

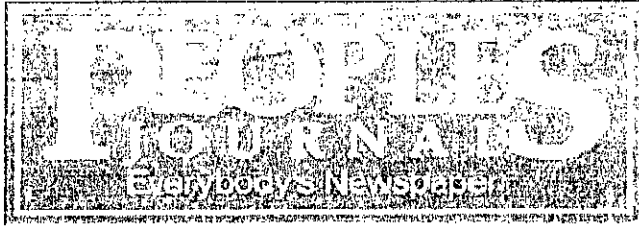
DATE : 04 JAN 2010

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



04 JAN 2009

DATE

Garbage from South Korea to be sent back next week

THE controversial 6,500 tons of garbage that has been stranded in the Mindanao port will be shipped back to South Korea on January 9.

The Philippines and South Korea have reached an agreement to ensure the repatriation of mixed wastes to Pyeongtaek City that arrived at the Mindanao International Container Terminal in Misamis Oriental in July last year.

"We expect the 51 garbage-filled containers stored at MICT to be home-bound by January 9 pro-

vided that all regulatory requirements are readily available. Their expedited re-export is what BoC wants and this is what our people are yearning for," said John Simon, Port Collector at the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT).

Simon said the re-exportation of the 51 containers to South Korea is due to the failure of the consignee, Verde Soko Philippines Industrial

Corp., to secure prior import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and for its misdeclaration of the garbage shipments as "plastic synthetic flakes."

Meanwhile, EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero pointed out that the government must adopt stringent policies to prevent a repeat of this incident.

Joel dela Torre



Abante



04 JAN 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

UNA SA BALITA

Basura ng South Korea sa Misamis, hirap hakutin

DAHIL sa ilang buwang pagkakatambak ng mga basura sa isang barangay sa Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, pahirapan ang pagkuha sa unang kargamento para maibalik sa South Korea sa susunod na linggo.

Ang nasabing mga basura ay mabilis na nabubulok dahil na rin sa pinaglagakan na stock yard ng Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corporation na direktang tinatamaan ng araw at malakas na ulan simula nang dumating sa naturang

lugar noong Hulyo 2018.

Sinabi ni Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) District Collector John Simon, hindi na agad magalaw ang mga basura dahil mahigit limang buwan na itong nakatambak sa pangangalaga ng Verde Soko.

Kung kaya't nangailangan ang gobyerno ng mas epektibong paraan upang maiwasan ang paglaganap ng mga mikrobyo mula sa mga basura sa paligid o sa mga residential area ng lalawigan,

ayon pa sa Kolektor.

Nauna nang humingi ng dalawang buwan ang may-ari ng kompanya na si Korean Charles Chiu upang mailagay sa ayos ang mga basura pabalik sa South Korea.

Unang nagpunta ang apat na opisyal ng Environmental Management Bureau ng South Korea sa site ng mahigit 5,000 toneladang mga basura upang dokumentuhan at posibleng magamit sa kanilang imbestigasyon laban sa Verde Soko. **(Mina Aquino)**



Editorial

Basura ng Korea ibabalik na; Kailan ang sa Canada?

IBABALIK na sa South Korea ang mga basurang idinala sa bansa noong Hulyo 21, 2018 na ang consignee ay ang Verde Soco Philippines na ang address ay matatagpuan sa Misamis Oriental. Noong Nobyembre 2018, may naharang pang mga basura ang Bureau of Customs sa Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) at nagmula rin sa South Korea. Umaabot sa 51 container van ang mga basura. Itinambak ang basura sa isang lugar sa Misamis Oriental at umalma ang mga residente dahil mapanganib ito sa kalusugan.

Pero mabilis magpasya ang South Korean government sapagkat nangako na ibabalik nila sa kanilang bansa ang mga basura. Itinakda ang Enero 9, 2019 para malibalik ang basura sa Pyeongtaek City, South Korea. Mabilis na nakipagkasundo ang South Korean government sa Bureau of Customs ng Pilipinas kaya madaling naayos ang pagpapabalik sa mga basura. Hindi pa naman lumulutang ang may-ari ng kompanya na umangkat ng basura kaya walang malinaw na dahilan kung saan gagamitin ang mga ito. Dapat kasuhan ang may-ari o consignee para matauhan. Kallangan pa bang magangkat ng basura gayung napakaraming basura sa bansa. Pumunta lamang sa breakwater ng Manila Bay ay maraming basura nang makukuha. Marami ring basura sa Luneta na kagagawan ng mga walang disiplinang mamamayan na namasyal doon noong bisperas ng Pasko at Bagong Taon.

Nakahahanga naman ang South Korea sa bills ng pagpapasya sa pagbabalik ng basura sa kanilang bansa. Hindi katulad ng Canada na hanggang ngayon ang kanilang basura na kinabibilangan ng hazardous waste ay nananatili pa sa bansa at nabubulok at delikado sa kalusugan. Pawang hospital wastes ang basura ng Canada.

Nangako si Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau na ibabalik sa bansa ang mga basura pero hanggang ngayon, wala pa siyang aksyon. Dumating sa bansa ang Canadian trash noong 2013 at 2014. Dalawampu sa containers ng basura ay itinaon sa Tarlac noong Mayo 2015 samantalang ang karamihan ay nananatili at nabubulok na sa Port of Manila at Subic.

Nararapat maparusahan ang mga umaangkat ng basura para hindi na pamarisan. Dadagdagan pa nila ang mga basura sa bansa at ang matindi pa, pawang hazardous wastes ang mga ito na delikado sa kalusugan.



editorial

The balloon drop that didn't happen

IT was a stroke of marketing creativity bordering on genius: Celebrate the New Year with us and make history in the Philippines. Who would not want to be part of that event?

The Okada Hotel Manila was shooting for a place on the roster of the Guinness World Records and instead shot itself badly in the public relations foot. The intention was to have a New Year's Eve celebratory drop of 130,000 balloons at the Cove Manila nightclub to a packed house. Unfortunately, the balloons did not show up, thanks to a public outcry.

Immediately upon the announcement a few days before the end of the year, the social media exploded with concerns about the environmental impact of disposing 130,000 balloons. An online campaign was launched by Climate Reality Project Philippines, joined by Greenpeace Southeast Asia—Philippines, Ecowaste Coalition and Save Philippine Seas, and in few days generated 63,000 signatories.

Cove Manila went into damage control and tried to placate the mob by assuring the public that there would be proper disposal of the balloons. However, when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources stepped in and asked Okada to stop the drop, the Battle of the Balloons was over.

The reality, though, is that 130,000 balloons create about 400 kilograms of waste. A study in 2011 found that the average urban Filipino produces about 0.7 kilograms of solid waste each day. So that 400 kg of balloons is about the same as what one person would throw away in a little over a year. So, if only 500 people attend the balloon drop, they would have used up their own one-day garbage disposal quota. Cove Manila can hold 4,500 guests.

But the amount of waste that the environmental groups were whining about is really not the issue, no matter how loud their voices might have been. We wonder if there would have been the same outcry and complaints if Okada had come up with another scheme.

Suppose the hotel had intended to give 130,000 *Noche Buena* meals to poor and underprivileged children, also including a single balloon in each meal pack to help them celebrate the New Year? Would the Climate Reality Project Philippines, Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines, Ecowaste Coalition and Save Philippine Seas have started the same petition to "Ban the Balloons"?

We have no reason to criticize the efforts to have the balloon drop canceled, although we firmly believe that colorful balloons are nice for any celebration. The problem is that, in this day and age, we all must be aware and concerned with pollution and waste.

However, statements like "inflating and discarding 130,000 balloons for a few minutes of merriment of your highly privileged 3,000 guests, which, after the event, will likely be disposed of at a place where poor people live and work" are hypocritical in the big picture. Four hundred kilos of used balloons is not going to make much impact against the 8,500 tons of solid waste Metro Manila produces each day.

Nonetheless, it is probably beneficial that the 130,000 balloons did not get dropped. What would happen if some whiz-kid marketing person had happened to look up the world's record for a New Year's Eve bonfire made from used automobile tires?



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CARTOON

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Enforce use of geohazard maps, Bicol LGUs told

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay: Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) director Guillermo Molina 3rd has advised local government units (LGUs) in the province to strictly enforce the use of geohazard map in their localities.

"The local government units should use properly our geohazard maps. Pagasa [Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration] reported and declared already the red warning, meaning LGUs should evacuate the people. It's a matter of implementing the disaster plan," Molina said.

He noted that when the MGB declares an area as a no man's land, some LGUs react negatively to the agency's move.

Molina said areas identified as hazard zones should not be ignored because they could trigger landslides anytime.

"It's a constant problem that if we declare an area as a no man's land, the LGUs always have an adverse reaction," he added.

Cracks seen in Barangay Maynonong in Tiwi town, according to the MGB chief, showed that there was a movement underneath the ground.

"We are updating and giving again the geohazard maps to local government units. We are calling again on the LGUs to properly identify the geohazard areas because the probability of landslides is high and we don't want a repetition of these incidents resulting in the loss of lives of the people," Molina said.

The death toll in the Bicol Region from tropical depression "Usman" has reached 105.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD)-Bicol's latest report showed that the highest death toll was reported in Camarines Sur with 57, followed by Albay (18), Camarines Norte (15), Sorsogon (eight) and Masbate (seven).

Fifty-three were injured and 23 were missing.

Claudio Yucot, OCD regional director, said search and retrieval operations are going on in the towns of Sagnay with 16 persons missing, Buhi with three and Balatan with one, all in Camarines Sur.

Three persons had been being retrieved in Tiwi, Albay.

According to Yucot, the hardest hit by landslides and floods were Camarines Sur, affecting seven towns, Albay two towns and a city, four towns in Camarines Norte, Bulan and Sorsogon City in Sorsogon and Claveria town in Masbate.

OCD Bicol reported that as of Thursday midnight, at least 8,571 families or 30,904 people still remained in various evacuation camps in Camarines Sur (8,402 families or 30,129 persons) and Albay (169 families or 775 persons).

The Department of Public Works and Highways regional office is conducting round the clock clearing operations in affected areas of Camarines Sur and Albay.

The clearing operations are also ongoing in most of the road networks affected by flooding and landslides.

Classes in Albay, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte were suspended in all levels and will resume on Monday next week.

RHAYDZ B. BARCIA



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Tourism build-up for Antique, Guimaras

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is considering improving tourism destinations in Antique and Guimaras provinces.

"After Boracay Island, we are now looking at Antique and Guimaras," said Jim Sampulna, DENR regional director for Western Visayas.

The world-famous resort island in Aklan, which geographically belongs to Western Visayas, has been in the limelight when it closed for a six-month clean-up.

Sampulna told Manila Bulletin DENR must take the lead in conducting a study that would be a blueprint for tourism-related developments in the two provinces.

For over a decade, Guimaras has been marketed as an alternative destination to Boracay because of its white-sand beaches and nearness to Iloilo City.

Antique is also an emerging ecotourist destination and the province is expected to attract more visitors after its airport opened for commercial operations last December.

Antique features the white sand beaches of Mararison Island in Culasian town, while Tibiao town has drawn visitors to its waterfalls, river and the jacuzzi-like "kawa" hot bath.

Sampulna, the chairperson of the Western Visayas Regional Ecotourism Committee (REC), said local governments must establish a system that ensures environmental preservation amid tourism.

"Boracay is a learning experience," Sampulna said.



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Cleanups make Batangas coastline haven for Olive-Ridley sea turtles

OLIVE-RIDLEY nesting sites with more than 300 eggs were recently found along the Chevron Batangas Terminal coastline, where Chevron employee volunteers recently conducted their annual coastal cleanup.

Four nesting sites were discovered on December 2018, the first since the last batch of Olive-Ridley sea turtles hatched in January 2017.

Every year, Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI), marketer of the Caltex brand of fuels and lubricants, coincides its annual coastal cleanup with the Olive-Ridley turtles' nesting season to ensure a favorable environment for the turtles during their nesting period.

With the sea turtle population dwindling due to predation and exploitation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been lobbying for the



Turtle encounter. Chevron staff and security personnel have learned how to properly respond, handle and protect the sea turtles.

government's pawikan conservation project. CPI partnered with DENR when the former discovered the turtle nesting site in 2014 to conduct turtle encounter training for its

employees.

Through this, Chevron staff and security personnel learn how to properly respond, handle and protect the sea turtles.

More than 300 Olive-Ridley eggs are now under close monitoring by certified Chevron pawikan protectors.

An average of 100 eggs is secured in each nesting site. Seventy-seven hatchlings are now released to the seawater.

Aside from—and to supplement—the annual coastal cleanup, Chevron conducts regular cleanups along the Batangas Terminal coastline.

This, together with various efforts such as the installation of fences around the nesting sites, has helped make the coastline safe haven for the Olive-Ridley sea turtles, contributing to the increase in turtle sightings in recent years.



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CARTOON

04 JAN 2011

DATE

NPA raids mining firm in Negros

CEBU CITY - About 50 communist rebels attacked a mining firm owned by Pilipinas Eco-Friendly Mining Corporation in Barangay Jandalamanon Ayungon Negros Oriental, last Tuesday, burning down 11 heavy equipment.

Central Command (Cencom) spokesman Capt. Patrick Martinez told Manila Bulletin in a phone interview that the New People's Army (NPA) got furious after the mining firm refused to pay a tribute and the recent arrest and death of some of its members in Guihulngan.

Martinez said the rebels set fire a backhoe and a payloader and several other heavy equipment.

Martinez said troops and police were going after the insurgents.

Lt. Gen Noel Clement, Centcom commander, condemned the raid as another terroristic and desperate attack by the NPA.

"They again targeted a legitimate company which is one of the sources of livelihood of the people in that area," Clement said.

Clement said he had directed his ground commanders to conduct pursuit operations without let-up.

"We will not let this terror group to continue sowing fear among the peace-loving people in Negros," he said. (Minerva BC Newman)