

DATE : 18 MAY 2019

DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

DATE

PH to loan Singapore 2 eagles

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will sign a wildlife loan agreement with Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), which will allow the self-funded foreign organization to borrow two Philippine Eagles that they could help breed.

A statement showed that officials of WRS will fly to Manila next week to sign the agreement.

Under the agreement, WRS will loan a pair of Philippine Eagles for breeding and other conservation-related undertakings.

Philippine Eagles are slow breeders and take five to seven years to sexually mature.

It also lays a single egg every two years and they wait for their offspring to make it on their own (usually within two years) before producing another offspring.

According to Philippine Eagle Foundation, at least one Philippine Eagle is killed every year because of shooting. As more of the forest is lost, Philippine Eagles go farther and farther from their usual hunting grounds in search for preys to hunt.

DENR Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonas Leones was sought for further details but has yet to respond.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu will sign the loan agreement in behalf of the Philippine government, while it would be Cheng Wen-Haur for the WRS.



UNRETURNED TRASH: CANADA AIRS 'DISAPPOINTMENT' OVER RECALL OF PH DIPLOMATS

By Jerome Aning
@JeromeAningINQ

The Canadian government on Friday expressed disappointment over the Duterte administration's recall of the Philippine ambassador and consuls due to Ottawa's failure to comply with the May 15 deadline to take back tons of Canadian trash that were shipped to Manila in 2013-2014.

In a statement, Brittany Fletcher, spokesperson for Canada's Global Affairs Office, said that despite the Philippines' diplomatic move, Ottawa remained committed to finalizing the arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippines' ambassador and consuls general. However, we will continue to engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," Fletcher said.

"Canada has repeatedly conveyed to the Philippine government its commitment to promptly ship and dispose of the Canadian waste in the Philippines," she added.

Fletcher said Canada valued "its deep and longstanding relationship with the Philippines."

Philippine Ambassador to Canada Petronila Garcia arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport around 3:56 a.m. on Friday from Toronto. She has not issued a statement.

Long time to act

Expected to follow Garcia in the next few days are Deputy Chief of Mission Francisco Noel Fernandez III, consuls Alan Deniega, Eric Aquino, Greg Marie Concha-Marino and Jeffrey Salik and consuls general Ma. Andrelita Austria in Vancouver, Gilberto Asuque in Calgary and Rosalita Prospero in Toronto.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro



EXIT ORDER A diplomatic vehicle leaves the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, on May 16. The Department of Foreign Affairs has ordered Filipino diplomats out of the North American country over Ottawa's failure to comply with a deadline to take back tons of Canadian trash that officials say were illegally shipped to Manila from June 2013 to January 2014. —REUTERS

Locsin Jr. admitted on Twitter that the Philippine government took a long time to act on the garbage issue, especially in identifying the shipment's Canadian facilitator and Philippine consignee.

"OK, that is our fault. Since 2017 Canada asked for importers' IDs; we feigned ignorance; then did nothing more about it," Locsin said in replying to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's comments on the issue.

Compared to President Duterte's strong stand on the return of trash to Canada, Locsin said the previous Aquino administration's initial response to the issue was slow and not sustained.

"The outrage at first discovery was a dud; illustrating our tendency to ejaculate prematurely on all issues from vital to

sexual. Thank God for Duterte," he said.

Lacson on Friday praised Locsin's move to recall the Filipino diplomats, saying it was "the right thing to do" since the Philippine government had already warned Canada to take back the trash.

Smacks of arrogance

"National dignity is part and parcel of diplomacy. To allow the country to be a regular dumping ground of toxic garbage by another country smacks of arrogance, aside from the health hazards that it brings to our people," Lacson said.

Paring down the Philippines' diplomatic relations with Canada is "not enough," he said.

The senator said the government should also find out who facilitated the garbage ship-

ment "so we can dump them at sea halfway to Canada."

Locsin's recall order to Filipino diplomats is an "unambiguous indicator" of the government's resolve to return the trash to Canada, EcoWaste Coalition said on Friday.

Aileen Lucero, EcoWaste national coordinator, urged Filipinos who reside in Canada to "rally behind such a diplomatic protest to induce Ottawa to act without delay."

PH not a dumpsite

Locsin's diplomatic response would not have happened had Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau or his predecessor, Stephen Harper, taken back the 103 containers shipped to the Philippines by Ontario-based Chronic Inc. in 2013 and 2014, EcoWaste said.



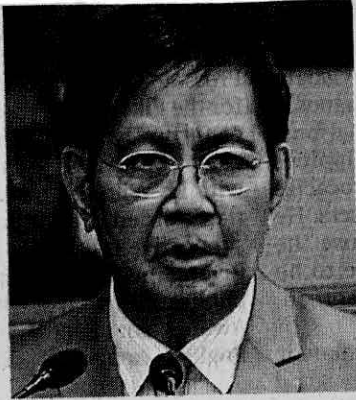
TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

P-2

Unreturned Trash: Canada Aims 'Disappointment over recall
of PH Diplomats



Panfilo Lacson



Teodoro Locsin Jr.

MALACANANG PHOTO

Lucero said the Duterte administration should send an unequivocal message abroad that the country was not a dumpsite by ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment, which prohibits the transboundary movement of wastes, including hazardous trash, from developed to developing countries.

Former Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. said in a radio interview on Friday that the recall of the Philippine diplomats should not worry Canada since it was an "acceptable diplomatic practice" to express dismay or displeasure.

Smuggling charges

Baja said Ottawa had been "stonewalling on this issue for some years" and "steps should be taken to prevent further damage" to Philippine-Canadian relations.

He said the issue between the two governments was specific and should not involve Filipinos working in Canada, which he describes as a "responsible nation."

On Feb. 20, 2014, the Bureau of Customs filed a smuggling complaint against the owner of Chronic Plastics, which imported the waste materials from Canada and misdeclared them as scrap materials for recycling.

Adelfa Eduardo imported 50 containers of the Canadian trash, which was delivered to the company's warehouse in Canumay, Valenzuela. Chronic Plastics sorts and sells recyclable materials.

Also included in the complaint were the company's customs brokers, Leonora Flores and Sherjun Saldon.

All three were charged with violating the Toxic Substance and Hazardous Wastes and Nuclear Wastes Control Act as well as the Revised Penal Code.

The Department of Justice approved the filing of smuggling charges against Eduardo, Flores and Saldon in November 2014.

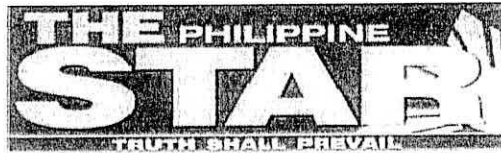
In June 2016, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Tita Bughao Alisuag directed Chronic Plastics to return the 50 containers of trash to Canada.

According to the customs bureau, two containers of Canadian trash are being held at the Manila International Container Terminal, while 67 others are impounded at the Subic Bay International Terminal Corp.

The Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. accounted for 26 containers of trash that were emptied at its landfill in Capas, Tarlac, in 2015. —WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS AND TONETTE OREJAS INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

TITLE:

P-1

PAGE 1/

DATE

Canada disappointed over Phi envoy's recall

By HELEN FLORES

While Canada has expressed disappointment over the Philippines' decision to recall its top diplomats over a six-year-old garbage row, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said from Paris on Thursday his administration is "working closely" with Philippine authorities "to get to a resolution shortly."

Ambassador Petronila Garcia arrived in Manila yesterday, a day after Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. recalled her and other Philippine diplomats to protest Canada's failure to take back some 2,000 tons of Canadian garbage on or before the May 15 deadline set by President Duterte. Garcia arrived on Philippine Airlines Flight 119.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippines ambassador and consuls general," Brittany Fletcher, Global Affairs Canada spokesperson, said in a statement.

"However, we will continue to closely engage with the

Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," Fletcher said.

She said Canada has repeatedly conveyed to the Philippine government its commitment to promptly ship Canadian waste out of the country.

"We remain committed to finalizing these arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada," she said.

Fletcher said Canada values its deep and longstanding relationship with the Philippines.

In a Twitter post on Thursday, Locsin announced the recall of the country's envoy and consuls in Canada.

A CNN report, which presented Trudeau's statement, said non-profit Pacific Center for Environmental Law and Litigation (CELL) named Canadian company Chronic Inc. and its Philippine-based consignees as responsible for transporting 103 containers of waste to the Philippines between 2013 and 2014.

"We shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is

ship-bound there," Locsin said.

The DFA chief claimed Canada did not send a representative to a meeting on the issue at the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

At Malacañang yesterday, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said all Trudeau has to do to settle the issue is to order the immediate return of the garbage shipment.

He added there is no need for UN intervention as suggested by some quarters.

The Philippines and Canada are signatories to the Basel Convention of 1989, which aims to reduce the movement of hazardous wastes between nations.

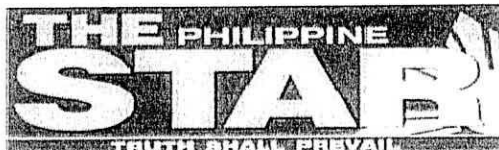
Panelo said the recall of Philippine diplomats should send a strong signal to Canada that President Duterte is dead serious about getting the Canadian garbage out of the country.

Meanwhile, senators have expressed support for the administration's move to recall the country's diplomats in Canada.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said the President is the sole architect of the coun-



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

P-2

Canada disappointed over Phil envoy's recall

try's foreign policy.

"He (President) is the only pilot. No one enters the cockpit to tell the pilot what to do. All doubts are resolved in his favor. The Senate partners only in treaties," Sotto said in a Twitter post.

Sen. Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, also commended the government's strong resolve to send back the trash shipment.

"It is unacceptable that six years since these containers were shipped to our shores and that despite assurances from the Canadian government to HELP remove them, their waste is still here, posing significant health and environment risks in our country," Legarda said in a statement.

The senator authored the country's landmark laws on environment, such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act.

"Many ecotourism areas

in our country are undergoing major rehabilitation from environmental degradation, and this strong resolve against Canada's waste dump is another push towards ensuring the protection of our environment, natural resources and health," she said.

She said each government is accountable for enforcing its own solid waste management policies, adding that Philippine communities that are faithfully implementing the ESWM have reported up to 80 percent waste diversion rate, which means that instead of being brought to landfills, waste is either recycled or composted.

She said the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal should be respected and enforced.

"This is a reminder to other countries that the Philippines is not their dumping site. Solid waste management should be enforced within each country and within their communities," she said.

"With our strong political will and even stronger cooperation among groups and advocates, we will remain vigilant in safeguarding any threats against our environment and health," she said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Locsin's move was the right thing to do under prevailing circumstances.

"National dignity is part and parcel of diplomacy. To allow the country to be a regular dumping ground of toxic garbage by another country smacks of arrogance, aside from the health hazards that it brings to our people," Lacson said.

In a Twitter post, the senator said: "Let's find out who facilitated so we can dump them at sea halfway to Canada."

The BOC, through spokesman Erastus Sandino Austria, said that as agreed upon by the Interagency Committee on Canada Waste, it's the DFA that is tasked to respond to queries regarding the issue.
- **With Christina Mendez, Paolo Romero, Evelyn Macairan, Rudy Santos**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

Ar
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Canada vows to get trash out

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

CANADA on Thursday vowed to work closely with the Philippines to send back tons of garbage that had been shipped to Philippine ports in 2013 and 2014.

The Canadian government issued this statement after the Philippines recalled ranking Filipino envoys

from their posts in Canada.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippine ambassador and consuls general. However, we will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," Guillaume Bérubé, spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada, said in an e-mail sent to the Philippine News Agency.

Bérubé provided no estimate when the containers of trash will be pulled out, but reiterated Canada's "commitment to promptly ship and dispose of the Canadian waste."

"We remain committed to finalizing these arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada," he said. "Canada values its deep and long-standing relationship with the Philippines."

Global Affairs Canada, which manages Ottawa's diplomatic relations and trade, is headed by ministers, including Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland.

The diplomatic rift between the two countries threatened to escalate after the Department of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday night recalled its ambassador and consuls from Canada.

Ottawa missed the deadline set by the government on May 15, 2019, said DFA chief Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the order was to persuade Canada to speed up the process of retrieving more than 100 containers of waste that had been shipped in batches to the Port of Manila from 2013 to 2014. **With PNA**



Founded Since 1898

The Manila Times

47
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

DATE

PH envoy returns from Canada

THE Philippine Ambassador to Canada Petronila Garcia returned to Manila on Friday onboard Philippine Airlines flight PR119.

Garcia was met by staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 1 at 3:56 a.m. from Toronto.

The envoy was recalled over the waste issue with Canada after the Philippine government found that containers of trash had been shipped between 2013 and 2014.

The containers, which arrived at the Manila International Container Port, were declared as plastics meant for recycling, but instead were filled with tons of household waste.

Some remained in storage at the Manila port, while others have been disposed of in a large landfill site.

In 2016, a court in the Philippines ordered the waste to be shipped back to Canada at the expense of the importer.

BENJIE L. VERGARA



18 MAY 2019

TITLE: _____ PAGE 1/ _____ DATE _____

Canada vows to resolve trash row

CANADA is disappointed over the recall of the Philippine ambassador and consuls general in Canada but vowed to work closely with the Philippines to be able to ship back its wastes that were exported to Manila.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Thursday recalled Filipino envoys in Canada to protest Canada's failure to resolve the waste issue.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippine ambassador and consuls general. However, we will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," said Guillaume Bérubé, spokesperson for Global

Affairs Canada.

Bérubé did not say when the containers of trash will be pulled out.

The spokesman however reiterated Canada's "commitment to promptly ship and dispose of the Canadian waste".

"We remain committed to finalizing these arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada. Canada values its deep and long standing relationship with the Philippines," said Bérubé.

Global Affairs Canada manages Ottawa's diplomatic relations and trade.

Ottawa was given until May 15 to pull out its wastes but missed the deadline prompting Locsin to recall the Philippine diplomats assigned in



Locsin

Canada.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the order was to persuade Canada to speed up the process of retrieving more than a hundred container vans containing the wastes that arrived in batches at the Port of Manila from 2013 to 2014.

"That order of the recall is to persuade them to make it fast. The more they delay, the more personnel will be coming back," Panelo said.

Cristina Lee-Pisco



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



2
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

DATE

GARBAGE WAR SMOLDERS

By
**Cristina
Lee-Pisco**

CANADA is disappointed over the recall of Philippine Ambassador and Consuls General in Canada but vowed to work closely with the Philippines to be able to ship back its wastes that were exported to Manila.

On Thursday, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. recalled Filipino envoys in Canada to protest Canada's failure to resolve the waste issue.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippine ambassador and consuls general. However, we will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," Guillaume Bérubé, spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada.

Bérubé did not say when the containers of trash will be pulled out.

The spokesman however reiterated Canada's "commitment to promptly ship and dispose of the Canadian waste".

"We remain committed to finalizing these arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada," he said.

He reiterated "Canada values its deep and long standing relationship with the Philippines."

Global Affairs Canada manages Ottawa's diplomatic relations and trade.

Ottawa was given until May 15 to pull out its wastes but missed the deadline prompting Locsin to recall the Philippine diplomats assigned in Canada.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the order was to persuade Canada to speed up the process of retrieving more than a hundred container vans containing the wastes that arrived in batches at the Port of Manila from 2013 to 2014.

"That order of the recall is to persuade them to make it fast. The more they delay, the more personnel will be coming back," he said.

Philippine Ambassador to Canada Petronila Garcia is reportedly back in Manila.

Immigration sources confirmed that Garcia arrived Friday morning from Toronto, Canada without fanfare.

It was learned from the sources that Garcia arrived on Philippine Airlines flight PR-119.

The same sources said Garcia's plane touched down at Runway 06/24 at 3:56 Friday morning.

Garcia was recalled by DFA chief Locsin after the government of Canada failed to meet the May 15 deadline given by President Duterte for it to take back the tons of garbage brought into the Philippines by private parties.

With Itchie G. Cabayan



18 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Lopez: Trash row won't affect PH-Canada ties

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez is optimistic that the garbage dispute between the Philippines and Canada would not lead to a breakup of their long-standing bilateral relations.

Lopez has expressed confidence about the strong trade and investment ties between the two nations, saying the garbage issue was a "separate" matter that is already being addressed by the concerned parties.

The Philippines earlier ordered the recall of its ambassadors from Canada after it missed the May 15 deadline to take back tons of garbage dumped in the country years ago.

Malacañang later issued a warning that the Philippines would "sever" ties with Canada if it does not hasten the shipment of the trash out of the country.

"Sa tingin ko hindi naman hahantong dun, napaka-tagal na nung relationship natin para umabot sa ganun or maapektuhan yung long term relationship with Canada," Lopez said last Thursday when asked about the possibility of Manila cutting ties with Ottawa over the garbage conflict.

"Tingin ko dun, parang separate talaga 'yun, saka isa pa, parang nasosolve na 'yun particular issue na 'yun di ba, may mga winowork out na na plans," he said about the garbage issue.

He noted that confidence of Canadian companies in the country continues despite the garbage issue. He pointed out that the government was not picking a fight with any Canadian company on the trash conflict.

"Hindi 'yung sa tingin ko makaka apekto sa, kasi business-to-business transaction natin pagdating sa trade and investment with Canadian companies," he said.

"They will simply continue, they see the opportunities in the Philippines, so magtutuloy tuloy lang 'yun. Di po makaka-apekto 'yun dahil hindi naman, hindi naman 'yung mga kompanya ang kalaban din natin dun, or so separate. I think that's a separate issue talaga," he said.

To continue to attract more investors into the country, Lopez noted that the trade department will have an entrepreneurship summit in Canada in the coming weeks. He said he believes such "apolitical" business activities should continue despite the garbage issue.

Canada yesterday expressed disappointment over the decision of the Philippine government to recall its top diplomats posted in Canada over the waste issue.

In a statement issued by the Global Affairs Office in Ottawa, it said Canada will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolu-

tion of the issue pertaining to the re-shipment of the remaining 69 containers vans of garbage back to its port.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippines ambassador and consuls general. However, we will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," Canada's Global Affairs Office spokesperson Brittany Fletcher said in the statement.

The Canadian government pointed out that it has repeatedly conveyed to the Philippines its commitment to "promptly ship and dispose of the Canadian waste in the Philippines."

"We remain committed to finalizing these arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada," it added.

Despite the diplomatic spat, Canada said it values its deep and long-standing relationship with Manila.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Tedoro Locsin Jr. last Thursday announced that the Philippine government is recalling Ambassador Petronila Garcia and all the consuls posted in Canada in response to Canada's failure to meet the May 15 deadline set by President Duterte to ship out the 69 container vans of garbage it illegally sent to Manila six years ago. **(Genalyn Kabiling and Roy Mabasa)**



Importer ng Canada basura umeskapo na

HABANG mainit ang isyu sa mga basurang galing Canada na humantong pa sa pagpapauwi ng mga opisyal ng Philippine embassy sa naturang bansa ay naglaho namang parang bula ang kompanya na sinasabing responsable sa pag-aangkat ng mga kontrobersyal na basura.

Si Senate President Vicente 'Tito' Sotto III ay nagpahayag na dapat mapanagot ang naturang kompanya na tinukoy nitong Chronic Plastics Incorporated na may tanggapan sa Valenzuela.

Iginiit ni Sotto na dapat imbestigahan ang importer o ang consignee ng mga basura galing Canada.

"Sa akin, dapat din tingnan natin, imbestigahan natin, sino ba yung nag-import niyan? Sino ba yung nagdala niyan? Pinadala lang ba basta dito yan o meron talagang recipient? Bakit hindi pinaguusapan yung recipient? Sino siya? Sino sila? Sino yung, ano yung pangalan nung kumpanya?" ani Sotto.

Tinukoy pa ng senador ang kompanya.

"There is this company that is supposed to be the recipient. Chronic Plastics Incorporated,

address sa Valenzuela. Ano yun? Ano ba yung mga explanation nila? Ano ba ang napag-usapan? Siguro alam na ng DFA yan by this time. Baka meron silang alam na hindi natin alam," pahayag pa ni Sotto.

Batay naman sa ulat, wala na sa address nito sa Valenzuela ang naturang kompanya at iba na ang umookupa sa lugar kung saan ito dating matatagpuan.

Samantala, nakauwi na sa bansa Biyernes nang madaling-araw si Philippine Ambassador to Canada Petronila Garcia matapos i-recall ang mga empleyado at opisyal ng embahada dahil sa isyu ng basura.

Lulan ng Philippine Airlines flight PR 119 si Garcia mula Toronto, Canada, nang lumapag dakong alas-3:56 ng madaling-araw sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Naniniwala naman ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na hindi maaapektuhan ang mga overseas Filipino worker (OFW) sa Canada kaugnay ng gusot sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at naturang bansa dahil sa basura.

"Hindi naman siguro. Wala namang - I don't

think magkakaroon ng problema doon, kasi iyong mga nandoon naman eh legal - at kailangan din ng mga overseas workers natin," pahayag ni Panelo.

Tiniyak pa ni Panelo sa mga OFW sa Canada na bibigyan sila ng proteksyon ng gobyerno sa kabila ng gusot dahil sa basura.

"Whatever the consequence, this government will be protective of the interest of our countrymen in any part of the world," ani Panelo.

Nagpahayag naman ng pagkadismaya ang Canada sa pag-recall sa

Philippine ambassador at consuls general.

Sa kabila nito, tiniyak ni Guillaume Berube, tagapagsalita ng Global Affairs Canada, na patuloy silang makikipagtulungan sa Pilipinas para malutas ang isyu sa basura.

"We remain committed to finalizing these arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada," ayon kay Berube. Binigyang-diin pa nito na pinapahalagahan ng Canada ang malalim at matagal nang ugnayan nila sa Pilipinas. **(Dang Samson-Garcia/Otto Osorio/Prince Golez/PNA)**



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



Dumping ground

Delayed as it is, the shipping containers of garbage

EDITORIAL

imported from Canada are expected to be returned soon. Philippine officials have said that Canada has agreed to take back the garbage and shoulder all expenses for the return.

Philippine diplomatic ties with Canada, home to over 850,000 Filipinos as of the last census, are at their lowest amid the delay in the return of the garbage. Manila has recalled the Philippines' ambassador to Ottawa, and has announced plans to keep recalling more diplomatic personnel from Canada with further delays.

Even before the issue is finally settled, the Philippines should implement measures to prevent the country from being turned into the world's dump.

The shipments from Canada were misdeclared as recyclable plastic scraps, and the importers are facing charges. Authorities should tighten importation rules and processes to prevent the entry of more garbage through the Bureau of Customs and Philippine ports. Legislation is needed to plug loopholes in the law, to make it clear to all that the im-

portation of garbage is banned, and violators will face stiff

penalties.

There is a market in recyclable materials including plastic waste. Garbage can also be processed into solid blocks that are being used in some countries for the construction of buildings and roads. But the garbage shipments in question don't look like they were brought in for recycling or construction use, with 26 of the 103 containers already buried in a Tarlac landfill. The shipments, sent between 2013 and 2014, consist mainly of kitchen scraps, diapers and electronic waste.

It looks like the importer was paid precisely so the Philippines could be used for dumping garbage from other countries. This is not an isolated case; hospital waste, which could pose pathological hazards, was also imported from Japan in 1999. Tokyo, however, quickly sent a ship to take back the 120 shipping containers of trash.

Metro Manila and other parts of the country have their own problems with garbage disposal. The last thing the country needs is more garbage from abroad.



Solid waste mismanagement in the Philippines

Human society sustains itself by transforming nature into garbage," said aphorist and professor Mason Cooley.

Unsurprisingly, the Philippines generates more solid waste as population increases, living standards are enhanced, and urban and rural areas are being developed. According to a report by the Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO), the country's waste generation steadily increased from 37,427.46 tons per day in 2012 to 40,087.45 tons in 2016.

Meanwhile, solid wastes produced by Philippine cities are expected to increase by 165 percent to 77,776 tons by 2025.

Residential areas produce the most amount of solid wastes at 57 percent, while wastes from commercial establishments, institutional sources, and industrial or manufacturing sector accounted for 27 percent, 12 per-

cent, and 4 percent of the total waste generated, respectively.

"More than 15 years after the passage of [the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA No. 9003)], enforcement and compliance with the law remains a daunting task due to technical, political, and financial limitations of concerned agencies and [local government units (LGU)]," said the SEPO. "Majority of LGUs have yet to comply with the provisions of RA 9003, particularly on the establishment of local [solid waste management (SWM)] Boards, submission of SWM Plans, establishment of [materials-recovery facilities], and closure of all open and controlled dumpsites."

RA No. 9003 prohibits the use of open dumps for solid waste disposal and enjoins the LGUs to convert their open dumps into sanitary landfill.

Moreover, in its Administra-



PROPERTY RULES

SARA MAED D. MAWIS

tive Order No. 50-1998, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) prescribed guidelines for identifying and establishing sanitary landfills such that, among others: (a) the site should not be located in existing or proposed residential, commercial, or urban development areas, and areas with archeological, cultural, and historical importance; (b) the site should not be located in

or up gradient of shallow unconfined aquifers for drinking water supply; (c) the site should not be located near airports; and (d) the site should not be located in soft and settling soils.

As of last year, however, the DENR's National Solid Waste Management Commission disclosed that a total of 384 open dumps still operate nationwide except in Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, according to Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternative Coordinator Ramon Lopez, LGUs continue to operate landfills within environmentally critical areas, such as the Payatas landfill in Quezon City, which is less than a kilometer away from Metro Manila's water source, La Mesa Dam.

Individuals comprising each LGU are likewise responsible for solid waste management. In fact, Presidential Decree No. 825 (PD No. 825) enjoins all citizens

and residents of the Philippines, educational institutions and commercial and industrial establishments to clean their own surroundings, as well as the canals, roads or streets in their immediate premises.

Meanwhile, owners of idle lots in Metro Manila shall keep them clean to protect them from becoming breeding places of mosquitoes, flies, mice, rats and other scavengers. Otherwise, the government shall undertake to keep said lots clean at the owners' expense.

Moreover, RA No. 9003 prohibits the littering, throwing, dumping of waste matters in public places, or causing or permitting the same. Any person who commits this offense shall, upon conviction, be fined for not less than P300 but not more than P1,000, or render community service for not less than one day to not more than 15

days to an LGU where such prohibited acts are committed.

These laws may have never seen the light of day, however, with garbage ending up on streets, sewages, canals and other waterways. This phenomenon may be attributed to, among others, the absence of implementing ordinances in some LGUs, residents' lack of participation in promoting solid waste management, and the general public's limited awareness on waste disposal and segregation.

Department of Public Services operations division technical staff Jayson Umali was quoted in news reports as saying: "One of the major problems we encounter until now is the human and cultural behavior. We can't clean the environment alone."

"[W]e need the community's participation especially barangay officials... [W]e need their full cooperation and support."



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



13
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

Cleanup of QC waterways set

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with Rotary International District (RID) 3780 to clean up waterways in Quezon City as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation.

RID 3780, which is composed of 104 Rotary clubs in the city, signed a memorandum of agreement with the DENR for the cleanup of 118 kilometers of waterways within four Quezon City watersheds.

This will cover 14,700 hectares around Barangay Culiati, the vicinities of Pasong Tamo creek and Tullahan-Tinajeros River, and other areas connected with those waterways and is under the DENR's Adopt-an-estero program.

"We recognize the role of the private and community sectors. Without their assistance, we would not be able to achieve a cleaner and safer metropolitan environment," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

The DENR will provide

RID 3780 with technical assistance in reducing pollution in areas covered by the agreement, including strict implementation of the solid waste management law, water quality monitoring, coordination with the local government and assistance in conducting environmental education activities.

RID 3780 will make sure that each Rotary Club will have a private sector partner-stakeholder that will assist in the implementation of the program through the use of their corporate social responsibility funds.

Established in 2010, the Adopt-an-estero program is a response to the continuing mandamus by the Supreme Court for agencies led by the DENR to clean up Manila Bay, particularly through the *esteros* and waterways that flow directly to the historic bay.

— Louise Maureen
Simeon, Rhodina
Villanueva



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

A-5
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BAHNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

18 MAY 2019

DATE

MMDA collects 29 truckloads of poll trash

IN a post-cleanup report on Friday, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Metro Parkway Clearing Group (MPCG) said it had hauled from the recently concluded midterm elections 29 truckloads of campaign materials, equivalent to 200.37 tons or 705.34 cubic meters of trash.

Armed with scrapers and sprayers, clearing operation teams scratched election materials pasted on concrete walls and fences in major thoroughfares.

Using lifters, workers also took down tarpaulins, buntings and posters hanging on electrical posts, wirings and trees, while street sweepers removed leaflets, sample

ballots and flyers in the vicinities of public schools.

"We target to rid the major roads in [Metro Manila] of campaign materials and spruce up public schools until this week so the public can prepare for the opening of classes next month early," MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim said.

During the post-election clearing operations, collected campaign trash reached 23.42 tons on May 14, 14.45 tons on May 15, and 17.08 tons on May 16 from major thoroughfares and public school vicinities in Metro Manila.

The cities of Manila, Quezon, Parañaque and Makati yielded the

lion's share of campaign materials.

In a report released in June 2017, the MMDA reported that with the swiftly growing rate of trash generation, three landfills that the National Capital Region is currently using would be full and rendered unusable by 2037.

It said the Quezon City sanitary landfill would be full by 2021, Navotas sanitary landfill by 2026 and Rizal provincial sanitary landfill by 2037.

Solid waste generation by Metro Manila residents as of October last year was about 56,000 cubic meters or 9,871 tons daily.

Meanwhile, Francis Martinez, MPCG chief, said they confiscated

134,700 pieces, equivalent to 145 tons, of election-related materials in various areas in Metro Manila under the "Oplan Baklas" campaign before the May 13 elections.

The campaign started on March 1 until Election Day wherein campaign materials placed outside areas designated by the Commission on Elections were removed.

"All in all, we have collected, so far, 168.84 tons of campaign trash this midterm elections," Martinez said.

Campaign materials are brought to and stored at the flyovers in Santolan, Quezon City and Nagtahan, Manila for sorting and recycling.

NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS



MMDA collects 29 truckloads of post-election garbage

By Joel E. Zurbano

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has collected 29 truckloads of campaign posters and other election-related paraphernalia all over the metropolis during its clearing operations from March 1 to May 16.

The MMDA Metro Parkways Clearing Group said the volume of collection is equivalent to 200.37 tons or 705.34 cubic meters.

During post-election clearing operations, collected campaign trash reached 23.42 tons on May 14; 14.45 tons on May 15 and 17.08 tons on May 16 from major thoroughfares and vicinity of public schools in Metro Manila.

MMDA chairman Danilo Lim said the campaign materials will not be thrown away at landfills but will be converted to bags, place mats, baskets, school supplies and other useful items.

Environmental groups who want to recycle the campaign materials may coordinate with the agency.

More than 100 personnel are involved in the taking down and removal of campaign materials in major thoroughfares and several public schools in Metro Manila.

On March 1, the government deputized various agencies and the police force to remove illegal posters and campaign materials for the midterm polls.

Environmental group Ecowaste Coalition has denounced candidates and their supporters for posting political billboards and other election campaign materials outside the designated areas in Metro Manila.

The group reported seeing election posters nailed or wired on trees, taped on electric posts and traffic signages, and displayed on bridges, which constitute "prohibited forms of election propaganda" as per the Commission on Elections.

In the 2016 elections, the MMDA turned over to Ecowaste the removed illegal election campaign tarpaulins which were reproduced as seat covers, tents and other usable items.

The tarpaulins were among the truckloads of illegal campaign materials removed by the MMDA from foot bridges, lamp posts, cable wires and trees during their operation dubbed as "Operation Baklas."



BULGAR

5
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

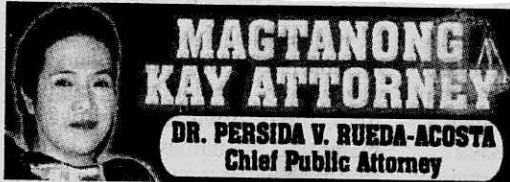
CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN



**MAGTANONG
KAY ATTORNEY**

DR. PERSIDA V. RUEDA-ACOSTA
Chief Public Attorney

Iligal na pagputol ng puno ng malaking korporasyon

Dear Chief Acosta,

Matagal nang nakatira ang aming pamilya malapit sa kagubatan. Noong nakaraang linggo ay napag-alaman naming ipinaputol ng malaking korporasyon ang ilan sa mga puno sa nasabing gubat nang walang kaukulang pahintulot. May batas ba na maaaring maging basehan upang sila ay managot sa kanilang ginawa? — Wally

Dear Wally,

Para sa inyong kaalaman, ang batas na nakasasaklaw sa inyong katanungan ay ang **Presidential Decree 705** o mas kilala sa tawag na *Revised Forestry Code*. Nakasaad sa *Section 68* nito

na:

“Section 68. Cutting, gathering and/or collecting timber or other products without license. Any person who shall cut, gather, collect, or remove timber or other forest products from any forest land, or timber from alienable and disposable public lands, or from private lands, without any authority under a license agreement, lease, license or permit, shall be guilty of qualified theft as defined and punished under Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code; Provided, That in the case of partnership, association or corporation, the officers who ordered the cutting, gathering or collecting shall be liable, and if such officers are aliens, they shall, in addition to the penalty, be deported without further proceedings on the part of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation. x

x x”

Ayon sa nasabing batas, maparusahan ang mga opisyal ng nasabing korporasyon na nag-utos sa pagputol ng mga puno sa kagubatan nang walang kaukulang pahintulot alinsunod sa *Articles 309* at *310* ng *Revised Penal Code* kung saan nakasaad na ang parusa ay naaayon sa halaga o *value* ng puno. Made-deport din ang nasabing opisyal kung siya ay dayuhan.

Nawa ay nasagot namin ang inyong katanungan. Nais naming ipaalala sa inyo na ang opinyong ito ay nakabase sa inyong mga naisalaysay sa inyong liham at sa pagkaka-intindi namin dito. Maaaring maiba ang opinyon kung mayroong karagdagang impormasyong ibibigay. Mas mainam kung personal kayong sasangguni sa abogado.

Maraming salamat sa patuloy ninyong pagtitiwala.

Kung kayo ay may katanungan o nais ihingi ng payong legal, sumulat sa **MAGTANONG KAY ATTORNEY** ni Persida Acosta, BULGAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa attorney.bulgar@gmail.com



Planet Earth: endgame?

Our planet is on the brink of irreversible collapse due to rapid and unregulated human activities. To borrow from the plot of the popular comic book movie still showing in local theaters near you, joining forces to beat a global threat is critical at this juncture of history; and one need not have superpowers to make an impact.

"Green," not greed. Since the Industrial Revolution, our natural resources have been depleted dramatically as we improve the way we transport goods, consume and produce energy and urbanize spaces. We humans have dominated the planet, but our nonrecyclable waste end up in seas and soils, forcing species of plants and animals that lived way before our earliest ancestors did to vanish into thin air. No other species is to blame but us; we created the big companies in developed countries responsible for nearly two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.

Yet we have the power to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Collective action, such as a rapid global shift to clean energy, is key. Government actions will have to be ambitious to catch up with rising climate threats. Obsessing with greening our personal choices and changing our individual lifestyles are not enough.

Flirting between 1.5°C and 2°C. The world is currently halfway toward the threshold that could mark an unsafe climate change. This finding was reinforced by a recent special report by a group of

COMMENTARY

LUIGI TODA

global climate science experts, which said that the 2°C target is a critical limit for climate policy, and is not a responsible target. Even 1.5°C of warming would have devastating effects on health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth.

But the "degree target" challenge should not justify inaction. Developed countries remain responsible for the bulk of historical emissions, and therefore must take the lead in implementing ambitious mitigation actions and ensuring that some \$100 billion jointly mobilized every year by 2020 is made more accessible to developing countries.

Paradigm shift. In the Philippines, we are still focused on disaster preparedness and response rather than addressing poverty, income inequality and overexploited natural resources. In many instances, large-scale mining and land use change have modified ecosystems that naturally protect communities from potential climate-induced hazards. This places farming and poor communities at the periphery of land use and development policies, depriving them of the right amount of resources to thrive.

Despite the call for a paradigm shift from disaster response to holistic risk

reduction under the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, our current approaches remain largely reactive and dependent on stopgap infrastructure measures that have left more environmental and social harm than good.

Dangerous economic growth fetish. Should natural resources endure overexploitation for economic "growth"? No. Fetishizing economic growth by hinging our progress on traditional measures of "growth" is dangerous. GDP, for instance, is a misleading measure of national progress, and could eventually lead us askew to irreversible ecological collapse.

Alternative ways to measure growth should treat the economic system beyond wealth, and pursue metrics that also capture environmental and social costs. It's high time we shifted to alternative economies that value our environment and wellbeing rather than the costs of what we produce and consume.

So, is it already "endgame" for planet Earth? I hope not. We need a planet that sustains life for everyone, and not one that grows only for a few.

The choice is ours. The choice is now.

Luigi Toda is the climate change adaptation and risk reduction advisor of Oxfam in the Philippines. A recipient of Australia Awards Scholarship, he earned his Master of Environmental Management and Development degree from the Australian National University.



Resilience dividend

I am writing this from Geneva, Switzerland, where I am with a team from the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), which forms part of the Philippine delegation to the United Nations' Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) meeting. Our delegation, headed by Undersecretary Ric Jalad of the Office of Civil Defense and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council, is composed of individuals from national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, the academe and the private sector.

The GPDRR meets once every two years and brings together some 4,000 disaster risk reduction professionals, scientists and policymakers for one week to discuss a wide range of topics and projects on disaster risk reduction. With dozens of dialogues, presentations and learning labs running simultaneously during the day, it's the perfect place to catch up with old and new contacts in the field to exchange ideas and learn new ones.

This year's theme is "Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies," something close to our hearts at the PDRF since the concept of the Resilience Dividend was at the core of our decision and plan to reorganize and reorient our mission from a purely disaster response and recovery organization to one dedicated to the fuller spectrum of disaster resilience (from prevention to preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery).

For years, the Philippines has been known as one of the "disaster capitals" of the world. Indeed, we are ranked the third most vulnerable country in the world in terms of natural calamities. While we had developed half-decent response mechanisms, we lagged in the past in terms of

BUSINESS MATTERS

GUILLERMO M. LUZ

disaster preparedness and prevention.

That is no longer the case. Many agencies and organizations in the Philippines are now recognized as global experts and leaders in disaster preparedness and prevention. Throughout sessions here at the Global Platform, Philippine experts from different agencies and organizations are spread throughout a wide range of panels on topics ranging from education to health, social welfare and development, local governance, science, risk assessment and community resilience. Not a few foreign speakers even cite their experience working on Philippine projects as among their ideas of best practice.

One area where the Philippines is recognized as a leader is in public-private collaboration. Mainly as a recognition that Mother Nature could be a formidable force, both government and the private sector realized that there was strength in numbers; that together we stood a far better chance of managing our risk and responding to it than if we were to act separately.

The PDRF was organized along these lines back in 2009 following Typhoon "Ketsana" ("Ondoy"), and was reinforced in this position following our reorganization in 2013 after Supertyphoon "Haiyan" ("Yolanda"). Our programs and operations were designed to run interoperably within the business community and between the business community and government. Joint exercises, drills, training programs and business continuity programs down to the barangay level have been a

regular feature of our work at the PDRF.

As a country, our collective public and private investments in disaster resilience has begun to pay off. Since Yolanda in 2013, casualties due to natural calamities have dropped dramatically (though that is of course also attributable to less severe calamities), while recovery after disasters appears to have sped up.

For PDRF, our programs for the Emergency Operations Center, Training (known as PrepLab), Business Continuity for MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), Service Continuity for Government, Community Resilience and Participatory Mapping, Information Systems, and our Cluster System will continue to expand as areas of investment in resilience. Relatively new areas of work in such projects as Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, Getting Airports Ready for Disaster, and others will also scale up. Partnerships with government, LGUs, academe and NGOs, as well as with international organizations like the United Nations, Connecting Business Initiative, Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Asian Preparedness Partnership, Brown University, World Food Program and others, will also be expanded to tap into their expertise and to extend our reach for sharing of ideas and practice.

It is our belief that these investments will yield a resilience dividend, and that this dividend will benefit people even before any natural calamity strikes.

Guillermo M. Luz is the chief resilience officer of the PDRF (www.pdrf.org).

Business Matters is a project of the Makati Business Club (makatibusinessclub@mbc.com.ph):



Founded Since 1898

The Manila Times

35
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BATHING
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

18 MAY 2019

DATE

P-1

Seas are rising, cities are sinking

Second of three parts

ONE of the most striking parts of the documentary film "Before the Flood," which chronicles the incredible three-year journey of American actor and climate activist Leonard DiCaprio exploring the impacts of global warming, was his interview with then President Anote Tong of Kiribati (pronounced "KEE-ree-bas") who shared his policy on migration with dignity. Kiribati, an isolated island in the Pacific, is home to about 110,000 and for all of them to survive, they cannot simply stay at home as they are on the brink of disappearance. "What is going to happen to us is going to be the fate of the rest who will follow," Tong shared in an interview.

Rapidly growing cities and ongoing effects of climate change are making more people vulnerable to rising sea levels. Two-thirds of the global population is expected to live in cities by 2050 and already, an estimated 800 million people live in more than 570 coastal areas that are vulnerable to a sea level rise of 0.50 meter by 2050. In a vicious circle, urbanization not only concentrates people and property in areas of potential damage and disruption, it also exacerbates those risks — for example by destroying natural sources of resilience such as coastal mangroves and increasing the strain on groundwater reserves. Intensifying impacts would render an increasing amount of land uninhabitable ("Fight or flight: Preparing cities for sea-level rise," The Global Risks' Report 2019).

Is Metro Manila (and other areas) sinking?

Early this month, reelected Indonesian President Joko Widodo announced that the country would relocate its capital from Jakarta,



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

According to John Englander, president of the International Sea Level Institute and author of High Tide on Main Street, in his article. "As seas rise, Indonesia is moving its capital city. Other cities should take note." In Washington Post recently, it said the decision, given that the city can no longer support its massive population in the face of environmental threats, as well as concerns of traffic congestion and water shortages, validates decades of warnings about the city's catastrophic flood risk due to sinking land and rising seas. While Jakarta is especially vulnerable to the threat of rising seas, it serves as a profound wake-up call for hundreds of major cities, Metro Manila included.

Based on the same climate central study titled "Mapping Choices: Carbon, Climate, and Rising Seas — Our Global Legacy," which covers seven of our highly-urbanized cities — Manila, Quezon, Iloilo, Pasay, Cebu, Davao and Bacolod, at 1.5 degrees Celsius (C) global warming, a median of 3.20 meters of global sea level rise would submerge 2.08 million people. And at 2 C global warming, it could increase the numbers to median of 5.20 meters of sea level rise and 7.24 million people. (See table below.)

Metro Manila is one of the so-called "delta cities" that include Dhaka (Bangladesh), Guangzhou, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Rotterdam, Tokyo and Venice. These delta cities are particularly vulnerable to land subsidence.

We already know that many cities are already highly vulnerable to flooding and storm surges,

and climate change acts as a multiplier of existing and future vulnerabilities. Aside from climate change, for Metro Manila, there are other factors like groundwater extraction, rapid urbanization and growing population.

Groundwater extraction

As the World Economic Forum's The Global Risks' Report 2019 shows, about 90 percent of all coastal areas would be affected to varying degrees. Some cities will experience sea-level rises as high as 30 percent above the global mean. Making matters worse, sprawling cities are sinking at the same time as seawaters seep in. This is due to the sheer weight of growing cities, combined with the groundwater extracted by their residents.

Groundwater extraction by our growing population is the main cause of land subsidence — or the sinking of land — in Metro Manila and other highly populated areas like Bataan, Pampanga and Bulacan, according to Filipino geologist Kelvin Rodolfo, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in an interview over five years ago. He explained that while global warming is causing relative sea levels to rise by 0.07 to 0.08 meter per year, subsidence is occurring at more than

twice that rate — from 0.20 meter to as much as 0.90 meter per year.

Data from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) revealed that areas in Metro Manila have sunk 0.68 meter to 1.34 meters in the span of 30 years, from 1979 to 2009. And, with the scientific projections, Metro Manila will continue to sink.

In a study commissioned by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) in 2004 and complemented by information derived from reports, maps, secondary well data, climatic data, and hydrologic records, NWRB identified eight critical level takes place — Guiguinto; Bocaue-Marilao; Meycauayan-North Caloocan; Navotas-Caloocan-West Quezon City; Makati-Mandaluyong-Pasig-Pateros; Parañaque-Pasay; Las Piñas-Muntinlupa; and Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Christian Aid, a United Kingdom-based Christian organization that insists the world could and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, in its eight-city case study titled "Sinking Cities, Rising Seas: A perfect storm of climate change and bad development choices," reported that, for Metro Manila, groundwater use is causing sinking of around 0.10 meter per year, or 10 times the rate of sea level rise through melting land



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

B5
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

WARTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

18 MAY 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2

Seas are rising, cities are sinking

ice and thermal expansion. With an average elevation of around 5 meters, the subsidence not only increases the absolute risk of flood, but also the areas affected: high tides can penetrate further inland and floods may recede more slowly. This means that there is increased risk of salination of soils that were previously fertile.

Rapid urbanization and growing population

Encyclopedia Britannica defines urbanization as "the process by which large numbers of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities." "Urbanization is happening at an unprecedented rate globally and cities have become the foremost drivers of economic development across the world," according to the 6th Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6) Summary for Policymakers.

In a Euromonitor International study titled "Megacities: Developing Country Domination" in 2018, Metro Manila is considered to be one out of the 33 megacities in the world. While megacities offer wealth, social diversity, economic growth, innovation, as well as attract the ambitious in search of jobs, business ventures and education, they pres-

ent numerous challenges as they suffer from overcrowding, traffic congestion, air pollution, and high income inequality. Cities like Metro Manila that are urbanizing most rapidly are in a more vulnerable situation. (Read "On Earth Day, let us examine what drives environmental change" at <https://www.manilatimes.net/on-earth-day-let-us-examine-what-drives-environmental-change/542776/>)

Increasing population would place extra demands on both resources and services. Just like in other cities, Metro Manila would continue to face the challenges in meeting the needs of our growing urban population, which includes housing, transportation, energy systems and other infrastructure, as well as for employment and basic services such as education and health care. (Read 'Let's TEE UP!' at <https://www.manilatimes.net/lets-tee-up-2/526259/>)

Not only that Metro Manila is sinking, it is ranked as the third city at risk (out of 279 cities) globally, according to the 2nd Lloyd's City Risk Index 2018. Based on the original research by the Center for Risk Studies at University of Cambridge's Judge Business School that details the risk landscape, Metro Manila stands to lose \$8.5 billion of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually from natural catastrophe like typhoons, flooding and earthquakes. In a similar fashion, Metro Manila is ranked at the bottom 10, 55th out of 60 countries, in the 2017 Safe Cities Index of The Economist Intelligence Unit.

One would hope that there would be no time that the coastal barangay (villages) of Metro Manila would suffer the same fate as the residents of Sitio Paraihan of Barangay Taliptip in Bulacan.

Next week, we will discuss the strategies to adapt to rising sea levels.

| Urban Center | Number of people affected | | Median sea level rise (meters) | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | 1.5oC | 2oC | 1.5oC | 2.0oC |
| Manila City | 769,000 | 1,923,000 | 3.1 | 5.2 |
| Quezon City | 560,000 | 1,220,000 | 3.1 | 5.2 |
| Iloilo City | 294,000 | 638,000 | 3.2 | 5.2 |
| Pasay City | 168,000 | 633,000 | 3.2 | 5.2 |
| Cebu City | 134,000 | 345,000 | 3.2 | 5.2 |
| Davao City | 93,000 | 280,000 | 3.1 | 5.1 |
| Bacolod City | 30,000 | 118,000 | | |
| Sub-Total | 2,084,000 | 5,157,000 | | |
| Total | 7,241,000 | 5,157,000 | | |

Disclaimer: The projections do not forecast what sea levels may unfold this century. Rather, they indicate the different post-2100 sea levels that could lock in this century, depending upon the carbon pathway we select and the warming thus achieved. The sea levels described could possibly, but with low probability, occur sooner than 200 years from now or be reached as far as 2,000 years in the future.



Ignored law laid down

Until President Duterte laid down the law, no one made an issue of it on our side before he did and I alone acted on it

From page 1

Certainly not diplomatic relations. Can we all keep silent?" said Locsin.

Canada mislabels

Mr. Duterte had warned that he will declare war against Canada if it fails to take back 69 container vans of garbage it exported to Manila in 2013.

After the President and then me, no one has the authority to sever anything but his own throat.

A total of 103 container vans from Canada loaded with garbage were mislabeled as "recyclable plastic materials" and shipped to Manila by Chronic Inc, a private company in Ontario and were consigned to Chronic Plastics, a local firm. Thirty-four container vans were already disposed of at a dumpsite in Tarlac.

The Canadian embassy in the Philippines, in a statement last month, said Manila and Ottawa were working together to resolve the garbage issue.

With the "diminished" Philippine diplomatic mission to Ottawa, many expressed concerns if such will impact negatively on almost one million Filipinos staying in Canada.

It was gathered that there were about 900,000 Filipinos in Canada as of April 2018, comprising a mix of naturalized Canadians, permanent residents and temporary foreign workers. This number comprises almost 2.6 percent of Canada's population.

Filipinos in Canada accounted for over \$644.4 million remittances in 2017 - up by 12.6 percent from \$572.8 million in 2016.

Swift action vowed

Canada, meantime, again vowed to work closely with the Philippines for a "swift resolution" of the diplomatic rift.

Canada issued the statement after the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) recalled ranking Filipino envoys in Canada last Thursday.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippine ambassador and consuls general. However, we will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," Guillaume Bérubé, spokesman for Global Affairs Canada, said.

Bérubé did not indicate the earliest estimate when the containers of trash will be pulled out, but he reiterated Canada's "commitment to promptly ship and dispose of the Canadian waste."

"We remain committed to finalizing these arrangements for the return of the waste to Canada," he said, as he noted that "Canada values its deep and long-standing relationship with the Philippines."

Mine is the first, last and only word in foreign affairs after the President's.

Global Affairs Canada, which manages Ottawa's diplomatic relations and trade, is headed by ministers, including Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland.

Trade normal

Trade relations between the Philippines and Canada remain stable amid the "disruptive diplomatic" situation between the two countries, Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez maintained.

"I don't think that issue will affect our trade and investment deals with Canadian companies because those are business-to-business transactions.

They will simply continue," Lopez told reporters in a chance interview in Malacañang late Thursday afternoon. "That will not have any effect, because it's not the companies we are against. That's a separate issue."

The rest didn't raise even a peep about it.

Canada is the Philippines' 20th major trade partner out of 221 as of 2018, 17th export market out of 211, and 20th import supplier out of 198, according to the DTI.

No tipping point

Lopez also bared the Philippines is set to join a trade event in Canada that will cater to the startup and disruptive technologies communities early next month.

"I was asked if we should push through with it. I think we should because activities like this are apolitical," stated Lopez.

The ongoing mess with the Philippines and Canada could only be a cause for concern for Canadian businessmen, according to Lopez, if Manila makes true its threat of cutting diplomatic ties.

Lopez, however, is optimistic that it would not reach a tipping point as it is a separate issue from the business sector.

"I don't think the problem will escalate to a severance of ties. We've had a very long relationship with Canada for it to be affected by this," he said.

"Documentation concerns" was said to be the cause of the delayed reshipment of the cargo back to Ottawa.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

**Daily
Tribune**
www.DailyTribune.com



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
5th



BANNER



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

18 MAY 2013

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

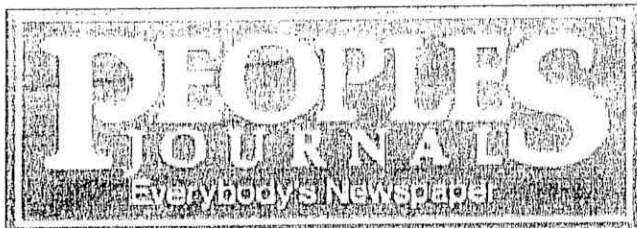
Ignored law laid down



PM's undoing Canada's garbage exports' stink is rubbing off on the competence of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



11
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

18 MAY 2019

DATE

ROTARY 3780 JOINS MANILA BAY CLEANUP

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has found another partner in its effort to rehabilitate the heavily-polluted Manila Bay.

According to Secretary Roy Cimatu, the Rotary International District (RID) 3780 has agreed to join in the cause to clean up the important waterways in Quezon City that flows into the bay.

RID 3780, which was composed of all 104 Rotary clubs in the city, re-

cently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the DENR for the cleanup of 118 kilometers of waterways within four QC watersheds, covering 14,700 hectares under the agency's "Adopt-An-Estero" program.

This covers areas around Barangay Culiati, the vicinities affecting the Pasong Tamo Creek and the Tullahan-Tinajeros River, and several more areas connected with those waterways.

Cimatu said the

DENR-Rotary partnership will be "a great help in achieving the goals and targets of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program."

"We are recognizing the role of the private and community sectors when it comes to forging partnerships with them. Without their assistance, we would not be able to achieve a cleaner and safer metropolitan environment," said Cimatu, who signed the MOA in behalf of the DENR.

Joel dela Torre