

DATE : 05 AUG 2019

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR bans swimming in parts of El Nido due to high coliform levels

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

A "No swimming" policy remains in effect in certain areas within Bacuit Bay and Corong-Corong in El Nido, Palawan, due to high coliform levels.

Citing a recommendation by the regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Mimaropa, Secretary Roy Cimatu said these areas are not safe for swimming for having high fecal coliform counts reaching nearly 16 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100ml)

"We waited for this so that we can make a decision. The decision is that we will continue the rehabilitation (of El Nido)," Cimatu said.

"We will not close El Nido, and we will continue the 'no swimming' in (three outfalls) in Bacuit Bay and one in Corong-Corong," he said.

He identified the three outfalls in Bacuit Bay as El Nido Estero, Cabugao, and Masagana. ▶4

DENR bans swimming... ◀1

Aside from the degradation of water quality that was caused by lack of sewerage systems of household and commercial establishments, Cimatu said the encroachment in easement zone and timberland, solid waste management, and violation of environmental laws were also found to have contributed to the dreadful conditions in El Nido

He directed DENR-Mimaropa Regional Executive Director Henry Adornado to form an inter-agency task force composed of the regional offices of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and representatives from the local government unit (LGU) to "undertake investigation and inspection of establishments, including households" within El Nido's tourism area.

The task force will have 20 days starting August 5 to conduct their operations and is expected to submit the results on August 25.

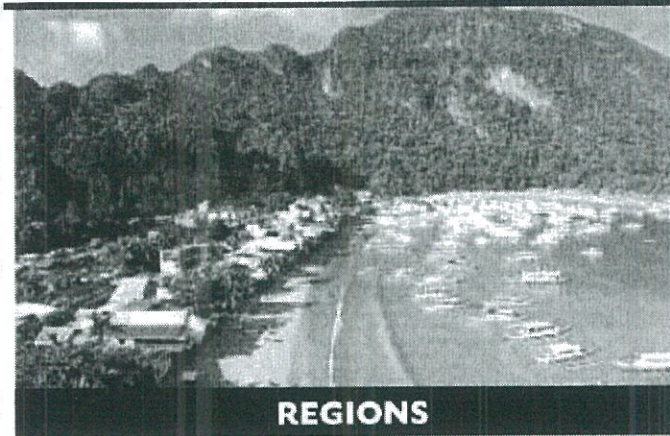
Cimatu ordered the task force to identify non-compliant commercial establishments or those that violate environmental laws, have no business permits and DOT accreditation.

The DENR chief emphasized that if there will be recommendations from the task force to shut down establishments, it will only be "individual" businesses and not the entire ecotourism area.

The same plan used in the rehabilitation of Boracay Island will be followed for the rehabilitation of El Nido and the rest of the ecotourism areas in the country, such as Coron, Siargao, Panglao, and Puerto Galera. (Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



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REGIONS

El Nido faces new environment probe

The rehabilitation of the resort town of El Nido in Palawan continues as the government gives a newly created task force 20 days to inspect establishments and households for violations of environmental laws and noncompliance with tourism and business requirements. El Nido remains open for tourists but swimming will be banned in certain areas in Bacuit Bay due to poor water quality. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

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El Nido faces new environment probe

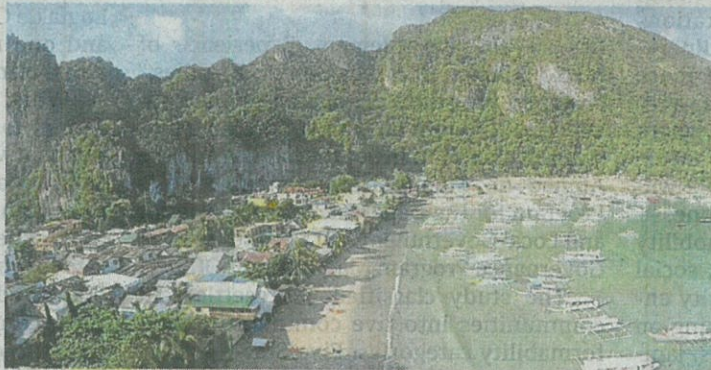
Task force given 20 days to check tourism, business violations in resort town

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

A government-led task force will be given 20 days, starting today, to inspect and investigate establishments and households in El Nido, Palawan province, that may be violating environmental laws and not complying with tourism and business requirements, as the rehabilitation of the resort town continues.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu last week ordered Henry Adornado, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to form an interagency task force that would submit on Aug. 25 its recommendations on establishments that might be shut down for noncompliance.

El Nido, one of the country's top tourist spots, has been spared from imminent closure that threatened similar destinations across the country, following an interagency meeting between the DENR, the Department of



TOURIST MAGNET El Nido's environment has been suffering as tourists continue to flock to this beach destination in northern Palawan. —REDEMPTO ANDA

Tourism, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and other organizations on Aug. 1.

Cimatu said that while El Nido remained open for tourists, strict no-swimming zones in certain areas in Bacuit Bay would be imposed. Areas where swimming is banned include the locations of four outfalls—Corong-Corong, El Nido Estero, Masagana and Cabugao.

These outfalls registered high levels of fecal coliform, or

bacteria associated with human and animal feces, according to tests done by the DENR.

The El Nido Estero outfall, for instance, registered a coliform count of 16 million most probable number (MPN) for every 100 milliliters in April, while levels in Masagana outfall reached 5.4 million MPN per 100 ml.

These levels are way beyond the safe level for water quality, which is at 100 MPN per 100 ml.

While visitors are still wel-

come to stay in hotels and other establishments in El Nido, they are encouraged to swim in other lagoons and islands within the Bacuit archipelago, the DENR said.

Cimatu said the interagency task force would also identify the structures standing on no-build zones, such as timberlands.

Intervention

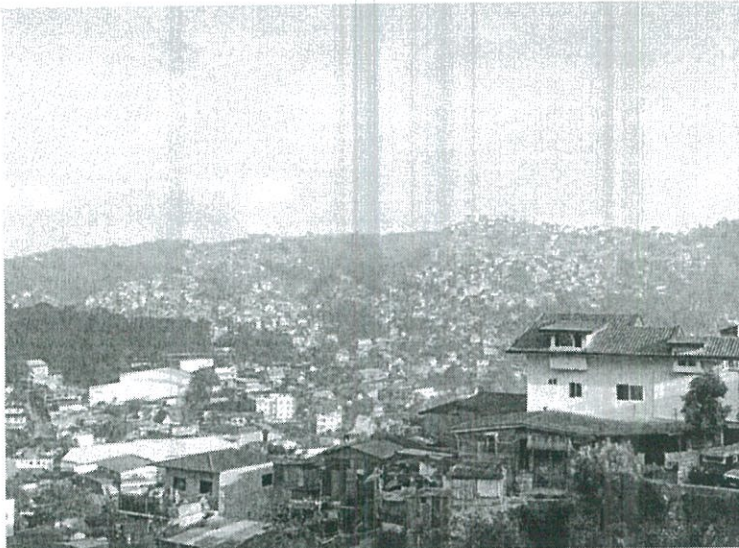
"If we do not intervene in El Nido, it will really end up like Boracay, where no one was in control," Cimatu told reporters in a press briefing last week.

Since last year, the town in northern Palawan has been included on the government's growing list of tourist spots needing rehabilitation, following the six-month closure of Boracay Island as its model.

El Nido, which receives over 200,000 tourists yearly, was subjected to a six-month rehabilitation under the local government beginning November last year. At least 119 establishments had already complied with environment regulations. INQ



Roles of DENR, DPWH in Baguio decay up for scrutiny



MOUNTAIN VIEW Houses and business establishments have been slowly encroaching on remaining forest patches in Baguio City. VINCENT CABREZA

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet, Philippines — The role played by national agencies that led to Baguio's overdevelopment will be addressed once Malacañang issues a moratorium on building construction and tree-cutting in the city, a top city official said last week.

There have been occasions when developers have been able to secure permission from head offices of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) when the city government rejects their applications for taller buildings or for cutting trees, Bonifacio de la Peña, city administrator, said in a recent news briefing.

ADVERTISEMENT

Mayor Benjamin Magalong earlier asked Malacañang for an executive order that would freeze the processing and issuance of building and tree-cutting permits for a year to allow his administration time to rehabilitate vital utilities like the sewers.

Policy reforms

The building moratorium will not rescind permits already issued to ongoing building projects that have exceeded the eight-story ceiling set by a building ordinance, De la Peña said.

"We cannot remove those floors anymore," he said, although the city government had at times refused to issue occupancy permits for extra floors.

But policy reforms may prevent future projects from exceeding the city's skyline, he said.

MORE STORIES

The draft final report of Baguio's carrying capacity said 52 buildings had exceeded eight stories and occupied 2,313.7 hectares of its territory.

The report was presented at a public consultation in February by a team commissioned by the National Economic and Development Authority.

De la Peña, former dean of the Saint Louis University's College of Engineering, said the moratorium would also allow the city government to review its own zoning policies regarding basements which were not regulated.

Some buildings have excavated deeper to build underground floors for parking or for additional store or office spaces.

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De la Peña also said they might ask the city council to consider abolishing Baguio committees or boards granting exemptions from zoning and building ordinances.

Magalong said the proposed moratorium was being worked out by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

The mayor's initiative comes two months after a petition circulated online seeking a stop to high-rise building projects in the city that was devastated by a 7.7-magnitude earthquake on July 16, 1990.

Steep slopes

The moratorium would also affect informal settlements along steep slopes.

The DENR has put out a land susceptibility map which identified 58 villages in lands that have "very high susceptibility to landslides."

Session Road at the city's central business district, where most tall buildings have been put up, is on that list of villages. The remaining 114 villages are concentrated in areas with "high susceptibility."

The DENR map also identified 129 potential or active sinkholes in eight villages, the biggest with openings as wide as 60 meters. —*Vincent Cabreza*



TUGBOATS, VESSELS BAWAL NA SA PASIG RIVER

IPAGBABAWAL na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang matagal na pagpaparada ng mga tugboat, barge at vessel sa kahabaan ng Pasig River.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, isa sa nakikitang may kontribusyon sa water pollution ang naturang mga sasakyan na nagdadala ng mga kargamento sa mga katabing pabrika sa gilid ng nasabing ilog.

Napansin ni Antiporda na sa ngayon ay walang strict measures para sa mga dumadaang barge sa naturang ilog.

Pinaplano rin ng DENR na maglagay ng malalaki at matitibay na nets sa Pasig River at ilang pangunahing ilog na dumadaloy patungong Manila Bay upang salain ang mga basurang inaanod.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na nakikipag-ugnayan na rin ang DENR sa Department of Science and Technology (DOST) upang maging katuwang sa pagresolba sa sandamakmak na basura, hindi lamang sa Pasig River, kundi maging sa mga kalapit-ilog nito.

Napag-alamang posibleng gamitin ang teknolohiya ng DOST kung saan gamit ang mga mikrobyo ay kakainin ng mga ito ang basura at unti-unting magiging buhangin.

Umaasa si Antiporda na sa pamamagitan nito ay unti-unting maiibsan ang problema sa basura mula sa mga maruruming ilog gaya sa Pasig.

“Hindi lamang ordinaryong basura ang problema natin, pati na rin ‘yung tinatawag na bulk waste katulad ng mga tinapong sirang kama, sofa, sirang bisikleta, wasak na aparador at ina pa,” dagdag pa ni Antiporda.

Hinikayat din niya ang publiko na makiisa sa paglilinis ng mga ilog.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.



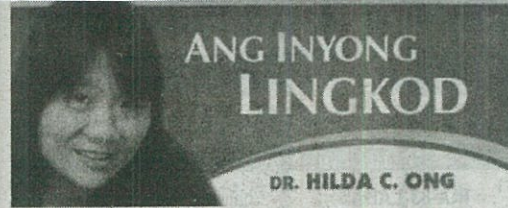
PATAKARAN INILABAS NG NWRB KUNG PAPAANO BAYARAN ANG ACCRUED ANNUAL WATER CHARGES NG PAUNTI-UNTI

ANG National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ay nag-isyu ng Board Resolution No. 003-0107 na pinamagatang "Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Grant Staggard Payment on Accrued Annual Water Charges, Supervision and Regulation Fee and Penalties" upang mabigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga permittees/grantees na may pag-kakautang mabayaran ito ng paunti-unti sa loob ng isang taon.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, maraming permittees/grantees ay hindi pa rin maka-

pagbayad ng kanilang accrued water charges, regulation fees at penalties dahil sa iba't ibang kadahilanan, tulad ng kahirapan sa pananalapi, pagpabaya at pagkaantala sa pagtanggap ng kanilang Statement of Account (SOA) para sa annual water charges and supervision at regulation fees.

Karamihan sa permittees/grantees ay nagpakita ng kanilang kagustuhan maisaayos at makapagbayad upang malutas ang kanilang mga obligasyon, kaya sila ay humihiling ng mas magaan na paraan ng pagbabayad sa mga naipon na obligasyon



DR. HILDA C. ONG

kaya inirekomenda ng board ang mga patakaran:

Sa mga permittees/grantees na nabigyan ng pagkakataon mabayaran ang kanilang obligasyon ng paunti-unti sa loob ng isang taon at hindi pa rin nababayaran ang buo sa takdang panahon na ibinigay, papatawan ng karagdang 2% na surcharge kada buwan ang idaragdag base sa hindi pa nababayaran na balanse at kinakailangang bayaran ng buo sa loob ng 60 araw na nakabase rin sa petsa ng huling installment.

Ang mga permittee/grantee na mayroon taunan utang na hindi nababayaran o accrued annual water charges, supervision and regulation fees and penalties hango mula sa statement of account (SOA) na natanggap ay kailangang magsumite sa NWRB ng kanilang kahilingan sa pamamagitan ng pagsagot sa Staggard Payment Request Form, na makukuha sa opisina ng

NWRB sa pamamagitan ng kanilang website. Kasama rin ang pagsusumite ng letter-request para sa pagbabayad ng paunti-unti na nagtataglay ng paraan ng kanilang pagbabayad.

Lahat ng isinumiteng kahilingan ay rerepasehin muna bago aprubahan ng Division Head of the Administrative and Financial Division (AFD). Kapag naaprubahan, pagsasabihan ng AFD ang permittee/grantee na may utang, kalakip ang petsa ng pagsisimula ng pagbabayad, gayundin ang paraan ng pagbabayad, sa pamamagitan ng email at iba pang uri ng komunikasyon.

Maaari ring magbayad sa opisina ng NWRB, sa pamamagitan ng UCPB. Kapag nakapagbayad na, kinakailangang magsumite ng xerox copy ng Official Receipt o kaya ang machine-validated Bills Payment Slip kung sila ay nagbayad sa bangko, para sa patunay na nagbayad na at record purposes.





LUNES / AGOSTO 5, 2019

EDITOR: Jeane Lacorte / Twitter: @lacorte_jer

Minamahal at ginagalang na Kalihim ng DENR Roy Cimatu:

**USAPANG
PETMALU ATBP.**



Joyce Burton-Titular

TWITTER: @joycetitular

paruparo magmula pa noong huling bahagi ng dekada 1920! Lahat po ng kanyang koleksyon ng mga paruparo pati na rin ang kanyang mga artwork ay nakatanghal dito.

Sa inyo pong kaalaman, kilala sa buong mundo si

May HAYOP na kuwento po ako para sa inyo!

Noong isang linggo, bumisita po ako sa Cebu City kung saan ko natuklasan ang Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary!

Simpleng bahay lang po ito ngunit punong-puno ng kasaysayan dahil si Prof. Julian Jumalon, ang namayapang nagtatag ng sanctuary, ay mahilig sa mga

bulo o pollen sa iba't ibang mga bulaklak, nagkakaroon tayo ng mga prutas.

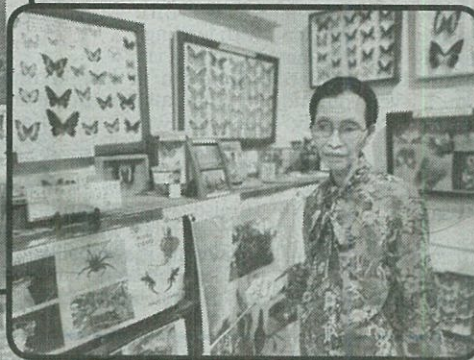
Sila po ay 'pest eaters'. Ginagawa po nilang tsitsirya ang mga peste sa bukid kaya malaking tulong ito sa mga magsasaka.

At sila po ay 'fastfood' ng mga ibang hayop tulad ng ibon, daga, paniki at iba pang mga insekto.

"Ganyan talaga ang balance of nature," kuwento ni Prof. Humaida. "Ang predator ay nagiging prey. Kung mawawala ang butterflies, maraming hayop ang maapektuhan and in the long run, tayo ring mga tao ay maapektuhan."

Pagkatapos ng house tour, lumabas din po kami sa malaki nilang hardin. Sa kasamaang palad, kaunti lamang po ang nakita naming paruparo. Sabi po ni propesora, "Dahil ito sa pollution galing sa tin factory next door. Naapektuhan ang mga butterflies.

I wrote the DENR at nagkaroon ng meeting. They ordered it to close. However, it's been 10 years and the factory has yet to comply. Ang plano ko ngayon ay sulatan ang Presidente."



Prof. Jumalon bagama't hindi siyentipiko dahil sa kanyang kontribusyon sa Lepidopterology o pag-aaral ng mga paruparo.

Ang namamahala po ngayon ng sanctuary ay ang kaniyang nakatatandang anak — si Humaida Jumalon, isa ring propesora. Pinasyal niya kami sa bahay nila kung saan nakapresenta ang kanilang koleksyon ng mga paruparo.

Akala ko, cute lang ang mga paruparo ngunit mahalaga rin po pala sila sa kapaligiran! Ayon kay Prof. Humaida: Sila po ay 'fruit makers'. Dahil po sa pagkalat nila ng mga



Ito po, Secretary Cimatu, ang dahilan kung bakit po ako sumulat sa inyo. Kung kaya niyo pong pasarahin ang Manila Zoo dahil sa kanilang paglabag sa batas-pangkapoligiran, kaya niyo rin pong tulungan ang Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary. Sana po bigyan ninyo ng pansin ang panawagang ito.

Lubos na Gumagalang,
Joyce.

Vist the Jumalon Butterfly Sanctuary Cebu City, 9am-5pm daily.

P100 – adults, P50 – children. P80 – PWD/senior citizens.



Akyon
NGAYON
NI AL G. PEDROCHE

Dobleng perhuwisyo

SA kabilâ nang puspusang paglilinis at rehabilitasyong isinasagawa ng DENR sa Manila Bay, nagsilbing pag-subok ang malalakas na ulan na dinaranas natin sa kasalukuyan.

Gaya nang nararanasan taon-taon, bultu-bultong plastic na basura ang isinuka ng karagatan sa dalampasigan at iyan ay dahil sa mga informal settlers na naninirahan sa paligid ng Manila Bay. Hangga't hindi naililikas sa ibang lugar ang mga residente rito, mawawalang saysay

ang malaking halagang ginagastos ng gobyerno sa paglilinis ng karagatan.

Kahit walang puknat at araw-arawin ng DENR ang paglilinis at dredging ng karagatan, lalabas at lalabas ang nakasusulasok na basura sa tuwing magbabaha.

Kamakalawa, dahil sa pag-igkas ng malalaking alon dala ng masungit na panahon, may pitong tahanan sa gild ng Manila Bay ang nawasak at natangay sa karagatan. Iba na ang panahon ngayon dahil sa tinatawag na climate change. Kahit walang bagyo, magkakaroon ng malalakas na hangin at pag-ulan na nakapipinsala sa buhay at ari-arian.

Para sa kaligtasan ng ating mga kababayang informal settlers, dapat nang ayusin ng pamahalaan ang mga lugar na mapaglilikasan sa kanila. Ang problema, paikutikot lang ang suliranin. Kapag nailikas ang mga informal settlers, may ibang grupo ng mga mararalita ang pumapalit sa kanila. Kaya walang katapusan ang problema. Ang siste pa, yung mga mapalad na mabigyan ng pagli-

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

lipatan ay ibinebenta pa ang lupa ng kanilang iniwanan.

Doble problema ang dulot nito. Natatambak ang mga basura sa karagatan na nahahalu pa ng dumi ng tao, at kapag panahon ng tag-bagyo, nanganganib ang buhay ng mga naninirahan sa mga lugar

na malapit sa dalampasigan. Sa kaso ng Manila Bay, hindi lang ito problema ng masipag na Mayor ng Maynila na si Isko Moreno. Problema rin ito ng mga local na opisyal sa Cavite, Pasay, Parañaque, Malabon at Navotas na may mga residente ring naninirahan malapit sa bay-

baying sakop ng Manila Bay. Hangga't hindi nalulutas ang problema sa informal settlers, hindi magtatagumpay ang ano mang plano na linsin ang Manila Bay.

Mahirap na problema

dahil bukod sa malaking pondong kakailanganin, kailangan ding baguhin ang kultura at kaisipan ng tao upang sila'y maging responsable sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran.



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Zero Waste Groups back bid for paperless Congress

SEVERAL environmental groups have thrown their support behind a proposed shift to paperless transactions at the House of Representatives.

Senior Deputy Majority Leader and Cavite 7th District Representative Crispin "Boying" Remulla had earlier announced that the chamber's leadership is pushing for a paperless Congress to reduce paper costs estimated at P9 million a year and to digitize the legislative process.

This is among the reforms being considered by the house leadership under the new rules of the 18th Congress to be adopted this coming December after the approval of the 2020 national budget.

The move toward a paperless Congress has elicited support from green

groups working for a Zero Waste, toxics-free and sustainable society who cited the many benefits of going digital and paperless.

"We welcome the chamber's planned switch to paperless transactions as this will surely cut the costs for procuring paper and for the printing of voluminous legislative documents such as bills that do not necessarily become a law. This will reduce long-term resource use and associated costs and bring greater transparency to the lawmaking process," said Jovito Benosa, Zero Waste Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

"A paperless Congress should improve legislative efficiency, while cutting the expenses not only for bond papers, but also for folders, inks, toners

and other supplies. The savings can be used instead for meaningful programs to meet our people's basic needs," suggested Sonia Mendoza, Chairman, Mother Earth Foundation.

"Aside from reduced paper use and waste, going paperless will cut storage space for legislative documents that are often printed in multiple copies, as well as cut staff time in maintaining such documents. With more efficient operations, we can hope for faster deliberation of important bills, particularly strategic environmental and health measures such as those banning single-use plastics, foreign waste importation, and hazardous chemicals, products and processes," stated Rene Pineda, President, Consumer Rights for Safe Food.



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BusinessMirror

Always look at today's business



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MONEY IN TRASH A resident of the R10 area in Manila looks for something that could be resold from the trash washed ashore by a low pressure area that enhanced the southwest monsoon (*habagat*) over the weekend. NONIE REYES



Firm celebrates environment month with greening activities

A tree growing activity, an eco-oriented art contest, a river clean-up and a recycling challenge highlight Carmen Copper Corp.'s celebration of the environment month last June.

Some 1,200 seedlings were planted in .5 hectares of land as part of the company's progressive rehabilitation program and in celebration of Arbor Day last June 25.

It was a clear demonstration of shared responsibility in protecting the environment after more than 100 volunteer employees, people's organizations, local government unit and government agency took part in the activity.

The Arbor Day tree growing activity formed part of the series of tree growing activities or progressive rehabilitation initiatives to be conducted to achieve the race to one million planted seedlings by 2024.

Carmen Copper targets to rehabilitate 15 hectares of land per year to achieve one million seedlings planted since 2007. The company has planted a total of 876,115 seedlings and shall plant 124,085 more within five years or by 2024. Total reforested area since 2007 is 634



Carmen Copper president and CEO Roy Deveraturda (left) and AVP-SHEC Ignacio Aburo (2nd from left) lead more than 100 volunteers in a tree growing activity in celebration of Arbor Day and Philippine Environment Month.

hectares.

Last June 17, the company successfully organized an eco-oriented art contest that aimed to raise awareness on the importance of tree growing among elementary pupils in Toledo City.

With the theme "Greening towards a sustainable future," the contest showcased the talents of 26 participants in visual arts through artworks that depicted concepts on reforestation, sustainable energy, recycling, proper waste management, river protection, air quality control, and other

greening efforts.

As part of its Adopt-an-Estero Program, Carmen Copper mobilized more than 50 residents to conduct a river cleanup at Panda River, Barangay Cantabaco, Toledo City last June 10.

Some 65 volunteers comprising of Carmen Copper employees and members of the Hugpong Cantabacoanon para sa Kinaiyahan (HCK), a company-assisted people's organization committed to protect the environment, rid the river of trash along the banks and river beds. The activity generated

645 kilograms of combined biodegradable, recyclable, residual and special wastes.

More signage to educate the residents will be installed along Panda River while HCK, pledged to be vigilant, police the area and report those who will violate R.A. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Carmen Copper also launched a company-wide Trash to Treasure Challenge where employees were challenged to recycle, reuse, re-purpose and re-engineer everyday materials into new, useful or income-generating inventions.

The Trash to Treasure Challenge aims to tap the employees' creativity and innovativeness to promote recycling and reuse of materials in line with the company's goal to reduce waste. Among the entries that stood out were a pub table made of scrap tire and old rim, a clock made of automobile scraps and an elegantly designed furniture chair made of scrap tires.

Recognizing its crucial role in maintaining balance between economic growth and care for the environment, Carmen Copper has embarked on a more strategic approach to sustainable development by integrating sustainability in all facets of its operations prioritizing environmental management, safety and health and social development.

Its commitment to sustainable development has consistently earned it various environment awards including the Presidential Mineral Industry and Environment Award Titanium and Platinum achievements.



Empowering industries for zero waste economy



Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza MAKE SENSE

THE zero-waste lifestyle is becoming more popular these days, especially among the younger generation who are already mindful of their role as stewards of nature. But while they are already adopting a zero-waste lifestyle, many of them are interpreting it as literally producing waste.

Fact is, zero waste is about creating a circular economy, in which the products consumed by a community are made to be renewed, reused, repaired or upgraded, and to practically last a long time, to preserve natural resources and, more important, to reduce the product's impact on the environment.

Creating zero waste is not just about generating less waste, but managing that waste, so that every product made and consumed can be safely returned to nature, instead of ending up in landfills and oceans.

While the zero-waste lifestyle sees a better future for the environment and more sustainable industries, there is still a lot of work to be done among the government and private sector in coming up

with viable systems that will make this happen.

Companies can start designing their products or their packaging to become recyclable and reusable, especially if they are made of non-biodegradable materials such as metals and plastics. They can also design their products so that it will need less raw materials from natural resources.

Coca-Cola Philippines is one company that has invested in making its packaging more sustainable. Recently, it introduced the country's first-ever food-grade PET bottle made of 100-percent recycled material. This is supposed to be the first step toward the beverage company's global vision of a World Without Waste, the goal of which is

Creating zero waste is not just about generating less waste, but managing that waste, so that every product made and consumed can be safely returned to nature, instead of ending up in landfills and oceans.

to collect and recycle 100 percent of Coca-Cola's packaging and achieve 50-percent recycled PET bottle usage by 2030.

Another way to help support the zero-waste lifestyle and create a circular economy is to make one's production and manufacturing processes more efficient so it would use only the necessary amount of raw materials to help replenish natural resources and to prevent generating waste.

There is also a need for proper collection and diversion of recyclable materials so it will not end up in landfills and oceans. Companies, like Coke, have been partnering with communities, schools and other organizations to help set up bins where recyclable materials, such as metals, PET bottles and other plastics, can be efficiently collected.

They can also partner with recycling companies, which can process the collected materials into entirely new products, or into raw materials for different industries. This will give the companies the opportunity to

help grow other industries without impacting the environment.

Since last year, a recycling company has been producing chairs, benches and eco-bricks made entirely from PET bottles collected by Coke through various collection points nationwide. The materials are continuously given to *sari-sari* store owners.

We in the Federation of Philippine Industries are interested in helping create and support this circular economy and zero-waste lifestyle, especially since the Department of Trade and Industry's Board of Investments, as mandated by Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, has been coming up with policies and incentives to encourage companies to invest in green initiatives.

We would like to encourage our member-industries to think of ways on how their products and packaging can be made recyclable and reusable, their manufacturing processes more efficient and environment-friendly, and how they can create and offer green jobs that will help conserve the environment.

Dr. Arranza is the chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries and Fight Illicit Trade, a broad-based, multisectoral movement intended to protect consumers, safeguard government revenues and shield legitimate industries from the ill effects of smuggling.



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Managing Asean's nature parks effectively

MANAGERS and senior staff of Asean region's best nature parks gathered in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, recently to share good practices in effective parks management.

Through a Regional Learning Workshop on the Effective Management of Protected Areas organised by the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the 11 managers and senior staff involved in the management of Asean Heritage Parks and protected areas learned the elements and principles of ecotourism, as well as policies and standards of ecotourism as practiced in selected AHPs.

They shared experiences and lessons learned on recreation, tourism, and ecotourism.

Funded by the government of Japan through the Japan-Asean Integrated Fund and conducted in cooperation with Sabah Parks and the Biodiversity and Forestry Management Division of the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS) of Malaysia, the workshop equipped the participants with awareness and understanding on networking strategies for effective implementation of database management and strategies to promote their parks.

It also familiarized the participants with the Asean approach in parks management and on how multiple stakeholders manage

protected areas through participatory processes.

Highlighting the opening ceremonies were welcome messages by Dr. Jamili Nais, director of Sabah Parks; Undersecretary Dato Wan Mazlan bin Wan Mahmood, Biodiversity and Forestry Management Division of KATS; and ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim.

Resource speakers included Dr. Filiberto Pollisco Jr. and Rolando Inciong, ACB Programme Specialist and Public Relations Consultant, respectively; Dr. Nasrul Bin Menhat, head of Protected Areas Unit, Biodiversity and Forestry Management Division, KATS; Dr. Maklarin Lakim, deputy director, Sabah Parks; Yassi Miki, park manager, Kinabalu National Park; Sithisack Paninhuan, deputy director, Nam Ha National Protected Area; Dr. Rogelio Andrada II, head, Botanic Gardens, Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystem; Alain Quesea, chief, Tourism Division, Department of Tourism, Philippines and Dr. Ratchada Pongsattayapipat, director, Sanga Sabhasri Research and Development Center, Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden.

The participants crafted their



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respective countries' communication, education and public awareness strategies in promoting and advocating biodiversity conservation through their nature parks, focusing on engaging different sectors of government and society and emphasizing that conservation is a shared responsibility.

Participants visited the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park and the Kinabalu National Park. Both nature parks are known for good practices in implementing sustainability mechanisms, ecosystem-based approach, multistakeholder cooperation and biodiversity information management.

Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park

THE Tunku Abdul Rahman Park is

a state park in Gaya Bay, 3 kilometers offshore from Kota Kinabalu. Named after Malaysia's first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, it was gazetted in 1974 as Sabah's second national park.

The park, which covers an area of 50 square kilometers, comprising five islands, their surrounding reefs and sea, has good programs to protect fauna, flora and marine ecosystems.

Geologically, the islands are part of the Crocker Range but became isolated from the massif when sea levels rose after the last ice age. There is also a jungle trail located at Base Camp in Pulau Gaya. The trail that stretches around half a kilometer is enough to generally educate visitors on various

aspects of the marsh jungle.

The names of the islands are symbolic of their history and early discoverers. The islands are Pulau Gaya (big), Manukan (fish), Mamutik (shell collection), Sapi (the sound of a mowing buffalo) and Sulug (commemorating the ancestry of the Sulu peoples of Sabah).

Initially, the park covered two islands—Gaya and Sapi. In 1979, the park's boundaries expanded to include three other islands: Manukan, Sulug and Mamutik.

The administrative center of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park is in Manukan Island, although each of the five islands has its own administrative offices.

Kinabalu National Park

THE Kinabalu National Park, with

a total area of 75,370 hectares, is an outstanding example of a diverse landscape that appeals to adventurous travelers, tourists and researchers alike.

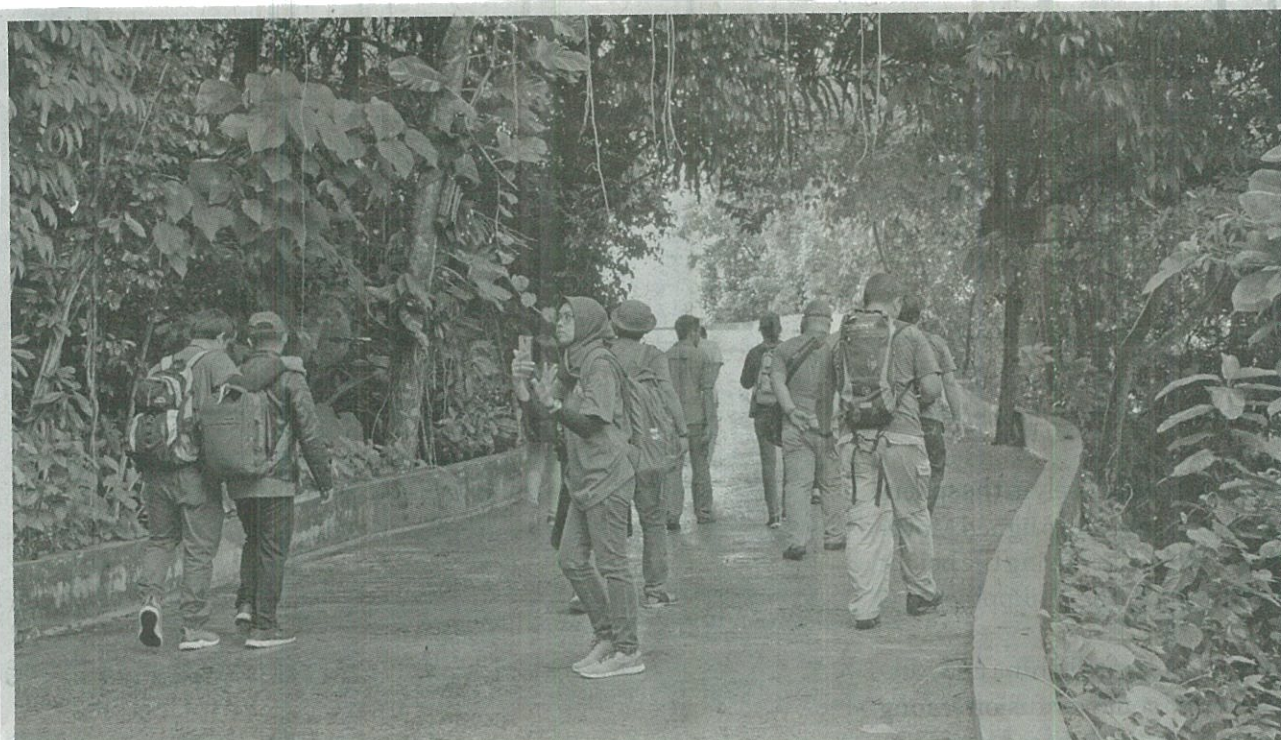
Its headquarters and several substations along its boundaries offer easy access to the challenging Mount Kinabalu Summit Route, various botanical gardens, nature trails and waterfalls. Researchers venture further into its deep rainforest to discover even more of the park's rich biodiversity and ecosystems.

Mount Kinabalu is one of the youngest volcanic mountains in the world and was formed within the last 10 million years to 35 million years. Standing at 4,095 meters, it is the focal point of the park and one of the most accessible mountains in the world.

The different vegetation zones at Kinabalu National Park range from lowland dipterocarp forest to lower montane oak-chestnut forest, upper montane or cloud forest and subalpine meadow near the summit plateau of Mount Kinabalu.

The botanical sites contain a variety of flora and fauna that ranges over four climate zones from rich lowland dipterocarp forest to alpine meadow plants, and finally the stunted bushes of the summit zone.

The mountain is also known for its many carnivorous plants and orchid species, most notable the *Nepenthes rajah*. It is also home to a multitude of endemic animal species, including the Kinabalu Giant Red Leech and Kinabalu Giant Earthworm. The park also plays host to a variety of birds, insects, mammals, amphibians and reptiles.





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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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nation

Editor: TERESA B. COROS

MONDAY | AUGUST 5, 2019

Children look at the replicas of animals on display at SM Dasmariñas in Cavite yesterday.

ED GUMBAN



THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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ARCTIC DENIZEN - A child delights in the life-size replica of a walrus, part of the Arctic in the South display at the SM City in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The display aims to raise awareness on the threat posed by climate change on the Arctic. (All Vicoy)



Editor: RAMON M. LIM

AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

Our ecological damage is a moral issue

The recent news on heat wave over Greenland causing massive ice melt should be a grave concern and wake up call to humanity. Human-caused climate change has been affecting our ecological systems. According to the news, the heat wave that smashed high temperature records in five European countries a week ago is now over Greenland, accelerating the melting of the island's ice sheet and causing massive ice loss in the Arctic.



Greenland, the world's largest island has 82 percent of its surface covered in ice. Ruth Mottram, a climate scientist with the Danish Meteorological Institute said that the area of the Greenland ice sheet that is showing indications of melt has been growing daily and has hit a record of 56.5 percent this year. More than 10 billion tons (about 400,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools) of ice was lost to the oceans by surface melt last week alone, creating a net mass of ice loss of some 197 tons from Greenland in July.

Very timely is the release of the pastoral letter issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to express concern over the destruction of our ecological systems. Msgr. Romulo G. Valles, DD, Archbishop of Davao and president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in his letter, *An Urgent Call for Ecological Conversion, Hope in the Face of Climate Emergency* calls on everyone to urgently respond to the climate crisis. He said, "As Christians, however, we have a deeper reason to be concerned with climate because it is "a common good" (LS 23) and to cause its undesirable change is a "moral issue" (St. John Paul II, Peace with God the Creator, no. 15).

Along this line, Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*: "On Care for our Common Home", cites Patriarch Bartholomew who "has spoken in particular of the need for each of us to repent of the ways we have harmed the planet, for in as much as we all generate small ecological damage, we are called to acknowledge our contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation. This challenges us "to acknowledge our sins against creation. Foremost among them is our tendency to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate" (LS8).

We are a predominantly Christian - Catholic nation. Every Sunday we fill the churches around the country. We also practice all Catholic traditions very solemnly and with strong dedication. Many of our brothers and sisters who are non-Christians also have a god who expects them to be good and moral beings. Unfortunately, we easily forget our "moral obligations" toward one another, toward our environment and most important, toward God. Our crime rates are very high. It is alarming. As a result, government is taking measures one of which is to re-introduced a stronger Values Education program in both public and private schools. It is with fervent belief that the next generation will become a different breed of Filipinos - more God-fearing with a strong foundation of ethical and moral values.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is turning to our countrymen to look into our hearts. It is calling out to us, by making us discern the actions we take toward our environment. Clearly, we have ignored our Christian obligations and responsibilities toward the environment as there are many companies (both international and local) who continue to degrade our natural environment. If we continue such acts, we will fail to protect our land, our waters, our people and worst ourselves.

Last month, the Brazilian mining giant Vale agreed to pay out \$107 million in collective moral damages and \$186,000 to each of the close relatives of nearly 300 people killed when a tailings dam collapsed on January 25 at its iron ore mine in Brumadinho. Vale is the co-owner of the mining firm Samarco which operated another tailings dam that is said to have also collapsed in 2015 killing 19 people and causing an environment catastrophe.

On July 22, 2019, the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security reported that intense snowfall in the region of Arica, Chile left thousands of persons without electricity, caused the closing of border crossings, and damaged homes. The report also indicated that there was a total of 4,718 isolated persons and 18 homes affected, two of which were destroyed. From July 20-22 of this year, a heat wave across the USA affected up to 200 million people.

Climate change has triggered the occurrence of many natural disasters. Don't forget the land, the oceans and the air (or the atmosphere) are all blankets of the earth that are inter-connected. The different gases (natural/ chemical) that fill up the earth's atmosphere change weather patterns that cause climate change. The daily earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, volcanic eruptions, landslides, heat wave are part of the imbalance of mother nature which man has often ignored by his abuse of it. As a result, people, animals and other living things are killed, injured or displaced.

In the local scene, abusive government officials have taken part in the exploitation of our environment. Corrupt officials have been bought by groups, companies, conglomerates to do what they please even if their actions/ works are clearly criminal and immoral - denuding/ mining of mountains, silting of lakes, rivers and seas, illegal logging, etc. The problem we have with the pollution of Manila Bay, Boracay, Laguna de Bay, Pasig River and other waterways are all caused by men who do not have the decency nor the ability to be responsible of their deeds; and if governors, mayors and councilors continue to allow these immoral acts, they too become instruments if not collaborators to the crimes.

The recognition of the Rights of Nature is at the core of the call for ecological conversion, as Pope Francis emphasized in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. He said that, "true right environment does exist because we human beings are part of the environment. We live in communion with it, since the environment itself entails ethical limits which human activity must acknowledge and respect. Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity."

We need a paradigm shift in order to reestablish our sacred relationship with nature: "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are all part of nature."

Today, guided by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, the Church, consistently caring for our common home, has committed to abide by the following ecological convictions: The Earth is our home. We are to care for our common home. We are to act in order to protect all life forms on Earth, from ridge to reef; We are duty bound to act and resist all forms of destruction damaging our people and our planet; We are connected to the Earth, just as our lives and the life of all other beings are interconnected with each other; We hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. We are to respond and act together in order to mitigate the ill effects of climate change on our planet and our communities; and in the spirit of accountability, we demand climate justice.

This is a higher call to the spirit. The strong downpour of rains, the shaking of the earth's crust, the extinction of species are all manifestations, the cry of nature. Let's take this seriously and act wisely!





Pacific leaders want summit focus on climate change, not China

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND —Pacific island leaders insist climate change, not China, will top the agenda when they meet in Tuvalu this month as western-aligned nations push to curb Beijing's growing influence in the region.

Once regarded as a sleepy backwater of the diplomatic world, the islands are now a hotbed of aid projects and charm offensives as anxiety over China's presence grows.

Australia has labelled its campaign the Pacific Step-Up, New Zealand has the Pacific Reset and Britain the Pacific Uplift, while the United States, Japan, and France have also intensified their efforts to court the region.

But local leaders attending the Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu from Aug. 13 to 16 are wary their concerns will be sidelined if they become pawns in a wider power struggle.

The 16-member forum mainly consists of small island nations, along with Papua New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand.

PIF secretary-general Dame Meg Taylor said the forum, whose members collectively refer to themselves as the Blue Pacific, was at a pivotal moment in its history.

"While we are the subject of the geopolitical maneuvering and strategies of others, the Blue Pacific collective remains focused on charting our own destiny," she said.

The primary concern for island leaders—many of whom live in low-lying nations threatened by rising seas—is climate change.

In a pointed message to Australia's conservative government, Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga has warned Canberra's step-up strategy will fail unless it finally takes meaningful action to address the issue.

"They know very well that we will not be happy as a partner, to move forward, unless they are serious," he said.

China has been active in the Pacific for well over a decade and, though it still ranks far behind Australia as the region's biggest aid donor, there is growing discomfort over its interest in an area Canberra regards as its sphere of influence. **AFP**

FOCUS

Pacific leaders want summit focus on climate, not China

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Base fears

The Pacific islands saw intense fighting during World War II and displays of power in the Cold War, including nuclear tests by the United States and France.

But they dropped off the radar for major powers as other regions took priority, a fact recently acknowledged by Britain's High Commissioner to New Zealand Laura Clarke.

"Quite frankly we stepped back too much from our Pacific friends and partners," she said. "We are now beginning to put that balance right."

China has been active in the Pacific for well over a decade and, though it still ranks far

behind Australia as the region's biggest aid donor, there is growing discomfort over its interest in an area Canberra regards as its sphere of influence.

For China, a presence in the region provides access to assets such as fisheries, as well as giving Beijing the opportunity to try to further diplomatically isolate Taiwan, which it regards as a renegade state.

But other regional heavyweights, particularly Australia, fear the ultimate aim is to set up a naval base in the Pacific which would dramatically increase Beijing's military footprint in the area.

Such a move would potentially negate the geographic remoteness that provides Australia and New Zealand with a valuable defence buffer.

Whether real or imagined, the possibility has long dominated strategic thinking among Australia and its allies about the islands, said Wesley Morgan, a lecturer in international affairs at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.

"This tendency to see the Pacific island countries as would-be naval bases and to view them through that lens of maritime competition has done Pacific island countries a disservice," he said.

"These countries are significant players in global politics in their own right," he added, pointing out it was the islands that helped put climate change on the international agenda.

Lip service

Morgan said Pacific leaders regarded climate change as a greater security risk than China and expected those operating in the region to respect their concerns.

He said there was particular disappointment that Australia -- led by climate-sceptic Prime Minister Scott Morrison -- was dismissive about an issue its neighbours see as an existential threat.

While Canberra had paid lip service to environmental concerns, Morgan said island nations were acutely aware that, in real terms, it was set to miss Paris emissions targets and had recently approved construction of a major new coal mine.

Pacific leaders have become increasingly critical of Canberra ahead of the Tuvalu meeting and Morgan said they were unlikely to prioritise Canberra's security concerns regarding China when their own were not being taken seriously.

"As long as countries like Australia fail to take adequate steps to tackle climate change it will undermine their attempts to win over the Pacific," he said. **AFP**



Asia climate change yardstick

UN says region will determine success or

failure of energy transition

Commitments from countries in Asia to move towards carbon-neutral economies would be crucial

By Elmer N. Manuel

A United Nations (UN) official recently bared that the battle to combat climate change will "succeed or fail" based on what happens in Asia, where growing energy needs are increasing demand for fossil fuels.

In a statement, UN special representative for the Secretary-General Rachel Kyte said that commitments from countries in Asia to move towards carbon-neutral economies would be crucial ahead of the key climate summit next month that has been billed as a last chance to prevent irreversible climate change – three years after the Paris agreement went into force.

"It is really in this region that we will succeed or fail in the energy transition in order to be able to meet our climate change goals," Kyte said.

She added that the summit hopes to secure commitments to zero net carbon by 2050, but growing demand for electricity in Asia is likely to be one of the key obstacles.

"Southeast Asia is one of the fastest growing economic regions in the world. This is where population and urbanization mean that electricity demand is expected to triple between 2015 and 2040," Kyte

said. "In order to meet this, Southeast Asia is currently turning to fossil fuels, many countries are."

New coal plant projects continue throughout the region, particularly in Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines and countries including Japan are funding their construction despite criticism from climate groups.

But the UN official said that the sector should be seen as on its way out.

"There is really no future for coal," said Kyte. "It is not competitive by price... and it has such an extreme impact on human health as well as on the planet."

In recent months, some private sector firms in Japan and elsewhere have moved away from funding coal, seeing it as a poor long-term investment, a trend that Kyte said was encouraging, along with growing energy efficiency in China and India.

Luis Alfonso de Alba, UN Special Envoy for the Climate Action Summit, also challenged the idea that the transformations needed to combat global warming would hamstring economic development.

"Fighting climate change is fully compatible with the fight against poverty," De Alba said. "There are many



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opportunities, especially for those that will take the lead in this transition, which in any case is going to be inevitable.”

A key part of the climate summit's success will be China's commitment, which remains both a leading emitter and also a key financier of coal plants in the region as Beijing wields significant economic clout throughout the region and beyond thanks to its Belt and Road Initiative, which funds infrastructure projects and more.

“The greening of the belt and road initiative is absolutely essential,” KYTE said. “We are tentatively positive about the extraordinary hard work that is going on in China to make sure that that happens.”



Focus on sightless Thousands join the Walk for Sight 2019 at Roxas Boulevard Sunday to focus global attention on blindness.

BOB DUNGO JR.



Soldiers in mufti

Last Saturday, Virginia Balmaceda Castro, widow of former Rizal provincial fiscal, Mauro Castro, celebrated her 90th birthday. In a grand family reunion of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she was joined by sisters Gloria B. Gozum, Rosemarie B. Lazaro and Erlinda B. Calabio (late hubby was Fred Calabio, PMA Class 1951) who flew in from Adelaide, New South Wales, for the happy occasion. Virginia's father, Cornelio Balmaceda, will be remembered as one of our greatest administrators who secured for Manila the Asian Development Bank headquarters in a tight contest against heavyweight Tokyo.

"Soldiers in mufti" refers to military officers in civilian clothes or in a broader sense, carrying out basically civilian duties.

When Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was inaugurated as President of the Republic in June 2016, his first appointments of retired military officers to Cabinet positions were Gen. Delfin Lorenzana as secretary of national defense and Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. as national security adviser. After his first Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya retired, he immediately tasked him to head the National Irrigation Administration. Soon after Gen. Eduardo Año was appointed first as officer in charge and later secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Gen. Roy Cimatu assumed office as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, while former Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista took over the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The latest military addition to the Duterte Cabinet is former senator Gregorio Honasan II, one of the leading figures in the 1986 EDSA Revolution, as secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

That makes six retired soldiers holding some of the most important Cabinet positions in government. These military officers have a few things in common: they are all graduates of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), they all belong to only one AFP branch of service, the Philippine Army, and none of them are lawyers. At the sub-Cabinet level you will find even more retired military officers in various executive positions and as heads of agencies, again mostly PMayers. As I have said in the past, no other institution of the land has contributed so many of its graduates for public service in recent years.

We are honored by the Commander in Chief's unprecedented display of trust and confidence in our fellow soldiers. We are aware that no other president has provided so much for the men in uniform and we are grateful.

Some folks have expressed concern over the increasing number of retired military officers being appointed to civilian positions, citing fears about the possible loss of civilian supremacy over the military.

Well, for so long we have endeavored to uphold this so-called democratic principle of civilian supremacy over the military and what has it brought the nation? Somehow, I am reminded of the observations made by the late management guru, Washington Sycip, on the state of affairs in our country. In 2008, marking the centennial of the University of the Philippines (UP), he spoke in Diliman and proceeded to propound a number of questions.



REVELLE

RAMON J. FAROLAN

For 46 years after we left the US umbrella, UP graduates (mostly lawyers) have occupied the presidency and numerous executive positions in government. He asked, "Why are we in such a mess?"

"We were told that with our advantages of being a Christian nation and a democracy, we would be next to Japan, the leading nation in East Asia. Today we find ourselves in a steadily declining position regardless of what measure we go by: poverty index, per capita spending on education, corruption ranking, peace and order—the list continues." We can barely stay ahead of Cambodia in terms of economic progress and development.

"In spite of our large population we have the lamentable distinction of being the only major South East Asian nation unable to win an Olympic gold medal." Tiny Singapore and Hong Kong have already won their golds.

With all the talented people we have, Sycip asked, why have we not been able to produce a Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, a Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, a Gen. Park Chung-hee of South Korea, or a Deng Xiaoping of China?

"The Asian Development Bank released a report that the Philippines and India who claim to be democracies, lag behind East Asian countries in reducing poverty. China and Vietnam both authoritarian states, are the two countries that have rapidly reduced poverty. Are there lessons to be learned here?"

These are some of the issues that should concern us instead of lamenting the possible loss of civilian supremacy over the military. All our "people-powered" revolutions have so far been bloodless affairs. Unless we come up with the right answers soon, we may not be so lucky the next time around.

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Audit sought on greenhouse gas emission level

By DANESSA RIVERA

A lawmaker is pushing to conduct an audit on the level of the Philippines' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian also called for an update on the country's commitment to reduce carbon emissions after President Duterte ordered for the transition into cleaner energy alternatives.

Gatchalian, chair of the Senate committee on energy, recently filed a resolution directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the

country's GHG emissions and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The NDC is the plan to ensure that the country meets its intended commitment to reduce at least 70 percent of GHG emissions by 2030 conditioned on external support pursuant to the Paris Agreement.

The resolution was filed after President Duterte ordered the Department of Energy (DOE) in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) to transition into cleaner energy alternatives, including solar and wind, and reduce the country's dependence

on coal.

"There is a need for Congress to examine the efforts of various government agencies in arriving at their respective sectoral NDCs and their specific adaptation and mitigation strategies, and the status of the country's GHG emissions in relation to the development of the NDC with the end in view of ensuring compliance with the Paris Agreement," Gatchalian said.

"The State has the constitutional obligation to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord

with the rhythm and harmony of nature," he said.

Gatchalian said the Philippines has until 2020 to submit its NDC, which details the mitigation and adaptation measures to be undertaken to address climate change.

However, the lawmaker said the government agencies "have yet to finalize their submissions for the NDCs and some are still conducting their respective stakeholder consultations," six months before the 2020 deadline.

Moreover, Gatchalian said the only available official data on the Philippines' GHG

emissions dates back to 2000 at 126.879 gigagrams of carbon dioxide equivalent.

It was in October 2015 when the Philippines submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), where the country manifested to undertake a 70 percent reduction in GHG emissions from its 2000 levels by 2030 entirely conditional on external support.

The following year, the country inked the Paris Agreement, which establishes a global warming

goal of below two degrees Celsius from pre-industrial averages and requests, upon ratification, for a definite voluntary pledge on emission reduction as the signatory country's NDC.

President Duterte signed the Instrument of Accession to the Paris Agreement on Feb. 28, 2017, which was unanimously concurred by the Senate on March 14, 2017, thereby completing the ratification process.

The Instrument of Accession was accepted by the UNFCCC on March 23, 2017, and it officially entered into force on April 22, 2017.



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MATAPOS ang killer quake sa Batanes na pumatay ng siyam katao at sumira sa mga bahay ng nasa 3,000 mamamayan, sunod-sunod naman ang mga pangyayari na atin ding ikinalungkot at dapat na pag-ingatan.

Sa Batanes, ayaw pang umuwi ang sino-man sa mga biktima ng lindol at nanatili ang mga ito sa mga tent.

Iminungkahing umuwi na ang mga hindi nasiraan ng bahay ngunit takot ang mga ito dahil mayroon pang mga lindol na nagaganap, lalo na sa Irbayat na sentro ng lindol nitong Hulyo 27.

Samantala, dahil hindi na basta makapag-hanapuhay ang mga mamamayan doon, problema na ang suplay ng pagkain na napakahirap ideliber sa normal na paraan gaya ng paggamit ng bangka o lantasa dahil masama ang panahon.

Problema na rin ang inuming tubig at mga gamot sa mga nagkakasakit.

Kumikilos na ang mga opisyal ng Cagayan Valley at Ilocos Region para tumulong subalit problema talaga ang transportasyon.

Maging ang paggamit ng mga sasakyang panghimpapawid ay delikado dahil sa bagyo na dumarating sa lugar, si Hanna.

Sana naman, makaabot pa rin ang tulong sa kanila nang hindi sila gaanong mapipinsala sa bagyo, gutom, sakit at kawalan ng kita.

26 PATAY SA DAGAT

Patay naman sa disgrasya sa dagat sa Guimaras ang 26 katao makaraang baligtarin ng mga malalaking alon ang tatlong bangka na sinakyan nila.

Bukod sa mga patay, mayroon pang mga missing.

Sa mga patay, 13 palang ang nakikilala at ang 13 ay hindi pa nakikilala.

Ang sama ng panahon ang puminsala sa mga biyahero at naghalong mga pasahero at crew ang mga namatay.

Masasabing maliliit ang mga bangkang may katig na ginagawang pampasahero.

Magandang alamin ng mga awtoridad kung nag-overloading ang mga ito o bumiyaha ka-



DOBLE INGAT SA PINAS AT ABROAD

hon.

Karaniwang overloading at sapalaran na biyahe ang ginagawa ng mga ito upang kumita.

WASAK NA MGA BAHAY

May mga nawawasak naman ng mga bahay dahil sa habagat na may dalang mga ulan at malalakas na mga alon.

Sa Isla Puting Bato sa Tondo, Maynila, nawalan ng bahay at tinangay ng dagat ang bahay ng nasa 20 pamilya.

Magkasabay ang malakas na ulan at pagdating ng malalaking alon sa kanila at hayun nga dinemolis ang kanilang mga bahay na nakatirik sa dalampasigan at ibabaw ng tubig.

Sa Tanza, Cavite naman, giniba rin ng malalakas na alon ang mga bahay ng 20 bahay sa Brgy. Bucana.

Meron ding nagibang mga bahay ang malakas na ulan at malakas na agos ng baha sa bayan ng Ternate.

Mabuti na lang at walang namatay kahit isa sa mga biktima ng pangyayaring ito.

Pero magandang pag-isipan ng mga biktima kung paano sila lalayo sa mga mapanganib na lugar na alam na nilang delikado.

Sana'y matulungan ang mga ito ng mga local na pamahalaan sa paglipat sa mas ligtas na mga lugar.

SA AMERIKA

Dalawang Pinay ang pinagpapatay ng kani-kanilang asawa sa Texas.

Unang pinagbabaril saka siya isinilid sa freezer si Alyssa Marie Mejia-Roger sa kanilang bahay sa Texas.

Pero hindi mapanagot ang mister nitong si Edward Rogres Jr. dahil nag-suicide rin ito pagkatapos ng krimen.

Hindi nagtagal, pinagbabaril din hanggang mamatay si Jacqueline Rose Nicholas ng kanyag mister na si Peter Nicholas III.

Napag-alamang 24 lang si Alyssa at senior citizen ang naging asawa

talaga ang motibo sa pagpatay.

Itong si Peter naman ay lulong sa droga ngunit hindi pa malaman ang motibo nito nang patayin si Jacqueline sa hotel na tinitirhan nila sa Texas din.

Habang nagaganap ang pagpatay sa dalawang Pinay, inaalang pa, at sana'y walang Pinoy ang nadamay sa masaker sa Texas pa rin.

Nasa 20 ang patay sa loob ng Walmart mall habang sugatan ang halos parehong bilang nang pagbabarilin sila ng isang Amerikano.

Tila "hate crime" ang dahilan at galit lang sa mga dayuhan ang susppek na si Patrick Crusius at walang pinili nitong tumbahin mula sa 2 taong bata hanggang mahigit 80-anyos.

Kinakailangan ang ibayong pag-iingat ng mga Pinoy na mahilig mamuhay ng stateside.

HONG KONG AT THAILAND

Isang Pinoy ang inaresto sa Hong Kong sa suspetsang pagsama nito sa mga rali laban sa pamahalaan sa naturang lugar.

Katwiran ng Pinoy, naparaan lamang siya sa lugar ngunit medyo malaki ang problema dahil dinala siya sa malayong lugar at hindi sa police station na malapit lang sa mga rali na roon siya dinampot.

Sa Thailand, sunod-sunod ang mga pambobomba ng hinihinalang mga terorista habang may pulong ang ilang lider ng ilang bansa sa bansang nabanggit.

Nagaganap mismo ang mga pambobomba sa Bangkok na kapital ng Thailand.

Sa kabuuan, mga Bro, lahat dapat na magingat sa bagsik ng kalikasan at mga kapwatao sa loob at labas ng bansa.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-