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DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Green warriors Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (fifth from right) administers the oath of newly-designated estero rangers who will help in the cleanup of esteros in the cities and municipalities around the Manila Bay area. Two *estero* rangers will be assigned in each of the 711 barangays in Metro Manila, which are not reached by garbage trucks causing indiscriminate dumping of trash in these estuaries. Others in photo are (from left) Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretaries Juan Miguel Cuna, Benny Antiporda, Peter Tiangco and Rodolfo Garcia, and representatives of local government units in Metro Manila.



CRUSADERS AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION SPREAD THE WORD IN PALAWAN

'The islands of Palawan are pure beauty, but also very much threatened by pollution'

By Victor Brun

Student correspondent,
Centre de Recherches Insulaires
et Observatoire de
l'Environnement

Race for Water expedition, the world's largest solar-powered vessel, just ended a two-week stopover in Palawan. The expedition's goal is a crusade against plastic pollution in the ocean.

After 10 days in Puerto Princesa spent meeting officials and students, the expedition traveled north toward Pangatalan Island to meet high school students and raise their awareness on plastic pollution.

The story began in 2017 when a crew of French seafarers, engineers, technicians and advocates set out on what would be a five-year journey around the world on the boat, Race for Water.

This ship is a unique prototype as it runs on a mix of renewable energies: solar panels, hydrogen tanks to store energy using water from the sea and a 150-meter-high kite to help the boat's propulsion.

"Our model is applied to a boat but it can be replicated on land. We produce enough electricity to power a nine-

story building," said Basile Prime, the team's engineer.

In 2015, after finishing a first expedition to study how plastic trash is polluting the ocean, the team came back with an important message: plastics are found everywhere and the seas cannot be cleaned. The only option is to stop polluting.

Five Rs rule

As most of the plastic in the sea comes from land, the expedition decided to travel around the world and meet people to foster change.

When stopping in different cities, the crew welcomes politicians, students, industrialists and the curious onboard where they present their "five Rs rule": refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recycle.

They expect to meet a total of 50,000 people in the duration of the expedition.

Race for Water was at first invited by the Sulubaaï Environmental Foundation to a

stopover in Palawan and help spread their message.

This second foundation, based in Pangatalan Island, works to protect and restore coral reefs with the help of and to benefit local communities.

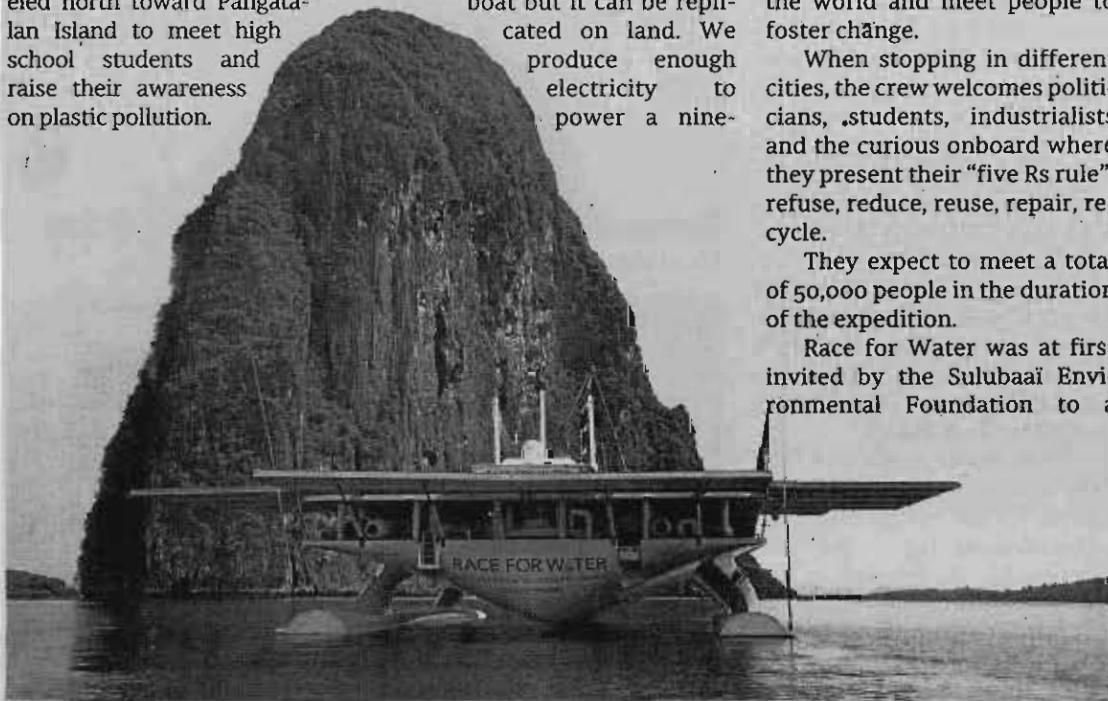
"We are two foundations pursuing similar goals: to make oceans healthier and resilient for both people and nature," said Sulubaaï Foundation president Frédéric Tardieu. "The islands of Palawan are pure beauty, but also very much threatened by pollution."

By visiting the headquarters of Sulubaaï Foundation and meeting high school students, the team carried an important message: Large-scale solutions must also meet local needs. While one travels the world to meet thousands of people and inspire change, there must be focus also on the restoration of a livable nature in a more restricted area.

After the expedition left, Sulubaaï Foundation and the Sandoval National High School organized a cleanup event last Oct. 10. A total of 300 students picked up trash in the whole barangay.

As Dhayan, a grade 12 student, put it, "Plastic pollution is a big problem here. We must all become aware of the situation to change our habits."

—CONTRIBUTED INQ



Race for Water ship docked at Imorigue Island in the north of Palawan



FROM A DISTANCE

VERONICA PEDROSA

The solution to plastic waste: Partnerships

We, as a society and species, are addicted to plastic, and it's mostly single-use: it's perceived as an economic, social and cultural necessity.

Think about the amount of plastic you use every day. It's in your phone, in the car, bus or train you use to get around, in your furniture, toiletries, food and drink packaging at the grocery, market and fast food counters. It's quite a shock to objectively catalogue just how much we all use it.

Of all the plastic that's used in the world only 9% is recycled, but it lasts for hundreds of years, so it's no surprise that poor disposal of plastic waste is one of the main causes of marine pollution. There's been a lot of coverage in the media about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean. Also known as the Pacific trash vortex, the garbage patch is actually two distinct collections of debris bounded by the massive North Pacific Subtropical Gyre.

The Philippines generates 2.7 million tons of plastic waste annually and 20 percent – or half a million tons – of that leaks into the oceans, according to a joint report by the Ocean Conservancy charity and the McKinsey Centre for Business and Environment published in 2015.

The Philippines is the third biggest ocean plastic polluter in the world behind China and Indonesia, with Vietnam not far behind, according to a report published in "Science" by a team of researchers in the United States and Australia in 2015, that found countries' total amount of mismanaged plastic waste compared with the total amount of plastic marine debris.

It's much easier to avert your eyes to the all too frequent sight of garbage choking up our waterways and drainage canals, and polluting our coasts. As the saying goes: "Out of sight, out of mind." But we shouldn't. We still don't know the full extent of the impact of waste in our bodies and in the environment but it is known that leakage of chemicals used in plastics can cause cancer, and that micro plastics are killing and harming all kinds of marine life. There is a strong need for more scientific research to support developing appropriate policies.

Ignoring the problem isn't going to solve it and everyone involved in the use of plastic, from manufacturers of the plastic itself, the products that use plastic packaging, retailers, consumers, collectors and waste disposal managers are all needed to bring about sustainable solutions.

The good news is that the momentum is building quickly all along the chain, on local, national, regional and global levels to act urgently and together. There is a recognition that this is going to be the only way to stop plastic waste pollution.

This week in Bangkok, the United Nations Environment Programme (which sees itself as the global champion for the environment with programmes focusing on sustainable development, climate, biodiversity and more) together with the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), with support from the Swedish Government, held the first ever SEA of Solutions partnership week. The conference and events held throughout the week tried to emphasise solutions along the plastic value chain and engage key stakeholders including local and national government, businesses and plastic producers, communities and youth. The idea was to provide a platform for private sector, academia, governments and communities to connect and effect change and thereby build partnerships and initiate regional coordination efforts, to find tangible solutions to marine plastic pollution in South East Asia.



Asia has become a major hotspot of plastic leakage, and plastic pollution is an acute threat to the region's environment including marine and coastal ecosystems, economic development, social well-being, food security, and human health.

The Philippines was strongly represented by the wonderful team of Pinays including Martha Fernandez, Inaie Ann Mojado and Lea Las Piñas at UNEP Bangkok, UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador Antoinette Taus, as well as a number of speakers and delegates including Aimee Gonzales, Executive Director of Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), and Eligio Ildelfonso, Executive Director of the National Solid Waste Management Commission Secretariat, within the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources.

The Philippines in 2000 enacted the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which is considered a strong law by international standards. For example, it mandates that all open dumpsites must be converted into sanitary landfills by 2004, four years after the law was passed. But in 2018, government figures showed only 139 operational sanitary landfills servicing just 308 of the country's 1,634 LGUs, and at least 425 illegal dumpsites still operate across the country.

The law also mandates that every village or cluster of villages must set up a materials recovery facility where biodegradable waste can be converted into fertiliser, recyclable material can be recycled or sold to junk shops, and residual waste can be collected for transport to sanitary landfills. But government data showed that only 24 percent of the country's 42,036 villages had operational MRFs. Implementation of the law isn't working so complaints have been brought to the national ombudsman's office. But clearly, much more needs to be done.

"The Sea of Solutions literally provided us a menu of doable, viable and sustainable solutions to the growing challenges brought by plastics to our society. I hope that these will be appropriately adopted by all nations," Ildelfonso said about the conference.

It was pretty astonishing to learn so much in just a few days about the amount of activity being put into the task at all levels. High level government officials mingled with managers from Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola and Unilever that were at pains to demonstrate what they're doing to use more recycled plastic in their products used by billions around the world. All the delegates shared what they could offer as well as what they needed to upscale the fight against plastic pollution, as it emerged that as a community we have the solutions by working with each other.

The conference concluded with concrete pledges, including the dramatic announcement by Coca-Cola that bottles of Sprite will no longer be packaged in green plastic which cannot be recycled. That's a significant substantial step, but so much more is needed.

Some of the challenges described in the conference speak to a kind of inertia in the systems - perhaps due to the fear of taking risks - understandably given the extent of our reliance on plastic. But it was clear that the way to mitigate it is with partnerships: we cannot move forward without each other.

In a song composed for the conference, Antoinette Taus sang out: "It's time to act now." It's a brilliant message from the Philippine people to the world.

(Veronica Pedrosa attended the SEA of Solutions conference as a moderator under contract with SEA Circular, UNEP.)



War on plastic



THE Z PERSPECTIVE Joe Zaldarriaga

COMMENTARY

“ *There are many efforts underway to reduce plastic pollution and hopefully best practices will be shared across the planet on how to more efficiently approach the conundrum of proper waste management.*

As part of its sustainability initiatives, Meralco has joined the government's campaign in saving the country's environment by banning single-use plastic (SUP), polystyrene foam and similar products from all of its premises, activities and corporate events effective last 1 October 2019.

Just recently, President Rodrigo Duterte announced his support to ban plastic materials to curb pollution and save Mother Earth from further devastation.

The serious impact of plastic materials on our environment even prompted the President, according to presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo, to certify a bill on banning it as urgent.

"The President has floated that idea. It's for the members of Congress to adopt it, use their initiative to have that kind of idea bear fruition," Panelo said in a radio interview.

For the last half-century, plastic has become an integral part of our daily lives. From furniture to grocery bags, from vehicle parts to toys, plastic is an unavoidable element in a variety of forms. However, from being regarded as a very vital presence in the contemporary world, plastic has now come to be looked upon as a potential material of immense destruction and harm.

It is common knowledge that plastic isn't biodegradable, which accentuates the threat of lingering waste for years and for generations to come.

According to estimates, people around the world throw away almost four million tons of trash every day, of which 12.8 percent is plastic, polluting land, air and water. Plastic thrown into landfills contaminates the soil and groundwater with harmful chemicals and microorganisms, while the effects of marine pollution caused by plastic are immeasurable.

The House Committee on Natural Resources vowed to tackle pending measures seeking to ban the use of plastics in the country. This is a very promising development for our country and for our environment as a whole.

This government thrust comes at a better time, perfectly in sync with Meralco's initiative to ban single-use plastics.

I recently had a tête-à-tête with Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, who lauded Meralco's efforts in the war against plastic.

Usec. Antiporda, who spearheads the government's solid waste management efforts, stressed that while removing plastic from our daily lives is an important step in protecting the environment, also an important task on hand is the development of a better and effective waste management system.

He said developing an efficient waste management system is critical. In fact, Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 provides for a comprehensive ecological

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solid waste management program by creating the necessary institutional mechanisms and incentives, appropriating funds, declaring certain acts prohibited and providing penalties to violators.

We have to do our part and play our roles in championing this law.

I concur with Usec. Antiporda that the private sector must work closely with local government units (LGU) in coming up with solid waste management plans by approaching DENR's Solid Waste Management Division.

Antiporda is urging LGU to develop their own 10-year solid waste management plan to effectively take part in saving our environment. Once this is in place and implemented conscientiously, only then can we achieve the grand vision of a greener and cleaner Philippines.

Aside from reducing its contribution of plastic to landfills and marine pollution, Meralco also aims to educate employees and business partners on the responsible use of plastic for proper disposal for a sustainable economy, and help pave the way for a lifestyle change.



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PANGASINAN, CEBU

FIRM EYES PARTNERSHIP WITH LGUS FOR TRASH-FED POWER GENERATION PROJECTS

Integrated Green Technology Inc. (IGTI), a homegrown waste management and renewable energy firm, is firming up partnerships with the provincial governments of Pangasinan and Cebu provinces to build several trash-fed power plants that cost a total of \$230 million, or about P11.6 billion.

In an interview on Friday, IGTI president and chief executive Michael Jimenez said the company intended to build the facilities through joint ventures with the local government units (LGUs), with the latter's equity mainly the land that would host the projects.

"For Pangasinan, we are looking at a facility that can use 970 tons of solid waste a day," Jimenez said.

With 50 tons of waste need-

ed to generate one megawatt of electricity, he said the planned Pangasinan project would have a capacity of about 19 MW.

Jimenez said there were two prospective projects in Cebu, one in Mactan and another in Aloguinsan, each at 320 tons daily or about 6 MW. However, design details such as throughput volume and generating capacity—are still being finalized.

These planned projects, Jimenez said, have full support from European funders, including the London-based Allied Project Services Ltd.

"We anticipate financial closing in the first quarter of 2020 and expect plant operations to start in the first quarter of 2022," he added.

For technology partners,

Jimenez said IGTI had engaged Indian-based CNIM Martin Private Ltd., whose parent firm was based in France and whose technology was patented in Germany.

Jimenez said the components of the facilities would be manufactured in India, specifically for use in Asian markets such as the Philippines.

"We are in talks with other LGUs for a total of at least 12 projects spread out across the Philippines, including three in Mindanao," the CEO said.

"Our goal is to provide state-of-the-art waste management, energy sustainability and environmental protection for every LGU," he added. "We believe the use of sanitary landfills is best replaced with what we offer." —RONNEL W. DOMINGO INQ



Manila Bay road project to displace millions of Navotas, Cavite, Bataan informal settlers

By MINKA KLAUDIA S. TIANGCO

Millions of informal settlers living in Navotas, Cavite, and Bataan, are expected to be displaced by a Manila Bay flood control and expressway project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), a fisherfolk group said.

Fernando Hicap, national chairman of Pambansang Lakas ng

Kilusang Mamalakayang Pilipino (Pamalakaya), said hundreds of informal settlers are slowly being driven out of their homes from Navotas to Bataan, where the DPWH and San Miguel Corporation's Manila Bay Integrated Flood Control, Coastal Defense and Expressway Project will be constructed once the project get approval.

Hicap said he believes **►5**

that the huge fire that razed a residential area at the Navotas Fish Port Complex last month was the latest attempt at displacing illegal settlers.

Hicap claimed that not everyone who was rendered homeless by fires and demolitions was relocated and given proper housing since the government does not have a "comprehensive plan" for that.

"Ang pinakamasakit diyan, 'yung nasunugan ka na, hindi ka pa makakabalik sa tinitirhan mo (What hurts most is when you were already rendered homeless by a fire, and you cannot even go back to your home),"

Hicap told the Manila Bulletin in a phone interview.

The ₱400-billion flood control and expressway project is expected to help combat typhoon waves in the northern metropolis, improve road access, and increase economic growth in Metro Manila.

It is currently being evaluated by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Investment Coordination Committee and Technical Board.

But Hicap called for the scrapping of the "profit-oriented" project that is "only being packaged as a flood control project."

He pointed out that the Pampanga Delta Development Project (PDDP) in Masantol town, which was also aimed at alleviating the impact of flooding of communities in the Pampanga River basin, now acts as a dam blocking the free flow of water toward Manila Bay.

The Pamalakaya chairman said developing and restoring the fishery and marine ecosystem in coastal communities would be a better long-term measure against flooding and storm surges.

"Our standing call is genuine rehabilitation and reclamation-free Manila Bay. This is what the Supreme Court has ordered. We warn the Duterte government against defying it," Hicap said in a statement.



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Climate change poses 'lifelong' child health risk

PARIS—Climate change will damage the health of an entire generation unless there are immediate cuts to fossil fuel emissions, from a rise in deadly infectious diseases to surging malnutrition, experts warned on Thursday.

Children across the world were already suffering the ill effects of air pollution and extreme weather events, said The Lancet Countdown in its annual report on the impact of climate change on human health.

And far worse is to come for future generations, it warned: airborne diseases, malnutrition due to mass crop failures, and even mental and physical trauma from increased flash flooding and wildfires.

Hottest month

The Lancet Countdown is a coalition of 35 institutions, including the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

Their warning comes as some of Australia's worst wildfires in living memory continue to burn across its eastern seaboard, and after a global youth strike inspired by Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg.

August was the hottest month ever recorded and Earth has already warmed 1 degree Celsius since industrialization.

The Paris Climate treaty of 2015 enjoins nations to limit

temperature rises to 2 C, or preferably to 1.5 C if possible.

Yet emissions continue to rise year on year, putting Earth on a path that could lead to a 4 C temperature rise by the end of the century—bringing peril for human health.

'Nothing short'

The report said "nothing short" of a 7.4-percent year-on-year cut in carbon dioxide emissions until 2050 would limit global warming to 1.5 C.

"A kid born today has an average global life expectancy of 71 years so that brings them to 2090. That means that kid will experience a 4 C world," Nick Watts, executive director of The Lancet Countdown, told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

The report, compiled by 120 experts, used the latest available data and climate modeling to predict global health trends as the mercury climbs throughout the decades.

In parts of the world already, the health effects from climate change start in the first weeks of a baby's life.

In the last 30 years, the global yield potential of staple crops, such as maize, winter wheat and rice, have all declined, putting infants and small children at heightened risk of malnutrition.

Infant malnutrition impacts every stage of a child's life,

stunting growth, weakening the immune system and throwing up long-term developmental problems.

More children will also be susceptible to infectious disease outbreaks.

In just three decades, the number of days worldwide of prime infectiousness for the *Vibrio* bacteria—which causes

much of child diarrheal disease worldwide—has doubled.

This not only increases the likelihood of children contracting diseases, such as cholera in at-risk regions, it also enlarges their spread.

The report found that mosquito-borne diseases, such as dengue and malaria, were also on the rise, putting half of

the world's current population at risk.

Frequent economic disruption

And people in cities are already suffering premature disease and death from air pollution—coal plants alone contributed a likely one million premature deaths worldwide in 2016.

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Climate change poses 'lifelong' child health risk



URGENT ACTION Filipino youth march on Mendiola in May calling for urgent government action on climate change. —RICHARD A. REYES

Extreme weather events are likely to proliferate as temperatures climb, posing increasingly frequent economic disruption.

For example, in 2018, 45 billion hours of work were lost due to extreme heat globally compared with 2000.

"Climate change is not about 2100, climate change is about Wednesday, November 13, 2019," said Watts, speaking on the day.

One of greatest threats

"Populations around the world are migrating, growing and aging in the areas that are worst affected by climate change."

He said even lawmakers in developed, temperate nations "ought to be already extremely concerned" about heat waves; temperature records were smashed across Europe this year in a string of deadly heat waves.

The study found that last year an additional 220 million, over-65s were exposed to extreme heat, compared with the historical average.

Reacting to the report, The Lancet's editor in chief Richard Horton said climate change was "one of the greatest threats to the health of humanity today."

"But the world has yet to see a response from governments," he added. "We can't afford this level of disengagement." —AFP



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Climate worry driving 'cli-fi' boom

By Riwan Marhic

IMAGINE a world where storms inundate coastal megacities, entire species become extinct in the blink of an eye, and conflicts are fought over dwindling natural resources.

Not so difficult in 2019, perhaps.

After a year of devastating extreme weather and worldwide unrest over the emergency posed by climate change, topics that used to belong to the realm of science fiction are finding their way into mainstream storytelling.

Back in 2004, Roland Emmerich's disaster flick "The Day After Tomorrow" depicted a global weather catastrophe, with coastal areas devoured by the sea amid general meteorological mayhem.

Just 15 years on, scenes from the movie resemble images taken from real-life weather events today.

And as climate change makes superstorms, flooding, wildfires and droughts more likely, a new genre is gaining fatalistic fans the world over: "Cli-fi."

"It's catching on like wildfire," said US writer and cli-fi aficionado Dan Bloom.

He credited US President Donald Trump, who has said he will withdraw from the Paris climate deal, with helping promote the genre.

"There's a lot of people who say that climate change is not real," said Bloom. "These people are making the rest of us very angry and as a result cli-fi is getting more and more power."

Andrew Milner, a professor of comparative literature at Melbourne's Monash University, said that cli-fi was yet to break out from sci-fi's yoke—most people get into the new genre because they like the old one.

"Both its texts and practitioners—writers, readers, publishers, film directors, fans—relate primarily to the science-fiction tradition," he said.

"[But] it is very clear that the sub-genre has grown very rapidly in recent years."

Global appeal

Global protest movements such as the Youth Strike for Climate and Extinction Rebellion have heightened public awareness of the issue.

For J.R. Burgmann, co-author of "Science Fiction and Climate Change: A Sociological Approach," cli-fi films and novels are a logical expression of an increasingly knowledgeable and concerned society.

"This rise is a response to real-world concerns," he said. "And though I would argue that literature has been rather slow to respond to man-made climate change, it certainly appears to be making up for lost time."

And, because climate change is a truly global problem, cli-fi has become a worldwide, multi-lingual phenomenon.

In France, two major television series focusing on dystopian but conceivable futures have received popular and critical acclaim.

"The Last Wave" tells the story of 10 surfers who go missing in bad weather. When they return they can't remember what happened but some have strange new powers.

And "The Collapse," set in a post-apocalyptic world where fuel is scarce, nuclear sites are threatened and medicines are rationed, debuted this week.

Recent cli-fi works from around the world include "Blackout Island" by Icelandic author Sigridur Hagala Bjornsdottir, a Canadian adaptation of Jean Hegland's "Into the Forest" and "Water Knife," by US author Paolo Bacigalupi.

In "The History of Bees", Norwegian author Maja Lunde's 2017 bestseller, humanity is forced to pollinate their crops by hand after pesticides have wiped insects off the face of the Earth.

"People are more and more worried about climate change and authors write about what scares them," Lunde told AFP last year.

Hard to ignore

Novels and films about climate change are nothing new, of course.

J.G. Ballard's "The Burning World" (1964) and John Brunner's "The Sheep Look Up" (1972) depicted a world ravaged by environmental damage decades before scientists fully understood man-made climate change.

Even John Steinbeck's generational "The Grapes of Wrath" (1939) is essentially a tale of the harrowing ordeal undergone by climate migrants from the Oklahoma dust bowl.

But, as leading cli-fi author Jean-Marc Ligny explained, greater public awareness and a seemingly unending string of drought, wildfires and heatwaves have made climate a topic that's "hard to ignore."

"Climate change needs stories, and readers need them to be told," he said. "There are figures, statistics, but these don't really say anything. Cli-fi makes people more aware of the situation." AFP



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Adapting for a sustainable future

"ADAPTING for a Sustainable Future" is the theme of this year's Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

The observance of the annual event is in pursuant to Proclamation No. 1667 — Declaring November 19 to 25, 2008 and Every Year Thereafter As "Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week" — signed by then-president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The issuance of the proclamation was premised on the following whereas:

"It is the policy of the state to advance the general health and welfare of its citizens, promote sustainable development of its economy, and protect its natural resources for the benefit of all generations;

"The Philippines is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol which mandates measures for the reduction of carbon dioxide and other critical greenhouse gases to avert certain catastrophe in the planet's environment and climate as calculated by the international scientific community;

"The Philippines has declared and confirmed its commitment to the goals of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention;

"Realizing the gravity and the immediate threat of the extreme changes occurring in the world's temperature, the melting of ice in the polar regions, and the rise in sea levels, and their critical impact on agricultural productivity, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Global Warming and Climate Change was created on August 21, 2008;

"The warming of the earth's surface is undermining our national food and energy security, and therefore requires broad and intensive information and educational campaign to impress on the general public the awesome and terrifying consequences of this phenomenon and to secure the collective cooperation of the population in finding solutions to it; and

"These concerns require the urgent and thoughtful participa-



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

tion of our citizens as well as the collective action of private and public sectors at all levels."

Since then, the disasters that Filipinos are generally familiarized to are now becoming more multifaceted and challenging as sea level continues to rise, rainfall and temperature patterns shift, extreme weather events happen more often, and urbanization-oriented development remains unabated.

Few days ago, after six years, we remembered super typhoon Yolanda that killed almost 7,000, affected over 16 million people from 44 provinces, and brought P95.4 billion worth of damages.

We continue to recognize that our country remains to be at a critical time to ensure not only its development but also the survival of its people and resources, amid the challenges posed by climate change.

12th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), as the lead policy-making body of the government on climate-related matters, will spearhead the observance of the 12th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week from November 19 to 25, 2019.

"This year, we are emphasizing the value of science informing policy and practice in the context of climate action. We want to highlight the significance of science in developing climate resiliency strategies and pathways, as well as in inspiring climate action from the different stakeholders as we pave way towards sustainable future," said CCC Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman as he announced this year's schedule of activities

Major events of the 12th Global Warming and Climate Change

Consciousness Week are:

3rd National Convention on Climate Change Adaptation (November 19-20)

The two-day convention, in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, aims:

1. To foster engagement between the public and private sector, cities, municipalities, civil society and academia with the common goal of addressing the climate emergency; and
2. To provide a collaborative multi-stakeholder platform for knowledge exchange on climate action, challenges and innovations to pave the way for increased national and community resilience.

Sessions include Science in the Service of Society; The Future of Urban Adaptation; Food and Water Security amid Climate Change; Framework for Planning toward Resilience; Financing Adaptation: Opportunities, Trends and Challenges; Community-Led Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives; Climate Change Adaptation Tools for Community Learning and Resilience; and Experiences, Best Practices and Lessons learned from Local Government Units.

Making Climate Finance Count: Increasing Flows for Adaptation (November 19)

In partnership with the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, the half-day forum will be a sharing of expertise, knowledge, and experience on a wide range from access of climate finance, implementation of adaptation best practices; resource mobilization; and integration of climate adaptation into long-term planning and strategies.

2nd Annual National Business Climate Action Summit (November 21)

In recognizing the business groups



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Adapting for a sustainable future

and enterprises as key partners in resilience-building, business groups and enterprises and in partnership with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Philippine Business for Environment, and the United Nations Development Programme through the NDC Support Project for the Philippines, the summit aims:

1. To promote awareness on the available local climate financing mechanisms and facilities available for the private business sector;

2. To present the private sector's initiatives to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions; and

3. To support publicly listed companies in monitoring their contributions towards universal targets of sustainability through the Securities and Exchange Commission's Sustainability Reporting.

In-depth presentations and facilitate interactive discussions in Green Banking, Waste-to-Energy Technologies, Sustainable Food Systems, Sustainable Urban Mobility Solutions, and Sustainability Reporting are included.

2019 Search for Outstanding Young Climate Scientists (November 22)

With the aim to nurture the scientific minds of the young people and maintain their involvement in climate change action, the search will award five researchers from junior and senior high schools that will tackle issues and challenges related to the food-water-energy Nexus.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender Equality into Agriculture and Energy (November 22-23)

In cooperation with the NDC Partnership, the two-day regional workshop aims:

1. To increase countries' understanding of how gender equality and climate change intersect with agriculture and energy;

2. To share experiences and main challenges faced by coun-

tries in mainstreaming gender into agricultural and energy within their NDCs, including on inter-sectoral coordination through different climate change governance mechanisms;

3. To strengthen country capacity to identify ways for developing and implementing gender-responsive climate action within the energy and agricultural sectors, contextualize this to country situations, and map out concrete actions on how this might feed into in-country Partnership Plan process of the NDC Partnership and 2020 NDC updates; and

4. To strengthen the linkages between countries requesting gender-related support and member institutions and agencies that can provide relevant capacity building in the Asia Pacific region.

Representatives from 12 countries — Bhutan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Thailand and Vietnam — are expected to learn and share their experiences in mainstreaming gender equality in the agricultural and energy sectors.

Philippine Interfaith Summit on Climate Emergency (November 23)

The Philippine Interfaith Summit on Climate Emergency, co-organized with the Living Laudato Si' Philippines and UniHarmony Partners Manila, aims:

1. To raise the awareness and consciousness of religious leaders and its members about the vital role of financial investments play in fueling the climate crisis;

2. To build the capacity of religious organizations in taking climate action through green and sustainable financial investments;

3. To empower religious leaders to take the lead in demanding faster and genuine climate action from the leaders in both public and private sectors; and

4. To unify different religions and religious denominations in the Philippines into a movement

that will take collective and strategic action to address the greatest challenge that humanity is facing.

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Resilience Conference (November 25)

Together with the Office of the Cabinet Secretary and in collaboration with the Palawan State University, the conference aims:

1. To raise awareness on the urgent need to strengthen local risk governance informed by the latest climate science and guided by national climate risk management strategies;

2. To provide basic information on unlocking domestic and international climate finance for climate-resilient and sustainable investments;

3. To facilitate knowledge exchange on community-led practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation; and

4. To present models for networking of academic institutions and other key stakeholders for convergence of efforts in pursuit of low-carbon and climate-resilient investment planning and financing.

Other activities include The Climate Plate: Experiencing Sustainable Dining, and Sustainable Cooling Forum on November 18; Trashion: Changing the Way YOU See Waste, and CTRL+S: A Print Exhibition on Climate Change Awareness and Action, on November 19; What's SUP (Single-Use Plastic) PH Launch, and Climate Change Quiz Bee on November 25; and Get GREEN-ducated Lecture Series on all Saturdays.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (the United States). He can be emailed at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.



EDITORIAL

Disaster warning system

EVERYBODY knows that every year, natural disasters, like typhoons, storms and floods, claim the lives of many people and destroy billions of pesos worth of agricultural crops and property.

Knowing full well the many adverse effects of catastrophic calamities, concerned government authorities, we think, ought to come up with highly-effective measures to address the problem.

The Philippines, one of the world's favorite "sparring partners" of destructive weather disturbances, is on the right track in setting up a chain of disaster forecasting and early warning centers.

Every year, an average of 20 typhoons and storms, a number of them destructive, batters the country, worrying people, notably the poor, living or working in low-lying and flood-prone communities.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF), an international fund, has provided a \$10-million grant to the Philippines to finance the setting up of a forecasting and early warning system for natural disasters.

The target sites include Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; Legazpi City, Albay; Palo, Leyte; and New Bataan, Davao de Oro, according to Commissioner Rachel Herrera of the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

"The project aims to translate hazard forecasts into warnings that can convey location and sector-specific impacts, providing tailored climate risk information directly to LGUs and communities," she said.

The fund, around P500 million, will be channeled to the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

PAG-ASA heads the project, along with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Office of Civil Defense and World Food Program.

We share the view of House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda that lessons learned from Typhoon Yolanda necessitated the need for a project that can translate risk and hazard information into understandable and actionable early warning. Legarda is an alternate member of the GCF board.

With the worsening of climate change, we have no choice but to set up an effective disaster early warning system.



NDRRMC nakatutok sa Isabela at Cagayan LANDSLIDES AT FLASHFLOODS PINANGANGAMBAHAN

BUKOD sa lalawigan ng Quezon na daraanan ng bagyong Ramon ay nakatutok ang National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council sa probinsiya ng Cagayan at Isabela dahil sa bagyong Ramon (international name: Kalmacgi).

Inalerto na rin ng NDRRMC ang mga local na tanggapan ng Office of Civil Defense sa paglikas ng mga apektadong residente at posibleng paglulunsad ng Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operation sa inaasahang paglandfall ng Bagyong Ramon sa Northern Luzon, partikular na sa Isabela.

Ayon kay NDRRMC-Office of the Civil Defense spokesman Dir. Mark Timbal na bukod sa kanilang opisina, nakahanda na rin ang lahat ng mga national

agencies na katuwang nila sa pagbibigay ng tulong at suporta sa mga panahon ng kalamidad.

Aniya, nakaantabay ang kanilang opisina sa mga tulong at suporta na hihingin ng kanilang mga local counterpart sa oras na labis ang epektong maramdaman nila sa pananalasa ng nasabing bagyo.

Pinayuhan naman ni Timbal ang publiko, lalo na ang mga naninirahan sa Cagayan at Isabela na maging alerto at kaagad na mag-evacuate kung kinakailangan, lalo na sa mga lugar na kabilang sa mga flashflood at landslide prone areas.

Nanatiling nakataas kahapon sa ang signal no. 2 sa Catanduanes. Nasa ilalim naman ng signal no. 1 ang silangang bahagi ng Isabela, kabilang ang Divilacan, Palanan at

Dinapigue; Northern Aurora, kabilang ang Dilasag, Casiguran at Dinalungan; at Polillo Island; Camarines Norte; Camarines Sur; at Albay.

Ang bagyong Ramon ay may lakas ng hangin na umaabot sa 65 kilometers per hour (kph), pagbug-song 80 kph, at kumikilos patungong north northwest sa bilis na 15 kph.

Sa forecast ng weather bureau Pagasa, tinatayang tatama ito sa Isabela o Cagayan sa Linggo ng hapon at babaybayin ang northern Luzon buong hapon at gabi sa parehong araw.

Lalabas naman ito ng West Philippine Sea sa Lunes. **VERLIN RUIZ**



Rights of nature

Environmentalism's next frontier is giving nature legal rights, a paradigm shift in especially in our country where our laws are centered on the human being, not on the environment. However, there is a growing movement around the world today which is seeking to expand the rights to demand protection for nature – rivers, trees, and ecosystems – through laws that would provide them rights.

Recently, a coalition, the Philippine Misereor Partnersip Inc. (PNP), took the first step in preparing a draft bill which would confer legal personhood to nature, by showing the connectedness between indigenous peoples and their ancestral domains. Macki Maderazo, PNP's legal counsel, notes that when you say a tree or a river has a legal personality, a person can represent nature before a court of law and can seek damages for violence. If successful, we shall join the Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, New Zealand, India, among a few of the pioneering countries, some states in the United States, who have either "constitutionalized" these rights, and the 90 or so countries that are seriously exploring ways of amending their environmental laws to integrate this concern.

There are already examples of activism in this area which indicate that we may be ready to adopt changes in our environmental laws. One example is the call for "Justice for Trees" for the "murdered 45 Baguio Pine Trees" where a volun-

teer organization, the Rehabilitation Action for Baguio (RAB) filed a Manifesto of support expressing grave disappointment over dismissal by the prosecutor's office of a complaint filed by Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong against officials of the Gateluck Corporation for chemically inducing by slow death 45 trees in its property along Legarda Rd. in Baguio City. It appears that last July 24, Mayor Magalong found out that holes were drilled at the base of each tree, into which a salt-like solution was injected thus causing the trees to die. The mayor charged them with 45 counts of violations against the city's environmental codes and RA 11038, the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System Act, and other pertinent environmental laws. If we had a law or even ordinance on "Rights of Nature," a case like this could have been addressed much faster and perhaps more effectively.

What we are experiencing today – deforestation, destruction of coral reefs, soil degradation, exposure to toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, flooding, are the consequences of benign neglect and the inadequacy of our environmental laws. Boracay, Pasig River, Manila Bay, these are examples of ecosystems that could have been protected if we had a legal structure that is much more radical than the present system.

Ecuador, in 2008 was the first country to constitutionalize the rights of Nature or "Pacha Mama" when it stated that nature has the

right to be respected and that its existence and the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles, structure, and evolving process must be allowed. It was followed by Bolivia with its Law of Rights of Mother Earth. Colombia's Supreme Court in 2008 that the government must take action to protect the Colombia Amazon. In 2018, India's High Court declared that its animal (including avian and aquatic creatures) are legal entities with rights, duties, and liabilities like living person. A 2017 law in New Zealand recognizes the legal personality of mountains and the seas which have rights and duties including property rights in its riverbed. In the United States, a Pennsylvania borough passed a local ordinance recognizing rights of ecosystems, and in Toledo, Ohio, a Lake Erie Bill of Rights was passed that guaranteed the lake to exist, flourish, and evolve. In Bangladesh, river Turag was recognized as a living entity with rights.

In the existing paradigm, we are asked to be faithful stewards of our environment. If we have not been too successful in that role, do you think we could do better as spokespersons for the rights of Mother Nature – of the trees, rivers, seas, and mountains?

My email, florangel.braid@gmail.com



PAGBABAGO

FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID



SC voids ancestral land titles claimed in Baguio

High court says city not covered by Indigenous Peoples Rights Act

By Vincent Cabreza
@vincentcabrezaINQ

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court has nullified 28 titles issued to Ibaloy lands being claimed at a portion of the presidential Mansion House, Baguio's Wright Park and a pre-war hotel, after ruling that the summer capital was exempted from the ancestral land provisions of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1987 (Ipra, or Republic Act No. 8371).

Section 78 of the law protecting and enforcing indigenous Filipino rights "expressly excludes the city of Baguio from the application of the general provisions of the Ipra," ruled the high court's Second Division in a Sept. 25 decision that was received by City Hall on Nov. 12.

The decision, penned by now retired Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, asserted that the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) "has no legal authority to issue CALTs (certificates of ancestral land title) or CADT (certificates of ancestral domain title)" in the city.

The Court said Section 78 grants Baguio control over lands within its townsite reservation. This Ipra provision stipulates that CALTs or CADTs are possible in this city if these involve Ibaloy land claims recognized by the American colonial government in the early part of the 20th century.

The nullified CALTs were issued in 2010 to the heirs of Cosen Piraso represented by Richard Acop, and the heirs of Josephine Molintas Abanag, which the Baguio government contested in court.

The city government also asked for the nullification of the 2010 CALT granted to the heirs of Lauro Carantes, over a 5-hectare



NCIP cannot transgress this clear legislative intent [of Congress] ... that all lands proclaimed as part of Baguio City's Townsite Reservation [as of 1912] shall remain part of the townsite reservation unless reclassified by Congress

Supreme Court

property inside the city's Forbes Park reserve. The Baguio government is currently preparing legal action against the dwellers of the Busol Watershed, including Ibaloy ancestral land claimants.

Native title

Various historical studies asserted that Baguio used to be one of the 31 "rancherias" (Ibaloy settlements) of Benguet province. Scholars said Ibaloy herded cattle here but were dispossessed and pushed back to the city's forested outskirts when the colonial government designed, built and populated Baguio after 1909.

Baguio is also where the very first ancestral land, or "native title" was recognized in the country.

The native title doctrine (also known as the Cariño Doctrine)—which was issued by the US Supreme Court in 1909—recognized the rights of Ibaloy Mateo Cariño over his pastureland, which was sequestered by the American military and turned into what is now Camp John Hay.

The Doctrine is one of the foundations for Ipra, as well as the provisions in the 1987 Constitution which recognized indigenous peoples' (IP) rights.

But the high court said: "NCIP cannot transgress this clear legislative intent [of Congress] ... that all lands proclaimed as part of Baguio City's Townsite Reservation [as of 1912] shall remain part of the townsite reservation unless reclassified by Congress."

Baguio is currently the only townsite left in the country. Except for government reservations and forests, all lands in the city are alienable. Townsite sales applicants are required to undergo an auction to purchase and title up to 1,000 square meters of land, which they have developed.

It was not clear how the Supreme Court decision would affect Baguio's only CADT, which was issued inside the John Hay Reservation for Ibaloy and Kankanaey dwellers of Barangay Happy Hallow. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority, which controls Camp John Hay, has filed a separate petition to

withdraw the Baguio CADT.

The Supreme Court acknowledged that the CALT issue affects Baguio's historical heritage, citing the Wright Park, the Mansion House, the Senate President's Cottage and public roads "which are all covered by the assailed CALTs."

Eviction, takeover

In 2013, the Abanag family put up signs around Wright Park declaring the area as private property. The family also went to court to stop the government from constructing a Baguio broadcasting office for government television station PTV 4 at what used to be the Cordillera House outside the gates of the Mansion.

In 2014, Acop's family evicted Casa Vallejo, Baguio's oldest hotel, from their ancestral land along Session Road. They were given a writ of possession by the NCIP, which was withdrawn immediately when the eviction created a scandal.

In 2015, the NCIP announced there were "procedural and substantive defects, which constitute fraud" in the 2010 issuance of CALTs to the heirs of Abanag, Piraso and Carantes. The agency discovered the loss of documents that should have authenticated these titles, and the anomaly "warrants the cancellation of the CALTs."

Last month, Mayor Benjamin Magalong met with the NCIP, taking issue with some CALT beneficiaries who sold their ancestral lands to developers. Ipra allows the transfer of IP property only among family members or members of the same tribe.

The NCIP is reviewing the Supreme Court decision and is preparing an appeal. INQ.

Haribon: Forests key to water supply

AMID ongoing contentions about the controversial Kaliwa Dam, environmental group Haribon Foundation said the solution to the water crisis was right in our midst: the restoration of Philippine forests.

Haribon said that the water issue should be understood from the ridge-to-reef perspective that begins with where water comes from.

"Water comes from forests not from dams. Forests absorb water through their roots, releases it from their leaves through transpiration, then turns into rainwater together with water evaporated from oceans and other water bodies," the group stressed.

The foundation said that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has also recognized the significant role of forests in the global carbon cycle as carbon sinks of the

land ecosystem, absorbing carbon dioxide, and storing carbon in soils.

"Forests have an indispensable biodiversity value — not only does it supply goods for trade and subsistence, it also contributes to water cycle and groundwater withdrawal," said Haribon.

Based on the government reforestation costing — particularly the National Greening Program — restoring one hectare of forest costs P16,450 for three years. According to Haribon, this shows that only about P2.48 billion is needed to restore 150,000 hectares of forests in the country compared to the P12.2-billion loan from China that puts the Philippines at risk of en-

vironmental chaos and debt trap.

Threatened species

Haribon also cited the EIS reported 67 species found in the watershed area and along the tunnel alignment are listed under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Endangered Species, four of which are critically-endangered native tree species such as yakal saplungan, bagtikan, white lauan and tanguile; endangered species such as narra; 13 vulnerable species including kamagong, hamindang and tanglin.

Various fauna species in the EIS report identified 69 species of birds such as the yellow vented bulbul, the Philippine bulbul, chestnut munia, Luzon tarctic, and rufous hornbill.

There are 13 mammalian species including the short-nosed fruit bat, musky fruit bat, long-tongued nectar bat, rousette bats, pygmy roundleaf bat, Polynesian rat, long-tailed macaque, Asian palm

civet, Northern Luzon giant cloud rat, wild boar, Philippine forest rat, and oriental house rat.

A total of 15 herpeto-faunal species (nine reptiles and six amphibians) are recorded in the area including the gecko, skink, cobra, Philippine brown rat snake, green tree skink, Cuming's eared-skink, water monitor lizard, python and green snake. The list of amphibians include the Malayan freshwater turtle, Laguna de Bay frog, common tree frog, giant marine yoad, Chinese soft-shelled turtle and Luzon-fanged frog.

"Their presence in the watersheds of Sierra Madre is a good indicator of balance in the ecology, food chain cycle, and natural environmental process that humans benefit from daily," said Haribon.

According to the foundation, while the EIS report submitted by the MWSS on September 2019 highlights the abundance of biodiversity in the area, it fails to respond to how it will establish and implement

mitigating measures to address the impacts of structural development to the affected wildlife species. The construction of the dam, said Haribon, will not only submerge their homes but will also impact our daily survival once they go extinct.

Good governance

The group also cited the Commission on Audit's (COA) report on the Kaliwa Dam project as a "negotiated contract." COA has since called on the MWSS to explain the bidding process it undertook that seemed to have favored the China Energy Engineering Corp. Ltd. (CEEC).

According to Haribon, the report is telling of the integrity of an institution, its potential impacts to the quality of infrastructure services, and the treatment toward social and environmental interventions.

Despite staunch opposition from various groups, the Kaliwa Dam project has recently received a green light from the Department of En-

vironment and Natural Resources.

Groups such as the STOP Kaliwa Dam Network, composed of environmental and indigenous peoples groups, criticized the issuance of the environmental compliance certificate that was said to bypass proper permission procedures from affected indigenous peoples communities.

"We continue to call on the government to strongly uphold the existing environmental laws that protect our biodiversity and cultural assets as well as the procurement policy that promote the ideals of good governance and transparency to all its branches," the foundation said.

Haribon urges the government to undertake "cost-effective, sustainable, and nature-based solutions" such as the restoration of our forests in Angat, La Mesa and existing watersheds, rehabilitation of existing water reservoirs, and strengthening of efficient water distribution systems and facilities.

ALEXANDRA MILAN



KALIWA DAM PROJECT SUPORTADO NG MAGSASAKA

BULACAN – TINYAK ng samahan nang mga magsasaka Angat, Bustos at Pandi Farmers' Association (ANBUSPA) na pabor sila sa proyektong Kaliwa Dam ng kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Sa kataapos na forum ng higit isang libong magsasaka, nanindigan si G. Severino Santos, pangulo ng magsasaka sa lalong madaling panahon, gagawa sila ng resolusyon para makatulong sa isinusulong na proyekto ng Duterte administration na madagdagan ang pagmumulan ng supply ng tubig para sa Metro Manila.

Aniya, sakaling matuloy ang proyekto sa Kaliwa Dam, at dahil sa laki ng magiging stock na tubig, posibleng hindi na makaranas ng kakulangan sa supply ng tubig sa National Capital Region.

Dahil sa proyekto ng Kaliwa Dam, wala nang magiging kahati sa supply ng tubig ang mga magsasaka sa Bulacan.

Tinatayang aabot sa higit 800 hektaryang lupang sakahan ang mabebenipisyuhan ng tubig mula sa nabanggit na Dam.

Kung saan maaring higit pa sa

sukat na sakahan ang mabigyan ng supply ng tubig mula sa mga irigasyon.

Samantala, nangako naman si Sec. Carlito Galvez, ng Presidential Assistance on Peace Process for Regional Development and Security for Central Luzon, na gagawin niya ang lahat upang matulungan ang lahat ng magsasaka sa rehiyon.

Aniya, partikular sa water crisis na matagal ng problema ang irrigation.

Umaasa ang kalihim, na mas magiging maganda ang ani ng mga magsasaka. **THONY ARCEAL**



'Gunman' in journalist slay surrenders

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

THE ALLEGED gunman in the murder of Dumaguete broadcaster and blocktimer Mercedario "Dindo" Generoso has surrendered to authorities, President Rodrigo Duterte's media security task force announced on Friday.

During a news briefing in Malacañang, Jose Joel Sy Egco, executive director of the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMs), presented Patrolman Roger Rubio, who surrendered to his commanding officer on Wednesday after an intensified manhunt.

"This morning, we are pleased to announce that Rubio is now in government custody. Caving in to mounting pressure due to an intensified manhunt, Mr. Rubio unfortunately an active personnel of the Negros Oriental provincial mobile force company, gave himself up to his acting officer, Police Lt. Col. Judyamar de Leon, around 6 p.m. in the evening of November 13," Egco said.

"This is the outcome of close coordination and careful yet thor-

ough cooperation between the PTFoMs secretariat headed by yours truly and our dedicated team of investigators from the PNP (Philippine National Police) Region 7," he added.

Egco said murder complaints have already been filed against Rubio and three other suspects, namely Teddy Salaw (arrested); Glenn Corsame (arrested); and Tomasino Aledro (at-large) before the Dumaguete Prosecutor's Office.

Rubio was identified as the gunman who repeatedly shot Generoso while Aledro, reportedly a financier of the numbers game Suertres, owned the silver vehicle the suspects used during the crime.

"The series of investigations and the filing of charges are a course of action that further proves and

solidifies the administration's commitment in stamping out impunity against members of the media," Egco said.

"The administration through PCOO (Presidential Communications Operations Office) and PTFoMs shall continue to go after and hold accountable to law these perpetrators of media killings and violence in the Philippines, regardless of who or what they are, and why they did it," he added.

Egco said the authorities were still looking at politics or Generoso's work as a broadcaster as motive for the killing.

"*Ngayon* ongoing *yung* investigation (Now, there's an ongoing investigation), so there are a lot of things *pa na 'di natin* masasagot (that we can't answer yet) until after we have concluded the investigation," he added.

Dumaguete City Police chief Wilfredo Alarcon Jr., meanwhile, said authorities saw text message exchanges between Rubio and Salaw discussing changing car plate numbers on the vehicle used in the attack against the radio broadcaster.

"We have gathered the information, we have identified Pa-



P-2

Gunman in journalist slay surrenders

- 4/1



'ITS' YOU' Presidential task force on media security executive director Jose Joel Sy Egco (standing left) points to Patrolman Roger Rubio, alleged gunman in the murder of journalist Mercenario 'Dindo' Generoso. The suspect was presented to the media at the New Executive Building in Malacañang on Friday.

PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA

Patrolman Roger Rubio based on the information gathered on the cellphone [that we recover from] Teddy Salaw. Teddy Salaw has been arrested immediately after the hot pursuit operation," Alarcon said during the same Palace news conference.

"Then immediately... after investigation has been conducted,

[he was arrested for] violation of Republic Act 10591 (Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act)," he added.

Generoso was killed on November 7 by motorcycle-riding gunmen while driving his brown Hyundai Elantra on his way to his radio program on Bai Radio.

According to authorities, Gen-

erосо, 67, sustained eight gunshot wounds in different parts of the body causing his instant death.

He worked at dyEM FM Bai Radio as an anchor for development programs of the local government, including a controversial reclamation project that was earlier halted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.