

DATE : 08 SEP 2019

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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Lawmaker files bill splitting DENR into two

Keith Calayag

House Deputy Speaker and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. has filed a bill that seeks to separate the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) into two departments – the Department of Environment and the Department of Water and Natural Resources.

According to Pichay, environmental resource management and mineral resource management, although common in principles, are two different things.

“The issues in the management of both the environment and natural

resources are inherently complex as they involve the ecological cycles, hydrological cycles, climate, animals and geography. All these are dynamic and interrelated. A change in one of them may pose long-term impact, which, in extreme cases may be irreversible,” Pichay stated in House Bill 4168.

He said to perfectly address the issues of environmental management and management of natural resources, the devolution of powers and responsibilities within the ranks of the DENR is urgently needed.

Under the bill, the Department of Environment shall be the primary

government agency responsible for the management of the interaction and impact of human societies on the environment by undertaking the following objectives: ensure sustainable and equitable use of resources without degrading the environment or risking health or safety; prevent and control degradation of land, water, vegetation and air; and conserve and enhance natural and man-made heritage, including biological diversity of unique ecosystems, among others.

The department shall oversee its programs relative to the environment, implement and supervise the government’s policies and advise the president on the enactment of laws pertaining to the environment.

The department shall be headed by a secretary of the Department of Environment, to be assisted by the undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors.

The Department of Water and Natural Resources, under the bill, shall oversee its activities relative to the extraction of natural resources and formulate, recommend and supervise the government’s policies plans and programs pertaining to use and handling of water and natural resources.

The department will also be headed by a secretary to be assisted by undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors.



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Bill seeks to ban further Manila Bay reclamation and declare it a heritage site

By **CHARISSA M. LUCI-ATIENZA**

"Manila Bay belongs to the Filipino people and must remain in public hands."

Deputy Speaker and Pangasinan Rep. Rose Marie

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"Baby" Arenas stressed this as she filed a bill seeking to prohibit any and all forms of further reclamation activities in the entire Manila Bay area and declaring it as a "heritage site."

The House leader said it is about time for Congress to step in to protect Manila Bay by imposing "serious" penalties against the further reclamation in the bay.

"Given the recent actions of President Duterte, as Chief Executive, and of the Supreme Court, as the judiciary branch of government, to step up its drive to protect Manila Bay, it is imperative that the Congress, as the legislative branch of government does the same, and further empower these other branches to implement such mandate," Arenas said.

"It is high time for Congress to pass a law that will specifically ban, in no uncertain terms, and make it a serious criminal violation to allow, further reclamation in Manila Bay," she said.

Under Arenas' House Bill 3169, the Pangasinan solon wants to declare the entire Manila Bay area, covering its waterfront and sea waters, as a heritage site and prohibit any and all forms of further reclamation activities that will affect a portion or the entire Manila Bay area.

"This bill seeks to recognize and declare Manila Bay, in its entirety, not only a national historical landmark, but a heritage site that is protected, fully owned by the government, with management policies based on the preservation of an ecosystem and rights-based, people-centered development framework," Arenas said.

She noted that the Philippine Rec-

lamation Authority (PRA) already entered into some formal understanding or agreement with the cities of Manila, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Bacoor to reclaim 1,440 hectares along Manila Bay covering the area between the Cultural Center Complex to Las Piñas-Parañaque coast.

"The alarming National Reclamation Plan of the PRA aims to reclaim about 38,000 hectares all over the country, involving 102 projects, 70 percent or about 26, 234 hectares of water, which is along the coast of Manila Bay, thereby expanding Metro Manila by more than a third size of about 63,843 hectares," she said.

Under House Bill 3169, Arenas seeks to revoke all Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECCs) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and all permits issued by any government agency or local government units (LGUs) for the purpose of reclaiming Manila Bay Area.

The measure also disapproves all applications for ECCs pending with the DENR and all other Manila Bay reclamation-related permits pending with any government agency or LGU.

Violators of the proposed Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of six years to 12 years imprisonment and a fine ranging from P5 million to P15 million, it said.

Any public officer who violates the proposed Act shall also be dismissed from public service with accessory penalties.

House Bill 3169 provides that if the offender is a juridical entity, the highest ranking official and the members of its board of directors or trustees who authorized the violation shall suffer the penalty imposed under this Act.

"The operator or owner thereof shall not be allowed to operate similar establishment or enterprise in a different name or style or in a different location," the bill added.

The measure tasks the DENR to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the proposed Act.



IPAGBAWAL ANG PLASTIK SA MAYNILA

SA tuwing umuulan at bumabaha, naglulutangan ang iba't ibang uri ng basura na gawa sa plastik.

Patunay ito na wala talagang maidudulot na maganda sa buhay ng tao ang paggamit ng plastic bags at iba pang katulad na elemento.

Ang pinakamagandang solusyon nga raw dito ay ang ganap na pagbabawal sa paggamit nito.

Kunsabagay, kung wala nga namang gagawa ng plastic bags, wala nang gagamitin ang mga tao at maaaring bumalik sa dating ginagamit na paper bags at mga hinabing uway at kawayan.

Sa totoo lang, maaari tayong mabuhay nang walang plastik.

Kung matatandaan naman, ilang buwan na ang nakararaan, umarangkada ang sunod-sunod na clean-up operations sa Manila Bay.

Sikat na sikat ito dahil nakikita rito ang magandang paglubog ng araw.

Gayunman, tila ningas-kugon ang mga operasyong iyon na pinangunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) dahil ngayon ay tila bumabalik ang dating dumi sa lawa.

Nagiging tanyag na naman ito ngayon dahil sa naglutangan na mga plastik na basura.

Tunay na nasasalaula na naman daw ang Manila Bay.

Nagbabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig sa iba't ibang lugar sa lungsod ang mga plastik.

Ang masama pa nga, kahit ilang dekada pa itong bumara sa mga drainages, hindi nabubulok ang mga ito.

Ang pinakamatindi rin, sinisira ng mga basurang plastik ang marine life kapag natapon sa dagat.

Kaya napapanahon daw ang panukalang batas na inihain ni Sen. Sonny Angara na nagtatakda ng "plastic straw fee" sa lahat ng mga establisimiyentong nagbebenta ng inumin, maging supermarkets o sari-sari stores.

Sinasabing saklaw ng batas ang mga pre-packed na inumin tulad ng juice boxes kung saan kadalasan ay may kasamang plastic straw.

Layon daw ng Senate Bill No. 954 o Straw Regulation Act na mabago ang pananaw ng mga mamimili at maging ang nakagawiang kalakaran ng manufacturers at commercial establishments ng pagbibigay ng straw para maprotektahan ang kalikasan.

Nakasaad pa sa bill ni Angara na hindi na dapat nakakabit sa produkto ang straw at sa halip ay iaalok lamang sa customer sa halagang P2.00.

Well, mukhang maganda ang layunin ng panukalang batas ni Angara pero tila ang mga negosyante lamang tutubo at makikinabang dito dahil dagdag-kita ito sa kanila.

Tsk, tsk, tsk.

Kailangan naman natin ng mga bagong batas para matikman ng mga Pinoy ang buhay na walang plastik.

Simulan na po natin ang buhay na ito sa Maynila hanggang sa buong bansa.

Ano po sa tingin ninyo, Mayor Isko Moreno?

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 na 'Gilbert Perdez'. Maraming salamat po!



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Angara wants plastic drinking straws to be sold at ₱2 each

By **MARIO B CASAYURAN**

Senator Juan Edgardo M. Angara wants manufacturers of pre-packed beverages to come up with environmentally-friendly designs for their products as a way to eliminate the use of plastic drinking straws.

Instead of an outright ban on the use of plastic straws, Angara said it would be a better idea for establishments to charge their customers for the use of these straws.

Angara thus filed Senate Bill 954, or the proposed Straw Regulation Act, which aims to influence a change in the habits of consumers, as well as the practices of manufacturers and commercial establishments towards protecting the environment, one small step at a time.

Once enacted into law, the measure requires all commercial establishments that sell beverages, including sari-sari stores and supermarkets to charge a "Plastic Straw Fee"

amounting to ₱2 per straw.

Exempted from this fee are plastic straws or tubes used for medical purposes, those used by senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and individuals who have limited mobility caused by stroke, arthritis and other medical conditions.

"Plastic straws will only be provided upon request by the customers. We should consciously put a stop to the practice of automatically providing straws to customers upon buying their beverages," Angara said.

For pre-packed beverages, the most common of which are the juice boxes, the bill states that plastic straws should not be attached to the product and should instead be provided at the point-of-sale for the same ₱2 per straw fee.

"We also want the manufacturers of these pre-packed beverages to start coming out with new designs for their products so that consumers would be able to drink these without the use of straws," Angara said.



Gagamit ng plastic straw, sisingilin ng ₱2

Iginiit ni Senator Sonny Angara sa mga pabrika ng pre-packed beverages na maglabas ng isang maka-kalikasang disenyo upang mawala ng tuluyan ang paggamit ng plastic straws.

Sa kanyang Senate Bill 954 o proposed Straw Regulation Act, kailangang mapalitan ang paggamit ng mga plastic straw sa isang maka-kalikasang kagamitan na may kaparehong layunin.

Inaatasan nito ang mga establisimyento, supermarket, palengke at maging-sari sari store, na maningil ng ₱2 sa mga mamimili na gagamit ng plastic straw.

Hindi saklaw ng panukalang batas ang mga plastic straws na pang-medikal, gamit ng mga senior citizens at persons with disabilities.

"Plastic straws will only be provided upon request by the customers. We

should consciously put a stop to the practice of automatically providing straws to customers upon buying their beverages," aniya.

Ang mga lalabag ay papatawan ng 10,000 multa sa unang pagkakasala, ₱20,000 sa ikalawang paglabag, at ₱50,000 at kanselasyon ng business permit sa ikatlong paglabag.

Leonel M. Abasola



P1.35B gastos sa Manila Bay rehab

GAGASTOS ang gobyerno ng P1.35 bilyon sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa susunod na taon.

Pero nangangamba si Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza na masasayang lamang ang perang ito kung hindi made-decontaminate ng Manila Water at Maynilad ang tubig na itatapon sa Manila Bay.

“Nothing has changed. Right now, the bulk of Metro Manila’s raw sewage, including those from households, still drain into the Pasig River and other waterways that all empty out into Manila Bay,” aniya.

Nanawagan si Atienza sa Malacañang na kastiguhin ang dalawang water concessionaires na hindi umano sumusunod sa Clean Water Act.

“Otherwise, all our ef-

forts to fully restore Manila Bay, which still functions like a vast septic tank, will be without real success,” saad ng solon.

Noong nakaraang buwan ay kinatigan ng Korte Suprema ang order ng DENR noong 2009 na parusahan ang Manila Water at Maynilad kasama ang Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System dahil sa kabiguan nitong maglagay ng sewage lines na isang paglabag sa Clean Water Act.

Ang parusa sa kanila ay P1.84 bilyong multa.

Si Atienza ang naglabas ng order noong siya pa ang kalihim ng DENR.

Hangga’t hindi umano nakakasunod ay magmula ang Manila Water, Maynilad at MWSS ng P322,102 kada araw.

— *Leifbilly Begas*



BAY REHAB GETS P1.3-B BUDGET

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources will spend another P1.35 billion next year for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

But Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza on Saturday warned the new money will just go down the drain owing to the failure of Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to capture and decontaminate the national capital's wastewater.

"Nothing has changed. Right now, the bulk of Metro Manila's raw sewage, including those from households, still drain into the Pasig River and other waterways that all empty out into Manila Bay," Atienza said.

Atienza said the DENR's Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Management Strategy is getting another P1.35 billion in the proposed P4.1-trillion General Appropriations Act for 2020.

The money will be spent to renew and preserve Manila Bay's coastal and marine ecosystem, according to Atienza.

"We will of course continue to support all new spending to revitalize Manila Bay. But Malacañang really

has to crack the whip on the two water concessionaires that have been defying the Clean Water Act," Atienza said.

"Otherwise, all our efforts to fully restore Manila Bay, which still functions like a vast septic tank, will be without real success," Atienza said.

Last month, the Supreme Court upheld a 2009 DENR order penalizing Manila Water and Maynilad, along with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, with a combined P1.84-billion fine for their failure to put up sewage lines, violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act.

Atienza issued the 2009 order when he was DENR head.

Until they fully comply with the Clean Water Act, Manila Water, Maynilad and the MWSS will have to continue to pay a P322,102 daily fine that escalates by 10 percent in two years, plus legal interest of six percent per annum, the high court said.

The three parties were supposed to pay the initial fine within 15 days from receipt of the Supreme Court decision that was announced Aug. 6.

Maricel V. Cruz



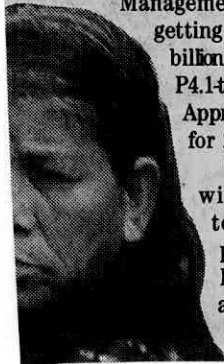
P1.35-B more for Manila Bay rehab

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is spending another P1.35 billion next year for the Manila Bay rehabilitation program, but a lawmaker warns the new money will just go down the drain due to the failure of Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to capture and decontaminate the national capital's wastewater.

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The three erring parties were supposed to pay the initial fine within 15 days from receipt of the Supreme Court decision that was announced 6 August. **JC**



'It can be done,' Gina's last message on Pasig River Rehabilitation

PASIG River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) Executive Director Jose Antonio "Pepeton" Goitia shared on his Facebook post the last message of former Environment secretary and PRRC Chairman Gina Lopez about the Pasig River.

Lopez, who recently passed away due to multiple organ failure, opened her message by stating that the "Pasig River is the main water artery of the nerve center of the country."

As our main water artery, she noted that the state of the Pasig River "has great adverse impact not only on the surrounding area- but on our nation as a whole."

The illustrative comparison of the Pasig River with a human nervous system became one of

the trademarks of Lopez.

"There was a time when we tried to remove that five-slide illustration, and we were surprised that she still looked for it," recounted Information Officer 3 Alyssa Chrizzelle Miclat.

The first and only Seacology Prize recipient from the Philippines, Lopez cited how the cleaning of their waterways benefited France, Germany and Singapore both economically and psychologically as a nation.

She also applauded the Philippine government for being bold enough to clean-up the Manila Bay and hoped that bold initiatives would also be similarly taken to clean- up the Pasig River.

"For the [rehabilitation] effort to have dramatic effect, it needs

the strong arm approach of government coupled with compassion so that minimal people are adversely affected", she added.

In closing, Lopez reiterated that "it [rehabilitation of Pasig River] can be done. I have high hopes that under the Duterte administration, this will happen."

"Ma'am Gina composed and sent this message directly from her phone so we knew that the words used were what exactly came to her mind that very moment. What a heartfelt message she personally put together!", said Goitia, who described her as pro-poor aside from being pro-environment.

Lopez's final message about the Pasig River was published in the maiden issue of *The RiverMan* maga-

Message from the Seacology Prize Winner

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zine. The public can get a printed copy of *The RiverMan* for free by visiting the PRRC office while electronic copies can be requested through the Freedom of Information portal.



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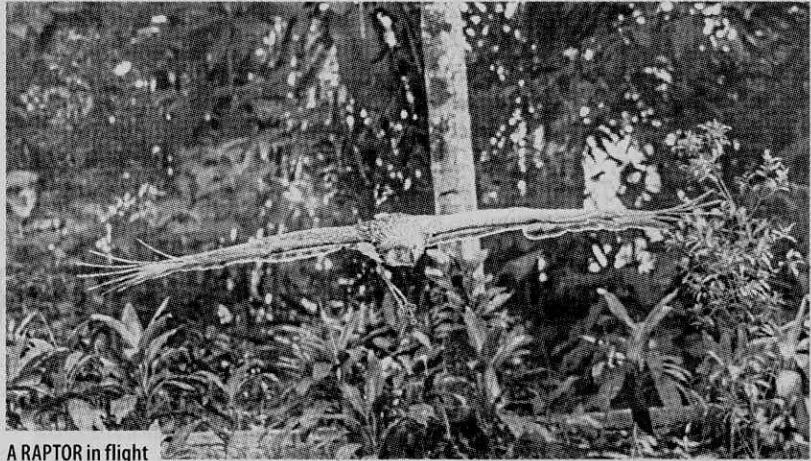
PAL's adopted eagle soars at Kadayawan

SINAG—the Philippine eagle adopted by flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL)—made its first public flight demonstration at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City last week, demonstrating the power and majesty of the national bird in action.

As Davao celebrated its annual Kadayawan festival, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) organized a special event called “Raptors in Flight,” a first in the world, that featured Philippine eagles flying and hunting.

PAL adopted Sinag as a baby eagle in 2016, to highlight the airline’s keen interest in the preservation of the Philippine eagle and its natural habitat. About 250 students, nongovernmental organizations, media and other guests witnessed Sinag fly from a tree stump and soar to a hundred feet, past the gathered audience and back toward his keeper, Lohwana Halaq.

The flight demonstration also included other raptors, such as the Giant Scops owl, Mindanao Lowland Scops owl, Pinsker’s



A RAPTOR in flight

hawk-eagle, Philippine serpent eagle, Brahminy kite, Gray-headed fish eagle and the White-bellied sea eagle, all under the care of PEF.

PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador said, “This is the first and only demonstration in the world to show a Philippine eagle flying on cue. The program demonstrates the raptors’ natural behavior while flying and hunting. It raises awareness on the plight of the Philippine eagle and encourages wildlife appreciation in general.”

In 2016, PAL and the PEF, then

under the chairmanship of current Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, entered into a cooperation agreement. (Secretary Dominguez is also a former PAL president.) PAL donated 1 million frequent flyer miles for the PEF to use in mission trips to spread awareness on the importance of preserving endangered species and their equally important forest-habitat.

Last June, PAL flew two Philippine eagles, respectively named Geothermica and Sambisig, from Davao via Manila to Singapore on



SINAG, the Philippine eagle

board commercial flights, a coordinated feat that required special kennels and careful climate regulation in the cargo compartment of the assigned aircraft. The two eagles are now housed in a special

zoological facility at the Jurong Bird Park in Singapore, on loan from the PEF to Wildlife Reserves Singapore to encourage breeding and help secure a gene pool for conservation of the species.



Pogos and transnational crime

Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogos) are a new industry of cross-border gambling providers that conduct their business through online portals based in the Philippines. They cater mainly to citizens of the Chinese mainland, where gambling is a crime. Pogos thus require Mandarin-speaking workers, which explains the influx of Chinese migrants into the country. The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) bars Pogos from catering to Filipino citizens, whether residing domestically or abroad.

Gambling in China by Chinese citizens is a crime wherever it is committed. Unlike Philippine criminal law, Chinese criminal law adheres to the principle of extraterritoriality of crimes. Article 7 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China provides that crimes under Chinese law committed by Chinese citizens outside of its territory or territorial waters are punishable. Thus, a Chinese citizen who gambles in the Philippines through Pogos commits a crime in China. Pogos, which are sanctioned by Pagcor, in effect abets the commission of crimes by Chinese citizens based in China—and Pagcor indirectly abets the commission of such crimes under Chinese law.

A transnational crime is one that has actual or potential effects across national borders. Pogo gambling fits the definition of transna-

COMMENTARY

FRANK E. LOBRIGO

tional crime, because such act is a crime under Chinese law if committed by a Chinese citizen in the Philippines or elsewhere. While admittedly illegal gambling is not a serious legal infraction, it might have an adverse effect on the system of cooperation or mutual obligation between the Philippines and China in combating transnational crimes.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, also called the Palermo Convention, is a 2000 UN-sponsored multilateral treaty of which the Philippines and China are both signatories. Drug trafficking from China to the Philippines is a serious concern for the latter. It is an organized crime that comes within the purview of the Palermo Convention. Thus, the Philippines needs the cooperation of China to interdict illegal drugs trafficked out of the latter and into the former.

Under the doctrine of *aut dedere aut iudicare* (either extradite or prosecute) in international law, member states of the UN have the responsibility either to extradite or prosecute perpetrators of serious offenses. Illegal

gambling may not fall within the sphere of this state responsibility in public international law. The Philippines, however, has the moral duty to China, under the principle of comity of nations in international law, to prevent the proliferation of crimes in China that are facilitated through Pogos in the Philippines.

The relationship between the Philippines and China is shaky because the two countries have contrasting views about public international law. China would not recognize the arbitral ruling on the West Philippine Sea. The Philippines, a David against China's Goliath, can only rely on international law to assert its rights as a state. Thus, the Philippines must strive to maintain the high moral ground it has attained in international law courtesy of the favorable arbitral ruling on the West Philippine Sea. However, the country's embrace of Pogos may only end up diminishing its high moral standing over China, while Beijing may just decide to shirk its responsibility to interdict serious crimes such as drug trafficking, which is afflicting the Philippines in far worse ways.

To paraphrase a Supreme Court justice, "Is it worth it, Pagcor?"

Frank E. Lobrigo is a retired regional trial court judge and president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Sorsogon Chapter.



Plant trees, DU30 tells land beneficiaries

By Kristina Maralit

President Rodrigo Duterte urged beneficiaries of the government's land reform program to plant more trees for sustainability and to help save the environment.

In his speech during the groundbreaking of a housing project in Naga City, Cebu, last Friday evening, the President said those awarded land titles, particularly in mountainous areas, should "plant coconuts or whatever" to prevent soil erosion leading to massive landslides especially during the typhoons.

To recall, more than 70 people died in a tragic landslide that wiped

out Sitios Sindulan III and Tagaytay of Barangay Tinaan in Naga City in September 2018.

"When the rain pours hard while you are living there, and there are no trees anymore that would prevent soil erosion, that would be a problem," Mr. Duterte said.

"Plant coconuts or whatever that can hold the soil because their roots will prevent the soil from eroding," he added.

The President likewise warned against beneficiaries from pawning their plots of lands, going as low as four hundred pesos a month, to scheming landlords and then being duped to not having ownership over them anymore.



7 Amazon countries: Protect 'planet's lungs'

LETICIA, Colombia (AFP) – Presidents and ministers from seven Amazon countries met in Colombia on Friday to agree on measures to protect the world's biggest rainforest, under threat from wildfires and rampant deforestation.

The summit took place in the wake of an international outcry over months of raging fires that have devastated swaths of the Amazon in Brazil and Bolivia.

The gathering aimed "to foster a space for regional dialogue to advance the protection and sustainable use of this region, which is essential for the survival of the planet," Colombia's President Ivan Duque said.

We needed to increase and strengthen the cooperation between us, precisely to meet the great challenges of the Amazon, which are becoming more extreme and more intense every day.

Duque inaugurated the meeting in a "maloka" – an indigenous hut – surrounded by members of the Tikuna tribe with headdresses of colored feathers in southern Colombia's Amazon city of Leticia.

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, widely criticized over policies that favor deforestation and a delayed reaction to the wildfires, did not travel to Leticia, citing doctors' orders.

However, speaking by videoconference, he urged other leaders to resist calls, spearheaded by French President Emmanuel Macron, to internationalize protection of the Amazon.

"We must take a strong position of defense of sovereignty so that each country can develop the best policy for the Amazon region, and not leave it in the hands of other countries," said Bolsonaro, who is due to undergo surgery Sunday.

Protection pact

Seated at a long wooden table in the shade of tall trees, the representatives of the seven nations signed the "Leticia Pact for the Amazon" that Duque said would provide greater protection for the rainforest, as existing treaties had "fallen short."

The pact establishes a roadmap for safeguarding the rainforest "not only for the Amazon countries but also the nations of the region and the international community," he said.

Colombia's Environment Minister Ricardo Lozano said the new measures include the establishment of an "Amazonian cooperation network" to share information on deforestation, including weather data to mitigate the effects of climate change, and threats from illegal mining and logging.

"We needed to increase and strengthen the cooperation between us, precisely to meet the great challenges of the Amazon, which are becoming more extreme and more intense every day," he told reporters in Leticia.



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Climate change emergency

WITH what is going on around us with regards to the climate and the environment which is being affected, it is not anymore just calling it climate change. We should now add the word emergency after these two words.

Just look at the weather, and what is happening in many parts of the world. Due to the melting of the glaciers, the extreme weather conditions, the pollution of our seas, and now the burning of the Amazon forest, it is indeed time for us to see the emergency situation.

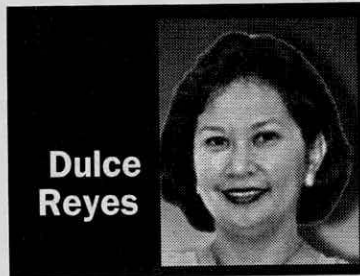
We cannot just leave it to the environmentalists and the big organizations to do something regarding our climate.

Each of us, people of planet earth, must act now to lessen the impact of the irreversible damage to the climate due to our complacency and I am indeed now worried for our children and grandchildren.

Experts are saying that in twenty years or even less, we will feel the terrible effects of our abuse of our environment.

But from the way I see it, the danger is already here. Don't you feel the extreme change in weather? It is not only hot, but the heat is quite strong and when it touches the skin, it is searing. Don't you also see the mas-

WOMEN TALK



**Dulce
Reyes**

sive flooding around us? I have written time and again about our garbage and the pollution and still, instead of dissipating, it is getting worse.

We not only need reminders which broadcast media is always showing the effects, but we should also go down to the grassroots level and tell the people, especially the illegal settlers, to start recycling and stop throwing their trash in the rives near them, or even in the streets.

Last Friday, I saw in the news about the trash under the MRT station in Baclaran. The local government should start penalizing the people who just throw their garbage anywhere. I know we have regular collectors of garbage but the lack of discipline of our citizens in crowded areas seems pathetic.

To think that those people who throw their trash indiscriminately will also be the ones first affected when floods come in. If not thrown properly, the trash will go back to you, together with floodwaters. Then we will have various skin diseases and the cycle goes on.

When will we ever learn? Do we lack in training and information dissemination regarding climate change emergency which is already upon us? I feel for the students who have to walk so many kilometers to and from school even in the urban areas due to lack of mass transportation.

These students are also the first to suffer the brunt of climate change. Whether rich or poor, all are affected by the climate which may redound to extreme weather conditions, and worse, lack of clean water.

We can do our part by going around and teaching our neighbors and those in the crowded areas how to throw their trash or even recycle. We can encourage them to start urban farming by providing them with pots and seedlings.

We have to have a mindset of urgency because it is now too late. The little we can do may just prolong the disastrous effects of our neglect towards our environment and nature's wrath is now affecting us.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
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INQUIRER

Bandera
BALITA • BUENAS • CHIKA

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BINIBIGYAN ng isang kilong bigas ng taga-Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang mga residente ng Bgy. Daang Hari sa Navotas kapalit ng isang kilo ng recyclable na basura. Layon ng proyekto na matutong mag-segregate at mag-recycle ng basura ang mga mamamayan. INQUIRER



SSS, DENR vie in 8th UNTV Cup

Two more teams – Social Security System and Department of Environment and Natural Resources – have joined the UNTV Cup which stages its 8th edition tomorrow at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City.

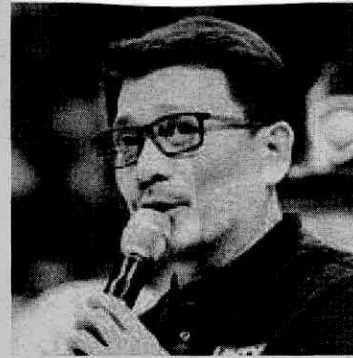
The additions of the SSS Kabalikat and DENR Warriors bring up the number of participants to the annual basketball tournament to 12.

UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon, the architect behind the successful event dubbed "Ang Iga ng Public Servants", said only one game will be held on opening day which will be determined after the drawing of lots.

Since the birth of the league seven years ago, Razon said more than ₱50 million have been donated to charity institutions with Bro. Eli Soriano as the major sponsors.

"Aside from fostering camaraderie among the public servants, we want these government agencies to be given opportunities to help their chosen charities," said Razon, who will have PBA legend Atoy Co as commissioner.

Razon said defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines is going to donate its ₱4 million prize won earlier this year to AFP Educational Benefits System Office as an added fund for the education of children of fallen soldiers.



DANIEL Razon

AFP team captain Sgt Alvin Zuñiga is grateful to the UNTV management, saying: "It is our own way of helping the children of our fallen comrades," said Zuñiga. "Kaya we will do our best again to retain our title dahil marami pa kaming matutulungan."

Other government agencies taking part in the Sunday event



ATOY Co

are two-time champion Judiciary, Philippine National Police, Department of Agriculture, Ombudsman, GSIS, Malacañang, Philippine International Trading Corporation, National Housing Authority and PhilHealth.

Out to spoil AFP's back-to-back bid are Malacañang, PNP and NHA.



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