

26 FEB 2019

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DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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Nagpaparumi sa Manila Bay

27 OPEN DUMPS

IPASASARA

TARGET ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ipasara ang mga open dump malapit sa pampang ng Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng pagsisikap ng gobyerno na mabalik sa orihinal na kondisyon ang tubig nito.

Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, ang operasyon ng open dumps ng pribadong sektor o local government units (LGUs) ay hindi na pinapayagan subalit may 300 open dumps pa rin ang nanatiling nag-o-operate.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ang naturang open dumps ay dapat isara o gawing engineered sanitary landfill para sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura.

Ayon kay Nolan Francisco, Executive Director ng Secretariat of the National Solid

Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), bagama't walang open dumps sa National Capital Region (NCR), may 12 open dumps naman sa Region III o Central Luzon habang may 15 iba pa sa Region IV-A o Calabarzon Region.

Noong nakaraang linggo ay sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda na ipasasara nila ang mga open dump, lalo na yaong nasa Manila

Bay.

Si Antiporda ay nagsagawa ng aerial inspection kung saan natuklasan niya ang isang maruming sanitary landfill, dahilan upang tawagin niya ang atensiyon ng kinaauukulang local chief executive.

"It's not a dump site, but a sanitary landfill. I've already talked to the mayor of Cavite City and I was promised that they will fix it," ani Antiporda.

Nang tanungin kung ano ang mangyayari sa open dumps sa Manila

Bay, sinabi ni Antiporda na: "We will have them closed."

Sinabi naman ni Francisco na kailangang ipasara ang mga open dump tulad ng itinatadhana ng batas dahil nakapag-aambag ang mga ito sa polusyon sa makasaysayang lawa.

Noong nakaraang linggo ay nagpalabas ang Malacañang ng Administrative Order 16 na lumilikha sa Manila Bay Task Force, sa pangunguna ng DENR, Department of Tourism (DOT) at Department of the Interior

and Local Government (DILG) upang masiguro

ang 'complete rehabilitation, restoration, at con-

servation ng Manila Bay.'
JONATHAN L. MAYUGA



'Wag munang mamasyal sa Manila Bay – DENR

SINIMULAN ng bakbakin kahapon ang bahagi ng baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard para sa pagpapatuloy ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ito ay para mas maluwag na makapasok ang mga heavy equipment na gagamitin sa rehabilitasyon ng baybayin.

Pinutol din ang bahagi ng inuupuan ng mga namamasyal sa baywalk para magkasya ang mga papasok na equipment patungong seawall.

Nanawagan naman ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na huwag munang mamasyal sa baybayin kapag puspusan na ang paglilinis dito.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, tiyak na hindi maganda ang amoy sa paligid sa gagawing dredging o desilting ng mga basura sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi naman ng Depart

ment of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)) na apat na heavy equipment na ang nakapuwesto sa bahagi ng US Embassy.

Samantala, ipinagbawal muna ang pagbibisikleta malapit sa breakwater dahil may mga nakapuwesto na ritong mga heavy equipment.

Maari namang magamit ng mga biker ang bike lane malapit sa mga tanim na halaman sa Roxas Blvd.

Noong Sabado, nagsagawa ng dry run ang DPWH at DENR at ilang trak ng basura ang kanilang nahakot sa dagat kabilang ang mga gulong ng sasakyan.

Ayon sa DENR, opisyal nang sisimulan ang malawakang desilting sa dagat na sumasakop sa 1.5 kilometro mula US embassy hanggang Manila Yacht Club. (**Mia Billones**)



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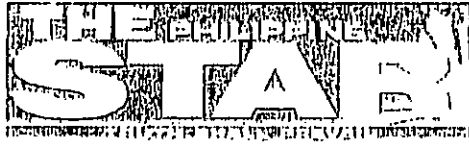
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A PERIMETER fence has been installed along Roxas Boulevard to prevent people from swimming in Manila Bay. (Manny Llanes)



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Residents of Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila ignore the swimming ban in Manila Bay yesterday.

BY KRIZJOHN ROSALES

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DAHIL holiday, nagrerelaks at nagpalamig ang mga residente ng Baseco compound sa Tondo sa Manila Bay. **INQUIRER**



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BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN

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GINAWA nang beach ang dagat sa Baseco Compound kung saan may mga salbabida nang ipinaarkila ang mga kababayan nating gustong kumita ngayong summer. Ingat lang mga ka-BULGAR!
(Jun Guillermo)



Tulong sa anti-basura campaign, hiling sa PMPC

SA get-together ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Usec Benny Antiporda with some members of Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC) kamakailan, naibahagi niya sa amin ang kanyang pananaw tungkol sa kawalang disiplinang mga Pilipino sa pagtatapon ng basura.

Ayon sa kanya, nagmimistula na raw tapunan ng basura ang bansang Pinas, makaraang makalusot pa sa bansa ang bultu-bulto ng basura mula sa Canada at South Korea. At tayong mga Pinoy mismo, aniya, ay walang disiplinang sarili nating basura.

"Alam nyo, kayong lahat, tayong lahat, magkakapatid tayo. Una, ang iniisip natin 'yung mga anak natin, 'yung hanapbuhay natin. Pero 'yung basura natin nalilimutan natin sa bahay, 'di ba?" sabi ni Usec Benny.

"It's about time, iligtas natin sila, 'yung next generation. Kasi ako, nung wala pa ako sa DENR, hindi

ko alam 'yan. Na masama pala sa ating kalusugan, pero we are now in a very critical situation, kasi wala na tayong matapuran. Wala na.

"So, what will happen na kung wala nang mapupuntahan. Saan mo itatago ang mga 'yan? Hahanap ka ngayon ng water waste, dun mo itatapon kasi malapit lang. At 'pag inarod na ng buhos ng tubig 'yan, napunta sa kabilang bayan.

"Eto na lang, Manila Bay. Ang laki niyan. So, 'yun 'yung campaign natin na hindi nakikita ng tao. Ang basura ang nagpapalala sa ating kalusugan.

"You know this is not only about Manila Bay waste, kundi it's about our culture. Kultura natin ito. 'Yung kawalan ng disiplinang natin, 'yun ang nagpapalala sa pagdami ng basura dito sa ating bansa.

"So ang kailangan ko ngayon ay 'yung support n'yo sa aking basura advocacy," mahabang paliwanag ng opisyal.

Tanong ni Yours Truly: "Pero,

Sir Benny, 'di ba may kasabihan tayo na may pera sa basura? Naniniwala po ba kayo dun?"

"Oo naman. Oo naman. Palabas sa proyekto na tinatawag na may pera sa basura ng bata. Kasi tayo bilang magulang, may oras na ipunin 'yung basura, nakakapag-apon ng basura 'yung mga bata para kay padyak. Pagdating ni padyak, babayaran sila, may proyektong ganu n.

"Soanong tawag dunsang ganu'ng project, BBB: Hindi PBB, ha? Kundi Pera sa Basura ng Bata. So, ano pa ang ibig sabihin ng PBB?"

"'Yung PBB will bespearheaded by the Pinas Nabasura Ka, Buster ni Benny, 'yon yun," aniya.

Niwey, malamang ay ang nasabing advocacy ni DENR Usec Antiporda ang isusunod na proyekto ng PMPC, headed by our President Sandy Es Mariano, pagkatapos ng first project namin regarding sa pagtulong sa home for the aged.

Mercy Lejarde

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Basura ng SoKor di pa naibabalik lahat

MAGSASAGAWA bukas ng pagding ang Kamara de Representantes kaugnay ng mga basura ng South Korea na ilegal na ipinasok sa bansa.

Ang joint hearing ay isasagawa ng House committees on Ecology, Local Government, at Good Governance and Public Accountability.

Ayon kay Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy, may-akda ng resolusyon

na nagpapatawag ng imbestigasyon, nasa Phividec Industrial Estate pa rin ang may 5,000 metriko tonelada ng basura ngayon.

Ang mga basura ay ipinasok sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng Verde Soko Philippines at idineklarang mga plastic recyclable.

"Only the second delivery of 51 ship containers were shipped back to

South Korea last month. We have yet to ascertain how that shipment was able to slip into the country," ani Uy.

Hindi pa rin umano malinaw kung kailan ibabalik ang 5,176.91 metriko tonelada ng basura sa South Korea.

Sinabi ni Uy na ilang batas ang nilabag sa pagpasok ng mga basura sa bansa.

Hinarang ng Bureau of Customs ang paglabas ng mga basura at nagsagawa na ng imbestigasyon ang National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) upang makasuhan ang nasa likod ng shipment.—
Leifbilly Begas



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Imported basura galing Korea kakalkalin sa Kamara

Sisimulan ng Kamara ngayong araw, Pebrero 26, 2019 ang pag-iimbestiga sa nakapuslit na imported na basura galing South Korea.

Magtutulong-tulong ang tatlong komite (House Committees on Ecology, Local Government, at Good Government and Public Accountability) para kalkalin ang usapin kaugnay sa mahigit 6,000 metric tons ng basura na nakapasok sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng Verde Soko Philippines at itinambak sa Phividec Industrial Estate sa Misamis Oriental.

Ayon kay Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Uy, nag-akda ng House Resolution 2317 para masiyasat ang isyu, tinatayang nasa 5,000 metric tons pa ng basura ang nasa Phividec.

"Only the second delivery of 51 ship containers were shipped back to South Korea last month. We have

yet to ascertain how that shipment was able to slip into the country," pahayag ni Uy.

"The trail of the 5,176.91 metric tons of solid waste, also from South Korea and still in Misamis Oriental with Verde Soko in the Phividec Industrial Estate, has yet to be determined as well. That first shipment remains at the Phividec," dagdag nito.

Binanggit ni Uy na may basbas at suporta ng liderato ng Kamara ang gagawing imbestigasyon.

Matatandaan na matapos madiskubre ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang ipinuslit na basura ay nagsagawa ng sariling imbestigasyon ang National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) na nagbigay daan para sampahan ng kasong kriminal ng Justice Department ang mga opisyal ng Verde Soko.
(Aries Cano)



INTROSPECTIVE

TONY F. KATIGBAK

A carpet of green no more

Years ago, when I was working for a private company as the public relations manager, I would travel often to Bislig, Surigao del Sur. The PAL airplane flying us to our destination would fly below the clouds and I would look out the window in delight at the endless miles of green virgin forest below. It was such a sight to behold. And one that, unfortunately, I feel we have taken for granted.



That was 20 years ago. Today, anyone making the same flight would see something very different. Gone are the acres of untouched forestry due to illegal logging and profit hungry developers who have encroached on our forests and sold them off piece by piece to make tons of money. The forests are gone and the price we paid was steep – our environment and our natural resources. And all for the sake of modernization? If this was all we wanted we achieved that ages ago – now it's just plain greed. Goodbye green and hello concrete.

In fact, my daughter all but confirmed this a few weeks ago when they arrived from home from their trip to Japan. She had looked out the window flying over the Land of the Rising Sun and saw forests and cities and bodies of water. A real plethora of things. As the plane neared Manila all she could see was a sea of concrete. Buildings upon buildings upon buildings and there is no end in sight.

In a news piece last Valentine's Day there were viral photos of people enjoying the "seemingly" clean Manila Bay. This is was so scary because we are far from where we need to be when it comes to Manila Bay rehabilitation. Couples and friends and families were seen picnicking by the shore and some brave (or reckless) souls could even be seen in the water. People need to be more careful. I am excited at the prospect of fully rehabilitating the Bay but it is definitely not there yet.

It's sad because we are so shortsighted in the way we treat our world. The Philippines has such a rich diversity of natural resources and we are watching them disappear at an alarming rate. We look to make quick money without looking further down the road. We build endless amounts of shopping malls and condominiums and we don't stop to think about how this is going to affect us in the long run.

And we can't run forever. We've already begun to feel the effects of us ruining the environment even if some people still choose to remain ignorant. Climate change has been hitting us all in the form of weird and uncontrollable weather phenomenon, flash floods, super typhoons, and more, and if we choose to keep going down this path it's only going to get worse. Every single summer we claim it's the hottest summer on record and if things don't change soon the temperature is just going to keep going up.

I'm hopeful because I believe awareness is indeed spreading and people are trying to do their part – in their own little ways. It may seem like miniscule steps versus a Herculean problem but every little bit counts. Eco-bags instead of plastic, reusable containers instead of single use ones, and recycling all do their part in helping the world. But alongside individuals doing their fair share, the governments and big businesses of the world need to step up and play their part as well.

That is why – everything else aside – I am grateful that the current administration is adamant about taking a stand for the environment. This upcoming election season we should also keep our eyes out for candidates who make this an integral part of their platform. Sustainability programs are essential for the future and what good are all the promises in the world when there isn't going to be a world left by 2030?

A couple of weeks ago, I was heartened to read an article on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Education (DepEd) working together for a joint tree-planting program within public schools and colleges nationwide. This is a laudable program and something private schools should copy as well. It's a long-term investment that is going to reap very positive results for the future. After all, we can't keep putting off tomorrow what we can do today.

Plus the program – called "School in a Garden" (SIGA) project is not just about planting trees but also educating kids on the importance of caring for and respecting the environment. In my opinion this is just as important as the planting itself. After all, these are the children that are going to grow up and take care of our world and they need to understand why this matters.

Like in all things education is key. I truly want to believe that people who tore down our forests in the past may not have had a full understanding of their actions and the impact these actions would have on the whole world. Call it tunnel vision or shortsightedness but I think we have learned so much in the past few

decades and this knowledge is important to share with the next generation. Hopefully they can do a better job than we did when it comes to saving Mother Earth.





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Pangasinan starts removal of illegal campaign materials

By EVA VISPERAS

DAGUPAN CITY – Authorities will start removing today illegal posters, tarpaulins and other campaign materials posted in areas not authorized by the Commission on Elections.

The inter-agency task force on Oplan Baklas will remove campaign materials illegally posted along the roads, bridges, highways and even trees, according to Senior Superintendent Wilson Joseph Lopez, Pangasinan police director.

The task force will work with other government agencies in clearing the province with illegal campaign posters, especially those belonging to candidates seeking national positions.

Lopez said police officers would

secure the members of the task group who will handle the removal of the posters.

“As much as possible, it will not be the police who will remove the tarpaulins. It will be the workers of the Department of Public Works and Highways who will do it,” Lopez said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources vowed to go after individuals caught posting illegal campaign materials on trees.

Provincial environment officer Raymundo Gayo said they would check trees in forests and in the lowlands to ensure that no illegal campaign materials are posted on them.

Gayo said posting of these materials could harm the trees.



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Expo features best, rarest Philippine flora

By Frances Del Monte (OJT)

THE Philippine Orchid Society celebrated its 73rd anniversary last February 23, 2019 at the Hardin ng mga Bulaklak, at the Quezon Memorial Circle, Elliptical Road, Diliman Quezon City.

The anniversary paved the way for the restaging of the Flora Filipina Expo which features the best and rarest of Philippine flora with the theme: "Discover the Best and Rarest of Philip-

pine Flora".

The Flora Filipina Expo was one of the prominent gardening and plant event in Southeast Asia. The events gathered horticulturists, flower and plant connoisseurs, collectors of rare plants, traders, suppliers, landscapers, architects, manufacturers, government department and agencies, foreign embassies, including local and foreign embassies.

"Our country is blessed with a bounty of flora. Instead of keeping, neglecting or destroying

it, we should show the beauty of our country show locally and internationally," said DENR-EMB Director Christine Rodriguez.

The event aims to showcase the beauty and importance of plants in our society, and to educate local growers on the technical aspects in growing flowers, bonsai, and ornaments with the same standards as the international counterpart.

It also aims to unify the Philippine Floriculture industry and foster camaraderie as it satisfies demands for new plants, varieties



Philippines Orchid Society President Corazon Purification (9th from L) with the international and regional delegates during the opening of the expo last Feb. 23. Photo by: Rasha Noreen Damasco (OJT)

and hybrids. The event also attracts more foreign buyers for our country and encourages plant, garden

and flower enthusiasts to attend and teach enterprising ornamentals and orchid business.



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River body aids Cagayan work

By Brenda Jocson

CAUAYAN CITY, Isabela—A river management organization will support and partner with the Philippine government in the restoration and protection of rivers in the Cagayan Valley region.

Dr. Eva Abal, International River Foundation chief operating officer, reiterated the Foundation's support during the recent International Training-Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management here.

Abal said the IRF is committed to build leadership and strong networks for the restoration, protection, sustainable man-

agement and resilience of the world's rivers, including the Philippines.

Citing strong collaboration of IRF with OceanaGold Philippines, Abal said the restoration of rivers in Cagayan Valley will be for the benefit of the public particularly, the future generation.

"In the establishments of real time information on river behavior, we also

partnered with the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and state universities and colleges in the country," Abal said.

She said the IRF has been sharing its expertise in river restoration and management to other countries and will do the same in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Science Secretary Fortunato dela Peña emphasized the need to protect and manage water sources in the country for the future generation.

"Without water, there will be no living things on earth that can exist as water gives life, provides harvest for animal and human consumption and many other benefits," Dela Peña said.



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The environment is only 70 years old

First word

As a concept, that is. Three environment historians and academics have come up with a startling and mind-opening book titled, *The Environment: A History of the Idea* (Johns Hopkins University Press, New York, 2018).

The authors are: Dr. Paul Warde, professor of environmental history at the University of Cambridge; Libby Robin, a professor of environmental history at Australian National University; and Sverker Sörlin, a professor of environmental history at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, and a cofounder of the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory.

In their new book, the three authors trace the surprisingly short history of the environment as a shared conceptual construct.

They contend that "the environment's global story started only in 1948, amid postwar reconstruction and the fear of humans' capacity for almost limitless destruction."

Some people I know who were born in 1948 and later will be pleasantly surprised to learn that they are only as old or as young as the "environment."

Most people instinctively think that the environment like the cosmos goes back thousands or millions of years.

The Scientist article

The three authors have published an article of their book and their ideas in the February 2019 issue of *The Scientist* magazine.

The piece summarizes their entire thesis and their research discoveries. It is short enough to be printed in the space of my usual



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column, so I will reproduce it here. It is titled "The environment is only 70 years old."

The article reads:

"Several comprehensive, international reports released in 2018 confirmed the precarious state of the environment. In October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that Earth is headed toward a global air temperature increase that will reach 2°C sometime after mid-century, unless drastic CO2 reductions start immediately. And according to last year's *Living Planet Report* from the World Wildlife Fund, vertebrate populations around the globe shrank by 60 percent between 1970 and 2014, with South and Central America suffering an even more dramatic 89 percent decline.

"Nowadays, we understand these types of concerns as 'environmental.' Yet this is not how the public viewed such facts in the past, even within the lifetimes of many alive today. Our predecessors did have an impact on nature, and they knew about it. But they lacked a galvanizing idea that could draw together the web of interconnection and consequence that constitutes the natural world. This idea — which allowed people to see the planet at a new global scale — was 'the environment.'"

"Our recently published book, *The Environment: A History of the Idea*, explores the surprisingly brief evolution of this conceptual construct."

Brief evolution of concept

"The concept of the environment is everywhere, but where did it come from? The question seemed so obvious that when we — three historians — started pondering it, we found it strange that nobody had written its history. We had expected to find a long record back to antiquity. Instead, we were surprised to find a recent and rapid transformation.

"Few words have had a more remarkable career in our contemporary world: born in alarmist pamphlets, matured in scientific inquiries and emerging environmental activism, and catapulted into global stardom with the United Nations' 'Only One Earth' Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden. 'The environment' now connects diplomatic negotiations on climate with wildfires in California and climate refugees crossing vast distances."

Start of global story

"The environment's global story starts in 1948, amid postwar reconstruction and the fear of humans' capacity for almost limitless destruction. It was at this time that a new narrative about the effect of people's behavior emerged. Writers began to identify a common process of degradation that was eroding soils, pillaging resources, and disrupting ecosystems across the planet. 'The environment' was at risk, and humans were the cause. This reversed the usage of the term 'environment' that had prevailed for the previous 70 years: the evolutionary idea that a species' or individual's environ-

ment could explain its characteristics. Rather than slowly shaping differences, the environment became a single entity that was being rapidly shaped by us.

"The timing of this conceptual shift was not accidental. It linked changes close to home to a new global consciousness. The state of the environment became recognized as important for the maintenance of peaceful, stable societies. Ideals of conservation and restoration of the environment shaped new global institutions, such as the United Nations Environment Program and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program."

Nature and humans

"In creating an object of imagination and measurement, the concept of the environment allowed researchers to ask new questions about the relations between nature and humans. Is the world sick? Is the environment getting worse or better?"

"But the environment changes over time, and so do our ideas about what it is. This depends on who speaks for the environment. Which people can credibly express concern? Who can claim to be an expert? The pursuit of answers to such questions generated whole new fields, strongly influenced by cybernetics and computing.

"The seven decades since this concept was coined have seen vastly changed — and much more complex — ideas about the environment. Writing this book in an ever more fractured and dangerous world has made us aware that 'environment' is a rare word that gathers us all together into a common narrative, or fate, to use a more ominous

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The environment is only 70 years old

term. It's an idea used not just to describe the world, but to change it. Without the modern innovation of 'the environment,' we might not even be aware of our dire predicament. With it, we at least know we should care."

New and urgent questions

Most significantly, the authors have asked and tried to answer some contemporary and ur-

gent questions that bug people and governments.

Is it possible for the economy to grow without the environment being destroyed? Will our lifestyles impoverish the planet for our children and grandchildren? Is the world sick? Can it be healed? Less than a lifetime ago, these questions would have made no sense. This was not because our ancestors had no impact on nature — nor because they were unaware of the serious

damage they had done. What people lacked was an idea: a way of imagining the web of interconnection and consequence of which the natural world is made. Without this notion, we didn't have a way to describe the scale and scope of the challenge. This idea was "the environment."

It was at this moment that a new idea and a new narrative about the planet-wide impact of people's behavior emerged, closely allied to anxieties for the

future. Now we have a vocabulary for talking about how we were changing nature: resource exhaustion and energy, biodiversity, pollution, and — eventually — climate change.

With the rise of "the environment," the authors argue, came new expertise, making certain kinds of knowledge crucial to understanding the future of the planet.

yenmakabenta@yahoo.com



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PABAGO-BAGONG KLIMA MAY EPEKTO SA MARINE LIFE

INAMIN ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) sa Camarines Norte na malaki ang puwedeng maging epekto ng pabago-bagong panahon sa mga marine life.

Ayon kay John Mark Violeta, Ecosystem Management Specialist ng PENRO, may mga marine species na hindi kaya ang sobrang init lalo na ang epekto ng climate change.

Ito rin aniya ang nagiging dahilan kung kaya't napipilitan ang ilan sa marine mammals na mag-migrate sa ibang mga lugar na babagay sa hinahanap nilang temperatura.

Kaalinsabay nito, nanawagan si Violeta sa publiko na pangalagaan ang karagatan at iwasang manghuli ng endangered species.

Noong linggo ng may matagpuang patay na dugong o sea cow sa baybayin ng Mercedes,

Camarines Norte.

Kinumpirma rin ng opisyal na ilan sa

mga lugar sa naturang probinsya ang may mga sightings o pagpapakita

ng naturang uri ng marine mammals.

BEN ABAYGAR