

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

31 OCT 2016

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DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVE SERVICE

FORMER Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos

with stand on Paris climate pact

By Buena Rilyne C. Bernal

FORMER Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos criticized anew President Rodrigo R. Duterte for the latter's stand on the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In his op-ed piece published in the *Manila Bulletin* on Saturday, Oct. 29, Mr. Ramos cited the *Philippine Star* in quoting Mr. Duterte as saying he would not honor the landmark agreement, calling it "stupid and absurd."

Mr. Ramos branded Mr. Duterte's stand alongside "his consistently frequent insulting diatribes against the US (United States), EU (European Union), and the UN (United Nations)," adding: "He may claim that to be more 'insulting than friendly' to our long-established allies is part of his God-given 'destiny.' But, this is obviously wrong, and full of S... T !!!"

This was the second time Mr. Ramos — whose support Mr. Duterte acknowledged in his rise to the presidency — criticized Mr. Duterte in print, following his *Manila Bulletin* piece early this

month criticizing the President's first 100 days as a "letdown."

Mr. Ramos said Mr. Duterte "is unwittingly shooting himself in the mouth, and also all of us, 101.5 million Filipinos" for having "done little to move the Paris Agreement forward."

"SINCE ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY ON 30 JUNE 2016, THE DU30 ADMINISTRATION, UNFORTUNATELY, HAS DONE LITTLE TO MOVE THE PARIS AGREEMENT FORWARD SO THAT THE PHILIPPINES CAN BE CREDITED WITH HAVING RATIFIED THIS SUPER-IMPORTANT AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PROLONG MANKIND'S SURVIVAL ON PLANET EARTH," went Mr. Ramos's piece, which was all capitalized in parts.

"The President maybe is correct in saying that developed countries who are responsible for the majority of historical emissions should carry the larger burden of limiting emissions and that developing countries, such as the Philippines, who contributed little to historical emissions should be allowed to continue to grow their economies, especially if such is done in the context

of sustainable development and poverty eradication," Mr. Ramos also wrote.

"This is, in fact, the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), on which the Paris Agreement is based," he added.

Mr. Ramos said the agreement "DOES NOT HAVE TO COUNTER OR REDUCE OUR COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIALIZATION PLANS," adding that neither does it impose emission reductions on the Philippines or any country that becomes a party to the agreement.

"SHOULD ANY COUNTRY DECIDE TO EVENTUALLY BECOME A PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT, IT WILL ONLY BE ASKED TO SUBMIT ITS NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY SUCCESSIVE 5-YEAR CLIMATE PLANS THAT WE CAN DETERMINE ON OUR OWN, ACCORDING TO OUR NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND DOMESTIC CAPACITY," he pointed out.

"Ratifying the Paris Agreement will... advance the interests of our country and our people, as one of the most vulnerable to climate change. It will also enable us to secure more investments

towards our climate goals and gain access to the financial, technological, and capacity-building support to be provided to parties of the Agreement," Mr. Ramos wrote in the *Bulletin*.

"Not ratifying the Paris Agreement, on the other hand, will force us to continue on our own without having to consider or report on our contributions to the global response to climate change," Mr. Ramos also wrote, as he pointed out further that the Philippines "has spent an average of 0.5% of its GDP per year for the past 25 years for 'Losses and Damages[.]'"

This means the Philippines is "already paying for the impacts of climate change to which we have contributed very little," his piece read.

Renato Redentor Constantino, Executive Director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, also said in a separate statement Sunday that the agreement is "in the best interest of the Philippines and the Filipino people."

"It ensures that our leadership is maintained internationally, and gives us the platform to demand far greater action towards limiting global warming to under 1.5C degrees so we can avoid far worse climate impacts," he added.

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Ratify deal on climate now, FVR asks Rody

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos on Sunday urged President Rodrigo Duterte's administration to approve and ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, saying that any further delays would make Filipinos more vulnerable to the effects of typhoons.

"With the Philippines not having yet ratified the Paris Agreement, we can only be observers in the Marrakech Meeting. Therefore, President [Duterte] should forthwith approve the Paris Agreement and certify it for Senate ratification to promote our country's interests and fight for climate justice," Ramos said.

"Any further delay will increase Filipinos' vulnerability to super-typhoons that are forecast to come soon...," Ramos said in a column for a national newspaper.

Ramos warned Duterte that he was "shooting himself in the mouth" when he insulted the United States, the European Union and the United Nations and complained against the December 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which was drafted by 195 nations, including the Philippines.

Ramos noted that under the agreement, wealth countries are supposed to set aside at least \$100 billion yearly as financial assistance to developing countries starting 2020 to enable all countries to develop and use re-

Ratify...

From A1

But since assuming the presidency on June 30, Duterte has done little to move the Paris Agreement forward, Ramos said.

Ramos said the President is correct in saying that developed countries that are responsible for most of the carbon emissions should carry the heavier burden of limiting such emissions, but it is clear enough that the Paris Agreement does not impose emission reductions on the Philippines.

Should any country decide to become a party to the agreement, it will only be asked to submit its nationally determined contributions, which are essentially successive five-year climate plans that can be determined by the Philippines, according to its national circumstances, development goals, and domestic capacity, said Ramos.

The Paris Agreement also does not have to counter or reduce the Philippines' industrialization plans. It, in fact, recognizes that developing countries can peak their emissions at a later time, as they pursue sustainable development and poverty eradication accord-

ing to their respective national plans, Ramos said.

"Ratifying the Paris Agreement will allow the Philippines to participate in the global effort to address climate change and advance the interests of our country and our people, as one of the most vulnerable to climate change. It will also enable us to secure more investments towards our climate goals and gain access to the financial, technological, and capacity-building support to be provided to parties of the Agreement," said Ramos.

"Not ratifying the Paris Agreement, on the other hand, will force us to continue on our own without having to consider or report on our contributions to the global response to climate change. Note, however, that our country has spent an average of 0.5 percent of its GDP per year for the past 25 years for 'losses and damages,' so we are, in effect, already paying for the impact of climate change to which we have contributed very little," Ramos added.

To date, 85 (out of 197) parties accounting for at least 55 percent of global emissions have already ratified the Paris Agreement, which will enter into force on Nov. 4. **Sandy Araneta**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate doomsday Another step closer

ROME—Almost inadvertently, humankind is getting closer every day to the point of no-return toward what could be called the “climate doomsday”.

Now, globally averaged concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere has surged again to new records in 2016...and will not dip below pre-2015 levels for many generations. The warning comes from the United Nations weather agency—the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and further confirms the alarm of climate experts and world specialized organizations.

On the one hand, the WMO secretary-general, Petteri Taalas, said that 2015 ushered in a new era of optimism and climate action with the Paris climate-change agreement. “But it will also make history as marking a new era of climate-change reality with record-high greenhouse-gas [GHG] concentrations.”

“Without tackling CO₂ emissions, we cannot tackle climate change and keep temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial era.... It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the Paris Agreement does indeed enter

into force on November 4 and that we fast-track its implementation,” Taalas said last Monday.

The weather agency had warned earlier this year that the Earth is already 1°C hotter than at the start of the 20th century, halfway to the critical 2-degree threshold, and that national climate change plans adopted so far may not be enough to avoid a 3° temperature rise.

CO₂ levels had previously reached the 400 parts per million (ppm) barrier for certain months of the year and in certain locations “but never before on a global average basis for the entire year.”

According to the WMO, the growth spurt in CO₂ was fueled by the El Niño event, which started in 2015 and had a strong impact well into 2016.

“The 400-ppm threshold is of great symbolic importance,” said the previous WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud in 2014. “It should serve as yet another wake-up call about the constantly rising levels of greenhouse gases, which are driving climate change and acidifying our oceans.”

This triggered droughts in tropical regions and reduced the capacity of “sinks” like forests, vegetation and the oceans to absorb CO₂.

These sinks currently absorb about half of CO₂ emissions but there is a risk that they may become saturated, which would increase the fraction of emitted CO₂ which stays in the atmosphere, according to the *Greenhouse Gas Bulletin*.

Carbon dioxide remains for thousands of years

THE danger is clear: for thousands of years CO₂ remains in the atmosphere, trapping heat and causing the Earth to warm further. The life span of CO₂ in the oceans is even longer. It is also the single most important GHG emitted by human activities. According to the WMO, it is responsible for 85 percent of the warming effect on our climate over the past decade.

On the other hand, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) says that the droughts and floods beating down on communities in many parts of the world are linked to the current El Niño, which was expected to affect up to 60 million people already by last July.

“In some areas, including in North Eastern Brazil, Somali, Ethiopia, Kenya and Namibia, the

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El Niño effects are coming on the back of years of severe and recurrent droughts. It is impossible for households that rely on the land for food and farm labor to recover, especially when the land is degraded," the UNCCD executive secretary, Monique Barbut said.

What's more, Barbut, added, these conditions do not just devastate families and destabilize communities. When they are not attended to urgently, they can become a push factor for migration, and end with gross human-rights abuses and long-term security threats. "We have seen this before—in Darfur following four decades of droughts and desertification and, more recently, in Syria, following the long drought of 2007 to 2010."

It is "tragic to see a society breaking down when we can reduce the vulnerability of communities through simple and affordable acts, such as restoring the degraded lands they live on, and helping countries to set up better systems for drought early warning and to prepare for and manage drought and floods," Barbut said.

Agriculture accounts for one-fifth of total emissions

FOR its part, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations alerted that the rapid change in the world's climate is translating into more extreme and frequent weather events, heat waves, droughts and sea-level rise.

The impacts of climate change on agriculture and the implications for food security are already alarming—they are the subjects of this report, according to FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva.

A major finding is that there is an urgent need to support smallholders in adapting to climate change. Farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and community foresters depend on activities that are intimately and inextricably linked to climate—and these groups are also the most vulnerable to climate change.

change." Unless action is taken now to make agriculture more sustainable, productive and resilient, climate-change impacts will seriously compromise food production in countries and regions that are already highly food-insecure, Graziano da Silva alerted.

"Through its impacts on agriculture, livelihoods and infrastructure, climate change threatens all dimensions of food security. It will expose both urban and rural poor to higher and more volatile food prices."

According to the FAO director general, it will also affect food availability by reducing the productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries, and hinder access to food by disrupting the livelihoods of millions of rural people who depend on agriculture for their incomes. The FAO report—The State of Food and Agriculture 2016—describes ways of adapting smallholder production to climate change and making the livelihoods of rural populations more resilient.

'Diversify or die'

DIVERSIFICATION and better integration of food-production systems into complex ecological processes create synergies with the natural habitat, instead of depleting natural resources, the report said.

Agro-ecology and sustainable intensification are examples of approaches that improve yields and build resilience through practices, such as green manuring, nitrogen-fixing cover crops and sustainable soil management, and integration with agro-forestry and animal production.

"In order to keep the increase in global temperature below the crucial ceiling of 2 °C, emissions will have to be reduced by as much as 70 percent by 2050.

"Keeping climate change within manageable levels can only be achieved with the contribution of the agriculture sector," which

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Offer prayers to the departed, not trash – DENR

By BETHEENA KAE UNITE

Prayers, not trash should be offered to the dead during the All Saints' and Souls' Days.

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez stressed this as she appealed to Filipinos to be environmentally responsible during their visits to the cemeteries.

"Our dearly departed deserve our prayers and respect, not trash. Let us honor them by keeping their resting

place garbage-free," Lopez said.

Lopez made the appeal days before millions of Filipinos flock to cemeteries nationwide for the traditional observance of All Souls' Day.

The environment chief said the public should take the occasion as an opportunity to show environmental responsibility and refrain from activities that would degrade the proper way to remember the dead.

"Beyond flowers and candles that

punctuate our beautiful tradition of Undas, this occasion demands that we also practice environmental responsibility in honoring the memory of our dearly departed," Lopez said.

The DENR likewise called on to everyone to practice CLAYGO – Clean As You Go – and use reusable or recyclable food containers.

Cemetery visitors are likewise encouraged to bring their own garbage bags and take their own trash home.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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CLEAN ENERGY

LEYTE GEOTHERMAL PLANT GETS 'SEAL OF APPROVAL'

By Robert Dejon
@InqNational

ORMOC CITY—The country's biggest producer of geothermal energy has been given a seal of approval by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that would make it easy for the renewable energy company to acquire permits for expansion and other projects.

The Energy Development Corp. (EDC) is this year's lone recipient of the Philippine Environment Partnership Program (PEPP) Seal of Approval given annually by the DENR.

While it doesn't carry a monetary component, the award means relaxed rules, longer permit validity and simplified procedures in acquiring an environmental compliance certificate (ECC), a key requirement for companies to proceed with projects.

The seal of approval is valid for a year.

The award, according to the

DENR, recognizes a company's efforts to protect the environment in its operations.

It is the fifth time of EDC Green Core Geothermal Inc., based in the village of Tongonan in Ormoc City, to win the seal mainly for its 112.5-megawatt Tongonan geothermal plant.

EDC is the only recipient of the seal under the "Track 1" category of the PEPP, which seeks to promote the use of nonpolluting business processes.

Businesses that qualify for Track 1 seals of approval are those that go beyond mere compliance and institute measures that not only protect, but also promote a healthier environment.

Recipients of the DENR's approval seal undergo a series of evaluation, including validation of documentary requirements and site inspection by the Environment Management Bureau's regional offices and members of the PEPP technical evaluation committee. INQ

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Editorial

Magiging basurahan na naman ang mga sementeryo

BUKAS ay aapaw na naman ang mga tao sa sementeryo para dalawin ang kanilang namayapang mahal sa buhay. At tiyak ding aapaw ang mga basura na kanilang iiwanan. Sa kabila na nagpapaalala ang mga awtoridad na huwag gawing basurahan ang mga sementeryo, hindi ito sinusunod at lalo pang naging marumi. Patuloy ang pag-iiwan ng basura ng mga nagsisidalaw sa kani-kanilang puntod.

Noong Undas 2012, mahigit 100 trak ng basura ang nakuha sa mga sementeryo sa Metro Manila. Pinakamarami sa Manila North Cemetery. Sumunod na taon, 98 trak ang nakolekta. Noong 2014 ay mahigit ding 90 at ganundin ng mga sumunod pang taon. Ngayong Undas 2016 ay maaaring maulit ang trak-trak ng basura kung hindi magkakaroon ng disiplina.

Ayon sa MMDA kabilang sa mga basura na kanilang hinakot ay mga styrofoam tray na nilagyan ng pagkain, plastic na botelya ng tubig, cup ng noodles, coffee sachet, plastic na supot na pinaglagyan ng softdrinks, buko juice, sago at marami pang iba.

Naging malaking basurahan ang mga sementeryo hindi lamang sa Metro Manila kundi sa buong bansa. Kahit pagbawalan na huwag magkakat ng basura sa sementeryo ay hindi sinusunod. Kahit pa paulit-ulit na ipinaaalala ng mga awtoridad na kanya-kanyang pulot ng basura ang mga dadalaw sa sementeryo, hindi nasusunod. Marami pa rin ang nag-iiwan ng kanilang mga basura na karamihan ay plastic. Wala silang pakialam kung makapagdulot ng pagbaha ang iniwang basura.

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BASURA NG 'GAPO, KINALAMPAG

Ni Jun Tadios

Tinuligsa ng grupong EcoWaste Coalition (EWC) ang walang habas na eco waste dumping sa mga coastal territory ng Olongapo City.

Sa isang symbolic protest, pinangunahan kahapon ng grupo ang

cleanup drive sa mga coastal lines ng Olongapo upang ipaliwanag sa mga residente ang kahalagahan ng malinis na kapaligiran.

Itinaon ang aktibidad sa pagdiriwang ng kapistahan ni St. Francis of Assisi - ang Patron Saint ng Ecology.

"The open dumping of

garbage, an environmental crime, is not only illegal and irresponsible. It's also deadly, particularly for the aquatic creatures who bear the brunt of reckless waste disposal. We kill marine animals every time we arbitrarily throw our discards from plastic bags to tiny can-

dy wrappers and cigarette butts on the streets and waterways," giit ni Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator ng EWC.

Katuwang ng EWC sa kampanya ang mga parishioners at Kura Paroko ng St. Columban Parish na si Rev. Fr. Kenneth Masong.

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KAWATAN, BASURA DAGSA RIN SA SEMENTERYO

BAGO kumagat ang dilim kahapon ay dagsa na ang mga nagtutungo sa iba't ibang libingan sa bansa kagunay ng paggunita sa Todos Los Santos.

Sa Maynila pa lamang ay mahigit 100,000 katao ang agad naitalang bumuhos sa sementeryo kahapon.

Ito'y bagama't ngayon pa lamang, Oktubre 31, at bukas (Nobyembre 1), ang nakagawang pagdalaw ng mga Pinoy sa mga yumaong mahal sa buhay.

Sa Manila North Cemetery, nasa 100,000 katao ang bilang na naitala kahapon, habang nasa 5,000 naman sa Manila South Cemetery, ayon sa city police office.

Kasabay ng pagbuhos ng mga dadalaw sa kanilang mahal sa buhay ay pinaalalahan

ng mga awtoridad ang publiko na maging maingat at mapagmatyag dahil posible pa ring sumalisi ang masasamang loob sa panahong ito.

Bukod dito, pinaalalahan ang mga may kasamang matatanda at bata na kung maaari ay huwag nang makipagsiksikan ang mga ito upang maiwasan na sila ay masaktan o atakehin ng karamdaman sa pakikipagsiksikan.

Kaugnay nito, 30 katao ang kinailalang dalhin sa booth ng Manila Health Department matapos makaranas ng pagtaas ng presyon ng dugo dahil sa mainit na lagay ng panahon.

Sa kabilang dako, nagpaalala ang Simbahang Katolika na sa mga ganitong pagkakataon ay hindi lang masasamang loob ang dapat bantayan

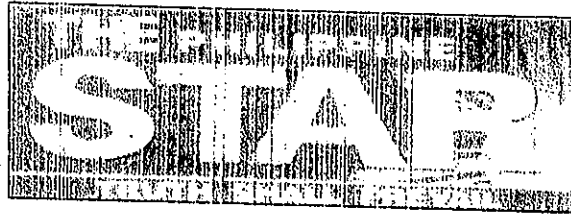
kundi maging ang kalinisan ng kapaligiran.

Nanawagan ang simbahan na huwag magkalat o mag-iwan ng basura sa mga sementeryo.

Ayon sa Archdiocese of Manila sa pamamagitan ng Ministry of Ecology, dasal ang kailangan ng mga yumaong mahal sa buhay at hindi ang basura.

Sinabi naman ni Lou Valencia Arcenio, Program Coordinator ng Archdiocese of Manila Ministry on Ecology, mula pa noong 2005 ay patuloy ang panawagan nila sa mga tao na magkaroon ng eco-friendly Undas.

Taon-taon kasi, base sa kanilang record ay nag-iwan ng maraming basura ang mga dumadalaw sa mga sementeryo. REMATE NEWS TEAM



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

10 tribal sites to be declared protective areas

Ten sites inhabited by indigenous people will be declared protected areas, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said over the weekend.

The DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau will implement the project, which is meant to recognize the areas managed by tribal folk.

"Because of their affinity with nature, indigenous people have traditions that show respect for the environment and preserve it," BMB director Theresa Mundita Lim said.

The sites are Mt. Taungay in Tinglayan, Kalinga; Mt. Polis in Hungduan, Ifugao; Mt. Imugan in Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya; Egongot in Maria Aurora, Aurora; Kanawan in Morong, Bataan; Balabac in Palawan; Mt. Kimangkil in

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Impasug-ong, Bukidnon; Mt. Apo in Magpet, North Cotabato; Mt. Diwata in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur; and Dinarawan in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte.

Lim said these sites passed the criteria for the project, which include their being part of the country's key biodiversity areas, located in seven ethnographic regions, and inclusion on the list of priority environment sites of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

The project will be implemented until 2019 under the technical and financial assistance of the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Program.

Lim said the NCIP, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and local government units would help the BMB in implementing the project.

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Miss Ecuador is Miss Earth 2016

Pageant victory is the second for her country this year

By Armin P. Adina
@diyarista

The planet's new advocate for the environment hails from Ecuador.

Katherine Espin impressed the judges in the final round of the Miss Earth pageant, which was staged at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City on Saturday night, she was chosen over 82 other aspirants after she invoked the environmental 5Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink and respect.

"If we do that in our everyday lives, we can make a change," Espin said.

Among the judges were Philippine National Police Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo and 2014 Miss Earth Jamie Herrell of the Philippines.

Shifted support

Espin's victory was met with cheers from the mostly Filipino audience, who shifted their support to the other candidates when Miss Philippines Imelda Bautista Schweighart failed to advance to the semifinals.

Schweighart is a student from Puerto Princesa City.

The Philippines, however,



'The 5Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink and respect—if we do that in our everyday lives, we can make a change'

Katherine Espin
Miss Earth 2016

still had unofficial representation in the pageant's semifinals.

Sweden's Cloie Syquia Skarne, daughter of Filipino actor Gabby Concepcion and Filipino-American Swedish model Jenny Syquia, made the top 16 and finished in the top 8.

Skarne grew up in Sweden where she joined the national pageant, winning the right to be the Swedish representative to Miss Earth.

Espin's Miss Earth victory is the second for her country, after Olga Alava who won in 2011.

Her win is also the second for Ecuador in the Philippines this year, after her compatriot Angela Bonilla took home the 2016 Miss Global title at the Philippine International Convention Center last month.

Latin domination

Espin led the "Latin domination" in this year's pageant, with three other South American beauties comprising her court.

Colombia's Michelle Gomez was proclaimed Miss Earth-Air, while Venezuela's Stephanie de Zorzi received the Miss Earth-Water title.

Brazil's Bruna Zanardo completed the top 4 and took home the Miss Earth-Fire crown.

The Miss Earth winners are expected to work on environmental projects. This year's contest focused on climate change.

During the delegates' three-week stay in the Philippines, they toured the country's various ecotourism destinations, some even in remote areas in Mindanao not known to many.

The showcase of Filipino sites spanned from Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte to the Island Garden City of Samal down south.

In batches, the candidates

took part in activities geared towards mitigating the effects of climate change—planting mangroves in Bohol and spreading environmental information in the Bicol region, the province of Aklan and the city of Cebu.

The pageant's ceremonies also highlighted Boracay's recent proclamation as the "Best Island in the World" in the latest Conde Nast poll. The candidates held a preliminary swimsuit competition there.

Peachy Veneracion, project director of pageant organizer Carousel Productions, said in an earlier interview that the contest hoped to help bring more tourists to the Philippines, and to destinations rarely featured in travel shows.

The coronation was seen live on Star World and Uno TV, which broadcasts to parts of South America and the United States. It will also be seen on global cable The Filipino Channel. INQ

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MISS EARTH . . . P. 2



Miss Earth 2016 Katherine Espin of Ecuador) with Miss Earth Air:
Michelle Gomez of Colombia —ARNOLD ALMACEN

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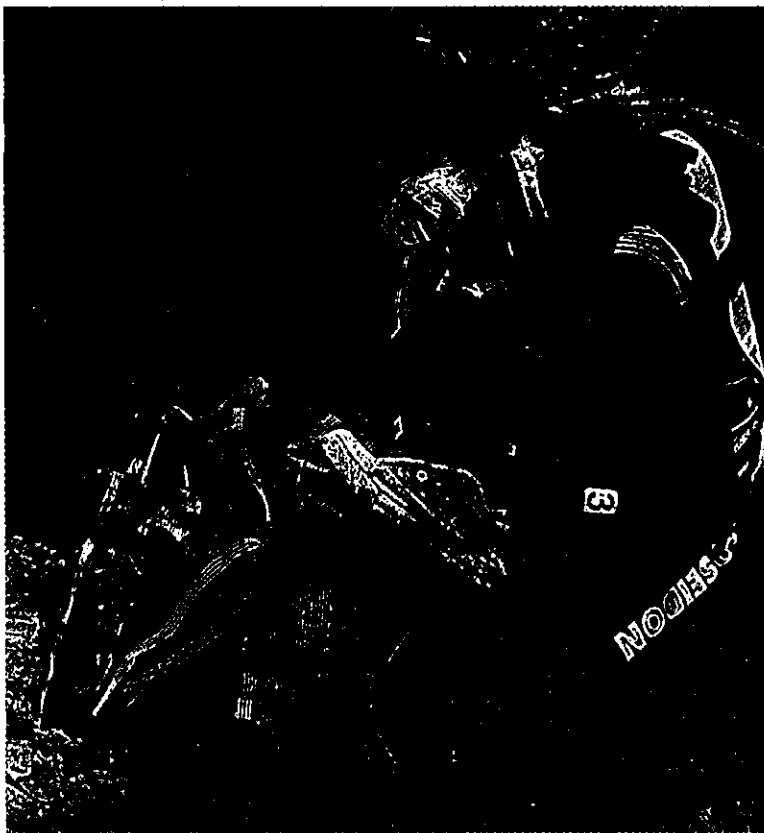
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Smart, PNP Maritime Group join forces for coastal cleanup



In support of Ocean Conservancy International's (OCI) coastal cleanup project, mobile leader Smart Communications (Smart) partnered with the Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group (MG) for the annual S-KUBA International Coastal Cleanup at Bambu Villa Resort, Anilao, Batangas.

In a two-session dive at the Caban Cove and Dive 7000 sites, certified diver-volunteers, composed of Smart employees and partners, devoted an entire day for coast and shore cleanup activities.

"Smart recognizes the role of

gathered a group of professional divers to participate in a coastal cleanup effort. Helping protect aquatic life and its sanctuary is our way of giving back to the community that benefits from our diverse marine ecosystem," said Darwin Flores, department head for Community Partnerships of Smart Public Affairs.

"As a diver, I believe we don't need to wait for September every year to do a cleanup dive. Every dive should be a cleanup dive," said Ruth Reyes from Smart Public Affairs, who is also an active volunteer of this project.

coastal cleanup activities, Smart, together with the PNP-MG, launched the Dedicated Alert Lines for Ocean biodiversity, #DALOY3456, the official SMS hot line that enables subscribers to report maritime violations happening in their area.

These violations include dynamite and cyanide fishing, the use of fine mesh net, commercial fishing-vessel intrusions and wildlife trafficking.

Concerned citizens can report these violations by simply texting DALOY <space> your report and sending it to 3456.

"All these initiatives are part of our Smart Communities program, which promote the use of technology for development. These efforts not only aim to increase environmental awareness, but also urge communities to take action and do their part as stewards of the environment," said Ramon Isberto, head of Smart public affairs.

"Smart and PNP-MG have the same advocacy when it comes to environmental conservation and preservation, thus this public-private partnership is really appropriate and timely. With the help of the divers and other volunteers, we are able to protect the livelihood source of our fishermen," said Police Chief Insp. Arnaldo Canlas, chief PCRS of PNP-MG.

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Cabinet welcomes SWS results

BUOYED by the recent result of a nationwide survey showing that three out of 10 people were satisfied with the performance of President Duterte's family, his Cabinet has vowed to strive harder and improve their performance, according to Communications Secretary Martin Andanar.

Andanar yesterday said the Cabinet welcomed the results of the third quarter survey of the Social Weather Station (SWS) from September 24 to 27 that showed the Duterte Cabinet scoring a +36 (49 percent satisfied, 36 percent undecided, 13 percent dissatisfied) in their performance during their first three months in office.

"I welcome the result as a barometer of how we are doing in the cabinet. The survey should be a lamp post to guide all the secretaries in improving their work," Andanar said.

The same survey also showed different institutions logging a net satisfaction score between +38 and +52.

The SWS showed the Senate scoring a net satisfaction rating of +52 (66 percent satisfied, 21 undecided, 14 percent dissatisfied), followed by the Supreme Court with +40 (54 satisfied, 30 percent undecided, 14 percent dissatisfied), and the House of Representatives with +36 (53 percent satisfied, 31 percent undecided, 14 percent dissatisfied). — Jocelyn Montemayor

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



EDITORIAL

'Cracker ban is bane

SIMPLISTIC and defeatist.

Some people apparently believe the solution to a recurring problem in the way we as a people live life as we know it is to get rid of things just because they can be sometimes troublesome.

But life itself is a hazard – people face every day with constant threat to their personal health, safety, and security.

There is simply no such thing as a safe refuge.

Personal injuries, damage to properties, and the consequent adverse impact on the environment are the natural consequences of human activity.

Holiday merrymaking is something that cannot be denied Filipinos or even any other people in this season of cheer.

Christmas and the New Year holidays are about bright lights, joyful sounds, festive gatherings, food and drinks, and lots of gift giving as an expression of love, faith, and hope.

The most spectacular finale of the holiday celebrations are fireworks lighting up the night sky in a riot of bright, brilliant, and spectacular colors.

Hearts and souls are filled with gladness, warmth and great expectations for the coming year.

This tradition is almost a universal thing – it cuts across age brackets, national boundaries, color, culture, gender, race, etc.

It is the basic nature of man to celebrate his joy, his triumph, his

And so who is this pompous party-poopers who wants to put an end to the holiday lightshows?

And since when has he been granted cultural police powers to outlaw such holiday revelry?

The last time we checked, a lawmaker's job was to make new laws or update old ones to make them more relevant to current realities.

And any such change must reckon the impact on all sectors that may be affected with the consequent change in state policy.

For instance, a proposed ban on all forms of fireworks/pyrotechnics is being considered by the Palace and pushed by certain sectors, including members of Congress.

We are talking here of an age-old industry with deep cultural roots and a vast network of supporting and downstream sub-industries.

For the investors/industry pioneers, labor or employees, suppliers, distributors, retailers, consumers, this means a dramatic disruption in their way of life.

For all of them, it means not just turning off the lightshow; rather, it is virtually snuffing out the life for all of them and their families.

And so, before the next sound-bite-lagging lawmaker makes a pitch for such a ban, we strongly advise him to go back to his plastic drawing board and think again.

X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ • BULGAR SA BALITA

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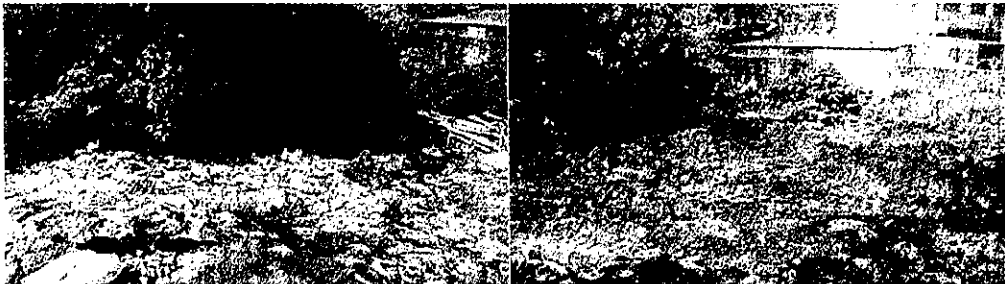
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BEFORE AND AFTER. Ang "Oplan Clean Agad" ni Mayor Oca Malapitan ay ang tuloy-tuloy na paglilinis sa lahat ng lugar sa Caloocan, sa pamamagitan ng mga tauhan ng CEMO (Caloocan Environmental Management Office) at ESS (Environment and Sanitation Services) ng City Government. Kuha ang mga larawan sa boundary ng Brgy. 168 at 171, malapit sa Northcrest Subd.

B.R.

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NAGSAGAWA ng Fumigation, Misting at Larvaecide Application ang mga tauhan ng City Environmental Management Office (CEMO) sa bawat barangay sa Caloocan City na isa sa mga proyekto ng pamahalaang lungsod sa pamumuno ni Mayor Oscar Malapitan upang mapanatiling maayos at malinis ang kapaligiran. JOJO RABULAN