

DATE : 09-21-19

DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



TITLE :

PAGE 1/

21 SEP 2019
DATE

DENR mangunguna sa clean-up sa Manila Bay ngayong ICC Day

BILANG pagdiriwang ng International Coastal Clean-up Day 2019 ng buong mundo sa araw na ito, pangungunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang gagawing malawakang clean-up sa makasaysayang Manila Bay kasabay ng pakikilisa ng bansa sa Pandaigdigang Paglilinis sa baybayin.

Aabot sa 15,000 volunteers ang makikilisa sa magkakahiwalay na clean-up activities sa Manila Bay region at maging sa mga river system na dumadaloy sa naturang baybayin.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pakikilisa ng bansa sa pagdiriwang ng ICC Day 2019 ay napapanahon da-

hil isasabay dito ang clean-up drive sa Manila Bay katulad ng naunang ginawa sa unang bahagi ng taon.

Matatandaan na noong Enero 27 ng kasalukuyang taon, umabot sa mahigit 10,000 katao ang nakiisa sa malawakang clean-up kasabay ng paglulunsad ng rehabilitasyon na tinaguriang "Battle for Manila Bay". Matapos ito, patuloy ang paglilinis sa mga estero at iba pang katubigan na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay.

Kabilang sa paggaganapan ng clean-up ang Barangay 649 sa Baseco, Manila; coastal area ng Navotas Centennial Park; river system ng Tullahan-Tinajeros at Marikina River na pangwang dumadaloy patungo sa

Manila Bay.

Kabilang din ang Navotas Tanza Marine Tree Park; Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area; By the Bay Central Park sa SM Mall of Asia at Gloria Maris sa CCP Complex, Pasay City at Polytechnic University of the Philippines sa Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Dagdag pa ni Cimatu, hangarin ng DENR na maibaba ang fecal coliform level ng tubig sa Manila Bay sa 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters na siyang tamang antas para mapaliguan ng tao at ligtas na magamit sa mga gawaing pantubig. Ang tema sa pagdiriwang ng ICC Day 2019 sa Pilipinas ay "Battle for Trash-Free Manila Bay." **SANTI C**



21 SEP 2018

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

MMDA workers join Int'l Coastal Clean-up today

By **EDD REYES**

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will participate in the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) as part of its staunch commitment to help save the environment today at the Baseco Beach in Tondo, Manila

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim said more than 200 personnel of the agency will join the activity at 6 a.m. today spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

International Coastal Cleanup is the largest vol-

unteer effort for ocean's health. People around the world gather on beaches, coasts, rivers, waterways and underwater dive sites to remove trash and record information on the debris collected. Results will aid in better waste management policies/plans, product packaging designs and in stirring environmental consciousness among the people.

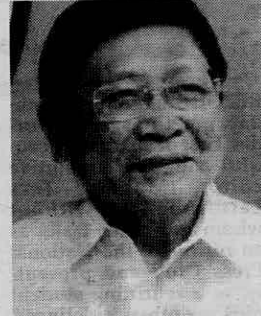
"We are calling on everyone to take part in the annual ICC activity that will bring together national agencies, local government units, environmentalists and volunteers to collect trash littering the coastline," said Lim.

Volunteers are urged to bring cleaning materials, gloves and sacks in removing trash in the foreshore areas of Manila.

"Aside from our regular clean-up drive for the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay, the MMDA continues to be a part of many other initiatives to advocate environmental protection," added Lim.

Most of the collected garbage at the bay are bamboo poles and driftwood which had been carried by currents from nearby fish pens, water hyacinths, plastics, household waste, and other sorts of garbage.

Presidential Proclamation No. 470 declares the



Danilo Lim

third Sunday of September of each year as the International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day in observance of the Global Coastal Clean-up celebrations.



MMDA, makikibahagi sa int'l coastal clean-up

Bilang bahagi ng pangakong linisin ang kapaligiran, makikiisa ang Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sa International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) sa Baseco Beach sa Tondo, Manila, ngayong araw.

Paliwanag ni MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, mahigit 200 tauhan ng ahensya ang sasali sa aktibidad na pangungunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ang International Coastal Cleanup ay ang pinakamalaking volunteer effort para sa karagatan. Iba't ibang bansa ang lalahok at mamumulot ng mga basura sa mga beach, ilog, underwater dive sites at iba pang daluyan ng tubig. Ire-record din ang mga basurang kanilang nakolekta. Gagamitin ang resulta para

sa pagbuo ng mas magandang polisiya o plano sa waste management, product packaging designs, at pagbibigay ng kamalayan sa mga tao pagdating sa kapaligiran.

"Nananawagan kami sa lahat na makiisa sa taunang ICC activity na dadaluhan ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, lokal na pamahalaan, mga environmentalists at volunteers para mangolekta ng mga basurang nasa dalampasigan," ani Lim.

Hinihikayat ang mga volunteer na magdala ng kanilang cleaning materials, gloves, at mga sako para sa paghahakot ng basura sa mga baybayin ng Maynila.

"Bukod sa ating regular na clean-up drive para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, tuloy-tuloy ang ginagawa ng MMDA para maging kabahagi ng

iba pang inisyatiba na nangangalaga sa kapaligiran," dagdag ni Lim.

Karamihan sa mga nakokolektang basura ay mga kawayan at naanod na kahoy na mula sa mga palaisdaan, mga water hyacinths, plastics, basurang mula sa kabahayan, at iba pa.

Poposte naman ang mga miyembro ng MMDA Road Emergency Group sa lugar para magbigay ng tulong medikal kung kinakailangan. Magdeploy din ng rubber boats, portalets, vans, at support vehicle.

Alinsunod sa Presidential Proclamation No. 470, ang ikatlong linggo ng Setyembre kada taon ay deklaradong International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day bilang bahagi ng Global Coastal Clean-up celebrations.

Bella Gamotea



TITLE :

PJ

PAGE 1/

DATE

LAHAT BAWAL!

BORACAY beach, October 22, 2014. TANGDUCMINH | DREAMSTIME.COM

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO | *Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR*

IS it a case of going too far for the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF)?

After banning lounge chairs and tables, drinking of alcohol, weddings, and sand castles on the main white beach of this popular resort island, even beach

volleyball is now being prohibited as well.

In a stunning upset, the BIATF did not give a permit for the Boracay Beach Volleyball Open

(BBVO), which was supposed to be held from November 15 to 17.

The tournament, which is the largest open beach volleyball meet in the country, is an annual event that attracts players from around the world. It would have spiked in about P1.5 million into the local economy in terms of food, hotel bookings and incidentals, BBVO organizers told the BUSINESSMIRROR. "A total of 170 rooms were booked [for the event]," they added.

There were 16 nations who par-

ticipated in 2017, but due to the closure of Boracay in 2018, the event didn't push through. The event has been held on the island since 2011.

According to the organizers' post on their Facebook page, "It is with deep regret we inform you that BBVO has not been given the permission to hold this year's event in Boracay. The BIATF headed by GM Natividad [Belarmino] has communicated this news to us only by phone and we are still awaiting

CONTINUED ON A2



BORACAY night life, February 12, 2016. MIRKO VITALI | DREAMSTIME.COM



P-2

Laha + Bawal

the official response from their organization. We were informed since they don't allow beach weddings anymore, we are therefore also not allowed to have events on the beach."

In BBVO's letter to Belarmino dated April 4, 2019, requesting for a permit for the event, organizer Dona Joy Santos assured: "Our setup will be minimal and will use existing structures plus utilize reusable materials like bamboo for the structures and sacks for our merchandise to ensure the least environmental impact on the island. We promise that the place will not be left in a mess and we will clear it of all litter before we leave."

Tourism officials have yet to respond to the BUSINESSMIRROR's queries as of press time. Sports tourism is one of the key activities being promoted by the Department of Tourism.

In a statement, Tourism Congress of the Philippines president Jose Clemente III said, "The BBVO has been an annual event on the island that has attracted not only athletes but tourists. We are curious to know why the event will not be allowed to push through this year as advised by the BIATF, considering this is one of the prime events Boracay is known for."

This is the second international sports competition that the BIATF failed to allow on Boracay, the

so-called crown jewel of Philippine tourism. Last April, the annual Boracay International Dragon Boat Festival also did not happen.

The competition annually attracts paddlers from around the world, as well as various local associations of paddlers, and dragon boat enthusiasts. In 2018 the event had over 1,000 participants, and was fortunately held just a few days before the island was closed.

For Boracay's reopening, the BIATF ordered the clearing of the main white beach of lounge chairs and tables in keeping with the 30-meter easement ordinance of the local government. It also banned weddings on the main beach, although select resorts are allowed to do so if the beach is within their property.

Drinking of alcoholic beverages on the beach is also not allowed because government managers said it would mess up the sand if drunken tourists vomit on it.

The building of sand castles

was also prohibited because the BIATF said it disturbs the natural beach landscape. Videos of beach cops telling off children building sand castles in Boracay surfaced late last year, drawing flak from netizens. Even sand sculptors trying to earn a living from their works of art have been outlawed by government managers.

BIATF disallowed the use of fireworks last New Year's Eve, also an annual celebration on the island, despite the fireworks usually being discharged from a boat anchored at a distance from the shore.

Ambulant peddlers, sidewalk vendors and massage therapists—all living off on the meager retail sales and tips they get from tourists—were the first to go when Boracay was reopened last October 26. Government managers said a space will be established for the vendors to restart their businesses, but that has yet to materialize.

Also, dogs were booted out

from the beach, and are now viciously captured by operators of the local dog pound, as can be seen from the many videos posted online by concerned netizens. Most of the roamers are actually owned by locals who let their pets enjoy running free on the sand and playing in the water—one of the welcoming features of the island in the past.

The BIATF is chaired by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and co-chaired by Interior Secretary Eduardo S. Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat.

President Duterte ordered the closure of Boracay for six months from April 26, saying there is a need to rehabilitate the island. Many improvements are still ongoing, such as road construction and drainage improvement. A recent typhoon resulted in flooding of the island even in places which didn't use to flood because drainage pipes had yet to be connected.



MERON bang mali sa paghanay ng mga salitang "baboy, kapaligiran at tao"?

Mahigit 50 baboy ang natagpuan sa ilog ng Marikina. Mababa lamang ito kumpara sa 8,000 kaso ng African Swine Flu (ASF) na naitala ng World Health Organization for Animal Health mula ika-30 ng Agosto hanggang ika-12 ng Setyembre ngayong taon.

Napakaraming produkto ang nagmumula sa baboy at alam nating karamihan sa mga Pinoy ay paborito ang mga pagkaing may sahog na baboy.

Panahon na kaya para pag-isipan kung ano ang kinakain natin? Matagal na nating nababasa ang tungkol sa mga taong hindi

kumakain ng baboy o anumang uri ng karne, sila ang mga tinatawag na vegetarians o vegans.

Pamilyar din tayo sa iba't ibang uri ng peste tulad ng mad cow disease, bird flu, fish kill at red tide. Namamatay ang mga hayop dahil sa ipinakakain sa kanila at sa kapaligirang ginagalaan ng mga ito. Merong panganib sa kalusugan ng tao ang pagkain ng karne, lalo na kapag hindi malinis ang lugar na pinagmulan ng mga ito mula sa lupa, hangin at tubig.

Gayunman, nariyan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na may tungkuling suriin ang naturang soil, air at water quality.

May naririnig pa ba tayong anumang ulat mula sa



KaPaYaPaan

FR. ROBERT P. REYES

LASON SA KAPALIGIRAN, DAHILAN NG PAGKAMATAY NG MGA BABOY, DENR TAMEME

DENR hinggil sa soil, air at water quality? Ginagawa pa ba talaga nila ang napakahalagang tungkuling ito para sa kalusugan at kapakanan ng lahat o baka meron itong ibang katotohanan na dapat ding tingnan at pigilan dahil ito ang pinagmumulan ng paglala at pagpangit ng kalagayan ng ating kapaligiran?

Konektado ba ang

usaping ito sa matinding trapik sa EDSA? Tingnan natin ang kaugnayan ng mga sasakyang sumasakal sa EDSA at ang sakit na pumapatay sa mga pagkaing-hayop.

Kulang ang mga lanes dahil sa sobrang dami ng mga sasakyan kaya kung anu-anong panukala ang iniaalok para lutasin ang problema. Ang kasaluku-

yang solusyon ay iniaalok ni Ramon Ang ng San Miguel Corporation.

Iniaalok nitong itayo ang "10 Lane Elevated EDSA." Isipin na lang ninyo ang ganito kalaking daan mula Monumento hanggang Baclaran. Pera lang pala ang solusyon at merong pera si Ramon Ang at ang kaniyang malaking korporasyon.

Pera lang ba talaga ang solusyon o baka kailangan ang mas malalim na pagninilay at pagsusuri?

Hindi lang basta kalusugan ang kailangan nating tingnan kundi ang pangkalahatang kalusugan ng tao — ang katawan, isip, diwa at kaluluwa.

Libu-libong baboy ang pinatay ng ASF, ngunit, merong iba pang sakit na hindi natin pinag-uusapan. Sa mundo ng komersiyo, kailangang hindi tumigil ang pagbenta para walang tigil ang pagkita at paglago ng pera. Kailangang gawin ito para manatiling buhay ang komersiyo at palaging buhay at masigla ang pera. Paano kung namamatay na ang mga baboy dahil sa marumi at mapanganib na kapaligirang sakal sa lasong nilikha ng tao?

Kailangan nating pakinggan ang mga babalang galing sa mga taong may malalim na malasakit at pang-unawa sa kaugnayan ng "baboy, kapaligiran at tao". Kapag hindi natin pinigilan ang maling pagkonsumo at paggamit sa mga ibibigay ng mundo, hindi magtatagal, ang kumakain ay mawawala na rin.



HOUSE OKAYS 2020 BUDGET

By Jester P. Manalastas

EXACTLY one month after receiving it, the House of Representatives approved the proposed 2020 national budget amounting to P4.1 trillion on third and final reading.

House Bill 4228 or the General Appropriations Bill was certified as urgent by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Under the leadership of Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and Majority Leader Martin Romualdez, the Lower Chamber finished the deliberation in just nine days, one of the fastest in the history of the House of Representatives.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) transmitted the National Expenditure Program last August 20. The House Committee on Appropriations led by Davao City Mayor Isidro Ungab did not waste time and immediately scheduled hearings for every department and agencies.

Cayetano gave assurances that the 2020 budget contains no pork and no parking and was intended to support the programs of President Rodrigo Duterte.

"Yung No Pork, No Parking, No Delay, yan ang mantra na namin. But having said that, we have to emphasize, hindi pa rin perpekto ang budget, especially nga nagkatransition din ang DBM, nagkaroon ng changes sa Cabinet Members, nagkaroon ng epekto yung delay ng budget this year, nasa focus ngayon ang flagship programs ng guberno, kung ano nga ba ang matatapos at kung ano nga ba ang nasa listahan o hindi," Cayetano said.

For his part, Romualdez said that the 2020 budget will be allotted equitably to support the program of the Duterte administration.

"As envisioned by the President, the 2020 national budget seeks to move the nation forward towards its aspired-for destination, a more peaceful and progressive Philippines," Romualdez said.

Included in the 2020 budget are the critical programs, namely, Universal Healthcare (P166.5 billion); National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) (P92.2 billion); Department of Health Human Resources for Health Deployment (P7 billion);

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (P108.8 billion); Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (P70.6 billion); Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (P10 billion) Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (P641.6 million) and National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (P622.3 million).

The top ten departments that will be getting lion's share are the Department of Education (DepEd), P673 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), P534.3 billion; Department of the Interior and Local Govt. (DILG), P238 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), P195 billion; Department of National Defense (DND), P189 billion; Department of Health (DoH), P166.5 billion; Department of Transportation (DoTr), P147 billion; Department of Agriculture (DA), P56.8 billion; the Judiciary, P38.7 billion and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), P26.4 billion.

The P4.1-trillion proposed national budget for 2020 is 12 percent higher than the 2019 budget of P3.662-trillion.

With the theme "Continuing the Journey to a More Peaceful and Progressive Philippines" the 2020 budget will fund projects and programs that will continue the journey towards a more peaceful and progressive Philippines.

The DBM said the 2020 budget will continue to support inclusive growth strategies, aimed at accelerating investments in public infrastructure, improving anti-poverty programs, and intensifying employment generation.

About 37.2 percent or P1.52 trillion of the budget will go to social services; 28.9 percent or P1.18-trillion to economic services; 18 percent or P734.5 billion to general public services; 11 percent or P451 billion to debt burden (including net lending); and 4.8 percent or P195.6 billion to defense.

The spending priorities are infrastructure development, food security, human capital development, and peace and national security. The Build, Build, Build Program will continue to be the flagship program of the Duterte administration's infrastructure development with a P972.5 billion proposed budget, representing 4.6 percent of the country's GDP.



21 SEP 2010

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

GIVE AQUIFERS TIME TO RECHARGE

BAGUIO WANTS TO FREEZE WATER DRILL APPLICATIONS

BAGUIO CITY—The city council on Monday approved a resolution urging the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to freeze applications to drill for water or exploit private water resources to give Baguio's aquifers time to recharge.

Water has been rationed for the past 30 years in this city, which has also requested for a moratorium on tree-cutting and building constructions.

Not all of the city's 350,000 residents are served by the Baguio Water District (BWD), which regulates the distribution of a little over 40 million liters (40,000 cubic meters) of water a day.

Consumption demand is 54 million liters per day. Water supply is stretched at daytime during weekdays when the population reaches over 700,000 people due to transient employees, students and entrepreneurs.

Baguio receives the highest rainfall in the country, which the American colonial government harnessed using a rain basin at Mt. Sto. Tomas.

More rain harvesting facilities have been proposed in other parts of the city to address the sudden migration increases recorded shortly after Baguio's restoration following the 1990 Luzon earthquake.

The BWD taps the rain basin during summer but relies heavily on ground and spring water to serve 122 of the city's 128 villages.

According to the council resolution, "the proliferation of private deep wells and their sustained groundwater pumping" has taxed the aquifers.

It said the NWRB has processed 53 applications from 2016 to September this year, for which reduced groundwater activity has been blamed.

During a Baguio land summit held on Sept. 13, the water supply issues affected by overpopulation had been described as "critical" by Salvador Royeca, the BWD general manager.

According to a study conducted by the University of the Philippines Baguio, the city's lack of a constant water service for most households has made them adopt a "water scarce lifestyle" characterized by collecting rainwater from house gutters or by adjusting their schedules around days and the time for their rationed water to be released.

"In many places, BWD releases water late at night or during the early hours in the morning, causing residents some inconvenience," the study said.

—VINCENT CABREZA INQ



Marina, DENR enhance water ballast in ships

By **BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT**

The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) jointly pursued the effective management of ballast water in the Philippine shipping sector through a seminar-workshop on the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention on 18-20 September 2019.

The three-day event, which was initiated by the DENR-BMB, supported the notion that shipping activities should be in harmony with the environment. It also coincided with the celebration of the Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo) which aimed to raise the awareness and literacy of Filipinos on the country's archipelagic features.

Shipyards Regulation Service (Marina-SRS) Director Ramon C. Hernandez stressed the role of shipping as the most efficient mode of transport in an archipelagic country like the Philippines. However, the shipping sector also bore disadvantages, particularly to the marine environment.

Generally, ships carry water in its ballast tanks to improve stability, structural integrity, and navigational safety.

When water is loaded into the ships,

various biological materials such as plants and bacteria are sucked up into their ballast tanks. When the water has to be unloaded back to the sea, these biological materials are introduced in a new environment and become invasive, which causes damage to aquatic ecosystems. This activity is even noted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as one of the greatest threats to the world's oceans.

To prevent further destruction of the marine environment, the BWM Convention was adopted by the IMO in 2004 to prescribe regulations on the proper management and treatment of ballast water and sediments discharge. The said convention entered into force in 2017.

The BWM Convention was ratified by the Philippines in 2018.

To date, the Marina, together with the DENR-BMB and other concerned government agencies, is in the process of finalizing the rules and regulations on the BWM Convention to control the transfer of invasive aquatic species by ships, as well as to fully and effectively implement the international convention for the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments.

The country's strategic action plan on the BWM, on the other hand, is undergoing further study and consultation.



21 SEP 2018

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

POSES THREAT TO AVIATION, HEALTH

HAZE FROM INDONESIA FOREST FIRES REACHES WESTERN PH

Haze blown by monsoon winds from intentionally ignited fires in Indonesia has started to affect some regions in the western Philippines and raised concerns about aviation safety and possible health risks, a weather bureau official said.

Landrico Dalida Jr., the deputy administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said on Friday that light to moderate haze had affected the Zamboanga City, the central cities of Cebu and Dumaguete and

the western province of Palawan.

Dalida said that if visibility worsens, airport officials and airlines might consider canceling flights out of safety concerns.

Wear mask

He advised people to wear masks if the haze becomes a health risk.

Smoke from Indonesia's fires has blanketed parts of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and southern Thailand in a noxious haze. —AP



Put out forest fires, KL tells Jakarta

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia said it would increase pressure on its Southeast Asian neighbors to find a solution to recurring outbreaks of smog-belching forest fires in Indonesia, as air quality plummeted and more schools closed.

Malaysian Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin signaled she would again pursue the diplomatic route in an effort to find a solution to a crisis that has been recurring every few years for more than two decades.

"I will have a conference call with the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) secretary general to express our views, and we hope there will be a more effective mechanism at the Asean level so that we can cooperate to seek a long-term solution to address this problem," she told reporters.

Blazes to clear agricultural land in the archipelago are sending toxic haze across Southeast Asia, with Jakarta's efforts to fight them using water-bombing aircraft and thousands of security forces proving futile.

Malaysia has started cloud seeding operations in its territory in

Borneo, while Indonesia has barely started sending team to track the fire base. Borneo is divided among Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

The Indonesian fires are an annual problem during the dry season, but this year's are the worst since 2015 and have added to concerns about wildfire outbreaks worldwide exacerbating global warming.

Nearly 2,500 schools were closed across Malaysia Thursday — including almost 300 in the capital Kuala Lumpur — as were hundreds on Indonesia's Sumatra island and the Indonesian part of Borneo, where the vast majority of fires are burning.

Satellite images released by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Earth Observatory show Borneo covered in a pall of smoke.

The island is divided between

Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. Acrid smog has also clouded the skies of Singapore in recent days, raising fears it may affect this Sunday's Formula One race.

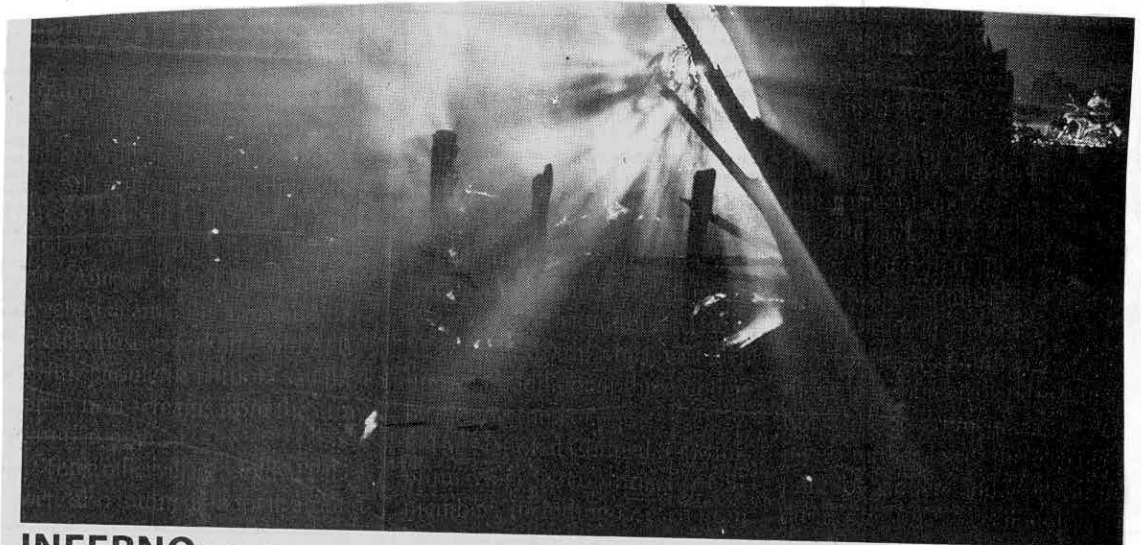
Officials from Asean have long struggled to come up with fixes for the smog outbreaks, signing an agreement and holding regular meetings, but with little effect.

This week, Indonesia said it had arrested 230 people suspected of being involved in activities that led to out-of-control fires sweeping the country.

Air quality remained at "unhealthy" or "very unhealthy" levels on an official index in most of Malaysia Thursday, with the yellow-ish smog shrouding Kuala Lumpur so dense that the iconic Petronas Twin Towers and other skyscrapers were barely visible.

Indonesia and Malaysia have been carrying out cloud-seeding, which involves using chemicals in a bid to induce rain, since the haze worsened.

Agence France-Presse journalists on a Malaysian air force flight



INFERNO This is just one of the dozens of forest fires in Riau, Indonesia. Riau is in the Borneo Island where the raging fire has been gutting thousands of hectares of thick forests. Malaysia has pressed Indonesia to do its best to put out the fire. AFP PHOTO

over the country Thursday watched as a liquid solution was sprayed from the aircraft's open door over

clouds and the smog-shrouded landscape below.

Air quality was at unhealthy

levels in Singapore, where the striking waterfront skyline has been obscured for days. **AFP**



Losing our 'local Amazon' forest

BY ALBERT BALBUTIN JR.

AS news of the Amazon forest fires reaches more and more people, Tropical Depression "Nimfa" leaves the Philippines. It is the 14th cyclone to hit the country this year as listed by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and was weakened by Luzon's natural protective barrier: the Sierra Madre.

On the other side of the planet, another important ecosystem faces its own challenge. More than 70,000 fires have occurred this year, so far, in the Amazon — 83 percent more than last year, according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research.

But this is just a portion of a long standing issue in the Amazon rainforest. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by 2003, more than 60,000 square kilometers of rainforest was cleared — an area half the size of Luzon.

As a result the 400 or so groups of indigenous peoples in the Amazon, as noted by the Pachamama Alliance, have been negatively affected. Meanwhile, the remaining 10 percent of the world's known species in the Amazon, noted by Conservation International, continue to decrease.

Today, with Amazon forest regulations relaxed and the resulting fires started after the election of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, the world is now paying more attention to forest loss in the Amazon.

And what about Philippine forests?

Since the transfer from Spanish to American rule in the 1900s, the Philippines has lost more than 75 percent of its original forest cover, based on data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau.

Even before this, indigenous peoples from the Manobo in Mindanao to the Dumagat in the Sierra Madre have been displaced from to mis-implemented environment laws (or lack thereof) meant to keep forest extraction at a sustainable level, and in collaboration with indigenous communities.

This has contributed to the increased number of threatened species found only in the Philippines. In a separate collaborative study by lead author JC Gonzalez of the University of the Phil-

ippines Los Baños, there are now 168 threatened endemic species, representing 15 percent of all threatened species in the country.

Among bird species alone, 50 percent are decreasing in number based from 2012 International Union for Conservation of Nature data retrieved by the Haribon Foundation.

What can you do?

More than ever, it is important to stay informed and to understand that we live on a finite planet that needs to be sustained. Participatory governance is another key: how active are we with our local government or civil society groups?

Nongovernment organizations like Haribon Foundation have been working on environmental conservation for decades. On the ground, Haribon, Rain Forest Restoration Initiative, and the Forests for Life movement have planted more than 1 million native trees in over 20,000 hectares of forest. This effort is guided by scientific data and community-based efforts. All of which could not be possible without the more than 10,000 volunteers to date.

Unfortunately, more work has to be done. Not only must we plant more, but we must protect what already exists.

The remaining 24 percent of Philippine forest must be adequately planned. The Sustainable Forest Management Bill is a network-backed solution to forest degradation in the country, and includes provisions for both protected and production forests.

It also includes important provisions for community-involvement and protecting indigenous lands. Both are non-existent in current forestry law.

Finally, under Haribon and BirdLife International's Forest Governance Project funded by the European Union, communities or "non-state" actors uninformed in government are harnessed as the true stewards of our remaining forests. Haribon is working with indigenous peoples and local governments to help ensure that everyone is invited to the table of forest conservation and management.

Act now. Or we are to lose the Philippines' own Amazon in our lifetime.

Visit www.haribon.org.ph to learn how you can help bring back forests today.

Albert Balbutin is a media and communication officer from the Haribon Foundation.



09-21-19

TITLE :

PAGE 1/

DATE

DENR kinalampag sa mga pinaslang na eco warrior

Nagprotesta ang mga environmentalist sa tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kahapon upang hingan ng katarungan ang mga pinaslang na mga environmental activist sa bansa, 30 sa kanila ang pinatay noong 2018.

Ilan sa mga pinaslang ay sina Datu Victor Danyan ng Lake Sebu sa North Cotabato at Gloria Capitan ng

Bataan.

Ang protesta, na nataon din sa anibersaryo ng Martial Law kung kailan maraming mga Pilipino ang pinatay at ikinalugmok ng ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, ay naka-schedule mula kahapon, Biyernes hanggang Setyembre 27, at tinawag na Global Climate Strike.

Sabi ni Madelene de Borja ng Ecological Justice League of

Youth Leaders, ang Pilipinas ang tinuturing na pinakadelikadong lugar sa mga lumalaban para sa kalikasan at karapatan ng mga tao sa lupa batay sa 2019 Global Witness Report.

Ang Global Climate Strike ay inisyatiba ng mga kabataan sa buong mundo na nanawagan na itigil na ang paggamit ng fossil fuel para malabanan ang climate crisis. (**Eileen Mencias**)



TITLE:

P1

PAGE 1/

DATE

No pork in '20 budget measure, Salceda insists

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ

EVEN after admitting that his fellow lawmakers were given P100-million allocation each, House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman and Albay Rep. Joey S. Salceda is now insisting the old pork-barrel system in Congress is gone.

Salceda, in a news statement issued on Friday, also assured the public that under the leadership of Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, the proposed 2020 national budget bill remains free of any pork allocations and is bereft of any illegal parking of funds and insertions.

According to the lawmaker, the projects in the 2020 budget bill are all itemized in the National Expenditure Program (NEP) submitted by Malacañang to Congress. Before the budget was submitted, he said they have already recommended to the Executive branch, which projects require funding under the 2020 budget.

Salceda said all projects identified by representatives of congressional districts and party-list groups that were included by the Executive department in the NEP "were deemed necessary" based on the complete work plans and feasibility studies that were submitted by district, provincial or regional authorities of the various department.

"The members of the House of Representatives, including local officials like mayors and governor's have also submitted recommendations on the development projects that may be funded under the 2020 national budget depending on the needs of their respective areas," he said.

"However, we would like to make it clear that just like senators, governors, mayors and barangay officials, members of Congress can only go as far as recommending projects for their respective areas. It is the Executive department who will vet, classify and approve which recommendations are in line with national priorities," Salceda pointed out.

Lawmakers, he added, can only propose but cannot even amend the budget on the floor because of the in line budgeting system that "we strictly adhere to ensure that every item in the proposed appropriations law is legal and aboveboard."

He said his statement about each congressman supposedly getting P100 million each under the proposed budget does not mean that each member of the House would be able to identify and recommend projects worth that amount.

"Projects identified by lawmakers are allocated funding under the budget based on the needs of their constituents. Hence, if the project identified and recommended for funding is necessary, it may be included in the budget. Since the needs of the people in each congressional district are not the same, the allocations are also not the same," Salceda said.

2020 budget

THE lower chamber is eyeing the second reading approval of the proposed 2020 P4.1-trillion General Appropriations Act, or the House Bill 4228 within Friday.

President Duterte certified as urgent the 2020 national budget in a bid to ensure its timely passage and prevent a repeat of the delay in the passage of the 2019 budget.

The 2020 national budget, which is cash-based, is 11.8 percent more than the 2019 budget and will constitute

19.4 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Social services will receive the largest chunk of the budget with P1.5 trillion, or a 37.2-percent share. Followed by economic services, which will receive P1.18 trillion, or a 28.9-percent share. Meanwhile, the general public services will receive P734.5 billion, debt burden with P451 billion and defense with P195.6 billion.

In 2020 national budget, the government maintains a manageable deficit of 3.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to enable a declining debt burden.

For next year, the government will sustain the momentum of rising revenue collection by pursuing the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

The government revenue collections are expected to reach P3.536 trillion in 2020, which is 12.3 percent higher than this year's targeted level of P3.1 trillion. This will fund 83.9 percent of programmed disbursements for 2020.

Meanwhile, the total gross borrowings for 2020 amounted to P1.4 trillion. With a borrowing mix policy of 75:25 in favor of domestic sources, P1.047 trillion will be sourced locally while the remaining P353.2 billion will come from abroad.

Of the total gross borrowings, P677.6 billion will finance the deficit, which is equivalent to 3.2 percent of GDP.



P-2

No Park in '20 Budget measure, Salceda insists

Meanwhile, the top 10 agencies to get the biggest allocations next year are: Department of Education, P673 billion; Department of Public Works and Highways, P534 billion; Department of the Interior and Local Government, P238 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development, P195 billion; Department of National Defense, P189 billion; Department of Health, P166.5 billion; Department of Transportation, P147 billion; Department of Agriculture, P56.8 billion, the Judiciary, P38.7 billion and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, P26.4 billion.

The 2020 NEP will also finance the implementation of priority measures of the administration.

Among the critical programs of the administration are measures to implement new laws and policies that provide economic and social assistance to all Filipinos, and enhance the security of the nation, such as the: full implementation of the Universal Health Care Act; institutionalization of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino

Program, smooth transition to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, implementation of the Rice Liberalization Act, creation of the Department for Human Settlements and Urban Development, and National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict. The government said the UHC program has been allocated P166.5 billion funding, while P108.8 billion for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act.

Pursuant to the Bangsamoro Organic Law, P70.6 billion is allocated for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Republic Act 11203, or the Rice Liberalization Act, mandates the creation of the P10-billion Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

Following the enactment of RA 11201, or the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act, the 2020 budget allocates an amount of P641.6 million to support the initial operations of the department.



PH joins global wave of climate protests

By Krixia Subingsubing
@krixiasINQ

Their house is on fire. And they won't just stand and watch it burn.

Hundreds of students and environmental activists led the nationwide climate protests at the University of the Philippines Diliman, as the Philippines and several countries in the East Pacific on Friday kick-started the weeklong global wave of protests to demand urgent, transformative action on climate change.

The protests, led by Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg in New York, is part of the global

"Fridays for Future" movement where students go on strike to demand accountability on the world's growing carbon emissions.

Most vulnerable

While the Philippines consistently ranks as among the lowest carbon emitters of the world, it's the most vulnerable to extreme weather and slow-onset disasters brought on by the compounding effects of global warming.

"The world is on fire and we refuse to inherit its ashes," said Mitzi Jonelle Tan, lead convener of the Youth Advocates for Climate Action in the Philippines

(Yacap) that led the strikes in UP.

"The youth needs to be at the forefront of the battle for the future of our planet in the face of massive environmental degradation," Tan said.

Around 500 students clad in blue joined the protests at the UP College of Science amphitheater. The sound of tribal drums and chants to save Mother Nature pierced the open air: "*Tawag ng taumbayan / Sagipin ang kalikasan!*"

Apart from the protest, the students also tried to break the world record for the largest earth formation. Amid grey clouds and light drizzle, they

held blue placards facing the sky that formed the image of Planet Earth. On their feet was a large red banner that read: "There is no Planet B."

This was meant to underscore the urgency by which they needed to act, Tan said.

"This is such a crucial generation," Tan said. "Our actions would literally determine the future of the planet."

Global warming

The global protests were driven in large part by the bombshell report released by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change this year.

The UN report concluded

that they have 11 years to curb the rise of global warming to a 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold, beyond which would worsen the risks for extreme weather phenomena and widespread poverty for hundreds of millions.

Urgent changes needed

The same report said "urgent and unprecedented changes" are needed to hit and stay within target.

But at present, most countries like the Philippines are bound to fail in meeting the Paris Agreement to keep temperatures between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius, says Greenpeace country director Lea Guerrero.

It's why even young students like Alex Demaisip, 15, joined the strikes even though she had no experience in rallies before.

A Grade 9 student from private Raya School in Fairview, Quezon City, Demaisip said she started to worry about her future after learning of the UN report.

"For me, it's really sad that it's happening while we're just barely discovering our potential, and during an age where people my age have access to unlimited information," she said. "But since we're all here now, maybe now the grownups will listen." INQ



THE WORLD AT RISK

OCEANS NEED HEALING, SAY UN SCIENTISTS

PARIS—Humanity must heal oceans made sick by climate change and pollution to protect marine life and to save itself, experts warned days before the release of a major UN report.

By absorbing a quarter of man-made CO₂ and soaking up more than 90 percent of the heat generated by greenhouse gases, oceans keep the population alive—but at a terrible cost, according to a draft of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change assessment seen by Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Seas have grown acidic, potentially undermining their capacity to draw down CO₂. Warmer surface water has expanded the force and range of deadly tropical storms. Marine heat waves are wiping out coral reefs, and accelerating the melt-off of glaciers and ice sheets driving sea level rise.

“The last book of the Bible talks about the four horseman of the Apocalypse,” said Dan Laffoley, strategic lead for ocean protection at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

“For the oceans, the lead horseman is surface warming,”



RESTIVE A surfer looks out to the Pacific Ocean after sunset at Nakatajima Sand Dunes in Japan on Sept. 19. —AFP

he told AFP. “The three others are ocean heating, loss of oxygen and acidification.”

There are at least three types of actions humans can take to help repair the damage and ensure that oceans do not turn from friend to foe, scientists say.

Less than seven percent of oceans—which cover 70 percent of Earth’s surface—benefit from some form of regional or national protection, often with

minimal enforcement.

Ocean advocates and experts say the area safeguarded must be vastly expanded.

“We need to protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030,” said Lisa Speer, director of the international oceans program at the National Resources Defense Council in Washington.

“This cannot be achieved without a high seas agreement,” she added. —AFP



Youth demand change in global climate strike

By Andrew Beatty

CHILDREN across Asia and the Pacific kicked off what are set to be the largest global climate protests in history Friday, demanding adults act now to stop environmental disaster.

From Sydney to Seoul, Manila to Mumbai, children heeded the rallying cry of fellow teen activist Greta Thunberg and shut their textbooks in a collective call to action.

In Australia, more than 300,000 kids, parents and supporters rallied, organizers said, more than double the turnout at climate strikes in March, and among the first of 5,000 events planned worldwide by a movement dubbed "Fridays for Future."

They are demanding politicians and businesses take drastic action to stop global warming, which scientists warn will lead to environmental catastrophe on current trends.

The day of protests is already eclipsing crowd numbers seen in strikes last May and will culminate in New York, where 1.1 million students in around 1,800 public schools have been permit-

ted to skip school.

On the eve of the strikes, Thunberg—a 16-year-old Swede who has become emblematic of generational tensions over management of the planet—insisted solutions were being "ignored" and called on kids to take ownership.

"Everything counts, what you do counts," she said in a video message to supporters.

As the sun rose above the international dateline, events began in the deluge-threatened Pacific Islands of Vanuatu, the Solomons and Kiribati—where children chanted "We are not sinking, we are fighting."

There was a similar sense of defiance across Asia. "We are the future and we deserve better," 12-year-old Lilly Satidtanasarn—known as "Thailand's Greta" for her campaigning against plastic bags in malls—told AFP in Bangkok.

The adults "have just been talking about it, but they're not doing anything," she said. "We don't want excuses."

In India, schoolchildren rallied in New Delhi and Mumbai while thousands protested in the Philippines, which experts say faces threats from rising sea levels

and increasingly violent storms.

"There are a lot of people here who can feel the effects of climate change already, for example with typhoons," Yanna Palo, 23, told AFP at a rally in the capital Manila.

"I don't know if we're on the frontline of the fight against climate change, but I hope so."

Defiant children

In Australia, while some local authorities, schools and business encouraged people to take part in the strikes, some have warned that absences must be explained.

Many Australian students remain undeterred.

"We're here to send a message to people in power—the politicians, showing them that we care and this is really important to us," said 16-year-old Will Connor.

"Otherwise we're not going to have a future."

The mostly hot and dusty continent finds itself at the sharp end of the climate debate and the changing environment has

Turn to A5

become a daily fact of life.

Australia is one of the world's largest coal exporters and continues to approve massive new mines that bring jobs and have spurred three-decades of uninterrupted economic growth.

But it has also suffered the compounding effects of climate change. Recent years have brought historic droughts, more intense bushfires, devastating floods and the blanching of the Great Barrier Reef.

Australia's conservative government—while stopping short of outright climate change denial—has sought to frame the debate as a choice between jobs or abstract CO2 targets.

Ruling coalition parliamentarian Craig Kelly on Thursday warned chil-

dren that "everything you're told is a lie."

"The facts are, there is no link between climate change and drought, polar bears are increasing in number," he said.

Businesses taking action

An increasing number of businesses disagree.

"See you on the streets" was the defiant message from Australian pension fund Future Super, which helped muster 2,000 companies behind "not business as usual" pro-strike campaign.

In a similar vein, Amazon chief Jeff Bezos on Thursday pledged to make the US technology and retail giant carbon neutral by 2040 and encourage other firms to do likewise.

Friday's mass action sets the scene for a range of high-profile climate events in New York.

A Youth Climate Summit will take place at the United Nations on Saturday.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will then host an emergency summit on Monday in which he will urge world leaders to raise their commitments made in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

The agreement saw countries pledge to limit the long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth to two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels, and if possible, to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

A landmark UN report to be unveiled next week will warn that global warming and pollution are ravaging Earth's oceans and icy regions in ways that could unleash misery on a global scale.

The scientific report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change will be put to a gathering of experts from 195 countries meeting in Morocco from Friday. AFP



TITLE :

PAGE 1/

DATE

No climate deal yet

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) – Chancellor Angela Merkel's government struggled Friday to find a deal on a broad climate plan despite overnight talks dragging over 12 hours, as protesters prepared to ramp up the pressure for change.

The plan, which covers a slew of measures from tackling emissions in the energy and industrial sectors, to incentives for zero-emission electric vehicles or public transport, was due to be unveiled on Friday.

But after a marathon session through the night, sources close to the talks said Merkel and other political leaders were still locked in negotiations.

A key sticking point was the question of how to better price harmful carbon emissions from oil, gas and coal into economic activity in order to incentivize clean alternatives.

While Merkel's party wants to expand the trading of emission certificates, her junior coalition partners, the Social Democrats, have called for a carbon tax.

The EU's biggest economy is set to miss climate targets for next year but has committed itself to meeting the 2030 goal of a 55 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.

Export powerhouse Germany accounts for around two percent of the worldwide emissions blamed for heating the Earth's

atmosphere, melting ice caps, rising sea levels and intensifying violent weather events.

After two blistering summers and with tens of thousands joining climate

school strikes started by Swedish teen Greta Thunberg, protesting voices have grown louder, putting pressure on the government to take decisive action.



CHINA'S Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun (center, front) vetoes a UN Security Council draft resolution on Syria at the UN headquarters in New York, on Thursday.

XINHUA



WORLD VIEW

FRANK GÖTMARK AND ROBIN MAYNARD

World, UN must reduce population growth

Gothenburg/London—On Sept. 24-25, world leaders will gather at the United Nations in New York to review progress toward the UN's 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, which aim "to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all," are commendable, and summarize the kind of world many of us wish to see in 2030. But if this vision is to have any chance of materializing, governments must now add an 18th goal: "Dampen population growth."

The challenges that humanity faces today stem mainly from overconsumption and overpopulation. Yet policymakers often fail to consider the two factors together, and largely neglect population growth in particular.

The overall human impact on the global environment is the product of population size and average per capita consumption. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that population growth and economic (consumption) growth are the two main causes of global warming. Per capita resource consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions are highest in developed economies, while rapid population growth in developing countries contributes to the loss of forests and biodiversity.

When governments adopted the SDGs in 2015, many experts were surprised by the lack of attention to population growth. Demographer Joseph Chamie, a former director of the UN Population Division, expressed concern that the UN was ignoring the issue. University of Cambridge economist Partha Dasgupta and coauthors concurred, arguing that this omission "should be a point of public concern." More recently, demographer Massimo Livi Bacci of the University of Florence wrote that "population... has become irrelevant for the sustainability of development, notwithstanding the evidence to the contrary."

Between 1960 and 2000, the world's population doubled from 3 billion to 6 billion. This growth contributed to greater pollution of land, lakes, rivers and oceans, as well as urban overcrowding and a higher demand for agricultural land and freshwater (in turn encroaching on natural ecosystems). Despite significant technical advances in agriculture, famines killed millions of people over this 40-year period. And in developing countries, rapid population growth left poor people at greater risk of death, injury and disease resulting from pollution, floods, droughts and other disasters.

There are now 7.7 billion people on Earth. The UN forecasts that this figure will rise to 11 billion by 2100 (and that assumes steady fertility declines in many countries that have tended to resist this trend). A population increase on this scale would create more pollution, require a doubling of global food production under difficult conditions (including climate disruption), and result in more people suffering during conflicts and famines.

To be sure, there has been plenty of necessary research into how the world can better accommodate billions more people, in terms of pollution, agriculture, energy efficiency and climate change. But such research fails to quantify the benefits of minimizing further population increases—a critical oversight.

While many researchers and policymakers seem to regard a rapidly increasing global population as inevitable, ordinary citizens recognize the serious problems and risks that this will cause. In a 2014 survey by the Global Challenges Foundation, a majority of 9,000 respondents in nine countries (the United States, Brazil, South Africa, Germany, Poland, Sweden, India, Russia and China) considered population increase to be an actual or potential future threat to mankind. The same year, a Pew Research Center survey reported that 82 percent of American scientists regarded the growing world population as a major problem because "there won't be enough food and resources."

Yet the huge projected increase in the world's population this century is avoidable. The size of the population in 2100 can be influenced now by international debate, government programs and individual choices.

More specifically, an additional SDG to dampen population growth would promote funding for voluntary, rights-based family planning. This approach has a proven track record of success, not only in reducing births rapidly, but also in advancing the empowerment of women and spurring economic progress. No coercive "population control" measures are needed. Rather, wider awareness of the linkage between family size and ecological sustainability can help parents recognize the benefits of having fewer children.

Clearly, population growth cannot be stopped overnight, nor feasibly by 2030. But we could establish trends toward a population peak and decline in all countries by then. This includes not only developing countries, where population growth threatens security, but also rich countries with large ecological footprints, where population decline and its benefits are resisted because of ill-founded fears of demographic aging.

Reproductive rights and family planning are mentioned in both SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing) and SDG 5 (gender equality), but neither goal explicitly aims to reduce population growth. As they currently stand, the SDGs imply that there is no longer any need to curb the global population increase, even though it undermines most of the goals.

As a result, there is a big risk that the world will achieve little of the 2030 Agenda, especially in countries where high birth rates persist. But we should not give up. Changes in population policies and norms can reduce birth rates. And by adopting a new SDG to this effect, the world could yet save the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to Frank Götmarm and Robin Maynard, this commentary has been signed by:

Damayanti Buchori, professor, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia

Philip Cafaro, professor, Colorado State University, United States

Gerardo Ceballos, professor, Instituto de Ecología, Mexico

Richard Cowling, professor, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

Edu Effiom, assistant director forestry, Cross River State Forestry Commission, and chair of the Africa Chapter, Association of Tropical Biology & Conservation, Nigeria

Peter Matanle, senior lecturer, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

Charles Ochieng, practitioner in reproductive health, Kenya

Jane O'Sullivan, honorary senior research fellow, University of Queensland, Australia

Luis F. Pacheco, professor, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia

Aalok Ranjan Chaurasia, demographer, Shyam Institute, India

Alon Tal, professor, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Lucia Tamburino, Ph.D. and postdoctoral researcher, Italy and Sweden

Luciano Martins Verdade, associate professor, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. *Project Syndicate*

Frank Götmarm is professor of animal ecology and conservation biology at the University of Gothenburg and head of The Overpopulation Project. Robin Maynard is director of Population Matters.



Investing in resilience

The best time to invest in disaster resilience, preparedness, prevention and mitigation is well before a natural disaster strikes. By the time a typhoon or earthquake hits or a volcano erupts, it's too late. It sounds obvious, but is nonetheless something we need to keep reminding ourselves and practicing.

This is the basic principle and philosophy behind the work of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), a private foundation organized to focus on all stages of disaster risk management—from preparedness to response and recovery. Since Supertyphoon “Yolanda” (international name Haiyan) in 2013, we've built a large portfolio of programs around this principle and continue to expand on that work.

This week, we've been holding our second annual Brown University-PDRF Humanitarian Field Program at our Emergency Operations Center in Clark, Pampanga. This year's theme is focused on innovation and coordination in international and local humanitarian coordination. This program brings together almost 50 fellows and 32 faculty, resource persons and facilitators for one week of lectures, workshops and simulation exercises on humanitarian work and disaster risk reduction management.

Most of these fellows are from local government units (LGUs), national government agencies, private sector, nongovernment organizations, and universities from across the Philippines. Four fellows are from Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia. To manage the course, we've brought together an international faculty from the Philippines, United States, Israel, Indonesia and Singapore in a program codigned by Brown University's Watson Institute and PDRF.

The program ends today with a pitch session for groups to compete for prize money

BUSINESS MATTERS

GUILLERMO M. LUZ

to turn innovation project ideas into “proofs of concept.” It's a way for fellows to really test out their innovations in the field, with a view to improving humanitarian coordination.

Programs like these are important because they not only raise skills levels; they also build networks, relationships and bonds—all of which are important in the field when an actual natural disaster strikes. Knowing whom to call, what to ask for and what to do are just part of the returns you get when you invest in resilience well in advance of an actual emergency.

The Brown University-PDRF program is just one of many resilience programs we invest in and operate at PDRF. Here's a quick rundown of our portfolio of present projects that form our investment in resilience.

PrepLab. PDRF runs training sessions under its PrepLab program. Since 2015, almost 5,000 individuals have undergone training in such topics as Weather 101 (with Weather Philippines, a PDRF partner), Raid Earthquake Damage Assessment (with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology), Family Preparedness and other topics. Education and training remain among the most effective means of getting people prepared for disasters.

Business Continuity. One of the things we have observed is that micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) have difficulty rebounding from a calamity, mainly because they have no business continuity plan for their enterprises. Many people tend to think that business continuity programs are for larger businesses

because they can afford them. Yet, MSMEs account for over 99 percent of all businesses and 63 percent of employment. Moreover, many of these MSMEs are suppliers of larger corporations. If this part of the supply chain fails, even larger companies will have difficulty operating after a calamity.

In response to this need, PDRF developed a Business Continuity course for MSMEs, and now sits as a member of the National Resilience Core Group for MSME Disaster Resilience. Working with the Department of Trade and Industry, we've trained over 7,000 MSMEs in 14 regions on business continuity. We also recently launched the MSME Guidebook on Disaster Resilience and a mobile app on business continuity.

Public Service Continuity. Working closely with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), PDRF also helped develop the government's Public Service Continuity Program (the government equivalent of business continuity) as well as the manual for national line agencies and local government units. As an implementing partner of OCD, PDRF has helped capacitate over 400 government personnel and produced 45 Public Service Continuity trainers so the program can scale up and cover all government agencies and LGUs.

In the Philippines, natural disasters are not a question of “if” but “when” they will occur. An investment in resilience will pay off in many ways: Lives saved, property and assets protected, and better public services are just some of the benefits. Call it the Resilience Dividend.

Guillermo M. Luz is chief resilience officer of PDRF (www.pdrf.org).

Business Matters is a project of the Makati Business Club (makatibusinessclub@mbc.com.ph).



21 SEP 2013

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

EDITORIAL

A collective demand

YOUNG people in the Philippines and elsewhere conducted a vast protest on Friday, demanding that political and business leaders act on the issue of climate change.

Global Climate Strikes is a youth-led movement inspired by 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, and seeks to remind adults all over the world that through their action or inaction, they will determine the kind of life that the young and the succeeding generations will come to know as normal.

Scientists say that if current global warming activities are not kept to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, climate change will bring catastrophic results. We are starting to feel these, already, in the form of rising sea levels, more violent and more frequent storms, protracted forest fires from the Amazon to Indonesia, and the resulting drought, famine and displacement.

Here in the Philippines, young people are leading rallies, workshops and related events in at least 28 locations for the next seven days, primarily demanding that the government declare a climate emergency.

In support of the strikes, the Department of Education, through a memorandum, ordered teachers and school

heads to excuse students who would take part in the action provided they present proof of consent of their parents and legal guardians. It also encouraged schools to document their participation and post it on social media to help spread the word.

The youth strikers amassed in several locations Friday, reminding decision makers in government to not just talk about climate change but to do something concrete about it.

Studies have shown the Philippines is the third country most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The archipelago's physical make up and location make it prone to weather patterns, made more extreme and frequent by the heat trapped in the atmosphere.

Other demands include the phaseout of coal and other fossil fuels, a transition to renewable energy while securing the livelihood of workers, the safeguarding of the rights of indigenous people and environmental defenders, the strengthening of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, and

enhancement of support for the creation of sustainable cities and communities.

One location in Friday's strike was the Commission on Human Rights compound in Quezon City, where Commissioner Chito Gascon spoke before the strikers. He emphasized the link between climate change and human rights, saying that the global tragedy would affect the dignity and life choices of ordinary people.

Gascon also expressed his wish that the Duterte administration rethink an earlier pronouncement that it would stop sending official delegates to climate change conferences, where the Philippines has been an active, vocal participant over the past two decades.

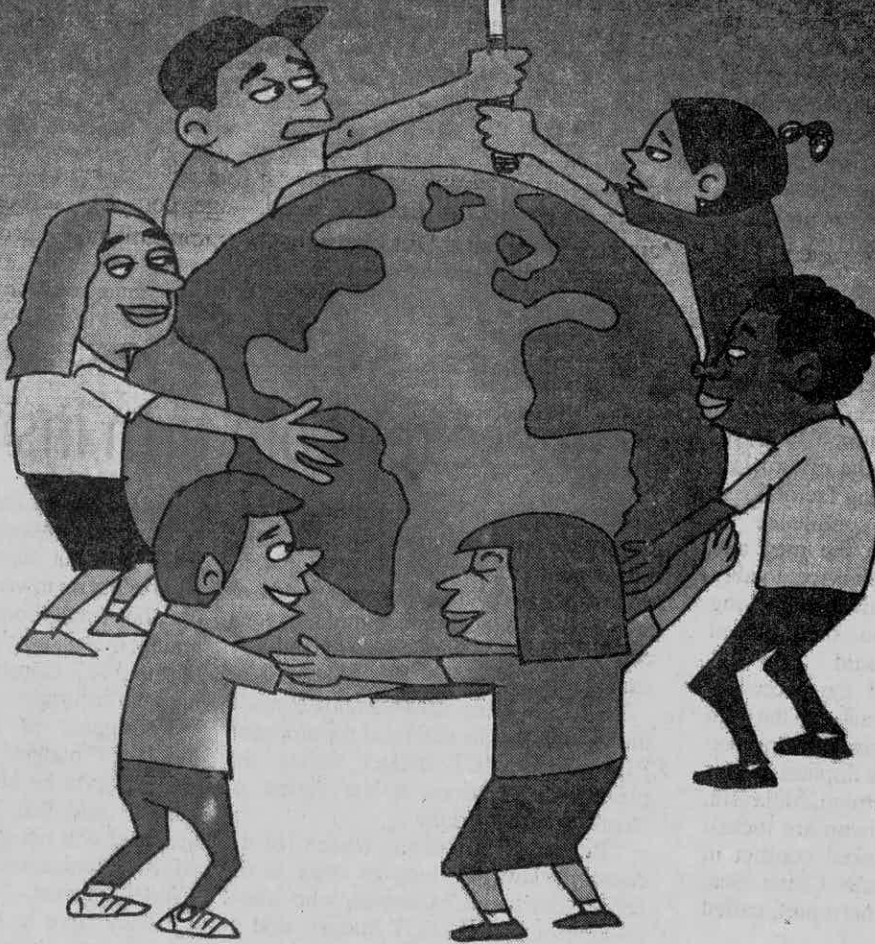
Climate change is not an opinion, Gascon said, echoing Thunberg. It is a fact, and the only question remaining is how today's decision makers will respond to a threat whose effects they are not likely to live to see. It is the youth of today and tomorrow who stand to lose their homes and livelihoods, security and safety, and their human rights and dignity in the event the grownups are not persuaded to do more than what is already being done.



EDITORIAL

A collective demand

**Adults, do
something now!**



BLAD
M.A. STANDARD
SEPT. 21, 2019



The youth have it in their power to reverse

climate change

"If you continue failing us in the future, we, the young people, will make change happen by ourselves. The youth of this world have started to move and we will not rest again," the students declared in the open letter on Global Day for Climate Action on March 15, 2019.

On Friday, September 20, we ushered in the Global Week of Climate Action where people around the world take to the streets to demand ambitious commitments on climate action from their respective governments coinciding with the United Nations (UN) Climate Summit in New York City on September 23.

September 20 starts with a global student strike and culminates in a global day of action on September 27.

According to Youth Strike for Climate Philippines (YSFCP), aside from the National Capital Region, the student strikes will happen in 20 provinces, namely Ilocos Norte, Pampanga, Bataan, Quezon, Cavite, Laguna, Albay, Sorsogon, Palawan, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato and Tawi-Tawi.

The YSFCP, a youth-led national movement, aims to empower young people to act in addressing the worsening effects of climate change by taking part in street demonstrations to demand action from leaders in government.

"This climate crisis needs our attention. I am not wasting any more time. It's time to step up for the Earth," said Jefferson Estela, lead convener of YSFCP. "Families, especially those nearest or under the poverty line, will experience extreme hunger. These individuals are the least responsible for the crisis, and they have benefited the least from various unsustainable practices such as fossil fuel production

and consumption, and yet they are the most affected," he further said as he shared with this author the brief outline of their six demands.

Phase-out coal and other fossil fuels in the Philippines' energy supply chain

Coal-fired power plants contribute largely to carbon pollution and of its direct effect on our well-being. We can phase out coal and other fossil fuels through divestment of commercial banks and other financial institutions from coal and other fossil fuel projects and by urging our local governments to prohibit future construction of coal and other fossil fuel plants and, at the same time, pursue renewable energy programs.

Just transition to 100-percent renewable energy that is accessible to every Filipino.

Transitioning to 100-percent renewable energy will not only contribute to our commitment to the Paris Agreement, but will also contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 on Zero Hunger, SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation.

Safeguard the rights of indigenous people and environmental defenders

In 2018, the Philippines was named as the most dangerous country to environmental defenders, with 30 recorded killings throughout the year. For a mega-diverse country to be hailed dangerous to environmental defenders, only portend an ill omen to the future of humanity and the environment.



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

We demand for a future not only safe for everyone defending our environment but also for our environment to thrive and survive.

Strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation-disaster risk reduction and management (CCAM-DRRM) policies and enact legislation on CCAM-DRRM research and development.

The Philippines has the best laws in CCAM-DRRM because we are the third most disaster-prone country, given that we are located at the Pacific Ring of Fire and the Tropical Cyclone Belt. Hence, there is a need for continued research on CCAM-DRRM to support the implementation of existing laws and ensure that these are effective and efficient and as a reference for future laws.

Transform our existing cities and support the creation of sustainable cities and communities

The worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila is a huge stumbling block for the growth of the Philippine economy and for government to ensure that Filipinos enjoy a better quality of life. Transportation directly affects the environment because of its huge carbon dioxide emission that amounts to a total of 36.1 percent.

It is insufficient to focus solely on the traffic situation because transportation is part of the bigger picture of cities and communities. There is a need to create inclusive sustainable cities and communities to solve the



P-2

The youth have it in their power to reverse climate change

interconnected problem of highly dense and car-centric Metro Manila.

Declaration of climate emergency

The 2018 report of the IPCC highlights that we have until 2030 to transform the global economy to avoid the worst impacts of climate change by 2050. This is an urgent call to the Philippine government to declare a climate emergency and utilize/fast-track our resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation since we are one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impacts of climate change.

We recall in my column last August 17, that local government leaders on the Yolanda corridor — Mayor Alfred Romualdez of Tacloban City; Mayor Maria Ofelia Alcantara of Tolosa, Leyte; Mayor Midred Que of Dulag, Leyte; Mayor Lemuel Jin Traya of Abuyog, Leyte — together with Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman, signed “The Communities for Resilience (CORE): Resolve of the Local Governments in the Yolanda Corridor” that recognizes the prevailing climate emergency in the country and the imperative of an effective, collective response at all levels considering the best available scientific knowledge and other specific needs and special circumstances of the country.

Climate Change Commission secretary extols youth’s bold initiative

Inspired by climate activist Greta Thunberg as the “voiceless future of humanity,” YSFCP made a courtesy visit and had a brief discussion with CCC Secretary de Guzman. The secretary extolled the boldness of

the youth strike and shared that the commission has been participating in numerous youth conferences and platforms showcasing our youth’s climate initiatives. “And all these engagements and commitments were done to ensure that in every action, no one is left behind,” de Guzman said.

Moving forward, YSFCP informed the secretary that they are preparing a position paper on their demands and intend to submit this to the commission because they believe that the CCC has the legal mandate “as the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in national, local, and sectoral development plans towards a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines.”

Department of Education throws support to climate strike

In an unexpected move, in a message sneaked into my mail by a reliable source, the Department of Education through the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration issued Memorandum 12-0919-0341 dated Sept. 17, 2019 calling for climate action on September 20 to 27.

The memorandum recognizes that “young Filipinos nationwide will take part in the Global Climate Strike.” Hence, “the department enjoins school heads and teachers to excuse students who will be joining the localized climate strike provided that parental/legal guardian consent is given.” Further, the department encourages schools and offices to conduct climate education and action activities within the school grounds such as noise barrage, clean-up and

educational discussions.

Given that the Philippines has the third youngest population in the Asia-Pacific region, and according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 30 percent of Filipinos have a median age of 26, the youth clearly have the capacity to lead in the behavioral revolution in the country. And every individual contribution taken collectively, will greatly contribute in our fight to make this planet more livable, more habitable and more sustainable. The youth have it in their power to reverse climate change.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (USA). This Saturday, September 21, he will discuss “The Role of the Youth in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals” as the keynote speaker for the Leaders Unite Mindanao 2019 at the Ateneo de Davao University, Davao City. On Sunday, September 22, he will present “The Blue Economy: Harnessing Our Ocean’s Resources for Sustainable Development” for the Philippine International Dive Expo at Conrad Manila. On September 25, he will join the panel discussion on “Let’s Talk About Plastics” for The International Sustainability Summit Manila 2019 at Manila Marriot Hotel and, in the afternoon, he will present “Model Cities and Municipalities: Bridging Communities Towards a Climate-Resilient Philippines” for The Manila Times’ Philippine Model Cities and Municipalities Forum. Email him at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.