

DATE : 02 13 20

DAY : Thursday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



## DENR to use donated land for sewage treatment plant

THE heirs of the late National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin have donated a 1.14-hectare property in Oriental Mindoro to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the construction of the "second and bigger" sewage treatment plant near the province's famous White Beach, Barangay San Isidro in Puerto Galera.

With the donation, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the agency could start next month the construction of the P194-million STP that is expected to be operational by the last quarter of 2020.

About 2,000 square meters of the donated property would be used for the STP, while a

sub-office of the DENR-Batangas provincial environment and natural resources would be built in the remaining 9,444 square meters.

To have a second STP and a DENR satellite office within Puerto Galera's White Beach area would enhance efforts to preserve it and help avoid another temporary closure of a tourist destination because of environmental problems, just like what happened to Aklan's Boracay Island.

"Puerto Galera was ahead of Boracay in terms of gaining international attention as a major tourist destination and I commend its local executives and stakeholders for taking a proactive stance to prevent a Boracay-like scenario in

Puerto Galera," the DENR chief said.

He thanked the Locsin family and Puerto Galera Mayor Rocky Ilagan for his serious commitment to protect and conserve Mindoro's prime ecotourism destination.

Puerto Galera's first STP, a P100-million facility located in Barangay Sabang, became fully operational last December.

It has since been treating 1,750 cubic meters of uncontrolled wastewater per day.

Leandro Locsin Jr. was the signatory in the deed of donation.

The second STP would have a capacity of 3,000 cubic meters and would service residents and business establishments in Barangay San Isidro. **Rio N. Araja**



## Notice of violation inisyu kontra Hermosa sanitary landfill operator

Matapos isyuhan ng notice of violation ng Hermosa LGU ang kumpanyang nag-operate ng Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility sa Barangay Mambog, Hermosa, Bataan kamakailan ay panibagong NOV ang muling inihain laban sa Econest Waste Management Corporation mula naman sa Environmental Management Bureau o EMB-DENR.

Base sa mga dokumentong nakalap ng Abante, sa naging findings ng EMB-DENR, ang Econest WMC ay napag-alamang nag-operate umano nang walang valid Discharge Permit and Hazardous Waste Generator Regis-

tration Certificate.

Bukod dito, nakasaad sa dokumento ng EMB mula kay Regional Director Wilson Trajeco, na ang ilan sa kanilang treatment units ng Leachate Treatment Facilities ay wala umanong protective lining na maaaring magkontamina sa underground water ng bayan ng Hermosa dahil umano sa katas ng basura na tumatagas at nasisipsip ng lupa sa naturang lugar.

Kaugnay nito ay binigyan ng sampung araw ang Econest WMC para sagutin in writing ang mga natagpuang paglabag na may multang mula P10,000 hanggang P50,000 sa bawat paglabag nito sa

nakasaad sa kanilang Environmental Compliance Certificate o ECC, paglabag sa Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PD 1586); at P10,000 to P200,000 para sa bawat araw na paglabag o violations ng Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 o Republic Act 9275.

Nauna rito ay nagreklamo rin si Hermosa Mayor Jopet Inton dahil sa hindi umano pagtupad ng management ng Econest WMC sa kanilang PPP Agreement.

Hanggang sa ngayon ay hindi pa rin nagbibigay ng opisyal na pahayag sa media ang naturang kumpanya. **(Jennifer R. Go)**



## DENR to donate seized lumber to Jolo fire victims

DAVAO CITY – The Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) will receive from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) confiscated illegally-cut lumber to be used in rebuilding 1,500 houses in Jolo which were razed by fire on February 3.

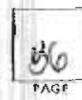
MinDA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said in statement on Wednesday morning that he asked DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, through Undersecretary Jim Sampulna, for donation of confiscated lumber for Jolo rehabilitation.

He said Sampulna informed MinDA Undersecretary Janet Lopez that the DENR in Region 9, which is the nearest office to Jolo, has readied the first shipment.

Piñol said he will travel to Jolo on February 13 to conduct assessment of the damages in the fire that gutted the houses in Barangays Pier, Takut Takut and Tulay.

"MinDA will engage the Department of National Defense so that naval assets could be used in transporting the lumber to Jolo," Piñol said.

Piñol added that Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan told him that the 1,576 affected families would like to rebuild their homes in the same area. (Armando B. Fenequito Jr. )



# Bamboo sanctuary rises in Cagayan

**MOVING** forward in its vision of making Gonzaga Campus the premier site for bamboo research, development and extension, the Cagayan State University (CSU) recently launched a bamboo sanctuary to boost its Bamboo-Based Agroforestry Program (BBAP) with 16 bamboo varieties found in its Health and Wellness Park.

The sanctuary has a bamboo trail, bamboo-inspired information desk, cafe and massage hut, in-house bamboo park, bamboo nursery, souvenir shop, and the *Residensya Kawayan* (bamboo house).

CSU President Urdujah Tejada, one of the main proponents of the uni-

versity's bamboo program, said the Gonzaga campus was envisioned to be the leading advocate of bamboo cultivation and commercialization through ecotourism in Cagayan province.

"This will be a unique project in the province of Cagayan, which will be a learning environment for its target beneficiaries, a climate change mitigation strategy, and an ecotourism potential for the province and the Cagayan Valley region," Tejada said.

The CSU Bamboo Sanctuary is an extension program for the Bamboo Research Development and Extension Projects by the CSU-Gonzaga Campus, which also gets

support from the Cagayan Valley Bamboo Industry Development Council.

Partner-agencies in the project include the Gonzaga local government, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Education, Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry, Commission on Higher Education and private entities like Goodfellow Pharma.

"Eventually, the bamboo sanctuary will be a self-sustaining facility that will take care of its maintenance cost and earn income. This is intended for students in both private and public institutions as target clients because the sanc-

tuary essentially aims to educate the future generation about bamboo and the many benefits it provides," Tejada said.

From the perspective of tourism, Tejada said the sanctuary will be attractive to eco-tourists who are willing to pay a premium to experience the sanctuary's uncrowded and remote wilderness.

Bamboo propagation is being pushed by various agencies institutions in the Philippines because it renews faster than trees, and could provide food from its shoots. Bamboo is also a raw material for products ranging textiles, furniture, building materials, among others.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



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THE REFORMS OF THE PHILIPPINE PROGRAM  
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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

06  
PAGE 1

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

RAFFLES  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 13 20

TIME:

PAGE 17

DATE



## ■ Benefits of bamboo

Bamboos help mitigate the effects of climate change as it can absorb 12 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per hectare each year, improving the quality of air in the country and help cool the temperature. It also has an extensive root system maintaining soil stability that intercepts rain, preventing soil erosion and flashfloods that may occur during heavy rain and typhoons.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu strengthened the implementation of the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) by targeting 13,050 hectares to be planted with bamboos in Panay Island. He pushed for it to become the country's 'Bamboo Capital.'

Cimatu also stressed the need to strictly enforce forest protection, thereby increasing forest cover without losing the lives of rangers. Illegal loggers should be punished according to the law.



## GREEN IS IN

### Rivers and creeks cleanup in Caraga region

More than 1,805 sacks of plastics and domestic garbage have been scooped out of the rivers and creeks in at least 15 sites as simultaneous river cleanup rolled in the five provinces and six cities of Northeastern Mindanao or Caraga region.

Amid inclement weather brought by a low-pressure area spotted on the eastern side of Mindanao last Feb. 7, 6,132 citizens participated in the region-wide river and creek cleanup.

Millennials, mostly students from the Saint Joseph Institute of Technology (SJIT), dominated the number of volunteers.

DENR 13 regional executive director Atty. Felix S. Alicer expressed his thanks to all the volunteers who participated in the activity. He stressed that the cleanup of rivers and creeks is one of the top priority programs of the administration.



In Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, CENR officer Victor Sabornido said a total of 18 tons of garbage waste have been collected in the Tabon and Mangagoy Rivers. On the other hand, CENR officer Alejandra Boiser said they were able to extract 2,164.3 kilograms of garbage materials at the Kinabjangan River in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

Participating at the Ambangan Creek

cleanup, Butuan City include the Army's 402nd Infantry (Unity) Brigade, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Caraga State University, various government agencies, and the media.

Photo shows students and volunteers during the cleanup of Ambangan Creek along the border of Barangays Ambangan and Libertad, in Butuan City. (Mike U. Crismundo)



## Ateneo tapped for groundwater monitoring of water-critical areas

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) have tapped Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) to conduct smart groundwater monitoring of 10 "water-critical" cities in the country, including Metro Manila, Iloilo and Zamboanga.

With funding provided by the NWRB and the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development researchers from ADMU are tasked to establish a groundwater management plan and monitoring system for water-critical cities.

Under this project, monitoring wells and stations were built — four in Zamboanga City, four for Iloilo and 10 successfully installed in Metro Manila, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon. Another eight sensors will be installed in select areas nationwide within the year.

"Today marks a significant event as we officially present the locally developed cost-effective system for water wells monitoring here in Iloilo City, installed in Pavia National High School and in Barangay Consolacion, San Miguel. Through these facilities, automated and real-time monitoring of groundwater reservoirs consisting of various sensors, data logging, and telemetry equipment to measure water quantity and quality can be done," Science Secretary Fortunato de la Peña said at the recent launch of the monitoring systems already installed in Iloilo City.

The data gathered from this monitoring system will serve as a decision-support tool for NWRB toward effective management of groundwater reservoir.

These data can also be accessed through the ThingSpeak mobile application and [admuwater.com](http://admuwater.com) web portal, a platform service that uses Internet of Things (IoT) analytics to provide instant and advanced data analysis to bring daily effective management of groundwater reservoirs.

In line with the project, ADMU, in partnership with the North American Electric Reliability Corp. and DOST, conducted a two-day stakeholders' workshop under the Philippine Groundwater Outlook (PhiGO) project, to strengthen partnership and gather local knowledge and understand the current issues and problems in managing water resources.

The project is one of four funded under the Phl-UK Newton Agham Joint Cooperation Program.

The researchers behind PhiGO aim to deliver consistent, accessible and transferable assessments of climate and population change on regional groundwater resources.

Iloilo is one of nine key cities identified in 1998 by the Japan International Cooperation Agency in their study detailing the country's water resources management. Though plagued with water constraints, these cities are envisioned to address such problems in the future. — Rainier Allan Ronda





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INITIATIVES  
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THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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86  
PAGE  
UPPER  
LOWER  
PAGE 1  
STORY  
DAILIER  
STORY  
EDITORIAL  
CARTOON

02 13 20

TITLE:

PAGE 12

1/2

DATE

# Advocates continue call for Filipinos to protect the environment

**L**ast month's Australia bushfires must serve as a warning for countries to accelerate the phaseout of fossil fuels and scale up climate action in the country, according to environment advocates.

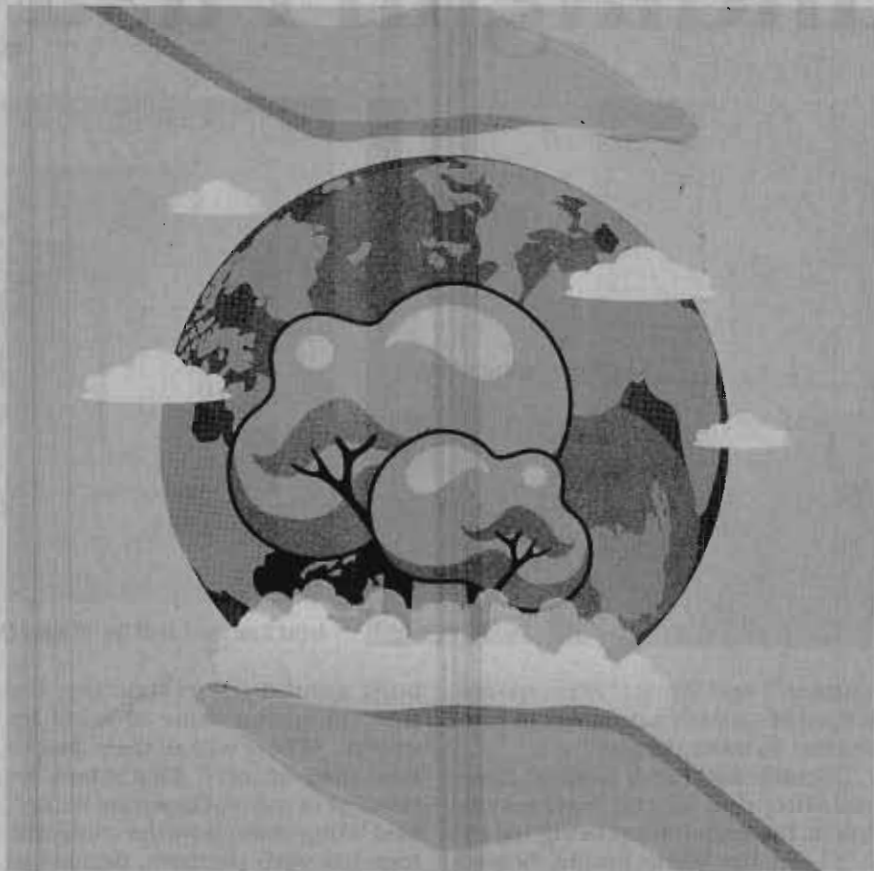
"We have a moral responsibility to our common dreams for our families for a safe and secured life at present and the future. This comes with the assurance of sustaining ecosystems," said Rodne Galicha, executive director of Living Laudato Si Philippines, a faith-based NGO.

Prolonged droughts and record-breaking temperatures have intensified the fires in the country, which has burned more than 10 million hectares of land. It has killed around one billion animals and placed key species to extinction.

Galicha remarked that said climate-related disaster has implications beyond impacts on Australian biodiversity and communities. He added that preventing disasters of this magnitude "require global holistic action beneficial not only to a particular race, not only to humanity but the planet as a whole."

Global and local leaders must recognize the urgency for mitigating climate change to prevent similar incidences in the future, per Galicha. He expressed his disappointment on the outcomes of the recent climate talks in Madrid, Spain, stating that "denial of the climate crisis is the denial of humanity's future existence."

Despite the warning of scientists for drastic emissions cuts to limit global warming by 2030, there was a lack of significant progress made in Madrid. Key calls including raising targets for climate change mitigation pledges,



strengthening mechanisms to avert loss and damage, and rules for the global carbon market failed to be accomplished in the negotiations.

'(There) is a need to empower local communities to protect the forests.

By educating them about forest-related laws, the impacts of climate change and burning of fossil fuels, and the importance of biodiversity, people would have a true and deep concern for the environment.'

Thaddeus Martinez, veteran forester from the Haribon Foundation, emphasized that governments must look beyond the short-term benefits of fossil fuels on economic

development. He stated that "it is not just the economic production supported by this power generation that needs to be examined, but also the impacts on us. Renewable energy power generation will be more appropriate."

#### Fires at home

The Philippines is not at a risk of forest fires the scale of the case in Australia, according to Martinez. However, global warming could increase the occurrences of small forest fires that would have devastating impacts on ecosystems and nearby communities.

While the country lacks recent data on forest fires, Martinez observed from anecdotal evidence that climate change impacts have



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

B-0  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

EDITORIAL  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 13 20

LINE: "Advocates continue call for Filipinos  
to protect the environment"

PAGE 1/2

DATE

made forests more vulnerable than before.

"There is the same case of fire, but given that we have climate change, we can say that there are more hazards now compared to the previous decades," he said.

Around 90 percent of all forest fires in the Philippines are caused by human activities, per Martinez. The most common cause is kaingin, or slashing-and-burning of forests to create more agricultural lands that is rendered illegal under the Forestry Reform Code of 1975.

Martinez noted the Cordilleras and the Zambales Mountains as two of the sites in the Philippines most prone to forest fires. Around 797 hectares of forestlands were destroyed from January to March 2019 in the Cordilleras due to kaingin, causing nearly ₱21 million in damage.

These cases, according to Martinez, show that nearly all the causes of forest fires, whether directly through kaingin or indirectly through climate change impacts, are ultimately anthropogenic.

"Maybe there are some social aspects that we need to look at. Why are some people deliberately causing the fire? It's not only the natural causes, but it's anthropogenic as well," he said.

To avoid this, Martinez highlighted the need to empower local communities to protect the forests. By educating them about forest-related laws, the impacts of climate change and burning of fossil fuels, and the importance of biodiversity, he hopes that the people would "have a true and deep concern for the environment."

For instance, he stated that one of Haribon's rainforestation sites in the Mt. Banahaw-San Cristobal was burned down last April. The three farmers responsible for the fires have been apprehended and would be trained to help restore the forests, in collaboration with the local community and government agencies.

Martinez also called to increase the capacity and resources of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), who are legally mandated to handle forest fires.

Lastly, Martinez emphasized that the Philippine government must lead the way in phasing out coal plants and coal-mining operations on the domestic front as actively as it campaigns for it in the climate talks. This is to avoid adding forest fires into the growing list of hazards with which one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change must deal.





NEWS

## Dirty air kills 27,000 in PH yearly—study

Air pollution from burning fossil fuels, such as coal, gas and oil costs the Philippines up to \$6 billion (P304 billion) in economic losses yearly and results in some 27,000 premature deaths, according to a study by Greenpeace Southeast Asia and the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Globally, the economic cost is \$2.9 trillion, while premature deaths from air pollution is placed at 4.5 million yearly. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO **A2**

# Dirty air kills 27K in PH yearly, says study

By **Jhesset O. Enano**  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

Air pollution from burning fossil fuels—primarily coal, gas and oil—is responsible for an estimated 27,000 premature deaths in the Philippines annually, and result in up to \$6 billion (P304 billion) in economic losses per year, according to a new study released on Wednesday.

The study, published by Greenpeace Southeast Asia and the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air, found that burning fossil fuels led to approximately 4.5 million premature deaths around the world

every year, with toxic pollutants causing the rise in acute and chronic diseases.

Globally, billions of hospital visits and work absences due to these illnesses cost an estimated \$2.9 trillion every year, or \$8 billion per day, equivalent to at least 3.3 percent of the world's gross domestic product, their analysis showed.

### Global data sets

Using data published last year, researchers studied global data sets describing surface level concentrations of certain pollutants, including particulate matter (PM) 2.5, ozone and ni-

trogen oxides, to come up with an assessment of their impact on health and the economy for 2018.

Aside from these costs, the study showed that air pollution from fossil fuels severely affect children in low-income countries, where at least 40,000 die before they reach the age of 5 because of exposure to particulate pollution.

Air pollution can also deliver a blow to productivity.

Worldwide, exposure to PM2.5, tiny particles that are able to travel deep into the respiratory tract, has resulted in increased work absences, causing at least 1.8 billion days of

missed work every year.

Greenpeace Philippines said the study further underscored the urgency of shifting away from fossil fuel use and transitioning toward renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

### 'Dirty energy transition'

"Fossil fuels are not only bad for the climate; they're also bad for our health and our economy," said Khevin Yu, the group's energy transition campaigner. "If no drastic changes are done, it will only get worse in terms of public health and economic concerns."

At present, the Philippines remains in a state of "dirty energy transition," with a number of existing coal-fired power plants and several more in the pipeline, Yu said.

Despite calls from environmental groups on the adverse impact of using fossil fuels, the country is still dependent on coal as its main source of power.

Emissions from vehicles that run on fossil fuels, meanwhile, are the main contributor to air pollution in cities across the country.

"The government needs to recognize that air pollution is a

problem. Right now, it remains as the least concern of the government," Yu said.

Researchers highlighted that solutions to fossil fuel air pollution could also deal with the climate crisis.

"A phaseout of existing coal, oil and gas infrastructure brings major health benefits due to the associated reduction in air pollution," the study read.

"Clean transport and renewable energy not only bring significant reductions in toxic pollutants... but also help to keep climate change-causing greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere." INQ



# 'Global cost of air pollution \$2.9 trillion a year'

PARIS – The global cost of air pollution caused by fossil fuels is \$8 billion a day, or roughly 3.3 percent of the world's GDP, an environmental research group said Wednesday.

The findings from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and Greenpeace Southeast Asia are the first to assess the global cost of air pollution specifically from burning oil, gas and coal.

"We found that the China Mainland, the United States and India bear the highest costs from fossil fuel air pollution worldwide, an estimated \$900 billion, \$600 billion and \$150 billion per year, respectively," the report said.

Particles thrown off by fossil fuel use account for 4.5 million premature deaths each year around the globe, including 1.8 million in China and a million in India, the researchers found.

The new figure is in line with World Health Organization (WHO) estimates of 4.2 million deaths each year linked to ground-level air pollution, mostly from heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections in children.

"Air pollution from fossil fuels is a threat to our health and our economies that takes millions of lives and costs us trillions of dollars," said Minwoo Son, clean air campaigner at Greenpeace East Asia.

The global cost for 2018 was \$2.9 trillion, the report estimated.

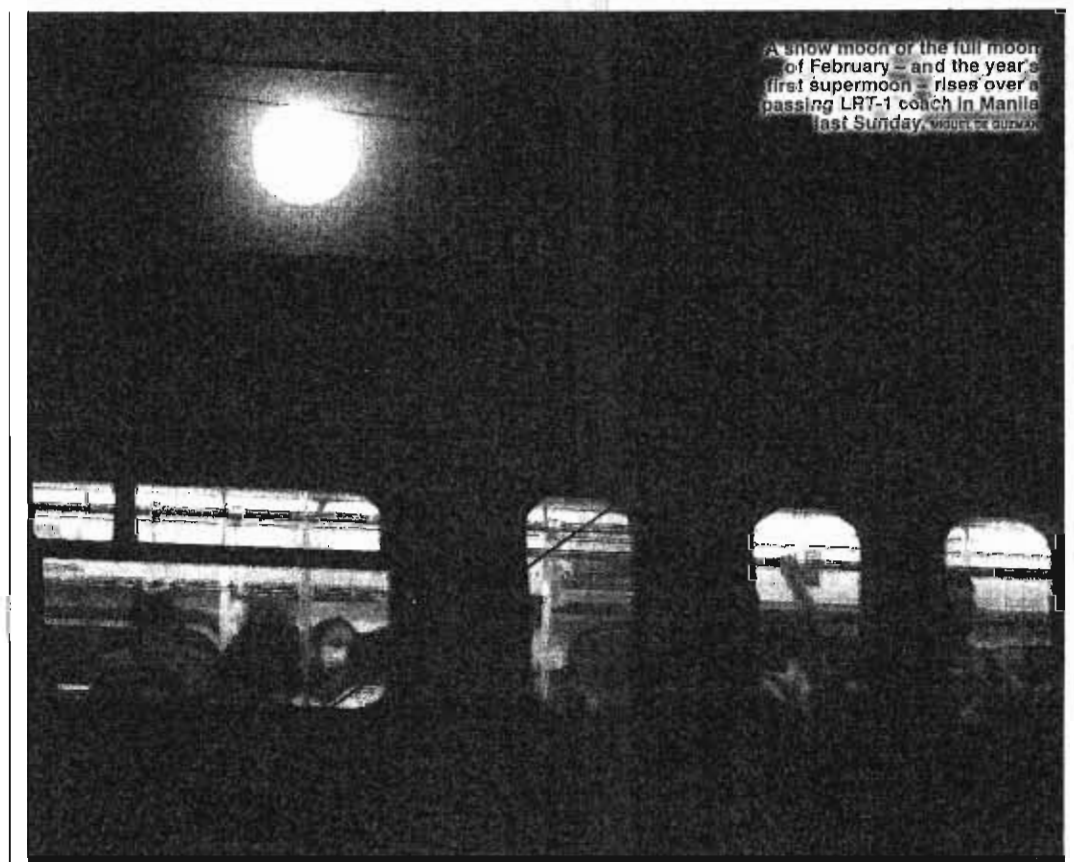
"But this is a problem that we know how to solve: by transitioning to renewable energy sources, phasing out diesel and petrol cars, and building public transport."

The 44-page report breaks down the global burden of fossil fuel-driven air pollution – measured in economic costs and premature deaths – by type of pollutant and by country.

Each year the global economy takes \$350 billion and \$380 billion hits from nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) – a byproduct of fossil fuel combustion in vehicles and power plants – and ozone, respectively, according to middle-ground estimates.

## Deep into the lungs

By far the most costly pollutant is



A snow moon or the full moon of February – and the year's first supermoon – rises over a passing LRT-1 coach in Manila last Sunday, ~~Monday~~ ~~February~~.

microscopic fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which accounts for more than two trillion dollars per year in damages, measured in health impacts, missed work days and years lost to premature death.

The global breakdown for premature deaths each year was 500,000 for NO<sub>2</sub>, one million for ozone, and three million for PM 2.5.

Some 40,000 children die every year before their fifth birthday due to PM 2.5, which also leads to two million preterm births annually and twice as many cases of asthma.

PM 2.5 particles penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, causing cardiovascular respi-

ratory problems. In 2013, the WHO classified it as a cancer-causing agent.

Middle-range estimates of the number of premature deaths stemming from fossil fuel pollution include 398,000 for the European Union, 230,000 for the

United States, 96,000 for Bangladesh, and 44,000 for Indonesia.

Among countries taking the biggest economic hit each year are China (\$900 billion), the United States (\$610 billion), India (\$150 billion), Germany (\$140 billion), Japan (\$130 billion), Russia (\$68 billion) and Britain (\$66 billion).

Globally, air pollution accounts for 29 percent of all deaths and disease from lung cancer, 17 percent from

acute lower respiratory infection, and a quarter from stroke and heart disease, according to the WHO.

The new report used global datasets for surface-level concentrations of the three main pollutants analyzed, and then calculated health and cost impacts for 2018.

Estimates of PM 2.5 and NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were based on Earth observation instruments on two NASA satellites that monitor aerosols in the atmosphere.

Deaths, years of life lost and years lived with disability due to PM 2.5 exposure are drawn from the Global Burden of Disease, published in 2018 by PNAS.

– AFP



## Global cost of air pollution: \$2.9 trillion a year

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"Air pollution from fossil fuels is a threat to our health and our economies that takes millions of lives and costs us trillions of dollars," said Minwoo Son, clean air campaigner at Greenpeace East Asia.

The global cost for 2018 was \$2.9 trillion, the report estimated.

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## Greenpeace says air pollution costs the world \$8 billion a day

AIR POLLUTION from burning fossil fuels is generating economic losses of \$8 billion a day, according to a Greenpeace report.

That's about 3.3% of global gross domestic product (GDP), or \$2.9 trillion per year, according to a report from Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air. China, the US and India bear the highest economic cost of soaring pollution, at an estimated \$900 billion, \$600 billion and \$150 billion a year, respectively.

Air pollution continues to harm billions of people on a daily basis, despite efforts by some countries and companies to push for greater use of renewable energy and cleaner fuels. Burning coal, oil and gas causes health issues, potentially leading to 4.5 million premature deaths around the world each year, with 40,000 children dying before their fifth birthday due to the exposure to fine-dust particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers, Greenpeace said.

"Every year, air pollution from fossil fuels takes millions of lives, increases our risk of stroke, lung cancer and asthma, and costs us trillions of dollars," said Minwoo Son, clean air campaigner at Greenpeace East Asia. "But this is a problem that we know how to solve,



REUTERS

**A MAN wears a plastic bag on his head during an environmental activists' rally to demand rights to clean air in Bangkok, Thailand, Jan. 23.**

by transitioning to renewable energy sources, phasing out diesel and petrol cars, and building public transport."

Phasing out existing coal, oil and gas infrastructure and transitioning to renewable energy is required to avoid the worst impact of climate change, Greenpeace said. In the absence of efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions, the earth could warm by 2 degrees celsius by 2050, cutting global GDP by 2.5% to 7.5%, Oxford Economics said in a November report. — **Bloomberg**



## Writ of kalikasan

Dear PAO,  
I want to question the issuance of licenses to exploit our resources and would want to propose a total ban on everything because I believe we have nothing more left for our future generations. May I directly file a petition for the issuance of a writ of kalikasan (nature/environment) before the Supreme Court due to the transcendental importance of my claim?

Lorena

Dear Lorena,  
The case of *Victoria Segovia, et al. vs. The Climate Change Commission, et al.* (GR 211010, March 7, 2017, Ponente: Associate Justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa), clearly discussed the Supreme Court's jurisdiction in the direct filing of a petition for the issuance of the writ of *kalikasan*, viz.:

"Under the RPEC (Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases), the writ of *kalikasan* is an extraordinary remedy covering environmental damage of such magnitude that will prejudice the life, health or property of inhabitants in two or more cities or provinces. It is designed for a narrow but special purpose: to accord a stronger protection for environmental rights, aiming, among others, to provide a speedy and effective resolution of a case involving the violation of one's constitutional right to a healthful and balanced ecology that transcends political and territorial boundaries and to address the potentially exponential nature of large-scale ecological threats. At the very least, the magnitude of the ecological problems contemplated under the RPEC satisfies at least one of the exceptions to the rule on hierarchy of courts, as when direct resort is allowed where it is dictated by public



DEAR PAO

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welfare. Given that the RPEC allows direct resort to this Court, it is ultimately within the Court's discretion whether or not to accept petitions brought directly before it..." (Emphasis supplied)

The Supreme Court clarified that the filing of the said petition directly before it is one of the exceptions to the rule on hierarchy of courts. However, emphasis should be made on the fact that the Court still has the discretion on whether or not it will look upon the same, and thereafter grant the petition since the petitioner/s should first satisfy all the jurisdictional, formal and substantive requirements of law in seeking the issuance of a writ of *kalikasan*.

Hence, if you are able to prove your standing in filing the petition for the writ, which must be very clear in all terms, and if you are able to substantiate your allegations in a very pressing concern, you may directly file the petition for the Issuance of the writ of *kalikasan* before the Supreme Court.

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. This advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

*Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to [dearpao@manilatimes.net](mailto:dearpao@manilatimes.net)*



RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN PASAY, PARAÑAQUE

# SM PRIME PLAN TO SELL P100B IN DEBT PAPER OKD

Property giant SM Prime Holdings Inc. (SMPH) has obtained regulatory clearance to sell as much as P100 billion worth of debt paper over a three-year period, gaining flexibility to fund more shopping malls and other big-ticket property projects.

For the first tranche, SMPH plans to raise as much as P20 billion from an offering of five- and seven-year bonds. The base offer is P15 billion but the Sy family-led firm has the option to up-size by up to P5 billion.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said it had approved SMPH's application to issue these debt securities under a three-year shelf registration as well as the selling permit for the first tranche.

Under the shelf registration window of the SEC, securities to be issued in tranches may be registered for an offering to be made on a continuous or delayed basis for a period not exceeding three years. The issuer is allowed to use the same prospectus for various tranches of securities offering under such mechanism.

For the first tranche, the bonds will be issued in minimum denominations of P20,000 and in multiples of P10,000 thereafter. They will be listed and traded on local fixed income trading platform Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp.

SMPH may redeem in whole the five-year bonds at 101 percent on the sixth and seventh interest payment dates or at 100.5 percent on the eighth and ninth interest payment dates. Meanwhile, it may redeem the seven-year bonds at 101 percent on the 10th and 11th interest payment dates or at 100.5 percent on the 12th and 13th interest payment dates.

Proceeds from the offering will primarily finance capital expenditures for new malls and expansion projects.

BDO Capital & Investment Corp., China Bank Capital Corp., BPI Capital Corp., East West Banking Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., RCBC Capital Corp. and SB Capital Investment Corp. have agreed to act as joint lead underwriters for the offer.

SM Prime may issue the re-

maining debt securities under its shelf-registration in tranches within three years from the effective date of the registration statement.

Last December, SMPH received the much-awaited green light from the city of Pasay for a 360-hectare reclamation project, in line with its plan to build a new central business district along the Manila Bay area. This new reclamation project in Pasay City will be connected to the Mall of Asia complex, which is also a reclaimed land project of both parties, and has since then been developed into a thriving estate with a massive shopping mall, offices, residences, entertainment arena, five-star hotel and convention center.

SM Prime also hopes to undertake a 300-hectare reclamation project in Parañaque.

SM Prime chair Henry Sy Jr. earlier said he was keen on doubling the Manila Bay reclamation project spanning coastal areas of Pasay and Parañaque to 1,200 hectares. —DORIS DUM-LAO-ABADILLA INQ





TITLE:

HINDI biro-biro ang epekto ng mga sakit na dumadapo sa mahal kong Pinas.

Parehong matindi ang dating ng Novel Corona Virus at ang African Swine Fever.

Ayon sa Department of Tourism, maaaring aabot sa P42 bilyon ang mawawala na kita ng Pilipinas kung umabot pa sa Abril ang NCOV.

Ang ASF naman, anak ng tokwa, unti-unting pinapatay ang P5 bilyong industriya ng baboy.

May isa pang bina-bantayan ng mga awtoridad, ang H5N1 hanggang H5N8 virus na nagbubunga ng tinatawag na bird o avian flu na pumapatay naman sa mga manok, ibon, bibe, kalapati, pugo at iba pa.

Mayroon na kasing mga ibon na lumilipad sa kalangitan at bumababa sa mga kainan nila sa maraming lugar sa Pilipinas mula Luzon hanggang Visayas at Mindanao.

### BIRD FLU

Kapag tag-init, mga Bro, grabe ang mga peste sa manok, ibon, itik, pato, kalapati, pugo, panabong at iba pa.

Sampol ang nagapanap sa Pampanga noong Agosto 2017.

Aba, umabot sa halos 500,000 ang kinatay saka inilibing na mga alaga ng mga kapatid natin dito.

Ang totoo, milyones ang kinatatay na naturang mga uri ng hayop tuwing darating ang peste sa mga ito para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng sakit.

Marami ang dumadapo na dayuhang ibon sa Pampanga dahil dito matatagpuan ang tinatawag na Pampanga Swamp.

Maraming makain ang mga ibong gala na may dalang peste sa napakalawak na swamp na ito dahil puno ang lugar ng mga isda, shell at iba pang kilawin ng mga ibon.

Ang problema, sa kanilang paglipad-lipad at panginain, tumatlae sila sa mga farm o naglalaglag ang kanilang mga virus doon.

Ang mga bibe at itik na alaga ay dinadala sa swamp at rianginginain at kasama nilang nangi-



## ULTIMATUM Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

### MAGTODO-TULUNGAN VS NGOV, ASF AT BIRD FLU

nginain ang mga ibong may H5N1 hanggang H5N8.

Peste nang katakot-takot ang kasunod.

#### PESTE RIN SA TAO

Pati tao, namamatay rin sa bird o avian flu.

Noong 1918, pumatay ang pesteng ito ng 50 milyon katao sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo, ayon sa World Health Organization.

Noon namang 2003 hanggang 2010, may mga namatay rin sa mga bansang Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Laos, Burma, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam at Djibouti.

Swerte tayo at hindi tayo nakasama sa listahan ng mga namatayan sa bird o avian flu.

Kaya nga, ngayong magtatag-init hanggang Agosto, mga Bro, kapag nagkabalagaan sa bird o avian flu, mag-ingat na lang tayo.

Kung medyo iwas-iwas tayo sa litson bunga ng ASF dahil may nagkakasakit din namang mga tao rito, medyo iwas-iwas din tayo sa fried chicken sa panahon ng avian o bird flu.

#### ASF 'DI TOTOONG 'DI DELIKADO

Pinipilit ng mga awtoridad na hindi nakahalawa sa tao ang baboy na may ASF.

Pero kasabay nito ang kanilang warning na mag-ingat pa rin at lutoin nang husto ang karneng baboy sa panahon ng ASF.

Huwag magkilaw o huwag hilaw ang pagluluto na karaniwang nakikita sa mga barbecue.

Pero buhay na saksi ang isang tsuper ng delivery truck ng karneng baboy at buhay na baboy na pwede kang magkasakit sa may ASF.

Libre umano ang baboy na ulam nilang mga empleyado sa piggery.

Minsang walang kaalam-alam ang tsuper na may ASF na pala ang kanilang fam.

Nag-ulam siya ng may ASF.

Doon na siya nilaginat at nagkaroon ng mga pantal sa katawan at mukha.

Nangati rin siya ngunit tiniis na lang niya ito hanggang sa gumaling siya.

#### MAGING ALERTO

Para makaiwas tayo nang personal sa mga sakit na dala ng mga hayop gaya ng paniki para sa NCOV at mula mismo sa mga baboy sa ASF at mga pamilyang manok at ibon sa avian o bird flu, dapat mataas ang alerto natin.

Kung meron tayong napapansin sa panahon ng peste, lalo na sa tao sa NCOV at avian bird flu, ang pagiging alerto ay hindi dapat na para sa sarili at pamilya lang natin.

Dapat na mabilis tayong mag-ulat sa mga awtoridad upang sila ang gumawa ng hakbang na damputin ang may NCOV at bird o avian flu at dalhin sa mga tamang kalalagyan gaya ng mga quarantine area at ospital.

Sundin din natin ang mga habilin ng mga awtoridad.

Huwag kumain ng mga paniki, manok at baboy sa panahon ng mga peste.

Laging maglinis din ng katawan, lalo na ang mga ikamay na karaniwang gamit natin sa pakikipagkontak sa mga paniki, baboy, manok at iba pang hayop na may dalang mga sakit.

Ang pagsusuot ng face mask ay kailangan din sa panahon ng peste.

Ngayong may krisis sa face mask, magsuot ng anomang takip sa ilong at bunganga upang hindi itayo mahawa at makahawa sa pamamagitan ng bahing, ubo at iba pang paraan ng pagkahawa.



Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.