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Sunday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**



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# BusinessMirror

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# SC reminds lower courts of laws, rules v TROs, injunctions on environmental case

THE Supreme Court (SC) has reminded trial court judges to strictly observe rules and laws prohibiting the issuance of injunctions or restraining orders against government agencies enforcing environment laws.

Circular 87-2016 dated April signed by Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez, was issued by the SC in response to persistent reports of violations by municipal trial court (MTC) and regional trial court (RTC) judges of the said policy.

The move was welcomed by the country's top environmental officials and advocates saying it will hasten the prosecution of environmental cases.

Injunction orders and temporary restraining orders (TROs) impede the enforcement of environmental laws by concerned government agencies, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

In a text message to the BUSINESSMIRROR, Environment Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje said adherence to the policy by the lower courts will hasten the resolution of thousands of cases filed by the agency against violators of environmental laws.

"We want to thank the SC for the said circular. This will hasten the thousands of cases we filed against violators of environmental laws, particularly illegal loggers," Paje said.

In the past five years, the DENR



**PAJE: "We want to thank the SC for the said circular. This will hasten the thousands of cases we filed against violators of environmental laws, particularly illegal loggers."**

has filed a total of 1,638 cases against illegal loggers as part of its intensified campaign against illegal logging, following the issuance of Executive Order 23. Of the total number of cases, the DENR was able to cause secure the conviction of only 202 respondents.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), meanwhile, said the SC's reminder to the RTC and MTC judges is consistent with a 1991 opinion on the case of the *Pollution Adjudication Board vs Court of Appeals and Solar Textile Finishing Corp.*

In part, the SC said, "Stopping the continuous discharge of pollutive and untreated effluents into the rivers and other inland waters of the Philippines cannot be made to wait until protracted litigation over the ultimate correctness or propriety of such orders has run its full course, including multiple and sequential appeal xxx...which may take several years," lawyer Mike Matias of the EMB's Central Office said.

The EMB enforces environmental laws including the Clean Air

Act and Clean Water Act.

The DENR is also pursuing cases against violators of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act against illegal wildlife traders.

The Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), on the other hand, is in charge of filing cases against violators of the Fisheries Code of 1998, which prohibits destructive fishing methods.

Lawyer Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, meanwhile, commended the SC for issuing the circular.

"We very much welcome the circular, as we continue to revitalize our imperiled fisheries and protect our vastly threatened natural life-support systems. We commend your good office in ensuring the continuous upholding of the rule of law in guiding our magistrates," Ramos said in her letter to Marquez.

She said the policy further strengthens the country's judicial system in protecting the people's rights, boosts the morale of environmental law enforcers, and sends a strong message that the highest court will not tolerate impunity.

"We look forward to the stronger enforcement and proper prosecution of violators of environmental and fisheries laws in the country. We are optimistic that hand in hand, we will be able to restore the abundance of our oceans to feed the growing

Filipino nation amid the perceptibly felt impacts of climate change," Ramos said.

Other environmental groups, however, are pessimistic. "It is a welcome move if the intention is to hasten the stoppage of environmentally destructive project and/or prosecution of environmental violators. But from our experience, it is more the lax implementation of administrative orders to apprehend violators or suspend activities proven to violate laws or DENR orders [sic]," Clem Bautista, national coordinator of Kalikasan-People's Network for Environment said.

Section 10 of the "Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases" provides that "Except the Supreme Court, no court can issue a writ or writ of preliminary injunction against lawful actions of government agencies that enforce environmental laws or prevent violations thereof."

Likewise, Section 134 of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, as amended by Republic Act 10666, provides that "no injunction or restraining order from the municipal trial courts and regional trial courts shall lie against the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources upon the *ex parte* motion or petition filed by any person or entity against the exercise by the department of BFAR of its regulatory functions in support of the implementation of this code." **Jonathan L. Mayuga**





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# SC stands pat on TRO vs environmental violations

The government's efforts to protect the country's environment and natural resources got a boost after the Supreme Court enjoined all judges to strictly observe laws prohibiting the issuance of injunctions against violators of environmental laws.

The Supreme Court, through its Office of the Court Administrator, issued circular 87-2016 to reiterate the rules of procedure for cases involving enforcement or violations of environmental and other related laws which include the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

It cited Sec. 10 of the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases, which says only the Supreme Court can issue a temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction against unlawful actions of government agencies that enforce environmental laws.

The High Court also noted Sec. 134 of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 which states that: "No injunction or restrain-

ing order from the Municipal Trial Courts and Regional Trial Courts shall lie against the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources upon the *ex parte* motion or petition filed by any person or entity in the exercise by the Department and BFAR of its regulatory functions in support of the implementation of this Code."

This came on the heels of reports that some judges continued to usurp authority and disregard a law that was duly passed by legislature.

The circular, dated April 4, 2016, was issued by the Supreme Court to hasten the prosecution of cases filed by government agencies against violators of environmental laws.

Oceana Philippines, an organization that focuses exclusively on protecting the world's oceans, their resources and aquatic life, lauded the circular.

"We very much welcome the circular, as we continue to revital-

ize our imperiled fisheries and protect our vastly threatened natural life support systems. We commend your good office in ensuring the continuous upholding of the rule of law in guiding our magistrates," said Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines.

"The policy further strengthens our judicial system in protecting our people's rights, boosts the morale of our dedicated environmental law enforcers, and sends a strong message to all that impunity will not be tolerated," she added.

Ramos said the organization was looking forward to the stronger enforcement and proper prosecution of violators of environmental and fisheries laws in the country.

"We are optimistic that hand in hand, we will be able to restore the abundance of our oceans to feed the growing Filipino nation amid the perceptibly felt impacts of climate change," she said.



# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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SC Starts pat on TRB vs environmental violations





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### DENR steps up fire-prevention efforts on mountains

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is stepping up efforts to strengthen fire prevention and protection efforts at Mounts Kitanglad and Kalatungan, which were hit by forest fires early this month.

The Protected Areas Management Boards (PAMB) of Mount Kitanglad Range National Park and Mount Kalatungan Range Natural Park are now preparing to activate community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils and draft a fire prevention master plan to harmonize all fire prevention efforts in the two protected areas (PAs) in Northern Mindanao.

Mount Kitanglad is one of the eight Association of Southeast Asian Nations Heritage Parks in the Philippines, while Mount Kalatungan is an important bird sanctuary.

The two PAs are considered priority conservation sites because of the rich biodiversity that thrive in the areas.

DENR Northern Mindanao Regional Director Ruth Tawantawan earlier commended local communities, people's organizations (POs) and mountaineers for helping the authorities put out the forest fires that hit Mount Kitanglad and Mount Kalatungan in Bukidnon province last weekend.

While the fires at the two mountains have been put out, Tawantawan wants to put in place stronger measure that will prevent forest fires, particularly in Northern Mindanao's PAs.

Tawantawan lauded forest protection officers and the community volunteers for their quick response to put out the fires.

In particular, Tawantawan lauded the members of Kitanglad Guard Volunteers (KGV), a group of tribesmen in Northern Mindanao, and several volunteer mountaineers who helped DENR forest rangers and personnel construct an 11-kilometer firebreak to contain the blaze.

The firebreak prevented further destruction of natural forests, grasslands and areas covered by the National Greening Program in the two PAs.

As of April 10, fire has been contained except the one in Barangay La Roxas in Pangantucan town.

Employees from the office of Community Environment and Natural Resources in the towns of Manolo Fortich, Valencia, Don Carlos and Talakag responded to the fire, she said.

Tawantawan added that the training provided by the department to members of POs on fire prevention paid off.

"Preparedness is the key. The extensive orientations and seminars on fire prevention which have been conducted for POs last year, in anticipation of the El Niño have prepared them for this disaster," she said.

Tawantawan also reported that the fire originated from extremely parched areas of the mountains.

She warned against the irresponsible disposal of lighted cigarette butts, the practice of slash-and-burn or *kaingin* farming and hunting activities in the area could result in fires in the densely populated areas in the lowlands and grasslands. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



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## Making a last stand for urban biodiversity

### LAS PIÑAS-PARAÑAQUE CRITICAL HABITAT AND ECOTOURISM AREA

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

🐦 @jonlmayuga

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**E**ARLY-MORNING travels along the stretch of the Manila-Cavite Expressway reveal a small patch of green near the shores of the Manila Bay. Around it, a variety of birds is seen hovering over the shallow waters. Up close, one can see some birds in the mud, feeding on insects and small seashells that abound in the area.

The patch of green is actually a mangrove forest that covers two adjoining islands, which composed the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a protected area and the only bird sanctuary and nature reserve in Metro Manila that gained international recognition as a wetland of international importance. Before its declaration as a Ramsar Site for Wetlands of International Importance in 2013, close to 5,000 migratory birds, an important ecosystem indicator, were recorded in the area by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its partners.

# 5,000

🐦 The number of migratory birds recorded in the area before 2013

The Ramsar Convention, or the convention on Wetlands of International Importance, is the inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

This year the number of migratory birds, as well as the number of other species in the area, continues to drop, which can be attributed to some factors, but mainly, because of environmental degradation and developments at the Manila Bay.

Threatened by the ills of urbanization and unbridled development, LPPCHEA is making a last stand for the trees, the birds and the bees and other species that are threatened by extinction in an urban setting.

#### Critical habitat

THE DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) considers LPPCHEA an important coastal ecosystem and a priority conservation site in Metro Manila. Established as a protected area in 2007 by Presidential Proclamation 1412, under Republic Act 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Area System Act, LPPCHEA covers around 175 hectares of wetland ecosystem.

It consists of two islands, Freedom Island and Long Island, both teeming with mangroves with ponds and lagoons, mudflats, salt marshes and mixed beach forest.

BMB Director Theresa Mundita Lim said LPPCHEA is an important wetland, which needs to be protected and conserved.

"It is a good showcase on how we can balance urbanization with biodiversity conservation for wetland ecosystems," she said.



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### Making a last stand for urban biodiversity

LPPCHEA, the adjoining islands and the lush mangrove forests and mudflats around it collectively formed a natural defense against sea-level rise or storm surge, protecting coastal barangays in Las Piñas and Parañaque.

Both a watering hole and habitat for native birds, and a migration site for transient avifauna, Lim said LPPCHEA is one of six wetlands in the Philippines that made it to the list of the Ramsar Site for Wetlands of International Importance.

It was declared so in 2013 in recognition of the "critical role LPPCHEA plays in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species."

According to the DENR-BMB, the declaration of LPPCHEA as a critical habitat was based on the findings that it harbors a diverse species of birds both migratory and resident.

"At least 5,000 heads of birds were counted [in the area] in 2004. Most significant is the presence of at least 1 percent of greenshank and 10 percent of the black-winged stilt [birds] population within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway."

Around 82 bird species can be found in LPPCHEA, 41 of which are migratory, the DENR-BMB said. Among these birds are the little egrets and black-crowned night herons, which bird watchers commonly see in the area.

Of the endemic birds in LPPCHEA, the Philippine duck that was listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) could be seen in the northernmost pond of the Freedom Island. LPPCHEA is the only known breeding area of the ducks in the National Capital Region (NCR), the DENR-BMB said.

It is also home to the Philippine *bulbul* and the *colasisi*. A total of 11 mangrove species grow in the area. These are the *bungalow*, *bakauan babae*, *bakauan bato* (or *bangkau* in Cebuano), *pototan*, *kolasi*, *pagatpat*, *banalo*, *tabigi* and *saging-saging*. The other five Ramsar Sites in the Philippines are the Naujan Lake National Park, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, Tubattaha Reefs Natural Park, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary and the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### Ecotourism area

BECAUSE of the wide variety of endemic and migratory birds that flock in LPPCHEA, it has become popular for bird watching, particularly for those living in Metro Manila.

It allows visitors to be one with nature and enjoy the beauty of a healthy environment while watching the sunset at the Manila Bay.

More important, it offers visitors a respite from the stressful city life without the hassles of long drives or trips outside Metro Manila. A trek to the Freedom Island allows visitors to be wowed by the variety of mangrove species, as well.

The small adjoining islands are covered by thick mangrove forests, and perhaps are among the very few remaining patches of green in Metro Manila today. Its mudflats and marshes can also be a laboratory for scientific research and study of marine biology—and, sadly, including the effects of pollution. As such, LPPCHEA is being developed by the DENR-NCR, in partnership with local government units and other stakeholders, to boost its ecotourism potential.

#### Dwindling bird population

HOWEVER, observers are alarmed by the dwindling population of birds in LPPCHEA, as well as the number of migratory birds visiting the protected area every year, as revealed by the annual bird count conducted by the DENR-BMB and its partners. This year, the DENR-NCR and Haribon Foundation noted that the dwindling number of birds has become a trend. This year, in one bird species alone, Haribon Foundation's David Quimpo said the downtrend is becoming apparent.

"Before, thousands of black-winged stilts can be found during migration period. In the last two years, we counted less than a hundred," Quimpo said in Filipino.

He also noticed that from around 70 to 100 species of birds which used to roost and feed at the LPPCHEA during the migration period, the number of species in the last two years has also gone down to less than 50.

#### Water, solid-waste pollution

QUIMPO said various factors, including pollution, might have started to impact on LPPCHEA.

"[Land] development and pollution—these are factors that might have contributed to the degradation of LPPCHEA," Quimpo said.

Every year, during September, the DENR joins the International Coastal Cleanup Day operation at LPPCHEA, wherein truckloads of solid-waste materials are hauled from the shores. Contaminated water that flows from rivers also kills marine life in the area from which the birds feed on.

According to the BMB's Lim, the decrease in bird counts has to be analyzed in terms of trend.

#### All-important ecosystem function

THE annual migration of birds to warmer parts of the globe, such as between August and April in the case of the Philippines, helps maintain a healthy ecosystem. While birds help control pests, they also leave behind bird poop,



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MIGRATORY birds in Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. NONIE REYES

dispersing seeds that later on would grow and cover lands with vegetation, generally nourishing the ecosystem.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), on World Migratory Bird Day on May 12 and 13, 2012, said migratory birds serve key functions in the interconnected systems that

keep nature healthy, including pollination and seed dispersal of crops for human and livestock consumption; pest regulation; and as an aesthetic source of pride for cultures across the globe."

## Not too late

LIM said there are factors affecting migratory birds' behavior.

"These birds may have been referred to other areas where food is sufficient and where there is less disturbance to roost," she said.

"If there is a gradual degradation through the years, then a loss of balance maybe taking place. In the case of LPPCHEA, the case is yet irreversible."



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# The Manila Times

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**'ECOLOGY BIRDS'** Black-winged Stilt birds abound in the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) Freedom Island across Coastal Road, spanning the two Metro cities going to Cavite. The presence of migratory birds helps determine the condition of the ecosystem that could serve as warning on environmental problems. PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA



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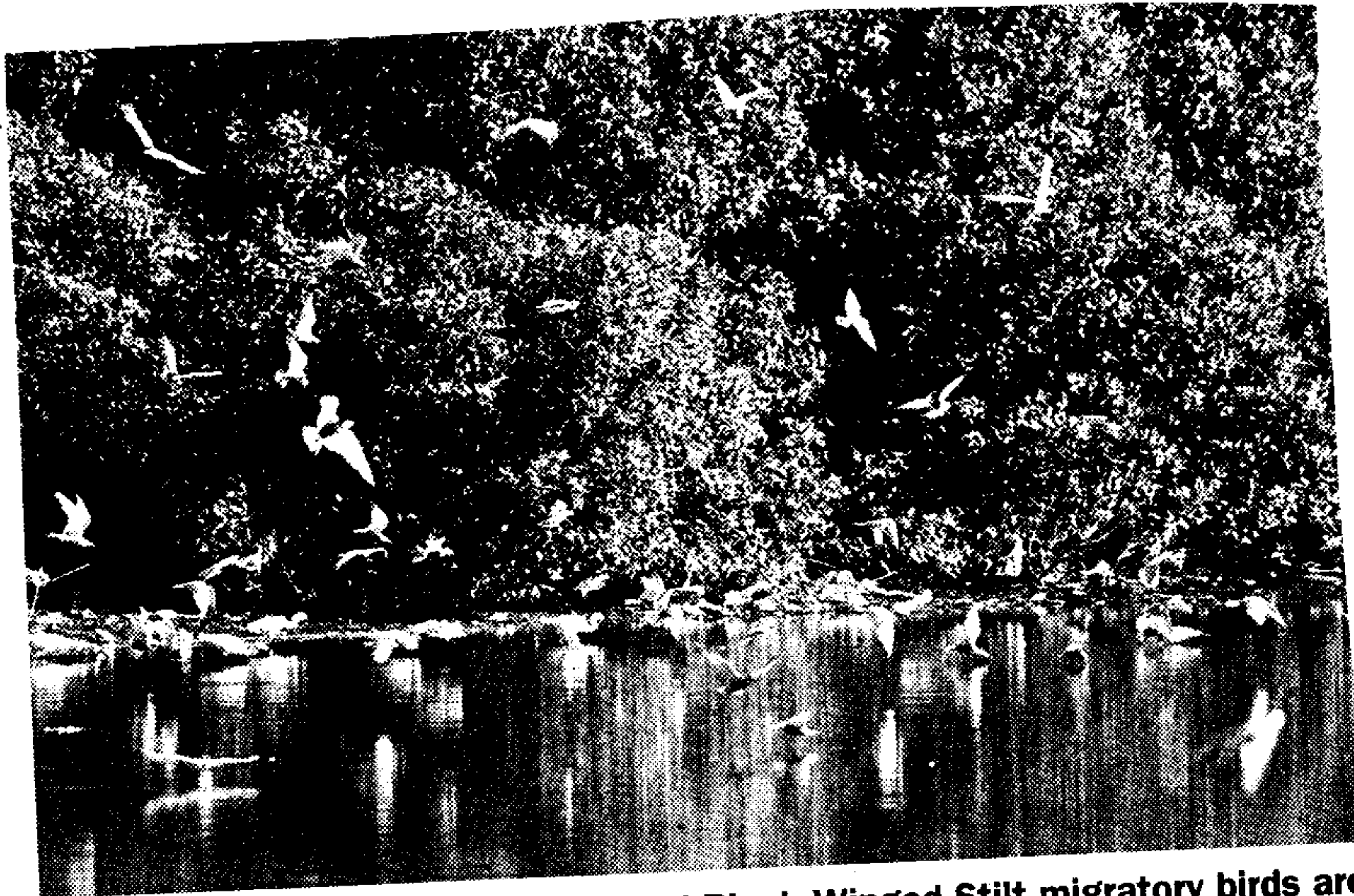
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**FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS.** White and Black Winged Stilt migratory birds are seen at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) Freedom Island. These migratory birds help us determine whether our ecosystems are in good condition or in trouble. They serve as warning of environmental problems people will face in the future. *Photo by Roger Talan*



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## Protesters go biking to save sanctuary

### From yearly cleanups, anti-Manila Bay reclamation drive shifts into high gear

By Annelle Tayao-Juego

ENVIRONMENTAL groups on Saturday combined for the first time two earth-friendly activities—cycling and a cleanup at the protected nature sanctuary on Freedom and Long Islands in Las Piñas and Parañaque cities—as part of their continued protest against reclamation projects being

planned by the government on Manila Bay.

The bike ride-coastal cleanup event, headed by groups Nilad, Bikers Unite, Earth Island Institute and Save Freedom Island Movement, gathered 75 cyclists who rode from Bonifacio Shrine beside Manila City Hall at 6 a.m. to the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) where they were able to collect a truckload of garbage scattered along the coast.

The groups conduct regular cleanups in

the LPPCHEA, said Mark Louie Aquino, 30, coordinator of Bikers Unite, to raise awareness that “there’s still islands in [Metro] Manila with mangroves [and] migratory birds.”

He added: “There are plans to put up casinos and hotels here which will affect the residents of Las Piñas and Parañaque. Even if they provide jobs, the impact on the environment will be much more damaging. Are we really going to destroy [these islands]?”

The groups came up with the idea of adding biking to the activities after realizing that many environment-conscious citizens were into the sport.

“Since we’re celebrating Earth Day this month (April 22), we combined the two activities to show that riders also have the power to help preserve the LPPCHEA,” added Aldrein Silanga, 29, Nilad’s campaign director.

The LPPCHEA is a 175-hectare Department of Environment and Natural Resources-protected reserve on the western side of Aguinaldo Highway, also known as Coastal Road.

Critics of the government’s reclamation plans for Manila Bay, as well as Laguna Lake, have expressed concern that these will lead to flooding in surrounding cities and municipalities. One such project is the Laguna Lake Expressway Dike, a private-public partnership project which proposes the construction of a new 47-kilometer road on the lake’s shoreline from Bicutan in



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# The Manila Times

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**LENDING A HAND** Cyclists haul garbage at Freedom Island in Parañaque City on Saturday. The clean-up drive is part of a week-long activity to mark Earth Day. PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA



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### Loren presses okay of climate change pact

**SENATOR Loren Legarda has urged her fellow parliamentarians from countries that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts to immediately ratify the Paris Agreement.**

In her capacity as the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's Global Champion for Resilience and Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Climate Change, Legarda wrote parliamentarians of member countries of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), which collectively represents one billion people highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, encouraging them to sign

and ratify the Paris Agreement as soon as possible for immediate enforcement.

"The early legislative action by the entirety of the CVF membership would send a clear signal to the international community, encouraging highly industrialized economies, major emitting nations and all countries to follow suit," said Legarda.

Legarda noted that CVF members Fiji, Palau, Marshall Islands and Maldives were the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement.

In order to take effect, 55 countries representing 55% of global greenhouse



**LEGARDA**

gas (GHG) emissions must ratify or accede to the Agreement.

In November 2015, the CVF adopted the Manila-Paris Declaration during a High-Level Meeting in conjunction with the 2015

United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21).

It articulated common concerns and commitments of vulnerable countries and urged the strengthening of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

"The Paris Agreement creates a unique opportunity to safeguard our nations' future and that of the entire planet. Entry into force of the treaty is now a key preoccupation for CVF nations given the dispro-

portionate threats of climate change whose impacts already set back the lives of our people and present even existential challenges," said Legarda.

The Philippines is the current Chair of the CVF, an international partnership of countries highly vulnerable to climate change. The Forum serves as a co-operation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with climate change.

The Manila-Paris Declaration and the High Level Meeting at COP21 gave recognition to the current membership of the Forum's 43 participating nations.

**Marlon Purificacion**



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## Reducing food waste could help mitigate climate change

A TEAM of researchers from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK, for short) in Germany has shared its new findings to *Database* that, "for the first time, provides comprehensive food-loss projections for countries around the world while also calculating the associated emissions."

"Currently, one-third of global food production never finds its way onto our plates. This share will increase drastically, if emerging countries, like China and India, adopt Western nutrition lifestyles, the analyses show. Reducing food waste would offer the chance to ensure food security, which is well known. Yet, at the same time, it could help mitigate dangerous climate change," lead author-researcher Ceren Hic said.

Hic argued that "reducing food waste can contribute to fighting hunger, but, to some extent, also prevent climate impacts, like more intense weather extremes and sea-level rise." Even though food availability on a global average has been higher than required in theory, some developing countries still have to fight undernourishment or hunger.

The PIK study showed that about a 10th of overall global greenhouse-gas emissions from agriculture could be traced back to food waste by midcentury.

"At the same time, agriculture is a major driver of climate change, accounting for more than 20 percent of overall global greenhouse-gas emissions in 2010. Avoiding food loss and waste would, therefore, avoid unnecessary greenhouse-gas emissions and help mitigate climate change," explained Prajal Pradhan, another PIK researcher who coauthored the new report.

Researchers at the PIK analyzed body types and food requirements for the past and different future scenarios, accounting for demographic changes, as well as food demand and availability and associated emissions. They found that while the global average food demand per person remains almost constant, in the last five decades, food availability has rapidly increased.

"More important, food availability and requirement ratio show

**Jürgen Kropp, deputy chairman of PIK research domain Climate Impacts and Vulnerabilities, explained that an estimated "1.3 billion tons of food per year are discarded, and food losses occur mostly in developing countries due to less-efficient agricultural infrastructure."**

a linear relationship with human development, indicating that richer countries consume more food that is healthy or simply waste it," Pradhan said, adding that, consequently, greenhouse-gas emissions associated with food waste could increase tremendously from 0.5 to 1.9-2.5 gigatons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalents per year by 2050. One gigaton equals 1 billion ton.

Emissions from agriculture alone are expected to rise by up to 18 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents by 2050 due to an unbridled demographic growth and lifestyle changes, the new PIK study said.

"Thus, emissions related to discarded food are just the tip of the iceberg," Pradhan said, further explaining that "it is quite astounding that up to 14 percent of overall agricultural emissions in 2050 could easily be avoided by a better management of food utilization and distribution. Changing individual behavior could be one key toward mitigating the climate crisis."

Jürgen Kropp, deputy chairman of PIK research domain Climate Impacts and Vulnerabilities, explained that an estimated "1.3 billion tons of food per year are discarded, and food losses occur mostly in developing countries due to less-efficient agricultural infrastructure."

"Many emerging economies like China or India, are projected to rapidly increase their food waste as a consequence of changing lifestyle, increasing welfare and dietary habits toward a larger share of animal-based products and, at the same time, undermine efforts for an ambitious climate protection," Kropp said.



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Reducing food water could help mitigate climate change

How the food-supply chain can be made smarter and more efficient, and convince consumers to reduce food waste are the questions the PIK researchers are looking into. These questions require further research, but the study sheds light on the complex interplay of food security and climate change that will become even more important in a future that will have to feed around 10 billion people.

"Avoiding food loss could pose a leverage to various challenges at once, reducing environmental impacts of agriculture, saving resources used in food production, and enhance local, regional and global food security," Kropp said.

The PIK, founded in 1992, is a member of the Leibniz Association and receives core funding of about €11 million from the German federal government and the Federal State of Brandenburg. A similar amount of additional project funding is raised from external sources in competition with other institutions, a large part coming from European Union's grant programs.

The PIK's researchers in the natural and social sciences from all over the world work closely together to study global change and its impacts on ecological, economic and social systems. They examine the earth system's capacity for withstanding human interventions and devise strategies and options for a sustainable development of humankind and nature. Interdisciplinary and solution-oriented approaches are distinctive characteristics of the institute.

The PIK has four research domains: Earth System Analysis, Climate Impacts and Vulnerabilities, Sustainable Solution and Transdisciplinary Concepts and Method. From these domains, the PIK generates fundamental knowledge for sustainable development primarily through data analysis and computer simulations of the dynamic processes in the earth system, but also of social processes.

To reach the writer, e-mail [cecilio.arillo@gmail.com](mailto:cecilio.arillo@gmail.com).



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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MORE VITAL THAN EVER

## Rising temperatures and sea levels



By **EDGARDO J. ANGARA**  
FORMER SENATOR

**T**HE past few weeks have seen how the world's climate is changing and getting hotter at an increasingly faster pace.

Here at home, PAGASA recently recorded a heat index of 51°C in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. This measurement — the discomfort perceived from the temperature and humidity of the air — is within "dangerous levels" (41°C to 54°C) where heat exhaustion and heat strokes are imminent with sustained exposure.

The country is of course in the midst of El Niño, which has driven local governments to declare states of calamity and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to warn of a looming global food crisis. But a more tragic development is the recent clash between riot police and farmers in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, where some lives were lost and more than a hundred were injured.

The signs of a hotter planet can be observed elsewhere. Greenland is experiencing a much earlier ice-melting season as temperatures

rose to a relatively high 17°C last week. Researchers from the Danish Meteorological Institute found that 12 percent of Greenland's ice sheet was already melting in April, instead of June — the traditional start of that country's summer.

The melting of the polar ice caps is a regular phenomenon, with most of the water refreezing by wintertime. But as a 2014 Nature Geoscience study pointed out, the ice caps have been receding in recent decades, resulting in rising sea levels that lead to profound changes across the world.

NASA scientists determined that even the Earth's axis is affected by the global redistribution of water with the geographic North Pole veering towards London instead of Canada at a rate almost twice as fast than previously observed. The study did not connect the change to man-made activities. And as the Earth really wobbles on its axis, the shifting of the North Pole is generally considered a harmless phenomenon.

However, the scientific community sounded the alarm last month when researchers from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Pennsylvania State University found

that the UN's current projections on sea level rise grossly underestimated how fast Antarctic glaciers would thaw. Where old projections saw sea levels rising three feet by 2100, the new study says it may actually be double — at around five or six feet.

The Philippines should be gravely concerned, considering that a UP Los Baños study calculated that 171 coastal towns under 10 provinces would go under water if sea levels rose by a meter or roughly 3 feet. What more if it was double?

And while 13.6 million Filipinos in 2014 lived in coastal communities, our seas have also risen at a rate five times faster than the global average. That means the children born today could very well see their country submerged within their lifetimes.

We were among the countries that actively advocated for the recently signed Paris Declaration. But of all the candidates campaigning today, who among them elaborated on their plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change and mitigate its adverse impacts on Filipinos?

E-mail: [angara.ed@gmail.com](mailto:angara.ed@gmail.com)



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# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

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## CBCP issues prayer for rain vs El Niño

**T**HE Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has come out with a special prayer for rain, as the country continues to experience a long dry spell due to El Niño.

The *Oratio Imperata* for rain was released by the CBCP Secretariat on Wednesday for consideration of the dioceses for only bishops can mandate such in their respective pastoral jurisdictions.

"The suggestion is due to the prolonged drought caused by El Niño that has ravaged many parts of our country, particularly Mindanao," said Fr. Marvin Mejia, CBCP secretary-general.

The Catholic Church defines *Oratio Imperata* as an "ordered prayer" for a special intention.

The CBCP has come with the prayer in two languages: English and Cebuano.

The English version of the prayer reads:

"Most Gracious and Most Merciful God,  
Creator, Source and Giver of all things,  
Most powerful in heaven and on Earth,  
We give You honor and glory."

"We thank You  
For our home—the Earth;  
For our light—the sun, moon and stars;  
For our solace—our family and friends, our community, our neighbors."

"United as Your children, we come to You, pleading,  
Shower us with rain, provide us with water that we need.  
Father, Your children are begging to survive,  
Hear us, we desire to live."

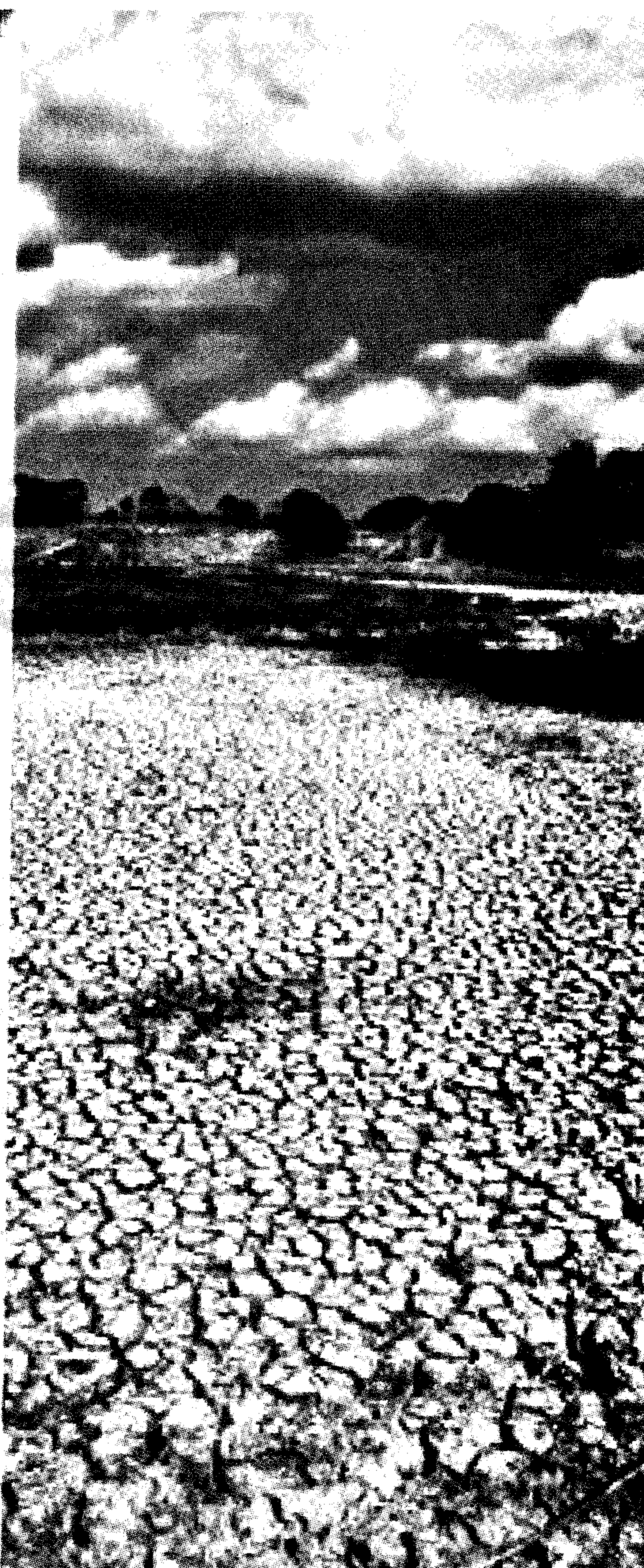
"Prolonged drought is depriving us of the fruits of our toil;  
Low water supply means hunger and thirst for most of us;  
El Niño continues to threaten our relationship with one another.  
O Lord, this is a very hostile phenomenon that we beg for You to end."

"At this time of looming catastrophe, dear Lord, dwell in our hearts.  
Teach us to be more generous; bring out the best in us;  
Turn our eyes and ears toward the needs of others, especially the poor.  
Move us to share more, care more, serve more and love more."

"Holy God, You sanctify this Earth to be our sacred abode.  
Grant us courage to take in hand the sufferings of the environment;  
Grant us might to save and protect the beauty of nature.  
Grant us wisdom to restore whatever we have destroyed."

"O Loving God, behold on us, Your beloved children  
Feel us, feel for us; Let heaven cry and its tears be our blessed rain.  
Have mercy on us Lord, have mercy."

"We beg you, Most Gracious and Merciful God,  
Please, let it rain. Amen." [CBCPNews.com](http://CBCPNews.com)





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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## RECTO SEEKS AID TO FISHERMEN

*EL NIÑO, which is leaving many farms parched of water, is also affecting those who live off the country's waters.*

Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto on Saturday urged the government to extend its El Niño aid program "from inland places to the sea."

"Not only farmers, but fishermen are getting hit, too," Recto said, adding that "TV footage of fishponds drying up in Central and Northern Luzon" back government reports of a large number of fisherfolk affected by the dry spell.

Compounding the natural calamity, Recto said, "is the man-made

disaster of Filipino fishermen being shoed away by Chinese naval might from large sections of their traditional fishing grounds in the West Philippine Sea."

Recto said that last February, 100,000 fishermen, "which translates into 500,000 people to include their families," were already feeling the effects of El Niño, according to a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources bulletin issued that month.

Even then, BFAR had warned that the rise in sur-

face and subsurface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean may reduce by 447,000 tons, or 20 percent, the annual volume of fish caught in the open sea.

The volume of fish caught within 15 kilometers from the shores—or what is called municipal waters—could go down by 279,000 tons or 23 percent.

BFAR also forecasted that El Niño may diminish fish catch in 58 provinces.

To its credit, Recto said the "very competent BFAR" has prepared a very good El Niño mitigation plan, "but within the limits of the funds given to it."

Under BFAR's plan, P673 million from its own budget will be spent this year to

cushion El Niño's effects on domestic fisheries.

But this amount should now be augmented with money from the P39-billion calamity fund, Recto stressed.

Of the P39 billion, P18.9 billion, however, has been earmarked for Yolanda reconstruction, "which means only about P19 billion can be utilized for other calamities, like the El Niño."

Recto said the national government should now cut red tape, hasten the process and download calamity aid funds to El Niño-hit local governments and frontline agencies like BFAR.

"The fisheries sector deserves that aid because it contributes P200 million

to the economy annually," Recto said.

"Fishermen are also among the poorest of the poor, with two in every three living below the poverty line," said Recto.

"Yet they provide the 39 kilos of fish that every Pinoy eats annually," Recto said, citing the per capita marine products consumption per year.

Half of the country's catch—or about 2.34 million metric tons—come from aquaculture, including fresh- and brackish-water fishponds now affected by the dry spell, Recto said.

Recto believes that the BFAR can help affected fishermen, fishpond workers and owners, and fishpen op-

erators for as long as they're given the resources.

Recto said "as an agency with a large clientele, which are in the millions, and all of them prone to typhoons, BFAR should in the future be a recipient of the QRF."

He was referring to the P6.7-billion Quick Response Fund embedded in the regular budget of about a dozen agencies. The fund is separate from the Calamity Fund.

At present, only the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and the National Irrigation Administration are QRF recipients in the agriculture cluster of the government, with each getting P500 million in QRF.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Our battle

In spite of the strong El Niño that has been battering the entire nation since September last year, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is optimistic that only a negligible percentage in production and yield decrease will be felt.

For one full year, February 2015-February 2016, less than 195,000 hectares (ha), from combined rice and corn production areas, were reportedly affected. This is 361,046 ha less than the affected areas during the 2009-2010 dry spell.

The minimal damage, according to agri-experts, may be attributed to the prompt distribution of support and assistance, as well as the dissemination of information to farmers.

Agriculture chief Proceso J. Alcala stressed that farmers knew better now and opted not to plant crops that are most susceptible to drought.

This time, they grew drought-resistant crops including peanut, mungo, soybean and sweet potato, which reduced the chances of damage and loss.

#### PROACTIVE MEASURES

At the onset of El Niño, the Department of Agriculture thru its concerned bureaus, and attached agencies, and regional offices, laid-out adaptation strategies to cushion the impact of the season—forecasted to be the driest and hottest of the year (2015-2016).

These include reinforced irrigation and water management, as well as intensified pest management and surveillance initiatives.

For fish health, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has been in full command of monitoring and management activities—keeping a close watch on all operations for both the fish capture and fish culture subsectors.

Aside from these, the crop insurance system was enhanced. Thru the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), the DA provides insurance protection to farmers against losses incurred from natural calamities, plant diseases and pest infestations.

Under PCIC's crop insurance program for rice, for example, a farmer may get indemnity ranging from P41,000-P65,000 which covers the cost of production per hectare.

On top of all of these, the Agriculture Department has steadily provided seed and vaccine support to the most affected communities.

#### CLOUD SEEDING SORTIES

Cloud seeding, one of the most effective El Niño adaptation strategies, continues to bring in positive results.

In Mindanao, particularly in SOCCSKSARGEN, Sec. Alcala called for additional hours of sorties, following a successful series of cloud seeding.

In other parts of the country, cloud seeding operations have already taken-off—resulting to scattered rain showers that provided a refreshing break for the arid farmlands.

But more than adaptation, the government continues to look for long-term and permanent solutions to the repetitive dilemma that is the El Niño. As the DA dons full battle gear to combat the effects of drought, the nation is encouraged to take action as well. After all, this is OUR battle.

#### EL NIÑO OUTLOOK

As per PAG-ASA report, El Niño will reach its peak this March, with 16 provinces in Southern Philippines taking the havoc of the drought. These include Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Misamis, Occidental, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Saranggani, Sultan Kudarat, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Maguindanao and Sulu. Two provinces in the Visayas (Negros Oriental and Siquijor) and one in Luzon (Palawan) will also be greatly affected.

Dry spell will continue to linger in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao particularly in Benguet, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Zambales, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, Bohol, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte.

### Sa panahon ng EL NIÑO may Katuwang kayo!



Sa Panahon ng El Niño, inaasahang mabibitin ang patubig para sa palay. Dadalang ang ulan, na maaaring magdulot ng mga pagbitak sa mga palayan. Sa ganitong kalagayan, barayting-paaga (early-maturing) o mga barayting maaaring mabuhay kahit kulang ng patubig (drought-tolerant) ang ipunia.	NSIC Rc192	NSIC Rc272	NSIC Rc274	NSIC Rc276	NSIC Rc278
	NSIC Rc280	NSIC Rc282	NSIC Rc284	NSIC Rc288	NSIC Rc346
	NSIC Rc348	PSB Rc10	NSIC Rc134	NSIC Rc222	PSB Rc14
	PSB Rc88	NSIC Rc9	NSIC Rc23	NSIC Rc25	NSIC Rc27
	NSIC Rc29				

#### EL NIÑO OUTLOOK

**Dry condition** - two consecutive months of below normal (21%-60% reduction from average ) rainfall conditions.

**Dry Spell** - three consecutive months below normal (21-60% reduction from average) rainfall conditions or two consecutive months of way below normal (more than 60% reduction from average) rainfall conditions.

**Drought** - three consecutive months of way below normal (less than 60% reduction from average) or five consecutive months of below normal (21%-60% reduction from average) rainfall condition.

\*(PAG-ASA)



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### MAJOR SETBACK FOR TOURISM

# With outages, Mindanao braces for ₱2.3B in productivity losses

By Judy Quiros, Davao City

**P**RODUCTIVITY losses from the current five-hour rotational brownouts may surpass the P2.3 billion suffered in 2014 by Cagayan de Oro, one of Mindanao's progressive cities, when outages occurred three hours daily.

Tourism is among the sectors expected to post major losses, according to Romeo Montenegro, director for investment promotions and public affairs of the Malacañang-attached Mindanao Development Authority (Minda).

"The huge impact is on tourism because it is summertime so there is a huge foregone revenue," Montenegro said on Wednesday.

Business leader Joji Ilagan-Bian earlier estimated that the rotating brownouts resulted in P408-million daily economic losses. She based her projection on the 2014 report of the National Economic and Development Authority on Davao region's economic output of P281.5 billion.

"Since Davao City's service sector accounts for over 50 percent of this, you can imagine the extent... That's roughly P12.25 billion a month, or about P408 million a day," Bian said.

### Problematic power plants

Montenegro agreed that the losses would be enormous, but he said the amount would be determined when Minda came up with an assessment—in consultation with the business sector.

He said he hoped that problematic power plants could recover or be repaired as soon as possible to ease the situation.

Mariano Alquiza, director of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Southern Mindanao, said not only businesses but also government projects were suffering from the power outages. Groundwork in some projects had to be suspended because some electricity-dependent equipment could not be used, he said.

On Tuesday, Aboitiz-owned Davao Light and Power Co. (DLPC) announced that it was implementing daily five-hour power interruptions because of the worsening power supply situation in Mindanao.

"Currently, based on the available power



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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*With outages, Mindanao braces for ₱ 2.3 B in productivity*

supply allocated to Davao Light by generating plants, the deficit has increased to an average of 100 megawatts. Hence, the duration has now increased from a maximum of two hours to a maximum of five hours," DLPC said.

There would be a maximum of one-hour power interruption for every 20-MW deficit, it explained in an advisory.

Maximum duration of the rotating power outages will be divided into two schedules: four hours during the peak period (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and one hour during the off-peak period (7 a.m. to 8 a.m., and 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.).

### El Niño phenomenon

"The reasons are still due to the worsening effect of the El Niño phenomenon on the major hydro power plants in Mindanao, the recent emergency outage of two Agus plants and the shutdown on April 6 of one of the units of Therma South Inc. (TSI) coal-fired power plant," the power utility said.

TSI's coal-fired plant in Barangay Binugao in Davao City's Toril District, touted to be the answer to the city's power problem, was commissioned only late last year. Since then, it has been shut down more than twice due to maintenance work "even if the plant was still new" and engineering problems.

Arturo Milan, DLPC president, said the shutdown decreased by half TSI's supply to the utility from the previous 100 MW. DLPC and TSI are sister companies.

Another DLPC sister company, Hedcor in Davao del Sur province, was delivering only 22 MW instead of the contracted power supply of 49 MW, he said.

Milan said no reprieve could be expected from the Agus and Pulangi hydro sources as the drought drastically reduced their output to just 108 MW instead of the combined capacity of 982 MW.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Heat taking its toll on farmers in march

HEAT associated with the El Niño phenomenon is taking its toll on a group of farmers currently on a 122-kilometer journey by foot to Manila to demand the return of levy forcibly collected from coconut farmers by the Marcos dictatorship and a genuine implementation of agrarian reform.

As of Thursday, the third day of the protest march, at least eight farmers, aged more than 60 years old and six of whom are women, were forced to quit walking as temperatures soared close to 40 degrees Celsius and the heat index went further past that.

"Their blood pressures rose to dangerous levels," said Janseph Geronimo, spokesperson of the militant organization Kilusan para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo at Katarungang Panlipunan (Katarungan).

Geronimo, in a phone interview, said the weakened marchers wanted to continue "but we prevented them for their own safety."

"Their blood pressure rose to dangerous levels..."

One of the elderly marchers, said Geronimo, had to be brought back to his hometown in San Andres, Quezon province, after getting first aid treatment.

He said seven other marchers were given medical checkup in backup vehicles. "But once they had rested, they again joined the march," Geronimo said.

The farmers are walking in temperatures that are almost halfway to water's boiling point.

But the discomfort, or even health risks associated with such intense heat are the least of the concerns of the more than 200 farmers who marched from Sariaya town in Quezon province.

They are demanding the return of at least P70 billion in money forcibly collected from coconut farmers during the heyday of the Marcos dictatorship.

"The scorching heat is making the march really difficult," said Geronimo, who is also one of the leaders of the march.

"We have to drink lots of water," he said.

He expressed concern over the effects on the marchers' health of the severe heat caused by El Niño and carbon monoxide emitted by vehicles on roads



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Heat taking its toll on farmers in march

where the farmers march.

"Despite these, we remain in high spirits," said Geronimo. "Some even sing as they march," he said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecast temperatures higher than usual for the country because of El Niño.

Geronimo said several health workers who had joined the march were monitoring the condition of the marchers.

The farmers started the second day of their 122-km trek to Manila with a 16-km hike from Tiaong town in Quezon to San Pablo City in Laguna province.

Fr. Vic Aller, parish priest of St. John the Baptist church in Tiaong, prayed for and blessed the farmers.

On the first day of the march, former Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello, who is running for senator, led more than 1,000 farmers from Sariaya who accompanied the marchers up to the boundary of Candelaria town.

Geronimo thanked residents along the Maharlika Highway who gave the marchers water and food. He said some coconut farmers along the route also gave the marchers fresh *buko* (young coconut) water.

Maribel Luzara, head of the farmers group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula that joined the march, said she was asking residents along their route to keep helping the marchers by giving food and water.

"These would help boost our morale and resolve to go on," said Luzara, whose group is waging a legal battle to compel a landlord in San Francisco town in Quezon to implement fully the government's agrarian reform program.

Romeo Clavo, head of the farmers' group Ugnayan ng Magsasaka sa Gitnang Quezon (Ugnayan) based in Sariaya town, vowed to complete the march to stop the revocation of land titles already given by the government to farmers as part of the agrarian reform program.

**Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer  
Southern Luzon**



# The Manila Times

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## Use lead-free paint in schools – EcoWaste

A TOXICS watchdog on Saturday urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to ensure that only lead-free paint is used on school buildings as the annual "Brigada Eskwela" draws near.

In a letter sent to Education Secretary Armin Luistro, the EcoWaste Coalition urged DepEd to issue An order that will make it obligatory for schools to use only lead-free paints.

"We seek Secretary Luistro's support to reduce, if not eliminate, major sources of lead pollution in children's environment such as lead-containing paint and dust. Lead is hazardous to health, it is particularly harmful for a child's developing brain and body," Aileen Lucero, the group's coordinator, said.

The group is pursuing its cam-

paign for lead-safe schools amid the looming implementation on January 1, 2017 of the order by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to ban the use of architectural, decorative, and household paints that contain lead.

"While the phase-out will only take effect in January next year, we find it extremely important that all schools take the deliberate deci-

sion now not to use lead-containing paints and ensure a lead-safe school environment for healthy and bright children," Lucero said.

"We hope that the directive will be released soon to serve as guidance for the schools and their community of donors and supporters for the Brigada Eskwela on May 30 to June 4," she added.

**FRANCIS EARL A. CUETO**



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# Watchdog group asks DepEd to ensure only lead-safe paints are used in decorating schools

**By Jason Faustino**

A watchdog group exhorted the Department of Education (DepEd) to ensure that only lead-safe paints are used in decorating all school buildings nationwide as the yearly "Brigada Eskwela" nears.

Through a letter sent to Education Secretary Armin Luistro, the EcoWaste Coalition urged DepEd to issue a Department Order that will make it obligatory for schools to use only lead-safe paints.

"We seek Secretary Luistro's support to reduce, if not eliminate, major sources of lead pollution in children's environment such as lead-containing paint and dust. Lead is hazardous to health, it is particularly harmful to a child's developing brain and body," Aileen Lucero, coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition.

The group's vigorous

towards lead-safe schools is in anticipation of the phase-out of lead-containing architectural, decorative and household paints by Jan. 1, 2017 as per Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 2013-24.

"While the phaseout will only take effect in January next year, we find it extremely important that all schools take the deliberate decision now not to use lead-containing paints and ensure a lead-safe school environment for healthy and bright children," Lucero said.

"We hope that the directive will be released soon to serve as guidance for the schools and their community of donors and supporters for the Brigada Eskwela on May 30 to June 4," she added.

The requested Department Order will be in sync with DepEd's mission of promoting a child-friendly school environment

where students can obtain quality basic education they deserve as well as with the 15-point "Human Rights Agenda for Chemical Safety" adopted by the Commission on Human Rights," the EcoWaste Coalition pointed out.

For the group, the Department Order should make it mandatory for schools to use only lead-safe coatings for painting and/or repainting school structures and fixtures (e.g., buildings, classrooms, offices, windows, doors and gates), amenities (e.g., libraries, laboratories, canteens, clinics, covered courts and playgrounds), furniture (e.g., chairs, tables and cabinets) and learning materials (e.g., blackboards and teaching aids, including school supplies and toys) in all elementary and secondary educational institutions.

It should also apply to paints directly procured by the school





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Watchdog group asks duped to ensure only bad - aspe -

as well as those sourced by other means such as through individual, group, corporate or local government donations," the group added.

The EcoWaste Coalition noted that Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines Inc. and Davies Paints Philippines Inc. have successfully transitioned to non-lead paint production while other companies are on their way to switching to non-lead additives for oil-based (enamel) paints in compliance with DENR AO 2013-14.

It added that water-based paints, which are extensively available in the market, do not contain lead additives.

Aside from directly protecting vulnerable children from being exposed to lead early in life, the proposed policy will also make the maintenance, repair and renovation of painted surfaces simpler and less hazardous and avoid the exorbitant costs

associated with lead paint abatement and removal as well as reduce the hazardous content of construction debris, the EcoWaste Coalition explained.

Citing information from the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (a joint initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization), the group pointed out that young children may inhale or ingest lead-containing paint chips, dust or soil as lead paint deteriorates over time.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated "there is no known level of lead exposure that is considered to be safe," stressing that "childhood lead poisoning can have life-long health impacts, including learning disabilities, anemia and disorders in coordination, visual, spatial and language skills."

Lead is one of the "10 chemicals of major public health concern," according to WHO.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## FDA-banned cosmetic products still available in PH, warns group

By Erika Sauler

ALTHOUGH the summer heat may prompt you to reach out for a moisturizer or other skin-pampering products, be sure to read the label before you slather them on.

A toxics watchdog group said on Saturday that 14 cosmetic products sold in the local market contain the banned preservative, isobutylparaben.

This was based on the retail market monitoring conducted by the EcoWaste Coalition earlier this week to help the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) enforce the regulation banning isobutylparaben and four other parabens in cosmetics.

"We found 14 more products listing isobutylparaben as [an] ingredient in clear defiance of the FDA advisory," Thony Dizon, coordinator of EcoWaste Project Protect, said in a statement.

Parabens, which are commonly used as a preservative in cosmetics, among other products, mimic estrogen and may cause endocrine disruption and reproductive toxicity.

Of the 14 products, 10 were imported from the United Kingdom, he said. In 2014, the European Union added five parabens to the list of substances prohibited in cosmetics due to the lack of data necessary for their safety assessment.

"If these 10 products would be illegal to sell in Europe, why are they being sold in the Philippines?" Dizon asked.

The 10 items from UK-based Beauty Formulas were Aloe Fresh Replenishing Moisture Cream, Avocado Oil Treatment Wax, Cocoa Butter Body Conditioning Cream, Deep Action Pore Cleanser, Deep Penetrating Softening Foot Lotion, Honey and Almond Facial Scrub, Honey Treatment Wax, Oil and Shine Control Moisturizer, On the Spot Treatment, and Regenerating Hand Cream. The other products were Caronia Hand and Foot Care Nourishing Creme (Green Tea Scent), Ocean Potion Extreme Tanning Xcelerator Spray Gel, Ocean Potion Protect and Nourish Sea Plant Botanicals (Babies and Sensitive), and Ocean Potion Protect and Nourish Sea Plant Botanicals (Kids).



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Prince Albert names Tubbataha turtles after his twins

OF COURSE there was a luncheon in Malacañang to welcome His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco to the Philippines. But the royal, who evidently has a passion for the ocean and marine life, also took a trip to Palawan, in particular to the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in the Sulu Sea—a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site—to dive in the renowned marine park, according to information on the Friends of Tubbataha Facebook page.

The Friends of Tubbataha reported that he was accompanied by Robert Calcagno, CEO of the Oceanographic Institute Foundation Albert I, Prince of Monaco.

The Prince met up with Tubbataha's Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) Angelique Songco, presented hats to Tubbataha's unsung heroes, the park rangers, and donated two satellite tags for turtles, courtesy of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, which the Prince's great-grandfather inaugurated in 1910.

Also, according to the Facebook page, two turtles—a 96-cm green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and a 53-cm hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)—were fitted with the satellite transceivers, and were named Jacques and Gabriella, respectively, after the Prince's twin children.

### Bird Islet

He also spent an hour in the heat on Bird Islet, an important

The ocean-loving royal was filmed diving in the national marine park to bring world attention to marine-protected areas

**TESS** Lazaro, ambassador of the Philippines to France; **Fortune** Ledesma, honorary consul of Monaco to the Philippines; **Dr. Stephen** Zuellig, consul general of Philippines to Monaco; **His Serene Highness Albert II**, Sovereign Prince of Monaco; **Patricia** Zobel de Ayala, consul of the Philippines to Monaco; **RJ Ledesma**, honorary vice consul of Monaco to the Philippines

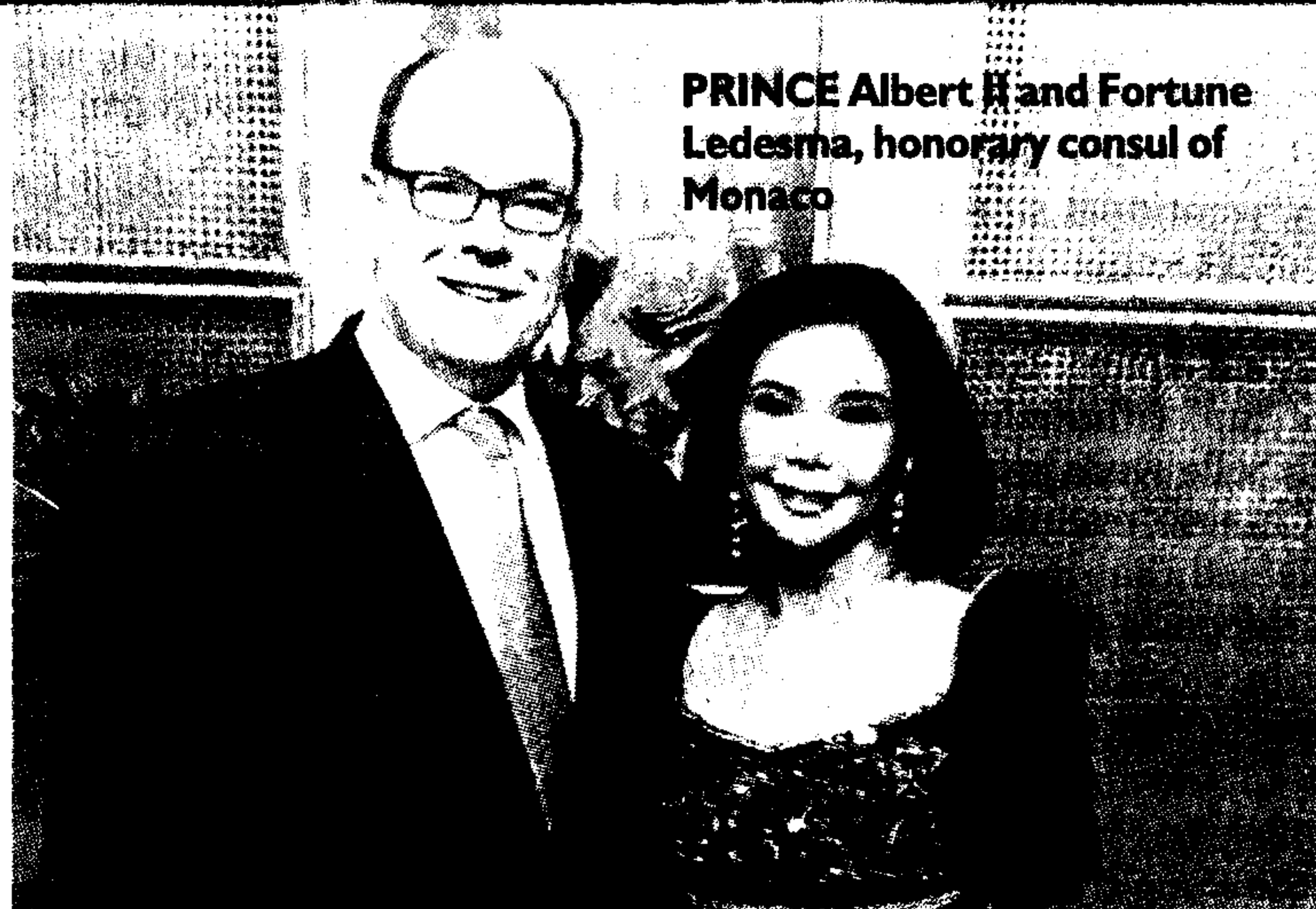


stop for migratory seabirds in the Sulu Sea, where he was briefed by Tubbataha Research officer Retchie Pagliawan on the status of the different species that roost there.

Prince Albert even picked up garbage along the way, noting how ocean debris can be fatal to marine life—and how people should change their modes of consumption to save the oceans.

Prince Albert arrived last April 6 for an official visit on April 7-8, but stayed on for a private visit on April 8-14.

Last April 6, he held a private



**PRINCE** Albert II and **Fortune** Ledesma, honorary consul of Monaco



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

17 APR 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

C-4

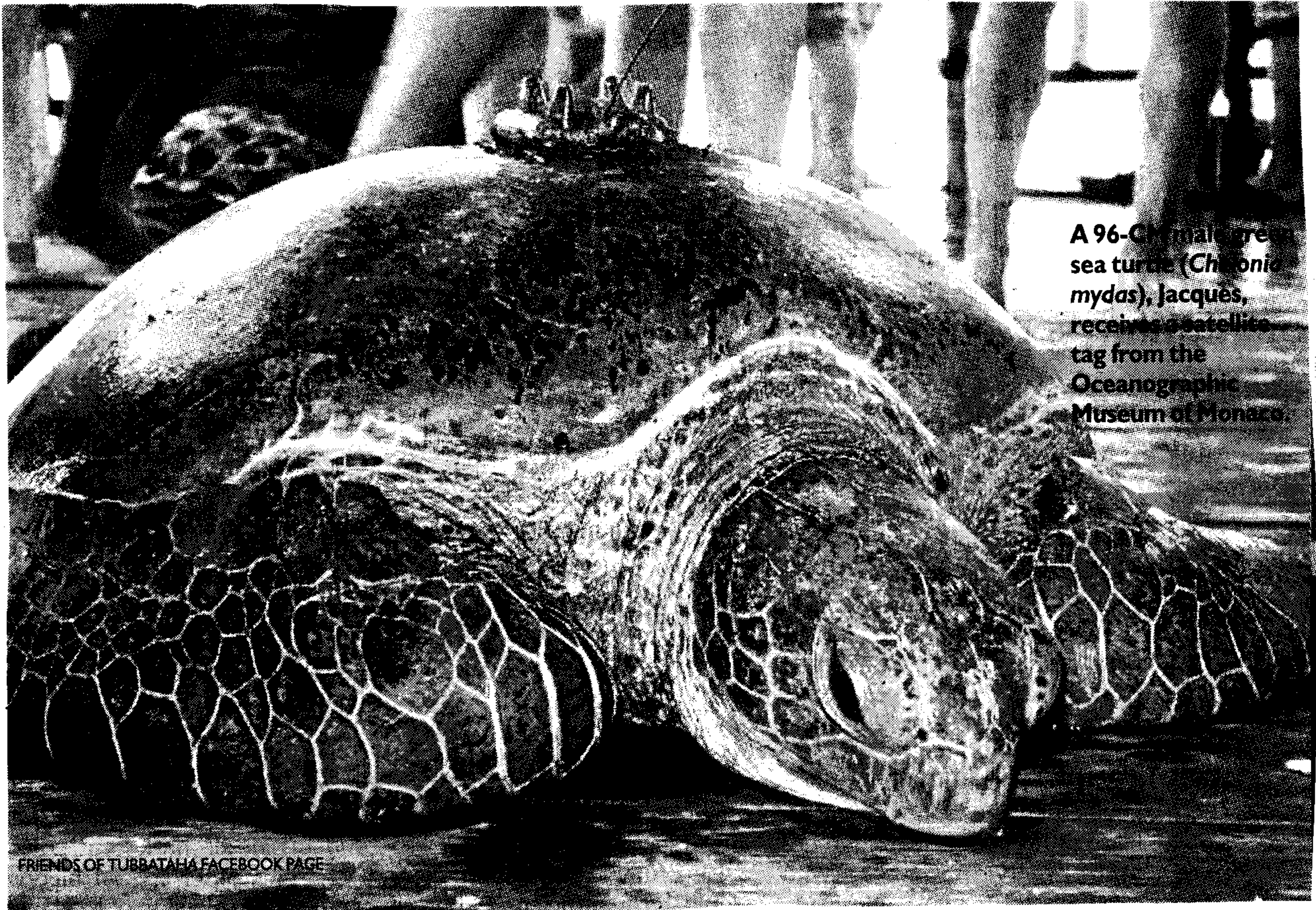
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LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Prince Albert .....



A 96-CH male green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Jacques, receives a satellite tag from the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco.

FRIENDS OF TURBATAHA FACEBOOK PAGE