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Editorial

Linisin ang mga drainage at estero para hindi bumaha

SABI ng PAGASA, tatlo hanggang apat na bagyo Sang tatama sa bansa sa susunod na buwan. Ibig sabihin, tiyak nang papasok ang tag-ulan. At dahil dito, daranasin na naman ng mga residente ang pagbaha sa Metro Manila at mga karatig na probinsiya. Lumulubha ang pagbaha dahil sa mga baradong drainages at mga esterong hindi umaagos ang tubig. Basura ang mga nakabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig – mga plastic na basura na hindi natutunaw. Karaniwang mga sache ng shampoo, 3-in-1-coffee, straw ng softdrink at milktea, cup ng noodles at mga plastic bottle ng softdrinks ang makikita sa mga estero.

Magandang samantalain ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang nalalabi pang tag-araw para sa de-clogging ng mga imburnal at paghakot sa mga basurang nasa estero. Kung hindi magagawa ang paglilinis sa mga drainage at estero,



lulubha ang pagbaha.

Madaliin din naman ng DPWH ang pagsasaayos ng mga canal para mabawasan ang pagbaha sa Maynila. Ang drainage project sa Bustillos, Sampaloc ay ilang taon nang isinasaayos pero hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa natatapos. Ganito rin ang senaryo sa España Blvd. na aabutan na naman ng tag-ulan ang isinasaayos na drainage sa center island. Ang España Blvd. ay lagi nang suki ng mga pagbaha taun-taon. Noon pa, tanawin na sa panahon ng tag-ulan ang tila dagat-dagatang España.

May pagbaha rin sa Rizal Avenue hanggang Papa St. sa Maynila. Umaapaw sa baha ang estero sa Papa St. at inaabot ng hanggang dibdib ang tubig. Basura ang dahilan kaya may pagbaha sa lugar.

Ganito rin naman ang tanawin sa Quezon Avenue cor. Biak na Bato sa Quezon City na hindi madaanan dahil sa baha. Matagal nang nagdurusa ang mga residente sa lugar ganundin ang mga motorista pero hindi masolusyunan ang pagbaha.

Kahit mayroong flood control project sa Blumentritt na ginastusan nang malaking halaga, bumaha pa rin. Ano ang dahilan? Wala nang iba kundi ang mga basura. Ang mga basura ang nakaharang sa daluyan ng tubig.

Isa rin sa mga dahilan nang pagbaha ay ang mga tumigas na semento sa mismong drainages. Nanggaling ang semento sa mga ginagawang condominium. Kabikabila ang mga ginagawang condominium sa Metro Manila sa kasalukuyan. At kung hindi maghihigpit ang MMDA, DPWH at mga local na pamahalaan sa mga ginagawang condo, matindi ang daranasing pagbaha sa hinaharap.



Malawakang tree planting, coastal cleanup sa GenSan

NAKATAKDANG ilunsad ng lokal na pamahalaan ng General Santos City ang panibagong yugto ng malawakang coastal cleanup at pagtatanim ng mga puno at bakawan bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng Environment Month.

Sa pagbabahagi ni Valiente Lastimoso, pinuno ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office, target ng lokal na pamahalaan na makahikayat ng daan-daang volunteers para sa mga gaganaping aktibidad ngayong buwan.

Ayon kay Lastimoso, magaganap ang tree planting activity sa Hunyo 17 hanggang 20 na sasakop sa bahagi ng circumferential o diversion road siyudad.

"We will be planting mahogany tree seedlings and bougainvillea plants along the roadsides from Barangay Mabuhay to Conel roads," pahayag niya sa isang media forum.

Pangungunahan, aniya, ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office ang watershed tree growing sa Hunyo 21 sa Purok Balakayo, Barangay Olympog. Habang kabilang sa iba pang aktibidad ang Buayan riverbank rehabilitation sa Barangay Batomelong Hunyo 14 at gayundin ang pagtatayo ng bakawan at paglilinis ng baybayin sa Barangay Bula, Baluan at Buayan sa Hunyo 29.

Idaraos din ng pamahalaang lungsod ang unang GenSan Urban Biodiversity and Urban Bird Fair sa Hunyo 18 at 19 sa Plaza Heneral Santos.

Nag-imbata din ang lungsod ng mga pribadong kumpanya, mga pambansang ahensiya ng pamahalaan, non-government organizations, mga lokal na ahensiya ng pamahalaan, at iba pang sektor upang makilahok sa coastal cleanup at tree planting activities.

Buong taon ang isinasagawang pagtatanim at pagpapalaki ng mga tree seedlings ng mga personnel ng Cenro, bilang bahagi ng nagpapatuloy na tree growing program ng syudad, na layong matugunan ang problema sa polusyon at epekto nito sa climate change.

Mula taong 1997, aniya, pinamamahalaan na ng lokal na pamahalaan ang pagtatanim ng nasa 700,000 puno sa mga bahagi ng lungsod.

"Our goal is to plant a total of one million trees by 2020 and we are optimistic in achieving that," aniya.



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LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, 1100, Quezon City
www.llda.gov.ph E-mail: ogm@llda.gov.ph

ADVISORY ON ALGAL BLOOM IN LAGUNA DE BAY

1. Cause and effect

Algal bloom is a periodic occurrence in Laguna de Bay, particularly in the Central Bay and West Bay, where Muntinlupa City is one of the lakeshore LGU's. Algae are microscopic plants in various forms, shapes and colors. Those commonly found in Laguna de Bay are blue-green algae, green algae and diatoms. They are natural food and their abundance in lake is one of the factors attributed to the success of aquaculture business in the lake. Aside from being a source of food for fish and other aquatic life, these algae provides dissolved oxygen through the process of photosynthesis.

The over supply of nutrients in Laguna de Bay like nitrate and phosphate makes the lake very eutrophic, or in layman's term, very fertile. Combined with environmental conditions such as sufficient sunlight, high water temperature and calm water, the algae can grow at a very fast rate. If these environmental conditions are sustained, algal bloom happens which appears like a thick green or blue green soup. The current algal bloom in the West Bay area of the lake is caused by *Microcystis*, a blue-green algae which has been classified as a cyanobacteria.

Algal bloom becomes harmful when they decompose. In the process, they use the dissolved oxygen in water. Oxygen level below 5 mg/L is already stressful to the fish and if it further decreases, fish kill can occur. Should this happen, it is strongly advised to harvest the dead fish and bury them in the soil. Leaving them rotting in water will further aggravate the situation.

Microcystis also contains chemical compounds, like geosmin and 2-mib (methyl-isoborneol), which are released in water when their cells break. These compounds cause odor and taste problems in fish and also emit earthy smell. Exposure to algal bloom can cause headache and nausea.

2. Can we prevent algal bloom? How?

Yes, we can prevent algal bloom. We cannot control the weather, but we can control the amount of nutrients entering the lake. They originate mostly from untreated domestic wastes, agricultural wastes and industrial wastes. However, infrastructure and financial support are needed to treat these wastes, thus it will take a longer time to put them in place.

A doable measure is to ensure that our septic tanks are working well and regularly de-sludged. Proper sanitation by communities along the riverbanks and the lakeshore needs to be practiced. Dumping of organic wastes in waterways must be prevented and regular cleaning of drainage canals, creeks, esteros and rivers must be practiced as required by the DILG and the DENR.

The LLDA shall allocate PHP 1M for clean up activities by its Environmental Army in coordination with the Local Government of Muntinlupa City. It will explore means to purchase an algae skimmer that can be deployed in affected areas. It will further step up its efforts to inspect all business establishments in the watershed to ensure compliance to effluent standards, and enhance its partnership with local officials to improve environmental compliance of communities to various environmental laws.



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HIV-AIDS VICTIMS MABILIS NA DUMARAMI SA BORACAY

NAKASISIRA sa turismo sa Boracay, Malay, Aklan ang mabilis na paglobo ng Human Immunodeficiency Virus at Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV-AIDS) at iba pang Sexually Transmitted Disease.

Nitong nakaraang mga buwan ng Enero hanggang Marso lamang, may naitala nang 11 kaso ng nasabing sakit na walang gamot at humantong sa tiyak na kamatayan.

Sa kabuuan, mayroon nang 41 kaso sa Boracay habang ang Lungsod ng Kalibo, Aklan na koneksyon ng Boracay ay may 65 na kaso.

Lumolobo naman ang mga sakit na kagaya ng gonorrhea at syphilis at pagkabuntis ng mga menor de edad.

Alam ng lahat na sentro ng turismong lokal at internasyunal ang Boracay kaya naman dapat na panatilihin itong malusog at walang gaanong sakit na makukuha ng mga turista.

Subalit kabaligtaran ang nagaganap.

Dahil sa nasabing mga sakit, nakapangangamba na balang araw, iiwasan ito ng mga turista na pinagkakakitaan pa mandin ng mga mamamayan sa lugar at ng buong bansa.

Nagawa nating linisin at ayusin ang Boracay mula sa mga basura at madiwarang paglabag sa mga pangkalinisang batas at programa kaya nagbabalik ang mga turista sa lugar.

Ngunit kung pasasalubungan naman natin ang mga turista ng mga nakamamatay at nakahahawang mga sakit, darating ang araw na iwasan ang destinasyong ito ng mga turista.

Kung nagagawa ng pamahalaan na magpasimula at magmantina ng kalinisan at kalusugan ng mga turista at mamamayan sa Boracay, dapat na makipagtulungan ang mga mamamayan upang magpatuloy na maging kaakit-akit ang lugar at magdadala ng kabuhayan sa loob at labas nito.



Tubig sa Angat, sumadsad

Naitala na ang pinakamababang antas ng tubig ng Angat Dam sa Bulacan sa nakalipas na limang taon bunsod ng epekto ng El Niño sa bansa.

Babala ni Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Elmer Caringal, sa loob ng siyam hanggang 10 araw ay posibleng bumaba pa sa 160 metro na critical level ang tubig sa nabanggit na reservoir.

Ipinahayag ni Caringal na nakitaan nila ng average decrease na 0.40-0.45 metro ang dam kada araw bunsod ng kakakulangan ng pag-ulan sa Angat watershed.

Kahapon ng umaga, naitala ang 164.02 metro ng tubig sa Angat Dam, bahagyang mababa sa naitalang 164.48 metro nitong Miyerkules.

Sa nakaraang El Niño event noong 2014, bumaba sa 162.74 metro ang water level nito. Ngunit, mas mababa pa ang 157.57 metro na naitala noong 2010, na panahon din ng El Niño.

Matatandaang Abril ngayong taon nang itinigil ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang pagpapatubig sa mga palayan sa Bulacan, Pampanga dahil na rin sa pagtitipid nang maitala ang pagbaba ng antas ng tubig sa nabanggit na dam.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



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KAHIT MAY PAG-ULAN

Tubig sa Angat dam, pababa pa rin -NWRB

Patuloy pa rin ang pagbaba ng water level sa Angat dam kahit na may nararanasang pag-uulan ngayon sa Luzon partikular sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David, ito ay dahil hindi nakakarating sa Angat watershed ang tubig na mula sa mga nararanasang pag-ulan sa Metro Manila lalo na sa hapon at gabi.

Ayon sa PAGASA, alas-6

ng umaga kahapon, bumaba sa 164.02-meter ang water level ng Angat dam mula sa 164.48 meters noong Miyerkules.

Ito ay malayong malayo sa 180-meter minimum water level na kailangan ng Angat dam para maging normal ang operasyon. Ang Angat dam ang nagsusuplay ng 90 percent ng tubig sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Gayunman, sinabi ni David na sapat naman ang

suplay sa mga taga- Metro Manila kahit bumababa pa rin ang water levels sa dam.

Noong nagdaang buwan, binawasan ng NWRB ang naisusuplay na tubig sa irigasyon dahil sa pagbaba ng water level sa dam sanhi ng El Niño phenomenon pero hindi naman ito makakaapekto sa mga magsasaka dahil nasa kalagitnaan na sila sa kanilang planting season. (Angie dela Cruz)



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ANG MAGAGAWA NG MGA NEGOSYO PARA SA KALIKASAN

(Pagpapatuloy...)

Ang paglikha at pagpapalaganap ng tinatawag na circular economy ay hinihikayat din. Ito ay isang sistema kung saan ang disenyo ng mga produkto ay nagbibigay ng pagkakataon upang ang mga bagay na ito ay hindi kailangang itapon kaagad, kundi ay magamit pang muli o ma-recycle. Maraming organisasyon ang may kakayahang upang gu-

mawa ng business models, katulad na lamang ng sharing economy, upang mabawasan ng tao ang pangangailangang bumili o magmay ari ng maraming bagay o kasangkapan na katulad ng ating nakagawian na.

Ang paggamit ng clean technology, katulad ng solar energy at iba pang uri ng low-carbon energy, ay kanais-nais din dahil ang mga ito ay

subok nang nakababawas ng CO2 emissions mula sa paggawa ng koryente. Bilang panghuli, ang mga pamahalaan ng iba't ibang bansa ay pinapayuhang magkaroon ng tinatawag na carbon-pricing scheme upang mas maraming negosyo o kompanya ang mamumuhunan sa mas malinis na paggawa (cleaner production) o maglagay ng pondo tungo sa pananaliksik sa larangan ng fuel cells at iba pang uri ng renewable energy. Sa ganitong

paraan, bababa ang kanilang carbon emission. Ayon sa mga eksperto, kung magiging mahal ang halaga ng greenhouse gas emissions, mapipilitan ang maraming negosyo upang maging "malinis" at maaari pang makatulong na hubugin ang tinatawag na carbon markets na ating kakailanganin balang araw.

Ang sabi ng mga siyentipiko, mayroon na lamang umano tayong ilang taon upang kumilos, bago maging huli ang lahat. Maraming

mga kabataan at mga organisasyong pangkabataan sa buong mundo ang nag-iingay na upang marinig ang kanilang panawagan na mailigtas ang planeta. Bawat aksiyon ay mahalaga, gaano man ito kaliit. Bawat indibidwal at pamilya ay nararapat na gumawa ng kanilang parte. Ang mga negosyo at negosyante ay dapat na magising na at makipagtulungan sa lahat ng kumikilos sapagkat malaki ang kanilang papel sa labang ito.



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MAGKAPE MUNA TAYO ULIT ni Jera Sison

NAGLABAS ng ulat kamakailan na ang traffic-related air pollution ay nakaapekto sa kalusugan ng mga masisipag nating mga traffic enforcer, lalong-lalo na sa kanilang puso at baga.

Ayon sa pananaliksik ni Emmanuel Baja ng National Institute for Health sa University of the Philippines Manila, napag-alaman nila na ang pananatili nang matagal sa mga lansangan ng Metro Manila ng ating mga traffic enforcer na nakalalanghap ng mga usok ng mga sasakyan ay nakapagpapa-taas ng blood pressure at peligro sa kanilang baga.

Ang mga maitim na karbon at maliliit na heavy metals na makikita sa mga maitim na usok ng ating mga sasakyan ay maari ring sanhi ng pamamaga ng puso ng tao na maaring makasira nito.

Sinuri nila ang kalagayan ng mga kalusugan ng 158 na mga traffic enforcer ng MMDA at nakita nila na mataas ang black carbon sa kanilang dugo at mataas ang kanilang mga blood pressure. Nakita rin na ang black carbon ay kumapit din sa kanilang mga baga.

Ito ay nagpapatunay na panahon na upang

dagdagan ang hazard compensation ng ating mga traffic enforcer. Ito rin ang nagpapatunay na grabe na ang polusyon sa Metro Manila. Ano na ang nangyari sa batas na ang tawag ay ang Clean Air Act of 1999 o Republic Act No. 8749? Ang nasabing batas ay isang komprehensibong plano at programa na hangad na makamit natin ang isang malinis na hangin para sa lahat ng Filipino. Mukhang hindi yata ito napapatupad kung gan'un.

Nasabi ko ito dahil ibinabalik ko sa mga

grupo na tutol sa pagtatayo ng mga coal plant sa ating bansa dahil daw nakasisira ito sa ating kalikasan. Dagdag pa rito ay nakasisira raw ang coal plants sa kalidad ng hangin sa ating bansa. Haller?

Ayan. May pagsasaliksik na ginawa ang University of the Philippines na nagpapatunay na ang ugat na nakasisira sa kalusugan ng mga mamamayang Filipino ay ang polusyon na dulot ng mga lumang sasakyan sa ating lansangan. Malinaw na malinaw.

Kaya nakapagtataka kung bakit ang mga grupong tutol sa pagtatayo ng mga coal plant

ay ayaw sumawsaw sa isyu ng maruming usok na mga sasakyan sa ating mga lansangan. Nandyan. Nararamdaman. Nakamamatay. Bakit wala silang aksiyon laban dito? Bakit ayaw nilang suportahan at itulak ang programa ng gobyerno sa modernisasyon ng mga pampublikong sasakyan? Napapaisip lamang ako.

Ang banta ng umano'y maruming usok na ilalabas sa pagtatayo ng mga coal plant ay walang matibay na basehan. Samantala ang marumi at maitim na usok na lumalabas sa ating mga bulok na bus, jeepney at mga trak ay

kitang-kita.

Sana ay mag-isip-isip ang mga mamamayan kung ano ang tunay na agenda ng mga tumututol sa pagtatayo ng mga moderno at makabagong coal plants. Kapag natayo ang mga ito, sigurado na bababa ang singil sa koryente. Tataas ang ekonomiya ng ating bansa dahil mas tataas ang produksiyon ng mga manufacturer sa ating bansa.

Kapag natuloy ang modernisasyon ng ating pampublikong sasakyan, Malaki ang maibabawas ng black carbon sa ating hangin. Gaganda pa ang daloy ng trapiko. Hindi po ba?

POLUSYON SA TRAPIK AT HINDI SA COAL PLANTS



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G20 to tackle ocean plastic waste as petrochemical makers expand in Asia

TOKYO. - Japan wants to make reducing the glut of plastic waste in the oceans a priority at the Group of 20 summit it is hosting this month as governments around the world crack down on such pollution.

Images of plastic debris-strewn beaches and dead animals with stomachs full of plastic have sparked outrage, with many countries, including more than two dozen in Africa, banning plastic bags outright.

The EU has voted to outlaw 10 single-use plastic items, including straws, forks and knives, by 2021. It has also set targets for all plastic packaging, the top source of plastic waste, to be recyclable by 2030.

Such moves are setting up a showdown with the oil industry, which is pouring billions into new facilities to produce more plastic and other petrochemical products, particularly in Asia.

Refiners such as India's Reliance Industries and China's Sinopec are seeking new revenue sources as electric cars become more popular and gasoline and diesel demand slows.

"If the world goes the direction of European targets, some markets can go from high growth to low growth or no growth. Profits could suffer," said Jeff Brown, president of energy consultancy FGE in Singapore.

Tackling plastic pollution has been

less of a priority in Asia, which is the world's biggest producer of the material - and its waste.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, which is hosting the G20 summit, says he wants his country to lead the world in reducing marine plastic trash, including developing biodegradables and other innovations.

The June 28-29 meeting in Osaka, assembling 20 major economies, including China, Brazil, France and the United States, won't yield an agreement on targets or concrete steps, two officials involved in preparations told Reuters, speaking anonymously because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

A more likely outcome is for G20 environment ministers, gathering this weekend in the mountain town of Karuizawa, to propose ways to enact a vaguely worded "action plan" on marine plastic waste introduced at the 2017 summit in Germany.

PLASTICS GALORE

Japan, while not a major marine plastic polluter, is the world's No. 2 consumer of plastic packaging per person after the United States.

Vegetables and fruit sold in supermarkets in Japan are commonly wrapped in plastic, sometimes individually. The cultural emphasis on hygiene, careful packaging and offering products in small portions

adds to the problem.

Japanese bureaucrats are working on a law that would require retailers to charge customers for plastic bags - something many supermarkets already do.

Japan also plans to make the medal podiums at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics out of recycled plastic in an attempt to stir consumer awareness about the issue.

Activists say that although efforts to recycle and ban single-use items are needed, reducing plastic production is also crucial.

"There's a misconception that we can recycle our way out of this," said Neil Tangri, global plastics policy adviser at the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives in Berkeley, California.

"My fear is that (G20 leaders) will say that plastic production isn't the problem, it's waste management," he added. "We're saying plastic is a problem you need to tackle at the source."

The world produced about 380 million metric tons of plastic in 2015, according to research published in Science Advances journal. The World Bank says humans generated 242 million tons of plastic waste in 2016.

About 55% of plastic waste was discarded in 2015, 25% incinerated and 20% recycled. But since plastic was introduced into the consumer market in the 1950s, only 9% of the

cumulative total has been recycled, the Science Advances study shows.

CHINA BAN

Tackling plastic pollution became more of a global priority after China, which had been accepting a hefty chunk of the world's waste, banned imports at the start of 2018.

Boatloads of plastic debris have been diverted to Malaysia and other Southeast Asian nations, overwhelming them. Last month, Malaysia said it would ship 3,000 tons of garbage back to the countries it came from.

Asia is also home to the biggest contributors to the estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic trash that winds up in the ocean each year, according to research published in the journal Science.

The top five marine plastic trash offenders are all in Asia: China and Indonesia - both G-20 members - followed by the Philippines, Vietnam and Sri Lanka, that study shows.

Such litter inflicts \$1.3 billion in damage annually to fishing, shipping and tourism industries in the Asia-Pacific.

Most commonly used plastic does not biodegrade. Over time in the ocean and exposed to sunlight, it breaks down into tiny pieces called microplastics that are ingested by sea creatures, raising concerns about chemicals tainting human sources of food.



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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

'Air pollution is a problem that is not easy to see' — expert

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION Studies Laboratory (EPSL) founding head Mylene G. Cayetano has called on the health care sector to take a more active role in addressing the 'invisible killer' that is air pollution. "Air pollution is a problem that is not easy to see. Oftentimes, the threat/harm is not perceived important and immediate, because our naked eye cannot see right away the air pollution shrouding us, whether indoor or outdoor," Ms. Cayetano said during a public health forum hosted by the Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Southeast Asia at the National Children's Hospital last June 6. She said emissions from vehicles are the major sources of pollution in Metro Manila, while "Particulate Matter (PM)" or dust also contribute to the poor air quality. "Knowing that air pollution is now the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide, the problem is not just environmental; it is environment, health, socioeconomic caused by human activities, hence it can be solved by humans if we work together. Let us all act to clean the air," Ms. Cayetano stressed. EPSL is under the University of the Philippines Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology. The Philippines observes June as Environment Month in line with the annual June 5 World Environment Day.



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Baguio pines declared as heritage trees

By **ZALDY COMANDA**

BAGUIO CITY – The city council has approved an ordinance on first reading declaring all pine trees in the city as heritage and protected trees.

Councilor Leandro Yangot, Jr., who authored the ordinance, said the measure penalizes offenders with a fine of ₱5,000 and imprisonment of six months.

Under the ordinance, the cutting down of pine trees is prohibited, except in specific cases, such as when a tree endangers life and property.

The ordinance tasked the City Mayor's Office in coordination with the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) to formulate the

guidelines for the implementation of the measure.

Yangot said Baguio used to be called the City of Pines and Pine Tree Capital of the Philippines because of the proliferation of the trees.

But with the spread of urban decay, pine trees were cut resulting to a point that they have become an endangered species.

Pine trees provide oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. A pine tree also absorbs as much as 150 liters of water and releases it as ground water.

Pine trees also prevent landslides and erosions.

Yangot said the city is facing the grim reality of losing its pines in the name of development.



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Coca-Cola Philippines has unveiled its roadmap toward a World Without Waste, a comprehensive blueprint for packaging sustainability. Photo shows (from left) Anna Oposa, co-founder of Save Philippine Seas; Jonah de Lumen-Pernia, Coca-Cola Philippines public affairs and communications director; Gareth McGeown, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. president and CEO; US Ambassador Sung Kim; Sen. Cynthia Villar; Winn Everhart, Coca-Cola Philippines president and GM; DILG Asec. Marjorie Jalosjos, and Juan Lorenzi Tañada, Coca-Cola Beverages Phl. Inc. director for corporate regulatory affairs.



Red Planet volunteers work with community organizations in ocean cleanup activities.

Red Planet goes green

Red Planet Hotels announced its long-term environmental sustainability goals. The green milestones to battle global ecological challenges focus on three strategic areas – separation of waste, phasing out single-use plastics and responsible procurement.

Hotels committed to responsible tourism are responding rapidly to the devastating consequences of plastic pollution. Last year alone, 8.8 million tons of plastic were unloaded into our oceans. As a measure to cut down the rate of plastic waste eradicating marine ecosystems, the tourism industry is gradually banning single-use plastics in the form of straws, water bottles and bathroom amenities.

“Since implementation, our environmental initiatives have had a real tangible impact,” said Tim Hansing, Red Planet’s CEO. “We have successfully introduced a major reduction in plastic and energy usage across all our hotels,

and we are actively exploring long-term efforts to contribute to reforming our industry’s approach to preserving the planet.”

Some of the commitments to reduce the environmental footprint include minimizing waste, switching to non-plastic alternatives and improving building efficiency. In addition to the more than two and a half tons of plastic removed by improved laundry management, all Red Planet hotels in Thailand have replaced plastic water bottles with glass bottles, and are progressively installing water fountains in the lobby. All hotels are equipped energy-saving lights and control units, and the rooms are designed to maximize the amount of natural daylight.

Red Planet Hotels is a leading Asian budget hotel chain with a global portfolio of 30 hotels in Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.



The Body Shop helps re-wild the Philippine Eagle

The Body Shop Philippines recently partnered with the Philippine Eagle Foundation to work towards protecting the endangered Philippine Eagle and giving it a chance to thrive and breed again. It is also committed in preserving and protecting its habitat and the biodiversity it represents.

With that, it gave 100% net proceeds of every purchase of Fuji Green Tea Shampoo 400mL to the Philippine Eagle Foundation. The raised funds of The Body Shop will help in fueling the foundation's efforts in protecting the rare and majestic Philippine Eagle. It will also help in intensifying the campaigns especially in urban areas to take a step further in raising awareness to people and changing their attitudes to become actively involved in the conservation work for the eagle, its forest habitats and the people.

There is still a lot that needs

to be done. Take the initiative, be informed and be involved. Know more about the foundation and its mission at www.philippineeaglefoundation.org.

Join The Body Shop with

its effort in re-wilding the endangered and enchanting nature.

Re-wild the Endangered is one of the many advocacies of The Body Shop Philippines.



Philippine Eagle Foundation Director Dennis Salvador and Development Manager Andrea Baldonado receiving the funds raised from The Body Shop Philippines team



REGULATING URBAN GROWTH

IN BAGUIO, LAND SALES, DANGER ZONES REVIEWED AMID BOOM

BAGUIO CITY—How many property owners are there in this city, and how much more land can an overdeveloped Baguio afford to sell?

Officials of the city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have turned their attention to Baguio real estate, given a public outcry on a construction boom that threatens its remaining pine forest cover.

Unlike the rest of the country, Baguio is a townsite reservation which classifies all habitable lands as “alienable and disposable.”

But this city was designed for a core population of 25,000 people by the American colonial government, which built and developed Baguio into a chartered city in 1909.

Townsite

So residents applying for townsite lands are each limited to a hectare of land. They can buy these lands through an auction undertaken by a committee composed of the city mayor, the environment secretary and the director of lands.

The townsite sales system has been considered a safeguard against overexpansion. But the DENR has yet to resolve a backlog of about 600 townsite sales applications, many of which are beset by overlapping claims.

By completing all townsite sales transactions, the city could plan for a fixed number of residents, Ralph Pablo, DENR

director in Cordillera, said.

He said the agency started identifying and resurveying all titled and untitled lands in the city, and will undertake a geological review of the terrain so the DENR could proceed to hand out titles to applicants.

The 2015 census placed Baguio population at 345,366. According to an urban carrying capacity study, the population grows to 725,366 when 380,000 transient workers and students and tourists come to the city each day.

Water, tree cover

The initial findings of the study, commissioned by the National Economic and Development Authority, say Baguio’s resources, such as its forests and water are sufficient for the current population but are stretched beyond capacity by the daytime population.

The study also classified 957.26 hectares of land as “developable areas.” Of Baguio’s 5,700 ha, the built-up areas span 3,468.36 ha. The open forest area lost 551.49 ha when the city’s green area was reduced to 939.62 ha.

With 2.5 million trees still standing, Baguio’s forest cover represents 28.58 percent of the city territory, according to the DENR.

Taking into account new information on Baguio’s geological conditions, some DENR officials have suggested segregating untitled lands within hazard zones, or converting these into pine tree plantation sites. —VIN-

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