

DATE : 02 24 20

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



What it takes to save Baseco Beach

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
✉@jonlmayuga

IT was a festive mood in the morning of January 26 as hundreds of government employees and volunteers from various civil society organizations gathered at the Baseco Beach in Tondo, Manila.

It's the first anniversary of the "Battle for Manila Bay," an ambitious program to rehabilitate one of the country's most important water bodies to its pristine state.

Eleven-year-old Rodne would have been picking junks to sell at a junk shop had it not been for the festivity.

Instead, Rodne and his friends, Tikong, Brian and Aegis, each with a used sack of rice, are picking candy wrappers and plastic cups discarded by spectators along the Baseco Beach.

The four live just a stone's throw away from the beach—the infamous Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, where informal settlers have built makeshift homes atop garbage heaps of what later became a reclamation area along Manila Bay.

Young community volunteers

RODNE said they have been picking trash for a year now to help "clean and green" their once filthy community—their street, the nearby lagoon and the beach.

"We are not being paid to do this. We just pick up the garbage to help clean the beach," he said in Filipino.

His friend, eight-year-old Tikong agreed. "We do this because we want the beach to be clean. We swim in that beach," he said.

Aegis, also eight, said he and their friends have fun playing in the white, sandy beach more often now that it is clean.

"It is much better to play on now," he said.

A beach in Manila?

NOT many knew about the existence of a beach—of all places—in Tondo, Manila.

Before the massive land reclamation that saw the development of Roxas Boulevard, the entire stretch, except for Luneta Park, used to be a beach with lots of

coconut trees—where residents of the old Manila used to spend weekend mornings playing, bathing and capping their day watching the famous Manila Bay sunset.

Today, development projects like the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Philippine International Convention Center, Folk Arts Theater, Mall of Asia, and other industrial and commercial establishments occupy and reclaimed portions of Manila Bay.

The land which covers Baseco today was once a dockyard of the National Shipyards and Steel Corp. During the administration of then-President Ferdinand Marcos in the early 1960s, Nassco was bought by the Romualdez family, the relatives of the president's wife, Imelda Marcos, through the Bataan Shipping and Engineering Co., from where Baseco got its name.

In the late 1970s, the urban poor were resettled by the Marcos administration to give way for a possible international seaport. Baseco was declared a barangay in the 1980s. The administration of President Corazon Aquino later sequestered the property and the urban poor population began to resettle in the area.

Battle for Manila Bay's focus

BASECO Beach is all that remains from Manila Bay's famous beach. Many people—completely ignoring public health warnings about its poor water quality—still enjoy swimming to beat the summer heat, and walking and playing in the sand.

The Manila Bay Task Force, led by the Department of Natural Resources (DENR), has put a lot of focus on removing garbage from the bay, particularly the Baseco Beach area.

One year after the launch of the Battle for Manila Bay,

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said it is a much better state now, showcasing the much-improved and garbage-free Baseco Beach, where the program for the celebration was held.

What it takes to do it?

JACQUELINE CAANCAN, regional executive director of the DENR-National Capital Region, said it took countless of hours of hard work to clean Manila Bay.

The DENR linked with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and other support groups from the Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine National Police, Philippine Maritime Group and with the Philippine Coast Guard for the job.



DESPITE public health advisory, many residents of Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, find bathing at the beach irresistible. DENR-SCIS

The DENR-NCR said that in Baseco alone, a total of 254 cleanup activities were spearheaded by the agency together with the MMDA, and other stakeholders.

A total of 26,313 volunteers took part in the massive activities to remove a total of 7,252.92 cubic meters of garbage.

Boardwalk construction

BEYOND the coastal cleanup, the construction of the Baseco Boardwalk was a big boost to its physical improvement.

The Baseco Boardwalk will be used to monitor the growth of the mangroves and to appreciate

the mangroves planted inside a nearby lagoon.

According to the DENR-NCR, as of January 26, out of the proposed 348 meters, the 110 meters of the first phase of the boardwalk was already completed with 1.5 meters width and 24 meters-by-4 meters view deck that has a carrying capacity of around 30 persons.

Mangrove reforestation

TO protect and conserve urban biodiversity in the area, the DENR-NCR has started to develop a mangrove plantation within the lagoon.

So far, a total of 3,564 seedlings were planted, 2,696 of which were mangrove species, while 868 are beach-type species.

On the other hand, the MMDA, together with other stakeholders, planted a total of 230 bamboo species at a portion of the coastal area.

According to Caancan, mangrove reforestation is a strategy to improve water quality in the area on top of putting an added layer of protection against geological hazards, particularly storm surge and tsunami.

"The mangroves were planted to promote bioremediation. Besides, it also helps protect the community from storm surge," she said.

"Of course, we all know how important mangroves are to the livelihood of fishermen in Manila Bay," she added.

Communal septic tanks

DURING the period, two septic tanks were constructed—one in Block 1, Gasangan, along the entrance of Baseco Residence, and in Block 1, Gasangan besides the mangrove area.

The construction of the communal septic tanks will prevent the direct discharge of untreated wastewater into the environment as the households in Baseco Compound, like most households in Metro Manila, are not connected to proper sewer lines.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. has recently conducted siphoning of a septic tank besides the mangrove area, the first after more than a year.

Moreover, on top of the septic tank, a materials recovery facility is being constructed to help improve solid-waste management in the area.

The DENR has also conducted dredging in Baseco Aplaya, which will be continued this year to remove submerged garbage and other debris that pollute the water.

Behavioral change

FOR Cimatu, the love for the environment should begin at home, as he urged parents to foster behavior and culture change by teaching their children to respect and care for Mother Earth.

"It is high time that parents teach their children about our love



for the environment," Cimatu said in his speech.

Changing people's attitude toward the environment remains the most difficult part in restoring Manila Bay to its former glory, he said, hence, the need for culture change.

"We need to change the culture of the Filipinos. We need to change our behavior, and this change should start at home," Cimatu pointed out.

Moving forward

AFTER the one-year campaign, Battle for Manila Bay will move forward to the next level.

"What is happening clearly states that we are moving forward. We are not just trying to clean the waterways, the rivers, the ocean, but cleaning the culture of the Filipino people," said Benny Antiporda, DENR's undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns.

Teaching the young generation how to be responsible citizens, he said, is part of the job.

Defend the environment

"OUR main objective is to inculcate in the minds of the children to defend the environment. If you see garbage, pick it up. Put them where they belong," he said.

"If you have a clean environment, you have no choice but to help maintain it. We are looking forward and coming up with the highest level of awareness when it comes to proper disposal of garbage," he said.

Two-pronged approach

ACCORDING to Antiporda, rehabilitating the Manila Bay and other tourism areas in the country is easier said than done. He said the government alone could not do it.

"This [rehabilitation] cannot be successful if we only use the government approach. What we need is the citizen approach. The government will do its job. At the same time, [other stakeholders should] share and care."

As for defiant LGUs who are reluctant to do their job, Antiporda warned that the DENR would no longer tolerate their inaction.

"It is really hard for us to tell the LGU what to do. But frankly speaking, [they] just [have to] implement the law, if not we will file charges [against them]," he said.



TITLE:

BASECO

PAGE 1/

1/2

02 24 20

DATE

Higher fecal coliform levels noted in beach near Baseco

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

IF you think it is now safe to bathe and swim at the beach near the Baseco compound given the impressive physical improvement after a year of government all-out effort to rid the body of water with stinking garbage, think again.

Despite significant improvement in the water quality at Manila Bay in general, particularly along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, higher levels of fecal coliform were still observed last year on the beach abutting Barangay 649, Zone 68, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

There are 10 water quality monitoring stations in the beach near the land named after its former owner, the Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. Every month, the DENR checks the level of coliform bacteria to measure improvement.

Surprisingly, however, a year after the launch of the Manila Bay cleanup campaign, high-coliform

levels were still observed in the area as indicated by the average monthly reports gathered from 10 water quality monitoring stations within the "Baseco Beach."

The Geomean Average for 2019 indicated higher fecal coliform bacteria levels in most of these stations. In particular, Station 3 Drainage, which is about 350 meters from Barangay 649-Burulan (residential area-seawall) show 2.8 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliter (ml). This is higher than the 1.1-million mark observed in February last year, when the DENR started to monitor water quality in the area.

Fecal coliform is measured using a geometric mean (geo-mean) to summarize and report fecal coliform bacteria concentration of all results obtained during a reporting period because those data are so variable, according to the DENR's National Capital Region office.

It added that bacteria can grow at an exponential rate very quickly under the right conditions.

The same trend was also observed



in Station 2 drainage near barangay hall with 21.1 million MPN per 100 ml compared to the February 2019 reading of 17 million MPN per 100 ml.

On January 17, 2020, readings in the 10 water quality monitoring stations continued to increase, ranging from 33,000 to 240 million.

The Water Quality Guideline for Class "C" Waters as indicated in DENR Administrative Order 2016-08 is 200 MPN per 100 ml (drainage outfall) while the Water Quality Guideline for Class "SB" Waters as indicated in the same policy is 100 MPN per 100 ml.

According to the DENR-NCR, fecal coliform levels were observed to be highest from July to October last year, during which most of the monitoring stations of Baseco had higher fecal coliform concentrations.

The significant increase in the fecal coliform counts was attributed by the DENR-NCR to the surface runoff and relocation of bottom sediments by the occurrence of *habagat*, low pressure area and tropical storms during these months.

The DENR-NCR explained this is because rainy season starts in June and lasts till October. Meanwhile, September and October are often the typhoon season in the Philippines.

It was found that a significant increase in the fecal coliform numbers may be associated with average rainfall amounts.

"Possible sources of elevated coliform counts could include sewage discharges from municipal treatment plants and septic tanks, storm-water overflows and surface runoff," the report said. "In addition, there were no significant interventions that will lead to a possible decrease of the fecal coliform count."

In July 16 to July 17, 2019, heavy rainfall and strong winds caused by Tropical Storm Falcon could have caused the spike.

This was also the same on August 23 and 24, 2019, as a result of Typhoon Ineng. Heavy rainfall and strong winds induced by Typhoon Jenny in August 27 and 28, 2019, also resulted in the sharp increase in fecal coliform in the monitoring stations.

YOUTH SESSION AT '3RD PHL ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT'

A YOUTH, Agriculture and the Environment Session will be held at the 3rd Philippine Environment Summit to be held from February 26 to 28 in Cagayan de Oro City.

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) will host the session. The summit is co-organized by Green Convergence and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Under the theme, "Paradigm [re]Shift: Heeding Nature," the three-day event will present programs and projects that advance the country's socioeconomic development while protecting the environment.

In the youth session on February 27, Searca will feature five young professionals who are leading initiatives to advance sustainable agriculture practices, environmental protection, and the circular economy.

They are Louise Mabulo, founder of The Cacao Project and United Nations Environment Program's Young Champion of the Earth; Cherrys Abrigo, founder and owner of Sierreza Café; Enzo Pinga, business development and marketing manager of IISLA Ventures; Rein Hillary Carrascal, beauty queen and ambassador of Hapi LIFE Foundation; and Michelle Dagsaan, member of Samdhana Youth Program.

Meanwhile, Searca representatives will also present in other sessions of the summit. Dr. Blesilda Calub, project leader, will talk about the gains of Searca's School-Plus-Home Garden Project.

Rosario Bantayan, program specialist for training, will present the highlights of the Workshop on Establishing Climate-Smart Villages in the Asean region co-organized by Searca and the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction.

This year's summit aims to enhance the convergence of various individuals and institutions to tackle issues in and accelerate solutions for sustainable development.



HONEYBEES AT WORK Honeybees are busy working on their man-made hives where they store their collected honey. Beekeeping, or apiculture, is the maintenance of bee colonies a beekeeper in order to collect honey, and make money out of it. Other products that the hives produce include beeswax and royal jelly. CEASAR M. PERANTE

Benefit concert

MEANWHILE, a benefit concert, dubbed *Coming Home: Lemuel Cuento in Concert*, will be held on February 26 at the D.L. Umali Auditorium of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

The concert, which is supported by Searca, is for the benefit of the Youth Program in Agriculture by the UP Rural High School (UPRHS). It aims to encourage Grade 11 students to pursue careers in agriculture, nutrition, and related fields that would help address issues on hunger and food production in the country.

Lemuel Cuento, an alumnus of UPRHS, is a Filipino Tenor currently based in Munich, Germany. He studied at the UP College of Music from 1989 to 1994 and pursued his music education in the following year at Hong Kong Academy of Music.

He also earned an Opera Performance diploma at the Vienna Conservatory in 1996. For over 20 years, Cuento has performed in various recitals and classical operettas in many countries.

Cuento's two-hour show will be accompanied by Jesper Colleen Mercado on the piano and will feature a special performance from the UPRHS Glee Club.

Moreover, Searca will mount an exhibit to showcase the winners of its 2018 Photo Contest featuring youth agripreneurs in Southeast Asia.

Searca Director Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio will give an overview of the session and promote Searca's initiatives in engaging the youth in agricultural and rural development (ARD).

The youth speakers will tackle their best practices, challenges and call to action to synergize, replicate or upscale their projects.

The youth session is the first in an ARD Discussion Series that Searca is initiating as an avenue to tackle, solicit ideas, and establish collaboration with stakeholder groups on emerging and on-the-ground challenges for achieving sustainable agriculture, and rural development.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
1980 1998
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

7
PAGE
LOWER

REFER
LOWER

PAGE
STORY

BRIEF
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 24 20
DATE

LINE:

PAGE 11

Dredging of Tullahan-Tinajeros river system starts

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will begin to dredge on Monday, February 24, a portion of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System from Malabon to Navotas to remove sediments that degrade the water quality of the waterway.

"It's all systems go for the Tullahan-Tinajeros dredging project, which is an important part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

He explained that dredging will be done within the 5.25-kilometer (km) part of the river system, covering the stretch located in Barangay Catmon in Malabon City to Barangay Bagumbayan South in Navotas City.



Dredging sa Tullahan River, umarangkada

Sisimulan ngayong araw ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang dredging sa isang bahagi ng Tullahan-Tinajeros River System mula Malabon hanggang Navotas upang matanggal ang mga sediment na nagpapababa sa kalidad ng tubig sa ilog.

"It's all systems go for the Tullahan-Tinajeros dredging project, which is an important part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program," sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Ipinaliwanag niya na ang dredging ay gagawin sa loob ng 5.25-kilometer (km) na bahagi ng ilog, mula Barangay Catmon sa Malabon City hanggang sa Barangay Bagumbayan South sa Navotas City.

Ang Tullahan-Tinajeros River System ay may 36.4-km haba, na nagsisimula sa La Mesa Dam in Quezon City at dumadaloy sa Manila Bay at Centennial Park sa Navotas City. Isa ito sa pinakamaruming daanan ng tubig na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay.

Lumagda ang DENR at San Miguel Corp. (SMC) noong nakaraang taon sa memorandum of agreement para sa Adopt-an-Esterp program, isang priority initiative ng DENR at isang pangunahing estratehiya upang matugunan ang patuloy na mandamus ng Korte Suprema para linisin ang Manila Bay.

Nangako ang SMC ng P1 bilyon para sa dredging at cleanup ng river system.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 1/3

DATE

The race to save the pangolin in PHL

THE global clamor to save all eight species of the pangolin is thrown again in the spotlight, with these scaly anteaters recently tagged as a possible link to the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak by a study, which is yet to be published and evaluated.

Whether this deters the highly lucrative demand for pangolin scales and meat in Asian black markets is yet to be seen, but one species—the Philippines's very own pangolin—stands to lose the most if illegal wildlife trade remains business as usual.

Found only in the islands of Palawan, the Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*), or *balintong*, has the smallest range compared to its cross-border cousins.

Despite an international trade ban on pangolins, traffickers have turned their attention to the rare *balintong* as native pangolin populations in other countries have rapidly declined due to massive poaching.

On September 2019, more than 1,150 kilos of dried pangolin scales—from an estimated 3,200 individual pangolins—comprised one of the largest wildlife by-product seizures in Palawan's capital, Puerto Princesa.

The persistent trends in wildlife trafficking have led the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to raise its Red List classification for the Philippine pangolin from endangered to critically endangered.

Making matters more difficult is the limited information about the Philippine pangolin. This lack of knowledge hampers the ability of conservationists and local authorities to establish proper baselines for protecting the remaining pangolin strongholds in the wild.

This research gap prompted the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and other partners in Palawan to lead an intensive field study on the Philippine pangolin.

The USAID-funded study ran between 2018 and 2019, and focused on Palawan's Victoria-Anepahan mountain range, a 165,000-hectare key biodiversity area with no existing legal protection and conservation measures.

The study used a combination of methods to record the presence of pangolins in the area, examine their forest habitats and identify threats to their survival.

Diverse wildlife, pervasive threats

ONE research method involved scouring the Victoria-Anepahan to search for live pangolins. In the dead of night, researchers of Palawan-based Katala Foundation, together with local guides and dogs, looked for clues in the forest—ant and termite trails, tree scratches, ground diggings and scent marks—that can lead them to a pangolin.

When a pangolin is identified, the team recorded its location and took its measurements before releasing it back to the wild.

After 12 grueling expeditions surveying 2,400 hectares of forests, the team found only 17 individuals, including a nursing baby, juveniles and pregnant pangolins. Not a single pangolin was found in

Survey leader Dr. Sabine Schoppe of Katala Foundation said this pangolin count is much fewer compared to similar ground surveys they did in other areas of Palawan between 2013 and 2015.

The same finding reflected the results of another method that used camera traps with motion sensors to take photos of wildlife on the forest floor in five large plots near the ground survey sites.

More than 30 cameras were positioned in each of the 3,300-hectare plots. After more than 7,300 trapping days, the cameras recorded around one to four pangolins in each plot.

While this count rate is low compared to other animals that were captured on camera many times, the photos prove that diverse wildlife—including Palawan endemics, like the porcupine, stink badger, bearded pig, peacock-pheasant and leopard cat—are thriving in Victoria-Anepahan.

Despite this rich biodiversity, the field expeditions also uncovered destructive activities—logging, hunting and slash-and-burn farming—that pose a serious threat to pangolins and other wildlife in the mountain range.

In one expedition, the research team surveyed a heavily logged area and described it as an “empty forest” with hardly any vertebrate

species in sight.

The study also interrupted illegal logging activities, with chainsaw operators even intimidating the research team on one occasion.

Correlating the data on pangolin sightings and forest conditions documented from both methods the study showed that there are fewer pangolins and fewer potential pangolin dens in areas where there are more biodiversity threats.

The data also validated that more pangolin dens can be found in areas where there are more abundant food sources.



TITLE: "The race to save the pangolin in PAL"

PAGE 1/ 2/3

DATE

Rampant poaching and trafficking

ANOTHER method in the study led by Palawan State University involved gathering information from selected indigenous communities in Victoria-Anepahan about their traditional uses of pangolins, common hunting methods, and practices in the

illegal pangolin trade.

Interviews and focus group discussions with more than 380 respondents from 18 barangays or communities confirmed that pangolin sightings in their respective areas are getting fewer as years go by.

Respondents said that pangolin poaching and trafficking will continue as long as there is a demand from buyers, both foreign and local.

Buyers and hunters in Victoria-Anepahan come from as far as Puerto Princesa and northern towns in Palawan.

Respondents mentioned how the illegal trade of pangolins are exacerbated by poverty, lack of jobs and livelihood, and the opportunity to make easy money at the expense of wildlife.

Fresh pangolin scales can fetch for up to P4,500 (\$90) a kilo, while dried scales can command up to P7,000 (\$140) a kilo.

Pangolin scales—which, like rhino horn, are made from keratin found in human hair and fingernails—are highly prized in traditional Asian medicine as a cure for various illnesses, although there is zero evidence to support this claim.

Pangolin meat—a delicacy in exotic Asian cuisine—can sell for up to P300 (\$6) per kilo, while a live adult pangolin can command up to P1,500 (\$30).

From Victoria-Anepahan, pangolins and their by-products are brought to Puerto Princesa or Mindoro, and then shipped to Batangas before they reach their destination. Pangolins are also brought southward via Balabac and then shipped to Malaysia.

Strengthening enforcement

RESPONDENTS revealed how pangolin meat, blood and scales were sometimes used as part of their subsistence diet, indigenous rituals and traditional medicine.

But there has been a significant shift in these practices, particularly among the indigenous youth, as communities learn more about wildlife laws and penalties from local authorities.

Yet community responses also point to how authorities often fail to enforce wildlife laws, such as when they are too lenient with offenders or are not present on the ground to apprehend poachers and traffickers.

Indigenous leaders and community members were keen to show how they can actively involve in wildlife protection efforts by warning outsiders and migrants against hunting pangolins in their area, and by

expressing their interest to be trained as forest guards.

Beyond the study, USAID is contributing to efforts to boost competencies of government authorities and partners in Palawan in enforcing wildlife laws.

It has supported training and mentoring on improved enforcement practices for community-based enforcers, park rangers, forest guards, government personnel and law-enforcement units in the province.

Promoting multiagency coordination has also led to successful operations, such as the arrest of wildlife traffickers, and the rescue and release of live pangolins in northern Palawan in October 2019 to January 2020.

Harnessing research for policy and action

USING the findings of the study, specific priority areas for pangolin conservation in Victoria-Anepahan can now be drawn from sites with the most number of pangolin sightings and with fewer threats to forests and wildlife.

Results of the study can also be referred to by conservationists, communities, local governments and the academe in identifying other critical habitats for pangolins in Palawan.

USAID and its partners are looking forward to tapping into homegrown research and science-based recommendations for developing a Philippine pangolin conservation plan.

Led by the PCSD, all stakeholders will work together to craft a comprehensive plan that will strengthen efforts on management, enforcement, advocacy and further research to help protect this elusive yet important species.

"The survival of the Philippine pangolin does not solely depend on research and resources but, to a large extent, on demand reduction, law enforcement and political will," Schoppe said. "Only if we act fast, and coordinate efforts and interests, there is indeed a chance for the Philippine pangolin to survive."

To this, Acting Executive Director of PCSD Staff Atty. Adelina Benavente-Villena added that coordinated efforts to combat wildlife trafficking must be sustained by all partners and elevated as a top priority.

"Illegal wildlife trade is organized crime and it can only be stopped through organized action," she said. "Our concerted efforts from all concerned sectors and citizens in Palawan will be the key to finally suppressing wildlife crimes for good."



TITLE: "The race to save the pangolin in PHIL"

PAGE 1/ 3/3

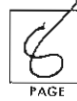
DATE



A MOTHER and baby pangolin recorded by researchers of Katala Foundation during a field expedition for the USAID-funded study on Philippine pangolins. USAID PROTECT WILDLIFE AND KATALA FOUNDATION



A PHILIPPINE pangolin rolls into its defensive position. USAID PROTECT WILDLIFE AND KATALA FOUNDATION



Nadine naglinis sa Manila Bay

For a change, hindi naman tungkol kay James Reid ang pinag-usapan sa social media kay Nadine Lustre. 'Di ba nga, mula noong nag-break (kuno) sila ni James, panay na ang bantay ng mga fan sa kung ano-ano ang mga aktibidades nilang dalawa, kung magkasama ba sila, kung magkaholding hands ba sila, at kung ano-ano pa.

Anyway, nito ngang Sabado ay spotted naman si Nadine sa isang makabuluhang hakbang, bagay, at 'yun ay ang maglinis sa Manila Bay.

"Joined Plante Cora for a Coastal cleanup," caption ni Nadine sa IG photo ng dagat.

Makikita tin sa IG story ni Nadine na kasama niya ang mga kaibigan na naglagay ng mga basura sa mga sako.

"Thank you so much for helping us clean Manila Bay today Nadine. Looking forward to



NADINE at mga kaibigan

next time," mensahe ng Planet Cora (na isang non-profit organization) na ang layunin ay 'empowering the youth and local communities to take #ClimateAction & #BeatPlasticPollution, o linisin nga ang mga dagat sa buong

Pilipinas.

Kasama nga rin sa grupong ito sina Antoinette Taus, Angelina Mead King, Marc Nelson. Makikita nga na sangkatutak na basura, plastic ang nakuha nila sa dagat. **(Dondon Sermino)**



TITLE:

PAGE 11

DAVAO: MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL

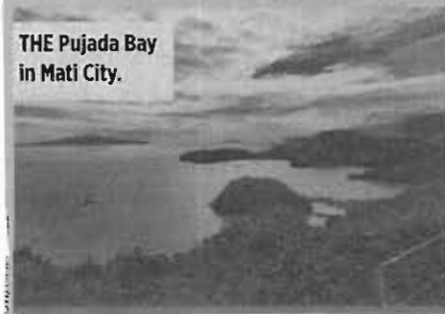
Pujada, 2 others in Mati listed among world's most beautiful bays

THREE BAYS in Mati City, Davao Oriental are now officially included in the list of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Association (MBBWA). MBBWA President Michel Bujold, in a letter received on February 20 by the provincial and city governments, confirmed the declaration of Pujada, Mayo, and Balete Bays as part of the group. "I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors has voted in favor of accepting Pujada Bay, but also Mayo and Balete Bays together as a new member of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Association. Congratulations and welcome," said Mr. Bujold. The certificates will be awarded during the MBBWA's annual congress in Morocco in October. Last month, MBBWA officials Guy Roussel and Bruno Bodard visited Mati to validate the application for Pujada Bay, and took notice of the two other bays. Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office head Dolores D. Valdesco, in a press statement Friday, said they are now awaiting the association's recommendations for preserving the three natural sites. Mati City Mayor Michelle N. Rabat said the listing of the three bays is not only a tourism promotion boost but also serves as a challenge for the local government to do more in protection the environment. "Being included in the list is the least difficult part, staying in the list is more challenging," she said. Davao Oriental Governor Nelson L. Dayanghirang, for his part, said, "One of the reasons we applied Pujada Bay to the

Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club is to share its magnificent assets to the people of the world who would like to experience the natural and cultural richness of our place."

— Carmelito O. Francisco and
Maya M. Padillo

THE Pujada Bay
in Mati City.





Forest fire hits Benguet anew

By RAYMUND CATINDIG

TUGUEGARAO - Another fire broke out in the forest of Kabayan, Benguet and was feared to spread to Mt. Pulag National Park yesterday morning.

The blaze occurred almost a week after a nine-day fire that razed some 150 hectares of pine trees in the same area was declared out on Tuesday.

Firefighters had difficulty getting near the blaze in Sitio Tinuping, Barangay Eddet as the trail was steep and rocks were rolling down the burning mountain, according to Capt. Peter Camsol Jr., Kabayan town-police chief.

Camsol said the fire appeared to be going downward.

"All we could do is watch the fire from a distance because the area is inaccessible to fire trucks and there are no other means to get near the site," Fire Officer 2 Billyduck Palasi of the Kabayan Bureau of Fire Protection told journalists.

Authorities have yet to determine the cause of the blaze.

The first fire originated in Sitio Bulok, Barangay Adaoay on Feb. 11. It spread across the mountain and reached the villages of Anchokey and Kabayan near Mt. Pulag where it was contained.

By the time the nine-day fire was declared out, another was raging on its third day in the forest of Barangay Ambassador in Tublay town.

Arnold Battung of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Cagayan Valley explained why the forests in Benguet are prone to wildfires despite the cold climate.

Battung said the coniferous forests in the province are teeming with pine trees, which he said have flammable sap.

He said the probability of a fire is higher once a lit cigarette is thrown or left in the area.

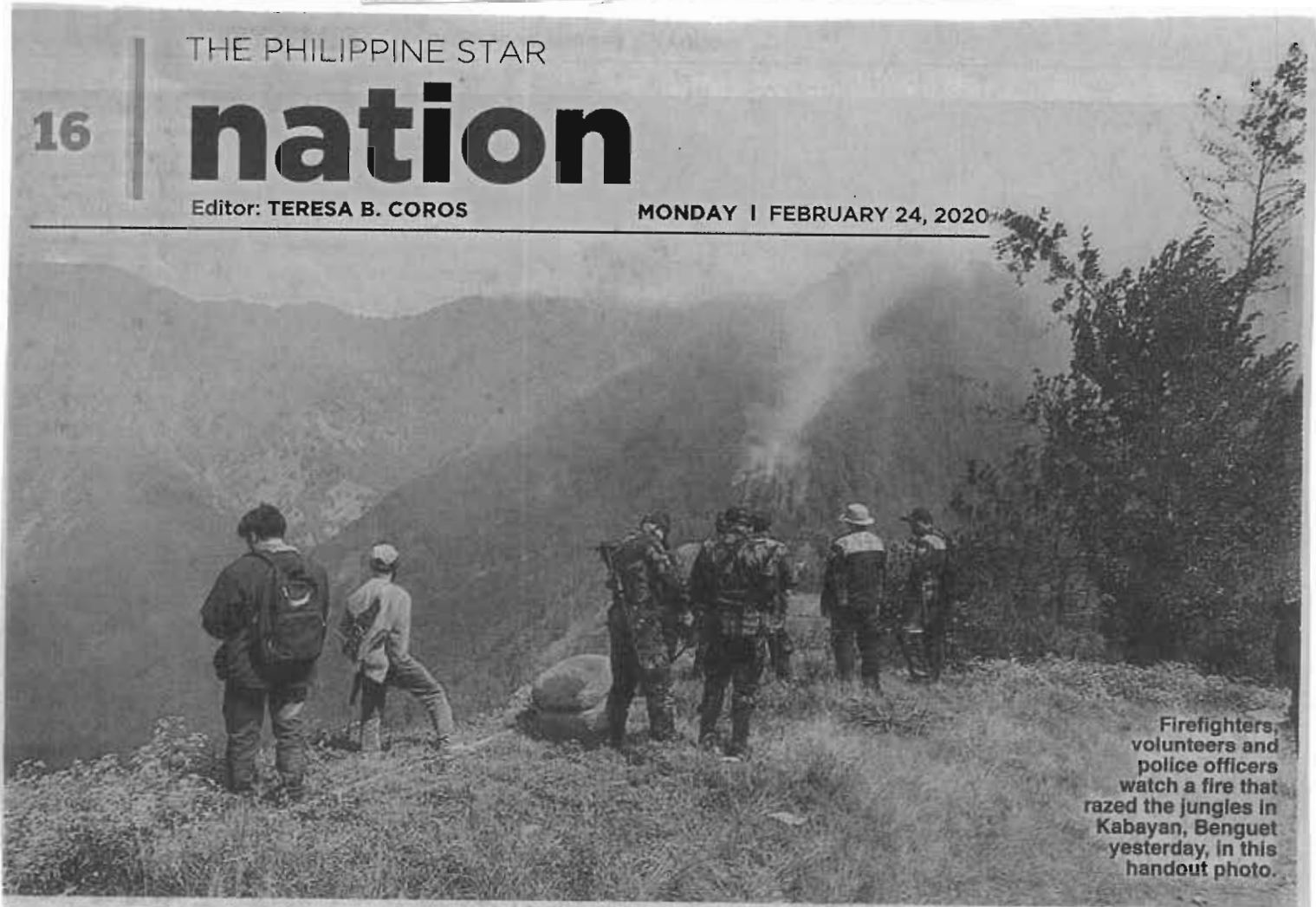
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

16

nation

Editor: TERESA B. COROS

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2020



Firefighters, volunteers and police officers watch a fire that razed the jungles in Kabayan, Benguet yesterday, in this handout photo.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

LINE:

Forest fires rage in secluded Benguet town

By ZALDY COMANDA and JJ LANDINGIN

BAGUIO CITY — A series of forest fires have hit the secluded town of Tublay in Benguet, with the latest

breaking out at 12:30 a.m., Sunday, according to the Benguet Provincial Police Office (BPPO).

Close to 80 hectares of wooded land were razed. The fire, which was

believed caused by a lit cigarette butt, started in Sitio Akiki of Barangay Ambassador here last February 19, and quickly spread to adjacent sitios of Nalseb and Lusok. ►10

Forest fires rage... 1◀

Dry weather and windy conditions fanned the flames, which were fed by highly combustible dried pine needles.

Members of La Trinidad and Baguio City Fire Departments were quick to respond to help the 11-man fire crew of the Tublay BFP. Fire volunteers and residents assisted but the fire had already razed close to 80 hectare of forest land, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

BPPO Director Col. Elmer Ragay, barangay personnel from Sitio Tinuping, Barangay Eddet Kabayan in Tublay town reported that the forest fire started at around midnight, and was still ongoing as of press time.

Ragay said the Benguet Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC), Kabayan police, and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) responded to the fire.

Barangay councilor Julian Sumakey said responding to the fire was difficult because the "trail is too steep, stones and other debris are coming down from the burning mountain."

"The direction of the fire is going downward," Sumakey reported.

The February 23 fire was the latest in a series of forest fires to have hit Tublay.

Last February 19, about 75 hectares of forest land caught fire, starting at Sitio Nalseb, Barangay Ambassador in Tublay.

BFP Tublay Senior Fire Officer 4 Clarence Todyog said the February 22 fire was put under control that evening, but fire authorities could still not declare a fire out because of some smoke from the area.

"Under investigation pa kami sa cause of fire and we suspect the negligence of a person in the area, kaya nagkasunog," Todyog added.

Then at around 11 a.m., February 20, another forest fire was reported in Sitio Bawi, Barangay Bayaan, also in Tublay.

Tublay BFP responded to the incident and placed the fire under control before 5 p.m. after razing

about eight hectares of forest land.

Todyog estimated that 75 hectares of forest land were damaged by the fire.

Initial reports from Police Capt Eddie Buclig, of Tublay MPS, said a barangay official called the BFP Tublay informing them of an ongoing forest fire in the area. BFP Tublay personnel led by Senior Fire Officer 1 Richard Wakas immediately responded.

Reports said residents of the barangay, with the help of men and equipment from the La Trinidad Fire Station, BFP Baguio, and police personnel, trekked an hour to the site at about 2:30 p.m.

Last February 4, a grass fire was also reported at Sitio Mamuyod of the same barangay, but this was immediately put under control.

Another forest fire was reported at Sitio Tinuping, Barangay Eddet Kabayan, Benguet.

Village councilor Julian Sumakey said the forest fire started at around 12:30 a.m. of February 23. "The trail is steep, stones and other debris are falling from the burning mountain and the direction of the fire is going downward," Sumakey said.

It was declared fire out at 2 a.m. but another forest fire ignited this time in Sitio Bawi Barangay Bayaan also in Tublay at around 11 a.m. Members of the Tublay BFP responded and placed

the fire under control just before 5 p.m. Sunday. Another 8 hectare of land was burned.

Todyog cautioned residents and motorist to refrain from throwing cigarette butts along the highway to prevent forest fires.

Pray for rain

The Diocese of Baguio has appealed for prayers for rain to help suppress the fire that has been raging in the Cordillera mountains since Wednesday last week.

The latest wildfire follows a nine-day forest fire that destroyed 150 hectares of trees in Kabayan, Benguet.

Rev. Fr. Manuel Flores, social action commission director of the Baguio diocese said, no casualties have been reported and there is no immediate need for relief "but we need rain for the wildfire to stop. We are appealing for prayers for rain," Flores said over Church-run Radio Veritas.

"We are currently assessing the situation and helping inform our parishioners about it. Right now, we are praying for rain. Please pray for rain to help stop the wildfire," Flores said.

Fr. Flores said one of the reasons for the fire might be the practice of kaingin (slash and burn) which spreads to the cogon grass and results in a wildfire. (With Christina I. Hermoso)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT
SINCE 1945
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

tit: "Forest fires range in secluded Benguet town" PAGE 11 2/2

02 24 20
DATE



MOUNTAIN INFERNO — Close to 80 hectares of pine forest go up in flames as a series of forest fires have hit Tublay town in Benguet in the last five days. Authorities are coping with dry and windy conditions, not to mention the remoteness of the mountainside community, in trying to control the fire. (JJ Landingin)



Mt. Pulag nadamay sa wildfire

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - Muli na namang sumiklab ang isang forest wildfire sa Kabayan, Benguet na umabante patungo sa direksyon ng Mt. Pulag national park sa pamamagitan ng trail sa Barangay Akiki, kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon kay Captain Peter Camhol Jr., hepe ng Kabayan Police Station, hindi makalapit ang mga awtoridad sa lugar ng sunog dahil sa matarik nitong bangin, mga nahuhulog na bato at iba pang debris kasama na ang makapal na usok na umaakyat mula sa ilalim ng bundok.

Ikinalungkot ni Fire Officer 2 Billyduck Palasi ng Kabayan Bureau of Fire Protection na hindi makapasok ang mga fire trucks sa lugar kaya't wala muna silang magawa kundi obserbahan sa malayo ang kaganapan ng sunog.

Katatapos lamang maa-

pula ang 9 na araw na sunog sa Barangay Kabayan Baryo noong Miyerkules na ikinaabo ng may 150 ektaryang kagubatan.

Kasabay ng panibagong sunog ay ang isa pang kasalukuyang forest fire sa Brgy. Ambassador, Tublay, Benguet na ikina-sira na ng 20 ektaryang

pine forest ang nagaganap.

Ipinaliwanag ni Arnold Battung ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Cagayan Valley na kahit malamig ang klima ay flammable ang dagta ng pine tree sa isang Coniferous forest gaya ng matatagpuan sa Benguet. *(Raymund Catindig)*



Walang nagawa at pinanood na lamang ng mga awtoridad ang pagsiklab ng wildfire sa mga bundok na sakop ng Sitio Tinuping, Barangay Eddet sa Kabayan, Benguet dahil na rin sa kahirapan ng madaraan at sa matinding usok sa tabi ng nagbabagsakang mga bato at ibang debris sa lugar. (Photo: Kabayan Police)



75 ektarya, nasira sa forest fire

BAGUIO CITY - Tinatayang aabot sa 75 ektaryang kagubatan na puno ng Pine trees ang nasira nang sumiklab ang sunog na nagsimula pa nitong Pebrero 19 sa Sitio Nalseb, Barangay Ambassador, Tublay, Benguet, ayon sa Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

Ipinaliwanag ni BFP-Tublay Senior Fire Officer 4 Clarence Todyog, nakontrol na ang sunog nitong Sabado ng gabi.

Gayunman, hindi pa nila

idinedeclarang fire out dahil maaari pang dumingas ang lugar dahil sa patuloy na pag-usok nito.

"Under investigation pa kami sa cause of fire and we suspected a negligence of person in the area, kaya nagkasunog," aniya.

Sa pagtaya ng BFP, nasa 75 ektarya ang nasalanta ngunit hinihintay pa nila ang ulat ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang matukoy ang kabuuang nasunog na

Pine trees.

Nahirapan din aniya ang mga bumbero sa pagpatay ng sunog dahil umabot pa ng isang ang pag-akyat sa makipot at matarik na daanan patungo sa lugar.

Nitong Pebrero 4, isang insidente ng grass fire ang naiulat sa

Sitio Mamuyod sa nasabi ring lugar gayunman, kaagad din itong naapula.

Rizaldy Comanda



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



Balita

ANG MANGGAGAPANG PAMAYONG TAGAI NG SA BANSA



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

02 24 20

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



FOREST FIRE Tinatayang aabot sa 75-ektaryang kagubatan ang nasira sa sunog na nagsimula pa nitong Pebrero 19 sa Sitio Nalseb, Barangay Amassador, Tublay, Benguet.

RIZALDY COMANDA



FOTO



Pagpondo sa karbon ng PH banks ipinahihinto

NAGKAPIT-BISIG ang Church leaders at civil society organizations upang himukin ang Philippine financial institutions na itigil ang pagpondo sa 'coal industry' dahil sa pinsalang dulot nito sa kalikasan at klima sa buong mundo.

Sa press conference, inilunsad ang Visayas-wide Church - CSO Empowerment for Environmental Sustainability (ECO-CONVERGENCE), na pinangunahan ng faith-based organizations at environmental advocates mula sa buong Visayas island group at national organizations.

Hinikayat nila ang mga kinauukulan na solusyonan ang nararanasang 'climate' at 'ecological crisis' na nararanasan ng bansa sa kasalukuyan. Ang pagpupulong ay pinangunahan ni Bishop Gerry

Alminaza, Diocese ng San Carlos, kasama sina Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Secretary ng NASSA Caritas Philippines; Teody Navea ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) - Cebu at Gerry Arances, Executive Director ng the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED).

Hiniling ng grupo sa mga bangko sa bansa na itigil na ang pagpondo sa karbon na nagbibigay anila ng kapan-yarihan sa 'coal developers' para lasunin ang mamamayan at kalikasan sa bansa.

Anila, noong October 2018 ay inilathala ng Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ang isang 'special report' na umano'y tumaas ng 1.5°C ang global temperature, na nagsilbing 'wake-up call' sa mga walang pa-

kundangang nagbubuga ng mga nakalalasang emisyon.

Subalit sa kabila ng mapanganib na dala nito, ang 1.5°C pagtaas mula sa 'pre-industrial levels' ay maaari pang ipagpalagay na 'best possible scenario' pa rin dahil may tsansa pa umangong makayanan ito ng sangkatauhan, maging ng mga 'species'. Gayunman, nagbabala umano ang IPCC na ang mundo ay may natitira na lamang na 12 taon upang bumuo ng radikal na paglilipat sa 'low-carbon societies' kung nais pa natin na makaabot pa ng 1.5 'lifeline.'

Ang Pilipinas umano ay makailang ulit nang tinaguri-ang 'most threatened by climate change' dahil na rin sa paggamit ng karbon na pinagkukunan ng enerhiya.

JAN SINOCRUZ



Church leaders: 'Pondo sa karbon', ihintol

Nagkapit-bisig ang Church leaders at civil society organizations upang himukin ang Philippine financial institutions na patuloy na nagpopondo sa 'coal industry', bagamat alam naman nilang labis na nakapinsala ang 'dirty fuel' sa kalusugan ng mga tao, kalikasan at klima sa buong mundo.

Inilunsad ang Visayas-wide Church-CSO Empowerment for Environmental Sustainability, upang hikayatin ang mga kinauukulan na solusyunan ang nararanasang 'climate' at 'ecological crisis' na nararanasan ng bansa sa kasalukuyan.

Ang pulong ay pinangunahan ni Bishop Gerry Alminaza, Diocese ng San Carlos, kasama sina Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Secretary ng NASSA/ Caritas Philippines; Teody Navea ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ)-Cebu at Gerry Arances, Executive Director ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development.

Hiniling ng grupo sa mga bangko sa bansa na itigil na ang pagpopondo sa karbon kung saan ay nagbibigay ng

kapangyarihan sa 'coal developers' na patuloy na lumalason sa mamamayan at kalikasan sa bansa.

Anila, noong October 2018, ay inilathala ng Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ang isang 'special report' na umano'y tumaas ng 1.5°C ang global temperature, na nagsilbing 'wake up call' sa mga walang pakundangang nagbubuga ng mga nakalalasang emisyon.

Nagbabala umano ang IPCC na ang mundo ay may natitira na lamang 12 taon upang bumuo ng radikal na paglipat sa 'low-carbon societies' kung nais pa natin na makaabot pa ng 1.5 'lifecycle.'

Sa 12-year deadline na kailangang gumamit ng 'coal' o karbon, na itinuturing na pinakamaruming 'fossil fuels', dapat umanong mabawasan ito mula sa kanyang 2010 levels na 78% sa 2030, at maging 'zero' sa 2050.

Ang Pilipinas umano ay makailang ulit nang tinaguriang 'most threatened by climate change,' dahil na rin sa pagggamit ng karbon na pinagkukunan ng enerhiya.



Pagpondo sa karbon, itigil!

Nagkaisa ang mga church leaders at civil society organizations upang himukin ang Philippine financial institutions na umano'y patuloy na nagpondo sa 'coal industry' gayung alam nilang labis na nakapipinsala ang karbon sa kalusugan ng mga tao, kalikasan at klima sa buong mundo.

Inilunsad kamakailan ng Visayas-wide Church-CSO Empowerment for Environmental Sustainability (ECO-CONVERGENCE), na nangungunang faith-based organizations at environmental advocates mula sa Visayas island group at national organizations para hikayatin ang mga kinaaukulan na solusyunan ang 'climate' at 'ecological crisis' na namamamayan ng bansa sa kasalukuyan.

Pinangunahan ni Bishop Gerry Alminaza, Diocese ng San Carlos, kasama sina Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Secretary ng NASSA/ Caritas Philippines; Teody Navea ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCI) - Cebu at Gerry Arances, Executive Director ng the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) na hiniling sa mga bangko sa bansa na itigil na ang pagpondo sa karbon kung saan ay nagbibigay ng kapanyarihan sa 'coal developers' na patuloy na lumalason sa mamamayan at kalikasan sa bansa.

Anila, noong October 2018, ay inilathala ng Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ang isang 'special report' na umano'y tumaas ng 1.5°C ang global temperature, na nagsilbing 'wake up call' sa mga walang pakundangang nagbubuga ng mga nakalalasang emisyon.



Pinangunahan ni Bishop Gerry Alminaza of the Diocese of San Carlos at iba pang lider ng civic groups ang paglulunsad ng 'ECO-CONVERGENCE' upang himukin ang mga bangko sa Pilipinas na putulin na ang pondo sa mga industriyang gumagamit ng karbon.



Church leader sa PH banks: 'Pondo sa karbon, ihinto!'

NAGKAPIT-BISIG ang Church leaders at civil society organizations upang himukin ang Philippine financial institutions na umano'y patuloy na nagpopondo sa 'coal industry', bagamat alam naman nilang labis na nakapipin-sala ang 'dirty fuel' sa kalusugan ng mga tao, kalikasan at klima sa buong mundo.

Inilansad ang Visayas-wide Church - CSO Empowerment for Environmental Sustainability (ECO-CONVERGENCE), na pinangunahan ng faith-based organizations at environmental advocates mula sa buong Visayas island group at national organizations upang hikayatin ang mga kinauukulan na solusyunan ang nararanasang 'climate' at 'ecological crisis' na nararanasa ng bansa sa kasalukuyan.

Ang pagpupulong, pinangunahan ni Bishop Gerry Almazan, Diocese ng San Carlos, kasama sina Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Secretary ng NASSA/ Caritas Philippines; Teody Navea ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCI) - Cebu at Gerry Arances, Executive Director ng the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED).

Sa kanilang pagpupulong, hiniling ng grupo sa mga bangko sa bansa na itigil na ang nagpopondo sa karbon kung saan ay nagbibigay ng kapuryanhan sa 'coal developers' na patuloy na lumalason sa mamamayan at kalikasan sa bansa.

Anila, noong October 2018, ay inilathala ng Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ang isang 'special report' na umano'y umaas ng 1.5°C ang global temperature, na nagsilbing 'wake up call' sa mga walang pakundangang nagbuluga ng mga nakalalasang erisyon.

Subalit sa kabila ng mapangamb na dala nito, ang 1.5°C pagtaas mula sa 'pre-industrial levels' ay maaari pang ipagpalagay na 'best possible scenario' pa rin dahil may tsansa pa umanong makayanan ito ng sangkatauhan, maging ng mga 'species'.

Gayunman, nagbabala umano ang IPCC na ang mundo ay may natitira na lamang na 12 taon upang bumuo ng radikal na paghilipat sa 'low-carbon societies' kung nais pa natin na makasbot pa ng 1.5 'lifecycle'.

Sa 12-year deadline na kailangang gumamit ng 'coal' o karbon, na itinaturing na pinakamaruming 'fossil fuels', dapat umanong mabawasan ito mula sa kaniyang 2010 levels ng 78% sa 2030, at maging 'zero' sa 2050.

Ang Pilipinas umano, makailang ulit nang tinaguriang 'most threatened by climate change', dahil na rin sa paggamit ng karbon na pinagkukunan ng enerhiya, kaya kinakailangang roanguna at tiyakin na hindi mapapayagan ang 'coal bids' na labis na makakaapekto sa global warming.



Church leader sa PH banks: Pondo sa karbon, ihinto

NAGKAPIT-BISIG ang Church leaders at civil society organizations upang himukin ang Philippine financial institutions na sinabing patuloy na nagpopondo sa coal industry bagamat alam nilang labis na nakapinsala ang 'dirty fuel' sa kalusugan ng mga tao, kalikasan at klima sa buong mundo.

Sa press conference, inilunsad ang Visayas-wide Church - CSO Empowerment for Environmental Sustainability (ECO-CONVERGENCE), na pinangunahan ng faith-based organizations at environmental advocates mula sa buong Visayas island group at national organizations upang hikayatin ang mga kinaukulan na solusyonan ang

nararanasang 'climate' at 'ecological crisis' na nararanasan ng bansa sa kasalukuyan.

Ang pagpupulong ay pinangunahan ni Bishop Gerry Alminaza, Diocese ng San Carlos, kasama sina Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Secretary ng NASSA/ Caritas Philippines; Teody Navea ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ) - Cebu, at Gerry Arances, Executive Director ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED).

Sa kanilang pagpupulong, hiniling ng grupo sa mga banko sa bansa na itigil ang pagpopondo sa karbon na nagbibigay ng kapangyarihan sa

coal developers' na patuloy na lumalason sa mamamayan at kalikasan sa bansa.

"We call on the Filipino public, the depositors and shareholders of local banks, to join us in strangling the lifeblood of coal power plants in the country. Through this action, we can properly act to respond to the climate emergency we all face," paghikayat ng nabanggit na grupo.

Anila, noong Oktubre 2018, ay inilathala ng Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ang isang 'special report' na umano'y tumaas nang 1.5°C ang global temperature, na nagsilbing "wake up call" sa mga walang pakundangang nagbubuga ng mga nakalalasang emisyon.

Ngunit sa kabila ng mapanganib na dala nito,

ang 1.5°C pagtaas mula sa 'pre-industrial levels' ay maari pang ipagpalagay na "best possible scenario" pa rin dahil may tsansa pa umanong makayanan ito ng sangkatauhan, maging ng mga 'species.'

Gayon man, nagbabala umano ang IPCC na ang

mundo ay may natitirang 12 taon upang bumuo ng radikal na paglilipat sa 'low-carbon societies' kung nais pa natin makaabot pa ng 1.5 'lifecycle.'

Sa 12-year deadline na kailangang gumamit ng 'coal' o karbon, na itinuturing na pinakamaruming 'fossil fuels,' dapat umanong mabawasan ito mula sa 2010 levels ng 78% sa 2030, at maging 'zero' sa 2050.

Ang Filipinas umano ay makailang ulit nang tinaguriang 'most threatened by climate change' dahil sa paggamit ng karbon na pinagkukunan ng enerhiya, kaya kinakailangang manguna at tiyakin na hindi mapapayagan ang 'coal bids' na labis na makaaapekto sa global warming.



PINANGUNAHAN ni Bishop Gerry Alminaza ng Diocese ng San Carlos, kasama sina Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Secretary ng NASSA/Caritas Philippines; Teody Navea ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ) - Cebu; Gerry Arances, Executive Director ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED); Yolly Esguerra, National Coordinator ng Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI); Caryl Pillora, Policy Officer ng Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM); Atty. Gia Ibay, Head ng Climate and Energy Programme ng WWF-Philippines; at Rodrigo Montemayor, kinatawan ng mga komunidad na apektado ng coal sa Toledo; ang paglulunsad ng ECO-CONVERGENCE na sama-sama at nagkakaisang hinihimok ang mga banko sa Filipinas na putulin o tuluyan nang bawiin ang ibinigay na pondo sa mga industriyang gumagamit ng karbon bilang pinagkukunan ng enerhiya na labis na nakalalason sa mamamayan at sa kalikasan.



02 24 20

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE

Church leader sa mga PH bank: Pondo sa karbon ihinto!

NAGKAPIT-BISIG ang mga church leader at civil society organization upang himukin ang mga Philippine financial institution na umano'y patuloy na nagpopondo sa coal industry bagama't alam nilang labis na nakapipinsala ang 'dirty fuel' sa kalusugan ng mga tao, kalikasan at klima sa buong mundo. Sa press conference, inilunsad ang Visayas-wide Church-CSO Empowerment for Environmental Sustainability (ECO-CONVERGENCE), na pinangunahan ng mga faith-based organization at environmental advocate mula sa buong Visayas island group at national organization upang hikayatin ang mga kinaaukulan na solusyunan ang nararanasang climate at ecological crisis na nararanasan ng bansa sa kasalukuyan.

Ang pagpupulong ay pinangunahan ni Bishop Gerry Alminaza, Diocese ng San Carlos, kasama sina Fr. Edwin Gariguez, executive secretary ng NASSA/Caritas Philippines; Teody Navea ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice-Cebu at Gerry Arances, executive director ng the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development.



TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

THE BEAUTY OF PINE TREES

BY ANTONIO G. PAPA

BAGUIO City is dubbed as the City of Pines because most of the mountainous parts of the city is planted with various varieties of pine trees.

It is also called the summer capital of the Philippines because the place is one of the highest peak in the country, and during the hot season, the city is a favorite escape of Filipinos, as well as foreign visitors.

An alternative to Baguio City as a destination during the hot season is Tagaytay City in Cavite province. It has a cool weather that is also suited for summer vacation, both for the local and foreign guests.

The landscape in Tagaytay City, especially the vegetation along the Tagaytay ridge, overseeing the Taal Lake and Volcano, has been planted with towering trees, called lodgepole pine tree, scientifically known as *Pinus contorta*.

In the suburb of Tagaytay City, such as in the municipalities of Alfonso, Amadeo, Mendez and Indang, considered as upland towns of Cavite, lodgepole pine trees and other varieties of the trees could be seen as a beautiful landscape.

While the places are planted to various

trees, both forest and fruit trees, on a drive from the lowland municipalities of Cavite going to Tagaytay City, one will see the towering trees, dark green in color, with semblance to a Christmas tree.

In the main campus of the Cavite State University in Indang, Cavite, one will appreciate the towering and beautifully lined up lodgepole pine trees in the entrance. They were planted in the 1980s and add beauty to CSU's green campus, named Don Severino de las Alas Campus, occupying more than 70 hectares of land area.

By the way, forest lodgepole pine trees cover up to 50 million acres in the western regions of North America. Native Americans used the straight and slender poles of the trees to support their lodges. These pines can grow up to 150 feet and live up to 400 years.

According to Bonnie Singleton, the lodgepole pine tree is sometimes called black pine or tamarack pine. In addition to its use as a wood source, it also provides major tree cover in many scenic, and recreational, areas and on critical waterlands, as well as wildlife habitat.

Singleton further described the climatic requirements of the pine tree, its characteristics and its growing conditions.

Climatic requirements

LODGEPOLE pine trees grow in areas with low temperatures of negative 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the Northern Rocky Mountains to 100 degrees F in lower elevations. They can survive frost but have low tolerance to drought.

The pines can thrive in areas with an annual

precipitation ranging from 10 inches to 200 inches. They do not tolerate shade well and prefer full sunlight.

Characteristics

THE average size of a lodgepole pine tree is 24 inches in diameter and 70 feet high, although

slimmer specimens of only 5 inches in diameter may reach 50 feet.

The branches have needle-like leaves in bunches of two that vary from yellow-green to dark-green and are slightly twisted, giving the tree its scientific name, *Pinus contorta*.

Lodgepole pine trees produce viable seed

early in their lifespan at around five to 10 years, and they are prolific seed producers, with seeds stored in cones remaining viable for years. In fact, the cones have a resin between their scales that only breaks when the temperature reaches 113 degrees F to 140 degrees F.

Growing conditions

LODGEPOLE pines tolerate a variety of soils but prefer the soil with pH ranging from 6.2 to 7.5 that is moderately moist.

The optimal soil base for the lodgepole pine is a medium-textured soil derived from granitic, shale or coarse-grained lava materials.

Lodgepole pine trees have no tolerance for salinity, either on soil or in water.

Medicinal tree

BESIDES the aesthetic its significance, Lodgepole pine tree has an important use as timber. Likewise, the tree has also medicinal usage. Accordingly, the indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest and of California use different parts of the plant, internally and externally, as a traditional medicine for various ailments.

Hence, lodgepole pine trees help beautify the place and serve as a source of livelihood for its timber. It has also medicinal significance to mankind.



SEEDLINGS of lodgepole pine tree (left) and a growing one at a garden in Indang, Cavite.





WOOD CUTTER FALLS — Elements of 403rd Maritime Police Station under Major Manuel Magat apprehended wood cutter Angelito Frias, 37, and farmer Precioso Chavez, 60, both of Bgy. Maglipad Calauag, Quezon for cutting and transporting 220 board feet of Bangkal and Antipolo flitches without necessary permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Bgy. Pandanan of said coastal town. The forest products were turned-over to Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)- Calauag for safekeeping.
Photo by Gemi Formaran



Huawei Rainforest Connection partner for Palawan rain forest

ENVIRONMENTAL advocates and forest rangers in the Philippines partner to protect Philippine rain forest.

"Huawei Rainforest Connection Phase 1" was recently launched by Huawei Technologies Philippines Inc. as a pilot project in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Smart Communications.

Phase 2 will be in Bukidnon, in partnership with Globe Telecom.

"The Huawei Rainforest Connection hopes to help curb the rate of deforestation in the country, which is the largest contributor to greenhouse-gas emissions, and cause of major calamities like flooding and landslides. This is one of the projects wherein industry Telco players and government join hands to protect our environment," said Daniel Guo Zhi, Huawei Philippines vice president/COO.

The project was presented to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu last month during a meeting with Topher White, Rainforest Connection CEO and founder; Darwin Flores, vice president of Smart Communications; Nilo Tamoria, DENR executive director; Jim O. Sampulina, DENR undersecretary; and Karrie Buenafe and Sally Zhou from Huawei Public Affairs.

Through Huawei's collaboration with Rainforest Connection, a US-based nonprofit organization, used Huawei cell phones are upcycled to help protect the rain forest from illegal logging by repurposing them as "Rainforest Guardians."

Technically known as bio-acoustic monitoring devices, sounds from the forests are recorded, uploaded to Huawei Cloud via Data Connection, analyzed by Huawei artificial intelligence (AI), and alerts are sent to forest rangers in real time.

DENR and the forest rangers in Palawan now use Huawei's mobile phones as their "listening posts" in the forest areas, and are quickly alerted when sounds of threats like chain saws are identified.

By using Huawei Cloud, Internet of Things and AI-assisted servers, Palawan and the Philippines will be better protected from illegal logging.

Since its launching last week, three alerts of illegal logging in the area were verified and foiled by the forest rangers.

Rainforest Connection is one of the key programs under Huawei Tech4all that applies technology, applications and skills to help conserve nature, and mitigate the effects of climate change and protect our planet more efficiently.



Pasig shuts down Chinese restaurant

By NEIL JAYSON SERVALLOS

Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto ordered yesterday the closure of a Chinese restaurant for operating without the necessary business permit.

Sotto warned business owners and workers in the city of hefty fines and closure if they continue to operate without clearance from the local government.

"If you want to do business in Pasig, you follow our laws," Sotto said on his Facebook page where he also posted photos of Chinese restaurant Fu Yuan Ji being padlocked by authorities.

Since he assumed office in June last year, Sotto has ordered the closure of several establishments for violating laws and regulations, including a meat processing plant that had been discharging waste water to a drainage that connects Pasig

River and Manila Bay.

The city hall closed the commissary of Razon Food Corp. after confirming that it had been dumping untreated waste in the city.

For traders interested in opening businesses in Pasig, Sotto said they should undergo the proper process and secure the necessary permits and licenses from the city government.

The mayor also expressed his disapproval of Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs), which in most cases do not seek work permits for its Chinese employees or allegedly bribe officers of the Bureau of Immigration (BI), which leads to the arrest of undocumented Chinese workers.

Last month, the Bureau of Internal Revenue closed POGO Xpoint Technology Philippines Corp. in Pasig for alleged non-payment of taxes.

"To those who will try to use my name in negotiating with POGOs, consider this as a warning. We will implement a one-strike policy for city hall employees," Sotto said.

He lauded the actions taken by the government to prevent illegal dealings, which result in the growing number of Chinese workers entering the country illegally.

Property consultancy firm Pronove Tai reported in 2018 that Pasig was among the country's fastest growing cities for POGO offices and other Chinese businesses in the Philippines.

Since 2016, a large number of Chinese citizens have been hired for POGOs.

Sotto also offered to assist the BI in deporting illegal Chinese workers in the city.

"Just let us know how the local government of Pasig can help in catching and deporting these illegal workers," he said.



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

02 24 20

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

REGIONS BRIEFS

Court asked to nullify Ibaloy land title in watershed

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio government and Mayor Benjamin Magalong have asked a regional trial court to nullify a titled property inside one of the city's primary watersheds. Officially registered in 1966, the land title covering 7.8 hectares at the Busol watershed was granted to heirs of Ibaloy families and is now subdivided into 22 smaller titles, to the detriment of one of the city's main water sources, according to motions for intervention filed separately last week. Busol is a primary water source tapped by the Baguio Water District (BWD), which has been rationing water since the 1990s when population growth began to exceed supply. As of 2018, BWD had been generating 42,587 cubic meters of drinking water each day that fall short of the 46,062-cubic meter daily requirement.

—VINCENT CABREZA



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Air
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02 24 20
DATE

TITLE: _____

PAGE 17

REGIONS BRIEFS

Island residents seek go-ahead for tourist ferryboats

BACOLOD CITY—Residents of Suyac Island in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, have appealed to the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) to hasten the accreditation of boats that ferry tourists to their mangrove ecopark. Noli Burlan, chair of Suyac Eco-Tourism Attendant Association that runs the Suyac Island Mangrove Eco-Park, said the Philippine Coast Guard prohibited at least 11 pump boats from ferrying tourists to their island following the sea mishaps that left 31 dead in the Iloilo-Guimaras Strait in August last year. Without the Marina's accreditation, Suyac Island loses about 200 tourists a week. —CARLA GOMEZ



EDITORIAL

Protected areas

THE destruction of the remaining forest lands, including watersheds, is something that cannot be ignored by the country's lawmakers - senators and congressmen - and the rest of the people.

Illegal loggers, "kaingeros" and other misplaced individuals have no place in a country, like the Philippines, where landslides and flooding claim the lives of many people throughout the year.

In other words, the House of Representatives and the 24-member Senate ought to come up with vital pieces of legislation aimed at protecting and conserving the country's natural resources.

Thus, we doff our hat to members of the highly-influential House committee on natural resources for approving six proposed measures declaring 13 sites in eight provinces as "protected areas."

As "protected areas," the said 13 places are closed to commercial and large-scale exploitation, according to Rep. Elpidio "Pidi" Barzaga Jr. of Cavite, who is chairman of the committee.

"We have to protect...and preserve them for the benefit, enjoyment and appreciation of future generations of Filipinos. For instance, watersheds, hills and mountains are among our primary sources of water," said Barzaga.

Barzaga said the proposed "protected areas," including Mt Arayat in Pampanga and nine watersheds in Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro, cover a combined area of 332,456 hectares.

The other areas are in the provinces of Iloilo, Masbate, Negros Oriental, Quirino and Ilocos Sur.

House Deputy Speaker and Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzales Jr. welcomed the inclusion of Mt. Arayat, saying the mountain "is currently facing environmental challenges like illegal logging."

"If no action is taken, it is only a matter of time before Arayat degrades into a... landmass devoid of life. It could also become a natural hazard to people living within its periphery," he said.

Let's preserve all watersheds, hills, mountains, parks, forest lands and natural landscapes declared "protected areas" under the Expanded National Integrated Areas System Act of 2018.

It's a must!



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



5
PAGE

OFFER

LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02.24.20

DATE

BHE

PAGE 17



MASAlamin

ni Ed Cordevilla

16TH GAWAD TANGLAW BEST
NEWSPAPER OPINION COLUMNIST

ANG kalikasan ay may hiwaga. Kung anong bilis ng pagragasa ay siyang bilis din ng pagkawala.

Dumadagundong pa-minsan tapos agarang mananahimik.

Lulunurin ka ng atensiyon tapos isang saglit malayo na ang dalampasigan.

Kaya tayo ay naniniwala na katulad ng pagsabog ng Bulkang Taal, huhupa rin ang

lagim na dala ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-2019).

May hangganan ang lahat ng pagsubok, minsan nga parang wala lang nangyari. Ganyan ang ugali ng kalikasan, walang pagsubok na hindi hihinto.

Kaya mas maiging bantayan natin ang mga desisyon natin bilang

mga tao at bansa ukol sa pagtrato sa krisis na ito at sa mga taong direktang naapektuhan nito.

Baka kasi ang masamang trato sa kapwa ang mas matagal makalimutan matapos ang COVID-2019.

Hindi dahilan ang dinaranas na krisis upang mag-astang hindi makatao ang tao man

o ang bansa. Ang mga biktima at kalahi nila ay mas kinakailangan ng ibayong pang-unawa kaysa alipusta.

Matinding pagsubok talaga ang naturang virus pero mas matindi ang ipinakikita ng ibang mga tao, nawawala ang pagkamakatao, ang esensiya ng pagiging tao.

HIWAGA NG KALIKASAN



8-hour water cutoffs loom this summer

BY JORDEENE B. LAGARE

MANILA Water Co. Inc. will schedule water service interruptions lasting up to eight hours in its concession area in Metro Manila in anticipation of a dry spell this summer.

"Bilang paghahanda sa papalapit na panahon ng tag-init, mas pinaigting ng Manila Water ang operational adjustments na aming isinasagawa na maaaring magdulot ng mabihang pressure o kawalan ng tubig para sa aming mga customer (In preparation for the upcoming summer season, Manila Water is set to implement

stricter operational adjustments, which may result in little to no water supply for our customers)," it said in its advisory.

Manila Water's concession covers the eastern side of Metro Manila.

The water distributor said the schedule of interruptions might change "in the

➤CutoffsA2

■ CUTOFFS FROM A1

8-hour water cutoffs

event of emergency repair works and other maintenance activities."

To maximize the already limited water supply throughout the year, it bared that it worked out the schedule in coordination with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), MWSS Regulatory Office and the National Water Resources Board.

Early this month, the other concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services Inc., announced a stricter water ser-

vice interruption schedule lasting for several hours as Ipo Dam's water level continues to drop.

As of Sunday, Ipo's water level was at 100.06 meters (m), lower than the maintaining level of 101 m.

Angat Dam, where Metro Manila gets most of its water, is at 202.17 m, based on data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.



Gov't urged: Declare 'climate emergency'

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

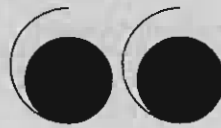
Filipino climate scientists are urging the government to consolidate data from various agencies to identify cities and municipalities most at risk of climate-related disasters.

In a resolution submitted to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Panel of Technical Experts (NTPE) has also called on the government to declare a "climate emergency," shifting from the use of the term "climate change" to further underscore the need for immediate action.

Composed of leading experts in different fields, such as climate, biodiversity, meteorology, oceanography and health, the NTPE provides technical assistance and advises the commission on concerns related to climate science.

"As one of the most climatically vulnerable countries in the world, the Philippines should mobilize its people, institutions and resources to enhance its ability to prepare and even prosper amidst the climate emergency," the panel said in the resolution.

The NTPE said various data sets—which contain information on natural hazards, levels and extent of exposure, and inherent vulnerabilities—must be gathered in a single platform



It is time to shift from using the term 'climate change,' a declaration of an observation, to 'climate emergency,' a call to action

National Panel of Technical Experts

that can be analyzed.

These data may be sourced from various government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Health.

"The CCC is in the best position to gather and analyze these data sets and produce a baseline climate risk assessment at a city/municipal scale," the panel said.

Start risk assessment

"In view of this, NTPE recommends that the CCC assemble a team of GIS (geographic information system) specialists, remote sensing image analysts and data scientists which can lead the gathering, integration and analysis of data," it added, urging the commission to fast-track the process to be-

gin the "critical work" of climate risk assessment.

In the resolution submitted early February, the panel said that such assessment would allow local governments to know which adaptation measures are best for their communities. It will also drive funding, such as the People's Survival Fund, to be channeled to those that are most in need.

Moreover, in light of the worsening impact by man-made climate change, the NTPE said it was high time the current state of affairs was considered an emergency.

Call to action

"It is time to shift from using the term 'climate change,' a declaration of an observation, to 'climate emergency,' a call to action," the panel said.

In 2019, 41 economies, including all members of the Eu-

ropean Union, signed a climate emergency declaration.

The 14-member NTPE is chaired by geologist Carlos Primo David, who also serves as the executive director of the Philippine Council for Industry Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology.

Its members, including scientists Rosa Perez and Lourdes Tibig, have contributed to several reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which are published yearly to inform policymakers on the state of knowledge on climate change.

PH among most vulnerable

The Philippines remains among the most vulnerable countries globally to the climate crisis. Worsening droughts and floods are expected in the coming years, which could exacerbate poverty and hamper socioeconomic progress in the country.

A study published just last month showed that rising carbon emissions worldwide could double the number of intense floods and storms in 13 years.

For the Philippines, this means more disasters that others haven't seen, as the country faces about nine extreme events annually, compared with the average of a single disaster in other countries. INQ



In good hands

I had a very interesting conversation last Thursday with Finance Secretary Sonny Dominguez when I dropped in on him at his office. It confirmed my feeling that our money is in good hands with him as finance chief.

There are those who joke that Sonny is the English-speaking Duterte. Indeed, he has strong views on what his responsibilities are and he is not afraid to exercise his powers to meet his ends.

Remember how he forced Mighty Corp., the cigarette manufacturer with pending tax cases, to not only pay back taxes, but also sell out to Japan Tobacco. Duterte was ready to accept Mighty's offer of P3 billion compromise agreement until Sec. Sonny vigorously objected.

DEMAND AND SUPPLY



BOO CHANCO

Government coffers became richer by around P40 billion and henceforth, the Treasury will most definitely get its due in proper tax payments with the new foreign owner. All thanks to Sec. Sonny.

The finance chief commented that he feels better dealing with Philip Morris and now with Japan Tobacco. These foreign manufacturers with an international reputation to protect will not risk the tax evasion schemes of local manufacturers.

But, Sec. Sonny said, his battle with tax evasion among cigarette manufacturers isn't over. This time, it is with operators who import surplus machines from China that are small enough to produce cigarettes in ordinary warehouses.

Government revenue collectors have to continually raid such operations, burn their production and their machines. Sec. Sonny wants to hold LGUs hosting illegal operations accountable.

Sec. Sonny isn't one to be trifled with. He has the tenacity of a Doberman who follows up for the kill. Nothing is allowed to get lost in the labyrinth of a corrupt bureaucracy.

Take the POGO situation. Sec. Sonny and I talked about POGO many months ago as I complained about how these folks are not even paying the taxes we pay. He said he realized that and was quietly doing something about it.

Last week, he told me it was tough trying to get PAGCOR, immigration and the labor department to cooperate with the BIR. The finance people had been meeting with these agencies but were continually being ignored.

It came to a point, Sec. Sonny said, that he threatened he will personally see to it they are all fired unless they give DOF the list of POGOs operating here and the names of POGO employees.

It was disgusting, he said, that none of the said agencies seemed to have a credible number, much less the names of all the operators and employees. Apparently, the labor department delegated the power to grant and extend work permits for POGO workers to immigration.

As for PAGCOR, apparently for every POGO license they give, the licensee can grant sub-licenses. No wonder we lost control of the situation. No wonder no one was cooperating with the DOF. They had a lucrative thing going.

Eventually, because Sec. Sonny won't let go, they gave a list which wasn't even in digital form. Again, they had to be threatened by Sec. Sonny to submit the digital list so it can be easily fed to DOF's computer.

Now, they have a better handle, but still don't know for sure how many POGO entities and workers are in the country. It is work in progress.

A special team was organized by the BIR to handle POGOs. They raid POGO offices and close them down until they are able to provide lists of employees and pay past due taxes. One entity in Eastwood agreed to pay P1.3 billion after a day of closure.

Not to worry, Sec. Sonny said, because they are still running after the past dues of POGOs even as they are strictly enforcing the tax laws moving forward. That is certainly good news for a change.

But POGOs may soon be a thing of the past. A Chinese language report was monitored over Wechat that Chinese police are revoking passports of those suspected or proven to be working in POGOs.

Our embassy in Beijing has not seen any such news on state media, but feels it is likely true though not to be carried out in one swoop, but in stages. Happy days of property developers will soon be over.

Incidentally, on the San Miguel airport, Sec. Sonny clarifies that he has no power to recall a signed contract. "Once the contract is signed," he said, "I no longer have any say in it... It is up to the concerned agency to implement it."

Oh well... I found out that the contract actually went back to DOJ for a final review. The review is completed and DOJ only made three comments, none of which could be fatal to the contract.

Hopefully, government will help SMC get approvals from entities like DENR and LGUs to prevent any further delays.

But it was in bad taste for DOTr to make the personal tragedy suffered by Ramon Ang the excuse why they have not set a new groundbreaking date. It was also uncalled for to threaten SMC with revocation of its P11 billion performance bond because the ball is still in DOTr's court.

Anyway, SMC is making use of the waiting time to finalize the detailed engineering design.

Going back to Sec. Sonny, he was saying that after the various tax reform packages are passed by Congress, he won't have much more to do. I guess he is raring to get back to private life and enjoy the fruits of a lifetime of labor.

But Duterte needs him. The country needs him. He is seen by the business sector as the only thinking adult in the room. If he goes prematurely, our political risk rating will hit the roof. Right now, our money is in his good hands... until Congress misappropriates it for their pork.

Boo Chanco's e-mail address is bchanco@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @boochanco



Eco-waste management convergence strategy



THE "Battle for Manila Bay," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' call to all sectors for pro-active initiatives to clean-up Manila Bay and all water tributaries, recently marked its first year at the Baseco Beach, a 500-meter shoreline which for decades was a heaping monstrosity of trash dumped and washed ashore. This is a result of irresponsible garbage disposal from the inhabitants of cities and municipalities connected to the bay by esteros and rivers. The Baseco Beach became the symbolic ground zero of what many thought was an impossible mission that many administrations failed or never dared confront.

I saw how it was during my young volunteer years for some community anti-poverty programs. I saw the pollution, the filth and extremely unsanitary conditions that the residents of the Baseco compound had to live with.

Now, though swimming is understandably not yet allowed, the tons of garbage are gone and the sandy beach is open to the delight of the Baseco community.

Administrative Order No. 16 says: "The convergence of national government agencies and LGUs (local government units) in the Manila Bay Region, and their active participation, are necessary to facilitate the robust and integrated implementation of all rehabilitation and restoration efforts at the Manila Bay"

This complements existing provisions of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 that "encourage greater private sector participation in solid waste management," opening up the potential of public-private partnerships between LGUs and private corporations to implement appropriate projects that would push towards total compliance with environmental regulations.

vate sector as a strategic stakeholder in solving the complex dynamics of solid waste management, has recently forged a partnership with Coca-Cola and the city government.

Among the components of the partnership are the allocation of RPET (recycled PET bottle) benches, collections bins and capability training to support Manila's cleanup projects. The project will also develop a sustainability model that can be adapted by other LGUs.

"A strong recycling industry can have a strong multiplier effect."

WWW initiatives are being expanded in other LGUs such as recyclable bottle collection systems in Davao. This program will be integrating with local recycling technology partners to transform post-consumer recyclable plastic bottles into, benches, trash bins and even school chairs. A similar program is also being implemented in Siargao in support of sustainable tourism and environmental protection in the country's surfing capital.

Iloilo, Bacolod, Cavite, Bataan, Marinduque, Negros Occidental, and Sarangani are also benefiting under the WWW program's bandwidth of waste management initiatives.

Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship Convenor Carmelo Bayarcal, a proponent of developmental approach to environmental policies, sees a potential multiplier effect of a strong recycling industry.

"The expansion of the local recycling industry will be creating new economic opportunities such as jobs and linked industries benefiting from an ecosystem that will emerge as the nation learns to integrate responsible stewardship of the environment in every aspect of daily life," Bayarcal said.



One of the most significant initiatives responding to this convergent approach is the P1-billion recycling facility that Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. will be building. This is going to be the first that the company will set up in Southeast Asia and will be the Philippines most technologically advanced PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottle recycling facility. This is under the Coca-Cola's World Without Waste global program that aims to boost the Philippine's waste management systems. This project will integrate a metropolitan wide PET bottle collection system that will significantly reduce the tonnage of plastic bottles leaking into the waterways and illegal dumpsites.

According to Coca-Cola Philippines' public affairs and sustainability director Jonah de Lumen-Pernia. "Coca-Cola does not want its bottles to end up in landfills, the oceans or elsewhere, and instead wants them recycled. We want every single bottle that we put out in the market back by 2030."

The City of Manila, unfortunately because of geographic factors, has become the catch basin of garbage flowing in from all the water tributaries passing through many cities and municipalities around Manila Bay. Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Domagoso, recognizing the need for a holistic and all-sectors approach, and the value of the pri-

On the other hand, some environmental groups are calling for the outright banning of plastics. This hard-line stance are headline catching sound bites but disregards the economic disruptions that will greatly burden the poor consumers who can only afford sachet-size purchases.

In a recent public hearing, the Senate committee on environment chairperson Cynthia Villar said that banning single-use plastic may be impossible, pending the availability of alternatives to packaging and sees recycling as a more practical and viable option.

A common factor that many experts and environmental thought leaders have underlined is the behavior problem. The 2017 Ocean conservancy report traced 521,000 tons of leaked plastics flowing into our waterways from informal settlers and private hauler companies dumping to our waterways. This is not just an enforcement problem but also a social marketing challenge that government and the private sector communication gurus can certainly design and execute.

Building the infrastructure to collect all our garbage is a very doable with enough resources and the appropriate implementation. Instilling the discipline of proper waste disposal and eventually becoming a subconscious habit will be the biggest challenge in developing a leak-proof circular economy.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE REPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE PRESS
1908
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

9
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

DAISY
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

FILE:

PAGE 17

02 24 20

DATE



POTENTIAL DANGER – Children play around the Butuanon River in Mandaue City probably unaware the waterway has tested positive for poliovirus based on tests made by the Department of Health (DOH)-Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). (Juan Carlo de Vela)



TITLE:

PAGE 1/



BARANGAY Old Capitol Site Captain Rodelio Cabigas inspects water meters of residents at the back of the barangay hall. Authorities have urged Metro Manila residents to conserve water as the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan declines. (Alvin Kasiban)



OFWs in Kurdistan want deployment ban in Iraq lifted

By RUDY SANTOS

Hundreds of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Special Administrative Region of Kurdistan, a northern province in Iraq, have appealed to the Philippine embassy in Baghdad to recommend the lifting of the deployment ban imposed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on Jan. 10.

In a letter signed and addressed to the Philippine

embassy in Baghdad, Annie Marie Saucelo, representing the Samahang Manggagawang Kurdistan, expressed the sentiments of the Filipino community in Kurdistan, which asked the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to lift the deployment ban.

Officials at the Philippine embassy have forwarded Saucelo's urgent request to the DFA-Manila, but there has been no reply so far.

Many OFWs in Kurdistan were vacationing in

Manila when the government imposed the deployment ban as violent rallies were staged in Baghdad against the United States embassy.

"It has been over a month since the Duterte administration, led by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, mounted a massive repatriation effort to extricate Filipinos from Iraq to Doha, Qatar with a Rapid Response Team (RRT) that flew to Iraq to convince Filipinos to come home.

Despite persistent efforts of Cimatu's team, only 30 OFWs, mostly domestic helpers illegally recruited to Baghdad, heeded the call to return to Manila.

Two Navy ships were also dispatched to the Middle East to ferry the expected huge number of Filipinos in Iraq.

Data from the Department of Labor and Employment showed that there are 2,191 OFWs in Iraq, while records from the DFA counted 4,204

Filipinos in the Middle Eastern country as of June last year.


More than 2,000 Filipinos working in US bases refused repatriation and another 1,500 working in Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan, also turned down the RRT.

The Filipinos now stranded in Manila are requesting to return to Kurdistan to save their jobs while some others now in that country want to come home for family reunions with graduation rites

coming up in March.

There is no more reason to keep the deployment ban in Iraq, according to recruitment consultant and migration expert Emmanuel Geslani.

The violence over the US-Iran conflict, which spilled over to Baghdad, has gone down and Kurdistan has always been "violence free," as it is in the northern part of the country, located hundreds of miles away from the capital Baghdad, Geslani said.


Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
National Water Resources Board
 8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman Quezon City, Philippines 1100

ODYSSEY PROPERTY HOLDINGS, INC.,
 Applicant, Case No. 20-2872

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Villa Corazon Subdivision, Barangay Guyong, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, with the following proposed rates:

| PROPOSED TARIFF | |
|--|---------------|
| Residential & Institutional – Pipe Size: 1½ inch | |
| Consumption, cu. m. | Peso/cu.m. |
| 0-5 / cu.m. | P199.50 (min) |
| 6-10 /cu.m | 41.90 |
| 11-20 /cu.m | 45.90 |
| 21-30 /cu.m. | 49.50 |
| 31-40 /cu.m. | 64.70 |
| Over 40 /cu.m. | 72.30 |

This application will be initially heard by the Board on March 16, 2020, hearing will start at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Bulacan and serve by personal delivery or Registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments. And (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing. Furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed, as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 23rd day of January 2020.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Affected Parties:</p> <p>The Secretary Barangay Board Sta. Maria, Bulacan</p> <p>The Barangay Chairman Barangay Guyong Sta. Maria, Bulacan</p> | <p>The Homeowners Association President</p> <p>Villa Corazon Subdivision Barangay Guyong, Sta. Maria, Bulacan</p> <p>The General Manager</p> <p>Sta. Maria Water District 348 Diliman St., Para. Quezon City, Bulacan-3022</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">By Authority of the Board:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III Executive Director</p> |
|--|--|---|

(Abante-Phi: 24, 2018)



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

HINDI dapat magrelaks at magpakasiguro ang lahat na ligtas ang Pilipinas mula sa Corona Virus Disease-19 o COVID-19.

Gayundin na porke walang sumunod na namatay sa 44-anyos na lalaki, eh, gawin natin lahat ang mga nakagawian nating taliwas sa mga habilin para sa pag-iingat laban sa nakahahawa at nakamatay na nabanggit na sakit.

Dapat na maging mapagbantay ang lahat at kumilos na rin sa oras na may malaman o mabalitaan tayong may taglay ng nasabing sakit sa loob at labas ng ating pamilya, komunidad at iba pa.

Lagi ring tatandaan na ikonsidera nating lahat ang pinakamasamang sitwasyon at ito ang sukatan ng ating pagkilos, gaya ng ipinakitang ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nang pagbawalan ang lahat ng dayuhan mula China, Hong Kong at Macau patungong Pilipinas maliban lang sa mga Filipino at may permanent visa na inisyu ng ating pamahalaan.

Kabilang sa mga pinakamasamang sitwasyon ang pagkakaroon ng kamatayan at pagkahawa ng higit sa isang tao, kasama ang bunga ng lockdown sa mga lugar na may matagpuang carrier o may dala-dalang sakit.

PARAAN

NG PAGSUSURI

May mahahalagang tanong na karaniwang susi sa pagdamdang o pag-alam sa carrier o taga-dala ng sakit.

Una, galing ba siya sa 27 bansa o lugar na may COVID-19?

Ikalawa, nagkasakit na ba siya ng COVID-19 at galing na ba siya sa ospital sa loob at labas ng Pilipinas?

Ikatlo, may mga sintomas ba siya ng sakit gaya ng pagkakaroon ng ubo, lagnat, malat at kapos na paghinga?

Kung oo ang sagot sa mga kabit-kabit na tanong na ito, dapat tayong kumilos agad at ipaalam sa mga kinaukulan, gaya ng mga opisyal ng barangay at taga-health center, para sa kaukulan nilang aksyon.

MGA BANSANG MAY COVID-19

Heto ang 33 barisa o lugar na may kumpirmadong COVID-19, ayon sa World Health Organi-



ULTIMATUM
Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

UMUWI MULA SA DIAMOND PRINCESS, CHINA MAY COVID-19

zation.

China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, The Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, Iraq.

Habang sinusulat ito, heto naman ang mga bansang may mga patay, may kritikal na kalagayan ng pasyente at gumaling dahil sa nasabing sakit.

China - 2,559 patay, 11,477 kritikal, 22,939 gumaling; South Korea - 6 patay, 9 kritikal, 18 gumaling; Iran - 6 patay; Italy - 2 patay, 18 kritikal, 2 gumaling; Hong Kong - 2 patay, 6 kritikal, 11 gumaling; Pilipinas - 1 patay, gumaling; Taiwan - 1 patay; Japan - 1 patay, 6 kritikal; France - 1 patay; at Diamond Princess cruise ship - 2 patay, 27 kritikal, 17 gumaling.

Heto naman ang mga bansa o lugar na may kritikal at kaso at wala pang patay: Singapore - 5 kritikal, 89 kaso, 49 gumaling; Thailand - 35 kaso, 2 kritikal, 20 gumaling; USA - 35 kaso; Australia - 12 kaso; Malaysia 22 kaso, 17 gumaling; Germany - 16 kaso, 14 gumaling; Vietnam - 16 kaso, 14 gumaling; United Arab Emirates - 13 kaso, 2 kritikal, 3 gumaling; France - 12 kaso, 10 gumaling.

Sa kabuuan, may 78,773 kumpirmadong may COVID-19; 2,462 patay; 11,553 kritikal; 41,570 mild; at 23,188 gumaling.

Sa puntong ito, napakahalaga ang mga datos na ito na dapat iugnay sa nasabi nang mga kataunungan para malaman ang may dalang-COVID-19 na dayuhan o Filipino at umuwi o nakauwi na sa mahal kong Pinas.

MGA BAGONG USAPIN

Siyempre pa, sinasabing humuhupa na nang kaunti ang paglaganap at kabagsikan ng COVID-19 sa China, Hong Kong at Macau.

Ikaw ba naman ang i-lockdown na katulad ng pag-lockdown natin sa mga baboy at lugar na African Swine Fever at may nadiskubre nang epektibong gamot na tinesting agad sa tao at hindi na sa mga hayop gaya ng daga.

Luma o bago, epektibo sa Thailand laban sa sakit ang dalawang uri ng gamot na ipinalalaban sa Human Immuno-Virus na may kasamang laban sa lagnat.

Plano na ring gamitin ito sa Japan.

Epektibo rin ang plasma therapy sa China o pagkuha ng dugo ng mga malulusog na residente para isalin sa mga maysakit upang lumakas ang resistensya ng mga ito.

Nadiskubre naman mismo ng mga Tsinong siyentista ang Favipirpir at nagsimula na silang gumawa ng gamot na ito para gamitin laban sa sakit.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, mga Bro, kumakalat naman ang sakit sa buong mundo gaya ng nailista na natin dito.

At lumilikha ito ng matinding takot gaya ng nagaganap sa South Korea na biglang lumaki ang bilang ng mga positibo sa COVID-19 sa bilang na 82 dahil sa Patient 31 na nakisimba, nakilamay sa patay hanggang sa mahigit 1,200 na ang suspetsang hinawaan nilo.

Sinasabing kalahati ng 82 positibong pasyente ang hinawaan ng nag-iisang Patient 31.

Dahil naman dito, inatasan na ng gobyernong South Korea na aarestuhin nila ang mga ayaw magpatsekap o magpa-quarantine kung may sintomas sila ng COVID-19.

O mga Bro, magkaisa, magtulungan, kumilos agad tayo sa lahat ng paraan laban sa sakit at huwag magpabandyang-bandyang dito.

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