

DATE : 30 MAY 2019

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



#nationataglance

MALE Philippine eagle Geothermica (left) and female Sambisig, who both spring from the Philippine Eagle Foundation's breeding program, are off to the Jurong Bird Park in Singapore on June 4 under a loan conservation agreement.



PEF PHOTOS

DAVAO: DAVAO CITY Eagle foundation still in search of funds for expansion, Compostela Valley facility

THE PHILIPPINE Eagle Center in Malagos, Davao City, run by the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), is running out of space for its continued breeding program and other conservation initiatives. "There are three pairs being worked on with additional birds programmed for cooperative artificial insemination," PEF Executive Director Dennis I. Salvador said in an interview. Mr. Salvador said they need to expand the 8.4-hectare facility, but there is no available area nor funding. Ms. Salvador also said that they are still looking for funding sources for the proposed construction of a new facility in a 23-hectare property in Moncayo, Compostela Valley that was donated by siblings Sammy and Alice Yap. The PEC has so far produced seven Philippine eagles through cooperative artificial insemination and 21 through the natural

breeding method. As part of its risk management program, PEF, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is sending a pair of Philippine eagles — named Geothermica (male) and Sambisig (female) — to the Jurong Bird Park operated by the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS). "This move has been proposed to DENR 10 years ago as part of a larger risk management program for the species' population," Mr. Salvador said. DENR and WRS signed the loan conservation agreement last May 20. Geothermica and Sambisig are both captive-bred, which means they are more accustomed to human activities. Apart from being in excellent health, these eagles are considered to be in their breeding prime with Sambisig at 17 years old and Geothermica at 15. The two have already been undergoing a "pairing attempt process" at the Philippine Eagle Center. Geothermica and Sambisig have been adopted birds for over five years by Energy Development Corp. (EDC) and Dow Chemical Philippines, Inc. respectively. — **Maya M. Padillo**



Remate

ANG DIARYO NG MASA

PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

1
STORY

1
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
EGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

BINIGYAN ng pagkilala ng National Capital Region Police Office si Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda (pangatlo mula sa kanan) sa ginanap na Flag Raising at Awarding Ceremony sa Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City kamakailan. Pinasalamatan ni Antiporda ang PNP sa kanilang tulong sa DENR para maging matagumpay ang mga programa nito, kabilang ang Manila Bay Clean-up. Nasa larawan sina Regional Community Affairs and Development Division Chief, Police Colonel Jemar Modequillo; Deputy Director for Operations Police Brigadier General Crizaldo Nieves; Ladies Club President Rosalie Eleazar; NCRPO Director, Police Major General Guillermo Eleazar at Regional Directorial Staff Chief, PBGEN Genaro Ylagan.



Balanga Wetland and Nature Park bilang ecotourism zone lusot na sa Senado

SA 18 affirmative votes, ipinasa noong Lunes ng Senado sa third reading ang bill na nagdedeklara sa Balanga Wetland and Nature Park (BWNP) bilang "responsible, community-based ecotourism zone."

Pinasalamatan ni Sen. Cynthia Villar, chair ng Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, at principal sponsor ng Senate Bill 2228, ang kanyang mga kasamahan sa Senado dahil nakita ng mga ito ang kahalagahan ng legislation na nagsusulong sa environmental stewardship.

Nabatid na sakop ng parke ang 153,578 sqm ng mangrove forest at 187,500 sqm ng foreshore land sa Barangay Tortugas, Balanga City.

Sa committee hearing ng bill, sinabi ni Bataan 2nd District Rep. Jose Enrique Garcia na kabilang din sa parke ang nagagandahang

mga ibon na endemic at migratory. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit naging sikat na watching site ito sa Region III.

Bilang special ecotourism zone, magiging pryoridad ng Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Public Works & Highways at Tourism Infrastructure & Enterprise Zone Authority ang pagpapaunlad dito.

Nakasaad din sa bill ang pagbuo sa Balanga Wetland and Nature Park Development Council na pamumunuan ng Mayor ng siyudad ng Balanga.

Magiging responsible ang council sa pagbuo ng ecotourism development at management plan consultation kasama ang mga lokal na residente, mga negosyo at iba pang stake-

holders.

Ipinahayag ng Nacionalista Party senator na sa sandaling maisabatas, inaasahang mapananatili ang momentum nito upang maging tourism development sa Region 3.

Ayon sa DoT-Central Luzon, ang ecotourism ay mabilis na lumalagong bahagi ng merkado ng turismo sa rehiyon. Kabilang din ang Bataan sa umuusbong na mga lugar sa rehiyon na may record na among the thriving 480,917 manlalakbay noong 2017.

Inindorso ng DENR ang panukala upang magamit ng BWNP ang potensiyal nito bilang ecotourism zone na community-based at sustainable na magbibigay ng financial at social-economic benefits sa mga lokal na residente.

(Mylene Alfonso)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B6
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Boracay RENAISSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?

MAJESTIC SUNSET – Tourists enjoy viewing fellow tourists ride their vintas as viewed from the White Beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines Journalism participants, mostly school paper advisers and campus Journalists from around the country under the theme 'Prospects of a Balanced Ecology and Tourism Development: Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Esther Sandee S. Mefragata/Carpenter Hill Elementary School)

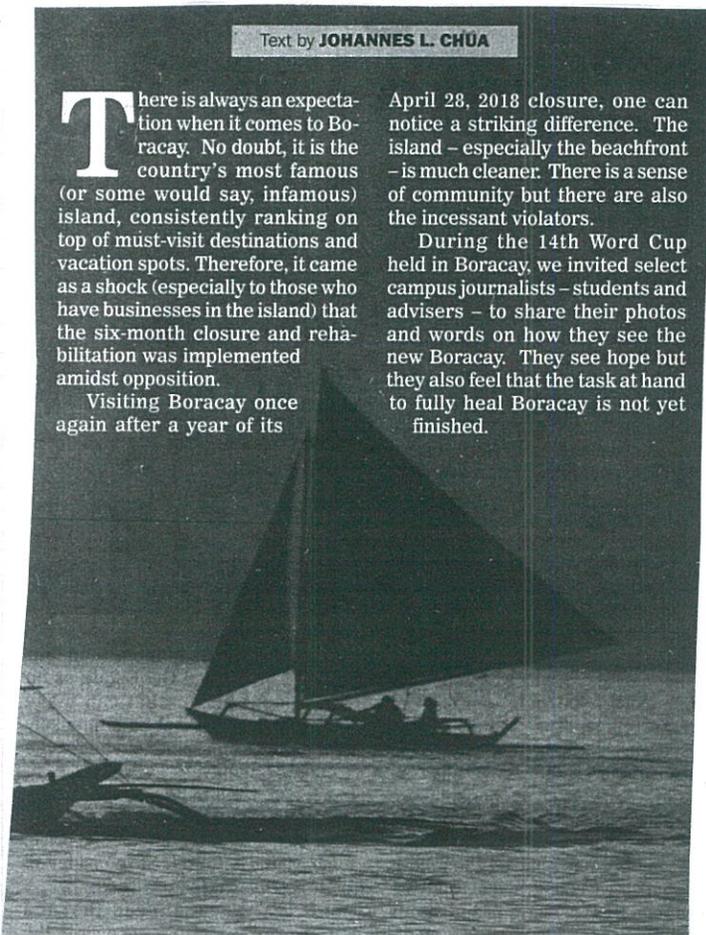
Text by **JOHANNES L. CHUA**

There is always an expectation when it comes to Boracay. No doubt, it is the country's most famous (or some would say, infamous) island, consistently ranking on top of must-visit destinations and vacation spots. Therefore, it came as a shock (especially to those who have businesses in the island) that the six-month closure and rehabilitation was implemented amidst opposition.

Visiting Boracay once again after a year of its

April 28, 2018 closure, one can notice a striking difference. The island – especially the beachfront – is much cleaner. There is a sense of community but there are also the incessant violators.

During the 14th Word Cup held in Boracay, we invited select campus journalists – students and advisers – to share their photos and words on how they see the new Boracay. They see hope but they also feel that the task at hand to fully heal Boracay is not yet finished.





STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

106
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by **DOLORES L. CARREON**

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers.

These were the words of Dr. Al Orolfo, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay as he urged responsible tourists to share their stories about the rehabilitation of the island.

A reliable survey reported that 92 percent of adult population in Boracay has used technology and social media to communicate and spread information about updates and progress about the island.

The government also did its part. It intensified the monitoring of waste disposal and imposed higher penalties to those who will be caught violating environmental laws.

However, these efforts seem to have been taken for granted by some businesses. A few weeks ago, the local government

has closed some establishments found to be non-compliant with regards to business permits including sanitary and environmental inspection requirements.

With all the efforts – from government and peoples' organizations – to restore Boracay to its pristine condition, there are still deterring factors such as people's resistance to change and discipline. What else can Boracay do than make the people pay for what they had served?

Boracay needs everyone's help. No matter who you are, you have a responsibility to take care of the environment. Become a responsible citizen police. Serve Boracay of what it deserves before it is once again too late.

The author is a head teacher of Mambucal Elementary School in Koronadal City. She is a school paper adviser and has taught English for 10 years.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Bb
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by **MARK JULIUS D. FUENTES**

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 386 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Aklan has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six month-long 'nightmare' of businessmen during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience stops and food stalls.

Nobody knows when single-use plastic bags became so pervasive and prevalent. They are accessible everywhere because they are cheap, useful and convenient. We find them — not just in Boracay — but in various places where people purchase goods especially in the markets because of convenience. But at what expense?

Ban campaigners identify the harm plastic bags can cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through "ingestion and entanglement." Even when plastic products break down, the plastic lives on as smaller elements that get into the ecosystem with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the plastic ban implemented by Malay is correct but tourists admit that the ban is just a form of 'suggestion' as single-use plastics are still visible.

Tourist or not, we have to understand that in order to help Boracay fully heal, we must be disciplined. If the government has prohibited smoking, drink-

ing and eating on the beach to minimize trash with "pollution control officers" to notify or capture litterbugs, then all of us have to follow. This is the law of the land and not merely a suggestion.

Our plastic bag habit causes environmental pollution, and so it only makes sense to start taking common sense measures to transition to more degradable or reusable items.

Climate change and ecological degradation are global problems for which there are no single nor simple solutions. If our 'fascination' with plastic will again transform Boracay Island into a dump, then we are bound to fail — wasting money, resources, effort and time.

Let us all become humans. No to plastic!

The author is a teacher at Mongpong Elementary School in Roxas City, Capiz. A school paper adviser for 12 years, he is president of the Association of School Paper Advisers of School Division of Roxas City. He is also editor-in-chief of Sagad, a publication of DepEd Roxas City.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B6
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by **ANNA MARIE D. PIODENA**

After six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in October of 2018.

That October was indeed historic and momentous for it was considered as the rebirth of a better Boracay. The repairs of the sewerage system and the roads together with the standardization of how hotels and resorts should manage their waste are part of the things that the government has done that has temporarily disrupted the business in the area.

After the six-month rehabilitation, there is a general feeling that it is just the start. The people need to ensure the sustainability of environmental efforts in order to prevent recurrence of what caused the closure of the island.

Dr. Al Orolfo, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay said that the sustainability of the rehabilitation should not fall wholly on the shoulders of the government.

Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay

entails a joint effort with the residents and even tourists and businessmen. This can be done by following the set of rules, by being a responsible tourist and by helping spread the positive effects of sustainable tourism.

The birth of the new Boracay is indeed a humongous challenge and it calls all of us to become responsible while enjoying its new life.

The author teaches English to senior high students at the Notre Dame of Cotabato. She is the adviser of the school publication called Clarion.



SUSTAINING PARADISE

Text by **MARIA JOSEPHINE A. PLEÑOS**

At first, Boracay's sustainable tourism was a long shot. But it was worth trying and perhaps worth duplicating.

It has been months now since the reopening of Boracay after its six-month rehabilitation. Changes are evident: Wider beachfront, quieter atmosphere, better road system and closure of erring establishments. However, there is a downside, too. According to Deputy Ground Commander of Task Force Boracay Dr. Al Orolfo, when asked about the state of discipline among locals and tourists, he said that it is a "cat-and-mouse activity."

The Task Force Boracay has been very firm in implementing its rules to ensure sustainable tourism practices in the island. It may be able to do so until April 2020 when the two-year implementation of the program will conclude. But even if Filipinos will have a clear direction on what sustainable tourism is all about, could the ordinary Juan de la Cruz follow the rules even when no one is watching?

While rehabilitating Boracay is considered as the DENR's biggest accomplishment in 2018, measure on sustaining the program should be put in place.

Dr. Orolfo believes that a strong and consistent law en-

forcement can sustain the program. Yet, he cautioned that we cannot have a cat-and-mouse law enforcement system. There should be ways to address other concerns such as the livelihood of ordinary vendors up to the concerns of big businessmen who have invested a lot of money in the island.

Boracay's sustainability is just the start of the change we need in the Philippines. If we can do it here in this island, then it can be done anywhere else in the country.

The will to change should come from the hearts of every Filipino. Law implementers should consistently enforce what is right and prosecute violators – no matter who they are! The political will of leaders should be made of steel but also flexible enough to have a vision and put in place long-term solutions to problems.

The Duterte administration has already started the change and it showed in how an island dubbed a 'cesspool' can transform to become a paradise once again.

Sustaining this change requires that each Filipino also change their old, backward way of thinking. It is not too late!

The author is a principal of Matulas Elementary School in Koronadal City. She teaches science and health subjects and is a journalism adviser.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



30 MAY 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____



MOTHER AND CHILD – Both local residents, they do their daily routine of picking up litter left by tourists along Boracay's famous White Beach. To them, this is their way of showing their love for their island. For the mom, it is teaching kids the importance of sustainable tourism. (Photo by Alver B. Lajera/Division of Koronadal)

'Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay entails a joint effort with the residents and even tourists and businessmen.

This can be done by following the set of rules, by being a responsible tourist and by helping spread the positive effects of sustainable tourism.'



DISCIPLINE IN DEED – Tourists line up to segregate trash in colored bins spread in one of Boracay's popular destinations in Station 2. The local campaign for solid waste management seems to have caught on since government allowed commercial businesses to reopen in the island. (Photo by Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit)



GARBAGE COLLECTOR. Garbage collectors load segregated trash on a municipal truck which do daily door-to-door collection starting from 2 a.m. up until they finish their task. The trash will be hauled to Malay, on the mainland where there is a regulated dump site. (Photo by Ralph Anthony Geronimo/Bagumbayan National High School, Sultan Kudarat)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

7
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Nearly 2 tons of trash collected in Bislig City coastal, river cleanup

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BISLIG CITY – Officials and personnel from the different line agencies of the government, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), along with volunteers from different sectors, collected more than 1,900 kilograms of trash in the “Free the Sea from Marine Debris” campaign in the coastal areas and rivers in this southern-tip city of Bislig in Surigao del Sur recently.

The waste materials were collected and taken to the Bislig City Ecological Park situated at So. Linao, Barangay San Jose, this city.

Bislig City DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) Victor A. Sabornido said on Tuesday (May 28) that the “More Time, Big Time” coastal and river cleanup in this city last week (May 24) was fully supported by various sectors, non-government organizations, national agencies, public and private schools, city hall employees and Army’s 75th Infantry Battalion.

He said the coastal cleanup raised awareness among residents especially those who are living along the shorelines on the importance of having a clean sea.

He said the main source of livelihood of the fishermen is also from the sea.

“If the sea line is dirty, fishing and tourism industries will be definitely affected,” stressed CENR Officer Sabornido, adding “If we could not keep our coastal communities clean, our garbage will go back to us especially during typhoon.”

In order to sustain the cleanliness of shorelines and even river line, the Bislig City DENR-CENRO inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a continuing coastal and river cleanup.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

30 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

PH to ship out garbage from Australia, Korea, HK next – Locsin

By **ROY C. MABASA**

On the eve of sending the tons of Canadian wastes back to its port of origin, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the garbage that emanated from Australia, Korea and Hong Kong-China will be next to be shipped out.

"Canada done; Australia, Korea and China HK next," Locsin said in a portion of a tweet he posted Tuesday night.

The country's top diplomat made this disclosure a day before the ship containing the 69 containers filled with garbage sails back to Canada via China.

Locsin said reshipment of the controversial tons of wastes that were illegally sent to the Philippines between 2013 to 2014 will be at Canada's expense.

"We're not paying for it, Canada is. Let's see if the other countries follow suit," he said in reply to a netizen's

comment.

Locsin, on Monday, said the ship loaded with fumigated Canadian wastes, is ready to sail today, May 30 after completing all the necessary documents from China.

Since April, the Duterte administration increased pressure on the Canadian government in Ottawa to immediately retrieve the garbage it illegally shipped to the Philippines six years ago.

After Ottawa's failure to meet the May 15 deadline set by President Duterte, the Philippine government recalled Ambassador Petronila Garcia and several other consuls in protest of Canada's "red tape."

Earlier, Malacanang said the Philippines is offended by the reported dumping of Australian wastes to the country.

On May 23, the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service said they discovered seven 40-footer container vans filled with garbage at the Mindanao International Container

Terminal in Misamis Oriental.

The container vans from Australia reportedly contain "pieces of assorted scrap plastic, cellophane, wrappers, chunks of hard plastic, textiles, fibers, wood chips, glass cullet, stones, soil, paper and other shredded waste materials."

Customs authorities described the shipment as "a characteristic smell inherent to municipal waste."

On the other hand, the South Korean trash, which is estimated to be more than 5,100 metric tons of plastic garbage, was illegally brought to the Philippines last year.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the South Korean government has expressed its willingness to help repatriate the waste imported by Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp.

It was also reported that tons of plastic misdeclared as "assorted electronic devices" from Hong Kong were shipped to Misamis Oriental earlier in the year.



Aussie, HK, SoKor trash next to be shipped back - Locsin

By **PIA LEE-BRAGO**

Garbage from Hong Kong, Australia and South Korea that were illegally dumped in the Philippines are the next to be shipped back, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. announced yesterday.

"Does everybody see what a trendsetter for the greater

good Duterte is? First Boracay feces cleanup when human rights advocates protested human rights violations because feces came from tourists. Now sending back garbage. Canada done; Australia, Korea and China, HK next," Locsin tweeted yesterday.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) discovered the ship-

ment of mixed plastic scraps, shredded electronics and residual waste materials shipment from Hong Kong.

The shipment, initially declared as electronic accessories, arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental last January and has since been abandoned.

Upon inspection, the BOC

discovered 21 large bags that contain crushed electronic parts classified as mixed plastic waste.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) said the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations have seen a drastic increase in the quantity of plastic being dumped on them "in the name of recycling" after China banned plastic waste

imports last year.

Garbage from South Korea and Australia were also illegally brought into the country.

The South Korean government committed to help ship back the remaining 5,176.9 metric tons of garbage.

Last week, Malacañang said the government was "offended" by the reported dumping

of garbage from Australia.

Holcim Philippines, consignee of the shipment, reportedly said the trash-filled containers were declared as processed engineered fuel.

Locsin said the garbage from Canada are all ready to go and will be shipped back to the North American country today.



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

A8
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CART

30 MAY 2019

DATE

FOR GARBAGE ENTRY

Lacson blasts

BoC

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

SEN. Panfilo Lacson on Wednesday slammed the Bureau of Customs (BoC) for its failure to stop the entry of garbage shipments, thus allowing the country to become the "official dumpsite" of Southeast Asia.

"Sad but true, there is already a bandwagon of nations that designate our country as the official dumpsite of Southeast Asia," Lacson said amid reports that tons

of garbage from Canada, South Korea, Australia and Hong Kong were exported to the Philippines since 2013.

"To say that our country is treat-

ed like trash appears to be true, as in literally, amid news reports of tons of waste being illegally shipped into our lands no thanks to local and foreign smugglers, unscrupulous Customs brokers and corrupt Customs officials," he said in a privilege speech.

Canada exported to the Philippines tons of garbage from 2013 to 2014.

In July and October 2018, South Korea exported 5 tons of garbage in 51 containers consigned by Verde Soko Philippines Industrial.

In January this year, 25 tons

of electronic and residual waste from Hong Kong, misdeclared as assorted electronic accessories, also arrived at the Mindanao International Container Terminal.

The cargo was reportedly a "trial shipment" by Hin Yuen Tech. Env. Ltd.

"If the said shipment successfully passed our ports, 70 more containers of waste await to be dumped in our borders," Lacson said.

"Just last week, Australia shipped seven container vans of shredded municipal waste in our coun-

try. Worse, the shipment's broker was the same company that handled the importation from South Korea," he said.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said over 1,000 tons of garbage loaded in 69 container vans would be shipped back to Canada starting today.

"We will await further developments on future garbage return expeditions to Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong and God knows where else," said Lacson.

"Nevertheless, we take our hats off to the strong political

will and grim determination of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs [Locsin] for standing their ground on this issue."

Lacson said these massive shipments of toxic goods had taken many forms — from imported hazardous garbage to billions of pesos' worth of smuggled illegal drugs.

"In the face of all these, the Bureau of Customs appears to be constantly blindsided and remiss in its mandate as the 'gatekeeper of our borders,'" he said.



30 MAY 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

'Pinas ginawang official dumpsite ng Southeast Asia - Lacson

NANINIWALA si Senador Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson na maituturing nang basura ang tingin ng ibang bansa sa Pilipinas.

Ito ay dahil sa pagpayag ng ilang tiwaling opisyal ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) at customs brokers na maipasok sa bansa ang tone-toneladang basura ng mga kalapit na bansa.

"To say that our country is treated like trash appears to be true, as in literally, amid news reports of tons of waste being illegally shipped into our lands, no thanks to local and foreign smugglers, unscrupulous Customs brokers and corrupt Customs officials," saad

ni Lacson.

Sa gitna niya ng mga importasyon na ito ay nagsisilbing bulag ang BOC at bigong tupdin ang kanilang mandato bilang "gatekeeper of our borders."

Malaking bagay na lamang anyang maibalik na sa Canada ang 69 sa 103 containers ng Canadian garbage na ipinasok sa bansa, anim na taon na ang nakalilipas.

"Sad but true, there is already a bandwagon of nations that designate our country as the official dumpsite of Southeast Asia," diin ni Lacson.

Noong Hulyo at Oktubre ng 2018, nag-export

naman ang South Korea ng limang tonelada ng basura na nakalagay sa 51 containers at nakaconsign sa Verde Soko Philippines Industrial.

Tinukoy din nito ang 25 tonelada ng electronic at residual waste mula Hong Kong na dumating sa Mindanao International Container Terminal.

"The cargo was reportedly a "trial shipment" by Hin Yuen Tech. Env. Ltd. If the said shipment successfully passed our ports, 70 more containers of waste await to be dumped in our borders," giit ni Lacson.

Maging ang shipment niya ng pitong

container vans ng shredded municipal waste sa bansa mula sa Australia na ang broker ay kaparehong kompanya na nag-import sa South Korea.

Pinakamataas na uri naman anyang basura na pumapasok sa Pilipinas ay ang ilegal na droga.

"Ang nakaka-stress pa, Mr. President, makailang ulit nang pinalitan ang commissioner ng Customs pero hindi pa rin masawata ang pagpasok ng ilegal na droga," giit ng senador.

"Imbes na magpatasasan sila ng koleksyon ng buwis, tila naging padamihan sila ng mga drogang pumapasok sa mga aduana ng bansa," dagdag nito. **(Dang Samson-Garcia)**



Founded Since 1993

The Manila Times

A1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

1/2

DATE

Wasting time instead of managing waste

THE Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is a study in contradictions. It is one of the larger departments of the government and has vast authority over things that affect the everyday lives of ordinary people, yet receives almost no media attention and is little understood by the public. It is also a contradiction in the way it manages its various responsibilities, carrying out mandates that ought to be organized at a provincial or regional level by micromanaging them at the smallest possible level of government.

Perhaps the most glaring example of this is its approach to waste management, which in recent months has been the source of much bitter criticism from



**ROUGH
TRADE**
**BEN
KRITZ**

local officials around the country. Needless to say, the program aggressively pushed by the DILG has been a comprehensive failure, and has probably created more problems than it solves.

Back in July 2018, following the barangay elections held throughout the country, the DILG attempted to breathe new life into the Barangay Ecological Solid Waste Management Committees, a dubiously overwrought creation of the Ecological and Solid Waste

Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003). In a six-page memorandum circular, the DILG "reminded" incoming barangay officials of their responsibility to "organize or reorganize" the committees within their respective jurisdictions, outlined the composition and duties of the committees, and spelling out the penalties for non-compliance with the edict.

Having done that, the DILG also reminded municipal, city, and provincial governments to update and submit their 10-year Solid Waste Management Plans to the National Solid Waste Management Commission. The implication, of course, was that with the micro-level barangay committees in place such plans should be an easy matter, since waste management

would be largely handled at the source.

Not surprisingly, things did not quite work out the way the DILG envisioned, except for the part about its imposing penalties for non-compliance, which it began to do in December by preparing charges against barangay leaders who had not gotten their respective solid waste committees off the ground. The DILG followed this up by issuing show cause orders to 108 other local government units around the country for failing to submit their 10-year plans.

The backlash against the DILG from barangay and other local government officials for its heavy-handedness is entirely justified, although to be fair to the DILG, it

► **Kritz B4**

■ KRITZ FROM B1

Wasting

is itself simply following the law, unrealistic and unrealized as that law's objectives may be. Although it looked good on paper, the now nearly 20-year-old National Solid Waste Management Framework has most often been honored in the breach; so invisible have been the activities of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, most people in or out of the government are even aware that such a body exists. Nor has it been quietly effective in any way – if it was, the Office of the President probably would not have felt compelled to

overstep the Commission and the DILG to take drastic measures to clean up places like Boracay, the Manila bayfront, El Nido, Coron, and Panglao.

The two specific complaints of local government officials reveal the larger flaws in the entire approach to waste management in the Philippines. First, there is a lack of support for the programs that local government units are expected to carry out. The technical and financial capacity of individual barangays varies greatly across the country; some big urban barangays are better organized and managed than the cities where they are located, while sparsely populated rural barangays are

operated on a shoestring, barely able to carry out the most basic functions. Second, there is a lack of centralized management; at every level – even at the national level – waste management is handled by an ad hoc body, with the result being that every level operates in a silo. Where areas of responsibility do overlap, the result is usually disruption of both plans.

The sad upshot of all this is that there does not exist, anywhere in the country, a completely integrated waste management framework that addresses waste from its source all the way to its eventual final disposition. The visibly sorry state of the country's environment ought to be proof enough that the



Founded Since 1898

The Manila Times

B1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

DATE

current approach is a complete failure.

There are some steps that can be taken, but whether or not the central government will be willing to relinquish its ineffective grip is another matter. To start with, the DILG should get out of the garbage business entirely. The country is too geographically, economically, and socially varied for solid waste management to be handled at a national level. To the extent that a "national framework" for waste management is necessary, it should fall within the purview of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with an eye toward maintaining environmental standards.

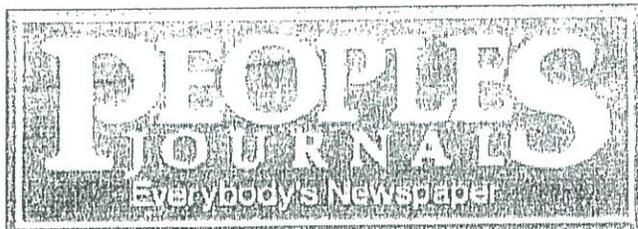
Second, the idea that waste management can be handled as a "side job" by committees of officials and other stakeholders who have no clear technical or management experience in the discipline needs to be excised from the country's governance philosophy. The job should be handled by agencies specifically dedicated to the task, and manned by people who actually know what they're doing.

Finally, along with professionalizing waste management, a significant amount of centralization and hierarchy must be imposed on it. Given the way the country is organized, the most effective approach would be to organize waste management from the top down,

starting at the provincial level. A provincial-level waste management framework would primarily concern itself with the final disposition of waste – engineered landfills, large-scale waste-to-energy facilities, and recyclable materials processing or export facilities. Municipal- and city-level sanitation departments would be responsible for collecting and consolidating wastes and delivering them to the appropriate facilities. Barangay-level efforts to collect and segregate waste along the lines dictated – but not supported – by the current framework can also be overseen by the city or municipality.

ben.kritz@manilatimes.net

2/2



On junk and junkets

TWO controversies – Malacañang’s rebuke of Ambassador Jose Laurel V who claimed the Japan trip is a “reward” for Cabinet members, and the furor over Canadian trash rotting for years on Philippine soil – have heated up.

Tactless as it seems, it appears that Laurel, the Philippine envoy to Japan, was just being frank when he speculated during a press briefing in Tokyo that Cabinet men were rewarded with the trip because President Duterte “is so elated with the results of the midterm elections.” Laurel added that he learned 200 people comprised the official delegation to Japan.

“Ito’y pabuya sa nakaraang eleksyon. Why do you bring 20 Cabinet members here, pati ang local government on land reform? Wala namang land reform dito, tapos na, nanduon sa atin,” Laurel told media. “Ito’y pabuya, ‘yung parang eh sumama na kayo at ang pakain ay libre.”

Laurel might have intended to be simply honest, straightforward and candid about his opinion, but his remarks turned out to be tactless, gauging from reactions of top officials, some of whom seemed offended.

“Hindi po sila dekorasyon sa summit. Trabaho ‘yan,” Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea stressed. “Puro halos wala sa kampanya ang mga kasamang opisyal. May mga kanya-kanyang trade missions ang mga kasamang gabinete.”

“We have never seen this as pabuya... we are working day and night just to prepare for all these activities,” Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said.

“All that I know is this is a working trip and not a pabuya,” stressed Ag-

INSIGHTS.xlr8



Angelo Tugado

riculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol who said he’s part of the delegation “because there will be issues related to agriculture, especially tariff on bananas.”

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said Laurel’s claim defied logic because President Duterte prohibited Cabinet members from campaigning in the elections. “It is therefore sans logic that they can be rewarded when they were disallowed from contributing to the reason or cause for the grant of reward,” he explained.

How could Laurel be not updated with what transpired in the Philippines and be so out of touch with the reality that the President indeed banned his alter egos from campaigning for administration bets in the last elections? Could senility be catching up with the 75-year-old envoy?

On the issue of the tons of trash from Canada, it’s understandable why President Duterte can be so exasperated and impatient about the stinking garbage. Yes, it’s garbage that stinks, especially the used diapers, and not just junk that could be recycled.

After being made to suffer since 2013 the humiliation of being stuck with containers of supposed recycla-

ble materials that turned out to be rotting household wastes, it seems the Philippines is also being made to suffer from all the gobbledygook or circumlocution that Canadian officials have been dishing out all these years.

All the rhetoric that they’re working “to ensure a swift resolution to this important issue of promptly repatriating waste exported to the Philippines” can be deemed utter nonsense or empty words until the trash are actually shipped back to Canada.

Unless there’s concrete action, phrases like “swift resolution” or “promptly repatriating” are worthless. And to say, after all these years, that Canada is still “examining the full spectrum of issues related to the removal of the waste with a view to a timely resolution” can be so preposterous.

Even the supposed assurance given by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2017 turned out to be meaningless. He said then that legal barriers preventing Canada from getting back the trash have been dealt with “so it is now theoretically possible to get it back.” Nothing has happened yet.

Amid widespread belief that Canadian officials are taking Filipinos for fools who can be given the runaround, an exasperated President Duterte is right to utter that he will “set sail to Canada” and dump their garbage there. “Celebrate because your garbage is coming home,” he said. “Eat it if you want to.”

Indeed, the Philippines needs to stand up now against the ultimate insult of being literally trashed by a country that seems to be taking its own sweet time in doing the right thing.

Email: insights.xlr8@yahoo.com



30 MAY 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

Trash shipped back to Canada today -- Guevarra

JUSTICE Secretary Menardo Guevarra yesterday disclosed that some 100 containers crammed with rotting trash will be shipped back to Canada today (Thursday).

In a SMS to reporters, Guevarra -- the officer-in-charge of the executive department while President Duterte is in Japan -- bared that the cost of transnational re-shipment will be shouldered by the Canadian government.

"I have just been in-

formed that the Canadian trash will finally be shipped back to Canada tomorrow (today, Thursday). The cost of reshipment from Manila to Vancouver, estimated at P10 million, will be shouldered by the Canadian government. The container vans will be loaded on vessels owned by three shipping companies," Guevarra said.

The shipping companies tasked to reshipped the garbage are Maersk, Zim, and CMA-CGM, Guevarra continued.

The case of the Canadian garbage, festering in Manila for about four years, has made headlines and led to protests by environmental and public-health activists.

The Duterte government has been calling on Canada to repatriate the waste, which is said to include old wires, CDs, used plastic cups, and soiled adult diapers. Estimates in news reports said there could be as much as 2,500 tons of trash in 103 shipping containers. **Hector Lawas**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



15
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

BASURA NG CANADA PAUWI NA

MAKALIPAS ang mahigit limang taon ay ibabalik na ngayong araw ang 1,500 toneladang basura ng Canada na ipinadala sa Filipinas noong 2013.

Sa twitter post, sinabi ni Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teddy Boy Locsin na tapos na ang fumigation ng may 69 na contain-

ers ng basura na nagmula sa Canada.

Hinihintay na lamang ang mga dokumento at routine permission mula sa China para sa transshipment ng mga basura sa Canada.

Kasabay nito, nagbabala si Locsin sa sinumang may balak pang humarang sa pagpapabalik ng basura sa Canada.



CANADA 'DI DAPAT KAALYADO

KUNG dinidedma tayo ng bansang Canada sa isyu ng kanilang basura na itinapon sa bansa, paano natin sila maasahang samahan tayo sa digmaan kung saka-sakali?

Mukhang pinaikot lang ng Canadian government ang administrasyong Duterte sa pagpapatumpik-tumpik nito sa pagbawi sa tone-toneladang basura na dinala ng barko noong termino ni Noynoy Aquino.

Ilang ulit silang nangako na hahakutin na pabalik sa Canada ang kanilang waste materials na nadiskubre ng Bureau of Customs ilang buwan na ang nakakaraan ngunit 'di nila tinupad.

Kinailangan pang umabot sa pagpapauwi ng diplomatic officials ng Pilipinas at pagbawal ng official trips sa Canada para makuha ang atensyon ng naturang bansa.

Ipinakikita lamang ni Pangulong Duterte na kaya niyang manindigan laban sa mayaman at makapangyarihang bansa.

Naniniwala akong tapat si Manong Digong sa kanyang pinaguhugutang prinsipyo.

Hindi pagmumukmok o pag-aalburoto ng isang bata ang ganyang hakbangin kundi seriyosong pagpalag sa isang "pekeng" alyado.

'Di tapat ang Canadians. Plastik, ika nga.



DEADSHOT

NI ERWIN TULFO

Paano natin aasahan ang pagkampi ng Canada kung sakaling magkaroon tayo problema sa external threat tulad ng ikinatatakot ng ilang kampo?

Ang kalungkot-lungkot ay nabistong may sandamukal na basura ring galing sa Hong Kong ang itinapon sa ating bansa.

Kinakailangan na matigil ang "smuggling" ng mga

waste material dito sa bansa dahil lubhang nakasasama 'yan sa ating kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Kailangang panagutin ang mga demonyong nasa likod ng gawaing yan na pinayagan noon pang nakaraang inutil na administrasyon.

Kung bakit hanggang ngayon ay walang natukoy at kinusuhan sa pag-aangkat ng dumpi ng Canada sa ating bansa.



OK KA HARRY



Harry Roque

TWITTER @HarryRoque

Nitong Mayo 22, iniutos ng ating Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang paghanap ng isang pribadong shipping kompanya na siyang aatasang magbalik ng tone-toneladang basura mula sa ating bansa pabalik sa pinanggalingan nito sa Canada. Ito ay matapos hindi matu-

Ang pagbalik ng basura ng Canada

gunan ng gobyerno ng Canada ang ibinigay na palugit na Mayo 15 ng ating Pangulo na kunin pabalik Canada ang basurang itinambak nila sa Pilipinas anim na taon na ang nakakalipas.

Ang kagyat na utos na ito ng ating Pangulo ay isang babala hindi lamang sa Canada, pati na rin sa ibang bansa na ang Pilipinas ay hindi tapunan ng basura. Ayon sa tagapagsalita ng Pangulo na si Secretary Salvador Panelo, si Pangulong Duterte ay hindi nagalak sa ginagawang delaying tactics ng gobyerno ng Canada. Para sa Presidente, itong gawain ng Canada ay indikasyon sa kung

ano ang pagtingin ng Canada sa Pilipinas: isang bansa na mababa na kaya nilang apak-apakan.

Dahil dito, sinupportahan ni Pangulong Duterte ang aksyon ni Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. na pauwiin ang mga ambassador at consuls ng Pilipinas sa Canada, na siyang nangangahulugang pansamantalang pagputol ng ugnayan ng bansa sa Canada hangga't hindi naayos ang gusot na ito. Mismong si Secretary Panelo ay nagsabi na kapag hindi tinanggap pabalik ng Canada ang kanilang mga basura, mapipilitan ang Pilipinas na iwan ito sa karagatan ng

Canada.

Malamang ang iba sa inyo ay iisiping napakababaw na gawin ito, ngunit sa aking palagay ito lamang ang huling panukala na mayroon tayo pagkatapos natin gawin ang lahat upang makipag-ugnayan sa gobyerno ng Canada. Hindi na biro ang ibinigay nating palugit sa kanila. Hindi rin biro na anim na taon nang namamalagi sa lupa ng ating bansa ang basurang hindi naman atin.

Ang mga hakbang na ginawa at gagawin ng Pilipinas patungkol sa isyung ito ay nagpapakita lamang kung gaano tayo kaseryoso tungkol dito. Hindi lamang ito pag-giit ng

ating karapatan bilang isang bansa, ngunit ito rin ay mensaheng inaasahan nating dadaluyong sa buong mundo: na walang bansa ang tapunan ng basura ng ibang bansa. Kapag hiniyaan na lamang natin ang pagsawalang-bahala ng gobyerno ng Canada sa isyung ito, para na ring sinabi natin na ayos lang na dungisan ng ibang bansa ang integridad ng ating bansa.

Kung kinakailangan nating itapon pabalik ang basurang kanilang itinapon dito, nararapat lamang na gawin ito. Ang bawat bansa ang dapat may responsibilidad sa kanilang basura.



ACROSS THE COUNTRY

3 kids drown in Tarlac quarry

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga – Three children drowned in a deep portion of a quarry in Sitio Calangitan, Barangay Cut-Cut, Capas, Tarlac on Tuesday.

Col. David Poklay, acting Tarlac police director, identified the victims as Richel Bruno, 7; Raymar Bruno, 9, and Eunice Gutierrez, 10.

Villager Jelvin Umali, 29, said he was passing by the area when an unidentified minor told him that three children drowned in the quarry.

The victims were pronounced dead on arrival at the Divine Mercy Hospital.

– Ric Sapnu

2 miners die of suffocation in Surigao Norte tunnel

BUTUAN CITY – Two small-scale miners died of suffocation in a tunnel in Sitio Duyangan, Aurora, Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte on Tuesday.

S/Sgt. Nichole Pudadera, Tagana-an police investigation unit head, said Mark Anthony Diaz, 30, and his brother Eman, 20, failed to surface when they went down the tunnel at around 8 a.m.

The brothers were found dead by their companions at about 11 a.m. It took more than two hours before the bodies of the victims were recovered.

Lt. Carlito Beslot Jr., town police chief, said an investigation is ongoing.

– Ben Serrano



letters

Climate change everybody's concern

Owing to the government's failure to address the dangers posed by climate change with a comprehensive national policy, regions, provinces and municipalities should take their own roles to rein in its disastrous effects the disastrous phenomenon.

Efforts should be made to tame climate change with measures focused on reducing carbon monoxide emission. Carbon monoxide is the main culprit in air pollution.

People still see a lot of vehicles and factories emit-

ting black smoke. As a result, temperature keeps rising, a far cry from the call of scientists to keep the temperature rise below two degrees Celsius.

Still fresh in our minds is the massive destruction brought by super typhoon Yolanda that killed almost 10,000 people most of them in Leyte. The question is how prepared are we if occurrence of that magnitude happens again. The answer is "we are not."

In the US, a change from coal to gas in power generation helped reduce the temperature and bring it back to the level of the 1990s.

Quoting a United Nations report datelined London, the UN office for

disaster reduction said climate change caused the death of 1.3 million people in 20 years worldwide. And direct economic losses placed at \$2.9 billion.

The government must scale up the farmer's mitigation actions. We need to adapt with the best of abilities and empower communities so they can be climate change resilient. Both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation should be incorporated into a long term national and local development plan to tame the effects of climate change, according to Gonzalo Catan Jr. of Green Charcoal Philippines. - GERRY CONSTANTINO, Muntinlupa



Climate commission fast-tracks system for green jobs

By HELEN FLORES

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is fast-tracking the development of standards and certification system for providing incentives to enterprises that generate and sustain "green" jobs.

Republic Act 10771 or the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016 defines green jobs as "employment that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment, be it in the agriculture, industry or services sector."

The CCC aims to start next year the implementation of the system which will certify business enterprises that comply with RA 10771.

The law provides for "special deduction from the taxable income equivalent to 50 percent of the total expenses for skills training and research development expenses

which is over and above the allowable ordinary and necessary business deductions for said expenses under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended."

The incentives also include "tax- and duty-free importation of capital equipment: provided that the capital equipment is actually, directly and exclusively used in the promotion of green jobs of the business enterprise."

CCC secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said the commission is also expediting the update of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NC-

CAP) using a whole-of-government-and-society approach.

"We are updating the NCCAP to advance climate actions based on the country's current development, priorities, climate finance strategies, and research and development needs," De Guzman said.

The revised NCCAP will include the National Adaptation Plan, which presents the climate actions in seven priority areas; and the nationally determined contribution (NDC), which defines the country's target of reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

In 2015, the Philippines has committed to reduce its emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

CO2 is among greenhouse gases that help trap heat in the atmosphere, raising global temperature which leads to climate change.

"Although we emit only less than half of one percent of the global emissions, submitting an ambitious NDC in the context of our national capability and circumstance is critical in enjoining other nations to heed the call for urgent and ambitious action," De Guzman said.

The Philippines and other signatories to the Paris agreement are expected to re-submit or update their climate pledges or NDCs by next year.

The Paris agreement aims to strengthen global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the global temperature increase "well below" two degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial times and preferably within 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The climate pact is set to come into effect in 2020.



Climate change interlocks with urbanization, degradation

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The impacts of climate change, associated sea level rise and extreme weather are amplifying as a result of record greenhouse gas levels and combining with urbanization, environmental degradation and water stress to produce interlocking crises, according to the United Nations weather agency.

"We live with the highest concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for three million years," World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said.

At the recent global forum on disaster risk reduction in Geneva, Taalas delivered a joint statement on behalf of the UN system, declaring the need to "make a drastic change of course," in order to tackle global crises.

"The four warmest years on record have been in the past four years and the warming trend which has lasted since the start of this century is expected to continue as a result of the increase in greenhouse gas levels," Taalas stressed. "Climate change mitigation is essential, as is climate change adaptation."

Last year, in the United States alone, there were 14 weather- and climate-related disasters where the devastation cost more than \$1 billion each, with a total of some \$49 billion.

Worldwide, more than 35 million people were affected by floods. This year, tropical cyclone Idai left more than 1,000 people dead in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, and only a few weeks later tropical cyclone Kenneth was the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall

and strike the furthest north in Mozambique since modern records began.

The 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction focused on accelerating action to boost resilience against interlocking natural hazards that disrupt or destroy the lives of millions of people every year. The platform is organized biennially by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and took place from May 13 to 17.

The global platform aims to accelerate progress toward key targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the global plan to reduce disaster losses adopted by the international community in March 2015.

The Co-Chairs' Summary Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustain-

able and Inclusive Societies was issued at the end of the session, stressing that disaster risk reduction lies at the heart of the global agenda.

"We do not have time to lose. As the UN secretary-general has pointed out, 'Climate change is moving faster than we are'. Urbanization and industrialization, water scarcity, land degradation and desertification, and biodiversity loss are some of the many interlinked drivers of increasing disaster and climate change impacts," Taalas said.

"The most vulnerable countries and peoples are already facing the devastating impacts," he added.

The Global Platform aims to review progress, share knowledge and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

30 MAY 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Joint venture nina Razon at Violago aprub sa MWSS

WATER CRISIS MALULUTAS NA

INAASAHANG sa loob ng dalawang taon ay tuluyan nang masosolusyunan ng administrasyong Duterte ang problema sa tubig.

Ito ay makaraang aprubahan ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) ang Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project, Wawa JVCo na joint venture sa pagitan ng Prime Infra ni businessman Enrique Razon at ng San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group (SLRB) ni Oscar Violago na magbibigay ng sapat na supply ng tubig kung saan kaya nitong mag-deliver ng hanggang 80 million liters kada araw sa taong 2021.

Ayon kay Razon, kapag nagbigay na ng 'go signal' ang MWSS ay agad nilang ipatutupad ang nasabing proyekto na tutugon sa

problema sa tubig sa loob ng dalawang taon para sa mga lugar na sineserbisyuhan ng Manila Water.

"We thank the decisive leadership of MWSS for the approval of the project, and assure them of our commitment to help in solving the current water crisis," ani Razon, chairman ng Prime Infra.

"Our project is one of the fastest and most sustainable ways to solve this current water crisis. If we don't act now, this will be a recurring problem," dagdag pa niya.

Nabatid na tututukan ng proyekto ang Wawa dam sa Rizal province na pagkukunan ng tubig bilang karagdagang supply sa concession areas ng Manila Water na inasahang magbigay ng 500 million liters kada araw sa

taong 2025.

Dahil dito, tataas ang supply ng tubig ng Manila Water ng hanggang 30 percent.

Matatandaan na ang Wawa dam ang primary water source ng Metro Manila bago pa naitayo ang Angat dam.

Napag-alaman pa na ang Razon-led venture ay nakahandang mag-invest ng hanggang P20 billion para sa naturang proyekto upang masiguro ang water supply security sa loob ng mahabang panahon.

Kaugnay nito, nagpapasalamat si SLRB President & CEO Anthony Jude C. Violago sa MWSS; Manila Water at kay Razon sa pagsusulong ng 'win-win formula' sa nabimbing proyekto na 20 taon nang tinatrabaho at ngayon lang maipatutupad. **VICKY CERVALES**