

DATE : 28 MAY 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



MAP urges holistic Laguna Lake rehabilitation for water security and eco-tourism

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Water security and the environment are major concerns of the MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP).

The recent water crisis in parts of Metro Manila exposed the Achilles Heel of Metro Manila's water security. Almost all of raw water supply currently comes from one source – Angat dam in Bulacan. The water in the dam is vulnerable to extended drought, as being experienced now and in past years. Catastrophic earthquakes are another risk to water infrastructure. Activation of the West Valley Fault is said to be overdue and there is the recent revelation of the existence of hidden earth faults similar to the one that figured in the recent earthquake in Pampanga.

Water is essential to sustain life. The government cannot allow a scenario where water supply is severely disrupted and the teeming population of metropolitan Manila area would be denied or left to struggle for water to drink, cook food, clean, and wash, and in a mass exodus out of the metropolis in a desperate dash for water from other sources.

No matter how remote the possibility of such a dire scenario, contingency measures must nevertheless be put in place. Metro Manila has a fifth of the country's population and accounts for over a third of the economy. A disaster here will inflict collateral damage to supply chains in the other regions.

It is for these reasons that MAP urges an immediate effort by the national government to emplace a failsafe water security system, with dams and Laguna Lake playing a redundant complementary role to ensure water supply, under any eventuality.

MAP INSIGHTS EDUARDO H. YAP

It is for these reasons that MAP urges an immediate effort by the national government to emplace a failsafe water security system, with dams and Laguna Lake playing a redundant complementary role to ensure water supply, under any eventuality.

Laguna Lake is the largest freshwater lake in our country and among the largest in Southeast Asia. It is an ideal, logical, inexhaustible, and proximately-located source of fresh water for Metro Manila. It is well endowed to serve as a major component of a failsafe water security system together with dams, as well as having vast potential for public recreation and eco-tourism.

Unfortunately, the water quality of Laguna Lake has, despite sporadic efforts, continuously degenerated from long years of neglect and wanton disregard for the lake's wellbeing much like other natural resources of our country. This deplorable condition persists despite Republic Act No. 4850, creating the Laguna Lake

Development Authority, and Republic Act No. 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, both of which remain to be fully implemented.

We have seen in Boracay the beneficial effects of strong political will exercised by President Duterte and concerted action taken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

We urge the President to order similar draconian measures in Laguna Lake with the issuance of an Executive Order to direct all national and local government units and instrumentalities to immediately implement all existing laws, rules, regulations and directives, particularly R.A. 4850 and 9275, to clean, rehabilitate, protect and conserve Laguna Lake and the forest cover of its watershed in the surrounding hills and mountains.

The President should make a policy declaration giving priority utilization of the lake as a viable and sustainable raw water supply for domestic, commercial and industrial uses, and that all other utilization of the lake, such as aqua and agriculture, shall be subordinated such that these secondary uses be allowed and maintained at an appropriate and sustainable level that would not conflict or put into jeopardy the priority purpose.

Pending the rehabilitation of Laguna Lake, the National Water Resources Board should prepare ready-to-implement contingency measures for implementation in the event of disruption of water supply from other sources in the minimum quantity required for the survival of the population of metropolitan Manila, and that the national security adviser shall see to it that the plan is credible, viable and all resources available for its implementation when the need arises.

The public must be warned that the government will strictly enforce existing laws that prohibit, under pain of



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MAP urges holistic Laguna lake Rehabilitation for water
Security and Eco-tourism

penalty, the dumping of waste into the lake. Polluting industries, such as factories, fish culture, poultry and livestock farms, must be strictly regulated.

All developments and structures must be banned within a no-build zone starting from the high-water mark to within, preferably, no less than fifty meters, especially in populated areas, to allow access to the public with ample space for recreation and common enjoyment of a national resource.

Necessarily, massive reforestation must be sustainably undertaken in the surrounding hills and mountains to enhance the productivity of the watershed. Ideally, indigenous wood species, fruit-bearing trees and bamboo should be utilized. No-build zones must likewise be established at the foot of the surrounding hills and mountains to guard against encroachment.

In accordance with R.A. 4850, the full potential of Laguna Lake must be harnessed to optimally utilize the resources of the lake regions, including for eco-tourism purposes, while guarding against unmanageable pollution and ecological imbalance. For public benefit, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (formerly Parks and Wildlife Bureau) should recommend and establish public recreational parks along the lakeshores.

As an alternative mode to land transportation, a lake ferry transportation system, preferably using green energy, can provide convenient, affordable and reliable connectivity between the towns and cities around the lake. Transportation connectivity is likewise necessary for convenient access to lakeshore developments.

This rehabilitation and development effort ought to be a Save Laguna Lake Movement participated in, supported and sustained by all, including private corporations as among their primary social responsibility projects. Civil society, including all environment protection organizations, is a stakeholder and must likewise participate.

Lastly, let the Laguna Lake rehabilitation be the model for all our freshwater lakes to be replicated all over the country.

EDUARDO H. YAP is the Chair of the National Issues Committee of the Management Association of the Philippines and Initiator of this advocacy approved by its board of governors.





Editorial **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

Magtatag-ulan na, problema na naman sa basura

NAGBABADYA na ang pagpasok ng tag-ulan sa bansa. Dahil dito, naghahanda na ang pamahalaan upang maiwasan ang pagbaha.

Kamakailan, nagkasa ng malawakang clean-up drive ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Baseco Beach sa Tondo, Manila.

Pagdating ng tag-ulan, tone-toneladang basura pa ang inasahang aanurin sa dalampasigan ng Baseco Beach.

Ayon sa DENR, asahang babalik ulit ang mga basura sa pampang dahil tatangayin ng agos ang mga ito pagsapit ng tag-ulan.

Nakiisa ang mga mag-aaral, volunteer ng National Youth Commission (NYC), bumbero at iba't ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno.

Masaya ang DENR dahil umabot sa 3,000 volunteers ang nakiisa sa malawakang clean-up drive noong Sabado.

'Ika nga nila, prevention is better than cure kaya paalala ng ahensiya, huwag nang maghintay ng clean-up drive at simulan na ang pamumulot ng mga basura sa ating bahay at barangay upang maiwasan ang pagbaha.



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EDITORIAL

CARTOON

28 MAY 2019
DATE



ULTIMATUM
Ni **BENNY ANTIPORDA**

**KAMBAL NA TAG-ULAN AT
EL NIÑO HANGGANG PASKO**

ANG BASURA

Kapag may ulan o bagyo, lilitaw at lilitaw ang mga basura sa lansangan mula sa kanal, ilog, estero, sapa, bahay at iba pa.

Kaya kung madaling lilitaw ang haring araw dahil sa El Niño, mas madali ang pagpulot o pagkayod sa mga basura sa lansangan at mai-biyahe ang mga ito ng mga trak ng basura sa tamang tapunan ng basura.

Pero karaniwang para sa mga bayan at lungsod ang kalagayang ito.

Sa Manila Bay, yang habagat na sasabayan ng ulan at bagyo ay magdadala naman ng basura mula sa mga lalawigan ng Cavite at Bataan.

Kapag umaraw, may panahon ang mga taga-Metro Manila na magpulot at maghakot ng mga basura para itapon nang tama.

Karaniwan ding sa mga sapa, estero, ilog at iba pang daluyan ng tubig tumatapon ang mga basura kung umulan at bumagyo.

Kaya ang pangongolekta ng basura at pagtatapon sa tamang basurahan ay mas madali kung susunod dito ang El Niño.

TAMANG PAGBABASURA

Ooops! Tekla.

Maling-mali ang pagtatapon ng basura kung saan-saan, nabubulok man o hindi nabubulok.

Kung ganito nang ganito, kahit kailan ay hindi masosolb ang problema natin sa basura.

Milyones, kundi man

bilyones, na piso ang gugulin natin sa pangongolekta at pagtatapon ng basura mula sa mga lansangan, estero, ilog, kanal at iba pa.

Sayang ang mga salaping ito na sana'y magamit para sa ibang mga importanteng kailangan ng mga mamamayan gaya ng pagpapadoktor sa mga may-sakit, suporta sa mga mag-aaral, suporta sa mga senior citizen at iba pa.

Kaya, dapat na matutunan ng lahat ang tamang pagtrato sa basura.

Una, nasaan ang mga tapunan ng basura para sa nabubulok at hindi nabubulok sa mga tahanan, iskul, opisina, pabrika, mall, condominium at iba pa?

Ikalawa, nasaan ang mga pagsasanay para rito dahil maraming pagkaka-taon na kombinasyon ng nabubulok at 'di nabubulok ang mga basura, gaya ng mga basurang mula sa kusina at palikuran?

Kung sa mga tahanan, iskul, opisina, pabrika, mall, condominium at iba pa ay may tamang pagbabasura, kalahati na lamang ang pag-uusapan nating basura sa mga lansangan, ilog, estero, kanal, ilog at iba pa.

Ang kalahati, dala ng kalikasang mapanira gaya ng mga siyam-siyam na ulan at bagyo na gumigiba sa mga lupa at bundok, kabahayan at iba pa hanggang sa anurin ang mga ito sa mga kanal, sapa, estero, ilog at dalampasigan.



Canada taking back its garbage from PH

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**
@dpazzibuganINQ

Canada is now “fully cooperating” to ship out its garbage dumped in the Philippines without delay after Malacañang rejected its timeline to remove the garbage by the end of June.

“They’re not bullying us; they’re fully cooperating in taking back the garbage pronto,” Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said on Monday through Twitter.

Fumigation begins

He said the fumigation of the 67 trash-filled shipping containers festering at the Subic Bay International Terminal began over the weekend.

Two more remaining containers at the Manila International Container Terminal arrived in Subic on Monday.

The rotting shipment will undergo fumigation before

they are loaded to a ship contracted by Canada.

Locsin blamed the Filipinos who connived with an Ontario-based company to import six years ago nearly 2,450 tons of trash packed in 103 shipping containers, despite a treaty that prohibits rich countries from dumping their garbage on poor countries.

He also blamed the Aquino administration for not making the effort to return the waste to Canada.

But the Duterte government apparently also dallied in negotiating with Canada.

“It is our fellow natives who imported the trash, as they keep doing from other countries. It takes two to tango and we take the lead in the dance of garbage dumping,” Locsin said on Twitter on Monday.

“We dropped the ball on that one when Canada said in 2017 it would take back the garbage and just wanted to dis-

cuss cost sharing. The previous government never got back to them,” he said in another tweet.

69 containers remaining

The Bureau of Customs said the 69 shipping containers were what remained of the 103 containers filled with nearly 2,450 tons of nonrecyclable trash exported by Ontario-based Chronic Inc. to Manila through two Filipino companies, Chronic Plastic and Live Green Enterprise, from 2013 to 2014.

In an unprecedented move, Locsin recalled Ambassador to Canada Petronila Garcia on May 16, after Ottawa failed to meet President Duterte’s May 15 deadline to take back the trash.

Locsin declared that Manila would maintain a “diminished diplomatic presence” in Canada, host to about 1 million Filipinos, until the trash shipment issue was settled. INQ



Canada fully cooperating in taking trash back – Locsin

By **ROY C. MABASA**

Canada is “fully cooperating” in bringing back the tons of waste it illegally shipped to the Philippines about six years ago, Foreign Affairs Tedoro Locsin Jr. said in a tweet Monday.

Locsin was responding to a post of a netizen who praised the government for “stepping up” and not allowing a rich country like Canada to “bully us.”

“They’re not bullying us, they’re fully cooperating in taking back the garbage pronto. It is our fellow natives who imported the trash, as they keep doing from other countries. It takes 2 to tango and we take the lead in the dance of garbage dumping,” the foreign affairs chief said.

Locsin posted the tweet shortly after Malacanang directed all government agencies to diminish official contacts with Canada as an offshoot of Ottawa’s failure to meet the May 15 deadline to haul the 69 trash-filled containers back to its port.

On Sunday, Locsin uploaded several photos of the trash-filled container vans that are currently undergoing fumigation process in Subic port.

In one of the photos, Locsin showed an unidentified Canadian “overseeing the fumigation.”

He earlier said that the fumigation is going “full speed” and the containers will be “rapidly loaded” to a ship already contracted by Canada.

“Hi ho hi ho. We’re still fumigato. But all 69 containers are in Subic yo. Don’t get in my way or I’ll screw yo. Dry,” Locsin said in his tweet accompanied by several photos of containers stacked one over the other.

The DFA secretary, however, did not say as to when the containers of garbage would sail back to Canada.



The Canadian garbage is going home

**“
By
tolerating
Canada’s
inaction for
six years,
we have
appeared
permissive
– to our
detriment.**

On 22 May, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ordered concerned government agencies to search for any private shipping company that could return containers of trash to Canada’s jurisdiction. This, after the Canadian government failed to meet the Chief Executive’s deadline last 15 May to take back their garbage, which was illegally dumped in our country six years ago.

President Duterte’s urgent order to government agencies is, without a doubt, intended to warn Canada and other countries that the Philippines is not a dump site. Through presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo, the President, in a rather upset tone, relayed how offended



BRIEFING ROOM

Harry Roque

he is by Canada’s delaying tactics. For the President, these actions indicate the Canadian government’s view of the Philippines: a lesser country that it can simply ignore.

This is why the President supported the move of Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., who ordered the recall of the Philippine ambassador and consuls to Canada, therefore severing diplomatic ties until this issue is resolved. Spokesman Panelo has even stated that “if Canada (does not accept) their trash, we will leave the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the

baseline of any of their country’s shores.”

While some of you might consider such moves petty or boorish, I do think that these are viable responses in view of the options we have left. We have exhausted all reasonable means and waited six years for Canada to act. While one could argue that the dumping was the move of a private actor, that private actor was within Canada’s jurisdiction and it was therefore Canada’s responsibility to ensure that its actions did not prejudice other states. The company that shipped the trash to the Philippines with false labels has since gone out of business – who else can we be expected to hold accountable?

This series of actions by the Philippine government shows how serious we are about this matter. It is not just a simple assertion

of our democratic rights, but a strong message we hope will resonate around the globe: that no country is another state’s dumping ground. By tolerating Canada’s inaction for six years, we have appeared permissive – to our detriment. We have all seen the headlines of late, announcing the arrival of trash from places like Hong Kong and South Korea.

If we need to ship garbage home, we should. Every state should be responsible for its own trash.

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Not your trash bin

FIRST, it was a Canadian company that tried to sneak in tons of trash via mis-declaration; now, we saw two more shipments coming in from different countries, laden with the same. I make a distinction between the private consignors of these shipments from the governments of the points of origin, as certainly they are different entities.

While the Philippines may be earning a not so savory reputation with the international community due to the Duterte administration's abysmal record when it comes to human rights, that's certainly no reason why mounds of trash should be sent to our country by the shipload. While I am in disagreement with the administration about the way they handled the matter with the Canadian government (apparently there was no need for the dramatic threat of war as both sides were already close to a solution, I'm told) there is something intensely aggravating about people who attempt to make our country their trash dump.

If the government is truly serious about stopping these shenanigans, then it should spare no expense at finding the consignees



IT'S COMPLICATED

ABIGAIL VALTE

'If the government is truly serious about stopping these shenanigans, then it should spare no expense at finding the consignees of the trash and making sure that they answer for knowingly bringing them here.'

of the trash and making sure that they answer for knowingly bringing them here. That is, of course, quite different from picking a fight with the governments of the jurisdictions where the trash was sent; the nuclear option should never be the first resort.

It would be interesting though how the administration would deal with the two recent shipments—one purportedly from Australia and one from Hong Kong. Ties with Australia have remained

strong, despite the contentious issue of Sister Patricia Fox's deportation (the President does not tolerate dissent, after all) and that gaffe during the Asean-Australia Summit. While Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China and mostly runs its own affairs, it would be interesting to see if Mr. Duterte will actually threaten Hong Kong should the situation, in his mind, require it.

Let's wait and see what President Duterte has to say on the matter.

Will he deviate from his previous behavior?

On the subject of trash, it's refreshing to hear Manila mayor-elect Isko Moreno saying that the first order of business for his term is to clean up Manila. Sadly, the trash problem in the city seems to have been neglected. I don't know what was going on in City Hall during Mayor Estrada's time, but the evidence was out in the open: even the environs surrounding City Hall were always littered with trash.

This is particularly strange since solid waste management is a lucrative business in local governments; ask any local chief executive and you'll find that trash collection is big business. Those close to the powers-that-be in the local level fight tooth and nail to bag these contracts, because as they say, "may pera sa basura."

Also, good job with stopping the conversion of Arroceros Forest Park into another concrete gym. Our cities have too many concrete gyms and not enough parks for people to enjoy, sadly. Hopefully, Mayor Isko stands firm on his decision to protect Manila's last lung, before it is devoured by concrete madness.



Coup d'état

FOR the nth time, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte aka Digong told the military during the thanksgiving party of Bong Go last week in Davao to simply tell him directly if they want him out, instead of staging a coup d'état.

"Ayaw ninyo ako? Okay. Uwi na ako. Sige... 'Yung babae na ang presidente niyo. Kung mahusay siya eh di wala akong ano — wala akong ano... Tatakutin ako ng coup d'état. Ah kalokohan 'yan," he said.

It is obvious Digong is well aware that there are sinister forces both here and abroad plotting to oust him, by hook or by crook.

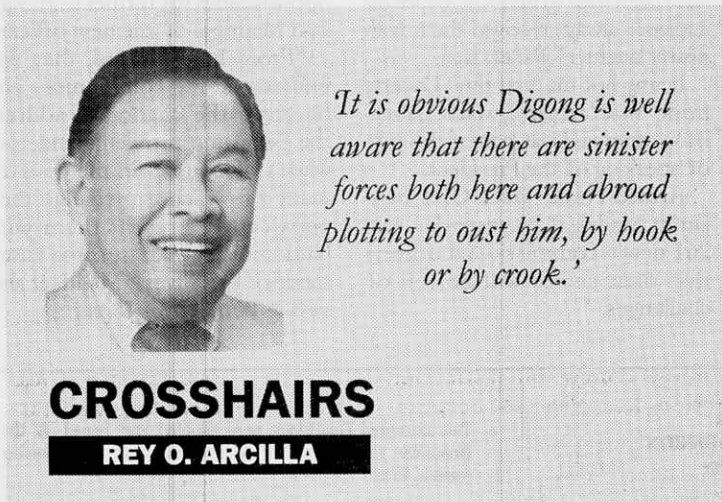
However, they know that with Digong having the support of the huge majority of the Filipinos, including the OFWs, their option is narrowed down to a coup d'état or, worse, assassination.

What can Digong do under the circumstances?

One, conduct a thorough screening of the members of his cabinet and the leaders of both the military and police establishments who are known to have or have shown a leaning towards a foreign power notorious for being allergic to leaders of countries who do not fit the bill. The officials concerned should be retired without further delay.

Two, continue with what he has been doing, i.e., fighting the wars against illegal drugs and corruption and trying to uplift the standard of living of the vast majority of Filipinos.

Three, keep pursuing and bring-



CROSSHAIRS

REY O. ARCILLA

'It is obvious Digong is well aware that there are sinister forces both here and abroad plotting to oust him, by hook or by crook.'

ing to fruition his goal of having an independent foreign policy as mandated by the Constitution by, among others, getting rid of foreign troops on our soil.

His detractors and cynics will ask how come South Korea and Japan host foreign troops but do not seem averse to it?

Simple answer: North Korea and China. Without these two countries, the ramblings of the South Korean and the Japanese peoples about wanting the US troops to leave their respective countries will reach a crescendo.

China will not waste time or resources attacking the Philippines simply because we are not a threat to her. And certainly not because of the inutile PH-US Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT). China will only attack us in case of armed conflict between her and the US because of the presence of the lat-

ter's bases and troops on our soil.

China knows the US will not risk armed confrontation with her if only for the sake of the Philippines.

Witness, for instance, how the US balked at helping us retain control of the Panatag/Scarborough Shoal. In contrast, she told China not to mess with the Senkoku (Diaoyu) islands which she also claims but are controlled by Japan.

The US also did nothing when China seized and reclaimed isles and reefs in the South China Sea over which we have sovereign rights. They are now Chinese military outposts that threaten the hegemony of the US in the region.

The US must accept the inevitability of that hegemony ending sooner than later with the ascendancy of China as a great power and by virtue of the fact that our region is her natural sphere of in-

fluence. Need we remind the US of the Monroe Doctrine?

But the bottom line is the US realizes that her relations with China are far more important to her than her relations with us, period.

The US also values her relations more with South Korea and Japan than her ties with us — again because of North Korea and China.

PH-US MILITARY EXERCISES

US Ambassador Sung Kim said the PH-US military alliance is crucial to maintaining peace and stability in our region and for this reason, the US will continue to conduct joint military activities with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

I assume he was also speaking for the AFP? Does the AFP now have the authority to decide when and with whom it can conduct military exercises? Isn't that a decision that must be made by the Commander-in-Chief, the President?

Digong has said often enough that military exercises with the US will gradually decrease and eventually be done away with. Has that policy been changed by him? If not, I think it behooves him to make that clear to the defense and military establishments headed by Delfin Lorenzana whom he once tagged, perhaps jokingly, as a CIA operative.

Digong should also tell in language that his foreign secretary, Amboy Teodoro "Tweeter" Loc-

See COUP > Page B5



Coup...

COUP

sin, Jr. will understand that he favors a review of the MDT. Locsin opposed it publicly.

PH A DUMPSITE?

With the Canadian garbage saga still unresolved, here we are saddled anew with waste from Australia and Hong Kong. Good thing the South Korean Government immediately undertook to take back the trash shipped here recently.

The trash from Australia is supposed to be low grade fuel for the production of cement by Holcim Philippines, Inc.

We have so much garbage in this country. Why can't Holcim and others just collect our trash - or they can go to dumpsites - and get whatever they need for conversion into low grade fuel in an environmentally safe and sound manner.

It is reported that the waste from Hong Kong consists of e-waste, such as computer and gadget parts that are the worst kind of garbage because it is "hazardous to the people's health."

Obviously, it is intended only for disposal here, just like the Canadian waste.

If there isn't one yet, the government should have a law passed banning totally the importation of

trash for whatever purpose. As I said, we have enough here.

WASTE IMPORTERS AND BOC OFFICIALS

A couple of readers have asked how come the government doesn't seem to be doing anything to make the "f***** natives" (a term used by Amboy Locsin) who were responsible for the importation of the Canadian trash comply with a Manila trial court order in 2016 to return the waste.

Too, the unscrupulous importers must be in connivance with corrupt Bureau of Customs personnel who facilitated the entry of waste into the country. They should all be buried deep in a dumpsite.

The government agencies concerned had better do something fast before Locsin flies off the handle again.

CHINESE CLAM HARVESTING

There are reports that Chinese vessels are back in the West Philippine Sea harvesting clam.

Whatever happened to Locsin's vow to make the Chinese pay for the clam they have harvested before?

What will he do or recommend to Digong once it is confirmed that the Chinese vessels are indeed back

and harvesting clam again?

REMINDERS

This segment is intended to remind the Duterte administration of some of its yet unfulfilled promises and matters that need attention and/or follow-up action. More importantly, the people are entitled to know what's being done about them.

1. Digong's promise to rid the country of foreign troops. This, of course,

necessitates abrogating the MDT and the lopsided and constitutionally infirm VFA and the EDCA.

2. Reciprocal visa arrangements with the US and other countries. What is "Tweeter" Locsin doing about this? Our embassy in Washington? No less than President Digong has said he wanted this done about three years ago.

3. The return of the Canadian waste. Until such time as the waste is actually on its way back to Canada, this item will not be removed from this space.

Today is the 30th day of the 13th year of the enforced disappearance of Jonas Burgos, son of the late press icon and founder of this newspaper, Joe Burgos.

After the acquittal of Major Harry Baliaga, Jr., the only person formally charged with Jonas' kidnapping, I guess what happens next is now up to Divine Providence.

From an internet friend:

"Did ya hear I got married?"

"Oh, that's good."

"No, that's bad! She's ugly!"

"Oh, that's bad."

"No, that's good! She's rich."

"Oh, that's good!"

"No, that's bad! She won't give me a cent."

"Oh, that's bad."

"No, that's good! She bought me servants and a big house"

"Oh, that's good."

"No, that's bad! The house burnt down."

"Oh, that's bad."

"No, that's good! She was in it."

= <https://www.facebook.com/reynaldo.arcilla.9847>

'READING THE COLUMNISTS'

Agree? Disagree? Vehemently disagree with Malaya columnists are saying? Sound off in "Reading the columnists" which runs in the Op-Ed section.



CANADIAN TRASH AT FLORIDABLANCA BASURA

MGA ka-idol, kaugnay sa Canadian trash na itinaon dito sa atin ay nilinaw ng Malacañang na hindi giyera kundi lamat sa ugnayan ang posibleng mangyari sa pagitan ng Canada at Pilipinas.

Sabi ni Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, figure of speech lang ang bantang ginawa ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magdedeklara ng giyera laban sa Canada kung hindi kukunin ang tone-tone-ladang basura na ipinasok sa bansa galing Canada.

Para hindi na lumaki ang gulo, dapat ay kunin na ng Canada sa lalong madaling panahon ang naturang mga basura na apat na taon nang

nasa bansa.

Hindi natin masisisi si Pangulong Duterte kung mangalait sa galit dahil sa kawalan ng aksyon ng Canadian government sa naturang isyu.

Pero dahil sa bantang giyera ay sinasabing tumugon na ang Canada sa mga binitiwang pahayag ni Pangulong Duterte at sa huling balita ay gumagawa na ito ng paraan upang maresolba ang problema.

Ang lintek na mga basura na 'yan ay apat na taon nang itinaon sa bansa natin, kaya siguro kung sa bakuran ninyo ito itinaon, baka pati tenga ng kapitbahay ay umusok na sa galit.



LORD PETER SPIDER!
CP#0916-2531214

'Yung kay Pangulong Duterte ay maaaring pagpapahayag lamang ng matinding galit na ibinulalas niya sa matapang na pananalita.

Kasi nga ang instruction ay "Kunin nila. Kung hindi n'yo kukunin, kami ang magbabalik sa inyo."

And speaking of 'basura', diyan sa Brgy. Palmayo, Floridablanca, Pampanga, sa tabi ng kanilang simbahan ay may nakatambak na 'basura' na salot sa mamamayan.

Maraming deboto at residente ang nagreklamo sa

isang perychan na puro sugal ang nasa loob pero hindi pinapansin at kinukunsinti pa ni Floridablanca Mayor Darwin Manansalan.

'Ika nila ay masahol pa ang perychang ito sa basurahan na itinaon sa kanilang lugar bukod pa sa niyuyurakan ang kanilang banal na tahanan ng Diyos.

Masyado yatang sinasanto ni Floridablanca Chief of Police Lt. Col. Juritz B. Rara ang mga operator ng perychang basurahan na sina alyas 'Putik' at 'Rosby'.



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CANADA, HANDA NA TANGGAPIN ANG BASURA MULA PH

NAKAHANDA na ang Canada para sa **na Hunyo.**
basurang ibabalik ng Filipinas sa darating

Ayon kay Sav Dhaliwal, chairman ng Metro Vancouver, may rekomendasyon na ang Environment and Climate Change Canada na dalhin ang 1,500 tons ng basura sa Burnaby para ma-convert bilang electric power.

Ito ang nakitang paraan ng Canadian government para maging kapaki-pakinabang pa rin ang basura na ilang taon nang naipadala sa Filipinas.

"We have the technology and capacity to safely and efficiently handle this type of material," saad ni Dhaliwal.

Nabatid na naipasok ito sa bansa makaraang ideklarang recyclable materials, kung saan ang consignee ay negosyante mula sa Valenzuela City.

Patuloy naman ang pangangalampag ng mga Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) na bilisan na ang pagtanggap ng basura sa Filipinas at ibalik ang mga basura sa Canada, Hong Kong, South Korea at Australia.

"Dapat seryosohin ng mga bansang ito ang patakaran sa Filipinas na nagbabawal sa pagpasok ng mapanganib na uri ng basura," wika ni Beau Baconguis ng Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

B ABAYGAR, JR.



WORLD'S NEW DUMPSITE

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA URGE GOV'TS TO BAN SHIPMENTS OF GARBAGE

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Green groups from Southeast Asian nations, including the Philippines, have called on their respective governments to strictly enforce policies and bans on shipped wastes after the discovery of garbage from developed countries flooding communities in the region.

"When the wealthy nations clean up, it should not have to be at the expense of the devel-

oping world," Beau Bacongus, Asia-Pacific coordinator of Break Free from Plastic, said in a statement.

Waste from rich countries

"Governments in Asia, which has become the world's new dumpsite, must strictly guard their territories against waste smuggling from richer countries," she said.

The groups' call came amid the Philippine government's renewed demand for Canada to

retake their garbage that was illegally brought to the country six years ago.

It also follows the discovery of several containers of wastes from Australia and Hong Kong at a port in Mindanao.

The shipments from Australia were declared municipal waste or processed engineered fuel intended for the cement company Holcim.

But EcoWaste Coalition said its entry appeared to be a "devious disposal scheme."

"We question this latest scheme of foreign waste disposal," said Aileen Lucero, the group's national coordinator, noting that describing the trash as "municipal waste" allows the country to rid itself of its garbage and even profiting from it.

Other groups from Indonesia and Malaysia had also called out the waste shipment in their countries, many languishing in their ports or flooding communities.

After China closed its doors to plastic waste importation last year, countries in Southeast Asia have been at the receiving end of shipped wastes.

Contaminated water

A study by Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives revealed that the plastic wastes brought into the region have led to contaminated water, crop diseases and respiratory illnesses in communities that shouldered the burden.

"Why do we need to repeatedly remind the world that we are not a garbage dump?" said Abigail Aguilar of Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines.

"This might not be the last of these waste importation scandals," she said.

Local groups had called for the ratification of the amendment to the Basel Convention, a global treaty that controls the movement of hazardous wastes. INQ



Environmental groups hit global waste trade

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Environmental groups in the Philippines and Australia have questioned the global waste trade that is using developing nations as convenient disposal sites for rich countries' garbage.

This developed as the Bureau of Customs-Region 10 issued an alert order for nine 40-foot shipping containers from Australia loaded with 211.14 tons of waste materials declared as municipal waste or processed engineered fuel (PEF).

The shipments arrived last May 7 at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Subsequent waste assessment conducted by the Environmental Management Bureau-Region 10 found "pieces of assorted scrap plastic, cellophane, wrappers, chunks of hard plastic, textile, fibers, wood chips, glass cullet, stones, soil, paper and other shredded materials," noting that "the contents of the plastic-wrapped bales can be gener-

ally described as shredded municipal waste."

"The export to our country of residual wastes generated by Australia's commercial, industrial and construction sectors as fuel for cement kiln looks like a clever disposal scheme. Described as 'municipal waste' in the shipment declaration, Australia is able to dispose of its unwanted residuals and even profit from their sale by turning and relabeling these wastes as so-called PEF for export to developing countries like ours," Aileen Lucero, EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator, said.

Beau Bacongus, regional plastics campaigner of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives-Asia Pacific and Asia Pacific coordinator of Break Free From Plastic, said this is a highly deceptive way of sidestepping the provisions of the Basel Convention to which the Philippines is party by declaring the shredded mixed waste as PEF.

"In the recent Conference of the Parties, the Philippines was a firm supporter of the Norwegian Amendment which essentially would put a stop to plastic waste dumping," Bacongus said.

The Conference of Parties, known as COP, is the decision-making body responsible for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Meanwhile, Jane Bremmer, zero waste coordinator for Australia of the National Toxics Network, decried Australia's "colonialist and deceitful approach to waste management by a country that should, and can, manage its own waste."

"It is unethical for Australia to send its non-recyclable, residual municipal waste, rebadged as 'PEF,' to be burnt in cement kilns in other countries, effectively escaping Australian regulatory responsibility for its impacts, including the adverse human health and environmental

impacts associated with burning municipal waste in cement kilns," Bremmer said.

"Further, the global waste flow restructuring triggered by China's rejection of imported waste from wealthy western countries is a wake-up call for Australia to finally act on the decades of deliberate neglect and mismanagement of waste in Australia," she said.

Bremmer added Australia can no longer ignore the "dinosaur in the room."

"Waste stockpiles are growing and our environment, our atmosphere and oceans are full of waste residues that cause irreversible and catastrophic hazardous and toxic impacts," Bremmer said.

The groups noted that countries in Southeast Asia are pushing back as they urge the Philippines to show its strong resolve by immediately issuing a comprehensive ban on the importation of municipal, plastic, toxic and hazardous wastes.



INTROSPECTIVE

TONY F. KATIGBAK

Garbage dumpsite

There are always two sides of a coin – or two sides of a story. Most of the time we tell our kids to get both sides before making an informed decision. A lot of the time – people don't do that. They just go with the side most suited to their purposes and make their decisions based on that.



However, it is prudent to recognize that one side of a story usually paints an incomplete picture.

However, when it comes to the issue of dumping garbage in the Philippines, it's become hard to see the other side of the story. To begin with – why would any country think it's okay to send their garbage and hazardous waste to another country? It boggles my mind that Canada has thought this has been okay for the past six years and has done nothing to rectify or resolve the situation despite several promises to do so.

Personally, I have had mixed feelings about several of President Duterte's decisions in the past, but if there's something I agree with him completely on, it's the way he is choosing to handle this garbage situation. He is adamant that Canada picks up their trash and gets it out of the Philippines posthaste. In fact, he gave them a deadline of May 15 to remove their hazardous wastes from the Philippines. Until today though that has not been accomplished.

According to the news Canada has promised anew that the garbage will be picked up – at the latest end of June. Shipment has been delayed due to issues Canada faces with health and safety and ensuring the shipment meets their strict sanitation laws. According to them this is why it is taking longer to ship the waste back. It begs the question though that if Canada's sanitation laws are so strict why are they only strict in Canada's favor? They seemed to have no problem shipping the garbage here quickly – it should be just as quick for them to take it back.

After all, it's not like this happened last month or even last year. Canada first brought their containers filled with trash to the country in 2013. This year marks six years of them taking their sweet time. It's definitely important to take definitive action and stop accepting their excuses and delays. The president seems to have reached the breaking point. Through the Palace spokesman – President Duterte said that if Canada doesn't move soon then we will send their garbage back for them even if the Philippines has to shoulder the cost. The president says that if Canada doesn't accept the shipment, we will leave the garbage on their shores.

I believe this is an important step for the Philippines to take to show that we are not a global dumpsite and we should not be treated as one. Just recently we have had issues with Australia and Hong Kong and South Korea trying to send over their garbage as well. A dangerous precedent is being set and if we don't change it soon other countries will start to believe that this is okay to do. It is time we make a clear statement that other country's trash is not welcome in the Philippines. Let's face it – we have enough of our own.

I hope the president's statements are clear to Canada (and other countries as well) and do not fall on deaf ears. No more extensions will be granted and this trash situation should be resolved immediately. We don't need to keep hearing why it's difficult since it was easy enough to send the waste over. Canada and the Philippines have had good relations for many years and this is a constant thorn in our side. It should be pulled out quickly and fully.

* * *

San Miguel Corp. has completed its requirements for the Boracay Bridge project proposal. As I mentioned in a previous column, San Miguel Corp. has been doing excellent work beyond their ubiquitous product portfolio including several major infrastructure projects that have made life easier and more convenient for Filipinos of several communities.

This tradition continues with their Boracay Bridge proposal. The proposal seeks to link Panay and Boracay. The bridge is not being created for tourist transport and to increase the number of visitors to Boracay, but to give the island an easier way to transport solid waste and bring in goods and supplies. These were issues that the island has been facing for years. After the rehabilitation project that saw Boracay closed for six months, this bridge project will provide an important avenue for future waste management.





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Broker ng imported basura hahabulin

Pinag-aaralan ngayon ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) kung paano mapapanagot ang broker na nasa likod ng dalawang beses na pagpupuslit ng mga imported na basura mula sa South Korea at Australia patungo sa Misamis Oriental.

Ang F2 Logistics Philippines Incorporated na nakabase sa Paranaque City ang tinukoy ng bureau na nag-broker upang makapasok ang nasabing mga kargamento sa bayan ng Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental mula sa Australia na pagmamay-ari ng kom-

panyang Holcim Philippines Incorporated na nakabase sa Lungait.

Ayon kay Mindanao Container Terminal district collector John Simon, bubusisiin ng kanilang legal department kung ano ang mga nalabag na batas sa customs ng naturang kompanya.

Sinabi ni Simon na ang nabanggit na kompanya rin ang nasa likod ng pagpasok ng mahigit isang barko na mga basura na pagmamay-ari ng Verde Soko Philippines Inc. na mula South Korea noong Hulyo at Oktubre 2018.

Una nang binigyang-diin ng BoC na dalawang probisyon ng batas sa Customs ang nalabag ng Holcim dahil pinasok ang 162 tonelada ng basura sa Misamis Oriental na hindi tama ang deklarasyon na dumating sa bansa noong Mayo 7, 2019.

Ngunit sinang-ayunan ng DENR-EMB Northern Mindanao ang iginiit ng Holcim na "processed engineered fuel" ang kargamento na hindi umano magbibigay panganib para sa kalusugan ng publiko at kalikasan. **(Mina Aquino)**



'Historic win' sa Batangas; 'Usapang basura' sa BoC

THE SENATE WATCH Paul's Alarm



By Paul Gutierrez

SA kabila ng maraming kontrobersiya (na naman) sa katatapos na halalan noong Mayo 13, isang "panalo" sa halalang lokal, ang 're-election' ni Batangas Gov. Herminaldo 'Dodo' Mandanas, ang sadyang "gumulat" sa ating lahat.

Dangan kasi, kung sa unang "sabay" niya bilang gobernador ng lalawigan ng "Ala Eh!" noong 2016 ay nakakuha lang si Gov. Dodo ng higit 337,000 boto upang talunin ang kanyang apat na katunggali (kabilang na ang isang 'stray candidate' na kaapelyido niya), ala'y talaga namang "kagimbal-gimbal" para sa kanyang dalawang kalaban ngayon—ang naging "kuwenta" ng bilangan noong Mayo 13.

At bakit hindi, mga kababayan ko sa Batangas (mula sa Sto. Tomas

at Taal ang aming pamilya).

Batay na rin kasi sa datos ng Comelec, "humamig" ng higit isang milyong boto—1,078,447—si Gov. Dodo, kumpara sa naging boto ng kanyang dalawang kalaban na kahit "pagsamahin" pa ay hindi aabot ng 40,000 boto.

Ang panalo ni Gov. Dodo ay masasabing 'historic win' para sa sino mang tumakbong gobernador sa lahat ng lalawigan sa bansa; ito ay isang "rekord" na katulad ng mga tagumpay ni Sen. Manny Pacquiao sa 'boxing ring' ay maaaring umabot ng ilang henerasyon—bago mapalitan.

Bago naging guovernador, wala ring talo bilang kinatawan ng Kongreso si Gov. Dodo, na siyang "patunay," sa ganang atin, na "siksik, liglig at nag-uumapaw"

ang "pagmamahal" at "respeto" sa kanya at sa kanyang liderato ng mga "Batangueno."

Alam din sa buong lalawigan na ang kanilang gobernador ay "maka"—maka-Diyos at maka-tao—kaya naman bakit nga ba "sasayangin" pa nila ang kanilang boto sa ibang kandidato, hane?

Isa si Gov. Mandanas sa nagsulong upang maitayo ang 'Montemaria Resort' sa Batangas City, isang proyekto na ayon sa ating mga kababayan, ay "alay" niya sa Dakilang Ina ng mga Katoliko, ang ating Birheng Maria.

Bukod sa magandang pasilidad nito (bagaman hindi pa natin "napapasyalan"), sinasabi ng ating mga kababayan na magandang lugar ang Montemaria upang "makapagnilay" at "makapagmuni-muni."

Hindi rin tayo nagtataka kung bakit ayaw nang "pumusta" ng mga Batangueño sa ibang mga nagpoposturang lingkod-bayan dahil nakita na nila ang "pruwiba" ni Gov. Dodo, halim-

bawa na lang ang higit 25,000 'scholars' na pinag-aaral niya sa mga kolehiyo sa Batangas.

Ang paniwala kasi ni "Gob," ang henerasyong "edukado" ang "magtutulo" sa progreso na natatamo ng probinsya ngayon.

Dahil na rin sa magandang pamamalakad ni Gov. Mandanas na "bawal" ang korapsyon at 'red tape' sa administrasyong panlalawigan, sadyang naging mabilis ang pag-asenso ng Batangas at sa hinaharap, hindi na tayo magtataka kung ang Batangas ang maging sentro ng buong Calabarzon region kaya, wala na tayong masasabi kundi... mabuhay ka, Gov. Mandanas!

Marami sa Bureau of Customs (BoC) ang "umaray" sa tinuran noong isang linggo ni Sen. Ping Lacson na kaya patuloy ang pagpasok sa bansa ng mga basura mula sa ibang bansa ay dahil mayroon pa ring mga "korap" sa mga opisyal at empleyado ng ahensiya. "Sila" raw ang dahilan...

Sundan sa Pahina 5

...kung bakit "nakakapasok" ang mga ito sa pantalan.

At para sa isang pulitiko na ang anak ay patuloy ang mga transaksyon sa Aduana, "alam" ni Sen. Ping ang kanyang sinasabi.

Yun nga lang 'dear readers,' kung "totoo" ang hugot ni Sen. Ping, eh, bakit "naharang" ng BoC ang mga basurang ito, simula sa mga basura galing sa Canada noong termino ni Noytoy hanggang sa tatlong kargamento ng mga basura mula sa South Korea, Hong Kong at Australia sa termino ni PDU30, aber?



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REGIONS

Floods hit Boracay despite rehab work

Residents of Boracay raised an outcry after several areas of the resort island were flooded following a four-hour downpour on the weekend and despite the six-month rehabilitation last year that affected thousands of workers and business owners. A public works official, however, said more workers were being sent to Boracay to rush drainage system upgrades.

—STORY BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

A10



Flood hits Boracay despite rehab work

DPWH exec says more workers tapped to finish drainage system improvement

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Residents of Boracay raised an outcry after several sections of the resort island in Malay town, Aklan province, were hit by floods following a four-hour downpour during the weekend.

The flooding, which hit D'Mall commercial center, Cagban port and alleys and side roads, raised questions on the state of rehabilitation on the island.

"What the heck! They closed the island for six months for rehabilitation and we still get this? In some areas, it's even worse. Is this the 'new' Boracay?" an expatriate, who waded through floodwaters on Sunday morning, told the Inquirer.

The resident, who asked not to be identified to avoid antagonizing local officials, said flooding affected even long stretches of the newly upgraded main road from D'Mall to Station 3 at the southern section of the island.

"Water that overflowed from the road reached adjacent areas," the source said.

Many residents also aired their displeasure through social media posts.

Many lamented that thousands of workers, employees and business owners suffered for six months due to the closure of the island from April 26 to Oct. 25 last year because of the rehabilitation efforts.

President Duterte ordered the closure of the island to tourists due to the island's environmental problems.



ISLAND FLOODING The main road in the Lake Town area in front of D'Mall complex on Boracay Island is flooded after a downpour on Sunday. —PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK PAGE OF BORACAY REHABILITATION CONTINUES

Around 30,000 workers and residents dependent on tourism for their livelihood were severely affected. Small businesses were also forced to shut down.

Ongoing construction

Natividad Bernardino, general manager of the Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Management Group, said the flooding near D'Mall area was caused by inlets that were clogged by materials from an ongoing construction of speed tables (flat-topped speed humps).

She said a flooded area near Ambassador Hotel in Station 1 was a perennial problem, noting that an outfall leading to a wetland there would still be built. As a temporary measure, water in that area would be drained, she said.

Al Fruto, assistant director of

the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Western Visayas, said the upgrading of the drainage system had yet to be completed by the DPWH and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority.

"There will be areas that will ... be inundated because we have not fully connected the drainage pipes, inlets and outfalls," he told the Inquirer.

He said they were rushing the projects by sending more personnel to the island.

Drainage system

Flooding has become a problem in Boracay during heavy rains and when typhoons hit due to clogged drainage pipes and canals.

The widening of the 20-kilometer road network on the island

and the upgrading of the sewerage system are main components of Boracay's rehabilitation.

The first phase of the road project, with a budget of P490 million covering 4.12 km, was completed late last year. The first phase runs from Cagban port in Barangay Manoc-Manoc to the Elizalde property in Barangay Balabag.

The second phase, covering 3.3 km and costing P300 million, started on Jan. 10 and was set to be completed on July 28, 2020.

This covers the 1.9-km road from the Elizalde property to CityMall in Barangay Yapak at the northern end of the island where most of the high-end resorts operate. It also includes a span of 1.4 km from Crossing Rotunda to Tambisaan port in Manoc-Manoc. INQ



DOT-accredited rooms in Boracay near 13,000 mark

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The number of accredited accommodation establishments in Boracay has been increasing, the Boracay Inter Agency Task Force (BIATF) said in its latest bulletin.

Based on the updated list, six more establishments with a total of 31 rooms have been cleared to operate by the BIATF.

This brings the total accredited number of rooms to 12,907.

Only accommodation establishments that have complied with the requirements of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the DOT are allowed to operate in the island destination.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat earlier said the BIATF would continue to accredit compliant accommodation establishments.

"More rooms will be available as we continue with Phase 2 and 3 of the Boracay rehabilitation. We are making sure the task force's requirements are complied with 100 percent," Puyat said.

The task force urged the public to avoid booking with establishments that have no permits from the DOT, DENR and DILG.

Before the island's closure in April 2018, Boracay had roughly 15,000 to 16,000 avail-

able rooms.

The government is limiting the number of tourists in Boracay to ensure the sustainability of the island, which was reopened in October last year after it was closed for rehabilitation for six months.

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

Puyat said the DOT is looking to add more block off dates for the entry of cruise ships to Boracay, in a bid to ensure the carrying capacity of the island is met.

The DOT earlier emphasized that there was no entry of cruise ships to Boracay Island since the start of the close out dates from April 16. This ban will last until May 31, 2019.

"The close out dates for cruise ships were set to manage the carrying capacity of island, as there is an expected surge in tourist arrivals during the Holy Week and summer time," the DOT earlier said.

It added it will also implement more close out dates within the year particularly on Oct. 26 to November in observance of All Saints and All Souls Day, and on Nov. 23 to Jan. 25 for the SEA Games, Christmas and the New Year.



Facilities in Singapore ready to host PH eagles

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY – The facilities at the Jurong Bird Park of the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) are ready to house a pair of captive-bred Philippine eagles that will be transported from the Philippine Eagle Centre in Davao City on June 4.

Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) Development Project Manager Andi Baldonado told a press briefing on Monday that the keeper of the Jurong Bird Park will be joining the PEF team during the transport of the eagles from Davao to Singapore via Manila.

She said a team of experts from the PEF will also stay in Singapore to provide assistance to the keepers of the WRS in the quarantine phase of the two birds Geothermica and Sambisig.

The two captive-bred eagles were conceived through the natural breeding method.

He added Sambisig, a 17-year

female eagle, and Geothermica, 15-year male eagle, are at their breeding prime.

“The priority is for birds to be able to adjust to the new environment and also because there’s an exchange of experience and knowledge between our keepers and keepers of Jurong, how to take care of these birds well while in their care,” she said.

Dr. Jayson C. Ibañez, PEF’s director of research and conservation, said the birds will be leaving Davao for Singapore via Philippine Airlines, and gave the assurance that their team will be following the right protocols of transporting the eagles to ensure their safety.

“The transport is designed so that birds are exposed to less stress, for example, during transport, the leather a hood will be placed to cover their eyes and since, wala silang nakikita they are more relaxed during the transport,” he said, adding that their crates are properly disinfected.

He said the PEF took 10 years to

work on the loan program between the Philippine government and Singapore.

The loan program allows the birds to stay in under the care of WRS for a period of 10 years, he said.

He said the PEF provided WRS with recommendations in the construction of the cages of the eagles in Singapore.

“The WRS got recommendations from our team at the breeding facility, once the birds arrive in Singapore, of course, they will undergo the standard quarantine required by the government... The design of the cages are actually based on the recommendations of our team at the PEF Center, there should be enough space, at the right temperature, and the perch branches should be properly quoted with safe materials, etc,” he said.

He said the WRS staff was also trained by the PEF to learn to properly take care of the eagles.



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ACROSS THE COUNTRY ✓

3 dead in Zambo Sur mine tunnel collapse

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three persons died when a mine pit collapsed in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur on Friday.

Maj. Helen Galvez, Zamboanga peninsula police spokesperson, identified the fatalities as Emmanuel Sarabia, 26; Edwin Paran Jr., 22, and Lloyd Baylon, 21, all residents of Barangay San Pedro.

Galvez said initial investigation showed that Sarabia was buried alive while digging a 30-foot mine hole in the property of a certain Edwin Poresores at about 1:45 p.m.

Paran and Baylon, who volunteered to rescue Sarabia, were trapped when the mine pit caved in as they went down. Their companion, Junifer Narido, was pulled alive and brought to a hospital for treatment.

Sarabia's body was recovered after almost 10 hours. – Roel Pareño



NESTLÉ, VALENZUELA CITY UNVEIL FIRST CITYWIDE WASTE PLASTIC SACHET RECOVERY PROGRAM

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By Kenneth M. del Rosario

The world is in the midst of a waste crisis brought about by the lack of recycling or processing infrastructure and systems to deal with our growing waste, a chunk of which is plastic. And the time to do something significant about it is now.

Which is why Nestlé Philippines and Valenzuela City have launched the country's first citywide waste plastic sachet recovery program called *May BALIK! Sa PLASTIK!* to recover post-consumer waste laminates such as sachets and used beverage cartons (UBCs), collecting them for co-processing in cement kilns, or for recycling and up-cycling.

The pilot program is expected to reduce the amount of post-consumer laminates that end up in the city's landfill. Once proven successful, the intent is to scale the program to extend to other locations in the country.

May BALIK! Sa PLASTIK! as a collaborative program includes the Department of Education (DepEd) Valenzuela Division and Green Antz Builders, Inc., with the participation of barangays and public schools citywide.

"Nestlé aims to achieve plastic neutrality. This means that we target the recovery of plastics equal to what we produce. This collaboration is one of the major steps we are taking to achieve this goal," said Kais Marzouki, chairman and CEO of Nestlé Philippines, "For us, plastics are still a very important component to deliver safe and high quality food, so while we are accelerating efforts to identify sustainable solutions, we want to help people find value in the plastic component of our products' packaging."

The program seeks to en-

courage individuals to recognize value in waste laminates and UBCs, thereby encouraging the collection of these materials. Under the program, students and street sweepers can exchange post-consumer laminates and UBCs with straws for school supplies or Nestlé products respectively. Designated booths in barangays and public schools will be set up as collection centers.

The residual plastic wastes gathered from collection booths will then be turned over to Green Antz Builders,

Inc., a social enterprise that manufactures eco-bricks, a more economical and stronger alternative to hollow blocks which incorporates used plastic laminates. A portion of the wastes will be used by Green Antz while the bulk will be delivered to Republic Cement, with which Nestlé has entered into an agreement for the co-processing of waste plastic laminates.

"This kind of program teaches people, especially children, that there is value in residual plastic wastes. This is important so we can change

the culture, from just throwing away plastic to recycling or upcycling them instead," said Valenzuela Mayor Rexlon Gatchalian.

Valenzuela is a first-class city in Metro Manila, with 33 barangays and a total land area of 4,459 hectares. With an estimated population of 616,338 as of 2015, Valenzuela is the 13th most populous city in the country.

"In our city, we already have a system in place for larger waste plastic materials which are segregated and sold for extra income by our

haulers. *May BALIK! Sa PLASTIK!* provides a solution for what to do with smaller plastics, laminates, sachets," said Gatchalian.

Gatchalian and Marzouki recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the collaboration between the city and Nestlé Philippines. Also signing the MOU were Dr. Benjamin Samson, assistant schools division superintendent of DepEd Valenzuela City; and Rommel Benig, president of Green Antz Builders, Inc.

The *May BALIK! Sa PLAS-*



Nestlé, Valenzuela City announce launch of *May BALIK! Sa PLASTIK!* An MOU formalizing the *May BALIK! Sa PLASTIK!* program, which will drive the recycling in Valenzuela City of waste plastic laminates such as sachets for co-processing in cement kilns and recycling or upcycling, was signed recently by (left to right) Rommel Benig, president of Green Antz Builders, Inc.; Rexlon Gatchalian, city mayor of Valenzuela; Kais Marzouki, Nestlé Philippines chairman and CEO; and Dr. Benjamin D. Samson, assistant schools division superintendent of DepEd Valenzuela.

TIK! laminate collection program will be formally launched in June in celebration of Philippine Environment Month.

For Gatchalian, it's not about banning the use of plastics. More importantly, it's about repurposing them. This is especially true in Valenzuela City, where many locators are engaged in plastics manufacturing.

"This program shows that we don't always have to de-incentivize people for using plastic. Instead, we can incentivize them to repurpose residual plastics," the mayor said.

For Nestlé Philippines, tackling plastic pollution is of utmost importance and the company emphasizes its commitment to taking actions that make a significant difference everywhere it operates.

The *May BALIK! Sa PLASTIK!* program is in line with Nestlé's vision that none of its packaging, including plastics, end up in landfill or as litter. Globally, the company aims to make 100 percent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025, focusing on three areas to drive change: designing the packaging of the future, shaping a waste-free future, and driving new behaviors.

Nestlé realizes it can only do so much on its own, and it is imperative for various sectors of society to collaborate in efforts to make a waste-free future possible. Thus, the program is a step in that direction.

Marzouki said: "The best thing about this program is that the approach involves the participation of various stakeholders. Our partnership with Valenzuela City, one of the most progressive cities in Metro Manila, is a milestone not only for us at Nestlé and Valenzuela City, but more importantly, for the environment."



Globe Telecom supports Boracay sustainability week; joins beach clean up drive



The Globe team gathers several plastic bags full trash during the Boracay beach clean up

In support of the government's call for responsible and sustainable tourism, Globe Telecom joined the week-long celebration of Boracay's rehabilitation aimed at encouraging residents, tourists, and other stakeholders to be more environmentally conscious.

Almost 300 participants from the Globe Store in Boracay, Boracay Foundation Inc., Boracay Inter-agency task force, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, Team Boracay Cyclist, Philippine National Police, Malay Solid Waste, and Asean Centre for Biodiversity worked together to ensure that the country's favorite summer getaway retains its pristine condition. The team gathered 32 bags of plastic waste and trash scattered along the popular White Beach where local and foreign tourists often converge.

At the same time, Globe put up an Eco Booth in D'mall where anyone can exchange their plastic bags with eco bags to encourage a more sustainable practice.

"Boracay has always been very close to the hearts of every Filipino. Recently, it became the center of everyone's attention. As Filipino Citizens, it is our responsibility to help out and contribute in our shared purpose to rehabilitate Boracay. Beyond business, we will help make the island a safe and sustainable ecotourism destination through replicable and scalable solutions," said Globe Senior Vice President

for Consumer Mobile Business, **Issa Guevarra-Cabreira**.

Six months prior to Love Boracay, Globe, in partnership with Manila Water Foundation, has initiated several sustainable long term rehabilitation activities for Boracay such as the construction of a communal septic tank in Sitio Ilaya, Barangay Balabag and the provision of two months worth of Virgomin organic water treatment for septic tanks to all 4,000 households.

These efforts were aimed to ensure that locals, especially the low income households, are presented with options on how to contribute to the rehabilitation of the island through proper septage containment and management.

Alongside the sanitation projects, Globe, together with Save Philippine Seas, has conducted a three-day workshop on Marine Biodiversity attended by local business owners, students and teachers. The workshop focused on ways to protect marine life by adopting sustainable approaches to business operations such as reducing the use of single-use plastic.

Since 2012, Globe has been actively helping Boracay with its environmental initiatives such as marine life protection, offshore clean-up training, coral reef planting, support for conservation efforts by local stakeholders, and raising environmental awareness among the youth and local residents.