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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



BRB: Public-business partnership necessary to curb plastic pollution

A STRONGER public-private partnership will help address plastic pollution

Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Ricardo Calderon has called on the business sector and other stakeholders to work together to find the best solutions to plastic pollution.

Calderon, who is also concurrent secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said that plastic pollution has become one of the most serious threats to the health of oceans and a major hazard to marine biodiversity.

"We urge everyone to join the pledge for our environment; a pledge that will institutionalize our collective and collaborative action towards addressing the issue of marine debris," Calderon said at the culmination of the Month of the Ocean celebration held recently at The Peninsula Manila, with the theme "Free the Seas from Marine Debris."

Calderon's statement was in line with DENR Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's prior call to the Filipinos to "cut down on the use of plastics that end up in the ocean and pose a threat to marine life."

"The task of reversing this issue is as big and wide as the ocean, but small actions can make a huge difference," Cimatu said.

A study conducted by the Ocean Conservancy, a US-based environmental advocacy group, revealed that eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year on top of the 150 million tons of plastic that already circulate in the ocean, contributing to loss of species and the contamination of the food chain.

Relatedly, Calderon said that marine plastic pollution is one of the latest and most alarming issues the world is facing with the Philippines as one of the major contributors to global problem, primarily due to its so-called "sachet economy" where companies are selling products in single-used plastic sachets.

While it was easy to resort to banning plastic sachets, Calderon noted that there are "economic implications" to such move that the stakeholders, particularly the government and businesses, should prepare for.

Calderon stressed committing to act on the issue of marine debris will also help prevent other sea animals from ingesting plastic.

Cory Martínez



PROFITING FROM TONS OF GARBAGE

BAGUIO TAPS JAPAN TECH FOR POWER, METHANE GAS

By Vincent Cabreza
@vincencabrezaINQ

BAGUIO CITY—The 400 metric tons of garbage generated each day by 350,000 residents here may be converted into electricity and methane gas for household heating and fertilizer, using a Japanese waste-to-energy technology, which Malacañang wants to pilot in the city.

As most populations grow, monetizing mixed garbage by using it as fuel for electricity generation is a direction being taken by many world economies, according to officials of Toyo Energy Solution Co. Ltd. who pitched their technology to Mayor Benjamin Magalong on Friday.

Magalong said the group was referred by the Department of Energy after President Duterte's recent state visit to Japan.

Under a government-to-government arrangement, the company will customize its system to the terrain and type of waste generated by residents "at no cost to Baguio," Magalong said.

Around 40 percent of Baguio's waste is biodegradable, with 17 tons generated daily by the city public market. The waste is moist because of frequent rains, which would make biomass generation more efficient for a prototype plant, said the Japanese team led by Toyo Energy president, Yoshimitsu Okada.

No burning

Unlike conventional waste-to-energy systems that produce electricity by processing garbage through thermal combustion, the Toyo system draws out methane gas from pulped waste to fuel power generators.

"So there will be no burning," the team assured members of Zero Waste Coalition who joined the meeting.

The Japanese engineers said their renewable energy system could also be used to treat wastewater, sell byproducts of the methane fermentation as fertilizer and distribute charcoal bricks made from residual waste.

The city government can put up a prototype plant at a 13-hectare section of an open pit mine in Itogon town, Benguet province, where it earlier proposed to set up a technological hub for treating waste, or at a donated lot near Mt. Sto. Tomas.

Methane fermentation

Toyo has developed methane fermentation and gasification plants near factories in countries like Indonesia. In Japan, which has strict environmental regulations, Toyo built the methane plants in farmlands.

But the technology, operated in heavy containment shells, has also been operated near residential areas, the Japanese engineers said.

They said 55 percent of gas produced from garbage is methane, which could be used for cooking like natural gas, or power up generators, while 45 percent is carbon dioxide.

Electricity can be sold to the Luzon grid. Baguio, which is securing a license to generate power, owns four hydroelectric plants which used to be operated by an Aboitiz company.

At present, Baguio is turning its biodegradable waste into fertilizer using two machines introduced by another Japanese company in 2010. The system converts organic waste into powdered fertilizer with the use of a microorganism called "shimose."

But operators of the machines have not been following the technology's original design, resulting in breakdowns in the generation of sludge, Magalong said. INQ

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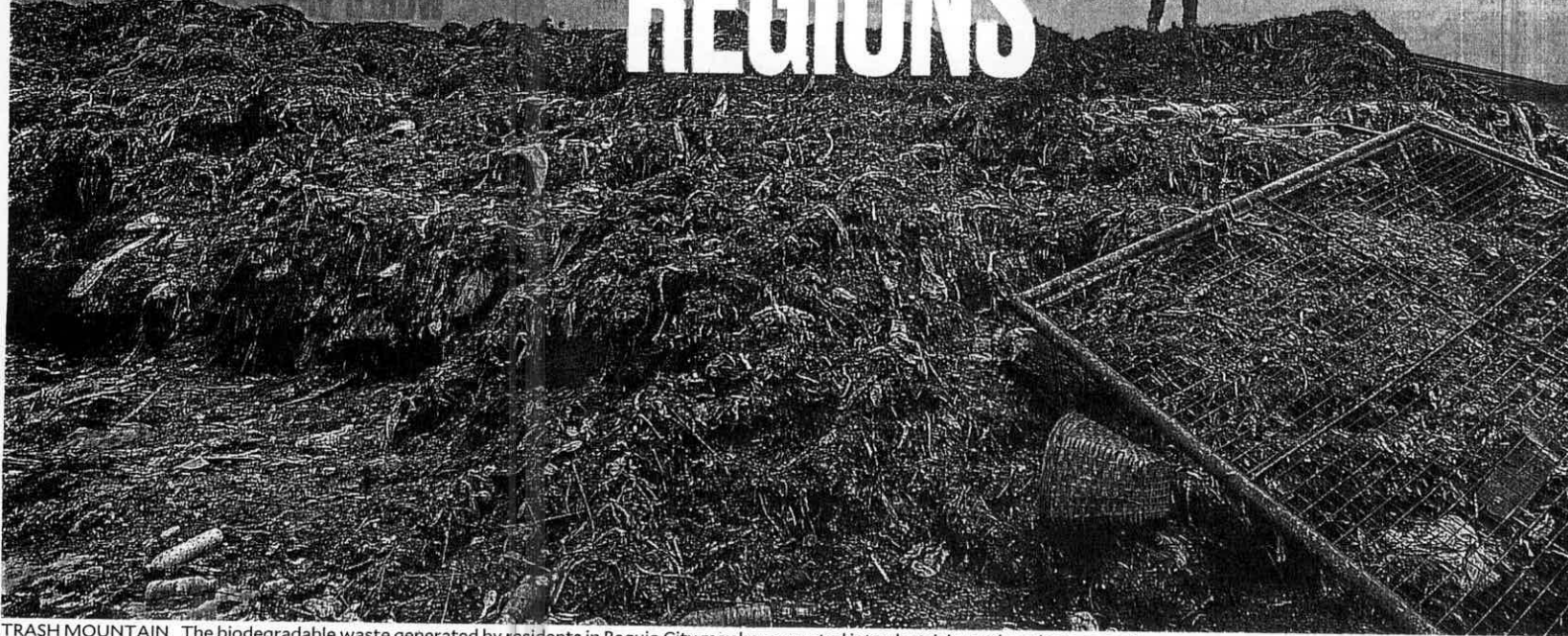
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Editor
Robert Jaworski L. Abaño

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
REGIONS



TRASH MOUNTAIN The biodegradable waste generated by residents in Baguio City may be converted into electricity and methane gas using a Japanese waste-to-energy technology. —KARLSTON



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EDITORIAL

Clean air a matter of social justice

Two decades after the passage of the Clean Air Act, air quality is still a major environmental problem for the Philippines. One would think that 20 years would be sufficient time to clean up our atmosphere, or at least scrub the air of most pollutants.

Though much of the air pollution is produced by vehicle emissions in Metro Manila, recent studies show that people in the northwestern tip of the country are likewise being exposed to dirty air. The source of these pollutants is not homegrown, as scientists with the Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory of the UP Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (UP IESM) prove. Northern Luzon has minimal industrial activity and certainly the number of vehicles plying its streets is minimal compared to Metro Manila.

No, the pollution is not made in the Philippines. Rather, as Dr. Mylene Cayetano, head of the UP IESM points out, the harmful emissions come all the way from China, wafted to our atmosphere by seasonal winds. Cayetano was involved in a study that looked into samples taken from Burgos, a fifth-class municipality of about 9,000 in Ilocos Norte; with no heavy industries, the town yielded an alarming level of fine particles that could cause serious health problems, including lung diseases.

The dilemma confronting the people of Northern Luzon brings to mind a similar cross-border crisis in Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines in 2015. Massive deforestation, especially the irresponsible and uncontrolled razing of entire swathes of forest in Borneo, produced haze, a fog-like atmospheric phenomenon that carried with it heavy smoke and produced levels of particulates that threatened the very young, the very old and those with lung problems in the affected countries.

Though there is a lot to worry about "imported" air pollution, of even greater concern is the pollution we produce all on our own, which, despite the 20 years that have passed after the passage of the Clean Air Act, has grown to even worse proportions.

Today, reports the World Health Organization, as many as 120,000 Filipinos die yearly due to air pollution, produced mainly by vehicle emissions and the burning of fossil fuels. While people with lung disease and asthma are particularly vulnerable, pollution is also a factor in cardiac distress and even cancer. A three-part special report recently published in this paper says that "with 45.3 deaths per 100,000 people, the Philippines has the third highest mortality rate in Asia due to air pollution, after China and Mongolia."

Why has the Clean Air Act failed so far to realize its promise? Most experts put the blame on "lack of political will and fragmented interagency efforts," which have weakened enforcement of the law—hailed by champions at the time of its passage as a decisive blow struck against the befouling of our air.

One other explanation has to be that air pollution is perceived as a problem of poor people, who are exposed daily to fumes from trucks, buses, jeeps, cars and even motorized trikes. The wealthy and privileged, on the other hand, can filter out the fumes in their air-conditioned vehicles and air-conditioned offices and residences.

Indeed, as Dr. Cayetano points out, "air pollution is a matter of social justice." Clean air, she asserts, has to be considered "as a basic human right. It's a health agenda, and that's where politics and governance should kick in. If we're not affected, we don't care. But people die early and are disabled at an early age because of our pollution."

Early measures against air pollution were kick-started when officers of agencies like the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations brought home portable air monitors to test them in "real life." Most of these homes were in Forbes Park and other snazzy locales near Edsa, so when the data was collected, the expat homeowners were stunned to see actual proof of the air pollution in their homes, despite their centralized air-conditioning.

But that's what air pollution is: It is everywhere, and modern conveniences can only do so much to reduce it. The country can only raise the quality of its air if it works to clean it for everyone: rich or poor, sheltered or exposed to foul air.



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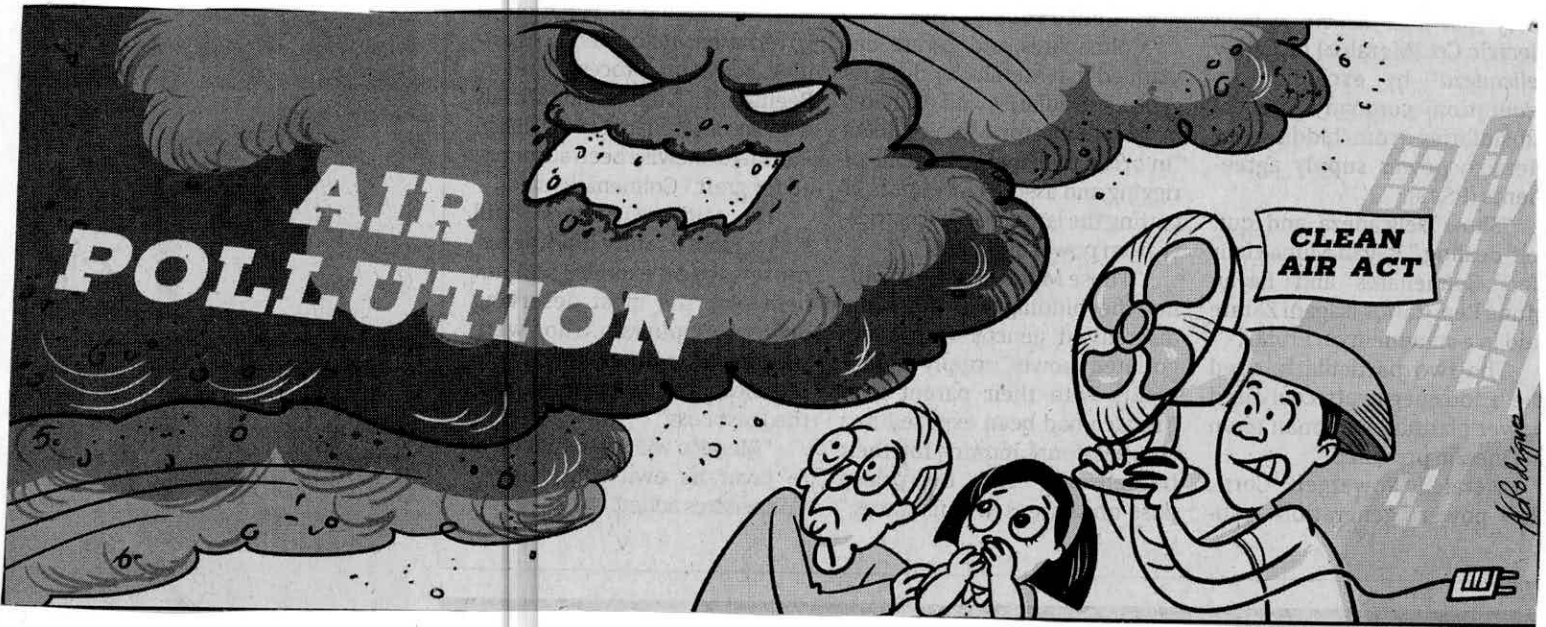
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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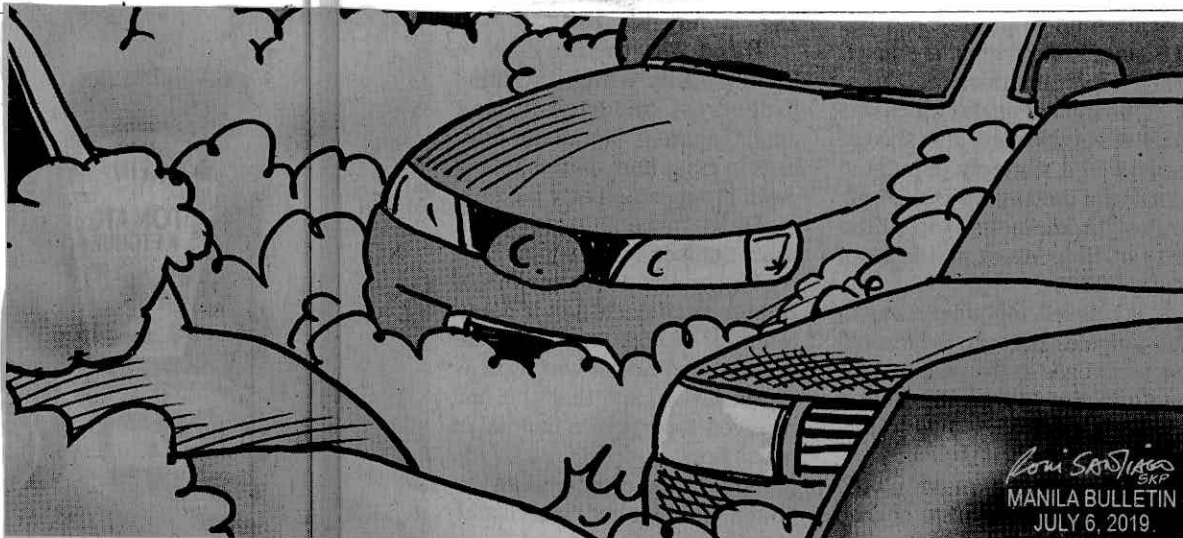
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EDSA not just a traffic problem

THE problem of Epifanio delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) has turned out to be a multi-faceted one. All the while, we were concerned solely with the time-consuming traffic along Metro Manila's principal thoroughfare. It takes two to three hours to travel the length of EDSA from Quezon City to Makati, so that EDSA has become the symbol of the region's traffic problem.

At the beginning of President Duterte's administration, the Department of Transportation began to work on the EDSA issue and asked Congress for emergency powers which, the government said, are needed to solve it. Nothing came of this proposal and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) turned to other proposed solutions, including the removal of all provincial bus terminals from EDSA, which has, however, been challenged in court.

Last week, it was reported that the EDSA traffic is not just a transportation – but also a health – problem. With all those buses, cars, and utility vehicles inching along the highway most of the 24 hours of the day, EDSA has become a highly polluted place, all the vehicles continuously emitting carbon dioxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and other particles and gasses.

There is a Clean Air Act, Republic Act 8749, under which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources monitors air quality around the country through its Environmental Management Bureau's Air Quality Management Section (AQMS). But most of the stations monitoring emissions from factories are, it is said, not functioning. As for vehicles, AQMS data reportedly says 67 percent of 35,849 vehicles

tested in 2018 failed their emission tests.

The air pollution along EDSA is principally a problem for those constantly exposed to it during most of the day, particularly traffic officers. All that pollution is having ill effects on the health of these government workers, as well as other people working and living in the high-pollution areas. The Department of Health may have to step in on this matter.

But the basic EDSA problem is still the traffic. Last Monday, Secretary Mark Villar of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), speaking in the first of a series of pre-SONA forums ahead of the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 22, said EDSA traffic will return to "acceptable" levels by the end of the President's term in 2022. That is three years from now.

It doesn't quite jibe with the President's own optimistic projection that by December, a trip from Cubao to Makati along EDSA should take just five minutes. Very likely, the President's hopeful projection is part of his usual exuberance and exaggeration, although presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the President may be planning something.

Secretary Villar's projection of three years is probably more realistic. We just have to adjust to the fact that our vehicle population has simply grown way beyond the capacity of our road system. The DPWH is moving solidly with its projects to ease EDSA traffic. We hope the other departments of the government will also be taking resolute action on the related problems of air pollution and health.



Part 1

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Youth urges everyone to address ocean pollution

MELAKA CITY, Malaysia: Fifty young delegates attending the ongoing International Conference on Youth, Ocean and SDG 14 have called on all stakeholders — government, private businesses, industry associations, non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society movements and individuals — to address growing ocean pollution.

Sustainable Development Goal 14, one of the 17 goals enshrined in the United Nations' (UN) Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, focuses on how to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development." Top on its list as target is, "by 2025, to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution."

While ocean issues pertaining to climate change-related impacts on the oceans, sustainable blue economy, marine-protected areas (MPAs), maritime security and sustainable fisheries were thoroughly presented and discussed, these young delegates zeroed in on how we could act collectively to address plastic pollution entering the oceans.

The 50 select young delegates represented 13 countries — Bangladesh, China, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Seven of these countries — Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam — are considered to be the top 10 major polluters to the oceans.

The call echoed the leaders of the Association of Southeast



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

Asian Nations' (Asean) recent issuance of the Bangkok Declaration to Combat Marine Debris in the region.

Plastic is an insidious form of ocean pollution

According to the nonprofit group Ocean Conservancy, coastal countries generate 275 million metric tons (MMT) of plastic waste annually, and 8 MMT of plastic goes into the ocean every year. Just 10 rivers carry 90 percent of this plastic pollution. Plastic pollution has been documented in the deepest parts of the ocean — near the Mariana Trench, and in the most remote ocean ecosystems — Antarctica. Certain forms of plastic can linger for centuries.

The UN Environmental Program reports that more than 660 species of ocean animals were documented to be affected by plastic pollution. This includes sea turtles, dolphins, whales, seabirds and manta rays. Plastic pollution has also been detected in seafood sold for human consumption.

A 2015 study by a team of researchers from the University of California, Davis, and Hasanuddin University found man-made debris in 25 percent of seafood market fish and 67 percent of all species sampled in the United States. In the Philippines, in a study conducted by Jose Isagani Janairo of the De La Salle University in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology, revealed that 2 out of the 3 green mussels or *tahong* samples taken from three

different locations tested using Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy were tested 100 percent positive for microplastics.

The ingestion of plastic has grave effects on ocean animal health, and researchers are trying to better understand what impact it has on human health. Potential solutions for the flow of plastics into the ocean include adopting policies that curb the use of single-use plastics like bags or straws, developing alternative materials, and improving the capture of plastics that leak out of waste systems.

Asean leaders agreed to combat ocean pollution

On the occasion of the 34th Asean Summit in Bangkok, Thailand on June 22, 2019, the region's leaders agreed and issued the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris.

Reiterating the concern on rapidly increasing levels of ocean pollution in particular plastic pollution and the expected increase in negative effects on marine biodiversity, ecosystems, animal well-being, fisheries, maritime transport, recreation and tourism, local societies and economies, the Bangkok Declaration aims to "strengthen actions at the national level as well as through collaborative actions among the Asean member-states and partners to prevent and significantly reduce marine debris, particularly from land-based activities, including environmentally sound management." Part of the declaration is to "accelerate advocacy and actions to increase public awareness and participation, and enhance education, with the aim to change behavior toward preventing and reducing marine debris."

Full text of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris can be accessed through this link:<https://>



asean.org/storage/2019/06/2.-Bangkok-Declaration-on-Combating-Marine-Debris-in-Asean-Region-FINAL.pdf

Youth's actions to address plastic pollution

Though we understand the magnitude of our problem on ocean pollution — Indonesia being the second major polluter, contributing 3.22 million tons of plastic waste to the oceans, Trifitri "Ditta" Muhammaditta believes that "addressing the plastic pollution positively, not negatively, attracts more people to act on the issue."

Ditta, who climbed mountains as a hobby, was inspired by her "educating for sustainability" immersion with the world-renowned Green School that led her to embark on an environmental journey by moving from Bandung to Bali and joined the nongovernment organization RefillMyBottle.

RefillMyBottle (<https://refillmybottle.com/>) is an online application that identifies all the places — be it a cafe, resort, museum or shop — where refillers could walk in and fill up their bottle with clean drinkable water for free or a minimum fee. With the campaign statement "Why buy bottled water when you can refill instead?," the aim is to reduce the consumption of plastic water bottles. In Bali alone, over 6 million disposable plastic bottles used and discarded every month.

"It's not about one person doing zero waste, less waste or everything perfectly but about a million people doing it imperfectly," said as Ditta called on her fellow young people and reminding them that doing a small step collectively would create a bigger impact.

"We have to ensure that we recycle the plastics that we use," said King Yiew "Kelvin" Wong, a univer-

sity student studying accounting and finance in Malaysia and a volunteer of Tzu Chi Foundation. He further said that while volunteering with the foundation, he does his best in addressing the plastic pollution by participating in educating communities on how to segregate their wastes and connect them with recyclers. Malaysia is listed as the eighth major polluter, contributing 0.94 million tons of plastic waste to the oceans annually.

Kelvin believes that we, as individuals, play a significant role in addressing plastic pollution. "If we don't take action, if we don't try to refuse [plastic], it will end up everywhere," he continued. Our conscious effort and attitude on how we use plastic responsibly would dramatically reduce plastic pollution in land and eventually into the oceans.

He expressed his admiration for 16-year climate activist Greta Thunberg who, at her young age, have ignited young people worldwide to put forward the climate issue. With this admiration, he encourages his fellow young people to be responsible in their daily consumption and to think of the next generations to come.

One of the Philippine delegates, Rabin Fernando-Canuzo, who grew up close to nature, believed that attending the international conference strengthened his environmental journey. As the reigning Mister Earth Philippines 2019/2020, he said "walk the talk," and detailed the change of his lifestyle — like bringing his personal eco-bag, use of personal water bottle, refuse single-use plastics including plastic straws.

"We only have one planet. We are just borrowing this planet. We need to save it not only for ourselves but for the future generations. Do our efforts no matter how big or small, just keep on doing it. Eventually it will translate into something big and will become a movement as

long as we work together," Rabin said as his message to his fellow delegates.

The Philippines is the third major polluter, contributing 1.88 million tons tons of plastic waste to the oceans annually.

About the International Conference on Youth, Ocean and SDG14

The International Conference on Youth, Ocean and SDG14 is organized by the World Youth Foundation (WYF), an (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and an NGO associated with the UN Department of Public Information. WYF is also an NGO with Civil Society Status with the United Nations Environment Program and a full member of the Commonwealth Youth Council.

The international conference is held in collaboration with the Malaysian National Commission for Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Young Environmental Forum, International Youth Council and other various agencies.

* * *

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (UK) and executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (US). He delivered a presentation on "The Blue Economy: Harnessing our Ocean's Resources for Sustainable Development" during the International Conference on Youth, Ocean and SDG14. He may be emailed at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.



MGB remains silent over OceanaGold operations

By Rio N. Araja and Ben Moses Ebreo

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau under the direct supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Friday continued to remain silent over the operation of OceanaGold Philippines mining company with an expired financial and technical assistance agreement in Nueva Vizcaya as well as a restraining order from the provincial government.

When asked to comment, the office of MGB director Wilfredo Moncano through its staff Tess Obias said he was away for a meeting, and could not be interviewed.

She referred the **Manila Standard** to get in touch with the DENR central office.

On the other hand, the bureau's Mining Tenement Division through Kenneth Chan, a contract of service employee, also told the **Manila Standard** that the division chief, engineer Larry Heradez, was also in a meeting.

However, a certain Cena Lagude from the same office said OceanaGold's FTAA dossiers were already transmitted to the office of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

"I just don't know what the contents are," she said.

Manila Standard tried to reach Undersecretary for Climate Change Service and Mining Concerns Analiza Teh to clarify issues if OceanaGold local unit operated with an expired FTAA.

Nelgie Belisario, a project evaluation officer, said Teh was on board her weekly radio program.

"As far as I know, the FTAA is already in Malacañang for consideration, but I am not familiar with the details of it," she said.

Manila Standard was advised to send a request letter for an interview with Teh.

DENR through its public information division suggested to interview the MGB chief, and not the central office itself.

In Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Rep. Luisa Cuaresma expressed her support to the overwhelming sentiments of anti-mining advocates to block the application of OceanaGold Philippines Inc. for a new FTAA with the Office of the President.

In a letter to Cimatu, Cuaresma reiterated her no mining stand as OGPI's FTAA had expired last month.



OceanaGold fights to continue operations

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya:

OceanaGold filed a petition for injunction to continue operating its Didipio mine in the upland Kasibu town.

The Australian company said, "The injunction is sought in response to an order from the governor of Nueva Vizcaya directing local government units to 'restrain any operations' of the Company."

"Authority over the Didipio operation rests with the national government. The Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) does not grant the power or authority to the Provincial Governor or any local government officer to restrain any aspect of the Didipio operation," OceanaGold said in a statement.

The company said it attempted to hold a dialogue with the provincial government to resolve their current position, but, unfortunately, it had to file a petition for an injunction.

"[This is] to ensure local government units recognize the legitimacy of Didipio's continued right to operate and the national government's legal authority over the operation," OceanaGold added.

With Gov. Carlos Padilla's order, served on July 27, the local government

unit prevented a large supply truck from accessing the Didipio Mine site on Monday.

Company officials, however, said operations continue at the mine, but they "proactively halted truck movements which included their transport of copper concentrate to prevent the potential for conflict to escalate."

They said this has not affected the supply of copper concentrate for shipment and light vehicles; people and food supplies continue to access the site as well.

The company's 25-year Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) expired on June 20, 2019, the reason for the provincial government's issuance of a stoppage order.

In March 2018, OceanaGold filed its application for renewal of its FTAA and received confirmation on June 20 from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

However, the MGB confirmation "only allowed Didipio mine to continue operations pending the confirmation of the FTAA renewal. The provincial government disputed this, thus Padilla ordered OceanaGold to stop its operations.

A hearing has been set for Wednesday.

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Mining firm pushes back against Nueva Vizcaya gov't
Mining firm OceanaGold Corp. has sought a court injunction against the Nueva Vizcaya government for stopping its operations in Didipio during the pendency of its financial technical assistance agreement (FTAA) which expired on June 30. The company sought a renewal of the FTAA and was allowed by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to continue operations. But Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Carlos Padilla ordered capitol employees to prevent Oceana from operating. The hearing was set on July 10. —KARL R. OCAMPO



Angat Dam water level dips anew

By **ALEXANDRIA DENNISE SAN JUAN**

Water level at Angat Dam went down anew Friday, after five days of continuous increase, due to absence of rainfall the previous days, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Based on the data from PAGASA's Hydrometeorology Division, water level at Angat Dam was recorded 161.69 me-

ters above sea level (masl) as of 6 a.m. Friday, down by 17 centimeters from the 161.86 masl recorded Thursday morning.

The current water elevation at Angat Dam is still below the minimum operating level of 180 masl but is slightly above the 160-masl critical level.

PAGASA hydrologist Oyi Pagulayan said the continuous supply of water for domestic needs and evaporation due to lack of rain contribute to

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the decreasing water level at Angat Dam.

"Although may mga pag-ulan, aside sa pagsu-supply ng water, kasama rin na factor sa losses ay ang evaporation within the watershed (Although it rains, the continuous supply of water and evaporation are factors that contribute to the decreasing water level)," Pagulayan said.

The Angat Dam, located in Norzagaray, Bulacan, is the major water source of households in Metro Manila and neighboring towns and cities.

The water level at Angat Dam hit its critical level on June 20 due to lack of rains as the weak El Niño phenomenon continues to persist in the country.

Following weeks of consistent decrease, water level at Angat Dam started to go up beginning June 30 due to monsoon rains and heavy downpour brought about by tropical depression (TD) "Egay."

But Pagulayan said it is too early to say if the level in the water reservoir will further decrease as there are still localized thunderstorms that could bring rains in the watershed.

Pagulayan, however, said huge amount of rainfall is needed to keep Angat Dam water level to its 180-meter minimum operating level and its 210-meter normal

high water level.

Pagulayan said consumers may continue to bear with water rationing while waiting for the supply to go back to normal.

"Kung hindi talaga maka-takeoff, kung hindi magtuluy-tuloy na mataas ang water level kaagad, definitely baka magpatuloy ang ginagawa ng NWRB [National Water Resources Board] na water rationing (If water level won't increase, the NWRB's allocation will continue)," Pagulayan added.

Earlier, the NWRB announced that it will retain the 36 cubic meters per second (CMS) allocation for domestic supply in Metro Manila that took effect when the water level at Angat Dam breached its critical mark.

Due to the rationing system, water supply interruptions continue to persist in parts of Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

PAGASA recently said two to three tropical cyclones may hit the country in the month of July. Currently, five tropical cyclones have already entered the Philippine area of responsibility this year - TD "Amang" in January, TD "Betty" in February, TD "Chedeng" in March, and TD "Dodong" and TD "Egay" in June.



Angat water inches down after the rains

THE water level of Angat Dam in Bulacan went down slightly on Friday after rains earlier in the week helped it gain almost a meter above its critical level, the state weather bureau said.

Sonia Serrano, hydrologist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, noted Angat's water level dipped to 161.69 meters as of 6 a.m. yesterday from 161.86 meters on Thursday.

Angat, which supplies most of the water needs of Metro Manila, was at 161.08 meters on Wednesday, Serrano noted.

She said there was no rainfall over the Angat watershed and the mountainous areas within the rivers of Matulid, Talaguio and Maputi in Bulacan since Monday.

The rainwater that fell over the mountainous parts of the three tributaries ended up at the Angat watershed, Serrano added.

"The level increased slightly [on Thursday], but it was just negligible," she told **Manila Standard**.

Based on the rainfall stations in Talaguio and Maputi, there were only isolated rainshowers in the areas, she said.

According to PAGASA, the low water supply at Angat Dam will persist for the next few days. **Rio N. Araja**



TITLE:

Angat level drops due to monsoon break

THE water level at Angat Dam has dropped due to the "monsoon break," according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

On Friday, the water level at Angat slightly dropped to 161.69 meters, a 0.17-meter reduction from the previous day. Previously, Angat had raised above the 160-meter critical mark after successive increases to a total of 3.9 meters from Sunday to Wednesday due to tropical depression "Egay" and the southwest monsoon.

Pagasa weather specialist Lanie Bitagon said the "monsoon break" that began on Thursday as the southwest monsoon moved away from the country, was likely to persist in the next four days.

"Kung pagbabasehan po natin yung 24-hour weather forecast at yung extended weather outlook, possible po until July 9 pa [ang monsoon break]. So pwede pang mag-extend yan (Based on the 24-hour weather forecast and the extended weather outlook, the monsoon break could last until July 9). So it could still extend," Bitagon said.

According to Pagasa hydrologist Edgar dela Cruz, the water level at Angat might decrease further if insufficient rainfall lands on the reservoir.

"Medyo bababa pa 'yan kasi wala naman ibang pinagkukunan ng supply ang dams natin kundi rain water lang, wala na tayong ibang source. Kaya dapat ang tao, magtipid pa rin (It could further decrease slightly because dams do not have other sources of water other than the rain. So the public must continue to conserve water)," dela Cruz said.

However, with the observed lesser rate of reduction, the dam might not reach the 160-meter critical mark in the next five days, he said.

"Hindi naman siguro [aabot uli sa critical level] sa limang araw. Pero 'pag lumampas tayo doon, mag-be-below uli tayo ng 160 meters (In five days, it might not hit the critical level. But if it extends further, it could

reach below 160 meters)," Dela Cruz said.

Besides Angat, water levels in all other dams in Luzon, including La Mesa and Ipo, have slightly decreased on Friday and remained below their normal levels. Lowest reduction of 0.01 meters was registered at San Roque while the highest reduction of 0.29 meter was recorded at Magat.

On Friday, water level at Ipo was at 99.63 meters, La Mesa at 72.27 meters, Ambuklao at 741.77 meters, Binga at 569.84 meters, San Roque at 232.31 meters, Pantabangan at 191.62 meters, and Magat at 180.63 meters.

Normal high levels are 101 meters for Ipo, 80.15 meters for La Mesa, 752 meters for Ambuklao, 280 meters for San Roque, 216 meters for Pantabangan, and 190 meters for Magat.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has previously announced that no adjustments will be implemented as long as the water level is still far from the 180-meter minimum operating level and the 210-meter normal operating level. Water concessionaires have scheduled service interruptions after the NWRB reduced allocation for Metro Manila to 40 cubic meters per second (cms) on June 19 and to 36 cms on June 22.

On Thursday, the weather station at the Science Garden in Diliman, Quezon City recorded a maximum temperature of 34.4 degrees Celsius and a relative humidity of 84 percent at 2:54 p.m. Bitagon said that relatively warmer temperatures are expected during the monsoon break.

"Medyo umiinit ulit kasi nagiging partly cloudy to cloudy na lang ang weather scenario natin from yesterday until today so mag-expect po talaga tayo na mas taas po ng konti ang temperatura natin. (The temperature is becoming warmer as the weather scenario is only partly cloudy to cloudy from yesterday until today so let us expect that temperature will rise)," Bitagon said.

DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ



NWRB keeps 36-cms allocation for MWSS

THE National Water Resources Board on Wednesday maintained the 36 cubic meters per second daily water allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System despite the improving situation at the Angat Dam reservoir.

As of 6 a.m. Wednesday, Angat Dam's water level was at 161.08 meters, slightly higher than the critical level of 160 meters.

Based on PAGASA's projection that there will be no rains in the coming days, we decided to maintain the 36-cubic-meter

water allocation for MWSS to further improve the (water) level of Angat Dam," NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. said in a press conference at the MWSS central office in Quezon City.

PAGASA is the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"Dahil nakatulong ang mga pag-ulang nitong mga nakaraang araw sa pagtaas ng level sa Angat Dam, wala tayong nakikitang pagbaba sa water levels sa Angat until next week, until such time na dumating or bu-

malik muli ang 'habagat' or southwest monsoon (Since the rains these past few days contributed to the rise in Angat Dam's water levels, we do not see any decrease in these levels until next week, until such time the southwest monsoon returns)" he added.

David said the board will resume the 46-cubic-meter water allocation to the MWSS once the situation in Angat Dam shows significant and continuing improvement.

"We'll see until the end of July if there's improvement in the level of Angat Dam. That's

when we determine if we can increase the water allocation to MWSS," he said.

Meanwhile, MWSS Chairman Reynaldo Velasco commended Manila Water and Maynilad for following the scheduled rationing to their consumers.

"They are very good. Manila Water reported 99.98 percent accomplishment in the scheduled water distribution to its consumers," Velasco said.

He said the recent heavy rains contributed to the increase of water supply being distributed by the two concessionaires, aside

from the allocation they get from MWSS.

Velasco also thanked consumers for heeding appeals to conserve water.

"Let us give credit to our consumers as they now understand the situation and they themselves practice water conservation. We thank our consumers in Metro Manila for heeding our appeal to conserve water," he said.

On the issue that some building owners, such as in condominiums, not heeding their appeal to conserve water, Velasco said they are coordinating with

the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority "as we have no police power to stop them."

"But they should understand what their priority (is). This situation is only temporary. Hopefully, (based on) the projection of PAGASA, by end of July, the water situation will improve," he said.

Velasco however noted that for the dams to be fully utilized, Angat Dam's water level should reach 212 meters to 215 meters.

"Hopefully, by end of December," he said. "If we could not attain that, we will still have water problem."



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Angat water level dips

After five days of continuous increase, the water level of Angat Dam slightly went down yesterday due to the absence of rainfall, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration said.

Data from the PAGASA Hydro-meteorology Division said water level in Angat Dam was 161.69 meters as of 6 a.m. yesterday, down 17 centimeters from the 161.86 meters Thursday morning.

The current water elevation is still below the minimum operating level of 180 meters but is slightly above 160-meter critical level.

Oyi Pagulayan, PAGASA hydrologist, said the continuous water supply and evaporation due to lack of rain contributed to the decrease in Angat's water level.

"Although may mga pag-ulan, aside sa pagsupply ng water, kasama rin na factor sa losses ay ang evaporation within the watershed," Pagulayan said.

Angat Dam in Norzagaray is the major water source of households in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

Water level in Angat hit critical level last June 20 due to lack of rains as the weak El Niño phenomenon continues to persist.

Water level in Angat Dam started to go up on June 30 due to monsoon rains enhanced by brought by tropical depression "Egay."

Pagulayan said that it is too early to say if the level in the water reservoir will further decrease again as there are still localized thunderstorms that could bring additional supply to the watershed. **(Alexandria San Juan)**



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Tubig sa Angat bumaba ulit

Nagsimula na namang bumaba muli ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam matapos na hindi umulan kahapon.

Mula sa 161.86 meters na naitala, bumaba ng 17 centimeters ang water level sa Angat Dam hanggang kahapon ng alas-6:00 ng umaga sa 161.69 meters.

Pero sa kabila nito, mataas pa rin ito ng bahagya sa critical level na 160 meters.

Hunyo 20 nang pumalo sa critical ang water level sa Angat Dam dahil sa kawalan ng pag-ulan.

Maraming kabahayan sa Metro Manila at kalapit na lugar ang apektado rito matapos na magpatupad ang mga water concessionaires ng water service interruptions.



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PROTECTED PREDATOR FOUND WEAK, DEHYDRATED

SARANGANI ENVIRONMENTALISTS MAKING 'BANOG' FLY AGAIN

ALABEL, SARANGANI—How can a bird be made to fly again?

This was the question that faced workers in a government conservation facility here as they stepped up efforts to restore the flight of a juvenile Brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*) that was found on June 13.

The bird, locally known as "banog" and "lawin," has been treated for a breast wound at the Environmental Conservation and Protection Center (ECPC)-Sarangani for three weeks now.

Hopping weakly

Dr. Roy Operario Mejorada, a veterinarian and ECPC program manager, said the bird was found on June 13 by students of Alabel Science High School, hopping weakly in the school grounds.

Daniel Zabale, a school teacher, turned over the bird to the ECPC-Sarangani.

When found, the bird was weak and dehydrated. A physical examination showed a puncture that affected its breast muscles.



GOOD PROGRESS This injured juvenile Brahminy kite (locally known as "banog" and "lawin") is recovering at a temporary flight cage. —ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION CENTER-SARANGANI

"It appeared he was hit by a pellet from an air gun," Mejorada said, adding that immediate medical intervention was initiated to address the dehydration

and prevent possible infection.

In the last three weeks, the bird's healing was making good progress. It already had a good appetite.

But Mejorada said further study was being undertaken because "the bird was still unable to fly." It remained under close monitoring at the temporary flight cage of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility of ECPC-Sarangani.

Scavengers

Brahminy kites are medium-sized raptors common in the area. They are known to be scavengers that will eat just about anything, including food waste and dead animals, such as fish and crabs.

They also hunt live prey, such as small mammals, small birds, crustaceans, amphibians, small reptiles, fish and insects.

Mejorada said the bird is protected under Republic Act No. 9147, the wildlife resources conservation and protection law. Possession, trading, killing or inflicting injury on this species is illegal and can earn one a penalty of six months to one year imprisonment and a fine of P10,000 to P50,000. —EDWIN FERNANDEZ INQ



BUHAYIN ANG MANILA ZOO

MABUTI na lang at nabigyang pansin ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno na buhayin ang Manila Zoo. Sa totoo lang ang nasabing pasyalan ay napabayaan at napaglipasan na ng panahon. Dati-rati'y masasabing premyadong pasyalan ang Manila Zoo para sa mga kababayan natin at ganoon din sa mga banyagang turista.

Natatandaan ko pa na palaging kasama ang Manila Zoo sa mga 'educational field trip' para sa mga estudyante ng mga

kilalang mga eskuwelahan. Maraming natutuntunan ang mga estudyante. Personal pa nilang nakikita ang mga iba't ibang uri ng hayop na nagmula sa iba't ibang parte ng mundo.

Akalain ninyo, mahigit na 60 years na ang Manila Zoo! Sa anim na dekada, nakalulungkot ang kundisyon nito. Sa katunayan, ipinasara kamakailan ng DENR ang Manila Zoo dahil sa paglabag ng mga batas na nag-uugnay sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay. Nakita kasi ng mga aw-

toridad na dumiretso ang mga dumi ng hayop ng Manila Zoo sa baybayin ng Manila Bay.

Marahil isa ito sa mga negatibong aspeto nating mga Filipino. Kulang tayo sa maintenance o pagpapanatili ng kagandahan ng ating kapaligiran. Huwag na tayo lumayo, tingnan na lang natin ang ating mga public toilet. Karamihan ay hindi malinis, mabaho at walang tubig.

Ang mga kundisyon ng ating mga pamublikong sasakyan ay kulang din. Ang mga inumpisahan na mga hardin at landscaping ng mga LGU ay maganda sa simula subali't pagkatapos ng ilang buwan

ay natabunan na ito ng basura at talahib.

Ganito rin ang nangyari sa Manila Zoo. Nakapagtataka naman kasi dahil hindi naman libre ang pagpasok dito. Nagbabayad naman ang mga bumibisita rito kaya may pumapasok na pera para sa maintenance nito. Maliban dito ay may pondo rin na nilalaan ang Maynila para rito. Eh bakit umabot sa ganitong kundisyon ang Manila Zoo?

Maganda ang plano ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila na buhayin ang Manila Zoo. Napapanahon ito kung saan nagkakaroon muli ng interes tungkol sa kalikasan at pagpreserba ng mga hayop na nangan-

ganib mawala sa mundo o endangered species.

Marahil ay may mga tututol sa plano ni Mayor Isko sa pagbuhay ng Manila Zoo. Ito ay ang mga ibang environmentalist group na tutol sa pagkulong ng wild animals na dapat daw ay ibinabalik sa kanilang natural habitat o sa kanilang orihinal na tirahan, ang kagubatan.

Subali't ang Manila Zoo, tulad ng mga ibang premyadong zoo sa ibang bansa, tinatauhan ito ng mga dalubhasa at eksperto sa pangangalaga ng wild animals. Alam nila kung papaano nila maihahantulad ang tirahan ng mga hayop sa zoo na parang nasa natural nilang tirahan.

Sundan sa pahina 14

Sana ay kasama ito sa plano ni Mayor Isko sa pagbuhay ng Manila Zoo. Hindi lamang 'cosmetic' o pagpapaganda ng Manila Zoo kundi seryososhin din ang maintenance nito kasama na ang mga hayop na nakatira rito.

AT GROUND LEVEL

SATUR C. OCAMPO



Climate crisis: Peoples act while governments falter

In the Philippines, used as we are to tropical heat such as the long dry spell of recent weeks, global warming doesn't seem to be the huge problem that it is in other countries where wild fires and extreme temperatures kill hundreds of vulnerable people.

But even as we count ourselves lucky in this regard, it is now known that our planet Earth is rapidly undergoing tremendous physical change largely as a result of human activities. A climate crisis, indeed, that brought about an international consensus to do something about it before it's too late.

At the Paris climate-change conference in 2015, an agreement was made by 197 governments (including the Philippines) to take steps towards limiting the rise of global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius within this century. Moves have subsequently been pushed to attain that target by 2050. Thus far, according to reports from Europe, the reduction achieved has hovered at 3 degrees C.

At the last Group of 20 (G-20) summit held in Japan a week ago, 19 of the 20 member-states reaffirmed their 2015 commitments. The lone exception was the United States, under Donald Trump's presidency, which is standing pat on withdrawing from the Paris accord. Trump (backed by Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro and Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan) reportedly sought to delete from the communique any reference to the Paris agreement.

There is in fact a negative trend of actions on the part of the rich nations to ignore or circumvent their commitments. A report by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) disclosed that G-20 states have mostly increased their subsidies to coal-fired power plants – the biggest contributor to global carbon emissions – almost three times in recent years: from \$17 billion in 2014 to \$47 billion in 2017.

Japan, which hosted the latest G-20 summit for the first time, was identified in the ODI report as one of the biggest financial supporters of coal. Ironically, just last September Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was quoted as having said: "Climate change can be life threatening to all generations... We must take more robust actions and reduce the use of fossil fuels."

More than Japan, however, China and India have given the biggest subsidies to coal, the ODI report points out. Japan ranks third, followed by South Africa, South Korea, Indonesia, and the US. Although the UK frequently runs its electricity grid without using coal, last month a parliamentary report questioned the "billions of pounds" which the UK used to help build fossil-fuel power plants overseas.

China is supporting the construction of coal-fired power plants in the Philippines, according to a *Guardian* report, and a new organization, Oriang Women's Movement, is opposing the Chinese projects. The Department of Energy website showed a report on Feb. 5, 2019, quoting Secretary Alfonso Cusi that he would continue a program inviting China to put up in the country "merchant power plants" using coal "to help augment energy deficiency." The report says Cusi had signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect with the Chinese government in 2017.

While signatory countries are hypocritically circumventing or ignoring the Paris agreement, their own citizens are stepping up to make their respective governments take responsibility. Last Thursday, a report by the Grantham Institute and the London School of Economics revealed that more than 1,300 legal actions have already been lodged in the courts in 28 countries, initiated

by private organizations, groups, and individuals decrying their governments' inadequate actions to reduce global heating.

An overwhelming majority of the climate-change litigations – 1,023 cases – have been filed in the United States. Among the other countries cited were Australia, with 94 cases; United Kingdom, 53; New Zealand, 17; Spain, 13; Brazil and Germany, 5 cases each.

The lawsuits filed in the US mostly have sought to stop or prevent President Trump from reversing, through executive orders, environmental regulations instituted by his predecessors, mainly by President Barack Obama. And, according to the *Guardian*, the above-cited report points out that of the 154 cases thus far analyzed, "no such reversal of a climate regulation brought before the courts has yet survived a legal challenge."

Other positive outcomes for such people-initiated climate-change litigation are as follows:

+ One landmark case filed in Pakistan four years ago resulted in a court ruling which established the right of a citizen to challenge his government's lack of action on climate change – on the ground that the inaction violated his human rights.

The landmark ruling stemmed from the suit filed by a farmer in Punjab, Ashgar Leghari, who charged the Pakistan government with failure to ensure water, food, and energy security for himself/the people in the face of problems caused by climate change. The unprecedented court ruling pushed the government to establish a Climate Change Commission to address the problems that the farmer raised.



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At Ground level

- In the United Kingdom, Client Earth (an NGO) has repeatedly won favorable court action in its suits against the government's failure to take action on "illegal levels of air pollution."

- In the Netherlands, the court ruled favorably in a case filed by Urgenda Foundation demanding that the government adopt stricter reduction targets for greenhouse gas emission. (The Dutch government is appealing.)

- Last May, a group of individuals living in the Torres Strait islands at the northern tip of Australia petitioned the United Nations Human Rights Council urging it to pressure the Australian government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt adequate coastal defense measures in consultation with the island communities.

"The use of climate-change litigation as a tool to effect policy change is likely to continue," noted the report, citing stepped-up legal actions by NGOs and other people's organizations.

Meantime, UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights Philip Alston has submitted a damning report to the UNHRC, saying that steps taken by the UN itself, its member-countries, NGOs, and businesses have been inadequate - "entirely disproportionate" - to the urgency and magnitude of the threat of global heating.

"We risk a 'climate apartheid' scenario," he added, "where the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger, and conflicts while the rest of the world is left to suffer."

The impact of globally rising temperature, Alston warned, is likely to undermine not only basic rights to life, water, food, and housing for hundreds of millions of people but also democracy and the rule of law. "Human rights might not survive the coming upheaval," he emphasized.

* * *

Email: satur.ocampo@gmail.com



Sandiganbayan defers ruling on case vs Aquino

By Patricia Denise M. Chiu
@PDMChiuINQ

The Sandiganbayan Fourth Division will not decide on the motion of Ombudsman Samuel Martires to withdraw usurpation and graft charges against former President Benigno Aquino III until the Supreme Court lifts its temporary restraining order (TRO).

Former Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales earlier found probable cause to charge Aquino with usurpation of powers and graft over the death of 44 members of the Special Action Force in the botched 2015 Mamasapano operation. But sitting Ombudsman Martires last week moved to withdraw the case.

During Friday's hearing on Martires' motion to withdraw, the current Ombudsman said there was no usurpation since Aquino was President at the time of the incident.

"No President of the Republic of the Philippines must be accused of usurpation of power while in office. Anyone who claims otherwise should go back to college," Martires said in open court.

After the hearing, Martires explained that they moved to withdraw the case information filed by his predecessor since Aquino's actions during the Mamasapano incident were well within his powers.

"He can anytime take over the functions of the secretary of the

DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), he can anytime take over the functions of the chief PNP (Philippine National Police), there is no usurpation there," Martires said.

Usurpation is defined in the Revised Penal Code as any act of any person in authority or public officer of the government without being lawfully entitled to do so.

But while Martires argued that the case information against Aquino should be withdrawn, the antigraft court's Fourth Division said it could not decide on the motion until the high court lifts its TRO.

The high court last year issued a TRO stopping the trial based on the insistence of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), backed by a manifestation from the Office of the Solicitor General.

VACC argued in their petition for certiorari that Aquino should face a more serious charge, such as homicide, in connection with the massacre.

VACC legal counsel Ferdinand Topacio said their camp still planned to file homicide cases against Aquino after the high court lifts the TRO.

"Nothing can prevent us from refiling, but we will wait for the decision of the SC, out of respect," Topacio said, adding that at the stage of preliminary investigation, there is no double jeopardy. INQ



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Marine forces beef up hunt for Sulu terrorists

Their mission: Destroy Abu Sayyaf, establish peaceful, stable environment

By Julie Alipala
@alipalajulieINQ

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Marine battalion was deployed in Sulu to beef up government's security presence in the province that was rocked by recent bombings in a military camp, and grappling with a long-running bout with terrorists.

Their mission: "Destroy the Abu Sayyaf ... and establish a peaceful and stable environment in Sulu," said Rear Adm. Erick

Kagaoan, commander of Naval Forces Western Mindanao.

The deployment came amid the twin attacks on an Army camp in Indanan, Sulu, that killed eight people, including the two bombers, and wounded 12 soldiers and 10 civilians.

Led by Lt. Col. Allan Tolentino as commander, the Marine Battalion Landing Team 8 (MBLT 8) is composed of 461 troopers, including 19 officers.

It replaced the MBLT 3, which sailed to a new assign-

ment in Palawan province on June 27, a day before the twin bombing attacks.

"This unit is not new here, it has been deployed in Mindanao before. They are needed in Sulu now," Kagaoan said on the sidelines of send-off rites at the Port of Zamboanga on Tuesday.

Kagaoan said he was confident the forces would be up to their task, saying the MBLT 8 troopers were fresh from retraining in Cavite.

"This battalion has been new-

ly refurbished and is now ready for redeployment," he added.

Kagaoan reminded the troops to "remain fearless in combat, vigilant in peace and a reliable partner of our people and community."

Tolentino said a number of his men were "well-versed on Sulu hence ready to face the challenges in the province." "Our primary mission is to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, IS (Islamic State) and other terror groups in Sulu," he said. INQ



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BOC, DPWH, BIR, DENR 'WORST AGENCY'

— PACC 3

BOC, DPWH, BIR, DENR 'worst agency' – PACC

Tinukoy kahapon ni Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) commissioner Greco Belgica ang apat na ahensya ng pamahalaan na talamak umano ang katiwalaan at ginagawa lang na gatasan ng mga korap na opisyal at tauhan ng mga ito.

Ayon kay Belgica, kabilang dito ang Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Aniya, ang nasabing mga ahensya ang madalas na isumbong sa kanila na may kinalaman sa corruption.

Umaabot na aniya sa mahigit 1,000 sumbong ang kanilang natatanggap kung saan 80 sa mga ito ay nakasuhan na habang mahigit 40 na ang nasisibak at nasuspinde.

Aminado rin si Belgica na hindi nila nakilusan ang ilang reklamo dahil sa kawalan ng ebidensya.

Naglunsad din si Belgica ng People's Day tuwing Lunes sa kanilang tanggapan sa PACC para personal niyang marinig ang reklamo ng publiko laban sa mga isinusumbong nilang opisyal. **(Mia Billones)**



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
R13-D3, Lianga, Surigao del Sur
Hotline no. 09071697840 email address: cenro_lianga@yahoo.com.ph

LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO Lianga, Surigao del Sur will auction through oral bidding at ten o'clock (10:00) A.M. on July 2, 2019 the right to lease for commercial purposes the tract of land herein described below. Written bids in the prescribed form must be submitted not later than 10:00 A.M. on the said date.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Location | : | Cagbaoto, Bayabas, Surigao del Sur |
| Description | : | Foreshore area bounded on SW., by lot 145, PLS-872 NW., by foreshore NE., by Pacific Ocean SE., by foreshore |
| Area | : | 19,651 square meters |
| Appraised value of land | : | Php3,930,200.00 |
| Appraised value of Improvements (Existing/Proposed) | : | Php2,766,000.00 |
| Applied by | : | Oriental Vision Mining Philippines Corporation MLA-166802-01 |

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three (3%) per centum of the value of the land plus one (1%) per centum of the value of proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified lease applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental. Only deposits in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's or manager's check shall be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental; otherwise such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved by this office to reject, any or all bids.

The successful bidder if other the applicant must reimburse the latter of the value of the improvements and the expenses for the publication of the notice of auction.

(SGD.) CLIFF C. ABRAHAN
CENR Officer



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD

BREEZEWOODS DEVELOPMENT CORP.,
Applicant. Case No. 19-2795

X
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Breezewoods Getri Homes Subdivision, Barangay Pasong Kawayan 2 General Trias, Cavite, with the following proposed rates:

| Residential / Institutional / Public Taps | | Commercial / Industrial | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Consumption, cu. m. | Peso / cu. m. | Consumption, cu. m. | Peso / cu. m. |
| 0 - 10 (min.) | P 220.00 (min.) | 0 - 25 (min.) | P 1,000.00 (min.) |
| 11 - 20 | 24.00 | 26 - 1000 | 53.00 |
| 21 - 30 | 26.50 | Over 1000 | 57.00 |
| 31 - 40 | 28.50 | | |
| 41 - 50 | 30.50 | | |
| Over 50 | 32.50 | | |

Notice is hereby given that this application will be initially heard by the Board on August 5, 2019, hearing will start at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the NWRB-WJD Conference Room 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cavite and send by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same of the applicant.

Failure on the part of any affected party to file its opposition on time and do appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 1st day of July 2019.

By Authority of the Board:
Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, JR., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:
The Secretary
Sangguniang Bayan
General Trias, Cavite
The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Kawayan 2
General Trias, Cavite

Homeowners Assn. President
Breezewoods Getri Homes Subd.
Barangay Pasong Kawayan 2,
General Trias, Cavite

(REMATE: July 6, 2019)L