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DAY : Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



TITLE:

20,000 join Manila Bay cleanup

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20,000 join Manila Bay cleanup

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

At least 20,000 people participated in the cleanup of Manila Bay yesterday as part of the observance of International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day 2019.

"More and more are now taking part in the cleanup following the campaign we launched on Manila Bay. Many have realized how important it is to take care of our natural resources, that is why the huge number of participants," said Undersecretary Benny Antiporda of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Apart from employees of government agencies concerned in the cleanup, the participants included members of the academe and environmental and civic groups.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said simultaneous cleanup activities took place yesterday within the Manila Bay region and in river systems that drain into the bay.

He cited that last Jan. 27, over 10,000 people took part in the launch of the rehabilitation program dubbed the "Battle for Manila Bay." Since then, activities have been held to clean up canals and bodies of water that drain into the bay.

Cimatu said yesterday's event, dubbed the "Battle for Trash-Free Manila Bay," aims to sustain the momentum of restoring Manila Bay to its former glory.

DENR cleanup sites were in Barangay 649 in Baseco, Manila, the coastal areas of Navotas Centennial Park, and the river systems of Tullahan-Tinajeros and Marikina River, which drain into Manila Bay.

Other cleanup sites were the Navotas Tanza Marine Tree Park; Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area; Bay Central Park in SM Mall of Asia and Gloria Maris at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, both in Pasay City; and Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Cimatu said the DENR aims to reduce the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay to 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters to make its waters fit for swimming.

The cleanup is in line with the 2008 Supreme Court ruling ordering the DENR and 12 other government agencies to "clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay for the enjoyment of the present and future generations."

Established in 1986 by the Washington-based environmental group Ocean Conservancy, the ICC is recognized as the world's largest volunteer effort for the ocean's health.



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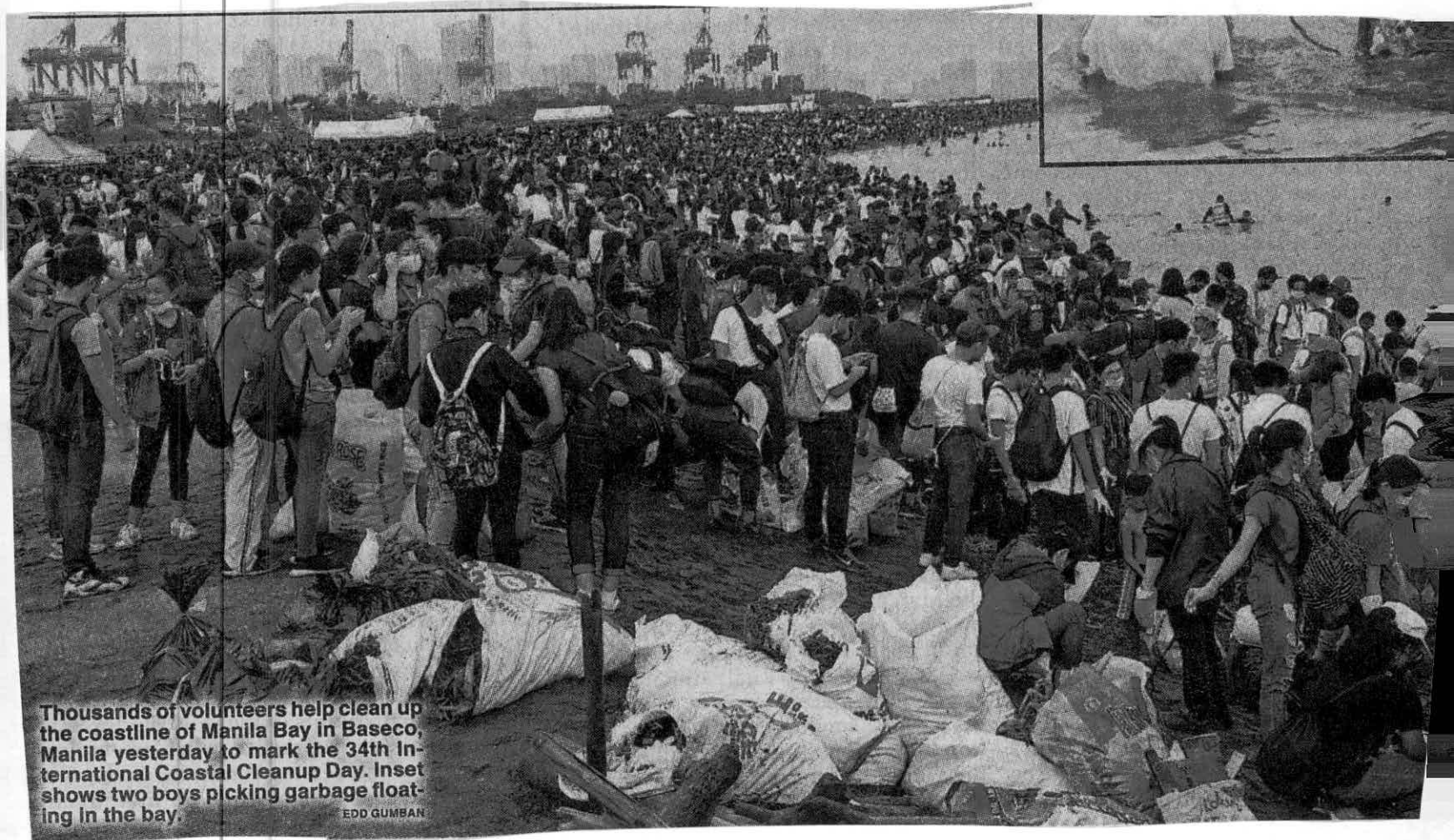
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Thousands of volunteers help clean up the coastline of Manila Bay in Baseco, Manila yesterday to mark the 34th International Coastal Cleanup Day. Inset shows two boys picking garbage floating in the bay.

EDD GUMBAN



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

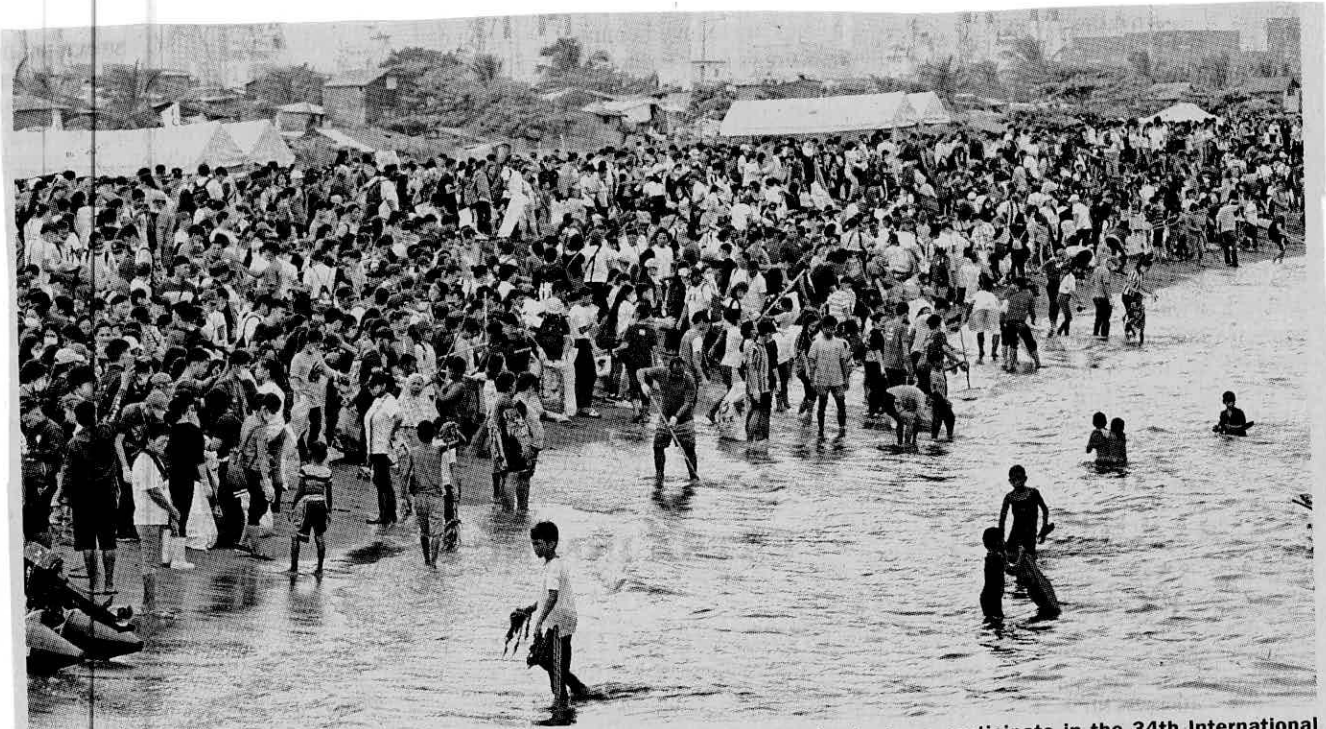


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BASECO CLEANUP — Thousands of local residents, government workers, and volunteers participate in the 34th International Coastal Cleanup as they clear the coastal area in Baseco, Tondo, in Manila of trash and other debris, Saturday morning. (Mark Balmores)



THOUSANDS TURN OUT FOR CLEANUP DAY

THOUSANDS of activists fanned out across beaches and rivers throughout Asia Saturday, picking up rubbish and drawing attention to the amount of trash that is dumped worldwide, a day after millions marched to urge world leaders to act on climate change.

The volunteers turned out for World Cleanup Day—an initiative that has got millions into the streets and cleaning up litter across the globe since it began just over a decade ago.

The Pacific island nation of Fiji swung into action early, with people scouring palm-fringed beaches for rubbish, heaving discarded car tires and engine parts from the coast just west of the capital Suva. *Turn to A2*

On Australia's Bondi beach activists sifted through the sand, carting off bits of plastic and cigarette butts.

In the Philippines, some 10,000 people swept across a long stretch of beach on heavily polluted Manila Bay, clutching sacks they filled with rubbish.

Plastic pollution is a major problem across Southeast Asia, but particularly in the Philippines, which—along with China, Vietnam and Indonesia—is frequently listed among the world's worst offenders.

"It's for us to help the environment, especially here in Manila, there's a lot of garbage," Mae Angela Areglado, a 20-year-old student told AFP as she pitched in with the cleanup—held right next to the city's huge Baseco slum.

"[Plastic is] affecting the marine life because they think that it is food", she added.

The mass cleanup is coordinated by the Let's Do It Foundation, which aims to "connect and empower people and organizations around the world to make our planet waste free," according to its website.

It attracted around 1,400 volunteers in Vietnam's capital Hanoi, where they scoured different areas of the city for litter under the scorching sun.

"Although our actions are very small—like cleaning trash from the sidewalk—it could spread a meaningful message," 18-year-old Hoang Thi Hoan told AFP, as motorists zipped by on a busy street.

In China, a group of about 30 gathered by the Xiaotaihou River in Beijing to pick up rubbish along the man-made waterway.

"You can't get permission to organize large events in Beijing due to tight security ahead of the 70th anniversary celebrations," organizer Zhang Hongfu, from the environmental group Friends of Nature, told AFP. **AFP**



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MMDA JOINS INT'L COASTAL CLEANUP EFFORTS

By Joel E. Zurbano

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority on Saturday joined the International Coastal Cleanup at the Baseco Beach in Tondo, Manila as part of its commitment to help save the environment.

MMDA chairman Danilo Lim said more than 200 personnel from different offices of the agency participated in the event spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"We called 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," Lim said.

Volunteers brought cleaning materials, gloves and sacks for removing trash in the foreshore areas of Manila.

"Aside from our regular cleanup 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, and household waste, among others.

Lim tapped members of the agency's Road Emergency Group to administer medical assistance in case anyone gets injured. Four rubber boats, portalets, vans and support vehicles were also dispatched.

Presidential Proclamation No. 470 declares the third Sunday of September of each year as the International Coastal Cleanup Day in observance of the Global Coastal Cleanup celebrations.



FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. (From top) Thousands of participants join the International Coastal Cleanup at the Navotas Bay. At the Manila Bay site of SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City, students, NGOs and ecology advocates collected tons of garbage and debris. A kid uses an electric fan cover as a makeshift catch basin at the Baseco Compound.
Andrew Rabulan, Diana Noche and Norman Cruz

Thousands of volunteers clean up Baseco

THOUSANDS of volunteers joined the 34th International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) on Saturday, with the Baseco coastal area as its main site.

According to the Manila Police District-Tactical Operations Center, there were about 15,000 volunteers in Baseco alone, already doubling last year's overall 7,000 volunteers. The ICC is held every third Saturday of September.

"The number of volunteers who participated this year only proves that Metro Manilans do have an increased sense of awareness and readiness to fulfill their civic duties," Jacqueline Caanca, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-NCR executive director said.

ICC was done simultaneously with other areas, namely Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, SM By the Bay, the shores of Gloria Maris-Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex and the riverbanks of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The event was hosted by the City of Manila, with Vice Mayor Maria Shielah "Honey" Lacuna Pangan in attendance, as well as city hall employees from various departments.

Aside from the weekly clean-ups from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the

Department of the Interior and Local Government, DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna said the national government alone could not proceed with the "real rehabilitation" of Manila Bay.

"[Mahalaga] ang cooperation ng City of Manila at lahat po ng mga local government units (LGUs), lalong lalo na dito sa Metro Manila (The cooperation of Manila City and all the LGUs in Metro Manila is important). We need the cooperation and support [of] LGUs until the *barangay* (village) level," Cuna, who is also the ground commander of Manila Bay Task Force, said.

As part of the ICC, DENR also conducted clean-up operations in a number of estuaries and creeks with the concerned LGUs: Bangkulasi River in Navotas City; Batasan River, Malabon City; Tunasan and Sucat-Buli Rivers, Muntinlupa City; Estero de Tripa de Gallina, and Sto. Rosario, Sta. Ana, Panday-Paltok and Pateros Rivers, all in Parañaque City; Kalayaan-Kasunduan Creek and Tullahan River, Quezon City; Daang Paa Creek, Pasig City; Tumana Creek, Marikina City; and Lingunan, Viente Reales, De Castro, Marculas and Dulong Tangke Creeks in Valenzuela City.

"Of course, it's not part of the coast, pero lahat po ng estero natin (but all of our estuaries), a big

majority ay dumadaloy sa (flows to) Manila Bay. You have to hit it from the source," he added.

Other volunteers who participated include those from the Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard, private companies and students, particularly from the Pamantasan

ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM).

A PLMayer-volunteer said majority of the trash collected are water lilies, plastic bottles and wood debris.

"Sa maliit na bagay na pag-tapon ng basura sa tamang basurahan, nakakulong na 'yun, especially saatin na na-

kikinabang din sa kalikasan," Hezel Landrito, a first-year PLMayer said.

In a data released by the Manila Public Information Office, there were 3,743 sacks of collected garbage weighing around 187,150 kilograms as of 5:00 p.m., Saturday.

The trash collected by the Department of Public Services will be turned over to the DENR for data compilation before being presented to DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and the Manila Bay Task Force for reference in crafting plans and programs.

JOSHUA VERA CRUZ



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From Dec 1987

The Manila Times

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Thousands of Volunteers PAGE Clean up Baseco

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Thousands of volunteers gather at the beach area in Baseco, Tondo in Manila as part of the coastal clean-up activity around the world on Saturday.
PHOTO BY ENRIQUE AGCAOILI



15K volunteers join Baseco coastal cleanup

AT LEAST 15,000 volunteers joined the 34th International Coastal Clean-Up held in Baseco, Port Area, Manila, yesterday morning, under the theme, 'Bayanihan Para sa Malinis na Karagatan.'

The said cleanup was spearheaded by officials from the Manila City Hall led by Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), MMDA, DILG, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and the Manila Police District (MPD) led by Gen. Vicente Danao, Jr.

Lacuna, who represented Mayor Isko Moreno who was then attending a speaking engagement, expressed elation over the attendance and efforts to clean up Baseco, a populous area of the city.

According to Lacuna, the said cleanup is important not only in Manila Bay but also in Baseco which is also a source of seafood for some of the residents there. The vice mayor appealed

to residents to help in the continuous cleanup instead of it being done only every second week of September.

She said at least two truckloads of trash were collected in the said activity.



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Libo-libong mga volunteer ang nakiisa at lumahok sa International Coastal Clean-up sa Baseco, Tondo Maynila na may temang Bayanihan Para sa Malinis na Karagatan. (Jonas Sulit)



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15,000 VOLUNTEER LUMAHOK SA COASTAL CLEAN-UP SA BASECO

BILANG pakikiisa sa 34th International Coastal Clean-Up na may temang "Bayanihan para sa Malinis na Karagatan", libo-libong estudyante, miyembro ng mga organisasyon, empleyado ng lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila at kawani mula sa iba't ibang sangay ng gobyerno ang boluntaryong nagsagawa ng paglilinis sa Baseco Beach, Port Area sa Maynila kahapon ng umaga.

Sa panayam, sinabi ni Manila Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna na mahalaga ang isinasagawang paglilinis dahil karamihan sa mga pinagkukunan natin ng pagkain ay ang karagatan bukod pa sa maaari umanong maapektuhan ang ating kalusugan kung ang ating paligid ay marumi.

Nanawagan ang bise alkalde na hindi lamang taon-taon dapat isagawa ang clean-up kundi araw-arawin lalo na sa mga residente ng Baseco dahil hindi lingid sa kanilang kaalaman na isa sila sa mga dahilan kaya dumudumi ang nasabing lugar.

Kasama ng bise alkalde ang iba pang opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, kabi-

lang sina Department of Public Services chief Kenneth Amurao, Public Employment Service Office (PESO) chief Feman Bermejo at iba pang matataas na opisyal mula sa Manila Barangay Bureau, Manila Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau at Manila Police District. Nakiisa rin ang Philippine Coast Guard sa pangunguna ni Capt. Armand Balilo, MMDA, DENR, DILG, BFP, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, mga pribadong kompanya at mga estudyante mula sa iba't ibang paaralan at unibersidad sa Lung-

sod.

Ayon kay DENR Usec. Mitch Cuna, naipakikita sa isinasagawang clean-up ang kahalagahan ng Manila Bay dahil sa dumaraming volunteers na gustong tumulong sa paglilinis upang tuluyan na itong mai-rehabilitate.

Napag-alaman naman kay Manila Public Information Office chief Julius Leonen na natutuwa ang Manila City government ng Maynila sa pakikiisa ng mga Manilenyo sa adhikain na linisin ang nasabing lungsod.

Ayon kay Leonen, batay sa datos ng MPD Tactical Ope-

rations Center, umaabot sa mahigit 15,000 ang nakilahok sa ICC. Tone-toneladang basura ang nahakot ng DPS mula sa baybayin ng Manila Bay.

JAY REYES



NAPUNO ng volunteers ang Manila Bay sa Baseco para sabay-sabay na maglinis sa baybayin kasabay ng ika-34 International Coastal Clean-up. Ang paglilinis sa baybayin na pinangunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Manila City government ay layong maibalik ang ganda ng Manila Bay.



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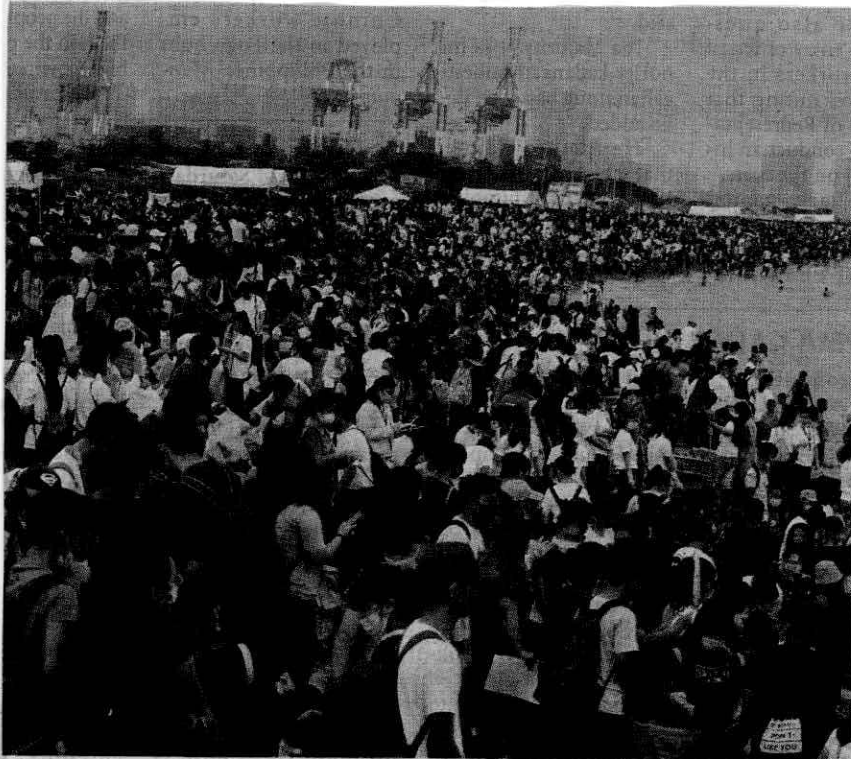
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THOUSANDS of volunteers participate in a coastal clean-up at the Baseco compound in Manila on Saturday. Similar coastal clearings were done in different parts of the country as well. **INQUIRER**



15K volunteer naglinis sa Baseco

UMAABOT sa 15,000 mga volunteer ang dumagsa sa Baseco sa Port Area, Maynila para linisin ito.

Bahagi ito ng pag-oberba sa 34th International Coastal Clean-Up Day na ginanap nitong Sabado na layuning pangalagaan ang kalinisan ng mga karagatan.

Kabilang sa mga lumahok sa paglilinis sa dalampasigan ng Baseco ay mga opisyal at kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Manila City Hall, Philippine Coast Guard, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, at Manila Police District.

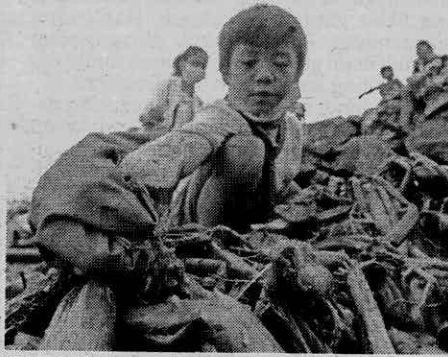
Nagpahayag naman ng kasiyahan si DENR Undersecretary Mitch Cuna dahil sa dami ng mga lumahok sa coastal clean-up sa Baseco.

Naging kinatawan naman ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno si Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna dahil dumalo ang alkalde sa pagbubukas ng 50th Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) na ginanap sa MOA Arena.

Ayon kay Lacuna, napakaimportante ng coastal clean-up hindi lamang sa Manila Bay

kundi sa Baseco dahil dito rin aniya kinukuha ang mga kinakaing yamang dagat.

Nakiusap din ito sa mga residente ng Baseco na hindi lamang tuwing ikalawang linggo ng Setyembre magsagawa ng paglilinis at manguna para pangalagaan ang ating kapaligiran. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



KABILANG ang boy scout na ito sa 15,000 volunteer na lumahok sa paglilinis sa Baseco kasabay ng 34th International Coastal Clean Up Day nitong Sabado. *(Jonas Sulit)*



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Libu-libong volunteers ang nakilahok sa paglilinis sa tabing-dagat sa Baseco sa Maynila kahapon kaugnay ng paggunita sa 34th Internal Coastal Clean up. (Kuha ni Edd Gumban)



VOLUNTEERS clean up the coastal area in Baseco, Tondo, Manila during the 34th International Coastal Cleanup Day with the theme 'Battle for Trash Free Manila-Bay.' (Mark Balmores)



WORLD-CLASS LANDFILL FIRM GEARS UP FOR EXPANSION

THE country's lone ISO-certified engineered sanitary landfill operator is gearing up for expansion to serve its growing customer base and fulfill its plan for a waste-to-energy facility in Clark Special Economic Zone.

Metro Clark Waste Management Corp., armed with world-class German technology and run by a dynamic team of service-oriented individuals, has recently exceeded the 2,500-ton volume threshold to pursue a waste-to-energy facility that will bring its operations to the next level.

"We have probably one of the best technologies in the world when it comes to landfill operations and we have the right people to handle those operations," says MCWM executive vice president Victoria Gaetos, who is in charge of managing the 300 employees of the company and dealing with local government units as customers.

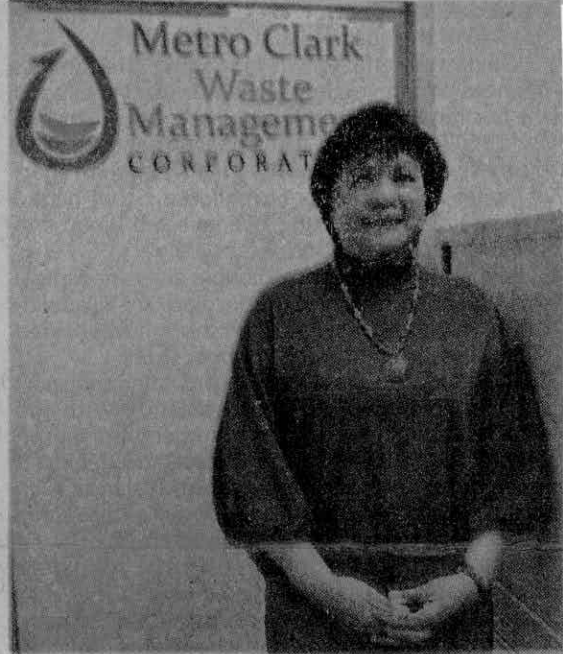
MCWM, a joint venture of Filipino and German investors (BN Ingenieure GmbH and Heers & Brockstedt Umwelttechnik GmbH), operates one of the pioneering highly-technical waste disposal facilities in Asia on a 100-hectare site at Sitio Kalangitan in Barangay Cutcut 2nd in Capas, Tarlac which is a part of Sub Zone D of Clark Special Economic Zone.

"There are now 103 cities and municipalities that have signed contracts with us. We collect 2,800 tons of garbage daily from them," says Gaetos, who used to head one of the largest car dealerships in Luzon before she joined MCWM. The volume handled by Kalangitan Sanitary Landfill has substantially increased over the past 12 months from only 1,600 tons in 2018 as more LGUs decided to transport their garbage to a world-class facility. Among the company's biggest customers are Angeles City, Cabanatuan City and Tarlac City, aside from the locators in Clark.

MCWM has recently signed a three-year contract with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to collect the garbage of Subic Bay Freeport Zone locators and residents.

"We are very active now on doing contracts with a lot of LGUs not only in Central Luzon but also in other parts of Luzon such as Pangasinan. We have to reach out and think of ways of getting closer to them. We are planning to have a waste-to-energy plant. We need as many garbage as we can get," Gaetos says in an interview in Clark.

"Cleaning the environment is our business," Gaetos says in an interview. "If you compare Metro Clark to ordinary landfills, we are far ahead in terms of service. We have transformed the way landfill should be managed. It is not only about a profitable venture, but it is also about our advocacy which is to protect the environment. Even if the cost is too high, we put in the required



MCWM executive vice president Victoria Gaetos

protection. There is none like us in the Philippines. We adhere to environmental laws."

Gaetos says MCWM's main facility is built based on internationally accepted standards which substantially exceed the Philippines' sanitary landfill standards as stipulated under Republic Act No. 9003 or Ecological Waste Management Act of 2000. The company has already invested hundreds of millions to put up the facility and plans to invest more in its power component.

She says of the 100 hectares of Kalangitan Sanitary Landfill, 70 hectares are dedicated for the landfill, 10 hectares for recycling facilities, 15 hectares for environmental buffer and 5 hectares for offices and other uses. "We are the first landfill in Asia to receive ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001 and ISO 18001:2015 for quality management systems," she says.

The landfill integrates cutting-edge technology and highly-advanced engineering to control the poisonous gas and foul-smelling liquid produced by decaying wastes.

MCWM is using a containerized system to ensure the efficient handling of wastes for all local





World-class landfill firm

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government units. Wastes are delivered by trucks and trailers equipped to carry 25 to 300 tons of garbage at a time. The company has a fleet of 14 hook lift trucks, 14 trailers and 10 dump trucks.

Gaetos says the wastes delivered and disposed to the site undergo a meticulous process to guarantee the safety and protection of the environment. The landfill has multi-layered liners of gravel, sand, high-density polyethylene plastic and clays to ensure that no liquid pollutants called leachate from the landfill could harm the soil or the groundwater. This makes MCWM the only garbage disposal facility to have such multi-layer protection for the aquifer.

Gaetos says the 2.5 mm HDPE plastic liner is much thicker than the 1.5-mm minimum thickness mandated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

She says the very dense clay material about 60 meters below the surface naturally protects the groundwater. The landfill also has a gas control recovery system and a drainage system for the leachate which is forwarded to the leachate treatment plant that prevents soil and air pollution. The treatment facility cleans the leachate in a natural way through a reed bed.

MCWM also has a centralized recycling facility at the waste management center where materials are segregated for recycling or processing into secondary fuel. It will soon build a waste-to-energy plant that will use the secondary fuel as the primary feedstock to generate up to 35 megawatts of renewable energy.

Gaetos says that once completed, the power component will reduce the amount of residual waste disposed of at the landfill by 70 percent, extend the lifespan of the solid waste management system for another 50 years and decrease the emissions of landfill leachate and landfill gas by eliminating the disposal of organic waste in the landfill.

Gaetos says the landfill, which began operations in 2003, is ready to accommodate more wastes from other localities including Metro Manila and Calabarzon as it can handle 4,000 tons daily on the 20-hectare landfill so far which can be easily expanded up to 70 hectares.

Data show that the Philippines generates more than 53,000 tons of solid wastes daily, enough to cover Fort Bonifacio with eight feet of garbage per year. Gaetos says that at present, every Filipino generates half a kilogram of wastes daily, most of which end up in unregulated dumpsites, rivers or sidewalks. Many localities across the country still operate open dumpsites which expose the seas, rivers and groundwater resources to pollutants.

Gaetos says the MCWM facility is well-positioned to serve the waste management

needs of more cities and municipalities to prevent them from harming the environment and making sure that they use innovative, secure, efficient and environmentally-sound waste management practices.

"We have the technology of waste management solutions that meet international standards and we comply with all the environmental laws of the Philippines. When it comes to the operation of a landfill, we can say we are world-class. When it comes to management, I could say we are now creating a culture that is not ordinarily being done by any other landfill. When it comes to taking care of our customers, I could say we provide the best service to our customers. At the same time, we are advocating for a cleaner environment. We want to clean every town and city in the Philippines," she says.

"We are very lucky to have the best technology, but the most important thing is sustainability.

Our vision is to really provide solutions for a clean environment and to achieve that vision, we have the best people to do it," says Gaetos.

She says the key to this success is keeping the MCWM employees happy by training them, equipping them and providing them with good benefits and stable income above the minimum wage.

"You have to create a culture that will encourage people to do what is right. You have to keep your employees happy, and if they are happy, they will make your customers happy. If your customers are happy, they will make your stockholders happy. So everybody is happy," she says. **Roderick T. dela Cruz**



QC orders prompt disposal of swill feed to fight ASF

Mayor Joy Belmonte has ordered a tight watch on the food waste collection and disposal process from various establishments in Quezon City as fears gripped that this is the most probable main source of African Swine Flu-contaminated meat that end up as swill feed for backyard hog raisers.

Belmonte said this assessment is very logical as experts have pointed to swill feed as the No.1 one possible source of ASF.

"This is the No. 1 source of possible ASF. Iyong mga airline food o galing sa mga hotel, imported ang baboy na ginagamit diyan. Maaaring infected ang mga sources na iyan. We have to make sure na hindi sila magpakain ng kanin baboy sa kanilang mga alaga," Belmonte said.

Belmonte also traced the presence of dead pigs suspected to be ASF-infected floating in the city's waterways as another cause of the ASF outbreak.

The Bureau of Animal Industry

had earlier confirmed that 35 out of 45 blood samples from pigs in Barangays Bagong Silangan and Payatas in Quezon City were tested positive for ASF.

In another preemptive measure, Belmonte has ordered the Quezon City Task Force Solid Waste Collection, Cleaning, and Disposal Services Management to compel city-contracted haulers to directly bring the kitchen and food waste to the Rizal Provincial Sanitary Landfill.

This measure will prevent kitchen and food wastes from being sold as swill food to backyard hog raisers.

"Ipagbabawal na ang pagkakaroon ng transfer zone. Diretso na sa dumpsite sa Montalban ang kanin baboy," said Belmonte, adding that those caught violating the directive will be severely punished.

In the transfer zone, haulers reportedly segregate kitchen and food waste that are sold to hog owners, which they turn into swill feed. **(Chito Chavez)**



EMB Region 8 reports haze in Tacloban

By **MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO**

TACLOBAN City – The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 8 has found increased reading of dust particles in the ambient air quality in Tacloban City, based on its recent Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring.

Haze is an atmospheric phenomenon wherein dust, smoke and other dry particles obscure the clarity of the sky.

Light to moderate haze is also experienced in Zamboanga, Cebu, Dumaguete and Palawan.

EMB 8 warned the public Friday (September 20) of the possible harmful effects of smoke haze caused by forest fires in Indonesia.

"These dust particles, because of their relatively small size, are suspended in the air for a longer period of time and when inhaled, can penetrate into the lungs that may cause development or escalation of respiratory ailments," EMB 8 said in an advisory.

It may also lead to eye irritation, itchy and runny nose, sneezing, dry throat and coughs.

It further advised the public to refrain from staying outside as much as possible.

"Wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE) like dust mask and eye goggles as precautionary measures is highly suggested."



Drought, wildfires inflict double whammy on Indonesian crops

WILDFIRES, smoke and drought are inflicting an increasingly painful toll on Indonesian agriculture, hurting everything from oil palm plantations to rubber trees and rice fields.

Raging forest fires in Sumatra and Borneo may curb supplies of palm oil and rubber, while a longer than usual dry season in Java has wilted some of the country's rice crop, which is the main staple for 270 million people. Indonesia is the world's top producer of palm oil and second-largest supplier of rubber.

Smoke from illegal burning to clear land in Indonesia has been worse than usual this year and spread across Southeast Asia, causing flight disruptions and respiratory illness for thousands of people. While Indonesian President Joko Widodo ordered a crackdown on arsonists, there may be little respite soon as the rainy season won't start before late October, the weather bureau says. Forest fires to clear land have also wrought havoc in the Brazilian Amazon.

Drought and haze have set back ripening of palm-oil fruit and disrupted operations at plantations and mills, potentially slowing production growth this year to about half last year's rate of 13 percent, said Joko Supriyono, chairman of the Indonesian Palm Oil Association. Dry weather normally takes a while to show up in production, with a greater impact likely to be seen in 2020, he said.

Slash-and-burn

THE worse than expected dry weather in Sumatra and Kalimantan in Indonesia and Sabah in Malaysia may reduce output from older palm trees, according to Marcello Cultrera, institutional sales manager at Phillip Futures in Kuala Lumpur. The haze from the forest fires has a small impact on palm-oil extraction rates and output in the very short term, he said.

Farmers in Sumatra and Borneo are using illegal slash-and-burn techniques, which are much cheaper than other methods, to clear land for palm oil, pulp and rubber plantations. More than 320,000 hectares have been burnt in the first eight months of the year, according to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

Oil palm plantations are generally not the source of burning, according to the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries. Fires that are recorded in plantations have usually spread there from neighboring areas, where small fires were started, it said in a release.

Rubber trees are also at risk. Output, already hit by fungal disease, may plunge 20 percent from 3.67 million tons last year as drought and forest fires disrupt tapping, said Erwin Tunas, executive director of the Rubber Association of Indonesia. The haze blocks sunlight that's crucial for photosynthesis, the group says.

Prolonged drought

WHILE Java, Indonesia's top rice producer, hasn't been hit by wildfires, a prolonged drought has parched farmland, damaging more than 250,000 hectares of rice and causing more than 580,000 tons of losses, according to Edy Purnawan, director of crop protection at the Agriculture Ministry. The government is urging farmers to plant seeds suitable for dry land for the small harvest in the fourth quarter, to make up for the losses, Purnawan said.

While the area affected is small compared with Indonesia's total rice plantings over about 9 million hectares, a less significant crop failure last year helped spur an increase in imports to the highest in six years. Ample stockpiles with state-owned Bulog will probably prevent major new imports this time round. *Bloomberg News*

Indonesia forest haze reaches PH

COTABATO CITY: The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Menre-BARMM) on Friday issued a transboundary haze alert for areas within the jurisdiction of the autonomous region.

The warning was prompted by reports of haze spawned by forest fires in Indonesia, which currently affects the neighboring countries of Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Timor Leste and the Philippines.

Haze is an atmospheric phenomenon where fine dust, smoke, vapors and dry particles in the air obscure the sky's clarity and affect air quality as a result of forest fires and air pollutants.

In the Philippines, some areas in Palawan, Visayas and Mindanao have already reported effects of the haze.

Experts attribute the massive spread of the haze to the *habagat* or the southwest monsoon, which pushes the haze from Indonesia's forest fires to Palawan, Visayas and Mindanao.

Lanao del Sur, portions of North Cotabato and possibly the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi are the areas

in the BARMM that had been reported to be affected by the haze, according to the Menre-BARMM's latest advisory on Saturday.

The public is advised to wear a mask whenever going outside, as the haze may cause health hazards such as cough, asthma and

other respiratory illnesses. People who suffer from these illnesses are encouraged to limit outdoor exposure during the occurrence of the haze.

Moreover, the public is discouraged from engaging in all open-burning activities such as "dengue

siga/pausok" during late afternoon so as not to aggravate the situation.

Local government units were advised to strictly monitor all open-burning activities in their respective areas of jurisdiction, and mobilize their respective local environment and health offices for monitoring and advocacy.

The public is encouraged to monitor with their respective Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices other public advisories for guidance and information.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL



'Smaze' mula Indonesia pina- ngangambahan narin pumasok ng Pilipinas – Pagasa

NAKAALERTO na ang Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) hinggil sa posibilidad na umabot hanggang Luzon ang polusyong dulot ng forest fire sa Indonesia.

Ito'y makaraang kumpirmahin ng mga otoridad na apektado ngayon ng "haze" ang ilang bahagi ng Mindanao at Visayas.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo, sinabi ni Pagasa

deputy administrator for operations and services Dr. Landrico Dalidad Jr., kasalukuyang apektado ng light to moderate haze ang kanlurang bahagi ng bansa.

Dulot daw ito ng "particular matter 10" na masama umano para sa mga may hika.

Nakabantay ngayon ang Pagasa sakaling mag-abot ang usok at haze o "smaze" na mas mapanganib daw sa kalusugan ng tao.

Nakaapekto raw kasi ang hanging Habagat sa tuluyang pagpasok ng haze.

Sa ngayon patuloy daw ang koordinasyon ng Pagasa at Department of Environmental and Natural Resources para sa mga datos at pagsusuri.

Nakipag-ugnayan na rin ang state weather bureau sa Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines para sa monitoring ng visibility ng mga sasakyang pang-himpapawid.



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"We take pride in stepping up to another level in ensuring our people become environment warriors...I'm also sending my commitment to my dear employees and to all our partners in WWF, let this day be the day for the world to know, there are 700 new earth warriors that have been born." Fairways & Bluewater Chairman Wilbur L. Chan said during his opening remarks.

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The Philippines ranks as the world's third highest plastic polluters of oceans. WWF Philippines hopes to address this disturbing issue by uniting corporations, hotels, restaurants as well as individuals towards a common cause, to end plastic waste leakage into the oceans by 80-100% by December 2030. Actions under this endeavor are the reduction and elimination of at least one Single-Use Plastics (SUPs), awareness campaign on the impacts of plastics, and fundraising support for the #AyokoNgPlastik movement.

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Congratulations Fairways & Bluewater Golf Club!

I have heard of many good things that have been done in the Resort and many excellent achievements that you have attained over the last months. But you did not content yourselves with these accomplishments. Now you have forged a breakthrough partnership with the oldest worldwide conservation organization - the World Wide Fund for Nature. After getting the elusive ISO14001 Environmental Management System, you are challenging yourselves further by taking on a partnership with WWF to monitor you. Now that makes you really courageous! While many companies will not want many eyes looking at them in the area of environment conservation, you invite them. And this says a lot about the kind of leadership that Fairways & Bluewater Golf Club has.

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Kudos to your team of dedicated Filipino professionals. Mabuhay kayo. - Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Senate President of the Philippines



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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BORACAY TUBI NI LUCIO TAN NAGKAKALAT NG EBAK

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Protect Boracay/FB

Boracay Tubi ni Lucio Tan nagkakatat ng ebak

Nagpalabas ng cease and desist order ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) laban sa water concessionaire na Boracay Tubi System Inc. (BTSI) na pagmamay-ari ng bilyonaryong si Lucio Tan upang isara nito ang sewage pipe sa nasabing isla.

Binigyan ng DENR ng pitong araw ang BTSI para magpaliwanag hinggil sa reklamo laban sa kanilang kompanya kaugnay ng sewage pipe nito na nagbubuga ng dumi sa island beach resort.

Batay umano sa pagsusuri ng DENR, posibleng dumi ng tao ang lumalabas sa tubo.

Nag-ugat ang reklamo laban sa BTSI mula sa isang video na kuha ng Koreanong diver na nakilalang si Cham Joon Park, noong Setyembre 18.

Sa video, makikita ang isang pawikan na nakapasok ang ulo sa isang sewage pipe sa ilalim ng karagatan ng Boracay.

Dahil sa video, nabisto na naglalabas ng dumi sa dagat ang sewage pipe ng BTSI.

Naniniwala si Park na nasa 400 hanggang 500 metro mula sa baybayin ang naturang pipe na may 20 metro mula sa coral reef kung saan

may lalim itong 15 metro.

May nag-share din ng video sa Facebook page ng Protect Boracay at kaagad nitong kinalampag ang DENR para umakasyon.

"Again? May popo na lumalabas diretso sa dagat!!! Numerous accounts sent this similar video to us. Is this one of the current out-fall? Tagging Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This can't be happening. Almost similar video we saw before we start supporting the closure. Get your acts straight," ayon naman Protect Boracay.

Sa FB post ng Protect Boracay, iginiit nito na dapat may managot sa nasabing insidente.

"Let the wrong doings and malpractices against Boracay and environment itsel, come into light. Accountability we seek. Penalize those who need to be penalized. Wala na taguan ng mali at palpak. Ayusin ang dapat ayusin," ayon pa sa Protect Boracay.

Napag-alaman na ang BTSI ay isang subsidiary ng MacroAsia Properties Development Corporation at isa sa dalawang water utility

provider sa Boracay.

Samantala, dumoble ang kinita ng Boracay Tubi System Inc. ng MacroAsia Corporation ni Lucio Tan nang muling buksan ang Boracay sa mga turista. Ayon sa second quarter report ng MacroAsia, ang revenues ng BTSI ay lumago ng 113% nu'ng unang kalahati ng taon at umabot sa P168.38 milyon kumpara sa revenues nitong nasa P78.96 milyon lamang nu'ng unang anim na buwan ng 2018.

"BTSI benefited from the reopening of Boracay Island in October 2018 as it gained more clients and achieved new revenue sources from STP related operations," sabi ng MacroAsia sa quarterly report nito.

Nangutang ang BTSI ng P25 milyon ngayong taon para sa Sewerage Treatment Plant servicing equipment nito at paglalagat ng tubo sa Boracay.

Hiningi ng **Abante** ang panig ng MacroAsia tungkol sa pagbubulwak ng dumi ng tubo nito sa dagat ng Boracay ngunit hindi ito nakapagbigay ng pahayag as of press time.



WATER CONCESSIONAIRE MANANAGOT SA MARUMING TUBIG SA BORACAY

PANANAGUTIN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pamunuan ng isang water concessionaire sa isla ng Boracay matapos na madiskubreng nagpalabas ito ng maruming tubig sa ilalim ng dagat.

Lumabas sa isinagawang ins-

peksiyon ng DENR na may mataas na coliform level ang tubig na lumalabas mula sa outfall ng Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) ng Boracay Tubi System sa Bolabog beach.

Natuklasan din sa pagsisiyasat ng ahensiya na hindi ligtas sa tao ang tubig-dagat kung saan naroon ang malaking tubo ng nasabing wa-

ter concessionaire.

Bunsod nito ay ipatatawag ng DENR ang mga opisyal ng naturang water concessionaire habang handa ring ipatigil ng ahensiya ang operasyon ng STP ng Boracay Tubi System at maaaring patawan ito ng karampatang multa.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.

P1.74-M illegally cut lumber seized

CASIGURAN, Aurora: Forest rangers scouring the Sierra Madre mountain range for illegal activities in four northern municipalities of this province stumbled upon thousands of board feet of illegally cut lumbers, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) office here.

Merliza Torre, DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Casiguran officer in charge, said in the past two years, some 21,332.11 board feet of different tree species with a market value of P1,740,487.75 were recovered and confiscated from the municipalities of Dipaculao, Dinalungan, Casiguran and Dilasag in its intensified campaign to protect and conserve Sierra Madre.

"Many of these illegally cut logs and lumbers were left abandoned by loggers for fear of being arrested. We have confiscated them and some were intercepted while being transported," Torre said.

She said part of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP), which is one of the 10 priority protected areas in the country is in the abovementioned municipalities.

She said the NSMNP, which is within the Sierra Madre Biogeographic Zone (SMBGZ) lies in the midsection of the Sierra Madre mountain range, which stretches from the province of Aurora to Cagayan.

She said it is considered as one of the most important and largest protected areas in the country and the richest in terms of genetic, species and habitat diversity.

"We need to continue to protect the NSMNP because it is habitat to many endemic and rare species of plants, including various species of the dipterocarp family such as *Shorea* spp. and *Hopea* spp., various orchids such as *Dendrobium aclinia*, the leguminous tree, *Milletia longipes* and a member of the citrus family, *Swinglea glutinosa*," Torre added.

She said in addition to the confiscated lumbers, they also confiscated different equipment worth P440,000 used in cutting trees, including conveyances to transport wood products.

"We are a bit worried that in a few years, if illegal logging in the Sierra Madre mountain range will not be stopped, particularly in this part of the province, dipterocarp trees, among others, may soon be depleted," Torre said.

The Cenro Casiguran record showed confiscated and retrieved illegally sawn lumbers of different species which include narra, *yemane*, *bagtikan*, *dapdap*, *dita*, *dao*, *dungon*, while and red *lauan*, white *almon*, *tangileng bato*, *gmelina*, *tindaloo*, among others.

"From January to June of this year alone, we have confiscated more than 9,638.34 board feet of lumbers worth P526,029, excluding the recently seized wood products from illegal loggers," Torre said.

She clarified that these illegal loggers were not large scale and "we are sad that poor mountain dwellers, some of them belong to the indigenous peoples, are forced to join cutting trees in small volume due to extreme poverty."

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



Filipinos in NY raise PH concerns in Climate Strike

By Rey Anthony Ostria
@RAOstriaINQ

NEW YORK CITY—Filipinos in this city called for an end to the exploitation of natural resources by big business and to violence against Earth activists, as they marched on Friday from Foley Square to Battery Park as part of a concerted global protest action against abuse of the environment and climate change.

The march, dubbed Climate Strike, was inspired by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, who started the climate strike movement Fridays for Future protesting government inaction across the globe on the climate crisis.

Organizers said some four million people filled city streets around the world, in what was billed as the biggest ever protest against the threat posed to the planet by rising temperatures.

The march was held three days before the United Nation's Climate Action Summit, which will gather world leaders, civil society leaders and businessmen in this city.

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

Urgent advocacies

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.

There were other urgent advocacies related to the environment, as Filipino protesters

in New York underscored.

Ruthie Arroyo, a member of Kabataan Alliance in the United States, told the Inquirer, "one of the things the 'lumad' (indigenous peoples) are fighting for is the selling away of their ancestral land, the 'yutang kabilin' (land of heritage). So, of course, they are the ones defending the environment from corporate plunder."

She said the lumad's ancestral lands were rich in mineral resources like gold.

Michael Garrovillas, also from Kabataan Alliance, said the protesters were also marching for Brandon Lee, a Chinese-American environmental activist and journalist who was

shot in front of his home in Lagawe, Ifugao, on Aug. 5.

Lee, a volunteer at Ifugao Peasant Movement, was shot four times and remains in paralysis.

"We are hoping to get him back to the United States to get that sustainable medical treatment back here, because the current Philippine government [and] the US government are not ... helping him [return] home," Garrovillas said, adding that a \$200,000 fund-raising drive for Lee has so far raised \$30,000.

Friday's rallies were the start of 5,800 protests across 163 countries over the next week, said strike organizer 350.org.

Events began in the deluge-

threatened Pacific Islands of Vanuatu, the Solomons and Kiribati, where children chanted: "We are not sinking, we are fighting."

'We deserve better'

"We are the future and we deserve better," 12-year-old Lilly Satidtanasarn, known as "Thailand's Greta" for her campaign against plastic bags in malls, said in Bangkok.

Schoolchildren rallied in India while thousands protested in the Philippines, which experts say faces threats from rising sea levels and increasingly violent storms.

Organizers said more than 300,000 children, parents and

supporters rallied in Australia alone, which has been struck in recent years by droughts, more intense bushfires, devastating floods and the bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef.

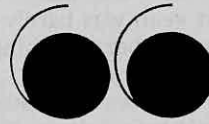
In New York, Thunberg claimed there were 250,000 protesters. Tens of thousands of supporters in Battery Park chanted her name as she called on leaders to act now to curb gas emissions.

Strikers on their way to Battery Park chanted: "What do we want? Climate justice! When do we want it? Now! If we don't get it, strike it down!"

The strike "makes me feel that there really is hope in organizing and mobilizing people. There really is power in unity," said Terrenze Rienton, community defense organizer of Damayan Migrant Workers Association, who took part in the New York rally.

"And right now, we're trying to show these corporations, especially the ones in the Philippines, that money is money. We can't eat money. One day, all of our resources will be depleted," he said.

—WITH A REPORT FROM AFP INQ



**Friday's rallies
were the
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the next week,
according to
strike organizer
350.org**

Empty promises

"Why should we study for a future that is being taken away from us?" Thunberg asked. "We demand a safe future. Is that really too much to ask?"

"People in poster and their beautiful words are the same. The number of politicians and celebrities who want to take selfies with us are the same. The empty promises are the same. The lies are the same. And the inaction is the same," she said further.



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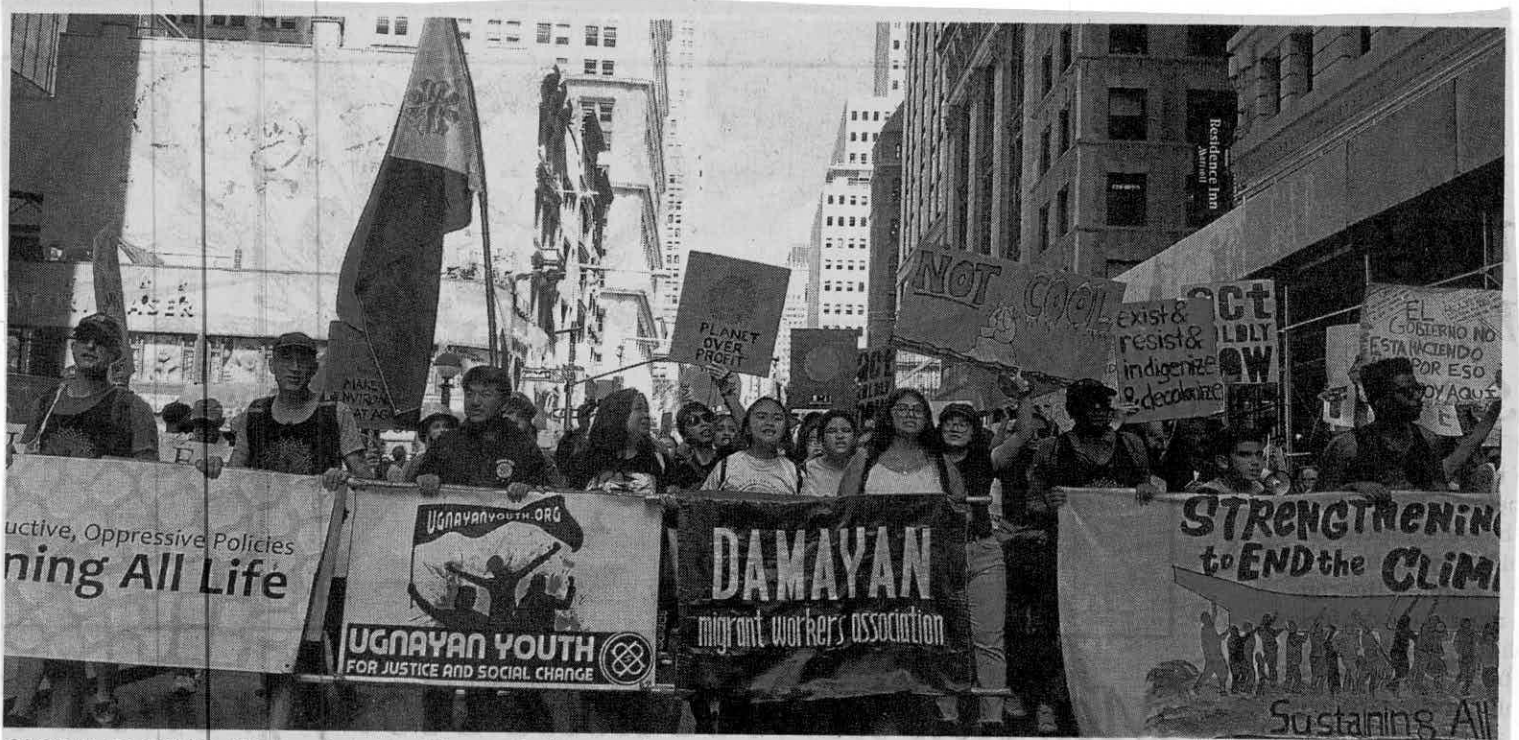
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TITLE: *Filipinos in NY raise PH concerns in climate march*

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GLOBAL OUTCRY Filipinos join the Climate Strike march on Friday in New York City to call international attention to Philippine issues arising from the exploitation of natural resources, like the plight of indigenous peoples losing their ancestral land and the threats faced by environmental activists. —REY ANTHONY OSTRIA



Filipino youth join global strike for climate action

By JANVIC MATEO

NEW YORK CITY – As world leaders gear up for the historic Climate Action Summit at the United Nations headquarters here next week, millions of youth around the globe took to the streets on Friday to press their call for concrete solutions to address the climate crisis.

In the Philippines, Climate Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman led the climate strike at the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City, where dozens of advocates expressed solidarity with the youth in taking a stand against climate change.

"Today is a historic day for the climate movement, as millions of school youths across the globe, including Filipino youths, are on strike for the climate," de Guzman said in his solidarity message to the youth.

"They demand bold and fast actions from world leaders – to stop global warming and to secure a safer and more sustainable future for all and the generations to come. Clearly, a climate emergency is at hand, and we must deliver the solutions unnaturally fast. We are literally running out of time," he added.

Young survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda also held the strike in Tacloban City, known as ground zero of the devastation brought by the strongest

typhoon ever to make landfall in world history.

Over four million youth around the world took part in the strike, according to 16-year-old Swedish environmental activist Greta Thurnberg, who has become the face of the climate action after gaining worldwide attention for holding school climate strikes last year.

Here in New York City where the climate strike culminated, an estimated half a million youth, including Thurnberg, took part in the march in downtown Manhattan on Friday afternoon (early Saturday in Manila).

Filipinos, including former Climate Change Commission commissioner and current Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director Yeb Saño, also joined the strike here at the Big Apple.

"The people are rising up and standing up against greed and arrogance and the very system that has brought us this climate crisis," he wrote on Twitter.

Terrenze Rienton, community defense organizer of Damaayan Migrant Workers' Association, led a group of young Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the event.

"We're here proudly carrying the Philippine flag to show that we are also affected by this issue," Rienton told **The STAR**. "We're here to urge our politicians and our leaders to really

start looking into solutions for climate change."

Rienton's group paraded an inverted Philippine flag during the strike, saying this symbolizes the different conflicts currently faced by the Philippines and the Filipino people.

Cecilia Lim, board member of Ugnayan Youth for Justice and Social Change, noted that the Philippine islands are among the countries heavily impacted by climate change.

"We have been experiencing for years the devastation of our

environment so we need to be here, we need to be on the frontlines," she said.

Bea Cañete, regional coordinator of Kabataan Alliance, said their participation in the strike is one way of showing solidarity with Filipinos in the Philippines.

"It is important for us Filipinos here in America to show solidarity with Filipino people back home who are at the brunt of environmental degradation," she said.

"The archipelago is prone to natural disasters because of neo-

liberal policies that have caused a lot of manmade environment degradation in the Philippines. We also have to show solidarity with our *kababayans* and allies who are fighting for the environment, defending the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples back home," she added.

Youth action

Friday's climate strike worldwide preceded the Youth Climate Summit and the Climate Action Summit that will be organized by the UN at its head-

quarters here this week.

During the student observance of the International Day of Peace on Friday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed the significance of the youth movement in calling for climate action.

"Peace with nature is the theme of this universal day of peace because it is essential to be in harmony with nature and because it is also an important factor to strengthen the possibility of peace among human beings," he said.

"What is extremely important to see today is that even if governments are still lacking political will, even if we are still unable to make full peace with nature, there is a huge hope in what the youth is doing all over the world. And the youth is clearly telling my generation that we need to change course and that we need to do it now," he added.

The Climate Action Summit, to be attended tomorrow by world leaders, is expected to feature bold actions and multi-stakeholder initiatives that will address high-impact areas such as transition to renewable energy, adaptation and nature-based solutions.

"We will showcase promising initiatives aiming at moving away from coal, putting a price on carbon, stopping subsidies for fossil fuels and cutting the pollution that damages our health," Guterres said at an earlier press briefing.



**SOUNDS
OF SCIENCE**
**PECIER
DECIERDO**

RECOGNIZING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY — NOT ALARMISM, JUST SCIENCE

ON SEPT. 20, an estimated 4 million people around the world participated in the global strike for climate. Led by young people such as Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, these actions served as a kick-off for a week of worldwide protests that will culminate on Sept. 27.

The specific demands and goals of the strike participants are as varied as the languages used by the protesters. However, there is one demand common to all actions from Melbourne to Manila and from New Delhi to New York: we must act like there is a climate emergency, because there is one.

Detractors have dismissed such demands as "alarmism." However, the science is very clear: Our global civilization has to rapidly undergo drastic changes in order to prevent the worst impacts of a climate catastrophe. Denying the reality of a climate emergency is nothing short of denying science.

Before reviewing the science, it helps to see where the Philippines is situated in all of this.

Here in the Philippines, the national organizers of Youth Strike 4 Climate Philippines listed among their demands the "phase out of coal and other fossil fuels" in the Philippines' energy supply

and the safeguarding of "the rights of indigenous peoples and environmental defenders."

Consistent with these and their other demands is the one that is first on their list: the declaration of a climate emergency in the Philippines.

These demands were echoed by strike participants from Ilocos Norte to Cotabato City and every other area in between where a strike was held.

In the statement of their demand, the organizers cited two things. First, the fact that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts. Second, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) special report on 1.5 degrees, which builds the case for a global climate emergency.

The IPCC report is the basis for recognizing the fact that what we are going through is a climate emergency. However, we should always remember that the IPCC report is not one study. Rather, it is a summary of the best and most up-to-date science that we have on the state and most likely evolution of the climate.

In fact, the IPCC report was based on a review of more than 6,000 research papers authored by thousands upon thousands of

climate scientists, atmospheric scientists, geologists, ecologists, and scientists from more than a dozen disciplines. According to IPCC's own estimates, if all those research papers are stacked on top of each other, they would be about as tall as a four-storey building!

Just think about the amount of data and theoretical analysis needed to come up with each of those research papers. Think of brainpower and raw research work needed, all the hours in the lab and in the field. Then think of the endless back and forth between the study's authors and the expert reviewers before those papers are published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Now multiply that by more than 6,000.

Add to all of that the fact that those more than 6,000 scientific papers were reviewed by an expert panel comprised of 91 top climate scientists from 40 countries, one of them being Filipino climate scientist Dr. Rosa Perez.

What is the conclusion of the IPCC report based on the massive body of evidence? Here are a few of them.

First, the report recognizes that the world is undergoing global warming due to human activities. This warming has already led to disruptions in the Earth's

climate in the form of more extreme weather and many other things.

Second, it shows that the warming is likely to rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius in the coming decades. This increase in the warming will lead to the worsening of the climate disruptions we are already experiencing.

Third, it shows that if we allow warming to go beyond 1.5 degrees and reach 2 degrees, it will lead to catastrophic impacts. For example, the number of people exposed to deadly heat waves will more than double with a 2-degree warming, while the number of people threatened by rising sea levels will increase by a staggering 10 million.

Fourth, the report shows that we have little over a decade left to limit greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent to get a chance to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. We are also required to have net zero emissions by 2050 to reach this target.

That is not a pretty picture, but that is the picture that comes out if we examine all the best lines of evidence. We really are in a climate emergency. It is time we stop denying it and start uniting behind the science if we want a livable planet for the next generation.

Peace and climate justice is needed to save the planet

THE world is afire again, the flames heartbreakingly consuming shrubs, trees and forests in Australia, Portugal, Brazil, and recently in California and Siberia, and elsewhere, too. The world community has reacted in protest to the hundreds of fires burning the Amazon rainforest. These are destroying the habitat of thousands of endangered species and the communities of indigenous people living in their ancestral lands.

Naturally recurring forest fires can be helpful to the forests, but the man-made forest fires are too huge, frequent and overwhelming for the forest to recover by a natural process. Deforestation is totally destructive and when primeval rainforests are cut, the loss is almost irreversible. Let us tell it as it is.

In Brazil, the Amazon is on fire and this is caused by farmers, business interests, settlers and development corporations that are cutting the trees and clearing the forest by burning to create pasture and raise cattle. The injustice to the indigenous people is enormous. Peace is not present as their lands are burnt and deforested. From the Amazon to Peru and Chile, the destruction goes on.

In the Philippines, the Lumad, a group of indigenous peoples, have lost much of their ancestral lands and forests to destructive mining and logging corporations. They are a people under siege. The corporations owned by DM Consunji hire militia as armed security guards and enforce a disputed claim over the ancestral lands of the people. The government in 1993 ignored the constitutional rights of the Lumad and issued a concession to the huge corporation to extract and exploit the natural resources on Lumad land. There are reported human rights violations and mysterious deaths of opponents of the



REFLECTIONS

FR. SHAY CULLEN, SSC

mining and logging corporations.

In South America the loss of vital forests to cattle raising, as the world eats more beef, is of particular concern. Trees can absorb industrial carbon dioxide (CO₂) from factories, power plants and cars. But the billion or more cattle raised for dairy and beef products on cleared forest land produce millions of tons of methane gas, which is worse than CO₂ in warming the planet and accelerating climate change. The melting of the Siberian bogs is releasing millions more tons of methane.

Then there is the dangerous greenhouse gas that is leaking from the world's electrical supply grids. It is one of the most powerful and polluting. It is called sulphur hexafluoride. Leaks of this gas into the atmosphere in 2017 are equivalent to the vehicle emissions of 1.3 million vehicles. The leaking has to be stopped. The urban poor suffer greatly from the toxic fumes from diesel carbon particles that float in polluted cities.

The good news amid the gloom and doom is that more people are becoming aware of the dangers of climate change and the need for climate justice, and are calling for change — political, social and environmental. Students are refusing to go to school on Fridays and, instead, are joining protests. Thousands of people are marching and raising their collective voices.

The global warming is melting the Arctic ice sheet at an alarming rate. Scientists are astounded. This is causing the sea level to rise, sinking the island nations in the Pacific and bringing severe climate disruption, causing droughts, floods,

hurricanes as seen recently in the Bahamas, where the island was practically wiped out by a massive storm. There is more to come. The towns and cities on the coasts will be inundated in the years to come. Those of Eastern England, Bangladesh, Pacific Islands and Florida are the most vulnerable and will be the first to go under. There is no holding back the rise in ocean levels. Besides this, the polar bears, reindeer and wildlife of the Arctic are increasingly under threat of extinction, and indigenous people suffer greatly due to the destruction of and changes in their environment. We are at war with the planet and each other.

We humans yearn for peace and an end to war. We are, however, the most powerful and aggressive species that dominate the environment, and we are destroying it. The planet has evolved millions of creatures but none so destructive and dangerous as us humans. The high levels of human antagonism, distrust, fear and insecurity have led to confrontation between individuals, communities and nations. Peace is illusory. Even in the most economically developed countries, division, violence and racial hatred are present. In Syria, Yemen, the Congo, Northern Nigeria, Afghanistan and the Middle East, war is a daily occurrence. If we are not killed by gunfire as in America, we die from opiate overdose.

Humans have beaten each other to death with clubs and then deadly weapons for centuries. We have nuclear bombs now to bring about our own extinction. We must live with fear of mutually assured destruction to survive. To stop this gallop to self-harm and destruction of the planet and our environment, there needs to be a huge change in lifestyle among humans. We are all responsible

for causing pollution by extensive traveling, using non-recyclable plastic, unnecessarily buying imported foods instead of growing food locally, and eating millions of tons of beef instead of more fruits and vegetables.

We can save the planet if governments implement the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions of CO₂, methane and SF₆ gasses. Changing to electric cars and renewable energy production are all-important ways to combat climate change. Of course, planting millions of trees is also essential to absorb the CO₂. Here in the Philippines, we at the Preda Foundation have just completed planting almost 4,000 mango saplings among other species with the indigenous people across their ancestral lands in Zambales. People can join this tree planting by visiting our website www.preda.org.

Respecting the rights of the indigenous people to live on their own ancestral lands and protect their forests is a human and legal right. If government respects the constitutional provisions and existing laws protecting the rights of the indigenous people, they will not renew the operating permits of many destructive, land-grabbing mining corporations. Gina Lopez, when she was secretary for the Environment, did this. Her good work is now being reversed.

Growing public protest and positive action gives hope and encouragement to more people to change their lifestyle and demand governments around the world to act decisively to protect the planet and give climate justice to those deprived and hurt by the environmental damage caused by wealthy nations. We have to work for change. Be an advocate; share this article and read and understand more on www.preda.org.



University bans beef burgers to help save the planet from climate change

Goldsmiths University in London -- known for its progressive student politics--has also placed a 10p levy on water bottles and single-use plastic cups

By NEIL MURPHY



Professor Frances Corner, the new Warden of the university, has outlined the move (Image: PA)

BEEF burgers have been banned by a University as part of efforts to tackle the climate change emergency.

Goldsmiths, University of London, said it is to remove all beef products from sale from next month as it attempts to become carbon neutral by 2025.

Students will also face a 10p levy on bottles of water and single-use plastic cups when the academic year starts to discourage use of the products.

The college's new Warden, Professor Frances Corner, said staff and students "care passionately about the future of our environment" and that "declaring a climate emergency cannot be empty words".

But the National Farmers' Union (NFU) said the move was "an overly simplistic approach" and said there was a "lack of understanding or recognition between British beef and beef produced elsewhere".

Goldsmiths Students' Union has backed the ban with President Joe Leam saying that the university has a "huge carbon foot-

print" and that the promise to eradicate this in the next few years is needed.

There are also plans to install more solar panels across the college's campus in New Cross, south-east London and switch to a 100% clean energy supplier as soon as possible.

Officials said Goldsmiths will also continue to invest in its allotment area and identify other places where planting could help to absorb carbon dioxide.

It will review how all students can access modules which cover climate change and the role of both individuals and organizations in reducing carbon emissions.

Prof Corner said: "The growing global call for organizations to take seriously their responsibilities for halting climate change is impossible to ignore.

"Though I have only just arrived at Goldsmiths, it is immediately obvious that our staff and students care passionately about the future of our environment and that they are determined to help deliver the step change we need to cut our carbon footprint drastically and as quickly as possible.

"Declaring a climate emergency cannot be empty words. I truly believe we face a defining moment in global history and Goldsmiths now stands shoul-

der to shoulder with other organizations willing to call the alarm and take urgent action to cut carbon use."

NFU vice-president Stuart Roberts told PA that the union has been encouraging public bodies, such as universities to back British farming and source locally-produced food.

"Tackling climate change is one of the greatest

challenges of our time but singling out one food product is clearly an overly simplistic approach," he said.

"The main issue with this is the lack of understanding or recognition between British beef and beef produced elsewhere.

"Our standards of beef production in the UK are among the most efficient in the world, with British livestock grazing in extensive, grass-based systems - meaning a greenhouse gas footprint 2.5 times smaller than the global average.

"Anyone wanting to play their part in helping our planet amid the current climate change challenge we're all facing should buy British, locally produced beef reared to some of the highest and environmentally sustainable stan-

"The NFU has for years been encouraging public bodies such as schools and universities to back British farming and source their produce locally wherever possible.

"This makes more sense and keeps the choice to eat tasty, sustainably-produced meat firmly on the menu."

Figures show that Goldsmiths emits around 3.7 million kg of carbon emissions each year, the college said.

Referring to the statistic in a blog, Mr. Leam said: "It is clear our university has a huge carbon footprint. The promise to have ended this by 2030 at the latest, with the hope of doing so by 2025, is one which is needed.

"Whilst this plan/action is only the beginning, and much work is yet to be done, it is fantastic to see Goldsmiths taking responsibility and responding to its impact on the climate."



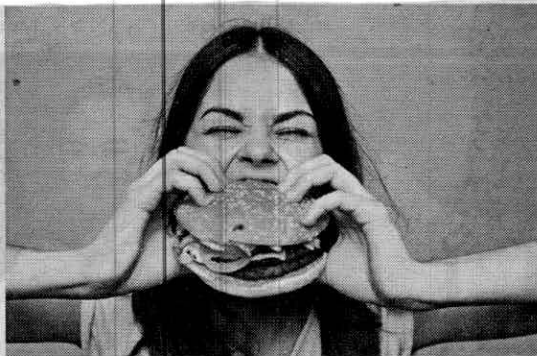
Goldsmiths is located in News Cross, south London (Image: PA)



TITLE: University bans beef burgers to help save the planet from

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Climate Change



Activists have welcomed the beef burger ban on campus (Image: Getty Images/Blend Images)



The ban is a reaction to the climate change emergency (Image: SIPA USA/PA Images)

Invoking the words of teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, "Our house is on fire", Mr Leam added: "I believe Frances

Corner and the university management are realising this and making these changes to put their part of the house fire out.

"The SU will be a part of this process every step of the way to make sure this stays true, seeking to speed the process up wherever

possible and will keep the college community updated throughout."

Rosie Rogers, climate emergency campaigner for Greenpeace UK, said: "It's encouraging to see an institution like Goldsmiths not simply declaring a climate emergency, but acting on it.

"From energy use, to food sales and plastic pollution - all universities and organisations with campus sites can make changes across their facilities that are better for our planet.

"We call on others to urgently follow suit, and to include cutting all ties from fossil fuel funding in their climate emergency response."



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PH banks should divest from coal

September gives many of us opportunities to reflect on our relationship with the environment and our fellow human beings. This month, Filipino Catholics celebrate the Season of Creation, recognizing the "Web of Life": the shared interest of all forms of creation in protecting our common home. Similarly, youths across different nations will be mobilizing in the millions as part of the Global Climate Strike, to call on global leaders to end the age of fossil fuels as a response to the worsening climate crisis.

This era is not just of catastrophes, however, but also of a renewed appreciation for the environment. In 2015, Pope Francis called on leaders and citizens in his encyclical "Laudato Si" to act as responsible stewards of our common home through concrete changes in policies and lifestyles. In that same year, many Islamic leaders, Evangelical leaders, the Orthodox Church, have also reiterated their calls for action toward caring for the environment in light of this ongoing crisis.

Yet, while unprecedented unities are being formed around the world, it seems it still pays to abuse and destroy the environment. In the Philippines, it seems as if it is even encouraged.

Despite the President's pronouncement to reduce coal reliance, the Department of Energy still defends its continuation and expansion, arguing that it is still the cheapest, most reliable form of energy available. Yet we see its real cost in the diseases suffered by host commu-

COMMENTARY

BISHOP BRODERICK PABILLO

nities, in the destruction of natural resources and ecosystems around coal plants and mining operations, and in the warming of the planet.

Coal is not cheap. We just pay in other ways. Sadly, the wellbeing of the people is rarely considered in economies whose priority is economic growth. As long as business and government policies value profit over people, coal dependence will continue to prosper. Coal investors will still be encouraged to take their business here because of the incentives given by the government and the financing provided by banks. This, despite many different countries already abandoning coal and developing more renewable sources of energy.

This is why we call on Philippine banks to divest from coal.

Last July 16, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines released its pastoral letter, "An Urgent Call for Ecological Conversion." One of the concrete ways we committed to live the spirit and calls of "Laudato Si" is by disallowing the resources of our Catholic financial institutions to be used for coal plants, waste to energy and destructive extractive activities. The letter

stressed that the Church must divest for the sake of sustainability, and invest instead in practices that honor and safeguard our common home.

We have extended this call to Philippine banks, especially BPI, BDO and Metrobank, which have been found to have the most money lent to and lodged with the biggest coal companies in the Philippines. As Christians, we know that where our resources lie, there also lie our hearts. By continuing to finance coal, Philippine banks will only muddle the conscience of their many depositors who love the Earth and their fellow Filipinos.

We laud the initiative of some Philippine banks in increasing their funding for renewable energy projects. Yet there are still no categorical pronouncements from these banks that they will transition into completely abandoning coal. No target dates have been made for such abandonment.

Globally, many banks and financial institutions, including HSBC and ING, have stopped funding coal projects, yet remain profitable. This was mostly done by shifting toward cleaner, more sustainable renewable energy. There is no reason Philippine banks can't succeed without coal. This is a time to prove their slogans true—that we're "in good hands," and that they "find ways" to "make it easy."

Bishop Broderick Pabillo is auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila.



Budget OK gives time to review programs

SWIFT approval of the 2020 national budget will give lawmakers time to review the programs on health, education, and other social services which our people are constantly demanding.

This was the message of Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano after the approval on third and final reading of the House Bill 4228 or the General Appropriations Bill (GAB), saying: "Our passing of budget in record time will give our standing and special committees more time to exercise their oversight functions especially

over the 2019 budget, programs, platform, and projects of our country."

"It will also give us enough time to pass urgent measures including revenue measures that will fund the budget next year for the next generations to come," Cayetano added.

On Friday night, the House approved on final reading the proposed P4.1 trillion budget for 2020 with a vote of 257 in favor and six against.

The 2020 budget's approval was done in only 20 working days.

The approval also marked the earliest passage of the budget during the Duterte administration.

Cayetano had committed that the budget measure had "no pork, no parked fund, and no delay."

In the 2020 GAB, the top 10 departments with the largest allocations are: (1) Department of Education, P673 billion; (2) Department of Public Works and Highways, P534.3 billion; (3) Department of the Interior and Local Government, P238 billion; (4) Department of Social Welfare and De-

velopment, P195 billion; (5) Department of National Defense, P189 billion; (6) Department of Health, P166.5 billion; (7) Department of Transportation, P147 billion; (8) Department of Agriculture, P93.1 billion; (9) The Judiciary, P38.7 billion; and (10) Department of Environment and Natural Resources, P26.4 billion.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submitted the National Expenditure Program (NEP) last August 20. It was certified as urgent by President Duterte.

Jester P. Manalastas



BUDGET OKAY SETS RECORD

By Jester P. Manalastas

SPEAKER Alan Peter Cayetano said the swift approval of the proposed 2020 national budget was deliberately done in order for the House of Representatives to also focus on other pressing measures.

Cayetano expressed gratitude to Majority Leader Martin Romualdez and chairman of the appropriations committee Isidro Ungab for leading the budget hearing and deliberations.

In his speech after the approval on third and final reading of House Bill 4228 or the General Appropriations Bill (GAB), Cayetano said it is also important for Congress to pass the priority measures so that the budget will be funded and spent properly.

"Our passing of budget in record time will give our standing and special committees more time to exercise their oversight functions especially over the 2019 budget, programs, and platform, and projects of our country," Cayetano said.

"It will also give us enough time to pass urgent measures including revenue measures that will fund the budget next year for the next generations to come," Cayetano said.

The House leader stressed that early passage of the budget measure gives lawmakers time to review the programs on health, education, and other social services.

On Friday night, the House approved on final reading the proposed P4.1 trillion budget for 2020 with a vote of 257 and six against.

The 2020 budget's approval is record-setting as it was done in only 20 working days within a period of 30 days.

The approval also marks the earliest passage of the budget during the Duterte Administration.

This assures the enactment of the 2020 national budget on time and on schedule, in line with the commitment of Cayetano that the budget measure has "no pork, no parked fund, and no delay."

As stated in the 2020 GAB, the top 10 departments with the biggest allocations are: (1) Department of Education, P673 billion; (2) Department of Public Works and Highways, P534.3 billion; (3) Department of the Interior and Local Government, P238 billion; (4) Department of Social Welfare and Development, P195 billion; (5) Department of National Defense, P189 billion; (6) Department of Health, P166.5 billion; (7) Department of Transportation, P147 billion; (8) Department of Agriculture, P93.1 billion; (9) The Judiciary, P38.7 billion; and (10) Department of Environment and Natural Resources, P26.4 billion.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submitted the National Expenditure Program (NEP) last August 20. It was certified as urgent by President Rodrigo Duterte.

"Next year's budget is the 20-20 budget. 20-20 is a symbol of perfect vision. By no means, Dear Colleagues, that 20-20 as we passed today is perfect. Many circumstances and events in the last few days, last few weeks, will also lead us to review certain parts of the budget," the House leader added.



2020 BUDGET APRUB NA SA KAMARA

PASADO na ang 2020 national budget.

Ito ang inihayag nina House Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez at Davao Rep. Isidro Ungab, chairman ng House committee on appropriations.

Isinalang ang budget ng Department of Information, Communication and Technology (DICT), House of Representatives (HOR), Department of Transportation (DOTr), National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), National Security Council (NSC) at Department of Budget and Management (DBM) na pawang inaprubahan naman.

Matapos sertipikahang urgent ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte and GAB 2020 ay tinapos ng mga mambabatas noong Biyernes ang pagbusisi sa budget.

Ito na ang isa sa pinakamaagang pagpapasa sa pambansang budget na dapat sana ay bago pa ang adjournment sa October 4. Matapos aprubahan ang 2020 budget ay nagsagawa si House Minority Leader Benny Abante ng tomo en contra kaugnay sa House Bill 4228 na siyang gagastusin ng gobyerno sa mga proyekto nito mula January 1 hanggang December 31, 2020. Ayon kay Ungab, ang ipinasang badyet ay mismong siyang nilalaman ng National Expenditure Program na isinumite ng Malakanyang.

Ang inaprubahang badyet ay cash-based at ito ay mas mataas ng 11.8 porciento kumpara sa 2019 budget.

Pinakamalaking alokasyon ang Department of Education na P238 bilyon; Department of Social Welfare and Development na P195 bilyon; Department of National Defense ay P189 bilyon; Department of Health ay P166.5 bilyon; Department of Transportation ay P147 bilyon; Department of Agriculture ay P56.8 bilyon, ang Judiciary na may P38.7 bilyong alokasyon at ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources na P26.4 bilyon.

Kabilang sa mga pangunahing programa ng gobyerno na popondahan sa 2020 ay ang Universal Health Care Act, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, ang Rice Trade Liberalization Act, paglikha sa Department for Human Settlements and Urban Development, at ang National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

MELIZA MALUNTAG



₱4.1-T national budget, OK na

Ni BERT DE GUZMAN

Pinagtibay na ng Kamara sa pangalawa at pangatlong pagbasa ang House Bill No. 4228 (General Appropriations Bill) na P4.1-trilyong national budget para sa 2020, nitong Biyernes ng gabi.

Naging mabilis ang pagpapatibay ng national budget bilang tugon sa sertipikasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte bilang urgent.

Bumoto nang pabor ang 257 kongresista, anim ang bumoto ng "no" at walang nag-abstain. Ang 10 departamento na binigyan ng pinakamalalaking alokasyon ay kkinabibilangan ng Dept. of Education (P673 bilyon); Dept. of Public Works ang Highways (P534 bilyon); Dept. of Interior and Local Government (P238 bilyon); Dept. of Social Welfare and Development (P195 bilyon); Dept. of National Defense (P 189 bilyon); Dept. of Health (P166.5 bilyon); Dept. of Transportation (P147 bilyon); Dept. of Agriculture (P93.1 bilyon); The Judiciary (P38.7 bilyon); at Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (P26.4 bilyon).

Noong 2018, inaprubahan ng Kamara ang 2019 budget noong Nobyembre.

Maituturing na isang record-setting o napakabilis ang approval dahil 20 raw lang ng sesyon ang ginugol ng mga



kongresista upang ito'y tapusin.

Tiniyak ng liderato ng Kamara na ang P4.1 trilyong pambansang budget ay "walang pork, no parked fund, and no delay."

Kaugnay nito, nagpasalamat naman sa kapwa mga kongresista si Davao City Rep. Isidro Ungab, chairman ng House committee on appropriations.

Ito ay dahil sa mabilis at maayos na pagkakapasa ng nabanggit na budget.

"We were geared towards one goal and objective, that is the early passage

of the 2020 national budget in order to ensure the completion of the existing programs as well as the efficient implementation of new projects by the government departments and agencies, which will eventually translate to effective delivery of services by the government. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, which only showed that you all have the best interest of our nation at heart. Dahil dito, dapat lang din bigyang pugay at pusuan ang inyong hirap at pinakitang dedikasyon sa pagpasa ng national budget," sabi pa nito.