

DATE

13 JAN 2016

DAY

Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Paje to next DENR chief: Pursue total log ban, sustain reforestation program

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje on Tuesday said that maintaining the twin policies of imposing a nationwide total log ban and reforestation are a must to sustain gains achieved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the forestry sector.

The next administration, he said, should not lift the logging ban or slow down reforestation activities.

Paje also stressed the need to continue forest-recovery efforts as mandated under Executive Order (EO) 23 signed by President Aquino in February 1, 2011, declaring a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in natural and residual forests; and EO 26 signed on February 24, 2011, establishing the National Greening Program (NGP).

The DENR chief said preventing deforestation while implementing massive reforestation activities are essential measures in building the country's resilience to natural calamities, and as a strategy to fulfill its international commitment to reduce the country's carbon emission by 70 percent from 2020 to 2030.

Because of the successful implementation of the twin policies, Paje said the country gained international recognition of its reforestation program.

The 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

350,000 ha

Size of forest area gained annually from 2010 to 2015

ranked the Philippines as the fifth among countries reporting greatest annual forest area gained from 2010 to 2015, with a total of 2.4 million hectares, or an average of 350,000 hectares per year.

"Sana kahit iba na ang DENR secretary, *hindi ma-lift ang total log ban*," Paje said.

He added that the successful implementation of the total log ban and the massive reforestation is something the Aquino administration can truly be proud of.

The number of illegal logging hot spots in the country further went down from 31 in 2014 to 23 by the end of 2015, Paje said. Before President Aquino took over in June 2010, there were a total of 197 illegal-logging hot spots.

This year, Paje said, the target is to neutralize illegal-logging syndicates operating in the remaining illegal-logging hot spots before Mr. Aquino's Palace term ends in June 2015.

The anti-illegal logging campaign, Paje said, led to the confiscation of over 30 million board feet of illegally cut and processed logs that were used to manufacture a total of 146,471 school armchairs and furniture and repair 388 school buildings.

Confiscated forest products donated to other government agencies, meanwhile, were converted to 1,820 chairs, 105 double-deck beds, 110 hospital

beds, and partly used for repairs of 102 core shelters and 18 buildings.

The NGP, on other hand, has so far generated close to 2.9 million jobs and employed 413,362 people.

"*Ito iyong mga programs na hindi na-implement ng maayos before*," Paje, who started his career in the DENR as a forester, said.

He added that the next DENR chief should also be able to maintain the balance between protecting the environment and exploiting the country's natural resources to ensure sustainable development which, he said, marks his accomplishment as the country's chief steward of the environment and natural resources for nearly six years.

"We were able to somehow maintain the balance. The biggest challenge to this department is to maintain the balance to sustain development," Paje said.

"You cannot be 100-percent pro-environment or 100-percent pro-industry. *Dapat balanced*," he added.

Director Ricardo Calderon of the DENR's Forest Management Bureau said lifting the total log ban will revert back to the situation before the NGP was implemented, wherein the country is losing at least 110 hectares of forest every year.

"The next administration will have to think twice before lifting the total log ban. The people will not let that happen because they are very much aware of the importance of the forest because of the impact of climate change."

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THE EXPONENTIAL GROWTH OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

• DENR installs new CENRO for Cebu town

CEBU CITY (PNA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) has installed a new Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) for Argao town in southern Cebu. DENR-7 Regional Director Dr. Isabelo R. Montejo issued regional special order number (RSO) 2016 assigning Forester Roldan Cotejo as the new CENRO for Argao. Cotejo replaces former Flordeliza Geyrozaga who has retired from public service. Cotejo, who was formerly assigned as OIC CENRO in Carmen, Cebu, has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree from the Visayas State College in 1981. He took up graduate studies in Environmental Management at the University of the Philippines in 2006. He started in DENR as Forester I in 1982, was promoted Forester II in 1989 and installed as Carmen, Cebu OIC-CENRO in 2014.

Daily Tribune

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Albay is Green Convergence first LGU eco-champion

LEGAZPI CITY — Green Convergence Philippines (GCP) has named Albay as its LGU eco champion, the first province to win its newly launched award, for its successful and effective environment policies and ecologically sound tourism program. Green Convergence is a coalition of networks, organizations and individuals working for a development paradigm that addresses the need for social and economic uplift, while preserving nature's life support system including air, water and land, for generations to come.

GCP president Angelina Galang announced Albay's latest award in a

recent letter to Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, where she stressed the province's "implementation of and compliance with various Philippine Environmental Laws sum up to good environmental governance and best practices which can be replicated by other local government units (LGUs)."

Salceda is credited for pioneering the Albay Green Economy, anchored on the principles of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA), tripled the province's mangrove area from 700 to 2,400 hectares, and expanded forest cover by 88 percent from 26,000 to 44,000 hectares from 2008 to 2014.

PEOPLES Tonight

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

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How will El Niño funds be spent?

By JESTER P.
MANALASTAS

A METRO Manila solon yesterday asked the government to be transparent to the public on how to spend the funds amounting to billions intended for the El Niño phenomenon.

Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo said the government, as of last year, has allocated the amount of P19.2 billion for the mitigation of El Niño.

But Romulo said, until now the government has no clear plan or program to lessen the impact of El Niño especially to the farmers.

"What's the plan? Where will the money be spent? All we know from reports quoting NEDA chief Arsenio Balisacan is that there is a budget and that government is preparing for a worst-case scenario that may arise from this Godzilla El Niño threat," Romulo said.

Early last year, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) issued a warning as El Niño is affecting the country this 2016.

PAGASA report said that 85 percent of the country or about 68 provinces will suffer on El Niño until the second quarter.

At least 12 provinces in Luzon and Mindanao will experience a dry spell, PAGASA added.

It is expected to peak between March and May this year, the state weather agency said. El Niño is a weather phenomenon that develops in the Pacific Ocean as a result of the warming of sea temperatures.

A consensus of climate models shows that it will likely strengthen further...

and may last until the first half of 2016. This 2015-2016 El Niño event will potentially be the fourth strongest since 1950 (1972-1973, 1982-1983, 1997-1998), the PAGASA said.

Already, Zamboanga City has begun water rationing because its rivers and main reservoir are drying up.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Metro to have 2 more air quality monitoring stations

By Maricar B. Brizuela

AFTER setting up a pilot air monitoring station at the Lung Center of the Philippines in Quezon City, the Rotary Club of Makati announced plans on Tuesday to add two more—one in Makati City and the other in Baclaran, Parañaque City—to give the public real-time updates on air quality in the metropolis.

"Metro Manila is one of the most polluted areas in Southeast Asia but the people know this [only] based on observation and anecdotal evidence. There is no precise scientific evidence," Rotary Club of Makati (RCM) president Eduardo Yap said in a press briefing in Makati City.

The event also marked the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the RCM and the University of the Philip-

pines' Institute on Environmental Science and Meteorology (UP IESM) on the air quality monitoring project.

According to John Robert Powers president and RCM member John Upton, he has developed emphysema, a lung ailment that makes breathing difficult, after living for more than four decades in Metro Manila.

"I don't smoke. It is all caused by my 45 years of living in Manila," Upton said, noting that whenever he goes home to Silang in Cavite province, he feels better.

He noted that while the country has all the laws needed to solve air pollution, these were lacking in implementation.

"In Europe, every weather forecast comes with a report of the pollution index," Upton said, noting that this was not

the case in Metro Manila.

Hoping to be the catalyst in air quality monitoring, the RCM said its air monitoring project was aimed at pushing government offices "to take immediate steps to strictly implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act."

"We need a facility that not only monitors and reads air quality but also transmits the data to the public in real-time so that people can take measures to safeguard their health," Yap said.

Mylene Cayetano, head of the Environmental Pollution Studies Laboratory at UP IESM, told reporters that the RCM already has a working air monitoring equipment at the Lung Center.

"It is a German-made air and meteorological monitoring unit that is capable of automatically and continuously measuring

and recording airborne particulate levels," she said.

According to her, the two additional air monitoring stations are expected to be in place by March to have a representative sample of the air quality in Metro Manila.

She said that the results of the air monitoring were available on a test website which updates air quality every minute and provides precautionary advice to the public.

A peek at the website revealed that air quality can range from good to poor. When the air quality is poor, the website says that people with respiratory conditions are at some risk.

The website and a partner mobile application will be launched on March 12 to coincide with the Rotary Club of Makati's 50th anniversary.

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Government seeks to halt land degradation

By MARY GRACE PADIN

THE government said on Tuesday it is crafting measures to make farmlands more productive, even as the country's agriculture sector grapples with land degradation and drought caused by El Niño.

The Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) said about 33 million hectares, or 45 percent, of arable lands in the Philippines are less productive because of soil degradation.

BSWM Executive Director Silvino Q. Tejada said soil degradation and drought affect sustainable agriculture and food security in countries like the Philippines, where soils are more prone to degradation.

"These problems also post a major threat to the economic

growth of the country, as 35 percent of the labor force is dependent on agriculture," Tejada said.

The BSWM said it met with other government agencies, including the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Agrarian Reform, to address land degradation and mitigate the ill effects of drought.

Tejada said the government agencies participated in an inter-agency "inception meeting" about Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices.

33M ha

Farmlands that are less productive due to soil degradation

The BSWM hopes that the implementation of SLM practices would improve the conservation of cultivated areas in the uplands and protect critical slopes of the country's watersheds.

Tejada added that SLM demonstration sites, where farmers will learn to adopt methods of soil and water resources conservation, will be established all over the country.

SLM was formally launched by the BSWM last August 26, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, to "achieve effective cross-sectoral national and local environment promoting integrated landscape management."

The program aims to address land degradation caused by various human activities and "inappropriate"

agricultural practices.

Meanwhile, Rep. Roman T. Romulo of the Lone District of Pasig City called on the government to detail how it intends to spend the P19.2-billion El Niño budget approved by President Aquino last month.

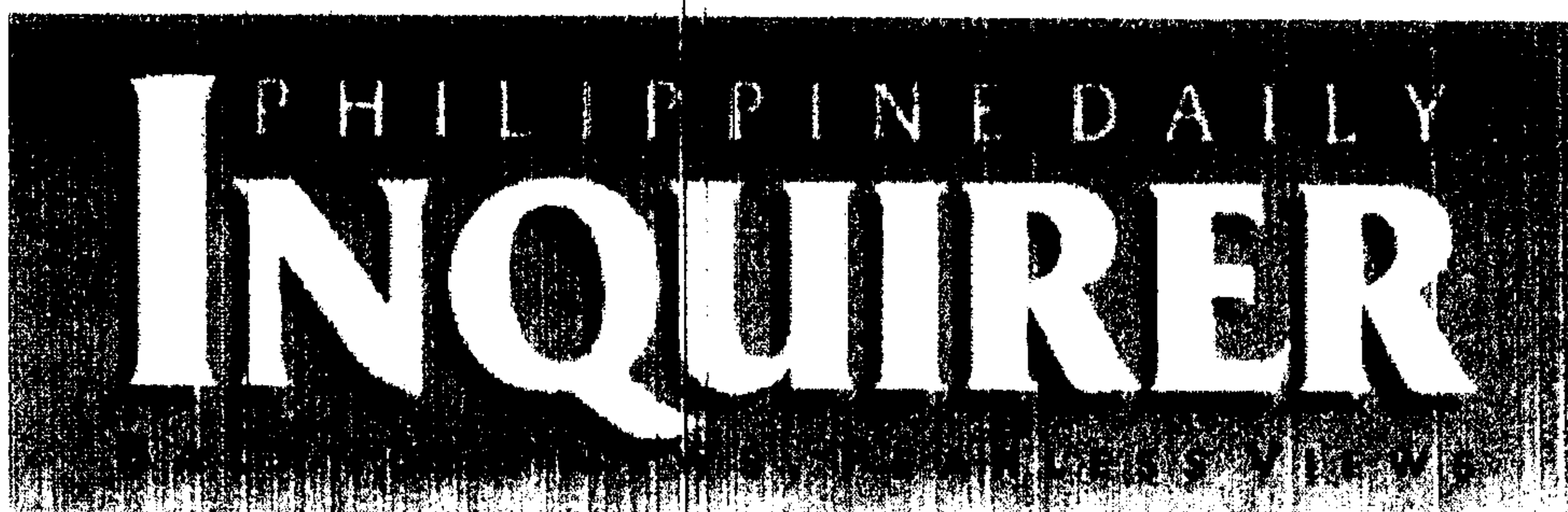
The amount is meant to mitigate the adverse impact of El Niño on farmers and consumers.

"What's the plan? Where will the money be spent? All we know from reports is that there is a budget and that the government is preparing for a worst-case scenario," Romulo said in a statement.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has earlier warned that as much as 85 percent of the country, comprising 68 provinces, will suffer drought by April.

Pagasa said El Niño is expected to peak between March and May this year.

El Niño is a weather phenomenon that develops in the Pacific Ocean that is a result of the warming of sea temperatures.



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Zamboanga folk pray for rain; water rationed

By Julie Alipala, *Inquirer Mindanao*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Suffering the brunt of the dry spell brought about by the El Niño weather phenomenon, consumers have turned to prayer power to ease the situation amid rising tensions in the neighborhoods over the limited water supply.

“We have performed prayers, particularly the recital of ‘Oratio Imperata’ at the watershed. We are hoping and praying for rain,” said Leonardo Ray Vasquez, the general manager of the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD).

From an average flow of about 14,000 cubic meters per hour in previous years, the ZCWD said, supply has gone down to only about 4,000 these days. On Friday, the district started rationing water to about half of its 72,000 consumers, as water at the Pasonanca River dam dropped below critical level.

Zamboanga Archbishop Romulo de la Cruz urged priests and laymen in all 35 churches and 98 chapels here to pray the “Oratio Imperata Ad Petendam Pluviam” for rain.

“We have been requested [to recite] prayers for rain until the Pasonanca water dam is filled enough for the daily consumption of our people,” diocesan priest Mike Ufana told the *INQUIRER*.

“Oratio Imperata” is a 40-line prayer recited for special intentions after each com-

munion, he said. People are asked to kneel and read the prayer aloud.

Those who have less in life were the priority for the water-rationing scheme, Vasquez said.

But as soon as the scheme started after taps barely produced water, some neighbors reportedly began bickering over the basic necessity.

Dry spell until May

“We will deliver tankers to them but on a ration basis because we cannot; at this time, cater to all,” Vasquez said. He pointed out that the dry spell was expected until May but that the water district was trying its best to provide a solution.

At the Buggoc transitory site in Sta. Catalina village, where thousands of people displaced by the 2013 fighting between government soldiers and Moro National Liberation Front members are staying, the meek were forced to give way to those who believe they were more powerful.

The city hosts 11 transitory sites for

about 4,000 families displaced by the 2013 rampage of followers of Moro leader Nur Misuari.

Asikal Asiral, a camp leader at Buggoc, said trucks would deliver water outside the gate, “but we are being prevented by home-based villagers from getting our supply until all the other families were finished fetching theirs.”

“Those two blue water tanks were intended for us, but we are powerless,” Asiral said of the plight of those at the transitory sites who are mainly Badjao.

Bickering among evacuees

Rey Amil, a Badjao, told the *INQUIRER* that his people did not want to fight and just allowed the more assertive villagers to take the water intended for the transitory site. “Home-based families are too many, we avoid fighting them,” he said.

Amil said he hopes the water tanks would be placed inside Buggoc next time.

People are also fighting over scarce supply at the Masepla transitory site.

“You cannot blame other families. Those who can fetch more and save more will have more to consume,” said Zarah Bazari, one of the camp leaders.

“We hardly have sufficient water these days. In the past, the water district delivered two to three trucks daily; now, just once every other day,” she said.

Lucky are those who can afford to buy mineral water, Bazari said.

When informed about the situation in the transitory sites, Alejo Rojas Jr., ZCWD assistant general manager, stressed that the “internally displaced families are our priority in water delivery.”

“We are trying our best to deliver but the supply is not enough,” Rojas said.

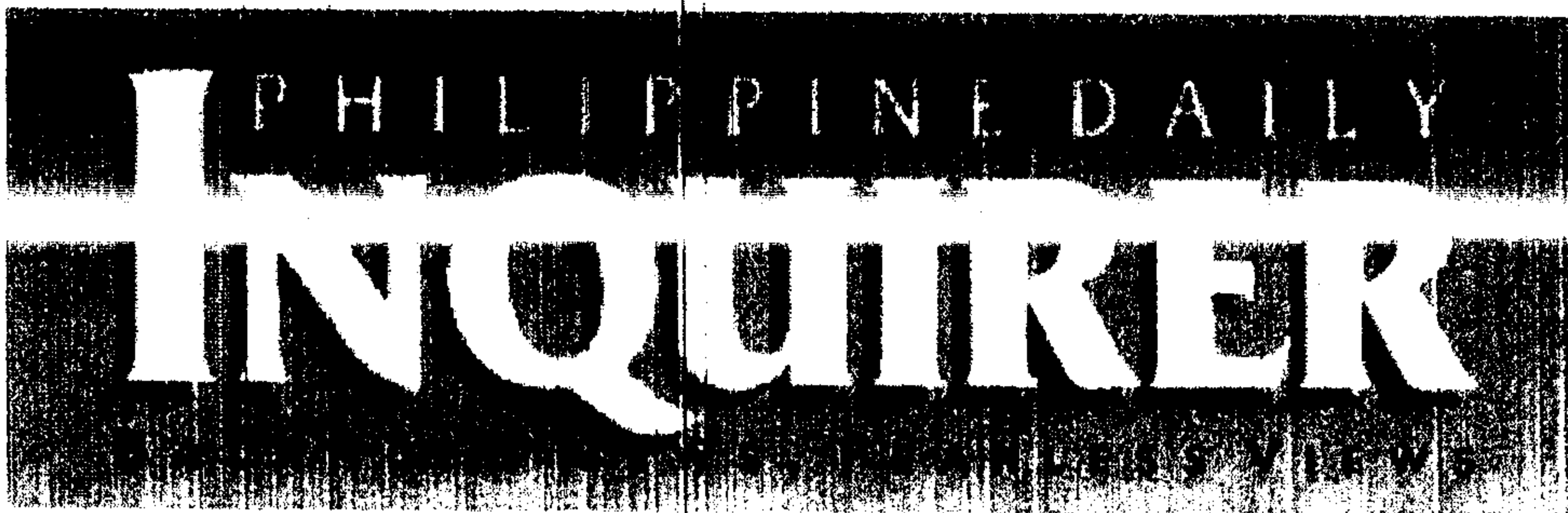
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Zamboanga Folk pray for rain, water rationed

Situation could get worse

The reality, he said, is the ZCWD also has to ration water to 30 other villages due to the drastic drop in the level of water at the Pasonanca River, the main source of the drinking water supply here.

Unless a good amount of rain drops in the next days, the situation could only get worse, Vasquez said.

Amid the water shortage, the city council has yet to declare a state of calamity, Councilor Kim Elago told the INQUIRER.

The ZCWD has already asked the councilors to do so, Councilor Melchor Sadain said. It was endorsed by the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said Sheila Belen Covarrubias, city information officer.

The declaration would allow the water firm to institute contingency plans with the use of calamity funds, Covarrubias said.

Mayor Ma. Isabelle Salazar has asked her division chiefs, including the city agriculture officer, "to expedite the conduct of mitigating measures on water and energy conservation."

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

Expect hotter summer due to El Niño – PAGASA

By **ELLALYN B. DE VERA**

The continuing El Niño phenomenon could push air temperatures to reach higher than normal levels, which could spell hotter summer for the country this year, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Likewise, due to the El Niño event, PAGASA sees an early termination of the northeast monsoon season or amihan by next month.

Last year, PAGASA declared the termination of amihan on April 1.

Based on the PAGASA's six-month forecast of extreme temperature ranges, Metro Manila could surpass its hottest recorded air temperature of 38.5 degrees recorded on May 14, 1987.

The forecast maximum air temperature in May 2016 is 36 to 38.6 degrees Celsius, according to PAGASA.

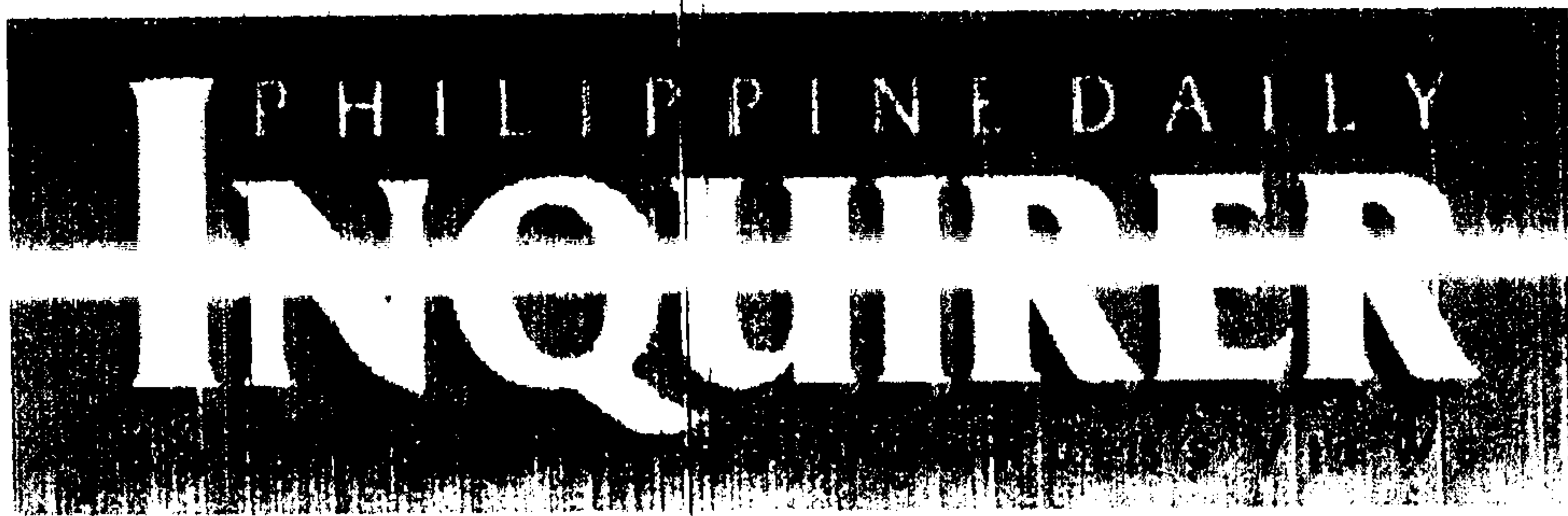
Likewise, Cagayan Valley is also close to breaching its highest recorded air temperature of 42.2 degrees Celsius on May 11, 1969, if we consider the forecast maximum air temperature of 30.6 to 41.5 degrees Celsius by May 2016.

"Slightly warmer than average temperature is expected during the forecast period," PAGASA-Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section OIC Anthony Lucero said.

He noted that the strong El Niño has caused a delay in the country's onset of rainy season, weak monsoon activity, fewer tropical cyclones, and above normal air temperature last year.

The year 2015 was declared the warmest year by the World Meteorological Organization.

In the country, 2015 was the fourth warmest year in the Philippines, with 2013 still the warmest year since 1951.



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BOC won't take Canada trash out of Subic port

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Containers loaded with trash from Canada are still at this free port, six months after the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in Manila was asked to remove them, officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said on Tuesday.

"I met [Customs Commissioner Alberto] Lina recently and he told me that his hands were tied. So apparently in that case [concerning the Canadian trash], nobody wants to take action," said SBMA Chair Roberto Garcia during a Monday news conference.

In July last year, Garcia asked the BOC to take away the 15 containers loaded with Canadian garbage. The containers were part of the 741 freight boxes shipped here in August 2014 when authorities decongested the Port of Manila.

The containers were classified as overstaying items at the Manila port and 41 of these containers held Canadian trash, Garcia said.

"Unfortunately, the trash is still here and it remains our problem. I've been asking the BOC to take it out [of the free port] because I don't want it here," he said.

He said 18 of the 741 containers were returned to Manila in September 2014. He said 16 of those containers emitted a foul smell while two others were leaking an unidentified substance. Only one of the 18 containers returned to Manila had Canadian trash.

"Our government brought up the [Canadian trash] issue during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila but there has been no resolution until now," Garcia said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made no clear commitment to take back the trash when he was asked about the issue at a press conference during the summit.

According to EcoWaste Coalition, 103 containers loaded with mixed garbage from Canada entered the country in 10 batches from June 2013 to January 2014. These were intercepted by customs authorities.

The environmental group has appealed to President Aquino to resolve the "unfinished business of Canadian garbage languishing in various ports" in the country.

"With his presidency about to end on June 30, we urge [Mr.] Aquino to put this dumping scandal that has infuriated the Filipino nation to [a just] conclusion," said Rene Pineda, EcoWaste Coalition vice president, in a statement on Jan. 6.

Pineda said his group was hoping that the illegal garbage shipments would finally be taken back to Canada before Mr. Aquino steps down from office in June.

"The new President will surely have his or her hands full, and this environmental justice issue, we hope, will not add to his or her heavy load," he said.

**Allan Macatuno, Inquirer
Central Luzon**

MY CUP OF LIBERTY BIENVENIDO S. OPLAS, JR.

Provisions on feed in tariff (FIT) and renewable portfolio standards (RPS) in the Renewable Energy law should be removed.

Climate changes from warming to cooling to warming to cooling, in endless natural and cyclical pattern. A period of global warming for decades is followed by a period of global cooling, which also lasts for decades. So global warming has precedents, it is not "unprecedented."

There was global warming in the past when there was not even a single car or coal power plant. This chart shows that modern warm period that peaked in the last century was not exceptional or scary. (See Table 1)

Energy policies in many countries have been heavily distorted by governments to fight "man-made" or anthropogenic global warming and climate change.

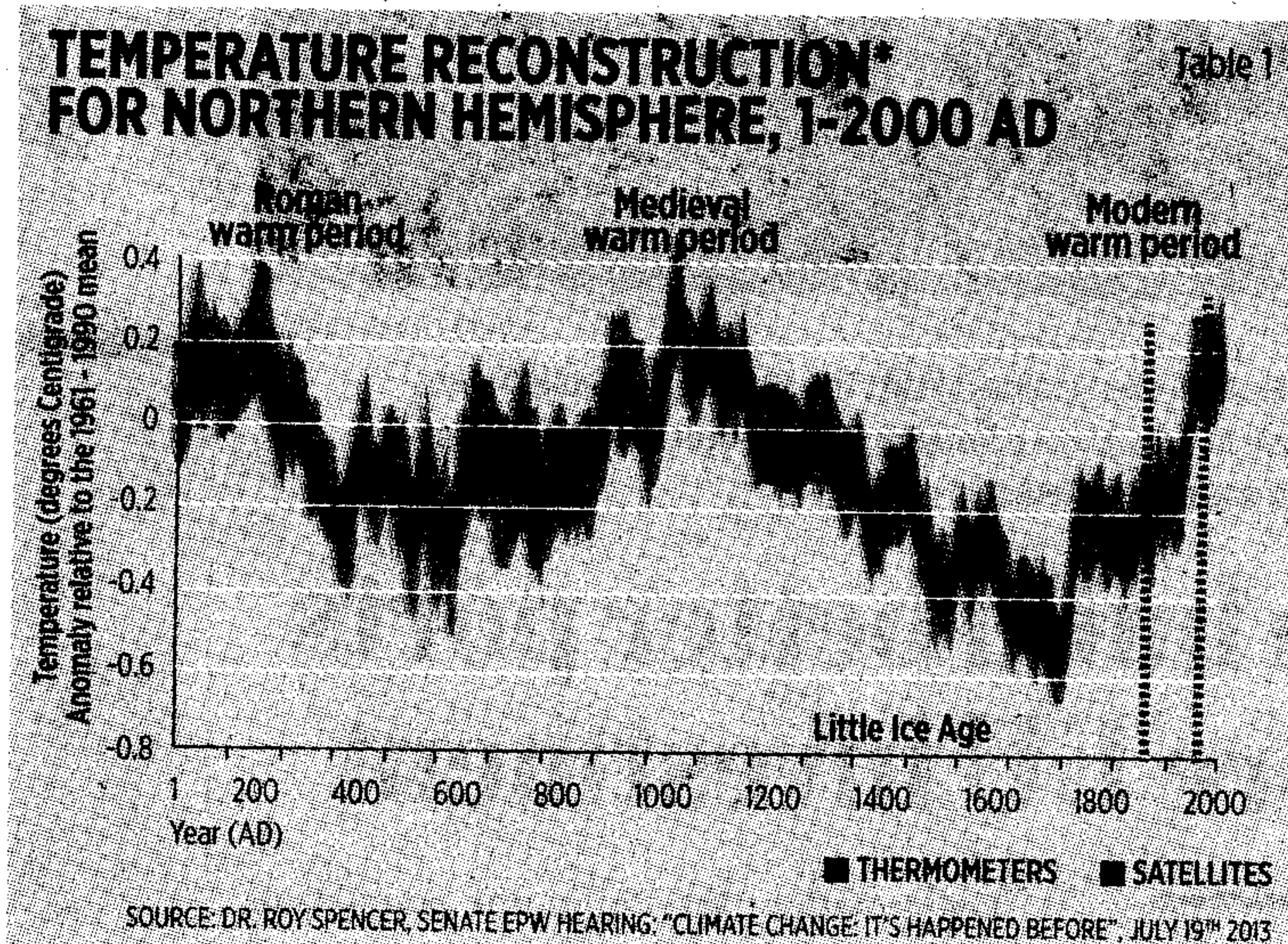
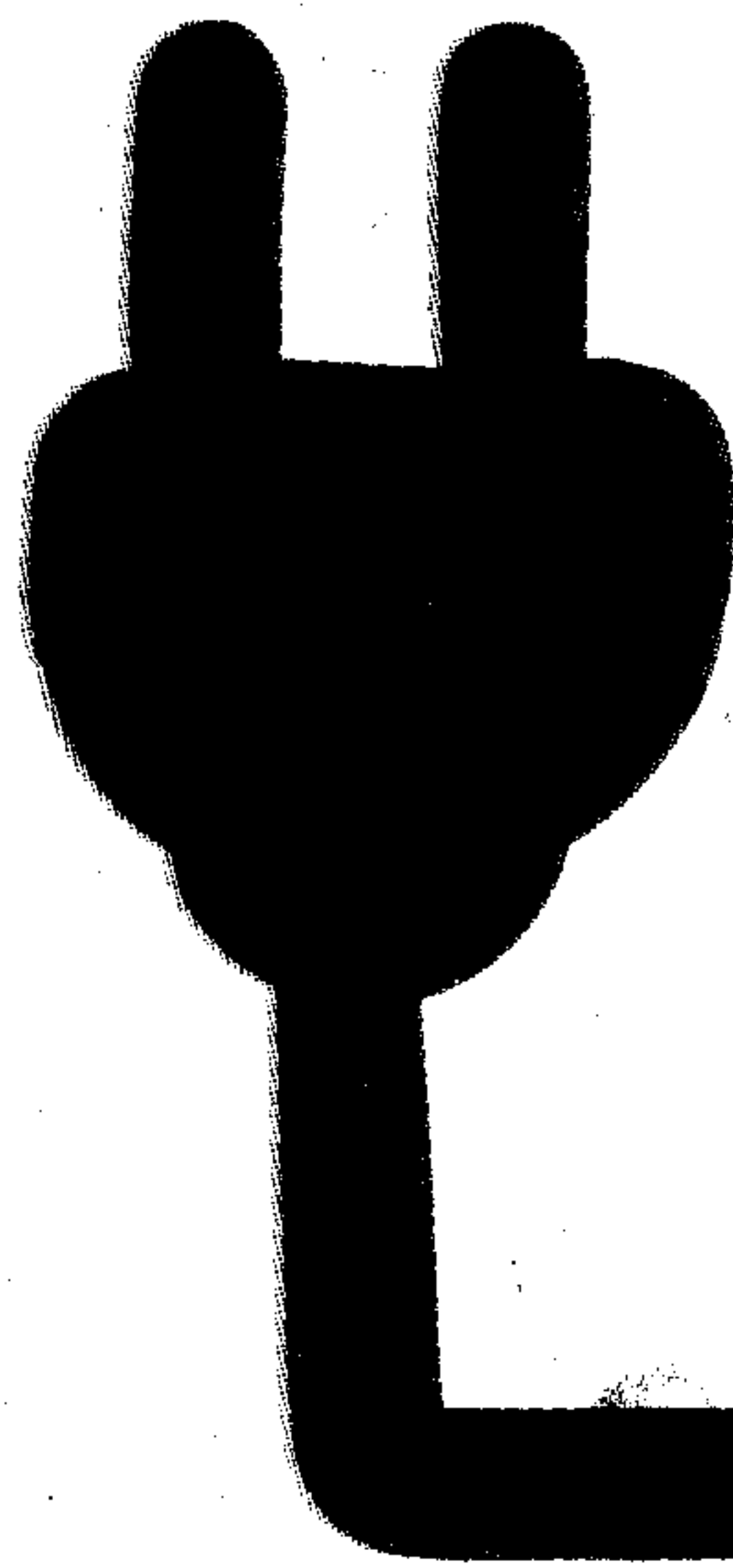
But how can governments, the United Nations and various environmental groups fight something that naturally occurs, like day and night, like wet-dry or winter-spring-summer-fall seasons, like El Niño-La Niña cycles?

This will be my main argument when I present my paper at the Energy Policy Development Program (EPDP) Conference 2016, with the theme "Toward Inclusive and Sustainable Energy Development" that would be held at New World Hotel in Makati City, Jan. 12-13, 2016.

The recent extreme or severe flooding and drought that people say as proof of "man-made" warming and climate change is not true. As shown in the above figure, the Little Ice Age from 1200s to 1700s showed severe cooling and flooding, brutal winter for decades and centuries.

In the Philippines, many instances of severe flooding killed thousands of Filipinos many

Climate change and the need for cheaper, stable energy



*Ljungqvist, F.C. 2010. A new reconstruction of temperature variability in the extra-tropical Northern Hemisphere during the last two millennia. *Geografiska Annaler: Physical Geography*, Vol. 92 A(3), pp. 339-351, September 2010

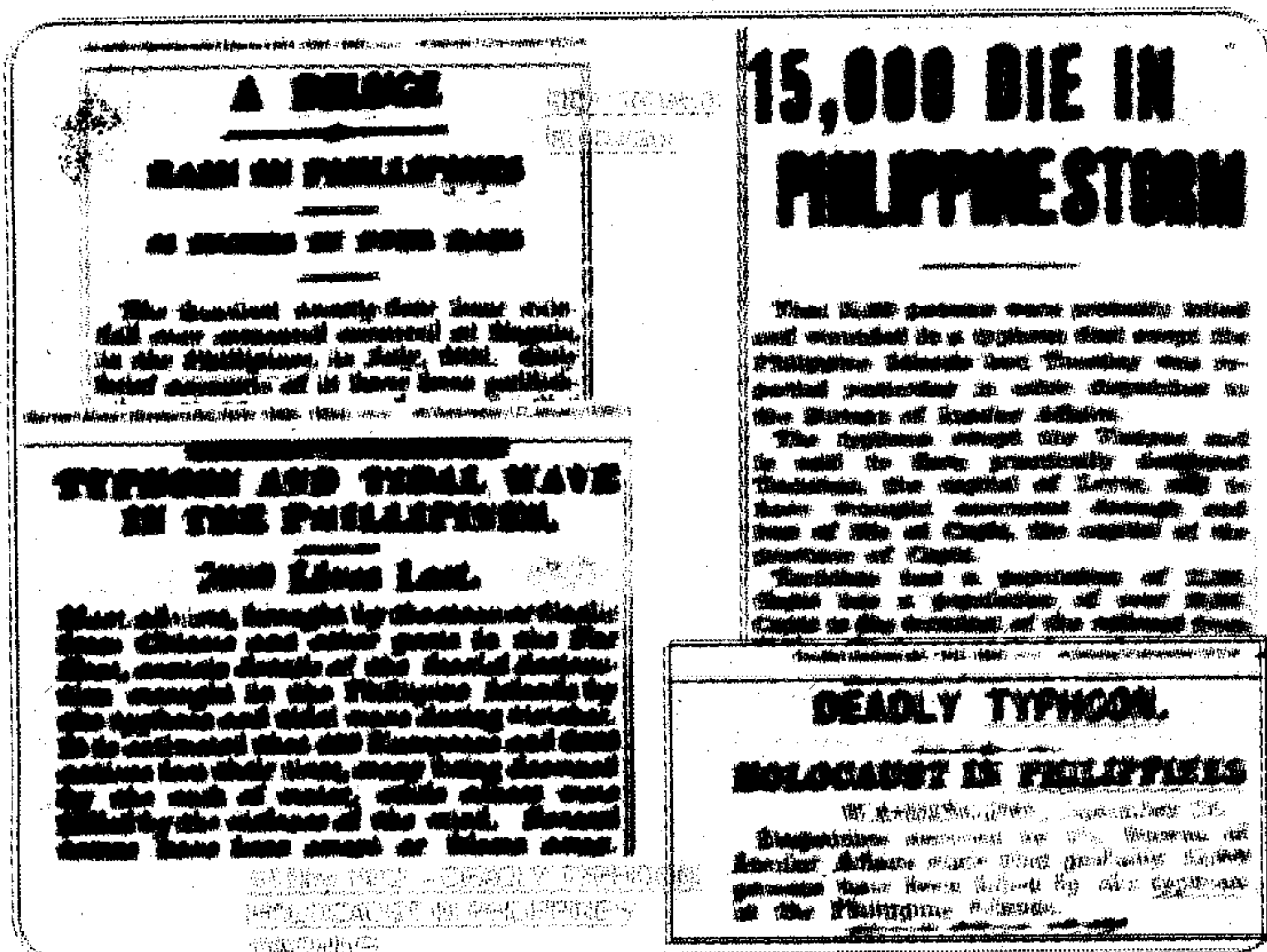
decades ago, which is similar to these reports at the turn of the last 2 centuries. (See photo)

People need cheaper, more stable electricity supply to deal with more frequent flooding and severe monsoon rains. More farmers will have to resort to greenhouse farming, hydroponics farming, elevated fish tanks, to minimize crop losses and stabilize food production and prices. Greenhouse farming can be energy intensive because of the controlled temperature inside the covered structure. The industrial and services sectors of the economy need to expand faster with cheaper and stable electricity, give more jobs to more people, so

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

climate change and the need for
cheaper, stable energy



Catastrophic flooding in the Philippines in 1895 and 1912.

SOME ENERGY INDICATORS FOR SOUTH EAST ASIAN ECONOMIES

Table 2

ASEAN + HK	Population (million)	TPES*/Population (toe/capita)	Electrical Consumption (kWh/capita)
Indonesia	250.0	0.85	792
Philippines	98.4	0.45	686
Vietnam	89.7	0.67	1,306
Thailand	67.0	2.00	2,487
Myanmar	53.3	0.31	164
Malaysia	29.7	2.99	4,474
Cambodia	15.1	0.39	220
Singapore	5.4	4.83	8,840
Brunei	0.4	7.28	9,553
Hong Kong**	7.2	1.94	5,933

* TPES — total primary energy supply

** Not ASEAN member; Laos not included in KWES annual reports

SOURCE: INTL. ENERGY AGENCY (IEA), KEY WORLD ENERGY STATISTICS 2015

they can build stronger, concrete houses in good location so they can be spared from more frequent heavy rains and flooding.

Unfortunately, the Philippines still suffers from some form of “energy poverty” compared to many of its neighbors in the region. Even new comer and socialist Vietnam has electricity consumption per capita 2x that of Philippines. (See Table 2)

Moreover, the Philippines has the second highest electricity prices in Asia, next to Japan. So succeeding policy measures

should be geared towards reducing the price and expanding power supply, and inventing new schemes that will further raise the price should be the least priority of the government.

To fight energy poverty and high electricity prices in the Philippines, the following are proposed, among many others.

One, take advantage of low prices of fossil fuels like oil, natural gas and coal, to expand power generation.

As noted in a previous paper in this column, “Paris COP:

Emission cut commitment vs energy needs” last Nov. 26, 2015, these countries have more than 90% dependence on fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, oil) as of 2012: Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Indonesia has 89% dependence.

Vietnam has only 50%+ dependence because 44% of its electricity is from hydro. South Korea and Taiwan have high to modest use of nuclear power.

Two, reduce government bureaucracies, both national and local, in the energy sector. A base-load power plant would require nearly 200 permits and signatures to be constructed. This has become a disease in government, that no one should move or start anything unless they get the bureaucrats’ signatures.

Three, the Renewable Energy (RE) Act of 2008 (RA 9513) should be drastically revised.

In particular, the provisions on feed in tariff (FIT) which means guaranteed higher price, and renewable portfolio standards (RPS) which means guaranteed minimum percentage of renewables, should be removed.

FIT’s introductory price that was passed on to the consumers in the Philippines from February to December 2015 was only P0.04/kWh. That was not sufficient because there have been many wind and solar plants that came on stream, based on calculations by some players. So consumers must be prepared to pay something like P0.13 to P0.20/kWh sometime this year.

Energy precedes development.

We cannot have strong and sustainable growth and job creation if there is not enough electricity for the people and their businesses, and if electricity prices remain high and continue to rise further. ■

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THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES



TAKING CHARGE – Senator Cynthia A. Villar joins hundreds of volunteers from the government and private sector in a clean-up activity at Gasangan Barangay 649 at the Baseco Compound in Manila yesterday to mark Zero Waste Month. (Kevin dela Cruz)