

11 MAY 2019

DATE : _____

DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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DENR closes Bataan dumpsite

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued a cease and desist order against the municipal government of Limay in Bataan for operating an illegal open dumpsite.

Environment Undersecretary has ordered Limay Mayor Lilvir Roque to immediately cease and desist from operating the dumpsite and "conduct immediate rehabilitation of the area" located in Barangay San

Francisco de Asis I.

Antiporda said the operation of the Limay dumpsite must be stopped to prevent it from reaching the nearby Manila Bay, which is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

"We cannot clean Manila Bay if we allow this. We will just waste our time and money in cleaning if we have this," he said.

The Limay open dumpsite is located right beside a creek that flows to Mamala River, which drains into Manila Bay.

Waste pile in the area is estimated to be two-story high or about six meters.

The open dumpsite sits on a seven-hectare property owned by the Limay municipal government.

Limay has an existing memorandum of agreement with Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. in connection with the dumpsite's safe closure and rehabilitation. The MOA was signed in 2015 and will expire in December this year.



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'Waste disposal is Bataan's problem'

LIMAY, Bataan—The local government leadership here has branded as politicking a recent inspection conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which it said singled out this town's "waste disposal problem."

The DENR has issued a May 7 a cease and desist order to Limay Mayor Ver Roque on the operation of the town's "open dumpsite at Bgy. San Francisco de Asis," just a day after a team of inspectors went to the area without official communication or coordination with local officials.

Limay Mayor Roque said he suspects the DENR's move to be part of a political strategy to pin him down, owing to its "quaint swiftness," its timing during the election campaign homestretch, and that "the order may have been already prepared even before the inspection was done."

Roque pointed out that garbage disposal has been a lingering problem of the entire Bataan province, and not just of Limay. "Waste disposal has been a problem of the entire province of Bataan, over which the provincial government, by itself, has been helpless and ineffective," he said.



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Politika sa basura ng Bataan

Pinalagan ni Limay Mayor Ver Roque ang diumano'y pamumulitika sa problema sa basura ng kanilang lalawigan.

Isinating ito ng alkalde matapos inspeksyunin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na tanging ang basura lamang sa Limay ang pinuntirya.

Nitong Martes (Mayo 7), binigyan ng DENR si Roque ng 'cease and desist order' kaugnay ng 'open dumpsite' ng bayan sa Brgy. San Francisco de Asis nito, isang araw matapos ang inspeksiyong isinagawa ng isang DENR team na hindi diumano nakipag-ugnayan sa munisipyo ng bayan.

Ayon kay Roque, ang ginawa ng DENR ay tila bahagi ng politika laban sa kanya "dahil sa mabilisang pag-isyu ng order, na itinaon pa sa huling araw ng kampanya sa halalan sa darating na Lunes. Sinabi niyang "maaaring nakahanda na nga ang order bago pa isinagawa ang inspeksyon."

Ipinaliwanag ni Roque na ang suliranin sa basura ay problema ng buong Bataan at hindi ng Limay lamang. "Ang problema sa basura ay problema ng buong lalawigan ng Bataan at mismong ang Kapitolyo ay naging inutil at walang nagawa. Mabuti pa nga ang Limay at may ginagawang pagkilos para maresolba ito," giit nito.

Kandidato si Roque ng oposisyon sa pagka-gubernagor laban kay Gov. Albert Garcia na re-eleksiyunista.



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Gold out of other countries' garbage

If Canada dillydallies in taking back the 69 containers of trash it shipped to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014, let's not make a big fuss over it.

We can get back at that country later for making us its garbage dump.

Our past president, Noynoy *abnoy kuyakoy*, unfortunately for us, was servile to the white race.

Meanwhile, we can consider the offer from Conch Venture Holdings, a Chinese company that converts trash into energy, to take care of all our garbage.

As special envoy to China, I met with Conch executives who came to Manila to make the offer to solve our garbage problem by converting trash into energy.

My special envoy office has connected the Conch executives with officials of the Department of Energy (DoE) who received them warmly.

The Conch executives were also warmly received by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led by no less than Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Conch, a state-owned firm which claims to have solved 70 percent of China's waste disposal problem, is asking our government for the following:

- Minimum of 4,000 metric tons

of solid wastes every day to generate 80 megawatts of power output.

- Between 15 and 23 hectares of land area for its plant.

- Industrial water consumption of 400 to 420 tons per hour. Water does not have to be clean because they can clean it.

- For a smaller plant generating 60 megawatts power output, it needs 3,000 metric tons per day of solid waste, 12 to 18 hectares of land area and industrial water supply of 310 to 315 tons per hour.

Conch asks that if possible the location of its plants be placed near or in any of our big freeports or ecozones where they can distribute the power generated to large industrial consumers.

Now, from my talks with Conch executives they want to come in and do business with our country.

If it can be provided with the garbage requirements and location, Conch says it can build the plant or plants any time it's given the go-signal.

Quezon City can provide all

the requirements Conch needs, but its local government is now tied up in a contract with a group belonging to business tycoon Manny Pangilinan.

However, it's not known when Pangilinan's group can set up the trash-to-energy plant.

The national government has entrusted to all local government units (LGUs) the task of disposing of their garbage.

I'm just thinking aloud: Why doesn't our government charge countries that want to export their garbage to the Philippines exorbitant fees?

We can then convert all the garbage that comes to us into badly needed energy or electricity.

We can make gold out of other countries' garbage.

Again, I'm just thinking aloud.



Remate

ANG DIARYO NG MASA

PINAS 'DI IMPORTER NG BASURA!

BUT naman at babawiin na ng bansang Canada ang tone-toneladang basura na iniregalo nila kay Noynoy Aquino noong mga taong 2013 at 2014.

At sasagutin din ng Canadian government ang shipping ng mga basurang karga ng 69 containers na tinanggap ng Bureau of Customs bilang recyclable materials kuno pero 30% lang ang lamang plastik na para sa recycling umano.

Ang totoo, mahigit 100 containers ang itinapon sa Pilipinas at ibinaon na sa isang landfill sa Tarlac province ang iba bago nasabat sa Customs ang 69 containers.

Nabulgar na ang mga basurang environmental hazard, tulad ng mga diaper na may dumi at mga nabubulok na gamit sa kusina.

Aba'y kundi pa nagbanta ng "giyera" si Pangulong Duterte, eh, magbibingi-bingihan pa 'yang Canadian Embassy at mismong si Canadian President Justin Trudeau.

Natauhan sila at hindi na si Panot na babakla-bakla ang humarap sa kanila kundi ang tapat sa bayan na si Manong Digong.

Hindi pa yata nakatitikim ng matinding digmaan ang Canada.

Baka gusto nilang madurog tulad ng Marawi City,



DEADSHOT

NI ERWIN TULFO

hehe.

O, 'di ninerbiyos si Canadian Pres. Trudeau.

Of course, figure of speech lang 'yung giyera, kuno.

Ngunit kung nagpatuloy ang pagbabalewala ng Canadian government sa panawagan ng Pilipinas ukol diyan sa basura ay tuluyan ding masisira ang diplomatic relations ng dalawang bansa.

'Di tulad noong baklang tulo-laway na dating nasa Pa-

lasyo, nakuha ni Manong Digong ang atensyon ng punyemas na Canadian Embassy kundi'y doon talaga ipupukol ang mga diaper na may tatchi na tinambak nila rito at ilang container van.

'Yan ang kaibhan ng lider na may bayag at political will.

Hindi tambakan ng basura ng iba ang Pilipinas.

Ang linis-linis ng aming bayan maski tingnan nyo!!!

'Yun lang, kailangan pumikit kayo, haha!!!



Editorial

Leksiyon sa basurang Canada

MATINDI ang utos ni President Duterte sa mga itaga-Bureau of Customs: Huwag tatanggapin ang garbage shipment! Hindi garbage collectors ang Pilipinas! Total ban sa importation ng waste material ang ipinag-utos niya.

Nagkaroon na ng leksiyon dahil sa basura ng Canada na dinala sa bansa noong 2013 at 2014 at hanggang ngayon, narito pa. Kung hindi pa nagbanta ng “giyera” sa Canada ang Presidente, hindi pa maibabalik ang basurang kinabibilangan ng household at hospital wastes. Sa Miyerkules (Mayo 15) inaasahang ibabalik na ang mga basura sa Canada ayon sa utos ni Finance Sec. Carlos Dominguez sa Customs. Ayon sa isang report, ang Canada ang gastos sa pagpapabalik ng basura.

Nang unang buksan ng Customs ang mga container noong 2013, natambad at nalanghap nila ang mga nabubulok na basura. Nang mag-usap sina Presidente Duterte at Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Larry Goy '19
5.11.19



noong nakaraang taon nang dumalo ang huli sa APEC Summit sa Maynila, nangako na sosolusyunan ang problema. Pero lumipas pa ang isang taon at walang action ang Canada ukol dito na ikinagalit ni Duterte. Kung maibabalik na ang Canadian trash sa Mayo 15, matatapos na ang problema na anim na taon ding tiniis ng bansa. Pero may nagtatanong kung ilan ba talaga ang containers ng basura na ibabalik sa Canada. Ang tanong ay lumutang nang sabihin ng Customs na marami na palang basura ang naitapon sa Tarlac noong Hulyo 2015 sa utos ni dating DENR Secretary Alberto Lina. Ayon sa report, 34 containers ang naitapon sa landfill ng Metro Clark Waste Management Corp. sa Bgy. Kalangitan, Capas, Tarlac. Hindi malaman kung bakit ipinag-utos ng dating DENR secretary ang pag-disposed sa 34 containers.

Ayon sa Customs ang total containers ng basura na dumating sa bansa ay 103. Sa bilang na ito, 55 ang naka-consigned sa Chronic Plastics at 48 sa Live Green Enterprises. Ayon sa Ecowaste Coalition, may nawawala pang walong containers at hindi maipaliwanag kung saan ito napunta. Ang mga container ay kasalukuyang nasa Subic Bay International Terminal Corp. at sa Manila International Container Terminal.

Kung matatapos na ang isyu sa basurang Canada, sana magkaroon na ng leksiyon ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan lalo ang Customs. Huwag tanggap nang tanggap ng imported na basura.



Remate

ANG DIARYO NG MASA

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MGA DATING 'ILLEGAL LOGGER' NAGTANIM NG PUNO SA PALAWAN

KUNG dati-rati ay nagputol sila ng mga puno sa kagubatan araw-araw, nitong nagdaang pagdiriwang ng 'International Earth Day' noong April 22, 2019, mahigit isang daang dating 'illegal loggers' ang nanguna sa pagtatanim ng isang libong tree seedlings sa Barangay Bacingan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Kabilang sa mga binhing itinanim sa unti-unting sumisikat na Yamang Bukid Farm ay ang Narra, Ipil at ang Palawan cherry na higit na kilala sa lalawigan sa bansag na 'Balayong'.

Ang sabay-sabay na

pagtatanim ng mga binhi ay inorganisa ng YB Farm at nilahukan ng mga lokal na opisyal, mga kandidato sa paparating na May 13, 2019 local elections, ng PCART o Palawan Center for Appropriate Rural Technology, at ibang mga non-governmental and civic organizations sa Palawan.

Binigyang pagkaka-taon ng YB Farm ang mga dating illegal loggers na tuluyang iwan ang kanilang maling trabaho at mamasukan sa farm bilang mga empleyado at tagapangalaga ng mga pananim.

Sa ngayon, isa na sa



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

bukambibig na tourist destination ang YB Farm na accredited ng DoT o Department of Tourism.

Ayon sa datos ng FMB o Forest Management Bureau, ang nalalabing kagubatan ng Pilipinas ay nasa seven point sixteen million hectares (7.16 million hectares) na lamang mula sa dating mahigit thirty million hectares sa pagdating ni Ferdinand Magellan noong taong 1521.

Sa bilang na ito, eight hundred ninety two thousand hectares (892,000 hectares) na lamang ang

nalalabing natural forests o hindi pa nagagam-bala.

Tinatayang nasa two hundred sixty two thousand hectares (262,000 hectares) ng kagubatan ang nakakalbo sa bawat taon dulot ng illegal logging, kaingin system, land conversion, at ibang maling gawain.

Ngunit, ang ipinakitang pagbabago at malasakit ng mga dating 'illegal loggers' sa kalikasan ay malaking pag-asa na maisalba pa natin ang mga kagubatan mula sa pagkakaubos nito.



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Watersheds preservation made priority

This, as the local government urged its private sector partners to help in preserving and protecting the city's forest reservations

By Aldwin Quitasol

Baguio City officials yesterday emphasized that the fencing of the remaining forested portions of watersheds in the city will remain one of their priority programs.

This, as the local government urged its private sector partners to help in preserving and protecting the city's forest reservations.

They noted that the successful implementation of the fencing of the Busol watershed will be replicated in other critical watersheds to prevent the reservations from

being intruded into by informal settlers.

The fencing of the Busol watershed was an initiative of the Baguio Regreening Movement, a non-government organization advocating for the preservation and protection of the city's environment.

"We always made the preservation and protection of the environment as one of our priorities because it is our forests that help maintain the city's cool weather condition that is our natural pull for visitors to spend their well-deserved break in our city," the officials stressed.

Aside from the fencing of the identified critical watersheds in the city, they are also strengthening the reforestation of the forest reservations to increase the forest cover and help contribute in efforts to improve the water supply for the residents.



Nagtatapon ng wastewater sa Marikina River, huhulihin ng PRRC

NAGSASAGAWA ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) ng masusing imbestigasyon sa sinasabing ilegal na pagtapon ng wastewater sa Marikina River.

Ikinasa ang operasyon nang mai-tag ang mga opisyaes ng PRRC sa Facebook viral video na ipinaskil ni Abdusalla Monakil, isang concerned netizen, kung saan makikitang nagdidiskarga ng kemikal na isang ebidensiya ng liquid waste pollution sa Marikina River.

Dahil pangunahing tributaryo ang Marikina River ng Pasig River, inatasan ni PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio "Ka Pepeton" E. Goitia ang agarang imbestigasyon sa ilang mga establisimiyento na hinihinalang sanhi ng polusyon sa ilog at para matiyak na rin kung sumusunod ang mga ito sa mga regulasyon.

"Gagawin namin ang lahat ng administratibo at legal na aksiyon upang matiyak nating maipasara ang lahat ng mga establisimiyentong komersiyal at industriyal na sanhi ng polusyon sa ating mga ilog," sabi ni Goitia.

Binigyang diin din ni Goitia na dapat suportahan ng mga local government units (LGUs) na nasa tabing ilog ang pagkilos ng pamahalaan upang maprotektahan ang mga daanang tubig.



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THE TRUTH BEHIND COASTAL CLEANUPS

TO say that the planet had a waste problem is an understatement. In the country alone, we experience the catastrophic effects of our mismanaged wastes. Mounds of trash wash up on our shores after every typhoon, while plastics and other nonbiodegradable garbage block our drainage systems that cause massive flooding.

Convenient, low cost and durable plastics were a wonder material introduced in the 20th century. Despite its short-term benefits, however, plastics take centuries to break down and they remain in our environment for much longer than their intended use.

Larger items break apart into tiny bits and pieces called microplastics until they become small enough for many wildlife to mistake them for food. Often colorful and tempting, many marine and bird species mistake plastic for food and end up starving to death with a fake full stomach. It is with increasing concern that many of the fish that we now eat may also contain plastics and its toxins.

Recently, an endangered *pawikan*, or sea turtle, was found dead in Quezon province with plastic waste lodged inside its throat. According to a 2018 report by the Ocean Conservancy, plastic pollution in our marine ecosystem not only choke



■ Haribon Foundation conducts coastal clean-up activities year-round at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, which is considered the last mangrove refuge in Manila Bay. HARIBON PHOTO

and entangle sea life, but is also linked with disease among coral reefs.

How do coastal cleanups help?

Different sectors such as the government, non-profit organizations and other entities carry out programs to help curb the impact of our waste problem.

But with tons of garbage polluting our oceans, do coastal clean-ups by individu-

als make a difference?

At the root of the waste problem is the lack of public awareness. This is where coastal cleanups come in as it gives the regular student or working professional the opportunity to see first-hand the trash that washes up in our oceans, igniting consciousness and action towards daily consumption and waste segregation.

Seeing hundreds of plastic straws along the shores would hopefully encourage the use of other alternatives, or not using straws

at all. Collecting different generations of shampoo sachets in one bag would hopefully push individuals to buy bigger bottles to reduce waste, while recording unusual items like luggage or foam mattresses brings the importance of reusing and not easily disposing of our stuff.

Haribon Foundation conducts coastal clean-up activities year-round at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, which is considered as the last mangrove refuge in Manila Bay and is an important stopover for migrating birds coming in the months of October to March.

Coastal cleanup drives intend to bring people closer to the waste problem in order to stem it at the source. More than physically helping reduce trash that litter our coastlines, it aspires to instill change in personal habits.

By influencing the use of less residuals by consumers, demand for them will also drop and cause industries to find alternatives. Change starts with the individual and small continued acts could create a ripple effect.

To organize a coastal cleanup activity for your group or company, send an e-mail to partnerships@haribon.org.ph or call (02) 421 1209.

**STEPHANIE LIM
AND JOSEPH SENGA**



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New cricket species named after late UP biologist

By JANVIC MATEO

A new cricket species discovered in Siargao Island was named after a University of the Philippines biologist who died while descending Mt. Apo last Dec. 8.

Ornebius alvarezii, one of the two new species of scaly cricket described in a new study published in journal *Zootaxa*, was named after UP Los Baños (UPLB) biologist James Alvarez.

Florante Cruz, a colleague of Alvarez at the UPLB Museum of Natural History, said the announcement of the new species was timely as it was released days before Alvarez's 28th birthday on May 8.

"(It) is both a testament and honor given to James Alvarez, a promising young wildlife biologist brimming with so much potential but whose life was probably destined to be just that – short, accomplished and well-lived," Cruz said in an article published on the museum's website.

"I looked at it closely from several points of view and concurred, yes, the new cricket does embody James," he added.

Cruz said the scaly cricket has a whitish, milky edge coloration that looks like a band, similar to the "permanent headband" on Alvarez's scalp that was a result of a head operation when he was a boy.

He also likened the cricket's scales to Alvarez's hairy arms and legs and bushy hair.

Cruz paid tribute to the late biologist, noting his passion for biodiversity and conservation.

"If you personally knew James, you would really see that he would be happiest when in the field. When he was young, he was frail and easily got tired outdoors. I remember him saying that field work gave him several firsts in his life, one of which was conquering a fear of heights," he wrote.

"When he surmounted that fear, he felt he could do anything – explore deep recesses of caves despite what lurks within, cross mighty rivers and assault 60-degree steep mountains and climb centuries-old trees to observe wildlife in the forest canopy," he added.

Alvarez, a Master of Science in Wildlife Studies graduate and an extension associate at the UPLB Museum of Natural History, suffered a seizure and never regained consciousness while trekking down Mt. Apo.

He climbed the mountain with a group of friends after conducting capacity-build-

ing activities for University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

The new study – coauthored by Ming Kai Tan, Sigfrid Ingrish, Jessica Baroga-Barbecho and Sheryl Yap – described two new species of scaly cricket discovered in Siargao Island.

Aside from *Ornebius alvarezii*, also described in the paper was *Ornebius bioculatus*, the fourth species of scaly cricket in the country.

Last month, a study by the same team also described three new cricket species discovered in Mindanao, including one incapable of producing a sound.

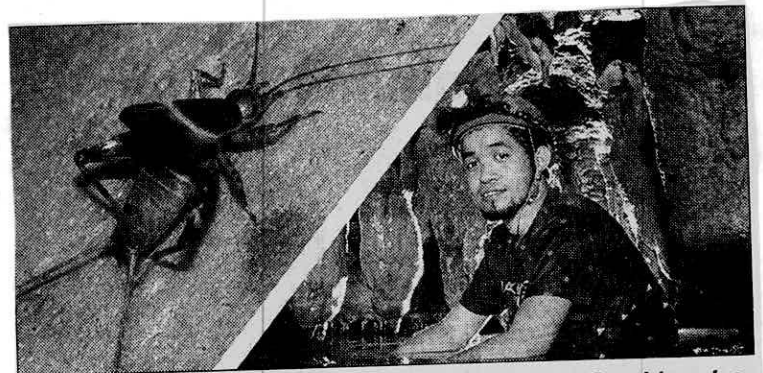


Photo shows a newly discovered cricket species, *Ornebius alvarezii*, named after UP Los Baños biologist James Alvarez who died during fieldwork on Mount Apo in December last year.



10M puno itatanim

SINIMULAN na ng Luntiang Pilipinas partylist ang pagtatanim ng 10 milyong puno bilang bahagi ng nationwide greening program nito.

Ayon kay Michael Ubac, nominee ng Luntian, nababawasan ng 47,000 ektarya ang forest cover ng bansa kada taon at kung wala tayong gagawin upang malaban ito ay mga Pilipino rin ang mahihirapan.

"If we do not do anything to reverse this trend, these losses will have tragic conse-

quences for our country's biodiversity, water security, and disaster prevention efforts," ani Ubac sa pormal na pag-sisimula ng kanilang programa sa Calamba, Laguna.

Noong 1900 ang kagubatan ng bansa ay umaabot sa 21 milyong ektarya subalit ngayon ay hindi na umano ito umaabot sa pitong milyong hektarya.

"This cannot be allowed to be left unchecked. Only by working together, by rallying Filipinos and our leaders to this cause, will

we be able to reverse the tide."

Itinayo ni Sen. Loren Legarda ang Luntian noong 1998.

"The 10-million trees challenge should be easy for us because if each Filipino does his or her share, we would have a hundred million trees and thousands of thriving forest parks in our country," ani Legarda.

Ang launching ng 10 million trees ay sinabayan ng Luntian Green Rider bike mula Batangas City hanggang Laguna.—*Leifbilly Begas*