

DATE : 31 JUL 2019

DAY : Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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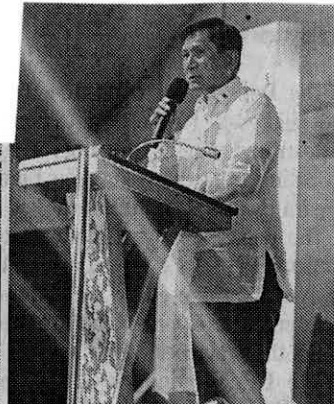
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Show political will Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (right photo) calls on local executives to show "decisive environmental leadership" by riding on President Duterte's strong political will to solve pollution ills in the country as shown in the ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay and Manila Bay.

DENR PHOTO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Pinagtulungan ng MMDA workers na alisin ang mga basura sa seawall ng Manila Bay habang nasa kasagsagan ng malakas na alon ang baybayin. (KJ Rosales)



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DENR-BICOL

BICOL: BULA, CAMARINES SUR

To its resting place

A carabao pulls a 200-kilogram, 138-centimeter pawikan (leatherback turtle) that was found dead by fisherman Tirso B. Renegado along the shores of Barangay Caraosan in Bula, Camarines Sur on July 28. In a report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 5 (DENR-Bicol), local environment officials suspect that there was an attempt to catch the turtle, but the perpetrators might have backed off due to the sea creature's weight. The pawikan, classified as a "vulnerable" specie, was found entangled in rope and the cause of death could have been drowning as it failed to resurface for oxygen. The pawikan was buried 200 meters off the shoreline of the barangay.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Pawikan nasagip ng DENR sa Marinduque

NAGING matagumpay ang pagsagip ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa isang pawikan na napagpag sa baybayin ng Barangay Masiga, Gasan sa lalawigan ng Marinduque kamakalawa.

Nabatid na naglalakad umano sa baybaying sakop ng nasabing barangay si Ariesphel Solas at mga kaibigan nito nang makita ang pawikan, agad naman

nila itong ipinagbigay-alam sa kagawad ng barangay alas-kuwatro nang hapon.

Matapos ang tagging, nabatid na ang nailigtas ay isang uri ng green sea turtle, habang pinangunahan ni Brian Iñigo Leño, forest technician ng DENR-Marinduque, kasama ng ilan pang mga opisyal sa lugar at mga residente ang pagpapakawala sa pawikan sa Sitio Kwatis ng nasabing barangay.

Samantala, hindi naman naging kaporeho ang sinapit ng 200 kilo na leatherback sea turtle na natagpuang patay sa baybayin ng bayan ng Bula, Camarines Sur noong Linggo, makaraang sumabit sa mga lubid.

Paalala ng kagawaran, agad na iulat sa mga awtoridad ang mga natatagpuang hayop para mailigtas ito. **(Gel Manalo)**



The *Pithecophaga jefferyi*

Monkey-eating eagles have a varied diet. Our new National Museum of Natural History (the former Tourism building) is drawing in visitors and raves for its scale, and the cool architectural interior that makes you feel like you're elsewhere. While I am partial to the other museum buildings and their contents—the Anthropology Museum in the former Finance Building, and the Fine Arts in the grand former Legislative Building—I was willing to give the stones, dried plants and stuffed animals a chance to catch my interest.

While most visitors made a beeline to see the remains of Lolong, the giant crocodile, I lingered in the ground floor exhibit on the Philippine Eagle. All but one on display had a name, so I suggested, in jest, that they name it, regardless of gender, "Loren," in gratitude for the former senator's support for the museum.

Ferdinand Marcos renamed the graphic "monkey-eating eagle" to the dignified "Philippine eagle" we know today. In the Ateneo Grade School, the blue eagle was more than a university mascot; we saw two of them daily—a stuffed version in the Administration Building reception, and a live one in a nearby aviary. Once, coming out of the cafeteria from lunch, I was excused from class to witness the animal version of a Roman gladiator fight. A "bayawak" got inside, or was put into, the aviary, rekindling the eagle's hunting instincts that had become dormant from being fed freshly cut meat. No commercial bird feed for this king of Philippine birds. The bayawak ended up as the eagle's hard-earned lunch (it took half an hour to kill, another to be devoured). My takeaway from the experience was the realization that this eagle did not feed exclusively on mon-



LOOKING BACK

AMBETH R. OCAMPO

keys and had, at least in captivity, a varied diet.

Philippine eagles are an endangered species, and killing one today is a crime punishable with 12 years in prison. But catching one and sending its hide back to London in the late 19th century made it known to science, which has since classified it as *Pithecophaga jefferyi* (Ogilvie-Grant, 1896). The scientific name came from the Greek words "pithecus" (ape) and "phagus" (to eat or feed on) because informants in Samar, where it was collected, said it fed on monkeys. "Jefferyi" does not honor the collector John Whitehead, but his father Jeffery.

In 1983, the Bangko Sentral issued a 50-centavo coin with the Philippine eagle on the reverse; it has become a much collectible "error coin" because of the misspelled "Pithecobhaga" that only the eagle-eyed would see and notice.

In 1896, John Whitehead caught sight of the eagle in Bonga, Samar, and a specimen was caught by his Filipino assistant, Juan. Detailed notes and measurements were taken before it was preserved and sent to London, where W. R.

Ogilvie-Grant showed it and other specimens to an interested group of bird lovers. Ogilvie-Grant, from 1894-1898, published his classifications based on Whitehead's notes and specimens in a 10-part series of articles called "On the Birds of the Philippine Islands" in *Ibis*, the international *Journal of Avian Science* (available online). In one of the articles, he lamented the fact that Whitehead was unable to continue collecting specimens due to the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in August 1896.

Ogilvie-Grant had never been to the Philippines, but his classification of the Great Forest Eagle as the Monkey-Eating Eagle in the 1896 *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* was drawn from Whitehead's detailed notes, as follows: "Top of the head pale whitish buff with dark middles to the feathers, which are rather narrow and pointed, especially those on the occiput, which form a long full crest. General colour above rich brown, most of the feathers with paler margins, especially the quill-feathers and wing-coverts; tail feathers, dark brown, the two median pairs with wide dark bands; shafts of quills and tail-feathers creamy white; under parts uniform creamy white, the thighs and long flank feathers with reddish-brown shaft-stripes. Total length about 33 inches[...] Iris dull creamy brown, with an outer ring of brownish red, the two colours melting into one another and not sharply defined; face and base of dull french blue, tip of bill black; legs and feet dull yellow; claws black."

That detailed, seemingly boring description of a stuffed bird gave us *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, the great Philippine Eagle.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.



Where our forest cover grows

LAST week, Sen. Pia Cayetano was reported in the news as having filed Senate Bill 284 that seeks to establish a comprehensive sustainable forests strategy in the Philippines.

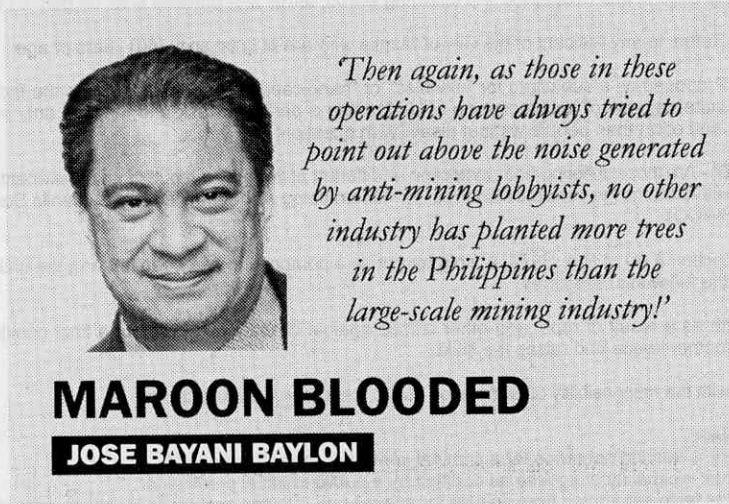
The reason? We are said to be losing over 47,000 hectares of forest every year.

The last data I saw about Philippine forest cover is almost a decade old. Issued by NAMRIA (or the National Mapping and resource Information Authority) in 2010 the Philippines is said to have had forest covering 8,839,832 hectares (vs. total land area of 30 million hectares), with Luzon having forest cover over 3.8 million hectares, 56.4% of the total; the Visayas over 764,000 hectares or 11.2% and Mindanao with 2.2 million hectares, 32.4% of the national total. If we have lost 47,000 hectares annually in the last nine years then the national total would be about 8.4 million hectares of forest cover left.

The news item about SB 284 was shared in the group chat of community relations/communications associates of Nickel Asia, and when I read it something immediately clicked in my head. You see, about a month or so ago I attended the 27th anniversary of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and it was at that event that I heard something, well, amazing:

The forest cover in Palawan is constant at worst, and even growing at best.

So I immediately contacted the folks at PCSD to make sure I heard right because if I did then I think



'Then again, as those in these operations have always tried to point out above the noise generated by anti-mining lobbyists, no other industry has planted more trees in the Philippines than the large-scale mining industry!'

MAROON BLOODED

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON

it is important that Sen. Cayetano know about it.

The response I got from PCSD gives me reasons both to worry and to cheer.

First, to worry: the PCSD cites Philippine Forest Statistics of 2017 in putting total Philippine forest cover as of 2015 at 7.014 million hectares. That's a drop of 1.8 million hectares in five years alone, almost 200,000 hectares annually, if you go by the 2010 figure released by NAMRIA that I cited above. At that rate we'd have zero forest cover in 35+ years.

There was good news, however, and it was all about Palawan. The main one was that forest cover in Palawan actually increased, from a total of 689,161 hectares in 2010 to 751,759 hectares in 2015.

This is a result of the reversal of loss of forest cover in the province: from 1979-1984 it was losing forest cover at the rate of 19,000

hectares per year due to kaingin and commercial logging. By 2005 the rate of forest cover loss had been reduced to 5,000 hectares per annum.

Thus the growth in forest cover from 46% of the total land area of the province in 2010 to 50% of total land area by 2015.

The report did take note that in the 2015 survey, small trees below 5m high were included whereas they were excluded in the survey five years before. But this only meant that, at worst, forest cover in Palawan is holding steady. At best, it is increasing.

PCSD attributes this success to the Strategic Environmental Plan or RA 7611 which is a special law that governs the province of Palawan and was passed on 19 June 1992. Under the SEP law, a network of environmentally critical areas (ECAN) has been identified and is subjected to a graded system

of protection and development.

PCSD executives themselves say that the law needs updating, given current realities, and that its raison d'être of establishing a balanced and sustainable development should not be overlooked, especially by environmentalists - but the bottom line is that in the area of forest protection, Palawan can be looked up to as a model for the rest of the country to study if not to emulate.

I find it also interesting that the study of Palawan's forests have identified illegal and commercial logging as the principal culprit of yesteryears. This despite the fact that large scale mining operations, have existed in the southern portion of the main island for decades.

Then again, as those in these operations have always tried to point out above the noise generated by anti-mining lobbyists, no other industry has planted more trees in the Philippines than the large-scale mining industry! And I personally witnessed the milestone achieved by Rio Tuba Nickel Mining in the southern town of Bataraza when it marked the planting of its 1 millionth tree sometime in 2013, under its mined out area rehabilitation program.

So all is not lost for our forests, and it might be good if Sen. Cayetano is able to connect with the PCSD to look at, review and even improve the SEP Law in Palawan and maybe even consider adopting some form of the SEP law for other areas of the country!

With apologies to Joyce Kilmer, "I think that I shall never see a column as lovely as a tree!"



Panglao airport touted as model for eco-technology

By **MINERVA BC NEWMAN**

TAGBILARAN CITY – The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has declared the New Bohol Panglao Airport (NBPA) as a model for eco-technology in building airports in the country.

Airport General Manager Rafael Tatlonghari told media here last week that Panglao airport is the country's first eco-airport that uses Japanese and international technologies that comply with local environment regulations.

The eco-technologies include the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Passenger Terminal Building to supply an estimated at 624,539 kWh per year.

The power supplies nearly 15 percent of the power requirements for the terminal building, Tatlonghari said.

"With the rising prices of fossil fuels the option for clean and renewable power generation system provided by solar is our closest option," he said.

To maximize solar power, the airport uses Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lights, which consumes 10 to 15 percent of the conventional lights type and last longer.

LED lights are used not only in the facility's interior but also in the terminal's access roads and car park.

The solar water heaters transfer heat absorbed from the sun by the solar

collectors to the water storage tank for the hot water requirements of the facility's kitchens, showers and lavatories' vanity basins, Tatlonghari said.

The pre-departure lounges use natural ventilation, while its walls have wooden louvers and curtain wall glazing with low emissivity (LowE) coating to reduce heat gain and minimize the energy consumption of air conditioning systems.

In his presentation a copy of which was given to Manila Bulletin, Tatlonghari said the airport is also equipped with a modern sewage treatment facility compliant with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) standards for water quality and general effluent.

"It is an engineered wetland that uses natural vegetation, soil and organisms to treat wastewater and remove pollutants, this is unique," Tatlonghari said.

Processed waste water is bled to the soaking yard and after evaporation the treated sludge can be used as fertilizer for the landscaping inside the airport.

While the facility has a state-of-the-art waste water treatment, it also has a material recovery facility (MRF) to minimize airport-generated wastes.

Panglao airport has contracted special treatment companies to transport and treat hazardous wastes.

The airport also incorporated in its design a rainwater harvesting facility to

reduce the load on the drainage system. The collected water can be used to water trees in the airport.

Tatlonghari also shared that landscaping the airport's surroundings is to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHGs) emission and it includes the planting of 1,700 trees at the main entrance, carpark and access road and 240,000 pieces of shrubs and ground cover and 11-hectares of sodding.

The airport also implemented compensatory reforestation, with 624,100 seedlings being planted across Bohol Island to compensate for the cut trees at the project site.



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Militiamen to secure Kaliwa Dam project

Militiamen will secure the Kaliwa Dam project in Quezon.

"We have forces in the area, but we intend to augment them with... CAFGU (Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit) troopers," Lt. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, Southern Luzon Command chief, told a press

briefing at Camp Crame on Monday after a joint police and military peace and security conference.

Gapay stressed the need to provide additional government troopers to secure the construction site from communist rebels.

He said around 120 militiamen is the ideal

number to secure the area. "We cannot afford a bigger unit," Gapay said.

He said the militiamen would be issued firearms and placed under the supervision of soldiers.

"They will be under full control of the military, but their place of deployment will be in the development

area," Gapay said.

The China-funded dam project is expected to meet the demand for potable water of Metro Manila residents.

Environmental groups oppose the project, which they said would displace residents and destroy wildlife in the area.

- Emmanuel Tupas



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Tubig sa Angat umangat

MAHIGIT isang metro ang itinaas ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat dam sa magdamag.

Kahapon ng umaga ang lebel nito ay 164.39 metro, tumaas ng 1.05 metro mula sa 163.34 metro noong Lunes ng umaga.

Ang critical level ng dam ay 160

metro.

Tumaas naman ng 0.10 metro ang tubig sa La Mesa dam o mula 74.10 metro ay umakyat ito sa 74.20 metro.

Ang dalawang dam ang pangunahing pinagkukuhahan ng isinusuplay na tubig sa Metro Manila. —*Leifbilly Begas*



'PLASTIC-FREE' SENATE SOUGHT

SEN. Pilar Juliana "Pia" Cayetano has called on the Senate to do its share in supporting a global movement to ditch single-use plastic and reduce plastic pollution.

In a brief manifestation during the session on Monday, Cayetano reiterated her plastic-free advocacy by urging fellow senators not to contribute to the generation of plastic waste in the country. She enjoined her colleagues to adopt a policy of prohibiting plastic bottles in plenary or during Senatehearings.

As an alternative to plastic, the senator had bamboo tumblers distributed to her colleagues in the session hall.

This was not the first time that Cayetano made an appeal to the Senate to be more environment-conscious in the conduct of its duties.

In 2012, Cayetano wrote a letter to the Senate Secretariat suggesting that water dispensers be set up in the Senate halls, instead of distributing bottled water during sessions and public hearings.

"This was adopted at the time, but I don't really know what happened in the [last] Congress because I wasn't here. So, may I propose that we adopt it once again, especially since it is July, which is No-Plastic Month," Cayetano told her colleagues.

"To help support my colleagues in shifting to a more sustainable way of drinking water or whatever beverage you prefer, I am giving all of you bamboo tumblers, which you can use in lieu of single-use plastic," she added.

JAVIER JOE ISMAEL

ENACTMENT OF LAND USE LAW PRESSED

THE National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) board's National Land Use Committee (NB-NLUC) urged Congress to immediately enact the National Land Use Act (NaLUA) to ensure the sustainable and efficient use of the country's land and physical resources.

In a statement on Tuesday, NEDA said the committee, in its special meeting chaired by

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia, approved NLUC Resolution No. 1, series of 2019 adopting the NLUC version of the proposed NaLUA.

NEDA said the committee version of the bill incorporated all inputs gathered from a series of technical discussions with various stakeholders and from regional consultations.

"The National Land Use Act was identified by President Rodrigo Duterte as among the priority legislative measures in his State of Nation Addresses (SONA) since 2017. In his fourth SONA last week, the President appealed again to all legislators to immediately pass the NaLUA to ensure the rational and sustainable use of our land and our physical resources," said Pernia.

The bill also aims to harmonize sector-specific land use policies and institutionalize land use planning.

"We need to plan our physical space well. Land use policies must be clear on where and how much space to allocate for agricultural production to ensure we have enough food; where and how much space for settlements development to meet housing demand; where to encourage growth of industries to boost the economy and create jobs; and which areas should be protected for environmental sustainability," Pernia said.

The NaLUA was identified as a legislative agenda in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 to support strategies in ensuring ecological integrity, clean and healthy environment as well as in building safe and secure communities.

In the next Cabinet meeting, NEDA, as chair of the NLUC, will seek the President's endorsement of the NLUC version of the proposed NaLUA as the Executive's inputs when the 18th Congress deliberates on the various NaLUA bills.

NEDA said that based on its monitoring, several NaLUA bills have been recently filed in the 18th Congress. These include House Bills (HB) 105, 158, 564, 706 and Senate Bill 38.

ANNA LEAH E. GONZALES



COMMONSENSE

MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

'Land is power'

By the latest official estimates, the Philippines is the 13th largest country in the world in terms of population. That is according to our very own Commission on Population. We are in the company of 13 countries that have over 100 million population as of 2018. Based from the latest official figures taken from the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN), the country's population was pegged only at 100.9 million.



From PopCom projections, the country's population would reach almost 108.8 million by middle of this year at a growth rate of around 1.7 percent from new babies born over the past four years. The steady rise of population should not be a cause of concern for as long as there is an equivalent increase in the supply of resources to meet the needs of the people – from food, to housing or shelter, and other basic requirements of decent living.

The challenge to provide "decent shelter," especially for the greater number of marginalized sector of society, or the very low-income families in the Philippines was in the heart of government-private sector top-level discussions at the opening of the Manila leg of the 7th Asia-Pacific Housing Forum (APHF) last Monday. "*Bahay-Buhay, Housing as a Key to Sustainable Growth*" is the theme of the three-day Housing Forum, hosted by the Habitat for Humanity Philippines which winds down today at the New World Hotel in Makati City.

In his keynote address at the APHF, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) chairman Eduardo Del Rosario disclosed the official estimates of 6.57 million households that would need decent shelter by year 2022, which coincides with the end of term of office of President Rodrigo Duterte. "If not addressed, this (housing gap) will balloon to 22.61 million by the year 2040," Del Rosario warned.

The HUDCC chief, however, reiterated the commitment of the Duterte administration to close the 6.5-million housing gap in the next 20 years that they hope to jumpstart with the issuance of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the newly created Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD). President Duterte signed Republic Act (RA) 11201 in February this year that created the DHSUD from the consolidated functions of the HUDCC and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) along with the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. (NHMFC); the Home Mutual Development Fund (HMDF) or Pag-IBIG; the National Housing Authority (NHA); and, the Social Housing Finance Corp.

Like a zombie that is repeatedly killed, the National Land Use Policy bill always comes back to life. Land is power.

"We're now officially and fully operational," Del Rosario told the Housing Forum. By Jan. 1, 2020, he added, DHSUD would hit the ground running in addressing the country's housing woes. For now, he said, the DHSUD is already in the process of identifying idle government lands for urban development.

The projected housing gap seen by year 2022, if multiplied by the average size of Filipino households with five members per family would be, in absolute numbers, about 32.85 million Filipinos. They could be considered "homeless," if we apply in strictest sense of what "decent shelter" requires. From the projection of Habitat for Humanity Philippines, they calculated that the housing backlog will increase to about 6.5 million units based on the country's present population of 108.5 million.

With the country's population living below poverty line at 21.6 percent, the projected housing backlog would result to growth of more slum communities all over the Philippines and not only in urban centers at the national capital region, including Metro Manila. According to its own estimates, Habitat placed nearly four million Filipino families who are currently living in unsafe, unsanitary and unsustainable conditions.

Habitat and its partner organizations here and abroad help provide families with improved access to clean water, sustainable energy, healthcare, education and livelihood. They help provide affordable housing units that are sold with no profit received. They only require homeowners must meet three qualifications: willingness to partner, ability to pay, and have a need for decent, affordable, and safe housing. Since Habitat started operations in 1988, it has helped provide more than 140,000 families with decent housing.

I was invited as moderator of the first session of the APHF that explored challenges and possible solutions to the socialized housing against the framework of the proposed National Land Use Policy bill and existing land use plans of local government units and development projects. Issues discussed in that session were the usual conflicts between the use of agricultural lands and socialized housing as well as ways to harmonize it.

Like a zombie that is repeatedly killed, the National Land Use Policy bill always comes back to life. Land is power.

The proposed National Land Use Policy bill has always been a controversial bill filed at each Congress but never got to be passed into law. It has been re-filed again for the nth time. The 18th Congress opened its first regular sessions last week. Will this bill finally hurdle the legislative barriers posed by powerful landowners and their protectors in Congress?

* * *



Oceana renews call for 'political will' to enforce fisheries law

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

AN international ocean advocacy nongovernment organization (NGO) reiterated its call to the Duterte administration to exercise "political will" in implementing Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act 10654 to protect the livelihood of small fishermen against commercial fishing vessels that regularly "raid" municipal fishing grounds.

In particular, Oceana said all commercial fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of 3.1 metric tons and above should be required to install a vessel monitoring device for proper monitoring and tracking of their movements.

At a news conference in Quezon City on Tuesday, Oceana President Jim Simon and Senior Advisor Michael Hirshfield together with Oceana Philippines Vice President Gloria Estenzo-Ramos said the installation of monitoring device will help prevent illegal fishing activities in areas where these commercial fishing vessels are supposed to be "off-limits."

Commercial fishing vessels are not allowed to fish within the 15-kilometer municipal fishing grounds, including national and local marine protected areas (MPAs).

Hirshfield highlighted the sci-

ence behind declaring the municipal fishing ground as an exclusive fishing ground for small fishers. The 15-kilometer fishing ground, generally, is the area where mangroves, seagrass beds and corals sit.

These so-called ecosystem-forming species help replenish fish stocks as they are feeding and breeding grounds of small fish.

He said that unlike commercial fishing vessels that use active fishing gear, small fishing boats that use hooks and gillnets have minimum impact on these ecosystems.

"Also, fishermen with small boats cannot go out farther away like commercial fishing vessels to fish. In a way, the wisdom behind it is ensuring equity," he explained.

Simon said the Oceana, which is present in at least 12 countries, including Europe and in Asia, including the Philippines, is advocating the installation of a vessel monitoring device in commercial fishing vessels to monitor their fishing activities.

All of the world's fishing grounds, including those in the Philippines, are already overfished. In the Philippines, commercial fishing vessels are known to catch fish within the 15-kilometer municipal fishing ground and, in some cases, even in MPAs like the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.

Noting that the implementing

rules and regulation of RA 8550 and its amendatory law, RA 10456, are not enough to compel commercial fishing companies to install vessel monitoring devices on their fleets, Ramos said. Oceana is pushing for the adoption of a policy that will compel the government, specifically BFAR, or the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, to implement the law.

She said some gray areas in the amended Fisheries Code are being used as an "alibi" by commercial fishing companies from defying the law.

"We have very good laws. The problem is its implementation. We are appealing to the government now to exercise political will in implementing the law on vessel monitoring," she said.

Ramos, a lawyer, said there are other ways to compel commercial fishing vessels to install a vessel monitoring device as mandated by law.

"The for commercial fishing vessels that dock and pass through Tañon Strait are now required to install vessel monitoring device. We have a resolution from the Protected Area Management Board for that. There are also some local governments, like the Provincial Government of Cebu, which are supporting the policy," Ramos said.

Ramos also called on Protected Area Management Boards and local

government units (LGUs) to put in place similar measures that will add another layer of protection for MPAs and municipal fishing grounds across the country.

Oceana Philippines had earlier called for transparency on the amount the BFAR is planning to spend to subsidize the vessel monitoring requirements of the commercial fishing industry.

According to Ramos, unlike small fishermen, commercial fishing companies are financially capable of spending monthly subscription for the installation of a vessel monitoring device that will allow the fishing company, BFAR and other law-enforcement agencies to track their movement.

In a way, she said, vessel monitoring is useful in times of calamities where fishing vessels sometimes are lost at sea and the crew in danger of being swept away by the strong currents and lead to tragic deaths.

Hirshfield and Simon added that vessel monitoring, more important, will address the global concern of unreported, illegal and unregulated fishing, as well as monitoring compliance of the fisheries law across the globe.

The Philippines, they said, currently ranks as the 12th-biggest source of captive fisheries in the world, making it one of Oceana's advocacy priority areas.



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Pollution affecting fishing livelihood

MARIVELES, Bataan – Fisherfolk are asking the government to rehabilitate the entire coastal area of the town on Sunday after pointing out pollution allegedly caused by companies operating near the area has affected their fishing grounds and health of the town.

According to Bataan Anglers Association President Lloyd Reyes, this has already affected their livelihood. "We are trying to propose to the government to have a rehabilitation program in the entire coastal area of Mariveles where (pollution) is basically the problem," he said.

Reyes claimed that pollutants coming from big companies along the coastline have been affecting Mariveles for many years, adding that they were surprised that huge firms have set up business along the coastlines allegedly without public consultation.

Around 300 fishermen have been affected as they used to fish at their "ancestral" fishing ground, a good half kilometer from the shoreline, but now fisherfolk need to go as far as Cavite to have a bountiful catch away from polluted waters.

"There are many fishing grounds that were affected by the pollution. This has literally affected the small fishermen. We are asking the local government and the national government to look into the matter. This time, let us start to stand up for the fishermen," said Reyes.

Fisherfolk attached a streamer to a fishing boat that said "Coastal Municipal Water at Mamamayan Protektahan" to show their intent for the rehabilitation of the coastal area of Mariveles and raise awareness on what was happening to their town as well as convince the government to be proactive in resolving the issue.

JReyes



MANILA GAGAWIN GREEN CITY — ISKO

MAGIGING isang 'green city' ang buong lungsod ng Maynila. Ito ang siyang plano ngayon ni Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso at sisimulan aniya niya ito sa rehabilitasyon at pagpapalawak ng Arroceros Park, na ilang metro lamang ang layo sa Manila City Hall.

"I will withdraw a portion of Arroceros Street for public use, then we will extend Arroceros Park," anang alkalde, sa pakikipagpulong nito sa mga environmentalists, na nagsusulong na maipreserba ang parke, na itinuturing na huling forested area sa lungsod. "We are going to create an esplanade at the

back of Arroceros."

Plano rin aniya niyang isara ang kalsada sa panulukan ng Quezon footbridge upang magkaroon ng mas malawak na espasyo na maiko-convert bilang 'green space' at upang masolusyunan na rin ang problema sa trapiko malapit sa Lawton.

Tiniyak rin naman ni Moreno na bubuksan niya sa publiko ang parke sa pamamagitan nang pagtatanggal sa mga gate nito.

Matatandaang una nang nilagyan ng gate ang naturang parke, nang okupahin ito ng mga informal settlers at gawing tambayan ng mga gangster.

Gayunman, naniniwala

ang alkalde na hindi gate ang solusyon sa problema, kundi mas mahigpit na seguridad at sapat na tao na magma-mantine sa parke.

"I've always believed in an open park. Ang park hindi naka-presyo," aniya pa. "It's unfair for the people of Manila and others who want to visit the park na dahil lang sa kapabayaan ng gobyerno ay ipagkakait natin 'yung comfortable access sa taumbayan."

"The solution is not to gate it but to out security and enough people to maintain and sustain the purpose of the park," aniya pa.

Tiniyak rin naman ng alkalde na matapos ang proyekto sa Arroceros Park ay

tatawid na sila sa Lawton area, na gagawin aniya niyang green civic center upang magkaroon ng mas maraming open spaces ang mga Manilenyo.

Ang mga pavement aniya sa Bonifacio monument sa city hall ay aalisin rin at papalitan ng mga puno.

Isusunod rin aniya niyang aayusin sa ilalim ng kanyang greening project ang 46 pang parke sa Maynila at iba pang institutional buildings na pagmamay-ari ng city government, ngunit hindi pa nagbigay ng detalye hinggil dito.

"Importante ito dahil maipapamana namin ito sa mga anak namin," aniya pa. (Andi Garcia)



PH DEADLIEST PLACE FOR EARTH DEFENDERS

STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

More people were killed protecting land and the environment in the Philippines than in any other country last year, while lawsuits and death threats were used to stifle activism, according to UK-based Global Witness. A2

FROM A1

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The Philippines is the deadliest country for land and environmental defenders, including those who resist mining and logging, according to a new report released on Tuesday.

The yearly toll by Britain-based Global Witness showed that the Philippines had surpassed Brazil, which had topped its list since 2012, as the most murderous country for environmental activists in 2018.

A total of 164 defenders were killed last year, while countless more were silenced through violent attacks, death threats, arrests and lawsuits, the group said in its report: "Enemies of the State? How governments and businesses silence land and environmental defenders."

It recorded 30 people killed in the Philippines, half of them due to opposition to agribusiness, including plantations.

Following the Philippines were Colombia (24 deaths), India (23), Brazil (20) and Guatemala (16).

Palace blames rivalries

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo expressed concern over the report on the

killings due to land disputes that, he said, occurred "because of the viciousness of the rivalry between the claimants."

"The government will always be concerned with respect to any violence inflicted against the citizens of this country, whether done by outside forces or by those inside this country," he said.

Global Witness said more than three environmental activists were killed weekly last year, but the real figure was likely higher since cases were often not recorded and very rarely investigated.

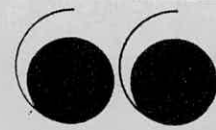
Mining remained the deadliest sector, with 43 deaths, followed by agribusiness (21) and water and dams (17).

Global phenomenon

"This is a phenomenon seen around the world: land and environmental defenders, a significant number of whom are indigenous peoples, are declared terrorists, thugs or criminals for defending their rights," said Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, UN special rapporteur for indigenous peoples.

The biggest single massacre documented by the group in 2018 occurred in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, with 13 people murdered after protesting the environmental impact of a copper mine.

Environmental groups in



Of the 164 environmental activists killed worldwide last year, 30 were from the Philippines

Global Witness

the Philippines have raised the alarm over the growing number of killings and human rights violations under the Duterte administration.

Since 2017, at least 87 defenders have been killed, according to Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan).

"The first three years of the Duterte administration already demonstrated what we can expect in its last three years: intolerance for criticism and dissent, doublespeak on environmental conservation and the absence of protection for environmental defenders," Kalikasan's national coordinator Leon Dulce told the Inquirer.

"This is part of the general climate of impunity that Presi-



dent Duterte has brought in. The killings under the drug war and violations of human rights are not separate from the killings of environmental defenders," he added.

Half of slays in Mindanao

Between 2001 and 2018, Kalikasan has tallied 223 deaths, a majority of which were related to mining. Half of these killings took place in Mindanao.

In 2017, the Duterte administration announced plans to allocate 1.6 million hectares of land to industrial plantations, mostly in Mindanao, Global Witness said. This region has since been a hot spot of murders for environmental defenders, accounting for 67 percent of total deaths in the country in 2017 and a third in 2018, it said.

Global Witness said the Philippine government had failed to protect its citizens, citing the high number of abuses by both state forces and businesses.

It cited the massacre of nine sugarcane farmers in Sagay, Negros Occidental province, in October last year, as well as the murder of the farmers' lawyer, Benjamin Ramos.

A week ahead of a landmark UN report expected to emphasize the vital role indigenous peoples play in protecting nature, Global Witness also highlighted what it said was a "wor-

rying global trend" in the intimidation and jailing of defenders.

It said investors, including development banks, were fueling the violence by financing abusive projects and sectors.

While Global Witness recorded fewer killings worldwide last year compared to 2017 in the previous year, it noted the increasing use of lawsuits, arrests and death threats to intimidate campaigners and stifle activism, even in developed countries.

Conflicts over water

Killings related to conflicts over water jumped to 17 from four the previous year, underlining the deadly consequences of warmer temperatures, erratic rainfall and dwindling groundwater, particularly in Latin America, Africa and South Asia, it said.

The attacks were largely connected to opposition to proliferating hydropower projects, as well as corruption in management of local water sources, said Alice Harrison, senior campaigner at Global Witness.

"With climate breakdown and increasing drought, it is highly likely that we'll begin to see a rise in conflicts over water sources involving whoever controls them," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. —WITH

REPORTS FROM AFP AND THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



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BANNER
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EDITORIAL



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'Phl is most dangerous country for environment defenders'

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The Philippines has been declared the world's deadliest country for environmental defenders after a United Kingdom-based watchdog recorded 30 deaths in the country, the highest recorded globally last year.

UK-based international watchdog Global Witness said the death toll in the country reached 30 in 2018 with the massacre of farmworkers in Negros, making it a "clear" hotspot of killings.

Globally, 164 land and environmental activists have been killed, or about three deaths a week. Following the Philippines are Colombia with 24, India with 23 and Brazil with 20.

Alice Harrison, senior campaigner at Global Witness, lamented how "brutally ironic" it is that the country's justice system allow the killers of defenders to walk free and how it is also used to brand environmental activists as terrorists, spies or dangerous criminals.

"Both tactics send a clear

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message to other activists: the stakes for defending their rights are punishingly high for them, their families and their communities," Harrison said.

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, one of the local partners of Global Witness in the Philippines, said since 2017, at least 87 land and environment defenders have been murdered by military, paramilitary troops and other state forces for carrying out land occupation and cultivation campaigns across the island.

"The killing fields of Negros is the single biggest driver of environmental defenders in 2018. Scores more are being killed by the military rampage as we speak," Kalikasan national coordinator Leon Dulce said.

Among the trends the Global Witness report raised alarm over was how the "criminalization of aggressive civil cases are being used to stifle environmental activism land rights defence."

"Actions against land and natural resource monopolies are increasingly becoming targets of this systematic pattern of violence which the government condones. The unabated killings and the involvement of police, military and even judicial courts in cases of violations is an evidence that these attacks on human rights are state-sponsored," Dulce said.

Globally, the sharpest increase in murders came in Guatemala, with a fivefold rise in killings, making it one of the bloodiest countries per capita, with 16 deaths. — With Rhodina Villanueva, Christina Mendez



PH deadliest for environmental activists – Global Witness

LONDON-BASED watchdog Global Witness has named the Philippines as the “deadliest” country for environmental defenders, with the highest death toll recorded in 2018.

Witness documented 30 people killed in the Philippines, which include the “Sagay 9” in Negros Occidental. The Philippines surpassed Brazil, which had held the top spot since 2012.

In its 2018 annual report, Global

> **DeadliestA8**

■ DEADLIEST FROM A1

PH deadliest

Sagay 9 refers to the nine sugarcane farmers who were gunned down by unknown assailants on October 20, when they occupied a plot of land at Hacienda Nene in Barangay Bulanon, Sagay City while there was an ongoing regional land dispute. Among the victims were three women and two teenagers.

“Theirs is not an isolated case. The Philippines has consistently ranked as one of the deadliest countries in the world for people protecting their land or the environment,” Global Witness said in the report.

“The ecological agriculture that landless farm workers have painstakingly carved out of the vast monoculture plantations of Negros sugar barons have

been irrigated with blood and bullets. Since 2017 to date, at least 87 land and environment defenders have been murdered by military, paramilitary troops and other state forces for carrying out land occupation and cultivation campaigns across the island,” Leon Dulce, national coordinator of local environmental group Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, said in a statement.

“The killing fields of Negros [are] the single biggest driver of environmental defenders in 2018. Scores more are being killed by the military rampage as we speak,” Dulce added.

Global Witness also highlighted that 15 of the killings in the Philippines were linked to agribusiness.

Following the Philippines on the “deadliest” list were Colombia with 24 killings, India with 23 and Brazil with 20. A “massacre” in India, which killed 13 people in a protest over a copper mine in Tamil Nadu, catapulted it to the top 3 deadliest countries.

Global Witness has also documented a total of 164 land and environmental defenders killed globally in 2018, which could translate to more than three in a week.

Most of the killings were linked to the mining sector, “with 43 defenders killed protesting against the destructive effects of mineral extraction on people’s land, livelihoods and the environment,” the report said. It also noted the steep increase in killings related to water sources and dams, with four people killed in 2017 to 17 in 2018.

Other cases were linked to agribusiness with 21 cases; logging, 13; poaching, 9; fishing, two; and wind power, one.

Global Witness observed that, globally, impunity had made it difficult to identify perpetrators and found that 40 of the cases were linked to state security forces. Some 40 other cases were linked to private sectors such as hitmen, criminal gangs and landowners as suspects.

It found that “criminalization” and “aggressive civil cases” were “being used to stifle environmental activism and land rights” defense globally.

“This year, for the first time, Global Witness also sounds the alarm about the criminalization of activists and their communities. Evidence from across continents shows that governments and companies are using countries’ courts and legal systems

as instruments of oppression against those who threaten their power and interests,” Global Witness said in a separate statement.

“As detailed in Global Witness’s report, for example, indigenous activists in the Philippines have faced death threats, been thrown in jail and had their homes demolished for opposing the use of their land to grow bananas for sale on global markets,” it added.

Malacañang on Tuesday blamed the “viciousness” of the rivalry between claimants for the reported rise in the number of killings of land rights activists in the Philippines.

“That happens if there are conflicts among claimants to a particular land. Killings occur because of the viciousness of the rivalry between the claimants,” Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

“Let me tell you that the gov-

ernment will always be concerned with respect to any violence inflicted against the citizens of this country, whether done by outside forces or by those inside this country,” he added.

Nearly 300 farmers, indigenous people and land rights activists had been killed since President Rodrigo Duterte assumed office in 2016, according to a Philippine human rights group.

“The Duterte regime’s intensified militarization of communities has had catastrophic effects,” Cristina Palabay, secretary general of land rights group Karapatan, was quoted in reports.

“The expanded power given to the police and the military has suppressed dissent and promoted threats, harassment and attacks against activists and human rights defenders,” she added.

**DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ
AND CATHERINE S. VALENTE**



'PH most dangerous for activists'

PARIS—At least 164 land and environmental activists were murdered last year for defending their homes, lands and natural resources from exploitation by mining, food and logging firms, Global Witness said Tuesday.

The charity watchdog's annual land defenders report found "countless" more people were silenced through violence, intimidation and the use and misuse of anti-protest laws across the world.

By far the most dangerous place for activists and indigenous communities

was the Philippines, which saw 30 murders in 2018, the report said.

In Manila, Malacañang attributed the murders to "vicious rivalry."

"That happens if there are conflicts among claimants to a particular land. Killings occur because of the viciousness of the rivalry between the claimants," Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

The group Karapatan said the Duterte administration's intensified militarization of communities has had catastrophic effects.

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"The expanded power given to the police and the military has suppressed dissent and promoted threats, harassment and attacks against activists and human rights defenders," said Cristina Palabay, secretary general of the land rights group.

Colombia and India saw 24 and 23 deaths linked to environmental activism in 2018, while Guatemala was the deadliest nation for land defenders per head of population with 16 confirmed killings.

"This is a phenomenon seen around the world: land and environmental defenders, a significant number of whom are indigenous peoples, are declared terrorists, thugs or criminals for defending their rights," said Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples.

"This violence is a human rights crisis but it is also a threat to everyone who depends on a stable climate."

The biggest single massacre documented by the group in 2018 occurred in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, with 13 people murdered after protesting the environmental impact of a copper mine.

At least eight land defenders involved in disputes with representatives of the soy industry were killed in 2018 in the Brazilian state of Para alone, the report said.

In the Philippines, which overtook Brazil as the deadliest place for land defenders, one incident saw a group of gunmen shoot dead nine sugarcane farmers including a number of woman and children on the island of Negros.

The lawyer representing the families of the victims was shot dead days later, Global Witness said.

A week ahead of a landmark UN report expected to emphasize the vital role indigenous peoples play in protecting nature, the charity also highlighted what it said was a "worrying global trend" in the intimidation and jailing of defenders.

It said investors including development banks were fueling the violence by financing abusive projects and sectors, and named a number of well-known companies accused of facilitating rights violations.

"It's not good enough for foreign multinationals that are connected to these land grabs to profess ignorance," the report said.

"They have a responsibility to proactively ensure that the land they are profiting from has been leased legally, with the consent of the communities who have lived on it for generations."

In Britain, the charity documented the case of three anti-fracking activists who in September were sentenced to jail for protesting at a site run by the energy firm Cuadrilla. AFP, with MJ Blancaflor



PH is world's deadliest nation for land rights: Campaign group

BANGKOK. — More than three people were murdered each week last year while protecting their land from encroaching industries, a human rights group said on Tuesday, with a four-fold increase in killings related to conflicts over water.

At least 164 farmers and land rights activists were killed worldwide last year, with the Philippines accounting for the most casualties for the first time since Britain-based Global Witness began reporting such deaths in 2012.

In 19 countries surveyed, mining was linked to 43 deaths, with fatal attacks also recorded at hydropower projects and in disputes involving agribusiness and logging companies.

"Much of the persecution of land defenders is being driven by demand for the land and raw materials needed for products we consume every day, from food to mobile phones, to jewelry," said Alice Harrison, a campaigner at Global Witness.

"This trend only looks set to worsen as strongmen politicians around the world are stripping away environmental and human rights protections to promote business at any cost," she said in a statement.

After the Philippines with 30 victims, Colombia had 24, followed by 23 in India and 20 in Brazil. Guatemala had 16, a five-fold increase from the previous year, the report showed.

A spokesman for Philippine President Duterte did not respond to an email and phone calls seeking comment.

Nearly 300 farmers, indigenous people and land rights activists have been killed since Duterte took office in 2016, according to Philippine human rights groups.

"The Duterte regime's intensified militarization of communities has had catastrophic effects," said Cristina Palabay, secretary general of land rights group Karapatan.

"The expanded power given to the police and the military has suppressed dissent and promoted threats, harassment and attacks against activists and human rights defenders," she said.

Earlier this month, the United Nations human rights agency passed a resolution to investigate the mass killings during Duterte's war on drugs, which human rights groups say has also been used against farmers and activists.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo called the UN resolution "grotesquely one-sided, outrageously narrow, and maliciously partisan."

While Global Witness recorded fewer killings worldwide last year compared to 207 in the previous year, it noted the increasing use of lawsuits, arrests and death threats to intimidate campaigners and stifle activism, even in developed countries.

Killings related to conflicts over water jumped to 17 from four the previous year, underlining the deadly consequences of warmer temperatures, erratic rainfall and dwindling groundwater, particularly in Latin America, Africa and South Asia, it said.

The attacks were largely connected to opposition to proliferating hydropower projects, as well as corruption in management of local water sources, Harrison said.

"With climate breakdown and increasing drought, it is highly likely that we'll begin to see a rise in conflicts over water sources involving whoever controls them," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The Philippine government would always be concerned if violence is inflicted on Filipinos regardless of who committed it and where, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and concurrent presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said yesterday. — *Reuters, with Jocelyn Montemayor*



Philippines deadliest for nature activists

THE PHILIPPINES has replaced Brazil as the most murderous country in the world for people defending their environment, according to a report by London-based environmental watchdog Global Witness.

"The Philippines has consistently ranked as one of the deadliest countries in the world for people protecting their land or the environment," the international group said.

Last year, the Philippines was the worst affected country in sheer numbers, with 30 deaths, including the massacre on Negros island," the watchdog said in a report titled

'Enemies of the State? How Governments and Business Silence Land and Environmental Defenders.'

Last year's death count was lower than 48 in the previous year, when the country ranked second after Brazil. —

Vincent Mariel P. Galang

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link

< <https://bit.ly/2Yrm2IH> >



PARA SA ENVIRONMENT ACTIVISTS

PH, 'deadliest' country —London watchdog

Maituturing na "deadliest" country ang Pilipinas para sa land at environmental defenders, ayon sa inilabas na taunang ulat ng London-based watchdog nitong Martes.

Ayon sa Global Witness, Pilipinas ang nanguna sa mga bansa na may pinakamalaking bilang ng namamatay kaugnay ng pagtatanggol sa kapaligiran na may 30, na sinusundan ng Colombia (24), India (23), at Brazil (20). Nitong nakaraang taon, Brazil ang nanguna para sa environmental defenders.

Kabilang sa mga nabanggit sa Global Witness report ang tumataas na pagkaalarma sa "criminalization of aggressive civil cases are being used to stifle environmental activism land rights defense."

Ayon kay Alice Harrison, senior campaigner ng Global Witness, "it is a brutal irony that while judicial systems routinely allow the killers of defenders to walk free, they are also being used to brand the activists themselves as terrorists, spies or dangerous criminals."

"Both tactics send a clear message to other activists: the stakes for defending their rights are punishingly high for them, their families and their communities," aniya.

Binigyang-diin din ng Global Witness ang pagtaas ng mga pagpatay sa Guatemala, dahilan upang

maging "bloodiest countries per capita," ang bansa.

Pagmimina naman ang itinuturing na deadliest sector, kung saan 43 ang napatay sa paprotesta laban sa mineral extraction sa lupain, kabuhayan at kapaligiran.

Nagkaroon din ng pagtaas ng bilang ng namamatay laban sa pagpoprotekta ng water sources, tumaas ito mula apat noong 2017 hanggang 17 noong 2018.

"The ecological agriculture that landless farm workers have painstakingly carved out of the vast monoculture plantations of Negros sugar barons have been irrigated with blood and bullets. Since 2017 to date, at least 87 land and environment defenders have been murdered by military, paramilitary troops, and other state forces for carrying out land occupation and cultivation campaigns across the island," pahayag ni Leon Dulce, national coordinator ng Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE), na isa sa mga lokal na katuwang ng Global Witness sa bansa.

"The killing fields of Negros is the single biggest driver of environmental defenders in 2018. Scores more are being killed by the military rampage as we speak," dagdag ni Dulce.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



BRACING FOR TYPHOONS

PANGASINAN DREDGES, CLEARS WATERWAYS TO EASE FLOODING

LINGAYEN, PANGSINAN—This capital town began dredging its drains while Dagupan City drew up plans to install more floodgates during high tide in preparation for the monsoon rains.

Volunteers cleared drainage canals along downtown Lingayen and around the plaza that had not been cleaned for almost three decades.

The town drains have a depth of 0.91 meters (3 feet), which could take in heavy rainfall, but muck and plastic litter have obstructed runoff water.

"We have a good canal system, all emptying into the Basing River. But the drains are clogged and we need to clean them to stop flash floods," said Mayor Leopoldo Bataoil, recalling the floods in the plaza after an hourlong rain in May.

The plaza again suffered flash floods when Tropical Storm "Falcon" (international name: Danas) struck the province last week. The water quickly subsided, "but not as fast as we wanted it to," Bataoil said.

"Dredging is still a work in progress because other canals around the central business district have not been cleaned," said Bataoil, a former representative of Pangasinan's second district.

Members of the local group Grace Guardians have been digging up sludge from canals, with the aid of a backhoe, but the town government has requested additional equipment from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Temporary floodgates

In Dagupan, city engineer Virginia Rosario proposed a 30-day work plan that includes the installation of temporary floodgates that would be closed during high tide. Teams were also deployed to clean the city's

creeks and drains.

Mayor Brian Lim earlier said a comprehensive drainage audit would be conducted as an initial step for planning long-term solutions for the city's perennial flooding.

Dagupan has an average elevation of 1 meter above sea level and has 14 creeks and seven rivers that flow out into the Lingayen Gulf.

Calabarzon alert

In Calabarzon region, residents along rivers and flood-prone areas in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon were advised to take caution amid the inclement weather caused by the southwest monsoon.

The region has been experiencing light to moderate rains over the last few days.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Tuesday issued the general flood advisory, covering areas in Laguna, Cavite and Batangas.

According to the weather bureau, waterways likely to be affected were the Pagsanjan, Pila-Santa Cruz, San Juan and San Cristobal rivers in Laguna.

It also warned communities near Loboc, Cañas, Ylang-Ylang and Imus rivers in Cavite, as well as those along the Lian, Banabang-Molino, Pansipit, Kapumpang, Rosario-Lobo and Upper Bolbok rivers in Batangas.

In a telephone interview on Tuesday, Alex Masiglat, information officer of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said they had yet to enforce preemptive evacuation but had been monitoring water levels in the tributaries identified by Pagasa. —REPORTS FROM YOLANDA SOTELO AND MARICAR CINCO INQ



PARADISE LOST

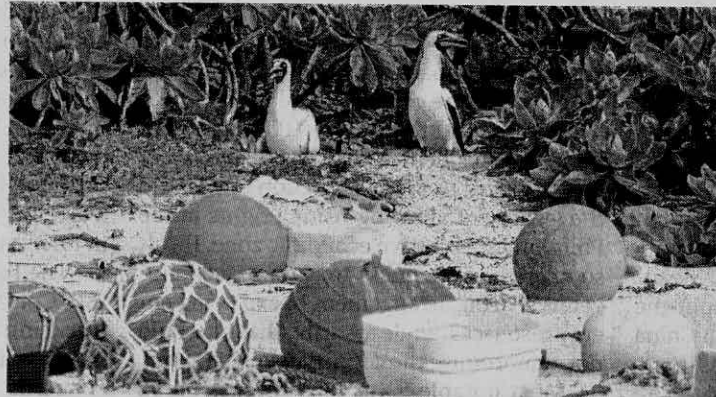
REMOTE PACIFIC ISLAND BECOMES SYMBOL OF GLOBAL PLASTIC POLLUTION

WELLINGTON—Floating plastic garbage has swamped a remote Pacific island once regarded as an environmental jewel and scientists say little can be done to save it while a throwaway culture persists.

Henderson Island is an uninhabited coral atoll that lies almost exactly halfway between New Zealand and Peru, with 5,500 kilometers of ocean in either direction.

Despite its extreme isolation, a freak confluence of geography and ocean currents means Henderson has one of the highest concentrations of plastic pollution on the planet.

"We found debris from just about everywhere," said Jennifer Lavers, an Australian-based researcher who led an expedition to the island last month.



DUMP This photograph taken on June 10 by Iain McGregor shows two masked boobies walking among rubbish on a beach on Henderson Island. —AFP

"We had bottles and containers, all kinds of fishing stuff and it had come from, well, you name it—Germany, Canada, the United States, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador.

"It was a real message that every country has a responsibility to protect the environment, even in these remote areas." Henderson lies at the center of the South Pacific gyre, a

vast circular ocean current that runs counterclockwise down the east coast of Australia and up the west coast of South America.

The gyre should be a boon for the 10-by-five-km speck of land, carrying rich nutrients into the waters surrounding Henderson to feed huge colonies of sea birds.

The atoll's ecosystem is so rich that Henderson was included on the UN World Heritage List in 1988, with the body hailing it as an untouched paradise.

Three decades later, the gyre has become a marine conveyor belt dumping endless waves of plastic detritus onto Henderson's coast, making it the hub of what has become known as the South Pacific Garbage Patch. —AFP

Adopt-A-City campaign raises urgency of disaster resilience efforts

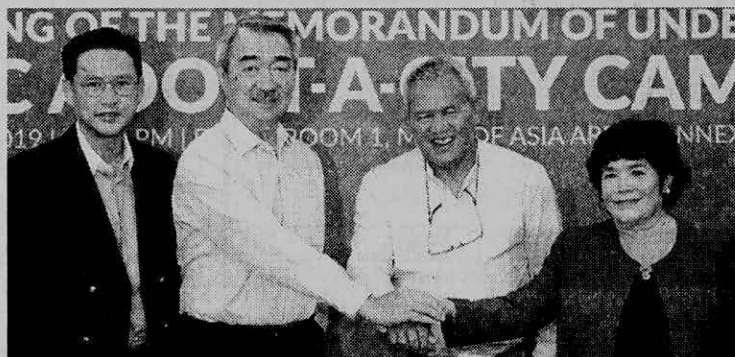
Climate change has left the planet vulnerable to the harmful effects of natural calamities. The Philippines is ranked 2nd among countries that will be most affected by climate change by 2020 (tied with Bangladesh). Now more than ever, disaster resilience is of the utmost importance to the country.

This was the pronouncement made by National Resilience Council (NRC) president Antonia Yulo Lozaga during the recent launch of the NRC's Adopt-A-City campaign. The program is an innovative city-specific partnership model that will link the resources of private sector companies with the local government units (LGUs), academic partners and the communities themselves in transforming their climate and disaster risk landscapes and establishing their resilient LGU systems.

Lozaga, together with Cagayan de Oro (CDO) City Mayor Oscar Moreno, and SM Prime Holdings Inc. chairman of the executive committee Hans Sy, signed a memorandum of understanding to seal the partnership for SM Prime Holdings to become the first private organization to take part in the campaign.

"Disaster resiliency is not the job of the government alone. It is a job that can be successful on collaboration with the government. The government sector alone can succeed only if both the private sector and the government will work together," said SM Prime chairman of the executive committee Hans Sy.

"CDO was a victim of a typhoon that had debunked the long-held theory that Mindanao is typhoon free. We had thousands of casualties, not including those that



SM Prime is the first private organization to take part in the Adopt-A-City campaign, investing in the reduction of three cities' disaster risks. Photo shows (from left) SM Supermalls COO Steven Tan, SM Prime chairman of the executive committee Hans Sy, CDO mayor Oscar Moreno and National Resilience Council president Antonia Yulo Lozaga.

are missing, so this program indeed is very important," Moreno said.

"The Adopt-A-City campaign is most timely because it focuses our efforts on precisely the drivers of our national economy, which are located in your cities. Cities are also among the chief generators of emissions because,

in fact, the industry that is driving the metabolism of cities is what actually feeds the greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere," said Lozaga.

In addition to Cagayan de Oro City, SM has pledged to support the cities of Naga (Bicol) and Iriga, investing in the reduction of these cities' old and new disaster risks and helping them immediately recover after possible disasters or unforeseen events.

SM has also been involved in other sustainability projects such as recycling their water and installing catchment basins in their malls to avoid flooding.

For more information on how to adopt a city, visit the National Resilience Council website (<https://resiliencecouncil.ph/>) for more info. To know more about ARISE Philippines, you may contact its secretariat via email (arisephilippines@smprime.com) or check out https://cc.preventionweb.net/arise/asia_pacific/arise_philippines.



STRATEGIC
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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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EDITORIAL



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Heat wave hits Europe 4 years after Paris pact

EUROPE today is in the grip of a heat wave that has broken temperature records in many countries. Paris, France, baked at 42.6 degrees Celsius (°C) last Thursday, July 25, breaking the 70-year record of 40.4 °C. The heat wave has spread all over Western Europe – 38.7 °C in Cambridge, England; 41.8 °C in Begijnendijk, Belgium; 39 °C in Luxembourg; 40.7 °C in Gilze-Rijen, Netherlands; 42.6 °C in Lingen, Germany.

By way of comparison, Metro Mania recorded its hottest temperature this year at 36.6 °C. on April 21.

The heat wave is now expanding northward to Norway, Sweden, and Finland, with Bergen, Norway, setting an all-time record high last Friday of 32.8 °C. The rising heat has increased the melting of the Greenland ice sheet, adding water to the world's oceans. If the ice sheet continues to melt, the world's average sea levels are expected to rise by 23 feet.

Ironically, it was in Paris, now experiencing the greatest heat of the current heat wave, where in 2015, 174 states and the European Union approved the Paris Agreement to keep the world's temperature from rising more than 1.5 °C over pre-industrial levels. The world's nations agreed to take steps to hold back their respective emissions of industrial gases, submitting national plans

to achieve this.

One nation, however, rejected the Paris Agreement – the United States, which had just elected a new president, Donald Trump. It fell on Europe and China to lead the move to cut down on industrial emissions causing climate change.

In October last year, a UN-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that world industrial emissions have continued to rise despite avowed national intentions to reduce them. A new round of climate talks has been scheduled by the UN in Chile this December.

The ongoing heat wave in Europe is certainly an indication of worsening climatic conditions. There have been other signs – more powerful hurricanes causing much greater damage than before to many parts of the US, more powerful typhoons rising in the Pacific and moving towards the Philippines and the rest of East Asia, unusual floods and droughts in many countries. And now the heat wave in Europe that threatens to melt Arctic ice.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres is said to be seeking greater commitments from various governments ahead of a planned summit conference in New York in September. If he could convince the US, the biggest source of industrial gasses, to join the rest of the world with some plan of action to cut down its emissions, that would be a major step forward.



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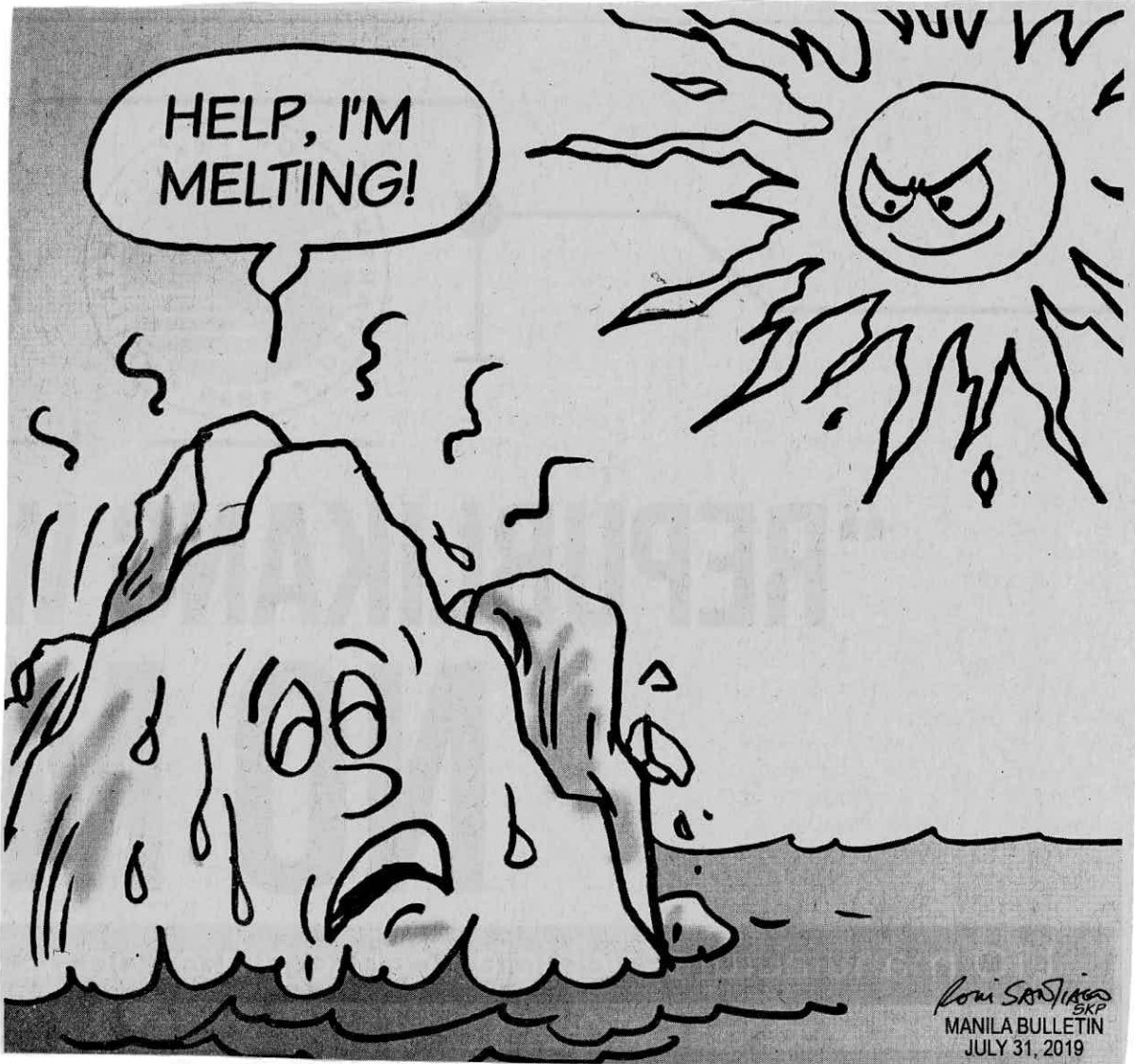
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EDITORIAL

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PUSONG PANALO

ni Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas III

(PAGPAPATULUY)

MAY isang artikulong inilabas ang WWF noong Marso ng nakaraang taon na naglahad ng maraming dahilan upang patuloy na dapat umasa tayong lahat sa kabila ng mga prediksyong negatibo at mga balitang hindi nakapanlulumo. Naniniwala akong ang mga dahilang ito ay naaayon pa rin sa panahong ito.

Halimbawa, kailangan nating malamang may libo-libong mga personalidad ang nagtutulong-tulong upang

labanan ang climate change. Kabilang sa mga ito ang volunteers, student leaders, tribal leaders, mga kawani ng pamahalaan, presidente ng mga paaralan at unibersidad, CEOs, mga negosyante o kapitalista, at marami pang iba.

Mas marami na ring mga negosyante, komunidad, siyudad, eskwelahan, bansa, at mga grupo ang lumahok na o nagsisimulang sumali sa mga kampanya upang mabawasan ang carbon emissions sa ating

hangin at upang gumawa ng mga hakbang upang maibsan ang mga negatibong epekto ng pagbabago ng klima.

Marami na ring malalakas na kampanyang pandaigdigang nananawagan para sa mas madaling paggamit ng renewable energy sources. Mas marami na ring mga kompanya ngayon ang nakalipat na o kasalukuyang lumilipat patungo sa renewable energy para sa kaniyang pangangailangan sa enerhiya. Inaasahan ding mas dadami pa ang bilang ng mga organisasyong ito sa mga

darating na panahon.

Naniniwala ang maraming tao na ang kaniyang pagkilos at sakripisyo, gaano man ito kaliit, ay may maiaambag sa pangmalakihang kampanya.

Kaya naman mas marami na rin ngayon ang mga kampanya at proyektong pinamumunuan ng mga indibidwal, grupo, komunidad at mga organisasyon tungo sa pagre-recycle/pagre-reuse ng basura, pagtitipid ng enerhiya at pagbabawas ng carbon footprint ng bawat isa, pagsalba sa kalikasan, paglilinis sa mga kara-

gatan, pagliligtas sa mga hayop, at ang pagkakaroon ng mas mulat at hindi maaksayang pamumuhay.

Patuloy tayong umasa na ang sama-sama nating pagkilos ay magbubunga rin pagdating ng araw. Kailangan ang positibong pag-iisip at matibay na paniniwala.

Matuto tayong umayon sa mga reyalidad ng kasalukuyang panahon habang tayo ay kumikilos, sapagkat ang pagayon ay hindi sapat.

Kailangan nating gampanan ang ating papel ngayong araw na ito. Hindi bukas.

TAYO BA AY WALANG LABAN SA CLIMATE CHANGE?



TITLE:

MULING ipinakita ng droga kung paano nito gawing demonyo ang tao sa Tondo, Manila kamakalawa.

Habang tinatanggap natin kamakalawa ang ulat sa pananaksak at pagpatay ni Edmundo Perucho sa pamangkin niyang si Larz Genesis Dela Cruz na isang 4-anyos, agad na sumagi sa ating isipan ang katanungan kung adik ang suspek o hindi.

Hindi tayo nagkamali sa suspetsang adik si Perucho dahil lumitaw sa huli na nasa drug watchlist ito ng pulisya.

Nasa 18 na saksak ang pinampatay ni Perucho sa kaawa-awa at walang kalaban-laban na paslit.

Pinagbalingan umano ng suspek ang bata makaraang mag-away ang suspek at kapatid nitong ama ng bata nang malasing na ang mga ito.

NAPATAY RIN

Ayon sa mga pulis, mga Bro, nakitang naglalakad ang bata at pumasok sa kanilang bahay.

Makaraan ang kalahating oras, lumabas sa bahay ng biktima ang suspek at nagwala at nagsisigaw na dapat siyang patayin dahil nakapatay siya ng bata.

Dito na tumawag ng pulis ang mga kapitbahay at kamag-anak nila para maaresto si Perucho.

Sa kalaunan, naaresto rin ang suspek at dinala sa istasyon ng pulisya.

Doon, hiniling ng suspek na pumunta sa banyo at habang naglalakad kasama ang isang pulis, sinubukan nitong agawin ang baril ng huli kaya napilitan na itong barilin ng mga pulis.

Hindi na nakaabot pang buhay si Perucho sa ospital.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING ULIT?

Tiyak na magtataas na naman ng kilay ang mga taga-human rights.

Tiyak na isasama na naman ang kaso sa ibinibintang nilang extra-judicial killing ng administrasyong Duterte.

Sasabihin nilang dapat nakaposas ang suspek upang hindi makapang-agaw ng baril at walang dahilan upang barilin at patayin ito. Dapat ituring na ino-



KADEMONYOHAN NG DROGA: 4-ANYOS PATAY SA TIYUHIN

sente ang suspek hanggang mapatunayan itong nagkasala ng hukuman mula sa regional trial court hanggang Supreme Court na marahil ay aabutin ng 10 taon o mahigit pa.

Isa pa, dapat umanong mabigyan ng pagkakataon na magbago ang suspek kung mapatunayan mang nagkasala,

At walang karapatan ang sinomang awtoridad na kumitil ng buhay ng tao dahil bawal ito sa batas sa human rights.

Ganoon ba?

DROGA, 'DI NAKASISIRA NG ULO?

Katwiran pa ng mga taga-human rights, hindi nakasisira ng ulo ang droga.

Mismong si Agnes Callamard, ng Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights rapporteur, at ang doktor na dayuhan na kasama niya, ang may katwiran nito habang nakikialam at tinutuli sa nila ang giyera sa droga ng administrasyong Duterte na minsan silang dumating sa Pilipinas.

Sabi ng doktor, kahit gaano karami ang ma-take na shabu ng isang tao gaya ng prescription niya sa kanyang mga pasyente, hindi sila masisiraan ng utak kaya hindi sila mag-aasal demonyo.

Iniisip na natin kung hindi sina Callamard at ang doktor ang nasisiraan ng ulo habang nangangatwiran.

Paano harapin ng dalawang hunghang na dayuhan ang mga nangre-rape na may pagpatay at pagkatay sa mga kababaihan, pagholdap na may pagpatay, pag-rape sa mga paslit na hindi lang babae kundi babae at maraming iba pa?

Ang masama rin, maging ang mga Pinoy sa sarili nating Commission on Human Rights ay higit na pinaniniwalaan at pinapanigan ang mga dayuhan kaysa ang nakikita mismo ng kanilang mga mata na nag-aasal demonyo ang mga taong impluwensya-

do ng droga.

LARONG PULITIKAL

Lumalabas tuloy na hindi talaga trabahong human rights ang nasa likod ng mga kritiko kundi pulitika gaya ng pag-nanais nilang palitan ang pamunuan ng bansa ng kanilang mga kakampi para sa mga layuning hindi matiyak kung ano.

Nawala kasi sa pwesto ang mga kakampi ng taga-human rights noong halalang 2016, at lalong nawala sila sa pwesto sa katatapos na halalan nang ma-zero ang Otso Diretso candidates nila sa pagkasenador.

At ang paninira sa anomang paraan hanggang sa maalis ang pamunuan ng bansa ngayon ang kanilang target para sila makabalik sa kapangyarihan.

Ang isang malaking katanungan talaga sa problema sa human rights ay bakit hindi nakikita ng taga-human rights ang mga biktima ng droga at ang buong sam-bayanan na nakaambang maging estado o pinaghaharian ng droga gaya ng nagaganap sa Mexico at sa Amerika ngayon?

At may lakas pa sila ng loob na sila ang may karapatang humawak sa pamahalaan at kinabukasan nito.

SOBRA NA, TAMA NA

Ngayon natin masasabi na sobra na, tama na ang droga at ang pakikialam ng mga dayuhan sa pamamahala ng administrasyong Duterte sa buong bansa, partikular sa droga.

Sobra na at tama na ang paninira ng mga taga-human rights na mali at walang tamang solusyon sa salot na droga.

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



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: (632) 927-1517, 928-3725; Fax No.: (632) 920-2258
Website: <http://www.emb.gov.ph>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) of the **Mabuhay Cement Processing Plant Project** of the **Mabuhay Filcement Inc.** to be located in **Barangay South Poblacion, Municipality of San Fernando, Cebu.**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **Mabuhay Cement Processing Plant Project** to attend a Public Hearing on **13 August 2019 (Tuesday) at 9:00 AM** (registration starts at 8:00 am) to be held in the San Fernando Sports Complex.

Date / Time	Venue
13 August 2019 (Tuesday)/9:00 am	San Fernando Sports Complex, San Fernando, Cebu

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).

Mabuhay Filcement Inc.'s project aims to increase their production capacity to meet the demand for cement. The following are the project summary:

	Existing Components	Proposed Expansion
Production Rate/Capacity	500,000 MTPY Clinker 30,000 bags of cement per day (525,000 MTPY)	1,200,000 MTPY Clinker 120,000 bags of cement per day (2,600,000 MTPY)

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 or eia@emb.gov.ph, 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 (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:

- EMB VII**
Address: Greenplains Subd., Banilad, Mandaue City
Tel.Nos.: (032)345-3905
- Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO)**
San Fernando Municipal Hall, San Fernando Cebu

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02)920-2240 to 41 and look for the project case handler **Engr. Mary Therese Gonzales** and **Engr. Regina Paula Eugenio**.

Protect the environment ... Protect life ...

(PDI - July 24 & 31, 2019)



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, in pursuance to Administrative Order No. 38 dated 19 April 1990, will sell at DENR-NCR Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, through **sealed bidding** to the highest bidder at 10:00 A.M. on **NOV 26 2019**, the tract of land situated in **Western Bicutan (Fr. Bonifacio), Taguig City** which are specifically described below to wit:

APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA NO. 007607-1297	MARICRIS R. NARANJA	Lot 55, Block 9 Psd-00-057782	25 sq.m.	Php 140.00	Php 3,500.00	Php 100,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007607-1297". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines.

ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

PJ - July 31 Aug 7,14,21,28 and Sept 4, 2019

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA NO. 007607-2068	HAROLD B. MANRIQUE	Lot 10, Block 30 Psd-00-036894	60 sq.m.	Php 140.00	Php 8,400.00	Php 1,000,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007607-2068". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA NO. 007602-14338	EMIL B. GOPILAN	Lot 40257, MCad. 571-D Makati Cadastre (Lot 1, Ccs-00-000143)	240 sq.m.	Php 100.00	Php 24,000.00	Php 800,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007602-14338". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines.

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Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
MSA No. 07602-13105	RONNEL P. TAN	Lot 9, Block 30 Psd-13-005241	230 sq.m.	Php 100.00	Php 23,000.00	Php 150,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007602-13105". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

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