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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



TOYOTA'S 'IMPOSSIBLE' TAKES ROOT AT THE COASTLINE

Text and photos by
Tessa R. Salazar

For Toyota Motor Philippines, Toyota's global "Start-Your Impossible" (SYI) campaign begins where the land meets the sea.

Last Sept. 21, TMP spearheaded the "National Coastal Clean Up and Mangrove Planting Day" in support of its SYI Hero Ernie Gawilan's advocacy for cleaner waters. The coastal activities, held in 35 locations nationwide, were participated in by 1,900 volunteers who planted 40,000 propagules (stem cuttings of mangrove trees) and collected 1,200 sacks of garbage. The participants included TMP officers and employees led by its president Satoru Suzuki, local government units, media partners, paralympic athletes Edwin Villanueva and Gawilan, staff of the Philippine Paralympic Committee, and representatives of Toyota dealerships. Ground zero was at the Lian Mangrove Park in Sitio Kay Reyna, Brgy. Lumani-ag in Lian, Batangas.

In a statement, TMP said it supports the Philippine Paralympic Committee's and Ernie Gawilan's personal and athletic journey, which perfectly embodies the philosophy of the SYI campaign. "With his accomplishments in national and international swimming competitions, we believe Ernie is a perfect example of defying challenges, believing in one's self and working hard to achieve great things. In addition to that, we also admire his efforts in pushing for an advocacy that affects many."

Gawilan started his athletic journey through his love for the



TMP president Satoru Suzuki during the Sept 21 National Coastal Clean Up and Mangrove planting day

ocean, and TMP aims to help him spread awareness and encourage positive action among more Filipinos.

Planting 'the Toyota Way'

TMP environment engineer Mark Marcelo told Inquirer Motoring that the team applied the Toyota production system to plant more propagules more efficiently.

"In the manufacturing plant, every person has a specific role. In mangrove planting, we tried to apply that, as well. We divided ourselves into transporters (the ones that conveyed the plants), then the diggers, and lastly, the planters. This system minimizes unnecessary movements and increases the survivability of the mangroves, because there will be less chances for volunteers to inadvertently step on the propagules when they move to different directions," explained Marcelo.

The system significantly in-

creased volunteer effectiveness. Marcelo added that when TMP first started planting mangroves in the Lian site last year, they were only able to plant 300 propagules for about 45 minutes with 60 volunteers. Using the new system last April, the team was able to plant 1,000 propagules with 80 volunteers for one hour. This September, he said that the team planted 3,700 propagules with 100 volunteers during just an hour.

"We improved that system by incorporating tools. We didn't use shovels before. Now we also use crates (to carry propagules). Before we could only carry two propagules per transporter. Now each transporter can carry 10 to 12," revealed Marcelo.

Explaining the significance of developing mangroves, Marcelo said:

"As part of the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 that promotes reforestation and biodiversity conservation, man-

groves are very important as they may be a source of livelihood for the local community, for one. Second, it protects the community from storm surges. Third, since we are producing vehicles which emit CO₂, mangroves have more carbon sequestration capacity than normal trees."

Dr. Augustus Rex Montebon, Conservation International Philippines' marine program director, said that Conservation International's aim has been to help in the biodiversity conservation of the Verde Island Passage, the narrow seaway between the southern coastline of Batangas and northern Mindoro.

"We have this project with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR called the SMARTSeas. The aim essentially is to increase the management effectiveness of protected areas and the marine protected area network in the executive order that specifies biodiversity conservation should be implemented in the entire country, not just in the Verde Island Passage," said Montebon.

Allow sea life to re-grow

The event also brought to the fore this writer's meatless advocacy, as TessDrive.com initiated its own SYI campaign for the event, with food partners Quorn, an environmentally sustainable source of high-quality meat-free protein food, and



Young employees of the Toyota Motor Philippines during the Sept. 21 National Coastal Cleanup Day and Mangrove planting



Toyota's Start Your Impossible hero Ernie Gawilan (wearing red) with fellow paralympic athlete Edwin Villanueva

Makati-based vegan restaurant Greenery Kitchen. The food providers served 100-percent plant-based dishes to the volunteers.

The vegan food campaign's slogan is: "Keep the oceans clean and alive, go meatless for the animals and the sea creatures. Go meatless for the environment."

"We believe that the efforts to preserve and protect the bodies of water all over the world would only be effective if all creatures who live above, on, and under water are likewise protected," said one of the team's crew members.

Bruce Monger, oceanography professor at Cornell University, has pointed out, "We have maxed out the ocean. Up to 90 million metric tons of fish are pulled from the ocean every year, and that hasn't increased since the late 1990s. We can't get any more fish out of the ocean."

A study from the University of Exeter found out that mycoprotein, the protein-rich food source that is unique to Quorn products, stimulates post-exercise muscle building to a greater extent than milk protein. The Science Daily article revealed that the British Nutrition Foundation already recommends mycoprotein as a good source of dietary protein, both for every life and for sport and exercise.

Reduce carbon emissions

Toyota's environment initiative is aligned with several of its programs dedicated to reducing carbon emissions by

2050. TMP recently held a Toyota Hybrid Electric Technology Conference last June to provide an avenue for government and industry stakeholders to discuss plans and to promote sustainable mobility in the country. As part of its efforts to further spread awareness on vehicle electrification and its impact on our environment, TMP has partnered with several universities in the country for the Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) Campus Tour.

Just recently, TMP made a huge leap to make Hybrid Electric Technology more accessible to more Filipinos by introducing a hybrid variant of one of its mainstream, big-volume models - the Corolla Altis Hybrid.

SYI was launched in the Philippines during the Toyota Classics - a benefit classical concert in November 2018. The proceeds of the concert was donated to the country's paralympic athletes through the PPC for their training requirements such as sports wheelchairs.

Just this May, TMP started a 10-day swim clinic that aims to encourage aspiring swimmers aged 6 to 14 to take the first step, or that first stroke, in their athletic journey, and pursue their interest in swimming. The Start Your Impossible campaign marks its first anniversary at the Tokyo Motor Show this October 2019. Toyota, being the global partner of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, will also be exhibiting mobility technologies, solutions, and logistics under the SYI campaign.

POLLUTION CONCERNS

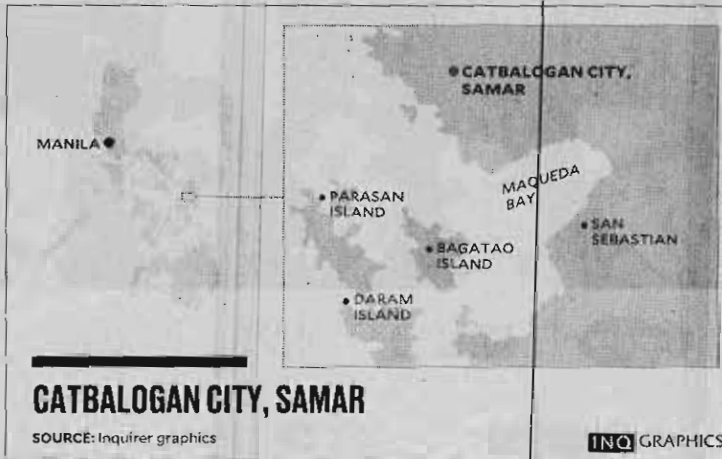
EMB CITES CATBALOGAN GOV'T FOR DUMPING MARKET

WASTE IN BAY

By Joey Gabieta
@joeygabietalNQ

TACLOBAN CITY—The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) affirmed a notice of violation it issued in June against the city government of Catbalogan in Samar province for allegedly dumping dirty water and solid waste into the Maqueda Bay.

In its Sept. 13 decision, the EMB in Eastern Visayas region said the city government violated Republic Act No. 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) water quality guidelines and general effluent standards after discharging "untreated effluent" and



dumping "sewage sludge or solid waste" into the bay.

"After a careful evaluation of the investigation report, the office records, and such all oth-

er records relevant to the case, this office finds respondent liable for both of the violations on the ground of respondent's implied admission during the

technical conference and there being substantial evidence to support the conclusion that a prima facie case exists against respondent," the EMB said in a decision signed by Letecia Maceda, the agency's Eastern Visayas director.

Direct to sea

The wastewater and sludge came from the public market on San Roque Street. The market, which hosts 300 vendors, is a temporary facility since the original site, located in Barangay 13, is under construction.

The issue stemmed from a May 27 complaint filed by lawyer Plaridel Oscar Bohol, a Catbalogan resident.

On June 3, an EMB investigation team found that waste water coming from the different stalls went into the drainage system and drained directly to the sea.

No treatment facility

"The public market has no proper, adequate drainage and sewerage system installed to ensure cleanliness and sanitation," the EMB said.

Egardo Guya, city environment and natural resources officer, however, questioned the EMB findings.

Guya, in a telephone interview, said city officials were surprised by the EMB decision since the city had put in place measures to prevent the pollution of Maqueda Bay.

Reconsideration

For one, he said, the city had installed "holding tanks" where wastewater coming from vendors' stalls were being deposited. He said the wastewater was being treated using bio-enzymes so these could be reused.

He said Mayor Dexter Uy had ordered a clearing operation and cleanup in the market area.

Guya said city officials would ask the EMB to reconsider its findings before its adjudication board imposed penalties against the local government. INQ



Samar execs face sanctions for dumping waste at sea

TACLOBAN CITY – Officials of the city government in Catbalogan, Samar should be penalized for violating the Philippine Clean Water Act, according to the regional office of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

In a decision dated Sept. 13, EMB regional director Leticia Maceda said investigation showed that sewage sludge and untreated waste water from a public market were discharged in Maqueda Bay.

Maceda said the violations would be raised before the pollution adjudication board of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The EMB said the city government should "make good its commitment" to stop discharging waste water from public market operations in the absence of a waste water treatment facility as well as from dump-

ing sewage sludge or solid waste into the sea.

The probe was based on a complaint filed by lawyer Plaridel Oscar Bohol in May.

The EMB said the city government did not refute its findings when it issued a notice of violation on June 28.

The agency also cited a technical conference on Aug. 13, during which Edgardo Guya of the city environment and natural resources office admitted that a "massive cleanup and demolition drive," including the removal of illegal vendors, were initiated. He said ambulant vendors and commercial establishments were also advised to observe cleanliness.

Pending the construction of a sewerage treatment plant, the city government will use bio-enzyme to treat waste water, Guya added.

The EMB said Guya's statement was a "tacit admission" of the violations.

– Lalaine Jimenea



House submits 2020 budget to Senate

The House of Representatives yesterday made good its commitment to transmit the proposed P4.1-trillion national budget for next year to the Senate for its consideration and approval.

"Upon the instruction of Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, we met our self-imposed deadline to send the budget to the Senate," appropriations committee chairman Rep. Isidro Ungab of Davao City told re-

porters.

He said early transmittal of the proposed 2020 outlay would give senators enough time to consider and pass it.

"We want the expenditure program to be approved and enacted before the end of the year to avoid a repeat of what we experienced early this year, when the government had to run on a reenacted budget," he said.

Before printing the budget and sending it to the Senate, the House introduced a few changes in the outlay.

At a news conference, Cayetano detailed the changes, which are augmentations given to 12 agencies.

The realignments are P3.5 billion for the Department of Agriculture's palay procurement fund, increasing it to P10.5 billion; P1 billion each for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police; P800 million for the Department of Education; and P500 million each for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine General Hospital, National Electrification Administration,

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Philippine Sports Commission.

The Department of Transportation received an additional P275 million for the Davao International Airport, while the Dangerous Drugs Board was given P250 million for the improvement of community-based drug rehab centers.

Some P200 million was added to the Department of Health, which could use part of the allocation to combat the polio outbreak and the continuing threat of dengue.

"As you can see, there is no pork in those augmentations. If the critics claim otherwise, they should point to us where the pork is; otherwise, their accusations are just rumors. And my mother taught me not to respond to rumors or I will be another rumormonger," Cayetano told reporters.

Deputy Speaker Neptali Gonzales said contrary to the allegation of some senators, the budget as approved by the House is "pork-free."

"We strictly followed the decision of the Supreme Court declaring the Priority Development Assistance Fund (the previous name of the congressional pork barrel) and prohibiting post-budget enactment identification of projects (by lawmakers). Now, senators can finally see the budget for themselves," he said.

Deputy Speaker Mikee Romero of 1-Pacman said the House approved the 2020 budget early "to avoid the kind of costly delay we had this year, which cost the economy about P500 billion and slowed down economic growth.

"This really took its toll on the economy. It meant fewer jobs created and lesser income for our people. It meant scaled down government services," he said.

He said Cayetano wanted the House to prevent a repeat of the budget enactment delay early this year.

Romero noted that President Duterte signed the budget bill only in April, when an appropriations law should have been in place before the end of last year.

"We have to achieve higher economic growth with early releases of funds for infrastructure projects, social services like cash assistance to the poor and other programs and activities," he said.

House sources told reporters that early House approval of the budget was also requested by several senators, who are

scheduled to celebrate some occasions or milestones abroad, and attend international conferences starting next weekend.

Such conferences, which some House members are attending as well, are usually considered as junkets and vacations at the expense of taxpayers.

Wrangling between senators and congressmen on billions in alleged pork barrel insertions delayed this year's enactment of the budget.

President Duterte signed the budget bill in April after vetoing P95 billion in last-minute realignments made by House leaders.

Congressmen whose districts lost funds due to the Duterte veto wanted to recoup the appropriations by adding them to the proposed 2020 outlay, but Cayetano told them it was not possible.

The Senate has received the House of Representatives-approved General Appropriations Bill (GAB) for 2020, Sen. Sonny Angara said yesterday.

Angara, chairman of the Senate committee on finance, vowed that

the Senate will do its part to approve the GAB, the most important piece of legislation, before the year ends.

"Our finance subcommittees are completing the hearings on the proposed budgets of the last few agencies. During the break, we will be consolidating all of the submissions into the committee report and once we resume sessions, we will be ready to sponsor the bill in plenary," Angara said.

- Jess Diaz, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Paolo Romero, Edu Punay



190 farmers in Negros town given land titles

By GLAZYL MASCULINO

BACOLOD CITY — The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) distributed land titles to 190 farmers from two villages in Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental, last week.

Moises Padilla Mayor Ella Celestina Garcia-Yulo and Vice Mayor Ian Villaflor led the title distribution at Barangays Macagahay and Quintin Remo on September 24 and 26.

Around 63 farmers from Macagahay, and 127 from Quintin Remo benefitted from the government's program.

"The land titles given to them are covered by government agricultural land that was

being tilled by the farmers for decades," Garcia-Yulo said.

Last month, 66 farmers from Sitio Santos-Santos in Quintin Remo also received Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) covering a 206-hectare farm land.

Garcia-Yulo said she decided to personally visit the villages to also hear the concerns of the residents.

"We have to let them feel that the government is going to help them, make them feel the presence of the government in their area," she added.

Garcia-Yulo also told the beneficiaries to plant fruit trees and vegetables instead of sugarcane which entails high production and labor costs.



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397 titulo sa Sultan Kudarat, ipinamahagi ng DENR

IPINAMAHAGI na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 12 (DENR-12) ang 397 titulo ng lupa sa Isulan, Sultan Kudarat bilang parte ng programang "Handog Titulo" ng ahensya.

"The land title distribution was in partnership with the local government of Sultan Kudarat and the Land Registration Authority (LRA)," pahayag ni DENR-12 Assistant Director for Technical Services Ma. Socorro Lanto na inilabas nito noong Sabado.

Ibinigay nina Lanto at Sultan Kudarat Governor Suharto Mangudadatu ang mga titulo sa mga benepisyaryo sa provincial gymnasium ng Isulan nitong Biyernes.

Dumalo rin ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaang lokal at ng agrikultrua, na silang tumulong sa pamamahagi ng mga agricultural at special patents sa mga makikinabang, mula sa iba't ibang mga barangay at paaralan sa probinsya.

Sa kanyang pahayag, inilahad ni Mangudadatu na ginagawa ng pamahalaan ang lahat upang masiguro ang kapakanan ng publiko at ang "Handog Titulo" program ay isa sa mga halimbawa na nagpapakita kung paano alagaan ng gobyerno ang karapatan kabutihan ng publiko.

Bago ang mismong pamamahagi, ipinahayag ni Lanto na ang programa ay isa sa 10-point socio-economic agenda ni President Rodrigo Duterte na magbibigay ng kapanatagan dahil sa pinatibay na security of land tenure, at ang pagsusulong ng pamumuhunan at kikalala sa mga sumasakal sa pamamahala sa lupa at mga ahensiyang nagbibigay ng titulo.

"The very essence of this program is to uplift the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries," pahayag ni Lanto.

"Based on DENR's mandate, we are in charge of the management and disposal of public lands," dagdag pa nito.

Upang mapabilis ang proseso at pamimigayu ng mga public land patents sa mga kwalipikadong benepisyaryo, nagpalabas ng kautusan si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu nitong Agosto 1, 2019, ang DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2019-04 na nag-uutos ng pagsasagawa ng isang Handog Titulo program bawat Setyembre sa buong bansa bilang parte ng pagdiriwang ng Lands Anniversary.

Nitong nakaraang linggo lang, ibinigay na ng DENR-12 at Registry of Deeds ang nasa 300 titulo ng lupa sa mga kwalipikadong benepisyaryo sa Matalam, North Cotabato.

Nagpaalala si Mangudadatu sa mga nakatanggap na alagaan ang kanilang lupain at gamitin ang buong potensyal nito, at binanggit pa ang tradisyon ng mga Pilipinong pagpapamana ng pagmamay-ari ng lupa sa kanilang mga anak o pinakamalapit na kamag-anak.

"Your children and future generations will inherit these lands, so you should take care of those titles," ani Mangudadatu.

PNA



Group: CARP land distribution under Duterte lowest in history

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

IF it was to be rated for its performance in terms of land distribution, the first three years of the Duterte administration will get the "F" mark.

According to the group Task Force Mapalad (TFM), despite President Duterte's "unwavering" pro-Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program pronouncements, a close look at the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) own data will reveal that of the six administrations that implemented agrarian reform since 1988, the Duterte administration had the lowest accomplishment in CARP history.

On Tuesday, thousands of farmers held a picket in front of the DAR office in Bacolod City to call on the President to fulfill his promises.

"You've never changed your promises, Mr. President. Before and after you won the 2016 elections, you never stopped assuring and inspiring us that you would implement CARP and complete the program's land distribution phase, Teresita Tarlac, president of the Negros-Panay Chapter of TFM said in a news statement.

"But what also didn't change or even got worse, despite your pro-peasant vows, was the DAR's land acquisition and distribution performance. The agency's dismal LAD re-

cord made your administration the slowest of all the administrations that implemented the CARP for the last three decades," she stressed.

Tarlac was among those who led TFM's march to the DAR Provincial Office in Dawis, San Sebastian Street, Bacolod, on Tuesday.

The mobilization, which was held during the opening of the MassKara Festival in Bacolod, culminated in the shaving of heads of the children of peasants, who feared for their future without land.

According to TFM, from 2016 to 2018, or the first three years that the current administration implemented agrarian reform, the DAR was only able to distribute to farmer-beneficiaries a total of 91,776 hectares of agricultural landholdings nationwide, or an annual average of 30,592 hectares.

The Duterte administration's three-year LAD performance was just 8 percent of the accomplishment of the Ramos administration in its first three years in office.

From 1992 to 1994, the DAR, under President Fidel Ramos's watch, recorded the highest LAD accomplishment, distributing a total of 1,113,019 hectares of land to CARP beneficiaries, or an average of 371,006 hectares yearly.

The administration with the second highest LAD accomplishment was that of late former President Corazon Aquino. In its first three

years of implementing Republic Act 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, her administration was able to distribute a total of 452,074 hectares from 1988 to 1990, or 150,691 hectares annually.

Third was the Estrada administration that distributed to CARP beneficiaries a total of 379,905 hectares from 1998 to 2000, or 126,635 hectares yearly.

It was followed by the second Aquino administration with LAD accomplishment of 320,916 hectares from 2010 to 2012, or 106,972 hectares annually, and by the Arroyo administration that distributed 313,778 hectares from 2001 to 2003, or 104,593 hectares yearly.

Meanwhile, TFM said Negros Occidental still has biggest CARP backlog in history with a LAD balance of 103,373 hectares as of end of June 2019.

This is equivalent to 20 percent of the 521,006-hectare LAD balance nationwide.

Other provinces with big LAD balance, or undistributed land, that are covered by the CARP are Leyte, with 36,161 hectares or 6.9 percent of the total national LAD balance, followed by Isabela with 32,631 hectares undistributed land or 6.3 percent of the total LAD balance nationwide. Camarines Sur, Masbate, Iloilo, Sorsogon, Albay, Capiz and Sultan Kudarat are also in the list of provinces with high LAD.



MISS EARTH CANDIDATES TUMULONG SA PANGONGOLEKTA NG MGA BASURA SA MANILA BAY

SINAMAHAN ng mga kandidata ng Miss Earth 2019 ang mga kagawad ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sa pangongolekta ng mga basura sa Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard sa lungsod ng Maynila.

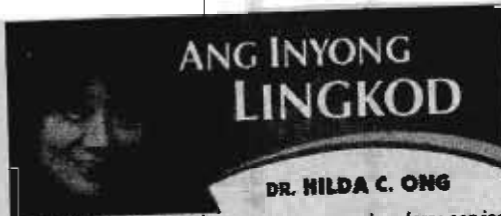
Bitbit ang mga gloves at thongs, nakiisa ang labingtatlóng kandidata sa isang maka-kalikasang aktibidad katuwang ang mga miyembro ng Metro Parkways Clearing Group (MPCG) sa layuning maisalba ang kapaligiran.

"Umaasa ako na titigilan na ng mga tao ang pagtatapon ng basura na siyang nakasisira sa kapaligiran. Kahit na patuloy ang paglilinis, hindi pa rin nito mapipigilan na makon-

tamina ang Manila Bay. Dapat na maging 'environment conscious' ang mga tao," saad ni Maria Regina Barco, kinatawan ng Guatemala sa Miss Earth 2019, kasabay ng panawagan niya sa publiko na makibahagi sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng tamang pagtatapon ng basura.

Pinuri naman ni Marianna Fuentes, kinatawan ng Panama, ang mga MPCG personnel dahil sa pagiging passionate sa trabaho.

"Nakahahawa ang magagandang ngiti ng mga Filipino. Bagamat hindi gusto ng ilan ang paglilinis, pero ginagawa pa rin ng MMDA ang kanilang trabaho ng may pag-



DR. HILDA C. ONG

mamaahai at saya. Nagagawa pa rin nilang ngumiti kahit sila'y nahihirapan na," giit ni Fuentes.

Bago umalis, nakapag-selfie pa ang mga beauty queens sa mga manggagawa ng MMDA bilang pagpapakita ng appreciation sa mga ito.

Pagkatapos nito, nag-tour ang mga kandidata sa Pasig River sakay ng MMDA ferry service.

Sumakay sila ng ferry boat mula Lawton Station sa Maynila patungong Guadalupe sa Makati City kasama ang ilang opisyal ng MMDA sa pangunguna ni Fred Andres, pinuno ng MMDA Command Center for Manila Bay Rehabilitation.

Pinapurihan ng mga kandidata ang MMDA sa ope-

rasyon ng river ferry service na hindi lamang nagsisilbing alternatibong transportasyon ng mga commuters para iwas-trapik, pero nae-enjoy din ng mga tumatangkilik nito ang view ng Pasig River.

Bilang bahagi ng kanilang pre-pageant activities, nakapeg-tour din ang mga kandidata sa Metrobase Command Center na nagmon-itor ng mga nangyayari sa lansangan gamit ang video feeds mula sa mga CCTV cameras na nakakabit sa ilang bahagi ng Metro Manila.

Maliban dito, nasubukan din nila ang mobile earthquake simulator na siyang ginagamit ng ahensya sa kampanya nito upang mapalakas ang disaster awareness and preparedness sa Metro Manila.





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Plastik bawal na sa Cotabato City

NORTH COTABATO - Bawal na simula kahapon sa Cotabato City ang paggamit ng plastic bilang secondary packaging sa mga bibilhing produkto alinsunod sa inaprubahang ordinansa ng lungsod.

Ito ayon kay Cotabato City-Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Boyet Saavedra na simula bukas ay maglilibot na sa buong lungsod ang 20 trained personnel para tiyaking ipinatutupad ang City Ordinance 4203.

Sa kabila nito, nilinaw ni Saavedra na pinapayagan lamang ang paggamit ng plastic bags bilang primary packaging ng mga bibilhing produkto sa palengke gaya ng mga kame at gulay. Pero aniya, hindi na ito maaari pang itagay sa isa pang plastic bag bilang pangalawang pambalot.

Ayon kay Saavedra, bawal na ring gumamit ng plastic bags bilang lalagyan ng mga pinamiling grocery items at iba pang mga produktong meron nang primary packaging o dati nang nakabalot.

Sa unang taon ng implementasyon ng ordinansa, tatlong araw sa loob ng isang linggo ay maaari pang gumamit ng plastic habang sa ika-2 taon, isang araw na lamang maaaring gumamit at sa ikatlong taon ay "total ban" o buong linggo nang ipagbabawal ang paggamit ng plastic. (*Rhoderick Beñez*)



Lucio Tan-led water concessionaire compliant with DENR standards

By **MADELAINE S. MIRAFLOR**

Boracay Tubi System Inc. (BTSI), one of the two major water concessionaires operating in the world famous island Boracay, said it is compliant of the government's effluent standards following the video that surfaced in social media showing yellowish liquid flowing out of the company's submerged pipe.

This was after the company conducted joint water sampling with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in one of its interceptors and the water outfall located in Sitio Lugotan.

Owned by the family of businessman Lucio Tan, BTSI is one of the two water concessionaires operating in Boracay, the other one being the Ayala-led Boracay Island Water Company (BIWC).

In a statement, BTSI said since it was informed of a video showing yellowish liquid flowing out of its submerged pipe one kilometer away from the island's shoreline, it immediately coordinated with the local officials of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB). "In less than 48 hours, BTSI conducted joint sampling with the DENR-EMB at both its interceptor and outfall which showed compliance to effluent standards," BTSI said.

"We take this incident seriously and wish to reassure the public that there is no direct discharging of untreated wastewater into the open sea. All

wastewater is being treated on site at the individual Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of establishments it serves," it added.

The firm said it encourages recycling of treated wastewater for irrigation and flushing purposes and any excess goes to its interceptor as a safeguard.

"The individual STPs and interceptor are constantly monitored in-house, by the DENR-EMB, and by third-party laboratory testing firms for compliance to the latest DENR standards," it further said. Right now, it is currently investigating possible illegal tapping and intrusion into the pipeline leading to the outfall as it traverses a distance of one kilometer towards the shoreline and an additional one kilometer from the shoreline to the outfall.

"Nevertheless, necessary measures have already been put in place to prevent future recurrence. We also welcome the investigation being conducted by DENR on the matter," the firm said.

BTSI has been operating in Boracay for 20 years. Aside from its treated wastewater recycling program, it also supports the island's rehabilitation projects, adoption of the biggest wetland in Boracay, planting of 2,500 mangroves in Sitio Lugotan, and sponsoring of the designation of the island as a Water Quality Management Area, among others.



3 bills to save rainwater saved from last Congress

WHEN the rains started falling last June, everyone welcomed them, especially the residents of eastern Metro Manila who had been through several waterless weeks after the level at Angat Dam fell below normal and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) reduced the supply to Manila Water.

We hoped then that the many plans to save rainwater for use in the hot summer season would not be forgotten. For while we have this annual problem of water shortage, we also have the annual deluge that follows it, causing floods, destroying harvests, jamming city traffic, and damaging infrastructures of all kinds. The same rains causing the damage could very well be saved for use when summer is upon us and many household faucets run dry.

Last week, we welcomed the news that those plans developed at the height of the dry season have not all been forgotten. Three bills to save rainwater were approved Wednesday by the House Committee on Metro Manila Development, headed by Manila Rep. Manny Lopez.

The three bills -- filed by Lopez, fellow Manila Rep. Servo Nieto, Quezon City Reps. Allan Reyes and Kit Belmonte -- had actually been approved by the House in the last -- the 17th -- Congress but failed

to get enacted into law. They have now been saved and await counterpart measures from the Senate in this 18th Congress.

The three House bills require every new institutional, commercial, and residential development project in the National Capital Region to establish a rainwater harvesting facility, to save water for use in households during times of drought.

The three House bills, however, will start helping the situation only after the construction of new projects, which may take months and years. There are other projects that will take longer, such as harnessing the Wawa Dam to add its resources to the current water supply system for Metro Manila. There is also the proposed Kaliwa Dam, but that may take even longer due to standing opposition to its construction.

We need more immediate action plans, which must be in place before the next drought season which will come in March next year. That will be a real challenge for our government agencies, particularly the MWSS.

In the meantime, we welcome the efforts of our congressmen who were able to save House bills 4111, 4124, and 4698 from being lost among the many measures that failed to make it in the last Congress.



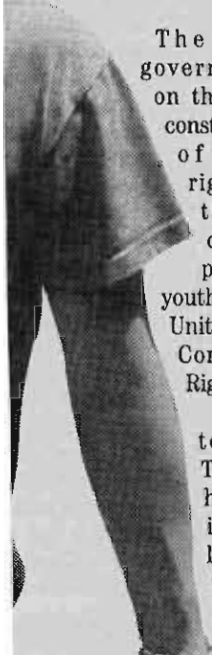
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FOR CLIMATE CHANGE INACTION Youth hold world leaders accountable

Change needs to happen now if we are to avoid the worst consequences. The climate crisis is not just the weather

By Elmer N. Manuel



The failure of governments to act on the climate crisis constitutes a violation of children's rights, according to a landmark complaint presented by 16 youth activists to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg — who hit out at global inaction during last week's Climate Action Summit — and American

Alexandria Villaseñor, who has been spending her Fridays on climate strike outside UN Headquarters in New York, have been joined by others aged eight to 17, from a dozen different countries including Brazil, India, Nigeria, France and South Africa, in signing the complaint.

The group alleges that under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee should order Member States to take action to protect all children from the devastating impacts of climate change.

"Change needs to happen now if we are to avoid the worst consequences. The climate crisis is not just the weather. It means also, lack of food and lack of water, places that are unlivable and refugees because of it. It is scary," said Thunberg at a press conference hosted by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the UN Headquarters.

Although it supports their complaint, the agency is not a party to it and will not play any part in the Committee's decision.

"Thirty years ago, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Today, the world's children are holding the world accountable to that commitment," said UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Charlotte Petri Gornitzka.

"We fully support children exercising their rights and taking a stand. Climate change will impact every single one of them. It's no wonder they are uniting to fight back."

The complaint was filed through the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a voluntary mechanism which allows children, or adults on their behalf, to appeal directly to the United Nations for help if a country that has ratified the Protocol fails to provide a remedy for a rights violation.





Manila faces climate threat

MANILA and five other areas have been identified as facing the most severe consequences of climate change, a Time magazine report showed.

“Climate change is expected to affect every country in the world, but its impact will not be felt equally across all regions and some will be worse hit than others because of a range of different threats.

Developing countries, places with widespread poverty, and countries with ineffective governments sometimes face the gravest risks from the changing climate, and are usually poorly equipped to find ways to prepare for and prevent environmental threats,” the report said.

Manila’s dense population, in particular, makes it “more difficult to evacuate, requires more social services and makes it more challenging to rebuild after a disaster.”

“Poor infrastructure, including ineffective drainage and sanitation systems, has been blamed for the toll of floods in the city, including a 2009 flood (Typhoon Ondoy) that submerged 80 percent of the city.”

Aside from Manila, the other areas named in the report are as follows:

- Lagos, Nigeria, which has been marked as at “extreme” risk on Maplecroft’s Climate Change Vulnerability Index;

- Haiti, an island nation that is located in the so-called “Atlantic Hurricane Basin,”

- Yemen, where hundreds of thousands of people have been killed as a result of an ongoing civil war and due to the subsequent famine, poor sanitation, and lack of clean water;

- Kiribati, which is at risk of being wiped off the map entirely in the coming decades amid rising sea levels; and

- United Arab Emirates, which is facing an “extreme risk” of water stress and will need to spend a lot more energy on cooling.

But according to Christina Chan, the director of the World Resources Institute’s climate resilience practice, the Philippines is in fact on the “forefront of climate change adaptation.”

She cited the Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila launched in 2012 as well as the creation of a Climate Change Commission.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who lamented that climate change affects the “poorest of the poor” in developing countries such as the Philippines, has been very vocal in questioning international policies on the issue.

“Vulnerabilities are not equally shared by all nations. Developing countries that have contributed the least of global warming, like my country, the Philippines, suffers the most from this horrendous conse-

quences,” he said in his keynote address in May at the 25th International Conference on the Future of Asia held in Tokyo.

“Year in, year out, we suffer double when typhoons strike. The poorest of our poor bear the brunt of damage, becoming even poorer in the aftermath. Government with limited resources and capabilities have to contend with a spiral of suffering on top of the urgent development priorities,” he added.

Despite having a very small carbon footprint, the Philippines, which deals with an average of at least 20 typhoons annually, is among the nations most vulnerable to climate change.

Duterte questioned the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, saying it favored industrialized countries with its aim of slashing greenhouse gases and keeping global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

“What is the system? What is this conference of climate change for? Is it just talk? Because there is no body, no entity to enforce the laws governing climate. There is not even a sanction,” the President said.



10-02-19

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Phl, Indonesia submit joint agreement on EEZ

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippines and Indonesia have jointly submitted to the United Nations certified copies of their 2014 agreement establishing the boundary between their overlapping exclusive economic zones (EEZs).

Also submitted by the two countries – represented by foreign affairs chiefs Teodoro Locsin Jr. for the Philippines and Retno Marsudi for Indonesia – were instruments of ratification of the agreement.

UN Undersecretary-General for legal affairs and legal counsel Miguel de Serpa Soares received the documents on Sept. 27 at UN headquarters in New York.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the joint submission was a commitment made by the two foreign affairs chiefs after their ceremonial exchange of ratification instruments at the 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in

Bangkok on Aug. 1.

The commitment was confirmed by the delegation heads of both countries at the 10th Joint Permanent Working Group on Maritime and Ocean Concerns held in Yogyakarta on Sept. 19 to 21.

President Duterte ratified the agreement in February 2017, followed shortly by Senate concurrence. The Indonesian parliament ratified it in April of the same year.

Both countries are parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and are entitled to EEZs of 200 nautical miles. Under the convention, states have sovereign rights to explore and exploit, and conserve and manage natural resources within their EEZs.

The Philippines and Indonesia have overlapping EEZs in the Mindanao and Celebes Seas, and in the southern section of the Philippine Sea in the Pacific Ocean.



ANG dami talaga ang lumalabas na katotohanan na naging lihim o kung nabuko man ay basta pinatahimik noong panahon ni ex-Pangulong Noynoy Aquino.

Tingin ng ating Uzi, bunga lahat ito ng kabilin-bilinan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na dapat magsalita ang lahat, lalo na kung may kinalaman sa korapsyon, droga at krimen na nais durugin ng administrasyong Duterte.

Sampol dito ang katotohanan ukol sa droga na lumikha ng malaking kaguluhan mula sa maliliit na pulis hanggang sa pamunuan ng Philippine National Police ngayon.

Imadyin, naganap ang malaking problema sa droga noong 2013 at hanggang kahapon pinagkakaguluhan pa ito.

PANAHOON NI PNOY
Nagkakagulo man, may malinaw na malinaw na katotohanan.

Noong 2013, may 13 pulis-Pampanga na matuturing na ninja cops.

May nahuli silang nasa 160 kilong shabu mula sa isang druglord na si Johnson Lee na nahuli rin nila.

Anak ng tokwa, 30 kilo lang ang idineklara ng mga operatibang pinangunahan ni Supt. Rodney Baloyo.

'Yung iba 130 kilo, ni-recycle nila o ibinenta kaya bumaha ang shabu sa Pampanga at Central Luzon sa sumunod na mga araw at buwan.

Pinakawalan din si Lee umano sa halagang P50 milyon at nagkaroon ito ng palit-ulo o ibang tao na inilawang druglord.

Siyempre pa, naging biglang yaman ang mga ito at nagbilihan ng mga kotse at pinagbebenta pa ang kotse ng druglord.

Ganito katindi ang pagkakasangkot sa droga ng mga pulis noon.

NAGKAGULO-GULO NA

Nang maamoy ni dating PNP chief Alan Purisima ang pangyayari, umaksyon naman at inatasan nito ang CIDG o Criminal Investigation and Detection Group ni Gen. Benjamin Magalong na mag-imbetiga.

Nagresulta ito ng finding na guilty sina Baloyo ngunit nagtaka ang iba sa pagbaba ng parusa ng mga ito sa demotion lamang.

Nagkaroon ng mga



DROGA SA PANAHON NI PNOY GRABE

rigodon ng tatlóng regional director.

'Yun unang director, dismissal ang rekomendasyon laban kina Baloyo.

Sa ikalawang director, walang nangyari.

Sa ikatlo, demosyon lang.

Pero noong kasagsagan ng kaso, pinataksik bilang acting provincial director si Gen. Oscar Albayalde na ngayo'y PNP chief na.

REBYU NG DOJ

Dahil sa pangyayari, tila nasa kamay ngayon ng Department of Justice ang panibagong resolusyon ng nasabing kaso ng mga pulis, ang kasong kriminal.

Kung ano ang kalalabasan nito, walang nakaaalam.

Sa kasong administratibo, walang nakaaalam kung paano ito resolbahin ng Malakanyang o ng Office of the Ombudsman naman kung papasok ang kaso sa huli.

May mga malalabo kasing usapin din na mahalaga.

Magkaiba, halimbawa, ang deklarasyon ng mga pulis at testigo at CIDG kung kailan naganap ang raid at hulihan.

Ayon sa mga witness at CIDG, naganap ang buong pangyayari sa umaga pero sinasabi naman ng mga pulis ni Albayalde na hapon noon iyon.

Kaya nga, naririyang ang mungkahi mismo ni Senator Ping Lacson na dapat humanap ang Senado o sinomang awtoridad na hahawak sa kaso ngayon ng maghanap at mag-produce ibang mga ebidensya para lalabas ang katotohanan.

DIGONG MAGDEDESISYON

Noong una, isinumite ng Senado sa opisina ni Pang. Digong ang ngalan ng mga ninja cop na sangkot sa kaso ni Lee.

At sinabi ng mga senador na hayaan nilang maunang maghayag ng ngalan si Pang. Digong.

Pero hindi pa natutuyo ang laway ng mga senador, sila na mismo ang naglabas ng ngalan ng mga umano'y ninja cop.

Batay na rin ito sa pagpapahintulot mismo ng halos buong Senado na ilalabas nila ang ngalan ng mga ninja cop.

Mula rito, maaaring hindi na lang maglabas ng ngalan si Pang. Digong kundi gagawa ito ng kaukulang aksyon.

Batay sa sariling imbestigasyon ng Palasyo na ihahambing sa imbestigasyon ng Senado, maaaring magkaroon ng sibakan.

Maaaring madadawit din dito ang mga aksyon ng DOJ at Office of the Ombudsman para sa mga administratibo at kriminal na kaso.

Halo-halo na ang magdedesisyon pero kung may gagawing aksyon ang Pangulo, maaaring ang Department of Interior and Local Government at ng National Police Commission ang pakikilusin nang husto.

Pero sa dulo, mismo ang Pangulo ang magdedesisyon at hintayin na lamang natin ito.

Inaasahan nating tama ang desisyon ng Pangulo at matatanggap, lalo na ng mamamayan, ang anomang desisyon at aksyon nito.

INTERNAL CLEANSING

Ang isang mahalaga ngayon, pagkakataon para sa pulisya na magkaroon ng internal cleansing o paglilinis sa sariling bakuran.

Problema pa sa droga ang pinag-uusapan na isinusuka nang husto at dineklarahan ng gilyera ni Pang. Digong.

Aktibo pa hanggang ngayon ang mga pulis na sangkot sa malaking iskandalong ito kaya naman, magiging epektibo rito ang internal cleansing.

Malsasama na malinis ang mga karugtong na kabulukan ng mga nasabing pulis na sinasabing na-promote pa sa paglipas ng panahon.

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



TITLE:

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, in pursuance to Administrative Order No. 38 dated 19 April 1990, will sell at DENR-NCR Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, through sealed bidding to the highest bidder at 10:00 A.M. on DEC 17 2019, the tract of land situated in Western Bicutan (Pinagsama), Taguig City which are specifically described below to wit:

APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUE PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA NO. 007607-2079	ERNEST JOHN D. TALAMAYAN	Lot 8, Block 46, Psd-00-036894	60 sq.m.	Php 140.00	8,400.00	250,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007607-2079". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines _____

ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division
MSG/ICP/DB

PJ - Sept. 18, 25 Oct 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2019

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUE PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA NO. 007607-1886	RODOLFO L. UY	Lot 3, Block 7, Psd-00-036894	103.20 sq.m.	P140.00	P14,448.00	P100,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007607-1886". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines _____

ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

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