

DATE : 02 MAY 2019

DAY : Thursday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



## DENR official welcomes DILG order to enforce 'no STP, no permit' policy

**A**N official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) lauded the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for imposing on all local government units (LGUs) a "no STP, no permit" policy for business establishments.

"The policy will ensure compliance of the Clean Water Act and the order of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu requiring all business establishments to either connect to sewer lines or put up their own sewage treatment plant [STP]," DENR Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones, Cimatu's designated spokesman, told the BUSI-

NESSMIRROR in an interview.

"The interagency cooperation between the DENR, DILG and DOT [Department of Tourism] is ideal because it demonstrates the Duterte administration's resolve to address water pollution, like in Boracay and Manila Bay," Leones, also the DENR's undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs said.

Leones was reacting to Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año's call to LGUs not to issue building permits to establishments unless their design of the hygienic septic tank or wastewater treatment facility conforms to existing environmental laws and policies.

What happened in Boracay, Leones said, can be avoided in other beach resorts or tourism spots had the policy been implemented a long time ago.

"We also appreciate the DILG ordering every barangay to clean up esteros within their jurisdiction," Leones said, noting that the indiscriminate dumping of garbage do not only pollute waterways but also cause clogging that cause flooding in many areas.

The DENR official said Cimatu has issued an order mandating all business establishments, particularly in Boracay, the country's top tourist destination in Malay, Aklan,

and Manila Bay area to connect to sewer lines or have their own STPs installed as mandated by the Clean Water Act of 2004.

The DENR, DILG and DOT are major players in the rehabilitation of Boracay and Manila Bay, forming part of the interagency bodies tasked to conduct the massive rehabilitation.

While the DENR is issuing cease-and-desist orders along with Notice of Violation to business establishments that fail to comply with environmental laws, the DOT is holding the issuance of accreditation to establishments that contribute to environmental degradation. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard

134  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## MANILA BAY UPDATE.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Sherwin Rigor (second from right), meets with representatives from DPWH, MMDA and Manila Yacht Club to discuss issues and to update the progress of the desilting work from the US Embassy to MYC in Manila. So far, over 25,000 tons of silt and plastics have been extracted near the US Embassy. Extraction will take several months and technology support is expected. Others in photo (from left) are Randy Dabu of Clean Leaf Int'l Corp, Engr. Mario L. Marasigan and Engr. Rimeo F. Susin of DPWH, MYC Commodore Robert Lim Joseph, and Emmanuel S. Garma of Clean Leaf.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard

B4  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

# MGB: No sand, gravel being shipped to China

**S**AN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique—The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has clarified that there is no sand and gravel being quarried in the province of Antique and being shipped to China.

MGB Regional Director Roger A. de Dios said in an interview Tuesday that he has no knowledge of any Mineral Ore Export Permit applicant in Antique or even in Western Visayas.

“There has been no MOEP applicant since October when I assumed as director,” he said.

De Dios added that as the Provincial Mining Regulatory board chairman of Antique he also has no knowledge of a large scale quarrying permittee in the province.

“There are right now 94 permittees in Antique but there is no large scale permittee,” he said.

He said that large-scale permittees that transport sand and gravel internationally

would need a 50,000-ton cargo vessel to transport 30,000 cubic sand and gravel.

“In Antique, the cargo vessels that dock on its port are only about 3,000 tons,” he said.

He said it is impossible as it will be very costly for other permittees of sand and gravel to do “double handling” by using a smaller vessel from Antique and then transferring it to a bigger vessel for China.

Meanwhile, Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Officer Andres Untal, who was with De Dios during the interview, said if there are sand and gravel being shipped from Antique, it is only within the Philippines.

“If you see the paper trail the ship-

ment are in Guimaras, Negros Occidental, Palawan, Mindoro and Romblon,” Untal said.

De Dios added that he has also heard that there is shipment to Kalayaan Island because of the ongoing construction of infrastructure there, but still it is within the Philippines.

The MGB director said that it is also a welcome move for Antique Governor Rhodora J. Cadio to ask the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct an investigation on who is behind the alleged quarry operations being shipped to China. She said her administration won’t allow such activity without proper documentation.

Cadio gave this challenge to the NBI last April 26 during the groundbreaking of its P50-million three-story district office in San Jose de Buenavista led by Assistant Director Menardo Graspasil de Lemos. PNA



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



B4  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

## Public urged to save plant, animal species from extinction

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Earth Day Network Philippines (EDNP) urged the public to save plant and animal species from extinction and maintain a well-balanced ecosystem.

Paquito Moreno, DENR executive director for Central Luzon, said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has noted that the problem of biodiversity loss may get out of hand due to irresponsible people.

"It is the responsibility of the DENR to protect wildlife, but the job may be futile without the participation of the people," Cimatu said.

The environment chief also appealed to local communities and leaders to work together to ensure that all resources – be it mining, energy or food – are sustained.

On the other hand, EDNP president Wigberto Tañada Jr. stressed that educating and raising awareness about the accelerating rate of extinction of millions of species and the causes and consequences

of this phenomenon are significant elements to prevent species loss.

He added that the increased rate of extinction of species has been largely attributed to human activity, which has permanently damaged the ecosystem.

"Lack of care or even ignorance... human activity has irretrievably upset the balance of nature," Tañada pointed out.

Statistics from Earth Day International (EDI) show that 40 percent of the world's bird species are in decline with one of eight threatened with global extinction, while the wild animal population, specifically land animals, has decreased by 40 percent.

EDI studies likewise prove that a quarter of the world's coral reefs are beyond repair, while 75 percent are at risk.

This trend, Tañada noted, cannot continue, since nature should not be neglected due to unrestrained economic interests.

"We must adopt policies that protect broad groups of species as well as individual species and their habitats, and activate a global movement that embraces nature and its values," Tañada added.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



B4  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## Wetland center for students to rise south of Manila

By PAOLO ROMERO

A wetland center that will help educate students on the importance of wetland and wildlife conservation will open at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park before the end of the year, Sen. Cynthia Villar said Monday.

"Soon, our students will have another reason to frequent the park, not only for clean-up and tree-planting activities, they will also have the wetland center to help them understand more why wetlands are important," Villar announced at the photo exhibit showcasing the work of wild bird

photographer Ed Santos at the Solaire resort hotel in Parañaque City.

The senator, who chairs the committee on environment and natural resources, stressed the conservation of wetlands like the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park is part of efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"For one, natural features of wetlands such as mangrove trees serve as barriers that protect communities against storm surges and flooding," she said.

The wetland center, which is a donation from her family, will house

a restaurant, training center, museum, souvenir shop and satellite office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held last February. The builders are awaiting the go-signal from the Philippine Reclamation Authority to begin construction.

The 175-hectare park is a Wetland of International Importance as declared by the Ramsar Convention for its critical role in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species.

One percent of the remaining black

stilts can be found in the park, or 1,000 of the remaining 100,000 in the world.

The wetland ecosystem is also home and known breeding area of Philippine ducks, a vulnerable species as listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Chinese egret, common greenshank and black-winged stilts are also found here along with 82 other wild bird species coming from as far as China, Japan and Siberia.

It has 30 hectares of mangrove forest, accepted as the thickest and most diverse in Manila Bay.

To date, 11 species of mangroves

are growing in the area. It is also a declared protected area under the Villar-authored Republic Act 11038 or the law expanding the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

Aside from the wetland, six other Ramsar sites are found in the Philippines: the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan; Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park in Sulu; Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Agusan del Sur; Naujan Lake National Park in Oriental Mindoro; Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu, and the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area.



02 MAY 2019

DATE

## Wetland, wildlife conservation to rise in Las Pinas-Paranaque

A WETLAND center that will help educate students on the importance of wetland and wildlife conservation will soon rise at the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park, Senator Cynthia Villar said.

Villar announced the development during a photo exhibit showcasing the work of wild bird photographer Ed Santos at Solaire in Paranaque. She said the wetland park will be built at the end of the year.

"Soon, our students will have another reason to frequent the park, not only for clean up and tree-planting activities, they will also have the wetland center to help them understand more why wetlands are important," Villar said.

The chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources also stressed that the conservation of wetlands like the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park, is a strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"For one, natural features of wetlands such as mangrove trees serve as barriers that protect communities against storm surges and flooding," Villar added.

The wetland center, which is a donation from the Villar Family, will house a restaurant, a training center, a museum, a souvenir shop and a satellite office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The 175-hectare Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park is a Wetland of International Importance as declared by the Ramsar Convention for its critical role in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species.

The wetland ecosystem is also home and known breeding area of Philippine ducks, a vulnerable species as listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Chinese egret, Common greenshank, and Black-winged stilts are also found in Paranaque mangroves along with 82 other wild bird species from China, Japan and Siberia.

It has 30 hectares of mangrove forest, accepted as the thickest and most diverse in Manila Bay. To date, 11 species of mangroves are growing in the area.

**Marlon Purificacion**



## House pushes creation of TWG for water security master plan

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ  
@joveemarie

To avert future water shortage, the House of Representatives has mandated six government agencies and offices to create a technical working group (TWG) that would formulate a water security master plan.

This, after the lower chamber adopted House Resolution 2547 and 2548, which seek to create a TWG on water shortage mitigation and formulate a water security master plan to secure and sustain the supply of water for household, commercial, and industrial uses in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

House Resolutions 2547 and 2548, authored by former President and now Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Committee on Metro Manila Development Chairman Rep. Winston Castelo of Quezon City, both aim to avoid the recurrence of water shortage in Metro Manila.

At present, the resolutions said the National Capital Region (NCR) and Region 3 obtain most of their water from the Angat Dam, a hydroelectric facility in Bulacan, which may no longer sustain the needs of the regions in the coming years.

HR 2547 seeks to direct the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Irrigation Authority (NIA), the Metro Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWCI), and the Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) to form a TWG to prepare and implement water shortage mitigation strategies.

These strategies would include cloud seeding by the DA, cross-border sharing, recycling of used water, arresting the causes/sources of non-revenue water, and exploration of new water resources and technology.

It also prods the Philippine government and the private sector to work together to achieve a common goal of sufficient and sustainable water supply through a holistic and feasible plan.

Meanwhile, HR 2548 particularly calls for the MWSS, the MWSS Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO), the NWRB, the LWUA, the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), the NIA, the MWCI, and the MWSI to put together a water security plan to identify sustainable water sources for the growing water supply requirements as soon as possible.

The recent water crisis faced by the Metro Manila residents serves as an eye-opener that urges the

government regulators to be more proactive in immediately addressing water service problems, especially in the dry season.

The measures also recognize that water sources, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, groundwater and rainfalls, are currently being threatened by the following: (a) pollution caused by human tampering, (b) intense consumption due to urbanization, (c) inefficient use, (d) natural disasters that damage dams and waterways with debris and contaminants, (e) man-made disaster such as war and terrorism, and (f) climate change.

### Steady supply

HR 2548 said on March 18, 2019, the MWSS already reported numerous projects to the House Committee on Metro Manila Development which will ensure a steady supply of water.

During the recent hearing of the committee, MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco announced the constructions of dams and other possible sources of water as long-term solutions on the water crisis in Metro Manila and nearby areas.

According to Velasco, the Manila Water will sign a joint-venture agreement with Enrique Razon and San Lorenzo Ruiz Water Development Corp. of Oscar Violago for the construction of a new dam, saying this dam will have a capacity of 500 million liters per day (MLD).

Also part of long-term solutions, Velasco said, is the construction of the Chinese-funded 600-MLD Kaliwa Dam.

But Velasco said the MWSS is now reviewing the construction of the 1,800-MLD Laiban/Kanan Dam due to the high number of squatter residents in the area.

Velasco said the MWSS is now looking to other possible new sources of water which include: 500-MLD Rehabilitation of Wawa Dam; 800-MLD unutilized water from Angat-Norzagaray; 350-MLD Bayabas Dam, 188-MLD Sumag River Diversion Project.

Velasco also disclosed the constructions of tunnels and aqueducts from Ipo Dam to Bigte Norzagaray and from Bigte to La Mesa Dam.

Velasco, meanwhile, said MWSS's short-term solutions include Maynilad's transfer of 10 MLD of their water allocation to Manila Water at the La Mesa Portal; energization of 100-MLD Cardona Rizal Water Treatment Plant; cross-border gate valve opening, which has a total of 50 MLD treated water from Maynilad, reactivation of standby 101 deep wells with approximately 100 MLD and deployment of mobile water tankers.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# BusinessWorld™

6/51  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

## #bworldfeed

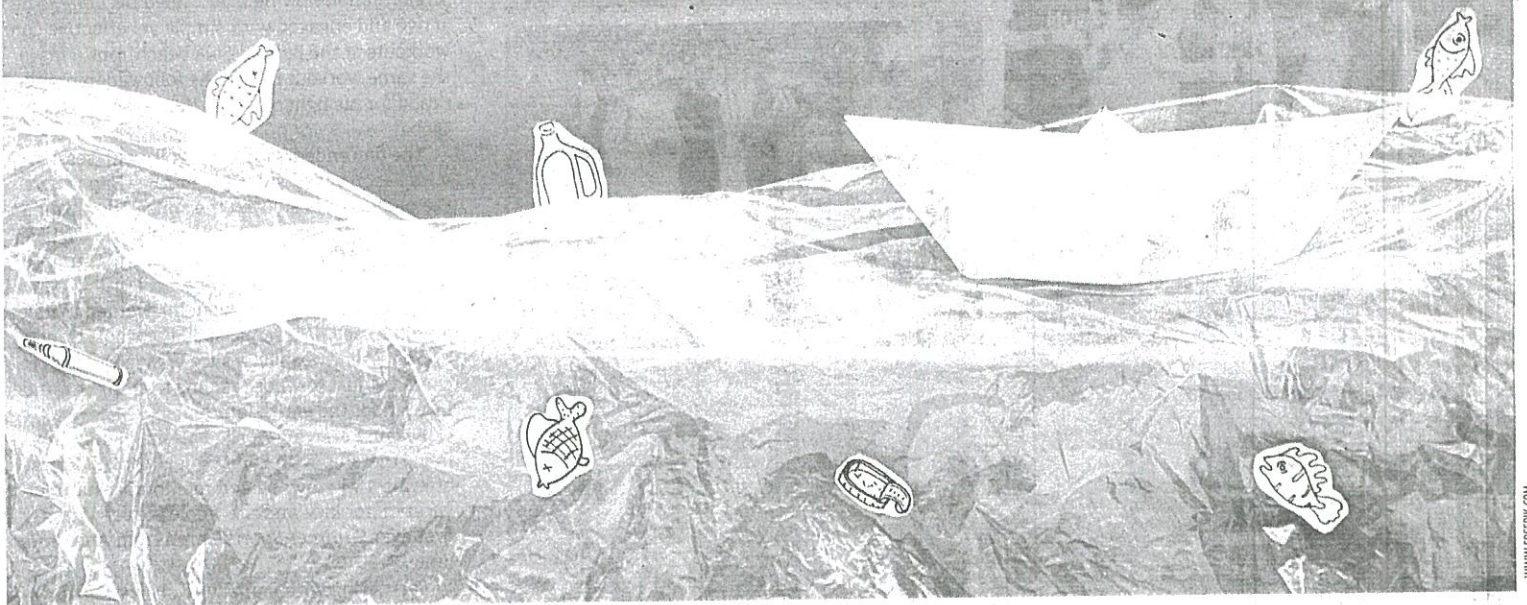
**BW** BusinessWorld @bworldph  
As the government limits the number of tourists to Boracay island, some local airlines are looking at other tourist destinations to drive passenger growth this summer.





## SPECIAL REPORT

# FOR HEALTH'S SAKE, STOP USING PLASTIC



Story & photos by Henrylito D. Tacio

**P**LASTICS, which used to be one of the most useful discoveries of modern society, has become today's scourge. They come in handy, light, malleable, unbreakable and cheap. Name it and there is always a plastic counterpart of it. Unfortunately, the price to pay is higher than its actual cost.

Plastics become so common that no one pays attention to them anymore. Once unusable, people just throw plastics away. They don't bother to recycle them, as they are cheap anyway.

Today, plastics are everywhere. Most of them end up in the oceans, where they are not needed and even pollute the waters. "I think everyone agrees that plastic waste does not belong in the ocean or the environment," said David Taylor, chairman of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), an organization of nearly 30 major industrial and

consumer-goods companies, which launched a \$1-billion initiative to tackle plastic waste.

In a report released a few years ago, the Ocean Conservancy singled out the Philippines as one of the five countries from where the majority of plastics originates. The other four countries were China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand.

"The low cost and convenience of plastic sheets, as well as inefficient waste disposal, has made the Philippines one of the world's leading plastic polluters, with tremendous negative impacts on



the environment," the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines said in a statement.

A paper, "Status of Solid Waste

Management in the Philippines," authored by Alicia Castillo and Suchiro Otoma, said that about 35,580 tons of garbage is generated



2/2

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

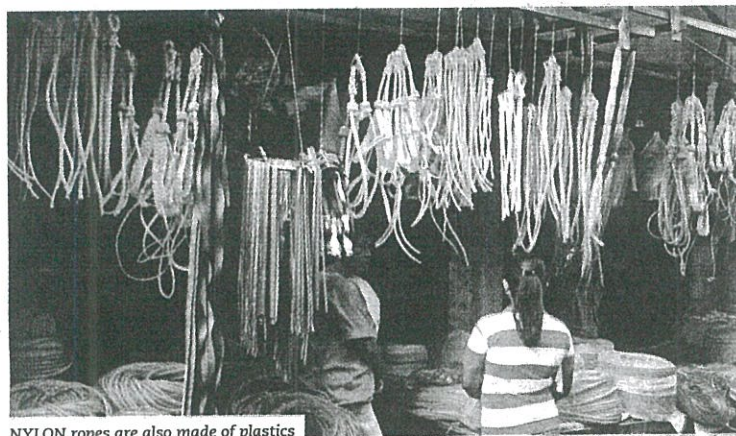
A broader look at today's business



40 kilograms of plastics found inside the belly of a whale



ONE-USE plastics are very popular in stores



NYLON ropes are also made of plastics



SARI-SARI stores display their products using plastics

every day in the country. "On the average, each person produces about 0.5 kilogram and 0.3 kilogram of garbage every day in the urban and rural areas, respectively," it stated.

It's very alarming, indeed. "We produce 2.7 metric tons of plastic waste every year," deplored Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu. Based on 2017 International Coastal Cleanup report, among some of the top items listed were plastic bottles and caps, straws and stirrers, and various types of plastic bags.

Various plastics are used in the manufacture of each consumer item, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Worldwatch Institute. For fibers and textiles, polyester is used while carbonated drink bottles, peanut butter jars, plastic film, and microwaveable packaging, the material used in polyethylene terephthalate. High-density polyethylene is used for detergent bottles, milk jugs and molded plastic cases.

Bottle caps, drinking straws, yogurt containers, appliances, car fenders (bumpers), and plastic pressure pipe systems are made of polypropylene, according to the institute. Packaging foam, food containers, plastic tableware, disposable cups, plate, cutlery, and compact discs and cassette boxes come from polystyrene.

Because they are cheap, plastics

have become a part of Filipinos' daily life, stressed Juvinia P. Serafin, senior environmental management specialist of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Plastics come in the form of credit cards, food containers and package, utensils, sachet packs, kitchen wares, toys and furniture. But the most popular of them all is plastic bags, which are used only once.

"Plastics, particularly those for single-use packaging, has greatly contributed to the degradation of the environment," deplored Cimatu. "Plastic pollution continues to poison our oceans and injure marine life. When not properly disposed, they clog waterways and cause flooding."

Worldwatch Institute said that the world discard 500 billion plastic bags. "We recycle only 5 percent of the plastic we produce," it said, adding that "sunshine breaks plastic down into smaller pieces, but it doesn't go away."

Barry E. DiGregorio wrote in an article that "disposed plastic materials can remain in the environment for up to 2,000 years and longer." After all, plastics are made of materials that are supposed to last forever.

The WWF claimed that nearly 200 different marine species die due to ingestion and choking from

plastic bags.

"Discarded plastic bands encircle mammals, fish, and birds and tighten as their bodies grow," reminded the Washington, D.C.-based World Resources Institute. "Turtles, whales and other marine mammals have died after eating plastic sheeting."

The Philippines became the toast of international media when it was found that the cause of death of a whale was ingesting 40 kilograms of plastics. "Plastic was just bursting out of its stomach," Darrell Blatchley, who conducted the post-mortem of the whale, told National Geographic. "We pulled out the first bag, then the second. By the time we hit 16 sacks—on top of the plastic bags, and the snack bags, and big tangles of nylon ropes, you're like seriously?"

He could not believe what he saw. "The plastic in some areas was so compact it was almost becoming calcified, almost like a solid brick," he was quoted as saying by *The New York Times*. "It had been there for so long it had started to compact."

What most people don't know that plastics also affect human health. Studies have found that toxic chemicals leach out of plastic and are found in the blood and tissue of nearly all of human beings. Two broad classes of plastic-related are of critical concern for human

health: bisphenol A and additives used in the synthesis of plastics, which are known as phthalates. This was found out in a study conducted by the Arizona State University Biodesign Institute.

Exposure to these toxic chemicals is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments, it said.

Another concern: microplastics, which are generally less than 5 millimeters in diameter. "[These] can harm juvenile fish which can ultimately harm fish stock," Serafin said.

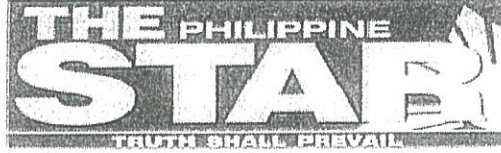
In addition, microplastics can provide the medium for the bioaccumulation of potentially toxic pollutants in the food chain. "Plastic particles can absorb industrial and agricultural pollutants causing damage to fish organs," Serafin said.

Environmentalists caution against burning those plastics to get rid of them completely. Scientists say that chlorine-based plastics, when incinerated, contribute to the formation of dioxins, a poisonous waste that forms when chlorine is exposed to extreme heat.

"Dioxins are considered highly toxic and are implicated in weakening the immune system, affecting fetal development and causing a skin disorder called chloracne," wrote Cynthia P. Shea, a former staff member of Worldwatch Institute.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



02 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

## *UN considers plan to minimize plastic*

GENEVA – Over 180 countries have opened a UN-backed conference on waste and hazardous chemicals amid hopes it could produce a sweeping agreement toward minimizing generation of plastic waste, which has formed a gigantic mass of litter floating in the ocean.

Rolph Payet of the United Nations Environment Program says he hasn't heard "any serious objections" among participants in the two-week Geneva conference starting Monday to a proposal issued last year by Norway, which also aims to improve management of plastic waste flows between countries.

If approved, the proposal would require 186 countries who have agreed to the Basel Convention on hazardous waste to take steps toward those goals.

Attendees are also expected to consider a ban on perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, that has been blamed for increased cancer risks.

– AP



## Event

# Republic Cement, Unilever join forces to fight plastic pollution

ACCORDING to various reports, the Philippines is one of the largest sources of plastic waste leaking into the oceans. With the global issue of a growing population relying on limited resources, there is an increasing need to find new ways to sustain the planet.

Rising to the challenge of significantly reducing the volume of plastic waste requires collaboration and partnerships. Republic Cement and Unilever, both advocates of sustainable development, have partnered to pilot a sustainability program on waste management in Batangas.

Unilever Philippines' sachet recovery program "Surf Misis Walastik" is a flagship initiative for collection, wherein it incentivizes participants to turn over their flexible plastics in exchange for Unilever products, an efficient way of addressing post-consumer waste. In 2018 alone, it was able to collect sachets equivalent to



10,000 plastic school chairs that were donated to public schools through an NGO.

Patterned after "Misis Walastik," Republic Cement and Unilever Philippines conducted an information education campaign on sachet recovery and environmental protection in four elementary schools in communities in Taysan, Batangas. A congregation

of students, teachers, and Parent Teacher Association officers learned about the impact of plastic waste and the opportunity to become part of the solution. The collection from the program will be co-processed in Republic Cement's Batangas Plant.

"Unilever's programs, including this school-based program with Republic Cement, are grounded in partnership and collaboration of individuals, communities, and companies, and founded on a collective belief that what is good for the planet is good for all," said Ed Sunico, vice-president for sustainable business and communications of Unilever Philippines.

"We're happy to be partnering with Unilever and our communities to recover plastic waste that would otherwise pollute our environment. This initiative brings us a step closer to our collective vision of a greener, stronger republic," said Nabil Francis, president of Republic Cement Services, Inc.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

13  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019  
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

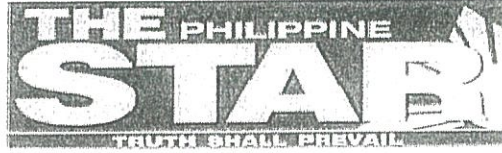


Volunteers remove trash from Mahiga creek in Cebu City during a cleanup drive yesterday.

JOY TORRELOS/THE FREEMAN



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



B4  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_



Residents in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga take part in the implementation of the city's solid waste management program, a crucial element of which is the establishment of materials recovery facilities in every barangay.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION



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# Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BAYSA

13  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 MAY 2019

DATE



**KAPIT-BISIG SA  
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Kalikasan Summit  
na nagsagawa ng  
malawakang paglilinis sa  
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sa buong bayan ng  
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proyekto na ipaunawa  
sa mga Bocaueño  
ang kahalagahan ng  
pangangalaga sa kalikasan  
at ang masamang epekto  
ng paggamit ng plastic.





LOCSIN'S PLEDGE

# CANADA'S TRASH 'SHIPPED OUT BY MAY 15'

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**  
@dpazzibuganINQ

The tons of garbage from Canada that was dumped on the country six years ago will be shipped out on May 15, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said.

Locsin on Wednesday clarified his earlier tweets that Malacañang had apparently misunderstood to mean that he would not ship back the tons of trash to Canada.

In fact, he said, "the garbage will be on ship in 15 days. No ifs or buts."

Locsin said on Twitter on Tuesday that he "reject[s] the suggestion to ship out [the trash] in a container of garbage."

In the same tweet, Locsin

said it was his mission "to nail those natives who imported Canadian garbage to our country."

He was apparently referring to the Filipino partners of Ontario-based Chronic Inc., which shipped the garbage to Manila in 103 containers in 2013 and 2014. The containers held about 2,450 tons of nonrecyclable trash, including household trash and diapers.

### Illegal importation

Adelfa Eduardo, owner of the Valenzuela City-based Chronic Plastics, and customs brokers Leonora Flores and Sherjun Saldon had been charged with violating the 1990 Act to Control Toxic Substances and Hazardous Nuclear

Waste, as well as the Tariff and Customs Code for illegally importing waste materials from Canada.

The Philippines and Canada are signatories to the 1995 Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Disposal, which provides that "the exporting country must take back the waste materials if the receiving country refuses to accept them."

President Duterte last week threatened to declare war on Canada if it did not take back its trash.

He also said he would dump the trash on Canada's beaches and on its embassy in Manila if the country refused to heed his threat. INQ



# Locsin clarifies tweet on Canada garbage

By JANVIC MATEO

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. yesterday clarified that he is not against shipping tons of garbage back to Canada.

On Twitter, Locsin accused **The STAR** of being on the payroll of the importers of the garbage for supposedly misreporting his earlier statement on the matter in an article that came out yesterday.

"In fact garbage will be on ship in 15

days. No ifs or buts," he wrote yesterday.

The secretary clarified that he was not against shipping of the trash back to Canada. What he was against, he stressed, was including the importers in the shipment "as it would be too much pollution."

**The STAR** yesterday reported that Locsin was not keen on shipping back the Canadian trash, quoting the secretary's earlier tweet and the reaction of presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo.

"It is our mission to nail those natives who imported Canadian garbage to our country. We will make them miserable for the rest of their natural lives," wrote Locsin on Twitter last Tuesday.

"However we reject the suggestion to ship them out in a container of garbage. That's too much pollution," he added, apparently referring to the importers and not the trash.

Asked about Locsin's tweet during a press briefing in Malacañang on Tuesday, Panelo said he would clarify the

matter with the secretary as he himself appeared puzzled with the statement.

"I don't understand. So where do we put the garbage? I think you should address that question to him, because I can't quite understand it," Panelo said.

"Maybe he has another idea - that something else would be used to carry the garbage instead of a container," he said in Filipino.

The spokesman noted that Locsin had earlier committed to send back the trash to Canada.



## KUNSABAGAY

NI TONY F. KATIGBAK

### Huwag n'yong gawing basurahan ang aming bansa

PABOR ako sa ginawa ni President Digong na hakbang tungkol sa basura na tinapon ng Canada sa ating bansa. Pagdating niya mula China muli na naman niyang inupakan ang Canada sapagkat desidido talaga siyang matanggal ang basura nila rito sa ating bansa. Mantakin n'yo nagsimula tayong tapunan ng basura noong 2013, ano na ngayon 2019 na hindi pa nila kinukuha. Kung hindi pa sila binigyan ng taning na 15 araw ay hindi pa sila kikilos.

Tamang hakbang ang ginawa ni Digong. Malimit ko mang birahin sa aking mga kolum pero masasabi kong

action man itong ating Presidente. Kung maalala n'yo ang Balangiga Bells, hindi niya tinigilan kulitin ang US government hanggang hindi nila ibinabalik sa ating bansa ang mga kampana. Alam kong mahalaga rin sa mga Kano ang Balangiga Bells dahil ito ay ginawa nilang trophy sa pagkapanalo sa digmaan noong Philippine American War 1901. Pero dahil kay Digong hindi umubra ang mga Amerikano. Masama man sa loob nilang ibalik ay ginawa pa rin nila.

Ngayon, hindi magkandaugaga ang Canadian government na maiwi sa kanilang bansa ang basura. Tama nga naman kung wala silang mapaglagaan ay ibubuhos daw ni Digong sa kanilang mga beach. Tinagurian man nating kanto boy, siya naman ang taong may paninindigan. Nakikita natin ang resulta ng kanyang ginagawa tulad ng paglilinis sa Boracay at Manila Bay 'di ba? Kung makikita natin ang Boracay ngayon, malaking pinagbago kaysa rati. Noon kasi, walang pakialam ang mga tao. Tapon dito, tapon doon, ang ginagawa sa kanilang basura pero ngayon pang world class na. Malinis at maayos na ang pamamahala.

*(Sundan sa pahina 5)*

### KUNSABAGAY... Mula pahina 4

Sa ginagawa ni Digong sura dahil babalik din ito agad malamang hindi na natin da- sa kanila. Hoy, hindi basura- ranasing matapunan ng ba- han ang aming bansa!