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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Concerned citizens boost fight vs illegal wildlife trade—Cimatu

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu on Sunday lauded concerned citizens for reporting suspicious activities involving illegal trade in wildlife.

This after authorities, acting on a tip by concerned citizens, arrested three suspected wildlife traders engaged in the lucrative exotic pet trade and rescued various native species caught in the wild.

A total of 56 heads of wildlife species—including the endangered green iguana and red-footed tortoise—with a total estimated value of 300,000 were recovered following a raid by operatives of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade, or Task Force Pogi, at the residence of one of the suspects in Barangay Banus in Gloria town in Oriental Mindoro.

In a statement, Cimatu noted how ordinary people reporting suspicious activities to authorities make a difference in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

“Members of the public play an important role in protecting wildlife species, particularly reporting suspected violations of the country’s wildlife protection law,” Cimatu said.

He urged the public to continue being the DENR’s “eyes and ears” in the street to stop illegal activities.

Illegal wildlife trade is considered a major driver of biodiversity loss.

It was learned that Task Force Pogi received a tip that an alleged illegal wildlife trader residing in Oriental Mindoro was temporarily sheltering various wildlife species from Palawan before these are transported to different buyers across the country.

This prompted Task Force Pogi operatives to conduct surveillance to validate the report.

After confirming that endangered wildlife was indeed being kept in the house of a certain Fernando Zamoranos Jr., Task Force Pogi immediately planned the raid with law enforcers.

Zamoranos, together with Zam Angelo Zamoranos and Jessie Dacutanan, were arrested and charged with violation of Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Under the law, violators could face a jail term of up to 12 years and a fine of not more than P1 million.

Task Force Pogi is a composite team of wildlife law enforcers from various agencies including the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau and the National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) in Oriental Mindoro assisted the task force in carrying out the raid.



Exotic animals seized, traders nabbed

ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu called on the public to continue to be the DENR's "eyes and ears" and help catch people engaged in illegal wildlife trade.

Cimatu made the appeal after a tip-off led authorities to seize various exotic animals worth P300,000 and arrest three suspected wildlife traders in Oriental Mindoro last Tuesday.

"We urge the public to con-

tinue to be our eyes and ears, and together, we could make a real difference to the future of all wildlife species, especially those considered endangered or threatened," Cimatu said.

Reports reaching the office of Cimatu showed that a total of 56 head of wildlife species—including the endangered green iguana and red-footed tortoise—were recovered from a raid conducted by oper-

atives of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI at the residence of one of the suspects in Barangay Banus in Gloria town.

Cimatu said the raid was a positive example of how members of the public reporting information to authorities makes a difference in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

"Members of the public play an important role in

protecting wildlife species, particularly reporting suspected violations of the country's wildlife protection law," Cimatu added.

Prior to the raid, Task Force POGI received a tip that an alleged illegal wildlife trader residing in Oriental Mindoro was temporarily sheltering various wildlife species from Palawan before the animals are transported to different buyers across the country.

Cory Martinez



WYNDHAM DESTINATIONS

HELPS SAVE SEA TURTLES

MORONG, Bataan—A team from the Wyndham Destinations service center in Clark, Pampanga, gathered in Morong, Bataan, over the other weekend to join a local conservation center safely release sea turtles into their natural habitat.

Olive ridley turtle hatchlings at the Pawikan Conservation Center were released at Nagbalayong Beach, after they hatched under the sand and scrambled from their nests.

The center, which sits on the coast of Morong, is known as a nesting site for 3 out of the 5 species of marine turtles found in the Philippines: the Hawksbill sea turtle, Olive ridley sea turtle and Green sea turtle.

To further support the center's efforts, the Clark team raised P10,000 through a workplace fund-raising activity for the center's program that protects sea turtle eggs and rehabilitates injured marine turtles.

Wyndham Destinations service center Director of Operations Jerry Estrada, said the activity was one of the team's biggest environmental initiatives of the year.

"We are proud of our staff, who organized their own fund-raising campaign and approached their families and friends, in order to raise awareness and much-needed funds to protect these beautiful creatures," he said.

"Sea turtles are important members of the

marine ecosystem in the Philippines and we must do our best to preserve them. The challenges they face go beyond natural predators—their population is falling due to climate change, damaged beaches and plastic pollution.

"We would encourage businesses, local communities and the younger generation to join us in supporting the Pawikan Conservation Center build safer and secure nesting areas free from rubbish and away from predators," he added.

The staff earlier participated in a briefing on the importance of sea turtles to the ecosystem and simple practices they can adopt to keep the beaches clean. They also took part in a beach clean up, with the aim of minimizing waste on

Nagbalayong Beach, and scattered rubbish in nearby huts.

Opened in October, the Wyndham Destinations service center in Clark, supports four other corporate offices, 20 preview centers and 69 resorts across Asia-Pacific and Europe.

The service center boasts of numerous green features and policies, such as LED lighting, eco-friendly furniture, waste segregation and recycling programs.

Wyndham Destinations has also rolled out numerous sustainability initiatives, such as eliminating the use of plastic straws in an effort to reduce consumption of single-use plastic through its global WYNDGreen program.



PHL EAGLE RESCUED BY FISHERMAN

DAVAO CITY—An adult Philippine eagle was rescued last Friday by a fisherman, saying the bird was last seen circling the waters off Celebes Sea for the last three days.

The rescued bird was the second rescued in Sarangani province in three years, after a juvenile Philippine eagle was found in nearby Maitum town.

The eagle weighed 5.185 kilograms and was retrieved from Celebes Sea, a hundred meters from the shoreline.

Members of a fishing crew in Sitio Dampilan, Barangay Lumatil, reported seeing the eagle flying around fishing boats for three days. It was rescued by the Kamal family at around 2 p.m. on December 13. They reported the rescue to the local municipal environment

and natural resources officer.

"Based on the initial assessment of our rescue team, the bird is suspected to be an adult female. The closest possible habitat of the bird is at the forests of Mount Busa in Maasim town," Jayson Ibañez, research and conservation director of the Davao City-based Philippine Eagle Foundation, told the Sarangani Communications Service.

"As our standard procedure for rescued eagles, the bird will undergo x-ray to see any bone or internal injuries, and possible gun pellets embedded inside the bird's body. Blood samples will also be drawn to measure basic blood values, for DNA sexing and for disease screening," Ibañez added.

He said swabs of bodily fluids would also be drawn to test the bird for avian flu and Newcastle disease. *Manuel T. Cayon*



**SOCCKSARGEN:
MAASIM, SARANGANI
Sarangani seeks
declaration of Mt. Busa
as protected landscape**

THE SARANGANI provincial government is pushing for the declaration of Mt. Busa as a protected landscape as another Philippine eagle was rescued in the area over the weekend. In a press statement, Ryan Jay R. Ramos, chief of staff of Sarangani Rep. Rogelio D. Pacquiao, said

their office has been discussing with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to declare the "mountain range as a protected landscape" under the Expanded National Protected Areas System law to protect the eagle and their habitat. Mt. Busa covers about 114,000 hectares, straddling the towns of Kiamba, Maitum and Maasim. Last Friday, a family in Lumatil, Maasim rescued a female Philippine Eagle weighing 5.185 kilograms from the shoreline of the village. The bird was immediately turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation based in Davao City for observation. The DENR-Region 12 (SOCCKSARGEN) office said the eagle was "found weak and exhausted." In January 2017, another eagle was rescued at another part of the mountain range which has already been declared as a key biodiversity area. — **Carmelito Q. Francisco**



DENR-SOCCKSARGEN

THE "weak and exhausted" female Philippine Eagle rescued by a family in Lumatil, Maasim has been turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation.



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DRAGONFLY'S LUCKY CHARM Apparently attracted by the scent of a lemongrass, a dragonfly lands on a lemongrass at a backyard in Santiago City, Isabela. Many believe that seeing one indicates that rain is on the way while some see it as a sign of good luck or prosperity. CEASAR M. PERANTE



Urban biodiversity fortifies cities against disasters, improves health

IN cities where buildings and concrete often dominate the landscape, green spaces are few and far between, and are often a luxury.

The green spaces offer sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of the urban jungle, giving city dwellers the occasion to improve their health and well-being by connecting with nature.

Studies presented at the Asean-India Workshop on Urban Biodiversity in Singapore recently show that city residents exposed to greenery are generally healthier and calmer in

disposition when dealing with day-to-day challenges.

Moreover, cities with substantial tree cover are usually 3 degrees Celsius cooler than cities that are devoid of greenery.

When biodiversity is integrated in the design and building of these green spaces, they can even protect cities against disasters.

The Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC), a

23.85-hectare protected area in the heart of Quezon City has a lagoon, a garden of native plant species, rescued wildlife like the Philippine eagle and a variety of indigenous trees.

As many as over 55,000 visitors go to the park every month to walk among the thriving biodiversity in the area, go boating in the lagoon or simply relax with nature.

Originally, around half of the trees in the park were nonnative. NAPWC's Management is currently reforesting the park with species native to the Philippines, especially having observed that compared with nonnative species that easily fall, native trees in the park are more resilient against flooding and typhoons.

Strategically integrating biodiversity in urban landscapes helps protect cities from disasters like flooding, said the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) during the 78th International Federation of Landscape Architects Asia-Pacific Regional (IFLA APR) Congress 2019 held in Cebu City recently.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim encouraged cities along coastlines to preserve their mangroves, as these trees act as a buffer to floods and storm surges.

Lim also cited Khoo Teck Puat Hospital in Singapore as an example of urban biodiversity improving health and well-being.

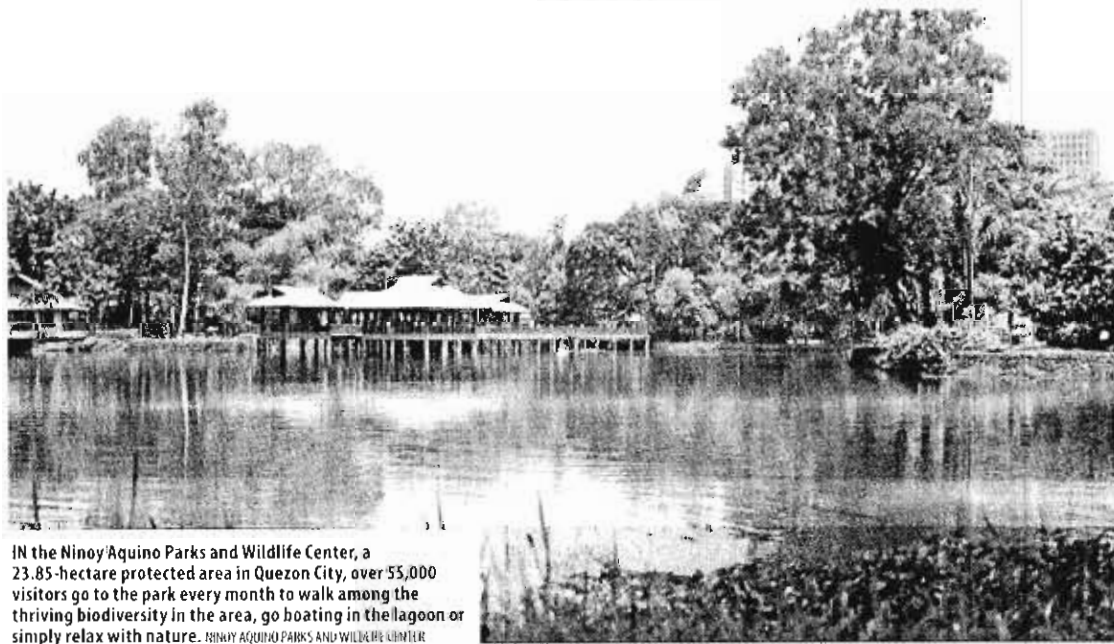
The hospital has a waterfall, and an abundant garden of native species and edible plants that attract birds, butterflies and dragonflies. With all the healing nature around them, patients there can easily get well, Lim said.

"When we integrate biodiversity in cities, our biodiversity does not only thrive, but our communities also have a better quality of life," Lim emphasised.

IFLA APR President Damian Tang affirmed the importance of integrating biodiversity in urban planning, saying that "it is especially important in addressing climate change."

"We, at the IFLA, are working to integrate biodiversity more in our designs in landscape architecture to respond to the needs of the times," Tang said.

Landscape architects, urban and environmental planners, foresters, professionals in related fields and policy-makers from the region attended the IFLA APR Congress.



IN the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, a 23.85-hectare protected area in Quezon City, over 55,000 visitors go to the park every month to walk among the thriving biodiversity in the area, go boating in the lagoon or simply relax with nature. NINOY AQUINO PARKS AND WILDLIFE CENTER



U.N. BIODIVERSITY BODY PROVIDES ADVICE FOR 2020 BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

THE Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) subsidiary body on science recommended elements that will be used at next year's biennial UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China, that will include discussions on an ambitious, transformative and effective Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Some 673 delegates representing 118 countries convened in Montreal for the 23rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-23), held from November 25 to 29.

The agreed recommendations include decisions suggested to be adopted at the UN Biodiversity Conference.

"The results of SBSTTA-23 illustrated the critical role this scientific body of the Convention plays in ensuring that all work under it is underpinned by sound science," said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, acting executive secretary.

"To that end, Parties have identified key elements of the scientific base for the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. While much work remains to be done, we are well on our way to achieve a framework that is both ambitious and effective," Mrema added.

In late 2020, the 196 Parties to the Convention will adopt the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The global agreement will offer an unparalleled opportunity to advance progress on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, while strengthening interlinkages between biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development agendas.

Development of this framework is based on an open and transparent consultative process, engaging all Parties and stakeholders in a meaningful and integrated manner. The process is informed by best available science and evidence base learning also from relevant global and other assessments, such as the IPBES Global Assessment.

At SBSTTA-23, governments agreed on the following recommendations:

- Informing the scientific and technical evidence base for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Parties stressed the need for action to address indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss, and to tackle climate change and land degradation in an integrated manner.

This includes scaling up existing measures and initiating steps to achieve transformative change. They recognized that to achieve the 2050 vision of the CBD, "Living in harmony with nature," changes are needed in finance and economics that support pathways to sustainability.

Biodiversity and climate change

THE Parties recognized that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and land degradation are inseparable, interdependent challenges of "unprecedented severity."

They noted that limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels is not sufficient to halt biodiversity loss, but would significantly reduce it.

They added that nature-based solutions provide approximately 37 percent of climate-change mitigation needed by 2030 to keep warming below 1.5 degree Celsius.

Ecosystem-based approaches to climate-change adaptation, mitigation and disaster-risk reduction are indispensable to achieving multiple globally agreed goals, including the Paris Agreement and the sustainable development agenda.

Possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Scientific Body built on the results of the previous 11th meeting of the Convention's Working Group on Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

They considered increased interagency cooperation bringing together the CBD, Scientific and Cultural Organization, IUCN and indigenous peoples and local communities, and other partners to integrate biological and cultural diversity—nature and culture—in the development of the post-2020 framework.

Sustainable wildlife management

THE Parties recognized the importance of the sustainable use of biodiversity in wildlife management, including the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities.

They agreed to strengthen collaboration among multilateral environment agreements and international organizations to tackle illegal, and unsustainable use and trade of wildlife trade. Additional work is still required to implement decisions on sustainable wildlife management, and voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector.

Technical and scientific cooperation

THE importance of technical and scientific cooperation to implement the post-2020 framework were, likewise, recognized.

Such cooperation will need to extend across a wide range of fields and disciplines to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity.

SBSTTA asked for additional views and suggestions for matters, such as technology horizon scanning, assessment and monitoring, and examples of effective institutional mechanisms, partnerships, networks, and regional and subregional institutional arrangements.

Results to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean

The Parties considered the outputs of a regional workshop that described 17 areas that are meeting the criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean and adjacent areas.

These results fill an important geographical gap in the work under the Convention to describe EBSAs globally.

They acknowledged the collaboration of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, and the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission and their pioneering work related to EBSAs in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean.

They encouraged continued efforts to describe EBSAs using the best available science and emphasized that EBSAs can inform the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

New and emerging issues

THE Parties deferred consideration of whether synthetic biology would be classified as a new and emerging issue to its 24 meeting, and recommended that pending the outcome of that meeting, the Conference of the Parties not to add new and emerging issues to the SBSTTA agenda in the coming biennium.

The SBSTTA, the intergovernmental body responsible for providing scientific, technical and technological advice related to the implementation of the Convention, plays a key role in assessing the current status of the world's biodiversity, identifying solutions and in bringing emerging issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the attention of the global community. *UNCBD*



DENR XI's voyage to enliven coral reefs

Getting to know Corals

As humans need forest for survival, so are coral reefs for marine species.

Coral reefs are undeniably astonishing with its vivid colors and intricate formations. The reefs are made up of individual coral polyps. Each one connects into another and eventually create mega-built colonies that grows for thousands of years and stretches into thousand fold-kilometers. This so-called "rainforest of the sea" is amusing, making it attractive to the divers and ocean explorers. But more than its beauty, the importance of these diverse ecosystems cannot be underrated.

The coral reefs serve as a pillar of a healthy and abundant marine biodiversity. In fact, it is the sanctum of some 25% of the world's marine creatures. Millions of species including fish, clams, sponges, sea turtles and lobsters among others rely on coral reefs to survive. Humans are also benefiting from this sanctuary as it also provides food, medicine, shoreline protection as well as livelihood and economic opportunities. Likewise, its deterioration would lead to rippling loss of life in the ocean and dreadful social and economic impacts to the humankind.

The Threats

As of 2018, the Davao region has approximately 7,622,045 hectares of coral reef area, of which, a combined total of 1,512.65 hectares or 20% of it covers the region's National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) areas namely the Pujada Bay Landscape and Seascape in Davao Oriental and the Mabini Landscape and Seascape in Compostela Valley. Recent assessment showed that the Pujada Bay PLS has 25% coral cover which falls in fair category while Mabini PLS has an excellent coral cover of 54.22%. The rest of the coral cover outside NIPAS areas were generally deemed to be in fair category and were identified at risks of continuous degradation.

Various threats that ranges from natural phenomena to abusive human activities can be attributed to the said destruction of coral reefs. Global warming, pollution, damaging fishing techniques and coral mining are among the rampant factors that disrupt the reef ecosystem.

DENR Steps in

This condition cued the DENR to act for the conservation of the country's coral reefs by implementing the Sustainable Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Program (SCREMP) pursuant to the DENR Administrative Order No. 12 Series of 2013. It is a DENR national program that develops and conducts strategic, sustainable and ecosystem-based approach in protecting and rehabilitating the country's coral ecosystem. It is designed to increase the coral covers in the country and for sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.

Coral Rehabilitation Actuates

In DENR XI, it piloted its coral rehabilitation project in the protected seascape of Samal Island back in 2012 where 41% of its 717,521 hectares of coral reefs is already degraded. The DENR divers and rehabilitators of then Coastal Marine Management Division, currently the Coastal Resource and Foreshore Management Section (CRFMS) implement the program through installing modular frames as artificial substrata and transplanting coral fragments (asexual reproduction) to it.

To actuate the project, the rehabilitators collect healthy coral tips from salvaged corals or coral colonies that were overturned, smothered by silt, bleached and damaged caused by natural and anthropogenic activities. These corals that have less chance of survival are then fragmented into smaller pieces. These fragmented corals will be tied to the modular frames which are made of corrugated steel bars formed into table. These frames are then hand-carried and manually placed in the sea floor. The newly-planted coral tips are then expected to grow after several weeks. In the said pilot rehabilitation site, the DENR XI was able to rehabilitate corals in 175 frames installed within the 1-hectare site.

After vigorous conduct of monitoring and assessment, the coral transplant has notably grown and was observed to have naturally recruited coral colonies. With the attainment of this goal, the rehabilitation was then replicated to other sites in the region particularly in its NIPAS areas such as the Mabini PLS and the Pujada PLS.

Setbacks

Since the rehabilitation is an underwater voyage, several uncontrollable challenges were encountered. The rehabilitators who are spending limited bottom time in the seafloor are meeting difficulties in collecting donor colonies. Further, some corals are not qualified to be a donor colony. The team are also struggling in reaching the diving site (coral rehab and collection sites) in times of strong wind and big waves caused by turbulent weather. But being driven with unwavering and noble purpose, the project thrived despite the setbacks.

Successful Rehabilitation

Since its launching in 2012, the DENR XI was able to transplant thousands of coral fragments into hundreds of modular frames deployed in three (3) rehabilitation sites in Davao Region. A total of three (3) hectares were rehabilitated with the 87% survival rate proving the viability of the method used to restore the coral reefs in the area. Branching coral genera such as *Acropora* spp., *Pocillopora* spp., *Stylophora* spp., *Hydnophora* spp., and *Porites* spp., were the common coral genera transplanted.

The DENR XI's efforts in increasing the coral reef cover in the region particularly in its protected areas is evidently successful. For intensified result, these exertions are also consorted with massive Communication, Education and Public Awareness campaigns across the region.



Collection of healthy coral



Placement of modular frames



Successful rehabilitation in Samal, Pujada Protected Landscape and Seascape and in Mabini Protected Landscape and Seascape



Tougher rule on plastics use opens opportunities for D&L

By Doris Dumlao-Abadilla
@Philbizwatcher

As more and more cities and municipalities outlaw single-use plastic packaging, biodegradable plastics rise as more sustainable alternatives, opening up new business opportunities for chemical manufacturers.

D&L Polymers & Colours Inc. (DLPC) and First in Colours Inc. (FIC), both fully-owned subsidiaries of publicly-listed D&L Industries, have developed two new proprietary products to help curb the proliferation of plastic waste.

FIC has developed Biomate, an additive that can make plastics biodegradable, especially those used as primary packaging for perishable products such as meat, fish, fruits and vegetables.

With as little as 2 percent dosage of Biomate, single-use plastics produced from poly-

olefins can achieve over 90 percent biodegradation within two years, without leaving persistent microplastics.

DLPC has developed Biorez, a ready-to-use compound that can be instantly molded into various single-use plastic applications such as films, straws, cutlery and cups. Given proper environmental conditions in a composting facility, it can achieve 90 percent biodegradation within six months.

"The potential ban on single-use plastics presents both challenges and opportunities to everyone in the industry. While this will likely put pressure on manufacturers of single-use plastics, there is a greater opportunity for us to increase our relevance to customers and provide innovative and higher value-added products. From a practical standpoint, however, it may not be

possible to completely ban the use of single-use plastics instantly. This is true especially in medical, personal care, and other sectors where single-use plastics are necessary for sanitary and safety purposes," DLPC and FIC managing director Lester Lao said.

"We are optimistic on the potential of biodegradable plastics as the world shifts toward more sustainable and environment-friendly materials. Over the long-term, we continue to innovate by investing in research and development as part of our strategy to stay ahead of the curve. In addition to biodegradable plastics, there are several other product developments in the pipeline that provide runway for growth," D&L president and chief executive officer Alvin Lao said.

The end-product of the composting process is either

high-value fertilizer or biomass feedstocks for electricity generation. It was recently reported that the Senate had earmarked funds for plastic recycling factories and composting facilities in the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for 2020, with provisions that mandated the construction of composting facilities in all towns. This is seen to make compostable plastics and subsequent recycling more feasible.

To date, D&L is the only company in the Philippines that manufactures internationally certified-biodegradable plastics and additives.

Biomate's active ingredient, P-life, is the only product in the market that is certified biodegradable by SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, a renowned international research body in the field. **INQ**



FEAST OF THE BLACK NAZARENE

AVOID SINGLE-USE PLASTIC IN NEXT YEAR'S 'TRASLACION'

By Meg Adonis
@MegINQ

Citing the tons of garbage the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) collected during the "Traslacion" earlier this year, an environmental watchdog has urged devotees, vendors and organizers to avoid consuming and distributing food and beverages in single-use plastics during the upcoming Feast of the Black Nazarene on Jan. 9.

With thousands of people expected to participate in next year's "pahalik," EcoWaste Coalition zero waste campaigner Jove Benosa reminded the public that contributing to plastic pollution was against the Church's teaching of caring for creation and marine life.

According to the MMDA, participants in this year's procession—estimated by the police at around one million—left behind trash that totaled 47 truckloads or equivalent to around 160 tons.

"Pervasive littering has tainted each and every reenactment of the Traslacion from [Rizal Park] to Quiapo, as if leaving rubbish on the ground is an ethical and legal thing to do," Benosa said in a statement.

He added that leaving gar-

bage on the streets was in violation of Manila City Ordinance No. 7866 or the Anti-Littering Ordinance of 2018 and MMDA Regulation No. 99-006 which both "explicitly prohibit and penalize littering."

Republic Act No. 9003, or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," imposes a fine ranging from P300 to P1,000 on violators, on top of 15 days of community service in some cases.

EcoWaste pointed out to devotees that a plastic-free procession was in line with Pope Francis' earlier plea "to confront this [plastic] emergency," adding that the seas and oceans had become the main dumping areas for plastic waste.

In order to reduce the garbage produced in the upcoming Traslacion, known as one of the biggest annual religious gatherings for the predominantly Catholic Philippines, the group encouraged volunteers to desist from giving out food and water packaged in single-use plastics and Styrofoam containers.

Fiesta organizers were also advised not to make "banderitas" out of plastic bags, while participants were urged to be more responsible in disposing of their trash and leave parks, sidewalks and streets free of garbage. INQ



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D&L offers solution to single-use plastic

By JAMES A. LOYOLA

D&L Polymers & Colours, Inc. (DLPC) and First in Colours, Inc. (FIC), fully-owned subsidiaries of D&L Industries, are introducing two new products that will solve the problem faced by many companies given the potential ban on single-use plastics.

"We have successfully developed two proprietary product lines, Biomate™ and Biorez™, which can provide solutions for companies to alleviate single-use plastic pollution in the country. These products make plastics biodegradable and are certified by international standards,"

DLPC and FIC Managing Director Lester Lao said in a press briefing.

He explained that, "From a practical standpoint, it may not be possible to completely ban the use of single-use plastics instantly. This is true especially in medical, personal care, and other sectors where single-use plastics are necessary for sanitary and safety purposes."

Lao noted that, "The D&L group has a steadfast commitment to both R&D and product innovation to achieve sustainable growth. One of our advocacies is to promote 'green chemistry.' As part of this, our team, for years, has been proactively doing

R&D works in the environment-friendly and sustainable plastic materials space."

Biomate™ is an additive developed by FIC which can be added to plastics to make it biodegradable. With as little as 2 percent dosage of Biomate™, single-use plastics produced from polyolefins can achieve over 90 percent biodegradation within two years.

"Most importantly, Biomate™ does not leave persistent microplastics, unlike others. It is suitable for plastics used as primary packaging for perishable products such as meat, fish, fruits and vegetables," Lao said.



D&L ready to offer other options amid plastics ban

By Jenniffer B. Austria

D&L Industries Inc., the country's largest specialty foods ingredients, plastics and oleochemicals firm, said it is ready to provide product substitutes to companies amid the potential ban on single-use plastics.

D&L said in a statement over the weekend units D&L Polymers & Colours Inc. and First in Colours Inc. had the capability to serve the requirements of the local plastic industry and even the export market if they decided to switch to more sustainable and biodegradable packaging materials.

D&L is the only company in the Philippines that manufactures bio-degradable plastics and additives that are internationally certified.

"The potential ban on single-use plastics presents both challenges and opportunities to everyone in the industry. While this will likely put pressure on manufacturers of single-use plastics, there is a greater opportunity for us to increase our relevance to customers and provide innovative and higher value-added products," said DLPC and FIC managing director Lester Lao.

Lao, however, noted that it might not be possible to completely ban the use of single-use plastics instantly. This is true especially in medical, personal care, and other sectors where single-use plastics are necessary for sanitary and safety purposes.

"Plastic is a technological advancement that continues to play a crucial role in modern-day society. We believe that educating people to properly dispose, sort, and segregate, is the key to address the negative environmental impact of single-use plastics. At the same time, plastics must be reduced, reused, and recycled," Lao said.

He said the company had been proactively doing R&D works in the environment-friendly and sustainable plastic materials space as part of an advocacy to promote "green chemistry."

DLPC & FIC to date have successfully developed two proprietary product lines, Biomate and Biorez, which can provide solution for companies to alleviate single-use plastic pollution in the country.

"These products make plastics biodegradable and are certified by international standards," Lao said.



D&L optimistic on potential of biodegradable plastics

AS the Philippines mulls a ban on single-use plastics, listed firm D&L Industries, Inc. is hopeful of the potential of biodegradable plastics.

The Lao-led manufacturing firm said in a statement over the weekend the two solutions made by its subsidiaries D&L Polymers & Colours, Inc. (DLPC) and First in Colours, Inc. (FIC) — Biorez and Biomate — will prepare it in case the Philippines implements a ban on single-use plastics.

"We are optimistic on the potential of biodegradable plastics as the world shifts towards more sustainable and environment-friendly materials," D&L President and Chief Executive Officer Alvin D. Lao said in the statement.

DLPC currently develops Biorez, a "ready-to-use compound" which it said may be "instantly molded into various single-use plastic applications such as films, straws, cutlery, cups, etc."

The advantage of the product is it can hasten biodegradation of a plastic product to 90% in a span of six months if given proper environmental conditions in a composting facility. "The end-product of this composting

process is either high value fertilizer or biomass feedstock for electricity generation," D&L said.

For FIC, it created Biomate, an additive that can be mixed into plastics to achieve 90% biodegradation in two years. The product can be added to plastics produced from polyolefins, making it ideal for perishable product packaging such as in meat, fish, fruits and vegetables. FIC noted Biomate does not leave persistent microplastics in the process of biodegradation.

"Over the long-term, we continue to innovate by investing in R&D (research & development) as part of our strategy to stay ahead of the curve. In addition to biodegradable plastics, there are several other product developments in the pipeline that provide runway for growth," Mr. Lao said.

The Philippines is joining a global call for the reduction of single-use plastics. A bill currently lies with the House of Representatives seeking to impose an excise tax on the material, which has been approved by the Ways and Means committee last week.

A separate bill has also been filed in the Senate that proposes to ban

manufacturing, importing and using all single-use plastics.

"While this will likely put pressure on manufacturers of single-use plastics, there is a greater opportunity for us to increase our relevance to customers and provide innovative and higher value-added products," DLPC and FIC Managing Director Lester A. Lao was quoted in D&L's statement as saying.

He noted, however, that "it may not be possible" to completely ban single-use plastics instantly, referring to demands in medical and personal care.

"Plastic is a technological advancement that continues to play a crucial role in modern-day society. We believe that educating people to properly dispose, sort, and segregate, is the key to address the negative environmental impact of single-use plastics," Mr. Lao said.

Earnings from the plastics business of D&L went down 18% in the nine months to September as its net income slumped 29% to P617 million.

Shares in the company at the stock exchange ended 0.20 points or 2.33% up to P8.80 each on Friday. — **Denise A. Valdez**



D&L introduces solution to single-use plastic ban

D&L Industries Inc. units — D&L Polymer and Colours Inc. (DLPC) and First in Colours Inc. (FIC) — have found solutions for microplastics to biodegrade and be turned into minerals that could later fertilize the soil.

In a press conference last week, DLPC and FIC Managing Director Lester Lao said the firm has developed an additive material — Biomate — that could induce plastic biodegradation by over 90

percent in two years.

Another product is Biorez, which is compostable plastic that can be turned into straws, cutlery, cups and soap dish, among others. When put into a composting facility — and given the right temperature and overall environment conditions — the plastics could biodegrade by 90 percent in six months.

These products, Lao said, are potential alternatives as the gov-

ernment is currently pushing for the ban of single-use plastics in the country.

"With the upcoming planning of single-use plastics, many businesses will be affected. Many lives, many jobs will be at stake," he said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently said that a mandate disallowing single-use plastics will be released soon as the country is the third highest source of ocean

plastic pollution. The Quezon City government has implemented such move that is set to be effective next year.

"Banning of plastics, for us, is not the real solution to our pollution crisis. We have to teach the public that they have to dispose their litter properly," he added.

Biomate is certified biodegradable by SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden and meets

American standards for plastics biodegradability. Biorez, meanwhile, is recognized by European standards for biodegradable plastics and received certification from Berlin-based organization Din Certo.

Both are verified by the Department of Science and Technology and compliant of Philippine National Standards for biodegradable and compostable plastics.

"We are optimistic on the po-

tential of biodegradable plastics as the world shifts towards more sustainable and environment-friendly materials. Over the long-term, we continue to innovate by investing in R&D (research and development) as part of our strategy to stay ahead of the curve," D&L President Alvin Lao said.

D&L shares climbed 20 centavos or 2.33 percent to close at P8.80 apiece on Friday.

TYRONE C. PIAD



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EDITORIAL



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Do not buy toys with no proper labels – EcoWaste

By ANALOU DE VERA

Few days before Christmas day, a cause-oriented group has advised consumers not to purchase toys that are not properly labeled as these may contain chemicals that are harmful to the health.

“As children are prone to various environmental and health risks, we urge toy givers to watch out for toys in the market that may expose a child to harmful chemicals or cause choking, skin cuts and abrasions, strangulation and injuries to the

eyes and ears,” EcoWaste Coalition Chemical Safety Campaigner Thony Dizon in a statement.

Citing the advisory of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dizon said products are considered “misbranded” or “banned hazardous substances” if the following information are not indicated on the label: License to Operate number issued by FDA, age grading, cautionary statement/warnings, instructional literature, manufacturer's markings (name and address of the local company), and item model/stock keeping unit (SKU) number.



Plastic addiction and pollution

The world is addicted to it, and Mother Earth is suffering from massive pollution because of it. I am referring to mankind's abusive use of plastic.

It is estimated that 400 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide every year, 8 million tons of which enter our oceans, while the rest contaminate our lands on a massive and irreversible scale.

In the case of single-use plastic bags alone, some 500 billion pieces are utilized by shoppers yearly. Although the average life span of a plastic bag is only 12 minutes, they will remain for up to 1,000 years in the landfills where they are dumped.

Every year, more than 100,000 marine mammals get entangled in and die because of plastic bags. A pregnant sperm whale washed up dead with nearly 50 pounds of plastic in its stomach. Another dead whale was found to have swallowed 88 pounds of plastic.

In a recent study, plastic particles were found in the feces of people, demonstrating the fact that plastic has entered the human food chain. "Microplastics have been found in tap water, bottled water, fish and mussel tissue, and even in beer," said one scientist. While there are no definitive studies yet on whether plastic will lead to ill effects when ingested, the fact that a nonbiodegradable material is entering our bodies and potentially accumulating in our internal organs is alarming.

A growing number of countries are taking the threat of plastic pollution seriously. More than 32 countries have imposed bans on single-use plastic bags. Kenya has the strictest plastic bag ban, imposing jail time of four years or fines of up to \$40,000 on those who



FLEA MARKET OF IDEAS

JOEL RUIZ BUTUYAN

break the law. Even a Somali terrorist group has banned single-use plastic bags in the areas it controls.

The Philippines is the world's third biggest source of plastic waste that ends up in the sea. For an archipelago with a large population dependent for livelihood on marine resources, this is troubling.

There are initiatives to ban single-use plastic with bills filed in Congress. And several local governments have banned plastic bags, such as Makati, Quezon City, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Pasay, El Nido, Los Baños, Bacolod and Baguio.

There was a ray of hope that a nationwide ban on single-use plastic would become a reality when President Duterte voiced out his inclination to certify as urgent pending congressional bills advocating the ban. But the push seems to have stalled; the President must follow through with definitive action on this.

We are all so addicted to single-use plastic because of the convenience it provides. A

total ban should be preceded by a period to institute schemes that will allow manufacturers and consumers to transition smoothly.

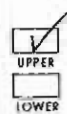
Tax and other incentives can be given to manufacturers that will do the following: 1) install dispenser or refilling devices (like those used for soft drinks in fast-food chains) for every consumer product, and; 2) sell refillable and reusable containers. These devices and containers can be used for products like water, flavored drinks, sugar, coffee, grains, cooking condiments, foodstuff, soap, shampoo and cleaning chemicals. When consumers go to the market, they must bring reusable containers to be refilled.

Disincentives like heavy penalties and imprisonment should be imposed on producers who continue to use or sell single-use plastic. Consumers violating the ban will be made to watch a documentary on the ill effects of plastic for the first offense, fined for the second offense, and imprisoned for the third offense.

An intensive visual information campaign showing sea creatures dying of plastic, rivers and seas getting clogged with plastic, and our food chain tainted with plastic particles should be mounted, similar to how cigarette packs depict the ill effects of smoking.

Planet Earth has gone through five mass extinctions. We are on the verge of a sixth one because of the environmental degradation we cause. We are the only creatures that have ever acquired the power to cause mass extinction—humankind included—and we are also the only species with the power to prevent it from happening.

Comments to fleamarketofideas@gmail.com



11 yrs after SC order, govt to discuss Pasig River rehab

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE heads of a dozen government agencies tasked by the Supreme Court to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay would discuss the rehabilitation of a key source of the bay's pollutant, more than a decade after the SC issued its writ of continuing mandamus in 2008.

In a statement, the office of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would lead, in his capacity as chairman of the Manila Bay Task Force, the high-level inter-agency meeting for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

Cimatu said the meeting would serve as an opportunity for the DENR to touch base with other agencies covered by the continuing mandamus.

On December 9, Cimatu issued a memo circular directing all DENR offices and officials involved in the Manila Bay rehabilitation to link arms with other "mandamus agencies" for close coordination and oversight of all ongoing efforts to rehabilitate Pasig River pursuant to the 11-year-old high court directive.

The environment chief specifically ordered Environment Undersecretaries Juan Miguel Cuna and Ernesto Adobo Jr., the Manila Bay Ground Commander and Manila Bay Task Force Secretariat Head, respectively, to "coordinate and collaborate" with

mandamus agencies, and concerned local government units and private sectors on the matter.

The rehabilitation of the Pasig River is important in rehabilitating Manila Bay, which was found to have a high concentration of various harmful pollutants, including fecal coliform, because of the direct discharge of untreated wastewater that, eventually, drain into Manila Bay.

Studies showed that about one-fifth of the organic pollution load to Manila Bay came from the Pasig River basin, which connects Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay.

To rehabilitate Manila Bay, the DENR chief deemed it important to stop the pollution loading in the Pasig River, starting with erring business establishments that fail to comply

with effluent standards set under the Clean Water Act.

Cimatu vowed to make Manila Bay swimmable.

He earlier issued an order to clear the 24-kilometer Pasig River of obstruction for the smooth operation of the recently revived ferry service.

The ferry service in Pasig River is being eyed to help ease traffic congestion in Metro Manila roads and provide alternative means of transportation that is fast, safe and reliable.

Aside from illegal structures, the DENR and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, which is also led by Cimatu, has intensified the removal of garbage and water hyacinth in Pasig River and its tributaries.



BioCleaner offers effective solution to wastewater treatment

In the Philippines, less than 10 percent of the population have access to piped sewerage systems, furthermore 80 percent of the water consumed or used, commonly referred to as "wastewater," drains out into the bodies of water. Consequently, years of neglect, poor management, and unimproved sanitation facilities have resulted to serious threats to public health, as well as increased damage to the ecosystems and biodiversity.

Under the National Sewer-

age and Septage Management Program, about P200 million was made available as a subsidy for sewerage and septage projects that local government units (LGUs) can avail of for their sanitation program.

"However, wastewater treatment and septage management is generally known to be so expensive and need a lot of manpower to handle and maintain such services," said Eros Kaw, CEO of BioCleaner Incorporated. We at BioCleaner wants to come

in and offer our services to help address these problems, and hopefully the LGUs, by providing affordable and effective wastewater treatment and septage management at a very minimal cost," Eros added.

US-based biotech company BioCleaner puts forward the most practical answer to the country's sewerage and septage problem.

"We are confident that our system can effectively and efficiently deal wastewater treatment and septage management

with minimal costs that is also proven to be super safe to both people and the environment," said Kaw.

Developed in the US and with a Green Patent A, BioCleaner is the first non-chemical water cleaning facility that utilizes the power of nature to produce a biological solution that treats contaminated water and different types of organic waste.

For more information and videos on BioCleaner, please go to biocleaner.com website and BioCleaner on Facebook.



Just + water

It's one of the ironies of Manila... to thirst in the midst of a flood.

Manila is one of the most providentially blessed cities, situated on one of the finest bays in the world. It is traversed by the Pasig river. Nearby is Laguna Bay. Farther afield are Taal Lake and Caliraya. And right here is Wawa river flushing torrents to the sea. And yet, Manila is unable to quench the thirst of the populace.

The ohrwurm that seems to ring in my ear is the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner: Water, water, everywhere... not a drop to drink...: The refrain of a humming sound reverberates and (thanks to our mindless force of habit) doesn't seem to go away.

My mother used to tell of how they saved rainwater from the roof for household use. Today, contractors fell down trees and pave the streets and driveways... catching the rainwater in sewers to flush into the sea. The consequence of all these is the flooding of our city. Famine in the midst of plenty; a desert in an oasis.

I am reminded of a time when an enraged citizen in a satellite city hanged a protest sign in front of the municipal hall: "Walang tubig! Mabuti pa si Meyor, may tulô!" A colorful vernacular which defies diplomatic translation.

Filipinos are one of most ingenious peoples. Islanders inhabiting archipelagos are bound to be. When I was still in active service many moons ago, for the second time in a row, the Philippine booth conceptualized by Maria Pastor Rocas and designed by Ed Calma won the Gold Plum at the Zaragosa Expo on Water... extolling projects in hydro-power; marine, fisheries, and aquatic; sustainable water; coastal management; river and reef rehab; watershed protection.

But we need partners. Germany is the Philippines' third largest bilateral donor partner. The total volume of bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation since cooperation began in 1961 has amounted to 819.5 million euros. In 2007, German Official Development Cooperation (ODA) increased by 20 million euros for the period 2007-08.

The priority areas of cooperation between the Philippines and Germany in line with the Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan are: Sustainable Economic Development, Environment, Health, and cross-cutting issues such as Decentralization and Crisis Prevention and Conflict Transformation. German ODA is focused on strategic intervention areas that support our poverty alleviation as well as the privatization and decentralization strategies of the national government.

The DEG (Deutsche Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH) projects among the most far-reaching. And yet we have missed by a mile the goal to halve by 2015 the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. DEG did not have to send foreign experts to do the project. Filipino experts, trained in Germany, undertook the project. Beyond the maxim about teaching a man to catch a fish, Filipino experts teach others here in the Philippines and in the region. Water and improved sanitation is key to the UN Millennium Development Target 7. As it is said, power and energy, we can create. But water is bequeathed to us by nature....

Have no fear, a solution is (almost) near. The perennial water shortage in Metro Manila and its eastern borders may be fully resolved in two years. This bold assurance for the parched residents comes after the approval of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project, a joint venture between businessmen Enrique

Razon's Prime Infra and Oscar Violago's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group (SLRB).

The project will tap water from the Wawa Dam in Rizal province to supply to Manila Water's concession areas. It will raise supply by 30 percent — 80 million liters of water a day will be available by 2021, and up to 500 million liters a day by 2025.

Around 20 million parched consumers of Metro Manila and nearby provinces (Bulacan, Rizal, and Cavite) are dependent on the raw supply coming from Angat, with a total 4,000 MLD divided between Maynilad Water Services (2,400 MLD) and Manila Water (1,600 MLD).

SLRB President and CEO Anthony Jude Violago thanked the Metropolitan Water Works and Sewage System, Manila Water, and Razon for hammering out a "win-win formula" for the much-delayed project. The project remained a putative solution for 20 years, including two years of joint development work between Razon and Violago. "After 20 years, my father's vision will finally come to fruition. Water will now flow to Metro Manila residents, solving the current water problems," the younger Violago said.

Wawa Dam was the primary water source of Metro Manila before Angat Dam was built.

The MWSS Board approved the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project during the last November meeting. This mega project will break ground at the turn of the year to address Metro Manila's perennial water-supply shortage, a rightful legacy of President Rodrigo Duterte.

FEEDBACK: joseabetoaide@gmail.com



**BELOW
THE LINE**
AMBASSADOR
JOSE ABETO ZAIDE



In character



THIS writer is very much saddened by the departure from mortal life of our fellow columnist and dear friend—Ambassador Andy del Rosario. In this space, let me express my profound condolences to Mary and the family.

I received the sad news just as I was about to begin a comprehensive physical checkup in a Taipei hospital. Upon sad reflection Tuesday morning last week, I thought of “intimations of mortality” to contrast with Wordsworth’s ode to immortality. It was thus with a bit of nervousness that I began a series of tests in an ultra-modern facility in Taipei.

Mercifully my fears turned out to be rather unfounded, as I was given a clean bill of health afterwards, save for some minor ailments to which were prescribed a little medicine and plenty of exercise for a body used to sedentary habits. Thank God and my parents for better genetics.

Which I am sure Andy also had, having lived to the ripe old age of 78. My last talk with him and Mary were in Taipei more than two years ago when they visited.

Andy’s life was well-lived with many accomplishments, both as an editor, a writer and a diplomat. When I first entered public service as post-master-general under President Cory, Andy was one of the few editors who gave me encouragement to weave through the difficulties of unaccustomed public life. He was introduced to me by his *Standard* reporter then, Nixon Kua who had an untimely death last 2012, and who was a good friend and constant buddy.

Hail and farewell, Andy!

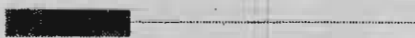
The recent saga of our water contracts and the episode of President Rodrigo Duterte’s righteous anger at

the second defeat of the country in the Singapore settlements court over the privatized water concessions is another example of the President’s leadership qualities.

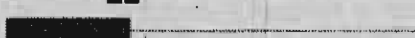
Simply put, it was “in character.”

Would any other previous contemporary president of the republic taken the bull by the horns and acted with such swiftness?

And would the water service purveyors, the “oligarchie” Ayalas and the Salim-controlled MVP business empires have immediately capitulated with a major peace offering if the President were not Duterte?



“Imagine if we had a wimp leading us these days.”



The peace offering is nothing to scoff at: Waiving their multi-billion-peso claims, collectively some P10.8 billion, which the Singapore arbitral court awarded to them. But that is no longer enough, after the President had taken the matter straight into the court of public opinion in the strongest of terms.

Surely the concessionaires knew that things would come to a head pretty soon. The Singapore arbiters already awarded MVP’s Maynilad P3.4 billion in 2018. And having won on the same arguments, what reason would there have been not to award to Manila Water similarly premised claims? It was just a matter of time before Singapore likewise made the Ayalas win.

Months ago, Manila Water mostly and Maynilad partly turned off the supply of water to many homes in its service areas because Angat was drying up after a prolonged dry spell. Consumers howled and the President himself was sufficiently riled, but nothing much happened other than a little rigodon in the MWSS, while everybody just hoped the rains would

Turn to A5



In character

From A4

finally replenish Angat. The crisis at least goaded government to finally give the go signal for the construction of the Kaliwa Dam to add to Metro Manila's water sources, and then the reconstruction of the Wawa Dam in Montalban.

Then again, the Supreme Court dunned the water service purveyors for their failure to live up to a clause in the contract that required them to put up sewerage mains to clean the putrid detritus that flow eventually into Manila Bay. Fact is, the two companies had been collecting fees for such a corollary service all these years, but helpless consumers didn't even realize that they were not living up to the terms of their contract.

Months ago, we wrote a column in this space simply entitled "Water," which detailed the transgressions of the water service oligarchs. But we also cautioned against rash action, particularly getting the government to take over the oligopolies and run the water system once again.

The precise reason why President Fidel V. Ramos privatized water distribution services in the national capital region through public bidding in 1994 was poor and inadequate service. Millennials might no longer remember those times when nothing would pour out of our fau-

cets unless you had a water pump, or had your own deep well to source non-potable water from. The lower-income classes had to line up for their supply of water each morning with their plastic drums and containers.

Together with better flowing water, FVR also liberated us from the most antiquated telephone services just in the nick of time, when the Internet was already prevalent in other countries and when cellphones would make our obsolete landlines a historic remnant of regulatory incompetence.

So blame not FVR for the privatized water concessions. Even expensive water service is better than having no water at all, to put the matter simplistically. But this is not to say that the partnered monopolies had every right to gouge huge profits from a basic public service.

And if his predecessors looked the other way around, well, that is not in the character of Digong Duterte.

The essential Duterte is what we captured in a simple slogan in 2015: "Tapang at Malasakit"—courage that draws from a wellspring of compassion deep in his heart for the downtrodden and what the Bisaya label as "yano ug kabus" (the everyday man and the marginalized) who have to struggle each day of their lives because ours is a polity that rewards a few who excise monopolistic rent thus perpetuating a most

unequal society despite measurable economic gains.

Duterte's economic managers who are sensible believers in the ability of the free market to deliver goods and services more efficiently, have been able to temper the President's leaning towards social justice in terms which perhaps no longer fit into the international economic order.

But for the President, enough is enough. And the water saga is what FPJ's scriptwriters would call, "puno na ang salop."

Imagine if we had a wimp leading us these days. Or a self-indulgent president easily swayed by deal-making.

When all this plays out, we would be thanking Duterte for taking up the cudgels for the ordinary man and voicing out in the strongest of words his righteous indignation.

No, water service will not go back to the inefficient bureaucrats of the old and discredited Nawasa (worry not about the return of the bad old waterless days), but the service purveyors will realize that corporate greed does not pay with a president made of sterner stuff.

And having set the template for leadership, would the Filipinos turn full circle and elect a president come 2022 whose spine would be less than Duterte's "tapang" or could not measure up to his "malasakit"? One who would be putty in the hands of the usual suspects?



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No shutdown of Baguio to tourists – mayor

By ARTEMIO DURLAO

Tourists will still be able to visit Baguio City as the rehabilitation of the country's Summer Capital will be gradual, Mayor Benjamin Magalong said yesterday.

He said the rehabilitation of

the city would not be as drastic as that of Boracay as it is focused on massive greening and the improvement of the city's sewerage system.

Magalong doused fears of a total shutdown of Baguio from tourists just like what

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No shutdown From Page 1

was done in Boracay.

"It will be difficult to prohibit tourists from coming to the city, as it is the gateway to other parts of the Cordillera," he said.

He added that there were initial meetings with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Ano and they agreed to bring to the attention of President Duterte the issuance of an order mandating the partial rehabilitation of Baguio.

The order would indicate a one-year moratorium on the construction of buildings and cutting of trees in exchange for funds to implement the desired rehabilitation of the city's existing sewerage system, Magalong said.

Polluted rivers

The mayor also warned that the city's rivers have been polluted as he cited reports from the Cordillera office of the Environmental Management

Bureau.

The bureau reported that only 12 percent of Baguio's houses are connected to the city's sewerage treatment plant, which has also exceeded its carrying capacity and has leaks.

The readings along the Balili River that flows to La Trinidad, Benguet have reached over 1.6 billion most probable number of fecal coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters while the recorded readings along the Bued River that flows to Rosario, La Union have reached 465 million MPN per 100 milliliter, both beyond acceptable standards, Magalong said.

Aside from rehabilitating the Baguio sewerage treatment plant, particularly in North Sanitary Camp, part of the proposed rehabilitation is to put up a facility in Lower Rock Quarry and five other plants in strategic areas to address the pollution in the city's river systems.

Magalong is proposing to

the local government to require all residential and commercial structures to be connected to the sewerage treatment plants to prevent them from directly discharging their wastewater to various river systems.

"This is one of the major causes of pollution in the different rivers in the city, aside from those coming from piggeries that directly discharge their waste to the different bodies of water around the city," he said.

Currently, Baguio's sewerage treatment plant operates at 12,400 cubic meters daily, way above its normal operating capacity of 8,600 cubic meters daily.

"There is an urgent need for rehabilitation (of the sewerage system), considering the increase in the number of houses in the city, which has reached over 90,000," Magalong said.

He added that parking buildings using green architecture could also decongest traffic within the central business district and its vicinity.

Another tourist spot that would be rehabilitated, he

said, is the Baguio City market, with its rehabilitation to be done in phases within two to three years at the cost of at least P5 billion.

Magalong said he is bent on rehabilitating it to turn it into "one of the best markets in the Philippines."

Mines View Park may also be closed sooner than Burnham Park as the bidding for the P18-million rehabilitation project is already ongoing, he said.

"Baguio's problems are so

complicated that political will is badly needed to address these problems," he said.

Smart city

According to Magalong, the city has received its fund request of P200 million from Duterte for the first phase of the project that will turn Baguio into a "smart city," the first of its kind in the country.

With a command center using artificial intelligence, the local government would soon be able to strictly monitor the

movements of people and cars to better manage the traffic flow, he said.

It would also help the city cut its expenses on lighting and improve water management.

"From a safer city, we want Baguio to be known as a smart city. The use of technology will be later on used as platform for digital transformation, for digital governance and the shift to a digital economy," he said.

The smart city project is seen to be completed by July next year.



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Baguio waterways clearing ongoing

By Aldwin Quitasol

BAGUIO CITY – In a thrust to revitalize Baguio City's water resources and rid them of pollutants, the City Buildings and Architectures Office (CBAO) will be conducting demolition activities on structures encroaching its rivers and waterways.

According to CBAO head Engr. Steve Capuyan, around 20,000 structures are slated for removal along the banks of the Sagudin-Balili, Galiano, Bued and Ambalanga Rivers, which have been assessed to be "highly polluted."

The CBAO is currently in the process of identifying all structures built within the three-meter natural banks to determine which ones will be demolished and that the owners have been served their second notice to give them time to voluntarily remove their structures.

The campaign is anchored on Article 51 of the Water Code which provides that banks of bodies of water – rivers, streams, shores of seas and lakes – throughout their entire length and within a zone of three meters in urban areas, 20 meters in agricultural areas, and 40 meters in forest areas, are subject to easements for public use in the interest of recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing, salvage and swimming.

Capuyan said the team, which composed of members from the City Environment and Parks Management Office and the City Engineers Office, have completed assessing the stretch covered by the Sagudin-Balili River.



Clearing the waterways Workers start the clean-up of Baguio's rivers and waterways which remain polluted and obstructed by illegal structures.

A. QUITASOL



detalyadong pagpupulong kasama ang Baguio City Local Government at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hinggil sa rehabilitasyon.

Sinabi ni Puyat, una nang ipinag-utos ni Baguio City Benjamin Magalong ang pagbabawal sa pagputol ng mga puno partikular ang mga pine tree bilang bahagi ng planong pagsasaayos ng Baguio City.

Ipinag-utos na rin aniya ni Magalong ang pagpapatigil sa lahat ng mga bagong itatayong mga establisimiyento, bahay o anumang gusali.

Dagdag ni Puyat, pinaplano na rin ng lokal na pamahalaan na i-relocate o ilipat ang ilang mga kabahayan at establisimiyentong nakatayo sa palusong na bahagi ng lungsod.

PMRT

BAGUIO CITY IRE-REHAB SA ENERO

BENGUET - UPANG maibalik ang dating ganda ng Baguio City, isasailalim ito sa rehabilitasyon sa Enero

2020.

Ayon kay Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, mag-sasagawa na sila ng mas



Reviving Baguio

Unlike Boracay, which was closed to tourists for several months, people can continue visiting Baguio City as it undergoes rehabilitation. The city government has said the restoration of the city as the country's Summer Capital will be gradual.

Baguio has become one of the most congested cities in the country, and it is no island like Boracay, so it will be next to impossible in the first place to close it off to visitors. Its rehabilitation will also be more challenging.

For starters, Mayor Benjamin Magalong has reportedly ordered a moratorium on the cutting of trees and new building construction. Baguio, long dubbed the City of Pines, has lost most of its pine trees, with its slopes looking like the favelas or shantytowns of Brazil. Water and sewerage lines will be rehabilitated with funding assistance from the national government.

Anyone who has been dismayed by the current state of the city will be glad to know that Burnham Park is being revived instead of being turned into a

EDITORIAL

parking lot. Plans are also being drawn up to improve the

public market. New developments are being eyed outside the city proper to accommodate those who will have to move out of the danger zones on the city's slopes. Those slopes used to be covered with pine trees.

Considering the number of people to be affected, these plans are best realized with full cooperation from the public. The national government has committed support for the rehabilitation effort. Baguio now smells like EDSA on a Friday payday, and several of its landmarks have been ruined by urban blight.

This rehabilitation should provide a long-overdue breathing spell for the congested city. Baguio is the first city in the Philippines to be included in the global Creative Cities Network of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The rehabilitation should enhance this recognition. It should pave the way for sustainable, long-term benefits for the city, its tourism industry and its people.



Ayaw ni Yorme ng polusyon sa hangin

"Kailangang mabawasan ng malaki ang polusyon ng hangin sa Maynila," sabi ni Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso

Sinabi ni Yorme na hindi nga lamang sa Maynila ang polusyon sa hangin ngunit sa buong bansa na rin. Matagal nang nangyayari ito.

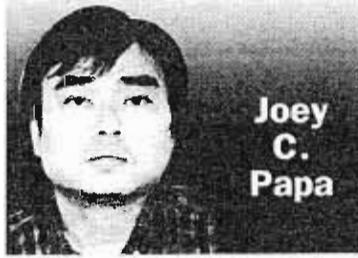
Ngunit hindi naman niya puwedeng pakialaman ang programa ng ibang lunsod ng Metro Manila pagdating sa kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Kung magagawa nila sa Maynila na mabawasan ng malaki ang polusyon sa hangin, pamumunuan niya ito.

Binanggit ni yorme na ipasasara niya ang isang tambakan ng basura sa Maynila na pinagkakitaan na raw nang matagal at pinanggagalingan na rin ng polusyon sa hangin. Abangan na lamang daw ito.

Sa katunayan ay may inaaayos silang teknolohiya na makatutulong na malaki na alisin ang malaking bahagi mga dumi sa hangin ng kanilang

BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey
C.
Papa

lunsod, sabi ng mayor.

Hindi namin napag-usapan ang mga paputok sa pagsapit ng bagong taon dahil kailangan na niyang mag-salita sa isang okasyon. Ngunit sa ipinakita niyang pagkadismaya sa polusyon sa hangin Maynila, hindi malayong ipagbawal na niya ang paputok at magkantahan na lamang sa kani-kanilang barangay.

Sa Quezon City, hindi pa bagong taon ay marami nang nagpapaputok.

Dapat ay pagsabihan ni Mayor Joy Bemente ang mga pinuno ng barangay na ito. Palatandaan na naman ito ng maramihang "pagsusunog ng pera" pagdating bagong taon.

Malaki ang iniigsi ng pagpapaputok nitong nakaraang dalawang taon, dahil ayaw din ni Pangulong Duterte sa ganitong uri ng pagdiriwang.

Ngunit umigsi nga ang oras ng pagpapaputok, ibinubuhos naman sa loob ng kulang-kulang isang oras ang maraming paputok na nabili ng kung sino mang tao ang galit sa pera pagsapit ng alas-dose ng pagtatapos ng taon.

Marami pa rin talaga sa mga tulongges sabi ni yorme na hindi na makatwiran kung mag-isip. Kungano yung mali, siyang gustong-gustong gawin.

'Yan namang ganyang hindi makatwirang mag-isip ay matatagpuan sa lahat ng saray ng lipunan.

TO PAGE 5

Ayaw... Fromp.4

Mahirap man o mayaman. Ngunit iilan lang itong mga ganitong klaseng tao. Higit na nananaig ang maraming makatwirang tao, paniniwala ko.

Lalo na sa pagdating sa lupa ng mahihirap sa kanayunan na ginag-

amit sa pagtatanim at pagsasaka, maiinit ang mga mata ng mga tulongges dito hindi upang taniman kundi upang gawing malalaking gusali. Makatwiran ba 'to?

Ang agrikulturang bansa tulad ng Pilipinas ay hindi na tinatawag na agrikulturang bansa kundi bayan na ng mga beaches at pasyalan

para sa turismo. O kaya'y puntahan ng mga dayuhang Tsino at Koreano na madalas ay nasasangkot sa mga kaguluhan sa pagitan din ng kanilang mga kababayan tulad ng nakaraang kidnapping na naganap at prostitusyon sa mga pasugalan.

Polusyon sa hangin, polusyon sa

lipunan, ilan ito sa mga dumi ng bayan bayan na kailangang harapin ng lahat na namumuno. Handang tumulong ang mamamayan ngunit nasa kapangyarihan ng pamahalaan ang ipatupad ang mga patakaran at batas upang mapangalagaan ang kaligtasan ng mga Pilipino.

(bangonkalikasan@yahoo.com)



Ban seen boosting Phl nickel production

Indonesia has banned nickel ore exports since 2020 in a bid to develop the processing industry and capturing more value-added from the nickel trade

By Maria Romero
@tribunephil_mbr

Industry leaders forecast stronger nickel production and outbound shipments in 2020 on the back of higher prices and a nickel export ban by Indonesia.

In a spot interview, Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) Chairman Clarence Pimentel said they anticipate higher production driven by the Indonesian nickel ore ban.

"We are looking at stronger production next year with the Indonesian

ore ban. We are looking forward to seeing what the market holds. We hope the prices will keep a little bit," Pimentel told reporters.

Pimentel said the Philippines is 25 percent more ore production this year. Thus, higher prices are expected towards the end of the year.

Pimentel also said a clearer government stance on revenue-sharing from mineral extraction, open-pit mining ban, and a moratorium on the issuance of new mining permits all help boost new investments.

PNIA president Dante Bravo said higher production is forecast next year as mining companies ramp up their productions as more mines resume their operations.

"I'm not sure about the percentage increase next year because that would depend on prices, particularly for lower grade nickel because it is where the added volume, (where we) will be coming from. But overall, we see improvement," Bravo said.

Based on the latest data from Fitch Solution Macro Research, local

production from 2016 to 2019 fell by an average of 22.7 percent as a result of the suspension order imposed against some of the country's mining sites.

The research also said the Indonesian ban will boost the country's nickel production.

Indonesia has banned nickel ore exports since 2020 in a bid to develop the processing industry and capturing more value-added from the nickel trade.

The ban is forecast to create an opportunity for Philippines nickel miners in the coming years.

Bravo said the ban will alleviate the impending supply shortfall in Indonesia.

According to Mines and Geosciences Bureau, nickel production grew 3 percent to 11.306 million dry metric tons in the first half of 2019.

The United States Geological Survey noted in a report published in February that in 2018, Indonesia was the top nickel producer with 560,000 tons, followed by the Philippines, with 340,000 tons.



ERMELINDA Pollentes, assistant regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry in Western Visayas (DTI 6) said they have been monitoring the prices of Noche Buena items. Three items were priced lower than their suggested retail prices due to competition from other producers.

PNA



MINAHAN NI VILLAR IKANDADO!

NI: BEN SERRANO

KINALAMPAG ng dalawang tribal leader si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na ipasara ang MRL Gold Philippines dahil sa paglabag sa Mining Law at Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA).

Ang dalawang lider ng tribong Mamanwa ay lumagda sa Memorandum of Agreement sa MRL noong 2008 para sa pagpapagamit ng tinatayang 5,000 ektarya ng ancestral domain na sumasakop sa tatlong bayan ng Agusan del Norte.

Sa kanilang 13 pahinang verified complaint, kinuwestiyon din nina Datu Ebanta Evangelisto Morada Jr. at Bae Nenita Porogoy ang Mines and

Geo-sciences Bureau (MGB) kung bakit hindi sila binigyan ng kopya ng Deed of Assignment kung mayroon man, dahil ang kompanyang Agata Mining Ventures Inc. (AMVI) ng pamilya Villar na ang nagmimina umano sa lugar at hindi ang MRL.

Sa ilalim ng IPRA at Mining Law, may karapatan ang mga katutubo na bigyan ng kopya ng dokumento ng mga mining company na naghuhukay sa kanilang ancestral land.

Ang masaklap nito, binanggit nina Datu Ebanta at Bae Nenita Porogoy na simula noong 2008 ay wala silang natatanggap na royalty fee na umaabot sa milyon-milyong piso.

Noong 2016, sumagot ang presidente ng

Agata Mining sa demand letter ng dalawang tribal leader na ilalabas ang kanilang hinahabol subalit hanggang ngayon ay wala pang natatanggap na kabayaran ang dalawang lider.

Dahil dito, sumulat si NCIP-Caraga regional director Ferdausi Saniel Cerna sa Agata Mining noong Agosto 2019 kung bakit hindi pa nila ibinibigay ang parte nina Datu Ebanta at Bae Nenita mula taong 2008 hanggang kasalukuyan.

Pero walang naging sagot ang mining firm. Ang royalty fee ay katumbas ng 1% ng gross sale ng mining firm.

Ayon sa official record mula sa Bureau of Mines, ang Agata ay may gross sale na P7.5 bilyon mula sa ship-

ment ng ore, nickel at ginto mula 2014 hanggang 2018. Ibig sabihin, hindi pa nila isinisiwalat ang kita noong 2008 hanggang 2013 at para sa taong 2019.

Nagpadala din ng liham si NCIP chairperson Allen Capuyan kay Cerna at isiniwalat na karamihan ng mga mining firm sa Caraga region ay walang Certification Precondition (CP). Nanindigan ang Agata Mining na mayroon silang CP subalit itinatangi ito ni Cerna kaya't malinaw na nilalabag ng kompanya ni Villar ang IPRA law.

Noong Oktubre 1, 2019 umupo sa puwesto si Cerna at agad nilang natuklasan ni NCIP chairperson Allen Arat Capuyan na maraming mining firm

sa Caraga region ang walang Certification Precondition.

Sa ilalim ng IPRA at Mining Act, ang mga apektadong IP community sa pamamagitan ng kanilang mga lider ay maaaring hilingin ang kanselasyon, rebokasyon at termination ng lahat ng inisyung permit, kabilang na ang Mineral Production Sharing Agreement o MPSA sa mga pasaway na mining firm.

Ang 13 pahinang reklamo, may petsang Disyembre 9, 2019, ay naka-address kay DENR Secretary Cimatu, sa MGB at Office of the Ombudsman. Nakakuta ng kopya ang politics.com.ph.





Philippine mining among ASEAN's best

ONCE again, Philippine mining operations romped away with awards at the Second ASEAN Mineral Awards (AMA), a project of the ASEAN Ministers of Mining that is given out every two years during the meeting of the ASEAN ministers.

Held in Bangkok last December 13, the awards were evenly spread among the ASEAN countries, with Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (CBNC), operating in Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan, emerging with the highest Best Practices award for the Philippines in the Metallic Mineral Processing category.

For the category Metallic Mineral Mining, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation bagged runner-up status to a gold operation in Laos. Agata Mining Ventures also bagged the runner-up award in the Metallic Mineral Distribution category, while LaFarge Holcim bagged runner-up awards in the Non Metallic Mining and Non Metallic Mineral Processing categories.



MAROON BLOODED

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON

'The recognition of the best practices in Philippine mining at the ASEAN level is clear recognition that in spite of all the controversies surrounding the industry in the Philippines, responsible operations not only exist (contrary to the most fervent critics) but are also at a standard that ranks among the best even beyond our shores.'

I am particularly proud of the fact that Nickel Asia Corporation has equity interests in both CBNC and RTNMC.

Doing well at the AMA is becoming a tradition for Philippine operations.

During the First ASEAN Mineral Awards held in 2017 in Myanmar, RTNMC won the award for Best Practices in Mining while Oceanagold won

the award for Best Practices in Mineral Processing, giving the Philippines two out of the three awards handed out. Since then, the AMA has been expanded to six categories with non-metallic mining separated from the metallic mining categories.

The recognition of the best practices in Philippine mining at the ASEAN level is clear recognition that in spite of all the

controversies surrounding the industry in the Philippines, responsible operations not only exist (contrary to the most fervent critics) but are also at a standard that ranks among the best even beyond our shores. It also is a recognition that the Philippine Mining Act passed more than 20 years ago – and made the basis for similar laws in ASEAN nations – remains a law that is relevant for its purposes.

Which is not to say that the mining industry in the Philippines is free from challenges: there needs to be political will in addressing issues emerging from practices in small scale mining that are outside the ambit of the Mining Act, for example. But consecutive victories by local operations in the biennial AMA should serve as an encouragement to regulators to support the responsible operations that contribute not only to their immediate communities but to the national economy as well.

And, in this case, to national pride!

UN climate talks end; no deal on carbon markets

MADRID—Marathon international climate talks ended Sunday with negotiators postponing until next year a key decision on how to regulate global carbon markets.

After two weeks of negotiations in Madrid on tackling global warming, delegates from almost 200 nations passed declarations calling for greater ambition in cutting planet-heating greenhouse gases and in helping poor countries that are suffering the effects of climate change.

But despite holding the longest climate talks ever in 25 nearly annual editions they left one of the thorniest issues for the next summit in Glasgow, in a year's time.

Carbon markets put a price on emission of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, and allows countries or companies to trade emissions permits that can be steadily reduced—encouraging the uptake of low-emission technologies.

Better than weak deal

Countries from Europe and elsewhere had said that no deal on how to govern the exchange of carbon credits was better than a weak one that could un-



Climate blockers like Brazil and Saudi Arabia, enabled by an irresponsibly weak Chilean leadership, peddled carbon deals and steamrolled scientists and civil society

Jennifer Morgan
Greenpeace International
Executive Director

dermine a dozen or so existing regional carbon mechanisms.

"Thankfully, the weak rules on a market based mechanism, promoted by Brazil and Australia, that would have undermined efforts to reduce emissions has been shelved," said Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa, a campaign group.

The talks have been accompanied at times by angry protests from indigenous and environmental groups, both

inside and outside the venue. The demonstrations reflected growing frustration, particularly among young people, at the slow pace of government efforts to curb climate change.

Among the documents that the UN meeting passed Sunday was the "Chile-Madrid Time for Action" declaration calling on countries to improve their current pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That is needed to come in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement target of avoiding a temperature increase of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

So far, the world is on course for a 3- to 4-degree Celsius rise, with potentially dramatic consequences for many countries.

Countries also agreed to designate funds for the most vulnerable countries to compensate them for the effects of extreme weather events, one of the most pressing issues for small island states.

Climate blockers

But environmental groups and activists accused the world's richer countries of showing little commitment to seriously tackling climate change.

"The Paris Agreement may

have been the victim of a hit-and-run by a handful of powerful carbon economies, but they are on the wrong side of this struggle, the wrong side of history," said Jennifer Morgan, Greenpeace International's executive director.

"Climate blockers like Brazil and Saudi Arabia, enabled by an irresponsibly weak Chilean leadership, peddled carbon deals and steamrolled scientists and civil society," she said.

Chile chaired the talks, which had to be quickly moved to Madrid amid violent antigovernment protests back home. Despite the pressure to deliver a positive outcome, activists criticized the Chilean government of President Santiago Piñera for holding on to coal-fired power plants until 2040.

Helen Mountford from World Resources Institute, an environmental think tank, said the talks "reflect how disconnected country leaders are from the urgency of the science and the demands of their citizens in the streets."

"They need to wake up in 2020," she added. —AP



UN climate talks stagger toward 'mediocre' result

MADRID—A UN climate summit in Madrid stumbled towards the finish line Sunday after marathon talks between countries exposed deeper divides than ever over how to enact humanity's plan to avert global warming disaster.

More than 36 hours after the negotiations were due to end, delegates were close to agreement on contentious issues, including how ambitious each nation is in its individual plan to fight climate change.

Faced with fire-alarm warnings from science, deadly extreme weather made worse by climate change, and weekly strikes by millions of young people, negotiations in Madrid were under pressure to send a clear signal that governments were willing to double down in tackling the crisis.

But observers and delegates from nations already bearing the brunt of climate-related disasters said the COP 25 in Madrid had resolutely failed to live up to its own slogan: Time for action.

"We wanted provisions that were in the Paris agreement to remain and what we see at every COP it just seems to be another opportunity to erode those," Gre-

nada envoy Simon Stiell told AFP.

"There are one or two parties that seem hell bent on ensuring any calls for ambition, action, environmental integrity are rolled back," he added.

Delegates from nearly 200 nations are in Madrid to finalize the rulebook for the 2015 Paris agreement, which aims to limit global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit).

The accord enters in to action next year, and it had been hoped COP 25 would show the world that governments had listened to the weekly protests, irrefutable science and more extreme weather events to redouble their efforts.

Yet the key issue of ambition—how far each country is willing to slash carbon emissions or assist less wealthy peers to do likewise—has largely failed to materialize.

Veteran observers of UN climate talks were stunned by the state of play.

And youth activists, who held several protests during the summit, called out governments dragging their feet.

Alexandria Villasenor, a 14-year-old climate activist, said she was "disappointed" in the lack of action at COP 25.

"The difference between the youth on the streets and the negotiations is that the youth on the streets are acting with urgency," she told AFP.

"COP 25 has failed us and it's another

year of failure."

The push for a strengthening of voluntary carbon cutting plans is led by small-island and least-developed states, along with the European Union.

These have called out nations they see as blocking consensus for all countries to step up, notably the United States, Australia and Saudi Arabia.

China and India, the world's No. 1 and No. 4 carbon emitters, have made it clear they see no need to improve on their current emissions reduction plans, which run to 2030.

These emerging giants have chosen instead to emphasize the historical responsibility of rich nations to lead the way and provide financing to poor countries.

"It seems like it's inching along but it's not the strong call for climate ambition that we needed to come out of this," said Catherine Abreu, executive director of Climate Action Network Canada.

"It will be a pretty mediocre outcome."

The COP 25 summit was also meant to finalize a chapter on carbon markets in the Paris rulebook.

Some nations, notably Brazil and Australia, want to count carbon credits accumulated under a previous climate deal as part of their commitments under the Paris goals. **AFP**



LARC marks 4th year with poster contest on climate change

By Roy Tomandao

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—To raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on water resources, LARC conducted its 4th poster making contest as part of its fourth founding an-

niversary on Dec. 10.

With the theme "Combating the Negative Impacts of Climate Change to Our Water Resources," the contest targeted elementary school students all over Los Baños, Bay, Calauan, Victoria and Nagcarlan, Laguna.

Almost 30 participants submitted entries, which was later on narrowed down to 12, which were then posted at the LARC Facebook page. A portion of the final score were based on the number of FB likes the entries were able to achieve for the duration of the online

voting.

The top 3 winners were hand-picked by the esteemed board of judges -- Althea Roa of UP Painters club, Leo Gerardo C. Leonardo from Philippine High School for the Arts, and Janelle Cabrera UP Painters Club.



Anger erupts at UN climate summit as major economies resist bold action

MADRID — Negotiators worked into the early hours of Sunday to try to salvage a strong global commitment to fight climate change after some of the most vulnerable nations said they were being sidelined at a marathon United Nations summit in Madrid.

Talks were scheduled to conclude on Friday but lurched into a second extra day as major economies and smaller states struggled to resolve outstanding issues under the 2015 Paris Agreement to tackle global warming.

Kevin Conrad, Papua New Guinea's climate envoy, told delegates the talks had to be "open and transparent," echoing concerns expressed by some other developing countries that their voices were not being heard.

"Over the last 24 hours, 90% of the participants have not been involved in this process," he said.

Major economies resisted calls for bolder climate commitments as the summit limped towards a delayed conclusion on Saturday, dimming hopes that nations will act in time to stop rising temperatures devastating people and the natural world.

With the two-week gathering spilling into the weekend, campaigners and many delegates slammed Chile, presiding over the talks, for drafting a summit text that they said risked throwing the 2015 Paris Agreement to tackle global warming into reverse.

"At a time when scientists are queuing up to warn about terrifying consequences if emissions keep rising, and school children are taking to the streets in their millions, what we have here in Madrid is a betrayal of people across the world," said Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa, a climate and energy think-tank in Nairobi.

Long-time participants in the talks expressed outrage at the unwillingness of major polluters to show ambition commensurate with the gravity of the climate crisis, after a year of wildfires, cyclones, droughts and floods.

The European Union, small island states and many other nations had been calling for the Madrid decision to signal that the more than 190 countries participating in the Paris process will submit bolder pledges to cut emissions next year.

The agreement enters a crucial implementation phase in 2020, when countries are supposed to ratchet up their ambitions ahead of the next major round of talks in Glasgow. If big economies such as China, India, Japan, Brazil, Australia and others fail to agree more meaningful climate action soon, then scientists say already slim hopes of averting catastrophic temperature rises will all but vanish.

Although no advanced economy is yet on track for the kind of action scientists say is needed to steer the climate onto a safer path, all the EU's 28 member states, bar Poland, agreed in Brussels on Thursday to target net zero emissions by 2050. — **Reuters**



Fight climate change, manage resources – UN

By Elmer N. Manuel
@tribunephil_lmer

With millions of workers increasingly affected by the climate crisis, United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres stressed that the route to securing livelihoods in the future lies in a wholesale transformation of how “we power the planet and manage our resources.”

“We are still losing the climate race,” Guterres said during the COP25 climate action event focused on greener jobs in Madrid, “but we can choose another path, the path of climate action and well-being for people and planet,” which is about jobs, health, education, opportunities and the future.

He maintained that the answer to the climate crisis “lies in transforming how we generate our power, design our cities and manage our land,” but it also requires actions “consistent with making people’s lives better.”

The Paris Agreement agreed in 2015 included “a just transition” for people whose jobs and livelihoods are impacted by moving “from the grey economy to the green,” he noted, part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

“We can no longer refuse to face up to the climate crisis,” he said, urging governments to commit, businesses to lead and people everywhere to “embrace the transformation that

will bring us to a carbon-neutral world by 2050.”

Guterres spoke encouragingly about “enormous opportunities” linked to climate action.

According to the UN chief, shifting to a low-carbon economy represents a \$26 trillion-dollar growth opportunity that could create 65 million new jobs by 2030 – with solar, wind and geothermal energy already being the fastest-growing job creators in several economies.

“The green economy is the economy of the future and we need to make way for it right now,” he stated, encouraging countries to re-train people so they can “switch careers with the concept that education now became a lifelong enterprise.”

Stressing that the transition to a low-carbon future be “fair and inclusive,” he said that this means “a future of green and decent jobs... of thriving, resilient communities, cities and countries.”

Meanwhile, the Climate Action for Jobs initiative, which the UN chief launched at the conference with Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), puts job creation and livelihoods at the center of national climate action plans, the UN chief enumerated measures to ensure inclusivity, such as assessing the employment, social and economic impacts of ecological

transition and the potential of green jobs.

He underscored that economic growth and tackling climate change are “mutually reinforcing,” adding that “failing to tackle global heating is a sure-fire recipe for economic disaster.”

The answer to the climate crisis “lies in transforming how we generate our power, design our cities, and manage our land,” but it also requires actions “consistent with making people’s lives better.”

Detailing the need to “reduce emissions 45 per cent by 2030 from 2010 levels, achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and stabilize global temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century,” Guterres said the Paris Agreement must be used as “our multilateral path forward.”

Without achieving our climate goals, the Secretary General maintained that only the richest would survive

And because “we cannot continue to have one foot in both the grey and the green economies at the same time,” he underlined that developed nations must fulfil their pledges under the Paris Agreement to mobilize at least \$100 billion dollars a year for mitigation and adaptation in developing nations.



Agriculture to highlight Sulong Pilipinas 2019

By CHINO S. LEYCO

More than 500 stakeholders involved in agribusiness are set to discuss issues affecting the sector at the 10th Sulong Pilipinas this week in Davao City, in a move to call government action for reforms in the farm sector.

The Departments of Finance (DOF) and of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), will host this large delegation of public and private/business sector stakeholders for the Sulong Pilipinas 2019 Agribusiness Summit tomorrow, December 17.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar said the country's public and private stakeholders will continue to work together in "transforming traditional agri-fishery farms into inclusive, resilient and globally competitive agribusiness enterprises."

For his part, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said the holding of the Sulong Pilipinas for Agribusiness "is how public-private partnership works. The government side delivers the medium. The private sector delivers the content. It is a productive symbiosis."

Sulong involves a series of consultative conferences between the Duterte administration and the private sector, which started in

June 2016 also in Davao City before then-Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte took over as President.

For the 10th edition of this dialogue, participants from the agribusiness community will discuss a wide range of issues to produce actionable recommendations to help the government focus its efforts on implementing game-changing reforms in the agribusiness sector.

There will be workshops on poultry and livestock; grains (corn and rice); fisheries; coconut; high-value crops (cacao, coffee, rubber, banana, mango and vegetables); infrastructure; and farm consolidation/clustering and agri-tourism. Recommendations to accelerate the implementation of these actionable programs will then be presented to President Duterte.

In addition to Dar and Dominguez also invited to the event are other Cabinet members, among them are Secretaries Roy Cimatu of Environment and Natural Resources, John Castriciones of Agrarian Reform and Eduardo Año of the Interior and Local Government. Representatives from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Go Negosyo advocacy group, Makati Business Club (MBC) and Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (DCCII) have signified their participation in the event.

This collaboration between DA and DOF with private sector stakeholders is expected to make for a more robust agribusiness sector founded on Dar's eight paradigms of the 'New Thinking' for agriculture, which includes modernization and industrialization, among other crucial elements in sectoral transformation.



Saku-sakong uling na ipupuslit, nasabat

GEN. TINIO, Nueva Ecija - Umaabot sa 50 sakong uling ang nasabat ng pulisya habang nagsasagawa sa Barangay Sampaguita, naturang bayan, nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Ayon kay Capt. Gregorio Bautista, hepe ng General Tinio

Municipal Police, inaresto nila sa operasyon si Lorenzo Sinense,

36, binata, taga-Bgy. Sinasajan, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija.

Binanggit ng pulisya, naharang ng mga awtoridad si Sinense habang minamaneho ang isang van (CKA-116) na lulan ang nabanggit na uling na nakatakda sanang i-deliver sa kanilang customer.

Idinahilan ng pulisya, walang maiharap na papeles o permit si

Sinense mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kaya agad na kinumpiska ang saku-sakong uling na nagkakahalaga ng P10,000.

Kakasuhan si Sinense ng paglabag sa Presidential Decree 705 (Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines).

Light A. Nolasco



TITLE:

PAGE 17

PINAKAMALAKAS sa buong bansa sa taong ito ang magnitude 6.9 na lindol na nagmula sa Padada, Davao del Sur.

Mas malakas ito sa mga magnitude 6.3, 6.4 at 6.5 na lindol na sumentro naman sa Cotabato nitong nakarang Oktubre.

Lumikha ang pinakahuling lindol ng intensity 7 o pagyanig na nakamamatay at nakasira ng mga gusali at lumilikha ng mga landslide.

Lumikha rin ang magnitude 6.5 sa Cotabato ng intensity 7.

Habang sinusulat natin ito, mga Bro, hindi pa natin alam kung hanggang saan ang kapinsalaang tinamo ng mga tinamaan ng lindol.

Pero sana naman, hindi kasingtindi ang epekto ng bagong lindol sa mga mamamayan kumpara sa lindol noong Oktubre na pumatay ng nasa 24 katao, sumugat ng 563 at nang-missing ng 11.

Habang sinusulat natin ito, mga Bro, iisa pa lang ang namatay, isang 8 taong gulang na bata na nabagsakan ng gumuhong pader sa Davao del Sur.

3-STORY BAHAY NATOKHANG

May isang bahay na nasa 3 palapag ang natumba dahil sa lindol kahapon.

Dito tayo nagkainteres dahil marami tayong nakikitang 3-story building kahit saan sa mahal kong Pinas.

Hindi kaya ginawa ang natumbang bahay nang bara-bara kaya natokhang ito?

Isa ang malaking dahilan ng pagkatumba ng bahay.

Hindi kaya wala sa lugar at hindi bagay ang mga pundasyon na ginawa para rito?

Una, maaaring mababaw ang hukay ng mga haligi o ginamitan ito ng mga materyales na wala sa tamong panukat o standard.

INSPECTION

Ang inspeksyon sa mga paggawa na at ginagawang bahay ay maaaring hindi nagawa.

Para maging matibay at hindi basta matumba ang isang gusali o tahanan, kailangang dumaan ito sa plano na gawa ng mga propesyunal.

Kasunod na nito ang pagpapatupad ng buo sa planong gawa ng isang inhinyero.

Hindi kaya ginawa ang nasabing bahay nang walang mayor's



ULTIMATUM Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

ANG MAGNITUDE 6.9 AT ANG THE BIG ONE

permit na kailangang may kumpletong papeles mula sa iba't ibang sangay ng mga lokal na pamahalaan?

Sa totoo lang, marami ang gumagawa ng mga gusali at bahay nang walang mayor's permit at nagmumulta na lang ang mga ito kapag ibinuking ng mga tsismosa nilang mga kapitbahay.

BUILDING CODE

Ang pagsunod sa batas sa gusali sa Pinas o building code ang dapat na bigyang-pansin ngayon.

Katunayan, ito rin ang naging panawagan kaugnay ng mga lindol sa Cotabato.

Pero kung walang tama at napapanahong inspeksyon, wala ring magandang mangyayari.

Marami kasi ang bumababoy sa paggawa at kasama sa mga gumagawa nito ang mga kontraktor.

Kayang gawin ng kontraktor na dayain ang lahat para siya kumita.

Problema kasi ng kontraktor ang bumawi at kumita dahil sa korapsyon o pangongotong ng mga taga-pamahalaan sa paggawa ng mga gusali.

Ayon mismo sa mga awtoridad, ang mga ismol time o socialized housing ang unang mawawasak kaysa mga matataas na gusali.

Hindi kaya gawa lang ng mga ordinaryong karpintero at mason ang natumbang bahay?

Sa susunod, dapat magpagawa ulit ng bahay ang may-ari ngunit sigurado nang pasado ito sa panlasa ng mga awtoridad batay sa panukat ng nasabing batas.

MGA PAALALA

Muli nating naaalala ang mga paalala tuwing may lindol.

Unang grabeng usapin ang pagdating ng lindol nang walang paalam.

Mabuti pa ang bagyo, isa o dalawang linggo, nalalaman na natin kung titarahin tayo nito o hindi.

Pero ang lindol?

Mas matindi pa ito sa magnanakaw na dumarating nang walang paalam.

Ang isang magriana-

kaw, maaaring ibuking ng nakaaalam sa plano niya.

Isang mahalaga na paalala sa lahat ang pagsasagawa ng mga ehersisyo kung magkailindol.

Halimbawa, saan takbo patungo sa mga ligtas na lugar?

Paano kung magkasunog at paano ka lalabas nang hindi mamamatay sa usok o suffocation?

Paano kung hindi ka makalabas sa isang gusali, paano ka maghanap ng masisilungang gaya ng isang lamesa?

Paano kung gabi at nawalan ng kuryente?

Paano ang mga exit at gamit sa paglabas sa mga gusali?

THE BIG ONE

Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, galing ang huling lindol sa isang bitak ng lupa na matatagpuan ng sentro ng lindol sa Matanao, Davao del Sur.

Bigla nating naaalala ang bitak ng lupa na matatagpuan sa isang bahagi ng Bulacan at may ending sa ilang bahagi ng Laguna at Cavite.

Pero ang sentro nito ay ang Metro Manila na nakikitaan na ng mga bitak para sa The Big One.

Handa na ba ang mga taga-Metro Manila sa The Big One?

Noong kauupo lang si Yorme Kois ng Maynila, isa sa mga natagpuan niya ang kawalan ng kaharidaan ng Maynila laban sa The Big One.

Paano kaya ang iba?

Hindi kaya ang sinasabi mismo ni Yorme ang isang malaking dahilan kung bakit maaaring mamatay ang nasa 50,000 katao sa Metro Manila kung tatama ang The Big One.

Pero sa ngayon, ang pag-alalay sa mga biktima ng huling lindol at dapat na bigyang-pansin.

oOo

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



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
RXI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City, Davao del Norte, 8105 Philippines
TELEFAX NO. (084)823-2011/email.rxi_panabo@yahoo.com

LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo, City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock in the morning on **January 3, 2020**, for the lease for docking purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	:	San Pedro, Panabo City
Description	:	Mlc-11-001228-D
Area	:	101,401 square meters
Appraisal (Land)	:	Php 2,600.00 per square meter or Php 263,642,600.00 for the whole tract
Value of Improvements	:	Php 108,563,025.00
Applied for by	:	Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. represented by: Bonifacio B. Licayan

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed/existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent of at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit everytime his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) month's rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Panabo City, Philippines, November 12, 2019.

ROGELIO M. HERMO
OIC, CENR Officer



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PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika alas Diyes (10:00 o'clock) ng umaga sa ika **3** ng **Enero**, taong **2020**, para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito.

Lugar	:	San Pedro, Panabo City
Deskripsyon	:	Mlc-11-001228-D
Sukat	:	101,401 metros kwadrados
Tasahan ng Lupa	:	Php 2,600.00 kada metro kwadrado o Kabuuang Php 263,642,600.00
Halaga ng nakakatayong Proyekto	:	Php 108,563,025.00
Aplikante	:	Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. (DICT) represented by: Bonifacio B. Licayan

Ang karapatan na upahan ang nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbibigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong (3%) porsyento sa halaga ng lupa at isang (1%) porsyento sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-dapat na aplikante at kailangang bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's o manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sumali sa subasta na nagrerepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot na nilalagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay magkaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kanyang alok ay itinataas para makumpleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa pamahalaan. Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangan tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Panabo, Pilipinas, Nobyembre 12, 2019.


ROGELIO M. HERMO
OIC, CENR Officer