

DATE : 26 MAY 2019

DAY : Sunday

# **DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## 500 'pawikan' hatchlings released in Sarangani Bay

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has released more than 500 hatchlings of threatened marine turtle or pawikan in the waters of Sarangani Bay.

DENR-Soccsksargen executive director Nilo Tamoria led the release of 528 hatchlings of Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in Barangay Lumasal in Maasim town last May 16.

He was accompanied by Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) of Kiamba forester Jesus Boja, chief of Coastal Resource and Foreshore Management Section (CRFMS) Felix Robles, and personnel of the municipal environment and natural resources office of Maasim.

Tamoria called on the coastal communities of Sarangani to help in the protection and conservation of the coastal areas and be responsible with their wastes to protect the population of

pawikan in the Sarangani Bay.

Olive ridley is vulnerable to extinction thus its possession and deliberate killing is punishable under Republic Act 9147, also known as the Philippine Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act.

"It is important that we take care of our marine ecosystem. I call on the communities to help us in protecting and conserving our coastal areas. Let us be responsible in managing our respective wastes. There are several reported stranding of pawikan and this indicates that there is something wrong with our coastal environment," Tamoria said.

He also explained that the release of the hatchlings in the late afternoon was to provide them a greater chance of survival. "Accordingly, only one percent of the released sea turtles are expected to survive into adulthood," he said.

Belonging to the species of Olive ridley, the baby pawikans, all 528,

were hatched at the Maasim Pawikan Hatchery in Maasim town, constituting the biggest number of hatchlings ever recorded since the hatchery's establishment in 2015.

Tamoria also told the local residents who came to witness the activity that the journey of the young sea turtles is "not easy" as these are threatened not only by the presence of predators in the ocean but also by pollution and plastic wastes.

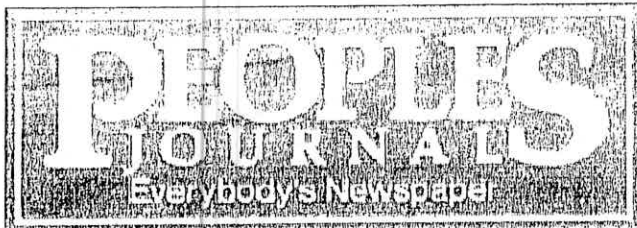
"They may be eaten by big fishes and sharks, or they may ingest plastic waste thrown into the ocean," he said.

Robles said the female pawikan usually returns to its birthplace to lay eggs in the next 20 to 25 years.

"We let pawikan hatchlings to crawl into the sea. This will help them remember where they come from. They imprint on the unique magnetic field of their birthplace and the female ones use this information to return to their birthplace to nest," he explained.



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## DENR RELEASES 528 PAWIKAN HATCHLINGS TO SARANGANI BAY

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has released more than 500 hatchlings of marine turtle or pawikan to the waters of Sarangani Bay to give them a greater chance to survive to adulthood.

At the same time, the DENR called on the communities in Sarangani to help in protecting and conserving their coastal areas and be responsible with their wastes.

DENR Region 12 executive director Nilo Tamoria said that it is important for the people in the areas to take care of the marine ecosystem.

"There are reported stranding of pawikan and this indicates that there is something wrong with our coastal environment," Tamoria said.

A total of 528 hatchlings of Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) were released in Bgy. Lumasal in Maasim.

**Joel dela Torre**



## Pawikan sa Sarangani Bay, pararamihin

Nagpalaya ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng mahigit 500 hatchlings ng pawikan sa karagatan ng Sarangani Bay.

Pinangunahan ni DENR-Soccsksargen Executive Director Nilo Tamoria ang pag-release ng 528 hatchlings ng pawikan sa Barangay Lumasal sa bayan ng Maasim, nitong Mayo 16.

Delikado na sa tuluyang paglalaho ang mga pawikan, kaya naman ang pag-aalaga o pagpatay sa kanila ay may karampatang parusa, alinsunod sa RA 9147, o ang Philippine Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act.

**Ellalyn De Vera-Ru...**



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## Dismissed mayor's victory won't affect Boracay rehab – Cimatu

By **TARA YAP**

ILOILO CITY – Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the reelection of dismissed mayor Ciceron Cawaling will not affect the rehabilitation of Boracay Island in Malay town, Aklan.

“He won, but his dismissal is still there,” Cimatu said while in this city Friday for a summit.

Cawaling was dismissed for his role in the environmental woes and mismanagement of the country's most famous beach destination. The Ombudsman found him guilty of grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, conduct unbecoming of a public official, and conduct prejudicial to best interest of service.

That did not stop him from running for mayor in the last midterm elections, eventually winning against his nephew John

Yap, who is also a former mayor. “I also would like to clear that the task force will stay there,” Cimatu said.

Cimatu was referring to the Boracay Inter-Agency Task force, which is composed of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Tourism (DOT), and the Malay municipal government.

He noted how the task force still has a year to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay, which was off limits to tourists for six months last year.

“Gone is the cesspool, gone is the uncontrolled building construction, gone is the congested roads there. Being chairman of the task force, I will make sure that all our policies will be implemented,” Cimatu added.



# Remate

## ANG DIARYO NG MASA

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ni ROLANDO "LAKAY" GONZALO

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## BAGONG PAG-ASA PARA SA BAGUIO CITY

ISANG buong kolum ang ilalaan ko ngayon araw para sa tinaguriang summer capital of the Philippines.

Ang dahilan, ang Baguio City ang itinuturing kong pangalawang bahay dahil dito ako nag-aral ng kolehiyo at nagsimula sa aking pagiging mamamahayag noong 1980.

Marami ang nagulat sa panalo ng bagong Mayor na si Retired General ng CIDG Benjamin Magalong.

Bagama't baguhan sa pulitika at medyo late na sa kampanya, nadaig niya ang ilang betera-nong kasabay niya sa paghahangad na maging pinuno ng lungsod.

Nahaharap sa maraming hamon ang bagong Mayor.

Unang-una, nakahilera ang Baguio sa listahan ng mga dapat linisin, ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

Pagkatapos ng Boracay, El Nido, Manila Bay, Laguna Lake at iba pang tourist destinations, nakatuon na ang lente kung paano lilinis ang Baguio.

Noong araw, 'pag galing ka ng Manila patungo ng Baguio, nasa Rosario, La Union ka pa lang amoy mo na ang simoy ng pine tree.

Ngayon halos wala ka nang makita na pine tree kundi puro bahay all over.

In fact, merong isang dating opisyal na naggiging tumpalan ng tukso dahil nagpagawa ng malaking sementong pine tree sa Session Road para lang may makitang pine tree ang mga uma-akyat na turista!

Tatlo lang ang major streets ng Baguio.

Parang Edsa na ang mga ito na punom-puno ng sasakyan: Session Road, Magsaysay Avenue at ang Harrison Road sa harap ng matulaing Bumham Park.

Maraming pagkakataon na ang mga tao ay naglalakad na lang dahil sa tindi ng traffic.

Napakahirap ding maglakad dahil ang kikitid ng mga bangketa.

Idagdag mo ang paghahanap din ng pampublikong parking area.

Pinapayuhan na nga ang mga aakyat ng Baguio na 'wag nang magdala ng sasakyan.

Problema sa basura. Alam niyo bang ang tahanan ng basura galing sa Baguio ay Tarlac?

Hanggang ngayon ay naghahanap pa ang nga otoridad ng bagong garbage site na may kalayuan pero hindi kasinglayo ng Tarlac.

Kailangan na rin ang isang centralized Bus Terminal. Pinakamaigi ito ay sa labas na rin ng lungsod para makabawas sa traffic.

Sa ngayon, ang Baguio ay siya nang educational center ng Northern Luzon, kaya taon-taon ay libong estudyante ang nadagdag sa student population.

Hindi lang 'yan. Trading center din ito dahil bagsakan ng gulay at iba pang commodities mula sa kabuuan ng Cordillera Administrative Region.

Isama mo ang galing sa Region 01 at Region 2, lalo na ang Nueva Ecija at Nueva Viscaya.

Dahil diyari ay kailangan na rin ang improvement ng palengke. Mula nang ako'y estudyante sa St. Louis University noong 1979 ay wala nang nabago sa City Market maliban sa flyover (daanan ng tao) mula sa tabi ng lumang Tionsan Bazaar. Walang parking at halos 'di makaraan dahil sa kapal ng tao.

(TUTULUY)



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## **Paalis na local officials, 'di pa ligtas sa parusa-DENR**

Hindi pa ligtas sa kaparusahan ang mga local officials na hindi pinalad sa nagdaang halalan na naging pabaya sa pagpapatupad ng mga environmental laws sa nasasakupan.

Ito ang sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda kasabay ng pagbibigay ng cease-and-desist orders (CDOs) sa sampung hotel at restaurant na napatunayang nagiging dahilan upang dumumi ang Bacuit

Bay sa El Nido, Palawan.

Ang El Nido ay isa sa mga "tourism hot spots" sa bansa na kasalukuyang sumasailalim sa rehabilitasyon kasama ng Boracay at Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Antiporda, napakahalaga ang pagtugon ng mga local government units sa pansamantalang pagsuspende sa mayor's permit ng mga pasaway na establisyimento kapag ibinigay sa kanila ng DENR ang listahan dahil sa pamamagitan nito ay maiwasan ang kontaminasyon ng mga

waterways.

Ilan sa mga ipinasasara ng DENR dahil sa paglabag sa environmental laws ang El Nido Sea Shell Resorts and Hotel sa Brgy. Buena Suerte, Doublegem Beach Resort and Hotel, Buko Beach Resort, Panorama Resort (Mangonana Inc.), Four Seasons Seaview Hotel at Stunning Republic Beach Hotel sa Brgy. Corong-corong; Sava Beach Bar/Sava Nest Egg Inc., El Nido Beach Hotel at ang The Nest El Nido Resorts and Spa, Inc. sa Brgy. Masagana. (*Angie dela Cruz*)





# Boycott Canada?

# Palace stops gov't

# trips, deals

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

**Following the recall of Philippine diplomats last week, President Duterte has banned government officials from traveling to Canada, citing as reason the delay in the return of 69 container vans of waste to Ottawa.**

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, in a memorandum issued on May 20, ordered all secretaries and heads of government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) to "refrain from issuing travel authorities for official foreign trips to Canada."

He said the move is to "emphasize even further the seriousness of our Government's demands...in light of the continuing failure of the Canadian government to retrieve the containers of garbage unlawfully shipped to the Philippines."

Apart from heads of agencies, Malacañang also issued the order to officers and personnel of their respective departments and attached agencies.

"Reduce official interaction of their respective departments and agencies with representatives of the

Canadian Government," the one-page order read.

Medialdea said the "directive shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until further notice."

Duterte earlier directed the proper authorities to hire a container ship that would transport the tons of hazardous garbage and to dump these into Ottawa's shores after Canada failed to meet the May 15 deadline he had set.

"As a result of this offending delay, the President has instructed the appropriate office to look for a private shipping company which will bring back Canada's trash to the latter's jurisdiction. The government of the Philippines will shoulder all expenses. And we do not mind," said Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo.

He added that the President is not thinking twice about the plan to dump the waste on Canada's shores.

"If Canada will not accept their trash, we will leave the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores,"

Panelo said.

Asked on the possibility that Canada might also raise violations of the Basel Convention against the Philippines, Panelo said Manila is not a signatory of the agreement aimed at controlling trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste, although reports said the country became a signatory on March 22, 1989. The reports also indicated that it was ratified by Manila on Oct. 21, 1993 and was entered into force on Jan. 19 of the following year.

Panelo also expressed belief that the spat will not affect Filipinos now working and seeking migrant status in Canada.

"President Duterte is upset about the inordinate delay of Canada in shipping back its containers of garbage. We are extremely disappointed with Canada's neither here nor there pronouncement on the matter. Obviously, Canada is not taking this issue nor our country seriously," he said. More than two weeks since Duterte raised a howl and threatened to go to war against Canada over the garbage,





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Boycott Canada ?

Panelo said the President's patience has run thin on the matter. He described as "a grave insult" the foot-dragging by Canada on the matter.

"The Filipino people are gravely insulted about Canada treating this country as a dumpsite. The President's stance is principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines as an independent sovereign nation must not be treated as trash by other foreign nations. We hope this message resonates well with the other countries of the world," Panelo added.

On Twitter, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said a military activity in Subic over the weekend has halted the fumigation of vans that contained the garbage that would be sent back to Ottawa.

He added that he would call on the International Container Terminal Services Inc. to allow fumigators to get access even during the joint US-Philippines military operations.

Meanwhile, the Canadian embassy said on Twitter yesterday that the country is contributing 90,000 Canadian dollars or about P3.5 million to support the emergency

relief operations in the Philippines, including responding to measles outbreaks.

"We remain concerned for those affected by measles in the Philippines. Canada is contributing P3.5 million (C\$90,000) through the Canadian Red Cross Society to support emergency relief operations across the country. It will provide health, water, sanitation and hygiene services to approximately 260,000 people until September 2019," the embassy said.

It also announced that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has launched an emergency appeal to support the Philippine Red Cross in responding to measles outbreaks in the country.

The Department of Health early this year declared measles outbreaks in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Western Visayas and Central Visayas.

Canada's donation comes amid the ongoing diplomatic spat with the Philippines over its failure to retrieve tons of garbage dumped in the country between 2013 and 2014.  
- With Janvic Mateo, Helen Flores



## Canada collects trash pronto

Canadian garbage that has been smoldering in Philippine ports for the past five years may return home earlier than planned.

After receiving a dose of the patented fire and brimstone from President Rodrigo Duterte, Canada took the first steps yesterday in repatriating tons of its refuse, shipped to the country some five years ago after being seized

by the Bureau of Customs.

The foreign government marked June as the start for hauling back the trash, which the President rejected, saying the government will instead shoulder freight costs and dump the garbage in Canadian shores if these are not allowed entry.

Mr. Duterte earlier threatened to declare war on Canada if it does not pick up its trash.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr. said 20 trash-filled container boxes have been fumigated, supposedly paid for by Canada, and are ready for shipping.

Locsin said 40 more boxes will have to undergo the process before being loaded to a vessel that will haul them back to the North American country.

Thus, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) chief asked the US and Philippine military not to order a halt to the process when joint military operations are held that may require the shutting down of the Subic port.

"Hey! Fumigators are not getting in your way," Locsin said in a social media post.

"Fumigating containerized garbage before loading on ship ASAP (as soon as possible) as ordered by Canada," he said in another tweet.

### Incinerator set

Ottawa confirmed the festering garbage will be incinerated in a waste-to-energy facility in Burnaby, British Columbia to hasten the end in the dispute between the two countries.

The facility was chosen for its proximity to the Port of Vancouver, the planned Canadian entry point for the repatriated trash, media reports said.

The facility in Burnaby is authorized to receive international waste, said Jack Froese, chair of Metro Vancouver's zero waste committee.

Twenty trash-filled container boxes have been fumigated, supposedly paid for by Canada, and are ready for shipping

He said even though the garbage originated in Canada, it is classified as international waste, because it left the country and so has to be handled under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's International Waste Directive.

**The export to our country of residual wastes generated by Australia's commercial, industrial and construction sectors as fuel for cement kiln looks like a clever disposal scheme.**

About 1,500 tons of trash are to be disposed of in the Burnaby facility, equivalent to about two days' worth of garbage, based on the facility's regular operations, although the material is likely to be handled over 10 or 12 days.

Talks took place over the past few days over where the garbage would go, Froese said. The federal government had announced, on Wednesday, that it had awarded a contract to Bollore Logistics Canada to bring it back to Canada.

### Aussies' turn

Environmental health and justice groups in the Philippines and Australia have also joined forces to expose and question global waste trade that is using developing nations as convenient

disposal sites for the garbage of rich countries.

The Bureau of Customs-Region 10 issued an "Alert Order" for nine 40-foot container vans from Australia loaded with 211.14 tons of waste materials declared as "municipal waste/processed engineered fuel (PEF)."

**Fumigating containerized garbage before loading on ship ASAP (as soon as possible) as ordered by Canada.**

The shipments arrived on 7 May 2019 at the Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental and were destined to the Holcim cement manufacturing facility.

Subsequent waste assessment conducted by the Environmental Management Bureau-Region 10 found "pieces of assorted scrap plastic, cellophane, wrappers, chunks of hard plastic, textile,

fibers, wood chips, glass cullet, stones, soil, paper and other shredded materials," noting that "the contents of the plastic-wrapped bales can be generally described as shredded municipal waste."

### Clever ruse

"The export to our country of residual wastes generated by Australia's commercial, industrial and construction sectors as fuel for cement kiln looks like a clever disposal scheme. Described as 'municipal waste' in the shipment declaration, Australia is able to dispose of its unwanted residuals and even profit from their sale by turning and relabeling these wastes as so-called PEF for export to developing countries like ours," Aileen Lucero, national coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition, said.

"This is a highly deceptive way of sidestepping the provisions of the Basel Convention to which the Philippines is party by declaring the shredded mixed waste as PEF. In the recent Conference of the Parties, the Philippines was a firm supporter of the Norwegian Amendment which essentially would put a stop to plastic waste dumping," Beau Bacongus, plastics campaigner, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives-Asia Pacific and Asia Pacific Coordinator of Break Free from Plastic, said.

### Crafty scheme

Jane Bremmer, zero waste coordinator for Australia of the National Toxics Network, decried Australia's "colonialist and deceitful approach to waste management by a country that should, and can, manage its own waste."

"It is unethical for Australia to send its non-recyclable, residual municipal waste, rebadged as 'PEF,' to be burnt in cement kilns in other countries, effectively escaping Australian regulatory responsibility for its impacts, including the adverse human health and environmental impacts associated with burning municipal waste in cement kilns," said Bremmer.

The groups noted that countries in Southeast Asia are pushing back as they urge the Philippines to show its strong resolve by immediately issuing a comprehensive ban on the importation of municipal, plastic, toxic and hazardous wastes. **CL**



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DWIZ  
REPORTER

NI GILBERT PERDEZ

# SNIPER

## HUWAG NINGAS-KUGON SA BASURA

**HINDI** maitatwa na sangkaterbang basura ang pangunahing dahilan kaya nagbabaha sa Kalakhang Maynila tuwing umuulan.

Sa totoo lang, matagal na ito. Dumaan na ang ilang dekada, baha pa rin ang problema natin.

Kahit nga basura ang dahilan at kaliwa't kanang paglilinis na ang ginagawa sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan, marami pa ring mamamayan ang hindi natututo.

Lumilitaw ang kawalan ng disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura sa mga estero, kanal at mga ilog at nararamdaman ang epekto nito tuwing umuulan at bumabaha.

Walang kadala-dala at walang malasakit sa kapaligiran. Iniluluwa sa dagat at ibinabalik ng dagat mismo sa mga dalampasigan ang mga basurang itinambak sa mga ilog.

Problema ng buong mundo ang basura. Maging ang Canada at iba pang bansa ay hindi na malaman kung saan itatapon ang kanilang mga basura.

Hanggang sa ginawa na nila tayong tambakan. At hindi pa man tapos ang kontrobersiya ng basura galing Canada, panibagong mga container ng basura naman daw mula Hong Kong at Australia ang natuklasan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Sinasabing may lamang mahigit 25 toneladang mga bag ng mixed plastic waste ang isang 40-footer container van na dumao sa Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) sa Misamis Oriental nitong Enero ng taong kasalukuyan.

Idineklara raw bilang "assorted electronic accessories" ang shipment galing HK.

"Municipal waste" daw ang nakalagay sa shipment declaration pero "processed engineered fuel" at "municipal waste" ang nakasaad sa ibang dokumento na nasilip ng ahensya.

Kung pagbabatayan naman ang Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, hindi raw kasama ang "processed engineered fuel" sa mga kargamento na maaaring ipasok sa ating bansa kaya inihahanda na ang kargamento para ibalik sa Hong Kong.

Bunga ng misdeclaration at kawalan ng permit, agad namang naglabas ng alert order at warrant of seizure ang BOC. Naging mas madali ang pagpigil ng ahensya sa pitong container vans na naglalaman daw ng mga dinurog at naka-compress na basura mula naman sa Australia.

Nang matanong si Australian ambassador to the Philippines Steven Robinson tungkol dito, binanggit ng opisyal na bahagi raw ang shipment ng transaksyon sa pagitan ng mga Australian at Filipino na kompanya.

Gagawin daw itong alternatibong sangkap sa paggawa ng semento, bagay na hindi katanggap-tanggap para sa ilang environment groups, kabilang ang Greenpeace Philippines.

Hindi nga naman dapat maging tambakan ng basura ang Pilipinas.

Kung gagawin lang palang semento ang mga basura, bakit hindi na lang tayo sa ating bansa kumuha ng mga sangkap na ito?

Kung maaalala nga, noong 2017 at 2018, tone-toneladang basura rin ang dumating sa bansa galing South Korea habang hinihintay naman ngayon ang pagpapabalik ng basura na dumating mula Canada noon pang 2013.

Nawa'y aksiyunan ng Palasyo sa lalong madaling panahon ang problemang ito, partikular ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ibalik na agad ang mga nabanggit na basura sa Canada, SoKor, HK at Australia!

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PARA sa inyong mga reaksyon, suhestiyon at reklamo, maaari n'yo po akong i-email sa [gil.playwright@gmail.com](mailto:gil.playwright@gmail.com) o kaya'y i-private message sa aking Facebook account at FB page. Maraming salamat po!





## Canada garbage fumigation underway

**By Eimor  
Santos, CNN  
Philippines**

TONS of Canadian garbage illegally dumped into the Philippines more than half a decade ago are a step closer to being shipped out.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin, Jr. yesterday said 20 trash-filled containers are now ready for repatriation after being fumigated.

Locsin said on Twitter where he also shared photos of the process, "40 garbage containers plus to go."

"Fumigating containerized garbage before loading on ship ASAP (as soon as possible) as ordered by Canada," the DFA chief said in another tweet.

Locsin said it might be stopped by a joint military operation with the U.S. this weekend, but appealed to the United States Embassy and the Department of National Defense to allow it to continue.

"Now joint US-Philippine ops will shut down Subic and stop fumigation. Hey! Fumigators are not getting in your way. Appealing to both to let fumigation continue," the country's top diplomat added.

Malacañang recently expressed exasperation over the continued delay of the repatriation, noting that President Rodrigo Duterte had ordered concerned government agencies to find a contractor and send the garbage back to Canada at the Philippines' expense.



## Greenpeace, DENR kontrapelo sa basura ng Australia

“Ang basura ng Australia ay naiproseso bilang gasolina.”

Ito ang ipinarating na paliwanag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda kaugnay ng nakapasok na ‘trash shipment’ ng Australia sa Mindanao International Container Terminal sa Misamis Oriental na naka-consign sa Holcim Philippines Inc.

Ayon kay Antiporda, ang nasabing basura ay napoproseso bilang engi-

neered fuel na ginagamit ng mga cement factories para makakuha ng mas mataas na temperature sa paggawa ng semento.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, kilala ang bansang Australia sa alternative fuel. At ang ash o abo umano ay ginagamit bilang raw materials sa paggawa ng semento

Ayon sa Bureau of Customs (BOC), pitong container vans na may shredded municipal waste ay naharang sa Mindanao International Container Terminal sa Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

“Ito ang nakapasok

sa ating basura galing sa Australia. Kayo ang humusga kung ito ba ay makabubuti o hindi sa ating bayan, straight from Australia,” ani John Simon, BOC collector.

Ang broker ng shipment ang siya ring humawak ng transport ng tone-toneladang basura galing ng South Korea patungong Tagoloan noong Hulyo at Oktubre 2018.

“The intercepted shipment was declared as processed engineered fuel (PEF) and municipal waste. Its consignee was Holcim Philippines Inc.” sabi pa nito.

Ayon sa Holcim ang PEF ay gumagawa ng processed trash, bilang alternatibong gasolina na ginagamit sa paggawa ng semento.

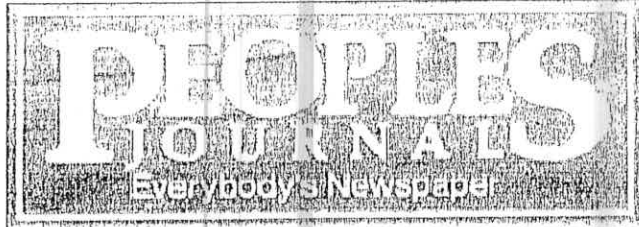
Nagpalabas umano ng ‘letter of no objection to the shipment’ ang DENR at nasa desisyon na umano ng Department of Energy kung aaprubahan ang shipment.

“May kaukulang kaulangan na kaalaman ang mga humarang dito,” ani Antiporda.

Magugunita na ang Environment Advocacy Group na Greenpeace na dapat iban ang pagpasok ng lahat

ng uri ng hazardous waste kabilang na dito ang mga “under guise of recycling”.

“The Australian trash in Misamis Oriental is unacceptable, reprehensible and deplorable. Why do we need to repeatedly remind the world that we are not a garbage dump? Illegal waste dumping to developing countries should be stopped at all costs. We refuse to be treated as rich countries’ trash dumps,” ayon kay Abigail Aguilar, campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines sa isang pahayag. (Riz Dominguez)



26 MAY 2019

## All that trash

AS if we do not have enough problems with all our trash being accumulated daily, we even have countries planning to dump their trash on our shores, even if packaged thoroughly.

Still, trash is trash. Just look at what happened along Roxas Boulevard in Manila during the last super typhoon. The boulevard was hardly passable because of the plastic trash and others that were dumped there. It was rather shocking and it took days for the boulevard to get cleaned up.

We don't even have to go far. We have all that trash right in our homes and even neighborhood. We are even told to segregate these into biodegradable and non-biodegradable even before the collectors come to make their job easier. We have tons and tons of such garbage daily.

What more of even getting those garbage of other countries like Canada? Enough is enough. The President has already issued orders to send the trash back to the country of origin, even at our own expense already. It's

### WOMEN TALK

Dulce Reyes



been stocked up there in a warehouse for years already.

We cannot imagine what is going on inside those trash storage. So what are we to do with our own household and community trash. Time is running out and we should seriously change our lifestyle of throwing garbage indiscriminately. There are already many recyclers willing to take on the burden if we only cooperate. Trash can even lead to cash if we know how to segregate and make use of items that are

still recyclable.

Take for instance those plastic around us. Have you heard of eco-bricks where plastic wrappers are stuffed into plastic bottles and made into bricks for walls? There are already pilot projects of such kind. Just look for it in the internet. There is hope for all that trash around us as long as it is our own trash and not of other countries'. This is non-negotiable.

We have enough of trash in our own territory. For all the ways we abuse our surroundings, there are good people out there, young ones mostly, who come up with ideas to help save our environment to ensure our health and sanitation. We just have to look around and encourage such innovators. Support them. Encourage their worthwhile ideas.

We do not have enough time if we want to address the issues of climate change. Eco-waste projects are what should be focused on if we have enough willpower. After all, who will benefit most from a clean and healthy sur-

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rounding but ourselves.

Newly-elected officials should take this issue of trash when coming up with an agenda for local governance. Show me a clean, healthy, progressive and orderly barangay, town, or city and you will see the local leaders behind such an impressive locality. Show me a dirty, chaotic, no progress place and you will conclude that the local leaders are either lazy or maybe corrupt and just power-hungry. How can such leaders even want to preside or govern such a pitiful locality? It is not even anymore enjoying the perks of being a local leader as the situation will reflect on the leader.

How many times have you admired a town or city for being progressive and clean and environmentally-friendly? Isn't this a better way of being recognized and leave a legacy? And these leaders can start by paying attention and looking for immediate solution to address all their trash.





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## DENR, MICT, NAGKAINITAN SA BASURA NG AUSTRALIA

**NAGKAINITAN** ang mga opisyal ng Mindanao International Container Terminal Port (MICT) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bunsod ng panibagong basura mula sa Australia na itinapon sa bayan ng Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Ito ay matapos igiit ni DENR Undersecre-

tary Benny Antiporda na hindi hazardous waste ang 162 toneladang mga basura dahil nakapasa ito sa kanilang isinagawang pagsusuri.

Ayon kay Antiporda, hindi rin ito matatawag na mga basura kundi isang processed engineered fuel.

Gagamitin umano itong enerhiya sa paggawa ng semento ng

kompanyang Holcim Philippines.

Subalit sinabi ni MICT Collector John Simon, kahit anong gawing paliwanag ni Antiporda, maituturing pa rin na basura ang mga ito.

Hindi rin umano nito maintindihan kung papaano magiging 'fuel' ang mga basurang kanilang nasabat. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



# Shipments of trash to Misamis foiled by BoC

**By Christian D. Supnad**

**SEVEN shipments declared as Processed Engineered Fuel (PEF) and municipal wastes were put on hold by the Bureau of Customs on Thursday in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.**

In a statement, Collector John Simon of the Mindanao Container Terminal, said the shipments raised suspicion due to the declaration stated in the entry filed by the consignee.

Upon examination, customs agents found "shredded municipal waste" inside the containers.

Simon also reported that shipments originated

from Australia and were consigned to Holcim Philippines Incorporated, a cement company.

It was also reported that the customs broker who facilitated the importation of the municipal wastes was the same broker that facilitated the shipments of trash that came from South Korea in July and October 2018.

According to the consignee, their company has long been using PEF as an alternative fuel in producing cement, adding that their importations are "low-grade fuel" and not garbage.

The Port Collector stated that said product would require import permit prior to its importa-

tion, which both the importer and the customs broker failed to provide.

A warrant of seizure and detention (WSD) will be issued against the shipments in violation of Republic Act (RA) No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act), RA 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act), RA 8749 (Philippine Clean Air Act), and Section 1400 of RA 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act).

Meanwhile, a scientific test will be conducted to confirm whether the shipments contained PEF or just ordinary municipal wastes.



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## Lacson blames corrupt BoC men for foreign trash dumped in PH

Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday blamed corrupt officials in the Bureau of Customs for the entry of foreign garbage in the Philippines.

Lacson took to Twitter to air his belief that BoC officials and personnel have a hand in the dumping of rubbish in the country's ports by foreigners, comparing it to the smuggling of illegal drugs.

"As long as fictitious consignees and unscrupulous brokers continue to work with corrupt Customs officials, tons of garbage and shabu will enter our country's ports," the senator posted. "All, including garbage and shabu, are toxic and

should be treated as such," he added.

New shipments of trash were reported to have arrived here amid the long-standing row with Canada over the garbage shipped to the country.

Seven container vans of shredded municipal waste from Australia were discovered in a Tagaloan, Misamis Oriental port last May 14.

The broker of the shipment, according to the BoC, was the company which handled the importation of 51 misdeclared containers of trash from South Korea last year. **(Vanne Terrazola)**



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## Sa pagpasok ng 'imported' na basura **DENR, BOC PINAKILO**

### Mula sa pahina 16

Ayon kay House Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship Development Vice Chairperson at 2nd Dist. Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliette Giit, isang malaking insulto sa sambayanang Filipino na ang bansa ay ginagawang tapunan lamang ng basura ng mga dayuhan.

"The practice of other countries and companies overseas of sending their garbage to the Philippines is an insult to all Filipinos and an affront to our laws," sabi ni Uy.

Aniya, ang pagkakadiskubre ng panibagong 'shipment' ng basura na muling nangyari sa Port of Tagoloan, sa kanilang lalawigan, ay patunay na patuloy na umiiral ang baluktok na sis-

tema at ang mga taong nasa likod nito ay hindi pa rin nangingiming gumawa ng katiwalian.

"The removal and prosecution of the conspirators embedded at the Tagoloan port and in Misamis Oriental must happen," giit ng Misamis Oriental solon.

Kaya naman muli siyang nanawagan sa Department of Justice (DOJ) at National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) na gumawa ng kaukulang imbestigasyon upang masiguro ang agarang pagpapanagot sa mga nasa likod ng pagpasok ng 'imported' na mga basura sa bansa.

Matatandaan na unang nabisto ang shipments ng mga basura mula Canada at South Korea, na sinundan ng panibagong tone-tone-

ladang 'imported trash' na galing naman sa Australia at China.

Inako naman ng cement manufacturer Holcim Philippines ang 'recycled waste' na galing Australia at binigyan-diin na hindi ito nakasasama sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Ginagamit lamang umano itong panggatong sa paglikha ng enerhiya o koryente para masuplayan ang pangangailangan sa pagpapatakbo ng kanilang planta.

Tiniyak din ng Holcim Philippines na gumagawa na sila ng kaukulang hakbang para maplantsa ang anumang hindi pagkakaunawaan hinggil sa inangkat nilang mga materyales para sa kanilang bio-energy facility.

**ROMER R.  
BUTUYAN**



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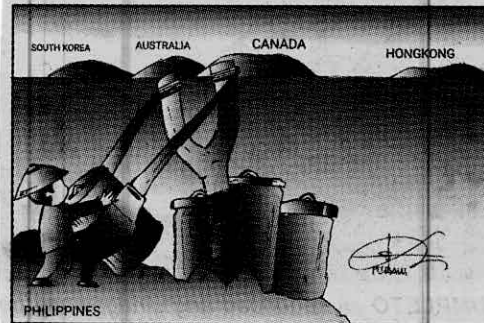
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*Ang aming pananaw...*



## **BASURA NG IBANG BANSA IBALIK SA PINAGMULAN**

**HINDI** dapat patagalin ng gobyerno ang mga basurang itinapon ng Hong Kong, South Korea, Australia at Canada sa ating bansa.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo na ibabalik ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa Hong Kong ang mga basurang ipinasok sa bansa, gayon din ang tone-toneladang basura ng South Korea, Australia at Canada.

Ayon kay Panelo, hindi papayagan ng pamahalaan na maging tambakan ng basura ng mga dayuhang bansa ang Filipinas kaya ibibiyahe agad ang mga basura mula sa Hong Kong na dinala sa Misamis Oriental.

Ang mga basura ay unang idineklarang assorted electronic accessories ngunit mabilis na nabuko ito ng BOC.

Ani Panelo: "We commend the Bureau of Customs for the early detection of the entry of mixed plastic wastes which have been declared assorted electronic accessories from Hong Kong. We understand that the BOC would export this illegal shipment back to its port of origin."

Dahil dito, nanawagan si Panelo sa lahat ng ahensiya ng pamahalaan na maging alerto at huwag payagang makapasok sa bansa ang basura ng ibang mga bansa.



## BASURA SA MANILA BAY DARAMI SA HABAGAT

NAGBABALA kahapon ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa mga taga-Metro Manila na maaaring sasal-pukin sila ng mga basurang galing sa ibang lugar ngayong tag-ulan at habagat.

Maaaring magmula umano ang mga basura sa Cavite at Bataan at sasadsad sa mga dalampasigan sa Metro Ma-

nila.

Kailangan umanong maghanda na ang mga taga-Metro Manila para sa kaukulang aksyon o paglilinis gaya ng ginawa kahapon ng mga iba't ibang grupo na naglinis sa Baseco beach sa Tondo, Manila.

Pinangunahan ni DENR Assistant Secretary Corazon Davis ang paglilinis na dinaluhan ng nasa 3,000 katao mula

sa iba't ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan, estudyante at guro ng Mapua University sa

pangunguna ni Professor Laurita Mendoza at National Youth Commission.





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## 78,850 kilo ng basura naharong ng PRRC mula sa Manila Bay

Napigilan ng Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) ang backflow ng 278,850 na kilo ng basura mula sa Manila Bay patungo sa Pasig River.

Sa isang pahayag na inilabas kahapon, sinabi ng PRRC na ang libo-libong kilo ng basura ay nakolekta mula Abril 27 hanggang Mayo 23, 2019.

Nilinaw na PRRC na tuwing panahon ng tag-init, ang antas ng tubig mula sa Laguna de Bay ay nagiging mas mababa sa antas ng high tide sa Manila Bay na nagreresulta naman sa backflow ng seawater at mga basura ng Manila Bay sa Pasig River.

Ayon kay PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio Goitia, hindi nila hahayaang maapektuhan ng backflow ang umaayos na kalidad ng tubig sa Pasig River at Laguna de Bay

kaya ginagawa ng ahensiya ang lahat para mapigilan ang mga basura kahit limitado ang kanilang resources.

"We do not want the backflow to affect the water quality improvement so far of the Pasig River and even of Laguna Lake so we are doing our best to intercept the solid wastes given our limited resources," diin ni Goitia.

Sa ngayon ay nagsasagawa ng cleanup operation ang PRRC sa 27 kilometrong kahabaan ng Pasig River gamit lamang ang dalawang trash boat mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Kahapon, nagsagawa ng massive cleanup operation ang PRRC sa mga bahagi ng Manila Bay at Pasig River sa Baseco at Parola sa Maynila.



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## 300,000 kilos ng basura nahakot sa Manila Bay

**NAREKOBER** ng Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) ang halos 300,000 kilo ng basura sa Manila Bay.

Ayon sa pamunuan ng PRRC, pumalo sa kabuuang 278 kilo ng basura ang kanilang nakolekta sa Manila Bay, mula nitong Abril 27, hanggang Mayo 23

Paliwanag ng ahensya, tuwing panahon ng tag-init ay bumababa ang lebel ng tubig mula sa Laguna De Bay, kung saan nag reresulta ito ng "backflow" ng basura sa manila bay hanggang sa Pasig River.

Samantala, tiniyak naman ng PRRC na ipagpatuloy nila ang pagsasagawa ng clean-up operations sa ilog Pasig.



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## FOR A CLEANER CITY

Members of various groups haul trash during a clean-up drive in Baseco compound in Manila on Saturday. PHOTO BY DJ DIOSINA



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**Clean team** Young students haul garbage away in a morning clean up drive of Baseco beach in line with the observance of the Month of the Ocean. The overhaul of Philippine beaches started with the cleanup of Boracay Island that lasted for six months.

BOB DUNGO JR.





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## Duterte: 'Land reform program has stopped'

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has admitted that the country's land reform program has stopped, the government having reached its limit in distributing lands.

In his speech in Davao City, the President said he really wanted to distribute lands, initially idle public lands, to agrarian reform beneficiaries but the government could no longer acquire these lands.

"Land reform gusto ko 'yan. Ako ang pinakamaraming titulo na, almost 60,000 hectares. Gusto ko pa (I support the land reform program. I gave out the most titles, almost 60,000 hectares. I want to give out more). But the land reform program has stopped. We no longer can acquire," Duterte said at the thanksgiving party thrown by senator-elect Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go on Thursday night.

"Kayong inabutan ngayon (To those who won't be able to own lands), well then I'm sorry, you cannot be as rich as your forefathers because of the limitations

now imposed by law," he added.

Duterte then renewed his warning to groups like the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) not to resort to landgrabbing or he would have them arrested, including a certain "Atty. Mahinay."

"Kagaya nitong Kadamay, I'm warning you. Yung landgrabbing ninyo style ng okupasyon. Basta ang order ko sa law enforcement, hulihin ninyo pati 'yang Atty. Mahinay na 'yan. Ipapahuli ko talaga 'yan (Just like the Kadamay. I'm warning you about your style of grabbing properties. I have directed law enforcers to

arrest you, including this Atty. Mahinay)," he said.

Duterte has repeatedly voiced his desire to distribute government-owned lands to farmers.

Through Executive Order 75, he could ordered all agencies to identify government-owned be distributed to land reform beneficiaries.

The President said the 1987 Constitution declared it a policy of the state to undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands subject to priorities and retention limits prescribed by Congress.

He also noted that under Republic Act 6657, government-

owned lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture are covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and are to be planned and programmed for acquisition and distribution by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

In his order, the President directed DAR to acquire all government-owned lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture but are no longer actually, directly and exclusively used for the purpose for which they have been reserved so they can be distributed to qualified beneficiaries.

All departments, bureaus and

government instrumentalities were given 30 days to identify and submit a list of lands that can be covered by the land reform program.

"The DAR, in coordination with the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), shall cause the preparation of an inventory of government-owned lands devoted to or suitable for agriculture and no longer actually, directly and exclusively used or necessary for the purpose for which they have been reserved or acquired," the order read.

"Agencies whose lands are covered by such inventory shall be furnished a copy thereof," it said.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



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## Duterte: Land reform program has stopped

As much as he wants to continue, President Duterte on Thursday said that the land reform program has stopped as the government has reached its limit in distributing land.

In a speech in Davao City Thursday, Duterte said that he is the President who has distributed the most land to the poor but said this now has to take a pause.

"Land reform gusto ko 'yan. Ako ang pinakamaraming titulo na - almost 60,000 hectares. Gusto ko pa. But the land reform program has stopped. We no longer cannot acquire," he said.

The President said he promised to give out land to the people but expressed regret that they will not get to be as rich as their ancestors.

"Kayong inabutan ngayon, well then I'm sorry, you cannot be as rich as your forefathers because of the limitations now imposed by law," he added.

He, however, renewed his warning to groups like Kadamay not to resort to land grabbing or he will have them arrested, including a certain "Atty. Mahinay."

"Kagaya nitong Kadamay, I'm warning you. 'Yung land grabbing

ninyo style ng okupasyon. Basta ang order ko sa law enforcement, huli-hin ninyo pati 'yang Atty. Mahinay na 'yan. Ipapahuli ko talaga 'yan," Duterte said.

He belittled anew the promise of the New People's Army to the people that they will give them lands, saying it is not as easy as they might think it is.

"Akala nila sila lang ang marunong. Mag-land reform, wala naman type-writer, ang tataas ng kuko, walang ballpen. Mag-drawing ng - tapos mag-land reform ka," Duterte said.

"Alam mo ba 'pag land reform, 'pag hindi mo madala nang husto 'yan, gulo 'yan. But you have to explain patiently," he added.

Early this year, Duterte promised to give government lands to the people, ordering Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones to expedite the process and distribute all pieces of land to the people within his term.

"Sabi ko nga kay Secretary Castriciones ibigay mo na 'yan lahat sa panahon ko. Lahat ng lupa ng gobyerno. Wala namang nakikialam diyari. Pati bukid ibigay mo para mataniman," he said. **(Argyll Geducos)**





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# Razon's Wawa Bulk Water Supply project gets MWSS green light

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLORE**

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has already approved the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project proposal, which will be built solely by the company of port magnate Enrique Razon and businessman Oscar Violago.

The project, which is a private off take arrangement between WawaJVCO and Manila Water Company, Inc., is expected to provide at least 80 million litres per day (MLD) to the East Zone concession starting year 2021 and up to 500 MLD by year 2025.

WawaJVCO is the joint venture company of Razon's Prime Infra and Violago's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders and Developers Group (SLRBD).

After securing the approval of MWSS Board of Trustees, the Wawa Bulk Supply Project is now being reviewed by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) and the MWSS-Regulatory Office.

The Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project approval comes with the resolution of the long-standing legal issues between the MWSS and Violago, which has prevented for over 10 years the implementation of the bulk water supply project.

Violago, who is involved in the construction of hydropower plants, began proposing to convert Wawa Watershed in Montalban, Rizal into a dam in the early 1990s. In 1993, he claimed he obtained the water rights to develop the Wawa Dam Project but MWSS and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) still won't allow him to push through with it.

He even claimed that Manila Water "wants to grab" the project from him.

On Friday, MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco said that the 500 MLD volume of water from the Wawa Bulk Supply Project will boost Manila Water's current water production by about 30 percent and is considered the largest water supply project that will be implemented under the Duterte Administration.

He said that the tariff impact is expected to be very minimal considering the total systems cost of the treated water is cost-effective compared to other water source options as well the strategic location of the water supply source within the east zone concession.

The tapping of Wawa Dam as water source is not new. It was the first source of potable water for the metropolitan area before Angat Dam became Metro Manila's primary source for water.



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# Will our water run out?

By NICK REDFERN

**WATER** is, arguably, the most important commodity on the planet. Without water, we will die. It really is that simple. Right now, at least, most of the world has a regular supply of water. Of course, there are those parts of the world where famine and a lack of water exist. But, for the most part, the rest of us don't have to worry about going without water. Or, do we? While today we take water pretty much for granted, in the years ahead we might be for some big surprises. And they won't be pleasant surprises. The day may come - and it may come soon - when there will be widespread control and regulation on who gets water and how much. The CDC - the Centers for Disease Control - recognizes the importance of water, specifically when it comes to issues concerning our health and survival. On this matter, the CDC says: "Getting enough water every day is important for

your health. Healthy people meet their fluid needs by drinking when thirsty and drinking with meals. Most of your fluid needs are met through the water and beverages you drink. However, you can get some fluids through the foods that you eat. For example, broth soups and foods with high water content such as celery, tomatoes, or melons can contribute to fluid intake."

There are countless other reasons why it's vital that we intake significant amounts of water each and every day. When the body lacks sufficient amounts of water, the process of ridding the body of wastes is slowed down. Water helps to ensure that our body temperature is maintained at a steady thirty-seven degrees Celsius. When we dehydrate, and particularly so when temperatures soar, our bodily mechanisms strain to keep our temperatures in check. When we dehydrate to dangerous levels, and when the temperature is scalding, heatstroke can quickly set in. Death can soon follow - if steps are not taken. Water also helps to keep our joints oiled and supple. It even ensures that

our spinal cord remains healthy. In other words, water is not just about helping to get rid of a dry mouth on a hot day. It's the one thing that we simply cannot do without. And, there really is no substitute: yes, a cold, ice-filled glass of soda or iced-tea might feel good when you drink it, but, in the long-term, both will only make you even more thirsty and dehydrated.

In light of all the above data, it's very easy to see how, if the world's population is restricted to a limited amount of water on a daily basis, disaster, catastrophe, disaster and death could soon follow. Ruthlessly regulating the world's water supply is, perhaps more than any other, the one way in which we could find ourselves as slaves to government. But, is such a bleak scenario really possible? Could it happen? The answer to both questions is: Yes. And it would be all too easy to do so. Indeed, concern is already being expressed about the lack of water in a world where the population is increasing in number at alarming rates. The stark fact is that when the population of the planet reaches ten or eleven billion - perhaps even twenty billion in just a

few decades - the time may come when someone in power will resort to drastic actions - namely, placing a limit on the one thing that ensures our life.

The one body, more than any other, which recognizes what the future might have in store for us is the United Nations. Having carefully studied trends on population growth, the lack of water in certain parts of the world, and how the future might be molded by a sudden crash in water supplies, the U.N. provides the following: "According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2012, 783 million people, or 11 per cent of the global population, remain without access to an improved source of drinking water. Such sources include household connections, public standpipes, boreholes, protected dug wells, protected springs and rainwater collections. The world has met the MDG drinking water target five years ahead of schedule but work is not yet completely done."

It certainly is not done. The United Nations admits that much more work needs to be done when it comes to the issue of water. For example, the U.N.'s sta-



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tistics demonstrate that in Sub-Saharan Africa close to fifty percent of all people lack the necessary, daily levels of water that are vital to our long-term health and survival. Terming the issue of less than adequate water supplies as a "global crisis," the United Nations has, over the years highlighted this in a number of groundbreaking and well-publicized seminars and conferences. They include 1977's U.N. Water Conference, the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (which ran from 1981 to 1990), the 1992 International Conference on Water and the Environment, and the Earth Summit, also of 1992.

Moving on from the work of the United Nations, let's see what other sources have to say about this global crisis. In 2012, a deeply disturbing trend was reported on by *Market Oracle and Global Research*. They told their readers: "A disturbing trend in the water sector is accelerating worldwide. The new 'water barons' — the Wall Street banks and elitist multibillionaires — are buying up water all over the world at unprecedented pace." The banks — or, rather, the "megabanks," as *Market Oracle and Global Research* describes them — are many and varied. They include JP Morgan Chase,

HSBC Bank, Goldman Sachs, Barclays Bank, Credit Suisse, and Deutsche Bank are all at the forefront of meddling with the survival of all of us — and, no, that is not an exaggeration. One year after *Market Oracle and Global Research* outlined the current situation, *Natural News* highlighted the ever-increasing issue of who, exactly, has the right to "own" water — and who doesn't.

*Time*, too, realizes that we face dangerous and challenging times ahead of us. In 2015, it noted the following: "Global water resources may soon meet only 60% of the world's water demands, the United Nations warned in a dire new report. The World Water Development Report, issued ahead of World Water Day on Sunday, says demand for water around the world will increase by 55% over the next 15 years. With current supplies, that means only 60% of the world's water needs will be met in 2030." In light of *Time's* revelations, it's all but certain that we will see a future in which water — rather than money and possessions — becomes the most sought after commodity in worldwide society. It may literally be a case of life or death — and possibly not just for millions, but for *billions*. Thankfully, not everyone

who holds positions of power in government wish to see us become a world in which the rich get all the water they want, while the rest of live in a permanent state of endless, near-dehydration. NASA's jet Propulsion Laboratory has been carefully monitoring this deeply worrying issue for years. It has come up with some intriguing ideas regarding how we might be able to bring us back from the brink of global disaster. JPL staff stated the following in June 2015: "About one third of Earth's largest groundwater basins are being rapidly depleted by human consumption, despite having little accurate data about how much water remains in them, according to two new studies led by the University of California, Irvine (UCI), using data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellites. This means that significant segments of Earth's population are consuming groundwater quickly without knowing when it might run out, the researchers conclude."

Jay Famiglietti, the "senior water scientist" at JPL, said: "Given how quickly we are consuming the world's groundwater reserves, we need a coordinated global effort to determine how much is left." We certainly do.



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# Metro Manila on borrowed time

**A** new study by a group of ice scientists has revealed even more dire news for the environment: the earth is sinking further as sea levels continue to rise. In a worst-case scenario of unchecked emissions growth and global warming of 5° Celsius, the sea level rise (SLR) can be by as much as 2 meters by 2100. This will be devastating for archipelagos like the Philippines, where 62 percent of the population lives in coastal zones.

The report, released last week and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said the projected rise of sea level "could result in land loss of 1.79 million square kilometers, including critical regions of food production, and displacement of up to 187 million people." It further warned: "A[n] SLR of this magnitude would clearly have profound consequences for humanity."

In the Philippines, 65 million of the 105 million estimated population live in coastal communities, putting them on the front lines of disaster. The country has already seen the devastating effects of strong typhoons like "Ondoy" in 2009 and "Yolanda" in 2013 that wiped out shoreline communities and killed thousands.

Not only that: Metro Manila, the country's dense, sprawling center of government and business, is sinking by around 10 centimeters per year. The most likely culprit of the subsidence—or the sinking of the Earth's surface due to geologic or man-induced causes—is groundwater pumping.

"Since the city has an average elevation of around 5 meters, it seems to be living on borrowed time," said a 2018 case study of eight cities by Christian Aid. The study, "Sinking Cities, Rising Seas," noted that subsidence not only increases the absolute risk of floods, but also the areas affected, with high tides penetrating further inland and floods taking longer to recede.

Metro Manila is already groaning under the weight of its 13 million population and has witnessed unchecked urbanization over the decades—developments that have only compounded the effects of global warming, said the study.

Neighboring countries are in the same boat. Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, recently announced plans to build a new capital city because Jakarta, its current capital, is sinking. A BBC report has tagged Jakarta as the fastest-sinking city in the world, with almost half of its area now below sea level. Experts say that by 2050, 95 percent of North Jakarta will be submerged.

Closer to home, a report published in this paper last week noted that subsidence has been observed in the coastal town of Bulakan, Bulacan. Bulacan, just like neighboring Pampanga, has sunk between 4 and 6 centimeters (1.5 and 2.4 inches) annually since 2003. Experts have identified the main cause, again, as the excessive extraction of groundwater, often through unregulated wells for homes, factories and farms.

The sinking has caused water from Manila Bay to pour inland and displace thousands. Communities in the affected areas have been forced to adopt band-aid solutions such as raising street levels or building elevated houses, but experts warn that the phenomenon would only get worse.

These environmental issues merited scant to zero mention by the major candidates during the recent elections, despite the urgent implications for the country's main political and economic hub and the enormous costs it would take to either save Metro Manila or, like Jakarta, relocate the capital to a safer place. Is this problem, in fact, even on the radar of the Duterte administration?

Reports about a number of massive reclamation projects on Manila Bay have been met with warnings by scientists and other experts that these projects could further degrade the environment and worsen subsidence and flooding around the area. So it's quite a relief that newly elected Manila Mayor Isko Moreno has announced that such reclamations will not be a priority of his administration.

But more attention to Metro Manila's ultimate fate needs to happen, especially on the national level. The alerts and warnings from the scientific community are there, but where are the studies and blueprints that should map out the government's preparations and mitigating measures for what awaits the metropolis? Are there such studies in the first place? Or is the country's capital destined to drown eventually—not only from natural causes, but also from the neglect and obliviousness of its inhabitants?





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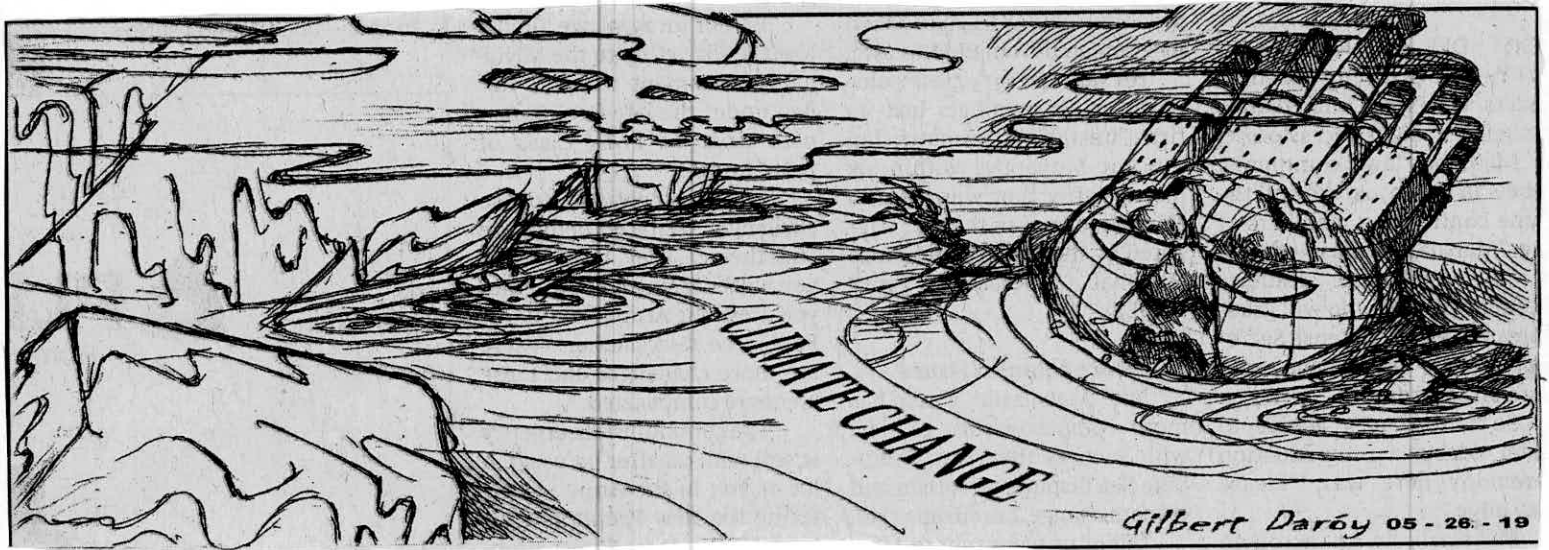
  
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# Climate change is no rubbish

It is perfectly situated to help visitors consider the impact of consumer behavior and how we treat waste, at least for a brief moment

A university student from Manila has assembled a climate-conscious art installation in Scotland.

Nadine Audrey Franz, a 23-year-old currently studying Interior and Environmental Design at the University of Dundee in Scotland has designed and constructed a monument to climate change almost entirely out of rubbish.

The structure, which reaches a height of 12 foot, will serve as a stark warning to locals in Scotland that action has to be taken now if humanity has

any hopes of mitigating the disastrous effects of climate change.

Built upon a former landfill turned nature park in the city, Nadine said she hopes visitors to Dundee's Riverside Nature Park

will

consider

what

actions they

can take, such

as consuming

less, while also

celebrating the

beauty of nature.

"The main

reason I chose to

build here is that if

you stand on the hill

where the structure

sits, you get views of

both the beautiful Tay Estuary

and immediately to the left, the

Riverside Recycling Centre. It is breathtakingly calm and also quite bleak



THE 12-foot structure at Riverside Nature Park.

"The larger of the two frames is a visual reference to the warning the United Nations recently published in which they stated that climate action must be taken within 11 years to mitigate the worst effects of climate change," she added.

The structure, which Nadine has designed for her final-year degree show, also draws upon her own personal experiences growing up in the Philippines where she volunteered in a day-care center in a village situated in the heart of an extensive landfill in Manila.

Nadine said it was her experiences of seeing ordinary folk live among the rubbish that inspired her to design a structure that would raise awareness of the impact waste

can have on the environment.

"I want this to be a reminder that when you come to visit this beautiful park, you are only one meter above thousands of tons of trash. I hope that designers and consumers alike pause to reflect on the damage consumerist culture can have to the environment if they don't consider the long-term effects," she shared.

**A 23-year-old student from the Philippines studying at the University of Dundee designed and constructed a monument to climate change almost entirely out of rubbish.**

The structure will be on display to the public at Riverside Nature Park until Tuesday, 28 May, when it will be deconstructed and entirely recycled.





# FAO seeks stronger actions to address biodiversity decline

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is calling for stronger actions to address the rapid and steady decline of biodiversity that are essential for food and agriculture.

FAO said there should be focus on biodiversity as the foundation for food and health and a key catalyst to transforming food systems and improving human health.

In the Philippines, the FAO, together with the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research and partner local government units, has been implementing the "Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agrobiodiversity in Traditional Agroecosystems of the Philippines" project to help respond to these issues.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility, the project is working

to enhance and promote the sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems.

The project is currently being implemented in Hingyon and Hungduan in Ifugao province, and Lake Sebu in South Cotabato province, which are known for their rich crop diversity conservation initiatives and heirloom farming practices using traditional and natural methods.

"Fighting hunger means ensuring food security through the availability of healthy, safe, and nutritious food. We underscore the importance of preserving heirloom and traditional crop varieties because they are important sources of quality and nutritious food," said Jose Luis Fernandez, FAO Representative in the Philippines.

"Providing farmers more opportunities to earn higher incomes can encourage them not only to help in conserving agrobiodiversity in their

area, but also to continue farming and save agricultural heirloom products," he said.

In addition to the signature heirloom rice, which are produced by indigenous communities, taro, banana, tomato, ginger and abaca are just some of the products that can promote agrobiodiversity conservation.

FAO is helping communities get the most out of these products through value-adding activities such as direct selling of fresh taro in wholesale markets, rope making for abaca and food processing for tomato (dried tomato), taro (chips) and bungulan banana (chips).

DA-BAR is considering providing extended support to the Hingyon and Hungduan indigenous communities by increasing farm productivity, as well as through continued product development and improved product packaging.



## PHILIPPINE EAGLE "GEOTHERMICA AT SAMBISIG" IPADADALA SA WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE

PINANGUNAHAN ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang paglagda sa kasunduan sa pagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ng Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) para sa "loan and conservation" ng Philippine eagle na kinilalang pambansang ibon ng bansa.

Sa ilalim ng kasunduan, ipadadala ng DENR sa Singapore ang magkapares na agila ngunit mananatili itong pag-aari ng bansang Pilipinas. Aakuin naman ng WRS ang lahat ng responsibilidad sa pangangalaga ng Philippine eagle at taunan ding magpadala ito ng ulat tungkol sa kalagayan ng magkapares na agila.

Ayon naman kay Dr. Cheng Wen-Haur, deputy chief executive officer at chief life sciences officer ng WRS, nagpapasalamat sila sa gobyerno ng Pilipinas dahil sa pagtitiwalang ibinigay sa kanilang institusyon para alagaan ang dalawang ibon.

"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," sabi pa ni Wen-Haur.

"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," dagdag pa nito.

Noong isang taon ay inilabas ng DENR ang Memorandum Circular 2018-04 na naglalatag ng proseso ng pangangalaga ng pambansang ibon sa pamamagitan ng wildlife loan agreement sa mga kwalipikadong institusyon.

Ang Philippine eagle na kinilalala bilang isa sa pinakamalaking agila sa buong mundo ay isa na ring "critically endangered raptor" sa International Union for Conservation



of Nature's List. Kabilang din ito sa "National List of Threatened Species" sa ilalim ng DENR Administrative Order 2004-1.

Ayon sa mga experto, higit kumulang sa 400 na pares ng Philippine eagle ang nabubuhay sa mga kabundukan ng buong bansa. Ang pagsira ng kanilang tirahan at paghuli sa mga ito ang ilan sa dahilan ng pagkaubos ng kanilang lahi.

Dahil sa pagliit ng bilang ng kanilang populasyon, sinabi ni Rodriguez na malaki ang epekto ng "environmental conditions" sa Philippine eagle katulad ng mga kalamidad at iba't ibang klase ng sakit.

"Diseases, in particular avian influenza, are increasingly recognized as a significant risk factor that can affect both wild and captive populations of the Philippine eagle," dugtong pa ng BMB chief.

Ayon naman kay Cimatu, itinuturing ng DENR ang Philippine eagle bilang isang "priority threatened species for conservation". "Being an iconic

species and one requiring vast forest as habitat, the conservation of the Philippine eagle continues to be one of the rallying points in setting aside the remaining forest areas of this country as protected area," sabi pa ni Cimatu.

Aniya, malaki ang bahagi ng DENR at ng mga partner nitong non-government organizations at private sector partikular na ang Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) sa conservation ng ating pambansang ibon na sinimulan noong 1987 sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Philippine Eagle Center sa Davao.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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## Filipino youth join global call to preserve environment

By **CHRISTINA I. HERMOSO**

Several Filipino youth organizations involved in environmental protection and preservation recently joined the Climate Youth Strike, a global initiative of youth groups from different countries including the Philippines.

More than 100,000 members of youth organizations from different countries that call for environmental protection held a solidarity march "to call on governments to give primary importance on environmental care and preservation following a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that said that 12 years are all that is left to stop or at least delay the rising global temperature," organizers said.

Climate Youth Strike marches were held by the youth in Tacloban, Bacolod, Pampanga, Ilocos Norte, Negros Occidental, Mindanao, and Manila.

Diocese of San Carlos, Negros Occidental Bishop Gerardo Alminaza, chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Con-

ference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Seminaries, stressed that it is important for the young generation "to be aware and to actively participate in calls for environment preservation in their localities. The condition of the world that will be left behind by their elders will determine the kind of life and future that these young people will inherit and live in," Alminaza said over Church-run Radio Veritas.

The prelate called on the government to intensify programs that will help preserve the environment for the future generation.

"I thank all the young participants in the Climate Strike. This is very important because your future depends on it. If our leaders will not do anything to protect the environment, the future of the next generation is at stake. That is why I am calling on all concerned to listen to the voice of the youth. Let us protect and preserve our environment for in doing so, we protect and preserve the lives that we have," Alminaza said.