

DATE : 05 MAR 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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SMC allots ₱1 B for Tullahan River cleanup

By JAMES A. LOYOLA

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is providing ₱1 billion for the extensive cleanup of the Tullahan River system – a crucial step to rehabilitating the Manila Bay – through a joint commitment with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SMC President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon S. Ang and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu signed the landmark memorandum of agreement (MOA) that will implement a comprehensive dredging and cleanup of the 59.24-km tributary.

The Tullahan River starts from the La Mesa Reservoir **►10**

SMC allots ₱1 B ...

and traverses the cities of Valenzuela and Malabon, before reaching the mouth of Manila Bay through Navotas City.

“The cleanup of the Tullahan River, like other river systems going out to Manila Bay, is crucial to bringing back the glory of the Manila Bay,” said Ang.

He added that, “we are proud to partner with the DENR on this project. In the last couple of months, we have seen what can be done when our government has both political will and a clear understanding of what can be done to make a difference.”

Ang said the project is a perfect example of the kind of environmental progress that the public and private sector can achieve together.

Under the five-year agreement, SMC’s tasks include the implementation of a dredging and clean-up plan provided by the DENR to reduce solid wastes and floating debris; lending of equipment, manpower, and funding for equipment operations such

as fuel and logistics costs; assisting in the community mobilization activities of the DENR; and installing a trash trap, transfer dredged materials, and signage in relation to the rehabilitation program.

SMC, which operates the country’s oldest brewery in Polo, Valenzuela, has for many decades been dredging the Tullahan River.

In the past, it also donated backhoes and a barge to local government units, among many other efforts. Its wastewater facilities in its plant also help ensure clean water makes its way back to the river.

“Despite our best efforts to make the Tullahan a living, vital waterway, and even as we have managed to lessen the flooding during the rainy season by removing silt and garbage, the problem is too big,” Ang said.

He noted that, “when you think of the Tullahan, you think of a dead river, an eyesore and a health hazard. But with the

◀1

leadership and resolve of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and President Rodrigo Duterte, we know all this will change, just like in Boracay and the Manila Bay.”

Ang is confident that with the support of the DENR, local government units, and local residents, the project will be a success.

During the six-month closure of Boracay, San Miguel provided government support by making its employee-volunteers at the Boracay airport in Caticlan, available for the cleanup effort.

It also adopted two of nine wetlands that filter inland wastewater before it moves to the sea.

Recently, the company announced that it had saved 7.7 billion liters of water under its “Water For All” program, which aims to reduce the company’s water footprint by 50 percent by year 2025.

The results mean that San Miguel and its subsidiaries had cut their water use by 23 percent in 2018, beating by two years its 2020 interim target of 20 percent reduction.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Manila Standard

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SMC pledges P1b for Tullahan

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Ramon Ang, SMC president and chief operating officer, and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu signed the landmark memorandum of agreement that will implement a comprehensive dredging and cleanup of the 59.24-km tributary that starts from the La Mesa Reservoir and traverses the cities of Valenzuela and Malabon, before reaching the mouth of Manila Bay through Navotas City.

Ang said SMC would provide the DENR P1 billion to fund the massive cleanup effort.

“The cleanup of the Tullahan river, like other river systems going out to Manila Bay, is crucial to bringing back the glory of the Manila Bay,” said Ang in a statement.

“We are proud to partner with the DENR on this project. In the last couple of months, we have seen what can be done when our government has both political will and a clear understanding of what can be done to make a difference,” he said.



SMC pledges P1B for river cleanup

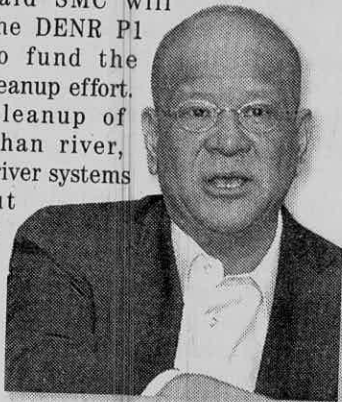
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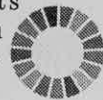
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San Miguel may ₱1B donasyon sa Tullahan River cleanup

MAGKAKALOOB ng isang bilyong piso ang San Miguel Corporation (SMC) sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa malawakang paglilinis ng Tullahan River bilang bahagi ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Opisyal na sinelyuhan ang pangakong suporta ng SMC sa DENR matapos lumagda kahapon sa isang memorandum of agreement (MOA) sina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu at SMC President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ramon S. Ang bilang hudyat ng kanilang opisyal na pagsasanib-puwera sa gagawing paghalukay at paglilinis sa 59.24-kilometrong ilog na nag-umpisa mula sa La Mesa Reservoir at tumatagos sa mga lungsod ng Valenzuela at Malabon bago lumagos sa Manila Bay.

"We are proud to partner with the DENR on this

project. In the last couple of months, we have seen what can be done when our government has both political will and a clear understanding of what can be done to make a difference," dagdag nito.

Aniya, ang kanilang pagsasama ang perpektong halimbawa na maisasakatuparan ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor ang isang isang proyekto, gaano man ito kalaki o kaambisyoso.

Sa ilalim ng limang taong kasunduan, kasama sa tungkulin ng SMC ang pagpapatupad ng dredging at clean-up plan mula sa DENR para mabawasan ang mga basura at lumulutang na mga debris sa tubig.

Kabilang din dito ang pagpapahiram ng mga kagamitan, manpower at pagpopondo para sa iba pang equipment operation tulad ng fuel at iba pang bayarin. **(Mia Billones)**



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PRRC sets 2019 priority rehab plan

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), chaired by Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, held its 94th Board of Commissioners meeting on 4 March 2019 at the DBM Central Office, highlighting the commission's achievements for the past years, along with the proposed priority rehabilitation activities for 2019.

Established in 1999 with the primary aim of rehabilitating and restoring the Pasig River, the PRRC has since removed 30 million kilograms of solid wastes, dredged 19 kilometers of the river, and relocated 19,000 families informally residing within the river's immediate vicinity.

"In the 1990s, the Pasig River was generally considered biologically dead. With pride, we can report that the joint efforts to revive the river, enabled the Pasig River to meet some of the water quality standards for Class C, as of 2017," Diokno said.

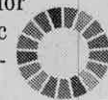
"Several species of birds, trees, and aquatic plants are now thriving in the river. Fish can now be caught in the Pasig River like *kanduli*, otherwise known as sea catfish and *tilapia* – These are all clear signs of a healthier river," he added.

In 2013, PRRC started recovering the easement from privately-owned structures. Since then, the Commission has dismantled 508 structures obstructing the easement and the waterways.

The PRRC has also established environmental preservation areas (EPA) in the form of linear parks, walkways, greenbelts, and revetment/parapet walls along the three to 10-meter easement of the Pasig River. These are seen to serve as buffer zones for public safety and river protection, reduce direct waste discharge into the river, provide river access, provide recreation and tourism, and introduce additional functions for the riverbanks. To date, the PRRC has established a total of 41,151.93 linear meters of EPA along the Pasig River and its tributaries.

"With the participation of members of this council and those of the Pasig River Ferry Convergence Program, we are expecting a number of improvements this 2019 including the groundbreaking of a new ferry system," Diokno noted.

Comprised by 11 stations in the Pasig Ferry Line and another four stations in the Marikina River Line, the Pasig River Ferry Service will provide an alternative public transport that is faster, safer and more convenient than most land-based transport service in Metro Manila. It will also serve as a platform for raising awareness on the ecological and socio-economic significance of the Pasig River and its potential for eco-tourism.





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Turtles found inside luggage at NAIA

By **BETHEENA KAE UNITE**

Over a thousand live exotic turtles were discovered in four abandoned luggages from Hongkong at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Sunday, the Bureau of Customs said Monday.

A total of 1,529 turtles such as Star Tortoise, Redfoot Tortoise, Sulcata Tortoise, and Red-eared Slider live species, were found inside the luggage at the airport's Terminal 2.

According to the bureau, the four pieces of luggage were allegedly left behind by the owner, who has yet to be identified, after learning that bringing wildlife animals into the country is illegal.

"The passenger may have been

informed of the vigilance of the port against illegal wildlife trade and its penalties, thus leaving the four x-rayed luggage unclaimed in the arrival area," the bureau said.

Illegal wildlife trading is a violation of RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and RA 9147 known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Violators, the bureau said, may face imprisonment of one year and one day to two years and a fine of P20,000 to P200,000.

The confiscated exotic turtles were then turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR-WTMU).



Customs-NAIA intensifies efforts against illegal wildlife smuggling

THE Bureau of Customs - Port of NAIA turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR-WTMU) 1,529 live exotic turtles at the NAIA Terminal 2, Pasay City.

The confiscated turtles (Star Tortoise, Redfoot Tortoise, Sulcata Tortoise, Red-eared Slider live species) were found inside the left-behind luggage of a certain arriving Filipino passenger from flight number PR 311 Hong Kong.

The passenger may have been informed of the vigilance of the port against illegal wildlife trade and its penalties, thus leaving the four x-rayed luggage unclaimed in the arrival area.

Illegal Wildlife Trading is a violation of RA 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff

Act) and RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act).

Violators may face imprisonment of one year and 1 day to 2 years and a fine of P20,000 to P200,000.

In 2018, the Port also turned over to DENR a total of 560 wildlife and endangered species including the 250 geckos, 254 corals and other reptiles which were smuggled through air parcels, baggage and shipments.

Earlier this year, 63 Iguanas, Chameleon and Bearded Dragons were also intercepted through the efforts and vigilance of the frontliners and operatives of Customs NAIA.

BOC NAIA will continuously protect the borders against importation and exportation of illegal wildlife trade and other prohibited and anti-social goods.



Smuggled turtles seized at NAIA

Over a thousand live exotic turtles were discovered in four abandoned baggage from Hongkong at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Sunday, the Bureau of Customs said Monday.

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According to the bureau, the owner of the baggage, who has yet to be identified, allegedly left behind the four luggage after learning that bringing in wildlife animals into the country is illegal.

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The confiscated exotic turtles were turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR-WTMU) also on Sunday.

Earlier this year, 63 Iguanas, Chameleon and Bearded Dragons were also intercepted at NAIA. **(Bethena Kae Unite)**



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BoC-NAIA warns vs illegal wildlife trade

A WARNING was issued by authorities from the Bureau of Customs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) against illegal wildlife trade, saying its personnel are vigilant regarding this aside from the bringing in of all kinds of contraband.

BoC-NAIA District Collector Mimiel Talusan issued the warning following the confiscation over the weekend of a total of 1,532 live turtles which an arriving Filipino passenger tried to sneak into the country, stressing that the Customs-NAIA personnel will contin-

uously protect the borders against importation and exportation of illegal wildlife trade and other prohibited and anti-social goods.

The said turtles were turned over by Talusan to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR-WTMU) on Sunday at the NAIA Terminal 2 in Pasay City.

The seizure composed of a variety of turtles -- Star Tortoise, Redfoot Tortoise, Sulcata Tortoise, Red-eared Slider live species -- were found inside the luggage of an arriving Filipino passenger from Hong Kong. Said

passenger is now the subject of investigation.

Talusan said the passenger may have sensed that he was being monitored that he opted to leave behind his luggage which contained the said turtles.

'Illegal Wildlife Trading is a violation of Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act) and Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act). Violators may face imprisonment of one year and one day to two years and a fine ranging from P20,000 to P200,000,' Talusan said.

Itchie G. Cabayan



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1,500 TORTOISES NA NAKUMPISKA SA NAIA, NASA DENR NA

UMABOT sa 1,500 tortoises na kinumpiska ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) ang nai-turnover na sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para maisalba at mapangalagaan ang mga ito.

Nadiskubre ng Customs ang mga pagong sa loob ng apat na bagahe na pag-aari ng Pilipino traveler na dumating mula sa Hong Kong noong Sabado ng gabi.

Ayon kay Port of NAIA District Collector Mimel Talusan, inabandona ng hindi pa nakikilalang pasahero ang apat na bagahe sa baggage carousel upang makaiwas sa kasong kahaharapin.

Aniya, maaaring may nakapagsabi sa pasahero tungkol sa maaari nitong sapitin kapag nahuli sa kanya ang mga pagong.

Dagdag pa ni Talusan, nang mapansin ng mga opisyal ng Customs na walang kumukuha sa naturang mga bagahe, agad binitbit ang mga ito saka sinailalim sa x-ray check kung saan natagpuan ang mga tortoise na naka-duct tape.

Kabilang sa tortoises na nadiskubre ang Star Tortoise, Redfoot Tortoise, Sulcata Tortoise, Red-eared Slider na agad na inilipat sa pangangalaga ng DENR Wild Life Traffic Monitoring Unit para sa rehabilitasyon.

Ang illegal wildlife trading ay mahigpit na ipinagbabawal at paglabag

sa RA 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act) at RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act).

(June Simora)



A QUESTION OF ORIGIN

DENR WILL CARE FOR TURTLES IF...

By Krixia Subingsubing
@krixiasINQ

If China doesn't take back the 1,529 turtles seized at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it would care for them "until they die."

Dr. Rogelio Demelletes Jr., DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau wildlife law enforcer, told the Inquirer on Monday they would ask Beijing about the origin of the turtles and whether they wanted these returned.

On Sunday, which coincidentally was World Wildlife Day, the turtles were discovered duct-taped and hidden in four abandoned suitcases at Naia Terminal 2.

These were believed to be owned by an unidentified passenger who arrived from Hong Kong aboard Philippine Airlines Flight PR 311.

The turtles worth P4.5 million included exotic species like the Indian star (worth P20,000 each), red-footed tortoises (P20,000), Hermann's tortoises (P10,000), and sulcata tortoises (P8,000).

Probably intended to be sold in the black market, the turtles are now being cared for at the Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Park in Quezon City.

Demelletes said the turtles could not be released into the wild because they were not endemic to the Philippines. "They have to acclimatize first and then checked... [for] diseases," he added. INQ



PRESERVING MARINE RESOURCES

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MISAMIS TOWN SCORES CONSERVATION POINT FOR TURTLE RELEASE

BUTUAN CITY—Marine conservation efforts at a coastal community in Magsaysay town, Misamis Oriental province, marked another success after 55 hawksbill turtle hatchlings were released by residents in the village of Candiis last week.

Rolando Pagara, a Candiis village council member who oversees turtle conservation efforts in his community, said the turtles hatched on the early

morning of March 1.

He said 62 of the 117 eggs laid on the village's beach on Dec. 14 last year failed to hatch.

Turtle nesting

"More than half of the laid eggs may not have made it but we are still happy that we are able to release this many at this time of the year," Pagara said.

On Feb. 10, Candiis villagers also released six hatchlings, the

only survivors from a batch of more than 100 eggs.

Records from the municipal government showed that seven hawksbill turtle nestings—six in Candiis and one in the village of Damayuhan—were recorded in the town last year.

This was higher than the 2017 record of three, but a huge decline from the 10 to 15 nestings recorded from 2000 to 2005, with 2002 posting the

highest record at 15.

Pagara said 2018 was a "big year" for hawksbill turtle conservation efforts in the village.

Critical habitat

"Unfortunately, several of the eggs did not make it, as a result of sudden increase in the height of the tide ... in July. Also, there were fewer quality nesting grounds to choose from as most of the area had already

been inhabited," he said.

In 2012, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) designated a 612-hectare area in Magsaysay as a critical habitat for hawksbill turtles.

A DENR administrative order established the coastal villages of Candiis, San Isidro and Damayuhan as wildlife critical habitats, where six turtle nesting sites were found.

Republic Act No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, prohibits the hunting and killing of marine turtles and outlaws the gathering of eggs, destruction of nests, and the sale, transport and possession of "any part or derivatives" of these sea creatures. Violators are fined between P100,000 and P1 million or jailed for 12 to 16 years. —**ERWIN MASCARIÑAS INQ**



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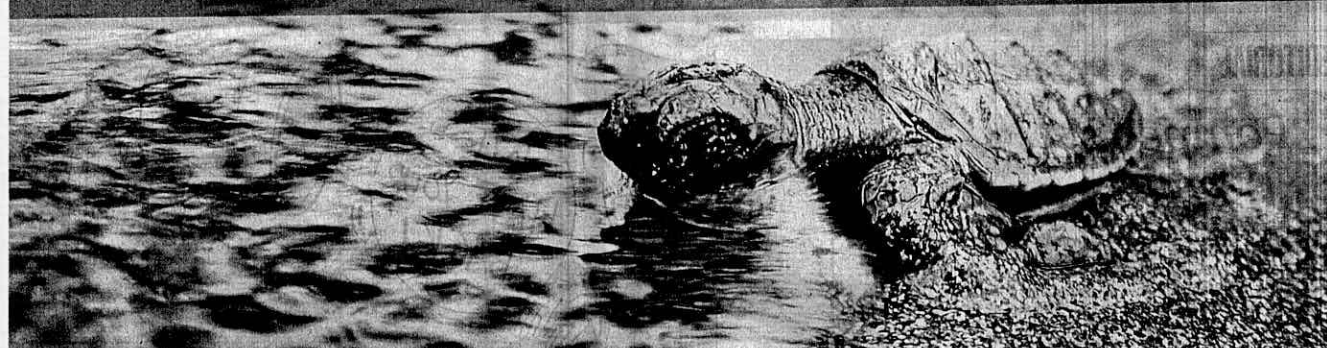
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REGIONS

Editor
Robert Jaworski L. Abano



SEA TURTLE HAVEN A 612-hectare area in Magsaysay town, Misamis Oriental province, has been declared critical habitat for hawksbill turtles. Coastal communities in the town play a crucial role in nurturing these marine creatures, ensuring that nesting grounds are protected from poachers. —ERWIN MASCARIÑAS

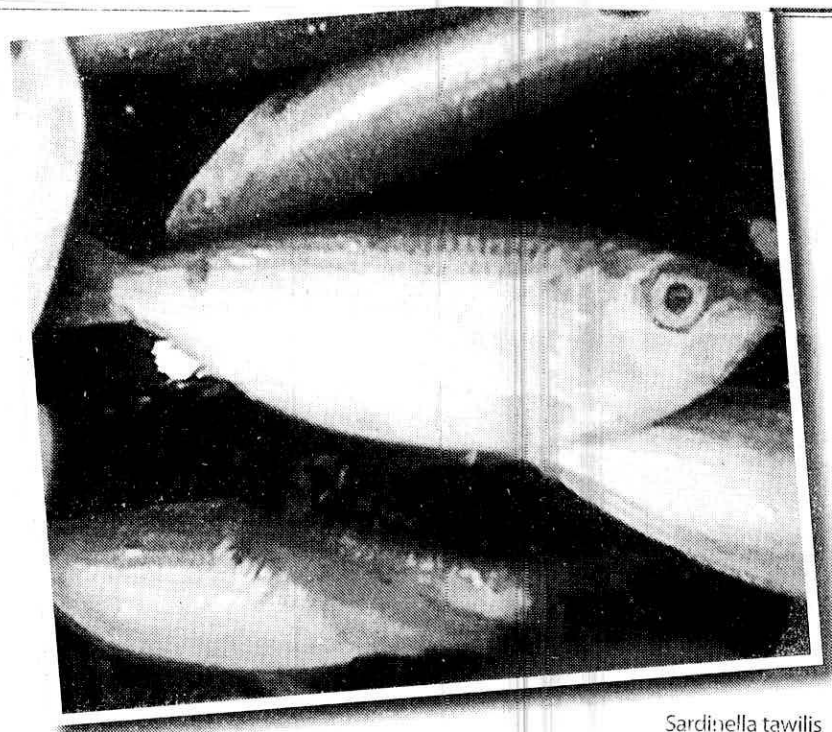


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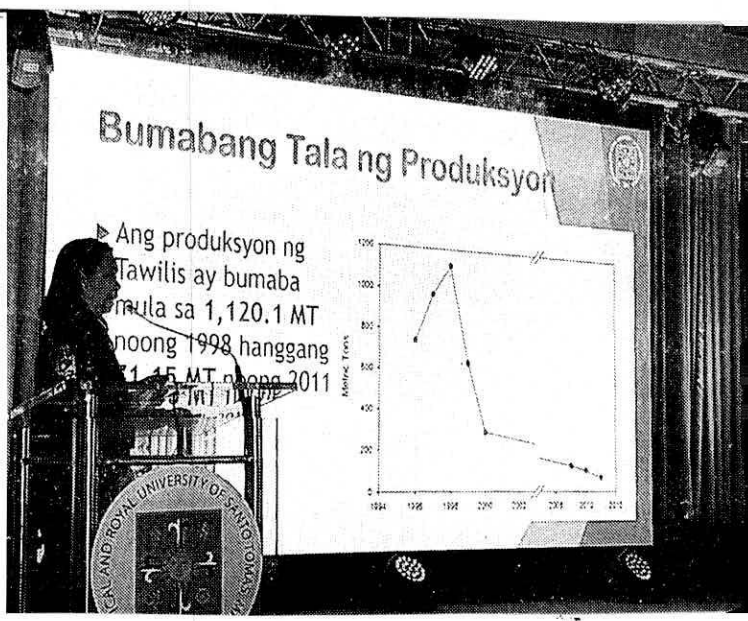
Manila Standard



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Sardinella tawilis



Forum tackles endangered tawilis

THE University of Santo Tomas recently staged the Tawilis Summit 2019 in a bid to shed light on the most recent scientific information on *Sardinella tawilis* which was declared endangered species.

Tawilis, a freshwater sardine found exclusively in the Philippines, is the only known member of the genus *Sardinella* that can exist entirely in freshwater.

Keynote speaker Dr. Mudjekeewis Santos from the UST Graduate School, who is also an academican of the National Academy of Science and Technology, presented "The IUCN assessment of *Sardinella tawilis* as an endangered species," of which he is the main author.

Other speakers included Dr. Maria Theresa M. Mutia, who tackled "*Tawilis* fishery reserves and spawning grounds;" Dr. Jonas Quilang, who presented "Phylogeny of *S. tawilis*;" Alicia Ely J. Pagulayan, who discussed "Reproductive biology of *S. tawilis*;" Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D., who talked about "Updates on the limno-ecological studies on Lake Taal;" and Ipat Luna, who

explained "Management and conservation initiatives."

A roundtable discussion followed with Roberto C. Pagulayan, Ph.D., as the rapporteur.

The whole-day event culminated with the reading of the PSFS Declaration, which summarized the key points of discussion from various stakeholders and participants. From this summary, PSFS will come up with its official stand on the declaration of *Sardinella tawilis* as an endangered species, which will be submitted to the appropriate government agencies for their perusal.

Spearheaded by the Philippine Society for Freshwater Science, the summit was made possible through the cooperation of the UST Department of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines Diliman Institute of Biology, National Fisheries Development and Research Institute, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region 4A.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Drive vs illegal structures continues in Boracay

Malay gov't issues final notices to resorts, shops to heed beach easement rule

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—The municipal government of Malay in Aklan province on Monday issued final notices to establishments that continued to violate rules on beach easement on Boracay Island, warning its owners of demolition if they would fail to remove illegal structures.

The crackdown is part of the rehabilitation of the island, whose popularity among travelers has continued to drop despite retaining its spot among the top beaches in Asia in the 2018 Tripadvisor's World Travelers' Choice Awards.

Acting Malay Mayor Abram Sualog said the establishments would be given 15 days from receipt of the notices to demolish structures within the 30-meter beach easement.

After this period, the remaining structures would be removed by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF).

Demolition warning

During a task force meeting in Manila last week, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, BIATF chair, said at least 10 beachfront establishments, including resorts, hotels and dive shops, were given notices.

Cimatu said these establishments were "not fully compliant or refused to comply" with easement rules and would face



BEACH POSE Tourists enjoy a cleaner and wider White Beach on Boracay Island after a six-month rehabilitation undertaken by a government task force. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

"forcible demolition" if they would fail to comply with the notices.

Sualog said operators of at least three establishments cited by Cimatu had advised him of their intention to demolish.

Boracay Island, the country's premier destination, was closed to tourists from April 26 to Oct. 25 last year to undergo rehabilitation. President Duterte had ordered the rehabilitation after calling Boracay a "cesspool" due to unregulated development and environmental degradation.

The scope of rehabilitation

work included enforcing beach and road easements to clear White Beach, the island's main attraction, and widen the main road.

Following rules

Socorro Ruchanie Gelito-Gadon, whose family operates Willy's Beach Hotel, one of 10 establishments cited by Cimatu, clarified that they were not defying easement rules.

"We were among the first to start demolishing structures along the beach and at the back of our property facing the road

when the island was closed last year," she told the Inquirer.

"We have spent a lot for the demolition of parts of our property and we have incurred significant losses as we have not been operating since the closure last year. We asked assistance from the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) to remove the remaining structures," Gadon said.

As of Feb. 27, the BIATF had accredited 320 accommodation establishments in Boracay, with a total of 11,662 rooms. INQ



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'Virgin' reclaimed

The beaches of the Philippines are a favorite destination of tourists. This is so because they offer a unique and exhilarating encounter with nature with their fine sand, crystal clear water and

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the sound of splashing waves. That is the expected picture.

However, in Bohol's Virgin Island, this awesome sandbar almost lost its status as a wondrous attraction as food stalls were erected there by some opportunistic locals. More than being eyesores that robbed the sliver of white sand its beauty, the structures threatened to spoil the spot with trash. The sight turned off visitors and totally disregarded the lessons of Boracay.

Fortunately, some local officials were alert and swift in addressing the issue. After seeing photos of the illegal structures on social media, the local government of Panglao, which has jurisdiction over the island, particularly the Coastal Resource Management (CRM) and municipal staff, convinced the concerned vendors to voluntarily dismantle their makeshift stores.

The sandbar is now cleared of illegal structures for beachgoers to enjoy. Municipal and CRM officials, as well as the local police in Panglao and Bohol, confirmed this after a visit on Saturday and they posted photos of the reclaimed Virgin Island sandbar on social media to prove it.

With the efforts of the said Bohol officials, unspoiled beauty can still be recovered and restored. Virgin Island will still live up to its name and give visitors a chance to delight in its awesomeness.



COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

AIRPORT PROJECT TO SPARE MANGROVE PARK, FIRM ASSURES BULACAN FOLK

BULAKAN, BULACAN—A 24.5-hectare mangrove area in the coastal villages of this town will be left undisturbed when the P700-billion international airport project starts construction, a private company said.

In a recent dialogue with residents, representatives of Philkairos Inc., an environmental consultant firm, said Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark would be protected from the 3-meter-

thick backfilling activities in the land development project of Silvertides Holdings Corp.

Aerotropolis

Silvertides was contracted by the airport project proponent, San Miguel Corp., to acquire the fishponds from private owners to give way to the airport complex dubbed "Aerotropolis."

Silvertides had acquired about 2,000 ha of idle fishponds

in this town, residents and local officials said.

Philkairos was tasked by Silvertides with conducting an environmental impact assessment and study on the land development project of the fishponds.

Elisa Dimaliwat, Environmental Management Bureau chief for environmental monitoring and enforcement in Central Luzon, said they were reviewing the environmental compliance certificate

(ECC) application of Silvertides.

Preserving ecopark

But Elizabeth Apresto, Bulacan provincial environment and natural resources officer, said they would not issue the ECC unless Silvertides included the preservation of the ecopark in its development plan.

Apresto said the ecopark, the largest mangrove site in Bulacan province, was jointly man-

aged by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and this town.

"Mangrove cutting is a criminal act. Under the law, all measures have to be adopted to protect mangrove sites," said JR Romarate, Philkairos marine biologist.

Romarate assured residents that Silvertides would incorporate the mangrove area in the land development project de-

sign. "The mangrove site will retain its fresh water [despite the construction]," he said.

The ecopark covers 1,000 m of developed sites in the inner portion of the island sitios of Barangay Taliptip and Bambang in Bulakan.

The park, built in 2004, has a 600-m path walk and is a popular tourist destination in the province, said Eliseo dela Cruz, Bulacan provincial tourism officer. —CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE INQ



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6,362.99 bd. ft of illegally cut lumber seized in Surigao

CAMP COL. RAFAEL C. RODRIGUEZ, Butuan City – The police anti-illegal logging task force confiscated more than 6,362.99 board feet of illegally-sawn lumber over the weekend in Purok 4, Barangay Tina, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

Initial report received by the command and tactical operation center of PRO 13 based at Camp Col. Rafael C. Rodriguez here from Surigao del Sur Police Provincial Office (PPO) said that four suspects, believed to be the owners of the seized forest products, are under

tactical investigation prior to the filing of charges in court for violation of PD 705 otherwise known as the Forestry Code of the Philippines.

The identities of the arrested suspects are temporarily withheld pending the arrest of their financiers.

The illegally-cut sawn lumber, with an estimated worth of more than ₱114,533.82, were loaded in a Fuso Aluminum Wing Van Truck that tried to slip out of a checkpoint in Barangay Tina, San Miguel town.

The truck and lumber were temporar-

ily brought to San Miguel Police Station (MPS) for further investigation and documentation.

“Our field troops received information regarding the aforementioned illegally-sawn lumber on board a Wing Van truck that prompted them to halt it,” said PRO 13 Regional Director Chief Supt. Gilberto DC Cruz.

“Our operation against illegal logging is in line with the strengthened implementation of ‘Oplan Kalikasan,’” Cruz said. (Mike U. Crismundo)



DOE sees stable power supply despite El Niño

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Department of Energy (DOE) expects stable power supply during the summer months despite the El Niño phenomenon, with additional capacities planned to be injected during the period.

Power supply of the country's three power grids is projected to remain normal and sufficient since El Niño's impact will be minimal, DOE Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella said yesterday.

"We are expecting a weak El Niño and that will have a minimal impact on the power grid," he said.

DOE Assistant Secretary Redentor Delola said there are additional capacities coming on in the power grid to further augment supply during the critical months.

Nearly 1,300 megawatts (MW) will be injected into the grid from new power plants.

Luzon will have an additional 571.2 MW until July from the 150-MW coal fired power plant in Limay, Bataan; 5-MW biomass plant in Isabela; 300-MW coal-fired power plant in Masinloc, Zambales; 1.2-MW FQBG biomass plant; and 115-MW solar plant in

Conception, Tarlac.

These additional capacities will augment the Luzon power supply when two big power plants undergo maintenance until April.

From April 5 to June 13, reserve will be below the required dispatchable reserve level, which would lead to a yellow alert status on the grid.

A yellow alert means there is not enough reserves to cover the largest running generating unit at the time but does not necessarily lead to power outages.

"We are expecting 600 to 700 MW will be reduced from the grid from March to June," Delola said, arising from the shutdown of a 382-MW coal plant until April and a 300-MW coal plant until June.

In the Visayas, two 150-MW units of Therna Visayas Inc.'s coal power plant are expected to start operating by March and April.

Meanwhile, Mindanao will have additional capacity from unit 2 of the Sarangani Energy Corp. coal plant (150 MW) this month, unit 1 of GN Power Kauswagan coal plant (138 MW) in May, solar plant of Astroenergy Development Gensan Inc. (20 MW) in June and unit 2 of GN Power Kauswagan coal plant (138 MW) in July.

"We can say we're confident that there will be no issues (in terms of power supply)," Delola said. "Even in election time, there is enough supply."

To ensure enough supply during the midterm elections in May, the DOE has directed other power generators not to conduct preventive maintenance schedules a week before and after May 13.

"There's a directive to power plants that one week prior and after elections, there will be a moratorium on maintenance," Delola said.

For the year, the Luzon grid is expected to reach peak demand of 11,403 MW around May while 2,299 MW peak demand for the Visayas grid and 2,130 MW peak demand for the Mindanao grid are seen by November to December.

Last month, the DOE convened the Energy Task Force Election (ETFE) to begin preparations to ensure continuous and adequate power supply during the midterm elections.

ETFE has eight members, which include the NEA, National Power Corp., National Transmission Corp., Philippine National Oil Co., Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., Philippine Elec-

tricity Market Corp., National Grid Corp. of the Philippines and the Manila Electric Co. There are six other supporting organizations also onboard.

The Task Force will work closely with the national security group composed of the National Security Council, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Philippine Coast Guard.

Forest fires

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has placed all 16 regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on alert for forest fires in anticipation of the nationwide impact of El Niño.

Cimatu ordered the DENR offices to each conduct a region-wide forest assessment and update their respective forest protection plans in anticipation of the El Niño-induced drought, which could increase the risk of wildfires.

"Our teams should always be ready for deployment to suppress incidents of outbreaks, particularly grassfires, to prevent them from crossing over to forested areas and turn into full-blown forest fires," Cimatu said. — **With Elizabeth Marcelo**



Energy dep't downplays El Niño's possible impact

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy (DoE) has dismissed fears of a possible adverse impact of a "weak" El Niño on the country's power supply next quarter as it pointed to measures that are in place and the entry of new energy capacity this semester.

"Considering *na magkakaroon tayo ng* (we will have a) weak El Niño condition for the period of April to June, *wala naman po'ng matinding* (there will be no serious) impact *ito sa* (on) power supply *natin*. *Ibig sabihin sa Luzon, sa Visayas at sa Mindanao grids, magiging normal po ang ating condition*," Energy Secretary William Felix B. Fuentebella said in a press conference at the DoE head office on Monday.

He said the weather phenomenon would be felt the most in the Luzon grid because of the big presence of hydroelectric power plants on the island — which contributes nearly three-fourths to national output — but reserves would be sufficient to cover demand.

The effect will be minimal in the Visayas because that area has few hydro plants, while Mindanao's power oversupply should be able to cover El Niño's impact.

"Even in [the May 13] election week, we still have enough supply of power," said Assistant Secretary Redentor E. Delola.

He said the mild El Niño will result in a below-normal rainfall in March and April in Luzon and the Visayas, and near-normal rainfall in Mindanao.

In May, most parts of southern Luzon will still have below-normal rainfall, while rains will be "near-normal" for most parts of northern Luzon and Mindanao, he said. By June, Luzon will be closer to normal rainfall condition, except for the eastern sections. By then, Visayas and Mindanao will have normal rainfall.

Mr. Delola said the DoE used as basis for its "safer" summer power outlook the worst-case impact of El Niño in November and December 2015 and January 2016 during which the department noted a significant reduction in hydropower generation capacity.

He said that, based on Luzon's forecast, peak demand would happen in May at 11,403 megawatts (MW). March-June is expected to see a 30% reduction in hydropower capacity to between 983 MW and 1,776 MW.

El Niño, S1/2

In the Visayas, power demand is expected to peak towards the end of the year at 2,299 MW, thus the weather aberration will have minimal impact. Hydropower's share in the area's capacity mix is minimal at 0.6%, Mr. Delola said.

In Mindanao, peak demand will come in towards yearend at 2,130 MW. Despite the possible significant effect of El Niño because of the 27.5% share of hydro in its capacity mix, the grid will remain stable due to the operation of large coal-fired plants.

Mr. Fuentebella said the DoE had in place mitigating measures

ahead of El Niño. On the supply side, he said the DoE is making sure that power plants would have minimal forced outages, while managing maintenance schedules to strictly follow the grid operating program of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines.

On the demand side, he said the department would continue to remind consumers on energy efficiency and conservation practice, while keeping on standby big power users' interruptible load program. — **Victor V. Saulon**



El Niño to worsen farmers' woes — Manicad

BROADCAST journalist and senatorial candidate Jiggy Manicad has warned that the developing El Niño may worsen conditions for farmers who are still reeling from last year's series of typhoons.

"Sa aking pagdayo sa iba't ibang probinsya para ibalita ang epekto ng El Niño, kitang-kita talaga na ang pinakaapektado ay ang sektor ng agrikultura. Nakakabahala ito kasi marami pang mga magsasaka ang bumabawi mula sa pagkasira dahil sa bagyo noong nakaraang taon," Manicad said in an interview.

Manicad highlighted that the already ill-equipped farms will become more susceptible to extreme weather changes.

"We already lack enough irrigation facilities for our farmers as it is, and

with El Niño, they just become more vulnerable to drought," the veteran journalist said, adding:

"Rice and other crops would suffer and this would be another setback for the farmers who will still be adjusting to the new tariffication law," Manicad explained, referring to the recently signed rice tariffication law which would remove import limits on rice brought in from other countries.

As of March 4, five towns in Northern Cotabato and 2 barangays in Occidental Mindoro have already declared a state of calamity due to the developing dry spell.

Other provinces are also rallying to fortify their defenses against El Niño by installing additional water pumps and through cloud seeding.

According to a February

forecast from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), rainfall from March to June would be below normal, yielding dry conditions that will affect different regions in varying degrees.

The newcomer to the Senate race cited the need for "new legislation" to mitigate the effects of climate change particularly on farmers.

According to Manicad, "Climate change is not something we can shrug off. It is happening here and now, and we are already starting to feel it."

"We're the third most vulnerable country to climate change, and that means we should be first in line to institutionalize measures to protect against extreme weather," the multi-awarded journalist said.



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El Niño pabigat sa magsasaka

NAGBABALA ang broadcast journalist at senatorial candidate na si Jiggy Manicad na ang darating na El Niño ay magiging dagdag na pabigat sa mga magsasaka, lalo na ang mga bumabawi pa lang sa pinsalang natamo noong nakaraang taon dahil sa mga nagdaang bagyo.

Binigyang-diin ni Manicad na ang mga sakahang may kakulangan na sa pasilidad ay mas lalo pang mapipinsala dahil sa pagbabago ng panahon.

Tinutukoy ni Manicad ang rice tariffication law na kamakailan lang nilagdaan at magtatanggal ng limitasyon sa pag-aangkat ng bigas mula sa ibang bansa.

Batay sa talaan, limang bayan sa Northern Cotabato at dalawang barangay sa Occidental Mindoro ang nagdeklara ng state of calamity dahil sa nararamdamang epekto ng El Niño.

Ilang mga probinsya ang naghahanda na rin sa pamamagitan ng paglagay ng mga water pumps at pagsasagawa ng cloud seeding.

Ayon sa pag-aaral ng PAGASA, inaasahang mas mababa sa normal ang dami ng ulang mahuhulog sa karamihan ng mga rehiyon sa Pilipinas hanggang Hunyo.

Dahil dito, nagpahayag din si Manicad ng hangarin na magkaroon ng bagong batas na maglalayong magbigay ng solusyon sa mga problemang hatid ng climate change.

JAY REYES



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WATER SHORTAGE FEARED – The water level at the La Mesa Dam, which supplies most of Metro Manila's water, is currently at 69.89 meters – its lowest in over a decade and just a shade above the very critical level of 69 meters. With the expected El Niño phenomenon, a water shortage may likely occur. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), La Mesa Dam's standard operating level is between 78 and 80.15 meters.



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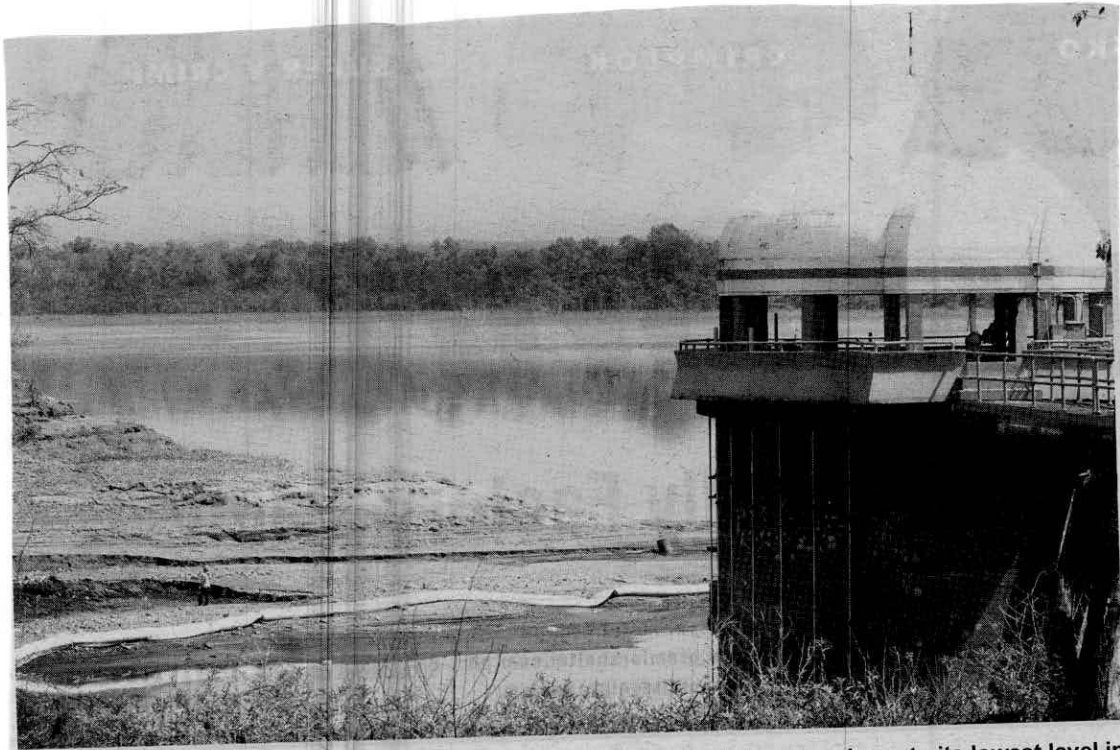

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LA Mesa Dam in Quezon City, which supplies most of Metro Manila's water, drops to its lowest level in over a decade at 69.89 meters – way below its standard operating level at 78 to 80.15 meters and less than half a meter from the very critical level of 69 meters – as a result of a prolonged dry spell. (Mark Balmores)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA

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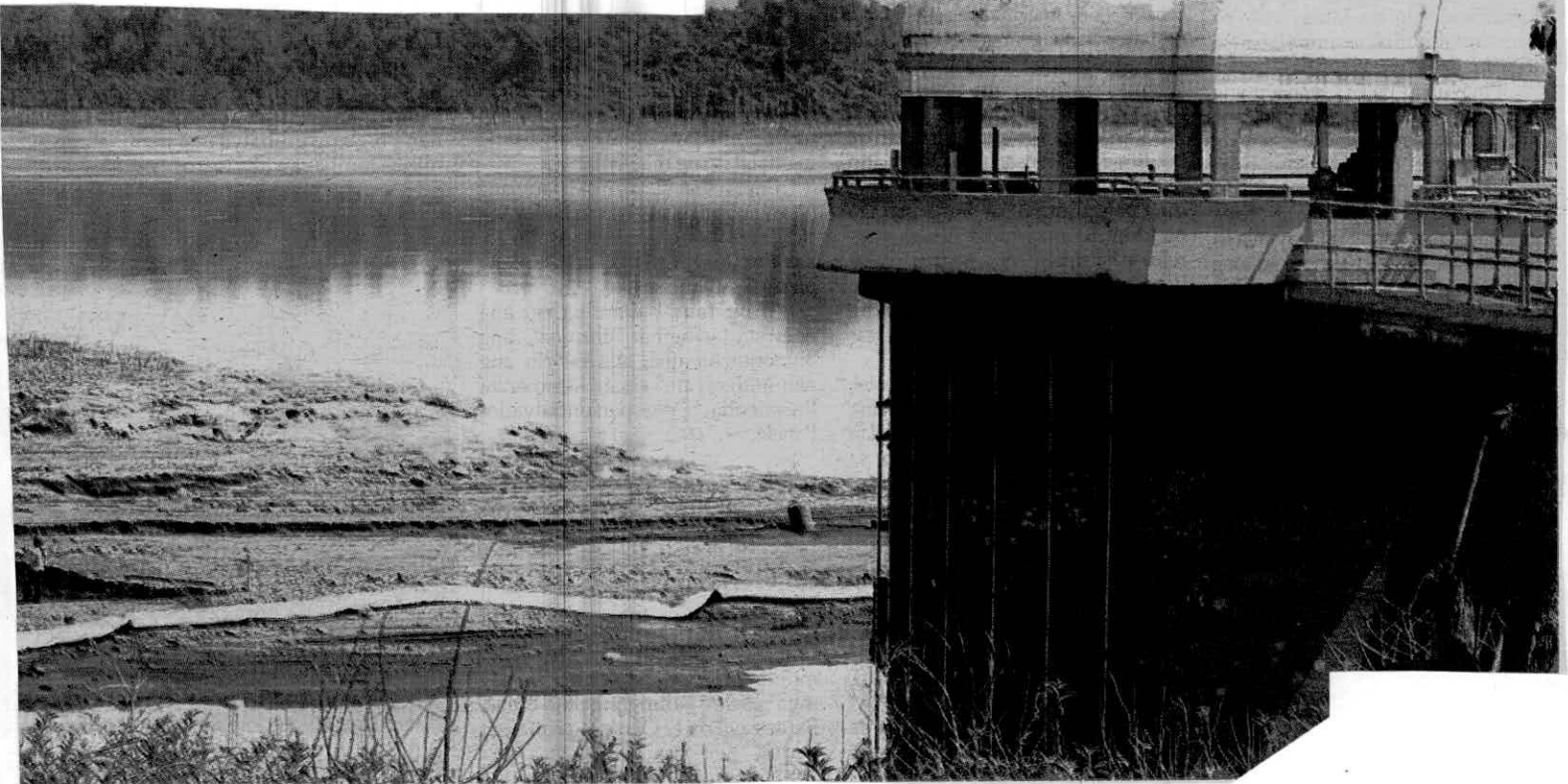
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DELIKADONG LA MESA Halos nasa critical level na 69 meters na ang tubig sa La Mesa Dam, na nasa 69.89 meters na lang kahapon, mula sa standard operating level hitong 78-80 meters, ayon sa PAGASA. Ang kasalukuyang water level sa dam, na nagsu-supply sa malaking bahagi ng Metro Manila, ang pinakamababa sa nakalipas na mahigit isang dekada.

MARK BALMORES





Fight for water (1)

The fight for water will take on epic proportions within the decade, if the government is not able to arrive soon at a national water security policy that will answer the water needs of a growing nation for drinking, sanitation, agriculture, and industry.

The crisis is already knocking on our doors with Maynilad and Manila Water, the two concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for water supply and sewerage services for 15 million residents of Metro Manila, at their wits' end to try to find new sources of water.

BIZLINKS

Warning rebuffed

Manila Water, in particular, had already issued a warning before the fourth quarter of 2018 that it may not be able to supply the water needs of the metro's east zone starting in 2021, if it is not able to secure new sources of water.

The MWSS concessionaire had been battling for approval to start construction of a P13.5-billion integrated water supply facility in Pakil, Laguna using water from the eastern side of Laguna Bay.

Manila Water Co. Inc., an Ayala-led company, is understandably concerned, even if days after issuing the warning, MWSS rebuffed the concessionaire's warning with an announcement that there will be enough water for another five years, well beyond the term of the current president.

Water security roadmap

Further statements by the MWSS bared a water security roadmap that would provide for the needs of its communities. Aside from the planting of trees and in watershed areas, the metro's water authority also undertook rehabilitation and protection of six critical watersheds that supply water to Angat.

More importantly, it said, medium-term water sources like Laguna Lake, Sumag River, Kaliwa Dam, Wawa River-New Montalban Dam, and Tayabasan River had been identified. On the long-term supply sources, the Kanan Dam and Agos Dam were named.

The MWSS's water security roadmap includes what it terms as the ABC projects, starting with the Angat-Ipo-Norzagaray optimization (to harness untapped and water wastage for Metro Manila), the Bayabas Dam project (for Bulacan), and the multipurpose impounding dam in Candaba (for Pampanga).

MWSS is, likewise, banking on a loan agreement signed late last year between the Philippines and China to finance the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, backed by statements from Malacanang that it would expedite the project that was awarded to China Energy through a long-term official development assistance loan.



REY GAMBOA

50-year old dam project

However, we know only too well the story behind the proposed development of Kaliwa Dam as a source of water, not only for Metro Manila, but even the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan that are experiencing high population growth and industrialization.

It has been half a century ago when the construction of a dam inside the declared Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve was covered by a presidential proclamation. It was the height of the Maoist-led student activism, and the protest movement had successfully stopped the planned construction of the proposed dam.

Ironically, it seems that the dam project will proceed now, with Mao's China forking one of its biggest "aids" to the country. The pledged P10 billion in ODA for the design construction of the Kaliwa Dam, now dubbed as the New Centennial Water Source Project (NCWSP), last November between the Chinese and Philippine governments is being rushed by the Duterte administration, which will provide a counterpart funding of P2.2 billion.

The dam will be 60 meters high, and is seen to affect about 300 hectares of forestlands, including the domicile of two indigenous tribes, the Dumagats and Remontados who roam and live freely off the Sierra Madre mountains.

Furthermore, protest groups say that the site of the proposed dam lies in an area that sits on two active tectonic plates, the Philippine Fault Zone and the Valley Fault System.

More importantly, the cause-oriented groups have raised the threat of the project on the ecosystem of the Sierra Madre, while at the same time trespassing on the ancestral lands of the tribal groups and subsequently destroying their culture.

March of progress

Five decades has significantly weakened the protests, and what seemed to be a long arduous journey before to the forest hinterlands of the Sierra Madre is no longer the case. Even the tribesmen carry mobile phones, or take public rides because these have become more accessible with new roads.

Currently, an access road from a sitio in Infanta to a sitio in General Nakar, both in Quezon, is being constructed. However, civic groups say the project is not covered by a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) by the Dumagats and Remontados and is in violation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA).

However, the encroachment of civilization in areas once difficult to reach, plus the fact that the current government enjoys immense support with its Build Build Build projects, has made the Kaliwa Dam project more doable — and even acceptable.

As they say, the march of progress is something that is difficult to stem. And for Filipinos in Metro Manila, as well as in the rapidly urbanizing provinces around it, the New Centennial Dam project will be an important new source of water to augment supplies from Angat.

Sadly, the voice of the threatened Dumagats and Remontados are being drowned by a louder voice: that of tens of millions of Filipinos whose concerns are efficient roads and transportation facilities, reliable electricity, amply water supply, and overall, better lives.

This time, we must not lose sight of the fact that our less privileged brothers who have made the mountains their homes for centuries must not be left behind. They too need to share in the country's growth.

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We are actively using two social networking websites to reach out more often and even interact with and engage our readers, friends and colleagues in the various areas of interest that I tackle in my column. Please like us on www.facebook.com/ReyGamboa and follow us on www.twitter.com/ReyGamboa.

Should you wish to share any insights, write me at Link Edge, 25th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City. Or e-mail me at reydgamboa@yahoo.com. For a compilation of previous articles, visit www.BizlinksPhilippines.net.



Phl to host Asia Water Council meet

It's all systems go for the hosting of some 200 international delegates to the Asian Water Council 8th Board of Council (BoC) Meeting, 3rd General Assembly and Elections on March 14-15 in Manila.

This was disclosed by Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Reynaldo Velasco who is a member of the AWC BoC headed by K Water president Hak Soo Lee.

The event will be hosted by MWSS together with its concessionaires Manila Water, Maynilad and Luzon Clean

Water Development Corp.

"It is an honor for us to be hosting this event at a time when our government is vigorously undertaking the Build, Build, Build program that includes water infrastructure and the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. The country's hosting of the event will bring in member organizations involved in the water sector industry giving them the opportunity to explore areas where cooperation with MWSS and its concessionaires can be established," Velasco said.

Maynilad fully supports AWC, cognizant of the fact that

both share the same goal of providing safe water and sanitation facilities as enunciated in the UN SDGs. "Through the improvement of water supply and distribution, and continuous improvement in our wastewater facilities, our efforts have contributed to bringing about a better life for our customers," Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez said.

Manila Water president and CEO Ferdinand Dela Cruz welcomes the holding of the AWC activities in Manila as an opportunity for further collaboration between govern-

ment and the private sector. "Our experience and track record demonstrate the positive results that arise from the productive partnership of government and the private sector," he pointed out.

Asia Water Council seeks to address water usage, natural environment protection, and natural hazard mitigation. For its mission, AWC aims to "encourage mutual growth and sustainable development by involving the stakeholders in water through building a cooperative tie with the leading world water organizations."



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NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS. The World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines dedicates this year's Earth Hour celebration to raising awareness of the dangers of single-use plastics.

Earth Hour 2019 focuses on plastic pollution



Coastal cleanup volunteers pick up plastic trash among other waste. (Photo from WWF-Philippines/Facebook)



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FOLLOWING the global #Connect2Earth theme of Earth Hour, the World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines shines a light on the issue of single-use plastics and the solutions to help address it in this year's nationwide switch-off event.

"The last decade of Earth Hour has contributed so much to the global climate agenda and has paved the way for many conservation wins. Now that we are ushering in the second year of the movement's new decade, our efforts will still be centered on raising awareness and inspiring action on conserving nature and biodiversity to counter the worsening impacts of climate change," said WWF-Philippines head of climate and energy program and Earth Hour Pilipinas national director Gia Ibay.

Last year's launch of #Connect2Earth saw more than 17,900 landmarks and monuments in over 180 countries and territories switching off their lights to show their commitment to and support for raising awareness and inspiring action on conserving nature and biodiversity.

According to WWF-Philippines, both #Connect2Earth and #EarthHour trended in 33 countries and garnered more than 3.5 billion impressions worldwide.

WWF-Philippines is anchoring this year's celebration on single-use plastics, one of the biggest threats to biodiversity.

Leveraging on the momentum of its #AyokoNgPlastik movement, WWF-Philippines hopes to further create



From left: WWF-Philippines president and chief executive Joel Palma, Youth Programme and AIS development executive of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Yasser Sarona, Earth Hour Pilipinas national director Gia Ibay, Iza Calzado, Janine Gutierrez, and Rovilson Fernandez.

awareness of the dangers of single-use plastics, spark conversations, change mindsets and habits of consumers, urge businesses to operate more sustainably, and influence policy.

Adopting the WWF network's "No Plastics in Nature" initiative, WWF-Philippines believes that Earth Hour 2019 is the best way to send out a clear message to take a stand against plastic pollution toward its ultimate goal of mobilizing public support for legislations on plastic waste management.

"The Philippines is the third major plastic polluter of oceans in the world and we, Filipinos, must unite and create concrete steps to stop this worsening situation," stated WWF-Philippines president

and chief executive Joel Palma.

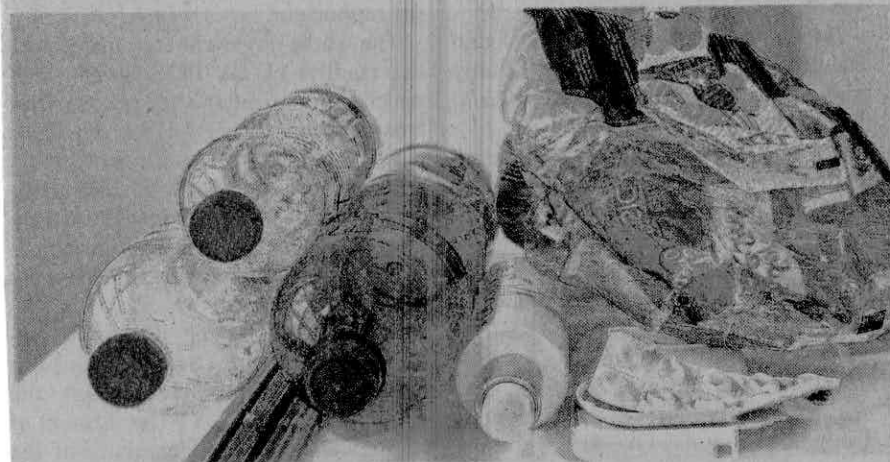
He continued, "We have to realize how nature is vitally important in our daily lives and preventing single-use plastics from entering nature is a big step towards a greener, more sustainable planet."

Palma reiterated the importance of working together to achieve a long-term solution to this environmental problem that significantly contributes to nature loss.

The kick-off event of Earth Hour 2019 on Feb. 28 saw commitments for nature formalized and renewed as the Boy Scouts of the Philippines inked a memorandum of agreement with WWF-Philippines. National Ambassadors Rovilson Fernandez and Iza Calzado, as well as National Youth Ambassador Janine Gutierrez, renewed their contracts to reaffirm their declaration of support to conserve natural assets to ensure a living planet for future generations.

The main switch-off event of Earth Hour 2019 is slated on March 30 at the Globe Circuit Event Grounds in Makati from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with the actual one-hour switch-off at 8:30 p.m.

At least 3,000 scouts will be deployed to the public event that will feature booths, activities, and performances that will honor the planet. Meanwhile, everyone from all over the Philippines is also encouraged to switch off non-essential lights from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in solidarity with millions around the world who will do the same.



The Philippines is the third major plastic polluter of oceans in the world.



Calape youth launch Eco Bo-Bote Project

TAGBILARAN CITY —The Sangguniang Kabataan Pambayang Pederasyon ng Calape launched its project dubbed as “Eco Bo-Bote ng Calape” mainly aimed to gather plastic trash and wastes in the municipality.

SK Municipal Federation President, John Ted Labajo said this project is aimed at mitigating plastics in Calape town, segregating of plastics ang keeping them inside plastic bottles, and empowering the community to participate in clean and green revolution.

Under the Eco Bo-

Bote scheme, a kilo of rice is paid for every three (3) liters of plastic bottles stocked with plastic trash.

Labajo said the project is particularly aimed at tapping non-working mothers to participate as a mode of additional source of livelihood.

Calape Mayor Nelson Yu, has personally endorsed this project which will be provided with corresponding budget every year.

An appropriation of P100,000 has been earmarked to support the project.



METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTION VALUE RISES 10.42% IN 2018

The metallic mineral production value of the Philippines' 48 mines increased by 10.42% to P121.94 billion last year from P110.43 billion in 2017 according to the year-end report of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), an agency attached to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. With the exception of chromite, production of base and precious metals in terms of quantity actually declined. However, the report noted year-on-year increases in the average price of these metals in 2018: 26.4% in nickel and 8.54% in copper in 2018. The price of gold likewise inched up by around 1.04%. MGB also noted developments in 2018 that affected the mining sector such as implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion law, which is designed to increase the government's take in industry revenues as excise tax rate for minerals and mineral products doubled to four percent.



	% change	
	Quantity	Value
Gold	-9	-2
Silver	-6	-9
Copper Concentrate	1	7
Nickel Sulfides	-4	35
Nickel Direct Shipping Ore	-4	16
Chromite	116	184
Total		10.42



TITLE:

KAYA nating mapalinis ang hangin mula sa polusyon at kaya nating maging mura ang langis sa sarili nating bansa.

Ang biofuel ay maaaring manggaling sa ating mga niyog at ang langis ay manggaling sa methane gas na matatagpuan sa loob ng Pilipinas.

Kabilang tayo sa nangungunang bansa sa produksyon ng kopra na pinanggalingan ng langis para ihalo sa imported na petrolyo.

Napakalaki naman ang deposito ng methane gas na ginagamit na mismo sa Liguasan Marsh sa Mindanao.

ANG NIYOG

Kabilang ang mahal kong Pinas sa 10 bansang may pinakamalaking iniluluwas na kopra.

Nakikipaglaro nga ang Pinas sa Number One sa mga bansang India at Indonesia.

Ang iba pang mga kasali sa Top 10 ay mga bansang Sri Lanka, Brazil, Thailand, Vietnam, Mexico, Papua New Guinea at United Republic of Tanzania.

Humina lang ng kaunti ang produksyon natin ng kopra nang dinuluhong tayo ng bagyong Yolanda na ikinasira ng milyon-milyong puno ng niyog.

May 3.6 milyong ekтарыang niyugan tayo na may 338 milyong puno.

Ang isang malaking kakulangan natin ay kung paano palaguin ang ani sa bawat ektarya.

Ang bansang India, sa bawat ektarya ay may naaang 10,000 buko sa bawat ektarya pero sa Pinas, nasa 4,000 lamang.

BIODIESEL AT BIOGAS

Napakarami nang pag-aaral ukol sa niyog bilang gasolina at diesel at puwedeng-puede talaga ang langis ng niyog bilang pampaandar ng makina.

'Yang puro na lambanog, puwedeng pang-gasolina o panghalo sa gasolina.

Ang langis ng niyog, puwedeng diesel.

At sa katunayan, meron na talagang halong langis o lambanog ang mga gasolina at diesel natin.

LANGIS NG NIYOG NA DIESEL

Ayon sa ilang pag-aaral, mga Bro, narito ang ilang resulta ng paggamit ng langis ng niyog bilang diesel.



BIODIESEL, METHANE GAS PARA SA TRANSPORTASYON

Pwedeng magsalitan ang diesel at langis ng niyog sa pagpapatakbo ng sasakyan at gumamit ng dalawa at hiwalay na tangke.

Unang pinaandar ang makina sa diesel at 'pag uminit na, pakawalan na ang langis ng niyog at bago patayin ang makina, papalitan ng diesel ang langis ng niyog.

Sa dalawang kalagayang ito, nangangahulugan na may gagawing pagbabago sa mga materyales ng makina ang diesel bago magamit ang langis ng niyog.

Pwede ring gagamitin na puro ang langis ng niyog sa diesel engine na walang pagbabago pero hindi dapat matagal dahil malaki ang latak ng langis ng niyog na makasira ng makina.

Sa ibang salita, nangailangan ang mga diesel engine ng katulad ng mga converter, heater at iba pa at matutulad ito sa paglalagay ng gasolina at liquified petroleum gas sa mga taxi at iba pang pribadong sasakyan.

METHANE GAS

Mahigit isang trilyong dolyar ang halaga ng methane gas na matatagpuan sa Liguasan Marsh na nasa bahagi ng mga lalawigan ng Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato.

Ang totoo, libre na sa LPG at hindi na kailangang bumili sa mga kompanya ng langis ang mga nakatira sa nasa-bing lu-gar.

Makapagluluto sila ng 24 oras mula sa Lunes hanggang Linggo.

Kung maiaahon lamang ang methane gas at magamit ng mga planta ng kuryente at sasakyan ang methane gas na nandyan lang sa tungki ng ilong natin, napakalaking kagaanan natin sa buhay ito.

Eh, paano pa kung maiaahon natin ang methane gas sa Philippine o Benham Rise na may walang katapusang methane gas o natural gas?

Kailangan lang ang converter dito para tumakbo ang mga de-gasolinang sasakyan natin.

MURANG DIESEL AT METHANE GAS

Dahil nasa atin ang

mga niyog, methane gas at natural gas, walang gastos sa pagbibiyaha ng mga barko, pagkaroon ng mga insurance at insurance laban sa mga pirata, talagang magiging mura ang diesel at methane gas.

Kung may gastos man sa pagbibiyaha, local lang at pwede ngang mga bangkang pangisda.

Pwede ring puro mga tubo ang magdugtong-dugtong sa mga isla.

GOBERNO DAPAT

Sa tagal ng pakikipagkapatid natin sa paggawa ng mga gasolina, diesel at methane gas, mga Bro, kaya nating gumawa ng paraan para maiaahon, matimpla at magamit ang lahat ng mga produktong enerhiyang ito.

Una, beterano na mismo ang pamahalaan dito sa pamamagitan ng gaya ng Philippine National Oil Company.

Ikalawa, napakarami nating overseas Filipino worker na pupwedeng umuwi mula sa mga bansang Arabo at nagtrabaho sa mga oil field.

Nandiyan ang mga mekaniko, chemical engineer, structural engineer at marami pang iba na puwedeng pag-samahin ng pamahalaan para gumawa ng mga gadget sa conversion ng nararapat at paggawa mismo ng biofuels.

Pero susi rito ang pamahalaan na dapat maglaan ng sapat na pondo para rito at lahat ng suporta na kailangan.

Kung magkaroon man ng dayuhang partner, huwag hayaang 10 porsyento lang ang pag-aari ng mga Pinoy at 90% sa mga dayuhan gaya sa Malampaya natural gas.

Lolokohin lang tayo sa presyo at suplay, uubusin pa nila ang ating yaman..

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-porda@yahoo.com.



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Lifestyle choices that affect climate change

CONTRARY to popular belief that climate change is a large-scale issue that a person's everyday choices don't as much as exacerbate it is a mistake. The little things a person does on a daily basis have a huge impact on the environment.

Something as simple as consuming food and buying clothes could affect the planet as they produce tons of garbage that end up in landfills which then produce methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Buying too much food

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, one-third of food items produced yearly are wasted. The unconsumed or excess food adds to carbon emissions that harm the environment. Getting only the amount of food a person or the household can consume helps avoid wastage.





TITLE:

Buying too many clothes

The fast-changing fashion landscape comes at a huge cost to the environment as it contributes to water pollution, toxic chemical use, and textile waste. To help Mother Nature, re-use old clothes and practice smart shopping for new clothes. Buy clothes that will not go out of fashion and/or those that can be styled in different ways.



Using disposable products

Disposable items lead to more waste. While they make life more convenient, they also cause pollution and resource depletion. Paper cups, plastic water bottles, disposable cutlery, plastic bags, and food packaging are harmful to the environment. Avoid using them and opt for portable tea mugs, tumblers, reusable cutlery, eco bags, and airtight containers that can be used again and again.

Owning a lot of electronic gadgets

E-waste or e-scrap is waste from electronic and electrical devices like DVD and music players, televisions, telephones, computers, vacuum cleaners and similar things. Some e-waste (like TV) contains lead, mercury, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants that are harmful to humans and the environment. Proper disposal of such waste is very important.



But here's a viable solution

In a developing country like the Philippines, the garbage problem is worse because of rapid urbanization, economic growth and development, and changes in lifestyle and consumption patterns. Major cities in the country, particularly Metro Manila, face massive solid waste management problems due to lack of landfills, over-flowing dumpsites, and improper disposal of garbage.

An effective solution to the mounting garbage problem is the use of incinerators that use the innovative technology called pyrolysis. Pyrolysis breaks down large molecules



Incinerators use the innovative technology pyrolysis which breaks down large molecules of waste.

of waste such as agricultural residue, scraps, tires, and non-recyclable materials into smaller molecules of gas, oil, and carbon black.

The common by-product of pyrolysis technology is ash which can be mixed with aggregates for construction purposes. This type of technology has no harmful smoke, smell, or loud noises. If integrated with solid waste management, incinerators can reduce carbon emission from waste transfer, reduce cost of solid waste disposal, and promote zero-waste-to-landfill.

Depending on the type and capacity of waste, there are different kinds of incinerators: rotary kiln, which are mostly used in developed countries; grate incinerators, which use waste-to-energy technology; and liquid, gases, and fumes incinerators, which are used for thermal destruction of gas and fumes and are not suitable for the incineration of solid waste.

In the Philippines, Clean Air Act of 1999 banned the use of incinerator because it is believed to emit poisonous and toxic fumes. However, in 2002, the Department of Energy and Natural Resources released a clarification on the incinerator ban in the country and wrote, "Section 20 does not absolutely prohibit incineration as a mode of waste disposal, rather only those burning process which emit poisonous and toxic fumes are banned."

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