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SAKO-SAKONG BASURA NAHAKOT

DAAN-daang volunteer mula sa gobyerno at pribadong sector ang nakilahok kahapon upang magtulong-tulong sa paghahakot ng mga sako-sakong mga basura mula sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay sa may Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat Ecotourism Area malapit sa Coastal Area.

Ang mga sako-sakong basura ay nahakot matapos ang isang linggong pag-ulan dala ng habagat.

Nagkalat ang plastic at iba pang mga basura sa ilang kilometrong haba ng baybayin sa habitat bago magsimula ang paglilinis dakong 6:00 ng umaga.

Napag-alaman na lingguhan naman ang ginagawang paglilinis sa naturang lugar mula nang magsimula ang Manila Bay Clean-up project.

Ayon sa pahayag ng Parañaque City Environment and Natural Resources Office, wala ang mga naturang basura noong nakaraang Sabado matapos ang kanilang-huling samasamang clean-up sa lugar.

JAMES L. CATAPUSAN



Ban sa imported trash, plastic wish kay Du30

UMAASA ang EcoWaste Coalition na tuluyan nang ipaba-ban na ni Pangulong Duterte ang pagpasok sa bansa ng mga imported na basura.

Maaari umanong isa-publiko ni Duterte ang ban na ito sa kanyang State of the Nation Address sa Lunes.

"We hope President Duterte in his upcoming SONA will reinforce his resolute stance against foreign waste dumping and give the environmental department and the customs bureau their marching orders to ensure zero entry of all wastes from overseas, including processed residuals cunningly called alternative fuels," ani Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator ng EcoWaste.

Umaasa rin si Lucero na bibigyan ni Duterte ng deadline ang pagpapaba-

lik sa mga basura na mula sa Australia at South Korea na dumating sa Mindanao.

May 211 tonelada ng waste-derived processed engineered fuel mula sa Australia at 5,177 tonelada ng mixed plastic waste mula sa South Korea ang nasa Mindanao Container Terminal at PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate sa Tagoloan, Misamis, Oriental.

"His fourth SONA is the right time for the chief policy maker to announce a total ban on foreign waste imports and his intent to ratify this year the Basel Ban Amendment and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, two landmark global agreements that seek to protect public health and the environment against hazardous chemicals and wastes,"

dagdag pa ni Lucero.

Sa ilalim ng Basel Ban Amendment ay ipinagbabawal ang pag-export ng hazardous wastes at iba pang basura sa ibang bansa. Layunin naman ng Minamata Convention na bawasan ang paggamit ng mercury sa buong mundo.

Umaasa rin ang EcoWaste na ipagbabawal na ni Duterte ang paggamit ng single use plastic sa buong bansa.
— *Leifbilly Begas*



Editorial

Basurang imported, nakakapasok dahil sa mga corrupt sa Customs

MARAMING corrupt na opisyal at empleyado sa Bureau of Customs (BOC). Katibayan dito ang 50 opisyal at empleyado na sangkot sa corruption na pinatawag ni President Duterte noong Huwebes. Bibigyan sila ng pagkakataong idepensa ang sarili sa proper forum.

Talamak talaga ang corruption sa BOC at maaaring hindi lang 50 opisyal at empleyado ang sangkot. Pati pala ang imported na basura kaya nakakapasok sa bansa ay dahil din sa mga corrupt sa BOC. Sila lang kasi ang nakaaalam kung may darating na shipment at alam nila kung ano ito. Alam nila na basura ang parating at alam nilang bawal ang pag-eeksport ng basura ayon sa Basel Ban Amendment. Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pag-eexport ng basura mula sa developed countries to developing countries.

Pero ang kautusan ay nalabag nang husto sapagkat

naging bagsakan ng basura ang Pilipinas sa matagal na panahon. At nangyari iyon dahil na rin sa matinding corruptions sa BOC. Lahat nang pagkakakitaan ng mga gahaman sa nasabing tanggapan ay papsukin kahit na nga ang basura. Alam nilang bawal magpasok nito pero dahil malaki ang perang sangkot, pinapayagang makalusot. Pera-pera lang ang usapan at makakalusot sa Customs.

Kung hindi pa nagalit si President Duterte sa Canada, hindi kukunin ang itinambak nilang mahigit 100 containers ng basura na naglalaman ng mga used diapers, hospital wastes at iba pang toxic na bagay na delikado sa kalusugan. Pitong taon na nakatambak sa bansa ang mga basura at naibalik lamang sa Canada noong Mayo. Pinauwi ni Duterte ang ambassador doon at iba pang embassy officials dahil sa isyu ng Canadian trash. Napilitan ang Canadian government na hakutin ang basura.

Bukod sa Canada, nagdala rin ng basura sa bansa ang South Korea, Australia at Hong Kong. Nagkusa na ang South Korea na ibalik ang basura nila. Ang Hong Kong at Australia ay kumikilos na rin umano sa pagbabalik ng kanilang basura.

Inatasan na ng Department of Finance ang BOC na bumuo ng strike team para mapigilan ang pagpasok ng basura sa bansa. Sinuportahan ng EcoWaste Coalition ang ginawa ng DOF. Bakit ngayon lang ito naisip ng DOF. Dapat noon pa? Ngayong unti-unti nang nawawalis (sana nga) ang mga corrupt sa BOC, maaaring hindi na makapasok ang mga imported at hazardous na basura.





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Anong Problema ng Bansa ang Gusto mong Mabigyan ng Solusyon?

"Para sa akin numero uno talaga ang problema sa basura. Diyan nagsisimula yan eh. Saka kumbaga dun nagre-reflect ang galing ng isang leader. Kapag malinis at may kaayusan ang lungsod, masasabi mong magaling ang isang leader." - Estoy, Manila

"Waste management talaga ang gusto kong mabago sa ating bansa. Ito ang nakikita kong problema. Ito rin ang madalas na dahilan kung bakit laging nagbabaha. Nagsisimula naman ito sa disiplina ng isang tao, sa pamilya." - John Mark, Makati



Mayor Belmonte forms Solid Waste Collection task force

TO provide a more comprehensive and strategic Solid Waste Collection plan, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte recently ordered the creation of Task Force on Solid Waste Collection, Cleaning, and Disposal Services Management.

In her Executive Order no. 3 series of 2019, Mayor Belmonte stated the need to create a team that will ensure the implementation of solid waste collection, cleaning, and disposal.

"It is the policy of the city to promote the preservation, protection, and revival of the ecosystem through prevention, control, and abatement of air, water, and land pollution and the spread of hazardous wastes in the environment, hand-in-hand with the sustained development of the City," EO no. 3 reads.

The taskforce will supervise and manage the collection and transport of solid wastes, as well

as collection maintenance and continuity in the city.

Further, the group will also coordinate with the national agencies and barangays to implement solid waste collection and management, and will recommend service providers for disposal services to the city mayor.

The secretary to the mayor will be the chairman of the Task Force on Solid Waste Collection and the head of the Environment Protection and Waste Management Department as the vice chairperson.

The heads of Barangay and Community Relations Department, Market Development and Administration Department, and Business Permits and Licensing Department will serve as the task force members.

The secretary to the mayor will also supervise an action team, which will serve as the implementing arm of the task group.



Pagbabawal sa 'single-use plastics' prayoridad ni Villar

PRAYORIDAD ni Senador Cynthia Villar ang batas na magbabawal sa single-use plastics upang mapigilan ang polusyon sa bansa.

Layunin ng Senate Bill No. 333 o Single-Use Plastic Product Regulation Act of 2019 na i-regulate ang manufacturing, importation at paggamit ng single-use plastic products.

Sinabi ni Villar na inasahang chairperson ng Committee on Environment and Natural Resources sa 18th Congress, na mahalaga ang pagsasabatas ng panukalang ito dahil sa pag-aaral na sa buong mundo, ang Pilipinas ang pangatlong pinakamalaking producer ng plastic wastes na napupunta sa karagatan.

Base sa 2015 report tungkol sa plastic pollution na isinagawa ng international group Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and

Environment, ang Pilipinas ang pangatlo sa pinakamalaking source ng plastic kasunod ng China at Indonesia.

Sinabi pa ng Nacionalista Party senator na umiigting ang suliranin sa plastic waste dahil na rin sa mga produktong nasa plastic sachets.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, pagbabawalan ang food establishments, stores, markets at retailers na magbigay ng single-use plastics.

Hihikayatin din ang consumers na gumamit ng reusable materials samantalang ang manufacturers ay dapat na mangolekta, mag-recycle at itapon ang single-use plastics. Hindi na rin papayagan ang importasyon ng single-use plastics.

Papatawan ng multang P10,000 -100,000 at suspensyon o pagpapawalang bisa sa business permit ang mga business enterprise, micro, small at medium enterprises na lalabag sa ba-

tas.

Pagmumultahin naman ng P100,000 hanggang P1 milyon o sususpindihin o pawawalang bisa ang business permit ng VAT-registered enterprises, establishments at tindahan at lahat ng plastic manufacturers na may paglabag.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, magtatag rin ng Special Fund for Single-use Plastic Regulation na bubuun ng collected tariffs, levies at fees.

Bukod dito, gagamitin ang pondo sa pagtatayo ng recycling centers at assistance at incentives para sa manufacturers at community-based initiatives upang mabawasan ang single-use plastics. Para rin ito sa non-government at civil society organizations na nagsusulong sa wastong solid waste management.

(Mylene Alfonso)



ISKO: MAYNILA UMAAPAW SA EBAK!

DISMAYADO si Mayor Isko Moreno sa lagay ng Maynila ngayon dahil punong-puno ito ng dumi at ebak.

"Talagang Manila is full of sh*t - literal, not metaphorically," saad ni Moreno sa kanyang talumpati sa induction ng mga opisyal ng Rotary Club ng Bagumbayan, Manila.

"Instead na i-sugarcoat mo or itago mo, mas lalong hindi nareresolba," dagdag pa niya.

Dahil dito, hinikayat niya ang mga Rotarian na tulungan siya sa paglilinis ng imahen ng Maynila.

"Let's use your resources towards a direction where we are going to make Manila vibrant again," hirit ng alkalde.

Noong nakaraang linggo lamang ay nakatapak ng tae si Moreno habang iniinspeksyon ang Bonifacio Shrine na katabi lamang ng Manila City Hall. Tinawag pa niya ang lugar na kubeta ng bayan dahil dito pala dumudumi ang mga vendor at informal settler.

Sa kanyang pagkadismaya, pinasibak ni Moreno ang police chief na nakakasakop sa Lawton kung saan matatagpuan ang monumento ni Bonifacio.

Kumilos naman ang Department of Public Services, mga bumbero at concerned citizen para linisin ang lugar. Ipagpapatuloy nila ang paglilinis ng monumento, dalawang beses kada linggo, upang matanggal ang masangsang na amoy ng dumi ng tao.

Binisita din ni Moreno ang Vitas slaughterhouse sa Tondo, Maynila at halos masuka sa lagay ng katayan ng bayan.

Binanggit ni Moreno na malinis dapat ang slaughterhouse dahil dito nanggagaling ang mga karneng ibebenta sa mga pamilihan.



'Adopt-an-Estero' launched in Batanes

BATANES: After the onslaught of Typhoon Falcon, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 has led about 300 residents, local government officials and employees in the *estero* cleanup to mark the launching of the "Adopt-an-Estero" project.

The project was initiated by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) in Batanes, which yielded around 75 kilograms of solid waste during the cleanup activity.

Corie Corpuz, DENR Region 2 information officer, said the project was implemented along the Padangan Creek and San Antonio Creek, which are along the urban *barangay* (village) of Basco, the capital town of the island province.

Padangan Creek covers *barangay* Kayvaluganan, Kayhuvokan and Kaychanarianan with total households of 1,648, while San Antonio Creek in *Barangay* San Antonio covers 473 households.

"Since Basco town is the entry point

of tourists and the site of most of the hotels and other lodging houses in the province, the influx of tourists here has increased the waste generated by the residents," Corpuz said.

Victoria Baliuag, Penro management services chief and project proponent, said the creeks were regular cleanup sites by environmental stakeholders during special events.

"However, their cleanliness is not maintained, thus, the need for the adoption of the creeks under the program," Baliuag said.

She said the cleanup of the creeks with an aggregate length of 2,610 meters was timely as Typhoon Falcon hit the island province a day after the activity.

"The typhoon filled the intermittent creeks with water that should have brought the solid waste to the West Philippine Sea which provides abundant supply of fishes and other coastal resources for the Ivatans," Baliuag said.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



Implement RA 9003, Manila Bay LGUs told

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar yesterday called on local government units to do their mandate in minimizing wastes in the Manila Bay area especially as the rainy season has started.

"We should really ask the local government to implement the solid waste management law. That's the only way to stop the garbage from

←
SEN. Cynthia Villar led the cleanup of Long Island at the Las Pinas-Parañaque Wetland Park on Coastal Road in Las Pinas City. (Ali Vicoy)

coming to the Manila Bay," Villar said in an interview on the sidelines of a Manila Bay cleanup drive in Las Piñas City.

Villar was referring to the Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management of 2002, which sought to address the garbage problem in the country.

Section 10 states that LGUs are "primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the law."

It particularly tasks barangays to lead the segregation and collection of solid wastes, specifically for biodegradable, compostable, and

reusable wastes, while municipal or city governments shall be responsible for the collection of non-recyclable materials and special wastes.

Aside from LGUs, Villar also pointed out the responsibility of water concessionaires under Republic Act 9275 to maintain sewerage systems and prevent wastewater from going to the Manila Bay.

"Because the Manila Bay might be clean in appearance, but if all the wastewater goes there then it is still not clean. In quality, it is dirty," she said. **(Vanne Terrazola)**





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Water at Angat Dam rises above critical level

By **ALEXANDRIA DENNISE SAN JUAN**

Following rains dumped by past weather systems and the southwest monsoon, water level in Angat Dam rose above its 160-meter critical level on Saturday morning.

Based on data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), water elevation in Angat Dam on Saturday was measured at 161.35 meters above sea level (MASL).

This was higher by at least 1.19 meters from the previous 160.16 masl recorded in the watershed on

Friday morning and from the 158.27 masl on Thursday.

However, the current level of water in Angat Dam was still 18.65 meters below the 180-meter minimum operating water level needed to resume the irrigation supply allocation to nearby provinces.

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

Aside from Angat Dam, water level in other major watersheds also increased including La Mesa Dam at 73.21 MASL on Saturday from 73.09 MASL on Friday; Ambuklao Dam at 743.68 MASL from 743.11

MASL; Binga Dam at 568.79 MASL from 568.34 MASL; San Roque Dam at 230.77 MASL from 230.74 MASL; and Pantabangan Dam at 189.18 MASL from 189.02 MASL.

In an earlier statement, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said that monsoon rains and expected tropical cyclones this month are expected to replenish the water supply in Angat Dam.

Meanwhile, as Tropical Depression "Goring" weakened into a low pressure area (LPA) before it exited the country on Friday night, southwest monsoon or "habagat" will continue to bring rains in the country this weekend.



Angat level above critical mark now

By Michael Pingol

Water in Angat Dam finally rose above the 160-meter critical level on Saturday morning following back-to-back rains caused by past weather systems and the southwest monsoon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

In its report, the state weather bureau said that the water elevation in Angat Dam on Saturday was measured at 161.35 meters above sea level (masl) - higher by at least 1.19

meters from the previous 160.16 masl recorded in the watershed on Friday morning and from the 158.27 masl on Thursday.

Monsoon rains and expected tropical cyclones are expected to replenish the water supply.

But PAGASA stressed that the current level of water in Angat Dam was still 18.65 meters below the 180-meter minimum operating water level needed to resume the irrigation supply

allocation to nearby provinces.

Aside from Angat Dam, water level in other major watersheds also increased including La Mesa Dam at 73.21 masl on Saturday from 73.09 masl on Friday; Ambuklao Dam at 743.68 masl from 743.11 masl; Binga Dam at 568.79 masl from 568.34 masl; San Roque Dam at 230.77 masl from 230.74 masl; and Pantabangan Dam at 189.18 masl from 189.02 masl.

In an earlier statement, the National Water Resources Board said that monsoon rains and expected tropical cyclones this month are expected to replenish the water supply

in Angat Dam.

Meanwhile, as Tropical Depression "Goring" weakened into a low pressure area (LPA) before it exited the country on Friday night, southwest monsoon or "habagat" will continue to bring rains in the country this weekend.

PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza said monsoon rains will prevail over most parts of Luzon particularly in Batanes, Calayan, Babuyan Group of Islands, Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Zambales and Bataan.



Tubig sa Angat, tumaas na

Nakawala na sa critical level na 160 meters ang tubig sa Angat dam sa Bulacan.

Sa ulat ng PAGASA-dam monitoring department, umabot na kahapon ng umaga sa 161.35 meters ang water level sa Angat dam, mas mataas sa 160.16 meters noong Biyernes ng umaga.

Patuloy ang pagtaas ng water level sa Angat dulot ng ulan na dala ng bagyong Goring, ng bagong LPA at ng habagat na sumadsad na sa Angat watershed.

Bunga nito, maiibsan na ang mahabang oras ng water interruption na ipinatutupad ng Manila Water at Maynilad Water sa kanilang consumers sa Metro Manila at karatig lalawigan.

Sinasabing oras na pumalo na sa average na 180 meters ang water level sa Angat dam, asahan na ang maayos na daloy ng tubig sa MM.

Ang Angat dam ang pinagkukunan ng 90 percent ng suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Dahil sa mga dalang ulan ng iba't ibang weather disturbances na pumapasok sa bansa, asahan na anya ang unti-unting pagbuti ng suplay ng tubig sa Kalakhang Maynila. (Angie dela Cruz)



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Rains raise Angat Dam water level

Rains dumped by past weather systems and the southwest monsoon raised the water level in Angat Dam above its 160-meter critical level yesterday morning.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration said water elevation in Angat Dam was 161.35 meters yesterday, higher than 160.16 meters Friday and 158.27 meters Thursday.

The water level of Angat Dam is still 18.65 meters below the 180-meter minimum operating water level needed to resume the irrigation supply allocation to surrounding provinces. The Angat Dam is also the major water source of households in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

Water levels in other major watersheds also increased – La Mesa Dam in Quezon City at 73.21 meters yesterday from 73.09 meters Friday; Ambuklao Dam in Benguet at 743.68 meters yesterday from 743.11 meters Friday; Binga Dam, also in Benguet, at 568.79 meters yesterday from 568.34 meters Friday; San Roque Dam in Agno, Pangasinan at 230.77 meters yesterday from 230.74 meters Friday; and Pantabangan

Dam in Nueva Ecija at 189.18 meters yesterday from 189.02 meters the other day.

The National Water Resources Board had earlier said that monsoon rains and expected tropical cyclones this month are expected to replenish the water supply in Angat Dam.

Meanwhile, tropical depression "Goring" weakened into a low-pressure area before it exited the country Friday but the southwest monsoon or "habagat" will continue to bring rains in the country this weekend.

PAGASA weather specialist Meno Mendoza said monsoon rains will prevail in most parts of Luzon, particularly Batanes, Cagayan, Babuyan Group of Islands, Ilocos region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Zambales, and Bataan.

The southwest monsoon will also bring partly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon.

The rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms.
(Alexandria San Juan)



Water level sa Angat, La Mesa tumaas

TUMAAS ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat at La Mesa dams, ang pangunahing pinagkukuhanan ng isinusuplay na tubig sa Metro Manila.

Umabot sa 161.35 metro ang tubig sa Angat dam kahapon ng umaga, tumaas ng 1.19 metro kumpara sa lebel nito noong Biyernes ng umaga.

Ang critical level ng Angat ay 160 metro at ang normal water level nito ay 180 metro.

Ang tubig naman sa

La Mesa dam ay 73.21 metro tumaas ng 0.12 metro kumpara sa 73.09 metro na sukat nito noong Biyernes.

Ang critical level ng La Mesa dam ay 69 metro at ang normal operating level nito ay 80 metro.

May mga lugar pa rin na nakararanas ng mahina hanggang walang suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila. May mga nagreklamo rin na kulay milk tea ang tubig na lumalabas sa kanilang gripo.

— *Leifbilly Begas*



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Such great economic progress in last 3 years

WHEN President Duterte delivers his State of the Nation Address (SONA) at a joint session of Congress tomorrow, Monday, it will mark the start of the second half of his administration. A great deal is expected in these next three years, especially in the economic field. The World Bank sees the Philippines as the fastest growing economy in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) today. It is now the 13th largest economy in Asia, and projected to be the 5th largest in Asia and 16th largest in the world by 2050.

What could be the most significant economic development for the country in the coming months and years is a joint oil and gas exploration with China which is expected to begin this November, according to Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, chairman of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

President Duterte signed last May 28 Executive Order No. 80 removing a final roadblock to an oil exploration, development, and production agreement between the Philippine Exploration Corp. and the China National Offshore Oil Corp. The administration had earlier signed its first agreement with an Israeli company in 2018 covering a 416,000-hectare area east of Palawan. The new agreement with China covers a 720,000-hectare area in Calamian, west of Palawan. Calamian is one of two regions near Palawan believed to have considerable oil resources; the other is Reed Bank.

The oil exploration agreement is only one area in the multi-faceted relations we have developed

with China in the last three years. Our trade with China, including Hong Kong, reached \$417 billion this May, making it the Philippines' top trading partner. Philippine banana exports tripled in the first quarter of 2019 to \$160 million. Philippine Online Gaming Operations (POGO) earned ₱24 billion in taxes. In 2018, 1.2 million Chinese tourists boosted the Philippine economy by ₱32 billion; 2 million are expected by 2020, a potential addition of ₱50 billion to the economy.

In our "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program, China is involved in a big way, including two donated bridges across the Pasig River, funding for a ₱500-million Metro Manila flood-control project now on its second year, a ₱175-billion South Rail Project, and an ₱18.7-billion Kaliwa Dam to boost Metro Manila's water supply.

We may have ongoing disputes in our conflicting claims to certain islands in the South China Sea, particularly in the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone we have renamed West Philippine Sea, but President Duterte appears to have the situation well in hand. He believes the political dispute will eventually be settled; in the meantime, he is determined to see the Philippines benefit from the many economic programs that are underway.

The first half of the Duterte administration ends today with considerable economic growth and progress. We look forward to the second half which, we expect, will be marked with even more economic growth, as the President spells out his plans for the country in the next three years in his State of the Nation Address tomorrow.



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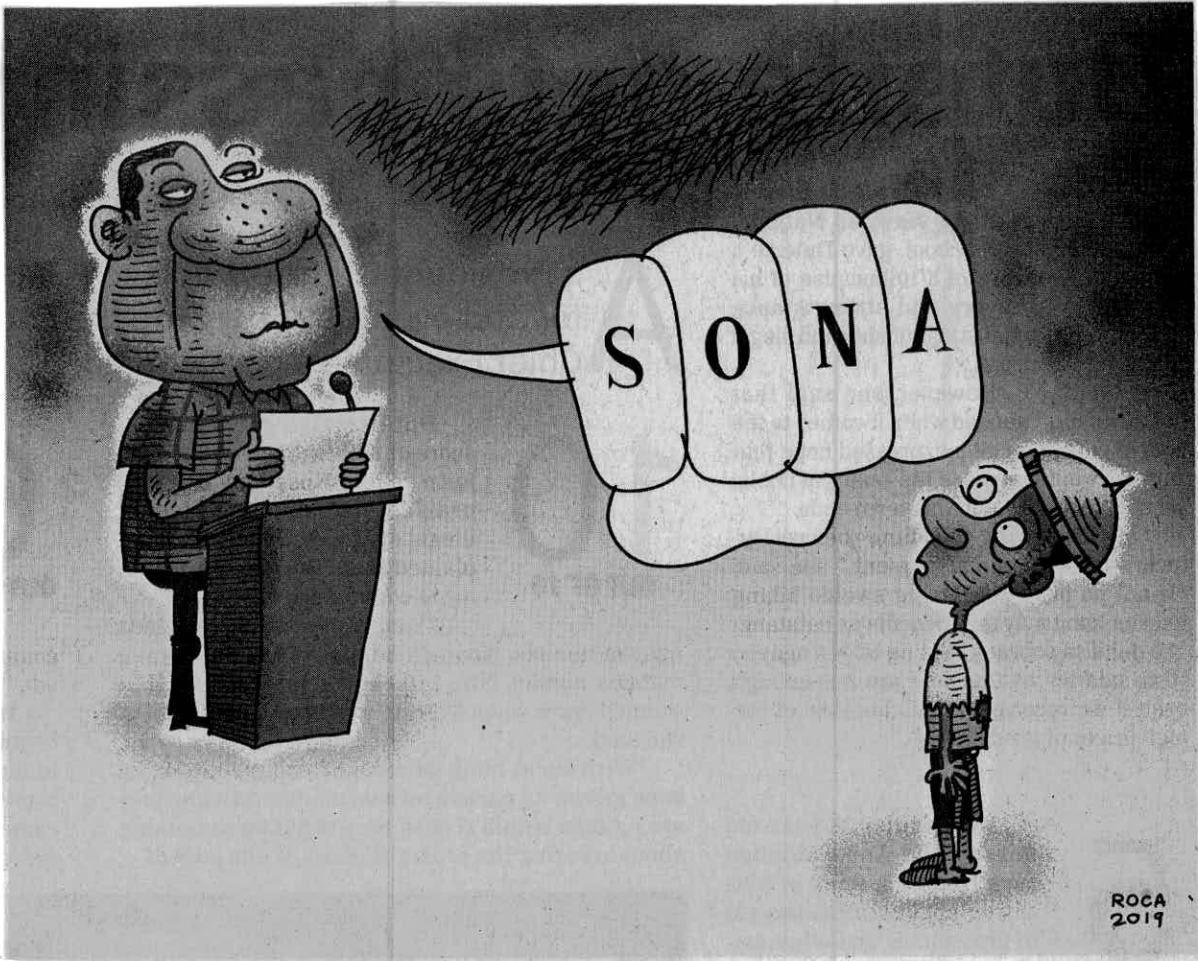
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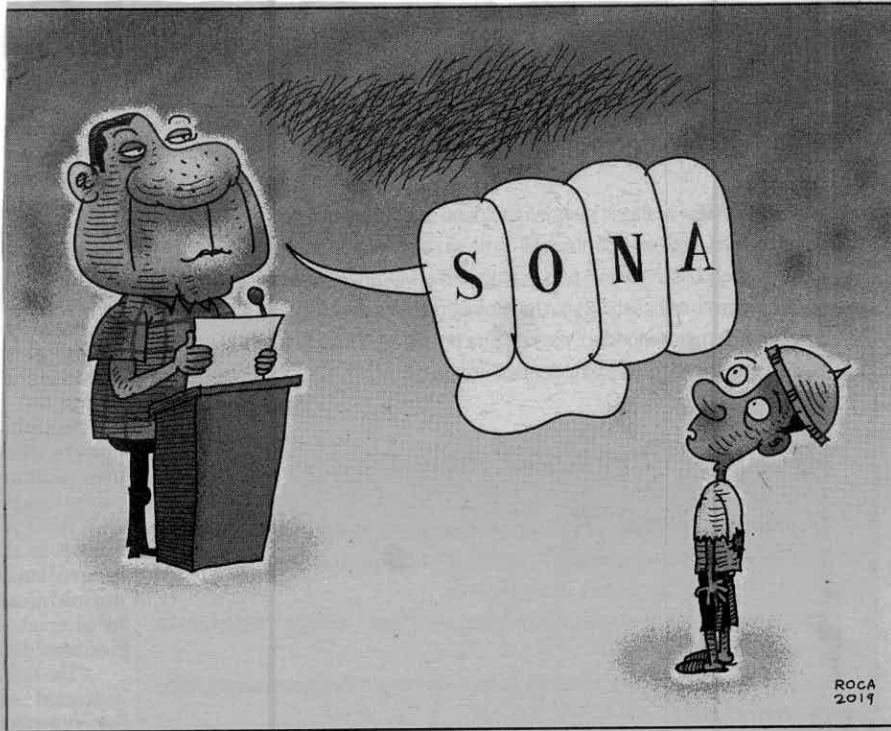
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EDITORIAL

Malaking pag-unlad sa ekonomiya sa nakalipas na tatlong taon

Sa pagpapahayag ni Pangulong Duterte ng kanyang State of the Nation Address (SONA) sa isang joint session ng Kongreso bukas, Lunes, magmamarka ito ng simula para sa ikalawang bahagi ng kanyang administrasyon. Malaki ang inaasahan sa susunod na tatlong taon, partikular sa sektor ng ekonomiya ng bansa. Tinitingnan ng World Bank ang Pilipinas bilang pinakamabilis na umuunlad na ekonomiya sa Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) sa kasalukuyan. Ito ngayon ang ika-13 sa pinakamalaking ekonomiya sa Asya, at inaasahang magiging ikalimang pinakamalaki sa Asya at ika-16 na pinakamalaki sa mundo pagsapit ng 2050.

Inaasahang pinakamahalagang pagsulong para sa ekonomiya ng bansa sa susunod na mga buwan at taon ay ang joint oil and gas exploration ng bansa kasama ang China na inaasahang magsisimula na ngayong Nobyembre, ayon kay Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, pinuno ng National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Nitong nakaraang Mayo 28, nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang Executive Order No. 80 na nagtatanggal sa harang para sa kasunduan ng oil exploration, development at production sa pagitan ng Philippine Exploration Corp. at ng China National Offshore Oil Corp. Una nang nilagdaan ng administrasyon ang unang kasunduan sa isang kumpanya mula Israel noong 2018 na sumasakop para sa eksplorasyon ng 416,000-ektarya sa silangan ng Palawan. Ang bagong kasunduan naman sa China ay sumasakop sa 720,000 ektarya sa bahagi ng Calamian, kanluran ng Palawan. Isa ang Calamian sa dalawang rehiyon malapit sa Palawan na pinaniniwalaang may malaking yaman ng langis; ang isa pa ay ang Reed Bank.

Ang oil explorasyon ay isa lamang bahagi ng maraming aspetong ugnayan na ating nabuo sa China sa nakalipas na tatlong taon. Ang ating kalakalan sa China, kabilang ang Hong Kong, ay umabot na sa \$417 billion ngayong Mayo, dahilan upang maging pangunahing katuwang sa kalakalan nito ang Pilipinas. Naging triple ang bilang ng iniluluwas na saging ng Pilipinas sa unang bahagi ng 2019 na umabot sa \$160 million. Kumita ang Philippine Online Gaming Operations (POGO) ng P24 billion sa buwis. Noong 2018, 1.2 million turistang Chinese ang nagpaangat sa ekonomiya ng Pilipinas ng P32 billion; habang inaasahan ang 2 million pagsapit ng 2020, na nagbibigay ng potensiyal na P50 billion sa ekonomiya ng bansa.

Malaki rin ang kinalaman ng China sa imprastrakturang programa ng bansa, na "Build, Build, Build". Kabilang ang dalawang donasyon na tulay sa bahagi ng Ilog Pasig, pagpopondo ng P500-million para sa Metro Manila flood-control project na ngayon ay nasa ikalawang taon na, ang P175-billion na South Rail Project, at ang P18.7 billion Kaliwa Dam na magpapaangat sa suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Maaaring may hindi tayo pagkakaunawaan sa ating paggigiit ng karapatan sa ilang isla sa South China Sea, partikular sa 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone na pinangalanan nating West Philippine Sea, ngunit 'tila maayos at kontrolado naman ni Pangulong Duterte ang sitwasyon. Naniniwala siyang kalaunan ay maayos din ang politikal na sigalot; ngunit sa ngayon, determinado siya na makita ang benepisyong hatid sa Pilipinas ng maraming ekonomikal na programang ipinatutupad.

Nagtapos na ngayong araw ang unang kalahati ng administrasyong Duterte kasama ng malaking paglago at pag-unlad sa ekonomiya. Umaasa tayo sa ikalawang kalahati, na magbibigay ito ng higit na malaking paglago sa ekonomiya, sa paglalagat ng Pangulo ng kanyang plano para sa bansa sa susunod na tatlong taon sa kanyang State of the Nation Address, bukas.



NI KORINA SANCHEZ

Huling salita

AYON sa pinakabagong survey ng SWS, mas maraming Pilipino ang hindi naniniwala sa magagandang intensiyon ng China. Naganap ang survey matapos ang insidente sa Recto Bank kung saan iniwan na lang ang mga Pilipinong mangingisda matapos mabangga o banggain ng Chinese vessel. Malinaw na hindi ito ikinatuwa ng marami. Hanggang ngayon ay wala pang pananagutan ang mga tauhan ng barko ng China kung sila nga ang nakabangga. Minaliit ng gobyerno ng China pati na rin ng administrasyon ang insidente, hanggang lumabas ang ulat ng PCG-Marina na matapos ikutan ng barko ng China ang mga Pilipinong mangingisda, pinatay ang kanilang ilaw at umalis.

Kaya naman mukhang babala ang pahayag ni Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo na "nayayamot si President Duterte kaya tuturuan ang kanyang mga kritiko" sa SONA bukas. Ang pagbatikos sa kasunduan ni Duterte at Chinese President Xi Jinping na payagan ang mga mangingisda ng Chinese sa ating EEZ sa West Philippine Sea ang kinaiinisan daw ni Duterte.

Lumabas na lang ang nasabing kasunduan nang maganap ang insidente sa Recto Bank. Nasa loob kasi ng Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) ng Pilipinas ang Recto Bank kaya marami ang nagtanong kung bakit nasa loob ng EEZ ang barko ng China, kung nakasaad sa Saligang Batas na ang mga Pilipino ang dapat makinabang sa lahat ng yamang maibibigay ng ating EEZ. Ayon kay Duterte, tayo nga ang may-ari ng bahagi ng karagatang iyan pero pinapayagan lang daw niya ang China na makapangisda roon. Ginawa rin para makabalik ang mga Pilipinong mangingisda sa Panatag Shoal.

Hindi nga ito tinanggap ng marami tulad ni Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio na walang pagod na ipinagtatanggol ang soberenya, teritoryo at karapatan ng bansa. Nanawagan nga na bawiin ang

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

K KA LANG?... Mula pahina 4

nasabing kasunduan ng Pilipinas sa China at huwag banggitin sa kanyang SONA bukas. Kapag binanggit umano ni Duterte ang kasunduan, legal na raw ito at hindi na puwe-

deng bawiin, hindi na rin tayo puwedeng umatras. Wala na ring magagawa ang mamamayan kahit ganyan pa ang saloobin, dahil si Duterte ang may huling salita.



Preparations for 4th SONA in full swing

By **EFREN MONTANO**

MALACAÑANG said preparations for President Rodrigo Duterte's fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) are in full swing, adding that the Chief Executive had been editing his speech during rehearsals last Friday.

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said that Duterte has always been the one editing his SONA since he assumed office. Andanar said Duterte cut down his speech from 28 to just 19 pages.

"The original 28-page speech was cut to 19 pages. We are still revising the speech as ordered by PRRD. It's 98 percent done. The speech will be about 45 minutes to an hour-long without adlib," said Andanar.

During the rehearsals which ended around 10 p.m., Duterte was assisted by Andanar, Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo and Senator Bong Go.

Television and film director Joyce Bernal who was tapped to direct Duterte's fourth SONA was also present. Andanar said Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) and Bernal's team are ready for the event.

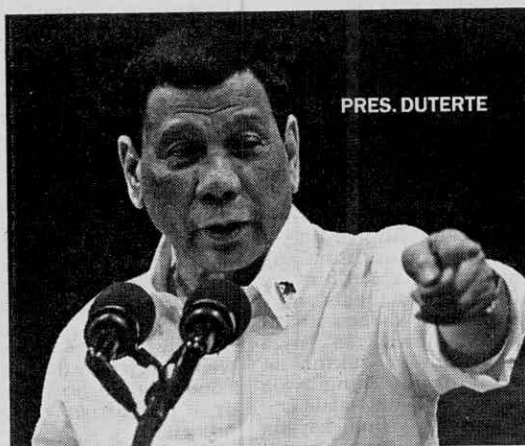
"The RTVM headed by Director Demic Pabalan and the team of Director Joyce Bernal are 100 percent ready. Barring any technical malfunction, we are good to air," Andanar bared.

Earlier, Andanar said Duterte's SONA would likely take at least 45 to 80 minutes, depending on the speed of the President's delivery and if he decides to go off-script.

Duterte's first SONA in 2016 lasted 92 minutes while his second SONA lasted for two hours. His third SONA lasted for 48 minutes.

Sources bared the West Philippine Sea (WPS) issue will be possibly discussed by the President in his SONA.

"Highly possible that WPS among others will be dis-



PRES. DUTERTE

cussed," the source said.

Duterte earlier said he will "educate" his critics about his decisions regarding the South China Sea dispute during his SONA, and why they are not unconstitutional.

Panelo said Duterte's SONA would be "short" and would focus on his promises such as eradicating illegal drugs and corruption, and his plans for the remainder of his term.

The Palace also said Duterte's speech tomorrow would be short because of the three pre-SONA briefings where the administration's achievements were extensively discussed.



Duterte readies 'short' SONA

**By Efen
Montano**

MALACAÑANG said preparations for President Rodrigo Duterte's fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) were in full swing, adding that Duterte himself has been editing his speech during rehearsals Friday evening.

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said that Duterte has always been the one editing his SONA since he assumed office.

"So far 'yung ating (our) State of the Nation Address preparations ay (is) on its full swing. At for the past three years siya talaga ang nag-e-edit ng (he has been the one who edits his) speech," he said. Andanar said that Duterte cut down his speech from 28 to just 19 pages.

"The original 28-page speech was cut to 19 pages. We are still revising the speech as ordered by PRRD. It's 98 percent done," he said Sunday

morning.

"The speech will be about 45 minutes to an hour-long without adlib," he added.

Assisting the President in the rehearsals, which ended around 10 p.m., were Andanar, Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, and Senator Bong Go. Television and film director Joyce Bernal who was tapped to direct Duterte's fourth SONA was also present.

Meanwhile, Andanar said that Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) and Bernal's team were ready for the event.

"The RTVM headed by Director Demic Pabalan and the team of Director Joyce Bernal are 100 percent ready. Barring any technical malfunction, we are good to air," he said.

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The President earlier said that he will "educate" his critics about his decisions regarding the South China Sea dispute during his SONA, and why they are not unconstitutional.

Panelo said that Duterte's SONA would be "short" and would focus on his promises such as eradicating illegal drugs and corruption, and his plans for the remainder of his term.

The Palace also said that Duterte's speech on Monday would be short because of the three pre-SONA briefings where the administration's achievements were extensively discussed.



Ayon kay P-Digong

4TH SONA, MAS MAIKLI

KASADO na ang talumpati ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para sa kanyang ikaapat na State of the Nation Address (SONA) bukas, July 22 kung saan ang Punong Ehekutibo mismo ang nag-edit ng kanyang speech sa isinagawang rehearsals sa Malacañang noong Biyernes ng gabi.

Ayon kay Communications Secretary Martin Andanar, si Pangulong Duterte mismo ang laging nag-e-edit ng kanyang talumpati sa SONA mula nang maluklok ito sa kanyang posisyon noong 2016.

"So far, yung ating State of the Nation Address preparations ay on its full swing. At for the past three years siya talaga ang nag-e-edit ng speech," ani Andanar.

Nabatid na binawasan ng pangulo ang kanyang talumpati na sa halip na 28 pahina ay ginawa na lamang itong 19 pahina.

Katuwang ng pangulo sa kanyang practice sina dating Special Assistant to the President at ngayon ay Senador

"Bong" Go, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, Undersecretary Melchor Quitain, Sec. Andanar, Radio TV Malacañang Director Demic Pabalan at Director Joyce Bernal sa Rizal Hall ng Palasyo.

Una nang sinabi ni Andanar na tatagal ng mula 45 hanggang 50 minuto ang talumpati ng pangulo kung hindi mababago ang nakahandang speech nito.

Sinabi naman ni Cabinet Sec. Karlo Nograles na nais lamang sabihin ng pangulo sa kanyang SONA kung ano ang nilalaman ng kanyang puso.

Kilala si Pangulong Duterte sa mahabang talumpati at una na nitong sinabi na sa kanyang SONA bukas ay tuturuan niya ang kanyang mga kritiko sa isyu ng South China Sea.

Matatandaang, tumagal ng isang oras at 32 minuto ang unang SONA ng pangulo noong 2016 habang ang ikalawa ay nasa dalawang oras ngunit, noong nakalipas na taon ay nasa 48 minuto.

(Mylene Alfonso)



Duterte maraming sorpresa sa SONA – Palasyo

KINONTRA ng Malacañang ang pahayag ng mga kritiko na magiging “defensive” ang laman ng State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Lunes, Hulyo 22.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na kilalang mahilig manorpresya ang Pangulo kaya’t ito ang dapat abangan sa kanyang SONA.

Lumutang na magiging defensive ang SONA ng Pangulo matapos ang naging pahayag na lelekturan nito ang publiko sa isyu ng West Philippine Sea (WPS), bukod pa sa posibilidad na mabanggit nito ang tungkol sa International Criminal Court (ICC) at sa resolusyon ng Iceland patungkol sa drug campaign ng bansa.

Sinabi ni Panelo na kahit kailan ay hindi naging defensive si Pangulong Duterte sa mga isyung kinakaharap nito.

Binigyang-diin ng kalihim na malinaw ang sinabi ng Pangulo sa isa sa kanyang mga naging pahayag na nais niyang i-educate ang mga kritiko para malinawan ang isip ng mga mali ang pagkaintindi lalo na sa isyu

ng West Philippine Sea.

“No, never naman na defensive si Presidente. Sinabi niya he will educate the critics and detractors of the falsity and the wrongness of their stand,” ani Panelo.

Abogado aniya si Pangulong Duterte kaya alam nito ang batas, at marami sa kanyang mga kritiko ang hindi abogado kaya lelekturan niya ang mga ito.

Sinabi ni Panelo na malaya naman ang mga kritiko na kontrahin ang argumento ng Pangulo at ang Korte Suprema aniya ang huling magpapasya kung mali o hindi ang posisyon ng magkabilang panig.

“He knows his law eh. Kahit naman he tells us his position, then you can counter-argue kung okay ‘yung argumento mo,” dagdag pa ni Panelo.

Tinanong aniya ng kalihim ang Pangulo hinggil sa talumpati nito at ang tugon sa kanya ay “it will be a short message.”

“He is a man of surprises. I asked him, ang sagot sa akin “it will be a short message,” wika pa ni Panelo. **(Aileen Taliping)**



PAHINA SIYETE

Clemens Bautista

Ang mga naglahong pamalakaya at isda sa Laguna de Bay

(Huling Bahagi)

Sa panahon na sagana sa mga nahuhuling mga isda sa Laguna de Bay ay noong dekada 50 hanggang dekada 80. Ang isa sa pangunahing pamalakaya sa lawa ay ang mga pukot o trawl fishing. Sa Angono, Rizal ay maraming maykaya sa buhay o mayaman ang ang nagpundar ng pukot. Maraming mga taga-Angono ang nagkaroon ng hanapbuhay sapagkat sila'y mga tauhan ng mga may-ari ng pukot. Ang mga pukot ay pumapalaot sa lawa simula sa madaling araw. Saan man bahagi ng Laguna de Bay ihulog ang mga lambat ng pukot ay maraming nahuhuling mga isdang tulad ng mga kanduli, mga biya, dalag, mga malalapad at malalaking ayungin. Ang paghango sa mga lambat ng mga pukot ay bandang alas 10:00 ng umaga o hanggang tanghali.

Kung nagdalawang bara o dalawang beses na inihulog ang mga lambat sa lawa, ang mga tauhan nito ay umaahon na ng alas 3:00 ng hapon. Ngunit kung isang bara o isang beses lamang ang paghuhulog ng mga lambat sa lawa, alas 10:00 lamang ng umaga ay nakaahon na ang pukot at mga tauhan nito. Ang mga isdang nahuli ng pukot ay binibili o pinapakyaw ng mga "rigator" (tawag sa mga namimili at nanamakyaw ng mga isdang huli ng pukot sa Laguna de Bay. May panahon at pagkakataon din na ang mga pukot sa Rizal laluna sa Angono ay dumadayo sa ibang bayan sa Laguna na malapit sa tabi ng: Laguna de Bay. Mula Lunes hanggang Sabado ang pagdayo. Bumabalik ang mga pukot at mga tauhan nito kung Sabado ng hapon. Sinasalubong sila ng kanilang mga anak at mga kakilala at kamag-anak. May sumasalubong din na "mambabakaw" o mga

bata at matandang lalaki na nanginghingi ng isda sa mga mamumukot. Kung Linggo ng hapon, pinaparte ng may-ari ng pukot ang perang kinita ng pukot sa isang linggong pagdayo ng pangingsda sa ibang bayan sa Laguna. Ang pangingsda sa pamamagitan ng pukot ay may isa lamang linggong matitigil. Ang dahilan: gagawin ang "barada" o ang paghahayuma ng mga sira ng mga lambat ng pukot. Sa panahong "barada" ang mga lambat ng pukot ay "dinadampol" o inilulubog sa pinakuluang tubig na may kasamang mga balat ng duhat. Pagkatapos ay inilulubog sa dugo ng kalabaw na may kahalang tubig. Ibinibilad ang mga lambat na inilubog sa dugo ng kalabaw. May paniwala ang mga mangingsda na tumitibay ang mga lambat at nawawala ang pangungupas o pamumuti ng kulay ng mga lambat at maging ang mga lubid na kinakapitan ng mga lambat. Bukod sa pagdadampol ng mga lambat, kinukulob o inilulubog sa pinakuluang tubig na nasa malaking tulyasi. Ginagawa ito sa "kuluban" o ang lugar na pinaglulubugan ng mga lambat ng pukot. Matapos ang "barada," kinabukasan ay muling lumalabas ang pukot sa Laguna de Bay.

Bukod sa perang nakaparte o bahagi sa pinagbilhan ng mga kalang ng mga isdang kanduli, ang mga tauhan ng pukot ay may naiuwi pang isdang tulad ng malalaking kanduli, dalag, biya, karpa, bidbid, buwan-buwan at iba pang isda sa lawa. Ang nasabing mga isda ay natapakan at nahuli ng mga "mag-aalaga" o ng mga namamahala sa pagbabaon ng pinaka paanan ng mga lambat ng pukot. Sa ngayon, marami pang kanduli, biya at ayungin na nahuhuli ng mga mangingsda sa Laguna de Bay. Ngunit ang mga isdang bidbid at buwan-

buwan madalang nang mahuli sa lawa. Ang nahuhuli ng mangingsda ay mga kanduli at ayungin na P200 ang isang kilo. Ang presyo ng mga kanduli ay hindi tumataas. Ang naging kapalit ng mga isdang bidbid at buwan-buwan ay mga isdang "big head". Sa mga palengke sa Rizal, ang mga isdang "big head" ay kabilang na sa mga ipinagbibili ng mga tindera ng isa.

Sa ngayon ay wala nang nahuhuling mga isdang bidbid at buwan-buwan sa Laguna de Bay. Sa pagtatanong ng inyong lingkod sa isang 90-anyos na dating mangingsda sa Laguna de Bay, maaaring naubos na ang nasabing mga isda na kasama ng tubig-alat na patungo sa Laguna de Bay mula sa Ilog Pasig. O, maaaring lumayo na ang mga isda sapagkat matindi na ang polusyon sa Laguna de Bay sapagkat ang mga pabrikang nasa tabi ng lawa ay walang water treatment. Direto ang pagtatapon at pagpapasuka ng mga maruming tubig sa lawa. At posibleng naubos na dahil sa malalaking sakag (panghuli ng hipon). May nagsasabi naman na kaya nawala na ang nasabing mga isda sa Laguna de Bay ay dahil sa pagkakatayo ng Napindan channel na humarang sa pag-ayos ng tubig alat papuntang lawa. Ang tubig-alat ang nagpapalinaw ng tubig sa lawa ang nahuhuling mga isda at hipon. Nakapangitlog ang mga isda. Tumutubo at lumalago rin ang mga halamang-dagat tulad ng "sintas" at "digman" na tumutubo sa mababaw na bahagi ng lawa laluna sa gilid ng Laguna de Bay. Ang mga digman at sintas na tumubo ay nagiging tirahan o kanlungan naman ng mga hipon na nasasakag ng mga "mananakag" ng hipon. Ipinagbibili sa palengke na tabo ang takalan ang mga maliliit na hipon na nasakag. At bago dalhin sa palengke, ang asawa at mga

anak ng mananakag ay pinipili at ibinubukod ang ang mga "sipitan" o malalaking hipon. Iba ang presyo nito kapag ipinagbibili sa palengke o kung inilalako ng asawa at anak ng mananakag ng hipon. Karaniwang isinasama ang nasabing mga hipon sa pagkain ng mga inaalagaang mga itik.

Ang pagsakag ng mga hipon ay patuloy na ginagawa sa Laguna de Bay. Gamit ang malalaking sakag ng hipon na nakakabit sa dulo ng malaking bangkang de-motor. Kapag isinuro o inilubog na ang sakag sa tubig sa tulong ng bangkang de motor na nagtutulak sa sakag, malaki at maliit na hipon at ibang isda sa Laguna de Bay ay nahuhuli ng sakag. Nakalulungkot lamang sapagkat may ibang mga mananakag na pino ang lambat ng kanilang sakag o parang kulambo. Dahil dito, malaki at malaking hipon at maging ang mga fingerlings ng ayungin, biya, tilapia, bangus at iba pang isda ay kasama sa nahuhuli ng sakag. Ang walang habas na panghuhuling ito ang nagiging dahilan ng pagkawala ng mga nasabing mga isda sa Laguna de Bay. Walang mga tauhan ng pamahalaan sa lawa ang nagbabantay at nanghuhuli sa mga balasubas na mangingsda sa Laguna de Bay na pinagkukunan ng mahirap nating mga kababayan sa Rizal at Laguna na naninirahan malapit o sa tabi ng lawa.

Kailan kaya kikilos ang mga tauhan ng ahensiya ng pamahalaan na nangangalaga sa lawa? Kung naubos na ang mga isda sa Laguna de Bay? At wala nang mahuling nga isda ang ating mga mangingsda lalo na ang mga mahirap na nakatira sa tabi at baybay ng lawa. At ang mga umaasa sa mga biyaya sa Laguna de Bay.



Air, water and beauty: For sale?

COMMENTARY

RODEL D. LASCO

One of the most intriguing developments in sustainable development and natural resources management is the idea that “users” should pay for the ecosystems services they enjoy and utilize. These include such services, for example, as watershed protection to ensure continuous flow of water, climate regulation by forests, and even landscape and seascape beauty.

The fundamental idea is to let some form of market operate so that “producers” of ecosystems services are compensated by those who “consume” them. According to the Ecosystems Marketplace, payments for ecosystem services (PES) refers to the entire suite of economic arrangements used to reward the conservation of ecosystems services.

Part of the argument is that ecosystems services are currently undervalued. Thus, consumers are not paying the true cost of producing and maintaining these services. Take water, for example. The price we pay for tap water is just a fraction of what it takes to “produce” water. Our water supply comes from watersheds and underground aquifers. These watersheds are inhabited by millions of people, mostly smallholder farmers whose land cultivation practices determine the ability of those areas to produce water. Through some form of PES, watershed dwellers can be incentivized to practice sustainable land management practices that ensure steady water supply.

PES is more than theory. A global as-

essment reported in the journal *Nature Sustainability* last year showed that about \$36 billion are invested annually in PES schemes involving governments, businesses and civil society. These programs cover ecosystems services such as carbon capture (for climate change mitigation), water filtration and biodiversity conservation.

In the Philippines, we are slowly beginning to quantify the benefits we get from natural ecosystems. For instance, a study under the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) project of the World Bank revealed that one hectare of mangroves in the country provides on average more than \$3,200 per year of direct flood reduction benefits. In addition, there are a number of pilot scale projects that have explored the use of PES to protect water supply.

For example, the Bukidnon Environment and Natural Resources office has been implementing a PES scheme for a number of years now. It is able to generate funds that support the conservation of Mt. Kitanglad and Mt. Kalatungan. In addition, the National Power Corp. in the province has expanded its PES program so that it now covers more than 1,000 hectares, benefiting

about 700 farmer households. Through this program, the company is able to promote sound farming practices in the watersheds where it draws water from.

The science underpinning PES is growing, but there are issues that still need to be resolved. For example, valuation techniques for ecosystems services need to be refined while our understanding of how our ecosystems function improves. The lack of a standard accounting unit is another major valuation challenge. Similarly, policymakers are grappling with how we can integrate PES into national development plans and programs without hurting the poor. At the base of this is the fact that the capacity of and demand on our ecosystems are already under severe pressure. Thus, we may need to regulate the flow of benefits that come from the services they provide.

The country’s leaders should enhance our citizens’ appreciation of the value of natural ecosystems to our daily lives. If we are to develop sustainably, we have no choice but to conserve our natural capital and the services they provide, no matter the cost.

Rodel Lasco is an author of several IPCC reports, including the forthcoming sixth assessment report. He is the executive director of The OML Center, a foundation devoted to discovering climate change adaptation solutions (<http://www.omlopezcenter.org/>)



Real paper, real people

The impending takeover by AI (artificial intelligence) of many business process outsourcing and customer service jobs is bad news for millennial call center agents, and nontechny dinosaurs like myself. Those of a certain age still prefer the tangible paper statements and utility bills. We validate past transactions, then safely file them away. It's record-keeping, not hoarding. Filipinos who lack a sense of history would do well to cultivate this practice. Save more trees, emit less carbon by banning election campaign fliers and PVC tarps instead.

However, humongous corporations profiting off us disempowered multitudes are increasingly loath to grant us the courtesy of paper. After taking my widow's mite for sketchy services, the gazillionaire telecoms further burden aging pensioners like myself by shifting the responsibility for printing out my phone bill, or they will charge me P50 for a copy.

Considering how awful our mobile services and internet are, for telecoms to demand that I go online to see how much I owe them for repeated fails only adds insult to greater injury—death by a thousand paper cuts each passing month.

On the human side, the push to go paperless (by those who can very well afford to give us our paper) disenfranchises more lowly bike messengers, and even slum *nanays* who insert

bills and SOAs in window envelopes then sort them by zip code—just a few of the multitudes who scrounge along the broad societal margins for any means of livelihood in the fetid swamp of the underground economy upon which those gleaming glass and steel office towers perch. Do the corporate elite even practice true social responsibility by using the paltry pesos (in proportion to their profits) saved from their going paperless toward significant environmental programs or disaster mitigation efforts? I don't mean those sporadic bursts of tree-planting, great as these are for the photo-op and the office team-building junket. The shoots rarely even reach the sapling stage. Calculate the carbon footprint from busing employees uniformly clad in corporate event T-shirts to the tree-planting site, with their PET water bottles, Styrofoam lunch kits and loot bags. CSR doesn't consider giving unemployed Filipinos jobs to look after those trees, or even ensuring there was an accessible water source in the first place. Even at the La Mesa and Ipo Dam reserves, the foresters'

salaries are unconscionably delayed.

In tandem with going paperless is doing away with real people. Those automated voice responses with their hollowly perky attempts to sound human while enumerating a confusing menu of numerical choices, make us mistrust them even more. My octogenarian aunt is so freaked out by them that she makes a bigger carbon footprint with a trip to the bank to speak face to face with a real, hopefully sympathetic and efficient human.

There is phone banking, if only the largest phone company actually delivered with any consistency. Recently, I attempted for the nth time to report my perpetually malfunctioning line and got through to a person. She refused to send a repairman or to process a rebate despite my many reports of no service. Instead, she suggested that I check my own line. It seems she intended for me to clamber up my roof or shimmy up the telephone pole and, magically, instantly have all the skills of a trained electrician or engineer. *Hija*, I'm over 60 and I don't do that. It didn't matter. But she gave me a long reference number just the same. My mistake. She wasn't human, after all.

Menchu Aquino Sarmiento, 62, is an award-winning writer, visual artist and social concerns advocate.

HIGH BLOOD

MENCHU AQUINO SARMIENTO



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



21 JUL 2019

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PAGE 1/

DATE

Nickel industry beefs up greening efforts

The local nickel industry continues to strengthen greening efforts as part of its thrust towards responsible and sustainable mining in the country.

The Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) and its seven-member companies have planted 5.3 million trees in Caraga and Palawan as part of ongoing progressive rehabilitation and reforestation in several mining sites.

The number of trees planted has risen by 27 percent from 4.2 million in June last year as part of the sector's environmental protection and enhancement program.

"We contribute at least three to five percent of our operating cost to this. No other industry is mandated to do this," PNIA executive director Charmaine Capili said.

On top of current reforestation efforts, mining companies are mandated to implement

the temporary revegetation program.

PNIA member companies have planted over 284 hectares of various vegetation and spent P45 million.

"We are required to plant 100 trees for every one tree we cut down. Our industry has made continued efforts to rehabilitate the areas where we mine since we started operations. With the ongoing TRP, we can provide short term vegetation growth that can control soil erosion and assist communities during natural calamities," Capili said.

Endemic trees and grass species have been planted since the start of rehabilitation phase including agoho, mahogany, giant bamboo, and narra, as well as fruit-bearing trees like calamansi, cashew, jackfruit and cacao, among others.

Cash crops such as rubber,

coffee, vegetables and herbal plants are also grown in the mine sites' respective nurseries.

PNIA's bamboo reforestation also serves as a complement to ongoing reforestation and rehabilitation programs.

To date, more than 22,000 seedlings have been planted by PNIA member companies.

Apart from ecological rehabilitation, the program also provides employment to residents and to the indigenous community, and creates livelihood programs to strengthen the local economy.

The reforestation program is part of the nickel industry's commitment and contribution to the government's national greening program, which aims to revegetate some 1.2 million hectares of "unproductive, denuded and degraded" forest land nationwide from 2017-2022.

- Louise Maureen Simeon



DISFIGURED DOG IN BORACAY SAVED BY ANIMAL ADVOCATES

For weeks, netizens were aghast at the sight on social media: yet another badly disfigured dog, the left side of her face practically melted away, lying in the sand in Boracay—ugly proof that monsters did live in paradise.

But as this incident proved anew, animal rescuers will somehow find ways. Anna Cabrera, ex-



ecutive director of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), and Mich Van Der Kleij, founder of the Aklan Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Center (AARRC), joined forces, as it were, to save

Dolores, as they called the asPin.

“Mich asked for help, as there was no vet clinic on the island that could handle the case,” says Cabrera. “But AARRC must be commended for doing everything they could, even going by sea and pedicab, and starting initial treatment to save her.”

Last Monday, an AARRC volunteer accompanied Dolores as

she arrived at the pier in Batangas and was taken to the PAWS Animal Rescue Center (PARC) in Quezon City. Cabrera also found an ally in Vets in Practice (VIP) Animal Hospital senior veterinarian Dr. Marga Carpio, who met Dolores at PARC and, seeing her situation, decided to confine the dog at VIP, with all medical treatment provided pro bono.

Videos of the dog’s arrival showed her gently submitting to the examination. “Amazing how she still trusts people, after this,” said Carpio, who theorized that Dolores was splashed with boiling oil, probably in an attempt to shoo her away. The left eyeball is completely gone, as are parts of the lower lip and snout; in a video of her first



A calm Dolores after initial treatment —PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VETS IN PRACTICE

C5

treatment, Carpio is seen cleaning and debriding the pus-filled open area after Dolores was anesthetized.

The veterinarian is optimistic the tissue will heal because it was actually alive and bleeding; skin may be grafted later to cover the wound. Dolores’ teeth were also examined.

The dog, estimated to be 9-years-old, has other problems, though: heartworm, a parasite infection which must be treated progressively over the next six months so as not to strain her

heart, and ehrlichia, a pest-borne disease similar to dengue in humans, which requires a round of antibiotics.

Nevertheless, Carpio says the prognosis is good: “She is strong, and she hasn’t given up on life.”

Although the rescuers and the vet are not yet looking beyond Dolores’ healing, it is unlikely she will be sent back to Boracay, and will probably be rehomed in Manila. Already, some blessed souls from that special breed of adopters who open their homes to trauma-

tized dogs or animals with disabilities are expressing interest.

The other piece of good news is that PAWS is also ready to work with AARRC to prosecute whoever committed this gruesome act. “If we are able to determine who did it, we are very willing to help AARRC file a case,” says Cabrera. “It’s no longer just about bad treatment, but a crime of animal abuse. There is an Animal Welfare Act, and people who witness such cases don’t even have to go to us; they can report the incident directly to the police. About 80-

90 percent of the cases we file are prosecuted.”

So Dolores may still get justice, and other lowlifes who think it’s okay to do this should think twice. For this most innocent of victims, whom Carpio says must have suffered “indescribable pain,” life can only get better—thanks to humans who cared enough.

Speaking of lowlifes, Carpio also cited a recent case of a dog shot in the face by a policeman (!) in Los Baños, Laguna—but that’s another horror story.

—Alya B. Honasan



Upon Duterte order, Palawan power coop improves service

By DANESSA RIVERA

Palawan Electric Cooperative (Paleco) has reported an improvement in its power distribution service as it reduced the interruption frequency and duration by at least 50 percent after undertaking several concrete actions to address technical issues.

In a statement, Paleco chairman Jeffrey Tan-Endriga said the cooperative has been doing its best to improve its services, particularly its reliability indices.

"As a matter of fact, if we compare the SAIDI and SAIFI between the time when President Duterte precautioned the privatization of power distribution services in Palawan and what we have now, interruption frequency and duration experienced by our customers have significantly reduced by at least 50 percent," Tan-Endriga said.

SAIFI is the average number of interruptions that a customer would experience while SAIDI is used as a reliability indicator by electric power utilities.

Tan-Endriga said power outages are not just coming from the distribution side, but also from transmission and generation.

To address this problem, Paleco implemented continuous massive clearing of trees in the entire coverage area; continuous conduct of regular thermal scanning of power substation equipment and distribution lines to prevent hotspots; transformer load management; massive inspection, re-sealing, modification and change of defective big load kwh meters and instrument transformers; meter clustering of residential consumers along squatter, coastal and other areas with suspected

pilferages, coordination of protective devices, improvement of grounding system and capacitating of technical personnel on distribution maintenance and substation operation.

The electric cooperative (EC) has also identified problems which caused unreliable electricity and have sought to address it.

"For Paleco, these unplanned power interruptions are caused mostly by heavy vegetation and wildlife incursion attributed to the vast forest cover of Palawan. Unfortunately, DENR and local government policies are stringent in Palawan which limit Paleco to conduct massive line clearing to protect the integrity of the lines," Tan-Endriga said.

Additionally, the company official said at least 40 percent of the total power interruptions recorded from January to May are attributed to power plants which may be caused by abnormal engine tripping, old-aged generating units, and uncoordinated protection equipment settings between some of new power players, National Power Corp. and Paleco.

"Lastly, the current dispatch protocol was needed to be fixed due to being opposed to the concept of merit order as well as the directive of the Senate committee on energy, gives priority to less reliable and more expensive power providers," he said.

To further improve its service, Paleco is working on several key projects which include the installation of additional substations in at least three locations to correct quality of electrical operations parameters (voltage, frequency, current) and improve the reliability of power delivery to consumers in far-flung areas.



DEMOLITION OF ERRING BORACAY FIRMS BEGIN

ILOILO CITY—The Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group began the demolition of establishments violating the 25+5 coastal easement in Bulabog Beach in Barangay Balabag, Malay, Aklan.

Natividad Bernardino, general manager of BIARMG, said the group targets to take down eight erring establishments "within the week."

"We have started with one establishment on Friday and we hope to finish all eight within the week," Bernardino said.

Two establishments were scheduled to be removed yesterday.

The establishments that will face demolition include hotels, restaurants, bars, and kite surfing schools, Bernardino said.

She said Aklan Mayor Ceciron Cawaling already issued the violators an ultimatum to self-demolish in October 2018.

Last March 25, Aklan Mayor Abram Sualog also issued the same to the erring establishments.

"They were already given (a) demolition order. We just implemented the order," Bernardino said.

Last year, the rehabilitation group already put markings on the structures that need to be removed.

The establishments have to be demolished because they obstruct the drainage system being built by the Department of Public Works and Highways, she added.

Business owners did not show any violent reaction to the demolition because they know they have to face the consequence since they refused to self-demolish, Bernardino said. **PNA**



Mga negosyo sa Isla ng Boracay, isinara para sa rehabilitasyon, binaha naman ngayon, tsk-~~tsk~~-tsk!

MATATANDAANG anim na buwan isinara ang Isla ng Boracay para sa rehabilitasyon nito. Ang isa sa napakaganda at sikat na isla sa bansa ay dumating sa puntong kailangan itong isaayos mula sa masamang kondisyon.

Oktubre noong nakaraang taon, muling binuksan ang isla sa publiko, pero hindi tulad ng nakasanayan ng marami, ang isla ay naging limitado. Nagkaroon ng limitasyon ang bilang ng mga turistang puwedeng makapasok sa isla bukod pa sa ibang mga pagbabago tulad ng pagbawal ng inuman at maingay na party sa dalampasigan.

Pero, sa kabila ng mga paghihigpit, nakapagtata kang tila pinabayaang makapasok ang mga iligal na negosyong pinatatakbo ng mga Chinese at Koreano.

Ilang negosyo raw ang ipinasara ng gobyerno dahil sa kakulangan ng mga permit, paano nangyaring nakapagbukas sila ng negosyo nang hindi alam ng lokal na pamahalaan?

Samantala, ipinakita ng kalikasan na hindi pa tunay na matatawag na 'paraiso' ang Boracay Island kahit ipinasara ito ng anim na buwan.

Nakalulungkot dahil binaha ang isla matapos ang tuluy-tuloy na pag-ulan dulot ng Habagat at Bagyong Falcon nitong mga nakaraang araw. Ang paliwanag ng gobyerno, dahil sa isinasagawang drainage system na sa susunod na taon pa raw matatapos. Napakarami pa raw kailangang gawin sa isla na hindi kakayanin ng anim na buwan lamang. Dismayado ang ilang negosyante dahil nawalan sila ng negosyo sa loob ng anim na buwan tapos ganito naman ngayon, binabaha sila, tila mas sumama raw ang sitwasyon. Gayunman, ang hiling ng gobyerno, magtiis muna ang mga kababayan natin.

□□□

Ayon sa pinakabagong resulta ng survey ng Social Weather Stations (SWS), mas maraming Pilipino ang hindi naniniwala sa magandang intensiyon ng China. Naganap ang survey matapos ang insidente sa Recto Bank kung saan tila na-hit-and-run ng Chinese vessel ang bangkang-pangisda ng 22 mangingisdang Pinoy.

Malinaw na hindi ito ikinatuwa ng marami nating kababayan kaya tila naging babala ang pahayag ni Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo na "nayayamot si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kaya tuturuan daw nito ang kanyang mga kritiko".

Samantala, ang pagbatikos ng mga kritiko sa kasunduan nina Pangulong Duterte at Chinese President Xi Jinping na payagan ang mga mangingisdang Chinese sa West Philippine Sea (WPS) ang isa sa mga kinaiinisan daw ng pangulo, eh, kung ganyang walang tiwala ang karamihan ng mga Pinoy sa China, sino ang dapat masunod?

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LGUs urged to ensure safety of high-rise buildings

Local government units (LGUs) should ensure that high-rise structures are safe and would pose no threats to their occupants especially during times of natural calamities such as typhoons and earthquakes, a climate change expert said. Glenn Banaguas, executive director of De La Salle Araneta University's Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute, said that LGUs should conduct due diligence on structural integrity and adopt disaster resilient strategies and implement these in their localities. Banaguas noted that China, for example, has implemented new reinforced bar or rebar standard rules, which also banned quenching and tempering of steel rebars. The new rebar standard, which took effect on Nov. 1, 2018, was aimed at preventing water-cooled bar disguised as hot-rolled rebar from being sold in the market. The changes in the rebar regulations were triggered by the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, that killed over 69,000 people and injured 374,176. Banaguas added that LGUs should be stricter in granting building permits and ensure that only standard materials are used in the construction of high-rise structures. He said the reported prevalence of substandard steel in the market was a major concern. To ensure the safety of existing quench tempered steel in the market, Banaguas said it has to be tested more. "It has to undergo a series of tests," he said.



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Building community resilience top gov't priority

There will be no letup in the fight against climate change and disaster risks as building resilient communities remains a top priority for government.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu assured this recently during a pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) forum held in Davao City.

"In the coming months, we will continue to strengthen our programs and policies to assure the resilience of our communities," Cimatu said.

As a way forward, Cimatu said the Duterte administration will continue to pursue policy reforms that integrate climate and disaster risk considerations into development policies, strategies, plans and programs.

Cimatu pointed out that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will continue to coordinate closely with other line agencies under the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure that they work together toward the goal of establishing adaptive and resilient communities.

The DENR chief co-chairs the cluster with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, while the Climate Change Commission acts as the cluster secretariat.

The members include the Executive Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary, and the heads of the Presidential Management Staff, the Department of Budget and Management, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Finance, and the Department of Science and Technology (DoST).



United call for climate action

For climate action to be truly sustainable and effective, it has to involve all segments of the population and sectors of society

It needed to be tackled a long, long time ago and now, more than ever.

The Philippine Embassy in Geneva, Switzerland joined the call against the dangers of inaction towards the issue of climate change, providing solutions for the ugly changes our environment has been experiencing.



“As a country that is one of the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, the Philippines has long recognized the dangers of inaction,” said Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Evan Garcia, during his opening remarks to the panel discussion



PHILIPPINE Permanent Representative to the UN EVAN Garcia.

entitled, “Fighting Climate Change through Organizational Solidarity.”

The talk revolved around tackling and recalling the efforts made by the Philippines in the past in helping to promote climate action.

“Our President has recently

called on industrialized nations to significantly reduce their carbon emissions and provide assistance to developing nations in terms of finance, capacity-building and technology transfer,” he said.

“For climate action to be truly sustainable and effective, it has to involve all segments of the population and sectors of society. It has to be deliberate, relentless, strategic and inclusive. It has

to be built on a foundation of solidarity,” said Ambassador Garcia.

The panel discussion was orchestrated by various organizations such as Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII and IIMA Human Rights Office, Vides Internazionale, Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, New Humanity and Teresian Association. **BM**



GARCIA called for stronger climate action in a panel discussion with civil society groups held in Geneva on 27 June.



TALAS-SALITAAN



**Joselito D.
Delos Reyes, PhD**

@JoselitoDelos

Wala naman talagang tiyak at perpektong sistema para malaman ang eksaktong lagay ng panahon. Kaya nga ang ginagamit na pandiwa para sa lagay ng panahon ay 'pagtataya'. Halimbawa, sasabihin ng weather forecaster na 'tinatayang aabot ang lakas ng bagyo sa 65 kilometro bawat oras'. Tinataya.

Sasabihin pa ng forecaster: 'Tinatayang dara-

an ang bagyo' sa ganito at ganyang lugar. Tinataya ang lagay ng panahon. Lalo ngayong nakararanas tayo ng madalas na pag-ulan at malimit na pagdating bagyo lalo't may climate change.

Pansinin ninyo pa rin ang tawag sa mga nagtataya ng panahon, weather forecaster. Matataas ang pinag-aralan ng mga forecaster na ito sa meteorology o ang agham sa pag-aaral na mga weather phenomena.

Hindi eksakto pero kayang magbigay ng forecasters ng malapit na pagtataya sa, halimbawa, ruta ng bagyo gamit ang mga obserbasyon at datos na kayang ibigay ng mga satellite, doppler radar, at iba pang instrumento't kagamitan na sumusukat sa panahon.

Taya ng panahon ang

Lagay ng panahon

tawag sa inaasahang mangyari sa isang partikular na araw o buwan. Pero dahil dumarami na ang instrumento at mas lumalalim na ang pag-aaral sa phenomena ng kalikasan at klima, mayroon na ring pagtataya ng panahon sa mas maliit na lugar, hindi na lamang rehiyon, ngayon, puwede na ring kada lalawigan o lungsod ang pagtataya sa panahon.

May pagtataya na rin ng panahon sa bawat oras. Lalo kung ito ay may kinalaman sa weather disturbance gaya ng bagyo o malakas na buhos ng ulan. Nasa-sabi ng weather forecast kung gaano katagal ang pag-ulan, gaano karami ang ibubuhos, at saan-saang lugar. Gayundin ang pagtukoy sa dadanan ng bagyo at kung anong oras at gaano ka-

bilis o kalakas.

Ngunit ito ay pawang forecast. Pagtataya. Ibig sabihin, matukoy man, dapat laging isaisip na maaaring magbago ang panahon dahil sa maliit na factor.

Kung kaya nga ito ang ating paksa ngayon. Lagay ng panahon. Sa Tagalog, dalawa ang pangkaraniwang ibig sabihin ng 'lagay'. Lagay bilang estado o kalagayan, at lagay bilang pagbibigay o paglilipat. Halimbawa. Lagyan mo ng tubig ang timba dahil mawawalan ng supply mamaya. Ganiyang lagay.

Sa lagay ng panahon, natural, ang tinutukoy ay ang estado o kalagayan ng panahon. Ano ba ang lagay ng panahon habang isinusulat ko ito? Maulan sanhi ng habagat na hinatak ng bagyong Falcon. Bed weather, ika nga ng mga millennial.

Pero kailangang magsulat para sa espasyong ito.

Pero bukod sa dalawang karaniwang kahulugan ng salitang 'lagay', sa ating kultura, nauso at naging popular na rin ang ikatlong kahulugan ng 'lagay', ito ay ang pagbibigay ng suhol o padulas para sa kung anumang transaksyon sa gobyerno. 'Naglalagay' ang iba para mapadali ang proseso o kung hindi man ay hindi na maabala kung nahuli halimbawa sa paglabag sa batas trapiko.

Ang salitang 'lagay' na ito ang sumisira sa imahen ng mga naglilingkod sa bayan. Dahil totoo rin naman, mayroong mga empleyado o opisyal na nalalagyan kapalit ng mas mabilis na proseso ng kung pangangailangan. At ito ang mas masamang 'lagay' ng ating panahon ngayon.