

DATE : FEB 01 2020

DAY : saturday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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**ZERO WASTE MONTH** — Senator Cynthia A. Villar (right) leads the coastal cleanup at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park yesterday, in celebration of the Zero Waste Month and the 1st Anniversary of the Battle of Manila Bay. She is joined by Philippines Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS) President Crispian Lao, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Danilo Lim and Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) Executive Director Jaquie Caangan. The event was sponsored by the Villar SIPAG in partnership with Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), Philippines Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS), DENR Solid Waste Management and LGU concerns, Manila Bay Coordinating Office, National Solid Waste Management Commission, and other government agencies and private organizations. (Ali Vicoy)



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**SENATOR Cynthia A. Villar (right) leads the coastal cleanup at the Las Piñas – Parañaque Wetland Park in celebration of the Zero Waste Month and the First Anniversary of the Battle of Manila Bay. She is joined by Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS) President Crispian Lao, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Danilo Lim and Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region Executive Director Jaquie Caancan. (Ali Vicoy)**



# Antiporda ipupwestong NBI chief

ISKUP

UMUUGONG ngayon sa National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) na hangad diuman ng dating media man at kasalukuyang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny

Antiporda na umupo sa mababakanteng puwesto ng magre-retirong si Director Dante Gierran.

Usap-usapan sa NBI ang pagnanais ni Antiporda na maging kapalit ni Gierran na nakatakda umanong magretiro sa

Pebrero 21 kapag hindi pinalawig ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang kanyang termino sa ahensiya.

Base pa sa mga ulat, sinusuportahan diuman ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea si Antiporda bilang kapalit

ni Gierran.

Gayunman, negatibo ang reaksiyon ng mga ahente at empleyado ng NBI hinggil sa posibleng pag-upo ni Antiporda bilang hepe ng kanilang ahensiya.

"We hope this is not true, he (Antiporda) maybe doing well in his capacity as environment undersecretary, but he is not qualified to be NBI head," pahayag ng isang

NBI agent na ayaw mag-pabanggit ng pangalan.

Isa pang NBI agent na mahigit dalawang dekada na sa ahensiya ang nagsabi na hindi naman aniya kuwalipikado si Antiporda.

"He is not even qualified to be an agent, more so the director of the NBI," ayon pa sa NBI agent na ayaw din mag-pabanggit ng pangalan. **(Nancy Carvajal)**



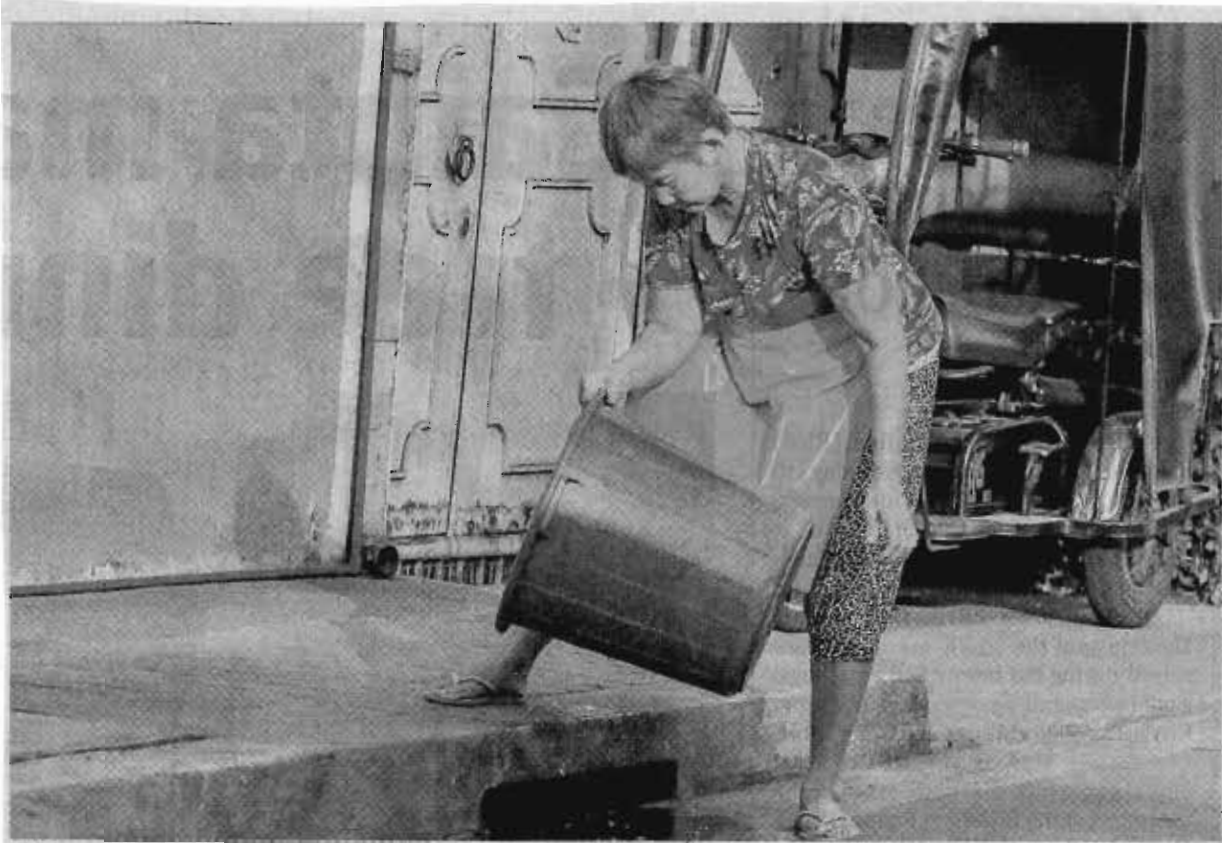
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THE unscrupulous practice of some residents of throwing liquid waste directly into the sewers is one reason why water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad should have implemented the mandated construction of sewerage and wastewater treatment facilities.

ROMAN PROSPERO @tribunephil\_RRP



## Wildlife rescue centers near Taal sought

**WILDLIFE** rescue centers at strategic Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) field offices near Taal Volcano must be established to facilitate rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife species fleeing from the volcano.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda issued the proposal after receiving a rescued baby Luzon scops owl (*Otus longicornis*) at the DENR's Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City, which is being managed by the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB).

"We want to bring these centers closer to people who have saved or will rescue wild animals that migrated to communities to escape Taal Volcano's wrath, so they no longer have to travel to Manila to turnover the species," said Antiporda, who is also the DENR's deputy spokesperson.

The members of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion of the National Capital Region Police Office rescued the baby owl, which was named "Tala," while they were patrolling along the Talisay-Tanauan road in Batangas City on January 22.

Antiporda lamented that nestlings and other young wildlife species are the most at risk during volcanic eruption since they are unable to fly and travel long distances.

By setting up rescue centers near areas affected by the Taal Volcano eruption, Antiporda said the DENR could immediately respond to citizens in custody of rescued wildlife.

He also said the DENR is available 24/7 to respond to animal rescue situations through its hotlines and social media accounts.

"The public can reach us through our Facebook and Twitter accounts. They can also call us at pupuntahan po namin sila at ready po ng DENR 24/7," Antiporda said.

BMB resident veterinarian Glenn Maguad said the rescued baby owl will be released back into the wild when it becomes an adult either at Mount Banahaw or Bataan National Park.

The Luzon scops owl is an owl endemic to Luzon island and is one of the smallest scops owls in the country, measuring only 7 inches. **Cory Martinez**



# 4 ways you can help an environmental organization

## Last of two parts

WANT to help the environment?

Asking about current events from an organization is a good way to start, which is number three in our list of recommendations.

Every organization is different. Some focus on marine life, others on waste management. Some projects are seasonal, like tree plantings in the Philippines where survival rates are higher during the rainy season.

Regardless of the focus, inquire about an organization's projects and when they will occur. This way, you can identify and schedule your assistance.

Number four in our list is providing long-term support on an annual or monthly basis.

If the organization accepts members, become a member. Almost all organizations accept recurring donations.

Instead of buying coffee every Tuesday morning, dedicate that money to an organization and give it on a monthly basis. If the organization does not have a credit card system or

online payment portal, send a check every month or put a small amount of money aside in an envelope, a jar or savings account every month, and then donate the entire amount to the organization at the end of the year.

If you've already taken steps one to three, you can already identify how you can help in the long term. You can write an article every six months. Help with their social media accounts every Christmas. Volunteer for the organization's annual general assembly or clean-up drive. Make an annual family tree-planting a long tradition. How many forests can your family plant in a generation?

Providing longer-term assistance shows staff that there are people in the world who believe in their cause. But most importantly, it strengthens your relationship with the organization and what they do.

This simply means you can now be truly "invested" in supporting our environment in the long term. And who knows, maybe you'll adjust your career a bit and work for an organiza-

tion full or part time.

## Time to act

By no means are you limited to these four actions. I'm sure you've seen similar suggestions in many lists already: The question is, "Why haven't you started?"

The sky's the limit on how you can help, so there is no reason why you cannot start now. Don't think you have the time? If you've read this far and already see the problems and issues that our planet is facing, I guess one way to help is to acknowledge that you can make time to help.

To start, here is a short list of different local and international organizations you can help.

These are local organizations with memberships: Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines, Haribon Foundation, and Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society Inc.

Local organizations you can join as a volunteer are: Alternative Law Groups, Alyansa Tigil Mina, Break

Free From Plastic, Earth Island Institute Philippines, Ecowaste Coalition, Green Convergence, Mabuwaya Foundation, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., Plastic Free Bohol, Save Philippine Seas, and Save Sierra Madre Network.

Also, these are government organizations you can inquire about internships if you are a student: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau, and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

The international organizations you can support are: International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Conservation International, and Rare.

The Facebook group Philippine Native Tree Enthusiasts is also an excellent option.

Be the change you want to see, but it starts with "we." Join an organization today!

**ALBERT BALBUTIN**



DENR CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF MARSHLANDS AND INLAND WATERS OF SULTAN KUDARAT

# CLIMATE CHANGE BLAMED FOR DWINDLING NUMBER OF WATERBIRDS ON MAGUINDANAO LAKE

By Edwin O. Fernandez  
@InqNational

TACURONG CITY—Environment officials blamed climate change and global warming for the marked decrease in the number of waterbirds feeding on Lake Buluan, the marshland and inland waters of Sultan Kudarat.

Sabdullah Abubacar, regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Soccsksargen region, said climate change had killed some bushes and other species that the birds must have been feeding on, prompting some of them to look somewhere else for food.

Abubacar said this to explain why the number of waterbirds monitored by environment personnel this year decreased by 46 percent or 8,900 of the 16,500

birds monitored last year.

The DENR conducted the bird counting on Jan. 22 and 23 in Sultan Kudarat marshlands and inland waters, including the Lake Buluan.

Abubacar called for the protection of the 6,300-hectare Lake Buluan spanning the borders of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces where more than 20 species of waterbirds frequent.

Lake Buluan has been considered among the country's economically important lakes, which produces the famous Mindanao "tilapia."

### Abundance of food

Abubacar said the waterbirds were listed using direct counting and unit-sampling estimates. Most of the birds were found on the Lutayan side of the lake, which covered about 3,600 ha.



**FREQUENT VISITORS** The waterbird population on Lake Buluan has decreased by 46 percent. Environment officials said this could be due to climate change, which had killed some bushes and other species that served as food for the birds. —OYIBALINDONG / DENR-12

Mama Mulimpay, Tacurong City community environment and natural resources office's (Centro) Protected Area and Wildlife Section (PAWS) chief, said the waterbird population

on Lake Buluan, specifically in the Lutayan side, was big as compared to other areas due to the abundance of food and also because of its serenity.

"The population of water-

bird species in the area is still similar to our previous sightings except the Brahminy Kite. We noticed the decrease of its number during our counting," Mulimpay said.

Abubacar said the bird counting, spearheaded by the Tacurong City Centro, aimed at gathering estimates of waterbird population, determining changes in their numbers and improving knowledge of little known species and wetland sites.

### Illegal activities

Aside from the bird counting, the census also helped the DENR in monitoring possible illegal activities like bird hunting, according to forester Sainoding Hadjimanan of the Sultan Kudarat provincial environment and natural resources office.

"The DENR, in cooperation

with the local governments of Lutayan and Buluan in Maguindanao, conducts regular monitoring in the area ... to protect and preserve the various species of waterbirds in the lake," Hadjimanan said.

Waterbird species documented by the DENR in the area include the great bittern, cinnamon bittern, black-crowned night heron, rufous night heron, cattle egret, little egret, intermediate egret, great egret, purple heron, grey heron, javan pond heron, white-breasted waterhen, barred rail, banded rail, water rail, common crane, Philippine duck, lesser whistling duck, serpent eagle, brahminy kite and wandering duck.

"We will continue to conduct information drive to increase public awareness on the importance of these waterbirds," Mulimpay said. [inq](#)





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## A greater crisis than climate change

**W**hen we talk about environmental crises, what often comes to mind is climate change. But a recent three-year study on biodiversity and ecosystems which assessed the state of life on Earth, concludes that the destruction of our natural world – our land, forests, wildlife, and thousands of species is by far a greater crisis than climate change.

The Taal Volcano eruption's effect on the ecosystem has been described as harmful, and at worst, fatal. But it will take time before we can fully assess its impact on the natural world – the animals, fishes, birds within the Taal Volcano Protected Area (TVPL) or National Park. Besides being a tourist spot, the park which covers an area of 62,292.16 hectares, surrounding Taal Volcano Island is recognized as one of the country's key biodiversity areas. It is the breeding place of "tawilis," the only sardine species that survives entirely in fresh water and a popular fish in many households, as well as 51 other migratory and endemic marine species. It is also the home of various birds which include the Luzon bleeding heart pigeon, white-eared brown dove, elegant tit, Philippine tailor bird, grey-backed tailor bird, and the Philippine pygmy woodpecker. Like the tawilis that thrives in freshwater, the Taal Lake snake, a rare and endemic spe-

cies, can only be found in Taal Lake.

TVPL is today classified as Extremely High/Urgent for biodiversity conservation.

As some may know, the country is one of the 17 mega biodiverse countries containing two-thirds of the Earth's biodiversity and 70 percent of the world's plant and animal species. It is also one of the top global conservation areas. But it is also one of the world's biodiversity hotspots with at least 700 threatened species. Overfishing, overhunting, and over-harvesting have contributed to much loss of biodiversity. Burning of fossil fuels has resulted in pollution which turn has affected the survival of species by changing their breeding and feeding habits.

In the article "Philippine Biodiversity: Going, going, gone?" (Jan. 30, 2020), Henrylito D. Tacio notes: "With our 7,107 islands, we host more than 52,177 species, of which more than half is found nowhere else in the world. There are 13,500 plants representing 5% of the world's flora. About 45% of the 1,085 species of terrestrial vertebrates are endemic. Of these 179 species are mammals, 558 species are birds, 252 species are reptiles, and 96 species are amphibians. Coral reefs are the most diverse with 3,967 species. Seagrass beds follow with 481 species, and mangroves with

370 species. The Philippine eagle is now in the endangered list because the loss of the forest had made it lose its natural habitat."

As the PBES study showed, "our obsession with economic growth and increasing population are two factors that are driving destruction. Industrial farming – fisheries and agriculture have caused ecological degradation. Loss of soil, plants, and pollinators such as birds, bats, bees has undermined the ability to produce food. Land being destroyed and deforested is catastrophic for wildlife. Forests are being felled to give us palm oil and rainforests are being cleared for soy plantations. Thousands of species are at high risk of extinction. Countries are exploiting nature at a rate that exceeds its capacity to renew itself, and nature's ability to contribute food and fresh water to a growing human population is being compromised in every region. (John Vidal, 2019, HUFFPOST)."

The UN warns: "Stop biodiversity loss or we could face our own extinction."

My email, [florangel.braid@gmail.com](mailto:florangel.braid@gmail.com)



**PAGBABAGO**

FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID



## Extreme weather events, climate action failure are biggest global risks

Last of two parts  
**C**LIMATE action is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) embodied in the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015.



ALL ABOUT  
CHOICES

LUDWIG O.  
FEDERIGAN

We know that every country in the world is seeing the drastic effects of climate change, some more than the others. On average, the annual losses just from tsunamis, tropical cyclones, and flooding count in the hundreds of billions of dollars. We can reduce the loss of life and property by helping vulnerable regions become more resilient.

The impact of global warming is getting worse. We're seeing more intensified storms, more droughts, and more extremes than ever before. Hence, taking urgent action to combat climate change and address its impact is extremely necessary.

### Climate action failure as top global risk in terms of impact

The last climate action failure — or failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation — was cited as the top global risk in terms of impact was in 2016, a month after the historic overwhelming passage of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The world rejoiced with tremendous hope that humanity, through their leaders, will be able to create a roadmap to reverse our carbon emissions.

Climate action failure, however, is back again as the top global risk in terms of impact, revealed by the 2020 Global Risks Report. Climate action failure as a top global risk may have been influenced by the disappointing outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) held in December 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

In a press statement released by the co-head of the Philippine delegation to the COP25, Deputy House Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda criticized leaders of the most advanced nations for having chosen instead to lean back and watch as the world burns.

"Confronted by the most serious crisis humanity has ever faced, leaders of the most advanced nations that also happen to bear the greatest responsibility in creating and exacerbating today's climate crisis, have chosen instead to lean back and watch as the world burns," Legarda said. "I welcome the naked display of their impotence and ignorance. They will be remembered for their indifference and cowardice."

The Madrid talks were a debacle — and all may be angry — but there is always hope. "Most important of all, the Philippine voice must be a voice not just of anger but also of hope," Legarda added.

### Climate Action as the most frequently cited Sustainable Development Goal

"Climate Action (SDG 13) is the most frequently cited Sustainable Development Goal," according to the Global Survey on Sustainability and the SDGs designed by sustainability consultant Schlange & Company with the Yale Center for Business and the Environment as the academic partner for scientific support released few days ago.

The survey results — with over 26,000 responses globally — are consistent among all regions except in Africa. Climate Action is followed by Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3) and Quality Education (SDG 4).

In the private sector, when respondents were asked "Which SDGs are most relevant to your company?," the top third most relevant SDG is Climate Action (SDG 13). The other two are Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), and Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 9). Moreover, when these respondents were asked "Which SDGs require the urgent action?," Climate Action (SDG 13) leads the list.

In the government, when respondents were asked "Which SDGs require the most urgent political and administration actions?," Climate Action (SDG 13) dominates the list.

The same goes when the same question were asked from the respondents representing the academia and civil society.

With the birth of youth strike for climate globally, there is no surprise that the young respondents up to 29 years of age rate Climate Action as having the highest priority.

Because the next 10 years will shape the outlook for climate risk for the rest of the century.

It is, therefore, extremely important and necessary that all stakeholders — industry, academia, civil society and government — should continue to work together to strengthen the capacities of our communities to be more climate-resilient and risk-free. As individuals, we make sure that our actions should contribute in the reduction of our carbon emissions.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Jared Diamond, author of the book *Upheaval: Turning Points for Nations in Crisis*, shared his answers to the questions "Whether climate change is unstoppable?" and "Whether our children are certain to end up in a world not worth living in?" by saying: No, of course not. Climate change is being caused overwhelmingly by human activities, so all that we have to do in order to reduce climate change is to reduce those human activities."

That in itself is climate action!

*The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (USA). On February 7, upon the invitation of Adamson University PULITIKA, he will give a talk on "The Youth's Role in Pursuing Sustainable Development: Know, Change and Act" with political science students. He can be emailed at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.*



## Disaster risk reduction a shared responsibility

OVER the past several years, our country has had to contend with almost all forms of disasters, both natural and man-made.

In fact, according to the 2018 World Risk Report, the Philippines ranked third among all the countries with the highest risks worldwide.

At least 60 percent of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards and 74 percent of our population is susceptible to their impact.

Having said that, the Filipino people found hope almost 10 years ago with the passage of RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, which established the policies, structures, coordination mechanisms and programs, along with the continuing budget appropriation on DRRM from national to local levels.

Simply put, this law shifted our DRRM practices from reactive emergency and disaster response and management to pro-active disaster risk reduction and management.

Since RA 10121 was enacted into law, its implementation has been tested a lot of times by a number of natural and man-made disasters that disrupted and claimed lives and properties of our countrymen:

Typhoon Pablo in 2012; Typhoon Yolanda or Haiyan in 2013; Zamboanga Siege and Marawi Siege in 2013 and 2017; the recent Mindanao earthquakes; and only last Jan. 12, successive eruptions of Taal Volcano, to name a few.

Looking back at our overall policy on disaster risk reduction and management, we understand that the National Disaster



Opening statement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson at the Senate hearing on Disaster Resilience delivered in the Session Hall on Jan. 29, 2020 - Ed.

Risk Reduction and Management Council is headed by the Secretary of National Defense as Chairperson with the following Secretaries as the Chairpersons for four distinct yet mutually reinforcing thematic areas, namely: Secretary of DoST for disaster prevention and mitigation; Secretary of DILG for disaster preparedness; Secretary of DSWD for disaster response; and Secretary of NEDA for disaster rehabilitation and recovery, which all gear towards a single vision: safer, adaptive and disaster resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development.

Truth be told, ours is a framework that has been lauded and recognized by international organizations and institutions, including the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and global Non-Government Organizations, as a model for its DRR leadership and for its multi-stakeholder cooperation.

While we have accomplished great strides as a nation, there still lies the fact that much still is to be done in terms on how we handle the DRRM practices in the country. But as we say when it comes to addressing a problem, we must dig the roots instead

of just hacking the leaves.

Hence today, we ask the Chairman and Vice Chairpersons of the four thematic areas themselves: Is our NDRRM Framework effective? Are the institutional arrangements established under RA 10121 efficient?

How are we performing as we strive to accomplish the set objectives and long-term goals of each thematic area? What barriers or challenges hamper the full realization of the promises of RA 10121?

In terms of our financial investment, more than P259B for the past 10 years in NDRRM funds and QRF.

One relevant question that needs to be addressed is, have we infused enough for disaster risk reduction in terms of economic loss from disasters which is equivalent to four percent of GDP?

How much resources have we set aside for rehabilitation and recovery?

This is not taking into account the LDRRM funds that constitute at least five percent of all sources of revenues of LGUs from their local revenues and IRA, P575 billion in 2019 alone.

Have we invested enough in our DRR research?

Further, it is acknowledged that our Local Government Units are the front-liners in our disaster risk reduction strategy.

Is the risk governance of our LGUs significantly strengthened? Have we provided sufficiently both technical and financial assistance to our LGUs to increase their disaster risk reduction capacity?

Disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility. It is thus crucial that our disaster risk reduction strategy is inclusive and all-of-society. But, is our current DRR Framework

inclusive?

What is our engagement with the relevant stakeholders? Are the roles of the non-state stakeholders in our disaster risk reduction strategy clearly defined?

For example, if a Department of Disaster Resilience or Department of Disaster Emergency Management or whatever name we may call it, these questions arise.

There are agencies under the different departments. Are we going to uproot or pull out these agencies under the different departments?

And there's a lot. For example, PAGASA under DoST, Phivolcs under DoST, BFP under DILG, Health Emergency Management Bureau under DoH, Climate Change Office, Geohazard Assessment and Engineering, Geology Section under the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau of DSWD.

Ito bang lahat na mga agencies, kung magtatayo tayong stand alone department, ipu-pull out natin to be absorbed by the new department?

These are questions that need to be addressed before we even embark on creating a new department which most of our colleagues, 14 of them, filed separate bills in this regard, the creation of a new department. NHA under HUDCC or the newly created and newly activated Department of Human Settlements.

Ito po ang mga tanong na dapat natin i-address before we even consider coming up with a committee report creating an entirely new department to address disaster management.



## Australia vows pro-climate programs

**ADELAIDE:** The Premier of the South Australia (SA) State of Australia has promised to tackle climate change in 2020 in order to mitigate the impact of future bushfires.

South Australia has been one of the states hit hardest by the nation's ongoing bushfire crisis, with three people dead and more than a third of Kangaroo Island off the state's coast burned.

Speaking to News Corp Australia before the state's Parliament resumes in February, Premier Steven Marshall on Friday committed to addressing climate change.

Amid growing public concerns about the impacts of climate change, Marshall estimated that three quarters of the state's energy will come from renewable sources by 2025, up from half in 2020.

Marshall's conservative Liberal Party won power in SA in 2018 after a record 16 years in Opposition. "It has changed the psyche of the people of SA, and Australia," he said.

"There were a whole pile of people that were wavering on their interest in regards to climate resilience and adaptation.

"There was probably a fear among some people that a new Liberal government might move away from a direction that had been set in terms of climate. "Any reasonable independent view of what has happened shows that we have actually put our foot down." **GLOBAL TIMES**



Roni Santiago  
MANILA BULLETIN  
FEBRUARY 1, 2020



## People themselves must lead in drive on plastics

**A** big majority of Filipinos – seven out of 10 – are in favor of banning single-use plastics, according to a survey conducted recently by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The respondents specified the following plastics that should be controlled – straws and stirrers, transparent bags, styrofoam or polystyrene food containers, sachets, tetrapacks, drinking cups, cutlery, juice packaging, and water containers. A big number – 68 percent – said they wanted food condiments in recyclable or refillable containers, instead of sachets which are disposed of after one use.

The survey showed that Filipinos have become very aware of a problem that threatens the whole world today. Scientists have long warned about the mountains of plastic wastes rising in the depths of the world's oceans, a problem that could only worsen over the years because plastic is non-biodegradable. It can last 450 years or even longer.

Much of the world learned of the problem when dead whales and other sea creatures began turning up on beaches with plastic wastes in their stomachs. Soon afterwards, scientists found microplastics in the flesh of fish that are eaten by humans. Plastic wastes have thus become a health problem for people as well.

The United Nations Environment Program has determined that at the present rate of plastics use and disposal, there will be about a billion tons of plastic wastes in landfills and in the world's oceans by the year 2050. And the Philippines has been

identified as one of the world's worst plastic polluters, next to China and Indonesia.

In May, 2019, some 180 nations approved a United Nations agreement to regulate the export of plastic wastes. India, Australia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and the United States are now developing technology to process plastic wastes into asphalt mix for road construction. And companies like Coca-Cola are collecting and recycling their bottles and caps.

In the Philippines, the plastics industry through the Philippine Plastics Industry Association has announced a program of voluntary reduction by its members. Many restaurants and hotels have taken to the use of carton boxes for take-out foods. Some local governments, like Quezon City, have taken it upon themselves to ban the use of single-use plastics. There are bills to regulate the industry in both the House and the Senate.

But the single biggest effort to solve the problem must come from the people themselves – those who go to restaurants, who go ~~marketing~~, who take medicine every day. The recent SWS survey shows 71 percent of the respondents said they favor a ban on single-use plastics.

They should not wait for a government ban. They should take it upon themselves to shun medicine in plastic sachets, shun plastic stirrers and straws in restaurants, and take to paper, carton, cloth, buri, abaca, and other natural materials in their marketing and other activities.



## EDITORIAL

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## Turuan ang mga mag-aaral at magulang ng waste segregation

**S**A tahanan nagsisimula ang edukasyon.

Bagamat ipinakakahulugan ang konseptong ito na dapat maging mabuting halimbawa ang mga magulang sa kanilang mga anak sa aspekto ng buhay, maaari rin itong magamit sa aspekto ng pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

Ito ang layunin ng bagong proyekto ng Department of Education (DepEd) Taguig at Pateros (TaPat) division, kung saan nakabantay ang mga mag-aaral sa kanilang magulang upang masigurado na sumusunod sila sa kalinisan, kabilang ang tamang pagtatapon ng basura, pagbubukod at pagbabawas.

Sa isang panayam nitong Huwebes, sinabi ni Taguig City education czar Dr. George Tizon na base ang proyektong tinawag na "Bantay-Magulang" Waste Management Project, sa Memorandum 13, series of 2020, o the Waste Management Program, ng division na bahagi na ng klase bilang bahagi ng isang elective subject ng mga mag-aaral.

"The problem of garbage reduction is not confined within a particular city but Mayor Lino Cayetano is formulating policies that will benefit not only the city of Taguig but the rest of Metro Manila, such as the Bantay-Magulang Waste (Management) program, where students and parents at home play a very vital role," pahayag ni Tizon, na siya ring DepEd TaPat's chief education supervisor for school operations and governance.

Ilulunsad ngayong araw (Peb. 1) ang proyekto, na inaasahang dadaluhan ng mga magulang, guro, at mga lider-estudyante sa Gat Andres Bonifacio Elementary School sa Barangay The Fort, kung saan lalagda rin sa isang kasunduan ang mga magulang at lokal na opisyal bilang pakikiisa sa programa.

Hangad ng proyekto na maituro sa mga bata ang kahalagan ng pagbubukod ng mga basura mula sa nabubulok at 'di-nabubulok at makamit ang hangarin na maibaba ang bilang ng nakokolektang basura sa lungsod sa 50 porsiyento.

Sa ilalim ng program, itinatakda ang mga mag-aaral na turuan ang kanilang mga magulang ng tamang waste segregation at reduction efforts. Kailangan din nilang iulat ang dami ng basurang nakokolekta sa kanilang mga tahanan.

Ang mga mag-aaral na mauulat ng pagkabigo ng kanilang mga magulang na sumunod sa programa ay bibigyan ng tungkulin na hikayatin at bantayan ang kanilang mga magulang hanggang sa sumunod ang mga ito.

Base sa programa, bawat bahay ay hihikayatin paghiwa-hiwalayin ang kanilang mga basura na maaaring maibenta sa mga junkshop upang maiwasan na madagdag lamang ito sa dami ng basura, gayundin ang mga maaari pang pakinabangan sa tulong ng Solid Waste Management Office (SWAMO) ng barangay o lungsod.

"It will be monitored and reported by the children in their classes to ensure their compliance," ani Tizon. Hihikayatin din ang mga magulang na bigyan ang kanilang mga anak ng water tumblers o containers upang mabawasan ang paggamit ng mga single-use plastics sa paaralan.

Tiwala si DepEd-TaPat Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Margarito Materum, na makatutulong ang programa na maisulong ang kultura ng disiplina sa mga tahanan.

"We know that children sometimes obey their teachers more than their parents. So we want to take advantage of this situation for the parents to follow the Waste Management Program of the local government because of their children's involvement," pahayag ni Materum.

"Children do not want to be embarrassed in class simply because of their parents' non-adherence nor do they want to lie to their teachers. This may probably resolve the discipline problem we need in every household," dagdag pa nito.



**EDITORIAL**

## Simulan ang plastic drive sa sarili

**M**ALAKING bilang ng mga Pilipino -- pito sa bawat 10 -- ang pabor na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng single-use plastics, ayon sa isang survey na isinagawa kamakailan ng Social Weather Stations. Tinukoy ng mga respondents ang mga uri ng plastic na dapat kontrolin -- straws at stirrers, transparent bags, styrofoam o polystyrene food containers, sachets, tetrapacks, drinking cups, cutlery, juice packaging, at water containers. Malaking bilang din -- nasa 68 porsiyento -- ang nagnanais na mailagay sa mga recyclable o refillable containers ang mga food condiments sa halip na sa mga pakete na itinatapon matapos gamitin ng isang beses.

Ipinakikita rin sa survey na batid ng mga Pilipino ang problema na nagbibigay-banta sa buong mundo sa kasalukuyan. Matagal nang nagbabala ang mga siyentista hinggil sa bundok ng mga plastic na basurang natatambak sa mga karagatan ng mundo, isang problema na patuloy na lumala sa nakalipas na mga taon dahil hindi naman nabubulok ang plastic. At maaari itong tumagal ng higit 450 taon.

Higit na nabatid ng mundo ang problema, nang magsimulang maglutangan ang mga patay na balyena at mga lamang-dagat sa mga dalampasigan kung saan nakita sa mga tiyan nito ang mga plastic na basura. Kalaunan, nadiskubre ng mga siyentista ang mga microplastics sa laman ng mga isda na kinakain ng mga tao. Dahil dito, malinaw na isang problemang pangkalusugan na rin ng mga tao ang basurang plastic.

Nakatitiyak naman ang United Nations Environment Program na sa kasalukuyang dami ng nalilikhang plastic ng mundo, inaasahan ang nasa higit isang bilyong tonelada ng basurang plastic sa mga landfills at mga dagat pagsapit ng 2050. At isa nga ang Pilipinas sa itinuturing na world's worst plastic polluters, kasunod ng China at Indonesia.

Noong Mayo 2019, sumang-ayon ang nasa 180 bansa sa isang United Nations agreement na maghihigpit sa pag-aangkat ng plastic wastes. Ngayon, lumilikha na ang mga bansa ng India, Australia, Indonesia, United Kingdom, at United States ng teknolohiya na magpo-proseso sa plastic upang maihalo sa aspalto sa paggawa ng kalsada. Habang sinimulan na rin ng mga kumpanya tulad ng Coca-Cola ang pangongolekta at pagre-recycle ng kanilang mga bote at takip.

Sa Pilipinas, inanunsiyo ng industriya ng plastic sa pamamagitan ng Philippine Plastics Industry Association ang isang programa para sa boluntaryong pagbabawas ng produksyon ng mga miyembro nito. Maraming restaurant at mga hotel ang gumagamit na ngayon ng mga carton boxes para sa mga pagkain nila. Habang ilang lokal na lungsod na rin, tulad ng Quezon City, ang nagbawal na sa paggamit ng single-use plastics. Mayroon na ring mga panukalang-batas upang limitahan ang industriya nito, sa Kamara at Senado.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, dapat na magmula ang pinakamalaking pagsisikap upang solusyonan ang problema, sa sarili -- ang mga pumupunta sa mga restaurant, ang mga namimili sa palengke, ang mga umiinom ng gamot araw-araw. Sa pinakabagong survey ng SWS, lumalabas na 71 porsiyento ng mga tumugon ang pabor sa pag-ban ng mga single-use plastics.

Hindi na nila dapat pang hintayin ang desisyon ng pamahalaan. Dapat na nilang simulan natin sa ating sarili ang pag-iwas sa mga gamot na nakalagay sa pakete, pagtanggap sa paggamit ng stirrers at straw sa mga kainan, at sa halip ay gumamit na lamang ng mga papel, karton, tela, buri, abaca, at iba pang natural na materyales para sa kanilang pagbebenta at iba pang aktibidad.





## Use of garbage as fuel, electricity source pushed

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Francis Tolentino on Friday described as "hitting two birds with one stone" his proposed measure to utilize garbage as source of electricity and fuel which could address both waste disposal problem and the shortage of energy supply.

Under his Senate Bill no. 401, entitled "An Act Allowing the Use of Waste to Energy Technology in Electricity, Fuel and Heat Generation, and for Other Purposes," Tolentino cited the problem of improper waste disposal which he said largely contributes to the country's environmental problem, coupled with a projection of an energy supply crisis.

He mentioned a study made by the Japan International Corporation Agency, which states that the percentage of local government units that fully followed the sanitary landfill method as mandated by RA No. 9003, did not reach ten percent.

The situation, he said, would worsen as around 80 to 90 percent of the capacity if the constructed sanitary landfills have already been utilized and is projected to be at full capacity within the next five years.

Concurrent with the garbage disposal problem, Tolentino added, is the forthcoming crisis in the energy field.

This is already manifested in the rotational brownouts being implemented by electric suppliers in some part of the country and the rising cost of power due mainly to the shortage of supply, which is further aggravated by the rising prices of petroleum products.

To address both disposal of solid waste and shortage of energy supply, Tolentino is proposing to fully allow the use of waste to energy technologies.

This is in harmony with the Supreme Court ruling in the case of the Metro-

politan Manila Development Authority vs. Jancorn Environmental Corp. where it was ruled that RA 8749 otherwise known as the Clean Air Act, does not absolutely prohibit incineration as a mode of waste disposal, but bans only those which emit poisonous and toxic fumes.

"There have been several attempts to

establish waste to energy facilities which were even backed by the national government and local government units but which ever pushed through because of legal impediments," Tolentino said.

He, however, expressed optimism his proposed bill would finally see the light of day.



**PH SHOWCASE.** Lakbay Museo is a 1,000 square edifice showcasing the best of the country. It has 14 unique experiences in 11 different destinations around the country in a bid to urge Filipinos to get to know more about the country's history, culture, products and savor Pinoy food and drinks, which are all located at the ground floor of Conrad Hotel, at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City. In photo are Lawrence Tan (left) president of Lakbay who showed different sections of the place to visiting guests and Oman Airlines executive Mr. Salah Al Balushi, during his visit to promote the place.



# Bamboo lab to boost propagation in NLuzon

IN an effort to help boost the government's national greening program, the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (Ceza) is putting up a bamboo laboratory to boost its propagation in Region 1 (Ilocos Region).

Secretary Raul Lambino, Northern Luzon presidential assistant, said the towns of Sual and Aguilar in Pangasinan, and parts of Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) and Cordillera host vast government lands that can be planted with bamboo, fruit bearing trees, and tulips.

Also the Ceza administrator and chief executive officer,

Lambino said a good place for their bamboo project is Region 2.

He said a laboratory for beema bamboo and other bamboo species will be established in Ceza.

"We have talked with investors in India to put up a tissue culture laboratory at the ecozone while we propagate and provide seedlings to different provinces in Northern Luzon," Lambino said.

Bamboo experts said the beema specie is like the local *kawayan bayog*, but produces heavier poles.

Lambino said beema bamboo can be used to manufac-

ture furniture, fuel, textile, paper, among others. It is also a very good material for construction and currently a sought-after source of energy in India.

"We hope that we can plant more and harvest more of this specie, which will help in the government's reforestation efforts and in the development of cleaner energy, which will also help decrease reliance on fossil fuel," Lambino said.

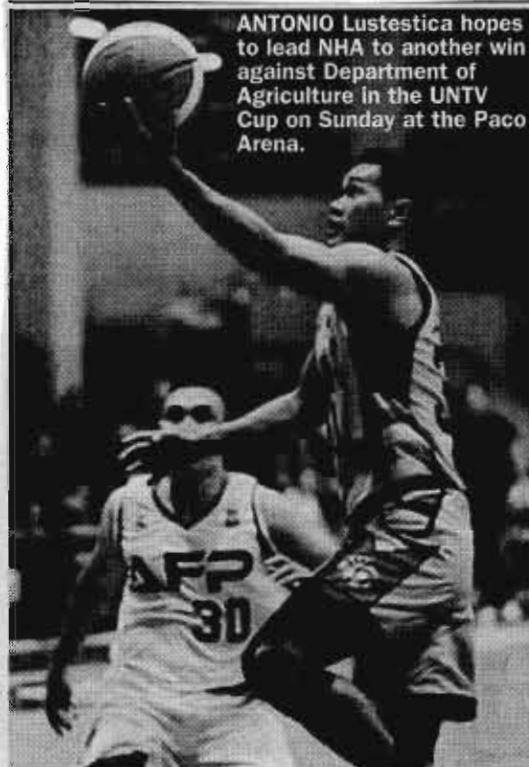
With regard to the propagation of fruit-bearing trees, Lambino said Apayao would be an ideal place to plant lanzones, rambutan and durian.

He said there are more than a thousand hectares as possible areas for investors who would be interested to pour in capital for the growing of the fruit trees.

Accordingly, Lambino said several areas have been identified in Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya, and in Cordillera for fruit-bearing trees. They are also looking for areas to propagate tulips.

"We are also looking into the possibility of propagating tulips at the mountain areas of San Nicolas town in Pangasinan and Santa Fe town in Nueva Vizcaya," he added.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



ANTONIO Lustestica hopes to lead NHA to another win against Department of Agriculture in the UNTV Cup on Sunday at the Paco Arena.

## 8th UNTV Cup Judiciary, PITC fives dispute 4th semis slot

Games Sunday  
(Paco Arena)

3:30 p.m. - NHA vs Agriculture  
5 p.m. - PITC vs Judiciary

**TWO-TIME** champion Judiciary and Philippine International Global Trading (PITC) clash in a virtual do-or-die for the fourth semis berth at the close of the quarterfinal round of the 8th UNTV Cup on Sunday at the Paco Arena in Manila.

With both teams carrying similar 6-5 win-loss records, expect intense action in their 5 p.m. encounter as they chase the last semis spot in the annual tournament organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon for public servants.

The winner, however, will have a difficult task of beating top seed and defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines in the semis which is a best-of-three affair.

Department of Agriculture can tie the winner in the Judiciary-PITC showdown if it beats National Housing Authority at 3:30 p.m. as it also holds a 6-5 record.

But the Food Masters can not in any way dislodge whoever will emerge the winner in the PITC-Judiciary tiff due to an inferior goal difference.

NHA has already clinched the third semis after downing the PITC Global Traders, 77-74, last week.

The NHA Builders will face the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Warriors in the other semis pairing.

The AFP Cavaliers and the Warriors advanced outright to the semis after finishing 1-2 in the two-phase elimination round.

The chosen charity of the champion team will get the tax-free P4 million top prize while the runner-up's own charity shall receive P2 million.



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# Magis, Traders in KO match for last semis

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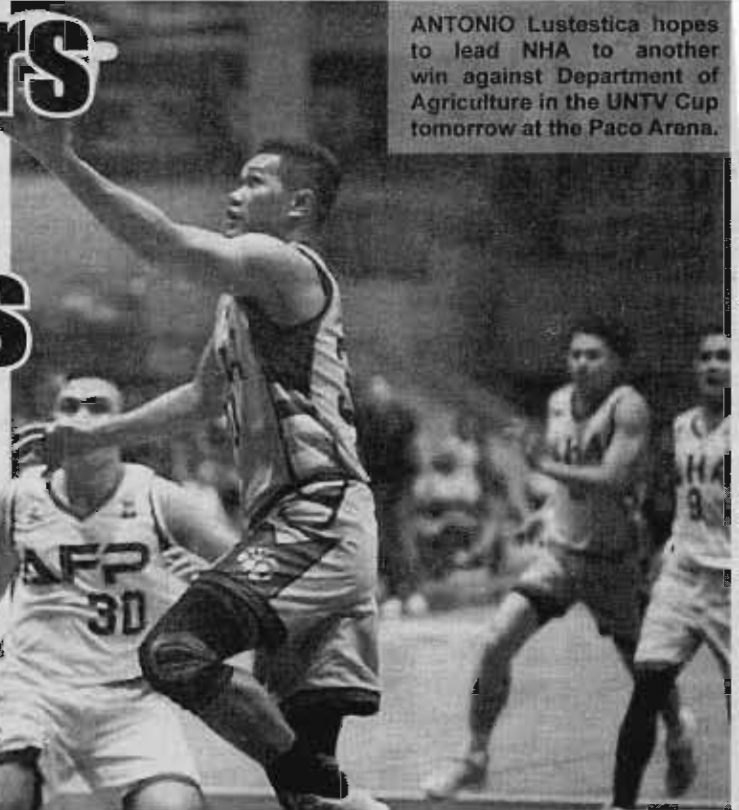
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