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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Trash shipment readied for return to South Korea

Repatriation of 'overstaying waste' discussed in talks between Manila, Seoul

By Jigger J. Jerusalem
@jjerusalemINQ

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY —The remaining 5,177 metric tons of mostly plastic garbage from South Korea that arrived in Misamis Oriental province last year would be sent back to that country soon, a Bureau of Customs (BOC) official here said on Thursday.

But John Simon, Mindanao Container Terminal subport collector, said the BOC Northern Mindanao regional office had yet to be advised of the schedule for the reshipment.

In September?

"We are awaiting the vessel from Korea. The announcement is forthcoming," Simon said in a text message to the Inquirer.

He said the amount that would be spent for the reexportation of the garbage had to be

approved by the Korean National Assembly, details of which had not yet been divulged to reporters.

This developed as the environment watchdog EcoWaste Coalition said the South Korean government had informed the group that the garbage would be returned in September.

Embassy letter

The Korean Embassy in Manila sent a letter to EcoWaste on Aug. 6, informing the group that "relevant Korean authorities" had already been discussing the details with the BOC for the repatriation of the garbage.

"We will have to wait for the results of the discussion but it seems that the waste is expected to be returned to Korea in September 2019," the South Korean Embassy was quoted by EcoWaste in a statement released on Thursday.

The embassy's announcement was in answer to the letter sent by EcoWaste to the South Korean president on Aug. 2.

"We welcome this important piece of information from the South Korean Embassy, which is a good indication that the overstaying waste will be gone soon and will not suffer the same fate as the infamous garbage from Canada that sailed back to its source after six years, following a diplomatic crisis," Aileen Lucero, EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator, said in the statement.

For recycling

"We hope the vessel that will bring the illegal waste exports back to South Korea will be identified and dispatched sooner as [these are] ready to be picked up anytime," she added.

Earlier declared by the BOC as "misdeclared (shipment), heterogeneous and injurious to

public health," the imported garbage has been stored at the compound of consignee Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. inside the Phividec Industrial Estate in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, since July last year.

Verde Soko said the trash was intended as materials for its recycling facility.

No DENR permit

The company did not push through with its operation after the BOC red-flagged the misdeclared garbage while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Verde Soko failed to secure an environment permit.

Earlier, nearly 1,400 tons of mixed plastic waste in containers, which formed part of the trash imported by Verde Soko, were sent back by the BOC to the port of Pyeongtaek in South Korea. INQ



Editor
Robert Javorski L. Abañero

MISDECLARED SHIPMENT Customs officials are preparing the reexportation of the pile of mostly plastic trash that was imported from South Korea and stored at Phividec Industrial Estate facility in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. —JIGGER J. JERUSALEM



Basura ibabalik na sa Sokor

SA Setyembre isasakay ng barko ang 5,177 toneladang basura na ibabalik sa South Korea.

Ayon sa EcoWaste Coalition, tumugon ang Embassy of the Republic of

Korea sa kanilang sulat na nagtatanong kung kailan nito kukunin ang basura na iligal umangon ipinasok sa bansa.

“Relevant Korean authorities have been discussing the detailed procedure for the repatriation of garbage with the Philippine Bureau of Customs,” saad ng sulat ng South Korean embassy sa EcoWaste. “We will have to wait for the results of the discussion, but it seems that the waste is expected to be returned to Korea in September 2019.”

Ikinatuwa naman ni Aileen Lucero, national coordinator ng EcoWaste ang pahayag ng South Korean embassy.

“We hope the vessel that will bring the illegal waste exports back to South Korea will be identified and dispatched sooner as the wastes are ready to be

picked up anytime,” ani Lucero.

Dumating ang mga basura noong Hulyo 2018. Nakatambak ito sa Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. sa loob ng

PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate sa Sitio Buguac, Brgy. Santa Cruz, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Noong Enero ay 1,400 tonelada ng basura ang ibinalik sa Pyeongtaek sa

South Korea.

May mga panukalang batas na inihain sa Kongreso upang tuluyang ipagbawal ang pagpasok ng basura sa bansa. —*Leifbilly Begas*



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Metro produces 9.2M kilos garbage daily

As much as 85 percent of Metro Manila's trash end up in sanitary landfills

By Michael Pingol

Don't look now, but the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR) on Friday revealed that Metro Manila generates around 9.2 million kilograms of garbage per day, most of them coming from Quezon City and Manila.

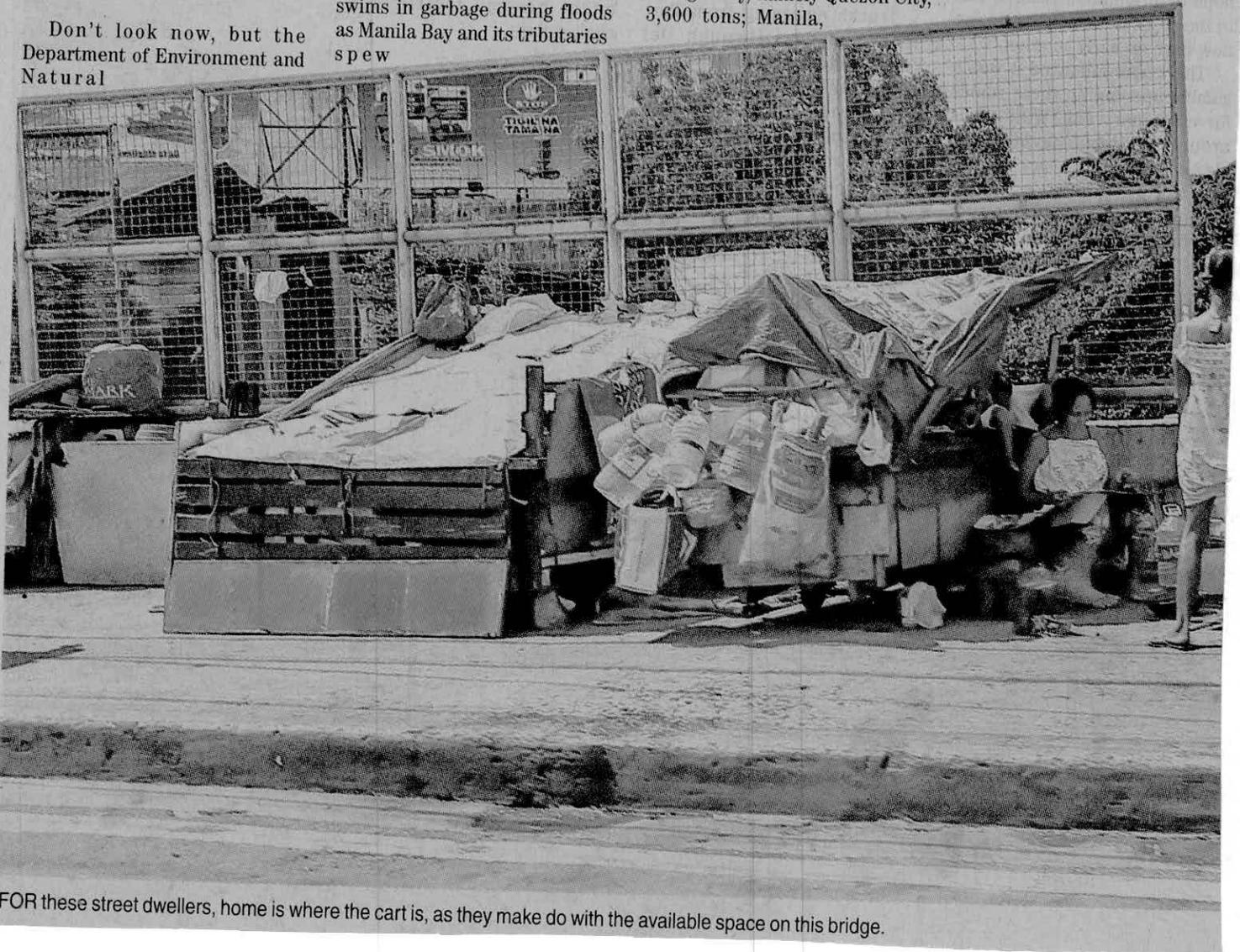
No wonder that Metro Manila swims in garbage during floods as Manila Bay and its tributaries

back what wastes people throw into water systems.

In its report, the DENR showed from its official data the top five cities in Metro Manila that generate the most waste in a single day, namely Quezon City, 3,600 tons; Manila,

1,174 tons; Caloocan City, 912 tons; Parañaque City, 634 tons and Makati City, 474 tons.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda explained that when it comes to the



FOR these street dwellers, home is where the cart is, as they make do with the available space on this bridge.



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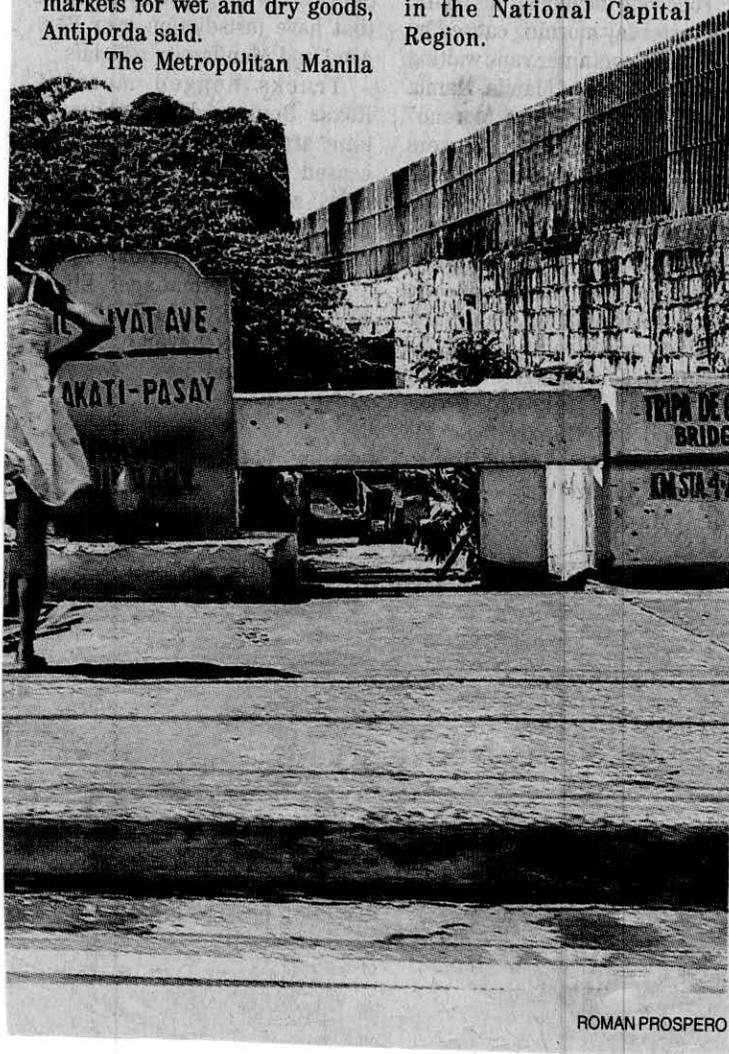
amount of trash in Quezon City, there were factors to be considered, including the city's geography and the number of informal settlers residing there.

Manila, on the other hand, is generating huge amounts of trash because it has a lot of markets for wet and dry goods, Antiporda said.

The Metropolitan Manila

Development Authority said only 85 percent of the garbage produced in Metro Manila end up in sanitary landfills.

Authorities strongly urge the public to practice proper waste disposal, as the clogging of sewage system is blamed for the chronic flood problem in the National Capital Region.



ROMAN PROSPERO

Manila's assets come from nature

Flooding in Manila should not be a regular torment for its residents since the city is endowed with several passages that should immediately drain water from a downpour, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso said.

EXCLUSIVE

Domagoso, who guested in the online forum "Straight Talk with *Daily Tribune*," said he now plans to create more green spaces in the capital city to prepare for the ever increasing threat of floods.

"Strong downpours due to global warming and the fact that Manila is a highly urbanized city made mostly of cement make the city conducive to flooding," he said.

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Basic solutions Mayor Isko Moreno said Manila does not need to look far to solve flooding and difficulties when it rains. BOB DUNGO JR.

Manila's assets come from nature

p. 2

Strong downpour due to global warming and the fact that Manila is a highly urbanized city made mostly of cement make the city conducive to flooding

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"That is why we wanted to take a direction towards opening more green spaces in Manila. You know Manila is located in the west side of the metropolis. So, water from Marikina, Quezon City and Rizal all flow into the city, particularly as rain increases due to global warming and other factors," he added.

We have an asset not being utilized properly, which are creeks and rivers that should suck in water.

Stressing that flooded streets have been the perennial problem of the city, the Manila mayor said he would do everything to put an end to it.

"It floods when it rains, but it also subsides. If it will take 20 years, 30 years, 15 years, 10 years to make Manila flood-free, I will go that path," he stressed.

Contradictions, irony

"But we have an asset not being utilized properly, which are creeks and rivers that should suck in water to prevent flooding. Often, we would ask why on the streets there is flood even if the bodies of water have not overflowed," he shared.

"The situation is as if infrastructure development and nature do not jibe because



Get it going Mayor Isko Moreno hopes to turn Manila into a tourists' delight within his term.

YUMMIE DINGDING

Continuation
Mla's assets come from nature

of the natural feature of the city, which may not have been planned. So, we keep on addressing complaints through a fundamental study on how to end flooding in the city of Manila once and for all," the mayor said.

Domagoso estimates that it will take at most two years to complete a study on how to end the problem of flooding in Metro Manila and to develop it.

"If solving the problem takes too long, then so be it, but at least every year there is a way forward," he said.

Back to normal

Reversing the deterioration of the city is his main goal, according to the Manila mayor.

"That's why when we started cleaning up, when we started doing small things, many were surprised and appreciated it. Why? Since the abnormal turned to normal, which is what we are doing now," he added.

He admitted that he received a lot of comments, mostly positive, saying, "Well this kid is serious and is showing his balls on the streets."

"If we cannot do it for ourselves, at least we started it. So that, our children when time comes, they can walk the stretch of Lawton and they would

not be waylaid by a snatcher," he said.

"Can you imagine, in just two days, we apprehended two snatchers in Lawton? Can you imagine a policeman on a wet road, in uncomfortable shoes, running and going against a criminal," he added. "He was doing it because of an order from the command center to go after criminals and drug dealers. I don't want any scalawags in Manila."

Beach walk soon

Domagoso said the cleanup of Manila will allow tourists and residents to soon indulge in walking the beach of the once famous Manila Bay when it is officially opened to the public.

It floods when it rains, but it also subsides. If it will take 20 years, 30 years, 15 years, 10 years to make Manila flood-free, I will go that path.

"The national government will build a 50-meter beach and water treatment facilities wherein the water coming from inland will be cleaned once it lands into Manila Bay," he added.

On 27 January, the national government kicked off the rehabilitation of the famed area, where people flock to watch the sunset, due to tons of waste that have been collected.

The bay's clean-up efforts led by the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Tourism (DoT), and Interior and Local Government (DILG) are ongoing.

"The Department of Public Works and Highways, DOT, MMDA, and DENR asked us for a space near the Yacht Club to put up a water monitoring system," the mayor said.

"I visited them a week ago. They're laying now the pipes for the water treatment facility, so this thing is going on. I'm told, if I'm not mistaken, by the first quarter of next year or latter part of this year, it will be opened," he shared. **CL**



the strong waves generated by a typhoon, the pile of trash is back in Manila Bay.

ROMAN PROSPERO



KYUSI MAY PINAKAMARAMING BASURA

NANGUNA ang Quezon City sa may pinakamaraming basura sa hanay ng mga siyudad sa Metro Manila.

Batay sa datos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), umabot sa 3,600 tonelada ng basura ang nagmumula sa Quezon City kada araw.

Sinusundan ito ng Maynila na nakakapag-generate ng mahigit sa 1,000

tonelada ng basura, Caloocan na may mahigit sa 900 tonelada, Parañaque City na may mahigit 600 tonelada at Makati City na halos 500 tonelada ng basura araw-araw.

Ayon kay DENR undersecretary Benny Antiporda, bukod sa napakalaki ng Quezon City, pinakamarami ring informal settlers ang nasa siyudad.

DWIZ882



EPCD BINUO NG BOC PARA SA HAZARDOUS WASTE

MAYNILA – BINUO ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang isang grupo na siyang magiging responsable sa pag-monitor sa mga unlawful entry of hazardous at iba pang mga basura na dumarating galing sa labas ng bansa.

Sa pamamagitan ng Cus-

toms Memorandum Order (CMO) no. 38-2019 na ipinalabas ni Customs commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero para sa pagbuo ng Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD).

Ito ay bilang permanenteng yunit na magbabantay

upang hindi makapasok ang mga hazardous substance at iba pang waste materials na dumarating sa mga port of entry sa iba't ibang parte ng bansa.

Ang EPCD, ay mananatili sa ilalim ng Enforcement and Security Service (ESS)

ng Enforcement Group (EG), na magmo-monitor sa processing of shipments ng hazardous substances, waste products, nuclear wastes, recyclable products, at substances na niregulate at kinontrol ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Nakasaad sa memo na itong grupo ang magre-recommend sa issuance ng alert orders at pre-lodgment control orders laban sa mga kargamento na hinihinalang lalabag sa Customs Modernization and Tariff (CMTA) at environmental laws.

Ang grupo ring ito ang may karapatan na mag-imbetiga sa mga kaso maging ang recommendations for prosecution of violations of CMTA, in relation to environmental and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

FROI MORALLOS



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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BOC bantay basura hihigpitan

ISANG tanggapan ang itinatag ni Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero sa kanyang ahensiya na ang tanging trabaho ay bantayan ang mga kargamento na naglalaman ng hazardous waste at iba pang uri ng basura na dadaan sa mga port of entry ng bansa.

Sa inilabas na Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 38-2019, binuo ni Guerrero ang Environment Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD) sa ilalim ng Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) ng BOC.

Magiging trabaho nito na bantayan ang pagproseso ng mga kagaramento katulad ng mga hazardous substance, waste product, nuclear waste, recyclable product o ang mga substance na nasa ilalim ng kontrol ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

May kapangyarihan ang EPCD na magrekomenda ng alert order, pre-lodgment control orders at paghahain ng kaso laban sa mga may-ari ng kargamentong naglalaman ng mga kontrabando. (Mina Aquino)



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Relax rules on creeks, 'esteros,' MMDA, DENR urged

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

BRACING for population growth and boom in commerce amid limited spaces, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Domagoso is appealing to the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to relax its rules on *esteros* and creeks.

Speaking during the Senate local government committee briefing, Domagoso said that he and other local government unit officials are appealing to concerned government agencies, which have authority over these *esteros* and creeks, to allow them to conduct redevelopment of the waterways.

"The LGUs cannot do any job on *esteros* and creeks, which is under the supervision of the MMDA and authority of the DENR," Moreno said.

The mayor said that LGU officials only obligation with regards to these waterways is to ensure people will not throw garbage in them to ensure their cleanliness.

Domagoso also agreed to lead the

initiative in taking care of *esteros* and creeks. He said LGUs wish to utilize open spaces like *esteros* and creeks in their respective municipalities and cities especially those coming from highly-urbanized cities in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao.

In Manila, Domagoso said he wants to embark on several projects on the city's waterways. He said they plan to use the spaces around and above them.

In redeveloping the waterways, the Manila mayor said that they would leave open spaces for cleaning and clearing operations.

He also made a guarantee that the redevelopment projects will not adversely affect the environment.

The mayor added that they plan to build a cantilever where there will still be a river and a service road.

A cantilever is a beam supported at one end while carrying a load at the other end or distributed along the unsupported portion.

"I can create perpendicular space to the road or perpendicular parking on both

sides. If I have 200 meter linear meter of creek or river, I can create 50 meters of space another 50 meter parking space, another 50 meter open space, 50 meter vending space," he said.

Domagoso admitted that what they intend to do with the *esteros* in creeks in Manila, the nation's capital, was not an original concept and are copied from different cities especially those in Europe.

"This is not my original idea. It's a copycat of what they're doing in other countries, but ours would be more innovative to address the challenges existing in our place," said Domagoso who has brought significant changes to the city which has been lagging behind its nearby cities due to apparent mismanagement and neglect.

He said the city also plans to develop the Estero de Muelle de Binondo in Juan Luna, Binondo.

"If we will be allowed to do this kind of concept, everything in Juan Luna will be transferred to Muelle de Binondo as there will be more spaces," he said.



Problema sa basura

TUWING tag-ulan, o kung may bagyo o habagat, ang pangunahing problema sa Metro Manila ay baha. Dahilan nito ay basura na nakabara sa mga imburnal at maging sa mga ilog. Kitang-kita ito sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay partikular na riyon sa baywalk. Pruweba ito ng kapabayaang ng ating mga kababayan. Tama ang kasabihan na kung ano ang itinapon, babalik din sa'yo. Ang masaklap nito sobra-sobra pa ang ibinabalik na perwisyo dahil pagbumaha ay paralisado na ang mga kalye at pagkaanod ng ilang kabahayan na malapit sa mga ilog. Sa oras ng baha tiyak na hindi makakapasok sa mga trabaho at maging ang mga estudyante ay mawawalan

ng pasok. Kaya bukod sa pagkagutom, nagiging mahina sa kaalaman ang ating mga anak dahil kulang sa oras ang kanilang pag-aaral.

Sa puntong ito, maraming local government unit at non-government organization ang nagsasaliksik para masolusyunan ang problema sa basura. Katulad ng Villar Sipag Foundation na nire-recycle ang mga plastik ng iba't ibang produkto upang mapakinabangan. Halimbawa itong napabantog na paggawa ng mga upuang plastik na malaking bagay upang magamit ng mga estudyante na mapunan ang pagkukulang ng DepEd. Ang iba pang basura ay ginagawang pataba sa mga halaman at ang mga waterlily ay ginagawang material para sa livelihood ng mga taga-Las Piñas City. Sa Parañaque City, ginagawang plastic blocks na pamaliit sa mga nasisirang hollow blocks sa mga center island. Malaking bagay ito na mabawasan ang pagkalat ng mga plastik sa kapaligiran.

Samantala, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay sinimulan na ang "refill revolution" katuwang ang NutriAsia sa maraming barangay sa Central Luzon. Isang refilling station ang itinayo ng DENR kasama ang NutriAsia Inc. sa isang barangay
(Sundan sa pahina 5)

BANAT NI BATUIGAS... Mula pahina 4

sa Bulacan noong Hulyo 18. Bahagi ito ng refill revolution na kampanya ng DENR na naglalalayong mabawasan ang pagkonsumo ng plastik sa rehiyon. Nabigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga residente ng Bgy. Caingin, Bocaue na makabili ng mga produkto ng NutriAsia, gaya ng Datu Puti suka at toyo, sa murang halaga sa pamamagitan ng pagdala ng sarili nilang containers.

Nilalayon ng refill revolution na itaguyod ang pangangalaga sa kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng paghikayat sa mga sambahayan na mag-recycle o muling paggamit ng kanilang malilinis na plastik containers sa halip na itapon ito. Inilunsad ang programang ito kasabay ng Earth Day celebration ng Guiguinto, Bulacan noong Marso 2018 sa pangunguna ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Re-

gion 3 ng DENR.

Ayon kay EMB Central Luzon Director Lormelyn Claudio, ang programang ito ay praktikal na solusyon laban sa polusyon sa plastik. Nakatutulong ito sa pagbawas sa produksiyon at paggamit ng plastik at maiwasan ang polusyon sa hangin at tubig. "Decreasing the amount of waste created by disposable packaging will be a very difficult task, but with the implementation of these different refill processes across

Central Luzon, later on replicated in other regions, it may still be possible. People ask me how we intend to sustain this initiative, and I always answer: It will need partners, both from the private and the public sectors, and, of course, it will need the cooperation of the citizenry. It's high time that we adopt the discipline of reusing and recycling plastics. Let us all commit to be good caretakers of the environment," sabi ni Claudio.



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INDONESIAN SOLUTION

PLASTIC BOTTLES PAY FOR BUS TICKETS IN SURABAYA

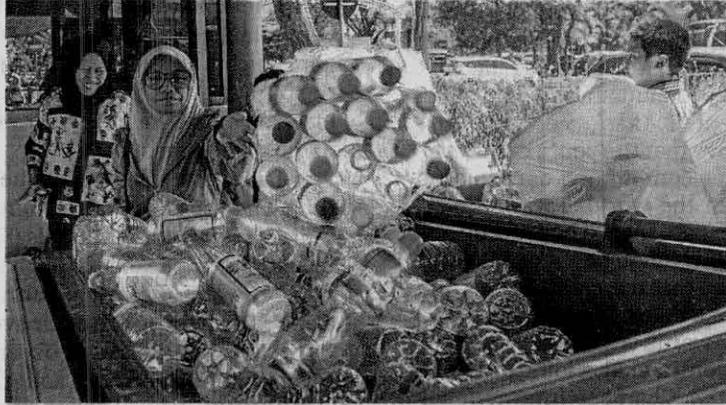
JAKARTA—Dozens of people clutching bags full of plastic bottles and disposable cups queue at a busy bus terminal in the Indonesian city of Surabaya, where passengers can swap trash for travel tickets.

The nation is the world's second-biggest marine polluter behind China and has pledged to reduce plastic waste in its waters some 70 percent by 2025 by boosting recycling, raising public awareness and curbing usage.

Smart solution

The Surabaya scheme has been a hit in the city of 2.9 million, with nearly 16,000 passengers trading trash for free travel each week, according to authorities.

"This is a very smart solution. It's free and instead of throwing away bottles people now collect them and bring them here," explains 48-year-old



PLASTIC MONEY Commuters exchange plastic bottles for Suroboyo bus tickets at a terminal in Surabaya last July 21. —AFP

resident Fransiska Nugrahepi.

An hour-long bus ride with unlimited stops costs three large bottles, five medium bottles or 10 plastic cups. But they must be cleaned and cannot be squashed.

There is a steady stream of

people squeezing past sacks full of recyclables to deposit plastic in four bins behind the small office and claim their tickets.

Franki Yuanus, a Surabaya transport official, says the program aims not only to cut waste but also to tackle traffic conges-

tion by encouraging people to switch to public transit.

"There has been a good response from the public," insists Yuanus, adding: "Paying with plastic is one of the things that has made people enthusiastic because up until now plastic waste was just seen as useless." Currently the fleet consists of 20 near-new buses, each with recycling bins and ticket officers.

6 tons

Authorities said roughly 6 tons of plastic rubbish are collected from passengers each month before being auctioned to recycling companies.

Nurhayati Anwar, who uses the bus about once a week with her 3-year-old son, said the trash swap program is changing how people see their throw-away cups and bottles. —AFP



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Development of watersheds in Caraga stepped up

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has mobilized its forest officers and technical men to develop the eight watershed areas covering 1.2 million hectares in North-eastern Mindanao or Caraga region.

The mobilization was in line with the commitment of President Duterte

for the people to have access to clean water over the next three years.

The DENR regional office has five provincial and 13 community environment and natural resources officers in Caraga's five provinces and six cities. "Our President (Duterte) has committed to provide access and steady supply of clean water to the people over the next three years hence, it is logical and necessary to develop the

watershed areas since it also provide waters needed for irrigation and household consumption," DENR Regional Executive Director (RED) Felix S. Alicer said Friday.

Alicer cited a directive of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu for the department's field officials and personnel to give priority to reforestation and the improvement and protection of watersheds.



NIA, DENR to manage 143 watershed areas

THE National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) for the effective management and development of the 143 watersheds supporting the country's national irrigation systems.

NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu signed the MoA at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City on Monday.

"Under the agreement, NIA shall identify and recommend priority watersheds and reservations supporting irrigation projects that require immediate rehabilitation and development in coordination with the DENR and its Forest

Management Bureau. Also, NIA shall... secure appropriate environment clearances and permits from the DENR and/or its field offices necessary for the protection of watersheds and reservations," NIA said in a statement.

Moreover, NIA shall recommend its qualified field personnel to be deputized by the DENR as environment and natural resources officers, in

accordance with the existing forestry laws, rules and regulations. NIA shall also assist the DENR in the preparation of integrated watershed, and management plans (IWMP) and programs related to the management, protection, development and rehabilitation of such watersheds and reservations.

The MoA also provides that the DENR and NIA should have joint undertakings in enforcing forestry laws, conducting census management, controlling watershed communities and sharing available watershed information that would enhance watershed capabilities of all parties. In coordination with other concerned agencies and institutions, the information, education and communication campaigns, studies, and research and development on

watershed technology generation and application must be conducted.

DENR issued the guidelines in the preparation of IWMPs and programs of all watersheds in the country, regardless of their classification, size, use and administrative jurisdiction.

The agencies said there was a need to establish and delineate the respective responsibilities of the DENR and NIA over watersheds and reservations, for purposes of effective management and development of programs and projects towards the sustainable existence of irrigation systems within the said areas. Similarly, the concept of watershed ecosystem management from ridge to reef approach, including vulnerability assessment, must be harmonized and adopted.

PIA



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Wounded whale shark dies on Masbate beach

By **NINO N. LUCES**

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay – A male juvenile whale shark (butanding) died after it was stranded on the beach in Barangay Pawikan, Cataingan town, Masbate, Tuesday.

Nonie Enolva, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) spokesman, told Manila Bulletin the carcass of the whale has been buried and was not examined to ascertain death.

Enolva said a resident of Pawikan, Joseph Sirtimo, saw the whale struggling to swim back to the water after being beached. But low tide had set in, preventing the animal from escaping.

Sirtimo reported the incident to authorities.

Enolva said that when Efraim Men-

doza and Marcelino Britanico, both BFAR staff responded, the butanding was already dead.

They also saw two wounds in the dorsal fin, possibly caused by a sharp object, most likely a bolo. "Perhaps the butanding was purposely hunted," Enolva said.

The wounds could not have caused its death, because they were superficial.

She said the whale died because it was stranded. "Ang butanding kasi needs to constantly move to get the needed water and dissolve oxygen. Kung nagsadsad siya sa baybayin and hindi nakalangoy, possible mamatay siya," Enolva said.

Enolva said Masbate fishers could not have hunted the butanding for food since they are aware that it is a protected species.



Doubting IP group dares miner

EXCLUSIVE

Present proof of P1-B royalties

Ventura's group was subsequently expelled from IPO-APSSOL and a new set of Council of Elders and officers of the group were elected

By Mario J. Mallari

TUBA, Benguet — An indigenous people (IP) group in

this town has asked giant firm Philex Mining Corp. (Philex), chaired by business tycoon Manny Pangilinan, to show proof

of payment of mining royalties it claims to have been maintaining for the benefit of 17 Kalanguya clans affected by the company's operation.

Rafael Fernandez, president of the Indigenous Peoples Organization of Alang, Pokis, Sabian, Sta. Fe, Olibba and Loakan

(IPO-APSSOL), said that from 2012 to the present, the release of royalties for the group was stopped by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) pending resolution of the squabble among the clans.

Members of the IPO-APSSOL were recipients of Philex

royalties for an open mining pit, which the company had set up on an ancestral land in Barangay Camp 3 in Tuba.

The NCIP, however, suspended the release of the royalties in 2012 after the officers of IPO-APSSOL, then led by its president Adam Ventura, failed

to account for the P311 million released from 2008 to 2012.

Ventura's group was subsequently expelled from IPO-APSSOL and a new set of Council of Elders and officers of the group were elected by majority of the clans.

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Continuation

Doubting IP group dares miner

From 2012 to the present, the release of royalties for the group was stopped by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples pending the resolution of the squabble among the clans

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Nothing to show for P1-B

In an exclusive interview by the *Daily Tribune*, Fernandez said that while Philex claims it is paying the royalty even after the NCIP ordered the release halted, they are requesting for official documents as proof. He said the Philex royalty should have now grown to about P1 billion.

When we asked for a receipt, they never give us any.

Incidentally, yesterday was International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples.

"That is what Philex is saying (that they are paying royalty) but when we asked for a receipt, they never give us any," Fernandez told the *Daily Tribune* in Filipino.

"That is why, now there is something playing in our minds...because we don't see any document," he added.

The *Daily Tribune* tried to reach Philex officials for their comment to no avail as of press time yesterday.

According to Fernandez, they have requested from Philex and the NCIP any proof that there is such a royalty payment.

"We have a request for that way back 2016, even to the

NCIP," Fernandez said.

MoA enforces royalties

The entitlement of IPO-APSSOL of mining royalties for the 96-hectare open mining pit at Barangay Camp 3 is covered by a memorandum of agreement (MoA) entered into by the group, the NCIP and Philex in 2008.

Members of the IPO-APSSOL were recipients of Philex royalties for an open mining pit, which the company had set up on an ancestral land.

From 2008 to 2012, Fernandez said that Philex released about P311 million in royalties to IPO-APSSOL under Ventura.

The NCIP, however, suspended the release of royalties after Ventura's group failed to account for the missing P311 million.

Subsequently, an internal squabble among IPO-APSSOL leaders erupted leading to Ventura's expulsion and the election of officers among the elders.

Not in the deal

Fely Vitas, who served as vice president of IPO-APSSOL during the term of Ventura, said a portion of the royalty was distributed to individual members for damages but not to the community royalty development program (CRDP) as stipulated in the MoA.

Currently, the IPO-APSSOL leadership is applying recognition from NCIP to finally avail of the fund intended for their CRDP.

Last 11 July, IPO-APSSOL held a general assembly attended by 800 members of the Kalanguya clans and observed by the NCIP.



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Mining community fears loss of livelihood

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya— Amid fear of losing their livelihood and jobs, sectoral leaders of Didipio and some workers held a dialogue with the Nueva Vizcaya provincial government Tuesday to air their sentiments on the impending temporary suspension of work in the Didipio mine.

Residents from Didipio appealed to Gov. Carlos Padilla to recall his order addressed to the barangay officials to “restrain the operation” of OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc.

The governor issued the order based on his position that the mining firm should not operate as the renewal was still pending as of June 20, 2019, despite confirmation from the national government that the company had the right to operate while the renewal was being finalized.

Acting on the Governor’s order, Didipio barangay officials put up a blockade that has impeded access to and from the mine since July 1, 2019.

OGPI holds the first Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement with the National Government with an initial term of 25 years, renewable for the same period.

David Way, OGPI general manager, said, “We have commenced the renewal process of our FTAA with the national government since March of last year. Upon the expiry of the first term of our FTAA last June 20, 2019, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau authorized our continued operations at Didipio pending confirmation of the new FTAA.

The Company filed a preliminary injunction request to the Regional Trial Court of Nueva Vizcaya to end what it considers as unauthorized restraint on its operation but was denied. **Abe Almirol**



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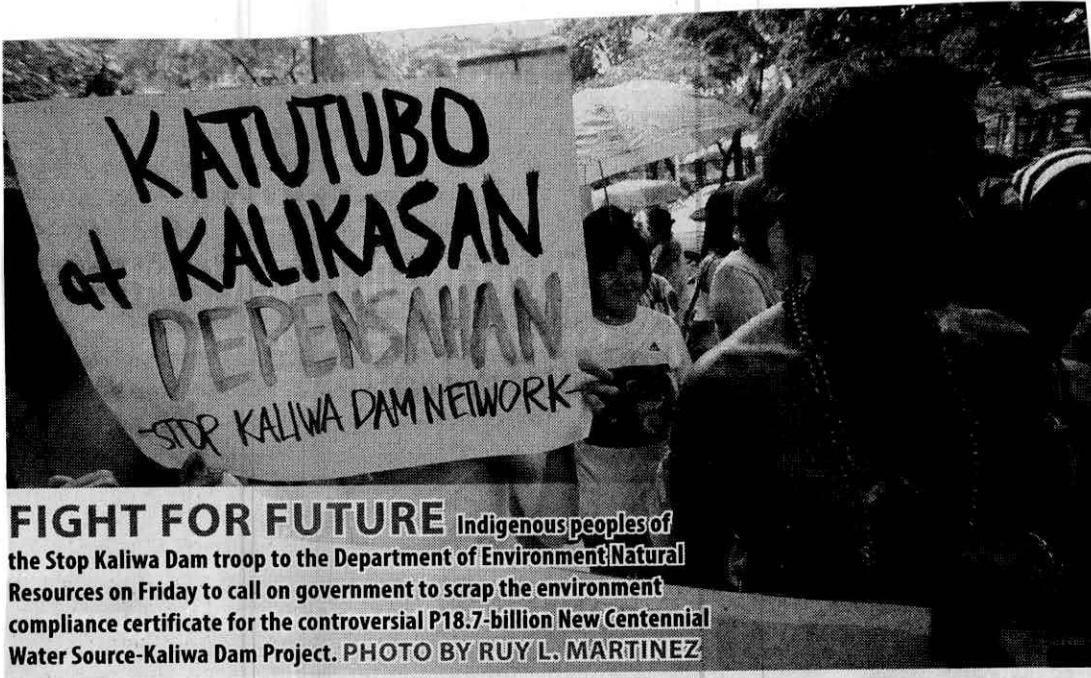
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FIGHT FOR FUTURE Indigenous peoples of the Stop Kaliwa Dam troop to the Department of Environment Natural Resources on Friday to call on government to scrap the environment compliance certificate for the controversial P18.7-billion New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project. PHOTO BY RUY L. MARTINEZ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Fishermen grumble as water hyacinths clog Laguna Lake again

By **NEL B. ANDRADE**

PILILLA, Rizal – Water hyacinths, commonly referred by locals as water lilies, are once again clogging the shores of villages in this town.

Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office head, Mario Yokingco told Manila Bulletin that hundreds of fishermen and their family who depend on fishing are feeling the effect of the abnormal spreading of the water hyacinths in Laguna Lake, the primary source of several species of freshwater fishes in the province.

Yokingco said the plants block waterways, preventing fishermen from reaching their fishing grounds.

The plants are thriving at an unusually fast pace, spreading from the lakeshore to the mid-

dle of the lake, according to Yokingco.

As a result, the prices of fish such as tilapia, bangus and kanduli have gone up.

“The lake has more water lily now compared to last year,” Yokingco said.

Yokingco said that so far no untoward incident has been reported as a result of the overgrowth of hyacinths.

In 2017, rescuers saved an elderly fisherman who went missing only to be found bruised and floating among the hyacinths in the middle of the lake.

The growth of hyacinths in Laguna Lake speeds up especially during the southwest monsoon season.

UN: Eating habits endanger food, climate

Cattle and other livestock produce more than half of the food-related emissions affecting climate change

PARIS—Not everyone needs to become a vegetarian, much less vegan, to keep the planet from overheating, but it would probably make things a lot easier if they did.

That's the ambiguous and—for many on either side of this meaty issue—unsatisfying conclusion of the most comprehensive report ever compiled on the link between climate change and how we feed ourselves, released Thursday by the United Nations.

The core findings are crystal clear: climate change is threatening the world's food supply, even as the way we produce food fuels global warming.

Rising temperatures in trop-

ical zones are starting to shrink yields, displace staple crops, and sap essential nutrients from food plants.

Red zone

At the same time, the global food system from farm to food court accounts for at least a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. With 2 billion more mouths to feed by mid-century, it cannot simply be scaled up without pushing Earth's thermometer deep into the red zone, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "special report."

More than half of today's food-related emissions come from the animal sector, and half



STACKING UP Cows are loaded onto a truck in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday. —AP

"It is clear that reducing the demand for meat in diets is an important approach to lowering the environmental impact of the food system."

The livestock industry is a double climate threat: it replaces CO₂-absorbing forests notably in subtropical Brazil with land for grazing and soy crops for cattle feed.

The animals also belch huge amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

On average, beef requires 20 times more land and emits 20 times more greenhouse gases per unit of edible protein than basic plant proteins, notes the World Resources Institute, a Washington-based

policy think tank.

For all these reasons, the IPCC concludes, gravitating towards "balanced diets, featuring plant-based foods" would hugely help the climate change cause.

This may sound like a ringing endorsement of vegetarianism, but it doesn't necessarily mean the world must, or should, eschew meat altogether, the IPCC said.

Besides "coarse grains, legumes, fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds," that "balanced diet" also includes "animal-sourced food produced in resilient, sustainable and low-greenhouse gas emission systems," the report concluded. —AFP

of that from sheep and, most of all, cattle.

"Today's IPCC report identifies the enormous impact that our dietary choices have on the

environment," said Alan Dangour, a nutrition and global health expert at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.



Agriculture, the climate emergency, and the Philippines

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EAGLE
EYES
TONY
LA VINA

EVERY day, there is bad news related to climate change. Heat wave in Europe. In the Poles, Antarctica, and Greenland—unprecedented melting of glaciers and ice sheets that's bound to raise estimates of sea level rise. And right here in our very own backyard, intense monsoon rains aggravated by a typhoon that has resulted in successive days of suspended classes.

But the mother of all news on climate change this week is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the release of the report's Summary for Policy Makers. And the news is not good either; in fact, it is alarming and governments and stakeholders everywhere must take note and respond appropriately and effectively to its findings and recommendations.

The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land, was commissioned in 2016 and prepared by three working groups of 107 scientists from more than 50 countries across all regions of the world—with more than half of the contributing authors from developing nations. It consists of 1200 pages with an executive summary and, following normal IPCC practice, includes a Summary for Policy Makers that was negotiated and approved early this week.

The Special Report addresses greenhouse gas fluxes in land-based ecosystems, land use and sustainable land management in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, desertification, land degradation and food security. According to the IPCC, this report provides an updated assessment of the current state of knowledge while striving for coherence and complementarity with other recent reports, including the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C), the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Report on Land Degradation and Restoration, the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the Global Land Outlook of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

The report begins with a clear understanding of the role of land for human society and well being: "Land is integral to human habitation and livelihoods, providing food

and resources, and also serves as a source of identity and cultural meaning." It is also absolutely clear that "the combined impacts of climate change, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity pose obstacles to resilient development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]." In other words, we are in trouble, with experts warning that the rise in global temperatures, linked to increasing pressures on fertile soil, is now threatening food

“In other words, we are in trouble.”

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Agriculture,...

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security for the planet.

The Special Report provides important information (there is high and medium confidence by the IPCC scientists in most of these conclusions) on the state of land in the planet and how climate is changing that:

“People currently use one quarter to one third of land’s potential net primary production for food, feed, fiber, timber and energy. Land provides the basis for many other ecosystem functions and services, including cultural and regulating services, that are essential for humanity. In one economic approach, the world’s terrestrial ecosystem services have been valued on an annual basis to be approximately equivalent to the annual global Gross Domestic Product.”

“Land is both a source and a sink of greenhouse gases [GHGs] and plays a key role in the exchange of energy, water and aerosols between the land surface and atmosphere. Land ecosystems and biodiversity are vulnerable to ongoing climate change and weather and climate extremes, to different extents. Sustainable land management can contribute to reducing the negative impacts of multiple stressors, including climate change, on ecosystems and societies.”

“Data available since 1961 show that global population growth and changes in per capita consumption of food, feed, fiber, timber and energy have caused unprecedented rates of land and freshwater use with agriculture currently accounting for ca. 70 percent of global fresh-water use. Expansion of areas under agriculture and forestry, including commercial production, and enhanced agriculture and forestry productivity have supported consumption and food availability for a growing population.”

“Data available since 1961 shows the per capita supply of vegetable oils and meat has more than doubled and the supply of food calories per capita has increased by about one third. Currently, 25 to 30 percent of total food produced is lost or wasted. These factors are associated with additional GHG emissions. Changes in consumption

patterns have contributed to about two-billion adults now being overweight or obese. An estimated 821-million people are still undernourished.”

“Global warming has led to shifts of climate zones in many world regions, including expansion of arid climate zones and contraction of polar climate zones). As a consequence, many plant and animal species have experienced changes in their ranges, abundances, and shifts in their seasonal activities.”

“Climate change has already affected food security due to warming, changing precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of some extreme events. In many lower-latitude regions, yields of some crops (e.g., maize and wheat) have declined, while in many higher-latitude regions, yields of some crops (e.g., maize, wheat and sugar beets) have increased over recent decades. Climate change has resulted in lower animal growth rates and productivity in pastoral systems in Africa. There is robust evidence that agricultural pests and diseases have already responded to climate change resulting in both increases and decreases of infestations. Based on indigenous and local knowledge, climate change is affecting food security in drylands, particularly those in Africa, and high mountain regions of Asia and South America.”

“Climate change creates additional stresses on land, exacerbating existing risks to livelihoods, biodiversity, human and ecosystem health, infrastructure, and food systems. Increasing impacts on land are projected under all future GHG emission scenarios. Some regions will face higher risks, while some regions will face risks previously not. Cascading risks with impacts on multiple systems and sectors also vary across regions.”

To arrive at these conclusions, the authors of the IPCC Special Report examined thousands of studies and identified potential responses. Because of its forward looking approach, the report has been described as a vital guide for governments as climate change risks grow in a world with a growing population (we could get to 10 billion people by 2050 just when the worst impacts of climate change are expected to accelerate if business as usual continues).

Fortunately, the report finds that there are many solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security. But coordinated action is needed. In the press briefings held in Geneva, Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of one of three Working Groups, pointed out that: “It takes time for ecosystems, soils and trees to take up carbon, so early action gives more benefits. It also takes time for education, capacity building and training, so the practices are learnt and can be implemented. These reasons are why early action is particularly important in the land sector.”

The Philippines will not be spared from this threat of climate change. Already, our agriculture sector and food security are under great stress from physical causes aggravated by economic, political, and governance mismanagement by several administrations.

That is why I welcome the appointment of William Dar as acting Secretary of Agriculture. What a relief that we finally have a professional in this crucial position and especially at this time of the climate emergency.

I have known Willie from the mid-1990s and has followed his outstanding work domestically as Estrada’s agriculture secretary from 1998 to 1999 and globally as a longtime director general of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat). As someone who was active in the governance of similar international agricultural research organizations (I was in the board for six years each of Icrisat’s sister research organizations Bioversity International and Center for Forestry Research), I am aware of how high Secretary Dar is looked up to by the global agriculture community, having led Icrisat for three five-year terms—from 2000 to 2014.

The week has seen bad news for agriculture and climate change. Thankfully, we have had good news as well with Dar’s appointment. Because for sure Willie Dar knows what we need to do to respond to the climate emergency and its threat to our food security and the livelihoods of our farmers.

Facebook: deantonylavs Twitter: tonylavs

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Abante

UNA SA BALITA



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'Kawayan' tugon sa climate change

PANGUNGUNAHAN ng Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang 1st ASEAN Bamboo Congress for Climate Change Adaptation towards Environmental Sustainability and Economic Resiliency na gaganapin sa dating na Agosto 12 hanggang 16 sa Iloilo International Convention Center sa Iloilo City.

Ito ay inaasahang dadaluhan ng mahigit na 200 researcher, academic, policy maker, professional at business group mula sa ASEAN region upang talakayin at makipagpalitan ng impormasyon tungkol sa kawayan at mga sustainable environmental strategy, kabilang pa rito ang mga opisyal ng International Network for Bam-

boo and Rattan (INBAR) mula Beijing, China, World Bamboo Organization at mga kinatawan mula sa Australia, USA at China.

Ayon kay ERDB Director at National Coordinator ng Bamboo Plantation Development Project (BPDP) Dr. Sofio B. Quintana, bahagi ng pagpupulong ang pagkilala sa kahalagahan ng kawayan at kung paano nito mapapagaan ang epekto ng climate change.

"Bamboo is considered as a valuable economic and environmental resource, and ERDB hopes to continue to innovate ways on increasing awareness on the promising potentials of bamboo especially in attaining environmental sustainability and economic resiliency," sabi ni Quintana. **(Dolly Cabreza)**



China won't budge on sea ruling - envoy

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DFA files another protest

President Duterte may discuss the arbitral ruling on the South China Sea with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, but Beijing will not be swayed into accepting it, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said yesterday.

"Our position has been clearly stated at the very beginning of the filing of the arbitration," Zhao said in a chance interview. "When the result of the arbitration (came out)... we also expressed that we will not accept it and we will not recognize it."

He stressed: "That position has not changed, and will not be changed."

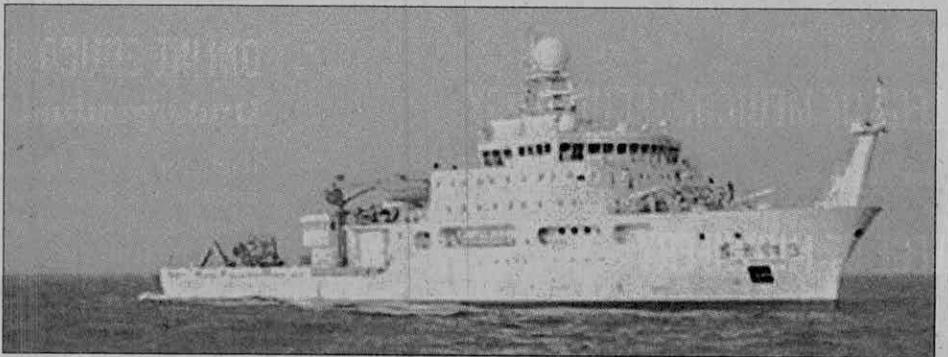
Zhao noted Duterte had announced that the arbitral ruling would be raised in a friendly and "non-confrontational" manner rather than "invoked" with Xi. The envoy said he did not expect the discussion on the ruling to affect friendly bilateral ties.

But presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo has a different idea as he quoted Duterte as saying that the

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Images from Ryan Martinson, of the China Maritime Studies Institute of the US Naval War College, show the Chinese oceanographic survey ships *Zhanjian* (left) and *Dong Fang Hong 3*, which were recently seen operating in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.





China

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"time has come" to invoke the ruling that favors the Philippine position on the South China Sea dispute.

"He said: 'Remember that I said before that there will be a time when I will invoke the arbitral ruling? This is the time. That's why I'm going there,'" Panelo said during a press briefing earlier this week.

Duterte himself confirmed that he would bring up the ruling of The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration when he meets with Xi in Beijing this month.

"President Duterte is the president of the Philippines. He has the total freedom to talk about anything he likes either in the Philippines or on foreign trips," Zhao said.

He contradicted Duterte's statement that China is causing the delay in coming up with a code of conduct for the SCS, something that may result in a "miscalculation" in the disputed areas.

Without giving specifics, Zhao said that it is "someone else" inside and outside Southeast Asia that is delaying the process. He gave assurance that they are determined to seek a final and peaceful solution to the "differences" and

that Beijing is not looking for conflict or trouble.

"We are now working expeditiously with the Philippines and other ASEAN countries to formulate the code of conduct. China was the first to propose to conclude the COC within three years. It is China who is working very hard with the Philippines and the other countries to conclude the COC earlier than three years," Zhao added.

Duterte, who is scheduled to visit China this month, said yesterday that he would talk about the situation in the South China Sea and the lack of a COC, which "has been pending for a long time."

"I said that's why I'm going there. They are delaying it and it's causing so many incidents and one day it will... one mistake, a miscalculation there and it will be hard to undo," he said.

Diplomatic protest

Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs has filed another diplomatic protest against China over the presence of Chinese survey ships in Philippine waters, Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said yesterday.

Responding to the tweet of former elections commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal, Locsin said the protest against China has already been filed.

"Thank you @DFAPHL Sec. @teddyboylocsin for listening to the @dndphl. Hopefully we have a written diplomatic protest and ask the Chinese Embassy to explain..." Larrazabal said.

Locsin replied, "Don't hope; it's done."

Earlier in the day, Locsin tweeted: "Okay, got it, General. @DFAPHL firing off diplomatic protest" against Beijing, after Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana questioned the presence of Chinese research vessels and warships in Philippine waters.

Lorenzana, in an interview with ANC yesterday, urged the Philippine government to ask Beijing why Chinese research vessels and warships are entering Philippine waters.

He said nobody is prevented from doing research in the area as long as the Philippine government is informed beforehand.

According to Ryan Martinson, an assistant professor at the China Maritime Studies Institute of the US Naval War College, the Chinese oceanographic survey ships *Zhanjian* and *Dong Fang Hong 3* have been conducting marine scientific research in the country's exclusive economic zone this week.

Martinson said *Zhanjian* has been operating in the Philippines' EEZ since Saturday while *Dong Fang Hong 3* was spotted near northern Luzon on Wednesday.

Locsin earlier said he would rather wait for information coming from the military before taking action. Last month, he said a diplomatic protest was filed against China over the presence of Chinese vessels near Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea.

Malacañang also gave assurance yesterday that the government will always be on guard against possible intrusions in Philippine territories and that it is just waiting for the report from Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon.

Meanwhile, Duterte said the Philippines and China could start the talks without touching on the validity of who is the real owner of the disputed areas, adding that he is open to the China-proposed 60-40 sharing agreement in favor of the Philippines.

"But the more important is DOC (Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea), the ownership, the COC plus the minerals to be extracted. And they have proposed a 60-40. That's OK with me. But that could be a later topic if we have time," he pointed out.

Duterte, who earlier claimed that an aggressive stance on the South China Sea row could lead to conflict, stressed he is not allowed to accept China's ownership claims.

"We are not allowed to accept that China owns it because of the arbitral ruling. And even before, we were claiming it... But I'd like to assure also. I would not allow any foreign troops. I do not want trouble. Not the Chinese, not the Koreans, not the Americans, not anybody else except Filipino troops," he said.

Last June, Duterte said Xi had told him that there would be "trouble" if the Philippines digs oil in the West Philippine Sea. Duterte has repeatedly said he would not declare a war with China over the maritime dispute because it would lead to a "massacre" of Filipino troops.

Asked what he would do if Xi warns him of trouble again after invoking the arbitral ruling issued weeks into his administration in July 2016, Duterte replied: "Then I will think about it. I will just keep it to myself first because at that

stage nothing would really be a very significant development."

"But once we have set the agenda, I talked first about jurisdiction, the COC, and the exploitation of the natural resources of my country since as far as I'm concerned, we own it. So that is my position. We still own what we are claiming," he added.

The President said he would also discuss the arbitral ruling with Xi because his term is about to end soon. "It's about time that we start talking. Now is the time. I only have a few months left (in power)."

Following the expected talks on the disputed areas and planned joint exploration projects, Zhao assured that China will not insist on a bigger share of gas and oil resources.

The percentage of share has to be negotiated and settled under the guidance of the two countries, he noted.

"Whether 60-40 or 39-61, it is up to the enterprises to decide. But there is one thing I can assure, China will not insist on the larger share than that of the Philippines. From the perspective of the government, it is up to the enterprises of the two sides," Zhao said. — **Romina Cabrera, Helen Flores, Alexis Romero, Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude**



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PDU30, payag na sa 60/40 hatian sa joint oil exploration ng China sa WPS

APRUB na kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang joint oil exploration ng China sa West Philippine Sea basta masiguro lang na sa Pilipinas mapupunta ang malaking bahagi ng hatian.

Ani Pangulong Duterte, payag na siya sa 60/40 na hatian kung matiyak na ibibigay sa gobyerno ang 60% ng anomang makukuha sa pinag-aagawang teritoryo.

Sinabi ng Punong Ehekutibo na isa lang aniya ito sa mga nakatakdang pag-usapan nila ni Chinese President Xi Jinping sa kanyang biyahe sa China sa loob ng buwang ito.

Bukod sa isyu ng WPS ay babanggitin din ni Pangulong Duterte kay President Xi ay ang kawalan pa rin ng Code of Conduct na matagal nang pinag-uusapan sa tuwing may pagpulong ang mga lider sa Asya pati na rin ang arbitral ruling pabor sa Pilipinas at ang mga yamang-dagat sa mga pinag-aagawang teritoryo.

Sa kabilang dako, muling binigyang-diin ng Punong Ehekutibo na hindi niya papayagan ang sinumang dayuhang bansa na maglagay ng tropa sa teritoryo ng Pilipinas.

KRIS JOSE



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CHINESE 'INVASION'

Sino vessels ruffle PH officials' feathers

FOREIGN Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin yesterday said that the Philippines is filing a diplomatic protest to Beijing over the presence of Chinese vessels in the country's territory.

"Okay, got it, General. @DFAPHL firing off diplomatic protest," Locsin tweeted after Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana asked what Chinese research vessels and warships were doing in Philippine waters.

Lorenzana's query was prompted by the report of Ryan Martinson, assistant professor at China Maritime Studies Institute of Naval War College, that a Chinese oceanographic survey ship was sighted in Philippine territorial waters.

Martinson said Chinese ship Zhanjian had been in the Philippine east coast since August 3.

Also seen in the Philippine economic zone was yet another Chinese vessel, the survey ship Dong Fang Hong 3.

60-40 sharing okay

President Rodrigo Duterte has said he would push for the "exploitation of natural resources" in the West Philippine Sea through the joint oil exploration deal with China when he meets Chinese President Xi Jinping later this month.

Duterte said he doesn't see anything wrong with

China's proposal to split oil resources in the West Philippine Sea in Manila's favor.

"They have proposed a 60-40 (deal), okay na 'yun para sa akin," Duterte said. "But that could be a later topic if we have time."

The Philippines and China signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for oil and gas exploration during Xi's state visit to the country last year.

In his impending fifth visit to China, Duterte said he will also raise the delay in the formulation of the South China Sea code of conduct, the Philippines' arbitral victory against China, and other key maritime issues.

The Philippines, along with fellow Southeast Asian neighbors Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam, have overlapping claims to the sea along with China. Despite an agreement to refrain from undertaking provocative actions, China has continued to expand and militarize territories that it claims in the maritime region.

In July 2016, the Philippines sealed a historic win against China before the United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal in The Hague, which invalidated Beijing's sweeping claims to virtually the entire South China Sea.

China, however, has refused to honor the ruling.



Hatian sa WPS, aprubado ni Digong

Inaprubahan na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang hatian ng Pilipinas at China sa pinag-aagawang teritoryo sa West Philippine Sea.

Ang pag-apruba ng Pangulo sa kasunduan ay uusad kung mas lamang ang Pilipinas sa makukuhang hati na 60/40.

"Payag na ako sa 60/40 na hatian kung matitiyak na ibibigay sa gobyerno ang 60% ng anumang makukuha sa pinag-aagawang teritoryo," wika ng Pangulo.

Binigyang-diin ni Duterte, ang nasabing usapin ay kanilang uupuan ni Chinese President Xi Jinping sa kanyang biyahe sa China sa katapusan ng Agosto.

Kabilang din sa pag-uusapan ay ang kawalan pa rin ng Code of Conduct (CoC) na matagal nang pinag-uusapan sa tuwing may pagpupulong ang mga lider sa Asya, pati na rin ang arbitral ruling pabor sa Pilipinas at ang mga yamang-dagat sa mga pinag-aagawang teritoryo.

"Well, sabi ko nga, one of the things. But the more important is DOC, the ownership, the CoC plus 'yung mineral na makuha diyan. And they have proposed a 60/40. Okay na 'yan para sa akin. But that could be a later topic if we have time. Of course. Sixty in favor of our country," giit pa ni Duterte.

Beth Camia



Duterte bars foreign troops missiles on Pag-asa Island

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The Philippines will prohibit the deployment of foreign troops on Pag-asa Island as well as oppose the entry of nuclear-powered missile systems in any part of the country, President Duterte declared Thursday.

The President said his government would only allow the deployment of Filipino troops to the Philippine-controlled island in the West Philippine Sea, insisting the country's ownership of the territory.

"Even before, we were claiming it. Pag-asa has been there for 74

years? Ah that's - 1974 rather. We already claimed Pag-asa, occupied, that's why there's a base there," Duterte said. "But I'd like to assure also. I would not allow any foreign troops. I do not want trouble. Not the Chinese, not the Koreans, not the Americans, not anybody else except Filipino troops," he added.

The President is also opposed to any installation of missile systems, including nuclear weapons, by foreign allies in the country. "It is not allowed under our Constitution to be placing nuclear weapons here," he insisted.

He made clear that his opposition

to the installation of missile systems was not only directed to the United States but also to Russia and China. "I'm responding to all, not only the Americans. Russians, China. I will not allow the deployment of nuclear warheads because it is not allowed by our Constitution and we - I do not want it," he said.

The President asserted early this week that he would never allow the United States to install missile systems in the country.

The President said while he recognizes the Philippines' Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States, he would reject the entry of nuclear

arsenal in the country since this is considered a violation of the Constitution.

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper earlier announced he was amenable to deploying ground-based missiles in Asia "sooner rather than later" apparently to counter the rise of China. Esper did not say where the weapons will be based although some suspect that Asian allies like Japan and Australia could be among the deployment sites.

Esper's announcement came after the Trump administration pulled out of Cold War-era arms control treaty with Russia.



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STUNNING FLOWER A stunning *Rafflesia panchoana* Madulid, Buot and Ago, locally known as *Malaboo*, sits amid the Mount Makiling Forest Reserve. It is the smallest among the known *Rafflesia* species with about 15 to 20 centimeters diameter. PHOTO BY KEN PEÑAFLORES/HARIBON FOUNDATION