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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



PH recalls diplomats from Canada due to garbage mess

By **ROY C. MABASA**
and **GENALYN D. KABILING**

The Philippine government on Thursday recalled the country's top diplomats posted in Canada following Ottawa's failure to meet the May 15 deadline set by President Duterte to ship out the tons of garbage it illegally sent to Manila six years ago.

"At midnight last night, letters

for the recall of our ambassador and consuls to Canada went out. They are expected here in a day or so. Canada missed the May 15 deadline. And we shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said in a tweet this (Thursday) morning.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the recall ▶10

PH recalls diplomats...

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of the Philippine envoys from Canada seeks to "persuade" Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to hasten the retrieval of the shipping containers filled with trash.

"Basta ang posisyon ng Presidente very clear: Tanggalin niyo na 'yan, otherwise tapos na ang relasyon natin [The President's position is very clear: You should remove that, otherwise our relations are over]," he said during a Palace press briefing.

"That recall shows that we are very serious in asking them to get back their garbage. Otherwise, we're gonna sever relations with them," he said.

The Canadian Embassy in Manila refused to issue any statement and instead directed all media queries to its home office in Ottawa.

Locsin said the order to diminish the country's diplomatic presence in Canada was prompted by the failure of Canadian representatives to show up at a meeting with the officials of the Bureau of Customs on how to resolve the garbage impasse.

"That the government may consider a 2 to 3 weeks delay DOES NOT EXTEND THE DEADLINE. Our diplomatic presence in Canada shall be de minimis. At the Japanese enthronement ceremony, DOF (Department of Finance) told me that Canada did not show up at a meeting with Customs and that was the trigger," the foreign affairs chief said in a separate tweet.

The DFA secretary, instead, blamed "fellow officials" who want to maintain friendly relations with Canada "at the expense of defying Duterte and keeping the Canadian garbage here."

"And finally, to the officials who want me to go easy on the Canadian garbage issue in defiance of Duterte's orders, this: Remember that Canada has facial recognition tech at its borders and the

ugly will not be admitted however avid they are to emigrate," he added.

Locsin, however, did not name the officials concerned.

Sometime in 2013 and 2014, Canadian exporter Chronic Plastics, Inc. illegally shipped to Manila a total of 103 container vans filled with household trash illegally declared as recyclable plastics.

Thirty-four of the 103 container vans with rotting garbage were disposed of in a landfill in Pampanga.

Last month, President Duterte threatened to go to "war" with Canada if it will not immediately recall the garbage it shipped to the Philippines.

Prior to Locsin's announcement, Panelo told reporters last Wednesday that the government was prepared to accept a "reasonable delay" in the shipment of the garbage to Canada due to the processing of documentary requirements. He said they expect the garbage to be shipped back to Canada in one to three weeks.

In the briefing Thursday, Panelo explained that the government has noticed the slow action of Canada in shipping the trash back to its country. "We don't know what is stalling them," he said.

He cautioned that more Filipino embassy officials may be pulled out from Canada if no progress is made on the trash issue. He said he previously mentioned that Canada's refusal to bring back the garbage was "disruptive of our diplomatic relations."

"The fact alone that Secretary Locsin has recalled our diplomats there shows not only we are serious, we are already warning them we are going to sever diplomatic relations," he said.

"That order of the recall is to persuade them to make it fast. The more they delay, the more personnel will be coming back," he added.



DFA recalls Phl ambassador over Canada trash

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By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippines has recalled its ambassador to Canada after the Canadian government failed to meet the May 15 deadline for its retrieval of tons of garbage illegally shipped to

the Philippines by a private firm six years ago.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. announced yesterday on Twitter the recall of Ambassador Petronilla Garcia as well as consuls to set the stage for a "diminished diplomatic

presence" in Canada "until its garbage is shipbound there."

"At midnight last night, letters for the recall of our ambassador and consuls to Canada went out. They are expected here in a day or so," Locsin tweeted.

"To our posts in Canada: you have your orders. You are recalled. Get the next flight out," he said. He said the recall was necessary because "Canada missed the May 15 deadline." The Canadian embassy in Manila declined to comment.

At Malacañang, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the recall of the ambassador and the consuls shows President Duterte's seriousness in compelling Canada to take back its garbage, even at the expense of Manila's diplomatic relations with Ottawa.

"We are very serious in asking (Canada) to get back their garbage. Otherwise, we're gonna severe relations with them," Panelo said.

He also said Duterte knew about Locsin's move.

"That order of the recall is to persuade them to make it fast. The more they delay, the more personnel will be coming back. I issued a statement that the refusal to bring the garbage back to their shores is disruptive of our diplomatic relations," he said.

The President's spokesman, meanwhile, gave assurance the issue won't affect the lives of Filipino workers in Canada. "I don't think there will be problem. They are legally working, and Canada also needs our workers," he said.

"Whatever the consequence, this government will be protective of the interests of our countrymen in any part of the world," Panelo said.

Specifically triggering the recall, Locsin pointed out, was Canada's fail-

ure to send a representative to a meeting on the issue at the Bureau of Customs.

"That the government may consider a 2 to 3 week delay **DOES NOT EXTEND THE DEADLINE.** Our diplomatic presence in Canada shall be de minimis. At the Japanese enthronement ceremony, DOF informed me that Canada did not show up at a meeting with Customs and that was the trigger," Locsin said.

He accused unnamed "fellow officials" of wanting to maintain friendly relations with Canada even if it would mean defying President Duterte.

"I am having problems with fellow officials hungry to emigrate to Canada so want to keep friendly relations at the expense of defying Duterte and keeping Canadian garbage here," he said without naming the officials.

"If our officials had done something about it, Canadian garbage would have been long returned to sender," he said.

Locsin also said the President's threat of war on Canada should be taken seriously.

"When the President speaks as he did to the extent of 'declaring war on Canada' for its garbage here, he is to be taken seriously and not metaphorically; at least I do because I do not think I know better than he does. Some of his officials do," Locsin said. Last April 23, Duterte threatened to declare war against Canada over the trash shipment.

In response, the Canadian embassy in Manila issued a statement stressing that Ottawa is "strongly committed to collaborating with the Philippine government to resolve the waste issue and it is aware of the court decision ordering the importer to ship the garbage back to Canada."

In 2016, Canada amended its regulations on hazardous waste shipments to prevent such incidents from happening again.



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Senate investigation

Senate President Vicente Sotto III voiced support for the DFA's recall of the ambassador and the consuls and called for a probe on the local importer or consignee of the trash.

"He (Locsin) has every right to do so. I support the decision," Sotto told the Kapighan sa Senado forum.

"What should also be investigated is, who's the importer, or why is there recipient? Why are we not talking about the recipient?" he said.

He said the local contact or consignee must also be held accountable.

Earlier, Panelo said some uncompleted documentation might delay the shipment of the garbage back to Canada for one to three weeks.

"There might be a slight delay because of the documentation. If it's just a slight delay,

the President has a reasonable mind. What is important is, they will take back their waste," Panelo said.

The Philippines will not hesitate to impose necessary penalties on the contractor or whoever was responsible for the shipment of the trash from Canada, the Palace official said.

He said Canada has already made a commitment to take back the trash. "Since they already committed to it, that's the difference now, unlike before when they refused to take it back," Panelo added.

The 103 containers of garbage – sent between 2013 and 2014 and mislabeled as recyclable plastic scraps – consisted largely of kitchen scraps and diapers as well as electronic waste. Part of the trash, contained in 26 containers, was buried in a Tarlac landfill.

Last month, Duterte threatened to "declare war" against Canada over the garbage issue.

"I will declare war against them. I will advise Canada that your garbage is on the way. Prepare a grand reception. Eat it if you want to. Your garbage is coming home," the President said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had been quizzed about the garbage issue during his visits to the country but gave no satisfactory answer.

In 2017, he said it was "theoretically possible for Canada to deal with the trash."

Last week, Panelo announced that Canada had agreed to shoulder the expenses of shipping out the containers of trash.

"The DFA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources noted that the Canadian government is committed to shouldering all the expenses to ship out all the 69 waste containers," Panelo said in a statement.

Duterte had declared in a Cabinet meeting early this month that Manila would no longer accept garbage shipments from other countries.

"The President is firm that we are not garbage collectors; thus he ordered that the Philippines will no longer accept any waste from any country," Panelo said.

FOI tapped

Meanwhile, environmental group EcoWaste Coalition has filed a request under the government's Freedom of Information program to obtain facts related to the local disposal of eight of the 103 containers of trash from Canada.

Aileen Lucero, the group's national coordinator, yesterday filed the request after getting confirmation from the BOC that 34 of the 103 containers have already been disposed of locally, and that only 69 containers would be shipped back to Canada. – **With Christina Mendez, Rhodina Villanueva, Paolo Romero**

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Malaya Business Insight



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EDITORIAL



CARTOON

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Trash row: PH recalls diplomats from Canada

BY ASHZEL HACHERO
and JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

THE Philippines yesterday recalled its envoys to Canada after Ottawa missed the May 15 deadline for the retrieval of tons of garbage shipped to the country several years ago.

"At midnight last night, letters for the recall of our ambassador and consuls to Canada went out. They are expected here in a day or so. Canada missed the May 15 deadline. And we shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until garbage is ship-bound there," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo, concurrent presidential spokesman, warned anew that ties between the Philippines and Canada might be severed if Canada fails to take back their trash.

Panelo said this has been and is still is the position of President Duterte who also ordered the recall of the diplomats.

Last month, Duterte threatened Canada with war and said

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TRASH

he would personally escort the waste containers by sea back to Canada.

Locsin said the deadline has not been extended.

He also said Canada failed to send an official or representative to a meeting set earlier this month with the Bureau of Customs to discuss the arrangement for the shipment of the garbage.

"That the government may consider a two- to three-week delay does not extend the deadline... At the Japanese enthronement ceremony, the Department of Finance informed me that Canada did not show up at a meeting with Customs and that was the trigger," he said.

Canada's foreign ministry was not immediately available for comment.

Locsin earlier blamed a finance official for the delay in the shipment of the garbage out of the country, although he did not identify that official.

"I am having problems with fellow officials hungry to emigrate to Canada so they want to keep friendly relations at the expense

of defying President Duterte and keeping Canadian garbage here. If our officials had done something about it, Canadian garbage would have been long returned to the sender," he said.

Earlier, Locsin said the Philippines expected Canada to take out the 69 container vans of garbage on May 15 in line with the deadline set by President Duterte.

This, after the finance department said the garbage may not be shipped out before the deadline because of bureaucratic red tape in the Canadian government.

The waste material was shipped from Canada through a local counterpart of the Ontario-based exporter Chronic Incorporated.

Its local counterpart, the Valenzuela City-based Chronic Plastics Inc.,

is facing charges for violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the 1995 Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and Disposal.

In June 2016, the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 1 ordered the shipping back of the wastes to Canada at the expense of the

importer.

Canada says the waste, exported to Manila between 2013 and 2014, was a commercial transaction not backed by its government. It has since offered to take it back and the two countries were in the process of arranging the transfer.

The Philippines has made several diplomatic protests to Canada in the wake of a 2016 court ruling that the garbage be returned.

The consignments were labeled as containing plastics to be recycled in the Philippines, but were filled with diapers, newspapers and water bottles instead.

Panelo said the recall of diplomats should have no negative impact on Filipinos living and working in Canada, who he said are legal workers hired by Canadian companies.

There are about 800,000 Filipinos living and working in Canada.

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez expressed confidence that Philippine-Canadian trade relations would not be affected by the garbage row as he said business relations between the two countries are "apolitical."

— *With Reuters*



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PH-Canada rift widens; Filipino envoys recalled

By Rey E. Requejo
and Nat Mariano

MANILA has recalled its ambassador to Canada, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Thursday, in an escalation of a festering diplomatic row over tons of trash shipped to the Philippines.

Ties have been deteriorating since a

Canadian company sent around 100 shipping containers that included rotting rubbish wrongly labeled as recyclables to Philippine ports in 2013 and 2014.

Manila set a May 15 deadline for Canada to take the rotting trash back, after President Rodrigo Duterte berated Ottawa over the issue last month.

Canada has since said it is working to

arrange for the containers' return, but has not said when exactly that might happen.

Locsin said letters recalling the ambassador and consuls to Canada have been sent and the diplomats would be in Manila in a day or so.

"Canada missed the May 15 deadline. And we shall maintain a diminished

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PH-Canada...

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diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship-bound there," Locsin wrote on Twitter.

Canada's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The garbage has strained ties between the two nations, which were already tested after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau questioned Duterte's deadly drug crackdown.

Duterte bristles at any international criticism of his hardline policy, which has seen police kill thousands of alleged addicts and pushers since 2016.

Last year, Duterte canceled the military's \$235-million contract to buy 16 military helicopters from a Canada-based manufacturer after Ottawa put the deal under review because of the President's human rights record.

During a speech in April, Duterte threatened to unilaterally ship the garbage back to Canada, saying "let's fight Canada. I will declare war against them."

Duterte frequently uses coarse language and hyperbole in speeches about opponents.

Following the comments, Canada offered to repatriate the waste and the Philippines said Ottawa would shoulder the expense of disposal.

The Bureau of Customs said last week the Philippines was ready to send back the waste but Canada needed several more weeks to prepare documentation.

Some 69 shipping containers of trash remain after 34 others have already been disposed of in the Philippines, the Finance department said.

Locsin said that even though the Palace appears amenable to a delay in the shipment of garbage back to Canada, it does not mean that the deadline has been extended.

The Palace said the more the Canadian government delays the retrieval of its garbage, the more Filipino personnel will be coming back to the Philippines.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said Canada's refusal to take back the garbage was "disruptive" of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"That recall shows that we are very serious in asking to get back their garbage. Otherwise, we're going to sever relations with them," he added.

Panelo slammed the Canadians for failing to show up at a scheduled meeting with Department of Finance and Customs officials.

Canada also drew criticism from the environmental group Ecowaste Coalition, which expressed disappointment at Ottawa's failure to take back its garbage.

With AFP, PNA



RETURN TO SENDER. This file photo taken on Sept. 9, 2015 shows environmental activists rallying outside the Philippine Senate in Manila to demand that scores of containers filled with household rubbish be shipped back to Canada. The Philippines recalled its ambassador to Canada after Ottawa missed Manila's deadline for it to take back tons of trash illegally shipped to the nation, its foreign minister said on May 16, 2019. **AFP**



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Ties on tenterhooks

Ambassador, consuls recalled

The further the delay, the more personnel will be coming back

By Kristina Maralit
and Mario J. Mallari

presidential spokesman Salvador
Panalo said.

"When the President speaks as he did to the extent of 'declaring war on Canada' for its garbage here, he is to be taken seriously and not metaphorically; at least I do because I do not think I know better than he does. Some of his officials do," Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said.

Locsin tweeted the Philippines "shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there."

President Rodrigo Duterte threatened last month to forcibly ship the containers of garbage back to Canada and dump some at its embassy in Manila if Canadian officials don't take back the waste. Officials later set a 15 May deadline for Canada to comply.

Locsin said in his tweet that letters for the recall of the

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The recall of the country's representatives to Canada serves as a fair warning on the possible severing of diplomatic ties between both nations over the heap of trash that a private Canadian firm illegally dumped in Manila some five years ago.

The Department of Foreign Affairs ordered the move after Canada missed a 15 May deadline to retrieve the garbage from the Philippines.

"The further the delay, the more personnel will be coming back,"



No kidding Filipinos dramatize their protest against Canadian garbage dumped in the country which is rotting at the Manila pier for five years going. The government said President Rodrigo Duterte is serious about his threats of severing ties with Canada over the issue. AF



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Ties on tenterhooks

Philippines shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada

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Philippine ambassador and consuls in Canada have been sent and that they were expected back in Manila after about a day.

"That recall shows that we are very serious in asking them to get back their garbage otherwise we're gonna severe relations with them," Panelo said.

Garbage in

At least 103 containers of household trash, including plastic bottles and bags, newspapers and diapers, were shipped in batches from Canada to the Philippines from 2013 to 2014. Most of the shipping containers remain in two ports in Manila and northern Subic Freeport, sparking protests from environmental activists. Officials said they were falsely declared by a private firm as recyclable plastic scraps and have asked Canada to take back the garbage.

That recall shows that we are very serious in asking them to get back their garbage.

Duterte raised the garbage issue in a speech last month while officials from both countries were already discussing a resolution to the issue. The volatile President said he was ready to "declare war against" Canada over the issue.

"I want a boat prepared. I'll give a warning to Canada maybe next week that they better pull that thing out or I will set sail to Canada and pour their garbage there," Duterte said, adding he would ask Canadian officials to "prepare a grand reception."

"Celebrate because your garbage is coming home," he said. "Eat it if you want to."

Weak commitment

The Canadian government said through its embassy in Manila after Duterte's provocative remarks that it "is strongly committed to collaborating with the government of the Philippines to resolve this issue." It said it was aware of a court ruling that ordered a private importer to ship the waste back to Canada.

A group of officials from both sides

"is examining the full spectrum of issues related to the removal of the waste with a view to a timely resolution," the embassy said in a statement.

A court ordered the private importers in 2016 to ship the waste back to Canada. Of 103 shipping containers that entered the Philippines, the waste from 34 has been disposed of locally.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero has said "bureaucratic red tape" in Canada slowed the return of the rest.

When the President speaks as he did to the extent of 'declaring war on Canada' for its garbage here, he is to be taken seriously.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in 2017 that regulations preventing the return of the garbage had been resolved.

Last year, Duterte ordered the cancelation of a multimillion-dollar agreement to buy 16 helicopters from Canada after its government decided to review the deal due to concerns the Philippine military might use the aircraft in counterinsurgency assaults.

Faster action sought

Panelo asserted that the order to recall embassy officials is to "entice" the Canadian government to speed up efforts in shipping back the 2,450 tons of garbage.

"Their refusal to bring back the garbage to their shores is disruptive to our diplomatic relations," he continued.

Last Wednesday, 15 May, Panelo bared that "documentation issues" caused a "slight delay" in the retrieval process of the containers.

Canada, according to Panelo, said documentation issues were stalling the retrieval process.

The Philippine government had set a 15 May deadline for Canada to take back its garbage.

Not alien to Pinoy

It was gathered that there are 901,218 Filipinos in Canada as of April 2018, comprising a mix of naturalized Canadians, permanent residents and temporary foreign workers. This number comprises almost 2.6 percent of Canada's population.

In 2017, remittances from Filipinos in Canada totaled over \$644.4 million, up by 12.6 percent from \$572.8 million in 2016.



Palace: PH ready to end ties with Canada

BY EFREN MONTANO

Envoy, consuls recalled

THE Philippine government's decision to recall its officials in Canada over the garbage row was a warning that Manila is ready to end its decades-old diplomatic ties with Ottawa, Malacañang said yesterday. /Page 14

PALACE

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Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the goal of the recall-as announced by Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. was to "persuade" Canada to expedite the repatriation of the tons of trash it illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago.

"The more they delay, the more personnel we'll be coming back."

"The fact alone that Secretary Locsin has recalled our diplomats there shows that we're not only are we serious, we're already warning

them we're gonna sever diplomatic relations," said Panelo.

Covered by the recall order are Philippine Ambassador to Canada Petronila Garcia and consuls with Locsin expecting them to return to Manila soon.

Panelo said President Rodrigo Duterte is aware of Locsin's move which came after Canada failed to meet the May 15 deadline to remove the trash.

"The President does not interfere with his department heads, because they are his alter egos; they know what the President's program is with respect to relations with other coun-

tries. So 'pag sinabi ng department head 'yan, 'yan ang posisyon ng Presidente," Panelo added.

Duterte had lashed out at Canada over the tons of household trash that were illegally exported to the Philippines in batches in 2013 and 2014.

The President even threatened to go to war over the garbage now rotting in ports and a landfill, but Panelo said the President's remark was just a figure of speech.

Canada said they are already working with the Philippine government for a "timely resolution" to remove the

tons of Canadian garbage in the country. Documentation issues however were stalling the process for the repatriation, according to Panelo.

Panelo said he sees no reason for the recall order to affect the welfare of 800,000 Filipinos living and working in Canada.

"I don't think magkakaroon ng problema doon, kasi iyong mga nandoon naman eh legal - at kailangan din ng mga overseas workers natin," he said.

"Ang gobyerno kung kailangan nila ang overseas workers natin doon, siyempre hindi nila gagalawin iyon, madi-

disrupt din iyong takbo ng kanilang palakad doon."

He added the Philippine Embassy in Canada is ready to assist Filipinos there should they encounter problems as a result of the recall order.

"It goes without saying: We are always protective of the overseas workers," Panelo said.

Formal relations between the Philippines and Canada started in 1949 when the latter established a trade mission to Manila.

The Canadian trade mission was formally upgraded into a diplomatic mission in 1972. Apart from its embassy in Manila, Canada has a consulate in Cebu.



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Envoys' recall warning to Canada – Panelo

By Efrén Montano

THE Philippine government's decision to recall its officials in Canada over the garbage row was a warning that Manila is ready to end its decades-old diplomatic ties with Ottawa, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the goal of the recall as announced by Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. was to "persuade" Canada to expedite the repatriation of the tons of trash it illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago.

"The more they delay, the more personnel will be coming back," Panelo said at a news conference.

"The fact alone that Secretary Locsin has recalled our diplomats there shows that not only are we serious, we're already warning them we're gonna sever diplomatic relations."

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bassador to Canada Petronila Garcia and consuls with Locsin expecting them to return to Manila soon.

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He even threatened to go to war over the garbage now rotting in ports and a landfill, but Panelo said the President's remark was just a figure of speech.

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already working with the Philippine government for a "timely resolution" to remove the tons of Canadian garbage in the country. Documentation issues however were stalling the process for the repatriation, according to Panelo. Panelo said he sees no reason for the recall order to affect the welfare of 800,000 Filipinos living and working in Canada.

"I don't think magkakaroon ng problema doon, kasi iyong mga nandoon naman eh legal—at kailangan din ng mga overseas workers natin," he said. "Ang gobyerno kung kailangan nila ang overseas workers natin doon, siyempre hindi nila gagalawin iyon, madi-disrupt din iyong takbo ng kanilang palakad doon."

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"It goes without saying: We are always protective

of the overseas workers," Panelo said.

34 containers

The environment-advocate group EcoWaste Coalition has asked the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to disclose records pertaining to the local disposal of the eight of the 103 containers of illegal garbage shipments from Canada.

The group through its national coordinator Aileen Lucero said that they filed the request with tracking no: #BOC-661823304998 after getting a confirmation from the Bureau of Customs (BoC) that 34 of the 103 containers have already been disposed of locally, and only 69 containers will be shipped back to Canada.

Lucero stressed that full disclosure of the information will help clear the air.

"The people have the right to know (where this illegal garbage was disposed)," Lucero said.

With Cory Martinez



Gov't recalls diplomats in Canada over garbage

In an unprecedented move, the government yesterday recalled the country's top diplomats posted in Canada following the failure of a Canadian firm to meet the May 15 deadline set by President Duterte to ship out the 69 container vans of garbage it illegally sent to Manila six years ago.

"At midnight last night, letters for the recall of our ambassador and consuls to Canada went out. They are expected here in a day or so. Canada missed the May 15 deadline. And we shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. said in a tweet yesterday.

The Canadian Embassy in Manila refused to issue any statement and instead directed all media queries to its home office in Ottawa.

Locsin said the order to diminish the country's diplomatic presence in Canada was prompted by the failure of Canadian representatives to show up at a meeting with the officials of the Bureau of Customs on how to resolve the garbage impasse.

"That the government may consider a 2 to 3 weeks delay DOES NOT EXTEND THE DEADLINE. Our diplomatic presence in Canada shall be de minimis. At the Japanese enthronement ceremony, DoF (Department of Finance) told me that Canada did not show up at a meeting with Customs and that was the trigger," the Foreign Affairs chief said in a separate tweet.

The DFA Secretary, instead, blamed "fellow officials" who want to maintain friendly relations with Canada "at the expense of defying Duterte and keeping the Canadian garbage here."

"And finally, to the officials who want me to go easy on the Canadian garbage issue in defiance of Duterte's orders, this: Remember that Canada has facial recognition tech at its borders and the ugly will not be admitted however avid they are to emigrate," he added. **(Roy Mabasa)**



Pinas nainip sa Canada; mga ambassador, consul ni-recall

NAINIP na ang Pilipinas sa mabagal na pagkilos ng Canada na kunin ang itinambak nilang basura sa bansa.

Ang pagkainip ang naging ugat ng kautusan ni Foreign Affairs Sec. Teddy Boy Locsin na i-recall ang lahat ng ambassador at consul ng embahada at konsulada ng Pilipinas sa Canada.

Nabigo kasi ang pamahalaan ng Canada na tumalima sa May 15 deadline ng pamahalaan para kuhanin ang kanilang basura na nasa Pilipinas.

"Ang sabi kasi nila maraming documentation hindi ko alam kung anong klaseng documentation. Documentation sa kanila. Siguro, baka ang problema nila kasi 'di ba nagpadala yata ang private companies, they requiring them to bring back the garbage. Baka ayaw pumayag 'iyong .. kaya nagkakaproblema sila," ayon kay Sec. Panelo.

Maging anoman ang rason, ayon kay Sec. Panelo, kailangang alisin ng Canada ang basurang itinambak nila sa Pilipinas.

Inamin ni Sec. Panelo na hindi talaga alam ng Pilipinas kung ano ang nakapigil sa Canada na kunin ang basura nila rito.

Sa katunayan aniya ay dapat makikipagkita ang Canadian authorities at ang DFA subalit hindi aniya sumipot ang mga ito at pinaghintay ang DFA at Bureau of Customs officials.

Ang hakbang na ito ay nagpapakita lang na seryoso ang gobyerno ng Pilipinas sa pahayag nito sa Canada na ibalik ang tambak na basura sa kanilang bansa.

Sinabi ni Sec. Panelo na alam ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang naging hakbang na ito ni Locsin.

Nauna rito, sa tweet ni Locsin, inaatasan ang lahat ng opisyal ng embahada at konsulada sa Canada na mag-book na ng flight pauwi ng bansa.

Hatinggabi nang ilabas ang letters of recall para sa lahat ng ambassador at consuls ng Pilipinas.

KRIS JOSE



'DI TUMUPAD SA USAPAN SA BASURA

PH top diplomats sa Canada, pinauuwi na

Nina ROY C. MABASA at BETH D. CAMIA

Pinauuwi na ng pamahalaan ang mga diplomatic official nito sa Canada kasunod ng pagkabigo ng isang Canadian company na masunod ang deadline para mahakot ang 69 container van ng basurang nasa Pilipinas pabalik sa kanilang bansa.

"At midnight last night, letters for the recall of our ambassador and consuls to Canada went out. They are expected here in a day or so. Canada missed the May 15 deadline. And we shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there," ayon kay Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr.

Gayunman, tumanggap magbigay ng pahayag sa usapin ang Canadian Embassy sa bansa at sa halip, ipinasa nito ang mga katanungan ng mga mamamahayag sa kanilang home office sa Ottawa.

Ikinatwiran ni Locsin, hindi sinipot ng mga kinatawan ng Canada ang isang pagpupulong, kasama ang mga opisyal ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) upang matalakay sana ang pagresolba sa usapin.

"That the government may consider

a 2 to 3 weeks delay DOES NOT EXTEND THE DEADLINE. Our diplomatic presence in Canada shall be de minimis. At the Japanese enthronement ceremony, DOF (Department of Finance) told me that Canada did not show up at a meeting with Customs and that was the trigger," ang bahagi ng Tweet post ni Locsin.

Sinisi rin ng kalihim ang mga kasamahang opisyal na nagnanais na mapanatili ang magandang ugnayan sa Canada kahit sumusuway ang mga ito sa kautusan ng pangulo kaugnay ng naturang kontrobersiya.

"And finally, to the officials who want me to go easy on the Canadian garbage issue in defiance of Duterte's orders, this: Remember that Canada has facial recognition tech at its borders and the ugly will not be admitted however avid they are to emigrate," sabi ni Locsin.

Tumanggi rin si Locsin na pangalanan ang tinutukoy niyang mga opisyal.

Kaugnay nito, pinag-aaralan na ng gobyerno kung may parusang ipapataw sa Canada government kaugnay ng usapin.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman

Atty. Salvador Panelo, posibleng nagkaroon lamang ng kaunting aberya kaya hindi natuloy ang sana ay pagkuha ng Canada sa kanilang mga basurang nakatambak sa bansa.

"Ang sabi ng DFA noon, na baka, there might be a slight of delay because of a certain documentation, pero konting panahon lang naman ng delay. What is more important is they were take back their waste, reasonable naman siguro one, two or three weeks, basta ang importante ay kunin na nila," pagtitiyak ni Panelo.

Wala aniyang gagastusin ang pamahalaan sa pagbabalik ng basura ng Canada sa kanilang bansa.

Posible pa aniyang magkaroon ng penalties kapag nakitaan pa sila ng kapabayaan.

"Dapat bayaran lahat nila 'yon, basta lahat ng penalties, itatapon natin sa kanila," giit pa ni Panelo.

Sa ngayon ay pinag-aaralan pa ng Malacañang kung may sanction o parusang ipapataw sa Canada nang hindi sumunod sa palugit na Mayo 15 para sa paghahakot sa nabanggit na basura.



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Phl envoy sa Canada ni-recall dahil sa basura

Pinauwi ni Foreign Affairs Sec. Teddy Locsin ang ambassador ng Pilipinas sa Canada gayundin ang mga consul nito matapos mabigo ang Canadian government na kunin ang kanilang basura na itinambak sa Pilipinas.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo sa media briefing, bilang alter ego ni Pangulong Duterte ay nagdesisyon si Sec. Locsin para sa recall ng ambassador ng Pilipinas sa Canada matapos hindi masunod ng Canadian government ang itinakdang May 15 deadline upang kunin nila ang tone-toneladang basura na itinambak sa Pilipinas noong 2013 at 2014.

Ayon sa Malacañang, hanggang hindi nakukuha ng Canada ang kanilang basura ay mananatili ang pag-recall sa envoy ng Pilipinas sa Canada.

Nauna rito, inihayag ng Canadian embassy sa Pilipinas na handa nilang pasanin ang gastos upang maibalik sa kanilang bansa ang tone-toneladang basura.

Nagbanta pa si Pangulong Duterte na kapag hindi kinuha ng Canada ang kanilang basura ay siya mismo

ang magbabalik nito at itatambak niya sa mga beaches ng Canada ang nasabing mga basura.

Nangako naman ang Canadian government na sila ang gagastos sa pagbabalik ng itinambak nilang basura na lulan ng 103 containers.

"The President is firm that we are not garbage collectors, thus he ordered that the Philippines will no longer accept any waste from any country," dagdag pa ni Panelo. *(Ni Rudy Andal)*



Deadline sa basura hindi natupad PH ENVOYS SA CANADA NI-RECALL

PINARE-RECALL o pinauwi na sa Filipinas ang mga matataas na opisyal ng embahada ng bansa sa Canada makaraang mabigo ang Ottawa at pamahalaan ng Canada na masunod ang deadline na maibalik sa kanila ang tone-toneladang basura na itinapon sa bansa.

SUNDAN SA PAHINA 15

Mula sa pahina 16

Ayon kay Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro 'Teddy Boy' Locsin, sinulatan na niya ang ambassador at consuls sa embahada ng Filipinas sa Canada upang agad na bumalik muna sa bansa at panatilihin ang mababang presensya ng mga diplomatic official hanggang sa maibalik ang mga basura sa nasabing bansa.

"At midnight last night, letters for the recall of our ambassador and consuls to Canada went out. They are expected here in a day or

so. Canada missed the May 15 deadline. And we shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there," wika ni Locsin sa kanyang official Twitter account.

Sinabi pa ng kalihim na isa sa pinag-ugatan ng pag-recall sa mga opisyal ay ang pagkabigo rin ng Canadian representatives na dumalo sa isang pulong kasama ang mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs. Una ng binigyan ng pamahalaan ng hanggang Mayo 15 ang Canada para bawiin ang

itinapon nilang basura sa bansa.

Nagbabala na rin si Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo sa nasabing bansa na hakutin na ang kanilang basura gayunman, hindi ito nangangahulugan na puputulin na ng Filipinas ang ugnayan nito sa Canada.

Una ng nangako ang Canadian Embassy na reresolbahin ang isyu sa lalong madaling panahon at ibabalik ang mga basura sa kanilang bansa.

Magugunitang dumating ang halos

isandaang container van mula sa Canada sa Port of Manila mula taong 2013 hanggang 2014 at una itong idineklara na naglalaman lamang ng mga plastic scrap, subalit base sa beripikasyon nabatid na ang mga ito ay non-recyclable plastics, household waste at mga gamit ng adult diapers.

PAUL ROLDAN



EDITORIAL

LABAN NG BASURA SA CANADA LABAN PARA SA DANGAL

TAMA lang ang pagpapauwi o pag-recall ng Pilipinas ng ambassador at konsul nito sa bansang Canada makaraang hindi umaksyon ang huli para iuwi ang kanilang basurang 103 container van na itinapon sa Pilipinas sa mga taong 2013-2014.

Pagpaparamdam ito sa Canada na hindi porke maliit na bansa ang Pilipinas at isang higante ang Canada ay babalewalain na lang tayo ng dayuhang bansa.

Matatandaang nangako ang Canada na kukunin na ang mga basura nito at maaaring magsimula nang wala ang mga ito sa Mayo 15, 2019 ngunit lumipas ang petsang ito ay walang sumipot na opisyal ng Canada para gawin ito.

Sa pag-uwi ng mga ambassador at konsul, mababawasan ng malaki ang anomang programang palitan ng dalawang bansa na higit na mahalaga kaysa halaga ng basura.

Bagama't maaapektuhan tiyak ang mga interes ng Pilipinas sa Canada gaya ng masiglang pagpunta ng mga Filipino sa nasabing bansa na nakatutulong sa pagpasok ng salapi o remittance ng mga ito sa Pilipinas, higit na mahalaga ang paninindigan ng Pilipinas laban sa pang-aabuso o pagbabalewala ng mga dayuhan sa atin bilang bansa.

Higit na mahalaga ang pantay na pagtrato ng isa't isa bilang mga bansa at kung maganap ito, higit na pakinabang ang matatamo ng bawat isa, higit na malaki kaysa sa anomang salapi na padala o remittance ng mga Filipino sa Pilipinas at kani-kanilang mga pamilya.

Magkakaroon pa ng dangal ang Pilipinas bilang isang bayan dahil makikilala ito na kapantay ng sinomang bansa, kahit pa ng mga malalaki at makapangyarihan gaya ng Canada.



A trashy predicament

Days after the 2019 midterm elections came to a close, the public is seeing an aftermath that is prevalent every time elections are being held in the Philippines – and no, it's not the mudslinging or accusations of cheating.

It's trash – tons and tons of garbage from campaign materials, flyers and sample ballots that were left strewn all over the streets nationwide – the same recurring problem that stares us in the eyes while it stares back as an eyesore.

For decades, we have seen the impact of garbage in the environment and the threat of waste to both health and public safety is huge, not to mention the financial and social ramifications.

We have already seen garbage run into rivers and cause massive flash floods, spreading diseases as it seeps into ground water. It also affects the atmosphere, as it releases toxic discharge.

The effects of garbage are not new to us, but why is there a need for the public and the candidates – winners and losers alike – to be reminded on taking care of their trash after elections? What is so hard about cleaning up those campaign materials and put them to good use by recycling?

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported recently that it collected a total of 168.84 tons of campaign materials in various parts of the region during the recent midterm elections.

The agency's post-clean up report said that at least 21,700 pieces of election-related materials equivalent to 23.42 tons were collected by seven dump trucks in the metropolis a day after the voting is done.

Meanwhile, a total of 134,700 pieces

of posters amounting to 145.42 tons of campaign paraphernalia were collected in various parts of Metro Manila through the 'Oplan Baklas' campaign before the elections.

Manila, Quezon City, Parañaque and Makati produced the most number of campaign materials according to the MMDA.

Why is there a need to be reminded of such? The Philippines holds elections every six years and this trashy predicament comes up endlessly.

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) secretary Eduardo Año also called on the public and candidates to clean up their mess following the midterm elections, saying that local officials and those who ran in the midterm polls should lead in removing and properly disposing of campaign materials.

But through all these, we ask: Why is there a need to be reminded of such? The Philippines holds elections every six years and this trashy predicament comes up endlessly.

The country has a law regarding garbage and its proper disposal – the RA 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000" – which has provisions for solid waste reduction and avoidance through recycling, composting and other methods before disposal in the appropriate facilities.

This law would have solved the recurring problem of garbage during elections and we ask our local officials – incumbent and newly-elected – to lead in implementing the law to save our environment from further degradation.



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Philippine Star
NGAYON
Diyaryong disente ng masang intelihente

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Pinapatag ng bulldozer ang mga basura sa isang landfill sa Capas, Tarlac kung saan sinasabing itinapon ang mga basura mula sa Canada. (File photo ni Ernie Peñaredondo)



Too many tree planting bills



POP GOES
THE WORLD
JENNY
ORTUOSTE

A NEW law is in the works that will require all graduating grade school, high school, and college students to plant at least 10 trees each as a "mandatory prerequisite for graduation."

House Bill 8728 was approved on third and final reading by the House of Representatives last Jan. 14 and sent

“Why not come up with one consolidated Tree Planting Law that will be easy to implement?”

to the Senate the following day. The 'Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act' taps the educational system

as a "locus for propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources among the young to ensure the cultivation of a socially-responsible and conscious citizenry."

In the bill's explanatory note, its principal author, Magdalo Party-list Rep. Gary Alejano, said "this initiative...will ensure that at least 175-million new trees would be planted each year," for a total of 525-billion new trees in one generation.

This calculation is based on the
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Too many...

From A4

following numbers: over 12-million grade school, nearly five-million high school, and almost 500,000 college graduates yearly.

"Even with a survival rate of only 10 percent," Alejano said, "this would mean an additional 525-million trees would be available for the youth to enjoy, when they assume the mantle of leadership in the future."

Indigenous species of trees are preferred, and the choices of trees should take into account the location, climate, and topography of the areas recommended for tree planting and reforestation: Forest lands, mangrove and protected areas, ancestral domains, civil and military reservations, urban areas under the greening plan of the local government units, inactive and abandoned mine sites, and other suitable lands.

Many agencies are mandated to help implement this proposed law, among them the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform.

However, there are already two bills that require Filipinos to plant trees.

Republic Act No. 10176, the Arbor

Day Act of 2012, provides that "All able-bodied citizens of the Philippines, who are at least 12 years of age, shall be required to plant one (1) tree every year." The activity shall be done in coordination with the local government units.

Presidential Decree No. 1153 of 1977 states that "every citizen of the Philippines at least ten (10) years of age, actually residing therein, unless physically disabled to do so, shall plant one tree every month for five (5) consecutive years."

This law further provides that "the trees to be planted shall be fruit-bearing, shade, ornamental or forest trees, and the same shall be taken care of for at least two years after each planting and replaced if the same die, are diseased or are defective."

While the laws differ in some respects, such as their rationales and the point agencies, all three are cognizant of the need to care for natural resources and the environment.

The question is, does the proposed Alejano bill, should it pass the Senate, repeal these two older tree-planting laws? Or do they all exist in conjunction and are for implementation at the same time? If a student planted trees in their province for Arbor Day, are these considered the same as their quota for graduation, or not?

The recent midterm elections have brought to mind again the legislative

function of government, as has newly-minted Senator Bato del Rosario's statement that he wants to take seminars on lawmaking. Scrutiny now falls on this proposed bill and its related laws.

Crafting laws requires logic, commonsense, a knowledge of issues, and the imagination to solve problems. However, as these three tree laws show, over the decades some laws become redundant, their *raison d'être* and essential provisions duplicating others.

While we all agree that trees can help refresh the air with oxygen and reduce our carbon footprint, and the more that are planted, the better, our legislators should consolidate these laws to prevent confusion.

Why not come up with one consolidated Tree Planting Law that will be easy to implement? Corporate entities and government agencies can include tree planting in their yearly corporate social responsibility programs. Other solutions can be found to make sure all Filipinos remember to fulfill this duty to the country and the planet.

Trees are a living organism: Scientists recently announced that they have mapped, on a global scale, the 'Wood Wide Web', a "vast, interconnected web" of fungi and bacteria living at the roots of trees. /FB and Twitter: @DrJennyO



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BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN

Editorial **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

Simulan nang paramihin ang mga puno

KASABAY ng pagdami ng establisimyento, maraming puno rin ang pinutol upang maisagawa ang mga ito. Ang patuloy na pagbaba ng bilang ng mga puno rin ang itinuturong dahilan ng mga pagbaha sa ating

bansa.

Kamakailan, inaprubahan ng Kongreso sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa ang batas na magre-require sa mga estudyante na magtanim ng mga puno bilang prerequisite para sa graduation.

Ang House Bill 8728 o Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act ay naglalayong mag-require sa mga mag-aaral na magtatapos sa elementarya, high school at kolehiyo na magtanim ng sampung puno bilang requirement para sa graduation.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ang mga puno ay dapat itanim sa gubat, mangrove and protected areas, ancestral domains, civil at military reservations, urban areas na kabilang sa greening plan ng gobyerno at inactive at abandonadong mine sites.

Dapat din umanong angkop sa lokasyon, klima at topograpiya sa lugar ang itanim na puno.

Ang batas ay nag-uutos sa Department of Education (DepEd) at Commission on Higher Education (CHED) na ipatupad ito sa mga paaralan.

Magandang requirement ito upang sa pag-alis ng mga magtatapos sa kanilang paaralan, hindi lamang kaalaman ang kanilang iiwanan kundi mga puno na mapakikinabangan ng ating kalikasan at susunod pang mga henerasyon.



Globe Telecom supports Boracay sustainability week, joins beach clean-up drive

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

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

At the same time, Globe put up an Eco Booth in D'mall where anyone can exchange their plastic bags with

eco bags to encourage a more sustainable practice.

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

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

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

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

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



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



Dismissed Aklan mayor reelected despite Boracay mess

By JENNIFER RENDON

ILOILO CITY - The dismissed mayor of Malay town in Aklan, Ciceron Cawaling, has a fresh mandate after he was proclaimed winner in the mayoralty race.

The Office of the Ombudsman had ordered the dismissal of Cawaling in April for graft, gross neglect of duty, grave misconduct, conduct unbecoming of a

public official and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service in connection with the environmental problems in Boracay.

The mayor incurred the ire of President Duterte, who lamented that Boracay Island had turned into a "cesspool."

Cawaling, of the Nacionalista Party, garnered

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16,277 votes, defeating former mayor John Yap of the Nationalist People's Coalition, who got 12,260 votes. Independent candidate Rodgiet Ranara got 1,200 votes.

Frolibar Bautista, running-mate of Cawaling, won as vice mayor over incumbent Mayor Abram Sualog and Eliberto Daguno.

On April 24, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) served a dismissal order on Cawaling hours after he reported for work from his six-month preventive suspension.

Also dismissed was Jen

Salsona, licensing officer III of Malay town.

Cawaling's camp had denied the charges and vowed to appeal the decision before the Supreme Court (SC).

"With his reelection, it only shows that the people don't believe the accusations thrown against him," Rowen Aguirre, Cawaling's executive assistant, said.

"He was blamed for everything. *Parang ginawa siyang scapegoat* for everything that happened, for all the violations," Aguirre said.

The complaint against Cawaling was filed by DILG

Undersecretary Epimaco Densing.

The charges against 15 other local officials, including Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, Malay Vice Mayor Abram Sualog, members of the provincial board and Valentin Talabero of the Provincial Environment Natural Resources Office, were dismissed for lack of merit.

Another mayoralty candidate, Frankie Locsin of Iloilo, emerged victorious despite being disqualified from public office.

Locsin, former mayor of Janiuay, won the mayoralty race.

The Sandiganbayan sentenced Locsin to up to 10 years in prison and barred him from holding public office after he was found

guilty of graft in connection with the allegedly anomalous purchase of medicine worth P15 million.

Reports said the SC has junked Locsin's motion for reconsideration and affirmed the anti-graft court's decision dated Feb. 23 and June 8, 2015.

The camp of Locsin's opponent, incumbent Vice Mayor Jojo Lutero, said the Sandiganbayan's decision was final and executory.

Lawyer Jose Nick Mendros, director of the Commission on Elections Region 6, earlier said Lutero's lawyer should file a petition for disqualification before the Comelec.

Locsin garnered 11,383 votes against Lutero's 7,438.



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Nestlé PH taps Republic Cement to co-process consumer wastes

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Food and beverage giant Nestlé Philippines, once tagged as one of the worst polluters of Manila Bay, has moved to increase efforts to contain the amount of plastic waste that come from its products, tapping Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. for the co-processing of post-consumer plastic waste.

A statement showed that Nestlé Philippines and Republic Cement have entered into an agreement to co-process post-consumer plastic waste in the cement kilns of the CRH-Aboitiz company.

Republic Cement is duly licensed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to use and dispose of qualified waste streams through cement kiln co-processing.

Cement kiln co-processing is the process used to create cement. It takes raw materials such as calcium carbonate and silica and feeds them into a kiln along with fuel.

The materials are burned to such a high temperature that any complex material is broken into simpler compounds. The end result of the process is cement, and any emissions from the process are filtered and monitored by the minute to abide by local DENR standards.

Co-processing is an alternative waste management solution that can use waste as fuel. In the Philippines, while landfilling and physical treat-

ment are more common, co-processing is more advantageous given that energy and minerals coming from waste are almost completely utilized.

Republic Cement is backed by the global expertise of CRH, a leading building materials company with main headquarters in Dublin, Ireland, and Aboitiz Group, a listed diversified Filipino business conglomerate.

The company has five cement plants and one grinding station in the Philippines, and more than 60 years cement manufacturing experience.

Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki said the deal with Republic Cement is strategic as the company now aims for "plastic neutrality," which is essentially recovering plastics equal to what the company produces.

"Aside from our current collection and recycling initiatives, we believe this effort will help us gather and co-process bigger volumes of post-consumer waste," Marzouki said.

"We target to divert more post-consumer waste from landfills and the ocean. This partnership will contribute positively in helping clean-up the Philippines," he added.

For his part, Republic Cement President Renato Sunico said there's still a lack of knowledge on the importance of co-processing in waste management.

"We look forward to helping ad-

dress the issue of post-consumer waste and look forward to the successful implementation of this project," Sunico said.

Last year, Nestlé S.A, Procter & Gamble Co., and Unilever Philippines Limited were some of the companies Senator Cynthia Villar special mentioned when she discussed the worsening garbage problem in the country.

Before that, international environmental group Greenpeace also tagged Nestlé as one of the worst polluters of Manila Bay. This, after the group recovered 54,200 pieces of plastic waste from Manila Bay, including 9,000 Nestlé products, during a clean-up drive.

Now, Villar particularly wants to amend the Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act particularly "for the manufacturers and producers of plastic products to be more responsible for the waste they are producing."

"I'm pushing to amend RA 9003. It has to be amended and reviewed after 17 years and modernize some of its provisions," Villar said.

"The country's problem on plastic waste is alarming. We are the third biggest producer of plastic and it endangers our food security because if fishes accidentally ate them, they will die," she added.

Villar said she's looking to amend

the law in a way that there should be "extended producers responsibility." Through that, if a company produced a product, then it's also its responsibility to retrieve the waste.

In April last year, Nestlé globally announced a commitment that 100 percent of its packaging will be recyclable or reusable by 2025. The company's vision is that none of its waste ends up in landfill or as litter.

Nestlé has initiated and is driving waste collection efforts with various partners. A portion of the wastes col-

lected go to recycling and upcycling programs producing construction materials such as eco-bricks and eco-pavers, as well as school chairs.

"Taking action on plastic waste is a big challenge. We are on a journey, exploring possible avenues in our defined focus areas, applying our learnings, looking to build on successes along the way," Marzouki further said.

"And in all this, it is important for different sectors to work together," he added. (MBM)



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NESTLÉ, REPUBLIC CEMENT INK MOA ON CO-PROCESSING OF PLASTIC WASTES – Nestlé Philippines and Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. have signed a memorandum of agreement for the cement kiln co-processing of post-consumer plastic wastes, a major source of environmental pollution. The agreement was signed by CEO and President Kais Marzouki (2nd from left) and Corporate Affairs Head Atty. Ernesto Mascenon (right) of Nestlé Philippines, and President Renato Sunico (left) and Director Nabil Francis (3rd from left) of Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. Mr. Francis is concurrently CEO of Republic Cement Services, Inc.



Nestlé Philippines, Republic Cement to co-process post-consumer waste

NESTLÉ Philippines, Inc. and Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. have entered into an agreement to co-process post-consumer plastic waste in the latter's cement kilns.

The partnership comes amid concerns about the amount of plastics ending up in waterways and in the ocean, Republic Cement said in a statement on Thursday. The partners said their "major initiative" aims to help address the environmental issue.

"Nestlé is aiming for plastic neutrality, which is essentially recovering plastics equal to what we produce. Aside from our current collection and recycling initiatives, we believe this effort will help us gather and co-process bigger volumes of post-consumer waste. We target to divert more post-consumer waste from landfills and the ocean. This partnership will contribute positively in helping clean-up the Philippines," said Kais Marzouki, chairman and chief executive of Nestlé Philippines.

Cement kiln co-processing takes raw materials such as calcium carbonate and silica, and feeds them into a kiln along with fuel. The process, which is used to create cement, includes burning the materials to such a high temperature that any complex part is broken into simpler compounds.



COMPANY HANDOUT

NESTLÉ Philippines and Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. inked a memorandum of agreement for the cement kiln co-processing of post-consumer plastic wastes. The deal was signed by CEO and Chairman Kais Marzouki (2nd from left) and Corporate Affairs Head Ernesto Mascenon (right) of Nestlé Philippines, and President Renato Sunico (left) and Director Nabil Francis (3rd from left) of Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc.

The end result of the process is cement.

Any emissions from the process are filtered and monitored by the minute to abide by local standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"There's still a lack of knowledge on the importance of co-processing. We look forward to helping address the issue of post-consumer waste and look forward to the successful implementation of this project," said Renato C. Sunico, president of Republic Cement.

Co-processing, an alternative waste management solu-

tion that can use waste as fuel, is seen as more advantageous to landfilling given that energy and minerals coming from waste are almost completely utilized.

In April 2018, multinational firm Nestlé announced a commitment that 100% of its packaging will be recyclable or reusable by 2025. Its vision is that none of its waste ends up in landfill or as litter.

Republic Cement, a company led by CHR plc and the Aboitiz group, has five cement plants and one grinding station in the Philippines. It has more than 60 years cement manufacturing experience. — **Victor V. Saulon**



Nestlé Philippines team up with Republic Cement



PHOTO shows Nestlé Philippines CEO and President Kais Marzouki (second from left) and Corporate Affairs Head Atty. Ernesto Mascenon (right), and Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. President Renato Sunico (left) and Director Nabil Francis (third from left). Mr. Francis is concurrently CEO of Republic Cement Services, Inc.

THE AMOUNT of plastics ending up in waterways and in the ocean is of great concern in the country and other areas of the world. In a major initiative to help address this concern, Nestlé Philippines and Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. have entered into an agreement to co-process post-consumer plastic waste in the cement kilns of Republic Cement.

The agreement was signed by Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki and Corporate Affairs Head Atty. Ernesto Mascenon of Nestlé Philippines, and

President Renato Sunico and Director Nabil Francis of Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. Mr. Francis is concurrently CEO of Republic Cement Services, Inc.

Cement kiln co-processing is the process used to create cement. It takes raw materials such as calcium carbonate and silica and feeds them into a kiln along with fuel. The materials are burned to such a high temperature that any complex material is broken into simpler compounds. The end result of the process is cement, and any emissions from the process are filtered and

monitored by the minute to abide by local DENR standards.

Co-processing is an alternative waste management solution that can use waste as fuel. In the Philippines, while landfilling and physical treatment are more common, co-processing is more advantageous given that energy and minerals coming from waste are almost completely utilized.

"Nestlé is aiming for plastic neutrality, which is essentially recovering plastics equal to what we produce. Aside from our current collection and recycling initiatives, we believe this effort will help us gather and co-process bigger volumes of post-consumer waste. We target to divert more post-consumer waste from landfills and the ocean. This partnership will contribute positively in helping clean-up the Philippines," Mr. Marzouki remarked.

"There's still a lack of knowledge on the importance of co-processing. We look forward to helping address the issue of post-consumer waste and look forward to the successful implementation of this project," Mr. Sunico said.

"We are happy to partner with Nestlé Philippines and to help address pollution from residual plastics and sachets. This is a win-win situation for us and the environment. Together, we can build a greener, stronger Republic," Mr. Francis said.



SM to hold quarterly Cleanup Drive in SM by the BAY

SM BY the BAY, in partnership with SM Cares, the corporate social responsibility arm of SM Prime Holdings, Inc., will hold its quarterly Cleanup Drive on May 18, 6 a.m., at the Central Park of SM by the BAY, Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City. SM by the BAY's regular cleanup drives support the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, and has been in place since 2015. This initiative forms part of SM's commitment to the government, which will be followed by a cleanup of the portion of Parañaque waterways. Representatives from Pasay City City Environment Office (CENRO), Non-government organizations, employees from the US Embassy, local community, and employee volunteers from SM are expected to participate in the quarterly cleanup activity.



Chico River irrigation project suspended

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

PINUKPUK, Kalinga - The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has temporarily stopped the \$4.3-billion Chico River Pump Irrigation Project on the border of Pinukpuk, Kalinga and Tuao, Cagayan.

The suspension will continue until a certificate of precondition (CP) is acquired by the project's proponents, said NCIP Commissioner for Region 1 and CAR Gaspar Cayat.

Last April 30, the NCIP en banc suspended the project and directed its Cordillera offices to issue a Cease-and-Desist Order (CDO) because the project lacked the free and prior informed consent (FPIC) from affected indigenous peoples

in Kalinga.

A suspension order was issued by the NCIP-Cordillera against the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on May 3.

The FPIC must be fulfilled because "we cannot allow a repeat of the rebellion against the Chico Dam project in the '70s," Cayat said.

President Duterte made it clear that even if the project is under his adminis-

tration's "Build, Build, Build" program, indigenous peoples must be consulted and their consent on projects affecting them must be obtained, Cayat said.

The Chico River Pump Irrigation Project is a loan agreement from the Chinese government. Work on the project started late last year.

The NCIP summoned the NIA to a meeting on May 22-25, Cayat said.

The NCIP's legal department is also studying charges against the contractor of the project for violations of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), he added.



Failsafe water security system for Metro Manila

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Metro Manila recently went through a traumatic episode. The taps went dry for weeks in the East water concession zone. Water supply has since resumed, but still in a much reduced state.



Yap

People, young and old, had to form long daily queues very early in the morning using all sorts of containers to get water. Hospitals were also affected with some services reportedly curtailed. Factories dependent on water suspended or reduced operations.

What transpired was only in a part of the metropolis, yet it was already a crisis situation. Imagine the plight of the people and the chaos if, God forbid, the entire water system is disrupted.

Warnings have been issued by relevant experts of long severe droughts owing to climate change and of a catastrophic earthquake when the feared "Big One" finally happens. The recent earthquake that caused deaths and damage in Pampanga revealed a hitherto hidden fault line. Consequent damage to water system infrastructure and disruption of water supply could be extensive and severe.

Water is essential to sustain life. In such a dire eventuality where supply is severely disrupted, the teeming population of about 20 million in the greater metropolitan area would be starved for water to drink, cook food, clean and wash. There would be mass exodus out of the metropolis in a desperate dash for water only to find other large freshwater bodies as polluted as Laguna Lake.

We could have a Mad Max scenario where people would fight and die for water. The greater Manila metropolis has a fifth of the country's population and over a third of its economy. Collateral damage to supply chains in other regions could be significant. Such a dire situation cannot be allowed to happen. No matter how remote the possibility, worst case contingency preparation is a must.

It is for this reason, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) has submitted to President Duterte a proposal for the rehabilitation and preservation of Laguna Lake, under a holistic plan to include massive reforestation of the watershed that feeds water to the lake, development of the lakeshore for mass recreation and sustainable eco-tourism, controlled urban development and connectivity including a cross-lake ferry transportation system.

These projects will greatly contribute to water security, the wellbeing of the people in the metropolis, as well as economic growth when the vast potential of this great natural resource is properly protected and harnessed.

Essentially, we are proposing a failsafe water security system for the greater Manila metropolitan area with Laguna Lake and the dams playing a complementary role to achieve redundancy with two independent major sources to ensure water supply come what may. A third alternative is seawater desalination, but the near-

est source, Manila Bay, is equally or even more polluted.

Laguna Lake is the largest freshwater lake in our country and among the largest in Southeast Asia. It is an ideal, logical, inexhaustible and proximately located source of fresh water.

Unfortunately, the water quality of Laguna Lake has, despite sporadic efforts, continuously degenerated from neglect and wanton disregard for the lake's wellbeing much like other natural resources of our country. Currently, the water treatment plant in Putatan cannot draw water from the lake due to massive amount of algae.

The MAP strongly applauds President Duterte for seeing the despoilage of Boracay and exercising strong political will to rehabilitate it. We see and appreciate the beneficial results of the draconian measures employed.

We urge the President to similarly act and replicate his admirable action in Boracay, this time to save Laguna Lake by issuing an Executive Order to direct all national and local government units and instrumentalities to immediately implement all existing laws, rules, regulations and directives to protect and rehabilitate Laguna Lake and the forest cover of its watershed in the surrounding hills and mountains.

Corollary to these measures, the public must be strictly enjoined, under pain of penalty, from dumping waste into the lake. Polluting industries such as factories, fish culture, poultry and livestock farms, and use of toxic chemicals must be strictly regulated to a sustainable and safe level.



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Other sources of pollution must be prohibited, and these include the use of vessels in the lake powered by fossil fuels. Preferably, only vessels using clean energy, such as electric or natural gas, shall be allowed. This is the practice in many environmentally protective countries.

Using Boracay as the model, physical structures must be banned within a prescribed no-build zone on the lakeshore. But given the large population in the communities surrounding some parts of the lake, the buffer zone should be wider than Boracay's to provide more space for public recreation and common enjoyment of a national resource.

Another important component of this holistic plan includes eco-tourism developments along the lakeshore. The proximity of certain lakeshore areas to the international airport, financial center in Makati and the south commuter train service enhances the viability of these developments. Further connectivity would be necessary, including a cross-lake ferry transportation system. The potential for recreational and economic activities is vast.

Water security means survival for the teeming millions in the greater Manila metropolis. It is a matter of national security.

Eduardo H. Yap is chair of the MAP national issues committee and proponent of this holistic Laguna Lake rehabilitation plan approved by the board of governors.



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BAKAWAN PLANTING ISINABAY SA OCEAN MONTH

BULACAN – KASABAY ng selebrasyon ng Ocean Month at sa temang “Free the sea from Marine Debrics”, nagsagawa ng tree planting at clean up drive ang mga mag-aaral ng Bulacan State University.

Kasama ang siyam na private sectors kabilang ang Wetland International, Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources, Aksyon Kalikasan, at media.

Umabot sa 1,200 na seedling ng rhizophora mucronata na babaeng bakawan ang itinanim sa Bakawan eco park sa Brgy, Taliptip, Bulakan, Bulacan.

Sa kasalukuyan nasa 80 porsiyento ang may

tanim na bakawan sa 32 ektaryang lawak ng lupa.

Kasabay nito ay magkakaroon din ng Memorandum of Agreement sa pagitan ng BSU officials sa pamumuno ni president Cecilia Gascon at ni Wetland International Vice Chancellor Dr. Annadel Cabanban.

Layon nitong pangalagaan at protektahan ang mga marine life at iba pang endangered species sa lugar.

Naglunsad din ng seminar para sa sustainable Mangrove, orientation sa status ng marine pollution at kahandaan sa coastal clean up, at photo contest sa mga undergrad students.

THONY ARCENAL



NAGSAMA-SAMA ang mga mag-aaral ng Bulacan State University at mga private sectors, NGOs at LGUs para sa tree planting ng Bakawan, sa Eco Park ng Brgy. Taliptip, Bulakan, Bulacan.
Kuha ni **THONY ARCENAL**