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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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Cimatu lauds DENR for major accomplishments

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has commended the entire Department of Environment and Natural Resources for contributing immensely to the agency's recent major achievements—from the rehabilitation efforts in Boracay and Manila Bay to the return of illegal waste shipment to Canada.

Cimatu made the commendation during yesterday's anniversary celebration of the agency as he share all the good words and praises which he received from different sectors.

"I am truly honored to receive kind words and praises from different sectors, my co-secretaries, industry partners and the public for what we have accomplished thus far," Cimatu said in his speech.

"The honor is not mine alone, I with you my co-workers in the DENR. I am just your leader but the knowledge, the hard work and the perseverance are all from you. I draw my strength and confidence from all of you," Cimatu added.

Cimatu disclosed that this year is perhaps the most meaningful of the agency's anniversaries since its creation in 1987 because "at no other time in our history has the DENR been entrusted with responsibilities as heavy as now."

"The trust and confidence reposed in our competence by our President and nation is at an all-time high," said Cimatu, who had been personally picked by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to head the inter-agency task forces created to bring Boracay and Manila Bay back to their former glory.

The DENR, along with the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force and

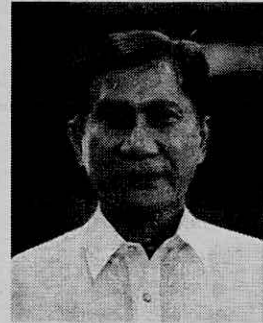
the Duterte administration in general, earned praises for turning Boracay from a cesspool to a model for sustainable ecotourism in just six months of rehabilitation.

The DENR did well in Boracay that the President gave it a much bigger challenge: the restoration of Manila Bay and its heavily polluted waters to a quality suitable for bathing, swimming, boating, fishing and other forms of contact recreation.

Cimatu said the so-called "Battle for Manila Bay" will probably take years to win but the DENR is up for the challenge, "deeming it a great honor to be entrusted with such a mission."

Although the government is not even on a quarter mark in terms of its plan for Manila Bay, Cimatu said the public could already see visible results of the initial efforts.

"I firmly believe that the Battle for Manila Bay



Src. Cimatu

is indeed a winnable battle. We are on the right track," Cimatu said, as he noted how the government gained the trust of major corporations to support the cleanup and rehabilitation efforts.

Just recently, the DENR was tasked to coordinate with the Canadian government to solve a problem that had persisted for six years, which is the return to Canada of 69 international container units of solid waste illegally imported into the Philip-



ines by being misdeclared as waste plastics for recycling.

Cimatu said the Philippines did not accede to the Canadian government's request to further delay the shipment of the waste

back to their country.

"The expenses for the shipping of the wastes were shouldered by the Canadian government. So that's another feather in our cap," Cimatu said.



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BATTLE OF MANILA BAY MALAKING HAMON SA DENR

ISANG malaking hamon para sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang tinaguriang "Battle of Manila Bay" para masigurong malilinis ito.

Ito ang ipinahayag ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu sa ginanap na 32nd Founding Anniversary ng kagawaran kahapon, Biyernes (June 14).

Ani Cimatu, ang taong ito ang siyang tinaguriang makahulugang anibersayo ng DENR simula nang binuo ito noong 1987 dahil wala umano sa kasaysayan na ang tanggapan ng DENR ay binigyan ng mabigat na responsibilidad gaya ngayon.

Since its creation in 1987 because "at no other time in our history has the DENR been entrusted with responsibilities as heavy as now.", ani Cimatu.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang

tiwala at kumpiyansa ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at ng bansa ay "all time high" ng personal mismo siyang piliin ng Pangulo para manguna sa inter-agency task forces na binuo upang ibalik ang ganda ng Boracay at Manila Bay.

Ipinagmalaki ni Cimatu na ginawa ng DENR ang kanilang makakaya upang mabalik ang dating ganda ng Boracay at ngayon naman ay mas mabigat na hamon ang kinakaharap para sa restoration ng Manila Bay upang malinis ang tubig nito na gaya ng dati ay maaaring paliguan at makapangisda.

"I am truly honored to receive kind words and praises from different sectors, my co-secretaries, industry partners and the public for what we have accomplished thus far" pahayag pa ni Cimatu.

Idinagdag pa ni Cimatu na lahat ng papuri at karangalan ng natanggap niya ay binaba-



hagi niya sa kapwa niya manggagawa sa DENR.

"The honor is not mine alone.. I am just your leader but the knowledge, the hard work and the perseverance are all from you. I draw my strength and confidence from all of you."wika pa ni Cimatu.

**BENEDICT
ABAYGAR, JR.**



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Bora, Manila Bay rehab tagumpay ng DENR

IPINAGMALAKI ni Environment Sec. Roy A. Cimatu ang mga tagumpay ng DENR bilang pangunahing ahensya na nangangalaga sa kalikasan, kabilang ang pag-sisikap nito sa rehabilitasyon ng Boracay, pagbabalik sa malinis at ganda ng Manila Bay at ang pagbabalik ng itinapong basura ng Canada sa bansa.

Sa 32nd founding anniversary ng DENR sinabi ni Cimatu na ang naturang tagumpay ay bunga ng sama-samang pagkilos ng buong puwersa ng DENR para protektahan ang kalikasan.

"I am truly honored to receive kind words and praises from different sectors, my co-secretaries, industry partners and the public for what we have accomplished thus far," ani pa ni Cimatu sa kanyang pagsasalita sa anniversary celebration na isinagawa sa DENR central office sa Quezon City.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ngayon taon ang pinakamahalagang anibersaryo ng ahensya simula nang itatag ito noong 1987 dahil

higit pa sa kasaysayan, ipinagkatiwala sa DENR ang mas mabigat na responsibilidad sa kasalukuyan.

"The trust and confidence reposed in our competence by our President and nation is at an all-time high," ani pa ni Cimatu na personal na pinili ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte para pamunuan ang inter-agency task forces para muling ibalik ang ganda ng Boracay at Manila Bay.

Nagawa ng DENR ng magaling at maayos ang paglilinis sa Boracay na ibinigay ng Pangulo na isang malaking hamon para muling ibalik ang ganda ng Manila Bay dahil sa maduming tubig nito para muling mapagliguan, mapaglanguyan, mapamangkaan, pangisdaan at iba pang paraan ng mapaglilibangan.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ang tinawag na "Battle for Manila Bay" ay maaaring abutin ng ilang taon subalit handang harapin ng DENR ang naturang hamon dahilan para pagkatiwalaan at karangalan.

SANTI CELARIO



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Manila Bay rehab malaking hamon sa DENR

MALAKING responsibilidad ang nakaatang ngayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bilang pangunahing ahensya ng gobyerno na naatasang linisin ang Manila Bay.

Ito ang pinahayag ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu sa 23rd founding anniversary ng kagawaran.

Sinabi ni Cimatu na ngayong 2019 ang siyang makahulugang anibersaryo ng DENR simula ng binuo ito noong 1987 dahil sa mabigat na responsibilidad na iniatang sa kagawaran para linisin ang Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Cimatu, maaaring abutin ng ilang taon pa ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay subalit naka-handa ang DENR na balikatin ang naturang hamon.

Ginawa na aniya ng DENR ang lahat ng kanilang makakaya upang maibalik ang kalinisan ng Boracay Island at sinundan ito ng isang mas mabigat na hamon sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

Nagpasalamat din si Cimatu sa tiwalang ibinigay ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kanya at sa DENR matapos na personal siyang piliin para manguna sa interagency task force na binuo upang ibalik ang ganda ng Boracay at Manila Bay.

Gayunman, binigyang-diin ni Cimatu na lahat ng papuri at karangalan na natatanggap ngayon ng DENR ay dahil na rin sa sipag at tiyaga ng mga empleyado ng kagawaran. **(Riz Dominguez)**

EMB: Amendment to waste agreement beneficial to PH

Environmental groups press ratification of Basel ban treaty

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO —The country will benefit directly if it ratifies the Basel Ban Amendment, which prohibits the transfer of hazardous waste from developed countries to developing ones regardless of whether it is for recycling or for disposal, according to the chief of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

“EMB has commissioned a cost-benefit study for the Philippines’ ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment. Although we are still finalizing [it], initial results show the

overall beneficial impact of the ban amendment on the Philippines,” EMB Director Metodio Turbella said in a letter to Eileen Sison, president of EcoWaste Coalition.

Turbella said the “long-term financial, environmental and social benefits outweighed the short-term costs.”

EcoWaste had asked the EMB to adopt the Basel amendment at the 14th conference of parties in May.

Turbella said the EMB had officially notified the office of the United Nations and inter-

national organizations of the Department of Foreign Affairs on Oct. 9 last year that it was concurring with the proposed amendment.

“We believe that the proposed additional control or the prior informed consent procedure for the transboundary movements of scrap plastic is very timely and beneficial to the country,” Turbella said.

President Duterte would need to ratify the amendment and transmit it to the Senate for concurrence.

The Basel ban was adopted

in, 1995 by 95 countries. The amendment still requires the ratification of two more countries before it can be enforced.

Solid plastic waste

EcoWaste also demanded a ban on the importation of solid plastic waste materials and electronic assemblies and scraps.

Turbella said the order allowing the importation of scrap materials for recycling is being reviewed and revised.

Sison earlier informed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu

that garbage from Canada and South Korea had been directed here after China banned the entry of 32 categories of solid waste, including scrap materials as of January 2018.

Waste exports from South Korea rose from 4,398 to 11,588 tons in 2017, Sison said, citing that country’s customs service data.

Vietnam also stopped issuing plastic waste import licenses while Malaysia issued a permanent ban on the importation of plastic waste starting October 2018. —TONETTE OREJAS INQ



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Robert Jaworski L. Abaño

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REGIONS



BAD MEMORY Baguio City was subjected to a writ of kalikasan for a "trashslide" which killed five people after a 2011 typhoon caused its decaying neighboring Tuba town in Benguet province. —RICHARD BALONGLONG



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TRASH MANAGEMENT

NEW BAGUIO MAYOR TO HOLD OFFICE AT FORMER DUMP

BAGUIO CITY—Government and university experts have been tapped to improve the waste management system of Baguio, which remains governed by a writ of kalikasan that was imposed in 2012 after its old dump collapsed and killed five people, according to the city's incoming mayor.

Mayor-elect Benjamin Magalong said he would hold office on July 2 at the decommissioned dump in Barangay Irisan to announce the findings of a team from Adamson University, which began examining the facility this week.

The 5.2-hectare dump was shut down in 2008, although it continued to take in residual waste when Typhoon "Mina" triggered an erosion that buried houses in neighboring Tuba town, Benguet province, on Aug. 27, 2011.

On June 17, the Department of Science and Technology will review the findings of a technical team sent to the Irisan dump by Science Undersecretary for Research and Development Rowena Cristina Guevara at the request of Magalong.

Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are scheduled to inspect the old dump late this month, Magalong said.

"Hopefully, once and for all, we will resolve the problem because you can smell the foul odor a kilometer away. It has been there a long time," Magalong said at a media briefing on Monday.

Permanent closure

In August 2012, the Court of Appeals granted the writ of kalikasan and writ of continuing mandamus that required the city government to permanently close the dump.

The city government had built a retaining wall and terraced the dump, in preparation for its conversion into a park while it arranged for the development of a waste processing facility at the Antamok open pit mine in Itogon town in Benguet.

The Irisan facility continues to operate two machines that convert organic waste into powdered fertilizer. The machines will be transferred to the proposed Antamok waste facility.

Hauling costs

At present, Baguio spends at least P70 million annually to haul garbage to sanitary landfills outside the city.

Last year, Tuba complained to the DENR about the stench emitted by the dump due to the fertilizer machines, as well as the use of a portion of Baguio Dairy Farm to transfer garbage collected from villages to trucks hauling trash to a Pangasinan landfill. —KARLSTON LAPNITEN INQ



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South Korean misdeclared waste returned on June 30

By Maricel V. Cruz

PHILIPPINE and South Korean officials have agreed to ship out by June 30 more than 5,000 tons of garbage from the Phividec Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental.

The garbage will be shipped out through the Port of Tagoloan, some distance away from Cagayan de Oro City.

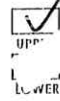
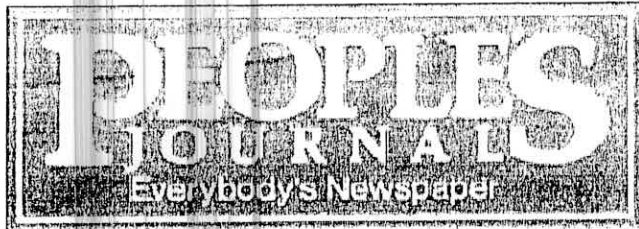
Under the agreement between Filipino and South Korean officials, VerdeSoko, the logistics company that brought in the garbage, will rebag and transport the unwanted materials from the Phividec industrial park to the Port of Tagoloan in shipping containers.

The South Korean officials, on the other hand, promised to provide a ship that would take the garbage back to their country upon notification that the unwanted materials were ready for shipping.

The agreement was arrived at during a meeting attended by Director General Yeong-Dae Jung of South Korea's Ministry of Environment, Rep. Juliet Uy of Misamis Occidental, Customs District Collector Floro Calixihan, Mindanao Container Terminal Port Collector John Simon, Misamis Oriental Provincial Board Member Gerardo Sabal III, and Abbas Lao of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau' office in Northern Mindanao.

Meanwhile, the EcoWaste Coalition, an environmental health and justice group, welcomed the agreement reached by the two sides toward the repatriation of 5,177 tons of illegal traffic waste originating from the latter.

At a bilateral meeting Friday in Tagoloan and chaired by Port Collector John Simon, government officials from the two countries agreed to return the waste, which is part of the illegal waste cargoes falsely declared as "plastic synthetic flakes" with a total combined weight of 6,500 tons, that arrived in Northern Mindanao in July and October 2018.



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Deal to ship back Korean garbage lauded

By
Joel
dela
Torre

AN environmental health group welcomed the agreement reached by the governments of the Philippines and South Korea on the return of the 5,177 tons of garbage waste to South Korea.

According to the EcoWaste Coalition (EWC), the two countries have agreed that the garbage illegally dumped in the country last year may be shipped back to South Korea by June 30.

Chaired by Port Collector John Simon, the meeting was attended by over 40 solons led by Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy while the private sector and the civil society was represented by the EWC.

The EWC said the shipment which arrived in Northern Mindanao was part of the illegal waste cargoes falsely declared as "plastic synthetic flakes" with a total combined weight of 6,500 tons.

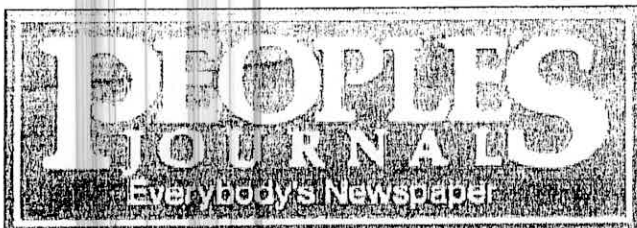
"We laud the firm stance of customs and environmental officials in the region to have the illegal traffic

waste re-exported to its source in South Korea. The Basel Convention imposes an obligation on the State of export to ensure the return of wastes deemed to constitute 'illegal traffic'," EWC national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

As stated in the minutes of the meeting, "the government of the Philippines desires the re-exportation to be conducted in compliance to the order of President Rodrigo Duterte to immediately remove foreign waste as soon as possible."

"We also laud them for rejecting outright the proposal from the Korean side to land fill or incinerate the illegal traffic waste from South Korea in the Philippines," Lucero added.

Under the Basel Convention, the obligation of the State of export to manage the illegal traffic waste "in an environmentally sound manner may not under any circumstances be transferred to the State of import or transit."



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EU, ASEAN discuss waste management

OFFICIALS of the European Union (EU) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) met the other day to discuss issues on development of integrated waste and resources management policies and possibly a regional directive on circular economy in a two-day regional workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The workshop, conducted back-to-back with the European Commission DG Environment Circular Economy Mission to Malaysia, emphasised the importance of collaboration between the EU and ASEAN towards a circular economy and contributed to the EU-ASEAN High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change.

Joint opening remarks of the EU-Malaysia Conference on circular economy and the EU-ASEAN regional workshop on circular economy were delivered by Mr Daniel Calleja Crespo, European Commission Director-General for Environment, and Minister YB Yeo Bee Yin for Energy, Science, Technology, Environment, and Climate Change, Malaysia. The workshop served as an opportunity for the EU and ASEAN to reaffirm their commitment to strengthen cooperation on regional and global environmental challenges.

"Circular economy is not just another environment policy, it is not just another climate policy, and it is not another trade policy either. It's all that and more – a truly cross-sectoral effort, built around people's needs, and built together with industries and companies like you," said Director-General for Environment Daniel Calleja Crespo.

Minister YB Yeo Bee Yin stressed "it is important whenever we talk about circular economy, we cannot put the system boundary to the national level - it is the global circular economy to be taken into account, and concrete global actions need to be undertaken."

Addressing the public and private sector, she added: "While governments need to provide incentives and support 'replacement' as 4th R (reduce, reuse, recycle, replace), it is up to the private sector to introduce innovative solutions, or otherwise facing the consequence of being left behind."

Plastic, identified as a key priority in the European Commission Action Plan on Circular Economy, if facilitated and driven by enabling policy frameworks, has the

potential to bring new opportunities for innovation, boost countries' competitiveness, and create new jobs.

A world-wide problem, waste and pollution harm ecosystems and fisheries, fill up landfills, clog urban water systems, contribute to global warming, and have negative impacts on human health. As a hotspot for these issues, Southeast Asia's contribution to plastic pollution of the oceans over the last years has steadily increased.

Cristina Lee-Pisco



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Plastic wastes: Improving approach, changing behavior

THE Philippines is at the center of the global ocean plastic pollution issue. In 2015, scientists estimated that 275 million metric tons of plastic wastes had been dumped in the world's oceans, with China as the leading dumping country, followed by Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

Fortunately, at the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, held in Geneva last month, countries decided to regulate the export of hazardous wastes, which means developing countries may now refuse plastic waste dumping ostensibly done for recycling in the receiving country. Much of the contaminated mixed garbage cannot be recycled and is instead dumped or burned or finds its way into the ocean. In short, the trade in hazardous wastes allowed by the Basel Convention can be further restricted by receiving countries.

Upheld was the pressure from President Duterte for Canada to take back some 69 shipping containers of household trash, including kitchen refuse and baby diapers labeled as plastic scraps for recycling. The Philippines maintained a "diminished diplomatic presence" in Canada, which lasted until its garbage was ship bound there. Aside from the Philippines, destination countries of plastic garbage in Asean like Malaysia have already initiated the return of waste imports from identified developed countries; Thailand and Vietnam have begun to crack down on waste dumping, while Indonesia is reportedly in the process of implementing its strict policies and regulations already in place about hazardous waste exportation/importation.

(Lost in the "translation" in media accounts of the Canadian waste issue is the "chapter" on the identity of the Canadian exporting company and the Philippine consignee as well as the regulatory system which is the



AMBASSADORS' CORNER

AMADO S. TOLENTINO, JR.

cornerstone of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Based on the concept of prior informed consent, it requires that before an export may take place, the authorities of the state of export must notify the authorities of the state of import, providing the latter with detailed information on the intended movement. The movement may only proceed if and when the states concerned have given their written consent, including an assurance from the receiving state that it is able to dispose of the final resultant wastes or residual wastes in an environmentally sound manner. Be that as it may, the Canadian-Philippines waste issue became the prelude to the Basel Ban Amendment approved at the recent COP mentioned above. And take note, despite NIMBY ["Not in my backyard, you don't!"], the Basel Convention is designed to reduce and control the allowed movement of hazardous wastes between countries on the theory that the waste of one country is useful for another country.)

Given the cross-border and global nature of plastic debris, collective action is not only useful but has become a necessity. Reference is to the entire plastic supply chain, from producer to consumer and waste manager, highlighting the role of extended producer responsibility; and partnerships with local governments as leader and the private sector as innovator as envisioned by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, or RA 9003, of the Philippines.

Interesting is the notion of plastic footprint similar to carbon footprint as a method to encourage self-regulation and measurable action by cities/local governments, companies and even individuals. This could provide benchmarks for corporate social responsibility.

Everyone is in agreement that reducing plastic use is the key to curbing marine plastic pollution. Foremost is to put plastics and microplastics out of the water. Avoid single-use plastics, e.g. soft drink straws and stirrers, bottles, shopping bags, packaging for medicines, shampoo sachets, etc.; ban the use of microplastics in cosmetics like facial cleansers and toothpaste; collect carelessly discarded plastic garbage; successively replace disposable plastic by recyclable synthetics or environmentally sound alternatives.

A byproduct of oil refining, low-cost and durable plastics were a wonder material introduced in the 20th century. Plastics, however, do not decay like wood, paper, cloth or leather. It takes centuries to break down and remains in the environment for a much longer time or forever. Plastics fill up landfills, float in vast masses in the oceans until consumed by whales and other sea creatures in search of food.

Gradually, wind and waves break up larger plastic wastes into smaller pieces (microplastics) with the toxins produced entering the entire food chain when ingested by small fishes or marine species.

According to the *National Geographic*, a team of British researchers who went to the Marianas Trench east of the Philippines found that 100 percent of the animals endemic in that area had plastic fragments in their digestive tracts. Even tiny shrimps have been discovered to have ingested plastic.



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Plastic waste: Improving approach, changing behavior

We have the most educated population in the history of mankind *vis-à-vis* their environment. This is borne by the fact that governments and the UN system, media and educational institutions as well as religions all over the world are one in acknowledging man's role as earth stewards. Yet, a plastic-polluted environment does not seem to matter. Perhaps, we do not have an in-depth awareness of why it matters. Without that, one does not have motivation and without motivation, it does not actually matter.

The Philippines' pioneer environmental NGO, Haribon Foundation, is currently engaged in coastal activities year-round at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LLPCHEA), considered to be the last mangrove refuge in Manila Bay. The objective is to give participants the opportunity to see, touch and feel firsthand the plastic trash that washes up in our oceans to raise consciousness and awareness in order to change behavior, habits or lifestyle about daily consumption and waste segregation. Collecting plastic litter on the shoreline would hopefully encourage the use of alternatives to plastic use. As Haribon says, "Change starts with the individual and small continued acts could create a ripple effect."

Now is the time to be brave enough to jump into action and get involved. The time to urgently act is now.

Indeed, this is the most opportune time to firmly break free from plastics and plastic wastes.



Agreement on return of waste to S. Korea hailed

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE environment-advocate group has lauded the agreement reached by the governments of the Philippines and South Korea toward the repatriation of 5,177 tons of illegal traffic waste originating from the latter.

The group's national coordinator Aileen Lucero said that they commended the firm stance of customs and environmental officials in the region to have the illegal traffic waste re-exported to its source in South Korea.

"The Basel Convention imposes an obligation on the State of export to return of wastes deemed to constitute 'illegal traffic'," Lucero said.

Lucero disclosed that the agreement was reached during the bilateral meeting held in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental which chaired by Port Collector John Simon.

The government officials from the two countries agreed to return the waste, which is part of the illegal waste cargoes falsely declared as "plastic synthetic flakes" with a total combined weight of 6,500 tons, that arrived in Northern Mindanao in July and October 2018.

The meeting drew over 40 attendees led by Representative Juliette Uy of the Second District of Misamis Oriental and included observers from the private sector and the civil society represented by the EcoWaste Coalition.

Lucero further disclosed that as stated in the minutes of the meeting, "the government of the Philippines desires the re-exportation to be conducted in

compliance to the order of President Rodrigo Duterte to immediately remove foreign waste as soon as possible."

"We also laud them for rejecting outright the proposal from the Korean side to landfill or incinerate the illegal traffic waste from South Korea in the Philippines," she added.

Under the Basel Convention, the obligation of the State of export to manage the illegal traffic waste "in an environmentally sound manner may not under any circumstances be transferred to the State of import or transit."

Leading the government panel in the said meeting were Representative Juliette Uy, Provincial Board Member Gerardo Sabal III, District Collector Floro Calixihan Jr., Port Collector John Simon and EMB-Region 10 legal chief Abbas Lao.

During the meeting the Korean government led by Mr. Young -Dae Jung, director general of the Ministry of Environment, offered three options for dealing with the wastes.

As cited in the minutes, these options are: "1) retrieving the waste back to Korea with the precondition that the Philippines covers all costs concerning repacking, containerizing, transporting the waste to the port, and clearing the customs; 2) establishing an incineration facility by Korea in the Philippines; and 3) landfilling or incinerating the waste within the Philippines first, then after that paying the treatment cost."

Lucero added that because this incident was caused by an illegal exporter in South Korea and an illegal importer in the Philippines, both governments agreed to

share responsibility in addressing the matter.

The Philippine government agreed to "bear the whole responsibilities concerning the repacking, containerizing, transporting the waste from the importer's premises to the port, and clearing the customs, including demurrage charges at the Philippine port."

The South Korean government agreed to "start the shipping procedure from the port of Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental to Korea as soon as possible."

"Both parties understood that in Korea it might take some time to secure and allocate the budget for shipping," according to the minutes.

To recall, the bulk wastes, which the authorities determined as "misdeclared, heterogeneous and injurious to public health," have been sitting at the premises of Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp., the consignee, inside the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Sitio Buguac, Barangay Santa Cruz, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental since July 2018.

According to the re-exportation order issued by the Bureau of Customs-Region 10 last December 2018, "the shipment was found to be heterogeneous and contained household hazardous waste constituting a violation under DENR Administrative Order 2013-22." As per this regulation, "no importation of heterogeneous and unsorted plastic materials shall be allowed."

The first batch of the illegal waste shipment consisting of nearly 1,400 tons of containerized wastes was re-exported to South Korea on January 13 this year.



GOOD RIDDANCE

ni ARLIE CALAJO

MAY magandang patunguhan itong naging inisyatibo ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Valenzuela sa pangunguna ni Mayor Rex Gatchalian na nakipag-partner sa Nestlé Philippines Inc. at CEO nito na si Mr. Kais Marzouki at Green Antz Builders Inc. nang kanilang i-launch kamakailan ang 'May Balik sa Plastik!' project.

Layon ng proyekto na maibsan nang todo ang mga plastik, lalo na ang sachets at tetra packs na pangunahing nakikita sa basurahan at landfill dahil ito ang kadalasang gamit

ng ordinaryong tao na bumibili ng tingi-tingi na nakalagay sa mga ganitong lalagyan.

"One of the big sources of waste in the city are the laminates and tetra packs. These are the things that we want to recover back to the system for reuse and repurpose so we can actually lessen the trash volume of the city," ani Mayor Gatchalian.

Ayon naman kay Marzouki: "None of our packaging will ever go to the landfill. Everything will be reused, will be recycled and will be disposed

off without impacting the environment."

Siguradong magiging patok itong proyektong ito, lalo sa street sweepers dahil ang basurang plastik na kanilang mahahakot ay may kapalit na grocery items tulad ng kape at gatas at sa mga mag-aaral naman ay makatatanggap sila ng coupon kapalit ng plastic sachets o used beverage cartons.

Magkakaroon ng mga raffle, ang mananalo'y tatanggap ng P100 Sodexo gift certificate.

Tiangco brothers, hinimok ang kooperasyon ng Navoteño

Pinangunahan nina Navotas City Mayor John Rey Tiangco at Rep. Toby Tiangco ang selebrasyon ng 121st Independence

MAY BALIK SA PLASTIK

Day kung saan kanilang pinahalagahan ang mahalagang papel ng mamamayan sa pag-unlad ng lungsod.

"Patuloy nating ipagdiwang ang ating kalayaan bilang mga Filipino. Samantalahin natin ang batwat oportunidad na nagbubukas para sa ating lahat upang paunlarin ang ating mga sarili, ang ating mga pamilya at ang ating bayan. The best ang magiging Filipino!" ayon sa Tiangco brothers.

Edukasyon pa rin ang isa sa prayoridad

Sadyang napakahalaga sa magkapatid ang edukasyon para sa kanilang mamamayan, lalo na iyong nasa poor sector kung kaya sinisiguro nila na may sapat na pondo

para sa mga programa rito tulad na lang ng scholarships kung saan napakarami nang mahihirap na mag-aaral ang nakapagtapos at naging matagumpay na sa buhay at pag-suporta sa mga public school.

Kamakailan lang ay 20 classroom na naman ang naidagdag sa Dagat-dagatan Elementary School at Tanza Elementary School na pinasinayaan mismo ng magkapatid.

Dahil mahal na mahal sila ng taga-lungsod, magsu-switch position lang ang magkapatid.

By July 1, si Rep. Toby ay muling magiging Ama ng lungsod habang si Mayor JRT naman ang magiging Kinatawan sa Kamara.



Basura ng South Korea, nakatakdang ibalik sa June 30

UNTI-UNTI nang ibabiyahang ang natenggang mga basura pabalik ng South Korea na itinakda sa darating na katapusan ngayong buwan ng Hunyo.

Ito'y matapos magkasundo ang mga opisyal ng dalawang bansa sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at South Korea sa ginanap na bilateral meeting nitong June 13.

Ayon kay Misamis Oriental 2nd District Rep. Juliette T. Uy, sa June 30 ang itinakdang araw para sa

shipping out ng may 5,000 toneladang mga basura na magmula sa Phividec Industrial Estate na matatagpuan sa Tagoloan Port, Misamis Oriental.

"For the next two weeks, the imported garbage consignee Verde Soko and a logistics firm will undertake the rebagging and transport of the garbage from Phividec to the port in shipping containers," ani Uy.

"For their part, the South

Korean side will 'find and provide' and available vessel while Philippine officials will inform them of when at least 20 containerized garbage is ready for shipping back to South Korea," dagdag pa ni Uy.

Sa naturang pulong, pinayuhan ng kongresista ang South Korean government na makipagsundo sa National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) at Department of Justice

(DOJ) upang magbigay ng mga impormasyon na makakatulong sa isinasagawang imbestigasyon at prosekusyon ng mga kasong kriminal para sa nabanggit na kaso.

Una rito, naglabas ng warrant of arrest ang Office of the Regional Trial Court Misamis Oriental, Branch 39 laban sa ilang opisyal ng Verde Soko Phil. Industrial Corp.

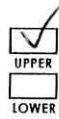
(Henry Padilla)



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WORLD NEWS

Canada has no plans to take back plastic waste in Malaysia

Ottawa has no plans to pick up plastic waste that originated in Canada and is currently parked in Malaysia, a spokesman for Canada's environment ministry said on Thursday.

In late May, the Malaysian government said it would send back 3,000 tons of plastic waste back to 14 countries of origin, including Canada, the United States, Japan, France, Australia and Britain. In an email statement to Reuters, Environment and Climate Change Canada spokesman Gabrielle Lamontagne said, "there are no plans for the Canadian government to pick up waste in Malaysia." He added that Canada received no information about any shipment of waste from Canada to Malaysia, and said the ministry has reached out to the Malaysian government for details. **(Reuters)**



CANADIAN MANUFACTURING, HARIBON SAVES NATURE WITH BAMBOO PLANT

LEADING manufacturer of high-quality bed linens and towels Canadian Manufacturing marks its 60th anniversary with Haribon Foundation for the launch of its new bamboo-cotton collection. Canadian's Get a Sheet, Adopt a Tree campaign, which supports Haribon's Adopt a Seedling program, encourages consumers to take part in bringing back the beauty of the country by helping rebuild its lost biodiversity.

"We believe that it is high time we take a more active part in restoring our lost natural resources and promoting environmental sustainability. Our partnership with Haribon Foundation is one of the activities we've lined up for the celebration of our 60th anniversary this year. We hope that many Filipinos will #GoNatural and make the switch to a more sustainable lifestyle," Canadian Manufacturing Sales and Marketing Director Chand Daryanani said.

The Philippines is home to a very diverse fauna and flora, but 90 percent of the country's primary rainforest is gone due to aggressive commercialization. To help save the country's biodiversity and keep its natural beauty, Canadian is working with Haribon Foundation, which advocates various activities, such as conservation of sites and natural habitats of animals, to protect Philippine biodiversity. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the Canadian bamboo-cotton collection will fund Haribon's Adopt a Seedling program and will support restoration in denuded forests around the country.

With the launch of the campaign, Canadian mounts The Bamboo Experience activation, which allows consumers to experience first-hand the entire Canadian bamboo-cotton collection, which includes bed linens and bed accessories made of 100-percent bamboo. The first leg is held at SM Aura

Premiere Event Center from May 21 to 26, May 28 in SM Makati, June 2 in Davao and Cebu in July.

The bamboo is the fastest-growing plant in the world, reaching maturity in just three to five years. It is a better alternative to plastic and being a sustainable raw material causing minimal environmental impact.

The Canadian bamboo-cotton collection is made of 100-percent bamboo and uses little to no chemicals during production. The sheets feature a thread count of 300 and are breathable with odor protection, antimicrobial and smooth as silk. The sheets' thermo-control feature is perfect for the Philippine weather and users with sensitive skin.

Completing the eco-friendly line is Canadian's waterproof mattress and pillow protectors, all made of 100-percent bamboo. These bed accessories protect the sheets from spills, stains and dust mites.



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SGMA wants **Land tenure for** **poor Caloocan folk**

HOUSE Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led a public committee meeting in Caloocan to discuss details about land tenure for poor families in Camarin.

Arroyo continues to push for the implementation of Presidential Proclamation 397 s. 2003 which she issued during her presidency.

The Speaker's commitment to see the proclamation turned into reality signals the end of decades of land insecurity for the residents of Camarin.

The proclamation was signed by then President Arroyo in 2003 to amend Proclamation 843 dated April 26, 1971, which reserved the Tala Estate for various government uses by segregating an area of 14 hectares from the parcel reserved for Civic Center purposes of the city government of Caloocan.

Under Arroyo's proclamation, the area shall be reserved as a socialized housing site open for disposition in favor of the bonafide residents.

The proclamation further mandates that the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), in coordination with the city government of Caloocan, shall take the lead in implementation.

The HUDCC shall be assisted by the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), National Housing Authority (NHA), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) in accordance with the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 and Executive Order No. 131 dated October 1, 2002.



Arroyo

The committee meeting included concerned people's organizations, local government officials of Caloocan, the HUDCC, and the DENR. It was presided by Caloocan City Mayor Oscar Malapitan and attended by Caloocan City Rep. Dale Malapitan.

The committee confirmed that the boundary and structural surveys have been completed by the DENR and HUDCC, respectively.

The HUDCC contracted out the subdivision survey, which was completed in March 2019.

For its part, the DENR said it is still awaiting a letter of request from the Caloocan City government so that the agency can provide them a deed of conveyance for the land.

Also discussed was the failure of many beneficiaries to submit pre-qualification requirements. Chief among these is a fee of P70 for a certification that the beneficiary-family does not own land in Caloocan, as required by a local ordinance. To date, only a small fraction of the 2,000 possible family-beneficiaries had paid the fee.

The committee hopes that before June 2019 ends, all 2,000 beneficiaries can hurdle pre-qualification of the NHA so they can be granted their Certificate of Lot Award.

Jester P. Manalastas



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Caloocan indigents to get land ownership soon

HOUSE Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led a public committee meeting in Caloocan to discuss details land tenure for poor families in Camarin.

Speaker Arroyo continues to push for the implementation of Presidential Proclamation No. 397 which she issued during her presidency.

Speaker Arroyo earlier committed to end decades of land insecurity of residents of Camarin.

The proclamation was signed by Speaker Arroyo in 2003 during her presidency to amend Proclamation No 843 dated April 26, 1971, which re-

served the Tala Estate for various government uses by segregating an area of 14 hectares from the parcel reserved for Civic Center purposes of the city government.

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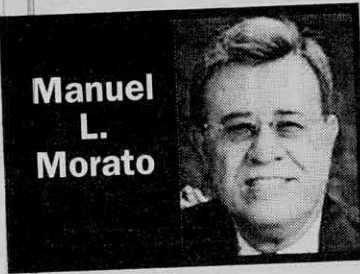
The committee had confirmed that the boundary and structural surveys have been completed by the DENR and HUDCC.

For its part, the DENR said it is still awaiting a letter of request from the Caloocan City government so that the agency can provide them a deed of conveyance for the land. **Jester Manalastas**



Harassment

UNCENSORED



Manuel L. Morato

I RECEIVED a letter last June 9, 2019, Sunday from R.S. Caparros Associates & Co. Construction Managers, "prepared by Elizer A. Torres, PE, unsigned by R.S. Caparros Associates & Co..."

It was noted and signed by Architect Philip Austria Construction Manager, copy furnished Engineer Eric Dimaculangan of Sta. Lucia Land.

I rang up Engineer Dimaculangan, engineer of Sta. Lucia Land in-charge of the excavation to ask him what this letter is all about. He said that the 70-year-old Narra tree planted by my father they will already cut and my small connecting gate to my sister's house, Mrs. Teresita Morato Lazatin will be closed. These people fail to realize that we have always lived in a compound since the 1950s when our ancestral home was constructed. We have had that small passage way since the 1950s, measuring 1 1/2 meters which we consider "right of way," inside the compound. Please note that we have to stay connected in case of emergency, God willing nothing happens for we are in our 80s. Your group cannot expect us to jump over the wall!

I told Engineer Eric Dimaculangan why the letter sent to me was only addressed to me. I cannot make a decision alone for I am only one of the plaintiffs who took to court our youngest brother, Jose L. Morato, for producing falsified documents in court, but instead asked Judge Rafael Hipolito of RTC Branch 215 to inhibit himself because the trial proper was supposed to have started last January 21, 2019. But on January 15, Jose L. Morato with his lawyer told the Judge to inhibit. Why? I don't know.

In an article in the Inquirer, he claimed that he was keeping quiet about our differences so as not to destroy, (he said) "the iconic name of our father." But he was the one who blew it; blemished the name of our father and threw it out of the window for demolishing the ancestral home of our parents and sold the property that belonged to us, six children according to the Holographic Will of my late mother in whose name the property was. *Mahiya naman siya at siya ang sumira ng pangalan ng ama namin.*

The Inquirer called it "a quarrel between two brothers." Not at all; and far from it. We are six children and five took him to court for falsifying the documents.

THIS CASE IS A CASE OF OWNERSHIP. Jose L. Morato does not own the property and never did. He produced a one page "Deed of Sale," untitled, undated, typewritten, not notarized and faked signatures of two witnesses, Andrea E. Epino, our cook long dead; and a Carmelo E., also long dead. Plus two others later added and we were told are the private secretaries in JLM Trading Corporation. Those names were not there before. JLM did not seek for our consent to think that we live next door. There was deceit committed.

When Jose L. Morato presented this document in Court, Judge Rafael Hipolito remarked: "What kind of Deed of Sale is this? No title, no date, not notarized." The Judge further asked: "Do you mean you own all the three properties?" Cockily, Jose L. Morato answered: "Yes" with bravu-

ra. *Hindi na nahiya* for he was not telling the truth. The Judge should not have inhibited himself. When our lawyers asked for reconsideration, Judge Hipolito said: "You are wasting your time. The case was re-raffled to another Judge wasting almost a year of hearings.

The DENR has promised us that the Narra tree, a 70-year-old tree cannot be cut, by law. The permit granted by the DENR was only "for pruning." I beg the DENR to keep a close look for Jose L. Morato had all the trees inside the garden of my parents' ancestral home cut, including old Korean pine trees planted by my father seventy years ago; and many other old trees. The Narra tree is just outside the wall of my late parents' ancestral home, beside the easement of the side-walk. But as of last week, because of the insistence of Sta. Lucia Land, the contractor of the 21-storey condo/hotel in a residential area, was given by the DENR a permit to only "prune the tree," but NOT cut the tree, nor slowly kill the tree by attacking its roots as they are slowly doing. It's a slow death what they want to happen. Parts of the roots were scraped and the DENR issued an order to re-enforce it or the Narra tree will die.

Now the harassment continues from the present owner of the three lots wherein my late parents' ancestral home once stood which they demolished last April 2018 without telling us - my three sisters and myself. It was a surprise attack which guilty people resort to.

We are seeking the help of the Office of the President for we are being harassed and bullied by Jose L. Morato's group. The latest letter I received addressed only to me which should have been also addressed to my other siblings for they too have to express their opposition. Allow me to quote the letter from R.S. Caparros Associates & Co. and Architect Philip Austria. "We are formally informing you that we will conduct excavation at the area where you are using as access to your kitchen. We already told you before that we will excavate the said area temporarily and restore it after we complete the construction of the ground floor and will give back it for your usage. We are hoping for your cooperation for better result."

Pardon me, Mr. Caparros and Architect Philip Austria. It's not my access to my sister's "kitchen" but to her house next door to me. Imagine cutting us off for 5 months or more while you construct the basement of the 21-storey condo/hotel in a residential area. The cases in court have not yet been resolved, as to the ownership of our parents' property. Your clients claim they own my parents' properties, that they bought it in "good faith." That is not true. We were harassed not to know about the take-over. None of you can invoke "good faith" for none of you went through due diligence. All of you did it in bad faith. *Itinago ninyo ang* transaction among yourselves and left us the other heirs completely unknowing of what you are doing. The forged documents started way back in 2014 and my siblings and myself were caught by surprise in 2018 when we were barricaded while our ancestral home was being demolished and all the estate properties of my parents inside the house were lost. We can no longer find where they are.

To President Duterte: Mr. President, please help us get justice for we cannot get justice from the Courts in Quezon City for over a year and a half now. Thank you, Sir.

For comments and suggestions email at mlmorato@yahoo.com



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BARMM agency remits P207-M revenue to gov't

COTABATO CITY—The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Menre-BARMM) has become the first BARMM agency to remit huge revenues to the regional treasury, an environment official said on Friday. Menre-BARMM Minister Abdulraof A. Macacua said that since he took over the leadership of the defunct Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on March 1, the environmental agency had remitted a total of P207,010,832 as of June 13. The amount was sourced from Menre collectibles consisting of mining fees and similar payments from mining firms that operate in the region. —EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ

Du30: Climate change deals 'unfair'

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

President Duterte on Thursday slammed international climate change deals as "favorable" only to rich countries while making poor nations look "foolish."

"The different nations do not agree with each other regarding climate change. Some nations are just fooling us," Mr. Duterte said at a land reform event in General Santos City, South Cotabato.

In a conference in Tokyo last month, Mr. Duterte denigrated conferences on climate change as a "waste of money," saying these meetings did not achieve anything.

The United Nations' climate change conferences, or the Conference of the Parties, is an annual gathering of member-



President Duterte

countries where the progress and status of climate change deals are discussed.

Paris Agreement

Easily the most significant climate change deal is the Paris Agreement, which limits the carbon emissions of member-

countries to certain levels to keep global warming down.

But these deals are "unfair," the President said, pointing out that rich countries produce more carbon emissions than smaller nations.

"They want to limit our carbon footprints to a certain percentage. Their nations are more advanced and they are rich, so a certain amount of carbon footprints [is] allotted to them. This means we can't emit more than the allotted amount for us because we have to wait for the ration [that these rich nations would apportion]. And we will never be able to catch up with their progress," Mr. Duterte said.

"The problem is the [rich nations] have more machines and equipment so they emit more carbon than us," he added.

"[But] with my nation facing the Pacific Ocean, we are the first to be hit by storms. It happens almost every month," the President said.

No storms

These rich nations do not feel the effects of climate change as much as a poor nation does, Mr. Duterte said.

Addressing the more developed countries, the President said: "You fools, what have you been hit with? There are no storms there in your place. In the higher places, there is snow."

He added: "[Now] if you go around selling 'halo-halo,' we will be suffering with tuberculosis, lung cancer and other cancers of the throat. Because we would be the ones inhaling your excess carbon emissions." INQ



Phl tops list of countries facing climate risk

By JANVIC MATEO

The Philippines has topped the list of countries facing the highest risk of climate change hazards, according to the latest Global Peace Index (GPI) released by Australia-based independent think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

Citing data from the Index for Risk Management, the IEP said the Philippines scored the highest in terms of risk of multiple climate change hazards such as floods, cyclones and droughts.

It noted that 47 percent of the population live in areas with high exposure to climate hazards.

Following the Philippines in terms of risk due to multiple haz-

ards are Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Indonesia, India, Vietnam and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Philippines ranked seventh in terms of risk to single natural hazard, after Vietnam, Somalia, Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Indonesia.

For the first time, the IEP assessed the impact of climate change to overall peace worldwide.

It noted that climate change can indirectly increase the likelihood of violent conflict through its impacts on resource availability, livelihood security and migration.

"The effects of climate change pose a major challenge to peacefulness in the coming decade," read the report released this week.

"Environmental risks of climate change and resource scarcity had the highest likelihood and impact, out of five risk categories including economic, geopolitical, societal, technological and environmental threats, as estimated by the World Economic Forum," it added.

IEP said an estimated 971 million people live in areas with high or very high exposure to climate hazards.

Of this number, 400 million or 41 percent reside in countries with already low levels of peacefulness.

"Climate change amplifies the risks of breakdowns in peacefulness by acting as a threat multiplier," the IEP said.

"While climate change doesn't

automatically lead to higher levels of violence, climate pressures adversely impact resource availability, affect population dynamics and strain societal institutions, which affect socioeconomic and political stability," it added.

Phl improves ranking

While still rated as low in terms of peacefulness, the Philippines improved four notches in the latest GPI.

The country ranked 134th out of 163 countries, higher than last year's 138th but still behind regional neighbors such as Singapore (seventh), Malaysia (16th), Laos (45th), Indonesia (57th), Cambodia (89th), Thailand (117th) and Myanmar (125th).

The report based its rating on 23 indicators, which include data on internal and external conflicts, level of perceived criminality, number of refugees, political instability, impact of terrorism, volume of crimes, military expenditures and contribution to peacekeeping missions.

Overall, the IEP said the average level of global peacefulness slightly improved, the first time in five years.

Iceland remains the most peaceful, followed by New Zealand, Portugal, Austria, Denmark, Canada, Singapore, Slovenia, Japan and Czech Republic.

Afghanistan was the least peaceful, followed by Syria, South Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Central African Republic, Libya, Congo and Russia.



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Climate adaptive practices, key to long-term growth of farming, fishing communities

Sustainable agricultural and fishing practices are in the heart of what we do to help farmers and fisher folk secure stable sources of livelihood and sustenance for their families. Our work at the Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA) with the remotest and poorest farming and fishing communities has shown us that, while getting monetary and equipment assistance helps to promote these sectors in a big way, there is a bigger and pressing need to educate these communities to think of longer term sustainable growth.

Case in point – last year’s devastation by Typhoon Ompong in Northern Luzon caused shortages of rice, vegetables, and livestock in the country. Food security issues that arose exposed the gaps in this sector in providing for the country’s demand for food. Furthermore, it shed light on the vulnerabilities of farmers and fisher folks, many of whom subsist on less than P5,000 monthly income. They could not provide for the country’s food needs in bad times, much less their own when it’s good.

Unpredictable and extreme weather conditions have resulted in slower growth for the country’s agricultural out-put. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show that while farm output increased by 0.56% in 2018, it’s much lower than the 4% growth posted in 2017.

The communities we work with primarily rely on farming and fishing for their survival. Getting their participation in climate change adaptive practices is a real challenge; after all, it is difficult for a hungry person to even think about the future.

Still we press on informing them about the benefits of sustainable agriculture and coastal management practices to sustain growth in yield.

We shared farming mitigation measures to prevent further environmental damage, like soil erosion and soil acidity, caused by agricultural activities. We educated farmers the benefits of planting buffer plants like bamboo and shrubs along streams and using organic farm techniques and fertilizers to keep the soil fertile. *(To be continued)*



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Dissecting the President's statement on climate change

WE were jolted at the start of this month — June being observed as the Philippine Environment Month — when news broke out that the Philippines would no longer send a delegation to climate change conferences.

While President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was delivering his keynote address during the 25th Nikkei Conference on The Future of Asia in Tokyo, Japan on May 31, he diverted from his prepared speech and shared this with the distinguished audience:

"When I (the President) was in somewhere the latest of my trip outside the Philippines, I had a chance to talk in a roundtable discussion.

"And without meaning — no offense intended to the UN President (referring to the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres), I love him, he is a smart guy. But during his time, he was talking, ever complaining about climate change. And it took him about 30 minutes to put forth to us what ails the climate change.

"And after he talked, I intervened and said: 'You know Mr. President Guterres, we are talking about deaths, we talk about destruction, we talk about dislocation, the Philippines has been there. I have even fired several Cabinet members for attending so many climate change conferences — one in Africa and then Brazil and then. All in all, one of my Cabinet members traveled 20 times outside of the country just to listen to what animal is this climate change. And yet when a — she came home there was this big typhoon. And she was not able to land in the Philippines.'

"And for all of these things, climate change everywhere, every philosophical discipline have talked



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

about this. And I said to the body: Let's stop kidding each other or else we are just wasting the time and the money of the people coming back and forth to these conferences, which has not improved a bit since we started to talk about it as it was maybe extra — the noisy scientists."

The President continued: "And then again this year, there is a coming conference of climate change. Then I pose this question: maybe we will attend, maybe we will not."

The President may be referring to the forthcoming 50th Sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) — dubbed as the Bonn Climate Change Conference — on June 17 to 27, 2019 in Bonn, Germany. The Bonn Climate Change conference would address numerous implementation issues under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Before diverting from the prepared speech, the President acknowledged that we are faced with the same global challenges, but some suffer more than others and that nothing demonstrates this better than climate change. However, "vulnerabilities are not equally shared by all nations" and "developing countries that have contributed the least to global warming, like my country the Philippines, suffer the most from its horrendous consequences," the President said.

The *Global Climate Risk Index 2019*, an annual report published by Germanwatch, ranked the Philippines as the fifth most affected country over a 20-year period (1998-2017) following Puerto Rico, Honduras, Myanmar, and Haiti. The index analyzes quantified impacts of extreme weather events both in terms of fatalities as well as economic losses that occurred. Although the index does not provide an all-encompassing analysis of the risks of anthropogenic climate change, but should be seen as just one analysis explaining countries' exposure and vulnerability to climate-related risks based on the most reliable quantified data — along with other analyses. It is based on the current and past climate variability and — to the extent that climate change has already left its footprint on climate variability over the last 20 years — also on climate change.

And this is not the only report that classified the Philippines as one of the most vulnerable countries to the human-induced climate change.

President Duterte did not categorically say that the Philippines would not send a delegation to climate change conferences. He expressed his natural frustration toward developed countries on the progress of the talks and their commitments to institute immediate and bold climate actions. Although the President reiterated that the Philippines joined the global consensus to fight climate change, he hoped that this consensus would hold and real action be undertaken especially by most responsible for this monumental problem.

"Governments must comply with obligations beyond their constituency. The problem [is] grave — grave to affect the entire



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Dissecting the President's statement on climate change

human population," the President exclaimed. He demanded that there has to be accountability.

The President's statements reflected the same pronouncements he made during the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in China in April 2019.

CCC supports President's statement

In a press statement released last week, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) reiterated its call for countries, especially the developed nations, to ramp up climate action efforts and to deliver more ambitious commitments to mitigation with utmost urgency and equity.

CCC Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said the Philippines would continue to actively pursue climate action in the context of climate justice.

"We support the statement of President Rodrigo Duterte, our chairman in the Commission, that all governments must do their fair share in combating the climate crisis," de Guzman said. "Unfortunately, global action has been slow. The Philippines has been actively pursuing climate action, but largely on our own efforts and resources. We have no choice but to act, and sometimes we have bilateral partners to thank for when they give some help. With the unrelenting impacts of climate change in our communities, we must do all we can to survive and thrive as a people and nation," he said.

De Guzman continued that there is a need for clarity of commitments by all countries on mitigation and climate finance. "It's time to raise the profile of climate issues and radically step up our efforts. We need real action and accountability

from the developed countries that is primarily responsible for the climate crisis. This has been the negotiation stance of the Philippines in calling for more ambitious and faster climate action by. This has also been the essence of our fight for the 1.5 C global warming limit," he explained.

Climate experts share their thoughts

Climate experts Leoncio Amadore and Lourdes Tibig shared their thoughts on the ongoing discussions. Both Amadore and Tibig are members of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the CCC.

Amadore said the President's call for "real action" from developed countries on climate change should form as one of CCC's stand in future climate change negotiations based on the principle of equity, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances, specifically, in accordance with Articles 4 of the Paris Agreement.

Section 4 of the Paris Agreement provides that developed country-parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country-parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances.

Tibig believes the reason President Duterte cited was that nothing has been achieved at climate change negotiations, in particular, on global action — or global inaction to be accurate — is partly true.

This is because, in the sense that despite scientific findings which have consistently affirmed the anthropogenic influence on how the climate system has been behaving, despite the uncertainties, not doing anything about it in the very little time left may propel humankind into the so-called tipping points.

"We (developing countries) have even gone beyond the basic principles of polluters-pay, historical responsibility, and to some extent, climate justice. We, however, need to participate in the climate negotiations, for us to continue to work on issues like the global stocktake, the debate on loss and damage and other very agenda items which matter to us, especially, our access to the different climate funds," Tibig said.

The President said that when the lives of millions hang in the balance, there has got to be a way. Indeed, the CCC, being the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in national, local and sectorial development plans towards a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines, have, not only the mandate under the law, but the obligation to represent the Philippines and the entire Filipino people in international climate change negotiations and fight for a better life for all.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum. He completed his climate change and development course in University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and executive program on sustainability leadership in Yale University (USA). The author may be emailed at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.



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Did climate change fall like a tree in a forest?

If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?
— thought experiment

First word

WHILE contemplating the news that the *Guardian* newspaper had decided to replace the term "climate change" with "climate crisis," and "global warming" with "global heating," I suddenly remembered an old thought experiment in philosophy. It went this way:

"If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?"

The point of this teaser is to show the ineffectiveness of unheard opinions or thoughts.

Strangely, I felt some concern for all the ardent believers in global warming and climate change. I wondered, what if nobody notices or hears this important editorial decision of the *Guardian*. Will climate change meet a fate similar to a tree falling in a forest? Will the world just move on as though there was never a big fuss about climate change?

My concern was quite unnecessary. It turns out that many did notice the *Guardian's* adoption of new terminology in its stories on climate and the environment.



OBSERVER

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MAKABENTA

Climate alarmists not going away

The United Nations was not distracted from its plans for a big climate action summit in September.

In the US, various environmental groups agreed with the *Guardian*; they petitioned broadcast networks to use "climate crisis" in its reports instead of climate change.

In Calgary, Canada, a broadcaster of CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp.) urged the network to fully adopt the new terminology espoused by the *Guardian*.

Climate skeptics, of course, must have treated this with a mixture of curiosity and amusement. If, like the columnist George Will, you called climate change a travesty, you would have smiled. If, like many well-known scientists you blasted climate as the biggest hoax ever, you probably heaved a big sigh of relief.

If we have learned anything, however, from all these years of scary IPCC reports and climate

assessments, it is the fact that climate activists and alarmists are dead serious about their desire to change the world and civilization itself. They are not going away.

Having captured the United Nations as its chief oracle and propagandist, the climate change movement is not going away with only a whimper. It will probably double down in its predictions of climate catastrophe and hasten the date of doomsday.

UN behind *Guardian* policy change

In an article in hot air.com, journalist Karen Townsend reported that the *Guardian* took its cue from the United Nations before making the policy change.

In announcing the new policy, Katharine Viner, *Guardian* editor in chief explained:

"We want to ensure that we are being scientifically precise, while also communicating clearly with readers on this very important issue. The phrase 'climate change,' for example, sounds rather passive and gentle when what scientists are talking about is a catastrophe for humanity....

"Increasingly, climate scientists and organizations from the UN to the Met Office are changing their terminology, and using stronger language to

describe the situation we're in."

The United Nations secretary-general, António Guterres, talked of the "climate crisis" in September, adding: "We face a direct existential threat."

The climate scientist professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, a former adviser to Angela Merkel, the EU and the Pope, also uses "climate crisis."

In December, professor Richard Betts, who leads the Met Office's climate research, said "global heating" was a more accurate term than "global warming" to describe the changes taking place in the world's climate.

In the political world, UK MPs recently endorsed the Labor party's declaration of a "climate emergency."

In the US, the Democrats are talking about a Green New Deal, and they plan to introduce carbon taxation and increased regulations to save Planet Earth.

Townsend avers that it's only a matter of time before the new terminology appears in most US newspapers.

Changing terms not new in climate scare business

Changing terms is nothing new in the bizarre history of the climate scare business.

In an article in *American Think-*

► MakabentaA5

as we knew it. The smog of industrial pollutants was blocking out sunlight so severely, we were warned, that our planet would enter a new ice age unless we acted quickly. Magazine covers featured pictures of snowball earth.

"In the 1980s, we cleaned up our air, the threatened ice age did not occur, and thousands of people with time on their hands and seeking purpose in life had discovered that they could make a career out of disaster prophecy. Thus, it was time for a new catastrophe: 'global warming.' Well, maybe not so new. Same villain: us and our machines. Same victim: our delicate planet earth. Same threat: the

end of life as we know it. Only the predicted temperature had changed.

"Global warming appealed to the media's appetite for calamity and became an instant hit. The headlines wrote themselves: The poles will melt! The oceans will rise! Lakes and rivers will dry up! Farmlands will become deserts! Millions will starve to death! This was big. Government would have to join the fight.

"In the 1990s, environmentalists switched their emphasis to 'climate change.' This was a marketing move. Global warming could credibly be blamed for warming, but climate change could be blamed for anything.

ertitled "Why climate science isn't science," science writer Daniel G. Jones chronicles how climate alarmists and environmentalists have been freely changing terms in their neverending campaign to scare the world about the climate.

I quote freely some telling passages from his fine article:

"Environmentalists first predicted impending climate disaster in the 1970s, but they didn't call it global warming. Back then, it was 'global cooling' that would end life on earth



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Did climate change fall like a tree in a forest

If hurricanes increase one year, that's evidence of climate change. If they decrease the next year, well, that's climate change, too. Droughts are caused by climate change, but so are exceptional rains... 'Climate change' was disaster gold. It couldn't be disproved.

"Which is exactly why it's not science. It's pseudo-science, according to the great philosopher of science, Karl Popper, who pointed out that for any theory to be considered scientific, it must be falsifiable. There must be something within the theory itself that can be disproved....

"The theory of 'climate change' is entirely different. To claim that it has

been proven is to entirely misunderstand how science works. No scientific theory is ever proven. Theories that appear to accurately describe how nature works — like Darwin's theory of evolution or Einstein's relativity — are assigned the provisional status of not yet disproven, with the understanding that the discovery of a single contrary fact could throw a wrench into the works.

"Strictly speaking, 'climate change' theory isn't really a scientific theory at all. It doesn't take into relevant account factors which arguably have a far stronger effect upon climate than CO2, like the sun, ocean currents,

and the greatest greenhouse gas of them all, water vapor.

"What 'climate change' is, is a bunch of doomsday predictions. Now, predictions are the critical part of the scientific method. They are what enable a theory to be proven or disproven. If they prove false, they're also the best way to refute a theory.

"Climate change alarmists have made lots of predictions. Perhaps too many, because not one of their predictions whose expiration date has passed has proven correct.

"'Climate change' is a scam."

yenmakabenta@yahoo.com



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Mga estratehiya vs climate change, tinutunan ng mga magsasaka sa Ilocos

PATULOY na hinahasa ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Ilocos Norte, sa pakikipagtulungan sa iba't ibang national government agencies at ang extension directorate ng state-run Mariano Marcos State University, ang mga magsasaka at tinuturuan sila ng mga praktikal na paraan upang mapanatili ang magandang ani sa mga lugar na madalas tamaan ng sakuna.

Kasunod ng pagsasanay sa Batac City kamakailan, na dinaluhan ng 40 magsasaka na nagrepresenta sa apat na samahan sa bayan ng Solsona, Marcos, Vintar, at Piddig, hinikayat ni MMSU president Dr. Shirley Agrupis ang mga magsasaka na i-adapt ang kasalukuyang mga hamon dulot ng climate change.

"You are the backbone of the economy. Without you, no one will feed the nation. I hope that you are ready to prevent if not mitigate the impact of climate change," sinabi ni Agrupis sa isang panayam nitong Miyerkules.

Sa pagtatayo ng Science and Technology Community-Based Farm (STCBF) on Climate Resilient Technologies, sinasanay ang mga magsasaka sa MMSU-University Training Center upang mapaunlad ang kanilang mga paraan sa pagtanim sa buong probinsiya.

Pinagagamit ng mga tauhan ng MMSU extension directorate ang mga magsasaka ng carrageenan plant growth regulator at seed inoculants.

Napag-alaman na ang carrageenan plant growth regulator (CPGR) ay nakatutulong sa pagpapalago ng palay ng 25 porsiyento hanggang 30%.

Ang Carrageenan ay isang indigestible polysaccharide (carbohydrate) mula sa red seaweeds.

"My harvest increased when I applied organic fertilizer on my crops and the things I learned from the training. We hope that the government will not get tired of helping us," ayon sa cooperador mula sa Nueva Era.

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FROM A DISTANCE

VERONICA PEDROSA

Preparing for disasters

Across the country, millions of people wait for the next disaster. The Philippines is an archipelago of immense beauty and tragedy. Surviving disasters such as typhoons, flooding, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions is simply part of our lives.



In the immediate aftermath, we rescue, we count the dead, the destruction and mourn the awful random loss, shocked again by the power of the forces of nature.

Every disaster exposes the strengths and weaknesses of the community which has been struck in many different ways: its leaders' politics, economic policies and the community itself's ability to help itself, in other words its very unity is tested.

As a journalist, I've been privileged and humbled to witness the impact of disasters around the region. I was most challenged and affected by covering the death and destruction in Leyte after Typhoon Yolanda or Haiyan as it was known internationally.

My grandfather was born there, specifically in San Joaquin in 1900, the son of a carpenter. He loved to tell the story of how he would walk barefoot for an hour to get to school in Palo, carrying his shoes, then put them on once he got there because he didn't want to wear them out.

When I arrived in his birthplace that day in 2013, makeshift crosses garlanded with small flowers and messages scrawled in pen were scattered over an area that had become a mass grave. Then I saw one with my own name "Pedrosa," then another and another.

I couldn't help but remember that moment last month in Geneva, Switzerland of all places. Natural disasters happen all over the world and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction agency had asked me to attend its Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to moderate a High-Level Dialogue on "Leaving No-one Behind." Climate change is making disasters such as forest fires, flooding and many other phenomena more likely than ever and there are global efforts to try to prevent or mitigate the worst kinds of risk by, for example, investing in local action and empowering those most at risk.

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres has made a call to "leave no-one behind" aiming to ensure that the needs of the poorest, most marginalised and at-risk groups are prioritised in disaster prevention and response. The idea behind the panel session that I moderated is that Disaster Risk Reduction national and local strategies should seek to reduce the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable and marginalised and should be developed through the participation of women, youth, older people, persons with disabilities amongst other groups whose capacities are critical to achieving strong inclusive outcomes.

It emphasised the importance of engaging the poorest, most marginalised and vulnerable groups in designing and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies and plans that aim to reach every person at risk of, or impacted by disasters - regardless of their identity, economic or societal status, gender, age, disability, ethnicity or other factor.

The importance of inclusivity (to use the UN jargon), recognises that the poor, the marginalised, and the most vulnerable groups are worst affected by disasters. Their coping capacity may be limited due to structural inequalities embedded in national governance frameworks, such as gender discrimination and poverty, and the economic consequences of disaster losses may have longer term economic impact, perpetuating or increasing the inequality gap.

Last week's Global Platform was a crucial opportunity to scale up action to create concrete change for vulnerable people. Despite global commitments, those most affected and vulnerable are not receiving the assistance they need. Older persons, people with disabilities, women, poor and socially marginalised people with lack of access to information, decision making structures, resources and social justice are disproportionately affected by hazards. Displaced persons also often live in disaster prone areas. Global investment in adaptation, risk reduction and preparedness is not prioritizing these people and often fails to reach vulnerable communities at the local level where the need is greatest. As the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement has found in its 2018 World Disasters Report, millions are being left behind.

The panel looked at essential questions such as: who is currently left behind and why? What does an inclusive effective process look like? What is the enabling environment for inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (i.e. who is responsible for building trust)? What legal, policy solutions exist? What elements do lawmakers need to be in place in order to align legislative work for inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction? What financing solutions exist?

We examined the question from global, national and local perspectives with speakers from Barbados, Ecuador, financial experts and the Secretary-General of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world's foremost humanitarian responder to natural disasters.

Big questions and lofty answers with long-term strategies, but as we talked my mind would shift back and forth from Geneva to the poor communities in Leyte and elsewhere in the Philippines.

Sadly it's often only when terrible things happen that we realize that when we've lost everything, all we have is each other. It is this grassroots reality at the heart of the experience of a natural disaster that is the saving grace and at the core of the international and local reaction to disaster. We have to help each other because in the end that's all there is.

(This is the first of my regular Saturday morning columns with the Philippine STAR. I'm hoping to provide a global context for issues that concern us all as Filipinos, global citizens and humans. I'm looking forward to connecting with readers. My Twitter handle is @vpedrosa and Facebook page is Veronica Pedrosa.)



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Angat Dam nears critical level

BY DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ

THE National Water Resources Board (NWRB) plans to reduce water allocations from Angat Dam if its water level continues to drop and hits the critical low level of 160 meters.

The dam's water level dropped to 163.66 meters on Friday, just a few meters from its critical low level mark of 160 meters.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) hydrologist Richard Orendain said the dam may reach its critical level "in a few days" despite the rains that drenched parts of Luzon.

Orendain said that while some areas had been hit by downpours, there has been no sufficient rainfall on Angat to elevate the dam's level.

"Umuulan kaya lang hindi naman gaanong umuulan doon sa watershed kaya halos walang epekto yung ulan (The problem is there is only minimal rainfall at the

watershed area)," Orendain said.

NWRB Director Seville David Jr. said they are looking at the possibility of reducing water allocations for domestic use in Metro Manila to help sustain supply until July, when the recovery of the dam is expected.

"Gusto rin po nating mapangalagaan yung kasalukuyang pangangailangan natin at saka rin 'yung mga pangangailangan natin sa mga susunod pang mga araw hanggang July. Kasi gusto rin po natin, as much as possible, persistent pa rin yung El Niño, ay ma-minimize natin 'yung effect nito lalo na sa mga kababayan natin dito sa Metro Manila (We need to ensure our water supply needs until July. We want

to minimize the effect of El Niño on residents of Metro Manila)," David said.

Angat Dam currently releases 46 cubic meters of water per second for Metro Manila.

David said reducing water releases would help slow down the drop of water level in Angat.

He added that water interruptions are possible and that the agency is coordinating with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to manage water supply.

"Ang importante, kahit papaano po ay meron talagang tubig na dadaloy sa mga bahayan, hindi po yung halos maghapon o 24 hours na walang dumadaloy, 'yun po ang dapat iwasan (It is important to ensure that there is water for residences and prevent water interruptions that last 24 hours)," David said.

He expressed hopes that the start of the wet season would bring enough rain to elevate Angat's water level.

David again asked the public to conserve water.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Roni SANTIAGO
SKP
MANILA BULLETIN
JUNE 15, 2019

Our long wait for the rainy season

THE Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said early this week that the rainy season normally begins anytime between the middle of May and the middle of June. We are now in the middle of June and we are still waiting.

The water level in Angat Dam, principal source of Metro Manila's water supply, was down to 164.48 meters last June 1, way below the high-water level of 210 meters. We hope the water supply situation will not reach the stage that it did in the East Zone of Metro Manila last March when long lines of plastic water containers formed at a few roadside outlets and a swimming pool had to be drained so the water could be used for urgent household needs.

Most farmers, who have no access to irrigation, will not start planting until the rains fall. This dependence on rain is said to be one of the reasons Philippine agriculture has not made much progress, along with low level of mechanization and use of modern farm practices.

In some towns and cities, showers now come erratically in some afternoons but not in others. The people thus continue to endure the heat but

keep praying for the rains that will bring the temperature down and, more important, assure there will be no need for water rationing.

PAGASA could only announce this week that the rainy season is almost here. It noted that moisture-laden winds from the southwest had begun to reach Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan. These are the islands of the country that are first reached by the southwest winds of "habagat."

PAGASA said the rainy season will officially begin when it rains five days in a row, and the water level as measured in three of five strategic locations does not fall below one millimeter. The sporadic rainfall that we have had so far does not qualify as marking the start of the season.

PAGASA also announced that it does not see any approaching storms, which usually come from the center of the Pacific Ocean in the east. These are normally feared as they bring strong winds along with strong rains causing great destruction such as "Yoling" in 1970. But in the middle of today's summer heat, many people would welcome any relief from the heat of our lingering summer season.



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Our long wait for the rainy season

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Napapatagal ang paghihintay natin sa tag-ulan

INIHAYAG ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) sa unang bahagi ng linggong ito na karaniwan nang nagsisimula ang tag-ulan sa kalagitnaan ng Mayo hanggang sa gitnang bahagi ng Hunyo. Nasa kalagitnaan na tayo ng Hunyo, at naghihintay pa rin tayo.

Ang tubig sa Angat Dam, ang pangunahing pinagkukuhanan ng supply ng mga taga-Metro Manila, ay sumadsad na sa 164.48 metro nitong Hunyo 1, malaki ang ibinaba mula sa high-water level na 210 metro. Umaasa tayong ang naghihingalong supply natin ng tubig ay hindi aabot sa punto gaya ng nangyari sa East Zone ng Metro Manila noong Marso, nang nagsulputan ang mahahabang pila ng mga balde at iba pang sisidlan ng tubig sa mga igiban, at isang swimming pool ang kinailangang sairin upang magamit ang tubig nito para sa matinding pangangailangan sa bahay.

Karamihan sa mga magsasaka, na walang biyaya ng irigasyon, ay hindi makapagtatanim hanggang hindi pa tag-ulan. Ang pagdepende sa ulan ay sinasabing isa sa mga dahilan kaya hindi umaalagwa ang agrikultura sa Pilipinas, kasama na ang kakaunting gumagamit ng makina, at ng modernong paraan ng pagsasaka.

Sa ilang bayan at siyudad, karaniwan na ngayon ang pag-uulan pagsapit ng hapon, pero hindi ito nangyayari sa ibang lugar. Kaya naman patuloy na tinitii ng mga tao ang matinding alinsangan ng panahon, habang nananalangin na umulan upang maibsan ang init, at higit sa lahat, matiyak na hindi kakailanganing irasyon ang tubig.

Ang tanging nakumpirma lang ng PAGASA ngayong linggo ay malapit nang magsimula ang tag-ulan. Binanggit din ng ahensiya na nagsimula na ring umabot ang habagat sa Oriental at Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, at Palawan. Ito ang mga isla sa bansa na unang naaabot ng habagat.

Ayon sa PAGASA, opisyal na magsisimula ang tag-ulan kapag umulan nang magkakasunod na limang araw, at ang water level na nasukat sa tatlo sa limang estratehikong lokasyon ay hindi dapat na bababa sa isang milimetro. Ang malakas na pag-uulang naranasan natin sa nakalipas na mga araw ay hindi pa magkukumpirma na tag-ulan na nga sa bansa.

Inihayag din ng PAGASA na wala itong natutukoy na paparating na bagyo, na karaniwan nang namumuo sa sentro ng Dagat Pasipiko sa silangan. Normal nang pangambahan ito dahil nagbubunsod ito ng malakas na hangin at ulan at nagdudulot ng matinding pananalasa, gaya ng "Yoling" noong 1970. Subalit sa kalagitnaan ng matinding tag-init sa ngayon, marami ang matutuwa sa anumang ginhawang mararamdaman mula sa umiiral na maalinsangang panahon.



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BAHAGI ng pagmamalasakit at mabigyang proteksiyon ang WATERSHED sa NORZAGARAY, BULACAN ay pagtutuwangan ng GCASH at ng WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF) ang pangangasiwa para sa 300 ektarya na bahagi sa kabuuang 7,236 ektaryang lupaing sumasakop sa IPO WATERSHED.

Ang naturang watershed na sumasakop sa mga lalawigan ng BULACAN at RIZAL ay bahagi ng ANGAT-UMIRAY-IPO WATERSHED SYSTEM na 80! ng tubig na kinukunsumo sa METRO MANILA ay dito nanggagaling.

Magsisilbing sponsor sa loob ng 3-taon ang GCash at ang WWF naman ang magmomonitor at mag-uulat sa kondisyon ng mga puno upang mapangalagaan hindi lamang sa mapaglalaanan ng lugar-tirahan ng iba't ibang uri ng mga hayop at insekto kundi ang mabigyang prayoridad sa magiging seguridad sa imbakan ng tubig o dam, na mapapakinabangan ng mamamayan sa METRO MANILA at mga karatig probinsiya.

Ang naturang proyekto ay inilahad sa isinagawang press conference sa isang restoran ng MORATO AVE., QUEZON CITY ng GCash na nirepresenta nina MYNT PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANTHONY THOMAS; VICE PRESIDENT FOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS REYNER VILLASEÑOR at CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER CHRIS MANGUERA.

Sa pamamagitan ng DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) ay naideklarang PROTECTED AREA ang IPO WATERSHED, subalit sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon ng watershed ay 40! na lamang ang nagsisilbing gubat na nitong mga nagdaang taon ay 85!pa ang bahagdan ng mga nalulugaran ng mga puno.

Bunsod nito, ang WWF ay kakasangkapanin ang mga indigenous DUMAGAT TRIBE para makatrabaho sa lugar at ang mga ito na rin ang magsisilbing mga tagapag-alaga ng mga puno at guwardiya

SEGURIDAD NG IPO DAM PAIGTINGIN

laban sa lahat ng mga ilegal sa nasabing watershed.

Napapanahon ang naturang proyekto dahil may iba't ibang organisasyon na ang nagbibigay pansin para maisalba ang iba't ibang mga may-buhay na nilalang na nanganganib nang maglaho ang kani-kanilang lahi sa ating mundo..., sa paraang mapangalagaan ang mga watershed sa ating bansa dahil magagamit ang mga ito na maging tahanan ng mga hayop at insektong malapit nang maubos ang kaniilang mga lahi.

Ang PILIPINAS ay isa sa tinaguriang 18 MEGA-BIODIVERSE COUNTRIES sa buong mundo. Ang mga ito ay may 80! global plant and animal species at ang bansa natin ay mayroong 250 natural inland wetlands at mahigit na 2000 mga ilog ang matatagpuan sa iba't ibang lugar ng ating bansa.

Mahalaga ang WETLANDS dahil ito ang pinanggagalingan ng mga pagkain tulad ng palay, fresh water, fiber at fuel na milyong katao ang nabibigyan ng pangkabuhayan.

Para sa kabatiran ng lahat. Mahigit sa kalahati ng 50,000 species na matatagpuan sa ating bansa ay nanganganib nang maubos ang mga lahi dahil sa epekto ng polusyon, climate change, pagkalbo sa mga kabundukan at iba pang pagkakawasak ng kapaligirang likha ng mga tao., na tuluyan ang pagkakawasak kung hindi sosolusyunan ng sangkatauhan.

Ilan sa mga maglalaho na sa mundo kapag hindi naresolba ang pangangalaga sa ating mga kalikasan ay tulad ng PHILIPPINE EAGLE; PHILIPPINE COCKATOO; PHILIPPINE CROCODILE; ang paro-parong tinagurian na LUZON PEACOCK SWALLOW-TAIL; kalabaw na TAMARAW; bulaklak na WALING-WALING; PHILIPPINE BARE-BACKED FRUIT BAT at iba pa., na dapat, sa pangunguna ng NATIONAL GOVERNMENT at ng iba't ibang mga organisasyon ay magtulong-tulong para sa pagprotekta sa ating mga kalikasan!

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