

DATE : 21 MAY 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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BIOSECURITY MEASURE TO ENSURE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

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2 PHILIPPINE EAGLES TO FLY TO SINGAPORE UNDER WILDLIFE LOAN DEAL

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

A pair of critically endangered Philippine eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) will be flown to Singapore next month in a first-of-its-kind arrangement between the Philippines and a foreign institution, as part of efforts to conserve the country's national bird.

The raptors, born in captivity at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City, will be brought on June 4 to their new home in Jurong Bird Park, the largest bird park in Asia managed by Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS).

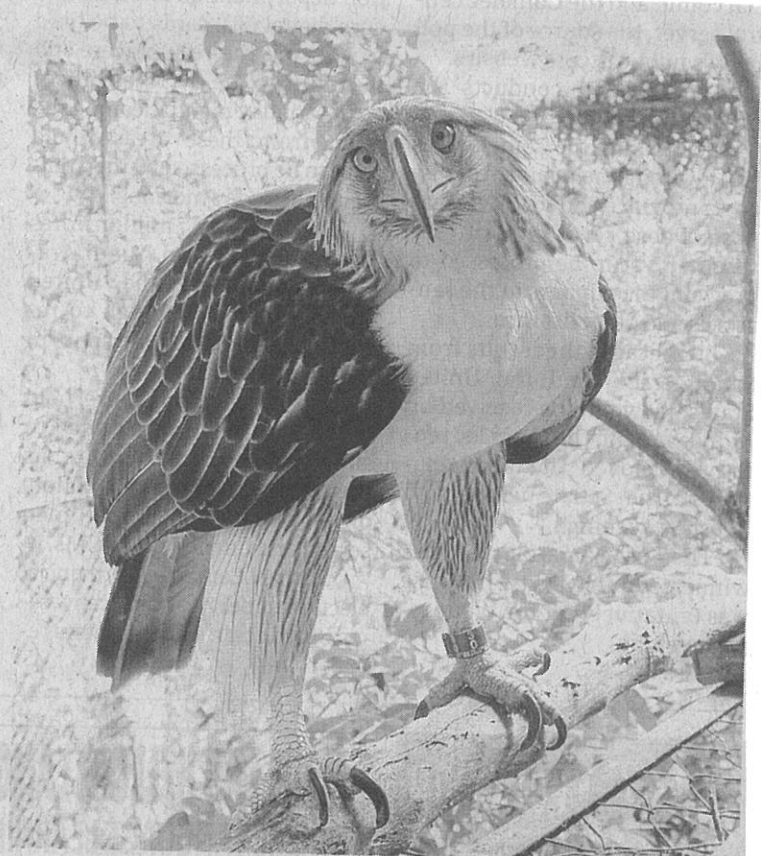
On Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources signed a wildlife loan agreement with WRS, which would allow the transfer and conservation breeding of the eagles in the bird park.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said sending the pair to Singapore was a "biosecurity measure" to ensure the survival of the species.

Insurance policy

They and their possible offspring will serve as a fallback population should there be catastrophic events such as disease outbreaks and extreme natural calamities in their habitats in the country.

"This serves as an insurance policy for our eagles, so that if something bad happens to our



Sambisig

captive population here, we have a set of gene pool outside of the country that we can rely on and continue propagating," said Dennis Salvador, executive director of the Philippine Eagle Foundation.

Geothermica, Sambisig

One example of potential outbreaks, he said, was avian influenza that hit parts of the country in 2017, which killed at

least 37,000 birds in Central Luzon.

Under the deal, 15-year-old male Geothermica and 17-year-old female Sambisig will serve as ambassadors for Philippine biodiversity conservation.

While expected to stay in Singapore in the next 10 years, both eagles, as well as any potential offspring, would remain the property of the Philippine government.



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION/DENR

Geothermica

WRS is expected to provide technical and financial assistance for possible release of their progenies' in the Philippines.

International support will also be given by the Singaporean organization for the country's conservation program, including potential staff exchanges for training and capability building.

Monday's agreement also

marked the 50th year of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The signing was witnessed by Singapore's Ambassador to the Philippines Gerard Ho Wei Hong and the Philippines' Ambassador to Singapore Joseph del Mar Yap.

"The Philippine eagle is the crown jewel of Philippine biodiversity, an integral part of our rich heritage," Cimatu said. "We

are confident that this [agreement] will further strengthen Philippine-Singapore relations in the conservation of our biodiversity heritage."

WRS made the pitch for a conservation plan for the birds in 2016, having previously worked with various local groups for the protection of other key species, such as the Luzon bleeding heart, the Philippine cockatoo and the Palawan pangolins.

Red list

One of the largest eagles in the world in terms of length and wing surface, the Philippine eagle is a critically endangered raptor on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.

It is also listed under the Philippine National List of Threatened Species.

With hunting and loss of forest habitat as primary threats to its survival, less than 400 pairs remain in the wild.

A breeding pair requires up to 13,000 hectares of forest territory and rears only a single offspring every two years.

The eagle center in Davao holds 32 raptors, 19 of which were captive-bred.

Cheng Wen-Haur, WRS deputy chief executive officer, said the birds would be quarantined for one month, before being separately put on display.

After a few weeks, they will be placed together for potential breeding. INQ



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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PH, Singapore sign deal to conserve endangered Philippine eagle

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

A pair of male and female Philippine eagles named "Geothermica" and "Sambisig," respectively, will be transported to Singapore on June 4 for the conservation of the critically endangered species.

A memorandum of agreement was signed between the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) over the loan of the pair of Philippine eagles. The signing of the 10-year renewable agreement highlights the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Philippines-Singapore Friendship Day.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said Geothermica and Sambisig will play a crucial role as ambassadors for Philippine biodiversity once they are taken to Jurong Bird Park on June 4. The park is being operated by WRS.

"Sending Geothermica and Sambisig to Singapore acts as a biosecurity measure to ensure the survival of the species and as a fallback population in the event of catastrophic events like disease outbreaks or extreme natural calamities taking place in their Philippine habitats," Cimatu said.

DENR will loan captive-bred Geothermica and Sambisig, aged 15 and 17 years old, respectively, from the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City for conservation breeding and public education to promote global support for its conservation.

The pair of eagles will be placed in a realistic setting at the 20.2-hectare Jurong Bird Park, Asia's largest bird park that is home to close to 3,500 birds across 400 species, of which 20 percent is threatened.

In the Philippines, wild population of the species remains uncertain with an estimated number of less than 400 pairs, mainly due to hunting and forest habitat loss.

DENR considers the Philippine eagle as among its priority threatened species for conservation.

DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez pointed out that because of its small population, the Philippine eagle is vulnerable to impacts of environmental conditions, such as natural calamities and outbreak of disease.

WRS deputy chief executive officer and chief life sciences officer Cheng Wen-Haur expressed his gratitude in the Philippine government for trusting their institution in taking care of the two raptors.

"We are honored by the trust that the Philippine government has placed in us to care for the country's national bird. As a conservation-minded wildlife organization, there is a strong synergy between our focus on protecting animals - particularly threatened Southeast Asian species - and the Philippine Eagle Foundation's mission to promote the survival of a truly majestic raptor and the biodiversity it represents," Wen Haur said.



PH eagles off to Singapore for conservation

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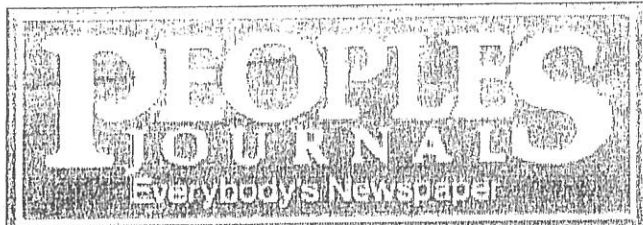
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PH eagles off to Singapore for conservation

THE Philippines is sending a pair of critically endangered eagles to Singapore as a biosecurity measure to ensure the survival of the species and as a fallback population in case catastrophic events.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu led the signing of the agreement, the DENR and the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) over the loan and conservation of the country's national bird and crown jewel of biodiversity.

The signing of the DENR-WRS deal was the highlight of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Philippines-Singapore Friendship Day. It also came two days before the observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity tomorrow.

On June 4, the two raptors-Geothermica and Sambisig- will be brought to Jurong Bird Park operated by WRS.

Cimatu said it will play a crucial role as ambassadors for Philippine biodiversity.

It marks the first time Philippines through the DENR entered into an agreement of its kind with a foreign institution.

Joel dela Torre



Kasunduan para pangalagaan ang Philippine Eagle nilagdaan

NILAGDAAN ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang isang kasunduan sa pagitan ng

Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at

Wildlife Reserves Singapore ukol sa loan at conservation ng dalawang pares ng critically endangered Philippine Eagle, ang itinuturing ng Pilipinas na pambansang ibon at crown jewel of biodiversity.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang dalawang pares ng Haring Ibon na pinangalanang Geothermica, 15 taong gulang at Sambisig, 17, ay magdadala ng mahalagang papel bilang ambassadors para sa Philippine biodiversity sa sandaling madala ang naturang Philippine Eagle sa Hunyo 4 sa Jurong Bird Park na pinatatakbo ng Wildlife Reserves, Singapore.

Bukod kay Cimatu,

lumagda rin sa Wildlife Loan Agreement si Wildlife Reserves Singapore Dr. Cheng Wen-Haur, deputy chief executive officer at chief ng Life Science Officer Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

Ginanap ang lagdaan sa DENR Central Office.

"The Philippine eagle is a critically-endangered species. As such, it is an ideal ambassador of Philippine biodiversity, perfect for the purpose of generating awareness on the urgent need for conservation," ayon kay Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR ang naturang loan deal ay kauna-unahan sa Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng DENR at sa isang foreign institution para mas higit pa

na mapangalagaan ang Philippine Eagle.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na sa naturang kasunduan, nais ng DENR na pasiglahin ang international na suporta para sa in-situ conservation program para sa Philippine Eagle, kabilang ang biosecurity measure laban sa panganiib kabilang na ang sakit at outbreak.

Nabatid pa sa DENR na si Geothermica at Sambisig ay produkto ng conservation breeding program ng Philippine Eagle Center na nakabase sa Davao City.

Layunin din ng kasunduan na mas paramihin pa ang lahi nito na nanganganib nang maubos.

**SANTI CELARIO/
EMILY H/JENIE MAE O**



2 PH eagle, ipahihiram sa Singapore

Ipapahiram ng Pilipinas sa Singapore ang isang pares ng agila ng bansa para sa pangangalaga ng critically endangered species sa naturang bansa.

Ang nasabing babaeng agila ay pinangalanang 'Geothermica' at tinawag namang 'Sambisig' ang lalaking kasama nito, na ibibiyaha patungong Singapore sa Hunyo 4.

Isasagawa ang naturang hakbang kasunod na rin ng pinirmahang memorandum of agreement sa pagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng Pilipinas at ng Wildlife Reserves Singapore

(WRS) kaugnay ng pagpapa sa nasabing isang paris ng Philippine eagle.

Tampok sa signing of agreement ang pagdiriwang ng ika-50 anibersaryo ng Philippine-Singapore Friendship Day.

Pagdidiin naman ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, malaki ang magiging papel nina 'Geothermica' at 'Sambisig' dahil sila ang magiging ambassador para Philippine biodiversity kapag dinala na sila sa Jurong Bird Park sa nasabing petsa.

Ang nasabing parke ay pinapatakbo ng WRS.

"Sending Geothermica and Sambisig to Singapore acts as a biosecurity measure to ensure the survival of the species and as a fallback population in the event of catastrophic events like disease outbreaks or extreme natural calamities taking place in their Philippine habitats," sabi ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR, hiniram nila ang dalawang agila sa Philippine Eagle Center sa Davao City para sa isasagawang

conservation breeding at public education upang maisulong ang global support sa pangangalaga sa mga ito.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



PH AT SINGAPORE MAGTUTULONG SA PROTEKSIYON NG MGA AGILA

MISMONG si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang nanguna sa paglagda ng kasunduan sa pagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ng Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) para sa "loan and conservation" ng Philippine eagle na kinikilalang pambansang ibon ng bansa.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang magkapires na Philippine Eagle na tinawag na Geothermica at Sambisig ay magsisilbing "ambassadors for Philippine biodiversity" kapag nadala na ang mga ito sa Jurong Bird Park na pinamamahalaan ng Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) sa Hunyo 4.

"The Philippine eagle is a critically-endangered species. As such, it is an ideal ambassador of Philippine biodiversity, perfect for the purpose of generating awareness on the urgent need for con-

servation," saad ni Cimatu sa ginanap na signing ceremony ng wildlife loan agreement (WLA) kasama ang WRS na idinaos sa DENR central office Quezon City kahapon.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu, layunin ng DENR na suportahan ang "preservation program" ng Philippine Eagle at matiyak ang seguridad ng mga ito laban sa iba't ibang panganib tulad ng mga kalamidad at sakit na dumadapo sa mga ibon.

"Sending Geothermica

and Sambisig to Singapore acts as a biodiversity measure to ensure the survival of the species and as a fallback population in the event of catastrophic events like disease outbreaks or extreme natural calamities taking place in their Philippine habitats," pagdidiin pa ni Cimatu.

Sina Geothermica at Sambisig na may edad na 15 at 17, ay produkto ng "conservation breeding program" ng Philippine Eagle Center sa Davao

City.

Ang paglagda ng DENR at WRS sa kasunduan ay ang "highlight" ng selebrasyon ng 50th anniversary ng Philippine-Singapore Friendship Day at ng International Day for Biological Diversity sa Mayo 22.

Sa ilalim ng kasunduan, ipadadala ng DENR sa Singapore ang magkapires na agila ngunit mananatili itong pag-aari ng bansang Filipinas.

Aakuin naman ng WRS ang lahat ng responsibilidad sa pangangalaga sa Philippine eagle at tautanan ding magpapadala ito ng ulat tungkol sa kalagayan ng magkapires na agila.

Ayon naman kay Dr. Cheng Wen-Haur, deputy chief executive officer at chief life sciences officer ng WRS, nagpapasalamat sila sa gobyerno ng Filipinas dahil sa pagtititwalang ibinigay sa kanilang institusyon para alagaan ang dalawang agila.

"We are honored by the trust that the Philippine government has placed in us to care for the country's national bird. As a conservation-minded wildlife organization, there is a strong synergy between our focus on protecting animals—particularly threatened Southeast Asian species—and the Philippine Eagle Foundation's mission to promote the survival of a truly majestic raptor and the biodiversity it represents," sabi pa ni Wen-Haur. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



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THE Philippines receives help from neighboring Singapore to ensure the survival of the Philippine eagle under a conservation and breeding agreement that Dr. Cheng Wen-Haur, CEO at Life Science Wildlife Reserves Singapore and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu recently signed.

ANALY LABOR



DENR gives El Nido, LGUs 1 week to act on env'tal law violations

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has directed incoming local officials to compel tourist establishments within their jurisdiction to comply with various environmental laws as soon as they assume office.

At the same time, DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said outgoing local officials should also make sure to act on environmental problems within their jurisdiction or face criminal and administrative charges.

"We've given them leeway to act on the problem. Now that the election is over, I think it's about time that they address the problem," Antiporda, the DENR's undersecretary for local government units (LGUs) and solid waste management, said at a press conference on Monday.

He said the business permits of

the 10 El Nido hotels and restaurants that were recently issued with cease-and-desist orders (CDOs) by the DENR Mimaropa region and EMB-Mimaropa should be suspended.

Issued with CDOs for grave violation of the Clean Water Act were El Nido Sea Shell Resorts and Hotel in Barangay Buena Suerte; Doublegem Beach Resort and Hotel, Buko Beach Resort, Panorama Resort (Mangonana Inc.), Four Seasons Seaview Hotel and Stunning Republic Beach Resort in Barangay Corong-corong; and Sava Beach Bar/Sava Nest Egg Inc., El Nido Beach Hotel, and The Nest El Nido Resorts and Spa Inc. in Barangay Masagana.

Aside from CDOs, the DENR-Mimaropa and EMB-Mimaropa are set to issue notices of violation to establishments found violating the 25+5 or 30-meter easement rule.

Other LGUs, he said, should also act and take the cue from the actions taken by various task forces

formed to rehabilitate tourist areas around the country.

"For me, one week should be enough for the newly elected local officials to act on the problem," he told reporters.

According to Antiporda, LGUs within the Manila Bay Area should also start working to compel establishments that pollute Manila Bay to institute corrective measures or the DENR and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will file appropriate cases.

Outgoing local officials, he added, "are not yet off the hook" as those who failed to enforce environmental laws despite repeated appeals by the DENR and other national government agencies under various Task Forces will face criminal and administrative sanctions.

"These LGUs issue business permits. These permits cover sanitation permit. So where's the sanitation?" he said.



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10 establisimiento sa El Nido pinasasara

Inutos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang pagsasara ng 10 hotel at restaurants sa El Nido, Palawan dahil sa pagtatapon ng kanilang wastewater sa Bacuit Bay. Sa resulta ng laboratory analysis sa wastewater na nakuha mula sa mga establisimientong sa lugar, na hindi pa pinangalanan ng ahensiya, lumampas ito sa General Effluent Standards for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) ng DENR. *(Angie dela Cruz)*



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ISINULAT ko na rito sa aking kolum ang tungkol sa banta ni Sec. Romulo-Puyat na maari nilang ipasara ang ilang mga resort sa El Nido kapag hindi sila sumunod sa mga patakaran na inihain ng ating gobyerno upang ayusin ang kanilang 'waste disposal' na maaring makasira sa kalikasan ng nasabing lugar.

Puwes, tila nagmaang-maangan at nagbulag-bulagan ang ilan sa kanila at hindi nila pinansin ang banta ng ating pamahalaan. Kaya naman ang Department

of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay nag-isyu ng 'cease and desist order' (CDO) laban sa sampung hotel at resort sa kadahilanan na sobra ang kanilang kontribusyon sa polusyon sa Bacuit Bay sa El Nido.

Alam naman natin na ang El Nido ay ipinag-yayabang ng Filipinas sa buong mundo bilang isa sa pinakamagandang tourist destination natin. Isisiwalat ko rito ang 10 mga pasaway na lumabag sa pagprotekta ng kalikasan ng El Nido.

El Nido Sea Shell Resorts and Hotel

MGA PASAWAY NA RESORT SA EL NIDO TINULUYAN NG DENR

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 Resorts and Spa, Inc

Ayon sa DENR, ang mga nasabing establisimiyento ay nilabag ang Rule 14.12 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004.

Sa ilalim din ng RA 9275, ang mga nasabing establisimiyento na may "disapproved applica-

tions or suspended or revoked wastewater discharge permits" ay ipinagbabawal magpatakbo ng kanilang negosyo dahil siguradong madumihan nila ang mga kapaligiran nilang tubig o dagat.

Mayroon pa rin sa ating mga negosyante na walang iniisip kundi ay kumita lang ng pera. Hindi nila iniisip ang mga kahihinatnan ng kanilang kapabayaan sa ating kinabukasan sa pagbalewala ng ating kapaligiran at kalikasan.

Saksi ako sa kagan-dahan ng El Nido. Ang sinasabi nilang lugar ng mga nasabing resort ay nasa mainland kung saan karamihan ng mga

turista ay roon naglalagi sa kahabaan ng kanilang bakasyon.

Subali't kung makikita ninyo ang ibang piling isla na nakakalat sa El Nido, tunay na mamamanga ka sa ibinigay ni Bathala sa Palawan. Nakapanghihinayang kapag hindi natin pangangalagaan ito.

Tulad ng leksiyon na nakuha ng mga negosyante sa Boracay, ang pagpapatigil sa mga nasabing sampung resort sa El Nido ay magsilbing aral na hindi lahat ay kabig. Kailangan ay tumulak ka rin sa pamamagitan ng paglinis ng ating kapaligiran. Ito ay bilang pasasalamat sa biyaya na ibinigay sa atin ng Diyos.



TRANSPORT COMPANY HIRED

TRASH SHIPPED BACK TO CANADA ANY DAY SOON—DENR

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

After missing President Duterte's deadline, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Monday said the tons of Canadian trash illegally shipped to the Philippines would be returned to Canada any day soon.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said a transport company, Bolloré, had been contracted by the Canadian government to handle the shipping.

"We expect this to go faster and as of the moment, we see no hindrance to the shipping out of these containers [of trash]. It's now only a matter of coordination," Antiporda said.

The President had earlier given the Canadian government until May 15 to take out the



RETURN TO SENDER Two of the containers of trash to be shipped back to Canada. —METRO CLARK WASTE MANAGEMENT CORP.

trash, which was shipped to the country in batches of containers from 2013 to 2014.

The shipments were declared by its Philippine consignee, Chronic Plastics, as scrap materials for recycling, but instead included used adult diapers and electronic wastes.

After Ottawa failed to com-

ply with Mr. Duterte's deadline, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. recalled the Philippine ambassador and consuls in Canada.

The Canadian government expressed disappointment over the move, but said it remained committed to take back the trash.

Antiporda said the contain-

ers of trash had been declared seaworthy, though these would still need fumigation before they are loaded onto ships.

He said a contractor was being sought to fumigate the trash and that Canada would pay for it.

Coordination with countries where the garbage will pass through on its way to Canada is also needed, as mandated in the Basel Convention, a global treaty that controls the movement of hazardous wastes, Antiporda said.

"But shipping out these garbage is without prejudice to the existing cases [filed before the courts]," he said.

In June 2016, a Manila trial court ordered the Valenzuela City-based Chronic Plastics to ship the trash back to Canada.

Antiporda said two cases related to the illegal importation remained pending in court. INQ



The stinking Canadian waste

THE favorite foreign secretary of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte aka Digong, Amboy Teodoro "Tweeter" Locsin, Jr., said about 10 days ago:

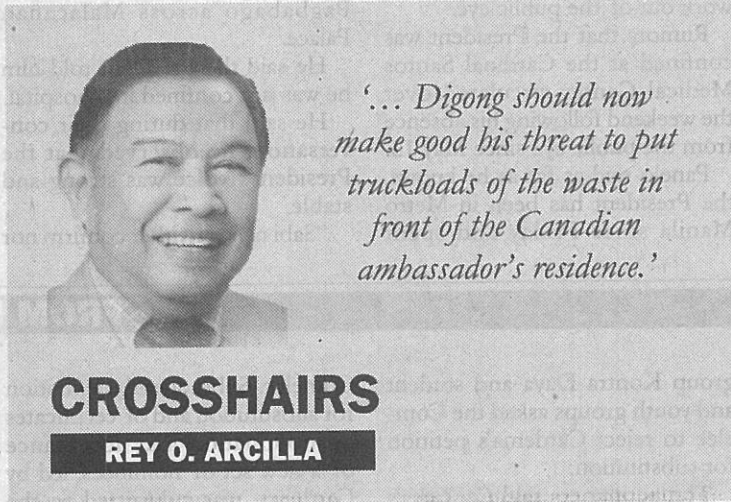
"The President expects the (Canadian) garbage to be seaborne by May 15. That expectation will be met or else."

The deadline of May 15 was not met and, as it turned out, the "or else" threat of Locsin was one that I suggested more than two years ago, i.e., show our extreme displeasure towards the Canadians by downgrading our relations with them through the recall of our ambassador.

I also suggested at the time that we put some of the waste in front of the Canadian ambassador's residence and at the entrance to the mission's chancery.

Or, as I further suggested then, we can put the containers in a barge, tow them near the Canadian territorial waters, set the barge adrift and call it the "Canadian solution," a term that Prime Minister Justin "Trashy" Trudeau himself used when he was here more than two years ago.

Although the Canadians said they "will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue," I do not expect them to take immediate action on our demand to get back their bloody waste. They'll go on merrily taking their time before they take the waste back... if ever. In other words, "i-dri-dribble na



CROSSHAIRS

REY O. ARCILLA

'... Digong should now make good his threat to put truckloads of the waste in front of the Canadian ambassador's residence.'

naman tayo ng mga iyan".

They also said they were "disappointed" with the recall of our envoy. How do these "bas.....s" think we feel? No, no, that's for "bastosm" not "bastards." Pero pwede na rin.

I believe Digong should now make good his threat to put truckloads of the waste in front of the Canadian ambassador's residence.

Declare war? No. As Spokesman Salvador Panelo said, that was just a "figure of speech."

The Canadians should also be ostracized by not inviting them to social and official functions. Filipinos should be one in this, especially the social-climbing denizens of Makati.

They should also be made to seek permission from the DFA

before going out of Metro Manila on official or personal business.

In short, make them feel like pariahs here. After all, they treat us like garbage.

In the meantime, and I believe this is very important, the government should make an inventory of whatever grants or assistance we receive from the Canadians and tell them to shove it. We will survive without them.

Locsin also tweeted about 10 days ago:

"(These are) 69 containers more or less. Let's not include our f***** garbage. And remember the Canadian garbage was imported by f***** natives of ours. Justin (Trudeau) isn't doing anything; it's that DOF assistant who is trying to delay the shipment out

of the garbage."

The "f***** natives" can easily be identified. It has been reported that Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 1 had ordered the importer in 2016 to ship the waste back to Canada. (The exporter is Chronic Plastics, Inc. of Canada.)

Locsin should initiate moves to have the importer apprehended and, if I may suggest, he should seek the assistance of his friend, Sen. Panfilo Lacson who, it seems, has also taken a fancy to tweeting like him.

In a tweet, Lacson said: "Let's find out who facilitated so we can dump them at sea halfway to Canada."

That remark, I and many others think, is unbecoming of a senator of the republic and a rather irresponsible statement.

Following are a couple of netizens' reactions to Lacson's statement published by the Inquirer:

Clarence Reyes - Mmmm... sounds familiar. He was doing that years ago when Pinky was still chief PNP under Erap.

Sumida - let pinky talk to his heart's content... pretty soon all the attention will be on Bato, Pogi, Bong Go etc etc etc.

As for the "DOF assistant who is trying to delay the shipment out of the garbage", Locsin should identify the person and let Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez deal with him/her.

If what Locsin says about the

See THE > Page B5



THE STINKING CANADIAN WASTE...

THE

person is true, then s/he should be fired by Digong.

In another tweet, Locsin said:

"The elections were a referendum on Duterte and his war on drugs. He & the war just won... The Senatorial elections were not a referendum in favor of Charter change either, the death penalty, and jailing minors."

It is well known that Digong wants federalism which would require Charter change. He also wants the re-imposition of the death penalty for heinous crimes.

I do not know what Locsin's stand is on federalism but he has often expressed his opposition to the death penalty.

What will he do if the incoming Congress decides to revive the death penalty?

In 2017, the House of Representatives passed a bill restoring capital punishment but a counterpart measure got stalled in the Senate.

However, since the composition of the incoming Senate will have more than 13 members reportedly supportive of restoring the death penalty, it appears likely that such a counterpart measure would be passed in the Senate.

If or when the death penalty bill is finally approved by Congress, we will be facing severe criticism from the United Nations and its relevant agencies, other countries, human rights organizations both here and abroad, etc.

What will Locsin do then? As foreign secretary, it will be his duty to defend the government's decision. How can he defend something he does not believe in?

If he decides to stick to his stand against the death penalty, will he do the right thing by quitting?

This brings me back to a question I have asked at least twice in this space: "Why did Digong appoint Locsin foreign secretary in the first place and why does he allow the fellow to contradict him in public on very important issues that affect his (Digong's) credibility?"

I did a little research and it appears it may have something to do with the fact that Locsin is married to a daughter of the late Augusto M. Barcelon from Davao who was a highly regarded banker, pioneered the banana industry in Davao and had investments in food, steel and other business ventures.

No matter. If Digong wants to keep Locsin like a thorn on his side, that's his problem. Let's just

keep watching how he (Locsin) does his job.

REMINDERS

This segment is intended to remind the Duterte administration of some of its yet unfulfilled promises and matters that need attention and/or follow-up action. More importantly, the people are entitled to know what's being done about them.

1. Digong's promise to rid the country of foreign troops. This, of course, necessitates abrogating the MDT and the lopsided and constitutionally infirm VFA and the EDCA.

2. Reciprocal visa arrangements with the US and other countries. What is "Tweeter" Locsin doing about this? Our embassy in Washington? No less than President Digong has said he wanted this done about three years ago.

3. The return of the Canadian waste. Until such time as the waste is actually on its way back to Canada which Digong said should be done by May 15, this item will not be removed from this space.

4. About a month ago, Digong said he was firing some corrupt officials. A couple of days later, he said he will sign the dismissal papers of the erring officials be-

fore leaving for China to attend the Boao Forum. He left, came back and after a week resting in Davao, still no one was fired. People are beginning to wonder.

Recently though, Digong dismissed the head of the Food and Drug Administration. But what about the others? Has he changed his mind about firing them?

Today is the 23rd day of the 13th year of the enforced disappearance of Jonas Burgos, son of the late press icon and founder of this newspaper, Joe Burgos.

After the acquittal of Major Harry Baliaga, Jr., the only person formally charged with Jonas' kidnapping, I guess what happens next is now up to Divine Providence.

From an internet friend:
Isn't it amazing how cigarette smoking is becoming illegal, but marijuana's becoming decriminalized? Do you know that in a few years I'm going to have to pretend I'm getting high in order to enjoy a Marlboro Light? I'm going to have to take the filter off, twist the ends up and for the next hour-and-a-half, act like my I.Q.'s dropped 80 points.

= <https://www.facebook.com/reynaldo.arcilla.9847>



STRATEGIC
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UPPER

LOWER



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STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

21 MAY 2019

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Phl, other Asean nations see more plastic dumping

The Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations have seen a drastic increase in the quantity of plastic being dumped on them "in the name of recycling" after China banned plastic waste imports last year, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) said.

But UNEP executive secretary Rolph Payet said "these countries (Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia) are increasingly resistant to these imports, as they realize the profound health and environmental implications of receiving such dirty trash."

He added that plastic waste is acknowledged as one of the world's most pressing environmental issues.

Decisions on plastic waste have been reached this month in Geneva as about 180 governments adopted a draft of decisions aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and waste.

Pollution from plastic waste, acknowledged as a major environmental problem of global concern, has reached epidemic proportions, with an estimated 100 million tons of plastic now found in the oceans. Experts say 80 to 90 percent of the plastic come from land-based sources.

Governments amended the Basel Convention to include plastic waste in a legally binding framework, which will

Turn to Page 3

make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated. This will ensure that its management is safer for human health and the environment.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal is the most comprehensive international environmental

agreement on hazardous and other wastes and is almost universal, with 187 parties signing on to it.

A new partnership on plastic waste was also established to mobilize business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to assist in implementing the new measures and to provide a set of practical supports including tools, best practices, technical and financial assistance. — Pia Lee-Brago



DENR: Gawing cash ang ad trash

HINIKAYAT ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-4-A (Calabarzon) ang mga kumandidato at kanilang mga tagasuporta, gayundin ang lokal na komunidad, na i-recycle ang kanilang mga campaign materials.

Inihayag ni DENR 4-A Executive Director Maria Paz Luna sa Philippine News Agency (PNA) nitong Huwebes na sinusuportahan nila ang panawagan ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) sa lahat ng mga kumandidato

na pangunahan ang cleanup drive sa kanilang mga lugar para alisin ang mga nagsabit na campaign materials sa lansangan.

Ani Luna, inaasahan nilang malaki ang basurang malilikom dahil sa campaign materials na mababaklas sa mga pampublikong lugar.

"We hope these wastes do not end up in bodies of water and farther to the seas," sabi niya.

Ipinaliwanag din ni Luna na kahit na walang pagbabago sa laki at kapasidad ng sanitary landfills o tambakan, kailangan pa ring bawasan ang solid wastes.

Sa pamamagitan ng upcycling method, aniya, magagawang kapaki-pakinabang ang mga patapon nang

mga produkto.

At maaaring gamitin ang mga campaign poster, tarpaulin, sample ballot, flyer at leaflet, na magiging basura lang, ng "Junk Not! Eco-Creatives", isang Laguna-based social enterprise, at gawing recycled materials.

Ipinahayag din ni Wilhelmina Garcia, award-winning interior designer at may-ari ng Junk Not!, na hindi tatanggapin lamang nila ang mga hindi na gagamiting campaign ad materials kung bibilhin din sa kanila ang mga recycled products na nagawa mula rito.

Ang mga campaign materials na nabanggit ay maaaring gawing upuan, lalagyan ng sapatos, ballpen

o pencil case, wallet, at marami pang iba, at maaari itong i-donate sa mga paaralan.

"This kind of buy-back model will make future waste producers think twice," sabi ni Luna. "This is an opportunity for individuals to create value around products that would otherwise end up in sanitary landfills or illegal dumpsites."

Ipino-promote ng Junk Not! Eco-Creatives ang iba't ibang malikhaing pamamaraan para gawing kapaki-pakinabang ang araw na araw na basura at iba pang solid trash, at pagpapaunawa sa mga lokal na komunidad na maging responsible para sa kapaligiran.

PNA



Editorial **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

Malinis na gobyerno, malinis na kapaligiran

MAY mga naiproklama nang nanalo para sa lokal na posisyon.

Dahil dito, may ilan nang nagsimulang mag-anunsiyo ng kanilang plano para sa kani-kanilang nasasakupan.

Kaugnay nito, hinikayat ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga nanalong alkalde na gawing prayoridad ang istriktong implementasyon ng environmental laws.

Ito ay partikular sa Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Pinaalalahanan ng ahensiya ang mga lokal na opisyal na magkaroon ng sistematiko, komprehensibo at ecological na solid waste management program sa bansa.

Bukod pa rito, binanggit ng ahensiya ang implementasyon ng Republic Act 8749 o Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 at Republic Act 9275 o Philippine Clean Water of 2004.

Hindi umano sapat ang itatalagang task force para sa pagpapatupad ng nasabing batas.

Kailangan pa rin ang buong kooperasyon ng mga Local Government Unit (LGU).

Para sa mga bagong naihalal, pag-isipan ninyong mabuti ang posibleng epekto ng pagpapatupad ng ganitong uri ng batas sa inyong nasasakupan.

Kasabay ng pagpapanatili ng malinis na gobyerno ay ang literal na kalinisan sa ating kapaligiran.



NAKATATAKOT ang disgrasya sa tren na elevated o nasa itaas gaya ng nangyari sa LRT-2 nitong nakaraang Linggo ng madaling araw.

Nasira ang isang tren, ipinark sa isang lugar at pinatayan ng lahat ng kuryente para hindi tumakbo sa pagitan ng mga istasyon sa Cubao at Anonas, Quezon City.

Ngunit biglang umandar ang tren, pumasok sa riles at tumakbo itong walang piloto.

Nabigyan naman ng babala ang kasalubong na tren na may mga pasahero at pinahinto ito.

Ngunit hindi na talaga napigilan ang pagtakbo ng sirang tren hanggang bumangga ito sa nakahintong kasalubong nito.

PARANG BOMBA

Nang makita ng operator ang rumaragasang tren, lumundag palabas ang operator at sa ilang segundo, parang sumabog na bomba ang banggaan ng dalawang tren.

Sugatan ang lahat ng pasahero dahil sa pangyayari at maswerteng walang nasawi.

Hanggang sa oras na tinitipa ito, may ilan pang pasahero ang ginagamot sa ospital dahil sa grabeng pinsala, habang ang nakararami ay pinauwi na ng mga ospital na pinagdalan sa kanila.

PANAGUTIN SILA

Malinaw na nagkaroon ng grabeng kapabayaang sa parte ng management at may hawak ng operasyon ng LRT-2.

Kaya naman, hindi dapat na hindi buo ang danyos na ibibigay ng mga ito sa mga biktima.

Sa mga disgrasyang ganito, hindi lang oras na nasayang, sahod o kita na nawala ang mahalagang tingnan.

Dapat ding tingnan ang iba pang mahahalagang usapin na nawala sa parte ng mga pasahero upang maging ganap ang danyos na ibibigay sa mga ito.

Isa pa, paano ang pananagutan ng mga opisyal at empleyadong sangkot sa disgrasya?

Dapat na may mga karampatang parusa o pagpapanagot sa mga ito hindi lang sa mga pasahero kundi sa pamahalaan.

Ano rin ang gagawin sa mga ito na may pananagutan sa disgrasya



BY BENNY ANTIPORDA

DISGRASYA SA TREN BASURANG NAGKALAT

upang maibalik ang tiwala ng mamamayan sa sistemang tren?

Ano ba talaga ang depekto at pumasok sa track ng kasalubong na tren ang sirang tren?

NAKATATAKOT PA

Nasa ibabaw ng mga kalsada at may mga lugar na mataas na mataas ang pwesto ng mga track.

Bukod sa banggaan ng mga tren, ang isa pang nakatatakot ay kung dahil sa mga banggaan o pagkalas ng mga riles o pagkalas ng gulong ng mga tren, eh, lulundag ang mga tren sa labas ng mga pader ng riles.

Paano nga kung lulundag ang mga tren palabas at babagsak sa mga tao, sasakyan at gusali sa ibaba?

Kung nagaganap ang paglabas ng mga tren na gaya ng Philippine National Railways sa kanilang mga riles, hindi imposibleng mangyari rin ito sa mga tren na nakataas o elevated.

Ano-ano ba ang mga ginagawa upang magarantiyahan na hindi lulundag palabas ang mga tren at babagsak kung saan-saan?

Yun ngang lumabas sa bakod na MRT-3 noon sa Baclaran ay naging delikado sa lahat, paano pa ang mga galing sa itaas na mahulog sa mga kalsada at gusali sa ibaba?

Ngayon pa lang ay dapat na gumawa ng paraan na mapatibay ang lahat: riles, pader at tren upang hindi maulit ang mga banggaan, lalong-lalo na ang paglabas ng tren sa kanilang mga riles.

BASURA ULIT

Mahirap talagang basta maalis ang mga basura sa mga lawa o karagatan at maging sa mga kanal, sapa, ilog at iba pang daluyan ng tubig.

Binibigyan natin ng atensyon ito dahil malapit na ang tag-ulan.

Isang iisipin natin ang katotohanang nagkanda-baha-baha ang maraming lugar dahil sa mga basura.

Kapag napuno ng basura ang mga kanal, sapa at ilog, aapaw ang tubig baha sa mga kalsada at kung malakas na malakas ang ulan, pati mga kabahayan ay pinapasok ng baha.

At dahil sa baha, ang daming perwisyo ng mga mamamayan.

Hindi makapasok sa trabaho ang mga obrero at sa paaralan ang mga estudyante.

Nasisira rin ang mga gamit sa negosyo at nalulugi ang mga ito, kasama na ang mga sasakyang nalulunod.

At grabe ang trapik. MAGTULUNGAN VS BASURA

Bukod sa pwersa ng kalikasan gaya ng bagyo at ulan, tao ang isang napakalaking dahilan kung bakit nagkakabaha-baha sa maraming lugar.

At ang hindi nila tamang pagtatapon ng basura ang may sala.

Imadyin, gumagastos ang gobyerno sa paggawa ng mga bakod laban sa pagtatapon ng basura ngunit ginagawang flying saucer ang mga basura para itapon sa mga kanal, ilog, sapa at iba pa.

At kung napuno ang mga kanal, ilog at sapa at hingop ang mga basura ng mga pumping station, ang pumping station naman ang nasisira.

Sa halip kasi na tubig-baha ang hinihigop at itinatapon ng mga pumping station, mga basura.

Muli, lahat ng mga bayan, lungsod at barangay ay may mga trak upang kumuha ng mga basura at itapon ang mga ito sa dapat na pagtaponan.

Sana naman, masimulan nating mabuhay nang may malinis na kapaligiran at flood-free na mga lugar.

oOo

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



DENR AT ROTARY MAGTUTULUNGAN SA PAGLILINIS NG QC WATERWAYS

NAGSANIB-pwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ang Rotary International District (RID) 3780 sa paglilinis ng mga waterways sa Quezon City na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay, na kasalukuyang dumadaan sa rehabilitasyon.

Ang RID 3780, na kinabibilangan ng 104 Rotary Clubs sa Quezon City, ay lumagda kamakailan ng memorandum of agreement (MOA) kasama ang DENR, na naglalayong lalinis ang 118 kilometers na waterways sa apat na Quezon City watershed na mayroong 14,700 ektarya sa ilalim ng "Adopt-An-Estero" program ng ahensiya.

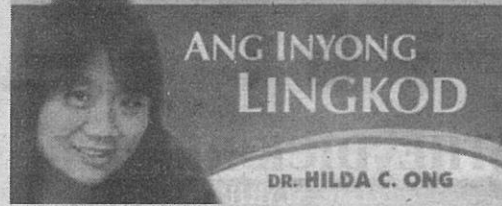
Kasama sa mga lugar na lilinisin ay ang Barangay Culiati, Pasong Tamo Creek, Tullahan-Tinajeros River at iba pang lugar na konektado sa mga naturang daluyan ng tubig. Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, pakikipagsanib-pwersa ng RID

3780 sa isinasagawang Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

"We are recognizing the role of the private and community sectors when it comes to forging partnerships with them. Without their assistance, we would not be able to achieve a cleaner and safer metropolitan environment," sabi ni Cimatu na lumagda sa MOA bilang kinatawan ng DENR.

Naging representante naman ng RID 3780 si District Governor Pastor Mar Reyes, Jr. na siyang lumagda sa MOA bilang kinatawan ng kanilang mga opisyal sa ginanap na selebrasyon ng Earth Day noong Abril 24 na idinaos sa Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife.

Base sa nakasaad sa MOA, maglalaan ang DENR ng technical assistance sa RID 3780 upang mabawasan ang polusyon sa mga lugar na bahagi ng kasunduan, kabilang na rito ang mahigpit na



pagpapatupad ng solid waste management law, water quality monitoring, koordinasyon sa lokal na pamahalaan at ang pagsasagawa ng environment education activities.

Titiyakin naman ng RID 3780 na ang bawat Rotary Club na kanilang nasasakupan ay magkakaroon ng private sector partner-stakeholder na kanilang magiging katuwang sa implementasyon ng programa sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng kanilang corporate social responsibility funds.

Magiging tungkulin din ng RID 3780 na magkaroon ng maayos na ugnayan sa mga appektadong komunidad, pagpapalawak sa sakop ng mga lugar na lilinisin na siyang gagawing modelo ng iba pang watershed sa Metro Manila.

Ang Adopt-an-Estero o ang Water Body Program ay itinatag noong 2010 na layuning magkatulungan ang mga komunidad sa estero, lokal na

pamahalaan, iba pang government agencies at ang DENR.

Bahagi rin ang naturang programa ng inilabas na "mandamus" ng Supreme Court (SC) na nag-aatas sa DENR at iba pang ahensiya ng gobyerno na lalinis ang Manila Bay partikular na ang mga estero at waterways na dumadaloy patungo sa naturang baybayin.

Kamakailan din ay ipinagutos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay kasabay ng pagbibigay ng babala sa mga establisimyento sa paligid ng baybayin na sumunod sa mga batas pangkalikasan upang hindi maisara ang kanilang negosyo. Bilang tugon ay inilunsad ng DENR ang "Battle for Manila Bay" na mayroong tatlong bahagi na ang layunin ay maibaba ang fecal coliform level sa 100 most probable number (MPN)/100 milliliters mula sa 330 MPN/100ML.



'HIDDEN AGENDA' IN MANILA BAY REHABILITATION

THE rehabilitation of Manila Bay started on Jan. 27 and involved 5,000 volunteers. Is this a change that would benefit the world? Yes. Is it already safe for swimming? Not yet. However, that's a great start in turning this new year's resolution into reality.

But, as later reports would reveal, it turns out that this rehabilitation has a hidden agenda, with plans of turning Manila Bay into a commercialized recreational center. The idea may be good for economic growth, but it will just add more harm to both the country and the environment.

The coliform in Manila Bay has reached 333 million mpn, more than the 100 mpn for it to be safe for swimming and consumption. The bay's main pollutants are the wastes from commercial

and industrial facilities in the area. If we add more establishments there, the worst may happen.

I oppose the reclamation of the bay because it will not benefit the country's economy, only the prosperous few. Does this project help street children live a healthy and comfortable lifestyle? No. Will this project help build shelters for underprivileged Filipinos? No. Will this project help solve poverty? Certainly not. Why not give priority to helping indigents rather than stuffing businessmen's already deep pockets? There are things that need more focus than just building more unnecessary establishments along an already deteriorating natural resource.

Instead of commercializing, why not practice the act of conserving? Manila

Bay has outstanding land and water features and just needs proper treatment. Instead of new buildings, why not build playgrounds for children? Why not promote activities that are good for the health in the area? The government can organize fun runs or offer free bike rides—these activities do not harm the environment. Instead of going commercial, why not develop Manila Bay into an eco-friendly recreational area?

We also have to look ahead. Will this campaign of cleaning up the bay be sustained throughout the next few years? Let's hope the government picks the right path for one of the country's most vital bodies of water.

JOHN ALCANCE,
johnjeeaalcance@gmail.com



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PLOT TWIST FOR MANILA'S 'LAST LUNG'

BREATHE a sigh of relief, Manilans!

On the threshold of an imminent "point of no return" at the time when the threat of losing Manila's last lung was a stark reality, the election happened.

It dramatically altered not only the destiny of the Arroceros Forest Park, but also the selfish mindset of the local authorities. Never has there been a better time to positively respond to the calls of environmentalists! It only takes a decisive declaration by the newly minted Mayor Isko Moreno to let the key source of quality air stay its course, for the city to benefit from. Long live!

NORMA G. ATIENZA,
trustee, Pamanlahi,
normaatienza@yahoo.com



NEWS

Sinking PH areas: Slow onset disaster

The steady sinking of coastal towns and islets like Pariahan in Bulacan, a coastal town in Bulacan province, has caused Manila Bay's brackish water to pour inland and displace thousands, posing a greater threat than rising sea levels due to climate change. Bulacan and nearby Pampanga province have sunk between 4 and 6 centimeters annually since 2003, according to satellite monitoring. —STORY BY AFP

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Sinking PH areas: Slow onset disaster

1/2

When Mary Ann San Jose moved to Sitio Pariahan in Bulakan town, Bulacan province, more than two decades ago, she could walk to the local chapel. Today, reaching it requires a swim.

The main culprit is catastrophic subsidence caused by groundwater being pumped out from below, often via unregulated wells for homes, factories and farms catering to a booming population and growing economy.

The steady sinking of coastal towns and islets like Pariahan in Bulakan, a coastal town, has caused Manila Bay's brackish water to pour inland and displace thousands, posing a greater threat than rising sea levels due to climate change.

"It was so beautiful here before... Children were playing in the streets," San Jose said, adding: "Now we always need to use a boat."

Most of the former residents have scattered to other parts of the region. Just a handful of families remain in Pariahan, which had its own elementary school, a basketball court and a chapel before the water flowed in.

These days, just the flooded chapel, a cluster of shacks on bamboo stilts where San Jose lives with her family, and a few homes on a bump of land remain.

The children that live there

commute 20 minutes by boat to a school inland and most of the residents eke out a living by fishing.

Bulacan and nearby Pampanga province have sunk between four and six centimeters (1.5-2.4 inches) annually since 2003, according to satellite monitoring.

"It's really a disaster that is already happening... It's a slow onset disaster," said Narod Eco, who is part of a group of scientists tracking the problem.

Threat to lives

By comparison, the UN estimates average sea level rise globally is about three millimeters per year.

The creeping bay waters put people and property at risk, while the threat is amplified by high tides and flooding brought by the roughly 20 typhoons that pound the archipelago every year.

Some areas have raised roads in an effort to keep up with the sinking, creating odd scenes where the street surface is at the height of door knobs on roadside buildings.

At least 5,000 people have been forced out of the mostly rural coastal areas north of Manila in recent decades as the bay water has moved further inland, regional disaster officials told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

The sinking is very likely permanent because the ground

in the hardest hit areas is mostly clay, which sticks together after the water is pulled out.

The fate of places like Pariahan provides a preview of the problems that may await some of Metro Manila's 13 million people.

Sections of Manila along the shore of the bay are sinking too, with excess groundwater pumping being the most likely cause, Eco, the researcher, told AFP.

The subsidence there

though is at a slower rate than the northern coastal communities, potentially due to less pumping or differences in the soil, he added.

Moratorium, enforcement

A moratorium on new wells in the metropolis has been in place since 2004. But enforcing that ban as well as shuttering existing illegal wells, falls to the National Water Resources Board and its roughly 100 staffers who are responsible for

policing the whole country.

"We have insufficient manpower resources," the board's director, Seville David, told AFP. "It's a very big challenge for us, but I think we are doing the best we can."

The demand for water has soared as Metro Manila's population has nearly doubled since 1985, and the size of the nation's economy has expanded roughly tenfold over the same period.

This explosive growth has created a ravenous demand for



2/2



SCENE OF SUBSIDENCE Groundwater pumped out from unregulated wells has caused subsidence, resulting in sinking areas, like this village in Pariahan, Bulakan, Bulacan province. —AFP

water, especially in the agriculture and manufacturing industries to the north of the capital.

“The sinking is a very serious threat to people, their livelihoods and cultures,” said Joseph Estadilla, a spokesperson for alliance seeking to protect Manila Bay coastal communities.

“This is only going to get worse in the near future,” he insisted.

Manila and its surroundings are among several major cities, especially in Asia, under threat as the land collapses beneath them, though the causes for this vary.

Other Asian cities

Cities such as Jakarta—which is sinking 25 centimeters (0.8 feet) each year—Bangkok and Shanghai risk being inundated within decades as a mixture of poor planning, more violent storms and higher tides wreak havoc.

In Jakarta, a city of 10 million people that sits on a confluence of 13 rivers, half the population lacks access to piped water, so many dig illegal wells to extract groundwater.

Yet in Pariahan the residents who remain are doing what they can to stay in a place they call home.

San Jose explained: “Every year we raise (the floor) of our house. Now my head almost reaches the ceiling.” —AFP



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PH cities 'sinking' in 'slow-motion disaster'

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The main culprit is catastrophic subsidence caused by groundwater being pumped out from below, often via unregu- ▶10



KEEPING HOPES AFLOAT - This photo taken on January 11, 2019, shows a chapel in Sitio Pariahan, Barangay Talipit, Bulakan, Bulacan, standing its ground amid the creeping waters that have sunk the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga by four to six centimeters annually since 2003.(AFP)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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PH cities 'sinking'...

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"We have insufficient manpower resources," the board's director Sevilla David told AFP. "It's a very big challenge for us, but I think we are doing the best we can."

Things will get worse

The demand for water has soared as Manila's population has nearly doubled since 1985, and the size of the nation's economy has expanded roughly ten-fold over the same period.

This explosive growth has created a ravenous demand for water, especially in the agriculture and manufacturing industries to the north of the capital.

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Yet in Pariahan, the residents who remain are doing what they can to stay in a place they call home.

San Jose explained: "Every year we raise (the floor) of our house. Now my head almost reaches the ceiling." (AFP)



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21 MAY 2019

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PH cities face 'slow-motion disaster'

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Bay's brackish water to pour inland and displace thousands, posing a greater threat than rising sea levels due to climate change.

"It was so beautiful here before... Children were playing on the streets,"

➤DisasterA8

DISASTER FROM A1

PH cities face 'slow-motion'

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The provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan have sunk between 4 and 6 centimeters (1.5-2.4 inches) annually since 2003, according to satellite monitoring.

"It's really a disaster that is already happening... It's a slow-onset disaster," explained Narod Eco, who is part of a group of scientists tracking the problem.

Threat to lives

By comparison, the UN estimates average sea level rise globally is about 3 millimeters per year.

The creeping bay waters put people and property at risk, while the threat is amplified by high tides and flooding brought by the roughly 20 storms that pound the archipelago every year.

Some areas have raised roads in an effort to keep up with the sinking, creating odd scenes where the street surface is at the height of door knobs on roadside buildings.

At least 5,000 people have been forced out of the mostly rural coastal areas north of Manila in recent decades as the bay water has moved further inland, regional disaster officials told Agence France-Presse.

The sinking is very likely permanent because the ground in the hardest hit areas is mostly clay, which sticks together after the water is pulled out.

The fate of towns such as Pariahan provides a preview of the problems that may await some of the capital's 13 million people.

Sections of Manila along the shore of the bay are sinking too, with excess groundwater pumping being the most likely cause, Eco, the researcher, said. The subsidence there though is at a slower rate than the northern coastal communities, potentially due to less pumping or

differences in the soil, he added.

A moratorium on new wells in the greater Manila area has been in place since 2004. But enforcing that ban as well as shuttering existing illegal wells, falls to the National Water Resource Board and its roughly 100 staffers who are responsible for policing the whole country.

"We have insufficient manpower resources," the board's director Seville David said. "It's a very big challenge for us, but I think we are doing the best we can."

Things will get worse

The demand for water has soared as Manila's population has nearly doubled since 1985, and the size of the nation's economy has expanded roughly ten-fold over the same period.

This explosive growth has created a ravenous demand for water, especially in the agriculture and manufacturing industries to the north of the capital.

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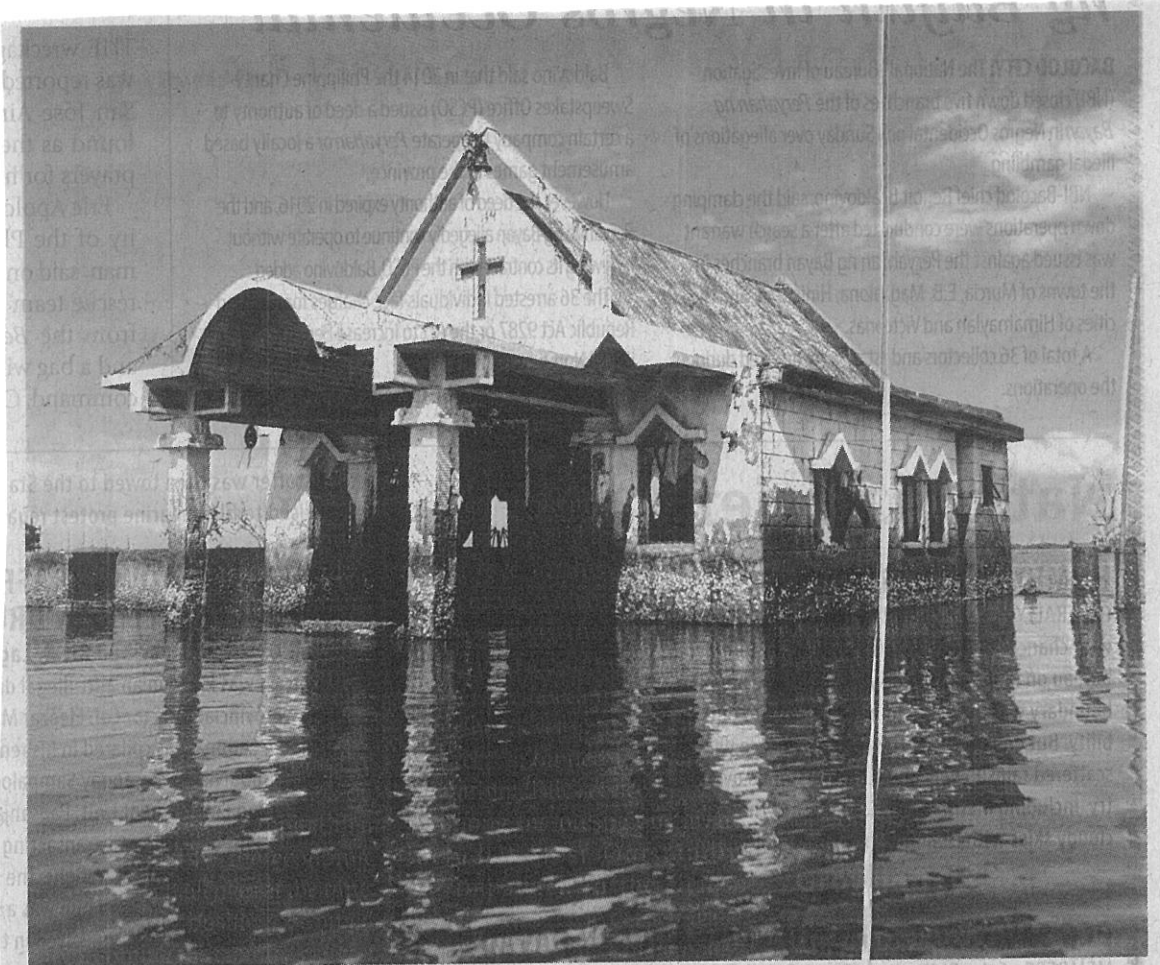
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CHAPEL ON THE SEA This photo taken on Jan. 11, 2019 shows a chapel amid encroaching bay waters in Sitio Pariahan, Bulacan. AFP PHOTO

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CHAPEL IN WATERS

This photo, taken on Jan. 11, shows a chapel amid encroaching bay waters in Sitio Pariahan in Bulacan, a strong argument that areas north of Manila like Bulacan and Pampanga have sunk four to six centimeters according to satellite monitoring a year since 2003, not helped any by an average 21 typhoons that hit the Philippines every year. AFP



Sinking cities facing 'slow-motion disaster'

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Sinking cities...

From A1

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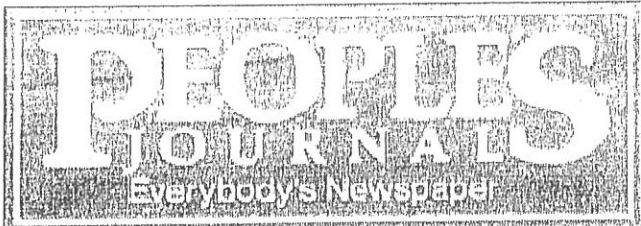
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21 MAY 2019

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**By Joshua
Melvin**

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GROWTH HINDRANCE

OVERHAUL OF MINING POLICIES PUSHED

By Karl R. Ocampo
@kocampoINQ

The country's premier think-tank has urged the government to review its mining policies after its study showed that the current legal framework of the mining sector had too many inconsistencies that gave way to corrupt practices and continued to hinder the industry's growth.

This developed as both branches of Congress are in the process of crafting a new fiscal regime for the industry in accordance with President Duterte's directive.

In a policy note released by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) titled "Challenges in the Philippine mining industry," researcher Eligia D. Clemente uncovered

several issues on the implementation of mining laws, including the "circumvention of the requirements of permits, delays in the declaration of indigenous peoples (IPs) claims, and institutional issues within the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)."

According to the study, the bureaucratic process for applying permits, which included the participation of several agencies, has resulted in overlapping functions, which were "filled in by enterprising government employees through illegal means."

In terms of protecting ancestral domain and giving IP communities their share of profits in mining operations, Clemente said the faulty coordination between national and local ordinances has "resulted in

contradicting decisions on approvals" of mining permits.

LGUs who did not want mining activities in their area also have the tendency to delay the signing of permits to prevent other bodies to oppose their decision, she added.

Even NCIP, which has a huge hole to fill on the issue, lacked informed personnel who could facilitate the use of funds intended for the IPs. Part of its mandate is to deliver the royalties to heads of IP communities and assist the latter in planning for the responsible use of the funds.

"Despite the huge amount of money allotted to communities, they have not yet elevated their status from their original position as among the poorest in the communities," the study said.

Clemente, who's also a coor-

dinator of the University of the Philippines Diliman Mining Engineering program, recommended a review of these policies and procedures, which bleeds the government dry in terms of foregone revenues and investments.

"It would be good to discuss such issues and come up with a common implementing guideline for all offices to eliminate personal tendencies to relax rules," she said.

"Sufficient human resource should also be supplied to NCIP offices for them to carry out their tasks timely and efficiently. Issuances from NCIP can also be harmonized such that a single protocol can be followed and duplication of requirements can be minimized," she added. INQ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



21 MAY 2019

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Use of lead-safe paints urged

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

With the start of this year's "Brigada Eskwela," environmental group EcoWaste Coalition urged concerned schools to adhere to the government's health policies in promoting a conducive learning environment for children.

On Monday's launch of the bayanihan-inspired Brigada Eskwela, the Balingasa Elementary School in Quezon City teamed up with Sycwin Coating & Wires, Inc. and the EcoWaste Coalition in promoting compliance to policy issuances by the Department of Education (DepEd) Department Order No. 4, Series of 2017 requires the "mandatory use of lead-safe paints in schools," while Department Order No. 64, also issued in 2017, specifies the minimum performance standards and specifications for DepEd school buildings, including "paint materials must be independently certified lead safe paints/coatings."



Redemption of agricultural lands covered by free patents

Dear PAO,
I own a parcel of agricultural land, which I received through a free patent. After the lapse of five years, I sold the property to my neighbor with the intention of redeeming it within five years. However, I heard that there is a new law that removed the restrictions imposed on the transfer and conveyance of lands covered by free patents. I just want to know if my right to redeem the property was removed



DEAR PAO
PERSIDA ACOSTA

by this new law.

Spanky

Dear Spanky,
Section 4 of Republic Act (RA) 11231, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Free Patent Reform Act," provides:

"SEC. 4. This Act shall have retroactive effect and any restriction regarding acquisitions, encumbrances, conveyances, transfers or dispositions imposed on agricultural free patents issued under Section 44 of Commonwealth Act No. 141, as amended, before the effectivity of this Act shall be removed and are hereby lifted: Provided, That nothing in this Act shall affect the right of redemption under Section 119 of Commonwealth Act 141,

as amended, for transactions made in good faith prior to the effectivity of this Act." [Emphasis and underscoring supplied]

Conversely, Section 119 of Commonwealth Act (CA) 141 otherwise known as "The Public Land Act," reads:

"Section 119. Every conveyance of land acquired under the free patent of homestead provisions, when proper, shall be subject to repurchase by the applicant, his widow, or legal heirs, within a

period of five years from the date of conveyance."

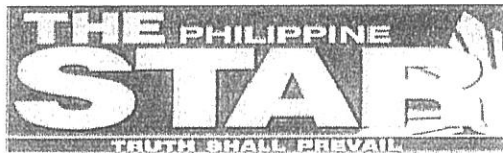
Clearly, the right of redemption under Section 119 of CA 141 was not removed by RA 11231. In your situation, you mentioned that you sold your property before the effectivity of RA 11231, and after the lapse of the five year prohibitory period. Hence, you still have the right to redeem the said property in accordance with the above-mentioned laws.

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. Please be reminded that this advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net



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DBM hikes LGU revenue allotment to P649 B for 2020

By MARY GRACE PADIN

Local government units (LGUs) are set to receive P648.92 billion in internal revenue allotments (IRA) for fiscal year (FY) 2020, according to the Department of Budget and Management.

Based on a memorandum signed recently by DBM officer-in-charge Janet Abuel, the share of LGUs in the IRA will rise by 12.75 percent to P648.92 billion in 2020 from P575.52 billion this year.

Abuel said the amount was computed from the actual national internal revenue taxes collections for 2017, which reached P1.779 trillion.

"For the purpose of preparing the FY 2020 annual budgets of LGUs, the total IRA shares of LGUs shall be P648.92 billion per certification of the BIR on the actual national internal revenue taxes collected in FY 2017. The FY 2020 IRA level is P73.4 billion or 12.75 percent higher than the FY 2019 IRA level," she said.

The DBM official said the amount would be shared by 43,618 LGUs, comprised by 82 provinces, 145 cities, 1,478 municipalities, and 41,913 barangays.

In addition to the IRA, the DBM said other LGUs are also entitled to other special shares

in the proceeds of national taxes. These include shares in the excise tax collections on Virginia tobacco, burly and native tobacco, value-added tax, proceeds from the utilization and development of national wealth, gross income taxes paid by enterprises within economic zones, and shares in fire code fees.

The DBM reminded LGUs that the IRA and other local resources would first cover the cost of providing basic services and facilities, particularly those devolved by the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agriculture and the

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as other agencies of the national government.

"Each LGU shall appropriate in its annual budget no less than 20 percent of its IRA for development projects as mandated under Section 287 of Republic Act 7160," the DBM said.

Not less than five percent of the estimated revenue of LGUs from regular sources will be set aside for the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

Barangays should also allocate 10 percent of the general fund of the baran-

gay for the Sangguniang Kabataan, specifically for youth development and empowerment purposes.

The DBM has enjoined LGUs to formulate their 2020 budget plans, in line with the national government's development plans, goals and strategies.

"To this end, LGUs are enjoined to align their programs, projects and activities (PPAs) with the priorities of the national government, specifically those embodied under the Philippine Development Plan and Public Investment Program for 2017-2022," the DBM said.



No DOT accreditation for costliest resort

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO
@akosistellaBM
Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

CNBC and *The Independent* have dubbed it "the most expensive resort in the world."

Forbes calls it "the world's most exclusive island retreats."

Located off Palawan, Banwa Private Island, which garnered high praise and write-ups in international business and travel publications earlier this month, reportedly charges

\$100,000 a night. However, the posh accommodations don't come with an accreditation by the Department of Tourism (DOT), a violation under Philippine law.

DOT Assistant Secretary for Tourism Regulation Coordination and Resource Generation Arturo P. Boncato Jr. confirmed as much in a Viber message with the BUSINESSMIRROR, "it [Banwa] is not-DOT accredited."

Under the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 9593 (Tourism Act of 2009), "Primary

tourism enterprises shall be periodically required to obtain accreditation from the department as to the quality of their facilities and standard of services."

Primary tourism enterprises are "travel and tours services, land, sea and air transport services exclusively for tourist use; accommodation establishments; and such as other enterprises as may be identified by the [DOT] Secretary, after due consultation with concerned sectors."

SEE "DOT," A2

Based on DOT's web site (www.tourism.gov.ph), the only accredited resorts in Palawan are Daluyon Beach and Mountain Resort (Sitio Sabang), Blue Palawan (Hidden Beach), Deep Forest Garden Inn (Barangay Banca-Banca), Dos Palmas Arcefi Island Resort (Honda Bay), Nemo Beach Hotel (Barangay San Jose), Palawan Seaview Resort (Barangay San Manuel), Ponce de Leon Resort Palawan Inc. (Barangay San Pedro), Coron Westown Resort (Sitio Dipulao), Amanpulo Resort (Pamalican Island), Doublegem Hotel and Resorts Inc. (El Nido), Last Frontier Beach Resort (El Nido), El Nido Garden Beach Resort (Barangay Masagana), Club Agutaya Inc. (San Vicente), and Crystal Paradise Resort, Spa and Winery (Narra).

Boncato, however, was quick to stress that the resort has, "applied for accreditation and [is] complying with documentary requirements." The DOT official implied that the resort had applied for accreditation before it opened, but neither he nor other DOT officials would say the exact date the application was submitted. "Application [was] made earlier. Several documentary requirements are being complied," Boncato emphasized.

Earlier, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular 2019-17 signed by Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año reminding all local government units (LGUs) that under the Tourism Act's IRR, "Primary tourism enterprises [PTEs] such as hotels, resorts, inns and other accommodation establishments are required to secure accreditation from the Department of Tourism [DOT] for issuance of license or permit to operate."

The memo further instructed LGUs "to ensure that all PTEs have complied with and have obtained DOT accreditation before operations." (Emphasis theirs.)

Per the memo, the DOT is supposed to notify the concerned LGUs if tourism enterprises fail to comply with the accreditation requirement. The LGUs "will have to issue necessary closure orders should PTEs fail to rectify the same," according to the memo, which was issued on February 6, 2019, two months before Banwa opened its doors to the public. In an earlier interview, Año said in Filipino that "we [DILG] will file cases against them [local officials]," if LGUs fail to follow his memo and enforce the Tourism Act IRR's provisions. (See, "5 Manila Bay hotels get notices of violations," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, February 22, 2019.)

According to an article in *Forbes* on April 11, 2019, Banwa Private Island has been in development for 10 years. "The 15-acre island is home to six stylishly beachfront villas, 12 garden rooms, and one residential 360-degree suite, which is positioned at the highest point of the island for unrivalled views over the ocean," it noted.

Guests of the island fly in by private helicopter, after a short layover by private jet from Manila to a private airport in Palawan, or directly from Manila via helicopter or seaplane, according to Banwa's web site. The entire island can accommodate 48 people, and has a full complement of chefs supervised by Nadedja Bouacha, a former private chef of Qatar's royal family.

Per its web site, Banwa is managed by the Aquos Management Inc. for the Aquos Foundation, an institution committed to environmental protection. The latter is a member of the Palawan Knowledge Platform overseeing the online platform designed by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development. The PCSD is the multisectoral body overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan.



Pageant contestant campaigns to save Tamaraws

By ROBERT R. REQUINTINA

A TOURISM desk officer of Occidental Mindoro is pushing for the promotion to save the critically-endangered Tamaraw as he represents the Philippines in the Mister National Universe 2019 pageant in Thailand on July 1.

Jan Kim Vergel, 22, said that he is advocating more efforts to save the tamaraws from extinction.

"So far, our efforts in Mindoro are paying off. But we need to do more to save the specie," said Vergel, during press send-off for him held at Giovanni's Bar Ristorante at Gateway Araneta Center in Quezon City over the weekend.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) has reported an increase in the number of tamaraw head count in April 2018.

From 253 tamaraws in 2002, it has gone up to 523 in 2018, according to BMB focal person Cecille Garcia.

Vergel earned the right to represent the Philippines in the Mister National Universe pageant after he won Mister Continental Philippines 2019 recently.

The 6'1 hunk was presented to the pageant press by



JAN Kim Vergel of Occidental Mindoro is flanked by Rodell Salvador (left), national director, Mister Continental Philippines, and Loty B. Nayo (right), national director, Mister National Universe Philippines. (Robert Requintina)

Rodell Salvador, Mister Continental Philippines national director, and Loty B. Nayo, Mister National Universe Philippines national director.

A graduate of accounting technology, Vergel loves to sing and dance. He is also a fashion model.

During the international competition, there will be two representatives from the Phil-

ippines.

But Vergel said that he is not in anyway threatened by the presence of a second candidate from his country.

"This will inspire me more to work harder," he said.

Few international organizers have allowed more than one candidate to join pageants.