

DATE : 11 JUL 2019

DAY : Thursday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**

# Kantalikasan, environment awareness through music

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has turned to music to promote environmental awareness and change.

Through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), DENR recently launched a music album dubbed "KANTALIKASAN" featuring songs about nature to help inspire people to do something good for the environment.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu expressed high hopes that the music album would serve its purpose of encouraging more people to care for the environment even as he congratulated the producers, composers and others who have taken part in the undertaking.

"We are optimistic that through this medium, we can deliver the message across that all Filipinos should be empowered to take care

of our environment and natural resources," Cimatu said.

The DENR chief also urged everyone to "not just listen to the songs, but also share and apply the message behind each song – that we only have one life to live, one planet to love, and many chances to make a difference for our environment and natural resources."

Featured in the album are the winning entries in the KANTALIKASAN Environmental Songwriting Competition organized by the EMB-Central Office last year.

Interpreted by the DENR's KANTALIKASAN Environmental Singing Ambassadors, all songs are original compositions focusing on environmental protection, conservation and preservation. The songs are in various genres, such as pop, ballad and classical.

DENR-NCR regional executive

director Jacqueline Caanca said the album was produced by the EMB's Environmental Education and Information Division, in collaboration with Ivory Music and Video, and Studio Z Audio Productions and Recording.

The album features environmental songs "Kalikasan at Pag-ibig" composed by KANTALIKASAN champion Oliver Narag; "Kayamanan" by Bejay Fabia; "Para sa mga Musmos pang Darating" by Rochelle Anne Rodriguez; and "Liliwanag Din ang Ating Mundo" by Arnold Ramos.

Other songs in the album are "Kalikasan ay Kayamanan," "Kalikasan," "Himig ng Inang Kalikasan," "Katapusan," "Kalikasan ay Kalakasan" and "Tayo nang Gumising."

The album is featured on streaming sites Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, Deezer and YouTube.



# DESPITE RESCUE, SURVIVAL SLIM FOR 'STRESSED' PANGOLINS

By Jhesset O. Enano  
and Maricar Cinco  
@Team\_Inquirer

Only three of the 10 Philippine pangolins (*Manis culionensis*) rescued from wildlife traffickers two weeks ago have survived, illustrating an increasingly grim future for the endangered species.

Through the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), the three pangolins—one full-grown and two juvenile—made it back to their home in the Palawan forests on Monday, from where they had been snatched by men who intended to sell them for a hefty price nearly 800 kilometers away in Manila.

Even the three had “low chances” of survival, Emerson Sy of the Philippine Center for Terrestrial and Aquatic Research (PCTAR) said

**A6**

## FROM A1

on Wednesday.

“They were stressed. If you only saw how they were transported, rolled in some kind of a fishnet and kept inside a basket without food and water,” Sy said.

On June 28, police arrested three men at a checkpoint in Tagaytay City in Cavite province after finding 10 pangolins in a cage inside the compartment of their van.

The suspects were identified as Simfroso Salazar, a driver from Calatagan, Batangas province, and Jorlan Torrequinda and Victor Equiza, both fishermen from Roxas, Palawan province. Salazar later posted bail.

## Binondo destination

According to the PCSD, the three might have made their way from Taytay town in Palawan using small boats, evading law enforcers stationed in major ports. They were reportedly heading to Chinatown in Binondo, Manila.

But while the smugglers were intercepted, the torment suffered by the pangolins had possibly already stretched for many more days, if not weeks, said Glenn Maguad, officer in charge of the Wildlife Rescue Center.

Following the rescue, the pangolins were taken to the rescue center in Quezon City, where Maguad and his team immediately attended to their needs.

“When we received them, they all had severe bruises on their faces and appendages,” the veterinarian said. “They were really trying to escape.”

The animals were given food, first aid and medicines, even if their diets proved very specific to their habitats in Palawan.

## Pregnant pangolin

Maguad said starvation, dehydration, stress and mismanagement in transport had killed the seven pangolins, which included a female pangolin that was carrying a fetus. It had perished along with its mother.

Demand for Philippine pangolin has increased with the influx of foreigners, who consider its scales an important ingredient in traditional medicine and the meat for pricey exotic dishes, a research group said.

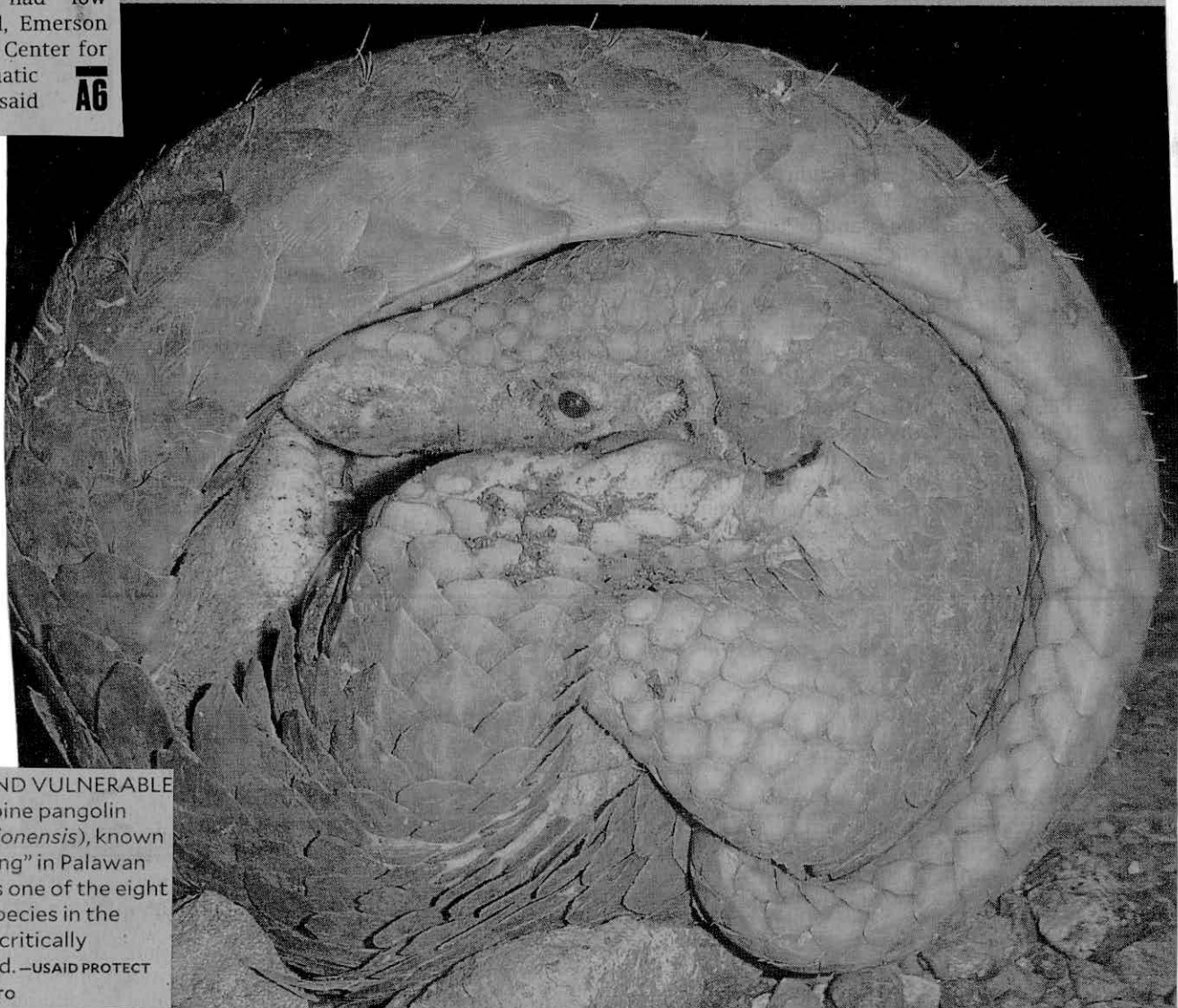
Quoting the suspects, Police Maj. Rodney Baloyo, Tagaytay police chief, said on Wednesday that the poachers were supposed to sell the pangolins for P5,000 each in Metro Manila.

## Restaurant food

The market for pangolin has increased with the influx of foreigners from China and South Korea since 2010, said the PCTAR, which assists the DENR.

Restaurants offer the pan-

## WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING



### BALLED AND VULNERABLE

The Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*), known as “balintong” in Palawan province, is one of the eight pangolin species in the world. It is critically endangered. —USAID PROTECT

WILDLIFE PHOTO

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LET THEM BE All commercial trade of pangolins, such as the critically endangered Philippine Pangolin (*Manis culionensis*), caught in the wild, is illegal under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. —PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE

golin, either stewed or made into soup, "off the menu" for P40,000 per dish.

Sy said the center had monitored illegal trade of pangolins in Angeles City, Pampanga province; Alabang in Muntinlupa City; Binondo and Tondo in Manila; and the cities of Parañaque, Pasay and Caloocan.

According to Sy, locals in Palawan occasionally eat pangolin "only when they happen

to catch one, but it is never actively hunted."

Pangolins were sold on the average for P1,500 per kilogram, he said. An adult pangolin normally weighs 3.5 to 5 kilos.

#### 'Balintong'

The loss of the seven pangolins is yet another blow to the already dwindling population of Philippine pangolins.

One of the eight pangolin

species in the world, little is still known about this mammal, locally known as "balintong," which was only recently described as distinct from its closest relative, the Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*).

Philippine pangolins are classified as critically endangered in Palawan, while the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species as of 2016 listed all pangolin

species under Appendix I, which requires the highest category of protection.

This also meant that all commercial trade of pangolins caught in the wild are illegal.

An ongoing study by wildlife protection group Katala Foundation, funded by USAID Protect Wildlife and in partnership with the PCSD, aims to deeply look into the Philippine pangolin for the first time.

The government and advocates are racing not only against time but also against poachers and traffickers working almost round-the-clock to profit from this species.

USAID Protect Wildlife said pangolin meat can fetch for \$3 to \$5 per kilo. Their scales can sell for as much as \$190 per kilo, or over P9,700.

A single live pangolin can reach up to P25,000, wildlife enforcers said.

"The boundary of Palawan is so porous, and many can get away with one or two pangolins," said Jovic Fabello, PCSD spokesperson.

Levita Lagrada, officer in charge of the regulation and enforcement division of the PCSD's Environmentally Critical Areas Network, said locals should be more involved in looking out for illegal activities in their communities.

"The fight against wildlife trafficking ideally begins at the barangay level," she said. INQ



**DUE FOR RELEASE TO THE WILD**

# PH EAGLE CAUGHT IN CHICKEN TRAP IN EASTERN SAMAR TOWN RESCUED



DENR PHOTO

**ENDANGERED** The discovery of the endangered Philippine eagle in Eastern Samar is proof that forests in Eastern Visayas are healthy, an environment official says.

TACLOBAN CITY—A young Philippine eagle rescued in Eastern Samar province last month would be released back to the wild after undergoing health examination at the Philippine Eagle Foundation Center (PEFC) in Davao City.

The Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), believed to be just 3 years old, was found inside a chicken trap in a forest in Barangay Carayacay, Maslog town, on June 17, the Eastern Visayas regional office of the Department of Environ-

ment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Maslog Vice Mayor Septemio Santiago reported the eagle's discovery to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in the nearby town of Dolores.

### Healthy forests

A team from the regional DENR office went to Dolores to assess the health condition of the eagle, which they named "Maslog E.S.," referring to the town and the province where it

was recovered. Although the eagle was in good condition, it was sent to the PEFC on June 26 for a health check.

"Sightings of the Philippine eagle is extremely rare and protecting them is a challenge," Crizaldy Barcelo, DENR regional director, said.

Barcelo said the discovery of the eagle confirmed the "presence of this critically endangered species in Eastern Samar."

"Its presence in our region is a testament that we still have

healthy forests which we need to sustainably manage and protect," he said.

### Last sighting

Maslog E.S., according to DENR officials, will be released back to its natural habitat in the forests of Maslog, 104 kilometers from the capital city of Borongan.

A Philippine eagle was last seen in the forests of Calbiga, Samar, and Taft, Eastern Samar, in September 2014.

In 2013, a Philippine eagle

was seen near the boundaries of Baybay City, Burauen and Albuera in Leyte province; and Silago, Southern Leyte; months before Super typhoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan) struck the region.

Hunting of the Philippine eagle is strictly prohibited under the Philippine Wildlife Conservation Act of 2001 (Republic Act No. 9147) with penalties of up to 12 years imprisonment and a fine of up to P1 million. —JOEY GABI-

ETA INQ



# Young Philippine eagle rescued from chicken trap in Eastern Samar forest

TACLOBAN CITY — A young Philippine eagle was rescued in Maslog, Eastern Samar and is now under the care of the Philippine Eagle Foundation Center in Davao City.

The Philippine eagle, believed to be just three years old, was found inside a chicken trap in a forest in Barangay Carayacay on June 17, the regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

On that same day, Maslog Vice Mayor Septemio Santiago reported the discovery of the Philippine eagle

(*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) based in the nearby town of Dolores, also in Eastern Samar.

A team from the regional DENR office immediately went to Dolores to conduct an assessment of the eagle, which they named 'Maslog E.S.' referring to the town and the province where it was recovered.

"Sightings of the Philippine eagle is extremely rare and protecting them is a challenge," Crizaldy Barcelo, DENR regional executive director, said.

The rescued Philippine eagle, while said to be in good condition, was brought to the Davao City-based Philippine Eagle Foundation Center on June 26 for further examination.

Maslog E.S will be released back to its natural habitat in the forest of Maslog, a remote town in Eastern Samar.

The discovery of the eagle confirms the "presence of this critically endangered species in Eastern Samar," Barcelo said.

"Its presence in our region is a testament that we still have healthy forests which we need to sustainably manage and

protect," he said.

A Philippine eagle was last seen in the forests of Calbiga, Samar and Taft, Eastern Samar in September 2014.

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Hunting of the Philippine eagle is strictly prohibited under the Philippine Wildlife Conservation Act of 2001, with penalties of up to 12 years imprisonment and a fine

of up to P1 million.

In 1995, former president Fidel Ramos declared the Philippine eagle the country's national bird.

It is endemic to the Philippines and can be found in the islands of Eastern Luzon, Samar, Leyte, and Mindanao.

The Philippine eagle is one of DENR's priority threatened species for conservation and is listed as "critically endangered" per DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-15 on the list of terrestrial threatened species and their categories and under the International Union for Conservation of Nature. —*Inquirer*



## Capas residents receive land titles

**By Jonas Reyes**

CAPAS, Tarlac – A total of 200 residents here were given land titles by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

According to Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Celia Esteban, the agency distributed 70 sales patent encompassing 7,102 square meters and 215 residential patents covering more than two hectares of the O'Donnell resettlement site in Capas.

Esteban said the area was used as a resettlement site in 1991 for Mount Pinatubo evacuees whose houses were destroyed by the eruption of the volcano.

She said the move of the DENR is part of the administration's contribution in promoting social justice and alleviating poverty in the rural sector.

The distribution was held at the Cristo Rey resettlement area in Capas, Tarlac.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## No rains in sight

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

There will be a low chance of precipitation in the next three to five days, as the country experiences a monsoon break.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather specialist Ezra Bulquerin said a slightly stronger southwest monsoon or 'habagat' continues to affect the extreme Northern Luzon, causing moderate to rough seas off the coast of Batanes, Babuyan Island, Calayan Island, and Ilocos Norte.

Those with small seacraft should not set sail into these areas.

Bulquerin said the effect of habagat over the rest of the country remains weak, which could bring less rainfall, apart from short-lived rain showers from thunderstorms, in the coming days.

PAGASA said Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms this Thursday.

It warned that sudden rains due to severe thunderstorm activity, which may occur in the afternoon or evening, may cause flash floods or landslides in low-lying or mountainous areas.

Bulquerin said the weather bureau does not see the formation of a low pressure area near or within the Philippine area of responsibility in the next 24 hours.

With the lack of rainfall, Metro Manila's main water supply source, Angat Dam has further dwindled on Wednesday.

Based on the PAGASA's monitoring as of Wednesday morning, the water level at Angat Dam was down to 160.30 meters, which is 0.28 meters lower than last Tuesday's 160.58 meters.



## Angat dam water level dipping back to critical

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – Metro Manila residents should continue strict water conservation efforts as the water level of Angat dam here is just a few centimeters above its 160-meter critical level.

Maricel Cruz of the Bulacan provincial public affairs office said that as of 2 p.m. yesterday, the water level of Angat Dam was monitored at 160.18 meters or only 18 centimeters above critical.

It was recorded earlier yesterday at 160.28 meters at 8 a.m. and 160.24 at 11 a.m. If it breaches the critical level, it will be the second time since the start of this year's rainy season.

Mary Joy David, project development officer II of the Bureau

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## Angat From Page 1

of Soils and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture, told **The STAR** that cloud seeding operations are continuing in the vicinity of Angat and La Mesa watershed so that rains would replenish the two dams.

Currently, an average of two to three sorties per day are being made for the cloud-seeding operations, depending on the presence of seedable clouds within the watershed areas, David added.

Bro. Martin Francisco, chairman of the Sagip Sierra Madre Environmentalists Society Inc.

based in Sitio Suha, Barangay San Mateo in Norzagaray, Bulacan, said that in the past five days there were no heavy rains in the Angat watershed.

Angat Dam provides 97 percent of the potable water needs of Metro Manila residents who are currently experiencing rotational water service interruptions.

The National Water Resources Board slashed the water allocation to Metro Manila's water concessionaires Maynilad Water Services and Manila Water when Angat Dam breached its 160-meter critical level last June 22.

Angat Dam's priority is for the potable water needs of Metro Ma-

nila residents, followed by power generation for electricity and lastly for irrigation purposes for Bulacan and some of Pampanga's farms.

Environmentalists have urged the government to prolong the water holding capacity of Angat Dam by intensifying the promotion of forest protection in watershed areas, relocation to other areas of informal settlers, recognize the certificate of ancestral domain of the indigenous people living there, promote tribal-ecotourism in the areas, stop the operators and financiers of illegal loggers from their activities inside the watershed.



## Tubig sa Angat pa-critical level na

HALOS nasa critical level na ang tubig sa Angat dam kahapon ng umaga. Ayon sa datos ng

Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat ay 160.30 metro, mas mababa ng 0.28 metro kumpara sa 160.58 metrong lebel nito noong Martes ng umaga.

Bumaba naman ng 0.05 metro ang tubig sa La Mesa dam o mula 72.26 ay naging 72.21

metro.

Ang dalawang damang pangunahing pinanggagalingan ng supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Nagpapatupad na ng rotational water service interruption ang Manila Water at Maynilad dahil sa kakulangan ng tubig sa mga dam.—*Leifbilly Begas*



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## Cardona water treatment plant helps boost Manila Water supply

MANILA Water Co., Inc. said its Cardona water treatment plant in Rizal province had been producing up to 63 million liters per day (MLD) as of Sunday, July 7, helping the water concessionaire narrow the supply gap that has burdened its customers since March.

In a statement on Wednesday, Metro Manila's east zone water service provider said aside from the new water treatment plant, supply has also been augmented by the rehabilitation of existing deep wells and the construction of new ones. The total yield from all operational deep wells has reached 58 MLD.

Manila Water also cited the reduction of its system loss or non-revenue water (NRW) as among the reasons that helped ease the water deficiency that started from 150 MLD in March and reaching almost 350 MLD in late June when the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) reduced its allocation for domestic use in Metro Manila from Angat Dam.

"With an average production of 1,500 MLD, the 4.5% improvement in NRW translated to almost 70 MLD volume of water which we can use to help to bridge the deficit," said Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo P. Basilio.

From an average of 12% NRW from late last year to early this year, it has been reduced to 7.5% in June 2019.

"While we have increased our efficiencies and the technical solutions we have put in place are ensuring we are able to distribute the still-limited supply as equitably as we can, we cannot rest and let our guard down," Mr. Basilio said.

"The water supply situation remains volatile and continue to change day to day as Angat, Ipo and La Mesa dams remain in sub-ideal levels. We are keeping to our commitment of working towards 24/7 supply at 7 psi pressure, or reaching only up to the ground floor, for all customers," he added.

In March, Manila Water said the Cardona facility was expected to add 31 MLD within that month before reaching 50 MLD by end-March and hitting its full capacity of 100 MLD by August.

In the same month, it said deep wells would add about 30 MLD more, while discussions were in place with the other Metro Manila concessionaire for a cross-border flow of 32 MLD to help ease the shortage.

The east zone concessionaire has been experiencing a water supply deficit since March 6, which came about as water demand reached 1,750 MLD while supply remained at 1,600 MLD. The Cardona water treatment plant failed to meet its target launch in late 2018 because of technical issues. — **Victor V. Saulon**



# Manila Water boosts supply in East Zone

BY JORDEENE B. LAGARE

**T**HE Manila Water Company Inc. (Manila Water) said it was able to improve supply in the East Zone concession area following the crunch that affected its customers earlier this year.

In a statement on Wednesday, Manila Water said the supply deficit climbed to almost 350

million liters per day (mld) from 150 mld in March. But it offset the supply gap with higher pro-

treatment plant in Rizal and deep wells.

The National Water Resources Board had cut water releases from Angat Dam, the primary source of water for Metro Manila and adjacent provinces.

The Cardona facility, which draws water from the central portion of Laguna Lake, is already producing up to 63 mld. In addi-

yielding 58 mld.

"With an average production of 1,500 mld, the 4.5 percent improvement in NRW (non-revenue water) translated to almost 70 mld volume of water which we can use to help to bridge the deficit," Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo Basilio said.

Manila Water services the cities of Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig,

parts of Quezon City and Manila. It also serves Antipolo City, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-Jala, Morong, Pililla, Rodriguez, Tanay, Taytay and San Mateo in Rizal.

"While we have increased our efficiencies and the technical solutions we have put in place are ensuring we are able to distribute the still-limited supply as equita-

let our guard down. The water supply situation remains volatile and continue to change day to day as Angat, Ipo and La Mesa Dams remain in sub-ideal levels," Basilio said.

"We are keeping to our commitment of working towards 24/7 supply at 7 psi pressure, or reaching only up to the ground floor, for all customers," he added.



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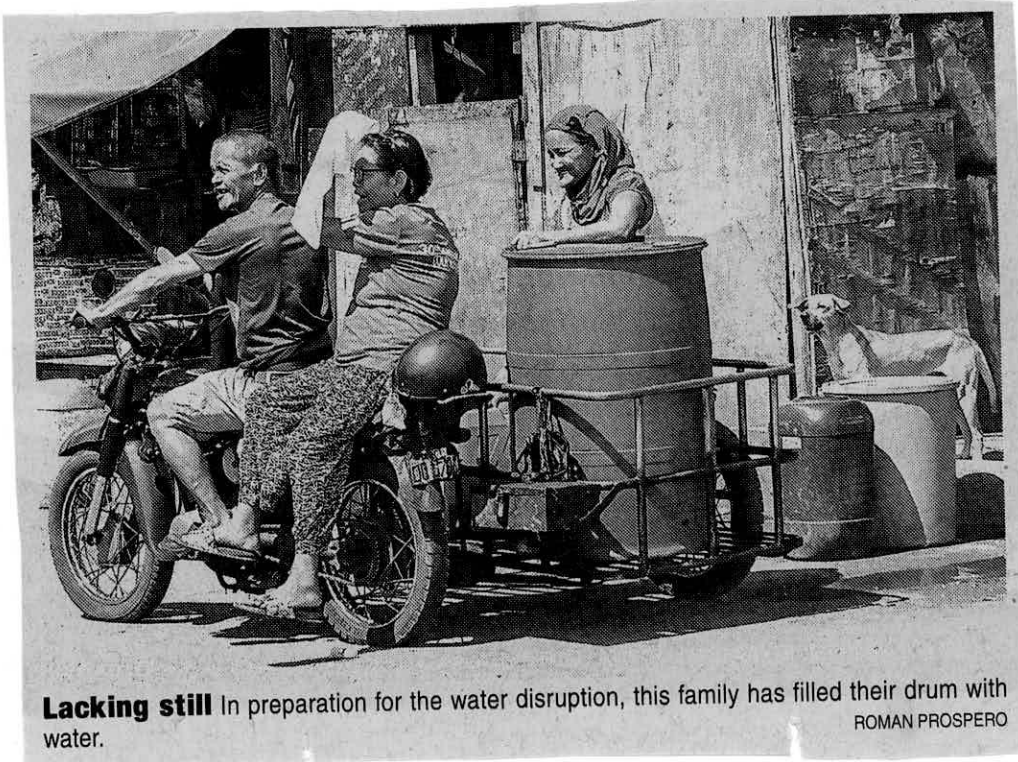
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**Lacking still** In preparation for the water disruption, this family has filled their drum with water.

ROMAN PROSPERO



## Vizcaya lumad battles open pit mining firm

By ARTEMIO DUMLAO

BAGUIO CITY – Indigenous people in Nueva Vizcaya are banking on the national government to stop the open pit mining operations of a foreign company, which have allegedly wreaked havoc on the environment.

The Philippine Task Force for Indigenous Peoples' Rights (TFIP) expressed support for the Igorot and Ifugao tribes in Kasibu and other parts of Nueva Vizcaya as it urged the Australian-Canadian firm OceanaGold to shelve operations.

OceanaGold's Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) with the government expired on June 20. Its underground Didipio Gold and Copper Mine started open-pit commercial production in 2013.

Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Carlos Padilla has issued a cease-and-desist order (CDO) against OceanaGold. An FTAA is a license agreement issued to a multinational company that will share technology and resources to explore and extract minerals in the Philippines.

Anti-mining groups including the TFIP have been deploring OceanaGold's mine operations due to alleged "severe environmental damage and human rights violations it has committed."

More than a decade of destructive mining has damaged the ecosystem and indigenous peoples' livelihoods, they claimed, adding "numerous violations of indigenous peoples' rights occurred during their active operations such as forced evictions and burning of homes of indigenous and peasant families from 2008 to 2009."

A study by American, Canadian and Filipino researchers led by Catherine Coumans, John Cavanagh, Rico La Vina and Robin Broad on Oct. 29, 2018 found a number of instances where OceanaGold had not adhered to commitments under its mining permit and various Philippine laws and regulations including ample documentation of the detrimental impacts of the firm's mine on water, forests, land, indigenous peoples, human rights, biodiversity and workers' rights.

also found out that Nueva Vizcaya's agriculture – one of Luzon's main sources of fruits and vegetables – is "threatened by adverse environmental impacts of the mine."

Elevated levels of copper, lead, manganese, cadmium, sulfates, iron, arsenic and selenium were also found in rivers and streams around the mine, potentially decreasing agricultural yields and impacting fish in the surrounding waterways, they said in the report.

The researchers have visited the Didipio mine on fact-finding missions four times since 2013 and accordingly have studied numerous reports and other fact-finding missions on OceanaGold's record in the Philippines.

"We have carefully reviewed the multitude of complaints about the mine from the local community and provincial authorities dating back to when construction began. This report lays out the results of our investigation, including our finding of numerous violations by OceanaGold of its FTAA and of national and provincial laws and decrees," they explained.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau, however, has virtually permitted OceanaGold's continued operations pending renewal of its FTAA.

OceanaGold's FTAA 1 now only covers 10,266 hectares, including the currently operating mine in a 925-hectare area in Barangay Didipio in the mineral-rich upland town of Kasibu.

More residents have become dependent on the mining operation for their livelihood and are instead pushing for renewal of the firm's FTAA. "We may have been divided because of the mining project, but please let us maintain peace and harmony in our communities and let us not allow mining issues to destroy our culture and unity," the governor said.

Legal experts in the mining industry also claim that the actions made by the local government unit to stop OGPI's operations may not have legal effect. They said the local government may not be authorized to do so as it is the Office of the President that has the final say on the continuance or stoppage of OceanaGold's operation.

The provincial government may have crossed its boundaries by claiming the authority which only belongs to the President, the experts explained.

The provincial board in a special session last week has also declared all mining activities in Didipio as "illegal."



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## Rehabilitasyon sa El Nido, Siargao at Panglao nakaumang na

Inihahanda na ng Department of Tourism (DOT) ang mga hakbang para isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang El Nido at Coron sa Palawan, Siargao at Panglao Island sa Bohol.

Sinabi ni Tourism Assistant Secretary Roberto Alabado sa economic briefing sa Malacañang na kumikilos na ang binuong technical working group upang i-monitor at kausapin ang mga opisyal na nakakasakop sa mga nabanggit na tourist destination.

Gaya ng ginawang rehabili-

tasyon sa Boracay island, sinabi ni Alabado na pangangasiwaan itong muli ng DOT, Department of Interior and Local Government at Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Pero nilinaw ng opisyal na hindi isasara ang mga nabanggit na lugar sa mga turista, 'di tulad ng ginawa sa Boracay island.

Sinabi ni Alabada na tututok ang tatlong ahensiya sa mga establisimyentong iligal na nag-cooperate at hindi sumusunod sa mga regulasyong itinakda ng gobyerno. **(Aileen Taliping)**



## 20 illegal loggers, arestado

COL. RAFAEL C. RODRIGUEZ, Butuan City - Nasa dalawampung umano'y illegal loggers ang naaaresto ng mga awtoridad sa magkakahiwalay na anti-illegal logging operations sa Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Sur at Surigao del Norte, kamakailan.

Bukod sa pagkakadakip ng mga suspek, nasamsam din ng Caraga Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) ang aabot sa P188,700 na halaga ng undocumented forest products.

Sa nabanggit na operasyon, narekober ng pulisya ang 654 board feet ng iligal na kahoy.

"We continue to wage war against environmental law violators in support of the government's environment preservation and forest protection. Those persons responsible in the destruction of our forest shall be brought to justice," ayon naman kay PRO 13 director Gilbert DC Cruz.

**Mike U. Crismundo**





## HULING PAGKAKATAON PARA SA SSS DELINGKWENTENG EMPLOYERS "BAYARAN ANG MGA HINDI NAIHULOG NA KONTRIBUSYON AT ITAMA ANG REKORD"

HINDI hihinto ang Social Security System (SSS) sa paghuli sa mga delingkwenteng employer sa pamamagitan ng pagsasagawa ng ikalawang bugso ng Run After Contribution Evaders (RACE) Campaign.

Ayon kay SSS President at Chief Executive Officer Aurora C. Ignacio, 53 establisimyento ang binisita ng RACE Team at pinaskilan ng Show Cause Order upang ipalalala sa kanila ang mga obligasyon nila sa ilalim ng Batas Republika 11199 o ang Social Security Act of 2018.

Mula sa 53 delingkwenteng establisimyento, 14 dito ay mula sa Binondo sa Lungsod ng Maynila, 13 mula sa Cabanatuan City sa Nueva Ecija, 11 mula sa Lungsod ng Dumaguete sa Negros Oriental, at 15 naman ang mula sa Lungsod ng Iligan. Inaasahan na P4.12 milyon na halaga ng hindi nabayarang kontribusyon ang makokolekta ng mga sangay ng SSS na nakakasakop sa mga lugar na nabanggit.

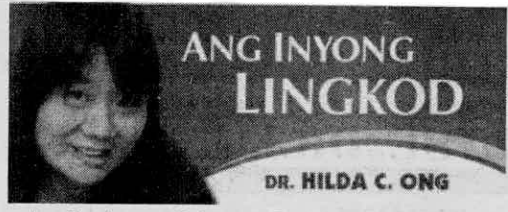
Lahat ng employers na sumailalim sa RACE operation ay kinakailangang tumugon sa Show Cause Order sa loob ng 15 araw mula sa pagkakataskil ng abiso upang maiwasan na sila ay

makasuhan.

"Maiwasan ng mga employer na mapabilang sa mga establisimyento sumasailalim sa Run After Contribution Evaders Campaign sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na sangay ng SSS upang tumalima sa batas. Sa kasalukuyan, mayroon kaming ipinatutupad na Contribution Penalty Condonation program kung saan maaari nilang bayaran ang mga hindi naihulog na kontribusyon ng hindi papatawan ng anumang multa," sabi ni Ignacio.

"Hinihimok namin ang mga employer na mag-aplay sa nasabing program at bayaran ang anumang obligasyon nila sa SSS. Tatakbo lamang ang programa hanggang Setyembre 1 ngayong taon. Ito ay magandang pagkakataon upang linisin nila ang kanilang rekord sa SSS at bayaran ang kanilang mga obligasyon ng walang multa," dagdag niya.

Ito na ang ikalawang beses na isinagawa ng ahensya ang magkakasabay na RACE Campaign sa buong bansa. Ang unang bugso ng RACE Campaign ay isinagawa sa Lungsod ng Mandaluyong, Lungsod ng San Fernando sa Pampanga, Lung-



## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

sod ng Mandaue sa Cebu at Lungsod ng Dipolog sa Zamboanga del Norte noong Hunyo 14.

-ooOoo-

### ONE MILLION TREES, ITINANIM SA CAPIZ

Muling nagsama-sama nitong June 25, 2019 kaugnay sa selebrasyon ng 'Arbor Day' sa Provincial Government of Capiz ang daandang empleyado ng pamahalaan, mga estudyante, civic groups, at mga pribadong indibidwal para magtanim ng isang milyong puno sa isang araw.

Tumulong din ang mga barangay official at tanod, benepisyaryo ng Pantawid Pamilya, senior citizens, at mga mangingisda.

Tinawag na 'One Million Trees in One Day Challenge' sa pangunguna ng CAPENRO o ang Capiz Provincial

Environment and Natural Resources Office katuwang ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine Coconut Authority, Department of Agriculture, at Capiz State University na nagbigay ng tree seedlings at teknikal na tulong.

Noong taong 2018 kung saan isinagawa ang kauna-unahang tree planting challenge, umabot sa one point fourteen million (1.14 million) tree seedlings ang naitanim kung saan ayon sa imbentaryo ng CAPENRO ay higit six hundred thousand (600,000) ang nabuhay. Para sa CAPENRO, dahil sa pangangailangan ng tao ang dahilan ng mabilis na pagkakaalbo at pagkaubos ng tree resources ng bansa, tao rin ang siyang dapat gumawa ng pamamaraan upang muling maibalik ang balanse sa kalikasan.





## PAGPAPALAGO NG KAGUBATAN PAGTUTULUNGAN NG MGA BANSA SA ASEAN

**PARA** palakasin ang regional cooperation sa larangan ng forestry nakatakdang dumalo ang mga opisyal ng Southeast Asia's top forestry sa Pilipinas ngayong buwan para sa gaganaping 22nd ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry Meeting na dadaluhan ng mga top forestry officials.

Gaganapin ang pulong sa Hulyo 15 hanggang 20 sa Makati City na inoorganisa ng Forest Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at magsasama-sama ang forestry leaders mula sa sampung miyembro ng ASEAN upang talakayin ang sustainable fo-

rest management at ang tinatawag na "transboundary" forest threats.

Ito rin ang magiging simula ng isang taong chairmanship ng bansa sa malaking forest conference at iba pang inisyatibo sa buong rehiyon.

Simula Hulyo 15 hanggang 16 ay gaganapin ang 22nd meeting ng ASEAN Working Group on Forest Products at tatalakayin dito ang pagpapalakas ng kooperasyon ng mga bansa para sa forest product development upang makahanay sa pangkalahatang batayan na nangangalaga sa kapaligiran, lipunan at ekonomiya ng regional forest resources.

Ayon pa sa DENR su-

suportahan din ng gaganaping pagpulong ang pagpaunlad sa medicinal at aromatic plant industries kabilang din dito ang konserbasyon habang patuloy itong ginagamit.

Tatalakayin ang Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), ecotourism at ang mga benepisyo na nakukuha ng mga komunidad mula sa PES.

Itinatakda ng PES na magtanim muna ng puno ang isang tao bago ito mamutol ng punongkahoy na bahagi na rin ng National Greening Program para maayos ang 1.9 milyong ektaryang nasirang kagubatan at madagdagan ang forest cover ng bansa.

**SANTI CELARIO**



# GOV'T 'SECRET TALKS' WITH FISHERMEN HIT

STORY BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

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**Lawyers for fishermen who wanted the government to protect Philippine fishing grounds decried the underhanded and unethical way the state counsels persuaded their clients to withdraw their petition from the Supreme Court.**

## FROM A1

By **Dona Z. Pazzibugan**  
@dpazzibuganINQ

Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno, a lawyer for a group of fishermen who had asked for an environmental protection order from the Supreme Court, has accused the government of underhanded tactics for talking to his clients behind his back to get them to withdraw the case.

"It is not only suspicious that the government secretly talked to our clients, that also violates legal ethics," said Diokno, a human rights lawyer who ran for senator last May.

"It seems Filipinos had another Recto-22," he added, referring to the 22 fishermen from Occidental Mindoro who nearly drowned after a Chinese vessel sank their boat near Recto (Reed) Bank off Palawan province on June 9. After government officials met with them, the fishermen said they were no longer sure

what happened.

Filed in the Supreme Court on April 16, the petition sought to compel the government to enforce the July 2016 international arbitral court ruling against China's expansive claims to almost the entire South China Sea, including parts of the Philippines' 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ), whose resources are exclusively reserved for Filipinos.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) filed the petition for a writ of kalikasan, a special court order for environmental protection covering three Philippine features in the West Philippine Sea, waters within the country's EEZ. The petition claims the marine environment in and around these features have been destroyed by China's reclamation and poaching activities.

Diokno maintained on Wednesday that the fishermen petitioned for a writ of kalikasan "with full knowledge and consent, because all they want is to fish in our own seas



Jose Calida

and to earn enough to support their families."

### Met by Navy lawyer

He complained that after a Philippine Navy lawyer talked to the fishermen, they withdrew the petition and denied any hand in it.

"As one of the lawyers in this case, I am more concerned about the safety of our fishermen. The Duterte administration showed that nothing could get in its way. I hope they use



Chel Diokno —EDWIN BACASMAS

that power to protect their fellow Filipinos," he said.

The second round of oral arguments on the petition on Tuesday ended abruptly after Solicitor General Jose Calida revealed that the petitioners—19 fishermen from Palawan and Zambales—were withdrawing from the writ of kalikasan case filed on their behalf by the IBP.

Asking the magistrates to dismiss the case outright, Calida presented the fishermen's sworn statements and showed



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in court a taped interview of the group's leaders, Monico Abogado and Roberto Asiado, who claimed they were "deceived" into signing the petition.

Calida quoted Abogado's sworn statement in Filipino: "This is a big deception and manipulation of our association. We attest that we have no knowledge about this petition filed against agencies of the government. We don't know anything about this and we don't support the petition filed."

Diokno told the magistrates that he was able to speak with three of the fishermen and insisted that they willingly agreed to act as petitioners.

#### Suspended proceedings

Chief Justice Lucas Bersamin suspended Tuesday's proceedings and called all the lawyers to a conference. About 15 minutes later, Associate Justice Marvic Leonen announced that the court unanimously decided to suspend the rest of the proceedings and give both par-

ties time to file a joint motion.

Calida told reporters "both sides agreed that the writ of kalikasan petition (should) be dismissed," adding that they would file the joint petition by Friday.

Diokno said the two parties only agreed "to explore the filing of a joint motion in the premises and were given until Friday to do so."

In moving for its dismissal, Calida said the petition was meant to compel the government to confront China with the arbitral award, which the President shelved to pursue better trade and investments from China.

The international arbitral tribunal ruled that China's historical claims were baseless under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and upheld Philippines' sovereign rights over its EEZ.

"Since it is China which caused the environmental degradation, then the remedy falls within foreign relations," Calida said, adding that the court had no jurisdiction in crafting foreign policy. INQ



## Diokno smells 'something fishy' in withdrawal of West Philippine Sea writ case

By JOEL R. SAN JUAN

[@jrspanjuan1573](#)

**H**UMAN-RIGHTS lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno on Wednesday maintained that the fisherfolk from Palawan and Zambales consented to the filing of a petition for writ of kalikasan with continuing mandamus before the Supreme Court ostensibly for the protection of the country's territories in the

West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Diokno issued the statement following Solicitor General Jose Calida's submission of affidavits executed by fishermen denying their involvement in the filing of the petition and that they are withdrawing the same.

"Fisherfolk from Zambales and Palawan filed the petition for writ of kalikasan for them to be protected by the government. They did this

with full knowledge because they just want to fish in our seas and earn sufficient money for a living," Diokno said.

He also expressed belief that the government may be behind the decision of the fisherfolk to withdraw their petition, noting that the fisherfolk reportedly decided to withdraw, or desist from pursuing the case, they held a talk with the legal counsel of the Philippine Navy.

"The stealthy meeting of the government with our client is not only suspicious, but is also contrary to legal ethics. It looks like Filipinos will be put in the same situation as the 22 fishermen in Recto Bank," Diokno said.

The SC on Tuesday suspended the conduct of the second oral argument on the petition after Calida moved to submit 19 affidavits from the fisherfolk who

are withdrawing their petition.

The magistrates then summoned all the parties to a closed-door conference and afterward ordered the suspension of the oral argument.

Calida said during the conference that both the petitioners and respondents have agreed to dismiss the petition by Friday.

SC Spokesman Brian Keith Hosaka said it is not in a position

to confirm Calida's account.

The petitioners have accused the Duterte administration of neglect and failure to preserve and protect the WPS from harmful activities, including poaching and illegal fishing by foreign fishermen.

But Calida said there is no need for a writ of kalikasan since the government is doing its job and mandate to secure the WPS.



STRATEGIC  
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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## DUTERTE'S SONA SHOULD TACKLE WPS

ASIDE from the drug issue that the Duterte administration continues to fight head-on, there is another issue that deserves the government's attention—the West Philippine Sea.

It has been three years since the favorable ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China. Sadly, it never ended the problem, as Beijing continues to flex its muscle over the vast sea, enjoying that part on which we have exclusive rights.

The recent report on a Filipino fishing vessel rammed by a Chinese vessel further aggravates the situation. This makes it more compelling for the President to look into the situation. He must express his plans on this issue during his State of the Nation Address and set his policy straight once and for all. We need to hear him speak, because much is at stake. In fact, over the years, much of our marine resources

have been lost, ultimately depriving us of our own.

Our exclusive economic zone (EEZ)—the source of income of our fishermen and the country's food and energy source as well—should be nonnegotiable to aggressors and those that want to own what in the first place is not theirs. We must exert every effort to assert our right over our EEZ and enforce the ruling we won.

There are actually realistic ways to do this. War is not among them. Thinking of resorting to war is cowardice. Agreements that would allow Chinese use of resources within our EEZ may be of help, but we should never yield to outside powers just because they impress with friendlier ties. Our government must always uphold the Constitution and enforce its intent. Three years remain for President Duterte. He still has time to act on this.

MARK JEROME T. BONGALON,  
Matagbac, Tabaco City, Albay

## Fishermen claim deception in 'kalikasan' petition

By EDU PUNAY

Several fishermen in Palawan and Zambales yesterday claimed they were deceived by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in filing the Supreme Court (SC) petition seeking to compel the government to protect disputed

shoals in the West Philippine Sea from Chinese poachers.

In their affidavits obtained by The STAR, the supposed petitioners said they were unaware of IBP's filing of the writ of *kalikasan* petition and that some of them were made to sign a blank document.

Turn to Page 2

## Fishermen

From Page 1

Three fishermen – Wilfredo Labandelo, Rolando Labandelo and Nilo Labrador – recalled seeking the help of the IBP chapter in Zambales regarding the closure of a school and demolition of their houses in Sitio Kinabukasan.

But they said they did not ask the assistance of the IBP for protection of the environment in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, Ayungin Shoal and Panganiban (Mischief) Reef as indicated in the SC petition.

"They explained to us that they would help us, so they asked for our IDs and we signed a document with only our names in it," read their joint affidavit in Filipino, which was submitted to the SC in oral argument last Tuesday.

The members of Samahang Mangingisda ng Kinabukasan ng Cawag, Subic said the document was blank and that the representative of IBP Zambales told them they would

take care of the contents of the document.

"We sought help from IBP without any intention to file a complaint or petition against agencies of the government like BFAR, DENR, DA, Philippines Coast Guard and others. We weren't also informed at any instance that we will file any case against the said agencies," the fishermen stressed.

Ten members of the Kalayaan Palawan Farmers and Fisherfolk Association told the SC in a separate joint affidavit that they also did not give consent to the IBP for using them as petitioners in the writ of *kalikasan* petition.

"We have nothing to do with the petition and we did not sign any petition against the government agencies. We cannot sue these agencies of government because they are the ones helping us fishermen," read their affidavit.

The groups' leaders, Monico

Abogado and Roberto Asiado, corroborated the claim of their fellow fishermen.

"This is a big deception and manipulation of our association. We attest that we have no knowledge about this petition against agencies of the government," Abogado said in his affidavit.

"We don't know anything about this and we don't support the petition filed," Asiado added.

Solicitor General Jose Calida moved for the dismissal of the petition because the counsels for petitioners no longer have legal standing to pursue the case without the petitioners.

### Unethical

Meanwhile, one of the lawyers of the fishermen accused the government of being behind the withdrawal of the petition.

De La Salle University law dean Chel Diokno, who was grilled by justices about the issue during the hearing, said the development was suspicious.

"The fishermen of Zambales and Palawan filed a petition

for writ of *kalikasan* so they will be protected by the government. They did this with full knowledge and consent," Diokno said.

Diokno, along with lawyer Andre Palacios, both representing the IBP, filed the case on behalf of the fishermen.

Diokno noted the fishermen's withdrawal of the case happened following a meeting with a lawyer of the Navy.

"The government secretly talking with our clients is not just dubious, it also violates legal ethics. It seems that this is another case of Recto 22," said Diokno, referring to the 22 fishermen whose fishing boat was sunk by a Chinese vessel near Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea.

"As a lawyer for this case, I am more concerned for the safety of our fishermen. This incident showed how powerful is this administration. I hope the government will use (its power) to protect fellow Filipinos," he said.

– With Helen Flores



## #nationataglance

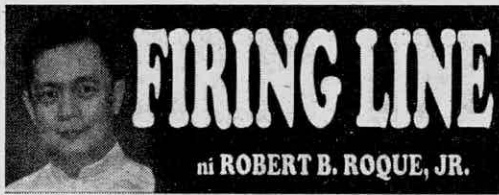
### NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

#### Diokno asserts fisherfolk consented to West PHL Sea petition

FISHERFOLK FROM Palawan and Zambales consented to the petition for Writ of Kalikasan from the Supreme Court (SC) which sought the protection of the country's territories in the West Philippine Sea, lawyer Jose Manuel I. Diokno assured. The statement came following the submission of the Office of the Solicitor General of affidavits by fishermen who withdrew from the petition. "*Nagsampa ng petition for Writ of Kalikasan ang mga mangingisda ng Zambales at Palawan para protektahan sila ng gobyerno* (Fisherfolk from Zambales and Palawan filed the petition for Writ of Kalikasan for them to be protected by the government). They did this with full knowledge and consent, *dahil ang gusto lang naman nila eh makapangisda sa sarili nating dagat, at kumita ng sapat para mabuhay ang kanilang mga pamilya* (because all they want is to fish in our own seas and earn sufficient money for their families)," he said in a statement. Mr. Diokno also claimed that the government could be behind the withdrawal of the petitioners as they have disowned it only after they talked with the legal counsel of the Philippine Navy, which he said was done covertly. "*Labag din sa legal ethics 'yan* (That is against legal ethics)," he said, adding that it is similar to the case of the 22 fishermen in Recto Bank who recanted their original statement after government officials talked to them. Solicitor-General Jose C. Calida moved to submit 19 affidavits from the fisherfolk who are withdrawing their petition during the oral arguments last Tuesday, and told reporters after that both parties have agreed to dismiss the petition. SC Public Information Office Chief Brian Keith F. Hosaka, on the other hand, said the high court cannot confirm what was agreed upon by the parties. The SC suspended the oral arguments following the submission of the affidavits. — **Vann Marlo M. Villegas**

JUL 11 2019





## P33B NAWAWASAK TAON-TAON

DAHIL sa patuloy na reclamasyon at ilegal na pangngisda ng China, ang ating bansa ay nawawalan ng nakalululang P33.1 bilyon taon-taon bunga ng nawawasak na reef ecosystems sa Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal at Spratly Islands.

Lalong nakabibigla na ang naturang bilang ay konserbatibong pagtantiya lamang, ani Deo Florence Onda, isang siyentipiko mula sa University

of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI).

Ang halaga ng kawalan at danyos ay narating umano sa paggamit ng baseline value o halagang \$353,429 (P18 million) kada ektarya kada taon para sa coral reefs na lumabas sa pag-aaral na isinagawa ng isang Dutch information at analytics company.

Elsevier, isa sa mga nangungunang tagapag-

bigay ng medical, scientific at technical information ay nagsagawa ng pag-aaral, ang "Global estimates of the value of ecosystems and their services in monetary value" noong 2012.

May 550 ektarya ang nawasak na reef ecosystems sa Panatag at 1,300 ektarya sa Spratly Islands, ayon sa satellite images.

Ang maramihang pagkuha ng higitang taklobo ng mga mangingisdang Tsino at reklamasyon ng kanilang gobyerno upang makapagtayo ng pitong artipisyal na isla ang dapat umanong sisihin sa pinakaseryosong pagkawasak.

Ayon pa kay Onda, ang pagbaba sa produksyon ng pangngisda sa Pilipinas ay magpapatuloy at posibleng maging banta sa seguridad ng pagkain kung

ang bawal na aktibidad ay magpapatuloy.

Ang iba't ibang ecosystem ng bansa ay magkakaugnay, dagdag ni Onda, at hindi maganda kung magpo-focus lang tayo sa iisa.

Ito ang kanyang reaksyon sa naunang komento ni Supreme Court Associate Justice Andres Reyes Jr. na ang gobyerno ay walang sapat na mapagkukunan para bantayan ang lahat ng shoal sa bansa.

Bilang alternatibo, iminungkahi niya na ang pera ay gastahin sa rehabilitasyon ng Pasig River.

Hindi ito masamang ideya sa kabuuan dahil ang ilog ay nangangalinasaw sa polusyon sa mga nakalipas na dekada pero dapat maging bahagi lang ito ng talaan

ng gagawin ng pamahalaan.

Nagpahayag si Onda na dapat nating maunawaan ang buong ecosystem dahil may malakas na ugnayan sa pagitan ng kalupaan at karagatan. Kung mabibigo tayong protektahan ang isa, maapektuhan ang iba pa.

Ang mga bagay na may kaugnayan sa kalikasan at natural na yaman ay hindi dapat umanong isinasagrupa dahil maraming Pinoy ang umasa sa mga ecosystem para sa pagkain at kabuhayan.

Samantala, nagpahayag ang maritime law expert na si Jay Batongbacal na malamang maubos ang marine resources sa loob ng ilang taon kung hindi mapipigilan ang mga mangingisdang Tsino ng pangngisda sa ating karagatan.

Ang Scarborough Shoal ay pwedeng mawala sa loob ng limang taon dahil pati ang bahura ay winawasak ng Chinese poachers.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Gov't agencies to sign pact to regulate influx of illegal foreign workers

By **JEFFREY G. DAMICOG**

**A**n inter-agency agreement to regulate the influx of illegal foreign workers in the country is set to be signed today, July 11.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the Joint Memorandum Circular (JCM) will be able to address the problem of illegal workers in the country.

"Appropriate sanctions, including summary deportation, shall be imposed upon foreign workers who shall willfully violate the provisions of the JMC, including non-registration for tax purposes," Guevarra said.

The government agencies participating in the signing of the JCM are the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Immigration (BI), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

The move was made due to concerns over the influx of illegal Chinese workers, particularly those working in Philippine offshore gaming operations (POGO).

"Foreign workers employed in POGOs, particularly Chinese nationals, will be covered by this JMC," he noted.

Meanwhile, Guevarra said there is no need for new legislation to regulate the entry of foreigners into the country since there are proposals to remove from the Bureau of Immigration (BI) the issuance of special work permits (SWP).

"This issue can be addressed in a faster way without amending the law. It's not a question of which agency should be solely responsible for the issuance of SWPs. The issue is, how to tighten up the rules on SWPs. The BI and DOLE only need to work together on this," the Secretary said.

The DOJ explained what is needed is "how to monitor the movement of each and every foreign worker after the expiration of his/her SWP issued by the BI or the long-term alien employment permit (AEPs) issued by the DOLE."

"That requires a lot of intelligence resources so we can control the number at the outset or from their entry here," he stressed.

# Stricter regulations eyed for Chinese illegals

By **EDU PUNAY**

The government is taking stringent measures to regulate the entry of illegal Chinese workers in the country, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said yesterday.

Guevarra said an inter-agency agreement would be signed today to address the growing number of foreign workers, particularly in Philippine offshore gaming operations (POGO).

He said among the possible actions to be taken under the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) is the summary deportation of foreign workers without work permits.

"Appropriate sanctions, including deportation, will be imposed on foreign workers who violate the provisions of the JMC, including non-registration for tax purposes," Guevarra said.

"Foreign workers employed in POGOs, particularly Chinese, will be covered by the JMC," he added.

The JMC will be signed by the Department of Justice and Bureau of Immigration (BI) with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Professional Regulation Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

The agencies took such action amid the reported influx of illegal Chinese workers in the country.

Guevarra explained that the enforcement of the JMC could be an alternative to a proposal in the Senate to remove from the BI the authority to issue special work permits (SWPs) to foreigners.

While Guevarra admitted that there are loopholes in the implementation of the law covering

foreign workers, he said this could be plugged through closer coordination among concerned government agencies such as the BI and DOLE.

He said there is no need for legislative action to address the problem on illegal foreign workers in the country, as suggested by Sen. Joel Villanueva during the hearing of the Senate committee on labor, employment and human resources development last week.

"This issue can be addressed without amending the law. It's not a question of which agency should be solely responsible for the issuance of SWPs. The issue is how to tighten up the rules on SWPs. The BI and DOLE only need to work together on this," the justice secretary explained.

Guevarra cited for instance the lack of effective mechanism to monitor the status of foreign workers in the country.

"The problem really is how to monitor the movement of foreign workers after the expiration of their SWPs issued by the BI or the long-term alien employment permit (AEPs) issued by the DOLE. That requires a lot of intelligence resources so we can control the number from their entry here," he said.

An SWP allows foreigners to work in the country for three months. It can be extended for another three months. For periods longer than six months and for highly technical, specialized, supervisory and managerial jobs that cannot be filled by Filipinos, foreigners are given AEPs by DOLE.

Guevarra also defended the BI, saying the agency is doing its mandate to run after illegal foreign workers. He cited the ar-

rests of illegal and undocumented foreign workers by the bureau.

## Income tax from POGOs

The government can collect more than P10 billion in taxes monthly from POGOs as the number of Chinese in such firms appears to be understated, senators said yesterday.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said based on consultations with industry insiders, the number of Chinese workers in POGOs is around 500,000, not 130,000 as officials of the Department of Finance (DOF) claim.

"The BI says there are about 150,000 Chinese workers here, but based on the number of licenses issued by Pagcor, I think the figure is closer to 500,000," Gatchalian said, referring to the permits given by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. for POGOs to operate.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III estimated that at least P2 billion in withheld income taxes may be collected monthly from POGOs.

Gatchalian said most of the Chinese come in as tourists but actually enter the country for employment in POGOs.

He said Pagcor must coordinate with the BI whenever it issues licenses.

He said the DOF and Pagcor must find ways to tax winnings from the online games that POGOs operate.

Gatchalian also called for the creation of a task force composed of the DOF, Pagcor, BI and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to determine the actual number of POGO workers in the country.

- With Paolo Romero



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# Envoys & Expats

## PHL-Canada

# connections too good to go to waste

By RECTO L. MERCENE @rectomercene

**F**OR a fleeting moment, Canada and the Philippines had the diplomatic equivalent of a minor "heart seizure" over the row on the waste materials that emanated from the North American country and somehow found their way into our shores.

As a result, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. recalled the Philippines's ambassador and consul to Canada over the delayed "repatriation" of the domestic refuse in Subic Bay. The problem was soon "disposed of," as our representatives and staff went back promptly to resume their posts.

In one of his first interviews after the "trans-Pacific mess" was resolved, Ambassador John Holmes

declared the re-shipment as "a success" during the BUSINESSMIRROR's Coffee Club on June 27—and not a disaster—as critics would have it.

The *Anna Maersk* ship loaded with containers of Canadian garbage and e-waste finally docked at a ferry terminal in British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province, on June 29. Holmes said the issue was settled because of the cooperation of Filipinos and Canadians.

The envoy outlined the many technical and bureaucratic barriers that had to be hurdled, as he emphasized about the round-the-clock work that was involved. He gave special mention to Locsin for settling the matter, then praised Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and his senior officials for their tremendous support.

About the foreign affairs chief, Holmes had this to say: "He's very colorful [and] very entertaining, but Secretary Locsin was extremely effective in helping ensure that everything went smoothly."

The Canadian official went on to explain that part of the delay was the process of fumigating the containers. Subic Bay authorities notified the Canadian Embassy of the joint Filipino-American military training taking place that very same moment. That required the temporary closure of the area all weekend long.

"I phoned the Secretary [Locsin, who was in Japan at that time]. So he said, 'I'm on it.' Because of him, our fumigation team was back on the job

that Saturday afternoon. A Canadian minister phoned him a couple of times to thank him for his help."

Elucidating on how they managed to speed up the process of getting the waste away, he credited the close collaboration between Manila and Ottawa.

Rhetorically, he stated: "If our two countries can continue to work collaboratively as we did in resolving this matter, imagine what we can do to enhance our trade, our investments, our people-to-people contexts?"

Upon the shipment's arrival in Canada, Holmes said it was scheduled to undergo inspection, then off to a facility, and then for destruction.

"It will be the end of the trash issue, forever, and for all time," Holmes declared with finality.

### Canada: Compassionate country

IN the course of our discussion, the participants realized that both countries have one very crucial thing in common: compassion to immigrants.



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Canada, the good envoy said, would soon increase the volume of immigrants they would receive this year.

"The vast majority of Canadian people still support an open, migratory, regulated system," the charismatic envoy shared.

Like the Philippines, Canada strongly endorsed the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), which Holmes believes is the responsible way to manage the worldwide movement of people.

"So we encourage others—even those who did not attend the Morocco summit—we urge them, to look at the guidelines again, and apply them in a humane fashion."

The Morocco Conference took place in the capital of Marrakech in 2018. It launched a process of inter-governmental negotiations and led to the adoption of the GCM.

"There are pluses and minuses. We don't see it as a zero-sum game; either you lose or you win," he said by way of looking at the immigration issue currently rag-

ing in developed countries.

"We see it as both economies, or all economies, benefiting," said the Canadian diplomat (who confessed that he's also mistaken as a dead ringer for the Beatles's Paul McCartney).

That Canada is a beacon of hope for those escaping political persecution, war, famine, ethnic cleansing, poverty, and many of the ills that continue to haunt society, are the same ideals the Philippines shares with.

(In the pre-World War II era, former President Manuel L. Quezon opened the Philippines to thousands of Jews escaping Hitler's pogroms, as major Western powers did the opposite. The country reprised the act to Vietnam's "boat people," who were evading the horrors of a two-decade war with America.)

### Addressing global migration

AT almost 8,900 kilometers, Canada and the United States have the longest shared border between two countries.

CONTINUED ON E2

### CONTINUED FROM E1

The amiable ambassador clarified how his country has managed to address today's pressing conundrum: screening the "fit from the unfit," without staining its long-held values of compassion, empathy and humaneness.

"At no time in our global history has there been so many people on the move: refugees, economic migrants escaping problems in their homes, countries or region," Canada's former envoy to Turkey, Indonesia and Jordan stated.

Holmes noted though, that the North American country has always been guided by the GCM—deemed the most important document to address this pressing issue today.

He admitted that like the Philippines, Canada strongly endorsed the GCM.

"We believe [the compact] is the responsible way to manage these processes and movements of people."

Compassion must have been imprinted in the DNA of Canadians because, as Holmes confessed, they do not mind seeing so many refugees streaming through his hometown.

"My brother's house is actually on the border. [And] for technical reasons, we had quite a few people moving across into Canada."

He said their only concern is not the volume coming through, but actually, it is about those who are coming.

"Our Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau] has announced we could take 300,000 every year," Holmes boasted, then added this infusion of would-be laborers are crucial to Canada's economy. He intimated they would soon increase the volume of incoming immigrants to a million.

"They are vital to us not only [as] workers, but also as experts in certain areas, like in [information technology and] finance."

The ambassador acknowledged that those who have already gained access to Canada are also welcome to bring their families with them. As a word of caution, though, he warned: "The adverse reactions are aimed against the unregulated."

Holmes was referring to the large-scale movement of unfettered migrants who pose some degree of concern. His govern-

ment has recently announced some changes at the border, "to try to deal with this movement."

"Many of the [said] people are not coming from Mexico and zooming into Canada, [but rather those who are] affected by changes in US immigration policies," he revealed. "They fear that they will be sent back to their countries of origin. But we're managing it."

### On China, Huawei

OUR discussion suddenly shifted toward the subject of Chinese relations. The BUSINESSMIRROR asked to Holmes about the circumstances behind the arrest of a global telecommunications executive in his homeland, as well as the consequences of such moves.

On December 1, 2018, Meng Wanzhou, a.k.a. Sabrina Meng and Cathy Meng, was apprehended at the Vancouver International Airport, at the behest of the US. Meng happens to be the deputy chairman of the board and chief financial officer of Huawei,



China's largest private company, founded by the patriarch Ren Zhengfei.

She was jailed in Canada for allegedly defrauding multiple financial institutions, in breach of US-imposed bans, specifically those dealing with Iran. In January, the US Department of Justice charged Meng with financial fraud.

Calmly, Holmes detailed the legal way his countrymen faced the issue.

"Canada is a country that believes in the rule of law. We have bilateral extradition treaties with many countries, including the US, and what happened in Vancouver was a direct result of the bilateral extradition treaty that we have."

He enumerated those factors, and explained that China's violations of the ban "has obviously led to the detention of the senior official from Huawei."

However, Holmes revealed that a legal process is ongoing. "We have due process in Canada. Any person who is detained, whether

pursuant to an extradition request or another process, has all rights of appeal, so that the individual or any other can appeal for rights, and make a case of why he or she could not be extradited. I'm not going to comment on specifics."

On the other hand, he admitted that the incident resulted in strained ties between Ottawa and Beijing.

"Unfortunately, it had an impact on the relationship. We can't deny that. [But] we still have diplomatic relations."

According to Holmes, who once held a number of positions in Canada's Legal Bureau with a focus on human rights and humanitarian law, commented, "[Our] Chinese ambassador is still very present in Canada."

Holmes went on: "We're trying to work through these issues. We're willing to try to sit down and resolve [them]. We're willing to dialogue. We think that [our] governments shouldn't interfere

before the courts, until these things get sorted out."

Further, he expounded, "We're open to [talk with] our partners in China. We had very good relations up until that point."

## Hot Arctic issue

IN the same vein, Holmes was queried about the possibility of another "flashpoint" being ignited in the Arctic region—similar to the raging South China Sea (SCS)/ West Philippine Sea conflict—because of the reported attempt by China to purchase an island near Denmark and establish a port in the area.

(Denmark turned down an offer last year from a Chinese mining company to buy an abandoned US naval base in Greenland, due to security concerns. Not wanting to offend the US as an ally, it also refused China's bid to build a port on the island.)

He was quizzed too about China's desire to create a "polar belt" scheme near the North Pole, similar to the

"Belt and Road Initiative" in Asia.

China also wants to navigate the Northwest Passage to find a shorter route for its ships en route the Eastern Seaboard of the US, in case the Malacca Strait closes during a conflict.

These new trade routes can be used by China to either import natural resources or to export its products to final markets. If eventually opened for commercial travel, the Northwest Passage could offer China and the rest of the world a 7,000-kilometer shortcut between Northeast Asia and the Atlantic seaboard of the US, instead of sailing through the Panama Canal.

Holmes thought for a moment before relaying his considered reply. He admitted not being abreast of the proposed "polar belt," but made clear where Canada stands: "All I can say [about] our position is, that the entire [area, up until] near the North Pole, is Canadian sovereign territory."

"We believe that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea recognizes the right of archipelagic states. Our very firm position is, [those are] all part of Canada," he insisted.

He reminded everyone in attendance that not all countries agree to those terms, "but there are some who argue that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway and therefore, they have the right to traverse it."

The Canadian diplomat said the ability to sail through the passage could prove challenging, as it remains frozen for the rest of the year, except for brief bouts during summer.

"But that may be changing, unfortunately, due to climate change."

The envoy opined: "We're seeing very rapid changes in the climate throughout the world, especially in the north that it could be, in a very short period of time, the Northwest Passage [would eventually be accessible]."

He expressed the view that Canada is "supportive of the UN arbitration award," referring to the Permanent Court of Arbitration's historic decision to invalidate China's historic sweeping claims to the 1.3-million-sq-km SCS.

In pursuit of those objectives, he said Canada continues to work hand-in-hand with the Asean in the area of security.

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# BusinessMirror

*Always look at today's business.*



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# PHIL-Canada 'Bilateral relation would only get better' —envoy

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**T**HE bilateral ties between the Philippines and Canada are now back to normal and are seen to improve further, following the resolution of the two nations' issue on waste.

Thus declared Ambassador John Holmes during the recent commemoration of the 152nd Canada Day in the country.

"The final resolution of this problem—never mind how long it took—came about through tremendous cooperation between the government of the Philippines, the embassy, and the officials in Canada,"

he said in a speech at a reception hosted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Holmes said the Canadian government is "delighted" with Malacañang's statement, which affirms that Ottawa and Manila's relations are once again "cordial" and back to its normal state.

"Our relations are good, and are

only going to get better," he added.

The Philippines and Canada are seeking to boost ties in the areas of agriculture, transportation, and information and communications technology.

### 'Legal export'

ASKED if his country would pursue parties accountable for the garbage issue, the diplomat said it is a subject for the Philippines's courts.

"I think that was one of the challenges that we had. There were court cases and court orders that we had to figure out how to work through and respect. One of them is the legal responsibility. That's not a Canadian issue, [though]," Holmes explained.

"[The] Canadian company, at that time, exported legally. So there are





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"PHL-Canada 'Bilateral relation would only get better' - envoy"

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no legal issues in Canada," he added.

From 2013 to 2014, Canadian company Chronic Inc. exported containers labeled as recyclable plastics to two importers in the Philippines. The shipment contained a mixture of plastics, metals and paper, as well as household waste.

While the export of such material was allowed then under Canadian regulations, the import of mixed plastics and household waste is prohibited under Philippines regulations.

### Complying with regulations

IN 2016, courts in the Philippines ordered the importers to ship the containers back to Canada at their expense. They did not comply with the court order, though.

To prevent future exports of

such material, Canada amended its Export and Import of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations that year.

According to Environment and Climate Change-Canada, the amendments now apply to waste that is controlled or prohibited in the country of import. Consequently, the shipment sent to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014 would be prohibited today.

"When we got different deadlines, the second one was more realistic because it was linked to the departure of one of the regular ships going through. We had a number of 'little issues' that emerged. I was in constant contact with Secretary Locsin, texting, phoning. He was in Japan, I was actually in Canada, but we were in regular contact," he shared.

### Relationship restored

AS far as the Palace is concerned, the relationship between the Philippines and Canada was restored.

After the tons of garbage were shipped back to Canada, Malacañang said it expects ties between the two countries to turn from being "trashy" to "cordial." Presidential Spokesman Salvador S. Panelo made this remark following reports that the ship carrying 69 containers of garbage had finally reached Vancouver's Delta-port on Saturday, June 29.

The waste, falsely labeled as recyclable plastics, is expected to be disposed at an incineration facility in Vancouver.

Canadian authorities said they are looking for ways to hold responsible parties accountable. **Joyce Ann L. Rocamora, Azer Parrocha/PNA**

## Better management of QC's 'green fund' pushed

An internal audit team created by Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has recommended amendments to the city's plastic bag reduction ordinance that will enable better management of the so-called "green fund."

The fund, which currently amounts to P316 million, is collected for every plastic bag used in establishments in the city as mandated by the plastic bag reduction ordinance passed in 2014.

In a report submitted to Belmonte's office, audit team leader Ranulfo Tacorda noted the Commission on Audit (COA) recommendation to treat the collection as a public fund and ensure that projects implemented using the money is properly audited.

The ordinance allows the stores to maintain the money they collected and use these for initiatives by the environment.

But under the audit

team's proposal in line with COA's recommendation, retailers will be required to remit collections to the city treasurer's office as these are already identified as public funds.

A separate environmental trust fund shall also be created to ensure that the remittances will be solely be used for environment projects.

If approved, the city will be in charge of the implementation of such projects.

A statement from the office of the city mayor said Belmonte has certified as urgent the passage of amendments to the plastic reduction ordinance in line with COA recommendations.

A copy of the internal audit observations, which include the proposed amendments, were forwarded to the office of Vice Mayor Gian Sotto and other relevant offices.

- Janvic Mateo



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## Joy wants QC 'green fund' law amended

By Rio N. Araja

QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte is urging the 37-member city council to amend the city's Environment Protection and Waste Management Code following a Commission on Audit recommendation that the P316-million green fund is a public fund that must be subjected to audit.

In Sangguniang Panglungsod Ordinance 2350 enacted in 2014, the city council envisioned the green fund as a mechanism through which retailers could carry out environmental projects by charging P2 from consumers for every plastic bag used.

By charging for plastic bags, the council then hoped to encourage consumers to give up using plastic in favor of using eco-bags instead.

COA maintained the green fund must be turned over to the treasury office and be subject to audit.

Belmonte, who was presiding officer of the city council as vice mayor in the last nine years, certified the amendment to the ordinance as urgent and instructed current Vice Mayor Gian Carlo Sotto to ensure that it incorporates all COA's recommendations.

She suggested that the council establish an environmental trust fund for the green fund, which when collected from retailers "could be used for the environmental projects in consultation with stakeholders within the parameters and standards set by law in accordance with the city's environmental development plan."

On July 1, Belmonte issued an executive order to create an internal audit system to ensure that all public funds are used properly and duly accounted for.



# Ipagbawal na ang paggawa ng single-plastic use

## TINGNAN NATIN



By VIC REYES

**SA kagustuhang lalo pang mapabuti ang serbisyo sa Aduana, binalasa na naman ni Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero ang mga district collector ng Bureau of Customs (BoC).**

Apektado sa panibagong rigodon ang siyam na collection districts.

Ito ang Port of Manila (PoM), Manila International Container Port (MICP), Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Port of Batangas (PoB), Port of Davao (PoD), Port of Clark (PoC), Port of San Fernando (PoSF), Port of Legazpi (PoL) at Port of Limay.

Ang reshuffle ay isinagawa pagkatapos na i-anunsyo ni Pangulong

Duterte na may mga sisibakin na naman siyang opisyal ng BoC.

Siguradong maraming opisyal sa Aduana ang hindi na naman nakakatulog ng mahimbing dahil sa anunsyo ni Pangulong Digong.

Pero naniniwala tayo na hindi magpapaapekto ang mga nakararaming kawani ng BoC.

Lalo na ang mga rank-and-file na empleado.

Sa kanila, ang mahalaga ay magampanan nila ang kani-kanilang trabaho.

Kampante silang hindi sila pababayaang ni Commissioner Guerrero na kilalang just and fair na lingkod-bayan.

Alam nilang walang personalan sa ginagawang rigodon ni Sir Jagger.

Ang gusto lang niya ay malagay sa mga posisyon ang kanyang mga opisyal.

Para lalong mapabuti ang serbisyo sa mga pantalan na sakop ng BoC.

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Mabuti naman at natapos na ang gusot sa House of Representatives.

Tama lang ang ginawa ni Pangulong Duterte na siya na ang nagresolba sa gusot ng kanyang

mga taga-suporta sa Kamara de Representante. At naniniwala tayo sa sinabi ni Duterte na hindi siya makikialam sa gawain ng mga mambabatas.

Bilang isang abogado, alam ng Pangulo ang equal branches of government ang executive, legislative at judiciary.

Bilang co-equal, ang tatlong departamento ay hindi puwedeng maki-alam sa trabaho ng kani-kanilang opisyal.

Ang mahirap lang, palapit ang 2022 presidential election.

Alam naman natin na kakaiba ang pulitika sa Pilipinas.

Walang permanenteng kaibigan sa larangan ng maduming pulitika.

Ang meron lang ay permanenteng interest ng mga politiko.

Kaibigan o kapanalig mo ngayon pero bukas ay magiging ka na lang na mortal na kaaway mo na ang kaibigan mo.

Iyan ang nagdudumilat na katotohanan.

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Isang Amerikano ang nagsabing hindi sagot sa problema ng plastic wastes ang "incineration." Sinabi ni Paul Connett, isang environmental chemistry and toxicology

expert, na ang "incineration" ay hindi sustainable solution sa waste disposal problem sa bansa.

"The trend in the 21st century," he said, "is not to find better ways to destroy discarded materials but to stop making...products that have to be destroyed," ayon kay Connett.

Tama naman si Connett.

Tigilan na ang paggawa at paggamit ng single-use plastics sa bansa.

Wala tayong kakayahang i-monitor ang pagtapon ng single-use plastics sa buong bansa.

Itatapon lang ito ng taumbayan sa kung saan-saan.

Sayang lang ang perang gagamitin sa pagtanggap sa mga nakabarang plastics sa mga daluyan ng tubig.

Huwag na tayong mag-ambisyong mabibigyang-solusyon ang pagbabaha sa maraming parte ng bansa kung hindi natin ipagbabawal ang paggawa at paggamit ng single-use plastics.

Tama ba kami, Pangulong Duterte?

*(Para sa inyong komentong at suhestiyon, tumawag o mag-text sa 0921-4765430 / email: [peoplesjournal@peoplesjournal.org](mailto:peoplesjournal@peoplesjournal.org) lang ang buong pangalan at tirahan.)*



## 9 deer in Japan die after eating plastic bags

TOKYO (AP) — Nine deer at a famed park in western Japan have died recently after swallowing plastic bags.

Nara Park has more than 1,000 deer, and tourists can feed them special sugar-free crackers sold in shops nearby. The crackers don't come in plastic bags, but people still carry them. A veterinarian says the deer may associate the plastic with food.

The Nara Deer Preservation Foundation says nine of the 14 deer that have died since March had plastic in their stomachs.

Masses of tangled plastic litter and packets of snacks were

retrieved from their stomachs, with the heaviest amount weighing 4.3 kilograms.

Rie Maruko, a veterinarian who belongs to the animal conservation group, was quoted by *Kyodo News* as saying the dead deer were so skinny he could feel their bones.

Deer have four-chambered stomachs and eating objects that can't be digested can leave them malnourished and weakened.

Deer are traditionally a messenger of gods in Japan's native Shinto religion and roam freely in the park in the capital city of Nara prefecture.

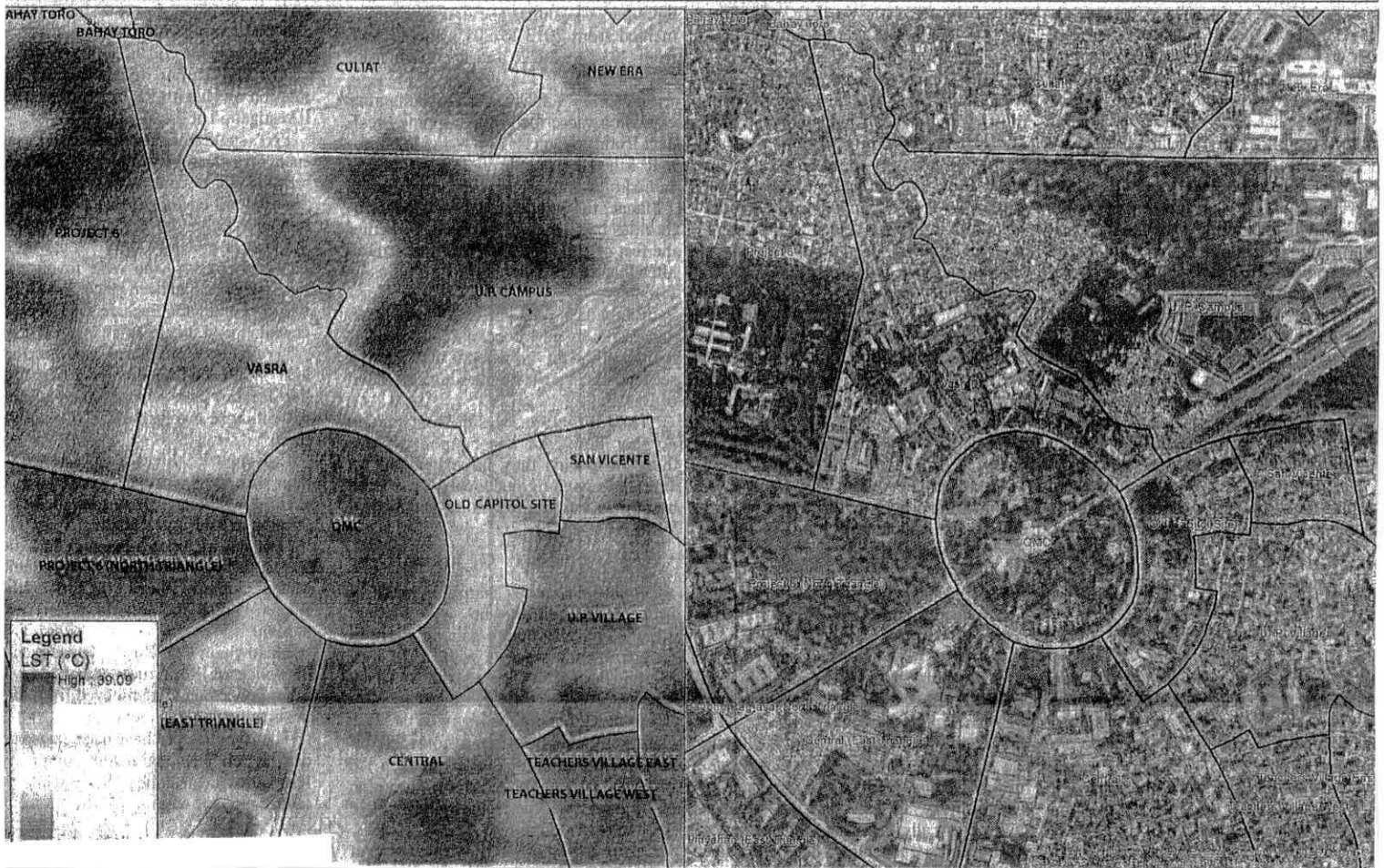


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## Land Surface Temperature in Quezon Memorial Circle

Date: March 25, 2019



### Map as guide to avoid hot areas

TO FIND ways to ease the harmful effects of rising temperatures in the urban areas, the Department of Science and Technology, through the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and

Emerging Technology Research and Development and the University of the Philippines-Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry, are assessing the development of urban heat islands in the rapidly urbanizing and highly urbanized cities in the Philippines using satellites and modeling-simulation techniques.

Ariel Blanco, project leader of Project GUHeat or "Geospatial Assessment and Modeling of Urban Heat Islands in Philippine Cities," said they will harness the power of thermal images from satellites to help the government "minimize the warming of urban areas or urban heat

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islands and even reverse it to decrease electricity consumption and air pollution, reduce health risks and diseases that will result to greater livability of our cities."

Project GUHeat will develop geographic information system-based methods and tools to map, model and characterize UHIs that are easy-to-use by local government units that can be accessed through a web-based GIS.

To date, they are studying and evaluating the land surface temperature of Quezon City, Baguio City, Cebu and Mandaue City, Iloilo City, Zamboanga City and Davao City using satellite imageries in order to assessed the effect of urban heat islands.

The project also aims to build and enhance the capacity of LGUs in incorporating thermal environment conditions in planning and development towards the attainment of UN Sustainable Development Goal (particularly Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable).

"I'm happy to share that these local government units [LGUs] are very enthusiastic and supportive, and shall utilize the project outputs in revising plans and implement measures to reduce urban heat islands [UHIs]," Blanco shared.

A city experiences an urban heat island effect when it has warmer temperatures than nearby rural areas. The materials used in the construction of buildings and establishments and the lack of trees and vegetation affect the distribution and persistence of heat in a city.



# Fuel marking to curb smuggling

BY ANGELA CELIS

THE implementation of the fuel marking program will address the issue of oil smuggling in the country, according to Carlos Dominguez, secretary of the Department of Finance.

Dominguez made this statement in response to the claim of Ramon Ang, president of Petron Corp., that oil smuggling has worsened with the imposition of the additional tax on the commodity under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law.

"We anticipated the potential increase in smuggling and therefore initiated the fuel marking program under the TRAIN Law. Fuel marking is designed to help address this issue," Dominguez said.

"In fact, after the previous announcement that implementation of the fuel marking program would start this quarter, we noted a steady increase in collections among the ports where petroleum products are regularly im-

ported. This is a strong indicator of increased compliance. Those who skirted required declarations and payment of taxes in the past are now following the law," he added.

Dominguez said a good example is the Port of Limay's collection for June 2019 which was P3.6 billion above target.

"This is higher than the excess collection in May 2019 by P1.1 billion. The ports of Subic and Cagayan de Oro likewise exceeded their targets," he said.

According to previous reports, Ang said as more taxes are slapped on oil, illicit traders have more means in going around the rules to slip in illicit fuel products.

"Before at a VAT (value-added tax) of six percent, (smugglers) are already having a fiesta. Now add up another six percent, there's more reason to be happy. But what can you do, it's difficult to monitor all islands in the Philippines," Ang said.

He added that Petron's Philip-

pine operation in particular is suffering from "inventory loss" as it tries to compete with the much cheaper imported retail fuels.

Earlier, Dominguez said the implementation of the fuel marking program is expected to boost government revenue by at least P5 billion in 2019.

"With the issuance of the circular and under the terms of reference with the French consortium that won the bid, at least 95 percent of all marking sites will be operational by the end of the year. The consortium will deliver equipment to our marking sites over the next few weeks and marking operations are scheduled to begin this quarter," Dominguez previously said. "Consultations with various stakeholders, including partner agencies such as the Department of Energy and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and industry players were considered in crafting the regulation," he added.



**Tax administration measure,** The fuel marking program is expected to boost government revenue by at least P5 billion in 2019.



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THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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## School donates armchairs made from recycled wastes

Malayan Colleges Mindanao (MCM) donated 100 armchairs made solely from recycled plastics to Matina Aplaya Elementary School in a turnover ceremony.

MCM, through its NSTP-led project dubbed as M.O.V.E. (Malayans on the Move to Value the Environment), mobilized its students, employees, administration, and partners in an ecological awareness program to collect plastic wastes in a regular pitch-in activity conducted all throughout the school year.

"We launched an Integrated Plastic Waste Management program whose goal is to contribute to the decrease of the flow of waste plastics into the marine and agricultural ecosystem in Davao City," said Engr. Dodjie S. Maestrecampo, EVP and COO of MCM.

Maestrecampo stressed that, "as an institution whose mission is to provide solutions to problems of industries and communities, the Mapúa School



**Malayan College Mindanao president Dr. Reynaldo Vea (4th from right) turns over the donated armchairs made from recycled plastic materials to Matina Elementary School Principal Renaldo L. Seras.**

supports efforts at mitigating waste management issues from a grassroots level."

MCM has partnered with Davao-based firm Winder Recycling Company,

an expert in plastic waste recycling. The donation was made possible through the Adopt-a-School program of the Department of Education with Petro Energy Resources Corporation.





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### POSTER CONTEST.

To teach children the importance of growing trees for a sustainable environment, Carmen Copper Corp. organized an on-the-spot Poster Making Contest with the theme 'Greening Towards a Sustainable Future!'. The contest is one of the highlights of the company's month-long celebration of the Environment Month in June. The winners are (from left) Clarince Kent Kilag of Biga Elementary School, third placer; Princess Arzenette S. Tinampay of Cambang-ug Elementary School, champion; and Nheriza B. Tocmo of De La Salle-Andres Soriano Memorial College, second placer.



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THE EXPLOITATION OF THE PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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## GREEN IS IN!

### Where sustainability thrives

Hamilo Coast, a development of SM Prime, is a masterplanned seaside community located along Nasugbu, Batangas. It is a coastline residential resort town that encompasses three mountain peaks and 13 coves, three of which are marine protected areas.

Bounded by the West Philippine Sea and the Pico mountain ranges in the east, Hamilo Coast maiden development is Pico de Loro Cove. It is a community where environmental sustainability thrives. It boasts of a 1.5-km stretch of white sand beach, a four-hectare man-made lagoon with pocket gardens, and a Beach and Country Club (photo above).

In 2007, Hamilo Coast teamed up with the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, a partnership that continues up to this day. One of its programs included declaring Pico de Loro Cove as a marine protected area. Conservation efforts under this partnership include ridge-to-reef management, the use of renewable energy, and guidance on the responsible and eco-handling of solid waste.





# 'Living legend' ng Pateros poprotektahan

Ni Dennis Hilanga

**M**ARAMING manana m-palataya ang nagpapabalik-balik sa San Roque Parish sa Pateros nang hindi nalalaman na nakakasalamuha na pala nila ang isa sa mga pinakamatandang "living legends" sa natitirang munisipyo sa Metro Manila.

Ang mga matatanda sa lugar, sa kabilang banda ay alam ang kabuluhan ng "Lolo Mango," ang puno ng mangga na kanilang pinangalanan sa Barangay Poblacion at pinaniniwalaan ng mga residente na mahigit 100 taong gulang na.

"Mataas at magulang"

Inalala ng mga lola at lola na edad 70-90 na ang nasabing puno ay "mataas at magulang" na noon pang 1930s.

Ngayong maunlad na ang bayan, nangangamba ang matatanda na baka madamay si Lolo Mango sa patuloy na pag-asenso ng Pateros. Naalala nila kung paano pinutol ang ilang puno ng acacia na sinasabing mas matanda pa kay Lolo para bigyang daan ang pagpapatayo ng paaralan.

"They [the acacias] would have been much bigger now and providing us shade had they been spared," sabi ng 78-anyos na si Nelia Flores sa panayam ng Philippine Daily Inquirer.

## Heritage tree

Ngunit nabawasan ang kanilang pangamba matapos na ideklara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Lolo Mango bilang Metro Manila's 28th "heritage tree."

Noong Hunyo 5, isang memorandum of agreement ang nilagdaan ng DENR-National Capital Region office sa pangunguna ni Regional Director Jacqueline Caancan at ng San Roque Parish Church na kinatawan ni Fr. Jorge



Jesus Bellosillo upang mapangalagaan at mapahaba pa ang buhay ng puno. Naglagay rin ng marker para sa pagdiriwang na ito.

Inilunsad ng DENR ang Heritage Tree Program sa Metro Manila noong 2009 upang maibsan ang epekto ng climate change habang pinagbubuti ang "biodiversity in the urban forest ecosystem."

**'Historic value'**  
Sa ilalim ng programa, ang lugar sa palibot ng heritage tree na limang metro mula sa dulo ng "crown" o itaas na bahagi nito ay idineklarang tree protection zone. Ang pruning, pagputol, pagtanggaling ng heritage tree o anumang paggawa malapit sa protection zone nito ay kailangan ng permiso mula sa DENR.

Pero kahit mayroon o walang marker, sinabi ng mga senior citizens ng Pateros na handa silang protektahan si Lo-

lo Mango habang sila'y nabubuhay.

"He has always been taken for granted, especially by the young. But we will not forget," sabi pa ni Flores, isang parish pastoral council coordinator sa San Roque.

Ang mga kuwento ni Flores at iba pang matatanda ay ginamit na basehan ng lokal na pamahalaan para patunayan ang "historic value" ni Lolo Mango at para irekomenda ang deklarasyon nito bilang heritage tree.

Para sa 91-year-old na si Esteli Raymundo, nagdulot ng katatakutan at respeto si Lolo Mango noong kanyang kabataan. Sa unang bahagi ng 1930s, pinagbabawalan siya at mga kaibigan ng kanilang mga magulang na huwag maglaro malapit sa puno dahil maiistorbo nila ang "supernatural being" na diumano'y nagbabantay sa puno.

Noong World War II, ang simbahan ay gi-

nawang garrison o kuta ng Kempeitai, ang kinatatatutatang military police ng mga Hapon.

## Kuwentong bayan

Tinortyur doon ang mga hinihinalang espiya ng mga Amerikano, ayon sa mga ikinuwento kay Flores at kanyang mga kaibigan. Base pa sa kuwentong bayan, sinasabing may kinalaman ang Pateros sa mga "makapili" sa panahong ng giyera. Sa simbahan daw itinuturo ng mga taksil na Pilipino ang mga kapwa Pinoy na lumalaban sa mga Hapon.

"It's a painful part of history that we wish we would not talk about because no one knew what really happened inside. If there's anyone still alive to tell this horrific tale, it would probably be Lolo Mango," sabi ni Flores.

Para naman kay Ester Santa Ana, 82, ang puno ng mangga ay simbolo ng pag-ibig.

"It was under [Lolo Mango] where my former high school classmates Angelita Bautista and Freddie Cruz fell for each other," aniya. "The mango tree was their 'hintayan and tagpuan' [trysting place], and where they played 'habulan' [tag]."

Nagpakasal ang dalawa at maayos na namuhay sa Canada, ayon kay Santa Ana.

## Huling nabubuhay na kayamanan

Umaasa ang mga residente na ang pagiging heritage tree ni Lolo Mango ay mahihikayat ang komunidad, lalo na ang kabataan, upang pangalagaan ang isa sa mga natitirang kayamanan ng Pateros.

"The young people may not care because they don't know their history," ani Flores. "But we, the old-timers, are here and we are ready to tell them that Lolo Mango is not an ordinary mango tree but a living witness to the history of Pateros for more than a century."



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBIT OF THE PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11 JUL 2019

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## Political will to implement laws works better than Charter change – Recto

By **VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA**

The government does not need to amend the 1987 Constitution to “change” the country, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto maintained Wednesday.

He cited neophyte Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso as a “glowing Exhibit A” as proof that “many of the country’s problems can be solved without having to rewrite the Constitution.”

Moreno, who replaced former President and Mayor Joseph Estrada has been making headlines lately for fulfilling a campaign promise from Day 1 to clean the city of Manila of garbage and clear Divisoria, Carriedo, and Blumentritt of illegal vendors. The move which allowed

clogged streets to breathe has won the approval of Manileños, including the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

For Recto, this proves that the proper management of government and implementation of laws are key to change and progress.

“A change of plans, vision and management style will do wonders and spark change immediately, rather than the untested benefits that Charter change promises to bring,” Recto said in his statement.

“It seems that more progress can be wrought by seriously implementing whatever existing laws there are than in rewriting the basic law of the land later,” he repeated. ▶5

### Political will to...

In stressing his point, the Senate leader said changing the Constitution would not particularly solve the country’s problem with floods, traffic, crime and garbage.

This is also not the proper way to increase employment and improve industries, he added.

“Having said that, I, however, recognize the right and welcome the move of

proponents of constitutional amendments to bring their proposals for debate in a manner that is exhaustive, not expedient; thorough, not truncated,” he clarified.

“Any idea that is presented before Congress must win by the force of its arguments and not by the mere number of people supporting it. Charter change must not be part of the government’s railroad program,” he added.

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On Monday, President Duterte raised anew his proposal to amend the Constitution though conceding that his promise to change the system from democratic to federal can no longer be realized.

Duterte asked lawmakers to change the Charter to end corruption in government which, he claimed angers the military.

Senators, however, remain careful about the proposal citing the need to review the proposed Constitutional amendments and the manner of doing it.



## Urban design

**I**N 2012, the Unesco named Beijing the best designed city in the world. Beijing is China's cultural center with more than 3,000 years of history behind it. Known for its legendary "hutong" — alleys formed by rows of traditional courtyard residences — the city is home to several creative clusters and to thousands of people employed in the design sector. The city hosts the Beijing Design Week, China Red Star Design Award, Beijing Fashion Week and other events to attract thousands of visitors to its creative urban environment every year. Other Asian cities like Singapore, Seoul and Nagoya also enjoy a similar status. They are part of the 15 cities that Unesco has identified that place creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans. To meet Unesco's criteria, these cities must enhance the quality of life for people and be environmentally sustainable. They are cities with high quality urban design and city planning.

Urban design is often mistaken for urban planning. While the former is concerned with the improvement of the physical environment, the latter deals more closely with the management of private development through established planning methods and programs. Urban design involves the arrangement and design of buildings, public spaces, transport systems, services and amenities (Urban European Knowledge Network). It employs an inclusive approach to place-making, using architecture, landscaping and urban planning to design large landscapes, towns and cities, districts and neighborhoods with coherent principles of organization.

To improve the living conditions in an area, we can introduce quality facilities and infrastructure. Architectural landscaping coupled with proper urban planning is key to improving the quality of life of citizens. As professionals in the planning, architecture and design professions, we must learn how to incorporate these activities effectively into the fabric of community life.



**FELINO A. PALAFOX, JR.**

Architecture Group have undertaken a number of urban design projects. A vision of the future appearance of a certain place is documented in our postcards of the future where we can see the transformation of the urban landscape. For most of the cities we planned, the recommendations include the appropriation of a third of the road to landscaping and trees, another third to pedestrians and bicycles, and the remaining third to moving traffic. As in the case of waterfront developments, their design and landscaping will improve the aesthetic and convenience of living, working, and playing in the area. Our postcards of the future depict urban design plans for the Pasig River, San Juan River, Marikina River, Manila Bay, Laguna Lake, Metro Davao and many bridges and walkways, cities and islands here and elsewhere in the world.

Urban design is beneficial to the community. The improvement of a street, the construction of walkways and the architectural landscaping of public spaces create a safe environment where people can thrive. These places become attractive spaces where people meet and connect, and they also promote economic activity and community development.

Through this perspective, it becomes clear that urban design can play a critical role in resolving problems that governmental programs cannot. In a number of American, European and Asian cities and in some developed countries, community design centers provide planning, design and technical assistance to low- and moderate-income urban and rural communities. People working in these centers have the opportunity to work for social, economic and environmental justice as they resolve community-based development needs. Community design centers in several cities plan and design with community-based organizations and residents. They educate them to participate in the process of directing change.

Kevin Lynch, in his famous book *Image of the City*, argued that the visual quality of the environment determines how well people remember their surroundings. The design of a city gives one a sense of place. Landmarks and nodes for instance, are crucial in making a city easy to navigate for someone who is new in the area. The elements of the city include: paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks. They are designed with various principles in mind such as pedestrian use, traffic, climatic conditions, historic preservation, visual character, population and people's safety.

Urban designers may also focus on designing other elements such as the town square, farmland and residential areas, facades of buildings, gardens, the plaza, an arcade or atrium, railway stations, public art and airports.

Palafox Associates and Palafox

Daniel Burnham, the American architect and urban planner who conceptualized the City Beautiful plan of Manila, once said, "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die." As urban planners and architects in the Philippines, we can plan and design our cities sustainably, and help every city realize its shared vision. Palafox's mission is to plan and design a sustainable future for all and create value in every place, building and community. We bring Philippine cities to a point where they will be able to join the league of the best cities in the world.



**SPECIES EXTINCTION WORSENS**

# UN REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE UNDERMINING FIGHT VS POVERTY

UNITED NATIONS—Hunger is growing and the world is not on track to end extreme poverty by 2030 and meet other UN goals, mainly because progress is being undermined by the impact of climate change and increasing inequality, a UN report said on Tuesday.

The report on progress toward achieving the 17 UN goals notes achievements in some areas, including a 49 percent fall in child mortality between 2000 and 2017 as well as electricity now reaching nearly 90 percent of the world's population.

But Liu Zhenmin, the UN undersecretary general for economic and social affairs, said that despite some advances, "monumental challenges remain."

Liu said at a news conference that the most urgent area for action was climate change,

which "may impact the progress made over the last several decades" in reducing poverty and improving life for millions of people around the world.

### Biodiversity loss

According to the report, biodiversity loss is happening at an accelerated rate, and "the risk of species extinction has worsened by almost 10 percent over the last 25 years."

Global temperatures have risen, ocean acidity has increased 26 percent since preindustrial times, and "investment in fossil fuels continues to be higher than investment in climate activities," it said.

Liu said the report also showed "inequality is rising and too many people are left behind."

That, he said, "is another big challenge for the world."

The first of the 17 goals adopted by world leaders in 2015 is to eliminate extreme poverty—people living on less than \$1.90 a day—and the second goal is to end hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture.

According to the report, neither goal is likely to be achieved by 2030.

### Extreme poverty

While the number of people living in extreme poverty declined to 8.6 percent of the world's population in 2018, the report said the pace was slowing and projections suggested that 6 percent of people would still be living in extreme poverty by 2030 if current trends continued.

Francesca Perucci, chief statistician in the UN Department of Economic and Social

Affairs, said an estimated 736 million people were still living in extreme poverty globally, including 413 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Extreme poverty today is concentrated and overwhelmingly affects rural populations," the report said. "Increasingly, it is exacerbated by violent conflicts and climate change."

While Liu noted "good progress" on 16 of the UN goals, he said "there's been no good progress" on ending hunger, which he called "a tragedy for the international community."

The most direct impact of climate change is on agricultural production, a key factor in increasing hunger, he said.

### More people going hungry

According to the report, the number of people going hungry

has increased since 2014.

"An estimated 821 million people were undernourished in 2017," up from 784 million in 2015 and the same number as in 2010, it said.

The worst-hit region is sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of undernourished people increased from 195 million in 2014 to 237 million in 2017, the report said.

On education, it warned that proficiency in reading and mathematics was "shockingly" low.

"Globally, an estimated 617 million children and adolescents of primary and lower secondary school age—more than 55 percent of the global total—lacked minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics in 2015."

The report said women represent 39 percent of the work-

force but hold only 27 percent of managerial positions.

### No access to clean water

It said 785 million people had no access to clean drinking water in 2017 while 673 million lacked good sanitation systems, the majority of them in southern Asia.

Perucci said 80 percent of people worldwide were online, but only 45 percent of those living in developing countries and just 20 percent in the least developed countries had access to the internet.

"It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in the report's foreword. —AP

## UN: Climate change undercutting work to end poverty, hunger

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Hunger is growing and the world is not on track to end extreme poverty by 2030 and meet other UN goals, mainly because progress is being undermined by the impact of climate change and increasing inequality, a UN report said Tuesday.

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ity between 2000 and 2017 as well as electricity now reaching nearly 90 percent of the world's population.

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According to the report, biodiversity loss is happening at an accelerated rate, and "the risk of species extinction has worsened by almost 10 percent over the last 25 years."

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The first of the 17 goals adopted by world leaders in 2015 is to eliminate extreme poverty — people living on less than \$1.90 a day — and the second goal is to end hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture.



# 7 of 8 big carbon-emitting firms are off climate goals

## Study shows bulk of businesses not in line with 2015 Paris Deal

LONDON—Only one in eight of the world's most-polluting companies are on track to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in line with global temperature goals, a study funded by investors with \$14 trillion under management found on Wednesday.

The findings underscore the gulf between commitments made by the private sector and the transformation that scientists say is needed to stop the climate crisis wrecking the planet.

### Near zero hour

"The clock is ticking on irreversible climate change," Adam Matthews, cochair of the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) and the director of ethics and engagement at the Church of England Pensions Board, said in a statement.

"Investors need to adopt an emergency footing otherwise the window to secure the change we need will be gone," he added.



GOING, GOING... The Byron Glacier in Alaska can be seen in this photo taken on July 4. Global warming is eating up glaciers and disrupting the climate all over the world. —AFP

The study of 274 of the largest publicly traded, high-emitting companies found that almost half do not adequately consider climate risks in their operational decision-making.

Although regulators and central banks in many industrialized countries are pushing for greater disclosure of climate

risks, a quarter of the companies in the study do not report their own emissions, TPI said.

Analysis of 160 of the companies in the study found that only 20 were on track to cut their carbon emissions in alignment with the 2015 Paris Agreement to curb global warming.

These included German en-

ergy firm E.ON, Spanish utility Iberdrola, Finnish paper firm Stora Enso and Californian utility Edison International, TPI said.

### Off by 1.5 C

The Paris deal aims to limit the global average temperature increase to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius, while seeking to tighten the goal to 1.5 C. Current policies put the world on track for at least a 3 C rise by the end of the century.

The world has already warmed by about one degree, fueling an increase in extreme weather, eating up Himalayan and Alpine glaciers, and disrupting farming in many parts of the world.

Further warming could push the climate system closer to irreversible tipping points, scientists warn, raising the risk of harvest failures, forced migration, mass extinction of species, ecosystem collapse and societal breakdown. —REUTERS ✓



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# 'Recognize impact of climate change on human rights'

By JANVIC MATEO

The Philippines has sponsored a draft resolution at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) calling for the recognition of the impact of climate change on human rights.

If approved during the UNHRC session in Geneva this week, the resolution – co-sponsored by Bangladesh and Vietnam – would formalize the concern of the body over the role of climate change on the frequency and intensity of both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events.

It stressed the importance of con-

tinuing to address the consequences of climate change, particularly in developing countries and those in vulnerable communities.

The resolution would also encourage countries to consider the issue of climate change and human rights, including its adverse impact on the enjoyment of these rights.

It would also call on countries to

adopt a “comprehensive, integrated, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive” approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The draft resolution noted the need of developing countries for support in technology transfer and capacity building, stressing that “countries lacking the resources to implement their adaptation plans and programs of action and effective adaptation strategies may suffer from higher exposure to extreme

weather events.”

It called on countries to enhance international cooperation and assistance, particularly in supporting developing nations in implementing mitigation and adaptation measures to address climate change.


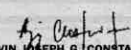
The draft resolution also cited the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities and – if approved – would provide for the creation of a panel in the next UNHRC session that would tackle issues concerning the promotion and protection of rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change.



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 Republika ng Pilipinas Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman <b>PAMBANSANG PUNONG REHIYON</b> National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon <b>PAGBEBENTA NG PAMPUBLIKONG LUPA</b>						
Ang pabaitid na to ay ipinagkakaloob bilang patunay na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, alinsunod sa Department Administrative Order No. 38, 19 April 1990, ay magkakaroon ng bilhan sa <i>DENR-NCR, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City</i> , sa pamamagitan ng isang <i>sealed bidding</i> , na makakapagbigay ng pinakamataas na halaga sa ika-10 ng umaga ng 01 OCT 2019, ng lupang matatagpuan sa _____ na inilarawan ng mga sumusunod:						
BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KLWADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KLWADRADO	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUUKANG HALAGA NG MSA ISTRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-2002	ADRIAN M. ORGE	Lot 5, Block 27 Pcd-00-036894	60 Sq.m.	Php140.00	Php 8,400.00	Php 500,000.00
Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in MSA IGPSA No. 007607-2002". Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, sertipikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinumiteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais dawain ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanghinan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.						
Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas _____						
 <b>ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO</b> Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division						
PT - June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2019						



11 JUL 2019

DATE



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman Quezon City 1118  
Telephone Nos.: (632) 927-15-17, 928-37-25; Fax No.: (632) 920-22-58  
Website: <http://www.emb.gov.ph> / Email: [mail@emb.gov.ph](mailto:mail@emb.gov.ph)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **PAPER MILL PRODUCTION LINE EXPANSION (Paper Mill No.3) AND ADDITIONAL 25 MW COAL FIRED POWER PROJECT** of **UNITED PULP AND PAPER COMPANY** to be located in **BARANGAY IBA-ESTE, CALUMPIT, BULACAN**.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the proposed **PAPER MILL PRODUCTION LINE EXPANSION (Paper Mill No.3) AND ADDITIONAL 25 MW COAL FIRED POWER PROJECT** to attend a Public Hearing on **25 July 2019 (Thursday) at 9:00 AM** (*registration starts at 8:00 am*) to be held at the **Covered Court-Calumpit Municipal Hall, Calumpit, Bulacan**.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through mail or through email at [eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com](mailto:eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: [www.eia.emb.gov.ph](http://www.eia.emb.gov.ph) (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in this Office and in the following offices:

- 1.) **EMB Region III**  
Turquoise St., Zone 2, Ramar Village, San Agustin,  
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
- 2.) **Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO)**  
Municipality Hall, Calumpit Bulacan

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 920-2240 to 41 through the project casehandlers Engr. Lene Ramboyong or For. Mark Anthony Tuliao.

Malaya – July 11 & 18, 2019