

DATE : 22 MAY 2019

DAY : Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Pair of endangered PH eagles to fly to Singapore

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

A PAIR of critically endangered Philippine eagles will be sent to Singapore as a biosecurity measure to ensure the survival of their species and as a fallback population in the event of catastrophic incidents.

The sending to Singapore of the two species of Philippine eagle, namely Geothermica and Sambisig—is provided under the loan agreement signed yesterday by Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu and the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS).

Cimatu said the two raptors will play a crucial role as ambassadors for Philippine biodiversity once they are brought on June 4 to the Jurong Bird Park operated by WRS.

“The Philippine eagle is a critically-endangered species. As such, it is an ideal ambassador of Philippine biodiversity, perfect for the purpose of generating awareness on the urgent need for conservation,” Cimatu said during the signing ceremony of the wildlife loan agreement (WLA) with WRS held at the DENR central office in Quezon City.

It marked the first time the Philippines, through the DENR, entered into an agreement of its kind with a foreign institution.

With the accord, Cimatu said the DENR aims to stimulate international support for an in-situ conservation program for the Philippine eagle, along with a biosecurity measure

against risks arising from catastrophic events, such as disease outbreaks.

“Sending Geothermica and Sambisig to Singapore acts as a biosecurity measure to ensure the survival of the species and as a fallback population in the event of catastrophic events like disease outbreaks or extreme natural calamities taking place in their Philippine habitats,” Cimatu pointed out.

Both Geothermica and Sambisig, aged 15 and 17 years old, respectively, are products of the conservation breeding program of the Philippine Eagle Center based in Davao City.

The signing of the DENR-WRS deal was the highlight of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Philippines-Singapore Friendship Day.

It also came two days before the observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22.

Cimatu said the DENR was honored to be part of the celebration by loaning the Philippine eagle, which he described as the “crown jewel of the Philippine biodiversity, an integral part of the rich Filipino heritage.”

“As our national bird, it (Philippine eagle) embodies our aspiration to soar high as a nation,” he added.

Cimatu said that Geothermica and Sambisig will be on loan to WRS—one of the world’s leading zoological institutions—and in their new home in a realistic setting at the 20.2-hectare Jurong Bird Park, Asia’s largest bird park that is home to close to

3,500 birds across 400 species, of which 20 percent is threatened.

DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Crisanta Marglene Rodroquez facilitated loan wildlife agreement involving the pair of Philippine eagle.

Under the agreement, the DENR commits to send the raptors to Singapore, issue or make the necessary representation with concerned government agencies to facilitate the issuance of necessary permits for the transportation, export and/or shipment of the birds to the facility of WRS and monitor the birds annually.

The WRS, on the other hand, assumes full responsibility in ensuring the proper care, handling, maintenance and security of the loaned Philippine eagles in its facility; recognizes and commits that the loaned Philippine eagles and their ensuring progenies, including their genetic materials and any derivatives, if any, remain the sole property of the Republic of the Philippines; and submits annual report on the status of the loaned birds and activities undertaken, including research findings and other project-related developments.

For his part, Dr. Cheng Wen-Haur, deputy chief executive officer and chief life sciences officer of WRS, expressed his gratitude in the Philippine government for trusting their institution in taking care of the two raptors.

“We are honored by the trust that the Philippine government has placed in us to care for

the country’s national bird. As a conservation-minded wildlife organization, there is a strong synergy between our focus on protecting animals—particularly threatened Southeast Asian species—and the Philippine Eagle Foundation’s mission to promote the survival of a truly majestic raptor and the biodiversity it represents,” Wen-Haur said.

“Together, we can actively contribute in a greater capacity to raise awareness of the threats that the wild cousins of these eagles face in the wild, even as we continue the work of breeding to fight extinction,” he added.

Last year, the DENR issued Memorandum Circular 2018-04 which lays down the protocol that allows the keeping

of captive populations of the Philippine eagle in qualified institutions for conservation, scientific research and public education.

Known as the largest of the extant eagles in the world in terms of length and wing surface, the Philippine eagle is listed as a “critically endangered” raptor in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List and the country’s National List of Threatened Species under DENR Administrative Order 2004-15.

Wild populations of the species throughout the archipelago remains precarious with an estimated number of less than 400 pairs. Hunting and loss of forest habitat remain the primary threats to its survival.

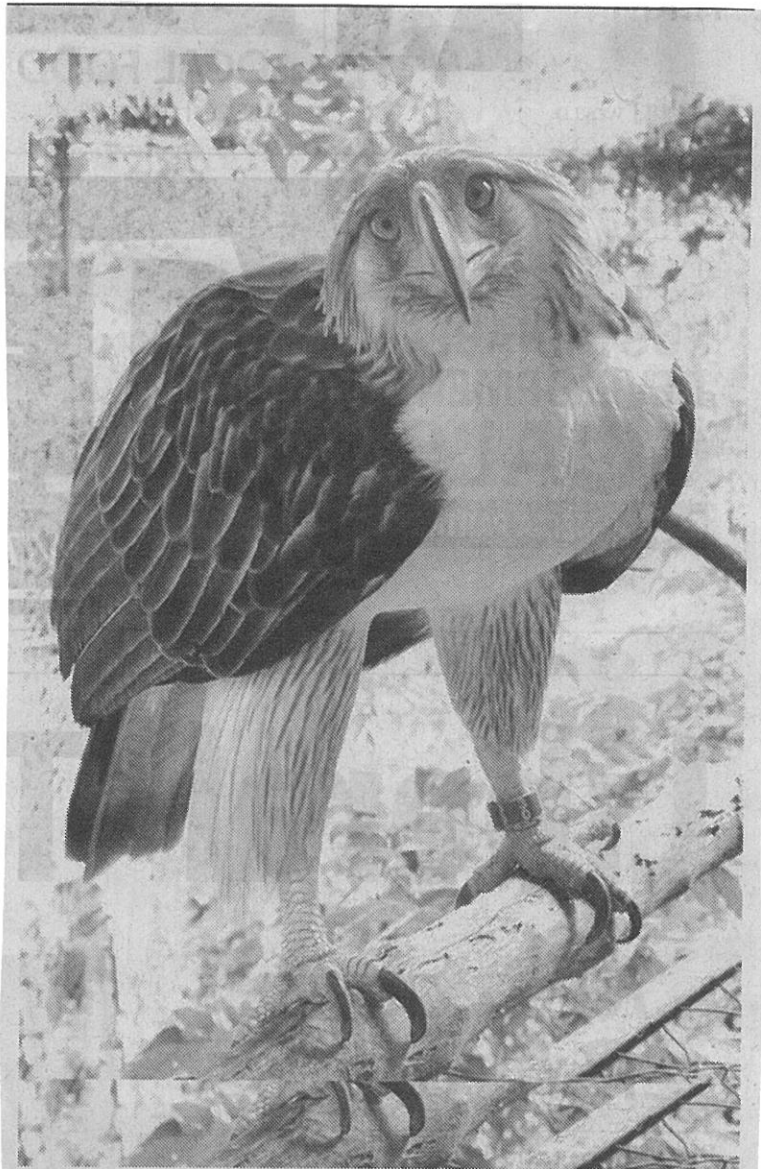


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SINGAPORE-BOUND Sambisig, a 17-year-old captive-bred female Philippine eagle, is one of the raptors that will be sent to Singapore under the Wildlife Loan Agreement between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Wildlife Reserves Singapore.



MPIC, Maynilad commit to help in Manila Bay rehabilitation

METRO PACIFIC Investments Corp. (MPIC) and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. have committed to help the government clean up Manila Bay through the Adopt-an-Estero program.

In a statement on Tuesday, MPIC and Maynilad said they signed the memorandum of understanding with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the Adopt-an-Estero program, which is part of the government's efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay. The partnership will span five years.

"MPIC has always been committed to protecting and preserving the natural environment, as well as promoting the health and safety of the general public. Upon acknowledging the objective of the DENR to promote stewardship among the private sector, MPIC through Maynilad is set on assisting government agencies in improving water quality parameters of the country's water bodies," MPIC President and Chief Executive Officer Jose Maria K. Lim was quoted as saying.

Under the MoU, MPIC will adopt and restore the following creeks (*esteros*): Estero de Vitas, Estero de San Lazaro, Estero de Kabulusan, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Binondo, Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sampaloc, Estero de San Sebastian, Estero de San Miguel, Estero de Valencia, Estero de Quiapo, Estero de Uli-Uli, Estero de Paco, Estero de Pandacan, Estero de Tanque, Estero de Balete, Estero de Provisor, Estero de Concordia, Estero de Sunog Apog, and Estero de San Antonio Abad.

MPIC said it will closely coordinate with DENR, local

government units, other government agencies, and stakeholders in the clean-up efforts. The company will also provide logistical support and mobilize

schools and communities to take part in the program.

For its part, Maynilad will hasten the implementation

of its wastewater plans and programs, such as the rehabilitation of sewer lines, connect customers to the existing sewage network, install collector pipes at easements cleared by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, accelerate sewerage coverage, and conduct information and education campaigns on wastewater treatment and disposal.

"MPIC, Maynilad, and the DENR recognize that the concerted efforts of both the public and private sectors to clean Manila Bay's riverine tributaries will have beneficial effects on the health and well-being of the public, promote environmental sustainability, and allow for flexibility in a climate of global warming," the companies said.

Other MPIC companies such as Manila Electric Company (Meralco), Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings, Inc. (MPHHI), and Light Rail Manila Corp. (LRMC) will also adopt *esteros*.

MPIC is one of three key Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.





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MPIC ADOPTS ESTEROS. Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. sign a memorandum of understanding with the Environment Department for the 'Adopt-an-Estero' campaign under the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program. Signing the agreement are Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (left) and MPIC president and chief executive Jose Maria Lim. Apart from Maynilad, other MPIC companies such as Manila Electric Co., Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc. and Light Rail Manila Corp. will be involved in adopting the assigned esteros.



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11 NEGOSYO SA BORACAY IPINASARA

LABING-ISANG Chinese at Korean business establishments ang ipinasasara ng Interagency Task Force ng isla dahil sa pag-o-operate nang walang kaukulang government permits at clearances.

Batay sa report, ang naturang restaurants, convenience stores, hostels at souvenir shops ay napatunayang nag-o-operate nang walang mayor's permit, o hindi kumpleto ang local government at Bureau of Fire Protection requirements.

Ang mga establisimiyentong ipinag-utos ng task force na isara ay ang Bella's Bar and Restaurant, Great Wall Inn and Restaurant, Old Captain Cuisine, Ken Minimart, Ken St., Island Staff Restaurant,

Coco Spa, Kim Ji Man, W Hostel Boracay Dragon, VIP Souvenir Shop at YH World Network Service Inc.

Ayon kay Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Group General Manager Natividad Bernardino, marami pang establisimiyento ang nanganganib na ipasara dahil sa pagkabisigong sumunod sa mga regulasyon.

Tumanggi namang magbigay ng pahayag ang mga apektadong establisimiyento, at sinabing wala ang mga may-ari nang isilbi ang closure orders.

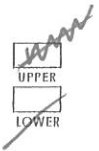
Pinaalalahanan din ng task force ang mga establisimiyento na mag-empleyo lamang ng mga foreign worker na may work permits at visas, kung hindi ay sasampahan ang mga ito ng karampatang kaso.



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Itatayo sa Kawit Island P18-B RESORTS, CASINO PROJECT

CEBU – Tinatayang aabot sa P18 bilyong halaga ng integrated resort at casino project ang itatayo ng isang pribadong kompanya sa siyam na ektaryang bahagi ng Kawit Island sa South Road Properties kung saan maapektuhan ang 50 punong kahoy.

Ayon kay DENR-7 Community Environment and Natural Resources Office Officer Raul Paso, kabilang sa maapektuhan ng proyekto ng Universal Hotel and Resorts Incorporated (UHRI) ang 24 narra tree, 7 acacia, 5 neem tree, 8 talisay tree ay isa pang punong kahoy.

Ang 50 punong kahoy sa ektaryang lupain ay pag-aari ng pamahalaang lokal ng Cebu sa ilalim ng Transfer Certificate Title No. PT-15961.

Nabatid na humingi na ng permiso ang UHRI sa Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) para sa earth-balling ng 15 punong kahoy na mailipat para bigyang-daan ang development ng Cebu Integrated Resort Project.

Subalit sa pagsusuri ng lokal na ahensiya ng DENR, lumilitaw na 50 punong kahoy ang apektado ng proyekto talibas sa sinabi ng UHRI na 15 lamang.

Nabatid din kay Paso na bago mag-isyu ng permit ang DENR ay kailangang kumuha ng letter request ang UHRI mula sa Cebu City Council na may resolution na 'no objection' sa removal ng trees, project plan sa mga itatayong structure, lokasyon na pagtatayuan ng mga punong kahoy na maapektuhan, Environmental

Compliance Certificate; at earth-balling at transplanting plan na may kaakibat na mapa.

Samantala, sinabi ng hepe ng CENRO na si Nida Cabrera na nagpalabas na sila ng dokumento na 'no objection' at nakatakda itong pagtibayin ng Cebu City Council.

Aniya, aasistihan nila ang UHRI para sa earth-balling upang masigurong buhay ang mga punong kahoy na maililipat sa pribadong lupain sa Lapu-Lapu City.

Kabilang sa proyekto ng UHRI ay ang pagtatayo ng tatlong hotel, integrated resort facility, commercial o shopping center, convention center, performing arts theater, themed park at iconic public art, parking lot, at casino sa Kawit Island.

MHAR BASCO



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PAGKAIN MULA SA BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TAMPOK SA INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIODIVERSITY

GUGUNITAIN ngayong araw ng Miyerkoles ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang selebrasyon ng International Day for Biological Diversity sa pamamagitan ng isang food fair kung saan itatampok ang mga pagkain mula sa "biological resources."

Ang programa ay tatawaging "Samu't Saring Tikim Fair" na may layuning ipakilala at tanggapin ang kahalagahan ng biodiversity bilang pinagkukunan ng pagkain para sa maayos na kalusugan. Ayon kay DENR Secre-

tary Roy Cimatu, napapanahon ang gaganaping selebrasyon ng IDBD 2019 na may temang "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health", dahil sa pamamagitan nito ay maimumulat ang sambayanan para sa mga masusuntansiyang pagkain na nagbibigay ng maayos na pangangatawan.

Gaganapin ang "Tikim Fair" sa Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center sa Quezon City na iisponsoran ng Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng DENR.

Kabilang sa mga makikisa sa gaganaping kasiyahan

ay ang mga miyembro ng Asosasyon ng mga Nagkakaisang Magkakapitbahay ng Palanas sa Barangay Vasra, Quezon City; health and biodiversity advocates, DENR at BMB staff at mga miyembro ng media.

Ilan sa mga itatampok sa food fair ay ang cook festival kung saan ay magde-demo ang mga lokal na eksperto sa pagluluto, pagtuturo ng tamang diyeta para sa mga Filipino at ang mga tradisyunal na health practices at nature walk bago magtanghali.

**BENEDICT
ABAYGAR, JR.**



Extinction



VIRTUAL
REALITY
TONY
LOPEZ

ONE million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction, some within decades. They include 10 percent of insects, 35 percent of marine mammals, 33 percent of shark, shark relatives and reef-forming corals, 40 percent of all amphibians, and 1,000 more breeds of domestic mammals.

More than 85 percent of wetlands have been lost. Wetlands, says Wikipedia, play a number of functions, including water purification, water storage,

processing of carbon and other nutrients, stabilization of shorelines, and support of plants and animals.

At least 680 vertebrate species have been driven to extinction since the 16th century and more than 9 percent of all domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture have become extinct by 2016.

Three-quarters of the land-based environment and about 66 percent of the marine environment have been significantly altered by human actions.

So says the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which ended its five-day conference in Paris last May 4.

Nature is declining globally at rates

“Pity the poor 107 million homo sapiens in the Philippines.”

unprecedented in human history—and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave effects on people around the world now likely, warns the landmark report of the IPBES.

Experts think over a fourth of all species are going to be extinct.

Turn to A5

Extinction

From A4

“The overwhelming evidence of the IPBES Global Assessment, from a wide range of different fields of knowledge, presents an ominous picture,” said IPBES chairman Sir Robert Watson.

“The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide,” he said.

The IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is the most comprehensive ever completed and assessed changes over the past 50 years.

It was compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 countries over the past three years, with inputs from another 310 contributing authors, using about 15,000 scientific and government sources.

“Ecosystems, species, wild populations, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are shrinking, deteriorating or vanishing. The essential, interconnected web of life on Earth is getting smaller and increasingly frayed,” said Prof. Joseph Settele, co-chairman. “This loss is a direct result of human activity and constitutes a direct threat to human well-being in all regions of the world.”

According to scientists, the five direct drivers of change in nature with the largest relative global impact so far. These are, in descending order: (1) changes in land and sea use; (2) direct

exploitation of organisms; (3) climate change; (4) pollution and (5) invasive alien species.

Since 1980, greenhouse gas emissions have doubled, raising average global temperatures by at least 0.7 degrees Celsius—with climate change already affecting nature from the level of ecosystems to that of genetics—impact expected to increase over the coming decades, in some cases surpassing the impact of land and sea use change and other drivers.

Despite progress to conserve nature and implement policies, the report also finds that global goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.

More than a third of the world’s land surface and nearly 75 percent of freshwater resources are now devoted to crop or livestock production.

The value of agricultural crop production has increased by about 300 percent since 1970, raw timber harvest has risen by 45 percent and approximately 60 billion tons of renewable and non-renewable resources are now extracted globally every year—having nearly doubled since 1980.

About 93 percent of ocean fish is being harvested at above the level of sustainability or their being replaced by new stocks. In 2015, 33 percent of marine fish stocks were being harvested at unsustainable levels; 60 percent were maximally sustainably fished, with just 7 percent harvested at levels lower than

what can be sustainably fished.

Land degradation has reduced the productivity of 23 percent of the global land surface, up to \$577 billion in annual global crops are at risk from pollinator loss and 100 to 300-million people are at increased risk of floods and hurricanes because of loss of coastal habitats and protection.

Urban areas have more than doubled since 1992.

Plastic pollution has increased tenfold since 1980, 300-400 million tons of heavy metals, solvents, toxic sludge and other wastes from industrial facilities are dumped annually into the world’s waters, and fertilizers entering coastal ecosystems have produced more than 400 ocean ‘dead zones,’ totaling more than 245,000 km² (591-595)—a combined area greater than that of the United Kingdom.

Negative trends in nature will continue to 2050 and beyond.

My regret

My only regret is that the one species that I wish were extinct, beginning yesterday, was that of the lazy, corrupt, incompetent and rapacious politician. Judging by the results of the May 13, 2019 Philippine elections and unrest in places like Venezuela and South Africa, the species has remained ascendant.

Pity the poor 107 million homo sapiens in the Philippines, one of the youngest and most resilient groups of humans on earth. They haven’t taken up arms against the elite and ruling class despite the rule and rapacity of the 100 families that have ruled the archipelago in the last 100 years.



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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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Editor: TERESA B. COROS | WEDNESDAY | MAY 22, 2019

An employee of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Dagupan City looks after a wounded dolphin that was found along the shore of Lingayen, Pangasinan on Monday.

CESAR RAMIREZ



Pagkakitaan ang basura: DENR

HINIHIKAYAT ngayon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 4-A (Calabarzon) ang lahat ng mga kumandidato sa idinaos kamakailan na halalan at ang kanilang mga tagasuporta, gayundin ang mga lokal na komunidad, na i-recycle ang mga naging campaign materials tulad ng mga ginamit na tarpaulin.

Sa pagbabahagi ni DENR 4-A Executive Director Maria Paz Luna sa Philippine News Agency (PNA) kamakailan, sinabi nito ang kanilang lubos na suporta sa panawagan ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) sa lahat ng mga kandidato na pangunahan ang paglilinis upang alisin at baklasin ang mga ginamit na election campaign materials.

Ayon kay Luna, inaasahan na nila ang pagdami ng basura dahil sa mga campaign materials na tatanggalin mula sa iba't ibang lugar at itatambak sa mga pampublikong espasyo.

"We hope these wastes do not end up in bodies of water and farther to the seas," aniya.

Paliwanag ni Luna, bagamat nananatili ang sukat at kapasidad ng mga tambakan, kinakailangan pa rin mapababa ang dami ng mga basura.

Sa pamamagitan ng 'upcycling method', maaari aniyang mapakinabangan bilang produkto ang mga campaign materials.

Kaya naman ang mga campaign posters, tarpaulins, sample ballots, flyers at mga leaflets na ginamit, na mapupunta lamang sa mga basurahan ay maaaring magamit ng "Junk Not! Eco-Creatives", isang Laguna-based social enterprise, na nag-a-upcycle at nagre-recycled ng mga materyales.

Ayon kay Wilhelmina Garcia, isang award-winning interior designer at may-ari ng Junk Not!, maaari lamang nilang tanggapin ang mga ginamit na campaign ad materials kung bibilhin din sa kanila ang mga upcycled at recycled na produkto.

Ang mga campaign materials na ito ay maaaring i-convert bilang upuan, shoe bags, ballpen o pencil cases at purses, at iba pa na maaari rin nilang ibigay sa mga paaralan.

"This kind of buy-back model will make future waste producers think twice," ani Luna. "This is an opportunity for individuals to create value around products that would otherwise end up in sanitary landfills or illegal dumpsites."

Isinusulong ng Junk Not! Eco-Creatives ang mga kakaibang paraan upang magamit sa araw-araw at mapakinabangan ang mga basura at iba pang materyales sa pamamagitan ng pag-agapay sa mga komunidad na pangunahan at isulong ang pangangalaga sa kalikasan.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1880

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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Canada moves to retrieve toxic garbage

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

Canada has tapped a shipping company to get back the garbage dumped in the country "sooner than later," Malacañang announced Tuesday.

"The DFA issued a statement that the Canadian government has already directed a shipping company to get the trash back. According to them, it will be sooner than later," Presidential

Spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a press conference in Malacañang.

Panelo, however, said no date was specified on the actual retrieval of 69 container vans of toxic Canadian garbage out of the country.

Malacañang has threatened to sever the country's diplomatic relations with Canada if it fails to take back the tons of garbage it dumped in the country years ago. The Philippine government has recalled its top **▶11**

Canada moves to...

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envoys in Canada to persuade Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to hasten the retrieval of the shipping containers filled with trash.

"That order of the recall is to persuade them to make it fast. The more they delay, the more personnel will be coming back," Panelo said.



Private contractor tapped to move Canadian trash

By **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

Canada has directed a shipping company to bring the tons of garbage it exported to the Philippines in 2013 back to Ottawa, following the Philippines' recall of its ambassador and diplomats last week.

According to presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) had confirmed that Canada has been working double time to ship back the garbage.

"The DFA issued a state-

ment that the Canadian government has already directed a shipping company to get the trash back. And according to them, it will be sooner than later," Panelo said at a regular press briefing yesterday.

Following the recall of diplomats, Panelo said this should send a strong signal to Canada that President Duterte is serious in seeking the return of the waste.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also responded with the hope that the matter will soon be resolved.

Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez on Thursday last week said trade relations between Manila and Ottawa should not be marred by political issues.

In 2018, Lopez noted that Canada was the 20th major trading partner of the Philippines (out of 221), 17th in export market (out of 211) and 20th import supplier (out of 198) of the Philippines.

Lopez noted that total trade between the Philippines and Canada in 2018 was pegged at \$1.34 billion.

Meanwhile, the country's top

diplomat admitted that ignoring Vice President Leni Robredo was the "politest" thing he could do after the latter questioned the recall of Philippine ambassador and consuls in Canada over a missed deadline to ship back the Canadian garbage.

"The politest thing I can do is ignore her completely," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. tweeted.

The Philippines recalled its diplomats in Canada after the Canadian government failed to send back the garbage illegally shipped to the Philippines six

years ago.

Locsin said the Philippines would maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship-bound there.

"I know she doesn't have much to do but Canada already has a resident ambassador to represent its interests. That is my last word on it," Locsin said.

Robredo questioned the recall to compel Canada to immediately take back its garbage. She said she was concerned that Filipinos in Canada were deprived of rep-

resentation there

Locsin blamed his "fellow officials" who want to maintain friendly relations with Canada at the expense of defying Duterte.

"If our officials had done something about it, Canadian garbage would have been long returned to sender," he said without naming the officials.

He added that the President's threat of war on Canada should be taken seriously. Last April 23, Duterte threatened to declare war over the trash shipment.

- With Pia Lee-Brago



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Canada to take back trash 'sooner than later'

By Nat Mariano

THE tons of rotting Canadian rubbish wrongly labeled as recyclables will be sent back to Canada "sooner than later," the Palace said on Tuesday.

In a Palace press briefing, Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Canadian government had ordered a shipping company to handle the logistics of the retrieval process.

"The DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] issued a statement that the Canadian government has already directed a

shipping company to get the trash back. And according to them, it will be sooner than later," Panelo, without mentioning an exact date, told Palace reporters.

On Monday, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda bared the government saw "no hindrance" to shipping out the waste containers.

According to him, the Canadian government tasked France-based transport company Bollore to handle the shipping procedures.

"We expect this to go faster... It's now only a matter of coordination," he added.

Manila had earlier set a May 15 deadline for Ottawa to take the tons of trash back after President Rodrigo Duterte berated Canada over the issue last month.

Canada has since maintained it was already working to arrange for the containers' return. But they failed to comply with the one-week due date given by the President.

The Bureau of Customs said last week the country was ready to send back the waste, but Canada needed several more weeks to prepare documentation.



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CANADA SET TO GET BACK TRASH



ENVIRONMENTALIST group Ecowaste stages protest outside the Embassy of Canada in Makati to demand the immediate re-export of Canadian garbage in Manila and Subic ports to its origin, stressing that Canada has the legal and moral responsibility to remove the dumped garbage. (Czar Dancel)



Canada taps firm to get back trash – Palace

By GENALYN KABILING

Canada has tapped a shipping company to get back the garbage dumped in the country "sooner than later," Malacañang announced yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo has revealed Canada's imminent garbage shipment based on the latest information from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"The DFA issued a statement that the Canadian government has already directed a shipping company to get the trash back. According to them, it will be sooner than later," Panelo said during a press conference in Malacañang.

Panelo, however, said no date was specified on the actual shipping of the garbage out of the country.

Malacañang recently threatened

to sever the country's relations with Canada if it fails to take back the tons of garbage it dumped in the country years ago. Panelo said the government has recalled the country's envoys in Canada to persuade Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to hasten the retrieval of the shipping containers filled with trash.

"That order of the recall is to persuade them to make it fast. The more they delay, the more personnel will be coming back," Panelo said.

Earlier, President Duterte warned he would go to war if Canada would not retrieve the tons of garbage shipped to the Philippines years ago. Duterte threatened to dump the garbage on Canada's shores as he insisted that the country was not a dumpsite for foreign trash.



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CARTOON

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Canada taking back trash

CANADA has tapped a shipping company that would retrieve the illegally exported trash "sooner than later," Malacañang said Tuesday.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo issued the remark, citing information from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"The DFA issued a statement that the Canadian government has already directed a shipping company to get the trash back. And according to them, it will be sooner than later," he said.

Panelo however had no information on the shipping date.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. last week ordered the recall of the Philippine ambassador and consuls to Canada following Ottawa's failure to meet President Rodrigo Duterte's May 15 deadline to ship out the 69 container vans of garbage that arrived in the country in 2013 and 2014.

Panelo then said the recall was a warning that Manila is ready to cut ties with Ottawa over the garbage issue.

EMontano



Basura ng Canada hahakutin na - Palasyo

TUMUGON na ang gobyerno ng Canada para hakutin ang itinapong tone-toneladang basura sa Pilipinas.

Inihayag ito ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo makaraang maglabas ng pahayag ang Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) na hahakutin na sa lalong madaling panahon ang ilang taon ng nakateng-gang basura sa Port of Manila at Subic Port.

Ayon kay Panelo, mayroon ng kinumisyon

ang Canadian government na shipping company para mahakot ang basura pabalik sa kanilang bansa.

Sinabi ng kalihim na malinaw ang mensahe ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kaya't marapat lamang na tumugon agad ang Canada.

"The DFA issued a statement that the Canadian government has already directed a shipping company to get the trash back. And according to them, it will be sooner

than later," ani Panelo.

Matatandaang nabigo ang Canada na hakutin ang kanilang basura sa itinakdang May 15 deadline ni Pangulong Duterte na naging dahilan para pauwiin sa bansa ng DFA ang Philippine ambassador at consul general sa nabanggit na bansa.

Ang tone-toneladang basura ay binagsak sa Pilipinas simula 2013 hangang 2014 ng isang pribadong kompanya at pinalitaw na mga plastic bottles lamang ang mga ito. (Aileen Taliping)



ON-STREET PROTEST Environmental activists led by EcoWaste Coalition lie down on the street fronting the Canadian Embassy in Makati City, to protest Canada's missing the May 15 deadline for taking back the tons of garbage it had shipped to Manila in 2013. —EARVIN PERIAS



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

TIME EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PUTTING PRESSURE ON CANADA - Protesters from the environmentalist group EcoWaste Coalition gather Tuesday outside the Canadian embassy in Makati City to demand that Canada fulfill its promise to bring back the shipment of waste materials that found its way to the Philippines. (Czar Dancel)



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ENVIRONMENTAL justice activists stage a die-in protest outside the Canadian Embassy in Makati City to push for the speedy removal of the thrash brought to Manila and Subic Ports. ALFONSO PADILLA



Trusted Since 1999

The Manila Times

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Garbage at sea

Last of two parts

THE success of any initiative to prevent garbage from being discharged at sea demands the interminable cooperation and support of various stakeholders including but not limited to government (at the local and national levels) shipowners, crew, shippers, passengers, manufacturers, port and terminals and the public.

The national government through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) exercises jurisdiction over Philippine-flagged ships wherever they may be operating; the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on the hand has as one of its functions that of inspecting foreign registered ships navigating within Philippine waters. There appears to be a clear delineation of what the mandates of these two agencies are and should therefore make the exercise of regulatory functions less complicated especially in respect of prevention of discharge of ship-generated garbage to the sea. If that is so, what keeps the bill implementing the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (Marpol) from

being passed by Congress. How about MARINA and PCG cooperate to push for the enactment of that Marpol bill?

Annex V of Marpol deals with ship-generated garbage and calls on all parties to fulfill their commitment of implementing and enforcing the requirements under the convention. Governments have to transpose the provisions of the convention into national law which means providing the framework for effective compliance of all stakeholders according to the circumstances that may be obtaining in those parties. Thus, a Party which considers coastal tourism as a major industry may impose stringent requirements on the use and disposal of plastic-based materials onboard local cruise ships/ferries. Additionally, the government may consider adopting a policy that will strictly impose segregation of garbage onboard and the installation of reception facilities by ports and terminals which shall receive garbage from ships.

Shipowners and the crew play important role in minimizing waste onboard as well as ensuring compliance with the requirements of Marpol Annex V. Shipowners may



SEA-THROUGH
ATTY. BRENDA V. PIMENTEL

consider using recycleable supplies and or procuring supplies in bulk which will minimize packaging; or the shipowner/operator may abandon the use of single-use plastics or discard the use of supplies which are packaged in plastic material unless these are re-usable or recycleable. There are many ways by which garbage may be minimized onboard.

At a minimum, parties to the convention when implementing its requirements should look into incorporating Marpol training modules into the STCW and STCW-F conventions for purposes of certifying seafarers. The requirements for ships of certain size to have placards which give instructions to the crew (and also passengers) on what garbage are allowed to be discharged at sea and the conditions therefor is a form of training within the context of the convention. A Party may also

institute an awareness program that will give attention not only to the issue of pollution of the sea but more importantly on the impacts which result therefrom and how they could assist in preventing marine litter. Discussions on the economic, social and health impacts of garbage at sea through news papers, television, workshops and fora including social media are but some of the medium by which one can gain stakeholders' buy-in.

There are multiple reasons why this archipelago needs to urgently consider adopting a more pro-active stance in preventing the discharge of garbage at sea one being that of making good the commitment of the Philippines when it acceded to Marpol Annex V in 2018. Defining the ultimate goal for preventing pollution of the sea, however, must make evident the importance attached by everyone in this archipelago, to the vast opportunities which the sea offers to its citizens. That should be every Filipino's goal — achieving a sustainable industry focused on the protection of the marine environment.



Losing bet recycles campaign materials

By **MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO**

PALO, Leyte – Campaign materials usually end up in trash bins after an election, but a losing candidate in last week's midterm polls is determined to not let discarded billboards and posters go to waste.

Ian Andres Sevilla, the village chief of Barangay Luntad, ran for municipal councilor of this town but lost.

Instead of disposing of campaign tarpaulins, Sevilla decided to recycle them into bags and other accessories.

"We have existing programs such as 'May Pera Sa Basura' in 2018 and 'May

Bigas Sa Basura' this year, but this is something new," he said.

He urged candidates to bring their tarpaulins to their material recovery facility (MRF) so that they could be fashioned into bags, totes and other products.

"Our goal is to really reuse these materials instead of just dumping them in landfills. There are quite a lot of candidates who voluntarily donated their campaign materials to us," Sevilla said.

The recycled bags are distributed for free, but Sevilla said they also intend to market them to provide his constituents with extra income.



Isko vows: No tyranny in Manila's streets

By REY GALUPO
and JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

Manila Mayor-elect Isko Moreno said he will allow the poor and underprivileged to earn a living on the streets – within limits.

"The vendors, the drivers, and the people who earn their living on the streets should be allowed to work but there should be limitations. We have to define the lines where they will be allowed and where they should stay out. I will have them arrested if they don't follow the law," Moreno, 44, told the "The Chiefs" Monday night on Signal TV's *One News*.

Moreno said while he understands the plight of the poor and underprivileged, he "will not allow tyranny to reign in the city."

The scavenger turned actor identified specific areas in the city – from Divisoria to Paco – where he said vendors and jeepney drivers lord it over, saying a systematic scheme should be worked out to unclog the streets and allow the free flow of traffic.

"I will assure you that CM Recto and Divisoria will be passable to all types of vehicles and there will be no cutting trips for drivers as soon as I assume office in July," he said.

Moreno hinted that personalities involved in "tong" or bribe collections in the city will be closely monitored and placed behind bars.

"No more Patty and Eddie, 'pati

ako' and 'edi ako.' These things have to end," he said.

Asked what he will do to solve the problem of informal settlers, Moreno said he will focus on vertical housing programs, "to maximize land use and reduce traffic congestions."

"We have lands where we can build the housing program. This is a part of my 10-year infrastructure program, which includes traffic, tourism, healthcare, and jobs," he said, adding that reclamation projects are not his priority.

On Manila's garbage problem, the mayor-elect said he will introduce the "Pagkain sa Basura" program wherein segregated garbage will be exchanged for coupons that residents can redeem for food items.

He said he will also allot P1 million for the cleanest barangay "to encourage them to clean their respective areas."

"I will clean Manila. I will see to it that this is done as soon as I assume office. The city is the face of the country. Whatever happens here reflects on the whole country," Moreno said.

He also challenged all schools in the city to offer scholarships to poor but deserving students from Manila, "since they benefit from the local government."

Moreno said he will give tax incentive to investors and businessmen "in exchange for their promise to employ 70 percent of Mañilenos as a sign of goodwill."



SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Eddie and Patty

Incoming Manila mayor Francisco Domagoso, a.k.a. Isko Moreno, has a warning to "Eddie and Patty": stop the collection of grease money.

The mayor-elect (just call him Isko, he says), is understandably ebullient after trouncing a former president and the patriarch of one of the country's most durable dynasties. Isko identified "Eddie" to "The Chiefs" on Signal TV's *One News* last Monday, but only off-camera. He said "Eddie" (as in *eh di sino pa?*) gets a cut of P350 in grease money collected daily from each sidewalk vendor all over the city, apart from a share in the overpriced parking fees without valid receipts (P100 minimum per vehicle in Divisoria).

And "Patty"? Those are Eddie's minions – "*pati*" na *lahat ng kasama niya*, Isko said to roars of laughter in the TV studio.

Talking to Isko, you can see why the street-smart, *pang-masa* Erap para sa mahirap, filmdom's Asiong Salonga, finally met his real-life match. Isko Moreno is not just for the masses and the poor; the guy grew up scavenging in Manila's dump – a dirt-poor street urchin, *galing sa sobrang hirap*, who made good.

Isko, at 44 the city's youngest ever mayor, also played the age card well against his two octogenarian opponents, promising new ways of doing business. He plans to use technology to cut red tape and graft, and to turn pockets of the city into enclaves that can compare with Bonifacio Global City.

His campaign promise was to clean up the city, literally and figuratively. But this is Manila, a city wallowing in urban decay, and it seems like a promise at par with ridding the country of the drug menace in six months. Isko says he's aware that he's not the first mayor to make such a promise.

"*Talagang hihilurin ko ang Maynila, papaliguan ko*," he told us, promising to scrub the city till it's squeaky-clean.

Can he deliver?

"I cannot promise you (I will deliver) tomorrow," he told us. "Ask me the day after tomorrow *kung nangyari nga iyon*."

Cleaning up the city includes dealing with two politically sensitive issues: squatting and street vending. Isko knows that some of the landlords in the city's slums are barangay officials. If he intends to stay in office for the maximum three terms, or nine years, can he do what must be done?

He can and he will, Isko vows. Informal settlers, particularly those whose shanties sit under bridges or line waterways, will have to go, but will be given priority in low-cost in-city vertical housing that he plans to build, using part of the P14 billion in city funds. Without viable relocation sites, he says squatters will simply keep returning.

Cops and barangay officials who allow squatting will face charges for failure to enforce laws against obstruction. "I will put them in jail... for negligence," Isko vowed.



As for street vendors, Isko says he will not stop anyone from earning a living. But this need will have to be balanced with the need to use roads for vehicular traffic.

The law, he stresses, clearly states that roads are beyond the commerce of man. So he intends to clear streets such as C.M. Recto in Divisoria and those in crowded Quiapo of vendors.

He will revive the Marcos-era Metro Aide to keep the streets clean and create jobs. They can wear uniforms of any color, he says, except prison regulation orange – again to guffaws in the studio, because it's the color of Joseph Estrada.

The city will also launch a garbage recycling-cum-poverty alleviation program called *Pagkain para sa Basura* or food for trash. In exchange for recyclable trash such as tin cans and plastic waste, people will get a food coupon that they can redeem at city-run grocery stores.

Isko says he doesn't want a cash-for-trash or *pera sa basura* program because problems always crop up when money is involved.

He also intends to launch an urban renewal program particularly in areas with heritage site potential such as Binondo and the Pasig riverside communities. Isko is pursuing the development of a green zone in the former oil depot in Pandacan.

Manila is plagued by possibly the worst case of urban blight in this country (Pasay City comes close). I was born and bred in Manila, but I left to resettle in another part of Metro Manila where the cleaner air and relatively green surroundings make it easier to breathe. I still work in Manila, however, and often wonder if I'll ever see the city undergo a genuine urban renewal.

"This is the capital of our country, the window to our country," Isko told us.

The view outside the window is not pretty. Any Manila native would want reforms to succeed.

"We are dead serious, but we cannot do it alone," Isko said. "We need everyone's cooperation at all levels."

Because of his youth and the circumstances surrounding his victory, there is speculation this early that Isko might have his sights set on higher office. But he says he wants to just teach political science once he's no longer in government.

Still, the guy who rose from the gutters to become mayor of Manila surely knows anything is possible. He has made a failed bid for the Senate, but that was before he drew national attention by beating Erap for the mayor's post.

Off-camera, Isko allowed himself to marvel at the winds of fate that brought a snot-nosed scavenger (he got scolded for not wiping his nose properly) to the top seat in his city.

So while it's too early to think of another position outside City Hall, Isko is not publicly declaring that he's shutting the door to higher office.

Much will depend on his success as Manila's chief executive, including curbing Eddie and Patty activities.

Mayors have come and gone in the city, but Manila seems to have steadily deteriorated. Perhaps a former scavenger is the right person for a cleanup.





Palace: Probe new reports on Chinese harvesting clams

Malacañang on Tuesday urged the military's Western Command to validate reports that Chinese vessels were harvesting giant clams anew in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, as shown by new satellite images. "The Western Command should make a validation of that and then refer it to the secretary of foreign affairs for whatever action the department may take on that issue," said presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo. He was referring to satellite images released by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative-Center for Strategic and International Studies, an American think tank, that showed the Chinese fleets reportedly operating in Panatag Shoal and in the contested South China Sea. The Philippines previously filed a diplomatic protest on the harvesting of giant clams by China, and said the action was an "affront" to Philippine sovereignty. The Palace also left it to the Department of Foreign Affairs to react to the annual fishing ban in the South China Sea being imposed by China. The fishing moratorium reportedly began on May 1 and will end on Aug. 16. —JULIE M. AURELIO



US-China trade war could spill over to SCS

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By JOSE KATIGBAK

WASHINGTON – The trade war between the United States and China is raising the possibility that tensions could extend beyond trade and affect other areas of contention between them including the South China Sea, analysts here warned.

The warning came as guided-missile destroyer *USS Preble* on Monday sailed within 12 nautical miles of Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal to “challenge excessive maritime claims and preserve access to the

waterways as governed by international law,” said a US 7th Fleet spokesman.

It was the second time in the past week that a US warship sailed near Panatag, which Filipinos also call Bajo de Masinloc.

The Coast Guard cutter *Bertholf* and two Philippine Coast Guard vessels practiced search-and-rescue operations on May 14 near Panatag, the US Navy said.

Since the start of the year, the US Navy is reported to have conducted four freedom of navigation

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exercises near disputed islands in the South China Sea, most of which is claimed by Beijing even as China and the United States continue trade talks aimed at easing the escalating tariffs each country has imposed on the other.

The Washington Post said the United States for years has relied on economic interdependence with China as a stabilizing force in their ties,

with business between the two nations forming a so-called ballast in US-China affairs.

But as their trade dispute escalates and damages economic ties, “there is reduced incentive for stability and restraint in Washington when it comes to China,” it said.

President Donald Trump was the first to impose tariffs on Chinese goods to reduce

America’s massive trade deficit with China. He escalated the tariffs progressively to punish the Chinese for forcing US and foreign businesses to hand over their priced technology in exchange for access to local markets. China has retaliated every step of the way.

The Chinese foreign ministry said *Preble*’s sailing near Panatag was trespassing and clearly an “unpopular” move.

“In disregard of the regional countries’ shared aspiration for peace and stability in the South China Sea, the US has been disrupting regional peace and stability time and again under the pretext of ‘freedom of navigation and overflight,’” said foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang at a press conference in Beijing.

“Such action is unpopular. We strongly urge the US to stop such provocation lest it should harm China-US relations and regional peace and stability,” he said.

He added that China would continue to take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.

“I have to stress again that the trespass of US warship is a violation of China’s sovereignty. It undermines peace, security and good order in the relevant waters. China firmly opposes such move,” Lu said.

Fight for sovereignty

In Manila, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the administration will assert the country’s sovereignty in case Beijing pushes through with its fishing ban in the West Philippine Sea.

“The policy of the government will always be consistent with its policy that it will assert its sovereignty over the areas claimed to be its own. So, it will always pursue that line,” Panelo said when asked for the government’s response if China extends the ban to waters within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone.

The fishing ban – which began on May 1 – is until Aug. 16.

Asked if he finds the ban objectionable, Panelo also said “draw your conclusion, that’s against the sovereignty – that’s our position.”

“In other words, we will always be consistent. But I will leave that to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to make a direct statement on that,” he said.

Clam poachers back

But security is not the only issue bedeviling the South China Sea. Washington-based think tank Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI), in a report, said Chinese clam harvesting vessels are back in disputed waters – with Beijing’s blessings.

Citing images taken in the last six months, AMTI said China’s “most destructive boats have returned to the South China Sea in force” after a sharp drop in giant clam harvesting activities from 2016 to 2018.

“These fleets, which typically include dozens of small fishing vessels accompanied by a hand-



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ful of larger 'motherships,' destroy vast swaths of coral reef in order to extract endangered giant clams," the AMTI reported.

The clams are transported back to Hainan province where they fetch thousands of dollars each in a thriving market for jewelry and statuary, it said.

Since late 2018, satellite imagery has shown these fleets operating frequently at Panatag Shoal and throughout the Paracels, including in the Bombay Reef area, the think tank said.

The AMTI said the return of the Chinese poachers to Panatag Shoal remains a particularly sensitive issue between the Philippines and China as the reef was already extensively damaged by the earlier phase of clam harvesting up to 2016.

"But (satellite) imagery from December 2018 reveals the return of a large number of clam boats. A comparison of imagery from December and March also reveals new scarring on the reef from recent extraction," the report stated.

Satellite images taken in March appear to show large piles of extracted clams tagged and deposited across the reef for later collection by the Chinese poachers.

The clam piles, visible as irregular white spots scattered around the reef, were not present in previous images.

New poaching method

The common method employed by poachers involve anchoring their boats and then dragging the reinforced propellers of their outboard motors across the reef surface to break up the coral, allowing the clams to be easily lifted out while sending sediment drifting throughout nearby waters.

"The ecological results were devastating and, as a result, in July 2016 the arbitral tribunal that ruled on a case brought against Beijing by Manila found that China had violated its obligations under international law to protect the marine environment," the AMTI said.

Despite the clear and serious ecological destruction caused by the clam-harvesting vessels, Chinese coast guard ships were not taking any action against the poachers, it said.

While the AMTI has not found clear evidence of new clam harvesting in other parts of the South China Sea, imagery taken last April 7 showed Chinese maritime militia vessels were clustering around Philippine-occupied Kota (Loaita) Island and Melchora Aquino (Loita) Cay.

"That suggests that for every clam harvesting operation that is documented in the South China Sea, others will go unnoticed. But with tens of thousands of acres of reef surface already damaged or destroyed and fish stocks teetering on the brink of collapse, the effects of this wanton destruction of the marine environment will be felt across the region," the think tank warned.

- With Pia Lee-Brago, Paolo Romero, Christina Mendez



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Chinese 'clam boats' return to SCS, think tank says

By **Rey E. Requejo**
and **Nat Mariano**

A MARITIME think tank said Monday that China's clam harvesting fleets have returned to the disputed South China

Sea after a significant decrease in activity since 2016.

In its report published on May 20, Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative-Center for Strategic and International Studies said China's "most destructive

boats," the clam harvesting fleets, were sighted in the South China Sea over the last six months.

"These fleets, which typically include dozens of small fishing vessels

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Chinese...

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accompanied by a handful of larger 'motherships,' destroy vast swaths of coral reef in order to extract endangered giant clams," AMTI-CSIS said.

AMTI-CSIS noted that since late 2018, the fleets, as shown by the satellite imagery, have been operating at Scarborough (Panatag) Shoal and throughout the Paracels, including at Bombay Reef.

"The clam boats have also returned to Scarborough Shoal, which is a particularly sensitive issue in Sino-Philippine relations," the report said.

"The reef was already extensively damaged by the earlier phase of clam harvesting up to 2016. But imagery from December 2018 reveals the return of a large number of clam boats," it added.

Scarborough is within the Philippines' 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

Earlier, the Philippine government protested China's extraction of giant clams from Scarborough Shoal, calling it an affront on the country's sovereignty.

In April, Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Manila filed a diplomatic protest and will be taking legal action against China over the incident.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

'CHINA'S MOST DESTRUCTIVE BOATS' AGAIN POACHING AT SCARBOROUGH

FLEETS of Chinese vessels have returned to disputed areas in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) to harvest endangered giant clams, the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative-Center for Strategic and International Studies (AMTI-CSIS) said in a report on Monday.

The vessels — typically dozens of small fishing boat that are accompa-

nied by larger "motherships" — were described as "China's most destructive boats," as they destroy large swaths of coral reef to get at the giant clams, which are transported to Hainan for processing into jewelry and statuary.

Their activities had dropped sharply from 2016 to late 2018 in the wake of an arbitral tribunal finding that China had violated international obligations

but the AMTI-CSIS said that before the end of last year, "satellite imagery has shown these fleets operating frequently at Scarborough Shoal (Panatag Islands) and throughout the Paracels, including at Bombay Reef."

The ships normally drag the reinforced props out their outboard motors across the reef to break up the coral

►PoachingA2

■ POACHING FROM A1

'China's most destructive

but in Scarborough they are using tubes hooked up to engines to extract clams, which local fishers claim is a destructive practice that spreads sediment.

"This appears to be an adaptation of a tactic employed by salvagers whereby a high-pressure pump creates enough suction to remove sediment from the seabed," AMTI-CMSS said, adding that "it is clear that Chinese authorities are aware

of and condoning these environmentally destructive practices."

Broadcast network ABS-CBN, it noted, has filmed the Chinese Coast Guard maintaining a constant presence at Scarborough Shoal, previously administered by the Philippines but now occupied by China in 2012.

Imagery from Dec. 7, 2018 and March 8, 2019 show evidence of new scarring at Scarborough,

which was already damaged from earlier clam harvesting up to 2016.

With the Spratly Islands, meanwhile, AMTI-CSIS said it had not found clear evidence of renewed harvesting. It pointed out, however, that "on April 7, during the same period that Chinese maritime militia vessels were clustering around Philippine-occupied Loaita (Kota) Island and Loita Cay, a mothership and a number of small boats were present at nearby Lankiam (Panata) Cay."

"The mothership was about 20 me-

ters long while those seen at Bombay Reef are typically closer to 30 meters, but the smaller boats are roughly the same dimensions," it added.

While the absence of new scarring at Lankiam Cay would have indicated that no clam harvesting had taken place, AMTI-CSIS warned that the new methods being used at Scarborough "suggest that documenting the activities of these Chinese fleets has become more difficult."

"Unlike the prop scarring on shallow reef surfaces, destruction caused by high-pressure water

pumps used in deeper waters is unlikely to be visible in satellite imagery," it added.

"That suggests that for every clam harvesting operation that is documented in the South China Sea, others will go unnoticed. But with tens of thousands of acres of reef surface already damaged or destroyed and fish stocks teetering on the brink of collapse, the effects of this wanton destruction of the marine environment will be felt across the region."

**NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS
AND RAFFY AYENG**



Conglomerate eyes P35B water project

A POTENTIAL new water source is being proposed by one of the country's conglomerates.

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is eyeing to develop a new water source with a capacity of up to 3,800 million liters per day (MLD) at a cost of P35 billion.

"I will submit an unsolicited proposal within two weeks for a new water resource of 3,800 MLD. We will harvest this in a new source and not from Angat Dam. We can build this for private funding with a P35 billion project cost and (will take) five years to build," said Ramon Ang, SNC president.

Ang told reporters at the sidelines of Petron's annual stockholders meeting that at present, the project is pegged to supply raw water at P5 per cubic meters.

He declined to disclose the location.

"This project will be under SMC and we will have no partners. We want this to help the country's security of water supply," Ang added.

SMC and a foreign partner was among those which prequalified to construct the Kaliwa Dam in Quezon province when it was offered for proponents by the Aquino administration.

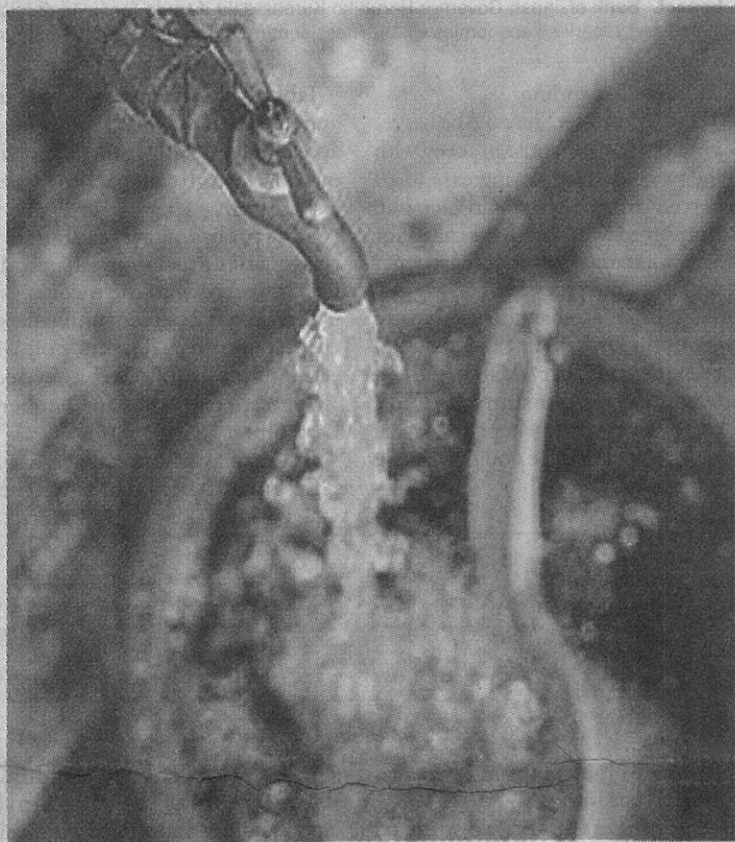
The project is now being considered to be built and funded by official development assistance from China.

Another possible water resource is Laguna Lake.

SMC's water business is through the P24.4 billion Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project (BBWSP).

BBWSP is a public-private partnership project of SMC's Luzon Clean Water

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Water security. San Miguel said the project will offer water at P5 per cubic meter.

Development Corp. and South Korean firm, K-Water Resources Corp. together with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

SMC expressed last January that it is keen on starting the construction of the last stage of the BBWSP by 2022 or earlier in order to fully serve 24 water districts in the province.

"The BBWSP started its dry run

operations last December 17, initially giving free water to four areas in Bulacan namely Obando, Meycauayan City, Marilao and Bocaue. ...With our financial resources and technical capabilities, we promise to deliver several projects that support our fast economic growth," Ang stated then.

The project is eyed to improve water services in the region as SMC is planning to construct an interna-

tional airport in Bulacan.

BBWSP is intended to be constructed in three stages. The first stage started its operations last January to serve the water districts of San Jose del Monte, Marilao, Meycauayan, Bocaue, Obando and Balagtas.

Meanwhile, its second stage covers seven water districts consisting of Guiguinto, Calumpit, Bulakan,

Plaridel, Sta. Maria, Paombong and Malolos. On the other hand, stage 3 covers the remaining 11 municipalities of Baliuag, Plaridel, Pandi, Hagonoy, San Rafael, San Miguel, Norzagaray, Angat, Dona Remedios Trinidad, San Ildefonso and Bustos.

The BBWSP is SMC's maiden venture in water supply and expected to supply over 1,200 MLD of water once fully completed.

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Water supply still below normal

We are nearing the end of May. Election is done. Summer is almost over. Sadly, it's a different story for the metro's water crisis, as water concessionaires still struggle to refill our depleting dams. That is despite the downpour the past week.

While it caused flooding in some parts of Manila—a sure hassle for commuters—others couldn't help but rejoice in the fact that, at last, there are heavy rains to refill our depleting Angat Dam and reservoirs.

But the reality is, the rain has not been not enough to stabilize the metro's water supply. The Angat and La Mesa dams are still below critical level.

HIDDEN AGENDA



**MARY ANN
LL. REYES**

When the east zone of Metro Manila was confronted with erratic or almost no water supply in March, east zone water concessionaire Manila Water vowed to do its best to restore 24/7 the water supply the soonest possible time as part of its compliance with its service obligations. Water is now available for most parts for at least eight hours at the ground floor level, which is already at par with regulatory standards.

To do this, they implemented various technical solutions to extend water supply to areas that need it most—from installing line pumps or boosters across the east zone, to valving and network adjustments, to tapping deep wells to augment supply. They continue to draw treated water from the Cardona treatment plant, which is said to have delivered between 50 to 56 MLD, and cross-border flows from Maynilad, which is said to have already delivered 16 MLD from the agreed 50 MLD. But are these enough? It seems not.

The situation remains volatile, experts say. The network is prone to breakages and regular maintenance work. There is the threat of power fluctuations, which may affect operations. Then there is the challenge to bring water to elevated and far-flung areas; among others.

While we are still confronted with the problem, there, too, is the looming threat of a repeat of the water crisis because of higher demand for water supply due to population growth. If true, we must also do our part as responsible citizens to conserve water, other than, of course, the pressure that we need to impose on the government and water concessionaires to continue fine-tuning their operations, to fastrack projects that will enable new, medium-term water sources, and to restore water service back to normal, given the still limited supply.

The temporary technical solutions, however, seem to be working. We are getting more water now, almost 24/7 for some areas. But there's still more work to do for Manila Water. Other than restoring steady water supply, they also need to restore customer trust and satisfaction—and sustain it.

In the meantime, while we hope for this water supply problem to be addressed soon, let us, too, hope for fair election results to come out sooner so we can move forward as a nation that longs for real progress.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PWPA urges Filipinos to save the planet by planting trees

THE Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) calls for the participation of Filipinos in the cause of planting more trees for the benefit of the environment and the country.

"To say that planting trees helps save the environment is an understatement," says PWPA Chairman Charlie Liu (in photo) at the 67th General Assembly held at the Joy Nostalg Hotel & Suites in Pasig City.

"Planting trees is not just beneficial to Mother Earth; the practice also provides social and economic benefits to the country," Liu added.

Trees have always provided a source of livelihood to Filipinos. In primary manufacturing alone, PWPA says that an estimated 236,500 full-time jobs per year can be generated. From develop-



ing, there are more than 500,000 potential jobs available.

To ensure the industry remains alive and sustainable, PWPA firmly stands by planting new trees as the best solution. Trees not only serve as adding decoration for streets, parks and backyards, but having them around also improves quality of life.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

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CARTOON

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'GLOBAL SEA LEVEL RISE TO DISPLACE MILLIONS'

WASHINGTON: Global sea levels could rise by two meters (6.5 feet) and displace tens of millions of people by the end of the century, according to new projections that double the UN's benchmark estimates.

The vast ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica contain enough frozen water to lift the world's oceans dozens of meters. The expansion of water as oceans warm also contributes to sea level rise.

But predicting the rates at which they will melt as the planet heats is notoriously tricky.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said its *2013 Fifth Assessment Report* that under current emissions trajectories — a "business-as-usual" scenario known as RCP8.5 — would likely rise by up to one meter by 2100.

That prediction has since been viewed as conservative, as the levels of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise year on year, and satellites showing accelerated rates of melt-off from massive ice sheets atop Antarctica and Greenland.

A group of the world's leading ice scientists this week released a expert judgement on the situation, drawing on their own experience and obser-

ations.

While there was still a significant margin of error, they found it "plausible" that under the business-as-usual emissions scenario, sea-level rises could exceed two meters by 2100.

The authors said the area of land lost to the ocean could be equivalent to that of France, Germany, Spain and Britain combined and would displace more than 180 million people.

"A sea-level rise of this magnitude would clearly have profound consequences for humanity," they said.

'The true risks'

The Paris climate deal, struck between nations in 2015, aims to limit global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), and encourages countries to work towards a 1.5 C cap.

In October the IPCC released a landmark climate report that called for a drastic and immediate drawdown in coal, oil and gas consumption in order to arrest the rapid rise in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

That report, however, did not include revised estimates of sea level rise.

Earth has already heated 1 C since pre-industrial times, contributing roughly 3 mm to sea levels each year.

The authors of the new study, released Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, argue that the IPCC's sea-level rise prediction was too constrained by focusing on what was "likely" to happen.

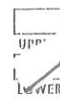
At wider probabilities — 5-95 percent likelihood — they found that under 2 C of warming seas could rise 36-126 cm by 2100.

In world that has warmed by 5 C — unlikely but certainly not impossible given projected fossil fuel demand in the coming decades — they calculated a five percent risk of sea levels surpassing two meters higher, topping out at 238 cm.

Willy Aspinall, from the University of Bristol's School of Earth Sciences, said he hoped the study could provide policymakers with a more accurate worst-case scenario "crucial for robust decision making."

"Limiting attention to the 'likely' range, as was the case in the *IPCC Fifth Assessment Report*, may be misleading and will likely lead to a poor evaluation of the true risks," he added.

AFP



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Speaker Arroyo assures housing beneficiaries

HOUSE Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo kept her promise that more Filipinos will be given housing units under the socialized housing program.

Yesterday, Speaker Arroyo visited the residents of the 525th Philippine Army Village Homeowner's Association (PAVAHAI) in Barangay Comembo, Makati City, who were among the initial beneficiaries of the socialized housing program of the government during her presidency.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines OFF-BASE was covered by the housing program through Presidential Proclamation 627 issued by then President Arroyo.

Speaker Arroyo assured the 297 families, mostly retired military personnel from the army,

By Jester Manalastas

navy, air force and civilian individuals, that they will no longer be displaced from their properties.

"Nung ako ay bagong pangulo noong 2001, namet ko ang mga urban poor o maralitang tagalungsod at tinatanong ko sa kanila ano ang pinakahangarin nyo sa aking administrasyon? Ang sabi nila, gusto namin ng katiyakan sa lupang tinitirikan. Kaya ang unang ginawa ko yung mga proklamasyon," she said.

"So, ang unang bunga ng aking mga proklamasyon ay katiyakan sa inyong lupang tinitirikan. Ibig sabihin nun dahil ginawa ko ang mga proklamasyon na 'yun, hindi na kayo pwedeng paalisin sa inyong lugar na tinitirikan," Arroyo said.

Speaking before the

presence of Makati City Vice Mayor Monique Lagdameo, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Chief Supt. Guillermo Eleazar, retired Army General and PAVAHAI adviser Herbert Yambing, Bgy. Chairman Richard Peralta and National Housing Authority (NHA) officials, Speaker Arroyo cited the "Special Patent Law" which was enacted during her administration.

She said the Special Patent law is the best remedy to acquire land titles based on the study of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and NHA.

Arroyo also took the opportunity to thank the people of PAVAHAI for being part of her political career. The House Speaker is set to retire from politics after her term expires on June 30.



Magbebenta ng ginto sa BSP **MALILIIT NA MINERS LIBRE SA TAX**

NILAGDAAN na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang isang batas na naglilibre sa pagbabayad ng buwis ng maliliit na minero na magbebenta ng ginto sa Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Mula sa pahina 1

Inaamyendahan ng batas na pinirmahan noong nakaraang Marso 29 ang National Internal Revenue Code upang ma-exempt sa pagbabayad ng income tax ang mga registered small-scale miner na magbebenta ng ginto sa central bank.

Sakop din ng batas ang maliliit na minero na magbebenta ng ginto sa accredited

traders na kalaunan ay ipagbibili ito sa BSP.

Nauna nang nanawagan ang central bank sa maliit na minero na ipagbili sa kanila ang kanilang mga ginto sa halip na sa black market upang mapalakas ang foreign exchange reserves ng bansa.

Ang batas ay inaasahan ding magpapataas sa halaga ng piso at mag-aahon sa GIR ng bansa na bumagsak sa

pinakamababang antas noong Oktubre.

Ang GIR ay ang kabuuang halaga ng dayuhang pananalapi at mga ginto na nasa pangangasiwa ng BSP.

Sa ulat ng BSP noong Oktubre, ang GIR level ay \$74.8 billion lamang at itinuturing na pinakamababa magmula noong Hulyo 2011 kung saan sumadsad ito sa \$71.88 bilyon.



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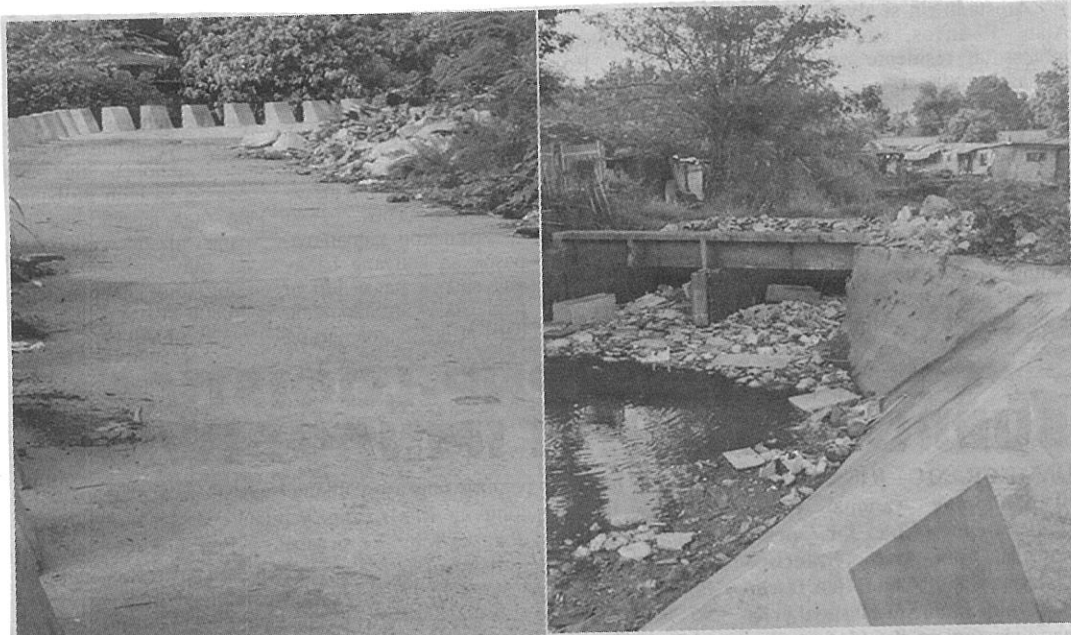
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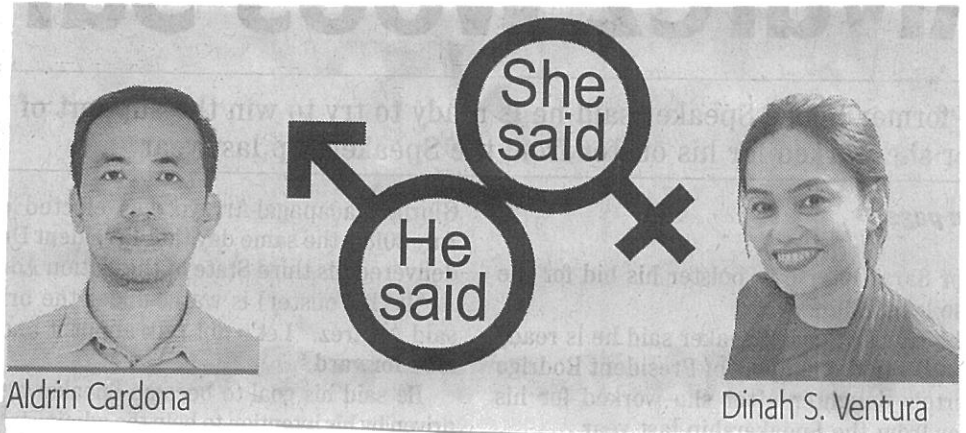
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MAKARAANG maiproklama ang mga nanalo sa Bulacan, sana naman ay asikasuhin ang pagbibigay ng kaalaman sa mga residente ng Pagala sa Baliuag hinggil sa pagtatapon ng basura.
Concerned Citizen of Bulacan



Aldrin Cardona

Dinah S. Ventura

Not at our expense

The Philippines' 15 May imposed deadline for Canada to take back its trash had lapsed, and it does not look like the North American country can make true its commitment to withdraw its refuse from the Manila International Container Port (MICP) anytime soon.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddy Locsin had valid reasons to withdraw Filipino diplomats from the Embassy in Ottawa. It was the better option than keeping true to President Rodrigo Duterte's threat to go to war with Canada — whether it was a joke or not, in the Chief Executive's style or not.

Locsin was a voice of reason on this issue. He needed to send the Philippines' message across — and he did.

But while Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is likely to keep his word in taking back his country's garbage, it isn't going to happen anytime soon as he is also constrained by his country's laws. This, however, will continue to serve as an irritant to both countries.

Canada is facing a garbage problem. An acknowledgement to this was the export of 100 containers of Vancouver's waste through Ottawa and then the Pacific to the Philippines. The country could not keep its own waste as it is dealing with its own garbage fix.

Dr. Myra Hird, an environment sociologist at Queen's University in Ontario, described Canada as having a "waste-free crisis" in a published claim.

Hird leads a research program on Canada's garbage and has written several articles about Canada's waste and its impact on the environment.

The contentious pile of trash sent by Chronic Plastics Inc. — an Ottawa-based company which formed a dummy counterpart in the Philippines for the exclusive purpose of exporting the Canadian trash — had entangled Canada into a diplomatic crisis with the Philippines, resulting in the pullout of the Filipino diplomats.

But the 1,300 tonnes of rubbish, a large portion of which remains waiting for Canadian ships at the MICP, are just a fraction of the

garbage Canada produces every day.

Some 34 million tonnes of rubbish get spat out by Canadians annually. And these are not safe wastes.

Fifty-percent of these are from mining, fisheries and other industries. The other half of these are from "municipal solid wastes," including plastics and diapers — items found in the containers the Philippines wants to send back to Canada.

Hird says not much of the junk stays at home. It is shipped elsewhere.

Canada also ships its rubbish to neighboring US or even farther, like it did with a portion of Makris' wastes sent to the Philippines.

When the Canadians are not looking, the US also exports its own trash to Canada. So much of talks following the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. It's just that, words and meeting of minds by personalities whose leaders don't seem to follow agreements.

Piles of potentially recyclable plastics end up in China, Malaysia, India and many parts of Southeast Asia, too.

We accepted some and we want to send the containers back.

We all want clean a country. It reflects development when we become waste-free.

But the developed countries refuse their refuse at our expense.

It is right we talk back. And strongly, we did.

“
Some 34 million tonnes of rubbish get spat out by Canadians annually. And these are not safe wastes.



Garbage in, garbage out

Nobody likes to see trash dumped on their property. Just imagine your neighbor piling their waste in your yard in the middle of the night and you wake up the next day with the stinky evidence on your doorstep.

Who would not go ballistic?

"I hate seeing my country as the dumpsite for the developed world," Yeo Bee Yin, Malaysia's Minister for Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment said in a recent *National Geographic* article on plastic waste.

**“
The core
issue is the
environment
and how all
countries
should take
responsibility
for their own
waste.**

Somehow, his country had become inundated with waste material after China, noted as the biggest importer of recyclable plastic, stopped buying the material. Western countries then had to find other destinations for what is basically its trash.

What Yeo further said in the story now resounds in our land – that “no developing nation should be the dumping site for the developed world.”

A rant of the same nature came from President Duterte before the midterm elections. He brought up the stink about Canadian garbage that had ended up in the Philippines five years ago.

The rot must be in the horrific levels by now, I imagine. But it is not as disgusting as the thought of our country being a repository for other countries' waste. After all, it has not been just Canada that had been sending over tons of trash here.

In 1999, “Japan took back 122 containers of hazardous trash only after they had spent five months idling in the country, with the Keizo Obuchi administration admitting full responsibility and

holding the company which exported the waste accountable,” a report goes.

After that came South Korea, whose issue of misdeclared garbage sent here is in the process of resolution, unlike Canada which seems to have sat on the problem for years, merely offering lip service to appease our government.

Well, we all know how Duterte feels about trash. When he was mayor of Davao, that city became known as the cleanest in the country. During his term now as President, he ordered a whole island closed from tourism to have it clean up its act – or rehabilitate its environment after decades of mismanagement – for six months, never mind the millions of pesos lost in revenues.

It is no surprise that he has demanded for Canada's action after its leaders promised something would be done about it. But the deadline of 15 May 2019 came and went. So, the garbage problem piled up, so to speak.

The problem arose after a Canadian firm, which sent over 100 containers by increments to the Philippines starting in 2013, lied about its contents purportedly as recyclable plastic. When inspection revealed that the containers really held “unsorted electrical and household garbage, including adult nappies and kitchen waste,” the process of having it removed began. However, some 60 containers still remain.

And the Philippine government is not having any of it anymore.

The Canadian company that sent it over had reportedly left its Philippine partner hanging. In 2017, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, though still not taking official responsibility (explaining it had not been a government transaction originally), had said it was “now theoretically possible” for their country to take the containers back.

Alas, no action had been made thus far.

The problem, which had gained the attention of the international press, opens up a bigger one that involves all countries in general.

The core issue is the environment and how all countries should take responsibility for their own waste. There should be no more of this passing around of garbage, toxic or otherwise – no more spreading around of one's own dirt.

But will this practice ever stop, international laws notwithstanding, when unscrupulous entities continue to misdeclare goods?

That is the rotten truth of our times.



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Globe Telecom supports Boracay sustainability week; joins beach clean up drive



Photo shows the Globe team as they gathered several plastic bags full of trash during the Boracay beach clean up.

In support of the government's call for responsible and sustainable tourism, Globe Telecom joined the week-long celebration of Boracay's rehabilitation aimed at encouraging residents, tourists, and other stakeholders to be more environmentally conscious.

Almost 300 participants from the Globe Store in Boracay, Boracay Foundation Inc., Boracay Inter-agency task force, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, Team Boracay Cyclist, Philippine National Police, Malay Solid Waste, and Asean Centre for Biodiversity worked together to ensure that the country's favorite summer getaway retains its pristine condition. The team gathered 32 bags of plastic waste and trash scattered along the popular White Beach where local and foreign tourists often converge.

At the same time, Globe put up an Eco Booth in D'mall where anyone can exchange their plastic

bags with eco bags to encourage a more sustainable practice.

"Boracay has always been very close to the hearts of every Filipino. Recently, it became the center of everyone's attention. As Filipino Citizens, it is our responsibility to help out and contribute in our shared purpose to rehabilitate Boracay. Beyond business, we will help make the island a safe and sustainable ecotourism destination through replicable and scalable solutions," said Globe Senior Vice President for Consumer Mobile Business, Issa Guevarra-Cabreira.

Six months prior to Love Boracay, Globe, in partnership with Manila Water Foundation, has initiated several sustainable long term rehabilitation activities for Boracay such as the construction of a communal septic tank in Sitio Ilaya, Barangay Balabag and the provision of two months worth of Virgomin organic water treatment for septic tanks to all 4,000 households.

These efforts were

aimed to ensure that locals, especially the low income households, are presented with options on how to contribute to the rehabilitation of the island through proper septage containment and management.

Alongside the sanitation projects, Globe, together with Save Philippine Seas, has conducted a three-day workshop on Marine Biodiversity attended by local business owners, students and teachers. The workshop focused on ways to protect marine life by adopting sustainable approaches to business operations such as reducing the use of single-use plastic.

Since 2012, Globe has been actively helping Boracay with its environmental initiatives such as marine life protection, offshore clean-up training, coral reef planting, support for conservation efforts by local stakeholders, and raising environmental awareness among the youth and local residents.



Manila Zoo, hindi ibebenta-Isko

Hindi ibebenta ang Manila Zoo.

Ito ang pagtiyak ni Manila Mayor-elect Isko Moreno kasa-bay ng pagpawi sa pangamba ng mga Manilenyo na ibebenta ang zoo na isa sa itinuturing na landmark sa Maynila.

Ayon kay Moreno, dodoblehin niya ang pagsasaayos ng Manila Zoo gayundin ang pangangalaga sa mga hayop na atraksiyon sa mga namamasyal.

Sisiguraduhin din niya na tama ang pagpapakain sa mga hayop na pinaka-importante upang maiwasan ang pagkaka-sakit. Binigyan din ni Moreno na poprotektahan niya ang lahat ng pasyalan sa lungsod para na rin sa susunod na henerasyon.

Nabatid na nakatakda din niyang ayusin ang Arroceros Park na sinasabing 'last lung' sa Lawton. Aniya gagawin itong isa pang pasyalan sa lungsod.

Ang Arroceros park ay may lawak na 2.2-hectare at matatagpuan sa tabi ng tanggapan ng Division of City Schools.

Enero nang ipasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Manila Zoo matapos na matukoy na isa sa mga pinaggagalingan ng maruming tubig patungong Manila Bay. (Doris Franche)