneaking into our ports mainly due to corruption and ineffective checks, according to the former three-term mayor of Manila.

Recall that Canada recently pulled out 69 shipping containers of garbage, mostly plastics and household kitchen waste, unlawfully deposited in the Philippines.

This was after President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to ship back and dump the trash in Canadian territorial waters, and after Manila began downgrading diplomatic ties with Ottawa.

The Philippines also recently shipped back 2.6 tons of shredded electronic and plastic waste from Hong Kong that arrived at the Mindanao Container Termi-

nal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

To prevent future occurrences, Atienza urged the Bureau of Customs to enforce the compulsory pre-shipment inspection (PSI) of containerized imports in order to thwart all contraband trying to enter the country, including illegal trash and narcotics.

PSI is the practice used by governments, mostly in developing countries, of requiring importers to engage accredited third-party surveyors to verify shipment details, such as the price, quantity and quality of goods, before cargoes depart the exporting country.

The practice compensates for inadequacies in the importing country's customs and other administrative controls, and discourages the undervaluation of taxable shipments from abroad.

The PSI of containerized shipments would also put an end to chronic corruption at the BOC that costs the National Treasury tens of billions of pesos in lost import taxes every year, according to Atienza.

At present, the BOC only requires the PSI of all bulk and break-bulk cargo, or commodities—mostly in liquid, granular or particulate form—shipped in large quantities, such as crude oil, petroleum, grain, coal and the like.

Atienza estimates that the BOC could easily increase its annual tax collection by 50 percent once PSI is in place for containerized imports.

We hope this could be put in place as surely don't want to end up as another dump for another country.



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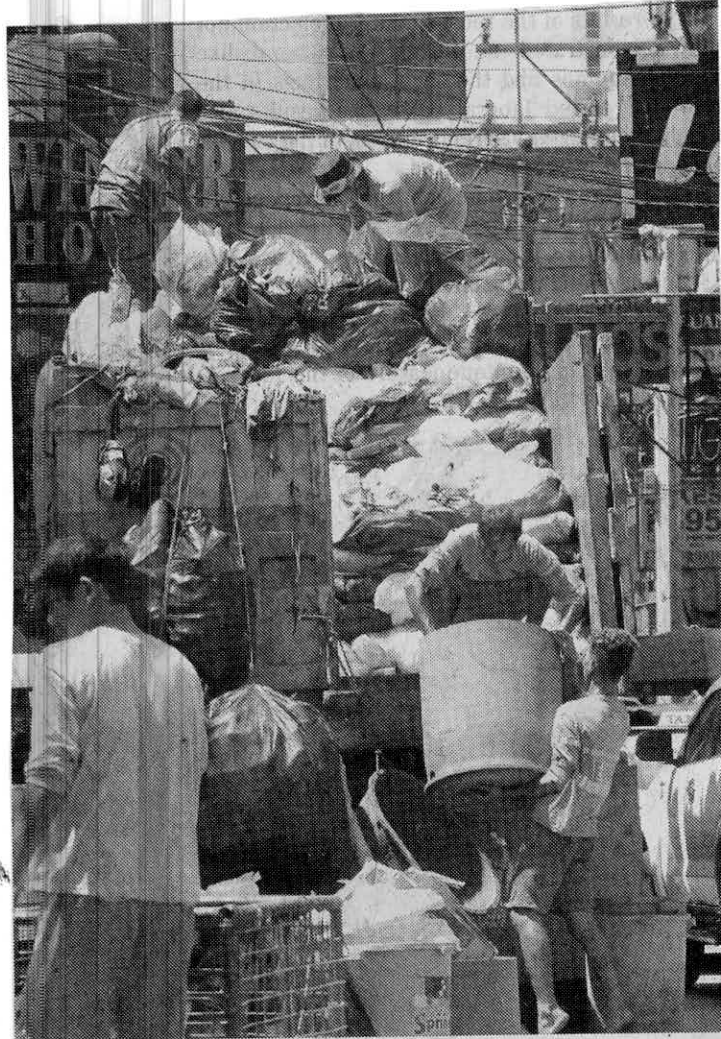


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Moonlighting Garbage men earn extra money by segregating plastic bottles and other items that can be sold to junk shops during their daily rounds.

ANALY LABOR



Navy could've sailed to Canada

President Rodrigo Duterte said he was not joking when he threatened to declare war against Canada over the mountain of garbage dumped in the country despite the retrieval of tons of hazardous wastes from Manila, which are already on their way back to Canadian shores.

"That garbage, it's a matter of respect. If you're going to make me a dump site, damn

you. They thought I was kidding. I told them I will ship it back. If we don't come to terms, I will declare war," he exclaimed.

"Of course, in media, I seem to brag, *hubris*. But don't they know me already?" he said in a speech.

Duterte repeatedly slammed the Canadian government over the garbage issue, which caused a six-year dispute between the Philippines and Canada.

The government earlier recalled its representatives in Canada and banned its officials from traveling there after the latter missed the 15 May deadline within which to take back the waste. It later lifted the ban after the waste was picked up by two vessels.

In his speech, the President said had not the Canadian government agreed to tap a private shipping company to take back the containers of trash, he would have directed the Philippine Navy to deliver the cargo.

Navy could've sailed

"If there was no available ship to carry the trash, I would summon the Philippine Navy. As Filipinos we felt insulted. Load that garbage, let's sail to Canada and drop them on their docks," said the President.

Not all were returned because at least 26 of the 103 containers have already been used as landfill.

He went on to say that he first wanted to declare war against Canada back in April over the mislabeled cargo out of frustration that it has been years since the illegally shipped trash arrived in the country but nothing was done about it.

A total of 103 containers consisting of household trash, plastic bottles and even adult diapers were shipped to the country without the government's consent between 2013 and 2014. Just last week, the government started sending the remaining 69 containers of trash back to its origin.

If there was no available ship to carry the trash, I would summon the Philippine Navy.

Not all were returned because at least 26 of the 103 containers have already been used as landfill in Kalangitan, Capas, Tarlac.

Where it's at

Meanwhile, an advocacy group prompted the Bureau of Customs (BoC) to disclose to the public where the Canadian wastes in eight container vans went, noting that only 26 were used as landfill in Tarlac.

The group requested the BoC to release relevant information as regards the disposal of the waste through an e-mail sent last 30 April. In response, BoC spokesperson Erastus Sandino Austria confirmed that out of the 103 shipping containers of Canadian garbage, 34 were locally disposed of while the remaining 69 containers were shipped back to Canada on 31 May on board *MV Bavaria*.

According to the waste and pollution watchdog, full disclosure is important "to clear the air" as it pursues the complete ban on foreign waste importation and disposal. It also noted that the hazardous waste, if not properly disposed of, can produce harmful environmental pollutants.

The BoC assured the Eco Waste Coalition that the matter is being looked into.

Kristina Maralit



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Rody's war threat with Canada no joke

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has said he was really ready for war had Canada failed to take back the garbage it had shipped to the Philippines six years ago.

In a speech in Davao City Thursday night, Duterte said, "Akala nila nagbibiro ako. Sabi ko sa kanila, isauli ko 'yan 'pag hindi tayo nagkaintindihan, I will declare war."

"Akala naman siguro nitong -- well of course sa media -- braggadocio, hambog ba, hubris. Hindi man nila ako kilala," Duterte added.

Duterte said he had planned to order the Philippine Navy to dump the trash back to Canada, fully aware that this could result in shots fired.

"Kasi kung walang barko, magkarga ng basura, ang Navy ang tawagin ko, Philippine Navy. Karga mo 'yang basurahan, pumunta tayo ng Canada, ihulog mo diyan sa pantalan nila," Duterte added.

"And then of course, the Navy and the police will start to arrest my Navy men. Baka magbarilan pa. 'Di kung magbarilan, o 'di mag-giyera tayo. Hindi naman ako papayag nang ganun lang," the President stated.

As a presidential candidate in 2016, one of Duterte's most famous campaign promises was that he would ride a jetski to plant a flag on a disputed island in the South China Sea to assert the country's sovereignty amid encroachment from China.

After he became president, Duterte dismissed the vow as hyperbole and nonsense.

Sixty-nine container vans filled with some 2,000 tons of trash finally left the country last May 31 on board a Maersk Bavaria.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin, Jr. said Canada paid for the fumigation, loading, and shipping -- all estimated to cost around 10 million.



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Atienza warns of more trash shipments to PH

By RYAN PONCE PACPACO

A FORMER secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-turned opposition House leader yesterday warned of a likely increase in containerized foreign garbage shipments headed to the Philippines in the months ahead.

"We've been targeted as a dumping ground owing to our inadequate controls at various ports of entry," said House senior Deputy Minority Leader and Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay) party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, who was DENR secretary during the Arroyo administration.

"North America and Europe are looking for new destinations for their unwanted materials after China banned the importation of used plastics and other recyclables," said Atienza.

Chinese recyclers used to import and process much of the Western world's reusable waste, according to Atienza.

But Atienza said China's "National Sword" policy, adopted in January 2018, put Chinese recyclers out of business.

"Just like prohibited

drugs, contaminated trash in shipping containers are sneaking into our ports mainly due to corruption and ineffective checks," said Atienza, a former three-term mayor of Manila, said.

Canada recently pulled out 69 shipping containers of garbage, mostly plastics and household kitchen waste, unlawfully deposited in the Philippines.

This was after President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to ship back and dump the trash in Canadian territorial waters, and after Manila began downgrading diplomatic ties with Ottawa.

The Philippines also recently shipped back 2.6 tons of shredded electronic and plastic waste from Hong Kong that arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Atienza urged the Bureau of Customs (BoC) to enforce the compulsory pre-shipment inspection (PSI) of containerized imports in order to thwart all contraband trying to enter the country, including illegal trash and narcotics.

PSI is the practice used by governments, mostly in developing countries, of requiring importers to engage accredited third-party surveyors to verify ship-

ment details, such as the price, quantity and quality of goods, before cargoes depart the exporting country.

The practice compensates for inadequacies in the importing country's customs and other administrative controls, and discourages the undervaluation of taxable shipments from abroad.

"We are counting on PSI to effectively prevent not only illegal waste and drug shipments, but also the widespread smuggling of high-value farm products, cars, electronics, apparel and what have you, stashed in containers," Atienza said.

The PSI of containerized shipments would also put an end to chronic corruption at the BoC that costs the National Treasury tens of billions of pesos in lost import taxes every year, according to Atienza.

"Only those engaged in smuggling as well as rotten officials are op-



posed to PSI, because they stand to lose a lot of money from their rackets at the BOC," Atienza said.

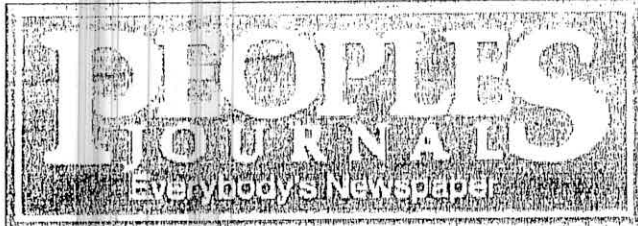
At present, the BoC only requires the PSI of all bulk and break-bulk cargo, or commodities – mostly in liquid, granular or particulate form – shipped in large quantities, such as crude oil, petroleum, grain, coal and the like.

Atienza estimates that the BoC could easily increase its annual tax collection by 50 percent once PSI is in place for containerized imports.





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Duterte says war threat vs Canada not idle

By Efren Montano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has said he was really ready for war had Canada failed to take back the garbage it had shipped to the Philippines six years ago.

In a speech in Davao City Thursday night, Duterte said, "Akala nila nagbibiro ako. Sabi ko sa kanila, isauli ko 'yan 'pag hindi tayo nagkaintindihan, I will declare war."

"Akala naman siguro nitong — well of course sa media — braggadocio, hambog ba, hubris. Hindi man nila ako kilala," he added.

Duterte said he had planned to order the Philippine Navy to dump the trash in Canada, fully aware that this could result in shots fired.

"Kasi kung walang barko, magkargang basura, ang navy ang tawagin ko, Philippine Navy, as Filipinos insulted we will... Karga mo 'yang basurahan, pumunta tayo

ng Canada, ihulog mo diy-an sa pantalan nila," he said.

"And then of course, the navy and the police will start to arrest my navy men. Baka magbarilan pa. 'Di kung magbarilan, o 'di mag-giyera tayo. Hindi naman ako papayag nang ganun lang," he added.

As a presidential candidate in 2016, one of Duterte's most famous campaign promises was that he would ride a jetski to plant a flag on a disputed island in the South China Sea to assert the country's sovereignty amid encroachment from China. After he became president, he dismissed the vow as hyperbole.

Sixty-nine container vans filled with some 2,000 tons of trash finally left the country last May 31 on board a Maersk Bavaria ship. Foreign Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin, Jr. said Canada paid for the fumigation, loading, and shipping — all estimated to cost around 10 million.

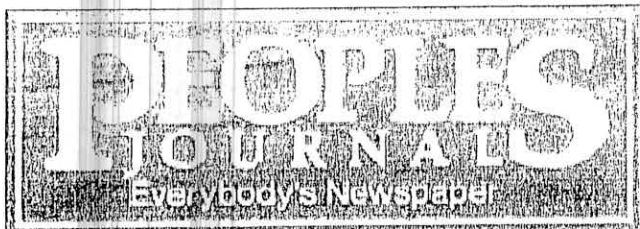
But since Canada missed Duterte's May 15 deadline, the government earlier recalled the Philippine ambassador and consuls in Canada and banned all official trips to the North American country. These orders have since been lifted when the waste was shipped.

More than 2,500 tons of trash was illegally shipped in batches from 2013 to 2014 by Canadian-based firm Chronic Plastics, Inc. The company declared the trash in 103 container vans as "recyclable plastic scraps," but authorities found municipal solid wastes which should be immediately disposed of and cannot be recycled.

Aside from the 69 trash-filled vans that were returned, 34 were earlier disposed of, but environmental group EcoWaste Coalition said only 26 have been accounted for. It is urging the government to disclose where the remaining eight container vans of garbage were dumped.



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Keep out foreign trash — solon

FEARING more Philippine-bound foreign garbage, a veteran solon is calling for a stricter inspection of imports entering the ports.

Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza is proposing compulsory pre-shipment inspection of containerized imports to stop illegal trash cargo from abroad.

Atienza has warned of a likely increase in containerized foreign garbage shipments headed to the Philippines in the months ahead.

"We've been targeted as a dumping ground owing to our inadequate controls at various ports of entry," Atienza said.

"North America and Europe are looking for new destinations for their unwanted materials after China banned the importation of used plastics and other recyclables," he added.

According to Atienza, Chinese recyclers used to import and process much of the Western world's reusable waste.

But Atienza said that China's "National Sword" policy, adopted in January 2018, put Chinese recyclers out of business.

"Just like prohibited drugs, contaminated trash in shipping containers are sneaking into our ports mainly due to corruption and ineffective checks," he said.

Festering waste issue

Responding to the query of Ecowaste Coalition (EWC) on the supposed eight

container vans of wastes left behind after tons of illegal garbage were sent back to Canada, Bureau of Customs Spokesperson Erastus Sandino Austria said that out of the 103 shipping containers of Canadian garbage, 34 were locally disposed of while the remaining 69 containers were shipped back to Canada on May 31 on board MV Bavaria.

On May 15, EWC filed an online Freedom of Information request to press the BOC to divulge information pertaining to the local disposal of the eight containers, which the group also forwarded to Austria.

Austria then referred the matter to the "BOC-focal person on the Canada Wastes matter thru the Inter-agency Committee Secretariat of the Bureau of Customs for their appropriate action."

"Rest assured that the matter is being looked into and verified with concerned offices," wrote Customs Operations Officer Genilyn Minardo in response to the forwarded message by Austria from the waste and pollution group.

The slowness in getting the requested information, which should be readily available in the BOC database, is making environmental advocates more curious as to how and where the wastes in eight containers were disposed of.

Jester P. Manalastas, Joel dela Torre



Pagtatapon ng basura ng ibang bansa 'matter of respect' –Duterte

Pinaalalahanan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang ibang bansa na ang Pilipinas ay hindi isang lugar na maaari nilang pagtapunan ng kanilang basura, sinabi na dapat silang magkaroon ng respeto sa ibang bansa.

Ginawa ni Duterte ang pahayag halos isang linggo matapos hakutin ng Canada ang basurang dinala ng isang pribadong kumpanya sa Pilipinas anim na taon na ang nakalipas.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa Davao City, muling idiniin ni Duterte na hindi

siya nagbibiro nang magbanta siyang magdedeklara ng giyera kapag hindi binawi ng bansang North American ang kanilang basura.

Sinabi rin ng Pangulo na ang desisyong ibiyahe ang basura sa ibang bansa ay nag-uugat sa respeto.

"It's a matter of respect. Kung gawain mo lang akong basurahan dito, p***** i**..." aniya.

"Akala nila nagbibiro ako. Sabi ko sa kanila, isauli ko 'yan' pag hindi tayo nagkaintindihan, I

will declare war," dugtong niya.

Ibinunyag din ni Duterte na utusan niya ang Philippine Navy na ibalik ang basura sa Canada kung walang ibang kumilos para gawin ito.

"Kasi kung walang barko, magkarga ng basura, ang navy ang tawagin ko, Philippine Navy, as Filipinos insulted we will... Karga mo 'yang basurahan, pumunta tayo ng Canada, ihulog mo diyan sa pantalan nila," aniya.

Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos



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Duterte: PH not dumping ground of foreign garbage

President Duterte reminded other countries Thursday that the Philippines is not a dumping ground of their garbage and said that they should have this basic respect to sovereign nations.

Duterte, speaking in Davao City a week after Canada retrieved the garbage that a private firm shipped to the Philippines six years ago, reiterated that he was not joking when he threatened to declare war if the North American country will not take back their trash.

The President also said that the decision to ship garbage to other countries all boils down to respect.

"It's a matter of respect. Kung gawain mo lang akong basurahan dito, p***** i**," he said. "Akala nila nagbibiro ako. Sabi ko sa kanila, isauli ko 'yan 'pag hindi tayo nagkaintindihan, I will declare war," he added.

Duterte said that he would have ordered the Philippine Navy to take the trash back to Canada if no one made a move to make it happen.

"Kasi kung walang barko, magkarga ng basura, ang Navy ang tawagin ko, Philippine Navy, as Filipinos insulted we will...Karga mo 'yang basurahan, pumunta tayo ng Canada, ihulog mo diyan sa pantalan nila," he said.

"And then, of course, the navy and the police will start to arrest my Navy men. Baka magbarilan pa. 'Di kung magbarilan, o 'di mag-giyera tayo. Hindi naman ako papayag nang ganun lang," he added. **(Argyll Geducos)**



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Dahil sa basura

War threat sa Canada seryoso - Digong

Iginiit ni Pangulong Duterte na seryoso ang kanyang bantang giyera laban sa Canada dahil ginawa tayong tapunan ng kanilang basura taliwas sa sinasabi ng spokesman nitong 'figure of speech' lamang ang pagdedeklara ng giyera.

"It's a matter of respect. Gawain mo lang ako basurahan dito, p****.***. At akala nila nagbibiro ako. Sabi ko sa kanila isauli ko yan pag hindi tayo nagkaintindihan I will declare war.

Akala naman siguro nitong, of course sa media, hambog ba, hubris. Hindi ba nila ako kilala?" wika ng Pangulo.

Magugunita na pabalik na sa Canada ang may 69 containers na naglalaman ng toneladang basura na itinambak ng Canada noong 2013 sa Pilipinas.

"Whether you like it or not, you have to accept your garbage because I'm going to send it to you and I will just discharge it in your water, Arestuhin

ninyo sundalo ko? Giyera tayo. Yan ang ibig kong sabihin, hindi nila nakuha," dagdag pa ni Pangulong Duterte.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo na ang ginawang pagbabanta ng Pangulo ay isang "expression of outrage".

"I don't think any country would want to trigger another world war kasi all of us will get annihilated, nuclear eh," sabi pa ni Panelo. (*Rudy Andala*)



Kaya nagbanta ng giyera: Duterte nainsulto sa basura ng Canada

ANG kawalan ng respeto ng Canada sa Pilipinas ang nagtulak kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para magbanta ng giyera kung hindi hahakutin ang kanilang basura pabalik sa kanilang bansa.

Sinabi ng Pangulo sa kanyang talumpati sa selebrasyon ng Eid'l Fitr sa Davao City Huwebes nang gabi na ang ginawa ng Canada ay kawalan ng respeto at hindi siya papayag na gawing basurahan ang Pilipinas.

Hindi aniya katanggap-tanggap ang ginawang pagbalewala ng Canada sa ilang beses na panawagan ng gobyerno na ha-

kutin ang kanilang basura kaya kinailangan niyang magtakda ng deadline at magbanta ng giyera.

"Kaya ako, you have to prick into my mind why sometimes I react against certain acts of Westerners which I think is not acceptable to the few Filipinos. It's a matter of respect. Kung gawain mo lang akong basurahan dito, p***** i**. At akala nila nagbibiro ako. Sabi ko sa kanila, isauli ko 'yan 'pag hindi tayo nagkaintindihan, I will declare war," anang Pangulo.

Kung hindi aniya nakakita ng barkong pagsasakyan ng mga basura, aatasan niya ang Philip-

pine Navy para siyang magsaoli at kapag pumalag ang Canada ay tiyak magkaka-giyera.

"Kasi kung walang barko, magkarga ng basura, ang navy ang tawagin ko, Philippine Navy, as Filipinos insulted we will... Karga mo 'yang basurahan, pumunta tayo ng Canada, ihulog mo diyan sa pantalan nila."

"And then of course, the navy and the police will start to arrest my navy men. Baka magbarilan pa. 'Di kung magbarilan, o 'di mag-giyera tayo. Arestuhin ninyo 'yung sundalo ko, giyera tayo," dagdag ng Pangulo. **(Aileen Taliping)**





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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Abante

UNA SA BALITA



08 JUN 2010

'Pinas pangatlong pinakamaraming basura sa dagat

NASA ikatlong puwesto ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa na may pinakamaraming plastik na basura na inanod at nagbibigay ng polusyon sa karagatan.

Ito ang lumabas sa survey isinagawa ng Wall Street Journal base sa metriko tonelada ng basura na nakuha sa 12 bansa.

Nanguna umano sa mga bansa na nagbigay ng pinakamaraming polusyon sa karagatan ay ang China at pumangalawa naman ang Indonesia.

Habang pumang apat naman ang Vietnam, sinundan ng Sri Lanka, Egypt, Thailand, Malaysia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Brazil at United States.

Ang mga basurang plastik na nakuha sa karagatan ng China ay umabot umano sa 3.53 milyon metrikong tonelada.

Habang sa Indonesia ay 1.29 milyon metrikong tonelada at Pilipinas 750,000 metriko toneladang basura. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



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Villagers protest as stench from landfill spreads

CEBU CITY (PNA) – A barangay councilman said the stench from a sanitary landfill in an upland community in this city has spread to the adjacent village.

Ramil Ayuman, a councilman of Apas village who helped the villagers in Binaliw petition the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Central Visayas to close the landfill, said on Thursday that residents in Barangay Panoytoy, Consolacion, have been complaining about the stench.

Ayuman said a stream that runs from Binaliw to Panoytoy that used to be a laundry bay for the residents there has been polluted with the landfill's effluent or liquid waste.

Aside from residents and several barangay officials who signed the petition against the landfill owned and managed by ARN Central Waste Management Inc., folks from neighboring Barangay of Pit-os are also conducting a signature campaign against the firm, Ayuman also said in his Facebook post.

"The Protect Binaliw Movement will not stop in its quest to question the existence of the landfill in the said upland village in this city," he said.

According to him, he has been protesting against the landfill to protect the interest of hundreds of residents who were his former constituents in Apas and who relocated in Binaliw, when their homes were demolished years ago.

He urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the EMB, to look into the plight of the residents in Binaliw.

The landfill has an existing agreement with the city government to operate a material recovery facility (MRF).

Environmental compliance officers from EMB conducted a technical conference at their office in Mandaue City on Thursday to hear the complaints of Binaliw officials headed by Councilwoman Daisy Ybañez.

William Cuñado, EMB regional director, said in his invitation letter to Ybañez posted in Ayuman's social media page that the conference aims to reach an agreement between the residents and the landfill operator, he said.

Ayuman said Barangay chief Viviane Ruste did not sign the petition because she is in favor of the landfill operation in the barangay.

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Tambak na Basura sa Kanal

Bago ang opisyal na tag-ulan ngayong second week ng Hunyo ang mga kanal ay dapat malinis na.

Kailangang tanggalin na ang mga nakabarang dumi na potensyal na magiging dahilan ng pagbaha lalo na sa mga malalapit na lugar sa iyong bahay o property.

Ang mga tambak na nakaharang na mga basura lamang ang mga puwedeng pagmulan ng mga baha sa kumunidad.

Kadalasan, ang mga basura sa kalsada na kapag hindi na-manage ay tiyak ang agos ng tubig na kasabay ang plastic, bote, at iba't ibang materyales na direktso sa kanal.

Ang magandang magagawa ay makipag-coordinate sa mga homeowners's association na linisin ang mga kanal. Kung kailangang magtambak ng mga semento sa gilid ng kalsada o kanal upang maharang agad ang ilang basura.

Magandang idea rin ang paglalagay ng net o malalaking strainer upang hindi diretsong mag-shoot sa kanal

ang mga basura.

Kung malapit sa creek o ilog ang bahay ay puwede ring pasilip ang mga ito na baka may matataas nang tubo ng mga damo o water lily, dahon, tambak na ang kahoy, plastic, o iba pang basura na isang dahilan din nang hindi pag-agos ng tubig kapag tag-ulan.

Ngayon pa lang ay maglinis na ng paligid kaysa hintayin pang pagmulan ng baha ang tambak na basura sa ating mga kanal.



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The Manila Times

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Project converts plastic for energy production

CENTURY Pacific Food Inc. and affiliate Shakey's Pizza Asia Ventures Inc. have signed an agreement with Republic Cement and Building Materials Inc. for the conversion of plastic waste into energy.

In a disclosure on Tuesday, Century Pacific said the three companies have agreed to co-process post-consumer plastic waste that would be used by Republic Cement in its production.

"This new partnership paves the way for us to conduct our businesses in a more sustainable

way," Century Pacific President Christopher Po said.

For his part, Nabil Francis, president of the Aboitiz-led cement company said, "We are happy to share this advocacy with the Century Pacific Group to promote and support responsible disposal of plastic packaging materials to reduce its harmful effects on the environment."

The method of co-processing uses high heat from cement manufacturing to completely destroy waste materials, recovering from them

thermal and mineral properties that provide the energy needed to produce cement.

At a high temperature of 1,450 degrees Celsius, co-processed waste would leave zero residue.

Century Pacific said the initiative would allow itself, along with Shakey's, to be "plastic-neutral," offsetting the amount of plastic produced with an equivalent amount of post-consumer plastics to be used for co-processing by Republic Cement.

ANGELICA BALLESTEROS



CAMPAIGN TARPULINS PUWEDENG GAWING MAKUKULAY NA ECO-BAGS

NAGMISTULANG pista sa maraming lugar sa bansa la-long-lalo na sa mga matata-ong lugar at 'yong malalapit sa mga paaralan dahil sa mga isinampay na campaign tarpaulins ng mga kandidato sa katatapos na National and Local Elections 2019. Kaya't ang resulta, bumaha ng basura sa paligid.

Pero para sa MENRO BALIWAG o ang Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office ng Baliwag, Bulacan, hindi ito dapat masayang, kaya't ginawa nila itong bilang mga makukulay at magagandang eco-bags na buhat sa mga campaign tarpaulin ng mga kandidato.

Nakagawa ang MENRO Baliwag ng isang daang eco-bags mula sa nakolektang fifty (50) kilos ng mga campaign tarpaulins, na bahagi ng kanilang Eco Livelihood Program na nagsusulong ng pagreresiko sa kanilang bayan alinsunod sa probisyon ng Republic Act No. 9003 o ang Solid

Waste Environmental Management Act.

Pero para sa grupong JUNK NOT ECO CREATIVES, maaari ring gawing upuan ang mga binaklas na campaign materials.

Naging trending din sa social media ang ginawang ito ng MENRO Baliwag.

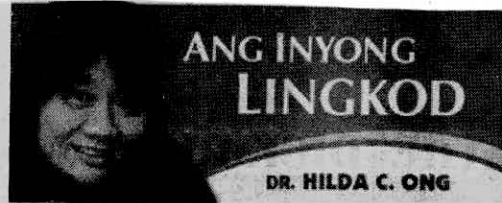
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BARAYTING ANGKOP SA TAG-ULAN, ALAMIN!

Sa darating na tag-ulan o wet season, payo ng mga eksperto na pumili ng mga barayting na matibay sa baha at hangin nang maiwasang dumapa ang palay.

Ayon kay Dr. Norvie Manigbas, senior plant breeder ng PhilRice, magtanim ng mga barayti na hindi hihigit sa 1 metro ang taas at matibay ang puno nang hindi dumapa sa 40-60kph na hangin.

Kabilang sa inirerekomenda niya ang PSB Rc 14 (Rio Grande), Rc 68 (Sacobia), NSIC Rc 160 (Tubigan 14), Rc 216 (Tubigan 17), Rc



DR. HILDA C. ONG

222 (Tubigan 18), at Rc 402 (Tubigan 36).

Sa mga rainfed areas o sahod-ulan na kalimitang binabaha tuwing tag-ulan ay pinapayuhan na gumamit ng barayti na may kakayahang maka-recover kahit malubog sa baha sa panahon ng pag-susuwi. Ilan sa mga ito ay ang PSB Rc 18 (Ala), na nabubuhay kahit malubog ng 5-7 na araw; NSIC Rc 194 (Submarino 1) na kayang makabawi kahit 10-14 na araw nang nakalubog sa tubig-baha, at PSB Rc 68 (Sacobia), na matibay sa parehong baha at tagtuyot.

Bukod sa pagpili ng angkop na barayti, hinihikayat ni Manigbas na huwag gumamit ng sobra-sobrang pataba na maaaring maging sanhi ng lodging o mabilisang pagdampang palay.

Sang-ayon dito si Frederick Saludez, magsasaka at isa sa mga agriculturists ng

PhilRice, na dapat bawasan ang paglalagay ng urea tuwing tag-ulan.

Anyo, kung sa tag-araw ay umaabot sa 120kg ang urea na inilalagay, mainam na 60-90kg na lamang ang ilagay sa tag-ulan. Paalala ni Saludez, ang paglalagay ng sobrang urea ay nagdudulot ng paglabot ng puno at dahon, at pagtangkad ng palay kung kaya't mas madali itong humapay o dumapa.

Sa halip, inirerekomenda ang paglagay ng mas maraming potassium dahil nakapagpapatibay ito ng puno at nakapagpapalakas ng resistensiya sa sakit tulad ng brown spot na sanhi ng amag.

Para sa karagdagang katanungan tungkol sa rekomendadong barayti ngayon tag-ulan, mag-text sa PhilRice Text Center, 0917-111-7423 o kaya mag-message sa Facebook page ng PhilRice (rice.matters).



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ANG PAG-UNLAD AT SIRANG KALIKASAN

MGA ka-idol, may naalala akong litanya ng iang kanta noong araw- 'hindi masama ang pag-unlad kung hindi nakasisira ng kalikasan'.

Pero heto ang lantad na katotohanan, na kaakibat ng pag-unlad ay ang pagdami rin ng mga produktong nalilikha ng tao at mga produktong nakatutulong sa pagpapagaan sa proseso ng pagpapabilis sa mga industriya, na ang kapalit naman ay mga basura.

Sa aking obserbasyon at batay na rin sa pag-aaral, dalawa ang pinanggagalingan ng basura at maruruming kalat – ito ay mula sa labas at mula sa loob.

Ang basura sa labas na tinutukoy ay ang mga nabubulok o biodegradables tulad ng mga tirang pagkain, basurang galing sa halaman, dumi ng tao at hayop.

Gayundin ang tinaguriang non-biodegradables, o mga basurang hindi nabubulok tulad ng plastic, lata, bubog, tuyong papel, tela, atbp.

Ang basura naman

sa labas ay sinasabing mahirap makita pero tala-gang napakalaking disgrasya ang dulot nito.

Una, basura mula sa isip tulad ng marurumi at malalaswang kaisipan; pangalawa, basura mula sa bibig tulad ng mga salitang nakasasakit, tsismis, kasinungalingan at malisya; pangatlo, mayroon ding galing sa puso o damdamin tulad ng pagwawalang-bahala sa kapakanan ng iba o pagkamanhid sa problema ng lipunan.

At ang pang-apat, ang pinakamarumi sa lahat – ang basurang galing sa gawain na nakasisira, nakapeperhuwiso at nakababara sa mabuting hangarin ng ating bayan.

Ang suliranin sa basura ay isa lamang sa maraming usaping pangkalikasan, at ito ang tootong kaakibat ng pag-unlad ng isang bayan sa lipunang ating ginagalawan.

Para sa akin, ang solusyon sa suliranin na ito ay masasagot kapag naintindihan natin kung paano umusbong ang parami nang paraming ba-

sura na nalilikha natin habang patuloy rin sa paglobo ang populasyon sa ating bayan.

Sa ngayon, kapuri-puri ang ginagawa ng mga opisyal ng DENR sa pamumuno nina Secretary Roy Cimatu at Usec Benny Antiporda na sa administrasyon lamang ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nakitaan ng tunay na pagkalinga sa yamang kalikasan ng bansa.

Disiplina sa sarili ang tanging solusyon sa problema sa basura at iwasan ang walang pakundangan na pagkakalat at walang disiplinang nagtatapon ng mga supot, basyo ng pinagkainan at upos ng sigarilyo sa paligid.

Walang tigil ng kapalitwanag sina Secretary Cimatu at Usec Antiporda sa masamang epekto ng basura sa ating kapaligiran.

Tayo, sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa DENR ay kailangang maging mapagmatyag upang ang mga nagtatapon ng basura ay pagsabihan, sitahin, huli-hin at pagmultahin ayon sa batas.

Dapat pangunahan ito sa bawat tahanan at mga business establishment na may kanya-kanyang pamamaraan ng tamang pag-aayos sa mga basurahan lalo na ang pagsunod sa programa ng pamahalaang bayan kaugnay ng solid waste management.

O papaano?



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PRRC: Water hyacinths are coming to Pasig River

THE Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) released a public advisory that with the start of rainy season comes the bloom of water hyacinth plants, which have now started to spread across the Pasig River all way from Laguna Lake.

The coming of water hyacinths to the Pasig River is an indication that the water level in Laguna Lake is getting higher than Manila Bay's mean sea level (MSL).

"We would like to educate the public that water hyacinths are a blessing from God. We use them in removing heavy metals from the Pasig River and its tributaries," said PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio "Pepton" Goitia.

"Also, we use them as raw materials in our handloom weaving livelihood program. We help poor families in Baseco convert water hyacinths into table runners, fans, slippers and bracelets," he added.

The PRRC reactivated its Task Force Water Hyacinth group to ensure that the quick proliferation of water hyacinth will not cause inconvenience to the riding public of the Pasig River Ferry Service.

For the past two months that the lake level in Laguna fell below the MSL, PRRC hurdled controlling not the intrusion of the seawater, but the backflow of more than 300,000 kilos of garbage from Manila Bay.



■ In the Philippines, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission uses water hyacinths in removing heavy metals in the Pasig River System.



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DECAYING ALGAE.

A lakeshore resident cleans up his jurisdiction of decaying algae that has brought a disturbing stench to the residents in Laguna Lake's nearby Barangay Bayanan in Muntinlupa on Friday. Officials say algae bloom yearly in Laguna Lake due to the heat brought by summer, and the decaying algae have emitted a foul smell that fish pen owners believe may affect oxygen level and cause possible fishkill to nearby fish pens. **Norman Cruz**





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Fresnedi orders algae clean-up

Muntinlupa residents complain of foul smell as far
away from Laguna Lake as Northgate

Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi has directed the City Health Office to take steps to address the algal bloom in Laguna Lake that emits foul odor.

While the said office, in an advisory, said the algal bloom is neither life-threatening nor a serious public health concern, Fresnedi demanded action to address the matter.

Residents near the Laguna de Bay have complained about the abundance of algae and the incessant emission of foul odor from the lake, reaching to as far as the Northgate Business

District in Alabang.

The City Health Office has pointed out that algal bloom is a natural phenomenon especially during warmer months.

The algae present in the lake was identified as filamentous fresh water algae or in common parlance called "*liya*." It is a form of algae that is slippery and emits foul odor when it dries up.

The blue-green algae is the type the poses health risks, according to the office.

The city government has formed a task force to clean the lake of algae.

AMurcia



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Youth leaders take green action in Cagayan province



■ Officials of *Sangguniang Kabataan* from the 10 coastal towns of Cagayan province participated in the recent coastal cleanup and tree-planting activity to affirm their commitment to marine protection.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

CLAVERIA, Cagayan: Affirming their commitment to marine protection, officials of the *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK) from the 10 coastal towns of this province participated in a recent coastal cleanup and tree-planting event.

The activities were led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Cagayan Valley (Region 2) office in time with the environmental youth camp here from May 28 to 30.

The youth camp was conducted in celebration of the Month of the Ocean (MOO) under Presidential Proclamation 57 issued in 1999 declaring the whole month of May as ocean month.

This year's MOO was anchored on the theme "Free the Sea from Marine Debris," which was centered on the issues concerning marine debris and their negative effects on coastal and marine biodiversity.

Lawyer Ismael Manaligod, DENR-Cagayan province chief, said the youth leaders were engaged in sustainable outdoor activities to enhance their sensitivity towards environmental issues and social relationship.

In his message, Manaligod said the DENR acknowledges the role of the youth in spreading the message of environmental and resource conservation and protection.

Discussing the drivers of deforestation and threats to terrestrial and marine biodiversity, he said, "The youth are key influencers in environmental advocacy."

"You have the power in pushing agenda in order for other Filipinos to be aware on environmental issues and consequently take actions," Manaligod said.

Also during the youth camp, the best practices in environmental protection in the coastal municipalities were presented by the young officers for possible replication

These included a "trashion show," coastal and river cleanups, "bayong mo, bitbit mo," garbage in-garbage out, mini vermin-composting at the household level, mangrove forest rehabilitation, proper solid waste management, tree planting and energy conservation.

The SK officials also toured a portion of the 900-hectare marine protected area along Barangay Taggat Norte here and interacted with the Taggat Norte Fisherfolk Association (TNFA).

The TNFA is an active people's organization, a DENR partner in coastal resource management.

Its members have been impart-

ing their best practices, particularly in the management and protection of the 21-hectare marine sanctuary, which is a no-take zone breeding ground of fish. TNFA members are also more than willing to share their success stories.

Luis Udanga, a local government operations officer, said the youth participants were also trained on formulating resolutions by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

He said they were required to craft resolutions on environment protection.

"Environmental protection is one of the aspects in the assessment for the Seal of Good Local Governance by the DILG," Udanga said, challenging SK officials to check on the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) committee in their respective villages.

"Environment is everybody's concern. It is not territorial. It is boundless," he added.

Meanwhile, Hivenus Gonzales of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, talked about solid waste management, and prohibited acts and penalties for violation of Republic Act 9003 or the "ESWM Act of 2000."

Charo Caise of the Department of Tourism also discussed the power of the youth in making a difference through sustainable tourism.

Claveria town was placed second in the 2017 Malinis at Magsaganang Karagatan, a national search for the most outstanding coastal community.

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Climate body: Foreign conferences important

By HELEN FLORES

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) stressed yesterday the importance of the Philippines' participation and being at the forefront of international efforts to address climate change.

The CCC, however, remained mum about Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr.'s statement that he would reject "all official participation" in climate change conferences that would require air travel.

Weighing in on the issue, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) expressed opposition to the decision to stop sending representatives to the numerous international climate change conferences abroad.

The CCC reiterated its call for countries, especially the developed nations, to step up climate action efforts and to deliver more ambitious commitments to mitigation with utmost urgency and equity.

CCC secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said the Philippines, being one of the most vulnerable countries that bear the brunt of the devastating effects of climate change, will continue to actively pursue climate action in the context of climate justice.

"We support the statement of President Duterte, our chairman in the commission, that all governments must do their fair share in combating the climate crisis," De Guzman said.

More than 195 countries, including the Philippines, that have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meet annually at the Conference of Parties since 1995 to take stock of their progress, monitor the implementation of their obligations and continue talks on how best to tackle climate change.

The next round of climate talks will be held in Santiago, Chile in December where countries will work on the progress of climate action.

De Guzman, however, lamented that global action against climate change has been slow.

"The Philippines has been actively pursuing climate action, but largely on our own efforts and resources. We have no choice but to act, and sometimes we have bilateral partners to thank for when they

give some help. With the unrelenting impacts of climate change in our communities, we must do all we can to survive and thrive as a people and nation," he said.

Locsin on Wednesday announced on Twitter that the Philippines would no longer send official representatives to climate change conferences requiring air travel.

"Following (President) Duterte's answer to UN's plea for yet another stronger stand against climate change – which he branded as more hot air – I am rejecting all official participation in climate change conferences requiring air travel. We'll just vote yes to radical proposals. No more talk," Locsin said.

In another Twitter post on Thursday, Locsin clarified that the country would still remain a participant of UN conferences on climate change, but through online communication.

"We just vote without talking. A Nauru UN conference in New York said that using air travel to talk about climate change makes the climate worse," Locsin said.

"Internet *na lang*. Clean communication," he said.

In his speech at the Nikkei International Conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo last week, Duterte slammed the UN climate conferences, claiming they have accomplished nothing to improve the situation. He said UN climate conferences are a "waste of time and money."

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De Guzman agreed with the President, saying there is indeed a need for clarity of commitments by all countries on mitigation and climate finance.

"It's time to raise the profile of climate issues and radically step up our efforts. We need real action and accountability from the developed countries that is primarily responsible for the climate crisis," he said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on a 1.5-degree warmer world released last year paints a



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Climate body: Foreign conferences important

grim scenario of the worst impacts of climate change, such as the increasing risk to drought, flood, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

It underscores the most urgent need for rapid global action.

The report said world leaders have only 12 years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 45 percent of 2010 levels if they want to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Not in vain

For her part, CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said the Philippines' participation in such "climate change talks" ensure that the country gets its position in on

the "climate discourse."

She said talks on climate change "impact us greatly" as the Philippines is battered by around 20 typhoons yearly.

"We hope that despite non-attendance, we will remain active in climate change prevention," De Guia said.

"Our participation in global discourse is not in vain. In 2015, as chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Philippines led the advocacy for global warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius. This ambitious goal is now enshrined in the Paris Agreement, which is meant to strengthen and guide efforts for global climate action," she noted. – **With Rainier Allan Ronda**



Twisted Slice 1993

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PH to skip climate conferences; Trump dismisses climate change as mere 'change in weather'

First word

WATCH closely. We may be witnessing today the withering away of "climate change" from public discourse in much the same way that the old alarm of a "population explosion" exited from the list of mankind's greatest fears.

In 1968, Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich, a Stanford University professor, published the book, *The Population Bomb: Population Control or Race to Oblivion?* (Ballantine Books, US, 1968).

In the book, which sold 2 million copies, Ehrlich predicted worldwide famine in the 1970s and 1980s due to overpopulation, as well as other major societal upheavals, and advocated immediate action to limit population growth. Fears of a "population explosion" were widespread in the 1950s and 1960s, but the book and its author brought the idea to an even wider audience.

The book was criticized since its publication for its alarmist tone, and in recent decades for its inaccurate predictions. Critic Jonathan Last called it "one of



OBSERVER

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the most spectacularly foolish books ever published."

Today, perhaps the biggest worry of some advanced countries like Japan is aging and zero population growth.

In turn, developing countries like the Philippines which were once choking from high population growth are taking off economically in part because of the demographic dividend.

Few people today remember the term "population explosion" and the ruckus that it caused.

Climate change on way out

In the case of climate change, the signs are rising in many places that the idea is on the way out, and all the furor was just one big hoax.

The *Guardian*, a prestigious English daily that was once the biggest promoters of climate

change has officially dropped the term "climate change," and replaced it with "climate crisis." "Global warming" has also been replaced by "global heating."

Donald Trump, after a 90-minute talk with Prince Charles on the issue of climate change, dismissed climate change as just a "change of weather."

Former US vice president Al Gore, the acknowledged guru of climate change and a Nobel laureate, is now under attack as a "science denier."

Gore recently visited Australia; he dropped climate change from his public statements.

No more climate conferences for PH

Here at home, in his own headline-grabbing way, President Duterte turned heads when he decided that the Philippines should no longer send representatives to climate change conferences abroad.

The Philippine decision was apparently provoked by the call of the UN for participation by member

countries in a scheduled climate action summit on September 23.

During a recent trip to Japan, DU30 downplayed global efforts against climate change, calling conferences on the issue a "waste of time and money."

During the previous Noynoy Aquino administration, the Philippines became a party to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change which aims to slash greenhouse gases and keep global temperature increases to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius.

As part of the accord, the Aquino government extravagantly promised to cut carbon emissions by 70 percent by year 2030, even though the country is not a major emitter at all.

It would appear that we got interested in climate talking because of the widespread suspicion that the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. And there was talk under the Paris agreement, that the country would receive handsome financial assistance from the rich nations for the dif-

► **MakabentaA5**

ficult work of climate mitigation.

The recent government decision to cut off Philippine participation in climate conferences highlights the need to seriously review the nation's climate policy.

The law and policy were crafted in imitation of other countries. It should now be rewritten in line with prevailing realities and needs.

Trump dismisses climate change

Just hours after holding talks on the issue of climate change with Prince Charles, Donald Trump dismissed climate change as "a change in weather."

The US president revealed how the future king spent 90 minutes lobbying him to take action to help save the world for future generations.

"He is really into climate change," Trump told Piers Morgan on ITV's "Good Morning Britain."

"I like that... I totally listened to him. He wants to make sure future generations have climate that is good climate and that is not a disaster.

"I think we had a great conversation," the US president added. "I tell you what moved me is his passion for future generations.

"This is real, he believes that, he wants to have a world that is good for future generations and I do, too."

But when asked if he believed in climate change, Trump replied: "I believe that there is a change in weather and I think it changes both ways."

"Don't forget it used to be called global warming, that wasn't working, then it's climate change, now it's extreme weather."



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PA to skip climate conferences;

Al Gore as science denier

On May 29, former vice president Al Gore addressed the graduating seniors at Harvard University.

In his address, he blasted an "assault on science" that threatens "the capacity of the human species to endure" on planet Earth.

He said that "reason" and "rational debate" were under threat from what he called "ideology of authoritarianism" by those who disagree with him and his political agenda.

This provoked a biting reply in the *Washington Times* by Everett Piper, a former president of Wesleyan Oklahoma University, which he titled, "Why is Al Gore denying science?" He wrote:

"This is the man who told us in 2006 that we had "10 years to save the planet" and that the Arctic would be ice-free by summer of 2014. In case you haven't checked lately, that has not happened, nor are we even close.

"This is the man who, at the same time, said the gulf stream would slow down and cause untold climate devastation as the result. News flash: Current scientific data actually shows the gulf stream has had zero decrease and may actually be speeding up.

"This is the man who warned polar bears would become extinct in just a handful of years because of their loss of habitat. Update: The facts show polar bear numbers are now at an all-time high.

"This is the same man who told all of us 'sea levels could rise by as much as 20 feet in the near future' when, in fact, current data shows that for decades the pace has been about 3 mm per year and has not changed. That's about the height of two dimes.

"This is the same guy who prophesied the rise of CO2 levels would devastate the planet and cause untold human suffering, when in reality, the modest rise in CO2 we actually have experienced has resulted in a global greening that has relieved human poverty around the world.

"This is a man who predicted the devastation of low-lying Pacific Island nations such as Tuvalu because of rising sea-levels when in fact Tuvalu and some other island nations have actually grown in landmass since Mr. Gore's doom and gloom pronouncements.

"Al Gore is the man who has not only ignored the scientific facts of all the above, but who also is aligned with the party that now has the temerity to deny the biological fact of a female, and thereby pretend that any male can become a female just because he 'feels' like it."

It's been a long time since I last saw a convincing paper on the case for climate change, let alone climate catastrophe. That is a big part of the problem.



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PAGBABAGO

An alternative path to the climate crisis

By **FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID**

R'evolution means end of exploitation; means respecting people from other cultures; r/evolution is creative. r/evolution means treating your mate as a friend and as an equal. r/evolution means respecting and learning from your children. r/evolution means protecting the people, the plants, the animals, the air, the water. r/evolution means saving the planet. r/evolution is love.

— Assata Sakur



“WE'RE only two minutes away from the Doomsday Clock, a design to warn the public how close we are to destroying the world with dangerous technologies,” warns The Guardian, which also suggests changing the language we use about our environment. “Climate crisis,” “global heating,” “climate emergency” – these are perhaps the more appropriate concepts as they are better able to convey the state we are in.

We can understand why environmentalists were dismayed when President Duterte, in his speech at the recent “Future of Asia” conference in Tokyo, branded the United Nation’s plea for stronger stand against climate change as “mere hot air.” “We will just vote ‘yes.’ No more talk,” he said, as he criticized UN climate conferences, saying they have

accomplished nothing to improve the situation. Because these meetings “are a waste of time and money,” he ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to stop sending official delegates to these conferences.

This indeed, is an unfortunate development, especially after he was praised for his political will in passing pro-poor legislation – the Pantawid(4 P’s) and Universal Health Law, as examples – even if authored by the opposition and non-party mates. But he is not entirely wrong as there is a tendency to overtalk to stress a point in many of these meetings. Perhaps the need today is to find an acceptable balance that would appeal to reason and emotion, and combining the element of spirituality.

Today, as we all now recognize, there is need for global consensus on the worsening environmental crisis. It will also be remembered that it was in the Philippines, during the 2015 Manila Call for Action, that the idea of holding the Paris Climate Change Conference was introduced.

Beyond the Paris meet, similar environmental meetings are likewise being deprived of Philippine participation. The Vancouver global health conference “Women Deliver” which dealt with critical concerns such as sexual health rights, gender equality, climate change, and women empowerment did not have Filipino representatives from the health sector.

We are living in a global world

where a multicultural and multi-lateral approach will be needed to address emerging problems such as migration, extremism, territorial and resource conflicts and the growing racial and ethnic tensions. Most alternatives proposed are primarily political and economic in nature, appealing to man’s rationality. Thus, we welcome an article in the June, 2019, issue of Mother Pelican, a journal of Solidarity and Sustainability, which provides an alternative development perspective use of spiritual rituals, renewal of institutions so that they become instruments for promoting solidarity, peace, social justice .

It suggests the review and removal of unjust and inhumane systems – “borders,” prisons, and practices that divide and continue to violate human rights. Thus, it recognizes rights of Mother Nature – trees, rivers, and forests.

It continues: “In conjuring the Future we want, we need a revolution of the heart, a revolution of the spirit. That the power of the people is stronger than any weapon. We need weapons of mass construction, weapons of mass love. We need change if the ways we eat, think, talk, do, act, and the things with which we identify ourselves.”

With this emerging focus on spirituality, we could expect “a generation willing to dream impossible dreams and blow open the boundaries and walls that systems of imperialism, colonization (elitism) have laid

across the contours of our hope.”

“The rise of spiritual inquisitiveness and alternative spiritual frameworks becoming less taboo in the mainstream cultural consciousness implies a forging ahead. We now have the space to create

new social contacts including recognizing Planet Earth as our one source of life.”

My email, florangel.braid@gmail.com



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PPP Center gets \$3 M ADB grant for climate-resilient projects

By CZERIZA VALENCIA

The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center will receive a \$3 million technical assistance (TA) grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to build its capacity in developing climate-resilient projects.

The grant, funded by the Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF), will specifically support the center's capacity building program and the development and procurement of local climate-resilient PPP projects through its Project Development and Monitoring Facility

(PDMF).

This will enhance the delivery of PPP projects at the local level as the center will be better equipped to strengthen the capacities of local government units (LGUs) and other local implementing agencies (IAs) such as water districts, state universities and colleges (SUCs), among others, to include climate change mitigation and adaptation components in their portfolio of PPP projects.

Using its PDMF, a revolving fund, the PPP Center can provide financial and technical assistance to these entities in

developing and implementing their PPP projects, from the feasibility study stage to approval, procurement and implementation stages.

It can help finance the feasibility studies and provide access to a panel of experts in climate-resilient infrastructure.

Since 2017, the PPP Center has shifted its focus on assisting LGUs in pursuing PPP projects as the national government veers toward the use of official development assistance (ODA) and internal funds in projects of national significance.

"The PPP Center welcomes the additional support from the ADB and the UCCRTF as these additional resources will help our LGUs and other local IAs such as water districts, SUCs, among others, efficiently develop and implement vital PPP projects that will have a significant and positive impact in their communities. We also appreciate our partnership with the ADB, which has continuously supported the PPP Center in its initiatives to strengthen the Philippine PPP Program," said PPP Center deputy executive director Mia Sebastian.

Since 2011, the ADB has been supporting the country in strengthening PPPs through capacity building, policy reform and expanding private participation in infrastructure through well-prepared and bankable PPP projects.

Sebastian said that with this additional funding from the ADB and the UCCRTF, the agency encourages LGUs and other local implementing agencies with climate change resilient projects to avail of the project preparation facility under the PDMF.

In April, the PPP Center announced that it is putting

up a facility for funding the preparation of regional PPP projects with climate resilience components.

Once established, LGUs can tap the regional PDMF to finance pre-investment activities for proposed projects.

Specific projects that can be supported by this grant are those in the sectors of renewable energy, water, sanitation, solid waste management, open/green spaces, food security, flood control, disaster risk management and green vertical development.



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EDITORIAL

A lot of hot air

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin says the Philippines will no longer participate in international conferences on climate change, after President Rodrigo Duterte again criticized the United Nations for not being able to solve the crisis even as it issued a yet stronger position to mitigate the global menace.

Locsin says the Philippines will just vote without talking, and that our participation in such conferences will be limited to going online and doing video calls.

Every year, the United Nations gathers representatives of countries—both developed and developing ones—to hammer out ways on how global warming can be managed. The conferences deal with how each country can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and how advanced economies, who have historically contributed more to the current levels of GHGs, can help vulnerable countries adapt to the effects of climate change and achieve economic development through “cleaner” means.

But using air travel to talk about climate change, Locsin also said on social media, actually worsens climate change.

Environment groups say the decision to stop sending representatives to the talks is arrogant, self-righteous, myopic and misplaced.

In 2015, more than 190 countries committed to slash their emissions to keep the rise of global temperatures at bay. The Philippines is a party to this agreement.

Mr. Duterte is right to point out that there is no way any entity can ensure all parties keep their end of the deal. The Paris Agreement is not legally binding, and any country reneging on its commitment cannot be held accountable for its violation.

The talks, too, reveal many flaws in the system, not the least of which are myopia, double talk and power-tripping by some countries.

But it does not mean we should stop participating in talks. On the contrary, this is why the talks have to continue.

The Philippines has had some of the most knowledgeable, most persuasive and most articulate representatives to these talks. They have been able to tell real and compelling stories about how Filipinos have struggled to deal with the effects of

climate change. They have had the ear of their foreign counterparts.

By all means, limit the number of government-funded participants to these negotiations. Financial prudence on all trips is a policy that will serve us well. Apply a common standard, turn down the hypocrisy and stop bringing hordes on official trips, especially if their presence is justified only by their loyalty to the powers-that-be.

Absence from these talks will tell the world that we have given up on the process—imperfect, yes, but essential to global action. It will tell bigger economies that the solidarity of vulnerable developing countries is cracking, and may embolden some of them to be more duplicitous than they already are. It will dishearten smaller countries, especially those whose island sink just a little more every day, because Filipino negotiators have been perceived as leaders and unifiers. Defeatism is a characteristic never quite attached to them.

The Climate Change Commission, which issued a statement on the issue without directly addressing it, simply reiterated its call for countries to ramp up climate action and deliver more ambitious commitments. Then again, if the Palace were serious about its pronouncement, we will not even know the difference, will we?



Philippines, a firm leader and voice of the developing countries at the UN climate talks

By Imelda V. Abano

THE devastating impact of climate change does not respect borders. Most of the poorer countries, like the Philippines, are scrambling on how to protect their people from intensifying climate emergency such as intense drought, floods, storms, food and water shortages. These destroy many communities and even small islands located in coastal areas.

International efforts to address this issue go back more than two decades under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, starting with the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 up to the present Conference of Parties. This is where most of the more than 20,000 people from 195 countries join in the decision process at climate talks which are complicated but consensus-based.

For the past 12 years, I have covered the annual UNFCCC climate change talks and have seen Philippine delegates work through the night, with fatigue taking toll, and enduring patience from lots of huddling in the corner of meeting rooms to resolve the impasse in the climate negotiations. The process is slow but necessary to secure the future generation from the devastating impact of climate change. Scientists reckoned we would need to keep the warming under 2 degrees Celsius.

But a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change painted a sobering picture of what would happen if the world exceeds a new target of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This means drastically reducing our carbon emissions. Agreeing on how, exactly, to do that is the rigorous job for the country delegations at the UN climate talks.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said it is important for the Philippines to continue participating and stand as a leader and voice for developing countries in the international negotiations on climate change.

"Climate action and leadership resolve must be demonstrated by all. Now is the time for firm leadership. It is our moral duty to be clear about where we stand at the international climate talks," De Guzman said adding that there is a need for clarity of commitments by all countries on mitigation and climate finance and to radically step up climate action.

Earlier, Department of Foreign Af-

fairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin announced that the Philippines will no longer send official representatives to the UN climate talks requiring air travel. This came after President Rodrigo Duterte slammed the UN climate conferences saying that the conferences are just a waste of time and money.

The next round of climate talks will be held in Santiago, Chile in December where countries will work on the progress of climate action.

The Commission is the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in national, local, and sectoral development plans towards a climate-resilient Philippines. In preparation for the Paris Agreement taking full effect in 2020, the Commission's focus this year must be on the development of the Nationally Determined Contributions as a ready reference for private and public sector investments on innovative and transformative low-carbon and climate-adaptive projects for the country's green economic growth.

Indeed, the need to move forward is greater than ever for the Philippines.

De Guzman said the Philippines is highly regarded in the climate negotiation process as a leader of developing countries. As Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum in 2015, the Philippines, on behalf of 48 developing countries, led the advocacy for the ambitious global warming threshold of 1.5C, now enshrined in the Paris Agreement as its long-term temperature goal (stated as: "limiting global average temperature to well below 2 °C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C").

De Guzman stressed that the Philippine advocacy for a highly ambitious climate goal has upheld the fundamental principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as historical responsibilities, and climate justice.

"We are in a climate emergency. In the climate talks, ours is a leadership voice on behalf of the climate vulnerable. The Philippines championed climate justice and other fundamental principles in the climate talks and has succeeded. We, therefore, appeal to our developed country Partners to exhibit leadership and deliver on their commitments," De Guzman said.

In the past climate change conferences, the Philippines has been highly regarded as a leader of climate vulnerable

nations, championing the principles on climate justice, human rights, ecosystems integrity, gender, climate finance, loss and damage, and comprehensive disaster management.

In 2013, the Philippines experienced the onslaught of Super Typhoon "Haiyan" that wiped out homes, killed more than 7,000 lives, displacing more than four-million people and destroyed infrastructure and agricultural lands leaving those who survived homeless and without any source of income. Damage reached almost US\$5 billion.

Jessica Dator-Bercilla, Climate Change Advisor for Asia and the Middle East for Christian Aid said, "President Duterte raises a good point about accountability here. He is calling for climate action."

"Moreover, I agree that if we cannot or do not have any intent to tip the scale towards our cause, we should rethink whether our participation in conferences is the best way to spend the Filipino people's money. We participate with purpose and determination."

Bercilla, however, said the President must champion climate justice and action and join the negotiations with intent. "Our negotiators have done incredible work. Boycott should never be an option," she said.

Moving forward in the country, Secretary De Guzman said the Climate Change Commission will continue to: 1) sustain efforts to enhance awareness and understanding on climate change and associated risks; 2) promote science- and risk-based policy and development planning at the national and local level; 3) accelerate capacity-building for local government units; 4) invest in social preparation for low carbon transition of all sectors towards a green economy; and 5) facilitate efficient access to international climate finance.

Indeed, much work needs to be done if the Philippines is making a stand and giving all it can on climate action. A resilient low-carbon future is the only pathway that will secure inclusive, enduring development for all. Enough of indifference and inaction. While the UN process might be too slow, we need to start thinking about a more robust, local climate solution. This has already taken too long. So how do we step up climate action, then?

Imelda V. Abano is the president of the Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists.



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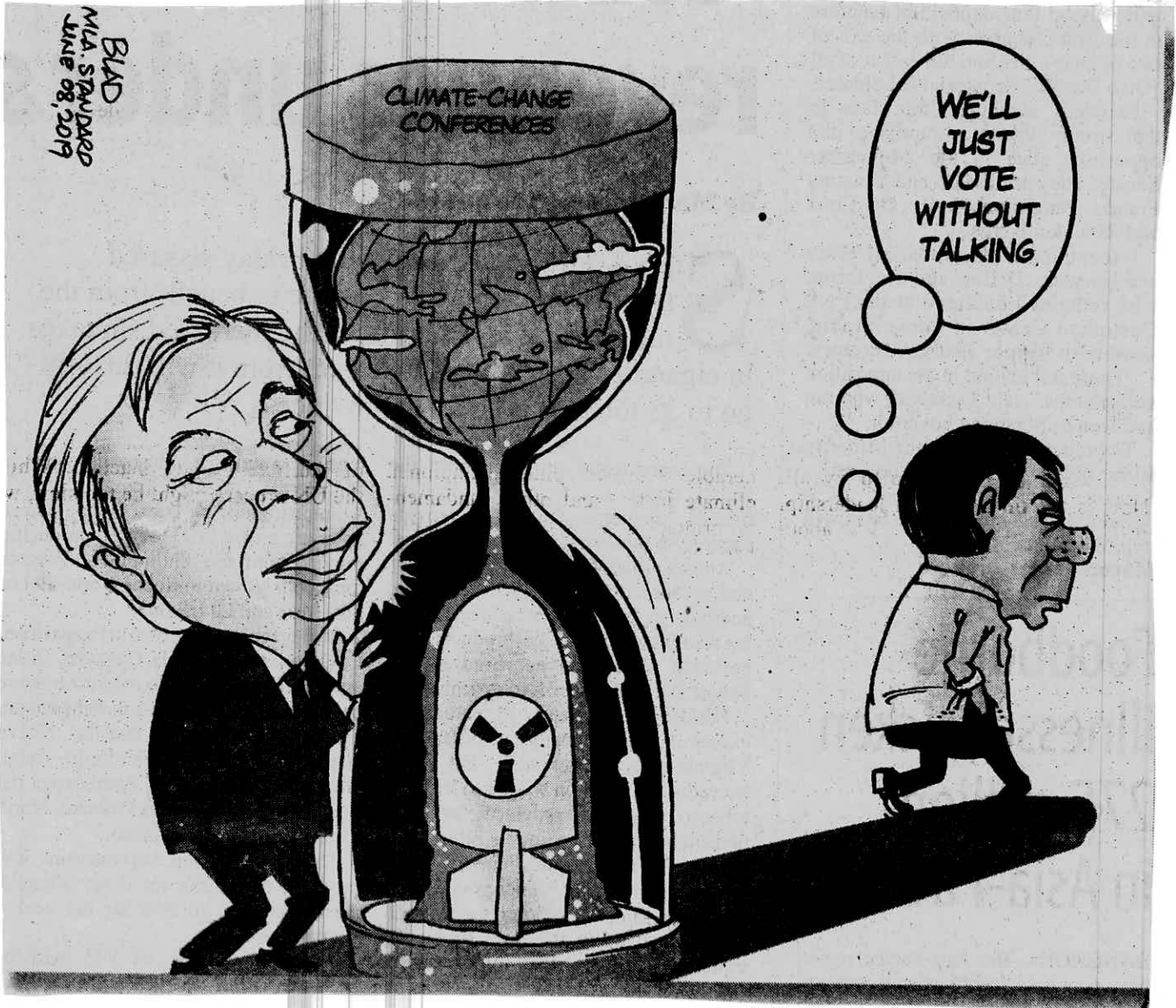
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A lot of hot air





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Taal Lake – another fish kill

ANOTHER fish kill was reported in Taal Lake last Friday as thousands of milkfish and tilapia floated to the lake's surface in fish cages off Laurel and Agoncillo, Batangas. It had been a hot day followed by heavy rains late in the afternoon.

What may have killed the fish, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources was the drop in the lake's dissolved oxygen from its normal level of 6 parts per million (ppm) on the lake's surface, down to 0.86 ppm last week. Fish cultured in fish cages need an oxygen level between 5 and 6 ppm in order to survive, the bureau said.

Some fisheries experts say it is also possible that the fish kill was caused by sulfur rising from the depths following the strong rains after the very hot day.

Fish kills could also be caused by diseases from viruses and bacteria, algal blooms, fish toxins from run-off water, and high levels of hydrogen sulfide. A fish kill in the Pampanga River in 2017 was traced to the discharges from an alcohol fermentation plant.

In 2006, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) found 14,000 fish cages

on Taal Lake, when the ideal carrying capacity of the lake is only 6,000 cages. The number of cages was thus reduced until the authorized level was reached in 2011. With the recent fish kill, the DENR said it may have to further lower the number of authorized fish cages, also considering the increasing number of tourist businesses around the lake.

Government attention is now focused on Taal, with President Duterte himself expressing concern. The President, we may recall, once called attention to the many fish cages he saw in Laguna de Bay from his plane to Davao in the first year of his administration. He acted decisively in the case of Boracay, which he ordered closed for six months of rehabilitation, and has now also ordered the cleanup of Manila Bay.

The DENR is now considering implementing a single-growth cycle for fish cages to give the lake time to rest and recover from the intensive economic activity. Fish kills are a symptom, a sign that something is amiss.

It may be time to give Taal and the many other lakes, rivers, and coastal areas in the country a needed rest from increasingly intense exploitation by business interests.



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EDITORIAL

Taal Lake—panibagong fish kill

MAY panibagong fish kill na iniulat sa Taal Lake nitong Biyernes, nang libu-libong patay na bangus at tilapia ang nagsilutang sa mga palaisdaan sa lawa, sa mga bayan ng Laurel at Agoncillo sa Batangas. Matindi ang init ng panahon nang araw na iyon, na sinundan ng napakalakas na ulan pagsapit ng hapon.

Ayon sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), posibleng ang ikinamatay ng mga isda ay ang pagbaba ng dissolved oxygen sa mababaw na bahagi ng lawa, na mula sa normal level nitong 6 parts per million (ppm) ay bumulusok sa 0.86 ppm noong nakaraang linggo. Ang mga isdang pinalalaki sa mga palaisdaan ay nangangailangan ng oxygen na nasa pagitan ng 5 ppm hanggang 6 ppm, ayon sa kawanihan.

Sinabi naman ng ilang eksperto sa pangisdaan na posible rin na ang fish kill ay dulot ng pagtaas ng sulphur mula sa kailaliman ng lawa, kasunod ng malakas na ulan sa pagtatapos ng maalinsangang maghapon.

Ang maramihang pagkamatay ng mga isda ay maaaring dulot din ng mga sakit mula sa mga virus at bacteria, pagdami ng lumot, pagkalason mula sa maruming tubig, at mataas na antas ng hydrogen sulfide. Ang fish kill sa Pampanga River noong 2017 ay natukoy na bunsod ng mga dumi mula sa isang alcohol fermentation plant.

Noong 2006, natuklasan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na mayroong 14,000 fish cages sa Taal Lake, gayung ang ideyal lamang sa lawa ay 6,000 fish cages. Binawasan ang mga palaisdaan, hanggang sa makatupad sa pinapayagang limitasyon nito noong 2011. At sa panibagong fish kill na naitala, sinabi ng DENR na kakailanganin nitong bawasan pa ang mga papayagang fish cages sa lawa, at ikokonsidera rin ang dumadaming negosyong pangturismo sa paligid ng Taal Lake.

Nakatuon ngayon ang atensiyon ng gobyerno sa Taal, at mismong si Pangulong Duterte ay nagpahayag ng pagkabahala. Matatandaang minsan nang pinuna ng Presidente ang sangkatutak na fish cages na nakita niya sa Laguna de Bay mula sa pagkakasakay niya sa eroplano patungong Davao sa unang taon ng kanyang pamumuno. Mabilis naman ang naging tugon niya sa kaso ng Boracay, na ipinasara niya sa loob ng anim na buwan para isailalim sa rehabilitasyon, at ipinag-utos niya rin ang umuusad ngayon na malawakang paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Ikinokonsidera ngayon ng DENR ang pagpapatupad ng single-growth cycle para sa mga fish cages upang bigyan ng sapat na panahon ang lawa na makabawi sa matinding aktibidad ng mga naghahanap-buhay dito. Ang maramihang pagkamatay ng mga isda ay isang sintomas, isang senyales na mayroong problema.

Panahon na marahil na ipagkaloob sa Taal at sa iba pang mga lawa, ilog, at baybayin sa bansa ang pahingang kinakailangan ng mga ito mula sa mga pagsasamantala ng mga ang tanging hangad ay pagkakakitaan.



WALANG SINASANTO ni Alex Santos

HINDI maitatatwa na ang kalikasan ay isang biyayang galing sa ating Panginoon sapagkat dito nanggagaling lahat ng ating ikina-bubuhay.

Lahat din ng mga magaganda at kapakinabang na bagay ay nakukuha natin sa ating kapaligiran.

Dito tayo umaasa ng pagkain, tirahan, gamot at marami pang iba.

Maliban dito, sa kalikasan din nagmumula ang ating kaalaman na dahil sa kuryosidad sa napakahiwagang nilikha ng Diyos, nasusubok natin ang hangganan ng ating kakayahan.

Sa kasalukuyang

panahon, nakaalarma naman ang mga nangyayari sa ating kalikasan dahil sa ating kapabaya-an.

Kung minsan naman, tinatawag din itong natural phenomenon.

Kamakailan nga, napabalita na mahigit 600 tonelada ng tilapia ang apektado ng fish kill sa lawa ng Taal sa Batangas.

Kung ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang tatanungin, katumbas daw ito ng 100 fish cages o paglalagyan ng isda.

Natural na kaganapan lang daw ito bunsod ng pagbaba ng dissolved oxygen sa lawa.

Para nga kay DENR Calabarzon Executive Director Maria Paz Luna, maaari ring nag-ugat ito sa dami ng mga namamahala ng mga fish cage.

Sa halip daw kasi na ibalik sa orihinal na lugar na dapat paglagyan ng cage ay nagsisiksikan sila sa iisang barangay.

Nariyan din daw ang pabago-bagong temperatura na dulot ng climate change o pagbabago ng klima.

Ang madalas naman daw na nasisisi sa mga ganitong pangyayari ay ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) dahil sila ang nakasasaklaw rito.

Iginigiit ng ilang kritiko na maaaring may pagkukulang dito ang BFAR.

Ngunit sa panayam ng inyong lingkod kay BFAR Director Eduardo Gongona sa programang RATSADA BALITA sa DWIZ 882, tiniyak na hindi sila nagkulang sa pagpapaalala sa mga namamahala ng fish cages sa mga lawa.

Tinatayang aabot sa P40-M halaga ng tilapia ang nangamatay sa fish kill.

Mahalagang tingnan na rin siguro ng BFAR kung masyado nang crowded ang lawa.

Baka naman ay umiral na ang kaswapangan ng mga negosyante rito at hinahayaan na lamang ng ahensiya na mapuno ng fish cages ang lugar.

Sa bandang huli, ang mapapahamak diyan ay ang mga consumer na makabibili ng mga patay

o 'double dead' na isda na maaaring inihahalo lamang sa mga bagong harvest na uri.

Dapat na rin siguro kumilos ang DENR sa lalong madaling panahon at tingnan kung napangangalagaang mabuti o kaya'y naaabusos na ang ating kalikasan sa nabanggit na lawa.

Tandaan na kung minsan, nagdudulot ng kapahamakan at hindi inaasahang sakuna ang kakulangan natin ng kaalaman sa kahalagahan ng kalikasan, abusadong paggamit nito, walang disiplina at limitasyon sa pagpapatayo ng mga impraestruktura, walang habas na pagtatapon ng basura, at maling paraan ng pagpaparami ng mga isda.



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'The Mansion' gets 3,500 pine trees

Around 3,500 Benguet pine trees have been planted recently within the compound of "The Mansion" in Baguio City.

The Mansion is the official summer palace of Philippine presidents.

It is located at the eastern part of Baguio City, along Leonard Wood Road

and across Wright Park.

Some 11 hectares, or around 74 percent of The Mansion's 14.7-hectare area, is partially forested or classified as "open forest."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the activity was part of the ongoing efforts to

increase the number of tree species that the mountain resort city is famous for.

DENR-Cordillera executive director Ralph Pablo said the move was in line with the directive of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, who earlier expressed concern over the declining number of pine trees in the city.

The Mansion is the official summer palace of Philippine presidents.

"Secretary Cimatu's order was to saturate Baguio with the smell of pine trees again and restore the city's claim to being the City of Pines," Pablo said.

Some 350 members of the Presidential Security Group took part in the tree-planting activity, which covered some two hectares of The Mansion's open grounds.

The state of Baguio's dwindling number of Benguet pine trees caught Cimatu's attention when he attended the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni homecoming in February.

Cimatu subsequently ordered Pablo to conduct an inventory on the city's number of trees and think of solutions on how to address the dwindling number of the iconic Benguet pine trees, so the DENR could take steps to preserve and protect them.

The inventory showed that the city's pine trees number 2,498,019 within its 5,750-hectare territory.

Benguet pine trees, some measuring up to 124 centimeters in diameter, number around 351,493 or 14 percent of the total count.

Of the total Benguet pine trees, 79 percent or 277,148 are concentrated in areas classified as "closed forest" or "closed canopy" like Camp John Hay reservation, and forest parks near the Teachers' Camp and the PMA.

The city's open forest, such as the area where the 3,500 saplings were planted, has 70,735 Benguet pine trees with 3,610 others found in residential areas.

Miscellaneous trees account for half of the inventory of Baguio's tree cover at around 1.2 million which include alnus, eucalyptus and calliandra trees.



ANCHOR LAND SUPPORTS CONSERVATION OF MANILA'S LAST MANGROVE REFUGE



Volunteers of Anchor Land recently joined environmental organization Haribon Foundation's clean-up drive at Manila Bay's last mangrove refuge – Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA).

“We are thankful for Anchor Land's continued support by exposing their employees to our different programs, showing their commitment to environmental conservation. Through their participation in our coastal clean-up activities, we are able to spread awareness to more individuals regarding the growing problem of waste and what

they can do to help,” Stephanie Lim of Haribon Foundation said.

Participants of the activity were able to collect 35 sacks containing 230 kilograms of styro-foam, plastic bottles, glass bottles, aluminum cans, rubber, clothing and bags, and other non-biodegradable wastes washed up in the coast of LPPCHEA.

LPPCHEA is the first protected area in Metro Manila, which is a spawning ground for numerous species of fish and habitat for over 80 species of migratory birds.



ILLEGAL BLASTING AT QUARRY SA BENGUET

TALAMAK daw ang pagpapasabog ng bundok sa isang lote sa Pagal Road, Shilan, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Kaya galit na galit ang mga residente.

Reklamo nila, maliban daw sa malakas na ingay, nag-umpisa na rin itong magdulot ng mga basag sa mga salamin at crack sa mga gusali ng mga bahay malapit sa site.

Pagsisiwalat ng ilang residente, matagal na raw nilang inireklamo ang pagpapasabog sa lugar.

Gayunman, sinasabing walang nakitang ebidensya ang mga pulis at walang taong nahuli sa akto habang ginagawa ang illegal activities.

Mismong ang mga taga-barangay na rin ang nagsabi na walang permit ang quarry operations doon.

Nawa'y may mapupuntahan naman ang pag-iimbestiga raw na ginagawa ng munisipyo ng La Trinidad.

Inaalam pa raw kasi kung may permit o wala na naibigay sa mga may-ari ng lote para i-develop ang lupa.

Dapat kumilos ngayon pa lamang ang lokal na pamahalaan dahil nga naman dapat basta-bastang nagba-blasting lalo na kung wala namang legal na permiso.

Kilos po, mga bossing!

PARA sa inyong mga reaksyon, suhestiyon at reklamo, maaari n'yo po akong i-email sa gil.playwright@gmail.com o kaya'y i-private message sa aking Facebook account at FB page. Maraming salamat po!



2 minero, dedo sa gas poisoning

ITOGON, Benguet — Pinaniniwalaang gas poisoning ang sanhi ng pagkamatay ng dalawang minero, na kapwa nadiskubrenang bangkay sa loob ng mine tunnel, iniulat kahapon ng Itogon Municipal Police Station.

Kinilala ang mga biktima na sina Flores Esnada Lampacan, 59; at Lharson Ambros Lampacan, 32, kapwa ng Baguio Gold, Tuding, Itogon, Benguet.

Sa imbestigasyon, pumasok ang mga biktima sa isang small mine area sa Goldriver, Barangay Loacan noong Hunyo 2, upang inspeksiyunin ang isang old abandoned mine tailings.

Dalawang araw ang lumipas bago nadiskubre ang labi ng mga biktima nang pasukin ng mga minerong sina Nicanor Adais at Soriano Bastian ang nasabing tunnel.

Rizaldy Comanda



Two new rodent species discovered

Don't look now, but scientists have identified two previously unknown rodent species endemic to the mountains of Luzon.

The discovery underscored anew the Philippines' rich biodiversity and the potential existence of many more undiscovered fauna and flora under threat of habitat destruction.

Filipino biologist Danilo "Danny" Balete led the discovery of these unusual creatures through his life's work researching the Philippines' endemic mammal species in cooperation with the Field Museum in Chicago.

The discovery underscored anew the Philippines' rich biodiversity and the potential existence of many more undiscovered fauna and flora.

In a paper published on 6 June in the *Journal of Mammalogy*, the rodents – of the genus *Rhynchomys* – exist nowhere else in the world except in the remote mountain regions of Luzon, where they evolved small eyes and pointed faces reminiscent of shrews.

These "shrew-rats" are uniquely evolved to eat earthworms and soft-bodied insects that they dig up from the forest floor with their distinctively long snouts – hence their other common name, "tweezer-beaked rats."

Until recently, only four *Rhynchomys* species were known

to science.

Philippine and US researchers unveiled two more species named *Rhynchomys mingan* and *Rhynchomys labo*, after the mountains in the provinces of Aurora and Camarines Sur on which they were respectively found.

On one expedition, Balete and his team tried to capture rodent specimens by luring them with peanut butter – a common bait for mousetraps, since rodents are usually nut and seed eaters.

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Founded Since 1938

The Manila Times

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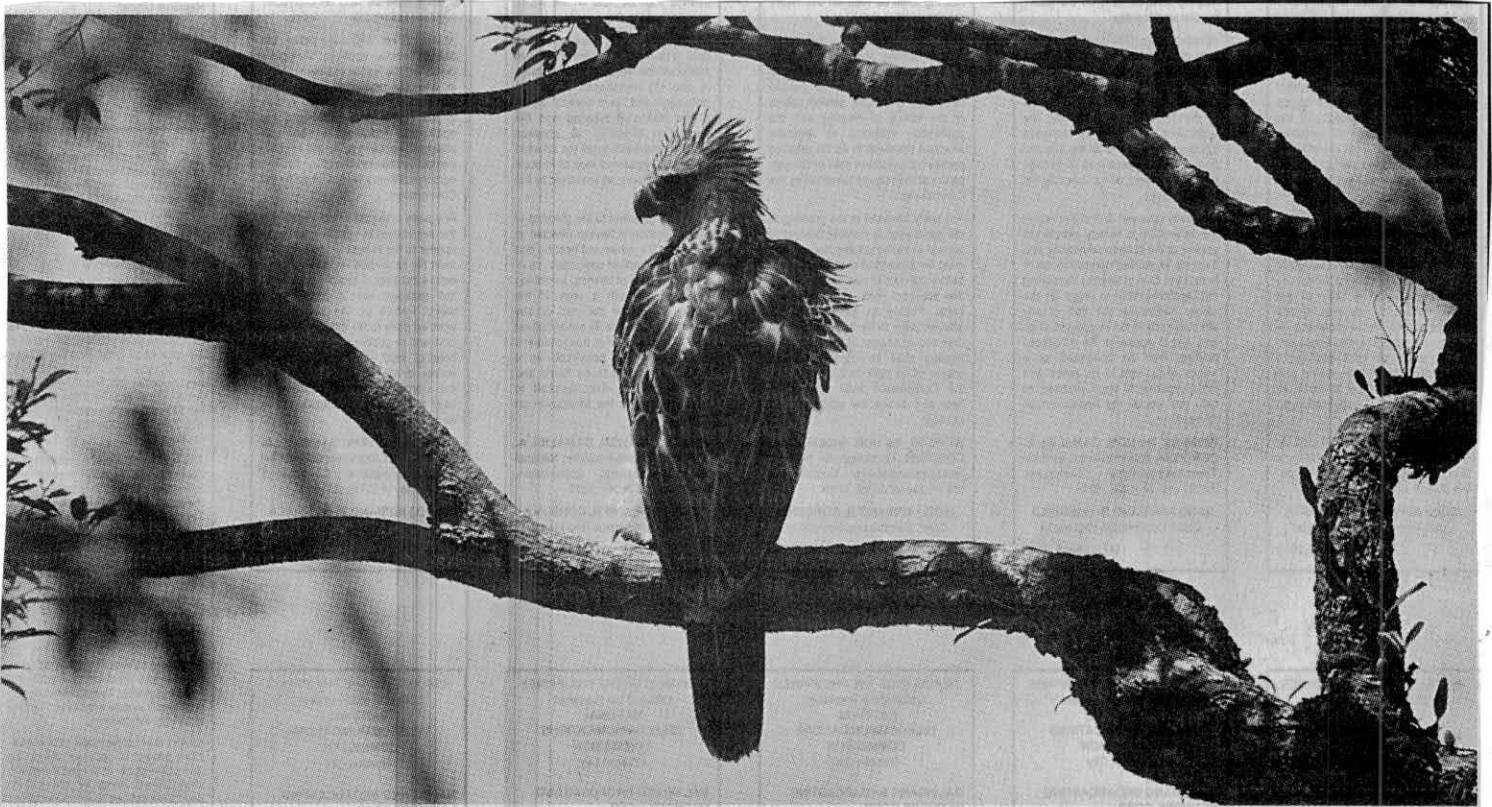
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MAJESTIC HARING IBON The Philippine Eagle is the largest eagle in the planet in terms of wingspan. Found nowhere else in the world except in the Philippines, only about 400 of them are left in the wild. They need 10,000 hectares of forest equivalent to 10,000 football fields, to spread their wings and raise a chick. To protect the *Haring Ibon*, we must protect their home and plant more trees. To schedule a tree planting activity with Haribon, call 421-1209.



The seismic shift: US-China rivalry brings risk of confrontation

U.S.-CHINA RIVALRY

BRINGS RISK OF CONFRONTATION- WITH PHL IN THE MIDDLE

BY RENE ACOSTA

THE trade war and the rising military rivalry which, in Southeast Asia, is centered in the South China Sea, is raising the possibility of a direct confrontation between the United States and China, reminiscent of the events that preceded World War I.

into their crosshairs.

"With the untethering of our networks of economic interdependence, comes growing risk of confrontation that could lead to war. Our greatest fear, therefore, is the possibility of sleepwalking into another international conflict like World War I," he warned.

In Southeast Asia, Lorenzana called on the Asean countries to step up their efforts in working to manage the dispute surrounding the South China Sea—the regional flashpoint between the US and China—but prodded the states to negotiate with Beijing as one and

within the ambit of the Asean.

In the middle

LORENZANA may have issued the warning partly out of the Philippines' standing issues and concerns, both with Beijing and Washington. While the country is working to maintain its good relations with China, Manila is also a treaty partner of the US under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty.

The treaty, which the defense chief has been pushing for review, obligates the US to come to the aid of the Philippines in case of an attack by another country. Some

This was the observation raised by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana during the Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore last week, where he also pushed for a continuing dialogue and greater cooperation in an effort to ease tension that was seen to be taking the two superpowers closer to a deadly standoff.

Lorenzana noted that the trade war and the brewing military animosity between Beijing and Washington are redefining not only the region's economic and political landscape but also the world's geopolitical structure that has placed states

analysts see this possibility—albeit not probable—as coming from China, given its dispute revolving around the West Philippine Sea.

The defense pact, a Cold War creation, however, also forces the Philippines to help the US in case of a war, with that threat now also being offered by China, given the existing tension from conflicting claims involving the South China Sea.

In the past, Lorenzana had raised the government's fearful concern over the possibility of a miscalculation between the US and China in the South China Sea as a result

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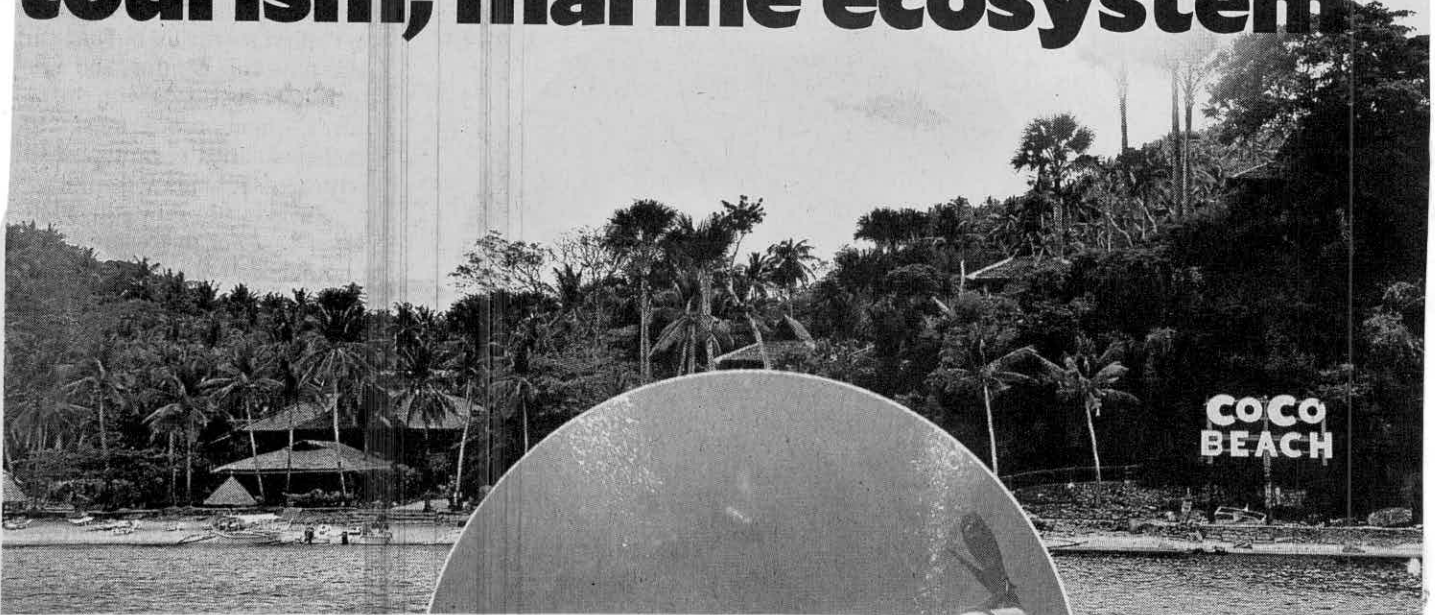
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Puerto Galera: Shoring up tourism, marine ecosystem



By Bernard L Supetran
@INQ_Property

For centuries, the bucolic town of Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro has been one of the archipelago's proverbial best-kept secrets, with its lush forests, powdery beaches and rich underwater world.

Literally meaning "port of galleons" in Spanish, Puerto Galera then hosted ships that would drop anchor on its coves for shelter before proceeding to its Manila-Acapulco route.

The world would hear first of its allure in 1973, when it was declared by the Unesco as a Man and Biosphere Reserve, a prestigious global list of places known for their exceptional biodiversity. Another accolade came in 2005 when it was inducted into the Most Beautiful Bays of the World Club, a 27-nation Paris-based non-government organization.

With its remarkable profusion of aquatic life, Puerto Galera would be named by conservationists as the "center of the center" of marine biodiversity with its strategic location in the heart of the world's "Coral Triangle" in Southeast Asia.

With the South Tollway Arterial Road which extends up to the port of Batangas City, the introduction of fast craft, and regular AirTrav seaplane flights, this resort town became like a next-

door neighbor to the big city.

Environmental issues

With the flourishing of tourism in the past decades, the town's masterplan has been overtaken by the construction boom and runaway commercialization, resulting in chaotic zoning and water pollution in the tourist colony of Sabang. To remedy this festering problem,

Underwater cleanup in Puerto Galera

the municipal government is putting in place the long-delayed P100-million wastewater treatment plant to improve water quality in the prized zone.

The town also collects a P50 environmental user's fee per visitor since 2007 to cover material recover facilities in the barangays, solid waste management, tree-planting activities, and programs of the



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Puerto Galera: Shoring up tourism, marine ecosystem

Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office.

It also partnered with Oriental Mindoro MPA and Fishery Law Enforcement Network of the environmental NGO Para El Mar for Strategic Cooperation on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, biodiversity conservation, marine law enforcement, ecotourism and climate change.

To strengthen the town's Bantay Dagat volunteers in monitoring of illegal practices, Mayor Rockey Ilagan signed a memorandum of agreement with the Metro Pacific Investments Foundation for a three-year cooperation under the latter's Shore It Up program.

Under the MOA, Metro Pacific will provide enhancement trainings and scuba diving courses to selected fish wardens and Bantay Dagat who will be called Marine Protection, Inspection and Conservation Guardians (MPIC Guardians). The volunteers will be provided monthly allowances, uniforms and equipment, and will be empowered by the local government in their marine monitoring activities.

The foundation made its initial foray into the town in 2010 when it pioneered a comprehensive underwater and coastal cleanup drive, followed up in 2013 by the Junior Environmental Scouts, an education component for public

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school children.

The recent scuba cleanup drew 145 divers and volunteers who collected 616 kilograms of garbage in the seabed and the coasts.

Ilagan, a dive master and resort owner, noted that this private initiative has encouraged the public sector to conduct periodic scuba and shore cleanups to sustain the marine ecosystem and the tourism industry, which is the lifeblood of their economy.

Down the road, the partnership aims to undertake a propagation of giant clams, which is one of the main draws for snorkelers at the Muelle Bay.

Property scenario

A first class municipality, Puerto Galera boasts of 240 accommodations and 66 homestays, with an aggregate inventory of 3,406 rooms and a bed capacity of 13,624. It also has 47 dive shops, 102 restaurants and 81 bars, and 22 conference facilities

which can host an assortment of special events.

Among the biggest resorts are Infinity Resort & Spa, which touts itself as the most luxurious; the hilltop La Laguna Villas Luxury Dive Resort & Spa; and Coco Beach Island Resort, a 10-hectare native-themed recreational hub which is arguably the area's pioneer and single biggest tourism property.

Puerto Galera has among the most expensive slices of real estate too. Barangay Sabang,

which has the densest concentration of dive resorts and establishments, fetches about P50,000 per sqm, while property in White Beach in San Isidro goes for around P30,000 per sqm. Land values at the nearby and less dense Aninuan Beach are slightly lower at P25,000 per sqm, while Poblacion or the town proper ranges from P15,000 to P20,000 per sqm.

Based on the figures from the municipal assessor, it nets an average of P30 million in real

property taxes annually, mainly from tourism and other sources, thus making this town one of the richest in Mindoro.

To spruce up the waterfront, the local government is implementing the P60-million Muelle Integrated Development Plan which is funded by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (Tieza). Set to be completed this year, it consists of a grandstand, promenade, baywalk, retail outlets, a galleon replica, and a museum.

Also being completed are the roads leading to these attractions, as well as portions of the circumferential highway which connects to Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro's gateway. Once opened, trading and tourism between the neighbor towns are expected to grow exponentially due to ease of travel.

With a new vision in governance, Puerto Galera is setting the benchmark for a successful marriage of tourism, business and the marine ecosystem.



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34 govt agencies to sign deal for ease of doing business in PHL



REPRESENTATIVES from 34 government agencies gather to finalize a memorandum of agreement (MOA) aimed at further improving the ease of doing business in the country and attract more investments by immediately acting and resolving issues encountered by investors.

THE Philippine Board of Investments (BOI), the country's primary industry development and investments promotion agency (IPA), together with the 33 other members of the Investments Promotion Unit Network (IPUNet), has finalized the contents of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) seen to further improve the ease of doing business in the country and attract more investments by immediately acting and resolving issues encountered by investors.

At the IPUNet meeting conducted at the Great Eastern Hotel in Quezon City on May 24, 2019, 34 member-agencies committed to further collaborate and set the date of the MOA signing on July 10, 2019, with the heads of all the participating agencies expected to be on board for the ceremony.

The BOI, which serves as the IPUNet secretariat, through its Investment Assistance Service, presided over the review of the MOA and gathered the inputs and feedback of the participating government agencies. It was determined that the Anti-Red Tape Authority (Arta), as one of the new members of the network, will facilitate the issues not acted by concerned government agencies, as referred by the BOI-IAS.

"We have gained so much ground

in our efforts to streamline our processes and procedures with the active participation of all stakeholders. As we finalized this, we look forward to the eventual signing of the MOA," BOI-IAS Director Bobby G. Fondevilla said. The signing of the MOA is in accordance with Republic Act 11032 otherwise known as the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services Act" and Republic Act 6713, "An Act Establishing a Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, to Uphold the Time-Honored Principle of Public Office Being a Public Trust, Granting Incentives and Rewards for Exemplary Service, Enumerating Prohibited Acts and Transactions, and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof and for Other Purposes."