

DATE : 19 MAY 2019

DAY : Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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DENR to mark Int'l Day of Biological Diversity

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will mark the local celebration of the International Day of Biological Diversity (IDBD) on May 22, highlighting the effective management of natural food resources that is beneficial to human health.

A food fair, dubbed as "Samu't Saring Tikim Fair," will be showcasing organic, healthy and sustainable products derived from biological resources on Wednesday.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the event fits well with the IDBD 2019 theme—"Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health"—which focuses on biodiversity as foundation for food and health, and a key catalyst to transforming food systems and improving human health.

"This year's celebration offers a timely reminder on the importance of effective management of the country's rich biodiversity, especially when it comes to achieving food security," Cimatu said.

"As we observe IDBD, we are reminded of the limited resources we have as human beings when it comes to one of the top basic needs—food. We therefore continue to sustainably manage these limited resources for the benefit of our children and future generations," he added.

Organized by the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), the "Tikim Fair" will be held on May 22 at the amphitheater of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

The food fair will also feature a cooking festival featuring demos with local food experts and a lecture on sustainable diet for Filipinos, traditional health practices, and a nature walk before lunchtime.

Two new books on biodiversity will also be launched: "Public Parks and Green Open Spaces," a joint undertaking of DENR and non-government organizations such as the Alliance for Safe, Sustainable, and Resilient Environments (ASSURE) and the Forest Foundation of the Philippines (FFP), and "Native Plants of Boracay Wetlands" by the Energy Development Corp and BMB.

This year's IDBD theme also celebrates the diversity of the species provided by the natural environment for human existence and well-being on earth, while contributing to achieve the other Sustainable Development Goals, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystems restoration, cleaner water and zero hunger, among others.



DENR marks Int'l Biodiversity Day

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will mark the local celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) on 22 May with a food fair showcasing organic, healthy and sustainable products derived from biological resources.

The event, dubbed as "*Samu't Saring Tikim Fair*," seeks to raise awareness and appreciation on the importance of biodiversity as food source that leads to good health.

This year's theme also celebrates the diversity of the species provided by the natural environment for human existence and well-being on Earth.

It will also aim to achieve the other Sustainable Development Goals, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystems restoration, cleaner water and zero hunger.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the event fits well with the IDBD 2019 theme "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health," which focuses on biodiversity as foundation for food and health, and a key catalyst to improving human health.

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when it comes to achieving food security," Cimatu said.

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Organized by the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau, the "*Tikim Fair*" will be held on 22 May at the amphitheater of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

The exhibitors include members of the *Asosasyon ng mga Nagkakaisang Magkakapitbahay ng Palanas* in Barangay Vasra, Quezon City; health and biodiversity advocates; select DENR and BMB staff and media members.

This year's theme also celebrates the diversity of the species provided by the natural environment for human existence and well-being on Earth.

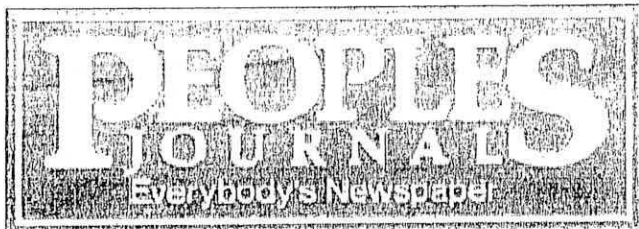
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DENR to celebrate IDBD with 'Samu't Saring Tikim' fair

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) with a food fair showcasing organic, healthy and sustainable products derived from biological resources.

Dubbed "Samu't Saring Tikim Fair," the event to

be held on May 22 aims to raise awareness and appreciation on the importance of biodiversity as food source that leads to good health.

Exhibitors who include members of the Asosasyon ng mga Nagkakaisang Magkakapitbahay ng Palanas in Brgy. Vasra, Quezon City; health and biodiversity advocates;

select DENR and Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) staff and media personnel will gather at the amphitheater of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in QC for the "Tikim Fair."

According to Agriculture Secretary Roy Cimatu, the event fits well with the IDBD 2019 theme "Our

Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health" which focuses on biodiversity as foundation for food and health, and a key catalyst to transforming food systems and improving human health.

"This year's celebration offers a timely reminder on the importance of effective management of the country's rich biodiversi-

ty, especially when it comes to achieving food security," Cimatu said.

The food fair will also feature a cook festival featuring demos with local food experts and a lecture on sustainable diet for Filipinos, traditional health practices, and a nature walk before lunchtime.

Joel dela Torre



WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

DENR SHUTS DOWN 10 HOTELS IN EL NIDO ANTIPOLLUTION DRIVE

By Redempto D. Anda
@demptoandaINQ

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the closure of at least 10 hotels found illegally discharging waste into El Nido's Bacuit Bay.

Michael Drake Matias, director of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau for Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), said these establishments at Palawan's top tourist destination violated the Clean Water Act of 2004.

Matias said the water being discharged by the 10 hotels at four villages in El Nido exceeded pollutant limits set by the DENR.

Blackish, foul-smelling

The DENR announced on Saturday that a cease-and-desist order (CDO) was issued on Wednesday against El Nido Sea Shell Resorts and Hotel at Barangay Buena Suerte; Doublegem Beach Resort and Hotel, Buko Beach Resort, Panorama Resort (Mangonana Inc.), Four Seasons Seaview Hotel and Stunning Republic Beach Resort at Barangay Corong-Corong; and Sava Beach Bar/Sava Nest Egg Inc., El Nido Beach Hotel and The Nest El Nido Resorts and Spa Inc. at

Barangay Masagana.

A similar action was earlier taken by the Pollution Adjudication Board against Cuna Hotel at Barangay Maligaya after the hotel was found discharging "blackish and foul-smelling" wastewater.

"The result of the laboratory analysis on the wastewater taken from said establishments went beyond the DENR General Effluent Standards for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)," Matias said.

"BOD is a measure of the quantity of oxygen used by microorganisms when decomposing organic materials are present in water," he said.

Continuous check

The DENR said it was also monitoring other business establishments in El Nido by continuously checking their wastewater discharges.

"We have initial investigations done on other hotels and restaurants and we are just waiting if results of their effluent samples would merit issuance of CDO," Henry Adornado, regional executive director, said in a statement.

"Until these erring establishments have shaped up, we have no other choice but to enforce the law and stop them from polluting El Nido," he added. INQ

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

El Nido Resorts face sanctions

CNN Philippines -- The government has sanctioned at least nine resorts and hotels in El Nido, Palawan as part of efforts to rehabilitate the tourist destination.

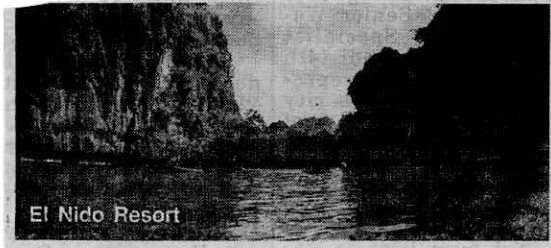
The regional Environment Management Bureau issued cease and desist orders against the establishments for discharging wastewater without the proper permits and below government standards. The businesses were directed to "cease and desist from undertaking any activity and/or operating its machines and equipment generating pollution," based on copies of the

orders dated May 10 and released yesterday.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) added that the businesses discharged wastewater "without any consideration of its impact and effect to the receiving body of water," in violation of environmental laws.

It identified the following respondents: El Nido Sea Shell Hotel, Doublegem Beach Resort and Hotel, Buko Beach Resort, Panorama Resort (Mangonana, Inc.), Four Seasons Seaview Hotel, Stunning Republic Beach Resort, SAVA Beach Bar/SAVA Nest Egg, Inc., El Nido Beach Hotel, The Nest El Nido Resort and Spa, Inc.

The government is cracking down on establishments found violating environmental and easement laws in El Nido, the next tourist spot to be rehabilitated after Boracay Island.





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Recall sa labor attache sa Canada posible

Pinag-aaralan na ng gobyerno ang pagpapauwi sa bansa ng Philippine labor attachés sa Canada dahil sa hindi pa nareresolbang isyu sa basura.

"If our relationship with Canada won't improve, I might decide to recall our labor attaché, those heading our POLO office in Vancouver and Toronto," ani Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Gayunman, kailangang pag-aralan muna nang mabuti kung kailangan nang gawin ang hakbang.

Una ng pinabalik ng bansa ni Foreign Affairs Sec. Teddyboy Locsin ang ambassador at consul ng Pilipinas sa Canada dahil sa kabiguan ng Canadian government na matupad ang May 15 deadline ni Pangulong Duterte para hakutin ang kanilang mga basura.

Binigyang-diin ni Bel-

lo na hindi lamang ito usapin ng basura kundi natatapakan dito ang karangalan ng Pilipinas.

Hindi aniya basurahan ang Pilipinas na maituturing na pambastos.

Isinisi rin ni Bello sa dating administrasyon ang pangyayaring hinayaan na lamang bagsakan ng basura ang bansa.

"Ewan ko kung anong nangyari kung bakit pinayagan ng dating administrasyon kung sino mang administrasyon 'yon," ani Bello.

Tiniyak naman ng kailihim na hindi maaapektuhan ang mga Pinoy sa Canada, sa mga dati nang naroroon o mga nakatakda pang magtungo doon.

Sa kasalukuyan ay nasa mahigit 800,000 Pinoy ang nagtatrabaho at naninirahan sa Canada. (Ludy Bermudo)



FOR THE RECORD



Aileen Taliping

TWITTER: (@aileentaliping)

Hindi man direktang aminin ng gobyerno ay mayroon ng lamat ang dati ay magandang relasyon ng Pilipinas at Canada dahil sa tone-toneladang basurang itinapon sa Pilipinas anim na taon na ang nakalipas.

Kinakailangan pang hintayin ang ultimatum bago kumilos ang Canada na tumugon sa banta ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ibalik sa kanila ang itinapong basura kapag hindi nahakot

hanggang May 15.

Lumaki ang isyu hanggang sa diplomatic level kung saan pinauwi ng gobyerno ang Philippine Ambassador at Consul na itinalaga sa nabanggit na bansa at ngayon ay pinag-iisipan na ring pauwiin pati ang labor attache' na nakadestino sa Vancouver at Toronto.

Dito makikita kung gaano katigas ang Canada dahil handang isakripisyo ang relasyong bilateral sa Pilipinas sa halip na sumunod na lamang.

Ilang taon na ang mga basurang itinapon sa bansa at kahit si Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau ay nag-tengang kawali lamang nang igiit sa kanya ang pag-aksiyon matapos dumalo sa Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit sa bansa.

Ikinatwiran ni Trudeau na private company ang may transaksyon sa itinapong basura sa Pilipinas kaya hindi aniya ito saklaw ng kanyang gobyerno. Kapal ano?

Ilang taong nagtitiis ang mga residente sa Tarlac at Zambales sa epekto ng mga basura at may mga napaulat na nagkasakit dahil tumagas ang basura na karamihan ay hospital materials at mga gamit na diapers, pero pinalitaw na plastic bottles ng importer.

Ang ibang basura na nasa container vans pa rin ay nasa Port of Manila at Subic Port at hindi ginagalaw dahil sa peligrong maaaring idulot nito.

Malakas ang loob ng gobyerno na mag-demand at hindi nangangamba sa may 800,000 Pilipinong naninirahan at

nagtatrabaho sa Canada dahil legal naman ang mga ito at kailangan sila ng Canada.

Hindi umubra sa gobyerno ang pahayag ng Canadian Foreign Ministry na dismayado sila sa pagpapauwi sa top diplomats ng bansa dahil ang isyu ay ang mga basura at naghihintay pa rin ang mga opisyal kung kikilos ang Canadian government.

Sinabi ng Malacañang na magsilbing warning na rin ito na tinutuldukan na ng gobyerno ang ilang dekadang ugnayang diplomatiko sa Canada.

Nakakagalit isiping ginawang tambakan ang Pilipinas at niyurakan ang karangalan natin bilang isang bansa. Hindi tayo basurahan para gawing tambakan ng tone-toneladang basura.

Kung susuriin, repleksiyon ito ng mahinang pamamahala sa mga nakalipas na mga taon dahil walang ginawa agad ang mga opisyal para ipahakot ang tone-toneladang basura at hinintay pa ang susunod na administrasyon para gawin ito.

Para naman sa importer ng mga basura, lumantad ka sa publiko at ipaliwanag mo kung bakit ipinasok mo ang basura ng ibang bansa. Mas mahalaga ba sa yo ang kinita mo kaysa sa perwisyon idinulot nito sa kapwa mo Pilipino?

Baka nga hindi ka Pilipino. Baka isa ka sa mga lahing ang pinapahalagahan ay ang salaping kikitain. Tandaan mo, mayroong tinatawag na KARMA at sana ikaw lang ang tamaan nito at hindi ang buong angkan mo.

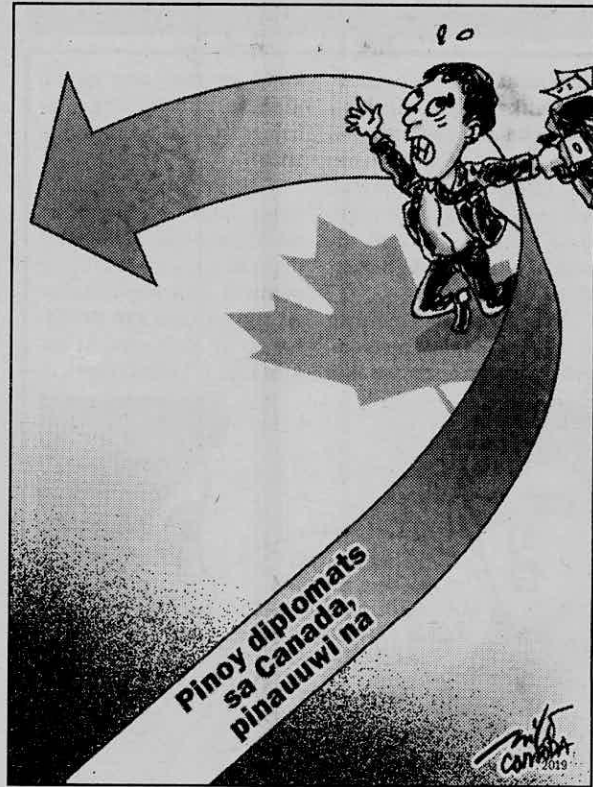


Editorial

Manindigan sa pagpapabalik ng basura ng Canada

PINAUWI na ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) ang ambassador ng Pilipinas sa Canada at iba pang diplomat dahil sa hindi pagtupad ng Canada na kunin ang kanilang basura na pitong taon nang nasa bansa. Nagbigay ng taning na hanggang Mayo 15 ang Pilipinas sa Canada para maibalik ang basura pero hindi ito natupad. Tila binabalewala ng Canada ang banta ni President Duterte na magdedeklara ng giyera kapag hindi kinuha ang kanilang basura.

Isang araw makaraang makauwi ang mga diplomat, nagpahayag naman ng pagka-disappoint ang Canada sa aksiyon ng Pilipinas. Sabi ni Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, gumagawa na sila ng paraan upang masolusyunan ang isyu sa lalong madaling panahon. Nakikipag-ugnayan na raw sila



sa Philippine authorities ukol dito.

Halos ganito rin ang sinabi ni Trudeau noong Nobyembre 2017 nang magtungo siya sa bansa para sa APEC summit. Nag-usap sila ni President Duterte at sinabi ng Canadian leader na aaksiyunan na ang problema sa basurang umaabot sa mahigit 100 containers at tumitimbang ng 2,000 tonelada. Ang mga basura ay binubuo ng mga household at hospital wastes at iba pang basura na hindi maaaring i-recycle. Subalit walang natupad sa sinabi ni Trudeau. Sa galit ni Duterte, nasabi niya sa Canada na huwag gawing basurahan ang Pilipinas. Inatasan naman ng Department of Finance ang Customs na ibalik ang mga basura sa Canada bago ang Mayo 15. Walang nangyari sa taning sapagkat hanggang ngayon, nasa bansa pa ang basura.

Tama lamang na pauwiin ang mga diplomat sa Canada para malaman na hindi nagbibiro ang Pilipinas sa isyu ng basura. Maaaring binabalewala ni Trudeau ang bantang giyera ni Duterte at ang pananakot na hahakutin sa Canada at ikakalat sa beaches doon. Ngayong na-recall na ang mga diplomat, siguro naman matatauhan na ang Canada at kukunin na ang kanilang basura.

Tama si Duterte na huwag gawing basurahan ang Pilipinas. Manindigan sa pagpapabalik ng basurang Canada!



Ang aming pananaw...



PAPANAGUTIN ANG NAGPASOK NG BASURA MULA SA CANADA

KUNG naging responsible lamang ang mga opisyal ng gobyerno, partikular ang nasa Bureau of Customs (BOC), hindi dapat naglahong parang bula ang mga may-ari ng kompanyang umangkat ng mga kontrobersiyal na basura mula sa Canada.

Nagdelikado pa ang relasyong diplomatiko ng Filipinas at Canada nang humantong sa pagpapauwi ng mga opisyal ng Philippine Embassy sa naturang bansa na may mahigit 800,000 Filipino ang naninirahan.

Dapat na alamin kung nasaan ngayon ang may-ari ng Chronic Plastics Incorporated (CPI) na may tanggapan sa Valenzuela City gayundin ang mga customs broker dahil sila ang responsible sa pagpapasok ng 100 container vans ng basura noong Hunyo 2013 at Enero 2014.

Dapat ding pabilisin ang paglilitis kay dating Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna sa pagpayag na mag-isyu ng anim na importation clearance ang dati niyang pinamumunuang Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) para makapagpasok sa bansa ang CPI ng 2.5 toneladang nakalalasong basura.

Hindi matatapos ang isyung ito sa pagbabalik ng basura sa Canada, mas wastong mabulok sa bilangguan ang lahat ng sangkot partikular ang may-ari ng CPI na si Eduardo at dating hepe ng EMB na si Cuna upang hindi na maulit ang pangyayaring ito.



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2,000 KILO NG BASURA NAKOLEKTA SA PAGLILINIS SA MANILA BAY

NASA 2,000 kilo ng basura ang nakolekta sa clean-up drive na isinagawa sa bahagi ng Manila Bay sa

tapat ng isang mall chain sa Pasay City kahapon ng umaga.

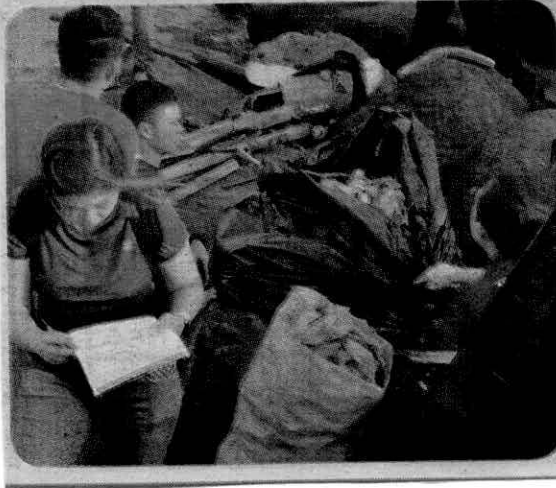
Nagtulong-tulong ang 400 katao, kabilang

na ang ilang kalahok sa Miss Earth Philippines, kawani ng mall, mga guardiya, volunteers, at kawani ng lokal na pamahalaan sa paglilinis.

Apat na taon nang ginagawa ang paglilinis sa mahigit isang kilometrong bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Noong Setyembre ng nakaraang taon ay umabot sa 238,000 kilo ng basura ang nakolekta sa malawakang clean-up sa parehong lugar.

Karamihan ng basura ay mga kahoy at styrofoam, lalagyan ng pagkain, atinumin na itinatapon ng mga namasyal sa lugar.





Samal Island reaps rewards of

conservation: 2.5M bats

By Bong S. Sarmiento
@inqmindanao

ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL, DAVAO DEL NORTE—Picture this: 750 fruit bats packed in every square meter of a five-chamber cave.

That's how dense the population of Geoffrey's rousette fruit bats is inside Monfort Bat Cave on Samal Island has become. The bats in the cave are now estimated to number 2.5 million, up from about 1.8 million a decade ago, the Inquirer has learned.

You might not be able to wrap your head around the sheer number of bats in one setting but you have a chance to see them.

The fruit bats have become one of the top tourist attractions on the island, which is only about 10 minutes by boat from Davao City. The bat sanctuary sits on a 24-hectare property owned by the Monfort family in Barangay Tambo.

To avoid disturbing the bats, the cave's chambers are strictly off-limits to the public, said Bryan Quirao, a tour guide at the sanctuary.

Guinness record

One can see the bats from a distance but adults need to pay P120 and P60 for children 4 to 15 years old. It is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Night viewing is allowed on request.

Proceeds go to the maintenance of the bat sanctuary.

In 2010, the Guinness World Record officially recognized the Monfort Bat Cave as the largest fruit bat colony in the world.

Norma Monfort, founder and president of the Monfort Bat Cave and Conservation Foundation, has vowed to continue conserving the bat colony, citing its important role in the ecosystem and "economic contribution" to the island.

Known as the "Bat Mama" for her bat conservation work, Monfort said fruit bats were key pollinators and

should be conserved for helping in the propagation of fruit-bearing trees in the region.

Quirao, who has been a tour guide at the sanctuary for two years, placed the current bat population at 2.5 million.

Based on thermal photographs, he said, there were 750 Geoffrey's rousette fruit bats (*Rousettus amplexicaudatus*) per square meter of the five-chamber cave.

Punishment for poachers

He attributed the healthy bat population to the conservation measures adopted not only by the owner but also by the area's local government and environment groups.

"If you are caught catching or killing bats on the island, you can be punished," Quirao said.

Three years ago, Monfort bared plans to build an artificial cave to house the growing number of bats.

She recalled that in 2006, scientists Merlin Tuttle and David Waldien, both of the US-based Bat Conservation International, conducted a study on the bats at the 76-meter limestone cave and placed the population of the winged wonders at 1.8 million.

Critical role

The scientists recommended the conservation of the bats at the Monfort cave due to their critical role in the pollination of high-value fruits, such as durian and wild banana in the Davao region, Monfort said.

The scientists also surveyed over 70 other caves on Samal Island known to be bat shelters and found evidence of serious human disturbance, she said.

The fruit bats are edible and their waste, called guano, is a potent organic fertilizer.

Geoffrey's rousettes have brown or gray-brown bodies and measure up to 87 millimeters, or 3.5 inches.

The Monfort Bat Cave is believed to be the only remaining major roost site for bats that is protected on the island, Monfort said.

Apart from humans, Quirao said threats to the fruit bat population include eagles, snakes, monitor lizards and rats.

Geoffrey's rousettes have a life span of 30 to 40 years "as they eat only fruits and no meat," he said. INQ



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*Samal Island reaps rewards of conservation:
2.5M bats!*



EDWIN BACASMAS

THRIVING COLONY Geoffrey's rousette fruit bats hang on the walls of the Monfort Bat Cave on Samal Island.



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How much CO₂ per e-mail? Hi-tech's high cost on the environment

PARIS—Technology is often touted as a solution to the world's environmental challenges, but it is also part of the problem: industry executives are facing rising pressure to clean up their energy- and resource-intensive business.

How much energy, for example, does it take to send a 1-megabyte e-mail? Around 25 watts per hour, representing 20 grams of carbon dioxide emissions, according to France's CNRS research center.

It might not seem like much, but the Radicati research group expects 293 billion e-mails will be sent every single day this year and the power needs to be generated mostly from fossil fuels.

Apps can quickly drain and shorten the life of phone batteries, with Snapchat a particularly "heavy" messaging service because it automatically turns on the camera.

Then there are the server farms crunching mammoth amounts of data worldwide, which require huge amounts of

electricity both to run and to power air conditioning which keeps the equipment from getting too hot.

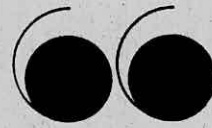
"Under the current global energy mix, the share of greenhouse gas emissions from information and communication technologies will rise from 2.5 percent in 2013 to 4 percent in 2020," the French think-tank Shift Project said in a recent report.

That makes the sector more carbon-intensive than civil aviation (a 2-percent share of emissions in 2018) and on track to reach automobiles (8 percent), it said.

'Huge impact'

In February, Greenpeace warned about the concentration of data centers, in particular those used by Amazon, in the US state of Virginia, which reportedly help transmit 70 percent of the world's internet traffic.

To cope with the voracious energy needs, the local power company Dominion turned to nonrenewable fuel sources



**The idea
that the IT sector
can help tackle
climate change
is not a new one ...
and what we need
to see now
is action**

Gary Cook

Greenpeace IT campaigner

drawing the ire of tech firms.

Most have pledged to use as much "clean" energy from wind farms or other sources as possible, with Facebook signing a partnership with Greenpeace several years ago.

"The idea that the IT sector



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H1 tech's high cost on the environment

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can help tackle climate change is not a new one. They've been talking about it for over 10 years, and what we need to see now is action," said Gary Cook, an IT campaigner at Greenpeace.

"Given their rapid growth, decisions about how they get their power become really critical," he said.

The surge in video and streaming services poses a particular challenge: already in 2017 Greenpeace estimated that the viral K-pop sensation "Gangnam Style," viewed more than 2.7 billion times, had consumed a year's worth of production from a small power plant.

Video, music services

Video streaming now accounts for nearly 60 percent of all "downstream" internet traffic from servers to individual devices, with Netflix alone generating 15 percent, according to an October report from US network analysis and services group Sandvine.

Music services also take a toll. In 2000, researchers at the Universities of Glasgow and Oslo found that greenhouse gas emissions from the US music industry alone stood at 157 million kilograms in 2000.

But by 2016, even as the use of plastics for CDs and their cases plummeted, the storage and sharing of online music files in the United States generated between 200 million and 350 million kilograms of greenhouse emissions.

Recycling costs

Tech executives say they're taking action to shrink their environmental footprints.

Carole Marechal of DATA4, which operates data centers in France, Italy and Luxembourg, said her clients can get real-time readings of how much energy and water they are using, as well as their share of greenhouse gas emissions.

"But it's not limited only to energy consumption," Marechal said, pointing to the energy and

resources required to build digital infrastructures worldwide, and to recycle them.

The Basel Action Network estimates that the European Union exports some 350,000 tons of electronic and electrical waste (a category that also includes appliances like washing machines) to developing countries each year.

Activists have denounced the practice, saying it burdens poor countries with toxic residues that eventually contaminate the local environment.

The race to extract the rare-earth metals essential for modern phones and other devices, often leading to deforestation and water pollution, is also an environmental threat in Africa and Asia in particular.

The Shift Project notes as well that the push for smaller yet more powerful devices makes recycling even more costly. "The energy needed to separate the metals increases as a function of the complexity of the assembly," it warned. —AFP



Founded Since 1898

The Manila Times

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FOCUS

Dirty data: Firms count environmental

costs of digital planet

PARIS: Technology is often touted as a solution to the world's environmental challenges, but it is also part of the problem: industry executives are facing rising pressure to clean up their energy and resource-intensive business.

How much energy, for example, does it take to send a one-megabyte email?

Around 25 watts per hour, representing 20 grams of carbon dioxide emissions, according to France's CNRS research center.

It might not seem like much, but the Radicati research group expects 293 billion emails will be sent every single day this year and the power needs to be generated — mostly from fossil fuels.

Apps can quickly drain and shorten the life of phone batteries, with Snapchat a particularly "heavy" messaging service because it automatically turns on the camera.

Then there are the server farms crunching mammoth amounts of data worldwide, which require huge amounts of electricity both to run and to power airconditioning which keeps the equipment from getting too hot.

"Under the current global energy mix, the share of greenhouse gas emissions from information and communication technologies will rise from 2.5 percent in 2013 to 4 percent in 2020," the French think-tank Shift Project said in a recent report.

That makes the sector more carbon-intensive than civil aviation (a 2-percent share of emissions in 2018) and on track to reach automobiles (8 percent), it said.

'Huge impact'

In February, Greenpeace warned

about the concentration of data centers, in particular those used by Amazon, in the US state of Virginia, which reportedly help transmit 70 percent of the world's internet traffic.

To cope with the voracious energy needs, the local power company Dominion turned to nonrenewable fuel sources — drawing the ire of tech firms.

Most have pledged to use as much "clean" energy from wind farms or other sources as possible, with Facebook signing a partnership with Greenpeace several years ago.

"The idea that the IT sector can help tackle climate change is not a new one — They've been talking about it for over 10 years, and what we need now to see is action," said Gary Cook, an IT campaigner at Greenpeace.

"Given their rapid growth, decisions about how they get their power become really critical," he said.

The surge in video and streaming services poses a particular challenge: already in 2017 Greenpeace estimated that the viral K-pop sensation "Gangnam Style," viewed more than 2.7 billion times, had consumed a year's worth of production from a small power plant.

Video streaming now accounts for nearly 60 percent of all "downstream" internet traffic from servers to individual devices, with Netflix alone generating 15 percent, according to an October report from US network analysis and services group Sandvine.

Music services also take a toll. In 2000, researchers at the Universities of Glasgow and Oslo found that greenhouse gas emissions from the US music industry alone stood at

157 million kilograms in 2000.

But by 2016, even as the use of plastics for CDs and their cases plummeted, the storage and sharing of online music files in the US generated between 200 million and 350 million kilograms of greenhouse emissions.



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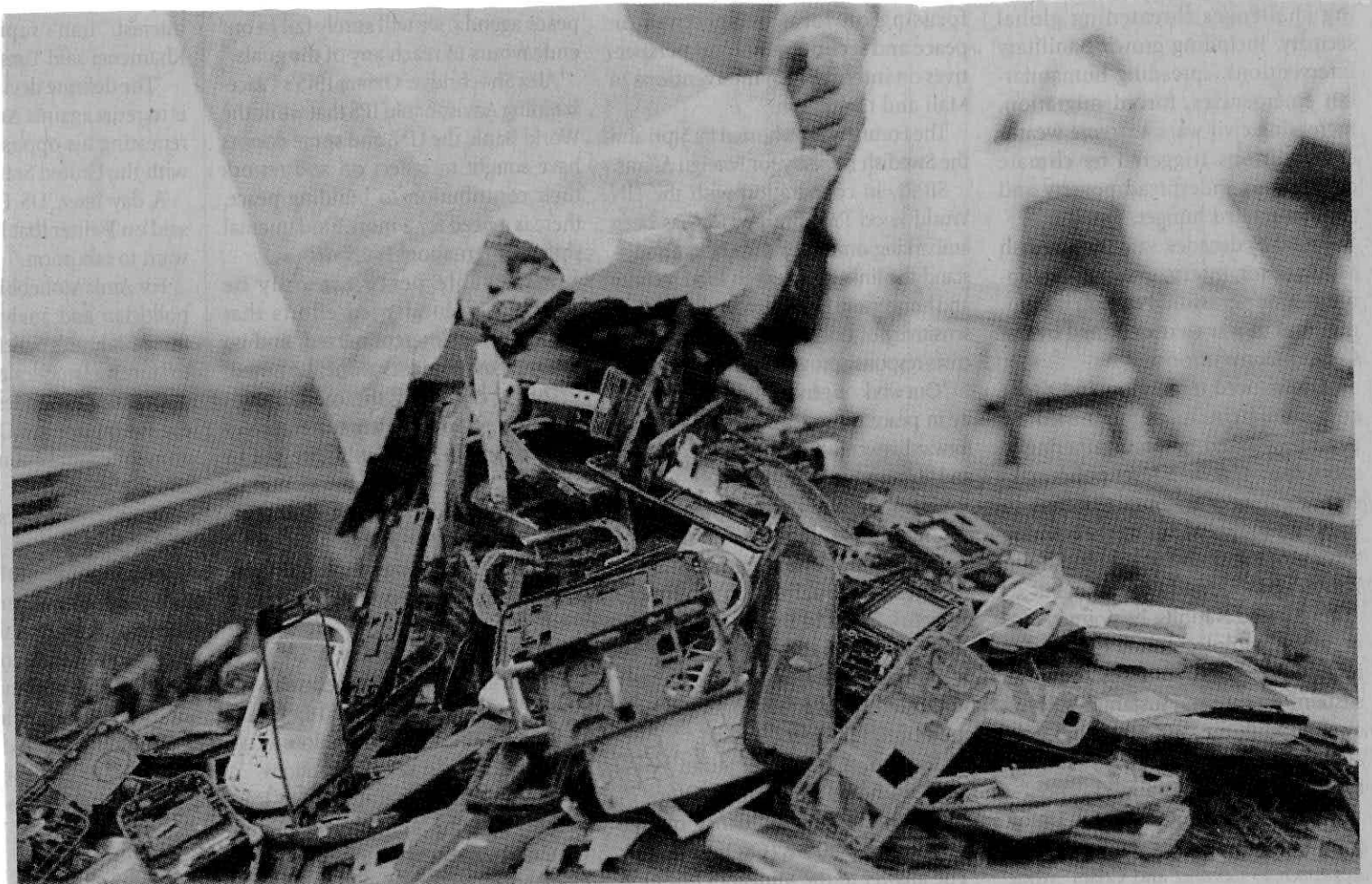
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Dirty data: Firms count environmental cost of digital planet



■ The Basel Action Network NGO estimates that the European Union exports some 350,000 tons of electronic and electrical waste. AFP/CHARLY TRIBALLEAU

Recycling costs

Tech executives say they're taking action to shrink their environmental footprints.

Carole Marechal of DATA4, which operates data centers in France, Italy and Luxembourg, said her clients can get real-time readings of how much energy and water they are using, as well as their share of greenhouse gas emissions.

"But it's not limited only to energy consumption," Marechal said, pointing to the energy and resources required to build digital infrastructures worldwide, and to recycle them.

The Basel Action Network NGO estimates that the European Union exports some 350,000 tons of electronic and electrical waste (a category that also includes appliances like washing machines) to developing countries each year.

Activists have denounced the practice, saying it burdens poor countries with toxic residues that eventually contaminate the local environment.

The race to extract the rare-earth

metals essential for modern phones and other devices, often leading to deforestation and water pollution, is also an environmental threat in Africa and Asia in particular.

The Shift Project notes as well that the push for smaller yet more powerful devices makes recycling even more costly.

"The energy needed to separate the metals increases as a function of the complexity of the assembly," it warned. **AFP**



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Mag-inang DENR officials at driver sugatan sa ambush

KORONADAL CITY - Nagpapatuloy ang imbestigasyon ng mga otoridad kaugnay sa nangyaring pamamaril sa Purok Clemente, Bgy Zone 4, Koronadal City.

Sa report, tatlo katao ang sugatan sa naturang insidente kungsaan kinilala ang mga biktima na sina Kenneth Lozada, 27, tricycle driver at residente ng Bgy. San Isidro, Koronadal City; ang mag-inang sina Bai Mariam Sabdullah, 60, Chief Administrator ng DENR; at anak na si Hazna Potri Sabdullah, 30, admin officer ng DENR.

Ayon sa ulat, sakay sa tricycle na minamaneho ni Lozada ang mag-ina nang bigla silang himarang ng dalawang riding in tandem at pinagbabaril. Inaalam rin ng mga otoridad ang posibleng motibo sa naturang pamamaril.



ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL CLEANUP PUSHED

ENVIRONMENTALIST group Eco-waste Coalition on Saturday urged participants in the Brigada Eskwela program to ensure the school cleanup, repair and renovation activities are done in an eco-friendly manner.

Brigada Eskwela is an annual week-long school maintenance activity initiated by the Department of Education to help ensure that public elementary and high schools nationwide will be ready in time for the school opening.

Teachers, parents, pupils, civic groups, volunteer and even police and military personnel picked up brooms, paint brushes, washed walls and started cleaning the surroundings and classrooms in public schools nationwide.

"We laud the yearly conduct of the DepEd-led Brigada Eskwela, which is an excellent expression of the timeless Filipino *bayanihan* spirit," said Ecowaste

chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon.

"As stakeholders partake in this outstanding voluntary effort, we urge them to avoid practices that tend to generate more trash and pollution such as mixed waste disposal, open burning and dumping, and the use of leaded paints and hazardous cleaning agents," he added.

The group also asked winning and losing candidates to "quietly" help in the program as a way of thanking the public for their support in the recently concluded midterm polls.

"In lieu of post-election 'thank you' tarpaulins, we invite well-meaning politicians to join, without fanfare, school cleanup activities or donate Brigada Eskwela essentials such as brooms and broomsticks, dust pans, rags, soaps, buckets, non-mercury LED lamps, and lead-safe paints," Dizon said.

The group offered the following eco-tips for the cleanup, which are also in line with government policies and regulations.

- Observe the proper segregation of discards at source to facilitate their recycling or composting, and to minimize the volume of garbage for disposal;

- Do not set trash on fire to prevent the generation of environmental pollutants such as fine particles, heavy metals and dioxins;

- Compost biodegradable discards such as yard trimmings to produce natural fertilizer or soil enhancer for the school garden;

- Clean up the school's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as Ecology Center, including the containers or segregators for properly-labeled recyclable and compostable discards. **Joel E. Zurban**