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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Proposed law requires each Baguio family to plant a tree

By **ZALDY COMANDA**

BAGUIO CITY - An ordinance was approved on first reading wanting each family to plant tree in their barangay or any available space identified by the City Environment and Parks management Office (CEPMO) or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, who authored the ordinance, said she wants to "raise awareness on the importance of planting, caring, and nurturing a tree as an effort to save the environment."

The ordinance will assign the CEPMO and the Office of the Mayor to formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Families who participate in the tree-planting program will be given benefits in order to encourage greater participation in the community. Tree-planting will also be a requirement for the issuance of a barangay clearance.

Tabanda noted the indispensable role of trees in the environment.

"It breathes in carbon dioxide and releases oxygen, the gas that sustains life," Tabanda wrote in her proposal.

"Human activities and natural causes make the trees disappear rapidly. They are taking a great toll on our survival. The tree planting program is one of the many approaches of the government which elicits greater participation from the private sector and the local government unit," Tabanda added.



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Bandera española, vetiver and heliconia plants line the edges of the Estero de Binondo as a phytoremediation measure following a clearing operation by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission. The PRRC posted the image on Facebook yesterday.



'DILANG SA KALYE

Clearing ops sa dagat at ilog ikinasa rin

Bukod sa clearing operations sa kalsada, nagkasarin ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Navotas ng paglilinis

sa lahat ng obstruksyon sa dagat at ilog na kanilang sakop dahil sa kontaminasyon sa tubig.

Napag-alaman buhat sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na mataas ang antas ng 'fecal coliform' sa Bangkulasi River na kumonekta sa Manila Bay. Isa itong uri ng bacteria na nagmumula sa dumi ng tao o hayop na labis na mapaminsala sa mga lamang-dagat.

Katuwang ang DENR sa pangunguna ni Asst. Secretary Rico Salazar, nagsagawa na ng paglilinis ang pamahalaang lungsod sa Bangkulasi River kung saan inilipat ang mga bangka ng mga mangingisda sa Navotas Fish Port.

"Noong nakaraang linggo, nagsagawa kami ng dayalogo kasama ang mga mangingisdang maaapek-

tuhan ng clean-up drive. Ipinaliwanag namin kung bakit kailangan nilang ilipat ang kanilang mga bangka sa Navotas Fish Port," ayon kay Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco.

Nangako si Tiangco na gagawin ng pamahalaang lungsod ang makakaya nito para malinis ang ilog at mapaunlad ang kalidad ng tubig nito.

Kamakailan, sinabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na napakahalaga ng paglilinis ng Bangkulasi segment sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, at nagtakda siya ng palugit hanggang December para magkaroon ng malaking pagbabago ang nasabing ilog. (Danilo Garcia)



Sarangani Bay should learn from Manila Bay

THERE was good news these last few weeks from Sarangani Bay at the southern tip of Mindanao. Large groups of marine mammals – sperm whales and dolphins – were reported in the waters off Glan and Malapatan in Sarangani province and in General Santos City – apparently thriving in the rich waters of the bay.

Hundreds of the marine mammals were seen during the week that the government team went around the bay, a sign that the bay had a healthy marine environment with abundant food for the sea animals. In the team were personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape, the Sarangani Province Environmental Conservation and Protection Center, and the General Santos City DENR office.

The big ocean creatures had actually been seen as early as 2010 when a marine survey was ordered by the Sarangani provincial government in connection with the Sarangani Bay Festival in May. The bay has long been noted for its biodiversity, said to be richer than those of Carigara Bay in Northern Leyte, Sogod Bay in Southern Leyte, Bais Bay in Negros, and Illana Bay in Northwestern Mindanao.

In stark contrast to these Philippine bays rich with sea life, our own Manila Bay is today so grossly polluted that no such sea animals as whales and dolphins have been seen in its waters

in a long time. These sea creatures may have ventured into the bay, which is about four times bigger than Sarangani Bay, in the times before Metro Manila grew to what it is today. They would not survive today's pollution.

The fecal coliform level in the waters off Malate, Manila, was last reported at 2.44 billion MPN (most probable number) per 100 milliliters. This is way, way above the safe swimming level of 100 MPN. The DENR has begun a Manila Bay cleanup, following its successful six-month Boracay cleanup, but it has found that it will take over ten years to achieve similar results in Manila Bay.

For years and years, 17 river systems have been flowing into the bay, bearing the untreated wastes of thousands of squatter and other families, along with the wastewater of factories and other commercial establishments in thousands of communities around the bay, from Bataan in the northwest to Pampanga and Bulacan, to Metro Manila, and Cavite in the southwest.

Sarangani Bay and the other bodies of water in southern Philippines are fortunate that they still have whales, dolphins, and other sea life which are able to thrive in their clean waters. The local governments in these provincial bays and coves should learn from the tragedy suffered by Manila Bay due to neglect by responsible officials who allowed it to deteriorate into what it is today, the dirtiest, most polluted body of water in the entire country.



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For years and years, 17 river systems have been flowing into the bay, bearing the untreated wastes of thousands of squatter and other families, along with the wastewater of factories and other commercial establishments in thousands of communities around the bay, from Bataan in the northwest to Pampanga and Bulacan, to Metro Manila, and Cavite in the southwest.

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Dapat matuto ang Sarangani Bay sa Manila Bay

MAY magandang balita nitong mga nakaraang linggo mula sa Sarangani Bay sa katimugang bahagi ng Mindanao. Malaking grupo ng mga marine mammals—mga sperm whales at dolphins—ang napaulat na nakita sa katubigang bahagi ng Glan at Malapatan sa probinsiya ng Sarangani at General Santos City—na tila dumarami sa mayaman na katubigan ng nasabing look.

Daan-daang uri ng marine mammals ang nasilayan sa isang linggong paglilibot ng grupo ng pamahalaan sa look, isang senyales na ang look ay may malusog na kapaligirang pandagat kasama ng masaganang pagkain para sa mga lamang-dagat. Kabilang sa bumisitang grupo ang mga kinatawan mula Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, ang Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape, ang Sarangani Province Environmental Conservation and Protection Center, at ang General Santos City DENR office.

Taong 2010, nang simulang masilayan ang mga dambuhalang hayop ng karagatan, nang ipagutos ang isang marine survey ng probinsiyal na pamahalaan ng Sarangani bilang bahagi ng Sarangani Bay Festival tuwing Mayo. Matagal nang kinikilala ang look para sa biodiversity nito, na sinasabing mas mayaman kumpara sa Carigara Bay ng Northern Leyte, Sogon bay ng Southern Leyte, Bais Bay sa Negros, at Illana Bay sa Hilagang kanluran ng Mindanao.

Kabalintunaan sa mga look ng Pilipinas na mayaman sa yamang-dagat, ang ating Manila Bay na napakatindi na ng polusyon na walang anumang lamang-dagat tulad ng balyena at dolphin ang masisilayan sa katubigan nito sa matagal nang panahon. Maaring namamalagi rin ang mga lamang-dagat na ito sa nasabing look, na higit apat na beses ang laki kumpara sa Sarangani Bay, noong panahon bago pa maging ganito ang kalagayan sa kasalukuyan. Hindi nila makakayanan ang tindi ng polusyon ngayon.

Sa huling ulat, umaabot sa 2.44 billion MPN (most probable number) per 100 milliliters ang fecal coliform level sa tubig sa bahagi ng Malate, Manila. Malayo ito sa lebel na ligtas para paliguan na 100 MPN. Sinimulan na ng DENR ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay, kasunod ng matagumpay nitong anim na buwang paglilinis sa isla ng Boracay, ngunit napagtanto nila na aabutin ito ng higit sampung taon upang makamit ang katulad na resulta sa Manila Bay.

Sa mga lumipas na taon, 17 ilog ang dumadaloy patungo sa look, dala ang maruruming basura at dumi ng libu-libong mga iskwater at iba pang pamilya, dagdag pa ang maruming tubig na ibinubuga ng mga pabrika at iba pang komersiyal na establisyamento sa daang libong mga barangay na nasa paligid ng look, mula sa Bataan sa hilagang kanluran, sa Pampanga at Bulacan, sa Metro Manila, at Cavite sa timogkanluran.

Mapalad ang Sarangani Bay at iba pang bahagi ng tubig sa katimugang bahagi ng Pilipinas na mayroon pang nasisilayang mga balyena, dolphin, at iba pang yamang-dagat na namamalagi sa malinis na katubigan. Dapat na matuto ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga probinsiya na sumasakop sa mga look mula sa trahedyang na dinaranas ng Manila Bay dahil sa pagpapabaya ng mga responsableng mga opisyal na nagpahintulot na mangyari ang kinahinatnan ng look ngayon, ang pinakamarumi, pinaka may matinding polusyon na bahagi ng tubig sa buong bansa.



Water crisis sa MM, tutugunan

Naghahanap ang House Committee on Metro Manila Development sa pamumuno ni Manila Rep. Manuel Lopez ng pamamaraan at alternatibo solusyon upang matugunan ang kakulangan ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Sa pagdinig, sinabi ni Lopez na ipinarating sa kanilang tanggapan na sa sandaling umulan, magiging normal na ang suplay ng tubig.

"We were told that the rains in July this year could turn things around. Unfortunately, they did not. We have experienced many more rains thereafter, but our water situation remains unacceptable as occasional water interruptions continue," ani Lopez.

Sinabi rin niyang nakakukuha ng suplay na tubig ang mga residente sa ilang lugar sa Metro Manila sa pamamagitan ng mobile tanks ng Manila Water o

Maynilad, at kung minsan ay mula sa fire volunteers.

Ayon sa kanya, kung ang bansa ay regular lamang na binibisita ng malalakas na pag-ulan, bagyo at cyclones, at may tamang imprastraktura para makapag-apon ng tubig-ulan, hindi na kailangang maghintay pa ng bagyo at baha para magkatubig.

Sa ngayon, 90 porsiyento ng water supply para sa Metro Manila ay galing sa Angat Dam. Hiniling din ni Lopez sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Manila Water Company, Inc., Maynilad Water Services, Inc., MWSS Regulatory Office, National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na bigyan sila ng impormasyon at i-update ang mga miyembro ng komite tungkol sa isyu ng tubig.

Bert de Guzman

Water not for all

ISN't it ironic that the Philippines, which is a tropical country surrounded by a plethora of rainforests, lakes, rivers and mountains, with an average annual rainfall of about 965 to 4,064 millimeters according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, has a severe chronic problem with access to clean water compared to arid countries like the United Arab Emirates or landlocked countries like Switzerland?

Just this year, the country's major cities in the Metro Manila region experienced a water supply crisis affecting an estimated 6 million people, according to reports by major media outlets in the country. Government departments and agencies, water authorities and franchises — the Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. — were pointing fingers on who was to blame for the mismanagement of our natural water reserves amidst the threat of the natural occurring phenomenon: El Niño.

Was the fault majorly caused by the weather and climate, the privatization of our water resources, or the lack of proper management and enforcement by the govern-



INTO THE WILD

GAB MEJIA

ment? But one thing is for sure — it won't give Filipinos the water to drink in order to live if these sectors do not work together.

Metro Manila is experiencing a drought and backlash of a suppressive systemic problem caused by corruption, capitalism, exploitation and incompetence of our industrial leaders not being able to foresee and mitigate such issues as fundamental as water amid an ongoing socioeconomic and climate crisis. A perfect exemplar that the Philippines' Achilles heel is resource management and maintenance. A weakness that is now leading to a more contemptible form displayed as an engineering solution — the development of the Chinese-funded Kaliwa Dam project that is said would provide enough water to supply the demand of the 12.8-million people living in Metro Manila.

In hindsight, this potential engineering solution may sound like

the suitable plan to resolve the issues related to clean water in the Philippines. However, upon further research and immersion in the Sierra Madre, where the Kaliwa Dam is to be built, it shows a more explicit form of exploitation of not only our natural heritage and resources, but of our very own people. Indigenous people like the Dumagat will be displaced as soon as the construction of the dam begins, trampling national laws like Republic Act 8173 or the "Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act." And because of to the massive scale of the project, says the Haribon Foundation, this dam will destroy about 300 hectares of forested area, affecting endemic and endangered species like the iconic Philippine Eagle, supposedly protected by both local and international agreements. Indeed, there will always be opportunity costs to any kind of construction and development plans for dams and infrastructure. But the question is whether we may have overlooked less impactful solutions and are just focusing on another 'band-aid' solution, which we Filipinos have been so used to seeing, like roadwidening projects that have never resolved the unending traffic jams

in our public highways.

So, are dams the only true solution to this water crisis? Maybe not, but our government and private institutions should be investing in the reforestation of natural water reserves like the Ipo Watershed; build and develop rainwater catchment technologies; focus on the conservation of wetlands; rehabilitate the Pasig River; and educate the public on how to conserve water. Dams are not the only way, much more, not the right way — another ethical and moral challenge for both the future engineers and leaders of our country as more tragic news break out of people that are being displaced around the world like the recent Myanmar dam breach (Naing, Reuters 2018), and the Brumadinho dam disaster in Brazil, where thousands of people were driven away from their homes (*The Guardian*, 2019).

Incidents like these show the darker side of the story of water, a resource that the world cannot live without. And dams are just ticking time bombs waiting to happen, and it is up to us when we will start the countdown.

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Senado kumilos vs plastic pollution

Mas pinaigting pa ng Senado ang panawagan para mabawasan ang plastic pollution sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng panukalang nagre-regulate, kung hindi man tuluyang pag-ban, pag-import, produksyon at consumption ng single-use plastics.

Sa Senate bill 40 o ang Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2019 ni Sen. Francis Pangilinan, dini-discourage nito ang bawat Filipino mula sa paggamit ng disposable plastics tulad ng grocery bags, food packaging, films at bags, water bottles, straws, stirrers, styros, cups, sachets at plastic cutlery.

Sa sandaling maisabatas, maoobliga ang mga food establishments, tindahan, mga palengke at retailers na mag-ban ng single-use plastics kung hindi ay pagmumultahin sila o ikakansela ang mga business permit.

Habang bibigyan naman ng incentives ang mga indibidwal, kumpanya at kooperatiba na maglalagay ng alternatibo sa paggamit ng single-use plastics.

Kamakailan ang condiment maker na NutriAsia Inc. ay nagbukas ng refilling station sa Metro Manila at sa iba pang refilling initiatives sa buong Central Luzon para mabawasan ang paggamit ng plastic bottles at sachets.

Ang buyers ng mga produkto ng NutriAsia ay maaaring muling magamit ang kanilang malinis na plastic bottles sa pamamagitan ng pag-refill ng mga condiments tulad ng toyo, suka at mantika sa Bring Your Own Bottle booths ng kumpanya.



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SOAR SINAG, SOAR. 'Raptors in Flight,' featuring Philippine eagles flying and hunting, has been organized as a special event during Davao City's Kadayawan festival, with the flag carrier Philippine Airlines adopting Sinag as a baby eagle in 2016 to highlight its interest in preserving the Philippine eagle and its natural habitat.



Pick your poison

Every day, in almost everything we eat, use and do, we are exposed to toxic substances and influences in one form or another, and hardly anything we ingest or are exposed to can be considered completely "safe."

The processed food we eat could have chemical contaminants or additives that may be harmless in small quantities, but their cumulative effects on our bodies over time are at best unclear. Opting for unprocessed fresh food would not necessarily spare us from toxins either. They could have poisonous chemicals absorbed through contaminated soil and groundwater, sprayed on them to get rid of pests, or injected into them (in the case of livestock and poultry) to resist disease or induce faster growth.

The air we breathe could contain unhealthy levels of tiny particles that build up in our lungs, or harmful chemicals such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide emitted by motor vehicles or industrial plants. Wi-Fi and cellular phone signals proliferating in our work or home environments could be harming our bodies slowly and quietly, due to the ill effects of radiation.

What are the most common poisons we are probably taking in regularly? Among the most ubiquitous ones is lead, a toxic metal that continues to be used in pigments, paints, solder, stained glass, lead crystal glassware, ammunition, ceramic glazes, jewellery, toys and in some cosmetics and traditional medicines. It affects the development of the brain and nervous system in young children. In adults, its effects include increased risk of high blood pressure and kidney damage, and pregnant



NO FREE LUNCH

CIELITO F. HABITO

women face higher risk of miscarriage, still-birth, premature birth and low birth weight.

Commonly present in our diet are nitrates and nitrites, used as preservative in cured processed meat like bacon, ham, sausages, and in popular Filipino meat preparations like *tocino* and *longganisa*. Inside our bodies, nitrites change into highly cancer-causing nitrosamines, which may be inhibited by adding an antioxidant like vitamin C or E. But other antioxidants, especially BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole) and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene), used widely to keep fats from turning rancid in various food preparations, have been linked to cancer as well.

Then there are sulfites, used to prolong freshness in fruits and vegetables, and also used as preservatives in dried fruits, dehydrated potatoes and wines. These can induce severe reactions especially among asthmatics, and began to be classified as unsafe in 1986 after several sulfite-related deaths. Aspartame is now the most widely-used artificial sweetener in diet drinks, but has been known to exacerbate

headaches in people suffering from migraine, and increased seizures in epileptics. Many color additives are known carcinogens and some have been banned from use in foods. Still, most continue to be used in cosmetics and drugs.

Microplastics, tiny invisible particles of plastic resulting from the disintegration (but not degradation) of plastics in the environment, especially in the oceans, are now being detected in fish consumed by humans, finding their way into our bloodstreams and causing various health problems. These are the more insidious effects of widespread plastic pollution in our waterways and oceans, well beyond the visible physical harm they do in the environment, including on aquatic life.

Short of living in the wilderness, it seems there is no way we can escape all these poisons that are now all around us. "Even the most health-conscious people have carcinogens and other harmful chemicals in their bodies—from plastics, cosmetics, cleansers, pesticide-soaked food, polluted air and water and the many other exposures that are a part of modern life," wrote Emily Holden in a recent article for *The Guardian*.

Most of these toxins can be avoided by direct consumer choice, but others can only be effectively dealt with through collective remedial action (like microplastics). In this day and age, hardly anyone can live in a poison-free world. The best we can do is to be aware, scrutinize product labels and decide which poisons we would completely avoid, and those we would have to endure—literally, pick your poison.

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The great eco-philanthropist

By **ROBERT Y. SO**

GINA Lopez joked, “the MD after my name should be changed from Managing Director to QD... for Quack Doctor!” She had the self-awareness to acknowledge that in her battle with what had then become Stage 4 brain cancer, she has gone wildly off-script. She was trying to tell all of us that day, that she was winning the fight: through her diet, her meditation, and through a battery of alternative treatments she showed off in a tour of her home. She was not fond of staying in hospitals, and between the strength of her disdain and her will to make more out of every second of her life, she was leading us again, our chairperson of the board.

It was as if she was the Gina I first met 10 years ago. I was, in my own way, an advocate of the environment developing treatment technologies for sewage and waste water, and I just had to meet her. I just had to meet this lady, this warrior who boldly said she would rehabilitate the Pasig River one *estero* at a time; that she will show the Philippines that it was *pwede pala*, by first taking on one of the dirtiest *esteros* of Manila. Legend has it that when one wanted to commit suicide, one just leapt into the Estero de Paco. You’d be dead from the smell before you hit the water.

I went up to her personally and introduced myself. As many of her friends would know, Gina was a very open and trusting person and we since got along very well indeed. However, as much as I had committed my expertise to her cause, advising her on technology matters in river rehabilitation pro-bono, I still needed convincing: It was not possible to clean Estero de Paco as long as the informal settlers remained



Gina Lopez huddles with her ILOVE board of directors: Fernando Zobel de Ayala (center), Endika Aboitiz (seated left), Joey Antonio (standing left), Rep. Loren Legarda, and the author (seated right).

there, living on the water itself, using the *estero* as their open sewer, nay, as their communal toilet. The only chance we had was if she was going to be successful at relocating all these informal settlers and instituting the three-meter easement regulation to protect both people (from flood risks), and the river (from direct pollution sources).

VICTORY ON THE ESTERO DE PACO

The victory was that the Informal Settler Families (ISF) trusted her and voluntarily relocated themselves, over 1,400 ISF to various sites provided by the National Housing Authority. She did this by organizing and coordinating government and NGO efforts to prepare the community, provide housing units, as well as transportation from Paco, Manila to the respective housing projects.

So inspiring was Gina’s persuasion of entire communities to relocate (across 15 barangays along the Estero) that we wholeheartedly pledged to donate

our work: the design and installation of a water reclamation facility for the Paco Public Market; identified as the single largest point source of pollution along Estero de Paco. It was completed in January 2015, and after independently operating it for a year, we turned it over to the City of Manila in January 2016. To this day, we are pledged to contribute to its continued operation and maintenance — a technological and environmental showcase demonstration that is open to the public, of treating sewage from the market and of the Estero de Paco itself, recycling it into water fit for non-potable reuse. In this way, Gina had also become the fairy godmother of environmental technology, a guardian spirit that gave Filipino inventors a platform to demonstrate their capabilities.

LOVE THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS

She is known to say, “You can have little money and few people, and still make a massive



Gina Lopez outside the Paco Market along the Estero de Paco in 2010. She would show us what is possible when civil society and government work together arm-in-arm.

difference... *kung talagang may pagmamahal.* As even someone like her, born into wealth and social privilege, would see her foundations and advocacies at times face near-insurmountable financial and resource challenges. Her genuine love for her causes and the love she inspired in people made her overcome these, time and again. It made her, and the people who served with her, become philanthropists in their own right — even if they had no money of their own to pledge. It became less about the raw funds donated, but much more about the love: the effort and hard work one gave of deployed so that others can have better lives.

The day she made that “Quack Doctor” joke was the last time I was to see her alive. Last July 30, Tuesday, Gina Lopez presided over two meetings at her home; the first one with the management committee of the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc. (ALKFI), and immediately followed by the board of directors of investments in Loving Organizations for Village Economies, or sentimentally, ILOVE.

ILOVE is the culmination of everything she’s learned after

a lifetime of developmental work and philanthropy. This time, she believed she could provide opportunities for the most deserving of communities: those with organizations on the ground already operating with dynamism and vision to elevate their communities in an economically inclusive, and an environmentally sustainable way.

IN HER ELEMENT, TO THE LAST

That day however, Gina wasn’t content just to hear updates. She was always up to getting new commitments from the members of the board. She’s always inviting the individual members to go visit the project sites, to see what she saw, utterly confident in that people will fall in love with the land, the air and the sea, such that they too will give what they can give and do all that they can do for these lovely places and their people.

And what exactly was Gina seeing then? She saw the Philippines, the country she’s given all her love to, and all her life’s energy for, and to the last.

A week and a half later, Gina was confined to the hospital, and on August 19 was announced to have passed away.



OPINION

Martha Stewart: Sustainable development, legacy

It was full house at the Martha Stewart Leadership event sponsored by ANC at Sofitel. Who is Martha Stewart? Why is she such a big celebrity? She is the first self-made American woman billionaire who has consistently reinvented herself. She is the icon in lifestyle, baking and gardening, among others, and has built an empire in publishing and selling many Martha Stewart home items.

What are some lessons of her success? If you have an idea, especially a good one that fills a void, DO IT! Wake up early. She starts the day before 7am daily. No substitute for hard work and “the early bird gets the worm.” Be observant, be curious and learn something new all the time. Be open minded to new ideas. She said if she writes an article about something today and finds out there is something better tomorrow, she will write another article about it. Be flexible. Attention to details. As they say, “the devil is in the details.” You must have balance and if you’re an entrepreneur, she said “dress well and never be sloppy.” Well, at 78 years old, she is fashionable and certainly looked younger.

Her life wasn’t always a bed of roses. She was imprisoned for a time. When asked about it, she simply said she was in the wrong place at the wrong time. “While it wasn’t pleasant, it was not the end of the world.” Her attitude about it said all. She doesn’t dwell on the negatives to bring her down.

At the event, “super woman” Cora Claudio asked how she would like to be remembered and what legacy does she want to leave behind? Martha responded that she doesn’t think about these things and just focus on what she loves doing and always do her best. The products of her efforts are her legacy, she said.

✓Cora is in charge of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) Sustainability committee to help government in the reforestation of the Laguna Lake Watershed area (10 times bigger than Singapore) in the Program on Reforestation with Development for Laguna Lake Watershed (PRD-LLW). The plan is to reforest denuded and

idle areas with bamboo and indigenous native trees. Hand in hand is vegetable farming to ensure that there will be short term crops to eat as well as livelihood and profitable business to go with it.

✓Bamboo is grass and grows so fast. According to “Bamboo King” Ed Manda and Celia Elumba, Department of Science and Technology (DoST) Director for Textiles, *kawayan tinik* bamboos, eight months to no more than two years old are good for textiles. So in a relatively short term of one year, you can already start harvesting and the beauty

is without killing the bamboo which is grass, unlike a tree.

Cora has mobilized partnerships in both private sector experts — such as Tony Oposa, Jun Palafox, Cielito

and Pilar Habito, Vince Perez, Jimmy Ladao, Toto Malvar, and Bamboo Queen Kay Jimenez, among others — and government which includes Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, DoST Secretary Fortunato dela Pena, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Director General Ching Plaza for PEZA accreditation, and the Development Bank of the Philippines’ Rolly Metin for grants and funding.

So many are passionate about the environment. The formidable group Cora harnessed for the giant task ahead has started moving.

We visited the beautiful Wonder Island Resort in the middle of Laguna de Bay graciously hosted by Rudy Pua and daughter Lanie. The lake is heavily silted due to soil erosion from deforestation and pollution. But there is hope. Working together towards reforestation and sustainability development, we may have a legacy to leave behind.

FINEX FOLIO
FLOR G. TARRIELA

.....
FLOR GOZON TARRIELA is the Chairman of Philippine National Bank. She is the Liaison Director for Environment of FINEX Foundation. She is former Undersecretary of Finance and the First Filipina Vice President of Citibank N.A. Contact her at ftarriela@yahoo.com.





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IMPACT ON LOW-COST HOUSING

BAGUIO DEVELOPERS WARY OF BAN ON TREE CUTTING, NEW BUILDINGS

BAGUIO CITY—Real estate brokers and developers here are cautious about a moratorium on tree cutting and construction of high-rise buildings proposed by the city government, saying they are worried about its impact on property owners' rights and local housing projects.

The consensus of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association Inc. (Creba) is that members will heed Mayor Benjamin Magalong's call for the suspension of development activities that require displacing trees or building high-rise structures, Creba Baguio president, Ramon Tagle, told reporters on Wednesday.

The proposed moratorium, which has been transmitted to Malacañang for approval and for funding assistance, may last from six months to a year to give the city government time to rebuild Baguio's treeline and modernize its public facilities like the sewers.

"The moratorium would be a welcome development because of the need to review the sustainability of Baguio's resources ... [given that] its land resources are finite and must not be depleted," said lawyer Pher Gedde Vera, who heads the adjudication and monitoring office of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

Position paper

But Tagle said Creba was also drafting a position paper to air their concerns about the moratorium's impact on landowners as well as low-cost housing projects.

He cited the issues raised by landowners about regulations that affect their rights. He said Creba wanted clearer guidelines

so owners would know their responsibilities "regarding the cutting of trees and the type of development they would like to make on their properties."

Tagle said a moratorium could also affect social housing plans. There are few lands available for low-cost housing in the city, he said, and new high-rise tenement buildings are the only options left for social housing.

The social housing industry has not been profitable because of the rising cost of construction materials, said Denver Claveria, president for North Luzon of the Association of Socialized and Economic Housing Developers of the Philippines.

Responsible construction

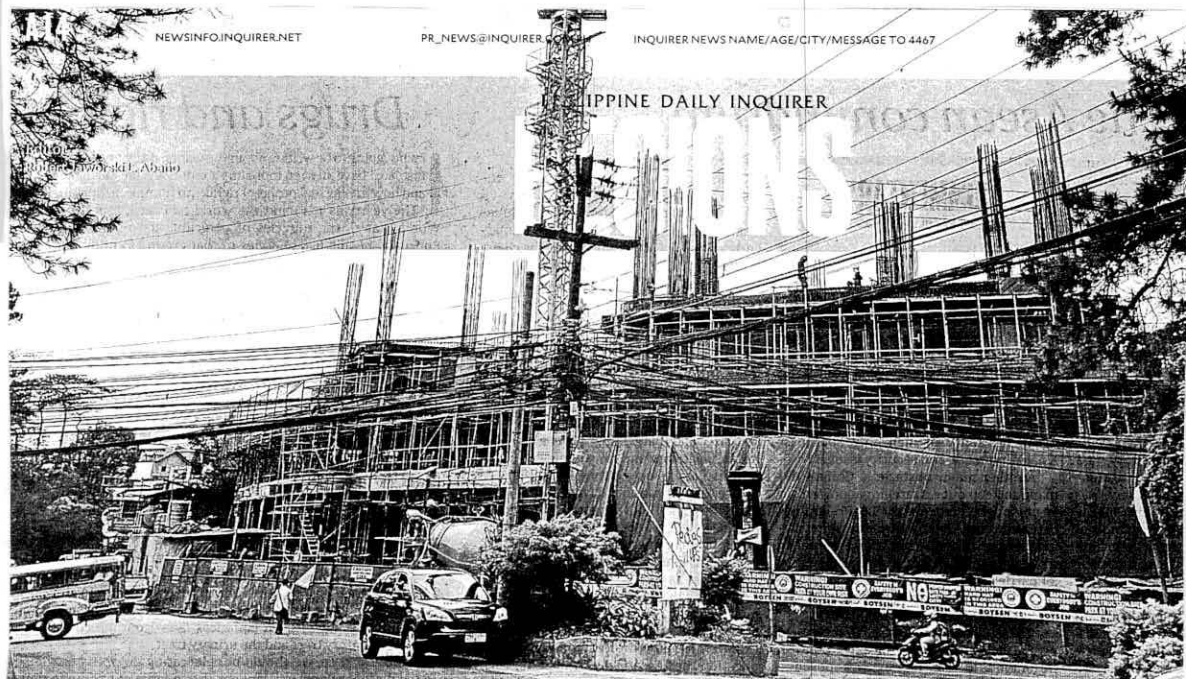
Tagle said Creba and the builders industry had not seen a copy of the draft moratorium which Magalong drew up to address complaints about overcrowding and unregulated construction boom.

Most complaints center on building projects that have violated a height limit of eight stories. As many as 52 buildings have exceeded the prescribed limit, the Inquirer learned.

But developers are ready to undertake building projects "responsibly," Tagle said.

Government engineers have said that the city's bigger concern was the stability of tall buildings, not their height.

Tagle said the industry had been assured that buildings intended for low-income families would be exempted from the planned moratorium. Baguio's housing backlog is between 7,000 and 10,000 units. —VINCENT CABREZA AND KIMBERLIE QUITASOL INQ



BUILDING BOOM New buildings are rising in Baguio City's business district and its surrounding areas, altering the skyline of the once lush summer capital. —VALERIE DAMIAN



ANDREW TAN'S ALLIANCE GLOBAL 'ADOPTS' ILOILO CITY FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCY

Alliance Global Group, Inc. (AGI), the holding company of tycoon Dr. Andrew L. Tan, has chosen Iloilo City as its 'adopted city' in the National Resiliency Council's (NRC) Adopt-A-City program for climate and disaster resiliency. AGI, through its real estate company Megaworld, has a huge stake in Iloilo City as it develops the 72-hectare Iloilo Business Park in Mandurriao district. Leading the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were (L-R) Ambassador Roberto R. Romulo, National Resiliency Council Convenor; Hon. Jerry Treñas, Iloilo City Mayor; Kevin Andrew Tan, CEO, AGI and chief strategy officer, Megaworld; and Ma. Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, president, National Resiliency Council.





Grab pilot tests tourist ride in Intramuros

The Department of Tourism (DOT) has partnered with Grab Philippines to offer tourists in Intramuros a more eco-friendly way to go around Manila's Walled City.

DOT and Grab Philippines launched Wednesday GrabWheels, a two-wheel personal mobility device (PMD) that tourists can use to roam around Intramuros.

Under a memorandum of understanding with the Intramuros Administration, Grab Philippines said it would deploy 30 GrabWheels units in Intramuros which the public can use free of charge for a three-month period.

"It's a trial period for three months, we're offering it for free, then after three months we can look at the uptake and decide whether we extend it for the free period or we start charging," Grab Philippines president Brian Cu told reporters.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat expressed her optimism for the project, adding that she hopes this could be replicated in other parks in the country.

"This is keeping with the efforts of the DOT to inculcate a culture of sustainable tourism. This is what we envision to do to some, and ideally, to all of our destinations," Puyat said.

"We want visitors to have access to an eco-friendly but



In photo (from left) are Leo Emmanuel Gonzales, Grab Philippines public affairs head; Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat; Rep. Sol Aragones of the 3rd District of Laguna; and Brian Cu, Grab Philippines president on board GrabWheels.

fun mode of transportation," she added.

IA administrator Guiller Asido said GrabWheels will provide less carbon footprint and also reduce traffic congestion, a major problem in the area.

"This is just a pilot test. After a month, we will review its reception and determine the necessary mechanisms and setting of fees to make it sustainable, Asido said.

Meanwhile, Grab Philippines also signed an MOU with the DOT to promote the

country's natural wonders, tourist attractions, heritage and culture to both local and foreign tourists.

In line with this, Grab said partner vehicles operating within the region shall highlight and disseminate digital tourism materials produced and developed by the DOT.

"As the Philippines' leading everyday Super App, Grab recognizes our unique role beyond our core service offerings of transportation and mobility. We are humbled to be working

with the DOT as its partner in promoting tourist attractions in the Philippines," Cu said.

Puyat said she hopes the partnership would help raise more awareness for sustainable tourism practices.

"Sustainability demands that our planning and resources management must be responsible. Conversely, it should also maintain a high level of satisfaction and ensure a meaningful experience of our tourists," she said.

- Catherine Talavera

DOT, GRAB launch eco-friendly 'ride' in Intramuros



(From left) Leo Emmanuel Gonzales, Grab Philippines Public Affairs Head; Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat; Congresswoman Sol Aragones of the 3rd District of Laguna; and Brian Matthew Cu, Grab Philippines President on board GrabWheels.

EXPLORING historic Intramuros can now be more fun after the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Intramuros Administration (IA) and Grab Philippines forged a partnership that will launch "GrabWheels", a two-wheel, personal mobility device (PMD) that tourists can use to roam around the picturesque Walled City.

In the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on Wednesday between IA and Grab, the latter committed the deployment of at least 30

units of GrabWheels, to be made available for the use of the public within Intramuros, free-of-charge for a period of three months.

"This is in keeping with the efforts of the DOT to inculcate a culture of sustainable tourism. This is what we envision to do to some, and ideally, to all of our destinations. We want visitors to have access to an eco-friendly but fun mode of transportation," said Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat who was present during the MOU signing.

Puyat stressed, "Sustainability demands that our planning and resources management must be responsible. Conversely, it should also maintain a high level of satisfaction and ensure meaningful experience of our tourists. This partnership, hopefully, will raise their awareness about environmental issues and allow them to experience firsthand these sustainable tourism practices."

Atty. Guiller Asido of the IA noted that these PMDs will provide less carbon footprint and

likewise significantly reduce traffic congestion, a major problem in the area.

"This is just a pilot test. After a month, we will review its reception and determine the necessary mechanisms and setting of fees to make it sustainable," said Asido.

Meanwhile, Grab also committed to promote Philippine tourism by disseminating tourism materials produced and developed by the DOT and its attached agencies through its massive fleet of operators.



Disaster risk resilience: Key to protecting vulnerable communities

By ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA

The past five years have been the hottest on record in Asia and the Pacific. Unprecedented heatwaves have swept across our region, cascading into slow onset disasters such as drought. Yet heat is only part of the picture. Tropical cyclones have struck new, unprepared parts of our region and devastatingly frequent floods have ensued. In Iran, these affected 10 million people this year and displaced 500,000 of which half were children. Bangladesh is experiencing its fourth wave of flooding in 2019. Last year, the state of Kerala in India faced the worst floods in a century.

This is the new climate reality in Asia and the Pacific. The scale of forecast economic losses for the region is sobering. Including slow-onset disasters, average annualised losses until 2030 are set to quadruple to about \$675 billion compared to previous estimates. This represents 2.4 percent of the region's GDP. Economic losses of such magnitude will undermine both economic growth and our region's efforts to reduce poverty and inequality, keeping children out of schools and adults of work. Basic health services will be undermined, crops destroyed and food security jeopardised. If we do not act now, Asia-Pacific's poorest communities will be among the worst affected.

Four areas of Asia and the Pacific are particularly impacted, hotspots which combine vulnerability to

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must include investment in social protection as the most effective means of reducing poverty. Conditional cash transfer systems can be particularly effective as was shown in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Increasing pre-arranged risk finance and climate risk insurance is also crucial. While investments needed are significant, in most countries these are equivalent to less than half the costs forecast to result from natural disasters.

The use of technological innovations to protect the region from natural disasters must go hand in hand with these investments. Big data reveal patterns and associations between complex disaster risks and predict extreme weather and slow onset disasters to improve the readiness of our economies and our societies. In countries affected by typhoons, big data applications can make early warning systems stronger and can contribute to saving lives and reducing damage. China and India are leading the way in using technology to warn people of impending disasters, make their infrastructure more resilient

and deliver targeted assistance to affected farmers and citizens.

Asia and the Pacific can learn from this best practice and multilateral cooperation is the way to give scale to our region's disaster resilience effort. With this ambition in mind, representatives from countries across the region are meeting in Bangkok this week at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to explore regional responses to natural disasters. Their focus will include strengthening Asia-Pacific's Disaster Resilience Network and capitalising on innovative technology applications for the benefit of the broader region. This is our opportunity to replicate successes, accelerate drought mitigation strategies and develop a regional sand and dust storm alert system. I hope the region can seize it to protect vulnerable communities from disaster risk in every corner of Asia and the Pacific.

(Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific or ESCAP).

Disaster... From page 13

climate change, poverty and disaster risk. In transboundary river basins in South and South-East Asia such as the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basin, floods alternate with prolonged droughts. In South-East Asia and East and North-East Asia earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides threaten poor populations in the Pacific Ring of Fire. Intensifying sand and dust storms are blighting East, Central and South-west Asia. Vulnerable populations in Pacific Small Islands Developing States are five times more at risk of disasters than a person in South and South-East Asia. Many countries' sustainable development prospects are now directly dependent on their exposure to natural disasters and their ability to build resilience.

Yet this vicious cycle between poverty, inequalities and disasters is not inevitable. It can be broken if an integrated approach is taken to investing in social and disaster resilience policies. As disasters disproportionately affect the poor, building resilience



Manila ranks 43rd of 60 in Safe Cities Index

By JANVIC MATEO

While still lagging behind other major cities worldwide, Manila has improved its ranking in the 2019 Safe Cities Index released by the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit.

Manila ranked 43rd overall out of the 60 cities included in the report, up from 55th in the last index released in 2017.

The report measures the safety of cities by looking at 57 indicators grouped into four pillars: digital, health, infrastructure and personal security.

Per pillar, Manila ranked 45th on digital security; 48th on health security; 46th in infrastructure security; and 40th in personal security.

For the third time, Tokyo, Japan was ranked as the safest city among the 60 included in the report.

It was followed by Singapore, Osaka (Japan), Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and Sydney (Australia).

Completing the top 10 are Toronto (Canada), Washington D.C. (United States), Copenhagen (Denmark), Seoul (South Korea) and Melbourne (Australia).

At the bottom are Bogota (Colombia), New Delhi (India), Jakarta (Indonesia), Casablanca (Morocco), Cairo (Egypt), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Karachi (Pakistan), Yangon (Myanmar), Caracas (Venezuela) and Lagos (Nigeria).

According to the report, the 2019 Index introduced major revisions designed to

better measure "urban resilience" or the ability of cities to absorb and bounce back from shocks.

It noted that the concept has had an increasing influence on thinking in urban safety over the last decade, especially as policymakers worry about the implications of climate change.

"Urban management will play a fundamental role in defining the quality of life of most human beings in the coming years. A key element of this will be the ability of cities to provide security for their residents, businesses and visitors," it added.

The results, it noted, highlighted the importance of addressing basic requirements in each of the pillars.



The Earth will remember humans for the mess we left behind

By Faye Flam

SOME SCIENTISTS are trying to name our current geologic epoch after us — calling it the Anthropocene. That's no brag, because most of the changes we're making to our planet are embarrassing.

We've caused huge shifts in the plants and animals sharing the planet with us, driven many species to extinction, left a layer of radioactive fallout from exploding nuclear bombs, accidentally changed the composition of our atmosphere, and left a layer of plastic that will in all

likelihood still be around in a million years.

Long after time and erosion have turned all our feats of art and engineering to dust, our mess will remain. Naming this era after ourselves is more of a confession. That acknowledgement is a first step toward strategies for minimizing our damaging influence.

A fascinating feature in *Nature* this month describes the search for what scientists call a golden spike — a marker somewhere on the planet displaying a clear, sharp signature of significant change that would mark the dawn of the Anthropocene. What makes the process interesting

isn't what they settle on as a starting point, but what it's revealing about the way humans have become an earth-changing force, and how long human-wrought changes will persist. With that understanding could come strategies for minimizing our damaging influence.

These scientists are coming to favor atomic bomb blasts of the 1950s, which are leaving a long-lasting layer of isotopes in lake beds and deposits of ice. People have also considered the advent of widespread chicken farming, which leaves behind the bones of almost 60 billion birds each year.

There is a subjectivity to this

process, said planetary scientist David Grinspoon, whose book *Earth in Human Hands* makes a case for the Anthropocene. A person exploring Earth 50 million years from now may not find any obvious signs that we were here, he said, but if they were trained archaeologists and did some digging, they would see that something extraordinary happened.

Naysayers argue that we don't warrant our own geologic era because we are too short-lived a species. We've only been around 200,000 years, and for most of this time we did nothing to cause lasting change. It wasn't until 50,000 years ago that people

Long after time and erosion have turned all our feats of art and engineering to dust, our mess will remain. Naming this era after ourselves is more of a confession. That acknowledgement is a first step toward strategies for minimizing our damaging influence.



started to spread around the globe, leaving in our wake a wave of extinctions of the animals we liked to eat. And it was only in the last century — insignificant in geologic time — that we've really started adding new materials, such as plastics, to the geologic strata. Geologic time is long, and our existence short, at least so far.

But we can already know that our influence on the planet will last into geologic time. The nuclear remnants of our bomb blasts will last for hundreds of thousands of years, and so will traces of those mountains of plastic we've been throwing away, some of which is already forming a new kind of stone, dubbed plasti-

glomerate. Scientists estimate that human-generated changes in the chemistry and temperature of our oceans will persist for thousands of years after we learn how to stop burning fossil fuel.

In Greenland's ice cap, layers dating back to the Roman era show contamination with industrial lead. Leaded gasoline from the 20th century will leave an even bigger layer that also includes cadmium, arsenic and chemical changes that took place when the ozone layer sprung a hole. (While the edges of the ice are melting fast, the cap itself, and buried traces of our pollution, could last another million years.)

Even more profound will be the



change in the fossil record of life. The United Nations recently estimated that, globally, human activity is likely to cause a million species to go extinct. We don't really know how many species exist now; biologists have cataloged about two million but estimate a total of around 10 million.

Another recent study showed that we've already radically changed the populations of living things — destroying 83% of all wild animals and half of wild plants. Currently, researchers estimate, 96% of mammals today are humans or livestock, and only 4% are wild animals.

To make the Anthropocene official, a committee called the "Anthropocene Working Group" will need to

agree on a golden spike and create a proposal, which would eventually come up for approval from the International Union of Geological Sciences. But even without official sanction, the idea is catching on in the popular imagination.

Back in the 20th century, when I wrote about the predictions that greenhouse gases were warming the globe, people accused me of being arrogant for even thinking human beings could affect this vast planet. But the Earth is not, as long believed, too vast to be changed by humans, and with a population of 7 billion and climbing, we are not too small to leave an indelible mark. ■

BLOOMBERG OPINION



30 AUG 2019

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EDITORIAL

Climate change

GOVERNMENT officials, scientists and researchers have adopted what experts described as a meaningful resolution which aims to help address the adverse effects of climate change.

The landmark resolution was adopted by participants to the first-ever ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Bamboo Congress held in the Philippines from August 12 to 19.

The gathering of experts, including Filipinos, was organized by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The resolution calls for the creation of the ASEAN Bamboo Network, which is tasked to explore the vast potentials of bamboo for environmental sustainability and economic resiliency.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), described the resolution as a "decisive output" of the five-day conference.

Cimatu said the international gathering brought together experts within the ASEAN region, as well as representatives from the World Bamboo Organization, Brazil, Qatar and Peru.

"With this resolution, we are assuring that we will put our utmost endeavors in the continuous research and development in bamboo production technologies," said the DENR secretary.

Bamboo is a versatile renewable resource that protects the environment, improves the microclimate, controls soil erosion, protects riverbanks, and serves as windbreak.

But the participants also acknowledged that promoting bamboo for climate change adaptation and mitigation entails innate challenges that need science-based decision-making.

Thus, the creation of the ASEAN Bamboo Network is a move in the right direction considering the worsening of climate change, which is brought about by society's addiction to fossil fuels.



Save the Amazon



Rev. Fr. Antonio Cecilio T. Pascual

SERVANT LEADER

BROTHERS and sisters, the conflagration occurring in the Amazon forests in South America is indeed worrisome, particularly in parts of Brazil, which is home to over 3 million species of animals and plants. The lives of over a million indigenous peoples there are also in danger. This is one great tragedy that is not only affecting Brazil but also the entire planet. The Amazon rainforests are the “lungs of the Earth,” because it’s where 20 percent of the oxygen in the planet comes from. It also slows the effect of global warming, which causes climate change.

According to the Brazil National Institute for Space Research, over 70,000 cases of fires from January to June this year have occurred in parts of the Amazon within the territories of the country. Scientists and indigenous groups even added that these were not simple forest fires that occurred in times of drought. The wide deforestation that paves the way for destructive businesses like logging, mining, and cattle ranching are considered causes of fires in the Amazon, and it is said that these businesses have permission from the Brazilian government. President Jair Bolsonaro’s administration denied these allegations, and even said that nongovernment organizations and critics intentionally caused the fires in order to ruin the president’s image to other countries.

In the World Wildlife Fund or WWF’s forecast, if the destruction of the Amazon rainforests continues, 27 percent of these rainforests will ultimately lose all of the trees by the year 2030. The effects of this to the world are not a joke as they affect the current generation and the future of mankind. Parallel to the loss of trees, plants, and animals in that area of the world is the loss of balance in nature.

It is said in the Catholic social teaching *Centesimus Annus* by Pope John Paul II, God gave the world to man in order for all to live without disregard and prejudice. This is where the social principles of the Church are rooted regarding the universal destination of earthly goods. It cannot be that only a few will benefit from the

Earth’s resources, while many are denied the opportunity to prosper from these blessings given by God. The book of *Proverbs 22:2* said: “Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.”

It is also unacceptable that a few are destroying worldly treasures for their own interests without regard to its effects, not only in nature, but also in our fellowmen. The destruction of nature, regardless of how they say it is for development, is the destruction of our common home, as Pope Francis said in his encyclical *Laudato Si’*. The Saint Pope compared our planet to a sobbing brother—crying because of cruelty and abuse. We burn his forests (like what is happening in the Amazon now). We break down his mountains without care and regard for its effects in the coming generations. If we will not take action to preserve and care for nature now, there will come a time when we ourselves would lose our homes, food, and even our lives.

Brothers and sisters, God gave us the world as a blessing of creation, and we have no right to violate this for the sake of future generations. Which is why being far away from the Amazon is not an excuse for us not to know the situation there because this is where the future of all creation is at stake.

Make it a habit to listen to Radio Veritas 846 Ang Radyo ng Simbahan in the AM band, or through live streaming at www.veritas846.ph and follow its Twitter and Instagram accounts @veritasph and YouTube at veritas846.ph. For your comments, e-mail veritas846pr@gmail.com.



PUSONG PANALO

ni Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas III

ANG nasusunog na rainforest ng Amazon sa Brazil ay isa sa pinakamalaking bali-tang gumulat sa lahat kamakailan. Nasa isang buwan nang naglilibay ang mga kagubatan doon at marami na ring hayop ang namamatay. Sa buong taon, mahigit na sa 80,000 sunog sa

bansang ito ang naitala ng kanilang space re-search center.

Nakababahala ang sitwasyon sapagkat tu-maas ng 85% ang bilang ng sunog kumpara sa nakaraang taon, at ki-tang-kita ang usok mula sa kalawakan. May na-kuhang mga litrato ang European Space Agency

astronaut na si Luca Parmitano. Malawakan na rin ang atensiyon ng publiko lalo na sa so-cial media. Maraming protesta ang nailunsad sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo at maging ang mga celebrity, mga lider, at prominenteng mga tao ay nananawagan na upang magkaroon ng agarang aksiyon para maapula ang mga sunog.

Ayon sa NASA, tuyo ang mga buwan ng Hulyo at Agosto sa

rainforest ng Amazon at nagtatagal ito hang-gang Nobyembre. Bu-kod pa ryan, ang apoy ay kalimitang ginagamit upang patagin ang lupa para sa pag-aalaga ng hayop, partikular ang baka.

Kahit pa malayo sa atin sa Filipinas ang lu-gar na ito at hindi pa tayo direktang apektado, ma-halaga pa rin ang aksi-yon. Kung magtutulong-tulong ang lahat upang gumawa ng hakbang na

makatutulong sa pag-sagip hindi lamang sa Amazon rainforest, kun-di pati na rin ang mga kagubatan at kalikasan sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo, mas malaki ang mabuting epekto nito para sa ating mundo at lahat ng nakatira rito.

Sa Lunes ay ibaba-hagi ko ang ilan sa mga hakbang o aksiyon na maaari nating gawin upang makatulong sa problemang ito.

(Itutuloy)

TULONG PARA SA AMAZON



KUNG tutuusin, magandang panimula ang paghingi ng tawad ng Tsino na may-ari ng bangka na nakabangga sa bangkang Pinoy na may 22 tripulante sa Recto Bank noong buwan ng Hunyo.

Maganda dahil may umamin at nagpakilala na sila ang may responsibilidad sa pangyayari at hindi katulad noong unang mga araw na nangangapa tayong lahat sa puntong ito.

Maganda ring isipin na hinihiling nilang iharap sa kanila ang mga perwisyong natamo ng may-ari at mga tripulante at handa silang tumugon ayon sa patakaran ng insurance na nakasasakop sa kanila.

Maging ang pamahalaang Tsina ay nagsorry na rin ngunit ipinaraan ito sa diplomatikong paraan.

Yung bang === gobyerno sa gobyerno.
BASAG ANG MGA

KRITIKO

Anoman ang anyo ng pangyayari, kung sinadya o hindi, nagkaroon ng inisyatiba at sariling imbestigasyon ang mga Tsino at dito na nga naging malinaw ang lahat.

Sa palagay ng ating bubwit, parang katulad din ang pangyayari ng nagaganap sa atin.

Karaniwan na hangga't maaari, gusto nating itago o pagtakpan sa una ang ating mga pagkakamali lalo na kung naririyang ang mga pagdududa kung walang klarong pagkakilanlan sa atin.

Sa madaling salita, kung walang malinaw na ebidensya.

Pero kung may ibang mga bagay nang sangkot na ikadadamay ng iba o iiral ang konsensya, saka tayo aamin gaya ng ginawa ng mga Tsinong nakabangga.

Ang iba na pangyayari ukol sa Recto Bank incident ay ang presyur na diplomatiko at opinyong

PAG-SORRY NG TSINA AT TULUNGAN NG LAHAT

publiko sa Pilipinas at Tsina na maaaring makasira sa relasyon ng Tsina at Pilipinas.

Nabasag ang paniniwala ng mga oposisyon sa Pinas na pagtatakan ng Tsina ang sarili nilang kababayan at binabalewala lamang tayong mga Pinoy.

At masama pa, sinasabi ng mga kritiko na pinababayaan mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang sarili nating mga kababayan.

At sadyang ayaw nilang unawain ang mga hakbang ni Pang. Duterte na kamtin ang katarungan para sa ating mga mangingisda.

Pero sa huli, napatunayang mali ang mga kritiko.

KAHANGA-HANGA

Isang kahanga-hangang gawa ang paghingi mismo ng pamahalaang Tsina sa ginawa ng kanilang mga mamamayan sa mga Filipino na matapos mabangga ang sasakyan sa dagat ay basta na lang sila iniwas sa posibleng kamatayan.

Maalala ba ninyo ang masaker sa Luneta na ikinatatay ng maraming

Tsino makaraan silang ratratin ng armalite ni Rolando Mendoza na isang pulis?

Walo ang napatay na Tsino at pito ang nasugatan.

Makaraan ang pangyayari at hanggang umalis si Noynoy, kailanman ay hindi nag-sorry ito.

Basta ang naging katwiran nito, hindi naman daw sangkot ang pamahalaan noon.

Si Mayor Erap pa ang humingi ng tawad sa mga Tsino at sinundan ito ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Dahil sa ginawa nina Mayor Erap at Pang. Digong, humupa ang galit ng mga Tsino.

Sa totoo lang, kung paano tayo nagalit sa ginawa ng mga Tsino sa dagat sa ating 22 mangingisda, nagalit din sila sa atin.

Maging ang ating mga OFW nga sa Taiwan at Hong Kong ay nakaranas ng matinding tampo ng mga lahing Tsino dahil sa Luneta masaker.

Pero humupa nga ang lahat nang humingi na ng sorry ang ating mga lider ng bansa.

PAGKAKATAONG

BUMAWI

Batay sa pahayag ng may-ari at asosasyon ng mga mangingisda na kinapapalooban nito, naririyang na ang pagkakataon ng mga mangingisda nating bumawi.

Dapat na kalapin na ng mga mangingisdang biktima ang nawala sa kanila at maglista ng mga perwisyo.

Ang may-ari ng bangkang Gemver 1 ay dapat ding maglista ng nasira sa bangka.

Baka pupwedeng isali na rin ang mga tinatawag na "lost opportunities" o yung mga dapat na pagkakaroon ng kita na nasira dahil sa naganap na disgrasya.

Ilahad lahat ng ito sa may-ari at ang kanyang asosasyon para sa ka-ukulang claim.

At tiyak na kikilos ang gobyernong Duterte para kahit papaano ay makabawi ang lahat.

Maaaring magkaroon ng mga tawaran dahil hindi natin alam kung ano talaga, halimbawa, ang takbo ng insurance na gamit ng may-ari ng bangka.

Ang pinakamahalaga talaga, may umamin at

bukas ito sa pag-uusap.
TUMULONG LAHAT

Para makamit ng mga Pinoy na biktima ang katarungan at maipaglaban ng ating pamahalaan ang karapatan natin, maging sa karagatan at sa harap ng mga makapangyarihang dayuhan, dapat na tumulong ang lahat.

Hindi magandang tingnan na lahat na lang ng pagkakataon ay kontrabida tayo at kahit maliit na bagay ay ating pinalalaki para lang masabing tayo ang tama at mali ang iba.

At tayo ang bida samantalang kontrabida ang iba.

Napakalakas ng ating bansa kung tayo ay nagkakaisa at hindi sa-pat ang matatag na paninindigan ng ating mga lider at pamahalaan kung hindi natin sila tulungan.

Tama na ang mga wala sa lugar at laging pagkontra sa kilos ng ating pamahalaan na gumagawa lahat ng kanya nito para sa ikabubuti nating lahat.

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