

DATE Saturday, January 30, 2016
DAY Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

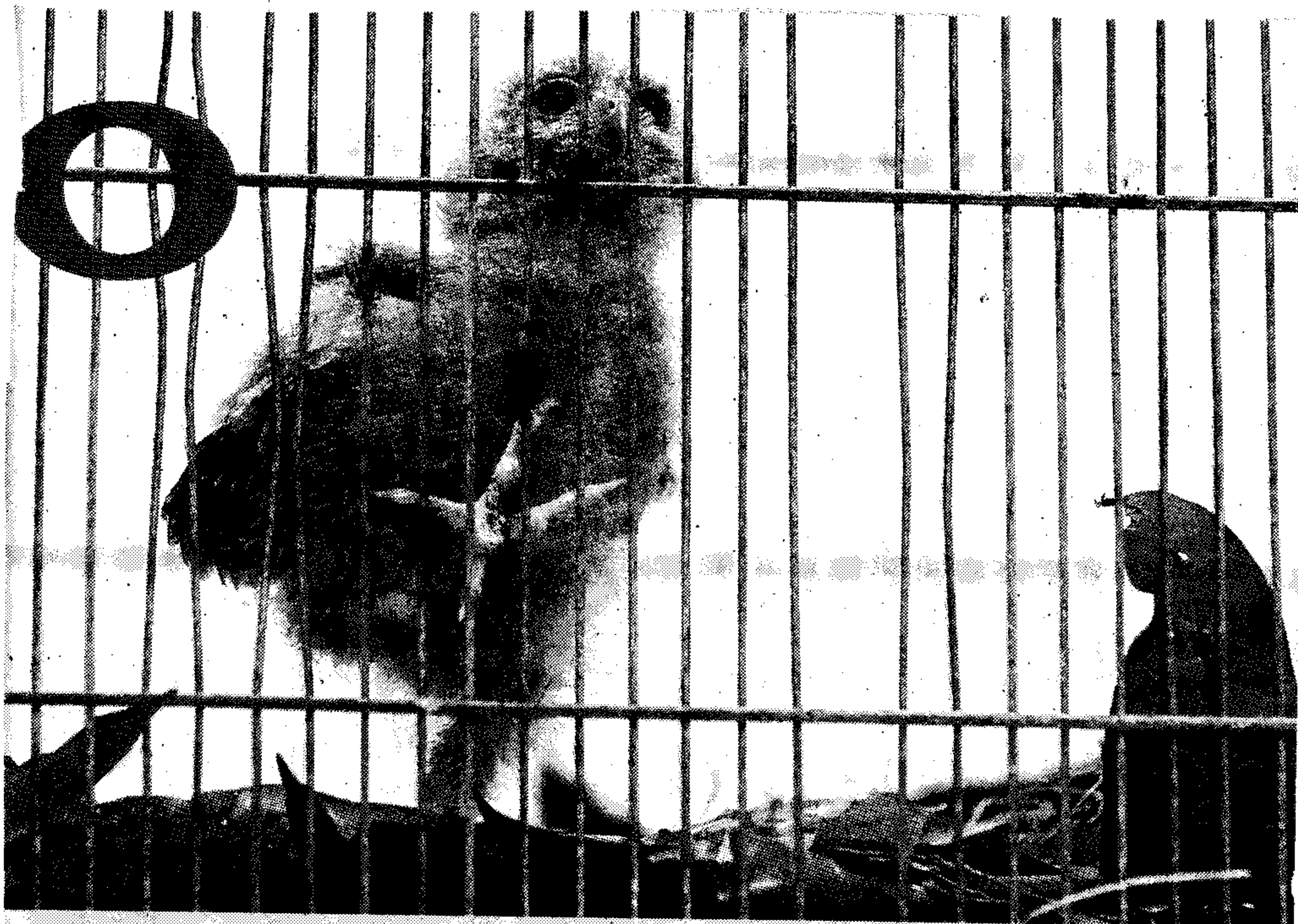
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



FREE TO FLY SOON A young scops owl packed and marked as "plant export" to Japan is one of the 41 animals saved in an antismuggling operation Thursday.

LYN RILLON

Wildlife smuggling foiled at Naia; DOTC man held

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SEVERAL tarsiers, owls, lizards and snakes were found stuffed inside juice cartons and further hidden inside Styrofoam boxes in a foiled smuggling attempt at Ninoy Aquino International Airport late Thursday.

Authorities apprehended the alleged smuggler, Gerald Travo, an employee of the Office for Transportation Security under the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Theresa Mundita Lim, director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said they had placed Travo under surveillance based on a tip.

She said Travo put the endangered animals inside juice boxes, covered them with plants inside Styrofoam boxes, and marked them as plant exports bound for

Japan. The animals were apparently meant to be sold as "exotic pets."

Travo faces charges for smuggling and violation of the wildlife protection law. A follow-up investigation is checking if he had accomplices since the boxes were officially sealed and certified by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture, Lim added.

"He goes in and out of the airport. We got a tip early this January so we did the surveillance," she said of the suspect.

The recovered animals were alive but under stress when turned over to her bureau early Friday. They consisted of 11 tarsiers, three eagle owls, three scops owls, eight Philippine lizards, 11 monitor lizards and 5 rat snakes.

After they have recovered at the DENR Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City, they will be released back to their natural habitats, she said.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tarsiers, snakes held at NAIA

By RUDY SANTOS

Doubting that it was a shipment of aquatic plants for Japan, agents of the Bureau of Customs and the Wildlife and Aquatic Resources got the surprise of their lives when 22 snakes and tarsiers greeted them when they opened five styrofoam boxes at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) last Thursday.

The endangered species were among 47 animals that a member of the Office of Transportation Security wanted flown to Japan on a Philippine Airlines flight.

NAIA Customs district collector Edgar Macabeo said a thorough inspection revealed 11 tarsiers, considered among the world's smallest primates, 11 monitor lizards, eight sailfin lizards, six water snakes, five rat snakes, three scops owls and three eagle

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An eagle owl was among 47 animals found inside styrofoam boxes intended for transport to Japan.

RUDY SANTOS

Tarsiers From Page 1

owls.

The attempt to ship out the animals would have gone through had not Trade Control examiners Ariane Joy Santiaguel, Ronaldo Pardo and Lorna Morales doubted the declaration of the shipment.

Authorities held Gerald Bravo, a

member of the Office of Transportation Security, who they claimed processed the documents and made several follow-ups for the shipment of the endangered species to a certain Shoji Masuyama of Japan.

Bravo was brought to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and charged with violation of Republic Act 9147, which prohibits the illegal trade of wildlife.

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

Attempt to smuggle endangered animals foiled at NAIA

By ARIEL FERNANDEZ

Five boxes containing endangered animals were intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Philippine Airline Cargo (Paircargo) before they could be shipped yesterday to Japan allegedly by an airport security screener of the Office Transportation Security (OTS).

According to Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo, his office had received a report from a concerned citizen about the possible involvement of a member of the airport police in the illegal smuggling of endangered animals at the NAIA.

Adobo said this prompted the agency to coordinate with NAIA au-

thorities and conduct surveillance operations for over a month.

Yesterday, NAIA authorities were able to foil an attempt to smuggle 11 tarsier monkeys, 11 monitor lizards, eight sailfin lizards, six water snakes, five rat snakes, three scops owls and three Philippine eagles.

Kept in five boxes, the animals were supposed to be shipped to Japan through consignee identified as Shoji

Masuyama.

The Suspect, Gerald Bravo, an OTS personnel assigned at NAIA Terminal 3 as a screener, was taken into custody.

Based on documents, the endangered animals came from Cartimar Market in Pasay City.

Bravo will be charged with the illegal trade of wild life under Republic Act 9147.

PEOPLES JOURNALS

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

NAIA intercepts 47 endangered species in smuggle try

SOME 47 pieces of live endangered species about to be shipped to Japan were intercepted by agents of the Bureau of Customs and Wildlife and Aquatic Resources Thursday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

NAIA-BoC District Collector Edgar Macabeo said the 47 endangered species found at the cargo warehouse of the Philippine Airlines are composed of 11 Tarsiers, 11 monitor lizards, eight sailfin lizards, six water snakes, five rat snakes, three scops owls and three eagle owls placed in five Styrofoam boxes and was declared as "Aquatic plants".

Macabeo said Customs Trade Control examiners Ariane Joy Santiaguel, Ronaldo Pardo and Lorna Morales doubted the real contents of the Styrofoam boxes and immediately reported the matter to Reynaldo Gatchalian, chief Export Division for thorough examination.

The animals reportedly came from Bicol and Quezon but based on the documents, the animals came from Cartimar in Pasay City.

Macabeo said the boxes were identified to Gerald Bravo, an airport screener of the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) and were consigned to a certain Shoji Masuyama of Japan.

Bravo is now facing illegal trading of wildlife known as Republic Act 9147. The endangered species were immediately placed in the custody of the Ninoy Aquino Park or endangered species rescue center in Quezon City.

Willy Balasa and Jerry S. Tan

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Endangered species intercepted at NAIA3

By **ITCHIE G. CABAYAN**

AN attempt to ship out of the country a number of endangered species, including tarsiers and Philippine eagles, was foiled at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3.

It was learned that the endangered species were placed in five boxes and intercepted at a cargo house even before they are shipped to Japan as planned and already scheduled.

Earlier information gathered by the office of DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo initially said that a member of the airport police had been engaged in illegal trading of endangered species.

Based on the information, a month-long surveillance operation was conducted where it was later established that the one who is allegedly involved

is not an airport policeman but instead, a member of the Office for Transportation Security (OTS), identified as one Gerald Bravo, who is currently assigned at the NAIA Terminal 3 as a security screener.

The intercepted animals reportedly came from Cartimar in Pasay City and the suspect was trying to ship them to Japan through a consignee identified as Shoji Masuyama. Bravo had been charged with illegal trading of wildlife known as Republic Act 914.

Meanwhile, concerned authorities placed the endangered species in the custody of the Ninoy Aquino Park or the Endangered Species Rescue Center in Quezon City.

These comprise of 11 tarsiers, 11 monitor lizards, eight sailfin lizards, six water snakes, five rat snakes, three head scop owls and three Philippine eagles.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



Ang Philippine Eagle na ito ay kabilang sa 47 endangered species na tinangkang ipuslit palabas ng bansa patungong Japan nang masabat ng mga alertong Customs examiners. (Kuha ni Rudy Santos)

1-30-16

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Endangered animals, nakumpiska sa NAIA cargo area

Kumpiskado kahapon ang limang kahon na naglalaman ng mga endangered animal sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Philippine Airlines Cargo na sana'y ilalabas sa bansa ng isang airport security screener patungong Japan.

Kinilala ang suspek na si Gerald Bravo, nakatalaga sa Office of Transportation Security (OTS) sa NAIA Terminal 3.

Sinabi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo na halos isang buwan na nilang minamanmanan si Bravo matapos silang makatanggap ng impormasyon mula sa isang

concerned citizen hinggil sa ilegal na pagbebenta nitong mga endangered species.

Kabilang sa mga nabawi kay Bravo ang 11 tarsier, 11 monitor lizard, walong sailfin lizard, anim na water snake, limang rate snake, tatlong head scoops owl, at tatlong Philippine Eagle.

Base sa mga dokumentong nabawi kay Bravo, ang mga endangered species ay galing sa Cartimar sa Pasay City, at sana'y ipadadala ng suspek sa isang "Shoji Masuyama" sa Japan.

Nahaharap ang suspek sa kasong paglabag sa RA 9147 o illegal trade of wild life.

Ariel Fernandez

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THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

Shun 'kaingin,' DENR-Caraga tells farmers

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY – Upland farmers in the province have been asked to refrain from adopting the slash-and-burn method of farming, or more locally known as “kaingin,” to avert forest fires, the top official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here said.

“We can prevent forest fire by avoiding any activity that could trigger fire from withered leaves,” stressed Nonito M. Tamayo, Regional Director of DENR in Region 13 (DENR-13).

He said the countryside already stands to be severely affected by forest fires that could be triggered by the El Niño phenomenon and “kaingin” could only make matters worse.

Tamayo likewise noted that newly planted tree seedlings in various sites of the National Greening Program (NGP) in the region could go to waste should forest fires break out.

More than 12 million tree seedlings of various species were planted in 16,649 hectares in various NGP sites in Caraga last year.

The El Niño phenomenon, which is an abnormal pattern caused by the warming of the Pacific area near the equator, may last up to May this year, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA).

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

DENR-6 eyes holistic approach to regional environmental issues

ILOILO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Western Visayas is pushing for a holistic approach in addressing various environmental issues in the region.

Currently, the department is in the process of finalizing the creation of a multi-sectoral group “Amlig Panay-Guimaras” composed of 11 national government agencies and local government units.

“We must provide a holistic approach to our environment and natural resources management and conservation efforts in this part of the country. I believe DENR alone will never be able to accomplish it. It is best we work it out with other government agencies, LGUs and private sectors if possible,” said DENR 6 Regional Director Jim O. Sampulna.

Sampulna noted how stronger typhoons due to climate change have made it necessary to forge stronger linkages with other government agencies and ink collaborative efforts to better address the problem.

“We need to come up with a proactive method in handling environmental disasters,” he said.

Recently, assistant regional director for technical services Jesse L. Vego emphasized before member agencies that the Amlig Panay-

Guimaras will be a committed multi-sectoral monitoring and enforcement group that will provide a forum and juridical entity focused on undertak-

ing civil, criminal and special action in support to DENR's mandates...to address forest protection issues and environmental cases.(PNA)

Abante

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El Niño, hihina na sa Pebrero

Inaasahan ang unti-unting pagkawala ng El Niño phenomenon sa Western Visayas sa susunod na buwan ng Pebrero. Ito ang tiniyak ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Ayon kay Rusy G. Abastillas, ng Climate Impacts Monitoring and Prediction Section ng PAGASA, mararamdaman ang unti-unting paghina ng El Niño sa susunod na buwan bunga ng nangyaring pinakamainit na klima noong buwan ng Nobyembre.

Sa ngayon, ang El Niño sa Region 6 ay nasa ilalim pa rin ng "strong category" at ang nangyaring pag-ulan sa Western Visayas nitong mga nakaraang araw ay normal lamang. "If there is El Niño, it doesn't necessary mean that we will not totally experience rains," sabi ni Abastillas.

Ayon sa PAGASA, bukod sa inaasahang paghina ng El Niño sa susunod na buwan, inaasahan ding magiging normal na ang kondisyon sa buong rehiyon sa mga buwan ng Mayo, Hunyo at Hulyo. (Lhean Angeles)

Daily Tribune

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Daang matuwid paved with gold

Noynoy and his (Liberal Party) LP cohorts, discarding all pretensions about *daang matuwid* or the straight path, and good governance is good economics has embarked on a program to put the final touches on their exit agenda.

With LP bet Mar Roxas languishing at the cellar of pre-election surveys and Noynoy's secret candidate Grace Poe on the verge of disqualification, the future looks bleak for Noynoy and his sanctimonious mob and thus the need for desperate measures to assure that Noynoy stays out of jail after his term and for the mob to squeeze whatever juice it can take out of the government in the twilight of Noynoy's term.

When Noynoy took power in 2010, the pretensions of the yellow mob embodied by the LP was that they came to power to reform the supposedly ravaged regime of President Arroyo.

The first executive act of Aquino was the creation of the Truth Commission to investigate the acts of Arroyo and the second was to remove all the supposed midnight appointees of the former president.

The SC threw out Executive Order no. 1 as unconstitutional since it violated the equal protection clause under the Constitution while the EO removing Noynoy's midnight appointees was upheld.

It turned out Noynoy and his yellow mob are now taking the same crooked path as before with little refinements to prevent direct conflicts with the law.

The administration of Noynoy has four months left and what is being seen now is the packing of the government of yellow appointments, particularly in the judiciary, in anticipation of cases that will be filed against Noynoy and his Palace cohorts such as his Rasputin Budget Secretary Butch Abad and a slew of LP operators who abused their key government posts.

Noynoy appointed a former Ateneo classmate Justice Secretary Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa to the Supreme Court (SC) as associate justice in place of Martin Villarama Jr., who was reportedly forced to opt for early retirement since he will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 in April which is within the election ban on appointments.

It is expected that Caguioa's posting will only be the first in the series of midnight appointments and projects the President has lined up before he leaves office in June 30.

Aquino also appointed his protocol officer Celia Ann "Cookie" Feria as the country's next ambassador to Spain without even informing current Ambassador Carlos Salinas he was being replaced.

Salinas was only informed he was being replaced when he was conferred by Aquino the Order of Sikatuna, for his active engagement in forging Philippine-Spain defense cooperation.

Aside from the postings are the *pabaons* to the allies consisting of fat government contracts that ooze with huge kickbacks.

Last Jan. 22, the Department of Transportation and Communications headed by Secretary Jun Abaya, LP acting president, awarded a P20.2 billion contract to Hyundai Rotem Co. to build the Metro Rail Transit 7 project.

The Korean firm with its local partners will build a subway line linking Quezon City North EDSA in Manila to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan. The contract also calls for the South Korean train maker to provide 108 subway cars, signaling, communication and power systems by the second half of 2019.

Also up for awarding prior to June are the contracts for the North-South Rail Project, the Integrated Bus Terminal Project and the P124-Billion Laguna Lake Dredging Project.

Noynoy earlier canceled the P18-billion Laguna Lake Dredging contract the Arroyo administration had awarded to a Belgian firm but replaced it with a bigger P124-billion contract for the same project. The Belgian firm has sued the Philippine government for the cancelation of an approved contract.

Noynoy and his yellow cohorts are now paving with gold their *daang matuwid* for their safe and comfortable exit after six years of plundering the government.

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DTI backs proposal to scrap old vehicles

BY CATHERINE N. PILLAS

THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is pushing for the scrapping of old vehicles as a way to address the worsening traffic situation in the country and complement the government's new Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy (CARS) Program.

370,000



Estimated number of brand-new vehicles expected to be sold in the country this year

Trade Assistant Secretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba said the CARS program, which aims to boost auto manufacturing in the country, needs to be supported by initiatives that will further boost the domestic market for new vehicles, while improving

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A broader look at today's business

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DTI backs proposal to scrap old vehicles

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the traffic situation. And scrapping old vehicles will serve both. "If we have a program for scrapping, like in other countries where they support those who would surrender their vehicles, that would be a demand-stimulating factor," Aldaba said at the sideline of the DTI and the US-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Business Council's "Auto Supply Chain Readiness" Seminar on Friday.

Aldaba clarified, however, that such program would depend on whether the private sector would be willing to invest in junk and metal-scrapping facilities in the country.

A study would also have to be made first to identify how many vehicles needs to be junked for exceeding a certain vehicle-age threshold. But she is certain this would complement the CARS Program to achieve the DTI's goal of intensifying domestic vehicle manufacturing without contributing to the worsening congestion in city.

"Isa 'yan sa mga talagang pinag-aaralan [that's one option that we are really considering]," Aldaba said.

A phaseout system for old vehicles is a proposal that the DTI has been pushing to stakeholders since the manufacturing road map was bared in 2013. The Land Transportation Office had said that of the 3.1 million vehicles registered by the agency, 1.7 million were more than a decade old.

The issue of scrapping old vehicle models is nothing new in the auto industry: In 2014 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) proposed the early implementation of the Euro-4 standards in automobile fuels. To complement this measure, the DENR pushed the scrapping of older, high-polluting vehicles, whose engines are not compatible with the "greener" Euro 4.

The environment agency, likewise, urged the Department of Transportation and Communications to phase out public-utility vehicles 15 years old and above.

Such proposals have yet to be implemented.

Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines Inc. President Rommel Gutierrez earlier said the proposal to scrap old vehicles was probably criticized by the driving public as an "antipoor" measure.

But, based on data presented by Aldaba during the seminar, about 36 percent of Philippine households will be capable of buying vehicles by 2017, up from 26 percent of the population in 2013.

Those in the monthly income range of P43,000.00 to P1.1 million are the potential buyers of brand-new vehicles.

For 2016, Aldaba expects the auto industry to reach a production level of 100,000 units, up by 25 percent from 2015's estimated production level of 80,000 units.

Toyota Motors Philippines Corp., the market leader in the country, estimates total sales to increase from the 323,000 units sold in 2015, to as much as 370,000 units this year.

Albay, itinanghal na First LGU Eco Champion

LEGAZPI CITY — Napili ng Green Convergence Philippines (GCP) ang Albay bilang kauna-unahang LGU Eco Champion nito.

Kinilala ng kalulunsad na parangal ang matagumpay at mabisang mga 'environment policies and ecologically sound tourism program' ng lalawigan.

Ang GCP ay koalisyon ng mga organisasyon at taong nagsisikap na lumikha ng modelong balangkas para matugunan ang mga kailangan sa makabuluhang pag-unlad, habang napapanlalagan naman ang tubig, hangin at kalupaan para sa susunod pang mga saling lahi.

Inanunsiyo ni GCP president Angelina P. Galang ang parangal para sa Albay sa liham

niya kamakailan kay Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, kung saan binigyan niya ng diin na ang may malasakit na pagtupad ng lalawigan sa mga batas pangkapaligiran ng bansa ay buod ng 'good environmental governance and best practices' na maaring ring isagawa ng ibang LGU.

Kilala rin bilang isang 'Green Economist,' si Salceda ang utak sa likod ng matagumpay na 'Albay Green Economy,' na nakabatay sa mga panuntunan ng 'disaster risk reduction (DRR)' at 'climate change adaptation (CCA).' Napalawak niya ang 'mangrove forest' o bakhawanan ng lalawigan sa mahigit 2,400 ektarya mula sa 700 ektarya lamang, at ang 'forest cover' nito ng 88% sa 44,000 mula

26,000 ektarya sa loob ng anim na taon hanggang 2014.

Kinilala rin sa buong mundo ang matibay na dedikasyon ng pangangasiwa ni Salceda sa CCA at 'climate change mitigation.' Tatatangapin niya ang bagong parangal ng GCP sa Albay sa First Environment Summit na gaganapin sa SMX Convention Center, Pasay City sa Pebrero 9-11 ngayong taon.