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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Iloilo holds first ever bamboo congress

A "bamboo congress" is being held this week in Iloilo City, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has announced.

The DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) spearheads the event dubbed "the first ASEAN Bamboo Congress for Climate Change Adaptation towards Environmental Sustainability and Economic Resiliency" from Aug. 12 to 16, 2019 at the Iloilo International Convention Center.

According to ERDB director and national coordinator of the Bamboo

Plantation Development Project (BPDP) Sofio Quintana, the event convenes more than 200 researchers, academics, policymakers, professionals and business groups within the ASEAN region to discuss and exchange information on bamboo and sustainable environmental strategies.

Officials from the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan in Beijing, China, and the World Bamboo Organization as well as representatives from other non-ASEAN countries like Australia, USA and China, are also expected to attend the congress.

Quintana also said the conduct

of the event is in recognition of the importance of bamboo in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

"Bamboo is considered as a valuable economic and environmental resource, and ERDB hopes to continue to innovate ways on increasing awareness on the promising potentials of bamboo especially in attaining environmental sustainability and economic resiliency," he pointed out.

Angelito Exconde, assistant national coordinator of BPDP, said that through the congress, ERDB hopes to strengthen partnership with other countries in enhancing science-based research and development on bamboo.

"The congress will support the bamboo industry, and how this industry can contribute to sustainable economic growth and environmental sustainability," Exconde said.

Aside from being the fastest growing plant on earth, bamboo is also known for its resilience, versatility, beauty and strength. It is a source of food and construction materials, and can be used as furnishing. Bamboo also helps in carbon sequestration with its capacity to store 39.8 to 44.3 percent of carbon in its total biomass.

"We foresee this (congress) as a relevant and leading avenue for the improvement of bamboo information not only in the ASEAN region but globally," Quintana said.

He added, "Climate change is a

pressing issue, but there is strength in numbers. I believe that if various stakeholders will strongly collaborate, we can respond fully to this problem."

ERDB is the principal research and development arm of DENR. It has done research on bamboo since 1987. The bureau has established a Bambusetum at the Los Baños Experimental Station to conserve and preserve more than 40 different rare and endangered bamboo species.

- Rhodina Villanueva



'Asean collaboration needed to address marine plastic pollution'

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said there is a need for strong collaboration and an immediate comprehensive regional action to address the crucial issue of marine plastic pollution.

During the recently concluded ASEAN Ministerial Roundtable Discussion on Clean Air, Health and Climate held in Makati City, Cimatu, in his welcome message, said five Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states were cited as the biggest sources of plastic pollution in the world's oceans and had the highest marine plastic litter concentration.

In 2015, *Science* magazine listed Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines as among the world's worst plastic polluters.

Cimatu reminded environment ministers to address the issue of marine plastics given the ASEAN region's "richness in marine biodiversity aside from being a strategic maritime zone."

"After all, plastics have carbon footprint, too, and bio-accumulation of microplastics may have impacts to human health," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources chief said.

Environment ministers and senior officials of ASEAN member states have committed to strengthen local initiatives to address air pollution and to adopt early and scaled-up solutions to avoid a temperature increase by 2050. This will help improve air quality and prevent premature deaths and crop damage annually.

The commitments are in response to the roundtable discussion's primary message to highlight the linkages of issues related to air pollution, health and climate. Specifically, the focus was to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone and hydrofluorocarbons which, aside from adversely affecting health, also contribute to global warming.

The need for integrated planning on climate change and air pollution was likewise raised to identify the most relevant actions to mitigate both impacts simultaneously.



PANAWAGAN NI DENR SECRETARY CIMATU SA ASEAN MEMBER-STATES; PAG-UKULAN NG PANSIN ANG CRITICAL ISSUE NG MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

PINAALALAHANAN ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga environment minister na huwag kalimutang pag-ukulan ng pansin ang kritikal na isyu ng marine plastic pollution sa ginanap na Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Roundtable Discussion on Clean Air, Health and Climate sa Makati City noong Hulyo 24-25, 2019.

Sa kanyang Welcome Message, sinabi ni Cimatu na lima sa ASEAN member-states ang pinagmumulan ng plastic pollution sa mga karagatan sa buong mundo na siya ring may pinakamataas na marine plastic litter concentration.

Ayon sa Science magazine, noong 2015, kabilang sa mga bansang tinawag na world's worst plastic polluters ay ang Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia at ang Pilipinas.

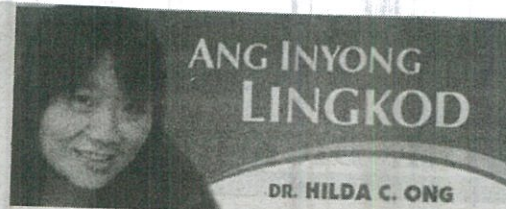
Sabi ni Cimatu, kinakailangang magkaroon ng pagtutulungan at agarang solusyon ang rehiyon upang matugunan ang marine plastics sapagkat mayaman ang ASEAN region sa "marine biodiversity" bukod pa sa pagkakaroon nito ng strategic maritime zone.

"After all, plastics have carbon footprint, too, and bio-accumulation of microplastics may have impacts to human health," sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Nangako naman ang environment ministers at senior officials ng ASEAN member states na palalaksin nila ang mga initiative upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang patuloy na paglala ng air pollution upang mapigilan ang 0.6oC pagtaas ng temperature sa taong 2050. Sa pamamagitan nito ay mapabubuti ang kondisyon ng hangin at mapipigilan ang "premature deaths" at pagkasira ng mga pananim kada taon.

Ang mga pangakong ito ay tugon sa mensahe ng "roundtable discussion" kung saan tinalakay ang pagkakaugnay-ugnay ng air pollution, health at climate. Tinutukan din dito kung paano mababawasan ang short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) katulad ng black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone at hydrofluorocarbons na labis na nakaaapekto sa kalusugan at isa rin dahilan ng global warming.

Bukod dito, napag-usapan din ang pangangailangan na makagawa ng pinagsamang plano para sa climate change at air pollution upang matukoy



DR. HILDA C. ONG

ang pinakaangkop na aksyon para rito.

Nagkaroon din ng rekomendasyon ang ASEAN countries na palalaksin ang tinatawag na "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) na nakapaloob sa Paris Agreement kabilang na rito ang mga sumusunod: mitigation of SLCPs; integration of air pollution and climate change mitigation; alignment of climate change and air pollution policies by 2030.

Kasama sa pagpapabuti ng NDCs ang operationalization of appropriate and country-relevant measures on air quality na nabanggit sa "Report on Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions." Tinukoy rin sa ulat ang 25 hakbang para magkaroon ng malinis na hangin at ang magandang maidudulot nito sa human health, crop yields, climate

change at socio-economic development.

Ipararating ang mga napagkasunduan sa roundtable discussion sa United Nations Climate Action Summit na gaganapin sa darating na Setyembre 23 sa New York City at sa idaraos na High-Level Officials' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment sa Setyembre 27-28, 2019.

Isa ang Pilipinas, sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), sa mga co-host ng ASEAN meet kung saan ay nagsama-sama ang experts, scientists at leaders sa loob at labas ng ASEAN region upang maibahagi ang kaniyang inisyatibo at pananaw para sa global climate action, clean air and health.



(Photo credit to markdemayo_washedup-2)



POSTSCRIPT

FEDERICO D. PASCUAL Jr.

Poor to suffer most with death penalty



• 'Billions in fines not water under the bridge'

THE BILLIONS collected from captive consumers for non-existent wastewater treatment facilities by two private concessionaires is not water under the bridge. It must flow back to the victims, according to the Supreme Court.

In a unanimous decision, the SC upheld a 2009 Department of Environment and Natural Resources order penalizing Maynilad Water Services Inc., Manila Water Co. Inc. and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System with a hefty fine for defying the Clean Water Act.

Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, who was the DENR secretary then who went after MWSS and the two firms said:

"Punishment is our best deterrence to violators of our environmental protection laws. We first cited the three entities in April 2009 for violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act requiring them to provide wastewater treatment facilities and connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to a sewerage system.

"The following month, we imposed on them an initial fine of P29.4 million, which has already ballooned to almost P2 billion, and which the Supreme Court now says should be paid inside 15 days, without prejudice to further daily fines until the violators meet the terms of the law.

"Instead of fulfilling their contractual obligation of putting up wastewater treatment facilities, the MWSS and the water concessionaires went to the Court of Appeals, where they lost. They went to the Supreme Court, and now they've also lost. It is the end of the road for them.

"They now have to quickly put up sufficient wastewater treatment facilities, as we've been repeatedly pointing out in Congress, and connect all households and establishments in their concession areas to a sewerage system. Until they do, they'll have to continue paying the P322,102 daily fine, which escalates by 10 percent in two years."

* * *

NOTA BENE: *Postscripts* are archived at manilamail.com. Author is on Twitter as [@FDPascual](https://twitter.com/FDPascual). Email feedback to fdp333@yahoo.com





December deadline for Bangkulasi River cleanup

Navotas business owners should proactively coordinate with officials and offer solutions when needed

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has set a December deadline for the cleanup of Navotas City's Bangkulasi River, one of the polluted water bodies that drain into Manila Bay.

"Cleaning up the Bangkulasi River, which is part of the Malabon-Navotas River System, is an essential part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program because the river system directly empties into the historic bay," Cimatu pointed out.

The former Armed Forces chief ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) team assigned to the river system to "produce drastic improvements by December this year" in order to reduce the fecal coliform levels in Manila Bay by yearend.

The team, according to DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda, would "aim to prevent more wastes from flowing into the

river system before cleaning it."

"We are planning to use some interventions to prevent wastes from coming back to the river," Antiporda said during a meeting with local officials of Navotas City on 5 August.

In that meeting, the Environment official disclosed that the DENR will be issuing cease and desist orders against establishments that have no proper sewage treatment plants or STP.

However, he was quick to explain that the clampdown was "not about destroying the economy of Navotas, but about waking them up to say that Navotas is a model city."

"The Inter-Agency Task Force will also be providing the businesses with technical assistance to help them come up with solutions on how to go about with their problems on STP," Antiporda said.

Unlike in Boracay where businesses had to wait for months before they could operate again, he stressed that business owners in

Navotas could "proactively coordinate with the service providers and offer solutions when needed."

"The DENR really means business when it comes to environmental protection," he pointed out. "Once the DENR is able to effectively deliver its message, other establishments surrounding the area will take proactive steps to ensure they will not be affected by the issuance of cease and desist orders."

Antiporda said that a one-stop shop for Navotas business owners will be set up to help them comply with the requirements provided under various environmental laws.

The Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region Office and the DENR North Field Office will also help expedite the processing of environmental permits by businesses, he added. **JC**



Cimatu assures clean Bangkulasi River by December

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has set the deadline in the clean-up of the Navotas City's Bangkulasi River by December.

Bangkulasi River is one of the filthy water bodies that drain into Manila Bay.

"Cleaning up the Bangkulasi River, which is part of the Malabon-Navotas River System, is an essential part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program because the river system directly empties into the historic bay," Cimatu said.

A team has been assigned to clean the river system and to "produce

drastic improvements by December this year" in order to reduce the fecal coliform levels in Manila Bay by yearend.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda said the DENR will be issuing cease and desist orders against establishments that have no proper Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). He clarified that the clampdown was "not about destroying the economy of Navotas."

Joel dela Torre



Bangkulasi River rehab set

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is hopeful that the Navotas City's Bangkulasi River, one of the filthy water bodies that drain into Manila Bay, will see drastic improvements by the end of the year.

"Cleaning up the Bangkulasi River, which is part of the Malabon-Navotas River System, is an essential part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program because the river system directly empties into the historic bay," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu pointed out.

He ordered the DENR team assigned to the river system to "produce drastic improvements by De-

ember this year" in order to reduce the fecal coliform levels in Manila Bay by year end.

The team, according to DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda, would "aim to prevent more wastes from flowing into the river system before cleaning it."

"We are planning to use some interventions to prevent wastes from coming back to the river," he said.

Antiporda also disclosed that the DENR will be issuing cease and desist orders against establishments that have no proper sewage treatment plants (STPs.) **(Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz)**



River deadline: It's December

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu on Wednesday ordered a December deadline for the cleanup of Navotas City's Bangkulasi River, one of the filthy water bodies that drain into Manila Bay.

"Cleaning up the Bangkulasi River, which is part of the Malabon-Navotas River system, is an essential part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation program because the river system directly empties into the historic bay," he said.

He instructed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources team assigned to the river system to "produce drastic improvements by December this year" in order to reduce the fecal coliform levels in Manila Bay by yearend.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda said the team would "aim to prevent more wastes from flowing into the river system before cleaning it."

"We are planning to use some interventions to prevent wastes from coming back to the river," he said.

He threatened to issue cease-and-desist orders against establishments without proper sewage treatment plants.

But he clarified the crackdown was "not about destroying the economy of Navotas, but about waking them up to say that Navotas is a model city." **Rio Araja**



Cimatu nagbigay ng ultimatum sa paglilinis ng Bangkulasi River

NAGBIGAY ng deadline si Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu na hanggang sa Disyembre na lang ngayong taon ang palugit para linisin ang Bangkulasi River sa Navotas City na isa sa maruming ilog na dumadaloy patungo sa Manila Bay.

Inatasan na rin ng kalihim ang grupo ng DENR na nakatalaga sa naturang river system na magpakita ng malaking pagbabago sa ilog hanggang Disyembre upang mabawasan ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay sa katapusan ng taon.

Ayon naman kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, target ng grupo na mahadlangan ang pagpasok ng basura sa nasabing ilog bago ito tuluyang linisin.

Sinabi rin ni Antiporda sa ginanap na pulong na maglalabas ang DENR ng cease and desist orders laban sa mga establisimiyentong hindi maayos ang sewage treatment plants.

Nilinaaw ni Antiporda na ang kanilang ginagawa ay hindi panggigipit para masira ang ekonomiya ng siyudad bagkus ito ay isang hakbang upang gisingin ang Navotas City upang ipaalala na sila ay isang modelong lungsod.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, kinakailangan lang na ang mga negosyante sa Navotas City ay makipagtulungan sa mga service provider at magbigay ng kalutasan, kung kinakailangan, upang agad mabigyan ng solusyon ang kanilang problema. Sa gayon, hindi sila matutulad sa Boracay kung saan umabot ng buwan bago muling nakapagbukas ang mga establisimiyento dahil sa paglabag sa environmental laws.

Aniya, maglalagay din ng one-stop-shop para sa business owners sa Navotas City upang madali silang makapagpasa ng mga dokumento na kinakailangan ayon sa environmental laws.

Tutulong naman ang Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region Office at DENR North Field Office upang mapabilis ang pagproseso ng environmental permits. **SANTI C**



FOR CLEANUP

'TOILET' INCIDENT ON VIDEO PARTLY CLOSES BORACAY BEACH

By **Jerome Aning**
@JeromeAningINQ

Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo Puyat on Wednesday said authorities had closed a portion of Station 1 on Boracay Beach for 48 to 72 hours to conduct a cleanup following a viral social media post on Monday that showed two women allowing a child to defecate in the water and burying a soiled diaper in the sand.

"Anyone who violated the law, whether foreigner or Filipino, should be apprehended

and penalized," Puyat said.

"What's good here is that all Filipinos consciously want to keep Boracay clean," she added, referring to the netizen who had shot and posted the incident on Facebook. "Our only wish is that when they see [a violation], they should quickly report it to us so that we can also apprehend [violators] faster."

The beach was expected to be reopened on Thursday morning.

The two culprits had yet to be identified. INQ



Boracay area closed over defecation incident

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) ordered the closure for two to three days of a portion of the beach in Boracay Island where a foreign national was reported to have allowed her child to defecate.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who chairs the task force, instructed the Boracay interagency rehabilitation group general manager Natividad Bernardino to isolate the area where the incident happened with markers 100 meters wide on the shoreline that says: "No swimming, this area is under clean up," for a period of 48 to 72 hours.

"This was an unfortunate incident, but

we will not tolerate those who violate the law," Puyat said.

Earlier this week, a video went viral showing an alleged Chinese tourist who let her child defecate on the beach while another woman was seen in the video burying the child's soiled underwear in the sand.

"We encourage the public, who might witness similar incidents, to immediately report offenders to the proper authorities so that they can be promptly apprehended and fined accordingly," Puyat said.

"We will continue to coordinate with the tour operators and travel agencies in informing our tourists of the proper travel etiquette when visiting the Philippines and the corresponding fines and punishments if these are not followed,"



she added.

Boracay was closed to tourists for six months last year to pave way for the rehabilitation of the island.

The government is limiting the number of tourists in Boracay to ensure sustainability of the island, which was reopened in October.

A study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed that Boracay's carrying capacity is only 55,757 people per day, including residents. Only 19,215 tourists are allowed on the island at a certain time with 6,405 allowed to enter the island per day.

President Duterte recently approved the P25 billion Boracay fund, which will install safeguards against ecological degradation and sustain tourism activities in

the island.

"By essentially institutionalizing the functions of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force with the approval of the Action Plan, we can clearly see the government's determination to sustain the gains of the initial six-month rehabilitation," Puyat earlier said.

The DOT chairs the thematic cluster on sustainable economic activities including tourism and livelihood.

"The President's move assures us of Boracay Island's sustainable tourism development with the BAP serving as the BIATF's guide in ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth with continuing opportunities for all stakeholders," Puyat added. — With Louise Maureen Simeon, Jennifer Rendon



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CORDONED OFF. DENR Secretary and BIATF Chairman Roy A. Cimatu gave instructions to cordon off the beachfront area in Boracay's Station 1 where the 'pooping' viral video happened. The area will be temporarily closed for swimming for 48 hours or until water quality tests show safe levels for human contact. **DENR-SCIS Photo**



Chinese na nagkalat ng ebak sa Boracay tugisin

Pansamantalang isinara ng Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Group ang bahagi ng isla kung saan nag-viral ang video ng isang babaeng Chinese national habang nagpapatae ng kanyang anak sa dalampasigan nito.

Sinabi ni Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat na lili-

nisin muna ang kinordon na lugar sa Boracay Station 1 para maalis ang pangangamoy tae nito.

Pinagbawal din muna na mag-swimming ang mga dayuhan at lokal na turista sa pinangyarihan ng insidente.

Nabatid pa kay Puyat na kanya na ring inatasan ang interagency

para matukoy ang turistang nasa viral video at sampahan ito ng paglabag sa environmental law.

Makikita rin sa viral video na hinuhugasan ng kanyang ina ang paslit at sa isa pang kuha ay ibinabaon ng isa pang babaeng turista ang diaper ng bata sa maputing buhangin ng Boracay.



Boracay station 1 sinara sa pag-ebak ng turista

ISINARA ng mga awtoridad ang bahagi ng Boracay Island nitong Miyerkoles para isailalim sa 48 hanggang 72 oras na paglilinis kasunod ng insidente ng pagdumi ng turistang Chinese sa dalampasigan, ayon kay Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

Kasunod ito ng viral video ng batang pinadumi ng magulang sa dalampasigan na bahagi ng station 1 ng Boracay. Matapos ang ginawang pagbabawas ng bata ay tinakpan lang ito ng buhangin ng magulang.

Ayon kay Puyat, pinagbawal niya ang paglangoy sa nasabing lugar, at nilagyan ng tali upang hindi makapasok ang mga turista habang nililinis ito.

Inatasan din ng kalihim si Boracay Inter-agency Rehabilitation Group General Manager Natividad Bernardino na hanapin ang turistang Chinese upang masampahan ito ng kaso sa paglabag sa environment ordinance.

Sa umiiral na Anti-Littering Law ng bayan ng Malay, Aklan na siyang nakakasakop sa isla ng Boracay, pinagbabawal ang pagdumi, pag-ihi at pagdura sa pampublikong lugar.

Noong Oktubre 2018 lamang nagbukas ang Boracay matapos isara ng anim na buwan upang sumailalim sa rehabilitasyon ng sewage system.



Eye-popping catch still unsafe to eat

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission has warned the public against eating any fish caught in the once “biologically” dead waterway. While the gigantic catfish, dory and tilapia being taken out of the river were taken as signs of its revival, laboratory tests showed that the fish were unsafe for human consumption. Aside from high levels of toxic chemicals, the fish also test-

ed positive for fecal coliform. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

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Beware of fish caught in Pasig River

**Authorities warn public vs eating catch from waterway
after tests show high levels of toxic chemicals, coliform**

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Just this once, it would be better to let the "big fish" get away, especially if it came from Pasig River.

Netizens have been caught up in a fish frenzy after photographs of gigantic dory, tilapia and catfish caught in one of Metro Manila's major bodies of water circulated recently on Facebook.

But while authorities hailed these as new signs of life in the river once declared as "biologically dead," the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) on Wednesday cautioned the public against eating the fish taken from its waters.

The warning was issued after laboratory tests conducted by the PRRC on some of the fish showed alarmingly high amounts of toxic chemicals like lead, mercury and chromium.

On top of these, the samples also tested positive for overwhelmingly high levels of fecal coliform—bacteria from human and animal feces.

Efforts rewarded

The efforts of PRRC and other stakeholders to restore Pasig River to its former glory have already paid off.

In 2009, a biodiversity assessment carried out by the Department of Environment



LOOK BUT DON'T EAT Though considered a sign that the previously biologically dead Pasig River has come back to life, the fish taken from the waterway should not be eaten, according to authorities. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

and Natural Resources showed that eight species of fish had already returned to the river after just a decade of rehabilitation.

Five of these were exotic,

two were native while the Manila sea catfish or *kanduli* was endemic.

Despite these findings, analyses showed that the fish remained unsafe for human con-



kanduli and *banak* caught at the Guadalupe station recorded a fecal coliform level of 2,400 MPN per gram.

The kanduli taken from near the Napindan Channel was at 930 MPN per gram.

Some fish also showed high levels of lead and mercury. Exposure to and consumption of these toxic chemicals at high amounts pose health risks.

A 3-kilogram tilapia hauled from Estero de San Miguel in Manila, on the other hand, tested positive for high levels of chromium.

According to the PRRC, this could be due to the wastewater discharged by nearby medical institutions and a distillery.

Deliberate consumption

While PRRC executive director Jose Antonio Goitia welcomed the return of marine life to Pasig River as a sign of its resurgence, he warned against the "deliberate and large consumption" of fish taken from the waterway.

He also called on people to refrain from overfishing to allow fingerlings to grow and multiply.

The PRRC said that more studies on the fish caught in Pasig River should be done, including one on possible contamination of microplastics due to the high volume of waste thrown into waterways in Metro Manila. INQ

sumption.

Based on the PRRC's sampling and tests done earlier this year, the fish caught at Napindan Channel, the Guadalupe and Santa Ana ferry

boat stations and Manila Bay had fecal coliform levels that exceeded the standard of 10 most probable number (MPN) per gram.

For instance, the tilapia,



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Don't eat fish caught in Pasig River – PRRC

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) has warned the public against eating fish caught in Pasig River due to high levels of pollutants in the waterbody.

This was PRRC's disclosure after it conducted tests and tissue analysis on three-kilogram tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), which had a length of 20.5 inches, that was caught in Estero de San Miguel last month.

It was found that the fish had high level of toxic heavy metal chromium, low concentration of fecal coliform, arsenic, cadmium, mercury, and lead.

"Since the tilapia caught in Estero de San Miguel at San Rafael Bridge is estimated to be more than two years old based on its length and weight, it is assumed to have accumulated relative amounts of contaminants depending on the existing conditions and water quality," it said.

"Due to the presence of contaminants in the fishes collected, the PRRC would like to inform the public that deliberate and large consumption of the fishes in the Pasig River System may pose health risks in due time," PRRC warned.

"It is highly advisable to prevent any conduct of contact recreational activities and consumption of freshwater organisms until further notice once sufficient and comprehensive scientific research has been made," it added.



Public warned vs eating fish from Pasig River

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) has warned the public from consuming fish caught in Pasig River due to high levels of pollutants in the water body.

A three-kilogram tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) with a length of 20.5 inches, was caught by PRRC in Estero de San Miguel last month.

PRRC subjected the tilapia for tissue analysis and test results showed high level of toxic heavy metal chromium, while there was low concentration of fecal coliform, arsenic, cadmium, mercury, and lead.

"Since the tilapia caught in Estero de San Miguel at San Rafael Bridge is estimated to be more than two years old based on its length and weight, it is assumed to have accumulated relative amounts of contaminants depending on the existing conditions and water quality," it said.

"Due to the presence of contaminants in the fishes collected, the PRRC would like to inform the public that deliberate and large consumption of the fishes in the Pasig River

System may pose health risks in due time," PRRC warned.

"It is highly advisable to prevent any conduct of contact recreational activities and consumption of freshwater organisms until further notice once sufficient and comprehensive scientific research has been made," it added.

In February 2019, PRRC, through its Environmental Management Division, conducted a fish sampling collection and tissue analysis in four different areas based on reported abundance of fish caught in Pasig River.

The species of fish that were collected using fish nets were kanduli (Manila sea catfish), tilapia (Nile tilapia), banak (mullet), and bugaong (grunter). These were collected in Napindan Channel, Guadalupe Ferry Station, Santa Ana Ferry Station, and near Manila Bay.

Based on the tissue analysis results, the samples caught in all four stations have exceeded the permissible limit of fecal coliform. **(Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz)**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Sinkhole threatens South Cotabato village

By **JOSEPH JUBELAG**

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato—Local disaster officials have ordered the evacuation of about 100 families in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, after a 200-meter-wide sinkhole threatened to swallow up houses.

Rolly Duane Aquino, operations chief of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, said residents in sitios Eldolog, Tuburan, Polosubong, Kiantay and Tawang Dagat in Barangay Ned have been ordered to leave.

He said village and local officials are looking for safer ground where the affected residents can be relocated.

Ariel Agustin, supervising geologist of the Mines and Geosciences

Bureau regional office, said the sinkhole was first reported last year, but the villagers, most of them T'boli and Manobo tribesmen, ignored the evacuation advisory.

Agustin said the affected area is located in the mountains on the borders of Lake Sebu, Maitum, Sarangani and Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat.



SSS covers 450 DENR job order workers

THE state-run Social Security System (SSS) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) signed a Memorandum of Agreement on June 11, formalizing the SSS membership of 450 job order workers at the DENR's central office.

Under the agreement, job order workers will be registered in SSS as self-employed members, while the DENR, as a collecting partner, will remit their monthly SSS contributions through a salary-deduction scheme as part of the KaltaSSS-Collect Program.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Aurora Ignacio expressed optimism in the partnership that will not only increase SSS membership but also provide more workers with social security protection.

"Government job order workers are not covered by the Government Service Insurance System due to their employment status. Through the KaltaSSS-Collect program, they will be covered by the SSS, and avail themselves of the System's benefits in times of contingencies," Ignacio said.

As SSS members, they will be entitled to benefit programs being offered by the pension fund in times of sickness, maternity, retirement, disability, death, and funeral provided that they meet the qualifying conditions of each benefit.

Aside from benefit programs, the pension fund also offers loan programs such as salary, calamity, housing, educational, and pension loans.

The SSS and DENR's agreement will be replicated in other DENR regional offices and branches nationwide.



■ SSS Large Accounts Division Vice President and Account Management Group Concurrent Acting Head Antonio Argabioso and DENR Assistant Secretary for Human Resource Development and Legislative Affairs Joan Lagunda during the MOA signing held at the DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.



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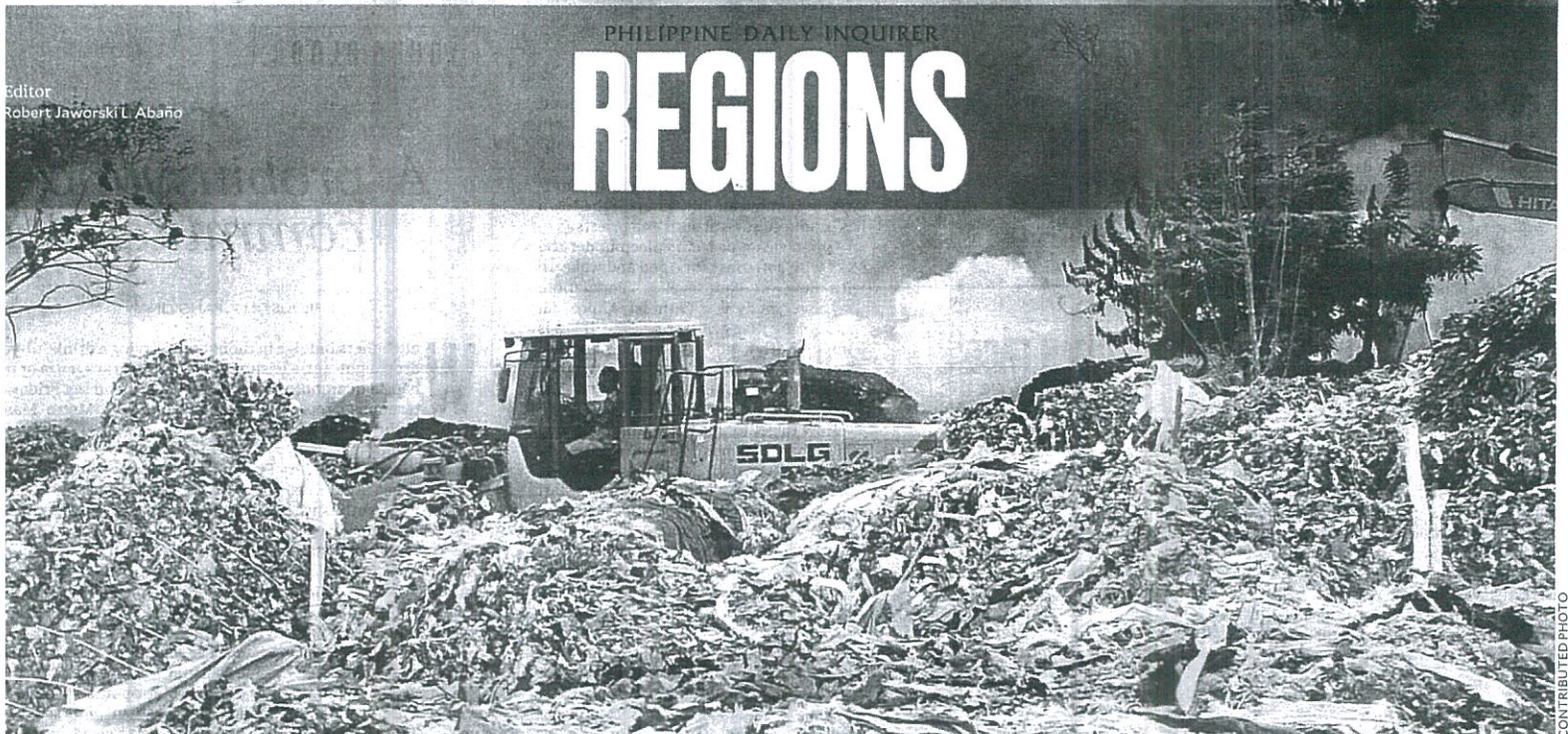
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REGIONS

Editor
Robert Jaworski L. Abano



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MP FIRE An earth-moving equipment scoops up a mound of trash in an effort to put out a fire that hit a section of an industrial zone in Misamis Oriental where imported garbage has been stored.



11-HOUR BLAZE

KOREAN TRASH AT MISAMIS INDUSTRIAL ZONE BURNS

By Jigger J. Jerusalem
@inquirermindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A portion of the 5,177 metric tons of trash from South Korea stored at an industrial zone in Tagoloan town in Misamis Oriental province caught fire on Monday, but Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) officials said the blaze might have started spontaneously.

Inspector Randy Obsioma, chief of the BFP Tagoloan station, said the fire might be due to the presence of methane gas emitted by the pile of garbage inside the compound of Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. at Sitio Buguac in Barangay Santa Cruz.

The heat, Obsioma said, could have triggered the fire that started as early as 9 a.m., although it was reported to the BFP only at 1:45 p.m. or almost five hours later.

Obsioma said residents living nearby already saw smoke coming from the Verde Soko yard, where the heaps of garbage had been stored, earlier on Monday but they ignored it. A farmer even went inside the compound to bring his cow to graze, he said.

Probe

The residents were only alarmed when the smoke got bigger, Obsioma said.

Located inside the 3,000-hectare Phividec Industrial Estate, Verde Soko's waste recycling operation has not taken off as the trash shipment from South Korea that would have been used as raw materials for its facility had been seized by authorities for violating im-

portation rules.

More than 6,500 MT of mostly plastic waste have been brought into the country in two batches last year. About 1,500 MT had been shipped back to South Korea in January this year.

The imported trash has become an object of controversy, with environmentalists and politicians lamenting that the Philippines has become a dumping ground of rich nations.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy has sought investigation of the burning of the Korean trash.

In a statement, Uy said those responsible for the incident "is sabotaging our lawful efforts to enforce our country's antipollution laws."

Air pollution

"Now, they have made matters worse by polluting the air in Misamis Oriental with the toxic fumes from the burning of the garbage," Uy added.

Uy and John Simon, Bureau of Customs (BOC) subport collector, have filed cases against Filipino and South Korean officials of Verde Soko for the trash importation.

Last week, the embassy of South Korea in the Philippines wrote EcoWaste Coalition to inform that steps were being taken so the remaining trash in Tagoloan would be shipped back to its origin.

The flames that consumed the heaps of garbage took 11 hours to put out.

Obsioma said they had to bring in earth-moving equipment, like a backhoe and a payloader, to help stop the fire from spreading. INQ



Probe sought as SoKor trash shipment catches fire

Environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition has joined calls for a thorough investigation into a fire that destroyed part of the remaining 5,177 tons of assorted plastic waste from South Korea on Monday.

"We strongly deplore the incident that only aggravated the pollution brought by the dumping of illegal mixed plastic waste shipment from South Korea in a government land in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental," Aileen Lucero, EcoWaste national coordinator, said.

"We urge concerned law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned... to bring the culprits to justice," Lucero added.

Misamis second district Rep. Juliette Uy sought an "immediate arson investigation" into the incident.

Uy said the fire could be considered "destructive arson" as it occurred in an industrial estate owned by the government.

Spontaneous combustion

Tagoloan fire station chief Inspector Randy Obsiom said the fire at the Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. yard in Sitio Buguac, Barangay Sta. Cruz, where the trash shipment was stored, could be due to spontaneous

combustion.

Fire probers cited the presence of methane gas in the garbage shipment.

Obsioma said the fire affected a quarter of the area where the garbage was stored.

He blamed the management of Verde Soko for negligence, citing lapses in handling the garbage shipment.

John Simon, Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Northern Mindanao Container Terminal sub-port collector said the incident stressed the need for the South Korean government to bring back the garbage to its country.

"The Korean ministry of environment is very slow... Because of the threat to health and environment, it is high time to put pressure on the Korean government to fasttrack the... repatriation of the garbage," Simon said.

In a letter to EcoWaste dated Aug. 6, the South Korean embassy said it is just waiting for the discussions with the BOC on the repatriation of the garbage.

"It seems that the waste is expected to be returned to Korea in September 2019," the embassy said.

— Robertzon Ramirez,
Rhodina Villanueva, Gerry
Lee Gorit



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Probe sought on burning of Korean trash

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy has sought a probe on the burning of a portion of the heap of Korean trash owned by a plastic recycling facility in Tagoloan town of Misamis Oriental on Monday.

In a statement, Uy said those responsible for the incident “is sabotaging our lawful efforts to enforce our country’s anti-pollution laws.”

“Now, they have made matters worse by polluting the air in Misamis Oriental with the toxic fumes from the burning of the garbage,” Uy

added.

The trash—over 5,000 metric tons—are set for repatriation to South Korea following a pledge by the South Korean embassy several days back.

These were part of more than 6,500 metric tons of garbage illegally shipped into the country.

A local radio also reported that Phividec Industrial Authority (PIA) Administrator Franklin Quijano has also ordered a probe into the incident.

PIA runs the Phividec Industrial Estate within which the Verde Soko Corp. recycling facility is located.—*Inquirer*



BREAKTHROUGH

ELFREN S. CRUZ

No to plastic

We know how long it takes most kinds of leavings to decay.

Organic material goes quickly: cardboard in three months; wood is up to three years, a pair of wool socks is up to five. A plastic shopping bag may take 20 years; a plastic cup, 50. Major industrials will be there for much longer. An aluminium can is with us for 200 years, a glass bottle for 500, a plastic bottle for 700, and a styrofoam container for a millennium (1,000 years)." This was written in NYT by William Bryant Logan, an arborist and author.



Last week I wrote a column: "Stop Using Plastics". My main message was that plastic pollution was not just an environmental issue; but had become a global crisis causing physical harm to both humans and animals and especially marine life. Millions of animals are killed by plastic pollution, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Microplastics have been found in more than 100 aquatic species including fish, shrimp and mussels.

Plastic are used in numerous products because they add comfort, convenience and safety to our everyday lives. Instead of bringing water canteens, water is sold in plastic bottles and sold in every supermarket and even by street vendors. Instead of silverware, restaurants provide plastic spoons and forks. Plastic straws are provided for beverages and plastic stirrers go with coffee cups. The groceries and take home food from fast food chains are normally wrapped in plastic bags. Plastic folders and envelopes are common in offices.

The problem is that all these products are thrown away after a single use. As I said in my last column: "A plastic product is thrown away after being used for a few seconds, minutes or hours yet they will persist in the environment in the form of microplastics for as long as 400 years." I am repeating this to drive home the point that every single person who uses single use plastic product is contributing to this crisis of plastic pollution.

That column elicited some interesting responses. A group called the Eco Waste Coalition sent me a lengthy message. Here are excerpts:

"The groups likewise called attention to the need for industries and businesses in the manufacture and sale of consumer goods to take responsibility in reducing their production and usage of single use plastics choking storm drains, rivers and the oceans.

"We can no longer solely put the blame on consumers and poor communities for our garbage woes. Corporations need to roll out plastic reduction policies, re-design products with the environment in mind and to disassociate themselves from throw away plastics and harmful chemicals polluting the oceans."

One corporation is apparently planning to launch its own plastic-free campaign. One of the largest insurance brokers in the world is Lockton International Holdings based in London. Its CEO Neil Nimmo apparently read my column and sent me this message:

"I couldn't agree with you more! I plan to have Lockton in Europe completely plastic free by 2021. So no single use plastic will be allowed in the office nor are our suppliers allowed to deliver goods with single use plastic covers or wrapping."

Lockton Philippines is the local partner and, its CEO Vic Valledor has announced his intention to ensure a single use plastic free company also by 2021 or earlier. These are examples of corporate initiatives that other business firms can follow.

There are a few communities that are beginning to take specific action. Pacific Village in Muntinlupa is holding a community meeting this Sunday. Their speaker is Monique Obligation, one of the founders of Zero Waste Group, who will give a presentation why we need to do what we must to address this environmental crisis. For communities, instead of asking how to solve this global crisis, they should address the environmental crisis in their specific community. The first step is to organize and spread awareness. The second step is to plan what each household and the community can do to eliminate single use plastic products and to train everyone on the importance of recycling. I was shocked that in my own community, I found out that garbage collectors will not pick up our garbage unless it is wrapped in plastic bags!

I would also encourage public support for measures to control plastic pollution that are currently being studied or implemented by various local governments. If your local government is not doing anything along this line, then citizens should voice their demand of local officials to enact local laws that will address this environmental crisis.

There should also be public support for Senate Bill No. 40 which was introduced by Senator Francis Pangilinan. This bill is an act: "Regulating the manufacturing, importation, and use of single use plastic products and providing penalties levies and an incentive system for industries, business enterprises and consumers thereof."

In the bill's explanatory it noted: "During coastal clean ups conducted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), they noted that most of the debris gathered are plastic, including single use sachets of shampoo, toothpaste, creams, laundry soap and even food."

Every single person regardless of age, gender, income class, education can be part of this campaign to save future generations from the scourge of plastic pollution.

Creative writing classes for kids and teens

Young Writers' Hangout on Aug. 17 (1:30 pm-3pm; stand-alone session) at Fully Booked BGC. For details and registration, email writethingsph@gmail.com.

Email: elfrencruz@gmail.com





TITLE:

The dark side of black sand mining



Val A. Villanueva

BUSINESSWISE

THERE is no such thing as a free lunch, economist Milton Friedman and other finance experts say.

Perhaps Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba should be reminded of this, as he denies the dredging project involves the extraction of black sand at the mouth of the Cagayan River. He says that it is merely a dredging project that a Chinese company is doing "for free to help the province reopen the Port of Aparri."

Emphatic that the project would "improve economic and trade relations between Cagayan and China, and other neighboring Asian countries," he vowed to resign "if they can prove that it is black sand mining."

Blacksand mining in itself is legal (if granted the necessary permits) because to date there is no such law that unambiguously bans it. Its main limits in the Mining Act is if the dredging is done in reservoirs and protective areas.

The governor is up against his own provincial board, which is seeking President Duterte's intervention to stop the project on charges that black sand or magnetite, an ore of iron used in steel production, is being extracted there.

Armed with a resolution inked on August 7, the board members claim that the dredging being carried out by Pacific Offshore Exploration Inc. poses a threat to the environment and livelihood of villagers.

Board member Mila Catabay-Lauigan says, "This is to be investigated...as the company has yet to comply with the requirements." She says that the dredging vessel is putting the waste or nonmineral sand back into the river, and transporting the dredged materials abroad.

Another board member, Vilmer Vilorio, says the dredging project had not been issued an environmental compliance certificate and other permits, which, he notes, makes the contractor's operation illegal.

According to the board resolution, the contractor earns about \$50 million or P2.6 billion a month from the project. It has also been reported that residents near the Cagayan River have spotted several dredging vessels with Chinese markings since July.

Illegal mining of black sand or magnetite has been going on in several towns in Cagayan province despite stiff resistance from local residents and intermittent raids by government authorities.

The previous administration tried to put an end to the illegal practice by carrying out intensive campaigns to completely eradicate it. In August 2013, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau discovered during raids that foreign companies, mostly Chinese, which were holding permits issued by the MGB or the provincial government, were behind the illegal extraction in Cagayan.

The taskforce arrested 18 Chinese employees of Hua Xia Mining and Trading Corp., which was illegally operating a processing plant for black sand in Paddaya and Dodan villages, both in Aparri town. The company

carried a permit to mine for only sand in Casiitan and Batangan villages, both in Gonzaga town.

Since then, illegal black sand mining or extraction has persisted with violent consequence. In April 2014, Carlito Pentecostes Jr., then-mayor of Gonzaga and a supporter of black sand mining, was felled by an assassin shortly after a flag-raising ceremony just across the municipal hall.

What is exactly black sand mining? Black sand is a stabilizer in concrete and steel products and also widely used in jewelry and cosmetics manufacturing. Although in itself legal, "studies made by environmental groups in areas with black sand mining activities show that black sand mining operations contribute greatly to the depletion of fishery resources, erosion of land and severe flooding," says Sen. Leila de Lima in her Senate Bill 960 that proposed to totally ban black sand mining.

The bill adds: "It is even predicted that areas mined for magnetite or black sand could sink and be underwater within 30 to 70 years as rapid subsidence will highly expose said areas to flooding and seasonal typhoon." The bill specifically mentioned Cagayan as bearing the brunt of black sand mining.

The MGB under Duterte says it will conduct a thorough review of black sand mining, finishing what the government of Benigno Aquino III started in its crackdown on miners that violate environmental standards.

"We are reviewing it, which mining we will not go for, that will destroy the beaches," MGB concurrent Director Mario Luis A. Jacinto says.

In 2014, the Mining Industry Coordinating Council, a panel directly under the supervision of the Office of the President, in a resolution ordered the appraisal of all existing black sand mining operations in the country, from the issuance of permits to sanctions that may be imposed on companies that violate conditions set by those permits.

"We must make sure that we are able to fully assess, identify where are the possible sources and whether these are viable and whether these are marketable," Jacinto says. Last year, the first report of the inter-agency Fact-Finding Committee on Illegal Mining entitled "Philippine Mining Unearthed" was unveiled, identifying quarrying of magnetite black ore or black sand as the most common form of illegal mining operations.



Mining, power drag DMCI Holdings H1

DMCI Holdings Inc. said profit for the first half of the year reached P6.7 billion, down 22 percent from P8.6 billion the previous year.

“The earnings slowdown was due to the weak contributions of Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC), D.M. Consunji, Inc. (DMCI) and DMCI Mining,” the company said.

DMCI said that for the second quarter alone, profit dropped to P3.8 billion, a 20 percent decline from P4.7 billion in 2018.

“Excluding non-recurring items, core net income in the second quarter slipped 6 percent to P4 billion from P4.2 billion, raising core net income from January to June to P6.9 billion, a 17 percent year-on-year drop from P8.3 billion,” it said.

“We had a tough first-half because of lower average selling price of coal, higher replacement power costs, provisions for project cost overruns and lower average price for our lower grade nickel. But we hope to curb the profit decline in the succeeding quarters,” said Isidro Consunji, DMCI Holdings chairman.

DMCI Holdings said net income contributions from SMPC dropped 26 percent from P4.6 billion to P3.4 billion owing to a 213 percent upturn in replacement power costs

from P742 million to P2.3 billion and lower average selling price of coal, which contracted 18 percent from P2,710/metric ton (MT) to P2,227/MT.

The real estate business under DMCI Homes meanwhile posted profit contribution of P1.2 billion, down 36 percent from P1.8 billion, due mainly to the absence of one-time gain from the sale of land in 2018.

Off-grid energy supplier DMCI Power meanwhile contributed P233 million, a 9 percent improvement from P214 million last year. Higher energy sales to power cooperatives in Masbate, Palawan and Oriental Mindoro accounted for the growth.

“Attributable net income from DMCI Mining slipped 22 percent from P221 million to P173 million as the company shipped more lower-grade nickel at lower average selling price,” the company said.

Net income contributions from affiliate Maynilad grew 16 percent from P950 million to P1.1 billion owing to the combined effect of billed volume and tariff increases.

“Excluding share in a one-time loss of P70 million due to refinancing costs, Maynilad core net income contributions rose 9 percent from P1 billion to P1.1 billion,” DMCI Holdings said.



INVESTIGATE CREEPING CHINESE TAKEOVER

THIS refers to the column "No to 'smart cities' on our islets" (8/8/19). It is indeed alarming that Chinese investors are allegedly targeting Fuga Island in Cagayan, and Grande and Chiquita Islands in Zambales, "to be developed into economic and tourism zones as part of China's Belt and Road initiative"—a plan that, as the column noted, "has raised concerns among Philippine security officials."

✓ On the flip side, there are also alleged Chinese-manned fishing vessels conducting dredging or mining operations in our rivers, which result in erosion and environmental problems along coastal areas and communities. Reportedly, operators of many of

these dredging activities have yet to secure dredging permits and show dredging plans to legitimize their operations.

Is this not to be viewed as a creeping invasion of our country by China? Why is the government seemingly dilly dallying over what to do?

I respectfully ask the Senate to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the slow "Sinofication" of our country, with the end view of strengthening government mechanisms to enforce Philippine maritime and mining laws, and safeguard our national interest and resources.

REGINALD B. TAMAYO,
Marikina City



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Water hyacinths overwhelm Rizal town

By **NEL B. ANDRADE**

PILILLA, RIZAL – The local government here has declared a town-wide state of calamity, following the massive spread of water hyacinths in Laguna Lake.

In a resolution declaring the state of calamity, the municipal council cited the impact of the water hyacinths on the fishermen and their families.

The resolution was signed by Mayor Dan Masinsin following a consultation with the fishers groups in the town.

Mario Yokingo, the local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office head, had said many fishermen

have been losing income because the swarms of hyacinth were preventing them from reaching fishing grounds in the lake.

The hyacinths have infested the lake since early July this year when the southwest monsoon set in.

Fisherman, Jarantino Pillas, owner of a small fish cage told Manila Bulletin that his losses have amounted to some hundreds of thousands of pesos which he had invested on tilapia fingerlings, which died during the massive fishkill that hit the lake last month.

Pillas and the rest of the more than 800 fishermen are blaming the fishkill on the abnormal overgrowth of the hyacinths, a yearly phenomenon that occurs

during the rainy season.

Around 10 hectares of fish cages owned by individual and fishermen cooperatives in this town were hit by the fishkill, according to data obtained by the Manila Bulletin from the local agriculture office.

Last week, Pillas and his fellow fishermen erected poles with fences to clear a way to their fishing grounds but the hyacinths have grown to a point that the boats were already trapped on the lakeshore.

Some fishermen resorted to carrying their boats from the hyacinth-clogged lakeshore to another lakeshore to reach the part of the lake less infested by water hyacinths.



Monsoon rains trigger landslides in Benguet

1 dead, 50 families evacuated as province, Baguio endure continuous downpour

By Karlston Lapniten
@karlstonlapnitenINQ

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—A 76-year-old woman was killed while 50 families in this province were evacuated due to landslides caused by heavy monsoon rains since Sunday.

Rescuers found the body of Gloria Matias in her home that was buried by a landslide in Buguias town on Sunday night, according to the Benguet provincial disaster risk reduction and management office.

In Itogon town, also in Benguet, 176 people have been staying at the Garrison Multipurpose Cooperative building since Monday while some have moved to a church, said Cyril Batcagan, municipal disaster risk reduction and management officer.

Preemptive evacuation

Batcagan said they announced a preemptive evacuation last week, especially in areas prone to landslides and flash floods.

The local government also enforced a no-work policy for small-scale miners since Monday. "We are engaging the communities proactively to avoid experiencing similar events like last year and I think the people also want the same," Batcagan said.

Itogon was the hardest-hit town during the onslaught of Typhoon "Ompong" in September last year when landslides killed more than 100 people, many of them from Barangay Ucab there.

In the capital town La Trinidad, two families were evacuated on Wednesday due to soil erosion that threatened to bury their houses. Floods also swamped portions of the



VALLEY FLOOD The strawberry fields of La Trinidad valley in Benguet, a popular attraction among tourists, are flooded after days of heavy rain in the province. —KARLSTON LAPNITEN

strawberry fields in Barangay Betag, damaging farms growing lettuce and strawberries.

In Baguio City, a 37-year-old man was rescued after a landslide damaged his house in Barangay Bakakeng Norte on Monday. At least 36 more people were evacuated from their homes due to soil erosion and leaning pine trees.

Classes in private and public schools from kindergarten to high school were also suspended in Itogon as well as the rest of Benguet.

Batcagan said they were also monitoring at least 14 schools in the province identified as high risk or vulnerable to earth movement.

Road closure

Landslides also hit a portion of the Baguio-Bontoc Road (Halsema Highway), the main route for farmers transporting vegetables to Metro Manila, and forced the closure of the Kapangan-Kibungan Road.

Kennon Road remained closed due to rehabilitation work while Governor Pack Road was closed on Tuesday due to the damaged welcome arc in front of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

The Busa section of Baguio-Bontoc Road in Sabangan town, Mountain Province, was also closed due to a road cut.

The amount of rainfall in the region as of 8 a.m. on Wednesday was 310.6 millimeters, up from 207.8 mm recorded on Tuesday and 136 mm on Monday, according to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

The OCD said Baguio City received an accumulated 648.8 mm of rain since Aug. 3.

Baguio Mayor Benjamin Magalong on Wednesday also canceled classes in all levels in the city. On Tuesday, classes for preschool, grade school, and junior and senior high school students were suspended due to the rains and thick fog that enveloped the city.



ALLAN MACATUNO

FOGGY The Baguio Cathedral is barely visible as thick fog blankets the summer capital.

Abra and Mountain Province had been experiencing days of monsoon rains and thunderstorms, forcing the cancellation of classes in these areas. —WITH A REPORT FROM VINCENT CABREZA INQ



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• REHIYON •

Unang pagbaha sa Davao City naitala SOIL EROSION SA BAGUIO CITY, 33 KATAO INILIKAS

Dahil sa Habagat

BENGUET - UMABOT sa 33 katao ang inilikas sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan sa Baguio City bunsod ng pag-ulan dulot ng Habagat.

Ayon sa City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) umabot sa 11 pamilya ang inilikas dahil ang kanilang bahay ay naapektuhan ng soil erosion.

Simula noong Agosto 4 hanggang kahapon, nasa 39 na indibiduwal ang nailigtas at napag-

kalooban ng medical assistance makaraang makaranas ng pagkahilo, accidental road slip, nahulog sa manhole, at iba pang emergency health situation.

Nakapagtala rin ang CDRRMO ng 15 motor at vehicular accidents, 16 na puno na bumagsak dahil sa malakas na hangin, 12 insidente ng soil erosion at dalawang streetlights na bumagsak.

Marami ring kalsada na patungo ng Baguio City ang sarado kabilang

ang Kennon Road (closed, motorist are advised to take Marcos Highway); Governor Pack Road near BGH Rotunda (closed to traffic due to scoured and hanging footing of arc); Tawang-Ambiong Road, La Trinidad (closed to traffic due to road cut); at Longlong, La Trinidad (closed to traffic due to landslide).

Nananatiling nakataas ang Blue Alert Status sa CDRRMO ng Baguio City.

Samantala, naitala

ang unang flashflood sa Davao City at sa ulat, binaha ang halos buong Poblacion Pantukan sa Compostela Valley kahapon ng umaga.

Inihayag ng mga residente ng Pantukan, ito ang pinakaunang pagbaha na kanilang naranasan na hindi nila inaasahan sa loob ng maraming dekada partikular na sa Poblacion area.

Sa mga larawan, rumagasa ang malakas na daloy ng tubig-baha sa national highways simula alas-3:00 ng madaling

araw na nagresulta rin sa hanggang tuhod na baha sa Pantukan Overland Transport Terminal.

Ayon sa Office of Civil Defense-11, ang localized thunderstorm na nakaapekto sa Barangay Kingking, Pantukan bandang alas-11:30 ng gabi, ang siyang dahilan ng matinding baha.

Apektado nang humupang flashfloods matapos ang halos pitong oras ang maraming mga business establishments sa lugar. **PMRT**



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Exhibit cruises to a 'sustainable future'

By **Nikka G. Valenzuela**
@NikkaINQ

Lined up at the baywalk along Roxas Boulevard just outside the Manila Yacht Club are colorful head sails. But the giant triangular sails were not made for travel. Rather, the boat materials had been turned into art canvases with graphic messages urging onlookers to end poverty, confront climate change, and protect the oceans.

Titled "Gallery of the Sea," the open-air exhibit features 25 paintings about achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a blueprint for the planet's survival.

Using the head sails as canvas for their acrylic paintings, artists from the Angono Atelier

and Cuadra Manila showcased their distinct style to bring home their message.

Contrasting realities

Renowned artist Nemi Miranda's painting on poverty depicts two children and their contrasting realities: one toils, while

the other gets an education.

Atoy Apostadero's "Life Below Water" reveals the country's rich marine biodiversity, while August Santiago's "Life on Land" paints a thriving safari on an lush green expanse.

Cleaning the waters, particularly Manila Bay, is the accessi-

ble message that artist Pete Velasquez depicted in his painting of a school of fish swimming upward. Velasquez's art easily attracted schoolkids and would-be art lovers while he worked on it at the Universidad de Manila.

"There was this kid who

went through my things, picked up a brush and flicked white paint on the canvas. The result was actually good," he told the Inquirer.

The exhibit, said former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, was organized to show via different art media how important it is to

promote and achieve a sustainable future.

"The ecological time bomb of global warming must be diffused today for us to save tomorrow," he explained.

Art is an effective way to educate people, agreed Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, a recipient of an award from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Artists for Peace.

Aside from visual art, the spoken word highlighted ways of nurturing the earth, with poets Frank Rivera and Jolad Santos delivering their pieces to an attentive audience at the exhibit's opening on Tuesday. The exhibit runs until end of August, after which it will be installed on a barge that will cruise the Pasig River. INQ



'GALLERY OF THE SEA' Head sails turned into canvas showcase how art can be a beautiful and painless way to educate people about saving the planet, starting with the waters of Manila Bay. —PHOTO BY MARIANNE BERMUDEZ



Waste managers reinvent art of recycling

By IRIS GONZALES

The controversy surrounding the heaps of trash from Canada has put many issues in the spotlight.

The Duterte administration is right in insisting that the Philippines is not a dumping ground for somebody else's trash.

However, players in the recycling industry lament that the issue has put recycling in a bad light.

"The controversy behind Canada waste puts recycling in a bad light. While recyclables were part of the shipment, they are highly

contaminated. On the other hand, it shows that government policies, though imperfect, work. (But) there should be a better way of properly defining and classifying materials as recyclables versus waste and there is a need to set standards," Crispian Lao, head of Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability, tells **The STAR**.

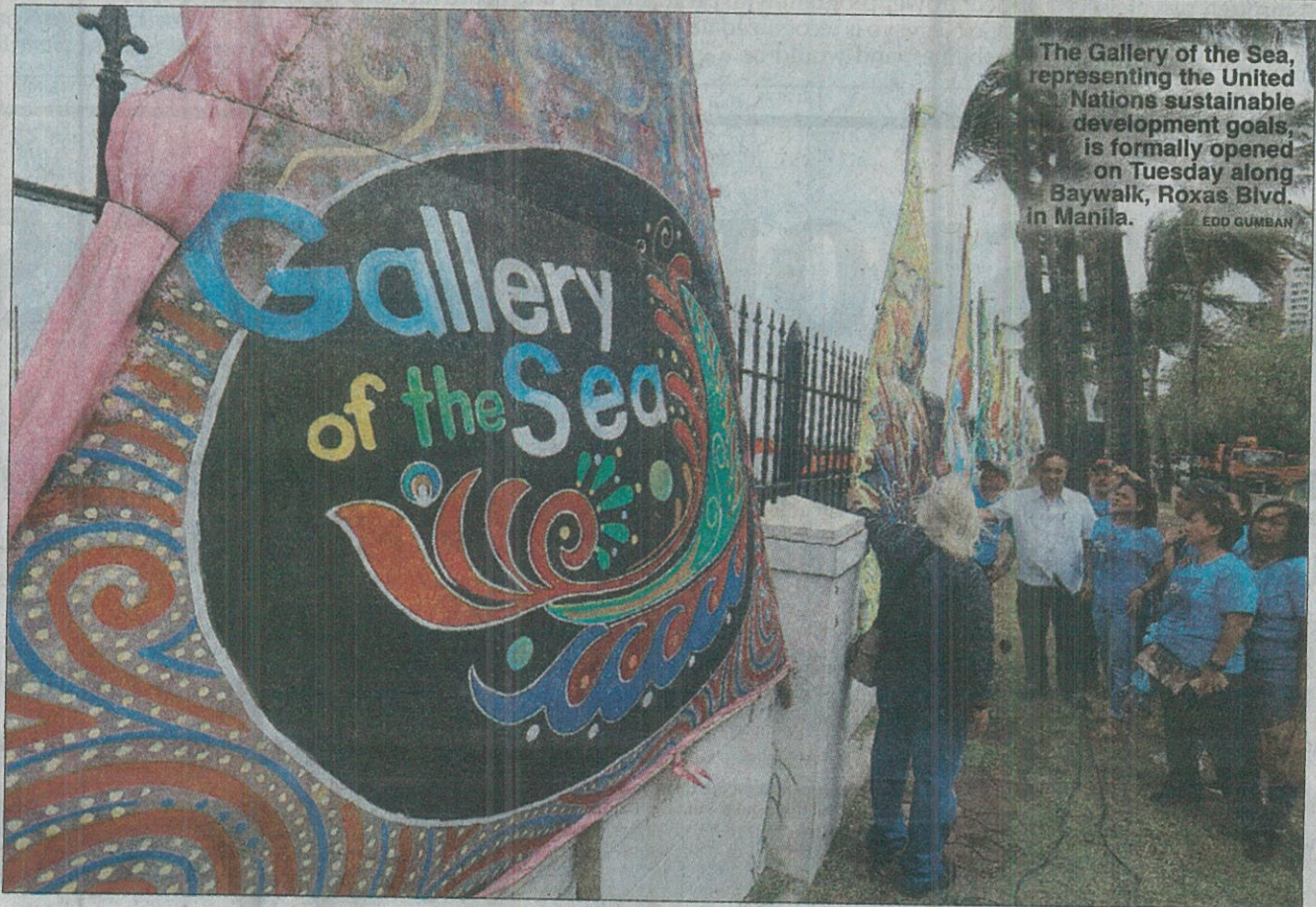
— The Department of Environment

and Natural Resources is now re-viewing the current system to look into probable safeguards and strict regulations.

Recycling industry players support government efforts to keep the Philippines as sustainable and environmentally safe as possible. However, the recycling industry is hoping the government would be cautious in coming out with policies in the future as drastic measures may significantly affect the recycling industry.

Lao shares this view.

"Disallowing imports of recyclable plastic may affect some sectors. One



The Gallery of the Sea, representing the United Nations sustainable development goals, is formally opened on Tuesday along Baywalk, Roxas Blvd. in Manila. **EDD GUMBAN**



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"Waste managers reinvent art of recycling"

segment would be those who import industrial nylon materials, allowing local fishing nets to be recycled given that local supply is not enough to run facilities in an economical scale and meet the quality requirements of the local and export markets for finished recyclates," Lao said.

It is no secret that in the Philippines, there are many industries that need recyclable plastics and waste.

According to a recent CNN report, plastic wastes turned into plastic pellets are made into products such as ropes, hangers, plastic bags and many more things.

Lao said that recycling indeed is an important industry in the Philippines.

"Recycling is a key industry in the Philippines and there is room to grow. The informal sector or waste pickers benefit from this and the industry generates employment," he said.

Furthermore, Lao said recycling is key to waste management. Aside from reducing waste, recycling is also an integral part because it gives materials a second chance.

"Following the hierarchy of waste management, Avoidance (REDUCE) is top of the list and the aim is to minimize waste generation. Then comes REUSE to allow the maximum use of our limited resources. Next is RECYCLE to give the materials a second chance," Lao said.

He said these three Rs are key components of waste management, together with treatment and final disposal which are still lacking in the Philippines.

"Treatment and final disposal through sanitary landfills as mandated by Republic Act 9003 with very low compliance rates, should be properly implemented in the country," Lao said.

Drastic change needed

Rufo Colayco, president and CEO Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. (MCWMC), tells **The STAR** that Filipinos need a drastic change in lifestyle and mindset to really make a difference in reducing waste and also in putting waste to good use.

MCWMC operates an advanced and engineered sanitary landfill that aims to help reduce the adverse impact of rapid urban development. The landfill is located within the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Colayco said he and his partners believe that there really should be proper solid waste management in the country as mandated by RA 9003. Thus, MCWMC integrates world class engineering to ensure that trash is treated and does not contaminate the air and groundwater.

He said that some waste can indeed be used again but they need to be properly recycled.

Aside from this, Colayco, together with business partners, is putting up a 35-megawatt waste-to-energy power plant to utilize trash and put it to better use.

"What we really need is a change in mindset. We need a drastic change in lifestyles to reduce waste," he said.

As experts have noted, proper recycling can indeed be a solution in reducing waste. On the other hand, a total ban on waste importation will not only hurt local businesses that thrive on it but may actually kill the recycling industry, which plays a crucial role in managing the country's waste.



\$\$\$, not people

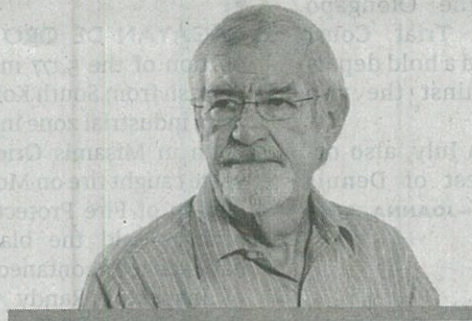
The focus of Philippine tourism efforts is wrong. All the targets and records focus on how many tourists the country attracts. We don't want people, we want their money.

It's nice to welcome backpackers, young people seeking adventure. Young people who might later become the rich people we really want. This doesn't mean we won't welcome them, but they should not be our focus. We want those who are well-off now, and preferably ones who'll care for our environment and be mindful of our customs.

There's a sign in a beautiful old town in Greece that says it all: "RESPECT: It's your holiday, but it's our home. We welcome you. Please respect Oia. Thank you." Sadly, too many of the tourists we are attracting now do anything but that. Perhaps a pamphlet handed to all arriving tourists laying down our rules and code of conduct, written in their language, should be handed out at immigration.

And let's do something un-Filipino. When we see a tourist acting inconsiderately, tell them not to. If they drop a coffee cup, tell them to pick it up and dispose of it properly. The trouble with that is, where? I've argued endlessly for rubbish bins to be put everywhere. In malls, on streets, on beaches—everywhere. I still have to search in some remote corner to find a bin in a mall. Is there some reason for this that I don't understand? Why not allow young artists to decorate them so they're not an eyesore, but a joy? They should be like fire extinguishers (I don't see them either)—highly visible, quickly accessible and lots of them around.

Malthus, an English cleric and scholar in the 18th century, argued that, left unchecked, a population will outgrow its resources. We saw that in spades in the



LIKE IT IS

PETER WALLACE

cesspool that Boracay became. We see that in a world where 7 billion people, predicted to rise to 10 billion, are decimating the resources of planet Earth. Mind you, Malthus was wrong in not recognizing that technology and changing living patterns would not lead to the disaster he predicted—yet. But he was right in that a territorial space can only support a given number of people. Our resorts can only handle a limited number of people.

So apply limits such as limiting the number of rooms available at a resort. And please stop those dreadful monstrosities called cruise ships. They disgorge hundreds of people who engulf a resort, but spend little. I know I'm at odds on this one, as many actually enjoy being in a prison they can't escape with hundreds, even thousands of others. I'll never understand it. But apart from maybe a meal and a few souvenirs, what benefits do they bring?

The recent international ads on TV are beautifully designed—and designed to meet people's dream vacation. "IT'S MORE FUN IN THE PHILIPPINES" was so well conjured by Mon Jimenez when he was

tourism secretary. It defines the Philippines perfectly, so it's wise that it's been retained by Berna Romulo Puyat. But maybe there should be one that focuses on older people, too, the ones with money; and even older people who are looking for somewhere to retire.

We have a country overflowing with beautiful beaches in a tropical clime. Boracay, lovely as it is, is by no means the only one. Siargao, which we visited on my 80th birthday, has charming resorts and international-level restaurants run by foreign chefs who'd fallen in love, and stayed. We have a country full of such lovely places.

Palawan has the kind of up-market resorts like El Nido that we should be building and promoting where you need money to go. But to go there, you need a plane. So it's good that this administration is upgrading provincial airports, although I don't understand why they unbundled the five regional airports they intend to modernize. Putting them out to individual bidding made them financially unviable; possible proponents lost interest, so the needed upgrading hasn't happened. Maybe it's time for the Department of Transportation to rethink its strategy here.

Las Vegas and Macau grew not only on gambling, but also on entertainment. Some of the world's best performers hold shows there. I'll never forget the Rolling Stones in concert in Macau. We'll travel for a concert, and I'm sure many other people will, too. It can be the tipping point. "Darling, do we go to Bali or Boracay?" "Let's make it Boracay, the Queen is performing in Manila."

Let's attract the well-off, and measure our success on the dollars we earn annually, not the number of people who come here.

Email: wallace_likeitis@wbf.ph



Our imperiled intimacy with water



SECOND OPINION

GIDEON LASCO

While the dry spell may be gone for now, the same cannot be said of our urban poor, many of whom struggle to stay afloat amid a virtually permanent water crisis.

In an illuminating account of what it means to live with water insecurity, Lisa Reyes Mason (2012) interviewed residents of a marginalized community in Baguio City and documented their coping strategies, like collecting rainwater, restricting water usage during the dry season and lowering olfactory standards. As one of her informants said: "The CR smells bad because we are using laundry water. But you have to live with that."

There was a cost involved in securing "water portfolios," according to Mason's study: An Orocan drum, for instance, "can consume almost an entire month's income." In the end, as Mason noted, "lower-income households... spend higher percentages of their monthly income on water than higher-income households."

Meanwhile, water shortages are being invoked to justify the construction of more infrastructure, like the proposed Kaliwa Dam which locals in Daraitan fear will submerge their houses and livelihoods (i.e. ecotourism). Subordinating rural and environmental interests to urban demands, the dam is a reminder that our water supply comes at a price—even as political and economic actors strive to profit from it.

Our challenge is to manage water resources while minimizing impacts on local communities and environment, a challenge that entails consultations with both locals and experts, as well as improved governance of water agencies. Science and solidarity—not expediency and patronage—should guide water policy.

Another challenge is to urgently protect our watersheds. We need to support unpaid and underpaid forest guards, scale up reforestation efforts and put an end to destructive practices like illegal logging and mining. With so much at stake in our forests—climate change, health, disaster risk reduction—we must treat deforestation as nothing less than a national emergency.

Finally, the water crisis is a reminder that we are living unsustainably and we need radical changes in our lifestyles. Just like the traffic situation, it is a manifestation of failed planning and leadership, but there are nonetheless individual choices we can make to reduce our "water footprints."

If we fail to act as individuals and as a nation, a dry future awaits us. Only by better managing our water resources, protecting our watersheds and rethinking our consumption practices can we continue our intimacy with water in the years to come.

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Unsurprisingly for an archipelagic people, our past can be characterized as having an intimacy with water. Our ancestors established settlements near streams and lakes, traveled by boat through rivers and seas, and bathed with such frequency that the practice scandalized the Europeans who, for a long time, bathed no more than once a month. The fact that "Tagalog" and "Subanun" both mean "[people] of the river," and Maranao "people of the lake," further reflects the centrality of water in the everyday life, and even identity, of early Filipinos.

As Filipinos clustered (and were made to cluster) in cities, however, what was once an abundant natural resource began to require provisioning through artificial means (e.g., the Carriedo waterworks in the 1700s), making access to water a matter of governance and politics (e.g., privatization in the 1990s). Even so, many of us still took our water supply for granted.

The recent water shortages in various parts of the country, however, show that this privileged state can easily change. Indeed, we now live in a period of water insecurity brought about by both increasing demand and decreasing supply. Demand for water has sharply risen owing to the growth of our population; beyond household consumption, societies require water for a variety of purposes, from agriculture to energy.

On the other hand, freshwater supply has decreased owing to pollution, wastage, runoff, rainfall variability and deforestation. For a long time, environmentalists have been calling for stronger measures to protect watersheds like Ipo, but these calls have largely been drowned in the public discourse. The overall neglect of our forests has not just led to flooding, but also impacted our water supply.



SOWING CONFUSION, SLOWING RESPONSE

CLIMATE DENIERS GET MORE MEDIA PLAY THAN SCIENTISTS, STUDY SAYS

PARIS—Climate deniers have garnered far more media attention than prominent climate scientists over the years, fueling public confusion and slowing the response to global warming, researchers reported on Tuesday.

From 2000 through 2016, hundreds of academics, business people and politicians who doubted global warming or attributed rising temperatures to “natural” causes got 50 percent more ink than an equal number of top scientists, according to a study in *Nature Communications*, a peer-reviewed journal.

Even in a more select group of mainstream English language news outlets with high standards of evidence—from the *New York Times* and *The Guardian* to *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Daily Telegraph*—skeptics were still cited slightly more often.

In reality, there has long been overwhelming agreement among climate scientists that global warming—caused mainly by burning fossil fuels—poses a major threat to civilization and much of life on Earth.

An increase of only 1 degree

Celsius had triggered rising seas and a crescendo of deadly extreme weather, and Earth is on track to heat up another 3 C by century’s end.

Made worse by social media

“Climate change contrarians have successfully organized a strong voice within politics and science communication,” noted the authors, led by Alexander Petersen at the University of California at Merced.

Petersen and colleagues scanned 100,000 news items published from 2000 through 2016 for bylines, citations and

mentions of 386 scientists, and 386 “contrarians.”

“Tallying across all media sources, we find climate change contrarian media visibility to be 49 percent greater than climate change visibility,” they wrote.

The imbalance was made worse by the amplifying effect of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter, they added.

“Such disproportionate media visibility of contrarian arguments and actors misrepresents the distribution of expert-based beliefs,” they said.

—AFP



Mitigate impact of climate change—ABAC PH

APEC Business Advisory Council Philippines Wednesday echoed the support for the World Trade Organization and stressed the importance of mitigating the impact of climate change especially on the most vulnerable communities.

These issues were highlighted by the region's business leaders in the third ABAC meeting held last June 22 to 25 in Hangzhou, China, the group said in a statement released Wednesday.

Established in 1995, the WTO sets the global rules of trade.

This multilateral trading system provides for a more predictable and competitive international business environment.

Through this mechanism, economies such as the Philippines can play on a level playing field as other more developed economies.

"The common trading framework provided by the WTO allows Philippine products to compete fairly in the global market. While it is not perfect, we should work to

strengthen and improve the system, rather than undermine it," according to ABAC Philippines chairman Tomas Alcantara.

The expansion of world trade in recent decades has lifted over a billion people out of poverty. In the APEC region, extreme poverty rate fell sharply to 1.8 percent in 2015 from 41.7 percent in 1990, while poverty rate dropped to 13.4 percent from 63.1 percent over the same period.

For ABAC 2019 chairman Richard Von Appen of ABAC Chile, reforming the WTO and in particular, resolving the crisis in its dispute settlement system is one strong message the Council will deliver to APEC Leaders in this year's annual dialogue that will be held in Santiago in November.

"We also need to reform the rules to make sure that the WTO remains relevant and fit for purpose—including to ensure that modern business models can flourish, and that women and MSMEs can access the opportunities and benefits of the glob-

al economy," he added.

ABAC PH meanwhile underscored that the challenge for APEC is not only making economic growth inclusive, but also sustainable. As such, Alcantara shared, "as APEC looks forward to a new vision beyond Bogor Goals—of free and open trade and investment in the region by 2020—sustainability, most crucially addressing climate change is one of ABAC's priority."

Climate change must be immediately addressed, citing serious risks and repercussions not only for business, but also for the rest of society, the statement said.

It added: "The world is getting increasing number of natural disasters, 70 percent of which occur in the Asia-Pacific.

"In the Philippines alone, Typhoon "Ompong" (International name: "Mangkhut"), considered as the strongest typhoon in 2018 that also wreaked havoc in Guam, Hong Kong and Southern China, brought \$623 million in damages to public infrastructure and agriculture.



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PACC conducts

lifestyle check on 2

Cabinet men

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

The Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) is conducting lifestyle checks and investigating two Cabinet members for alleged corruption.

PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica withheld the names of the Cabinet members.

But he said yesterday that the probe is on top of the lifestyle checks the PACC has launched on officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) including its regional district officers or RDOs, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Transportation.

"In compliance with the orders of the President to eradicate corruption, we will conduct investigations and lifestyle checks against the top officials of the agencies to include the PCSO," the commissioner said.

"For officials that fall under Salary Grade 26 and up, that will be given to PACC for proper investigation and submission to the President and the ombudsman," Belgica added.

To show that the government is serious about the campaign against corruption, Belgica urged Cabinet members to lead by submitting themselves to lifestyle checks.

He said Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade has directed all his officials and staff members to subject themselves to the lifestyle check of the PACC, with Tugade leading the way.

Apart from Tugade, former agriculture secretary Emmanuel Piñol - who was just sworn in as head of

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the Mindanao Development Authority—had earlier volunteered for the lifestyle checks.

Belgica said it will be a good move if all Cabinet members also voluntarily give the PACC a go-signal for their own lifestyle checks.

"Yes. That will be honorable on their part to do. It would really be great if they do that. I'm not forcing them; it's their choice. But if they do that, then that would be honorable," he said in a mix of English and Tagalog.

The PACC is coordinating with the National Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, National Intelligence Coordinating Council, and the Anti-

Money Laundering Council to pursue the lifestyle check and investigations against government officials.

The commission is also investigating cases of excessive foreign travels by some government officials.

Belgica said the investigation against the two officials started in February this year and is expected to be completed by October.

"They are responsive," Belgica said, when pressed to identify the names of the two officials.

According to Belgica, the investigation against one Cabinet member stemmed from a complaint filed by an official of the agency. A private citizen,

meanwhile, filed the complaint against the second Cabinet member.

Sought for comment, presidential spokesman and chief legal counsel Salvador Panelo said the President has given the PACC some leeway in how corruption will be handled in this administration. "That's the job of the PACC. We will await its final report, and recommendation on the matter," he said.

When asked if Duterte knows about the ongoing probe against two members of his Cabinet, Panelo added that the President does not meddle in the work of the PACC.

"He doesn't have to be aware. When the investigation is done that's the time he will decide on its recommendation. He (Duterte) doesn't interfere with the work of the PACC,"



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Panelo said.

In a press briefing in Malacañang, Belgica said the body is now reviewing the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) of top PCSO officials, including former general manager Alexander Balutan and the current board of directors. The body has been directly coordinating with PCSO general manager Royina Garma on the probe.

Belgica said the lifestyle checks have started on officials of the BOC, which initially focused on 64 Customs employees and a "few more to come, hundreds more to come."

The PACC has also filed cases against 13 officials of the BIR.

"We will be conducting a full-blown investigation. Because the cases we caught them

with are the same cases committed over and over again. The problem really is not just the people but the system, so we will be conducting an investigation on the office," Belgica said.

He added that the checks on the DENR and DPWH involve top officials, including district engineers, regional district officers, undersecretaries, "because complaints have piled up in our office against these people."

"So, we will begin with the lifestyle check. I'm sure after the lifestyle check, as it happened with PCSO, the information we gather will spread out; and likewise, our investigation will spread out as well," Belgica said.

"In this regard, we are encouraging the public to help

us by reporting any illegal activities being committed by government officials," he added.

On the issue of excessive foreign travels, Belgica explained that the agency took the cue from Duterte's statements on unnecessary expenses related to junkets by government officials.

"There are those who travel too much. The President does not like that. And who is paying for these trips? What is the purpose? Maybe it's public funds that are being used for these personal travels... that's not good," Belgica said.

Belgica assured the public that the commission has been discreet in its probes, relying on substantial evidence before submitting reports to the Office of the President.



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15 PCSO execs undergoing lifestyle checks

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

THE Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission is conducting lifestyle checks on about 200 government officials, including 15 former and current officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, as part of President Duterte's campaign against corruption.

PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica did not name the officials but said they are holding "critical" and "important positions" in the gaming agency.

He also said that aside from the PCSO, those under investigation are from the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Transportation after its head, Secretary Arthur Tugade, volunteered himself and his agency to be subjected to lifestyle checks.

Belgica said the lifestyle checks, which are being conducted in compliance with President Duterte's order "to eradicate

See 15 PCSO > Page B3

15 PCSO

corruption," are expected to be completed in two to three months. He asked the public to help "by reporting illegal activities being committed by government employees."

Belgica announced the conduct of lifestyle checks on PCSO officials late last month after Duterte stopped "all gaming schemes" operated by PCSO pending an investigation into alleged massive corruption and irregularities in the agency. Duterte lifted the suspension on lotto operations after about a week as investigations showed there was no corruption involved in the scheme. The ban on small-town lottery and "Peryahan ng Bayan" remains in effect.

On August 2, Belgica said in a TV interview that 13 to 20 PCSO officials "who have control over biddings, and contracts of an operation" were under investigation. Almost all of them are still with the agency, he also said.

Belgica yesterday confirmed that former PCSO general manager Alexander Balutan and current board member Sandra Cam are part of the ongoing investigation

as he emphasized that all members of the PCSO board are included in the probe.

He said the only one exempted is PCSO general manager Royina Garma as she has barely been in office when the President made public the alleged corruption in the agency. Garma was appointed to the PCSO in late June.

Belgica also said the PACC has copies of the statement of assets and liabilities and net worth of the 15 PCSO officials, along with copies of contracts or franchises, that they or their offices handled or approved.

Belgica also confirmed reports that two members of the Duterte Cabinet are being investigated by the PACC due to allegations of corruption.

He did not name the secretaries but said complaints have been filed against them by private individuals in February this year.

In January this year, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello said he would seek the ouster of PACC Commissioner Manuelito Luna who announced he was under PACC investigation along with two other Cabinet members. Bello said he learned about the investigation

only from news reports quoting Luna and did not receive a copy of a supposed complaint against him.

Belgica yesterday said the PACC has formed an ad hoc committee called Project USIG to conduct the lifestyle checks against corrupt officials and personnel and to file charges against them.

PACC is working with the National Bureau of Investigations, the PNP's Criminal Investigations and Detection Group, the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, and the Anti-Money Laundering Council in conducting the lifestyle check and anti-corruption investigations.

He said PACC also formed with the Anti-Red Tape Authority and the "Hotline 8888" a "super response team" to ensure that all reports and complaints are acted on.

"Let it be known that we will show no mercy against corrupt officials. We will file cases, we will make it go through the process and at the same time, we will recognize and acknowledge offices and agencies that are really working very hard and meeting the target of the President for us to give a better/comfortable life for our people," Belgica said.



PCSO check includes Cam

Fifteen former and current officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) are now under Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) scrutiny for allegedly being involved in the "massive corruption" within the agency while officials of the Departments of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) and Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will be subjected to lifestyle checks.

According to PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica, some names on their list directly came from Malacañang. He, however, declined to disclose

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PCSO check includes Cam

These officials supposedly made decisions which exposed the PCSO to anomalies

From page 1

their identities so as not to compromise the investigation.

Belgica said included in the audit of officials will be supposed whistleblower Sandra Cam, who is a PCSO director.

"All of those who held a position from the start of President Rodrigo Duterte's term will be included in the probe. When the President said there's massive corruption, it implied everyone in the agency," he said.

"I have a copy of the names, but in our record, we have 15," Belgica said during a Palace briefing referring to the PCSO executives.

"I don't know if these are the same names on the President's list, but I have a copy from Malacañang," he added.

CAM not exempted.

Belgica also bared that former PCSO general manager Alexander Balutan will also be part of the ongoing probe, adding that even before President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the stoppage of all gaming schemes franchised and licensed by the agency, the PACC has already received complaints of supposed irregularities within the PCSO. These officials supposedly made decisions which exposed the PCSO to anomalies.

Whole board up for check

"I don't want to name names, but all those on the (PCSO) board, are included. Reason is they passed board resolutions, they approved franchises, they created policies and these policies, we realized, has

not set guidelines against corruption, for defrauding government," Belgica asserted.

"Everyone will be included (in the investigation), all those who have held positions since the President assumed office until when he said there is massive corruption. Everyone will go through investigation," he added.

Newly appointed PCSO chief Royina Garma, however, will not be subjected to a lifestyle check, according to Belgica.

"We can't include Garma because, I think, she hasn't even finished one month in her office. So, if we're going to do a lifestyle check to look for insignificant wealth or an increase in wealth, we won't see anything," Belgica stated.

Lifestyle checks are also being readied against "top officials" of DENR and DPWH, the official disclosed.

"We will include district engineers, revenue district officers (RDO), undersecretaries because complaints have piled up in our office against these people, so we will begin with the lifestyle check," Belgica imparted.

I'm sure after the lifestyle check, as it happened with PCSO, we will get more information and similarly the investigations are expected, he said.

DoTr commended

Likewise, the PACC lauded agencies that have volunteered to be subjected to government review.

All of those who held a position from the start of President Rodrigo Duterte's term will be included in the probe.

"We would also like to commend and acknowledge the officials from agencies who have voluntarily submitted themselves to undergo lifestyle check such as the top officials of Department of Transportation (DoTr) under the leadership of Secretary Arthur Tugade. He was the one who called me and said "investigate all individuals who hold important positions in the agency and the funds in it."

"Right after the successful entrapment operations that we conducted with the Anti-Red Tape Authority, I think two weeks ago we arrested a fixer who has amassed P20 million for the estimated P800 million scam in the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board with regards to getting franchise and reservations for Transport Network Vehicle Service," the official noted.

Kristina Maralit



2 Cabinet men, 200 others being probed by PACC

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

TWO Cabinet secretaries are currently being investigated for alleged corruption, Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) Commissioner Greco Belgica said on Wednesday.

At the same time, Belgica said PACC is also conducting a lifestyle check on at least 200 government officials, including those from the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Belgica was quick to point out, though, that when individuals are investigated by PACC they enjoy the firm presumption of innocence.

"Conducting investigations doesn't mean they're already guilty. So it's unfair to mention them and [make it] appear that they are corrupt," he told reporters in a Palace briefing.

While Belgica did not give the names of the Cabinet secretaries pending investigation, he said they have been investigating the two since February after receiving separate complaints from individuals.

After the investigation which he expects to be concluded soon, Belgica said they will submit this to the President and then the Ombudsman.

"Whatever the President will say, we will do that," he said.

As for the lifestyle check on at least 200 government officials, Belgica said he also expects this to be finished within 2019.

Meanwhile, the PACC also confirmed it is conducting lifestyle checks on 15 PCSO officials,



"Conducting investigations doesn't mean they're already guilty. So it's unfair to mention them and [make it] appear that they are corrupt."—Belgica

including former General Manager Alexander Balutan.

Retired marine general Balutan resigned in March over corruption allegations.

"We're investigating these people because they have been tagged to be—to have questionable transactions, one; No. 2, we are investigating because the President announced that there is massive corruption in PCSO; No. 3, these 15 names came up for two reasons: One, they're you know...they have been popular in a news or information about them, unverified and verified. Their names kept on coming up: And No. 2, they've held very critical and important positions. They are decision-makers; No. 3, they have held 'powerful offices' that allows them discretion and power to decide who and what to give," Belgica explained.

However, he said more names

will come up as they discover the persons involved in the "massive corruption" in PCSO.

Due to alleged corruption in PCSO, President Duterte has since suspended the operations of Small-Town Lottery, Keno and Peryahan ng Bayan nationwide.

In a related development, PACC, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (Arta) and hotline 8888 have agreed to form a super-response team to receive reports against corruption, red tape and to address concerns and hold accountable erring officials and offices, and propose systemic reforms.

The team also met with the top 5 agencies that were subject of the most number of complaints of delays in service delivery. These are the Land Transportation Office, Social Security System (SSS), BIR, Land Registration Authority (LRA) and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG).

These agencies, cited by the President in his fourth State of the Nation Address (Sona), were required to explain the mounting complaints, their most problematic transactions and choke points, solutions and actions to remedy the foregoing, and grievance mechanism in resolving complaints from the public.



2 cabinet secretaries iniimbestigahan ng PACC dahil sa katiwalian

SASAILALIM sa imbestigasyon ng Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) ang dalawang miyembro ng gabinete na umano ay sangkot sa katiwalian.

Sa ngayon ay ayaw munang ibulgar ni PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica ang pagkakakilanlan ng 2 cabinet official.

"Our investigation cannot be revealed to the public until it has been submitted to the President. The President decides on it [and] then it can be opened to the public," ayon kay Belgica sa isang press briefing sa Malakanyang.

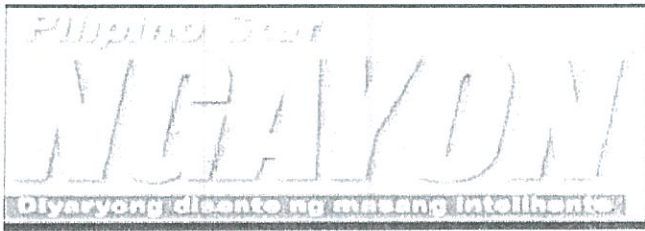
"Ang investigation kasi doesn't mean they're already guilty. It's unfair to mention them and make them appear na corrupt," wika pa ni Belgica.

Ayon kay Belgica, ang PACC ay halos tapos na sa kanilang imbestigasyon na maghahain na lang ng kaso laban sa dalawang cabinet officials ngayon taon at isusumite na lamang ang resulta kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at sa Office of the Ombudsman.

Gayundin aniya na ang dalawang kinilalang cabinet officials ay naging cooperative naman sa isinagawang imbestigasyon.

Binigyan din ng PACC na may sinisiyasat din silang 15 nakaraan at susuriin ang kasalukuyang opisyal ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office dahil sa kanilang pagkakasangkot kabilang ang lifestyle check na kanilang makokompleto na sa loob ng dalawa hanggang talong buwan.

Ibinulgar din ni Belgica na ang komisyon ay may pruwera na sa nasabing mga opisyal ng pamahalaan dahil umano sa labis na paglalakbay kasabay ng nagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon at lifestyle check sa kooperasyon ng mga opisyal ng Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bureau of Internal Revenue at ng Bureau of Customs. (Vanz Fernandez)



15 AUG 2019

DATE

200 gov't officials nasa 'lifestyle check' ng PACC

Nasa mahigit 200 government officials ang sasailalim sa lifestyle check ng Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC).

Sinabini PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica, kabilang dito ang 10-15 officials ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)

na dating naging chairman, general manager at board members mula 2016 kasama na ang nagbitiw na si GM Alexander Balutan.

Ayon kay Belgica, ang isinasagawang lifestyle check ng PACC ay may koordinasyon ng NBI, NICA at iba pang government agencies.

Magsasagawa rin sila ng lifestyle check sa mga opisyal at empleyado ng DENR, DPWH.

"We have formed a super response team to act on complaints submitted via gov't complaints hotline, 8888. PACC joins probe officials with salary grade 8 & up. We have agreed to

enter into an operational partnership to prevent and eliminate corruption, swift processing of complaints from all over the country," ani Belgica.

"Sa BIR, 13 na napasuspende at nakasuhan, and yet they seem not to be changing the system," dagdag ng PACC chief. (Rudy Andal)



PCSO officials, nasa 'lifestyle check' ng PACC; 200 pang gov't officials isusunod

MAHIGIT 200 opisyal ng pamahalaan ang iimbestigahan ng Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC)

Sa press briefing sa Malakanyang, sinabi ni PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica, uunahing imbestigahan ng PACC ang mga matataas na opisyal ng kinaauukulang ahensya.

Ayon kay Belgica, kabilang dito ang Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Department of Transportation, Bureau

of Customs, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bureau of Internal Revenue, at Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Kaugnay nito, tiniyak naman ni Belgica na matatapos nila ang lifestyle check sa bawat ahensya sa loob ng dalawa hanggang tatlong buwan.

Sa kasalukuyan, ini-hayag ni Belgica na inuuna muna ng PACC ang lifestyle check sa PCSO officials.



THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN



15 AUG 2019

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Strategic Comm



Our rights in territorial sea vs our rights in EEZ

THE 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) established the concept of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), an area in the sea measuring 200 miles (370 kilometers) from a country's coast. It established special rights on the exploration and use of marine resources, such as energy from any petroleum deposits in the land under the sea. But the EEZ waters themselves are international waters.

Distinct from the EEZ is the concept of territorial waters. In earlier times, territorial waters extended three miles from the coast, but in modern times, territorial water limits were extended to 12 miles (22 kilometers) from the coast. Countries exercise sovereignty over their territorial waters, but not over their EEZ. They have "sovereign rights" to develop resources in the land under the sea within the EEZ.

These two concepts – territorial waters and EEZ – are very much in the news today. Last week, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo commented there is nothing wrong with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana's proposal to seek the help of the United States in monitoring the Philippines' EEZ, following reports of Chinese vessels passing through without informing Manila.

If they are merely passing through our EEZ, foreign vessels need not inform Manila, as the EEZ are international waters. Panelo said China should have asked permission, or at least informed the Philippines that its survey ships would be passing through our EEZ. Permission is not required under the UNCLOS,

but informing us as a matter of courtesy would have been appropriate and appreciated.

In connection with our right to develop resources in the seabed within our EEZ, we will be exercising that right very soon when we explore for oil in the Reed Bank which is within our EEZ near Palawan, in a joint project with a Chinese oil firm. This will be similar to our natural gas project in Malampaya, also within our EEZ, with a Dutch Shell company. In both cases, the Philippines gets 60 percent of the proceeds.

There is so much dissension in the South China Sea today because of conflicting claims by various nations. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei have claims to some islands within their EEZ as well as in the clusters of islands in the Paracels and Spratleys in the middle of the SCS. But China is claiming virtually all of the SCS on the basis of a map it produced in 1947 enclosing its claimed territory with a nine-dash line.

The US maintains the SCS is part of international waters and exercises freedom of navigation; its warships thus ignore the China's claim as they pass through the sea. The small Southeast Asian nations have to deal with the situation as best they can and have thus agreed with China that a Code of Conduct be drawn up help ensure a peaceful settlement of any disputes in the sea.

This is the situation today with regards to the South China Sea. We must assert our sovereignty in our 12-mile territorial sea but we must take care against claiming rights in our 200-mile EEZ that are not based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

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15 AUG 2019

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Crocodile devours 10-year-old boy in Palawan

By Alfred Dalizon

A 10-YEAR-OLD elementary school student on Sunday was killed in a crocodile attack in Balabac, Palawan.

Police Regional Office 4-B director Brig. Gen. Tomas Apolinario Jr. said that the croc attack took place in a mangrove area in Sitio Tagpanasan in Bgy. Salang, Balabac municipality at 6 p.m. last Sunday.

Victim Milhasan Suraping, a student of the Paliisan Elementary School, and his 12-year old brother Lokan and sister Marlina, 15, went to a store in the area on a small boat.

However, a crocodile suddenly attacked and bit the boy who was sitting at the back of the boat before dragging him into the water as his terrified siblings watched in panic.

Apolinario said that Robinsio Suraping, the father of the victim, and their neighbors searched the river

until 1 a.m. on Monday but failed to find any trace of the boy.

Members of the Balabac Municipal Police Station, the Coast Guard, the Special Boat Unit of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also launched their own search for the victim but all returned to their headquarters empty-handed.

Apolinario said that shortly before noon on Tuesday, the victim's father reported to the Balabac police that Ajalong Amalong, a fisherman from nearby Sitio Odyong in Bgy. Catagupan, discovered the head and right leg of the victim at the mangrove area in Sitio Tagpanasan around 7 p.m. last Monday.

The body parts were cleaned and later buried by the



PWEDE kaya sa mahal kong Pinas ang isang Robot na Pari?

Isang tanong ito na dapat pag-isipan dahil sa Japan, may templo na ng mga Buddhist, ang Kodaiji, ang gumagamit nito.

Araw-araw itong hinahayaang nagsesermon at sosyal, huh!

Maiintindihan hindi lamang ng mga Hapon ang salita ng Robot na Pari kundi ng mga Kano at Tsino dahil nakasalin sa English at Chinese ang kanyang salita.

WALANG HANGGAN

Malayong mas maging ang Robot na Pari na si Mindar kaysa sinomang pari na Buddhist.

Kasi naman, nilagyan ito ng ulo na laman ang Artificial Intelligence na gawa sa Android.

May katawan, mukha, kamay at balikat itong nilagyan ng silicone upang magmukha itong tao at may malumanay itong boses.

May dalawa siyang mata ngunit ang isa ay may kamera kaya mukha itong isang cyborg at kitang-kita ang mga umiilaw nitong parte kung umaandar.

Malayong mas maging si Mindar sa kung sinomang pari dahil kinargahan ito ng impormasyon ukol sa Buddhismo, lalo ukol sa aral mula sa Buddhist deity o diyos na patron para sa Awa.

Kung meron tayong patron na Ina ng Awa, si Kannon na gawa sa Android ang katapat nito sa Buddhismo.

PARA

SA MILLENIALS

Ang maganda pa umano kay Mindar o Kannon, lagi umano itong nagdedebelop at madali itong maka-relate, lalo na sa makabagong panahon na pinaghaharian na ng teknolohiya.

Patok ito sa mga millennial na laging nakatutok sa elektronikong gamit o device gaya ng cellphone kaugnay ng internet.

Magaling din talaga dahil nagagawa na ng Pari na Robot ang napakaraming hindi magagawa ng mga taong pari gaya ng pagsasalita ng talong lengguwahe at pagkakaroon ng kumpletong kaalaman sa Buddhismo, lalo na ukol sa Awa.

Madali na lang din na paunlarin ang Pari na Robot upang ipaalam sa lahat ng tao ang ukol sa isang pananampalataya dahil lalagyan lang ito ng awtomatikong translator o tagasalin sa iba't ibang



ULTIMATUM NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

ROBOT NA PARI PWEDE NA; WALA NANG PEDO, RAPIST

lengguwahe.

May makakalaban na halimbawa si Pope Francis sa pagsesermon na karaniwang isinasalin sa iba't ibang salita ang Latin sa kanyang mga sermon tuwing Semana Santa, Pasko at Bagong Taon.

MAWALAN NG TRABAHO ATBP.

Ang isang nakikita natin sa robot na ito na gawa ng Osaka University at robotics professor na si Hiroshi Ishiguro sa halagang \$1 milyon, maraming pari, ministro, pastor at katulad ng mga ito ang mawawalan ng trabaho.

Mabubura na rin siguro ang maraming seminaryo na nagpapanday ng mga pari, ministro, pastor at iba pa.

Ito'y dahil meron nang isang genius na pari, ministro, pastor at iba pa na magtuturo ukol sa relihiyon.

Bibili na lang ang isang tao ng Robot na Pari, hindi na siya kailangang pumasok sa seminaryo o makinig sa kumpisalan o papasok sa mga simbahan at magsamba para makarinig ukol sa Aral ng Diyos.

Maaaring hindi na rin kailangan ang Biblia dahil laman na nga ni Paring Robot ang lahat ng laman ng Biblia at itinuturo nito habang nagsasalita.

HINDI LANG PANRELIHIYON

Ang maganda pa sa Paring Robot, hindi makararanas ito ng pagod gaya ng mga taong pari, ministro at pastor.

Pwede itong kausapin mula Lunes hanggang Linggo at maghapon at magdamag.

Masisira lang ang araw ng mananampalataya o estudyante ni Paring Robot kung nalobat ito o na-virus.

Pero pwede namang ibalik ang lahat kung na-charge na ito at naayos ang pagkaka-virus nito.

Hindi uso ang retirement dito kay Paring Robot at ang aasahan ay lalong gaganda ang performance nito pagdaan ng lahat ng panahon.

Kung ilalagay ito sa 5G na latest sa communications technology, lalong magiging mabilis mag-isip at magbigay ng impormasyon sa magseser-

mon si Paring Robot.

At napakagaan nga kung makapagdala na balang araw ng Paring Robot na kasing-liit ng isang cellphone.

Baka isang araw ay maging gabay na rin sa biyahe si Paring Robot gaya ng ginagawa ng Waze na nagbabala sa mga disgrasya sa kalsada at iiwas ka sa lugar.

Diyosa nga ng Awa si Mindar o Kannon.

KRISTIYANONG PARING ROBOT

Hindi imposibleng magkaroon ang mga Kristiyano ng Paring Robot at papalitan na ang mga Papa, Kardinal, Obispo at Pari, kasama na ang mga madre.

Gayundin mapapalitan sina Ministro, Pastor, Diakono at iba pa.

Bibili na lang si relihiyoso o sina Manang o Manong ng Paring Robot o gagawa na lang din ang mga magagaling nating batang siyentista sa robotics ng Paring Robot at magbenta ang mga ito sa atin.

Lahat ng laman ng Biblia at iba pang aral sa relihiyon nating kinnaaniban ay malalaman na natin nang hindi papasok sa mga simbahan o eskwelang pag-aari ng mga Pari, Ministro at Pastor.

WALA NANG RAPIST, PEDO

Kung makabibili na lahat ng mga Paring Robot o sila na ang magsisilbing Pari, Ministro at Pastor sa mga simbahan o sambahan, hindi na tayo makaririnig ng mga Papa, Kardinal, Obispo, Pari at iba pa na sangkot sa pedopilia, rape, pagpatay sa inanakang babae at iba pang krimen sa parte ng mga Katoliko.

Gayundin sa iba pang mga pananampalataya.

O maghanda-handa na tayo sa darating na pagbabago sa relihiyon.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com



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DATE



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: (632)927-15-17, 928-37-25; Fax No.: (632) 920-22-58
Website: <http://www.emb.gov.ph> / Email: mail@emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the proposed NEW CENTENNIAL WATER SOURCE – KALIWA DAM PROJECT of METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) to be located in BARANGAY PANGANGAHAN (GENERAL NAKAR), BARANGAY MAGSAYSAY (INFANTA), BOTH IN QUEZON PROVINCE AND TERESA AND TANAY IN RIZAL PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed NEW CENTENNIAL WATER SOURCE – KALIWA DAM to attend the Public Hearings scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
23 August 2019 (Friday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	General Nakar Sports Center in Brgy. Poblacion
27 August 2019 (Tuesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	Ynares Covered Court located in Magsaysay Avenue, Teresa, Rizal
28 August 2019 (Wednesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	Chateau Marinero, Real-Infanta Road, Brgy. Comon, Infanta Quezon
02 September 2019 (Monday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	Covered Court, Barangay Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in these Public Hearings should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through mail or through email at eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com, at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.cia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in this Office.

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 920-2240 to 41 through the project casehandlers Engr. Regina Paula Eugenio, Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, and Engr. Lene Ramboyoung.



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. VII
Greenplains Subd., Bonifacio, Mandaluyong City, Cebu 6014
Tel No. (433 32) 344-3047 / 343-6557/344-1489;
Fax No. (433 32) 344-9176; E-mail: mgb7cebu@gmail.com



June 20, 2019

ATTY. EDUARDO E. DELA CRUZ
Vice President
Euzkadi Holdings Corporation
47-A San Roque St.,
Brgy. Barangka Ilaya,
Mandaluyong City



Dear Atty. Dela Cruz:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Notice of Application intended for the posting/publication of your Exploration Permit (EP) Application denominated as EXPA-000216VII located at Barangay Maglineo, Municipality of Basay, Negros Oriental covering an area of 1,349.2999 hectares. Likewise enclosed are copies of our letters-request for posting addressed to the concerned offices for you to follow up the issuance of the required certification within thirty (30) calendar days from the last date of posting for immediate submission to this Office.

Moreover, you are hereby enjoined to cause the publication of your EP Application, within five (5) working days from receipt hereof, as follows:

1. In a newspaper of general (national) circulation published in Metro Manila, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks;
2. In a newspaper of local circulation published in the Province of Negros Oriental, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks; and
3. Daily radio announcement for one (1) week.

Upon completion of the said publication/radio announcement, you are required to submit to this Office the pertinent Affidavits of Publication from the newspapers of your choice, together with the original and photocopies of the news clippings thereof and an Affidavit attesting to the radio announcement.

Meanwhile, you are also required to submit/comply within thirty (30) days upon receipt of this letter the following lacking requirements, viz:

1. Revised Two (2)-Year Exploration Work Program (MGB Form No. 5-4) conforming the reduced area with Gantt Chart for the schedule of the implementation of the proposed exploration activities duly prepared, signed and sealed by a licensed Mining Engineer or Geologist;
2. Revised Environmental Work Program (MGB Form 16-1 or 16-1A) conforming the reduced area with summary matrix of the exploration activities to be undertaken with the corresponding environmental impacts and Gantt Chart of environmental activities to be undertaken, duly prepared, signed and sealed by a licensed Mining Engineer or Geologist;

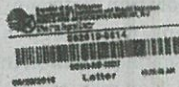
"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE"

3. Revised Affidavit of Undertaking reflecting the reduced area;
4. Original SEC-certified true copy of documents showing the minimum paid-up capital of Php 6,250,000.00 pursuant to DENR Memorandum Order 2013-01;
5. Registration fee for the Affidavit of Undertaking in the amount of Php 1,000.00;
6. Verification fee for the application of CEMCRR in the amount of Php 6,000.00; and
7. Clearance fee in the amount of Php 5,000.00;

Please be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

EFREN S. CARIDO
OIC-Regional Director





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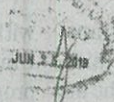


Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. VII
Greenplains Subd., Bonifacio, Marikina City, Cebu 6014
Tel No. (433 32) 344-0347 / 343-3557/346-1689;
Fax No. (433 32) 346-9174; E-mail: mgb-ro7bu@gmail.com



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

OF
EUIKADI HOLDINGS CORPORATION
FOR
EXPLORATION PERMIT



Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of Department Order No. 2010-21 (Providing For A Consolidated Department Of Environment And Natural Resources Administrative Order For The Implementing Rules And Regulations Of Republic Act No. 7942, Otherwise Known As The "Philippine Mining Act Of 1995"), that **EUIKADI HOLDINGS CORPORATION** with office address at **ATA Bldg, Room 31, Barangay Baranaka Ilaga, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines** has filed an application for Exploration Permit, for the exploration of certain **gold, silver, copper and other mineral resources** and particularly described as follows:

- I. Application Number : EXPA 000216VII
- II. Date of Filing : August 24, 2018
- III. Area Location
Barangay/s : Maglineo
Municipality/City : Basay
Province : Negros Oriental

IV. Technical Description of the Area * #

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
1	9	28	00.0000	122	39	00.0000
2	9	30	30.0000	122	39	00.0000
3	9	30	30.0000	122	40	00.0000
4	9	29	30.0000	122	40	00.0000
5	9	29	30.0000	122	40	30.0000
6	9	29	00.0000	122	40	30.0000
7	9	29	00.0000	122	41	30.0000
8	9	29	30.0000	122	41	30.0000
9	9	29	30.0000	122	42	00.0000
10	9	28	30.0000	122	42	00.0000
11	9	28	30.0000	122	40	00.0000
12	9	28	00.0000	122	40	00.0000

"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE"

* Exceptions: The Applied Area shall be subject to Section 19 of RA 7942 and Section 13 ("Areas Closed to Mining Locations" and Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands"), of DENR Administrative Order No. 95-40, Series of 1996, among other things:

- a) The following shall be closed to mining locations: areas with valid and existing mining rights; existing mining applications; and areas expressly prohibited by law;
- b) The following shall also be closed to mining locations except upon written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity subject to the evaluation and validation by the Bureau: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archaeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works including plantations or valuable crops;
- c) Applications for mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreements covering: small scale mining areas; civil or military reservations; areas covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain status; or areas of ancestral land as may be defined by law shall require prior written consent of concerned individuals, groups or other government agencies having jurisdiction over the areas) applied for;

Note: The Notice must be accompanied by a map sketch plan with index map showing the location municipality and any major environmental features (s).

V. Size of the Area **1,349.2999** hectares, more or less

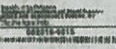
VI. Duration of the Permit

The permit shall be for a period not exceeding two (2) years from date of issuance, renewable for a term of two (2) years each but in no case shall the total exceed six (6) years.

VII. Extent of Operation to be Undertaken

Exploration / Reconnaissance / Regional Survey, Semi-Detailed Geological Survey, Topographic Survey, Detailed Geological, Geochemical, and Geophysical Survey, Test Pitting (Trenching and Drilling) of Gold, Silver, Copper and other mineral resources.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the above mentioned application (s) are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed directly within ten (10) days from the date of publication or from the last date of posting/radio announcement, with the Regional Office or through any Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) or Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) concerned of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office concerned for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7942 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Adverse claims, protests or oppositions should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of Department Order No. 2010-21 (Providing For A Consolidated Department Of Environment And Natural Resources Administrative Order For The Implementing Rules And Regulations Of Republic Act No. 7942, Otherwise Known As The "Philippine Mining Act Of 1995"), and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.



For further particulars, apply or course your inquiries to The Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. VII, Greenplains Subdivision, Bonifacio, Marikina City, Philippines.

EFREN B. CARIDO
OTC Regional Director

- Shot: A/B
- cc:
 - The Acting Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
 - The Honorable Governor
Province of Negros Oriental
 - The Municipal Mayor
Basay, Negros Oriental
 - The Honorable Barangay Captain
Maglineo, Basay, Negros Oriental
 - Atty. Eduardo S. Dela Cruz
Vice President
Euiyadi Holdings Corporation
Mandaluyong City
 - The PENRO Officer
Davao City, Negros Oriental
 - The CENRO Officer
Davao City, Negros Oriental

AMENDED LOCATION PLAN
OF EXPLORATION PERMIT APPLICATION
AS PREPARED FOR
EUIKADI HOLDINGS CORPORATION
SITUATED IN THE
Municipality of **Basay**
Province of **Negros Oriental**
Containing an Area of **1,349.2999** hectares more or less

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1.	9° 28' 00.000"	122° 39' 00.000"
2.	9° 30' 30.000"	122° 39' 00.000"
3.	9° 30' 30.000"	122° 40' 00.000"
4.	9° 29' 30.000"	122° 40' 00.000"
5.	9° 29' 30.000"	122° 40' 30.000"
6.	9° 29' 00.000"	122° 40' 30.000"
7.	9° 29' 00.000"	122° 41' 30.000"
8.	9° 29' 30.000"	122° 41' 30.000"
9.	9° 29' 30.000"	122° 42' 00.000"
10.	9° 28' 30.000"	122° 42' 00.000"
11.	9° 28' 30.000"	122° 40' 00.000"
12.	9° 28' 00.000"	122° 40' 00.000"

Prepared by:
JULIE B. CARANAO
Geological Engineer
Reg. No. 4715 Date: 1-11-08
PTR No. 17524-4 Date: 1-23-18

