

DATE : 06 JUN 2019

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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The eagles get their passports to fly higher than ever before. Department of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Meynado L.B. Montealegre (left) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon (center) present the official passports of Geothermica and Sambisig to Edgar Chua (right), Chairman of the Philippine Eagle Foundation, prior to the departure of the two eagles on a PAL flight to Singapore on June 4, 2019.

PAL flies 2 Philippine eagles 'loaned' to Singapore

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

Flag carrier Philippine Airlines was tasked to fly two Philippine eagles to Singapore as part of the wildlife loan agreement signed between the governments of the Philippines and the Southeast Asian island city state.

PAL flew the two eagles from their sanctuary in Davao to Singapore, via Manila.

PAL has a long experience of flying animals on many occasions in the past, but this is the first time a critically endangered species is being flown from the Philippines to another country.

Geothermica and Sambisig - 15 and 17 years old, respectively - are being loaned to Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) for breeding and other conservation-related undertakings.

The two birds will be brought to the Jurong Bird Park, one of the zoological attractions facilities managed by the WRS.

The two birds received special treatment during their flights via Davao-Manila (PR2808) and Manila-Singapore (PR507).

The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) hopes that through the eagle loan

program, the WRS can help them secure a gene pool of the Philippine eagles for their species conservation preservation and as insurance against natural calamities that can wipe out their habitat and the only captive Philippine Eagle population resident eagles at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Malagos, Davao City.

The PEF manages the PEC where both Geothermica and Sambisig were hatched and reared.

The preserved gene pool can also be critical in preservation efforts in case of health epidemics like the avian flu, PEF said in a statement.

"Through the PAL Foundation, we are flying the loaned eagles to Singapore because we firmly believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the PEF," said Jaime J. Bautista, PAL President and PEF Vice Chairman.

The WRS, one of the world's leading zoological institutions, has been supporting conservation efforts across Southeast Asia through wildlife research and awareness campaigns with over 50 wildlife conservation projects.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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The Manila Times

A3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

HEADER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

06 JUN 2019

DATE

Philippine eagles flown to Singapore

A pair of Philippine eagles from Davao were sent to Singapore on Tuesday as part of the breeding agreement between the two countries.

Geothermica (male) and Sambisig (female), 15 and 17 years old, respectively, are on loan for the next 10 years to the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) "to hopefully encourage breeding, specifically at the Jurong Bird Park."

This is the first international Philippine Eagle Loan Agreement between the governments of the Philippines, through the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources, and Singapore, to increase the eagles' population.

The two countries recently marked 50 years of diplomatic relations.

Geothermica and Sambisig were hatched at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Davao City.

Geothermica's maintenance was sponsored by the Energy Development Corp., while Sambisig received sponsorship from Dow Chemical Philippines.

Philippine Airlines President and Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) Vice Chairman Jaime Bautista said "through the PAL Foundation, we are flying the

loaned eagles to Singapore because we firmly believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the PEF.

According to PEF, Geothermica and Sambisig are at the prime age for breeding. They were previously paired with other eagles at the PEC, but these attempts did not progress to natural pairing.

The WRS has been supporting conservation efforts across Southeast Asia through wildlife research and awareness campaigns with over 50 wildlife conservation projects.

BENJIE L. VERGARA



PAL flies two PH eagles to Singapore

Philippine Airlines flew two Philippine eagles from their sanctuary in Davao to Singapore, via Manila Tuesday as part of the first international Philippine Eagle loan Agreement between the governments of the Philippines (through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and Singapore (through Wildlife Reserves of Singapore [WRS]).

Geothermica and Sambisig - 15 and 17 years old respectively - are being loaned to WRS to hopefully encourage breeding in Singapore, specifically at the Jurong Bird Park, one of the zoological attractions facilities managed by the WRS.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) also hopes that through the eagle loan program, the WRS can help them secure a gene pool of the Philippine eagles for their species conservation preservation and as insurance against natural calamities that can wipe out their habitat and the only captive Philippine Eagle population resident eagles at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Malagos, Davao City. The PEF manages the PEC where both

Geothermica and Sambisig were hatched and reared.

The preserved gene pool can also be critical in preservation efforts in case of health epidemics like the avian flu.

Many of PEF's eagles at the bird sanctuary have corporate sponsors: Geothermica, male, is sponsored by Energy Development Corporation; Sambisig, female, by Dow Chemical Philippines. PAL is sponsor to another eagle named Sinag. The three eagles were born in captivity.

"Through the PAL Foundation, we are flying the loaned eagles to Singapore because we firmly believe in the eagle preservation advocacy of the PEF," said Mr. Jaime J. Bautista, PAL president and PEF vice chairman.

According to the PEF, Geothermica and Sambisig who are at the prime age for breeding. They were previously paired with other eagles at the Center with unsuccessful results but these attempts did not progress to natural pairing.

Captive-bred eagles are said to be more resilient than those from the wild.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

06 JUN 2019
DATE



NEWS

'Bird of Prey': PH eagle up close

Now showing in cinemas in Mindanao, "Bird of Prey" takes a close look at the Philippine eagle, especially painstaking efforts to save the bird and its habitat. In 1977, renowned wildlife cinematographer Neil Rettig and his team landed in the Philippines and produced the first film images of the rarest eagle in the wild. The images catapulted the eagle into the national consciousness. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

A7



'Bird of Prey': Rare PH eagle up close

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Somewhere deep in the forest of Mt. Sinaka in North Cotabato province, a pair of Philippine eagles take to the sky to look for prey to feed their new offspring.

In its nest, the hatchling looks so vulnerable.

But not only its parents were watching in those early days of the bird. Less than a hundred meters away, perched high on a tree rig with his camera, was 64-year-old Neil Rettig.

In 2013, the renowned wildlife cinematographer returned to the jungles of Mindanao, nearly four decades after he had captured the first few images of the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*).

Documentary

This time, his mission was to document the birds of prey he thought would cease to exist.

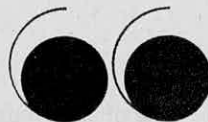
Rettig's journey—and the amazing passion of those working to protect the critically endangered species—is the focus of the award-winning documentary "Bird of Prey," now showing in cinemas in Mindanao in time for Philippine Eagle Week.

The 90-minute film looks closely at the rarest eagle on the planet, capturing the painstaking efforts to save the bird and its habitat.

"The Philippine eagle may be found only in the Philippines," biologist Perry Ong (now deceased) says in the documentary. "But it is the property of the world."

In 1977, the young Rettig and his team landed in the Philippines and produced the first film images of the Philippine eagle in the wild.

Their images had catapulted the rare bird—once feared and least understood—into



The Philippine eagle may be found only in the Philippines. But it is the property of the world

Perry Ong
Biologist

the national consciousness.

The visually stunning documentary, which has gone the rounds of international screenings, offers a journey into the life of the fierce raptor.

In vivid color, in both archival and new footage, the film shows the role of man in the bird's survival and demise.

To make people understand the present and the future of the species, journalists and advocates speak in the film about the massive habitat loss the bird suffered in the 1970s under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, when hectares upon hectares of trees were felled in the pursuit of economic growth.

The film is directed by Eric Liner and produced by the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Neil Rettig Productions.

In celebration of the mighty raptor, the documentary is on screens in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Davao, General Santos and Zamboanga until June 12.

Saving the bird

PEF development program manager Andi Baldonado said the foundation hoped the screenings would not only raise awareness of the Philippine eagle, but also help gather funds for the different initiatives by the group to save the bird.

Based in Davao City, the foundation is dedicated to recovering the eagle's declining population and preserving its habitat through conservation breeding, research and education.

It also partners with indigenous communities to protect the dwindling forests they share with the eagles and other species.

The eagle appears on the Philippine National List of Threatened Species. Fewer than 400 pairs remain in the wild.

A breeding pair rears only a single offspring every two years and needs up to 13,000 hectares of forest territory.

Biggest challenge

Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director, said resources remained the biggest challenge for the foundation, which now hosts 32 eagles in its 8.4-hectare center on the outskirts of Davao City.

Despite the foundation's efforts, the threats to the eagles in the wild, such as habitat loss and hunting, remain.

"We have already lost more than 50 percent of young birds," Salvador said in a packed screening event in Quezon City on Monday. "If the present threat continues, the population will crash because there will be no new population to replace it." INQ

1/2



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS + FEAREDLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

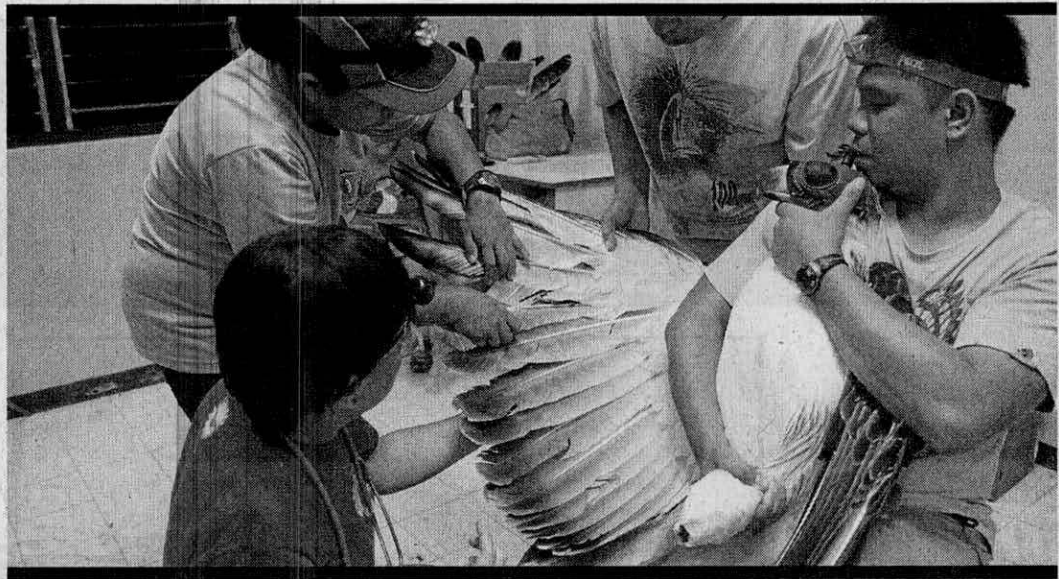
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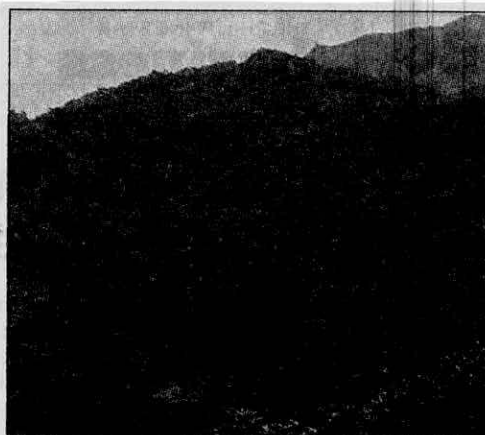
PAGE 1/ _____

06 JUN 2019
DATE

2/2



DOCUMENTARY SCENE Philippine Eagle Center workers tend to the injured Matatag, a Philippine eagle rescued from Mt. Apo in 2011. The bird's recovery and release in 2014 is one of the highlights of the award-winning documentary "Bird of Prey." —BIRD OF PREY FACEBOOK PAGE



According to Haribon Foundation, habitat loss threatens the survival of Philippine bird species. June 4 to 10 has been declared Philippine Eagle Week.

Revival of Phl forests key to eagle species survival

Delay in the rehabilitation of forests and rampant deforestation in many parts of the country may further endanger the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), which is struggling to keep its numbers alive.

On average, a Philippine Eagle pair needs about 4,000 to 11,000 hectares of forest land to survive in the wild, depending on the number of prey in the area. But with the rapid loss of Philippine forests, the struggle to survive is harder than ever.

Since the 1900s, more than 70 percent of Philippine forests have been lost to make way for urban and commercial developments.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the Philippine Eagle as one of more than 400 plant and animal species that face the threat of extinction. Today, only 400 pairs of Philippine Eagles are left in the wild.

In 2012, it joined the list of 17 critically endangered birds in the Philippines, along with the Philippine Cockatoo, Rufous-headed Hornbill and Sulu Bleeding Heart.

Haribon Foundation, together with Birdlife International, reported that habitat loss in the form of rapid disappearance of Philippine forests and conversion of wetlands to other uses, is the number one threat to Philippine bird species.

"The problem is twofold. While we are aware of the problem that our national bird is facing the brink of extinction, this stems from the deeper issue that we are losing our forests," Haribon chief operating officer Maria Belinda dela Paz said.

According to the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), almost 47,000 hectares of forest cover are lost every year. This means that only 32.6 percent of the total forest cover remains from the original forest cover which the country had in the past century.

Some 1.2 million hectares of deforested lands of the country need to be rehabilitated three years from now, according to the DENR.

Hence, it is high time for the government and the private sector to strengthen their mutual thrust in conserving and rehabilitating Philippine forests, which could help save the Philippine Eagle, considered an "umbrella species" by The Peregrine Fund.

The merits of having the apex predator thriving in the country do not end in prestige alone. "Conserving Philippine eagles and their habitat automatically provides protection for all the other plants and animals that live there too," Dela Paz said.

"Saving the Philippine Eagle could lead to a chain of events which will ultimately lead to a better environment for the Philippines," she said.

The loss of forested areas is mainly due to commercial developments and their conversion to major thoroughfares. Road construction close to forests means higher deforestation rates as access opens up avenues for forest resource extraction and land conversion. This poses a serious threat to Philippine birds, especially the globally threatened as they predominantly occupy lowland forests.

Rapid climate change also directly affects the survival rate of the remaining Philippine eagles. It severely strikes avifaunal diversity in the Philippines, where almost 30 percent of bird species are endemic.

BirdLife International warns that over the next 40 years, the habitats of restricted range birds will continue to be unsuitable due to climate change, attributing this problem to drastic shifts in temperature and rainfall. Many species may not survive under these harsh conditions.

This problem is even more aggravated due to the geography of the Philippines. As an archipelago with over 7,000 islands, the threat of extinction of the many island-endemic, restricted range fauna is high.

Proactive resolutions from government, in partnership with advocacy groups and private companies could lead to rehabilitation of degraded forest lands while stricter enforcement of illegal logging bans are encouraged to ensure the survival of species.

"But saving the Philippine Eagle does not only mean preserving Philippine biodiversity, this contributes to the global environment as well," Dela Paz said.



DENR, Aboitiz Group renew partnership for environment

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently renewed its partnership with the Aboitiz Group to promote ecological balance, including the planting of 9 million trees by 2020.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was recently signed by the DENR and Aboitiz Group in time for the celebration of World Environment Day on June 5.

The signing of the MOA was undertaken and witnessed by Carlos Aboitiz, Hedcor president, and chief operating officer; David Jude Sta. Ana, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. chief corporate external affairs officer; Sabin M. Aboitiz, AEV COO; Jonas R. Leones, DENR undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs; Ricardo Calderon, DENR assistant secretary; and Nonito Tamayo, DENR director, Forest Management Bureau.

The Aboitiz Group said they are on track in reaching its 9 million trees target by 2020, after planting a total of 6.6 million trees or 73 percent of the target as of 2018 through its simultaneous tree planting (STP) initiative.

STP is under A-Park—the group's largest environmental program that supports the Expanded National Greening Program (ENGP).

The planting of 9 million trees by the end of 2020 would mean the conversion of an estimated 189,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) into oxygen or the equivalent of about 9,000 hectares of lush reforested areas, or more than 37 times the size

of Bonifacio Global City.

In a statement, Sabin reiterated the group's commitment to the DENR's programs.

"We strongly believe and adhere to the DENR's mandate to protect the environment and we anchor our initiatives to the ENGP to sustain ecological balance. Our enduring partnership with the DENR for community-based forest management is a testament to our shared responsibility and highlights our contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal on Climate Action," Sabin said.

Since 2010 Aboitiz team-member volunteers gather in chosen planting sites in various parts of the country to plant indigenous trees, a manifestation of their commitment to environmental stewardship. Aboitiz is currently one of DENR's active ENGP partners.

"This MOA signing is a crucial step toward ensuring continuity in making a positive impact on our national development. It represents the essence of the Aboitiz Group purpose and brand promise: to drive change for a better world by advanc-



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

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B-2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

CONT. DENR, ABOITIZ GROUP NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR ENV

ing business and communities," Aboitiz added.

This July, the Aboitiz Group will further contribute to A-Park at its annual STP activity, where an estimated 95,000 seedlings will be planted by Aboitiz team members and stakeholders nationwide.

Under the MOA, the DENR will offer additional support by mobilizing all its bureaus, attached agencies, and DENR regional offices to provide support for the implementation of the A-Park project; providing technical assistance in identifying a possible site, for planting and species-site matching; and assisting in the documentation of planted trees, which includes geo-tagging, plantation registry, and mapping, among others.

The Aboitiz Group is investing P500 million as part of its carbon management program. Other environmental programs include waste reduction through the group's "Race to Reduce" program and the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park, home to the critically endangered hawksbill turtle or *pawikan*. All these programs are strategically implemented among all Aboitiz business units.



9M trees planted by 2020 on track



The Aboitiz Group said they are on track to reaching its nine million trees by 2020, after planting a total of 6.6 million trees (or 73 percent of the target) as of 2018 through its Simultaneous Tree Planting (STP) initiative.

STP is under A-Park – the group's largest environmental program that supports the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Expanded National Greening Program (ENGP). In time for the celebration of World Environment Day on 5 June, Aboitiz and DENR signed a memorandum of agreement as a renewal of partnership to sustain ecological balance.

The planting of nine million trees by the end of 2020 would mean the conversion of an estimated 189,000 tons of carbon dioxide (tCO₂) into oxygen or the equivalent of about 9,000 hectares of lush reforested areas, or more than 37 times the size of Bonifacio Global City.

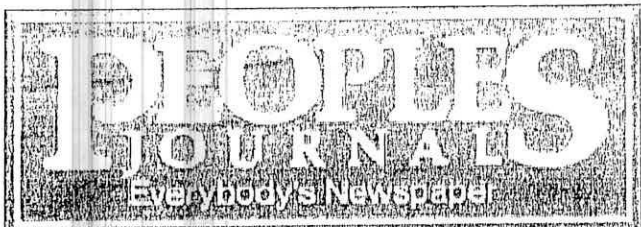
"I express my heartfelt thanks to Aboitiz Equity Ventures and Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. for teaming up with the DENR once again for the attainment of nine million trees under the A-Park Project by 2020," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

"It is heartening to know that working towards your corporate objective would also mean addressing poverty alleviation by engaging the services of the local people in forest activities like seedling production, plantation establishment, and maintenance and protection," he added.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. executive vice president and chief operating officer Sabin Aboitiz reiterated the group's commitment to DENR's programs.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



7
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

DATE

DENR joins celebration of World Environment Day

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday led the country in joining the global celebration of World Environment Day with a renewed commitment to fight air pollution.

DENR, through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), has lined activities for the observance of the environment month themed “#Beat-AirPollution.”

Studies conducted by the World Health Organization in 2018 showed that air pollution is one of the leading causes of death in the country, with 120,000 recorded every year, placing Philippines third in the world in terms of mortality rate brought by such pollution.

This year's World Environment Day and Philippine Environment Month aim to encourage people to understand air pollution, its effects on health and the environment, and to take action to make the air cleaner and healthier for everyone.

Air pollution causes deaths through diseases such as lung cancer, stroke, pulmonary disease and acute respiratory infections like pneumonia.

To tackle air pollution, the Philippines, through the DENR, has been

implementing Republic Act 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, a comprehensive policy and program that aims to achieve and maintain healthy air for all Filipinos while minimizing the possible associated negative impacts on the country's economy.

The DENR also monitors the compliance of firms and industries to the law, operationalizes the multi-agency Airshed Governing Boards across the country, and maintains air quality monitoring stations nationwide.

In celebration of the Philippine Environment Month, the EMB has launched the “Gusto Namin ng Malinis na Haringin” mask challenge, where the public is urged to create and use face mask made from recyclable materials.

On June 27, the EMB will hold an Environment Fair in a mall in Quezon City. The whole-day event will feature Zum Vironment, a free zumba session for environmental advocates and the public apart from showing exhibits on air pollution and health, film showing and a youth lecture/forum.

First celebrated in 1974, the World Environment Day is used as a vehicle by the United Nations to raise awareness and encourage action for the protection of the environment. **Joel dela Torre**



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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A-7
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

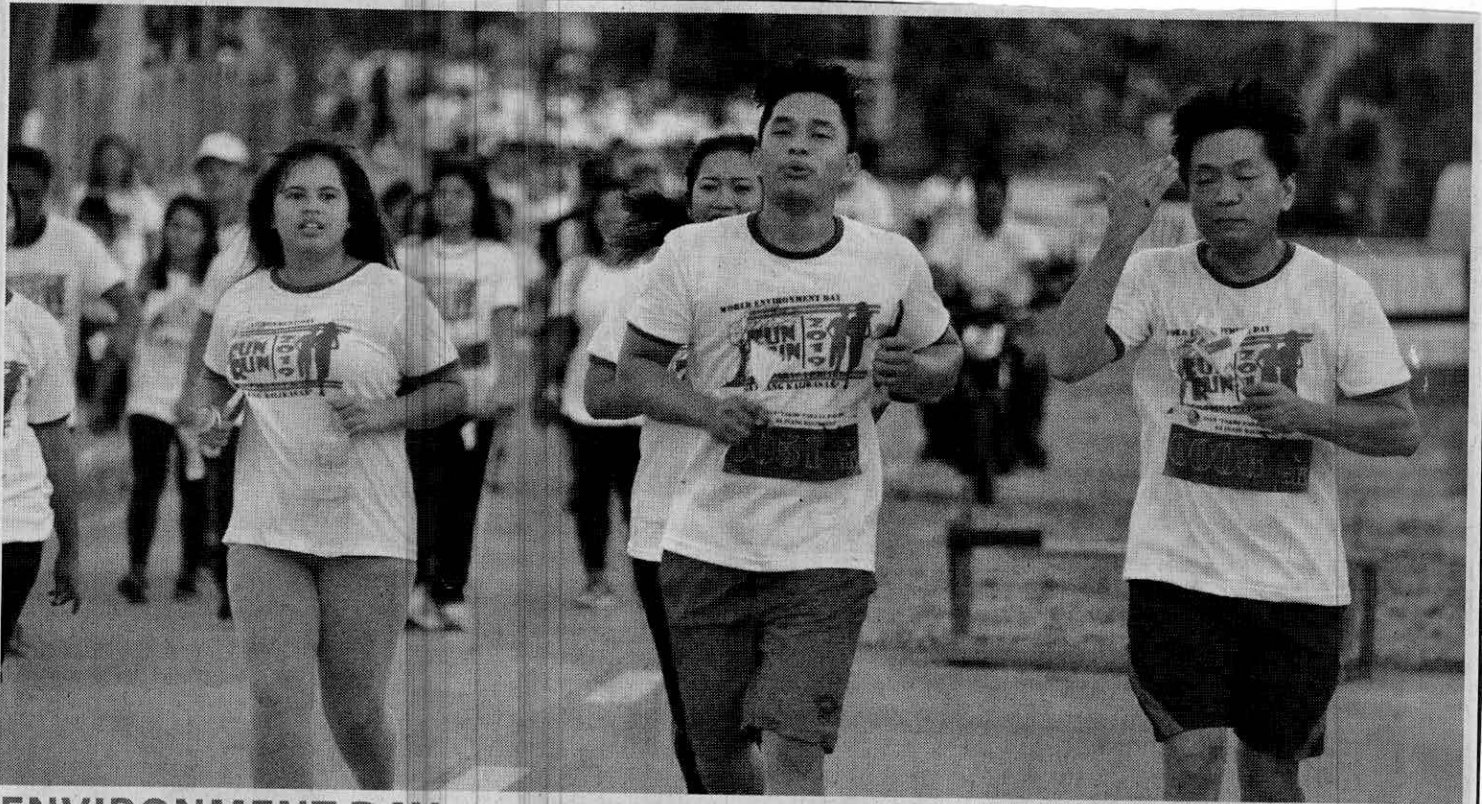
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STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

DATE



ENVIRONMENT DAY Some 2,000 people in Cagayan Valley on Wednesday join a fun run dubbed as "Takbo para sa Inang Kalikasan" in celebration of Philippine Environment Month led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 2. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

A13
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

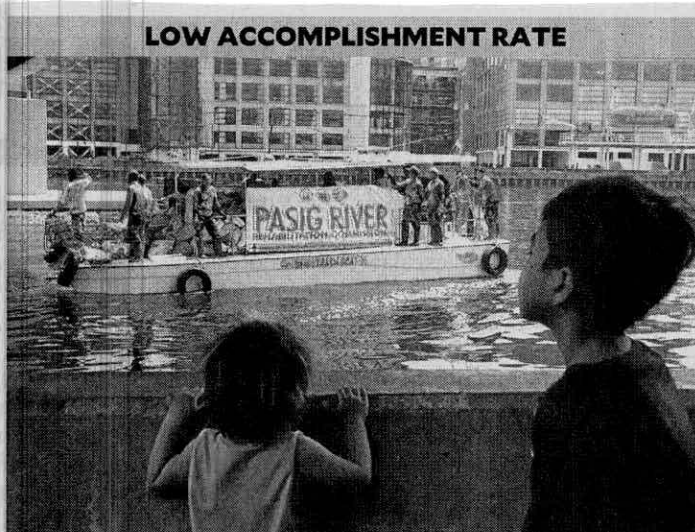
EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



LOW ACCOMPLISHMENT RATE
RIVER CLEANUP Workers of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission collect garbage thrown into the waterway in Carriedo, Manila. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

PASIG RIVER REHAB GROUP DOWNPLAYS COA REPORT

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) said that contrary to the report of the Commission on Audit (COA), it had so far spent only 30.16 percent of its funding.

It also denied being remiss in cleaning up one of the country's most polluted waterways after it was flagged by COA for its high utilization of funds but low project completion rate in 2018.

Still, it admitted that there had been several setbacks in the rehabilitation of six waterways, such as the presence of informal settler families, right-of-way issues and local officials opposed to its programs.

In the audit body's report released on May 31, it said that the PRRC's use of locally funded projects ranged from 88 percent to 99 percent last year.

Despite this, the PRRC's accomplishments were "notably low," ranging from a dismal one to 27.6 percent completion, COA added.

In its defense, the PRRC said that as of December 2018, only P29,631,43.29 had been paid to

contractors, equivalent to only 27.5 percent of the total contract amount.

As of March this year, it had paid contractors 30.16 percent of the total amount, given the increased accomplishments, it added.

Up-to-date, ongoing

The PRRC said its projects were up-to-date and ongoing with completion expected within a year.

In its report, COA cited six particular projects, including the rehabilitation of Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Kabulusan, Estero de Pandacan (Phase 2), Estero dela Reina and Estero de Valencia, all located in Manila, as well as the rehabilitation of a portion of San Juan River.

The Department of Budget and Management had approved a total of P111.08 million for the projects' implementation, which COA said was then awarded to various contractors.

Given concerns over the projects' completion, the audit body said the funds should not have been released pending the resolution of some problems.

—WITH REPORTS FROM PATRICIA DENISE M. CHIU INQ



PRRC denies misuse of funds for esteros

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission has denied the alleged misuse of funds for the rehabilitation of waterways or esteros in Metro Manila.

Contrary to reports about the agency's alleged oversight in the implementation of six waterway rehabilitation projects in 2018, PRRC said the projects are "ongoing" and "up-to-date."

According to the Commission on Audit, PRRC, despite utilizing ₱107,568,198.93 of its ₱111,078,000 appropriation, has not completed the six rehabilitation and development projects last year.

The projects that were being scrutinized are the rehabilitation of Manila's Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Kabulusan, Estero de Pandacan (Phase 2), Estero dela Reina,

and Estero de Valencia (Phase 3) as well as a portion of San Juan River situated in San Juan City.

PRRC explained that the rehabilitation and development of these waterways were proposed in 2017 with an approved budget of ₱111,078,000. PRRC bidded out these projects as early as the last quarter of 2017 with a final contract amount of ₱107,568,198.83.

"The six projects were expected to be completed within a year. However, since the rehabilitation of waterways is multi-faceted and multi-sectoral, several setbacks have been encountered during their actual implementation," PRRC said.

"Thus, as of December 2018, the amount of only ₱29,631,403.29 was paid to project contractors. This is equivalent to only 27.55 per-

cent of the total contract amount," it added.

As of March 2019, PRRC said that with the increase in physical accomplishments of its project contractors, it paid the amount of ₱32,444,655.77 to them.

This is equivalent to 30.16 percent of the total contract amount.

According to PRRC, some of the setbacks they have encountered include informal settlers re-occupying cleared easement and village or barangay officials opposing the development project.

PRRC said that despite these factors affecting physical performance, it has "initiated and successfully accomplished quality projects, programs, and activities that have direct impact on the improvement of water quality of the Pasig River." **(Ellalyn Ruiz)**



Walang anomalya sa waterways rehab —PRRC

Pinabulaanan ng Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) ang umano'y maling paggamit ng pondo para sa rehabilitasyon sa mga estero sa Metro Manila.

Kontra sa mga ulat hinggil sa umano'y kapabayaan ng ahensiya sa implementasyon ng anim na waterways rehabilitation projects noong 2018, iginiiit ng PRRC na "ongoing" at "up-to-date" ang kanilang mga proyekto.

Ayon sa Commission on Audit (CoA), hindi natapos ng PRRC ang anim na rehabilitation at development project noong nakaraang taon sa kabila na nagamit ng ahensiya ang

P107,568,198.93 ng P111,078,000 pondo nito.

Kabilang sa mga proyektong inusisa ang rehabilitasyon ng Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Kabulusan, Estero de Pandacan (Phase 2), Estero dela Reina, at Estero de Valencia (Phase 3) sa Maynila, gayundin ang bahagi ng San Juan River sa San Juan.

Sa paliwanag ng PRRC, iminungkahi ang rehabilitasyon ng mga estero noong 2017, na may aprubadong budget na P111,078,000. Isinalang ng ahensiya ang mga proyektong ito sa bidding noong huling bahagi ng 2017, na may pinal na kontratang

nagkakahalaga ng P107,568,198.83.

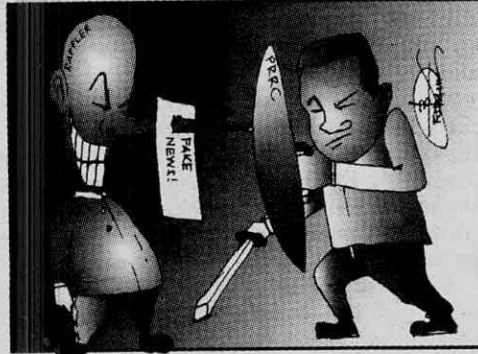
"The six projects were expected to be completed within a year. However, since the rehabilitation of waterways is multi-faceted and multi-sectoral, several setbacks have been encountered during their actual implementation," ani PRRC.

Nanindigan din ang PRRC na sa kabila ng mga salik na naging balakid sa proyekto, "it has initiated and successfully accomplished quality projects, programs, and activities that have direct impact on the improvement of water quality of the Pasig River."

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



Ang aming pananaw...



PRRC, BIKTIMA NG FAKE NEWS

PUMALAG ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) sa malisyosong ulat ng Rappler.com na naubos na ng ahensiya ang PhP107,568,198.83 sa kabuuang PhP111,078,0000.00 pondo noong 2018, batay sa ulat ng Commission on Audit para sa rehabilitasyon ng Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Kabulusan, Estero de Pandacan (Phase 2), Estero dela Reina, at Estero de Valencia (Phase 3) sa Maynila gayundin ang bahagi ng San Juan River sa San Juan City.

Sa unang basa, magugulat ang lahat dahil pinalalabas na kurakot si PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio Goitia. Kaya kaagad nilinaw ng PRRC ang ulat sa pahayag na patuloy pa ang konstruksiyon sa anim na proyekto at halos PhP29,631,403.29 pa lamang o 27 porsiyento ang tapos sa mga proyekto nitong 2018.

Tinangka nang baguhin ng Rappler ang kanilang istorya ngunit kumalat na ito, lalo sa binabantayan nitong Facebook. Nasa PRRC ngayon kung maghahabol sa Rappler lalo't todong kahihyan ang inabot ni Goitia sa malisyosong fake news.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

1,129 officials in hot water for failure to comply with Manila Bay clean-up order

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has asked 1,129 barangay officials to provide justifiable reasons for their non-compliance on a directive compelling them to par-

ticipate in the Manila Bay clean-up.

DILG Undersecretary for Barangay Affairs Martin Diño said the department has already issued show-cause orders to the concerned barangay officials.

Diño emphasized that the officials should explain why they ▶9

1,129 officials in hot... ◀1

should not be held liable before the Office of the Ombudsman for their failure to participate in the clean-up drive.

In the event the barangay officials offer what shall be evaluated as flimsy reasons, Diño said the DILG will have "no other choice" but to elevate and file cases against them.

He said on Wednesday the officials are from barangays in Bulacan, Bataan and Pampanga in Central Luzon, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite in Region 4-A and Metro Manila.

Diño said "defiant barangay officials" could face charges for not implementing provisions of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act in their respective areas.

Diño alleged that some negligent barangay officials pocket the funds for waste management and garbage collection to enrich themselves.

Because of this, Diño said efforts and measures to reduce garbage such as recycling and segregation remain ineffective.

The DILG had ordered officials in 5,700 barangays in and near Metro Manila to clean coastal areas or inland water systems every week and document the activity.

Manila Bay's clean-up was started on January 27, 2019 three months after the world famous Boracay Island was opened after its six month closure for rehabilitation.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

DATE

BAKIT HINDI NAKIISA?

1,129 bgy officials, kinuwestiyon sa Manila Bay clean-up

Nina **CHITO A. CHAVEZ** at **JUN FABON**

Nasa alanganing sitwasyon ang nasa 1,129 na opisyal ng barangay, na pinagpapaliwanag sa pagbalewala sa direktiba na makiisa sa Manila Bay clean-up.

Sinabi ni Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary for Barangay Affairs Martin Diño na naglabas na ang ahensiya ng show-

cause orders para sa mga barangay na hindi sumunod.

Diin ni Diño, kailangang maipaliwanag ng mga opisyal ang kanilang panig kung bakit hindi sila dapat maging liable sa Office of the Ombudsman dahil sa kanilang bigong paglahok sa clean-up drive.

Kung hindi makapagbigay ng

katanggap-tanggap na rason ang mga opisyal, iginiiit ni Diño na wala nang magagawa ang DILG kundi sampahan ng kaso ang mga non-complying barangay officials.

Ang mga sangkot na barangay ay nasa bahagi, aniya, ng Bulacan, Bataan at Pampanga sa Central Luzon, Rizal, Laguna at Cavite sa Region 4-A at Metro Manila.



Mactan, Panglao resorts face closure?

He added the other owners already have their accredited suppliers or they have own wastewater treatment facilities

By Rico M. Osmeña

Will Mactan and Panglao be the next Boracay Island that will be closed for rehabilitation?

This question was posed by Engr. Antonio Tompar, the chairman of Mactan Rock Industries Inc. (MRII) during a recent press conference.

MRII was accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-7 to handle the wastewater treatment facilities in the areas of Mactan and Panglao.

Tompar raised the issue after they learned that there are some hotels, resorts and restaurants in the said islands that are non-compliant with Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

He reminded establishment

owners in the area that MRII was directed by the DENR to handle the wastewater treatment facilities in the said islands.

Tompar expressed frustration that some establishments in Mactan and Panglao have not complied with the law by tapping their services.

In a separate interview, hotel and restaurant association president Carlo Suarez said most of the establishments in the islands have already complied with the law.

He added the other owners already have their accredited suppliers or they have own wastewater treatment facilities.

"Well, the assurance I can share with you is that our association's primary concern is to comply with Department of Tourism and DENR requirements," he said.

"The Boracay situation became our eye opener. Now with regard to the waste management, I believe that for some hotels and restaurants are really challenged with compliance," he added.

"For independent hotels they are doing their best to comply with the DENR requirements," he stressed.



Non-compliant The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will soon train its focus on some establishments in Panglao and Mactan islands that refuse to comply with government requirements.

COA flags Bulacan gov't for uncollected hospital wastes

By ELIZABETH MARCELO

The Commission on Audit (COA) has warned the provincial government of Bulacan on the hazards posed by uncollected and improperly stored wastes from seven public hospitals in the province.

"Inspection and validation by an audit team showed that hazardous and infectious wastes... were not regularly collected," the COA said in its 2018 report.

"This condition exposed hospital patients, health workers and the general public to the danger of human waste, infectious diseases and other toxic wastes," the report stated.

The COA also noted that the permit of Cleanway, Bulacan provincial government's hauler of hospital wastes,

has yet to be approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as of February.

State auditors said the Bulacan Medical Center has created an "illegal dumping site" of medical and general wastes due to the delay in the collection of the garbage.

The COA said uncollected wastes at the Rogaciano M. Mercado Memorial Hospital continue to pile up while wastes stored in a hut of RM-MMH, which remain uncol-

lected for years are now in a "rotten state."

It also cited improper storage and disposal of wastes at the Emilio G. Perez Memorial District Hospital.

The Baliuag, San Miguel and Calumpit District Hospitals were credited for "organized handling" of their hospital wastes.

However, state auditors said these hospitals reported that their wastes were not collected for six months to almost a year.

The Gregorio del Pilar District Hospital was "quite organized" in its disposal of hospital wastes, but lacked a suitable and proper space for temporary storage.

The COA said the failure

of the provincial government to ensure proper storage and timely disposal of hazardous and infectious wastes was a violation of Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act, RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and Department of Health Manual on Health Care Management.

The audit body put the provincial government to task for assigning solid waste management responsibilities to its general services office instead of the Bulacan Environmental Natural Resources Office (BENRO).

The provincial government, for its part, said BENRO initiated consultations with pollution control officers of concerned public hospitals.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

06 JUN 2019

DATE

2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

DENR ipinasara ang temporary open dumpsite sa Siargao

Nagpalabas ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng desist order para isara ang temporary open dumpsite sa General Luna, Siargao.

Sinabi ng DENR, hanggang wala pang sanitary landfill ang bay-

an ay dapat ay mayroong residual containment areas ang bawat barangay ng General Luna upang pansamantalang dito itapon ang mga nabubulok at hindi nabubulok na basura ng mga komunidad doon.

Sinusuri na rin ng

DENR sa naturang bayan kasama ng local officials ng General Luna ang mga establisimiyento na luma-labag sa 20-meter easement zone at walang environmental compliance certificate upang mapatawan ng kaukulang parusa. -Angie dela Cruz-



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



06 JUN 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

'Hot' logs seized in Angat watershed

MALOLOS – More than 2,500 board feet of illegally cut lumber were confiscated in the Angat watershed area last week, a report dated June 3 showed.

In a report to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Central Luzon, Rolly Mulato, officer-in-charge of the community environment and natural resources office in Guiguinto, Bulacan, said 2,530 board feet of lumber with an estimated value of P151,800 were confiscated in Rodriguez, Rizal on May 30 and 548 board feet valued at 24,660 in Norzagaray, Bulacan on May 31.

No suspect was arrested or equipment was confiscated.

Mulato said the anti-illegal logging operations were conducted in coordination with the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, National Power Corp., Angat Watershed team, Philippine Army and DENR personnel from Bulacan and Rizal.

– Ramon Efren Lazaro



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

06 JUN 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

9 out of 10 people worldwide breathe polluted air – WHO

By **MARIO B CASAYURAN**

Nine out of 10 people worldwide breathe polluted air and that an estimated seven million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air that penetrate into their lungs and cardiovascular system.

Senator Loren Legarda, chairwoman of the Senate climate change committee, used this data from the World Health Organization (WHO) in celebrating this year's World Environment Day.

Legarda urged everyone to contribute in improving the quality of air by implementing laws and avoiding the causes of air pollution within households, industries, and workplaces.

She said that every June 5 of the year is declared as World Environment Day to encourage worldwide awareness and action to protect the environment, with this year's theme focusing on "air pollution" and a campaign to #BeatAirPollution.

"My message since the beginning has always been simple and clear: Protecting our environment is protecting human health. We have the Philippine Clean Air Act, the Renewable Energy Act, and other environmental laws, which we must fully implement. These are not recommendatory policies. These are laws meant to save lives and improve the well-being of all Filipinos," Legarda said.

According to the United Nations, the energy production industry is a leading source of air pollution, with coal-burning power plants and diesel generators as major areas of concern, as well as the global transport sector accounting for almost one-quarter of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions.

Open waste burning and organic waste in landfills release harmful gases in the atmosphere and around 24 percent of all greenhouse gases emitted worldwide come from agriculture, forestry, and land-use.

Legarda also noted that, at the household level, the indoor burning of fossil fuels, wood, and other biomass-based fuels to cook, heat, and light homes account for around 3.8 million premature deaths, majority of which are in developing countries.

"May this year's celebration of World Environment Day further remind us of our connection with the environment and our responsibility to take care of it as a means to ensure human safety, health, and well-being," Legarda said.

Along with Legarda, Senators Antonio Trillanes IV, Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, Gregorio B. Honasan II, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, and Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV will be "graduating with honors" from the 24-man Senate having completed their two consecutive six-year terms on June 30.

The Senate honored the six at the Senate session hall before it adjourned sine die Tuesday night.



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

06 JUN 2019



Beat air pollution

Nine out of 10 people around the world are exposed to air pollutants that exceed safe levels, according to the World Health Organization. Yet the problem persists, and has even worsened in many countries.

This year's observance of World Environment Day on June 5 focuses on air pollution. The United Nations reports that every year, household indoor pollution is linked to 3.8 million premature deaths around the world, mostly in developing countries. Air pollution from transport, meanwhile, is linked to some 400,000 deaths annually. The transport sector accounts for nearly a fourth of carbon dioxide emissions, with the UN expecting the proportion to increase.

Developing countries have resisted efforts to completely stop using coal for energy generation, arguing that the cheap fuel is needed to power industries. But governments can provide more incentives to the private sector for investing in green energy, including support in research and development.

Mitigation measures are also needed to offset the pollution generated by livestock, which are

EDITORIAL

among the largest sources of methane and ammonia that

aggravate climate change. Some of the biggest cattle-producing countries plant trees around their livestock and dairy farms.

In the Philippines, the Clean Air Act was passed in 1999. Air pollution in the traffic-choked streets of Metro Manila and other urban centers, however, shows that enforcement of the law over two decades leaves much to be desired. Around the country, smoke belchers continue to ply the streets. Open burning of garbage continues in many areas. From afar, the heavy pollution is visible, hovering over Metro Manila and appearing to be trapped in the enclave of high-rise buildings in Makati.

The health care costs linked to air pollution put a heavy burden on public funds even in wealthy economies. In the annual observance of World Environment Day, the UN is urging governments to do more to beat air pollution. The observance also aims to inspire individuals to do their share in improving air quality. Often, the most vulnerable to the health risks posed by air pollution are those who produce it.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

A3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

'PH needs clean, healthy environment for schools'

SAVE the Children Philippines called for a clean and healthy environment in schools and communities to protect children from diseases and premature deaths due to air pollution.

The group raised the issue at the World Environment Day on June 5, citing around seven million people die every year across the world due to health problems caused by air pollution, 600,000 of them are children.

Lawyer Albert Muyot, chief executive officer of Save the Children Philippines said learners spend an average of five to eight hours in schools, facing health risks from air pollution.

As classes opened last Monday, majority of children will be in schools for five days and will be exposed to air

pollution and other health risks, said Muyot.

"Young learners have fragile bodies and exposure to tiny, invisible airborne particles from dirty air pose serious risks to their health," said Muyot.

Save the Children's End of Childhood Report 2019 ranked the Philippines 104th in the 176 list of best and worst countries to be a child due to high number of teenage pregnancy, malnutrition and child deaths before reaching five years old.

The report said malnutrition among Filipino children remains high at 33.4 percent—or 3.8m—children under five years not getting enough daily nutrition. It added that nearly three per cent—or 322,000—of children in the country

die before their fifth birthday from preventable causes.

"Millions of children who lack daily nutrition are more susceptible to illnesses including pneumonia, bronchitis and asthma due to air pollution and face the risk of dropping out of schools," said Muyot. These children also face devastating and life-long health risks as air pollution can affect the development of their lungs, brain and other organs, he added.

Last year, the Philippines recorded the 3rd highest number of deaths due to air pollution with 45.3 deaths per 100,000 individuals, next to China as first and Mongolia as second. "Save the Children Philippines makes sure children have a healthy start in life," said Muyot.



SAVE DARAITAN AND TINIPAK RIVER, SAVE SIERRA MADRE

The Kaliwa Dam project threatens biodiversity and indigenous livelihoods in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range

As one of the countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change, and given the onset of stronger typhoons and longer droughts, the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve in the Sierra Madre is a key biodiversity landscape that must be conserved.

The Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve (KWFR) is home to the indigenous Dumagat-Remontado communities, who have been stewards of their ancestral domain within the Sierra Madre since time immemorial. The Tinipak River spring is a sacred site in Barangay Daraitan, within the Dumagat-Remontado ancestral domain and declared an indigenous community conserved area. Building the 60-meter Kaliwa Dam poses the threat of inundation of portions of Barangay Daraitan and Tinipak River, as well as Infanta in Quezon. Daraitan and Tinipak River provides important economic activities to local communities, largely from tourism, to non-timber forest products for livelihood.

Daraitan and Tinipak River is part of an ecologically important water system that enhances climate resilience. It provides key ecosystem services to downstream areas, playing an integral role in regulating water flow to the National Capital Region.

The Kaliwa Watershed is also home to rich biodiversity and threatened wildlife, including the critically endangered Philippine Eagle. Other important species include the Endangered Northern Philippine Hawk-eagle, the Philippine Brown Deer, the Philippine Warty Pig, the

Vulnerable Northern Rufous Hornbill, and restricted-range birds of the Luzon Endemic Bird Area. The KWFR was declared a reserve by virtue of Presidential Proclamation (PP) 573 dated June 26, 1969. PP 1636 was also issued declaring Kaliwa Watershed as a National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in 1977.

Disrupting natural ecosystems and local livelihoods by building the New Centennial Water Source Project - Kaliwa Dam is not the solution to water security nor to sustainable development. Forests have a crucial role in building and strengthening resilience. There is a need to explore other viable alternatives. It is imperative to protect the critical Kaliwa Watershed within the Sierra Madre, and the lives and species that depend on these for survival.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



4
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

**KALIWA DAM PROJECT TUTOL
ANG MGA NGO'S!**

Maganda man ang layunin ng kasalukuyang administrasyon para sa pagpapagawa ng KALIWA DAM PROJECT (KDP) na popondohan ng P10.37 bilyon loan mula sa CHINA'S EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ay tutol na tutol naman ang iba't ibang mga NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) lalo na ang mga naninirahan sa mga lugar na sasakupin ng proyekto sa SIERRA MADRE.

Ang KDP ay naglalayong makapagpagawa ng konkretong istrakturang magiging imbakan ng tubig sa GENERAL NAKAR, QUEZON na panggagalingan ng tubig na magagamit para sa kapakinabangan ng mga nasa METRO MANILA at ang LOAN AGREEMENT ng CHINA EXIMBANK ay kabilang sa mga MAJOR AGREEMENT na nilagdaan ni CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING nang bumisita ito sa ating bansa noong November 2018.

Inihayag naman ni ALFREDO DARAG JR na rumerepresenta sa TRIBAL CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT na kinikilala nila ang kahalagahan ng tubig na maipagkakaloob sa METRO MANILA RESIDENTS, subalit hindi sila sasang-ayon dahil malalabag ang karapatan ng mga INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. Magkaka-watakwatak ang libong mga residente at hahantong pa umano sa pagkawasak ng kalikasan sa SIERRA MADRE.

"Opposition to the Kaliwa Dam is broad and still growing and through this signature drive, we will prove it. We will exist all our allies all over the country. We will use traditional mechanisms as well as the internet and social media to get the support of ordinary Filipinos. We expect to reach our target 10 million signatories in the coming months," pagpapahayag naman ni ATENISTA LABAN SA KALIWA DAM (ALAKAD) FERDIE SALAZAR sa kanilang isinagawang press conference upang ipanawagan na mahadlangan ang naturang proyekto.

Hindi natin maiaalis ang pangangamba ng lahat ng maaapektohan kapag isinulong ang proyekto sa nasabing liugar, na ang administrasyon ay hindi lamang ang mga taga-METRO MANILA ang kanilang mapagmalasakitan..., kundi, ang unang dapat mapagmalasakitan ay ang kapakanan at pangkabuhayan ng mga residente sa mga lugar na kanilang mapaglilipatan. Ika nga ka I lang an ay may malinaw na ipipresenta ang gobyerno para sa seguridad sa pangkabuhayan ng lahat na maaapektuhan..., so kailangan ay magkaroon ng pakikipagdayalogo ang gobyerno sa lahat ng mga naninirahan sa lugar na pagtatayuan ng proyekto..., sa ganun ay makabuo ng WIN WIN SOLUTION!

Kung kayo po ay may mga puna o reklamo lalo na sa mga nababatikos ng ARYA ay maaari kayong mag-email sa irwincorpuz22@gmail.com para sa inyong panig o kaya ay mag-text sa 09997806557.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN - Several protesters, including members of the Dumagat Tribe, launch yesterday in Quezon City a campaign to gather 10 million signatures to stop the construction of the Kaliwa Dam. The China-funded dam will be built in General Nakar and Infanta, Quezon Province and will affect indigenous communities in the area. (Kevin Tristan Espiritu)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PAGE



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

06 JUN 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DMCI Mining more than doubles shipments

By **JAMES A. LOYOLA**

DMCI Mining Corporation more than doubled its nickel ore shipments to 338,000 wet metric tons (WMT) in the first quarter of 2019, 118 percent more than the 156,000 WMT it shipped during the same period last year.

All of the shipments came from Berong Nickel Corporation (BNC), as its other nickel asset, Zambales Diversified Metals Corporation (ZDMC), remains suspended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Average nickel grade from January to March declined from 1.70 percent to 1.59 percent as BNC shifted its shipments to include middle-grade ore (1.50 percent).

This, coupled with falling nickel prices, pushed DMCI Mining's average selling price to drop 25 percent year-on-year from US\$38 to US\$29.

"We had a good first quarter but we do not see this holding up for the rest of the year due to a number of factors, such as weak market prices, peso appreciation versus the US dollar and our dwindling nickel reserves in Berong's

active mine sites," said DMCI President Cesar F. Simbulan Jr.

BNC estimates its nickel reserves in its active mine sites to be around 710,000 tons.

"We hope that with BNC's track record as a responsible miner, it will be allowed to operate in other areas so we can continue providing livelihood and employment opportunities in our host communities," added Simbulan.

In December 2018, BNC was the only mining company audited by DENR which passed the nearly two-year review. Of the 13 companies audited, three were ordered closed while nine remained suspended, pending the implementation of certain DENR conditions.

BNC directly and indirectly employs 541 people from Brgy. Berong and nearby communities. At the height of its operations, the company had a total workforce of 925.

On a standalone basis, DMCI Mining first-quarter revenue grew 63 percent from P308 million to P501 million while net income jumped 167 percent from P54 million to P144 million due to the cost-containment measures employed by the company.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



06 JUN 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

Women's group tapped to recycle tarpaulins

Reelected Sen. Cynthia Villar tapped a group of women based in Cavite to recycle tarpaulins used by politicians during campaigns into something useful like bags.

Villar, Senate committee on environment and natural resources chair, said small tailoring business will be given a project to recycle used campaign tarpaulins.

"We are very glad that we have now a way for the proper disposal of these used tarpaulins. Through this initiative, we were not only able to recycle used tarpaulins into something useful, but we were also able to help women earn additional income for their families," Villar said.

Christine Joy Ferrer, 27, of MXD Tailoring will be making

bags out of the campaign tarpaulins. She has four sewers.

Villar's staff brought 2 x 3 feet tarpaulins to Ferrer's shop, which will be made into bags. Ferrer will be paid P16 for each bag.

The tarpaulin bags will be given out to the public for free as part of the senator's advocacy for plastic recycling.

- Cecille Suerte Felipe



TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

06 JUN 2019
DATE

Mga basurang ipinasok sa bansa ibinalik sa Hong Kong - BOC

MULING ibinalik sa Hong Kong ang mga basurang pinasok sa bansa mula rito na una nang nabuking makaraang ideklara itong assorted electronics accessories sa Port of Cagayan de Oro.

Sa ulat na inihayag ni Customs District Collector Atty. Floro G. Calixihan ng Port of Cagayan De Oro (CDO) kay Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guererro, ang naturang shipment na pinaalerto nito ay naka-consign sa isang Crowd Win Industrial Limited Corp. na idinatang sa Mindanao Container Terminal Sub-Port (MCTSP) sa Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental noong Enero 2, 2019.

Natuklasan na naglalaman ng 22 sling bags ng magkahalong plastic na basura ang laman ng 1x40 footer kontayner, kung saan kinumpiska ito noong

Marso 5, 2019 makaraang magnegatibo ito sa PDEA at BOC makaraang maimbestigahan ito.

Ibinalik ang basura na nagmula sa Hong Kong nitong Hunyo 3, 2019, kung saan lulan ng MV SITC Negoya, kung saan naging tagumpay ang pinagsanib na operasyon ng BOC, DENR, MCTSP, MICTSI, at PHIVIDEC INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY (PIA) of the Philippines, kabilang narin ang opisyal at kasapi ng Ecowaste Coalition nang isagawa ang re-exportation.

Ang pagbabalik ng naturang basura ay nakoordina sa Environmental Protection Department ng Hong Kong Special Administrative Region na inaasahang ang dating sa Hong Kong ay sa Hunyo 10, 2019, kung saan ginastosan din ito ng HongKong Government. (Pasky Natividad)



TITLE:

DATE

NAHAHARAP tayo sa isang malaking problemang pang-internasyonal at lokal.

Ang pang-internasyonal ay kaugnay ng pagtatapon ng basura ng ibang bansa sa mahal kong Pinas.

Ang lokal naman, ukol sa sahod ng halos isang milyong guro.

ANG BASURA

Nakita na natin ang mga uri ng basura na dumaraming sa ating bansa.

Ilong galing sa Hong Kong, electronic waste ang pangunahing laman gaya ng mga parte ng mga computer, laptop, cellphone, electrical na gamit at iba pa.

Yung galing sa Canada at Korea, higit na binubuo ng mga karaniwang basura kaysa plastik na idineklarang recyclable.

Bulto ng mga basurang ito ang mga nabubulok at hindi nabubulok, kasama ang mga gamit na diaper, basurang kusina at iba pa.

Ang pagkabalok ng mga ito, lalo na ang galing sa Canada, ang naging sanhi ng pagalingasaw mismo ng pier noon sa Port of Manila at itinaon sa Tarlac Landfill.

Kaya 69 na container van na lang ang nakuha ng Canada mula sa 103 na container van.

Ang basurang Australa ay industrial waste na sinasabi ng Holcim Philippines na gamit nila bilang panggatong sa makina nila sa paggawa ng semento.

MORATORIUM

Mismong ang Department of Environment na ang nagpapanukala na pansamantalang itigil ng Pilipinas ang pagtanggap ng lahat ng "used" na bagay na katulad ng usaping nasa itaas.

Ang isang laman ng panukala ay pagbibigay sa Bureau of Customs ng panahon na makabuo ng mga patakaran kung ano talaga ang maituturing na basura.

Siyempre pa, malamang na hindi kakayaning mag-isa ng BOC ang trabahong ito at patutungo lahat sa isang inter-agency na trabaho.

Yun bang === maaaring maisama ang DENR, ang Department of Health, ang Food and Drug Administration at iba pa na pupwedeng matawag para maisama sa mga inspeksyon sa mga haharaging ng BOC na kargamentong maaaring "basura."

Siyempre pa, ibang usapan ang smuggling



ULTIMATUM

Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

MORATORIUM SA BASURA SAHOD NG MGA MAESTRA

sa iba't ibang anyo o misdeclaration o underdeclaration at iba pa.

Maaaring sumangkot din dito mismo ang Kamara at Senado.

Yun bang === maaaring amyendahan nila ang mga umiiral na batas sa basura at tukuyin kung sino talaga ang ahensyang magpapasya kung basura talaga ang isang bagay o hindi o ibang uri.

HINDI SAPAT

Hindi sapat na naibabalik natin ang mga basura gaya ng nangyari sa South Korea at Canada.

Ang sampol dito ay ang basurang Canada na nabulok at naging banta sa kalusugan ng mga mamayan kaya minabuti na lang na itapon ang mga iyon sa Tarlac landfill.

Dapat may magawa talaga tayong panuntunan na epektibong pipigil sa pagismagel o "ligal" na pagpapasok ng basura sa Pinas.

Sa labas pa lang ng bansa o pangagalangang bansa ng basura ay may mga impormasyon na tayo.

Kung nagagawa ito sa problemang droga sa maraming pagkakataon, tiyakin natin na pati ang problema sa basura ay mailagay sa gayunding kondisyon.

Ibang usapin ang mga nakalulusot at ang magandang gawin dito ay pinakastriktong pandisiplina sa mga sangkot.

GALIT NA SI MA'AM

Isinabay ng maraming guro sa pagtanggap nila sa mga mag-aaral ang kahilingan nila sa pagkakaroon ng dagdag-sahod gaya ng dagdag-sahod sa mga sundalo, pulis, bumbero at jailguard.

May mga galit na nga sa kanila dahil pangako nga namian ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagtataas ng kanilang sahod.

Nauunawaan ng pamunuan ng Department of Education ang sitwasyon na hindi madaling tugunan ang kahilingan dahil napakalaki nga namang halaga.

Abot sa P150 bilyon lahat taon-taon kung sakaling may dagdag na P10,000 sa kasalukuyang minimum na sahod ng

mga guro na naglalaro sa P18,000-P20,000.

TUTUPARIN

Ang buong pag-unawa natin, tutuparin ni Pang. Digong ang kanyang pangako.

Kaya nga nariryan na ang pagpapahanap mismo ng Pangulo ng mga pagkukunan ng pondo para sa salary increase.

Sana maging matagumpay ang programang ito.

Pupwede namang hindi iisang bagsakan ang salary hike, pupwedeng mabuo ito sa loob ng isa, dalawa, tatlong taon.

Ang mahalaga, magkakaroon ng pagtaas ng sahod ng mga guro na higit sa ibinibigay sa kanila noon ng nakaraang mga administrasyon.

Hindi dapat na magpadala ang mga guro sa udyok ng mga mahihilig mang-asar o manggatang sa isang isyu na noon pang 1986 ay kasali na sila ng mga kapangyarihang dapat na tumugon sa pangangailangan ng mga guro pero walang ginawa o pumalpak sa paggawa.

MAGTULUNGAN

Magandang tumulong ang lahat para mapagaan ang kalagayan natin sa basura at paggaan ng buhay ng mga maestra.

Baka makatulong ng malaki ang mga overseas Filipino worker na nagtatrabaho abroad laban sa mga basura sa pag-imporma sa atin ukol sa pagtatapon dito.

Ang totoo rin, gumagaan ang pasanin ng mga guro mula sa mga programang Brigada Eskwela at gastos na pinapanasan ng mga magulang para sa mga traffic enforcer, gwardiya sa mga eskwelahan at iba pa.

Nagbibigay naman ang pamahalaan ng mga pribilehiyo sa mga guro bilang empleyado ng gobyerno na pinakikinabangan din ng kanilang mga pamilya

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-porda@yahoo.com.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

What to do with Western plastic waste: Burn or spurn?

PARIS (AFP) – Western countries must increasingly deal with hard to dispose of plastics because China and many southeastern Asian countries no longer want them.

Incinerators or landfills are two quick fixes since Beijing shut the door in January 2018 to some foreign refuse, but specialists say longer **▶9**

What to do with... **◀1**

term solutions should involve better recycling or better yet, less junk to start with.

So far, the global recycling network has not managed to adapt as countries in Asia have given up trying to replace China.

"The problem is that the quantities involved are huge," Arnaud Brunet, head of the Brussels-based Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) told AFP, and potential substitutes for China were overwhelmed.

They also became dumping grounds for illegal imports, in particular of material that is either hard to recycle or not recyclable at all, Brunet said.

"Some countries will unfortunately become the world's new rubbish heaps, the poorest nations will take in refuse in exchange for payment, but will suffer environmental and social costs," noted Vincent Aurez, a circular economy specialist at the EY consulting group.

European countries recycle some plastics such as transparent bottles made from polyethylene terephtha-

late or PET, but ship abroad plastics that are either "of poor quality and value" or not recyclable, a recent report by the non-governmental group Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) noted.

Malaysia authorizes the import of clean, homogenous plastic but has warned it will ship back hundreds of tons of contaminated plastics to countries around the world.

"The actions taken by the Malaysian government highlight the importance of responsible recycling, the use of specifications, and managing downstream processes," explained Adina Renee Adler of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), which represents US companies active in the sector.

Thailand has also restricted plastic imports, and they have been redirected towards countries with lighter standards such as Indonesia and Turkey according to the GAIA report.

Western countries have few ready solutions for the problem of plastic that is too costly to recycle them-

selves.

They lack local users of such recycled materials that the Chinese often turned into new manufactured goods.

Faced with growing mounds of rubbish, Western countries don't have much choice right now other than to burn it or bury it.

Brunet said they must "invest in research and development (R&D) of more detailed and efficient sorting systems" capable of churning out useful raw materials.

In the meantime, "manufacturers must make an effort to produce more items with an eye towards recycling,"

he added, which could be hard given that the plastics sector is doing well despite criticism and constraints.

In around a decade, global plastic production has expanded from 245 million tons to 359 million in 2018 according to the latest data by the European federation PlasticsEurope.

Disposing of a product has to be taken into account when it is designed, more recycled material should be used to make it, and ideally just one kind of recycled matter should be used in packaging, specialists say.

Recycling rates vary, from 31 percent in Europe to 10 percent in

the United States for example, and while R&D might raise the rates, environmentalists say consumption has to change as well.

"Even if we manage to find new uses, some materials will still be a problem, so we need to stop producing and using them," argues Laura Chatel, of the environmental group Zero Waste France.

That goes especially for plastic wrap film and composite materials, the group says.

"We must work above all on reducing packaging, which implies distributing goods differently," such as in bulk, she told AFP.



Burn or spurn? What to do with huge Western waste

PARIS—Western countries must increasingly deal with hard to dispose of plastics because China and many southeast Asian countries no longer want them.

Incinerators or landfills are two quick fixes since Beijing shut the door in January 2018 to some foreign refuse, but specialists say longer term solutions should involve better recycling or better yet, less junk to start with.

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STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

06 JUN 2019

DATE

Group calls for end to species extinction

The Earth Day Network (EDN) identified 2019 as a crucial year to protect species from extinction. Working in partnership with thousands of organizations, EDN's global campaign seeks to advance policies and international agreements for species protection.

According to the network, the world today is facing the greatest rate of extinction since we lost the dinosaurs over 60 million years ago. Unfortunately, this rapid loss is now caused by human activities including deforestation, pollution, hunting and unsustainable agriculture.

Over the past decades, the planet has experienced vast environmental degradation. Studies estimate that the earth is losing plant and wildlife species at 1,000 to 10,000 times the normal rate. Insect populations have dropped more than 45 percent worldwide, while 40 percent of the world's bird species continue to decline.

In the Philippines, for instance, environmental organization Haribon Foundation estimated over 10 fish species that are in danger of being lost forever in the next 20 years due to overfishing and illegal fishing. This list includes the staple talakitok and maya-maya.

"The variety of life in the ecosystem or biodiversity is crucial to our survival and resilience as communities. Yet despite its fundamental importance,

the world's biodiversity is being lost faster than ever," according to a statement from the foundation.

The IUCN Red List identified various plant and animal species that are at different risk levels in the country.

For example, the pili nut, which can only be found in the Philippines, has been considered 'vulnerable,' which means it is facing high risk of extinction in the wild.

The tawilis, which is the only freshwater sardine in the world, has been recently on the headlines after reports of its steady population decline. It is now considered endangered due to overfishing, illegal fishing, and water quality deterioration.

"The good news is that the rate of extinctions can still be slowed, and many of our declining, threatened, and endangered species can still recover if we work together now to build a united global movement of consumers, voters, educators, faith leaders, and scientists to demand immediate action," said Kathleen Rogers, president of EDN.

One of the solutions is the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) which envisions that "by 2025, biodiversity is restored and rehabilitated, valued, effectively managed, secured, maintaining ecosystem services to sustain healthy, resilient Filipino communities and delivering benefits to all."

GREEN IS IN!



Mangrove tree planting in Cebu

Representatives of M'Lhuillier's OPEC Norte region participated in a mangrove tree rehabilitation activity in Sta. Rosa, Olango Island in Cebu. This mangrove tree rehabilitation was done in collaboration with the Olango Island Eco-Tour Association (OIETA) to aid in coastal protection during strong winds and typhoons.

Environmental protection and awareness remain to be a key component in the company's mission in improving the lives of the Filipino people.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

32
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

08 JUN 2019
DATE

Your fish is your future

(In observance of the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on June 5.)



THE US PERSPECTIVE

Amb. Sung Y. Kim

LYING within the global center of marine biodiversity, the Philippines is one of the world's top fish-producing countries. Millions of Filipinos derive their livelihood from fishing.

However, these rich and precious resources are declining rapidly, with research showing that 10 of the country's 13 major fishing grounds are already under threat due to overfishing, destructive fishing practices, habitat degradation, pollution, improper waste disposal and extreme weather.

It is estimated that the Philippines loses nearly P68.5 billion yearly to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing—a trend that affects the country's economic development through lost revenue and unrealized opportunities for local fishermen and associated seafood industries.

With fish making up the major protein source in the Filipino diet, this decline in fish stocks also has implications for the country's food security, particularly for the nearly 52 percent of fisherfolk who already live beneath the poverty line. Illegal fishing practices also place law-abiding fishers and seafood producers at a disadvantage in both the domestic

and global marketplace.

As we observe the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on June 5, I'd like to thank our Philippine partners for working with us to address the threats posed by illegal fishing while protecting our marine resources for future generations.

Sustainable, healthy ecosystems

FOR over three decades, the US government has worked closely with the Philippine government and local partners to achieve our shared goal of sustainable fisheries and healthy marine ecosystems. For example, the US Agency for International Development (USAID)'s five-year EcoFish Project has worked with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and local governments to increase the number and weight of fish by 24 percent in focus sites.

USAID's new P1.3-billion, five-year Fish Right project, launched in 2018, works with the BFAR, the Department of Environment and



THE seasonal abundance of *tamban* is shown in this photo taken in San Enrique, Negros Occidental. NONIE REYES

Natural Resources, and a consortium of local partners to address biodiversity threats and increase fish biomass in select marine biodiversity areas in the Philippines.

Building on the gains of previous USAID-supported coastal, marine, and biodiversity conservation projects that introduced an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, the Fish Right partnership promotes the sustainable use of critical coastal and marine resources, enhances the resilience of these resources, and improves the ability of Philippine authorities to sustainably manage fisheries—for the benefit of all Filipinos.

The DENR has partnered with other US agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop and implement capacity-building programs for managers of Marine Protected Areas. This effort will continue to train new MPA managers to more effectively address threats to Philippine marine resources.

Recognizing the important role law enforcement plays in combating illegal fishing and protecting marine resources, Philippine law-enforcement officers have collaborated with US experts to better utilize sophisticated satellite data to detect boats fishing

illegally in Philippine waters, as well as to prevent and deter illegal fishing. We have helped to train nearly 100 officers and inspectors from BFAR and the Philippine Coast Guard on practical law-enforcement techniques, such as boarding foreign fishing vessels, conducting comprehensive fisheries inspections, as well as drafting briefings and affidavits for prosecutors.

Enforcement, education, empowerment

THIS year the US Coast Guard led a first-of-its-kind multinational fisheries law-enforcement workshop in Manila that built capacity



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

47
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

TITLE:

YOUR FISH

PAGE 1/

DATE

for at-sea enforcement operations in Southeast Asia. The workshop, which included participants from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, strengthened domestic fishery enforcement in each country and helped to improve regional cooperation, coordination and interoperability.

American scientists also seek opportunities to collaborate with Philippine counterparts on marine science research projects. These scientific endeavors do not just increase our joint understanding of oceanographic phenomena or marine species distribution; they help inform global and local evidence-based fisheries management policies and ensure that there will still be fish for Filipino generations to come.

Ensuring the health of Philippine fisheries and the country's economy will not just require robust law enforcement and improved science; it will also require innovative new ideas championed by young Filipinos. To that end, we have supported marine-focused education and empowerment camps for some of the country's most inventive and motivated emerging leaders. We are proud to see the dynamic youth pioneer new social entrepreneurship models in their communities, establish green businesses that address marine challenges, and strive to educate those around them about the importance of healthy ocean ecosystems.

The US government is honored to work alongside Philippine government agencies and civil society, while inspiring young Filipinos to address these challenges. And we will continue to work together to advance human and ecological well-being in the Philippines, and to support initiatives that ensure the continued health of Philippine fisheries. We truly believe that your fish is your future.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BS
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019
DATE

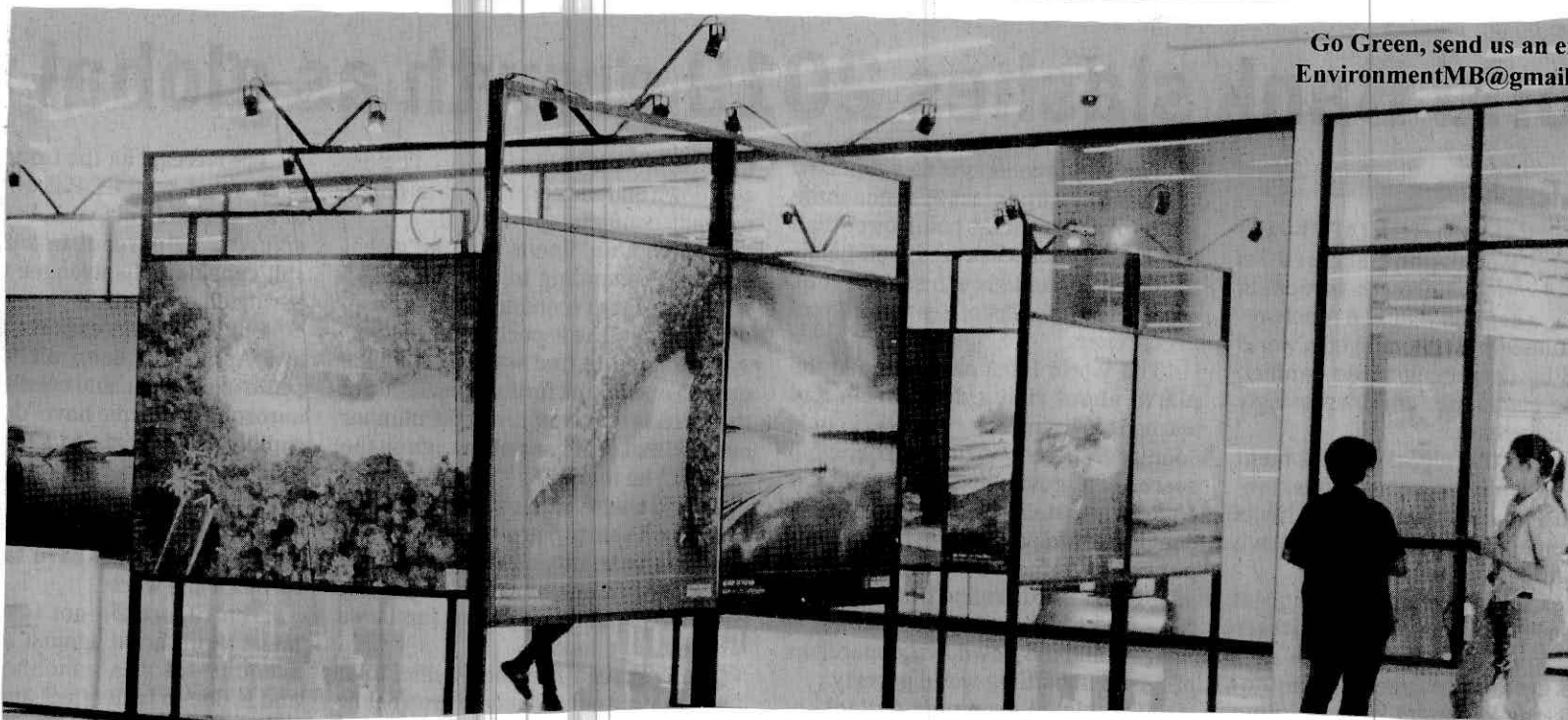
TITLE:

PAGE 1/

A clear focus on the Earth+Lens = ENVIRONMENT

1/3

Go Green, send us an email
EnvironmentMB@gmail.com



By **JOHANNES L. CHUA**

The Philippines is blessed with long coastlines featuring beaches cradling the finest sand and the clearest waters. It is a sight to behold – from the beaches of popular destinations such as Palawan, Bohol, and of course, Boracay to emerging tourism magnets such as Bantayan, Polillo, and San Vicente.

With this natural gift, it is not enough to just appreciate the beauty. Much is given to the natural attractions of our country, that much is also expected from Filipinos to take care of these resources. Sad to say, this is not the case for a lot of beach destinations.

One of the glaring examples

is what had happened to Boracay prior to its rehabilitation by an inter-agency government team. Dubbed a 'cesspool' by no less than the President, it took people so many years – decades even – to finally realize that Boracay is hitting the environmental alarm button.

During Boracay's six-month 'rest', two things happened. Filipinos suddenly realized how fragile these beach ecosystem were; and two, they found out that Boracay is not only the summer destination worth saving money and spending time on. Tourists began to discover La Union, Siargao, Puerto Princesa, Caramoan, among others.

But discovering new beach

destinations does not mean throwing caution to the wind. With the lessons learned in Boracay, it is a must for each and every tourist to take care of the environment. Stop the use of single-use plastics, dispose waste properly, do not take anything (but photos) of the beach environment.

To remind people of their role to preserve the pristine beauty of the country's beaches is the rationale behind this year's "Earth+Lens" exhibit. Held from May 20 to 27 at S Maison, the exhibit is led by Manila Bulletin's Picture Perfect section, Going Places Magazine in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and smartphone brand Huawei.

No less than DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat graced the ribbon-cutting ceremony together with Manila Bulletin's President and Vice Chairman of the Board Dr. Emilio C. Yap III, Manila Bul-



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE :

PAGE 1/

2/3

letin EVP Sonny Coloma, SM Supermalls SVP for Marketing and Communications Millie Dizon, and SM's SAVP for Operations Perkin So.

As with the past Earth+Lens exhibit, this year also made use of technology to spread the message of appreciating and preserving the environment. Through Huawei's dual camera system equipped on its advanced smartphone models such as the new Huawei P30 Pro Series, the wonders of our country's unique beaches were immortalized.

As support also to the sustainability aspect of the advo-

cacy, the blown-up photos were printed on eco-solvent cloth, highlighting the use of environment-friendly materials.

Secretary Puyat commended the event as it supports the department's #ItsMoreFun-InThePhilippines campaign and its thrust to promote sustainable tourism.

With such beauty – seen in each photo exhibited at Earth+Lens – it is the responsibility of the present generation to ensure that the future generations will still see these beaches in their natural environment and not only through the filter of a smartphone.



Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat at the Earth+Lens.

'With the lessons learned in Boracay, it is a must for each and every tourist to take care of the environment. Stop the use of single-use plastics, dispose waste properly, do not take anything (but photos) of the beach environment.'



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

3/3



At the Earth+Lens photo exhibit opening at S Maison last May 20. No less than Department of Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat (2nd from right) graced the event together with Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation's President and Vice Chairman of the Board Dr. Emillo C. Yap III (center), Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation's Executive Vice President Secretary Sonny Coloma (rightmost), SM Supermalls Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications Millie Dizon (2nd from left), and SM Premier 3 Senior Assistant Vice President for Operations Perkin So. Aside from DOT, the event was supported by Huawei, topbilled by the Huawei P30 Pro.

Carpio won't inhibit in writ case involving WPS

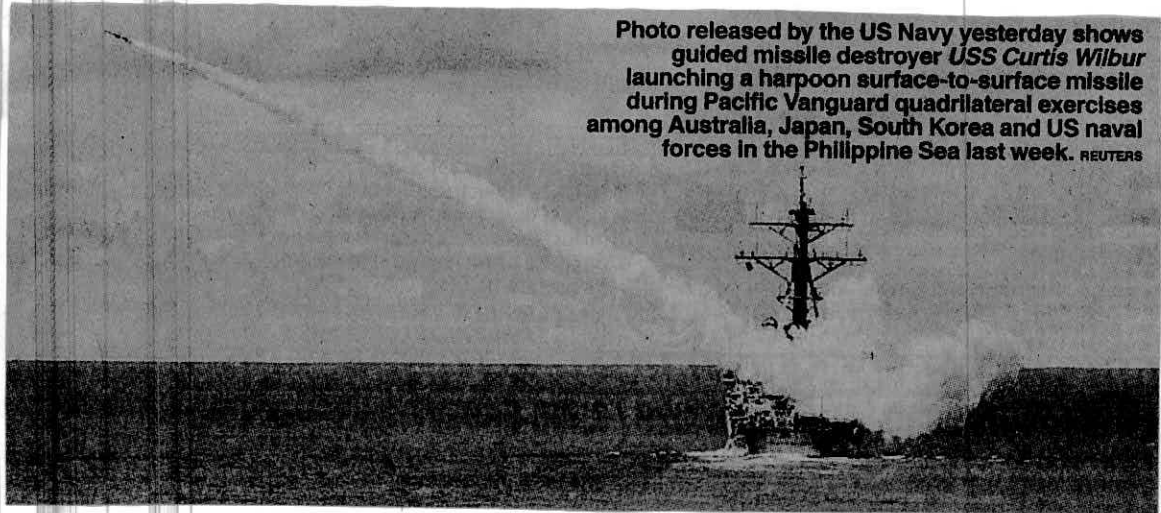
By EDU PUNAY

Known as a vocal critic of China's provocations in the South China Sea, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio took part on Tuesday in the Supreme Court (SC)'s deliberations on the writ of kalikasan petition filed by Palawan and Zambales fishermen.

The fishermen filed the petition last April 16 to compel the government to protect, preserve and rehabilitate Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban Reef

Turn to Page 6

Photo released by the US Navy yesterday shows guided missile destroyer *USS Curtis Wilbur* launching a harpoon surface-to-surface missile during Pacific Vanguard quadrilateral exercises among Australia, Japan, South Korea and US naval forces in the Philippine Sea last week. REUTERS



Carpio From Page 1

in the face of the Chinese's environmentally destructive activities, including massive land reclamation.

The senior magistrate saw no reason to inhibit from this particular case as he concurred with the decision of fellow justices to require the government to answer the petition and set the case for oral arguments, according to insiders.

While Carpio has actively campaigned against China's incursions in Philippine waters, he has not made any

public statement on the arguments raised in the kalikasan petition.

The SC has set for June 25 the oral arguments on this case.

The SC has ordered the government to answer the petition filed by the group led by Monico Abogado.

Petitioners sought relief from the SC against what they called "neglect of performance of the duties of the government in violation of environmental laws, resulting

in environmental destruction of damage in the shoals."

They specifically accused respondents - Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police and Department of Justice - of "failure to perform their duties as mandated in the above-mentioned environmental laws and regulations."

They said the government specifically failed to act on activities of Chinese fishermen in the areas, which violate

the country's environmental laws.

Petitioners also cited the island-building activities in Panganiban Reef as found by the PCA in its ruling.

The group explained that Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban Reef are part of the exclusive economic zone over which the country has jurisdiction, as declared by the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

They said Panatag Shoal, on the other hand, is part of the EEZ under Republic Act 9522 or the Philippine Baselines Law.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

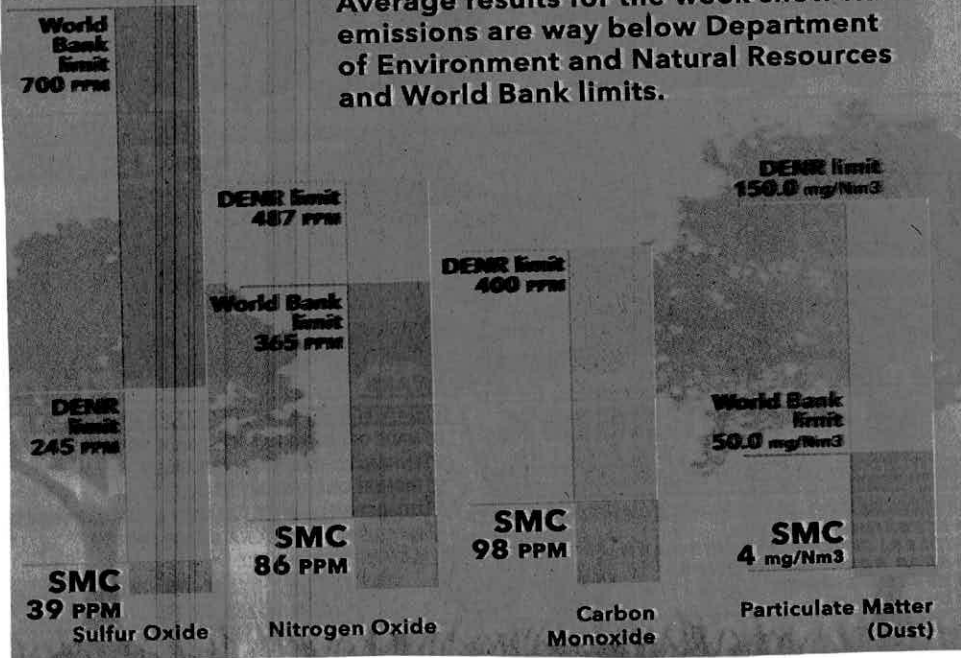


SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

WEEKLY ENVIRONMENT WATCH

May 27 - June 2, 2019

San Miguel Corporation's Limay CFB (Circulating Fluidized Bed) power plant undergoes daily emission testing. Average results for the week show its emissions are way below Department of Environment and Natural Resources and World Bank limits.





Phl no longer attending climate change talks – DFA

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippines will no longer send official representatives to climate change conferences requiring air travel, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. announced yesterday.

“Following (President) Duterte’s answer to UN’s plea for yet another stronger stand against climate change – which he branded as more hot air – I am rejecting all official participation in climate change conferences requiring air travel. We’ll just vote Yes

to radical proposals. No more talk,” Locsin said on Twitter.

In his speech at the Nikkei International Conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo on Friday, President Duterte slammed the UN climate conferences, claiming they have accomplished nothing to im-

prove the situation. He said UN climate conferences are a “waste of time and money.”

Climate change has increased air and sea surface temperatures. More than 90 percent of the energy trapped by greenhouse gases settles in the ocean. Ocean heat has

reached record levels, causing vast swath of glaciers to melt.

In 2017, the Philippine Senate ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, joining 133 other parties to the global pact. Parties to the agreement represent more than 80 percent of global

greenhouse gas emissions.

The Paris Climate Conference had its beginnings in the Philippines with the Manila Call to Action on Climate Change launched during French President François Hollande’s state visit in February 2015.



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A4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 JUN 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Report from the front: Climate change is now the climate crisis

First word

DO not hate or thank me for this. I will just report, like a war correspondent, on the latest developments on the climate front.

Climate alarmists will be distressed by the reported demise of "climate change." This is like changing the name of their church without getting their two cents.

According to the Skymet Weather Team, a revolution in vocabulary is taking place that will fundamentally change how the world talks about the climate from hereon.

Skymet reported on May 26:

"As the ramifications of 'climate change' are changing every day, it's not just a 'change' in climate anymore. It is now a crisis. With the *Guardian* updating its style sheet last week, asking its reporters to refer to climate change as 'climate crisis, emergency, or breakdown,' the world is taking the move as more than just symbolic. The newspaper also wishes to replace global warming with 'global heating.'

"With a million species at



OBSERVER

**YEN
MAKABENTA**

risk of extinction, and climate change getting more so obvious, it's high time to make some changes in the vocabulary.

"Moreover, this is not the first time such changes have been brought in by the media conglomerate. Back in April, *The Guardian* started off displaying a daily carbon dioxide numbers next to the weather forecast, to garner attention to the growing hazard.

"The new language is a step in the right direction in terms of conveying the urgency of our present situation. That doesn't mean a few word changes are going to undo all those decades of inaction and denial, or that they won't spark controversy. But they are a step toward being real about the situation humanity is facing. It's high time for some action."

Three developments

This is not all. There are major developments in other theaters of the debate:

First, climate change plans are moving ahead at the United Nations, with a major summit scheduled on September 23.

Second, the Trump administration has ordered a top government agency to stop predicting long-term climate change impacts on the country.

Third, global systems analyst Dr. James Dyke, in an article published by the *Independent* in London, contends that mankind needs a fundamental shift in how it thinks about the climate crisis. We are not in control of the planet as much as we imagine.

UN climate action summit

According to a report by Agence France-Presse, climate change has moved to center stage at the United Nations, three years after the Paris agreement went into force.

A major UN push for progress

on climate change kicked off in May when UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres traveled to New Zealand and several Pacific islands, where rising sea levels are believed to be threatening the very existence of those small countries.

The stepped-up diplomacy will culminate with a climate action summit at the United Nations on September 23, an event billed as a last chance to prevent irreversible climate change.

"We are still losing the battle," Guterres told the media. "Climate change is still running faster than we are, and if we don't reverse this trend, it will be a tragedy for the whole world."

In Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, Guterres met with families whose lives have been upended by cyclones, flooding and other extreme weather events.

Pacific island countries face an especially dire risk from climate change because of sea level rise. In some cases, low-lying countries could disappear completely.

"We hope that the secretary-

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A4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

06 JUN 2019
DATE

REPORT FROM THE FRONT...

general will draw far more inspiration from his first visit to go further, faster and deeper with the climate summit," Fiji's UN Ambassador Satyendra Prasad told AFP.

"We are very hopeful that the climate summit will mark a turning point."

The UN push on climate change is shaping up amid geopolitical shifts: the United States under Donald Trump has decided to pull out of the Paris agreement to combat global warming, giving China more space to assert its views.

"The Trump administration's disdain for climate diplomacy has left China looking like the main guarantor of the Paris agreement," said Richard Gowan, UN director for the International Crisis Group.

The US administration is not taking part in summit preparations but has not said it will skip the event.

Guterres' mission may also be further complicated by Trump's nomination of Kelly Knight Craft as UN ambassador. Craft, who is married to a major coal magnate, raised eyebrows for declaring that she believed "both sides" of climate science, indicating she may well be out of sync with the UN on the issue.

White House stops climate predictions

The London-based *Independent* reported on May 28 that the Trump administration has told a US government agency to stop

predicting what the long-term effects of climate change will be on the country.

James Reilly, the director of the US Geological Survey (USGS), ordered that scientific assessments only use computer-generated models that track the possible impact of climate change until 2040, according to the *New York Times*.

Previously the USGS modeled effects until the end of the century, the second half of which is likely to see the most dramatic impacts of global warming.

The order is likely to impact the US government's National Climate Assessment, an inter-agency report produced every four years which outlines the projected impact of climate change

in every corner of US society.

In the most recent report, produced late last year and dismissed by Trump, scientists used computer models to predict the US would face devastating economic and health impacts from global warming by the end of the century.

In the next report, due for release in 2021 or 2022, worst-case scenario predictions will not automatically be included.

Earlier this year, leaked documents revealed that the Trump's administration was creating a panel to challenge climate threat assessments, headed by a climate change denier who once compared the "demonization" of carbon dioxide to the treatment

of Jews in Nazi Germany.

Humans not in control

In an article published by the *Independent*, Dr. James Dyke, a global systems analyst, contended that mankind is not as much in control of the planet as it imagines. The approach must change, he wrote.

"The scientific community has been sounding the alarm over climate change for decades. The political and economic response has been at best sluggish. There is another way of looking at how we have been responding to climate change and other environmental challenges. It's both exhilarating and terrifying....

"Because one explanation for our collective failure on climate change is that such collective action is impossible. It's not that we don't want to change, but that we can't. We are locked into a planetary-scale system that while built by humans, is largely beyond our control. This system is called the technosphere.

"Perhaps the way out from fatalism and disaster is an acceptance that humans may not actually be in control of our planet. That would be the vital first step that could lead to a broader outlook that encompasses more than humans."

This will not be the last word.

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TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

No more PH in climate change talks abroad

By CNN Philippines, Staff

CNN Philippines – Foreign Secretary Teodoro “Teddyboy” Locsin Jr. backed President Rodrigo Duterte’s animosity towards climate change conferences.

Locsin yesterday said he will reject all attendance to climate change talks abroad. He added there is no need to discuss the issue, saying the Philippines will simply vote “yes” to all progressive suggestions to address climate change.

“I am rejecting all official participation in climate change conferences requiring air travel. We’ll just vote change conferences requiring air travel. We’ll just vote Yes to radical proposals. No more talk,” he tweeted.

Duterte, during his trip to Japan, downplayed global efforts against climate change, calling conferences on the issue a “waste of time and money.”

The President recalled a recent conversation he had with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. While he earlier said the country “joins the consensus to fight climate change,” he also questioned the “system” of its global talks.

Duterte said climate change may not matter in the long run due to other global issues – including threats of war.

“There are so many countries with so many bombs, atomic hydrogen and all. If any one of them would start to send one into the air, there’s a chance that it will be end of the world. That’s why climate change does not really matter to us at all,” Duterte said on May 31.

The President added he has fired several members of his Cabinet for going on numerous out-of-the-country trips just to attend climate change conferences.

Duterte in March 2017 signed the Paris deal on climate change, which mandates member countries to curb the effects of the phenomenon. The agreement, signed by over 195 countries, seeks to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels.



Everest, nanganib sa polusyon, pagkatunaw

KATHMANDU (AP) — Napupuno ng polusyon at umiinit ang Mount Everest at ang mga katabi nitong bundok, at natutunaw ang mga karatig na glaciers sa nakaalarmang bilis na mas magpapahirap sa pag-akyat dito sa hinaharap, babala nitong Martes ng isang U.S. scientist na gumugol ng ilang linggo sa Everest.

Sinabi ni Professor John All ng Western Washington University sa kanyang pagbabalik mula sa kabundukan na natuklasan nila ng mga kapwa niya scientists na napakaraming polusyon ang nakabaon sa snow, at napakaitim nito nang kanilang prinoseso at sinala.

"What that means is there are little pieces of pollution that the snow is forming around, so the snow is actually trapping the pollution and pulling it down," ani All sa Kathmandu, ang kabisera ng Nepal.

"The warming temperature is melting the glaciers and the snow around Mount Everest very quickly, so what happens is even when there is a storm it melts in a couple of hours," patuloy niya. "The glaciers are retreating dramatically because of global warming."

Sinabi niya na dahil panipis nang panipis at paliit nang paliit ang glaciers, mas magiging mapanganib ito sa mga umaakyat.