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# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# DENR issues order to Boracay firm for wastewater discharge

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an interim cease-and-desist order (CDO) to Boracay Tubi Systems, Inc. (BTSI) for discharging wastewater that tested positive for fecal coliform in the waters of Boracay Island.

The wastewater discharge was traced from BTSI's one-kilometer outfall pipe from Lugutan area in Barangay Manoc-Manoc to Sibuyan Sea.

Sinkers were placed on the outfall pipe to secure and prevent it from floating. It was found to be almost 13 kilometers below the water surface.

The interim CDO was issued on Sept. 21 by Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Western Visayas Regional Director Ramar Niel Pascua and will be effective for seven days, unless confirmed by the Pollution Adjudication Board. In such case it will become a regular CDO.

"I have made it clear from day one that no one is above the law," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said. "All environmental laws have to be strictly enforced because their primary purpose is to protect our environment and natural resources."

"We will appropriately deal with the people responsible for this violation," Cimatu, who is the chair of the Boracay Inter-agency Task Force, said.



## Quit dumping dirty water, firm in Boracay told

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau has issued an interim cease-and-desist order to Boracay Tubi Systems Inc. for discharging wastewater that tested positive for fecal coliform into the waters of Boracay Island in Aklan.

The wastewater discharge was traced from BTSI's one-kilometer outfall pipe from Lugutan area in Brgy. Manoc-Manoc in the island to the Sibuyan Sea. Sinkers were placed on the outfall pipe to secure it and prevent it from floating.

"I have made it clear from Day 1 that no one is above the law," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

"All environmental laws have to be strictly enforced because their primary purpose is to protect our environment and natural resources. We will appropriately deal with the people responsible for this violation," he said.

The DENR chief is the chairperson of the Boracay inter-agency task force created by President Rodrigo Duterte through Executive Order 53 to reverse the degradation of the world-famous island resort.

BTSI is one of the two water utility companies in Boracay Island.

Laboratory test results revealed that fecal coliform and phosphate from the water sample and residue taken exceeded the allowable limit for effluent standards for marine water.

The sample had a fecal coliform of 3,500 most probable number per 100 ml against an effluent standard of 400 MPN/100 ml.

Meanwhile, phosphate was at 2.250 milligrams per liter versus the standard 1 mg P/L level.



## DENR issues cease and desist order vs Boracay firm

**THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an interim cease and desist order (CDO) against Boracay Tubi Systems Inc. (BTSI) for discharging wastewater into the waters of the world-famous island resort.**

According to the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), the BTSI's discharge tested positive for high level of fecal coliform.

The discharged was traced to BTSI's one kilometer outfall pipe from Lugutan area in Bgy.

Manoc-Manoc in the island to Sibuyan Sea. Sinkers were placed on the outfall pipe to secure it and prevent it from floating. It was found to be almost 13 kilometers below the water surface.

The interim CDO was issued on September 21 by EMB Western Visayas regional director Ramar Niel Pascua who ordered BTSI to "cease, desist or refrain from discharging wastewater outside the company premises through a one kilometer outfall pipe from Lugutan area in Bgy. Manoc-Manoc, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan going to

Sibuyan Sea."

Pascua said the discharge constituted an immediate threat to public health and safety.

"The interim CDO shall be effective for seven days unless confirmed by the Pollution Adjudication Board in such case it shall become a regular CDO," Pascua said.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said that all environmental laws have to be strictly enforced to protect the environment and the natural resources and no one will be above the law.

"We will appropriately deal with the people responsible for this viola-

tion," said Cimatu.

In an inspection conducted by personnel of the EMB, an outfall pipe was seen to be discharging a large volume of yellowish water.

Laboratory analysis results revealed that fecal coliform and phosphate from the water sample and residue taken have exceeded the General Effluent Standards maximum allowable limit for Class SC marine water body per DENR Administrative Order 2016-08 (DAO) or the Water Quality Guidelines and Effluent Standards of 2016.

**Joel dela Torre**



## Clean-up of garbage forever?

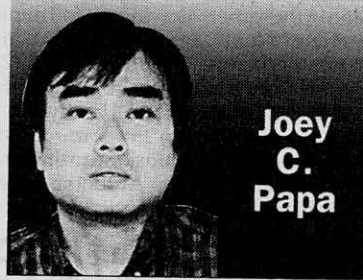
EVERY year, volunteers flock to Manila Bay to pick up garbage from the shore. Last Friday, September 21, was dubbed World Clean-Up Day. As usual, when the rainy season comes, mixed garbage from biodegradable and non-biodegradable or solid wastes top the garbage scenario by the bay. They never get tired of cleaning the bay once a year. They want to rehabilitate the bay, says the government, but after all these, what next?

Some non-government organizations "brand audit" the plastic garbage recovered from the seashore in Manila Bay and all other regions of the country to look for the culprit, then announce which companies these are. They want to conscientize the plastic manufacturers by telling them to stop manufacturing single-use plastics.

Ngunit nariyan pa rin ang plastik sa karagatan. Lumulutang-lutang pa rin. Nariyan pa ang mga basura mula sa mga kabahayan - mga tira-tirang bagay sa kusina tulad ng balat ng prutas, tinik, buto at iba pa. Lahat ng klase ng basura ay lumulutang pa rin sa Manila Bay!

Naisulat ko na kailan lang ang mabantot na amoy ng Manila Bay mula Maynila hanggang Pasay at kailan lang ay maging ang tabing-dagat sa iba pang mga lunsod sa Kamaynilaan. Ang baho pa rin!

### BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey  
C.  
Papa

Napagkamalan kong may dumumi sa aming sasakyan nang buksan ko ang bintana nito.

"Amoy etsas!," bulalas ko. Sa unang amoy ay parang amoy utot at habang nagtatagal ay dumi ng tao na ang maamoy! Nakakahiya!

Halos lumaki rin ako sa dagat, sumama sa pangngisda sa Manila Bay noong kabataan ko. Gustong-gusto ko ang amoy ng dagat noon. Amoy talaba, amoy tahong, amoy isda, amoy maalat! Sa maikling salita, amoy dagat! Ito ang natural na amoy ng isang malinis na karagatan.

Sumasama ito sa ihip ng hangin na kay sarap langhapin. Ngunit ngayon ay parang amoy kasilyas na ang karagatan! Sabi nga ng mga kabarkada ko—" amoy takubets"! (kubeta)

Ang sagot ko nga sa kanila ay mas mabango pa nga yata ang "takubets"

ngayon. Itinuro agad nila ang amoy sa mga estero na ang lahat ng basura ay makikita dito, kasama ang mga dumi ng tao.

Hindi na talaga matatapos ang clean up sa mga dalampasigan. Hindi ito ang solusyon.

Kailangang aminin na ang mga basura ay nagmumula sa mga kabahayan at komunidad. Ilang ulit ko na itong isinulat at ilang libong ulit ko nang tinalakay sa mga forum. Ilang ulit ko na ring sinabi sa mga naging kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Nitong huli ay ilang ulit ko ring sinabi ito kay Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Tila nagtagumpay ang Task Force Manila Bay rehabilitation nang malinis nila ang dalampasigan ng may tatlong kilometrong haba ng Manila ng Bay. Ngunit tag-araw noon. Sinabi ko kay Sec. Cimatu na hintayin natin ang pagdating ng tag-ulan at makikita natin muli ang pagdating ng mga basura. Kahit nga hindi tag-ulan at may malakas lamang na sumulpot na habagat, daan-daang trak ang kailangan upang hakutin ang mga basura sa Manila Bay. Kailan lang ay ipinakita sa balita ang sandamakmak na basura muli sa Manila Bay!

Kailangan na talagang totoo ang ipatupad ang batas RA 9003 at ang

TO PAGE 5

### Clean... FROM PAGE 4

pinakamahalagang punto rito ay ang edukasyon at pagpaparusa. Ito ang pinakamabisang solusyon sa patuloy na pagdumi at pagbaho ng karagatan. Kung mulat ang mga Pilipino kung bakit nila kailangang mahalalin at pangalagaan ang Inang Ka-

likasan, hindi nila ito sasaulain o "bababuyin" ito. Kung alam nila ang gagawin sa mga tira-tirang bagay nila sa mga bahay na nagiging basura, gagawin nila ito. Edukasyon, edukasyon, edukasyon!

Composting of all bio-waste (nabubulok) and banning the manufacturing of single-use, plastics by local government units is the logical thing to do.

President Rodrigo Duterte who ordered the Boracay rehabilitation and the clearing of obstructions by vehicles whose owners use the public roads as their personal garage, can also order the barangay, municipal, and city governments to start a genuine garbage clean-up starting from the households and the barangays.  
(bangonkalikasan@yahoo.com)



**TULAD** ng awitin ni Gary Valenciano, tila ang mga residente na nasa paligid ng Manila Bay at mga estero at ilog ay 'hindi na natuto'. Patuloy pa rin ang kanilang walang habas ng pagtapon ng kanilang mga basura na dadaloy sa Manila Bay. Tila matigas talaga ang ulo ng ilan nating mga kababayan maski na ang isyu na paglinis ng Manila Bay ay naging viral na sa social media. Ito ay nag-ugat sa pagsisikap ng ating pamahalaan na linisin ito. Pati na rin ang mga pribadong sektor ay bukas din sa pagtulong sa paglinis ng Manila Bay. Sa katunayan, nakita natin ang mga larawan ng Manila Bay bago at pagkatapos nito ng malinis. Naghigpit din ang lokal na

pamahalaan ng Maynila at Pasay na ipagbawal ang maligo sa Manila Bay bagama't mukhang malinis na ang hitsura nito. Sinisiguro ng ating pamahalaan na ligtas na maligo ang mga tao sa nasabing look.

Nguni't pagdating ng tag-ulan na may dalang hanging Habagat, dala muli nito ang tone-toneladang basura mula sa mga lugar sa paligid ng Manila Bay. Nakahihiya. Minsan napapaisip ako na tila wala na tala-gang pakialam ang ilang sa ating mga Filipino sa mga ginagawang pagsisikap ng pamahalaan at mga pribadong sektor upang ibalik ang ningning ng Manila Bay. Wala silang pakialam.

Nagbigay ng ulat ang MMDA na mula Enero hanggang Agos-

to, mahigit na 3,810 na tonelada ng basura, water lily at putik ang nahakot ng MMDA sa Manila Bay at sa mga kanal na dumadaloy sa mga pumping station ng MMDA. Mahalaga kasi na nalilinis nang regular ang mga ito upang tumulong sa pagtapon ng tubig-ulan sa Manila Bay para mabilis humupa ang baha sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, karamihan ng mga basura ay mga kawayan at kahoy na maaring nanggaling sa mga fishpen, water lily, plastic, at iba pang mga basurang nagmumula sa mga bahay na itinatapon sa mga estero at ilog na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay. Hindi nga ba kamakailan ay may mga inanod na mga patay na baboy sa Marikina River? Sino namang sira ulo ang nakapag-isip nito? Sana ay mahanap ang mga may sala nito.

Ang laking perwisyo ang ginawa nila.

Noong nakaraang linggo, mahigit 20,000 na volunteers ang sumali sa clean-up drive ng Manila Bay bilang paggunita ng International Coastal Cleanup Day 2019.

Sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na matagumpay ang ginawa nilang paglinis sa Manila Bay at mas marami ang nag-volunteer ngayong taon kaysa noong 2018. Maaring napagtanto ng mga karamihan ng ating mga mamamayan na palagayan ang ating kalikasan. Maliban sa mga empleyado ng ating gobyerno na sumali sa nasa-bing paglilinis ng Manila Bay, marami rin mula sa mga paaralan, environment at civic groups ang lumahok dito.

Ang mga DENR cleanup sites ay isinagawa sa Barangay 649 sa Baseco, Manila, ka-

habaan ng baybay sa may Navotas Centennial Park, at ang ilog ng Tullahan-Tinajeros at Marikina River na dumadaloy palabas ng Manila Bay.

Nagsagawa rin ng paglilinis sa Navotas Tanza Marine Tree Park; Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area; baybayin sa may SM MOA at Gloria Maris, Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, Pasay City at sa PUP sa Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Kaya naman para sa mga naninirahan sa mga lugar na nasa tabi ng ilog at estero, mahiya naman kayo. Sigurado ako karamihan sa inyo ay mga illegal settler sa mga lugar na 'yan. Makibahagi sa programa ng paglilinis ng Manila Bay, kung sobra ang tigas ng ulo ninyo, baka humantong pa ito sa pagpapaalis sa inyong lugar. Matuto na kayo!

## BASURA SA MANILA BAY: HINDI NA NATUTO



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**INQUIRER**

B8  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

24 SEP 2019  
DATE

**ABOVE MINIMUM LEVEL**

# ANGAT WATER LEVEL RISES TO 191.6 MASL AS RAINS CONTINUE

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**  
@RonWDomingoINQ

The water level at Angat Dam increased to 191.6 meters above sea level (masl) as of Monday morning, but the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is keeping the allocation to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System at 40 cubic meters per second.

This means that, while the water level at Angat is considerably higher than the minimum operating level of

180 masl, supply for households in Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite is still below the normal 46 cubic meters per second.

"Ipo Dam has been getting local inflows (from rains that fell during the past few weeks), and that is why water services are regular," NWRB executive director Sevillo David Jr. told the Inquirer.

"We continue to closely monitor the situation in Angat and other dams, to help us decide whether we can increase

allocation to MWSS," David said in an interview.

The NWRB hopes to see Angat, which supplies more than 90 percent of Metro Manila's supply needs, holding at least 210 masl.

Ipo Dam, where raw water from Angat passes through toward the treatment plants of Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc., is at its maintaining level of 101 masl.

La Mesa Dam, which provides buffer supply to Manila

Water at 78.59 masl, is within its normal operating range of 78 to 79 masl.

In a statement, Maynilad asked its customers to continue cooperating in the conservation of the "still limited supply."

"Allocation to MWSS is still below normal because NWRB wants to see Angat Dam reach a water level of more than 210 masl by the end of this year to ensure adequate supply for the summer months of 2020," Maynilad said. INQ



## Water supply disruptions

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. said daily water service interruptions will be felt in several portions of its concession area from September 27 until October 7 as part of the second phase of construction of its Putatan water treatment plant (PWTP2).

Several barangays in the cities of Las Piñas, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Imus and Bacoor will be affected.

Maynilad said the improvement will require a 10-day shutdown of PWTP2 but will upgrade its capacity from 100 million liters per day (MLD) to 150 MLD.

The project will involve the enhancement of ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis racks, skids, membranes and the expansion of biological aerated filter treatment process.





## Bisliganons urged to stop slash-and-burn farming method to avert wildfires

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

**BISLIG CITY** — Government foresters on Monday urged Bisliganons, particularly farmers, to refrain from using the slash-and-burn method of farming to avert wildfires.

"Aside from damaging the environment, this kind of method (slash-and-burn) will also start unstoppable wildfires," stressed Forester Victor B. Sabornido, Bislig City Community Environment and Natural Resources

Officer (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in an exclusive interview with The Manila Bulletin on Monday.

Firefighters battled a raging fire on a parched swampland for five days in this city that nearly hit the Bislig City Provincial Hospital here and forced more than 30 patients to evacuate for safety.

The fire raged on Friday night last week (Sept. 13) and affected at least four barangays.

He said the Bislig City and nearby

town firefighters and CENRO Fire Fighters brigade tried to stop the wildfire from spreading.

In spite of contingency measures drawn by the local officials headed by Mayor Florencio C. Garay, water shortage has affected at least 11,000 consumers that had to bear water rationing for a period of time.

"We are all hoping this water crisis would end soon," Engr. Mentillo C. Siega, manager of Bislig City Water District said.

GREEN ZONE

# CONTESTED MINI FOREST IN BAGUIO TO BE TURNED INTO PARK



**TREE SANCTUARY** This tree park at the Baguio Convention Center compound will be preserved and improved through a city government-backed greening project. —EV ESPIRITU

BAGUIO CITY—A 1-hectare woodland, which the city government has tried to protect from developers, will now be turned into a tree park, complete with elevated walkways and manicured greenery.

During the regular executive-legislative meeting on Monday, Mayor Benjamin Magalong presented a set of plans for walkways around the pine tree area nestled between the Supreme Court compound, the University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio campus, the Baguio Convention Center and a big shopping mall.

Magalong reasserted the city government's position that it would not allow the loss of

more than 500 pine trees and 20 agoho trees, which were planted by students in the 1970s before the area was segregated as part of the Baguio Convention Center during martial law.

### Protests

The government put up the convention center to host the 1978 world chess match between grand masters Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi. The center and its compound have been administered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) until Baguio acquired the building in 2012.

GSIS offered the property for a condominium project but

it abandoned the plan following protests by civic groups and schoolchildren who called it their "tree park."

GSIS initially rejected Baguio's offer to buy the pine-covered lot.

But the GSIS board recently agreed to study a City Hall-backed, P10-million project that would incorporate new gardens, a walkway through and around the trees, and even a bike lane at the tree park, Magalong said.

Half of the trees there, however, would need treatment. UP Baguio experts said many trees were infested with pests and soiled by people who

had been using the forest patch as their toilet.

### Regreening

The tree park is part of the city government's comprehensive plan to regreen Baguio, Magalong said. He directed the city environment office to put up nurseries to grow 200,000 tree saplings to be donated by a mall.

He said new pine trees would also be planted in clusters, subscribing to latest scientific data that trees grown together tend to share chemicals and nutrients using the fungal bacteria found in plant roots.

—VINCENT CABREZA INQ



# Tree planting should be done properly – Magalong

By Aldwin Quidasol

**BAGUIO CITY** — Mayor Benjamin Magalonsaid yesterday that while the city government encourages tree-planting, they will discourage random activities that will not ensure the successful development of saplings or seedlings to be planted.

Instead, the Baguio City

government recommends to let saplings and seedlings grow to a certain point of maturity while being housed in tree nurseries to be set up by the government to ensure survival before being planted for permanent growth.

Magalong averred that tree saplings are ready to be planted after about two or three years, and that these should be grown in groups because of the scientific belief that they could grow to support each other.

Picking up these learnings from China and other countries which have successfully regrown their forest covers, the mayor alluded that this a feat that Baguio City

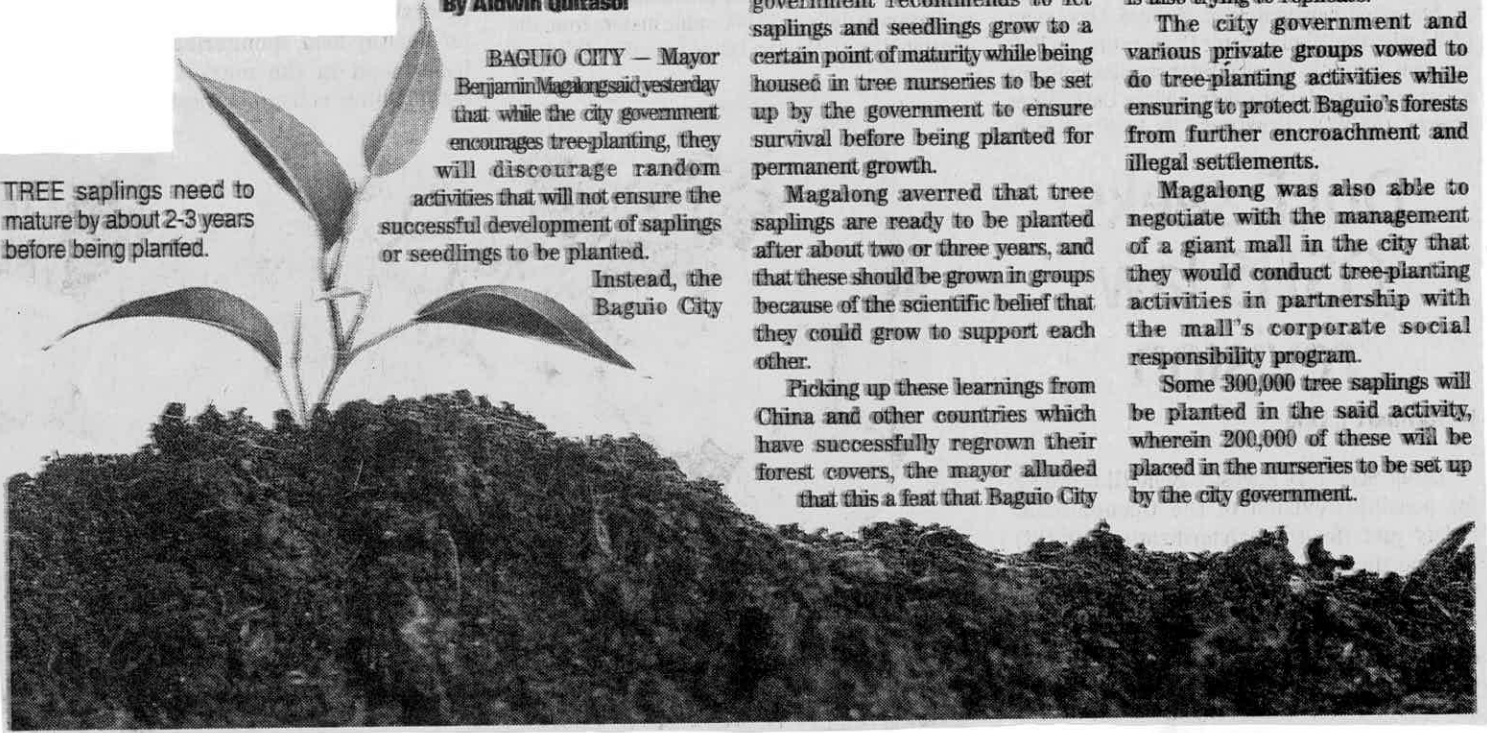
is also trying to replicate.

The city government and various private groups vowed to do tree-planting activities while ensuring to protect Baguio's forests from further encroachment and illegal settlements.

Magalong was also able to negotiate with the management of a giant mall in the city that they would conduct tree-planting activities in partnership with the mall's corporate social responsibility program.

Some 300,000 tree saplings will be planted in the said activity, wherein 200,000 of these will be placed in the nurseries to be set up by the city government.

TREE saplings need to mature by about 2-3 years before being planted.



**EDITORIAL**

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## Back to basics in land reform

**P**RESIDENT Duterte never gets tired of reiteration, to the point that within a particular period, if you have heard one of his speeches it would seem you have heard them all.

His personal thoughts on land reform go along these lines. But for a little embellishment: a dig at former President Cory Aquino's exempting Hacienda Luisita from the state policy of land distribution.

At the decommissioning of arms of former communist rebels in Jamindin, Capiz last week, the President directed Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones to hasten the distribution of government lands to qualified farmers. Included among those up for distribution are privately owned landholdings such as the Tarlac behemoth.

By his actions, Duterte seems to indicate that he is serious in making the land reform program among his government's key initiatives to address communist insurgency in the Philippines, the longest-running in Asia.

**'What Duterte wants is for the farmers to hold on to their land which they received from the government, make these productive, and thus improve their lives, break the cycle of poverty from one generation to another.'**

First, he ordered the rehabilitation of Boracay island and with it, the distribution of public lands on the island to qualified residents. In the Capiz event, and on various occasions before that, the President reminded the Department of Agrarian Reform to hasten the land reform process to allow the faster distribution of land titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries.

On top of that, President Duterte made it clear that he would not honor the sale of land distributed under the land reform program, stressing that this is against the law. What Duterte wants is for the farmers to hold on to their land which they received from the government, make these productive, and thus improve their lives, break the cycle of poverty from one generation to another.

The Chief Executive was also sincerely saddened by President Cory Aquino's sabotaging of her own Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) because of her family's interests in Hacienda Luisita. Duterte called the supposed exemption of the Cojuangco-owned sugar estate as the "fly in the ointment" of Cory's program, the "greatest aberration" of the country's agrarian reform.

This time around, the Duterte administration's DAR finished the distribution of CARP-covered land from Hacienda Luisita, an indication that the President means business.



# P56-B MGen coal plant in Mauban still lacks requirements, can't get COC yet, says ERC

By LENIE LECTURA [@llectura](#)

**T**HE Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on Monday said it could not yet issue a certificate of compliance (COC) to a project of the power generation arm of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) due to incomplete requirements.

The agency said Meralco must first comply with all the necessary documents and permits in order to secure a COC.

"The Epira [Electric Power Industry Reform Act] has specified the necessary clearances that generation companies [gencos] must secure prior to the ERC's issuance of COCs. Unless all the documentary

requirements have been fully complied with, only then we can issue the corresponding COC," ERC Chairman Agnes VST Devanadera said.

The Epira mandates new generation companies to secure a COC from the ERC before its commercial operations, provided that generation companies have also obtained the necessary health, safety and

environmental clearances from the appropriate government agencies.

The ERC statement comes on the heels of a report by Meralco President Ray Espinosa to the Department of Energy (DOE) about a possible tight supply next month because a number of power plants are on scheduled maintenance shutdown. More important, a new power plant of Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGen) will not be able to deliver power to the grid this month because the ERC has yet to issue the COC.

The country's first coal-fired power plant to use supercritical technology is being undertaken by San Buenaventura Power Ltd. (SBPL), a partnership between MGen and New Growth BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Electricity Generating Public Co. Ltd. of Thailand.

The P56.2-billion coal plant in Mauban, Quezon, was earlier track-



ing a commercial operation date last September 15.

The ERC, however, raised questions on the water rights accorded by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Espinosa said.

When sought for comment, MGen President Rogelio Singson said Monday the company has fully complied with all requirements. "As far as we are concerned, we have complied with any deficiencies and the issue is now between NWRB and ERC," said the MGen official.

The SBPL power plant will play a crucial role as electricity demand grows, especially in Luzon which accounts for about 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

The electricity to be generated by the plant will be sold to Meralco, the country's largest distribution utility, under a 20-year power supply agreement.

"We welcome the entry of new

power plants as these will augment and ensure the sustainability of power supply. However, we will not allow the stakeholders to breach the law, and the rules that we have promulgated as they were designed to ensure that the consuming public's interest is not compromised," Devanadera said.

Under the Revised Rules for the Issuance of COCs issued by the ERC (Resolution 16, Series of 2014), the Commission has 60 calendar days to act on applications for COCs reckoned from the date of complete submission of the required information, including the completion of the ERC's technical inspection of the power plant.

Also, the ERC said it will ensure that the distribution utilities (DUs) that entered into a power supply agreement (PSA) with a generation company has opted for the least cost offer during the bid process.

"At the moment, we cannot as yet determine or confirm whether the proposed rate in the Meralco PSA adverted to was indeed the least cost. But once the subject Meralco PSA application has been filed, the ERC will conduct a thorough evaluation to ensure that the proposed rate in the PSA is the least cost," Devanadera said.

The Supreme Court affirmed its decision in July 2019, requiring all PSAs submitted to the ERC from June 30, 2015, to undergo the competitive selection process (CSP).

Meralco has so far successfully conducted two CSPs.

"We will require the submission of pertinent documents from the distribution utilities that will show proof that the CSP that they have undertaken in securing their power supply from the generation companies adhered to the 'least cost' principle," Devanadera said.



# END THE AGE OF COAL!

On July 22, 2019, President Rodrigo Duterte, in his State of the Nation Address, declared his recognition of the urgent need for the development of alternative energy sources and to end the country's dependence on coal. Unfortunately, his pledge has fallen on deaf ears, as the man he entrusted with this directive, Energy Secretary Al Cusi, declared that he remains "technology neutral" and will not stop the building of new coal power plants.

The use of coal defies economic logic. Coal is more expensive than renewable energy sources, entails massive spending on health issues it causes, and forces us to absorb the costs of climate change – rehabilitation for those affected by the stronger and more frequent typhoons and the construction of facilities to prevent flooding due to rising sea levels.

The costs of coal are borne by the entire Filipino people through our taxes and health care expenditures, with profits enjoyed only by a few in the energy sector. Despite the burden coal imposes, the electricity it supplies remains fickle. The so-called "power crisis" of early this year involved coal power plants failing to deliver their promised yield when called upon to do so.

The continued use of coal is also in direct disregard of our global commitment to reduce our carbon emissions in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. And for the Philippines which consistently makes it to the top 10 countries most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, coal use condemns our people, already mired in poverty, to bear the brunt of more extreme weather events. Especially now that what we face is not merely a climate crisis but already a climate emergency, Cusi's act is tantamount to putting the lives of each and every Filipinos at risk. It is in this light that His Holiness, Pope Francis, published the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. It called on the Catholic faithful to protect the Earth that God has given humanity, calling for swift and unified global action.



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24 SEP 2009

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PAGE 1/

DATE

*P-2*  
End the age of coal

His call was taken up by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which issued a pastoral letter before the President's SONA, entitled, "An urgent call for ecological conversion, hope in the face of climate emergency."

The call to end coal is not limited to the religious and cause-oriented groups. Even banks around the world are now ending their funding of coal projects. Coal is on the retreat everywhere. Except the Philippines.

It's time to put a stop to the dominance of coal. We, the undersigned, ask that the government comply with the directive of the President. At present, coal accounts for 52% of our nation's electricity supply. This proportion should grow no further and dwindle in the next few years.

We ask the President to issue an Executive Order outlining concrete steps to reduce coal dependence. This must include a moratorium on issuing permits to new coal projects, a review of all coal projects, both existing and in the pipeline, a clear policy to fully fast-track the implementation of the Renewable Energy Law, while supporting local and community initiatives to fast-track the development of RE.

We also demand to the leadership of the Department of Energy (DOE), as well as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), to fully implement the SONA marching orders from the President - reduce coal dependence and prioritize renewable energy, and no longer waver.

The campaign against coal is a campaign to reclaim our rights. The right to breathe fresh air. The right of our children to grow up in a world protected from climate change. The right to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. Mr. President, protect our rights.



# End coal now.

Signed,

## POWER FOR PEOPLE COALITION

Bishop Gerardo Alminaza, Diocese of San Carlos | Bishop Broderick Pabillo, Auxiliary Bishop of Manila, Archdiocese of Manila | Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, Archdiocese of Cagayan De Oro | Bishop Roberto Mallari, Diocese of San Jose, Nueva Ecija | Bishop Valentin Dimoc, Apostolic Vicariate of Bontoc - Lagawe | Bishop Jose Cabantan, Diocese of Malaybalay | Bishop Crispin Varquez, Diocese of Borongan | Bishop Isabelo Abarquez, Diocese of Calbayog | Bishop Cerilo Caciccas, Diocese of Marbel | Bishop Victor Ocampo, Diocese of Gumaca | Bishop Marvin Macerla, Diocese of San Jose de Antique | Bishop Alberto Uy, Diocese of Tagbilaran | Bishop Edgardo Juanich, Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay | Bishop Edwin Dela Pena, Prelature of Marawi | Bishop Arturo Bastes, Diocese of Sorsogon | Bishop Antonieto Cabajog, Diocese of Surigao | Bishop Manolo de los Santos, Diocese of Virac | Philippine Movement for Climate Justice | Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development | Freedom from Debt Coalition | SANLAKAS | Greenpeace Philippines | Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines - National Secretariat for Social Action/ Caritas Philippines | Living Laudato Si | WWF - Philippines | Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines | Ecological Justice Interfaith Movement | AMRSP Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission | Franciscan Solidarity Movement - JPIC | Order of the Friars Minor - JPIC | Global Catholic Climate Movement - Pilipinas | Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association, Inc. | Ecology Ministry of Diocese of Lucena | Diocese of Talibon | Diocese of Cotabato | Diocese of Kabankalan | Diocese of Dumaguete | Diocese of Tandag | Diocese of San Carlos | Archdiocese of Cebu | Archdiocese of Capiz | Diocese of Libmanan | Diocese of Legazpi | Diocese of Maasin | Diocese of Butuan | Archdiocese of Caceres | Diocese of Pasig | Diocese of Naval | Archdiocese of Jaro | Diocese of Kidapawan | Diocese of Tabuk | Diocese of Catanduanes | Gumaca, Quezon Caritas Social Action Centre | Our Lady of Angels Parish, Atimonan | Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Plaridel | Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish, Atimonan | Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Atimonan | Parish of Niña Maria Castañas, Sariaya | Murang Kuryente | Oriang | Alyansa Tigil Mina | Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development | Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino | No Burn Pilipinas | Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement | Ecowaste Coalition | Health Care Without Harm - Philippines | Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. | Ecological Justice League of Youth Leaders | Samahan ng Progresibong Kabataan | KAISA - UP Diliman | Task Force Detainees of the Philippines | Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod | Bukluran Student Alliance - PLM | Unifying Sectoral Responses on Environmental Protocols In Sibonga | No To Coal-fired Power Plant Movement, Narra, Palawan | Save Aborlan From Evil | AKBAYAN Atimonan | Coal-Free Central Luzon Movement | Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement | Palawan Alliance for Clean Energy | Coal-Free Negros | Responsible Ilonggos for Sustainable Energy | Climate Action for Sustainability Initiative | Buklod TAO | COCAP | Students for Responsive Leadership in Tourism | UP Environment and Tourism Society | Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy | Subic Bay Chamber for Health & Environment Conservation | Save Subic Bay: No To Coal Movement | Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance and Urgent Initiative | Tanggol Kalikasan | ECIIP National Secretariat | Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaitan sa Kanayunan | Save Sual Movement | Gitib, Inc. | LEAD-CHE | UP AIT Student Council | Koalisyon Isalbar ti Pintas ti La Union (Save the Beauty of La Union) | Kabataan para sa Kalikasan Atimonan | Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability | Convergence for Environmental Justice, Inc. | Zambales Lingap Kalikasan | Concerned Citizens of Sta. Cruz, Zambales | Aniban ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST COAL



fb.com/Power4PeopleCoalition

We, the women and men of Living Laudato Si Philippines, fully support the calls of the Power for People Coalition. We urge our elected officials and our policymakers to heed the words of our president Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and ENACT POLICIES THAT ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, AND CLEAN SOURCES OF ENERGY. We call on the depositors, employees, and shareholders of banks, to take more decisive action on the climate crisis and urge these financial institutions to STOP FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS. WE REFUSE TO FINANCE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS AND CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN LIVES AND THE PLANET. LET'S DIVEST FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND INVEST IN OUR COMMON HOME.



# Global warming accelerates; worst impact feared

By JANVIC MATEO

UNITED NATIONS – Global warming has continued to accelerate in the past five years, with extreme weather events feared to be more destructive if the world fails to commit to ambitious solutions to stop climate change, scientists warned over the weekend.

The United in Science report, produced by leading climate science organizations across the world, revealed that climate change has continued to accelerate despite global efforts to curb carbon emissions that contribute to temperature increase.

"Climate change causes and impacts are increasing rather than slowing down," said Petteri Taalas, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and co-chair of the United Nations Climate Action Summit.

"Sea level rise has accelerated and we are concerned that an abrupt decline in the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets will exacerbate future rise. As we have seen this year with tragic effect in the

Bahamas and Mozambique, sea level rise and intense tropical storms led to humanitarian and economic catastrophes," he added.

The WMO, along with other leading scientific organizations and climate scientists, released on Sunday a high-level synthesis report providing a unified assessment of the state of Earth system under the increasing influence of climate change, the response of humanity and the projected changes of global climate in the future.

Measuring the average global temperature from 2015 to 2019, the report noted that it has already increased by 1.1 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times (1850 to 1900), up 0.2 degrees from the average increase recorded in the 2011 to 2015 period.

It also said the average global temperature for 2015 to 2019 is on track to be the warmest of any equivalent period on record, which is feared to cause more destructive typhoons, floods, droughts, heat waves and fires across the world.

Earlier reports warned that an increase of at least 1.5 de-

grees could result in irreversible impact of climate change that could affect millions of people worldwide, especially in vulnerable countries such as the Philippines.

The United in Science report noted the continuing decrease of sea ice and ice mass in the past years, with the long-term trend in the Arctic showing an approximated 12 percent decline per decade.

In Antarctica, scientists discovered that the amount of ice lost annually has increased at least six-fold between 1979 and 2017, while the Greenland ice sheet has witnessed a considerable acceleration in ice loss since the turn of the millennium.

The loss of ice has contributed to the rising sea level, which scientists noted to have amounted to five millimeters per year between 2014 and 2019, up from the four millimeters per year average between 2007 and 2016. The average sea level rise in 1993 was only 3.2 mm per year.

"The contribution of land ice melt from the world glaciers and the ice sheets has increased over time and now

dominate the sea level budget, rather than thermal expansion," added the report.

Scientists have also discovered a rising acidity of the world's oceans, attributing this to its absorption of carbon emissions to help alleviate warming.

"The ecological cost to the ocean, however, is high, as the changes in acidity are linked to shifts in other carbonate chemistry parameters, such as the saturation state of aragonite," read the report. "This process, detrimental to marine life and ocean services, needs to be constantly monitored through sustained ocean observations."

## Extreme weather

The changing climate could result in extreme weather events, including storms and flooding that lead to what the report described as the highest economic losses.

"Overall, the largest economic losses were associated with tropical cyclones. The 2018 season was especially active, with the largest number of tropical cyclones of any year in the 21st century," it added.

"Heatwaves were the deadliest meteorological hazard in the 2015 to 2019 period, affecting all continents and setting many new national temperature records."

Meanwhile, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization pointed out that climate change is a key driver behind the recent rises in global hunger and one of the leading contributors to severe food crises.

"Climate variability and extremes are negatively affecting all dimensions of food security – food availability, access, utilization and stability," it said.

Taalas stressed the need for significant efforts to slow down climate change and reach the target of limiting the increase of global temperature to only 1.5 degrees.

"The challenges are immense. Besides mitigation of climate change, there is a growing need to adapt. According to the recent Global Adaptation Commission report, the most powerful way to adapt is to invest in early warning services and pay special attention to impact-based forecasts," he said.

"It is highly important that

we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notably from energy production, industry and transport. This is critical if we are to mitigate climate change and meet the targets set out in the Paris Agreement," added the WMO official, referring to the landmark climate agreement signed in 2016.

To stop a global temperature increase of more than two degrees above pre-industrial levels, Taalas said the level of commitments by world governments needs to be tripled.

"And to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees, it needs to be multiplied by five," he added.

The report was released ahead of the Climate Action Summit convened here at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday.

The summit seeks to highlight concrete plans by leaders from government, civil society and the private sector to cut emissions and strengthen climate resilience.

It will also feature bold actions and multi-stakeholder initiatives that would address high-impact areas such as transition to renewable energy, adaptation and nature-based solutions.



# World leaders feel heat at UN climate summit

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Saying humanity is waging war with the planet, the head of the United Nations isn't planning to let just any world leader speak about climate change at the special "action summit."

Only those with new, specific and bold plans can command the podium and the ever-warming world's attention, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

So sit down, Brazil. Sit down, Saudi Arabia. Sit down, Poland.

"People can only speak if they come with positive steps. That is kind of a ticket," Guterres said yesterday. "For bad news don't come."

As if to underscore the seriousness of the problem, the UN's World Meteorological Organization released a report along with several other science agencies on Sunday showing that in the last several years, warming, sea level rise and carbon pollution have all accelerated.

Brazil's, Poland's and Saudi Arabia's proposals for deal-

ing with climate change fell short, so they're not on today's summit schedule. The United States didn't even bother, according to a UN official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The bar isn't that high: Leaders from 64 nations, the European Union, more than a dozen companies and banks, a few cities and a state will present plans at the secretary-general's Climate Action Summit.

Guterres wants nations to be carbon-neutral by 2050 — in other words, they will not add more heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the air than are removed by plants and perhaps technology each year. On Sunday, 87 countries around the world pledged to decarbonise in a way consistent with one of the international community's tightest temperature goals.

There is a sense of urgency, Guterres said, because "climate change is the defining issue of our time," "For the first time, there is a serious conflict between

people and nature, between people and the planet," Guterres said.

He wants countries to commit to no new coal power plants after 2020 and reduce carbon pollution by 45 per cent in the next decade. The purpose of the summit is to come up with new green proposals a year earlier than the 2020 deadline that is in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

On Sunday, the United Nations announced that it will cut its own carbon pollution 25 percent in the next six years and 45 per cent by 2030.

World leaders agreed in 2009 to try to keep warming to just 2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times. Then in 2015, they agreed to restrict warming to "well below" 2 deg C and added a secondary, tougher goal, at the urging of small islands, to keep warming to just 1.5 deg C.

The new weather agency report showed that the world has warmed already by 1.1 deg Celsius.



People take part in the Climate Action Summit at the first United Nations Youth Climate Summit in New York City on Saturday. The Youth Climate Summit is intended to bring together young activists who are committed to combating climate change.



# Global warming on the agenda

**U**NITED NATIONS—Some 60 world leaders convene on Monday for a UN summit on “climate emergency” aimed at reinvigorating the faltering Paris agreement, at a time when mankind is releasing more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than at any time in history.

From heat waves to slow-crawling hurricanes to rapidly acidifying oceans, the impacts of global warming are being felt more than ever before, yet the gap between carbon reduction targets demanded by scientists to avert catastrophe and actions thus far taken is only widening.

It is within this context that a new, youth-led movement has emerged and re-energized climate activism, symbol-

ized by Swedish teen Greta Thunberg who will take the podium in the morning following a speech by Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Thunberg along with millions of others around the world rallied on Friday calling for climate justice and for the voices of the younger generations who will be most affected by increasing extreme weather events to be heard.

Fewer than half the 136 heads of gov-

ernment or state in New York this week to attend the UN General Assembly will be present Monday.

Among the list of those absent will be US President Donald Trump, who pulled his country out of the Paris Accord upon taking power and has made slashing environmental regulations a key part of his platform.

Likewise President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, under whose leadership the Amazon rainforest is continuing to burn at record rates, and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison whose government has pursued an aggressively pro-coal agenda.

China, the world’s biggest carbon emitter by far, but also a leader in the renewables sector, will be present and represented by foreign minister Wang Yi, with Guterres hinting last week that the East Asian giant will be committing to new measures.

Laurence Tubiana, CEO of the European Climate Foundation and one of the architects of the Paris agreement, told AFP the summit represented a “moment of truth” but was also taking place at a time of great political headwinds.

“There’s a tension between the countries that want to go ahead to translate their goals into real policies” and those that do not, she said.

“We can hope for the best, that this group of progressive countries and actors and local authorities prepare for the second wave, to demonstrate that this is where modernity is, where progress is, and even where economic growth could be.” **AFP**



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TUESDAY / SEPTEMBER 24, 2019  
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**In politics there are so many issues,  
sometimes boring. On tackling such  
a big-scale issue like climate change,  
it's got to be fun, it's got to be cool.  
It's got to be sexy, too**

**Shinjiro Koizumi**  
Japan environment minister



VIEW FROM TOKYO

**MAKE CLIMATE  
FIGHT 'SEXY,'  
SAYS MINISTER**

NEW YORK—Japan's new environment minister, Shinjiro Koizumi, pledged on Sunday to mobilize young people to push his coal-dependent country towards a low-carbon future by making the fight against climate change "sexy" and "fun."

Koizumi spoke on the eve of a UN climate summit in New York where activists plan to float a blimp showing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe emerging from a bucket of coal to protest Japan's plans to build new coal-fired power plants.

"In politics there are so many issues, sometimes boring. On tackling such a big-scale issue like climate change, it's got to be fun, it's got to be cool. It's got to be sexy, too," Koizumi said at a news conference in New York.

"We are committed to realizing a decarbonized society, and we are ready to contribute as a more powerful country against climate change," he said.

Japanese students in Tokyo were among the millions of young people who took to the streets on Friday to express the fear and outrage over the failure of governments to control greenhouse gas emissions. —REUTERS



FINDING ANSWERS

# Climate strike highlights need to stop worsening crisis

By **ATTY. JOEY D. LINA**  
Former Senator

**A**CT now or future generations would suffer. This was the unified message for world leaders from around 4 million young people who mounted protest actions in major cities across the globe last Friday in a massive show of force to demand swift and significant measures in tackling climate change and its disastrous consequences.

Inspired by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, the wave of global youth activism behind the Fridays for Future climate strike has also gained support in the Philippines as youth groups gathered on Sept. 20 in various parts of the country to create more awareness on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avert global warming, resulting from runaway fossil fuel extraction and consumption.

In Manila, former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, founder of Earthsavers and chair of the Climate Institute Advisory Board, helped organize our country's contribution to the Global Climate Strike with the participation of students - through the efforts of Manila Mayor Isko Moreno - from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and Universidad de Manila, including members of the Sangguniang Kabataan, who gathered at the Earthsavers Gallery of the Sea at Manila Yacht Club Baywalk. The event was co-convened by Sagot Kita Bayan which I chair. Also helping out was Magsaysay Laureate Cecile Guidote Alvarez, Unesco Artist for Peace.

Other local organizations in sup-

port of the worldwide youth movement, which also called for active participation of the older generation and other sectors of society, include the Youth Strike for Climate Philippines, Greenpeace Philippines, and Zero Waste Pilipinas.

Last Friday's climate strike took place ahead of today's United Nations climate summit. In New York, Thunberg enjoined fellow climate activists to be relentless. "We are united by the science and we will do everything in our power to stop this crisis from getting worse, even if that means skipping school or work because this is more important," Thunberg said. "Why should we study for a future that is being taken away from us? That is being stolen for profit."

She also aired a warning: "And if you belong to that small group of people who feel threatened by us then we have some very bad news for you because this is only the beginning."

Thunberg earlier got the attention of world leaders with a blistering speech at the UN climate change COP24 conference last December. "Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few," Thunberg said.

At the World Economic Forum last January in Davos, Switzerland, Thunberg faced the world's elite and richest people. "Some people, some companies, some decision-makers in particular, have known exactly what priceless values they have been sacrificing to continue making unimaginable amounts of money. And I think many of you here today

belong to that group of people," she said bluntly.

And her message there was also even more frantic. "Adults keep saying: 'We owe it to the young people to give them hope.' But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then, I want you to act." Thunberg urged. "I want you to act as if you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house was on fire. Because it is."

The worsening crisis is shown in the latest scientific data compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) which reported that acceleration in global warming and sea-level rise occurred in the five-year period of 2014 to 2019.

The acceleration resulted from "burgeoning emissions of carbon, with the amount of the gas going into the atmosphere between 2015 and 2019 growing by 20% compared with the previous five years."

The WMO report on rising sea level said: "The average rate of rise since 1993 until now is 3.2mm per year. However, from May 2014 to 2019 the rise has increased to 5mm per year. The 10-year period from 2007-2016 saw an average of about 4mm per year."

Amid the alarming data, it is indeed urgent to restrict the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 as agreed under the 2015 Paris agreement.

The WMO report is intended to guide participants in the UN climate summit which, according to UN secretary general António Guterres, should be about action and not words.

"I told leaders not to come with

fancy speeches, but with concrete commitments," Guterres said. "People want solutions, commitments and action. I expect there will be an announcement and unveiling of a number of meaningful plans on dramatically reducing emissions during the next decade."

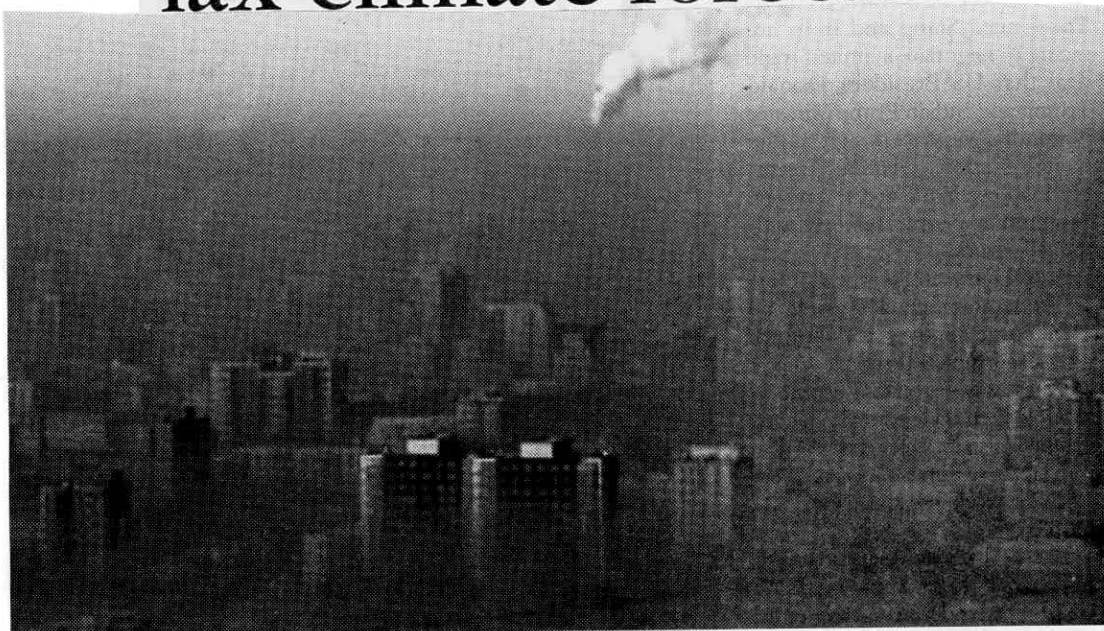
The young people of the world are

making their voices heard and they intend to make it louder and louder. They are showing they are indeed a force to reckon with. It would be foolhardy for the adults in power not to respond positively.

Email: [finding.lina@yahoo.com](mailto:finding.lina@yahoo.com)



# Markets face major risks over lax climate forecasts



**Out of sync.** A file photo of emissions from a power plant chimney rising over Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The report by the UN-backed Principles of Responsible Investing (PRI), representing investors with \$86 trillion of assets under management, joins a growing chorus of warnings that forecasts and investments by oil and gas companies are out of sync with the pace needed to meet energy transition targets. (Reuters Photo)

LONDON- Financial markets risk major disruptions by relying on business-as-usual forecasts that underestimate the impact of climate-change policies that are expected to abruptly tighten next decade, a leading group of investors has warned.

The report by the UN-backed Principles of Responsible Investing (PRI), representing investors with \$86 trillion of assets under management, joins a growing chorus of warnings that forecasts and investments by oil and gas companies are out of sync with the pace needed to meet energy transition targets.

The International Energy Agency's central outlook, which underpins many government and business projections, is not aligned with targets set out in the 2015 Paris climate agreement to limit global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius by slashing greenhouse gas emissions, the PRI warned.

Scientists view a rise of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius in the Earth's average temperature as a tipping point where climate impacts such as sea-level rise, natural disasters, forced migration, failed

harvests and deadly heatwaves will rapidly start to intensify.

PRI released a new forecast which it said "aims to fundamentally reset investors' forward-looking risk management, strategic asset allocation and company engagement."

The study, branded the Inevitable Policy Response (IPR), predicts "an abrupt and disruptive" government policy response to climate change by 2025, which it expects to be a "tipping point."

Under the IPR scenario:

- Oil demand peaks in 2026-2028 and oil in road transport peaks in 2025, much earlier than the IEA's forecast that does not foresee demand growth stalling before the 2040s.

- Thermal coal, the most carbon-polluting fossil fuel, will be "virtually non-existent" by 2040.

- Wind and solar power will generate half of the world's electricity by 2030.

- Internal combustion vehicles are phased out much faster than most outlooks

- Forestation - needed to absorb excess carbon dioxide - is vastly accelerated.

"We foresee an inevitable policy response by 2025 that

will be forceful, abrupt and disorderly because of the delay," Fiona Reynolds, chief executive of the PRI, said in a statement. "This will create considerably greater disruption than many investors and businesses are prepared for today."

The Inevitable Policy Response forecast responds "to concerns that financial markets are overly reliant on business-as-usual outlooks - such as the International Energy Agency's New Policy Scenario (NPS) - that assume limited policy response to climate change," according to the PRI.

The IEA's forecast, PRI said, "assumes the world will glide towards" a 2.7 degree Celsius - 3.5 degree Celsius warming above pre-industrial levels by 2100 "without any further climate policy action beyond what has already been announced."

This scenario was highly unlikely given "the human suffering this would result in."

The world's top oil and gas companies have come under heavy pressure from investors to adapt to the energy transition by lowering their carbon emissions and investing more in renewables.

BP Chairman Helge Lund told Reuters in June that the London-based company would rather see a rapid, orderly phasing out of fossil fuels

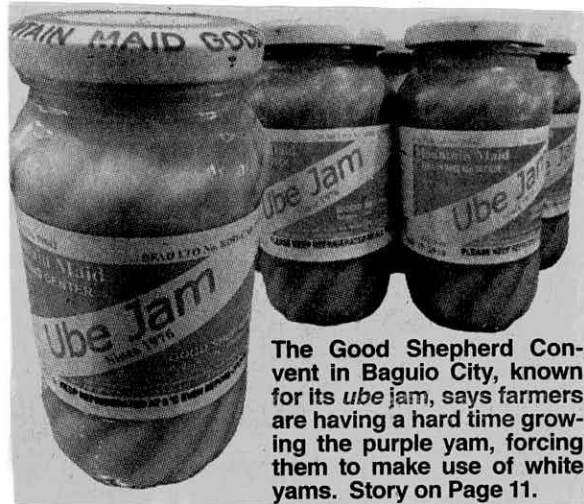
than a delayed and disorganized transition.

PRI represents 2,600 signatories including most of the

world's biggest investors such as BlackRock, Wellington, CalSTRS, Allianz, Aviva, Amundi. - Reuters



## Baguio's famous ube jam: From purple to white



The Good Shepherd Convent in Baguio City, known for its *ube* jam, says farmers are having a hard time growing the purple yam, forcing them to make use of white yams. Story on Page 11.

### CHANGING CLIMATE TURNS FAMOUS BAGUIO UBE 'WHITE'

Same taste, different color.

Citing lack of supply of purple yam, the Religious of the Good Shepherd in Baguio City, maker of the famous *ube* jam, now sells only white *ube* jams.

"Climate emergency is real," the congregation wrote in a post on Facebook yesterday. "Due to changing climate, our farmers are having difficulty growing *ube*."

"El Niño damaged the produce of purple *ube* growers. They will start harvest-

ing again next month. In the meantime they started digging white *ube*," Good Shepherd product development head Guadalupe Bautista told **The STAR**.

Bautista said the latest delivery was 2,000 kilos of white yam, which they bought for P45 per kilo.

Good Shepherd sources its yam from Ilocos provinces, La Union and Benguet.

#### 'Just as good'

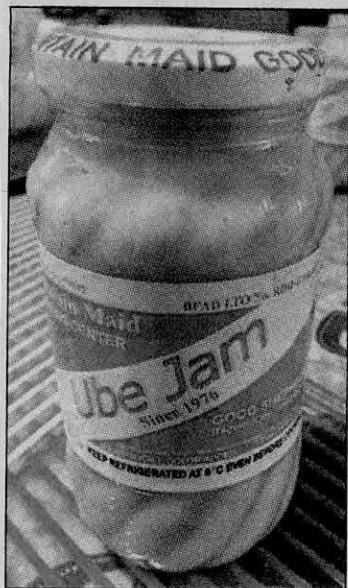
"White *ube*. Yes there is such thing. And it is the available supply at the moment... it is just as good as the purple one," Good Shepherd said.

The mission expressed gratitude to those who continue to support its social enterprise, which helps provide for the education of the youth in the Cordilleras.

It also called on *ube* jam lovers to do their share in caring for the environment and calling for climate justice.

"Let's do this not only because we love *ube* jam, but because we #CareForOurCommonHome," Good Shepherd said.

- Janvic Mateo, Louise Maureen Simeon







24 SEP 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## Swiss hold high-altitude wake for lost glacier

MELS, Switzerland (AFP) – Dozens of people dressed in black went on a "funeral march" up a steep Swiss mountainside on Sunday to mark the disappearance of an Alpine glacier amid growing global alarm over climate change.

Around 250 people including children joined the solemn two-hour climb up the side of Pizol moun-

tain in northeastern Switzerland to the foot of the rapidly melting ice formation, situated at an altitude of around 2,700 metres (8,850 feet) near the Liechtenstein and Austrian borders.

"We're here to bid farewell to Pizol," Swiss glaciologist Matthias Huss said in a sombre speech after arriving at the glacier, one of the most studied in the Alps.

Eric Petrini, the chaplain of the Mels municipality where Pizol is located, called on "God's help to tackle the enormous challenge of climate change".

The speeches were accompanied by the mournful tones of alphorns – a 3.6-meter (12-foot), pipe-shaped wooden instrument. Some marchers also laid down flowers for the glacier.

Pizol "has lost so much substance that from a scientific perspective it is no longer a glacier," Alessandra Degiacomi, of the Swiss Association for Climate Protection, told AFP ahead of the event.

Sunday's march took place as the UN gathered youth activists and world leaders in New York to mull the action needed to curb global warming.

It came after Iceland made global headlines last month with a large ceremony and the laying of a bronze plaque to commemorate Okjokull, the island's first glacier lost to climate change.

### 500 glaciers gone

But unlike Iceland, Sunday's ceremony does not mark the first disappearance of a glacier from the Swiss Alps.

"Since 1850, we estimate that more than 500 Swiss glaciers have completely disappeared, including 50 that were named," glaciologist Huss, who works at the ETH technical university in Zurich, told AFP before the march.

Pizol may not be the first glacier to vanish in Switzerland, but "you could

say it is the first to disappear that has been very thoroughly studied."

The logs kept since scientists began tracking the glacier in 1893 paint a bleak picture of recent rapid changes to the climate.

Pizol has lost 80-90 percent of its volume just since 2006, leaving behind a mere 26,000 square metres (280,000 square feet) of ice, or "less than four football fields," Huss said.

Pizol, which sits at a relatively low altitude, was never very big.

According to Glacier Monitoring Switzerland, or GLAMOS, it, like nearly 80 percent of Swiss glaciers, has been considered a so-called glacieret.

Greenhouse gas referendum

It has figured among some 4,000 glaciers – vast, ancient reserves of ice – dotted throughout the Alps, providing seasonal water to millions and forming some of Europe's most stunning landscapes.

But Huss and other ETH scientists recently cautioned more than 90 percent of the Alpine glaciers could disappear by the end of this century if greenhouse gas emissions are not reined in.

Regardless of what actions humans take now, the Alps will lose at least half of their ice mass by 2100, according to their study, published in April.

And in a subsequent study published earlier this month, the researchers indicated that the Alps' largest glacier, the mighty Aletsch, could completely disappear over the next eight decades.

Sunday's "funeral" for Pizol provides an occasion to point out that climate change is not only melting glaciers but is endangering "our means of

subsistence", according to the organising groups, including Greenpeace.

It is threatening "human civilisation as we know it in Switzerland and around the world," they warn on the event webpage.

With this in mind, the Swiss Association for Climate Protection recently

presented the 100,000 signatures needed to launch a popular initiative, to be put to a referendum, demanding that Switzerland reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050.

The date for the vote has yet to be set, but the Swiss government in August said it supported the objective.



# Character change vs climate change

## HALA BIRA!



### NI ALLAN ENCARNACION

**MARAMI** na tayong nakitang destraksiyon saan mang panig ng mundo dahil sa sinasabing climate change.

Nasa sekondaryang aking unang klase ang pagkasira ng ozone layer. Napagbintangan pa nga ang spray net na noong mga taong 1980s ay kinababaliwan ng mga kababaihan.

Iyong nabutas daw na ozone layer ang sinasabing dahilan ng pag-init ng mundo o kaya naman ay dahilan ng extreme na paglamig ng klima sa maraming bansa. Ang mga katubigan, lalo na ang mga ilog dito sa atin ay hindi na matukoy kung ilog ba tal-

aga o giant canal.

Ang mga karagatan, lalo na iyong malapit sa kabihlasan, ay mistula na ring malaking kanal na mahalik sa lupa.

Maraming lugar sa buong mundo ang hindimo aakalaing babahain makalipas ang ilang dekada. Ang Middle East ay nagisnang nating lahat na mainit at bihirang dalawin ng ulan dahil nga disyerto. Pero nakita natin sa maraming pagkakataon na binaha na rin ang Saudi at ang Dubai dahil sa bagyo.

Ang mga first world na tulad ng Germany at UK ay binaha na rin kaya hindi na masyadong sumasama ang loob ng mga Pinoy na nasa 3rd world country.

Maraming mga unusual sa ating paligid mula sa pagtuyong ilog, pagkalusaw ng yelo sa Antartica, pagguho ng mga bundok, pagputok ng mga bulkan at pagkawasak ng maraming kagubatan.

Mapalad pa ang mga early age ko dahil inabot ko pa ang malinaw na Tullahan River na tumatagos sa maraming parte ng Metro Manila. Sa ilog na iyon na

tagos sa Sta. Barbara sa Novaliches ay napakinabangan ko pa ng mga ilang taon bago naging "malaking kanal" at "poso negro." By the way, happy fiesta pala sa mga taga-Sta. Barbara ngayong araw na ito, Sept 24.

Sa ilog na iyon ay nakapamingwit kami ng hito, dalag at karpa. Doon na rin kami tumatalbos ng kangkong at doon na rin kami naliligo. Sa gilid ng ilog na iyon, mayroon kami balon na kinukuhanan namin ng inumin.

Habang kami'y naliligo, ang mga mga nanay naman ay naglalaba sa pampang.

May gubat din na kadikit ang ilog na iyon kaya doon na rin kami nangunguha ng caimito, bayabas, aratilis at mangga, depende sa panahon. Sa ilog at gubat na iyon na rin kami naglalaro.

Kapag panahon ng salagubang o kaya'y gagamba, doon na rin kami magkikita-kita sa gubat, pagalingan sa paghahanap. Kapag buwenas, nakapamingwit pa kami ng mga palakang bukid na aking

inaadobo o prito.

Nakukumpleto namin ang mga araw nang walang gadgets na kailangan. Malinis pa ang hangin at payapa ang ilog. Hindi na ito inabot ng aking mga anak at lalong wala ng idea ang aking bagong apo kung gaano kasaya ang aming kabataan.

Nagulat na lang ako isang umaga, halos matuyot na ang parteng Tullahan River, ang kagubatan na aming playground ay subdivision na pala, iyong dating tumutubong kangkong at inaagos na water lily na pinagtatagan pa namin kapag naliligo ay nawala na. Mga patay na hayup at sangkatutak na basura na ang inaagos ngayon.

Isipin mo rin kung bakit nagkaganun, pareho rin naman ang mga taong isinilang noon at ngayon, kumpleto sa human anatomy at pareho lang ng komposisyon ng mga bahagi ng katawan.

Ang pagkakaiba lang talaga, iyong mga taonong una, mas may malasakit sa kanyang paligid kaya malinis ang hangin at...

*Sundan sa Pahina 5*

## CHARACTER

From Page 4

...napapakinabangan ang mga katubigan.

Ngayon, ang walang isip at walang malay na climate change ang ating pinagbubuntunan ng sisi. Hindi natin malaman kung anong sagot sa climate change na ito bago pa maubos ang ating mga natural na yaman ng paligid.

Kahit ano pang technology ang maibento at kahit

sangkatutak pang climate change summit ang ganapin saan mang parte ng mundo, hindi tayo magtatagumpay sa pagsagip sa ating kalikasan.

Ang totoong kailangan ng tao na panlaban sa climate change ay character change. Baguhin na natin ang ating ugali sa maraming aspeto ng pagmamahal sa kalikasan kung gusto nating may ilog at kagubatan pang magigisnang ating mga bagong kabataan.

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# WE EAT, DRINK, AND BREATHE MICROPLASTICS, BUT SHOULD WE GET WORRIED?

## Is it a health hazard?

What are microplastics? Where do they come from? What health risks do they entail?

—[euniceht@gmail.com](mailto:euniceht@gmail.com)

Microplastics refer to small pieces of plastic (less than five millimeters in length) that pollute the environment. They come from manufactured microplastics that are used in cosmetics, clothing, and industrial processes such as in air blasting where microplastics are used to remove rust and paint of machineries, engines, boat hulls, or from the degradation through natural weathering processes of larger plastic products such as water, soda bottles, plastic bags, and fishing nets.

Microplastics build up in the environment because we humans use an incredible amount of plastics. We produced nearly 400 million tons of plastic in 2015, and production is expected to double by 2025. In 2014, experts estimated that there were between 15 and 51 trillion individual pieces of microplastic in the world's oceans, which was estimated to weigh between 93,000 and 236,000 metric tons.

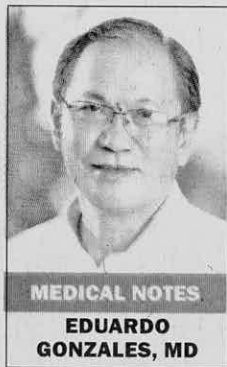
The entire amount and movement of microplastics in the environment is not yet known, but we know they are everywhere. They are in the water we drink, in the food we eat, and in the air we breathe. Recently, an analysis titled "No Plastic in Nature: Assessing Plastic Ingestion from Nature to People" based on a study carried out by University of Newcastle, Australia, suggested that we are ingesting an average of five grams of plastic every week.

### Health risks of microplastics are still unknown

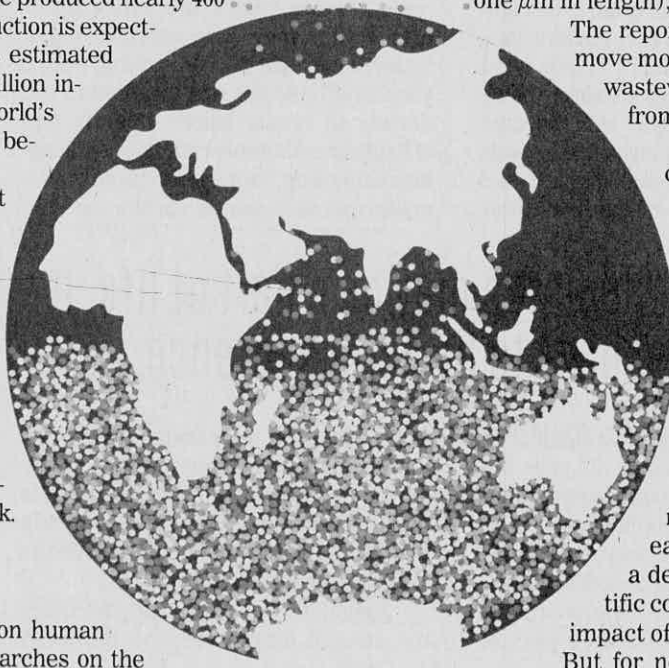
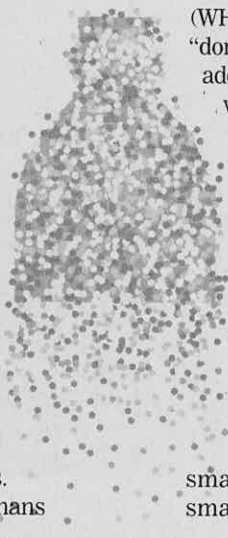
The implications of microplastics on human health are still largely unknown. Researches on the effects of microplastics to our health and environment are only in their infancy because microplastics have only been recently recognized as possible health and environmental hazards. In fact, the term "microplastics" was introduced only in 2004 by professor **Richard Thompson**, a marine biologist at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom.

### What WHO says

The first technical report on microplastics that the World Health Organization



MEDICAL NOTES  
**EDUARDO GONZALES, MD**



(WHO) has released said that microplastics in tap and bottled water "don't appear to pose a health risk at current levels," but the report added that available information was limited, and more research was needed on microplastics and how they affect human health.

Also, the report dealt only with microplastics in drinking water and did not touch on inhaled or food-ingested microplastics.

In its analysis, WHO looked at three potential hazards linked to microplastics: the physical particles, chemicals, and the micro-organisms that may attach themselves to microplastics.

Based on the limited evidence available, the WHO report concluded that chemicals and microbial pathogens were a low concern for human health. As to the physical particles, microplastics larger than 150 micrometers are not likely to be absorbed in the human body and uptake of smaller particles is expected to be limited. Absorption of very small microplastic particles, including the nano sizerange (< one  $\mu\text{m}$  in length), may, however, be higher.

The report further stated that treatment can remove more than 90 percent of microplastics from wastewater, with the highest removal coming from tertiary treatment such as filtration.

As far as drinking water is concerned, the WHO said that addressing the health issue of inadequately or untreated water will already likewise address the issue of microplastics in as much as microplastics can also be eliminated by conventional water treatment procedures.

### The WHO report is not definitive

The small number of studies analyzed by the WHO report reflects the fact that research on effects of microplastics on human health is at an early stage. Obviously, the report is not a definitive one. In fact, it urges the scientific community to further study the potential impact of microplastics on human health.

But for now, it seems like we need not worry about the effects of microplastics on our health, but given the fact that we continue to pollute our environment with plastic at an alarming rate, who knows how things will stand a few years from now.

Incidentally, the report also mentioned that if you drink bottled water, you may increase the number of microplastic particles you ingest.

(Note: email inquiries on health matters to: [medical\\_notes2@yahoo.com](mailto:medical_notes2@yahoo.com))

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TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

LUMILITAW ang malaking katotohanan ukol sa giyera sa droga ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Gusto ng higit na nakararaming mamamayan ang giyera.

Kaya naman, hindi dapat na magpauga o manghina ang giyera dahil lamang sa pag-iingay ng iilang kritiko at mga dayuhang kakampi nila.

### TULOY-TULOY ANG PABOR

Hindi lang pabor ang mga mamamayan sa giyera sa droga.

Gusto nila, tuloy-tuloy ito na gawin.

Ang iilang rason, tumatahimik ang mga pamiliya at mga komunidad.

Bumababa rin ang krimen sa loob at labas ng mga tahanan at lansangan, na karaniwang gawa ng mga sangkot sa droga.

Kung titingnan ang giyera, nagsimula itong gusto ng 84-85 milyong Pinoy mula sa 100M mamamayan noong 2016.

Bumaba nang kaunti ng may gusto noong 2017-2018 sa katamtamang bilang na 78M.

Pero pagdating ng unang anim na buwan ng 2019, umakyat uli ang bilang ng may gusto sa 82M.

Samantala, nasa 12 milyon lang ang ayaw sa giyera habang walang paki ang 6 na milyon.

Dati-rati, kinatatukutan kahit saan at kahit kailan ang mga sangkot sa droga.

Pero ngayon, hindi lang hindi takot ang mga droga kundi gusto nilang madurog ito.

Maraming mamamayan din ang aktibo nang tumutulong sa pamahalaan sa giyera.

### HINDI NAKAPAGTATAKA

Bukod sa giyera sa droga, narriyan din ang matinding giyera sa korapsyon.

Gaya ng sa droga, minamaliit lagi o kaya'y minamasama ng mga kritiko at kakampi nilang mga dayuhan ang giyera rin sa korapsyon.

At habang pinalalabas ng mga kritikong lokal at dayuhan na maliit lang at mas malala ang korapsyon ngayong panahon ni Pang. Digong, iba naman ang paniniwala ng mga pumapabor sa kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Sa giyera lang sa korapsyon sa Bureau of Corrections, gustong palabasin ng mga kriti-



## MAMAMAYAN VS KRITIKO DAYUHAN SA DROGA

ko at dayuhan na ngayon lang nagaganap ang matinding anyo nito na wala sa kanilang mga panahon o partikular, sa panahon ni Noynoy Aquino.

Panay ang pag-iingay nila para mapagtakpan ang korapsyon na galing mismo sa depekto ng batas, halimbawa, gaya ng Good Conduct Time Allowance.

Sa batas na ito nina Noynoy, Lella de Lima at Mar Roxas, anak ng tokwa, nagkakaroon ng pagkakataon para sa GCTA for sale, hospital pass for sale, pekeng demanda for sale at iba pa.

Ang mga matatagal na sa BuCor ang lumalabas na nagmamaniobra sa lahat ng ito at nadatnan na lang ang mga ito ng mga itinalaga ni Pang. Digong na pinuno ng ahensya.

Sa panahon nina Noynoy ang panahon ng pagtanggap ng mga taga-BuCor na magkaroon ng opisina ang Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency sa oblo.

Ito rin ang mga panahon na ayaw papasukin sa Bucor ang mga pwersa ni dating CIDG chief Gen. Benjamin Magalong para tirahin ang mga druglord sa loob.

Hindi ngayon nakapagtataka na napakaiingay ang mga kritiko at dayuhan upang pagtakpan ang lahat ng korapsyon na nagmula sa kanila at minana na lang ng administrasyong Duterte.

### MABISANG PARAAN

Ngayon nga ay itinutuwid ni Pangulong Duterte ang matagal na ngayon lang umaalingasaw nang husto na katiwalian sa BuCor.

Pinabalik niya lahat sa kulungan ang mga may kasong heinous crime na pinera sa BuCor at sumunod naman ang higit na nakararami.

Ang iba, ayaw sumunod pero may mga ibang dahilan gaya ng pagpigil sa kanila ng mga abogado na gustong kumita.

Yun bang === tetestingin nila umano sa korte kung may bisa at hindi illegal ang kautusan ng Pangulo.

Pero siyempre, mag-

babayad ng mahal sa abogado ang mga ayaw sumunod at kikita naman ng limpak-limpak ang mga abogado.

Pero nananatiling mas maganda ang aksyon ng Pangulo lalo na kung iisipin na bukas naman ito sa ligal na pagkwentta sa panahon ng pagkakulong ayon sa tamang implementasyon ng GCTA.

Tanggap ng mamamayan, maging ang mga bilanggo, ang patakarang hindi kasali ang mga may kasong heinous crime, recidivist, habitual delinquent at takas na sa biyaya ng tamang GCTA.

Sa aksyon na ito ng Pangulok, tama lang na bigyan ng karampatang katarungan ang mga biktima ng mga karumal-dumal na krimen at tama lang din na pagbayaran ng mga suspek ang kanilang krimen sa tamang panahon ng pagkakabilanggo.

### SIGE LANG

Nararapat lang talaga na gawing tuloy-tuloy ang giyera sa droga at korapsyon.

Malaking kabawasan ang mga gilyerang ito sa mga krimen na nagaganap, sa kabuluhan ng pamahalaan at nakawan sa pondo ng pamahalaan, sa pagsasamantala ng mga taong gobyerno sa mga mamamayan at makatutulong naman sa pag-sulong ng bansa tungo sa pagbabago at kaunlaran.

Hindi dapat na bumitiw ang mga mamamayan sa mga nabanggit na giyera dahil ginagawa ang mga ito ng pamahalaan para sa kanilang kapakanan.

May demokrasyang umiiral at malayang nakapagsasalita ang mga kritiko at dayuhan subalit hindi nila mapagtatakpan ang mga magagandang bagay na nagaganap ngayon na bunga ng mga nasabing giyera.

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