

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

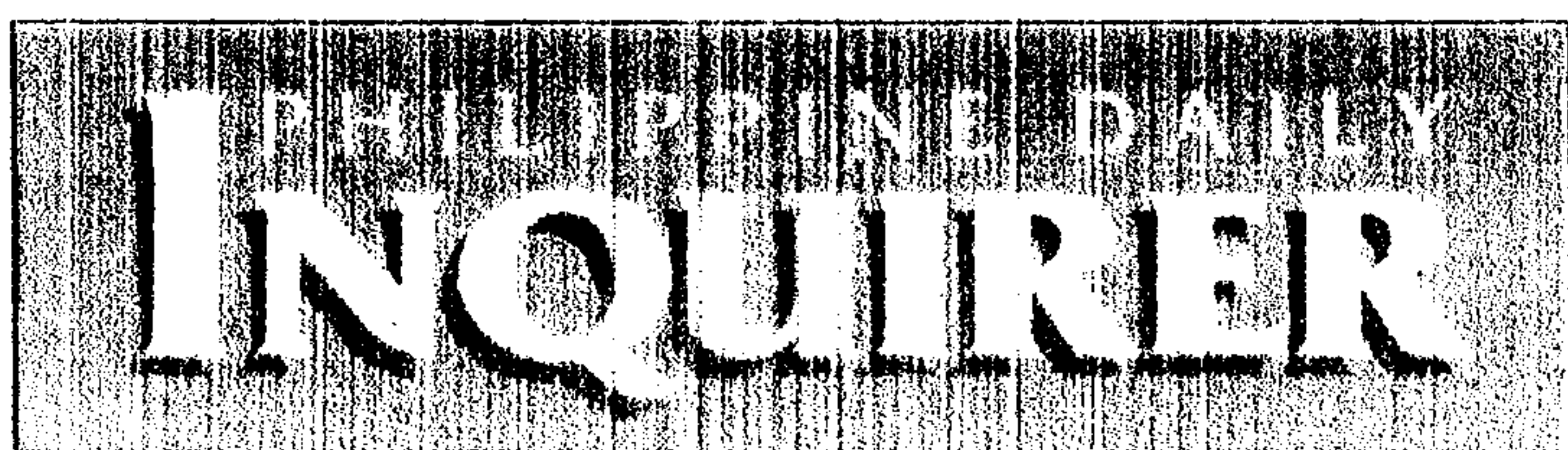
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# DENR

## IN THE NEWS



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

EDITORIAL

# The matter of coal

**A**ccording to a Fortune magazine report in December 2015, the use of coal is on the decline worldwide, as developed nations begin switching to cleaner sources of energy: "More than anything, the Paris Agreement was a signal that coal, the dirtiest of the fossil fuels used for power generation, is being phased out in developed countries like the US and much of Europe. Reliance is even being diminished in China, as the country seeks to clean up its air pollution."

"However," the report added, "India is the major global outlier when it comes to coal. India says it needs coal along with solar to meet its basic power generation growth needs. Additional coal plants built in India and China could lead to rising carbon emissions..."

The Philippines appears to be following the path of India in its continued reliance on coal. Before stepping down last June, President Benigno Aquino III left in the pipeline 25 new coal-fired power plants to be built in the country in the next decade. The matter briefly flared as a campaign issue; during the presidential debates, the candidates were asked about their stand not only on coal power but also on climate change and the Philippines' commitment to the Paris Agreement, which enjoins the international community to take collective action to lower fossil-fuel emissions.

Then candidate Rodrigo Duterte's response was to say, first of all, that the West was being hypocritical in asking poorer countries to now abandon coal and other polluting power-generation activities, when their gas emissions accounted for the worldwide bulk. The Philippines needs to meet its rising energy requirements, he said. In another interview, asked about the spate of new coal plants to be built, he declared that he saw nothing wrong with them, and in fact would welcome more: "You open the Philippines for all power players, I guarantee you the electricity will become cheaper."

Some residents of Sual, Pangasinan, do not agree. Last Thursday, about 30 of them gathered to protest the construction of a coal-fired power plant—the second in their vicinity. The planned 900-megawatt, P48-billion power plant at Barangay Baquioen was given the green light after six public hearings, according to Mayor Roberto Arcinue. But Rosanna Marie Soriano, chair of the Save Sual Movement which spearheaded the protest action, said they were never consulted about the new plant.

And their voices were again disregarded because their gathering was stopped by the police, and their streamers and placards seized, even before it could start. They were told not to proceed to the Sual wharf, where they had planned to present a manifesto to President Duterte voicing their objections to the new power plant rising in their midst. Mr. Duterte was at the wharf for a ceremonial send-off of 17 Vietnamese fishermen who were caught illegally fishing in the waters off Ilocos Sur last September.

Mr. Duterte never saw the protesters or their manifesto—the product of a signature campaign among Sual residents. Soriano said she was told by a police officer that they could not proceed with the protest rally; she and the others were dispersed and their paraphernalia confiscated. Mr. Duterte later appeared at a program where the mayor extolled the coal plant a-building and its promise of increased electricity in the area.

It is unfortunate that the voices of ordinary citizens who will bear the brunt of the well-documented ill effects of coal power generation are being stifled. The fears of Soriano et al. about coal's hazardous effects on their families and communities are not unfounded: The Philippines was recognized as a major intervenor at the Paris talks on climate change precisely because the country stands among those most vulnerable to the effects of a ravaged environment, as Super typhoon "Yolanda" showed. (The Paris Agreement, which took effect yesterday, has yet to be ratified by the Philippines.)

If the Duterte administration is standing by more coal, it should at least listen to the ordinary folk, to help mitigate its disadvantages.



## Nickel Asia disputes mine audit findings

NICKEL Asia Corp. (NIKL), the country's biggest nickel producer, on Thursday said its wholly owned subsidiary Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) is already compliant with all the recommendations made by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the agency's audit of HMC's operations, disputing the finding of two alleged violations of HMC's Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

The mine is located on Hinatuan Island, Surigao del Norte.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, NAC said that it has already received the copy of the official findings and recommendations of the audit conducted by the DENR audit team, which cited alleged violations of two conditions in the ECC.

DENR told HMC to limit clearing of vegetation to within planned areas to be mined and to conduct revegetation or reforestation with endemic species on idle lands within the site to provide carbon sink and restore biodiversity.

"HMC has not conducted clearing of vegetation outside of the planned areas to be mined, and in addition, has rehabilitated 55 hectares of mined-out areas and has forested 368 hectares outside of mined-out areas that had no forest cover due to the poor soil condition," Nickel Asia said.

The company added that a total of 811,000 seedlings of various species including those endemic to the island were planted. Furthermore, HMC has planted 53 hectares of mangroves in coastal areas surrounding Hinatuan Island

with 236,000 propagules.

Another recommendation set by the government was for HMC to commission an independent third party auditor to undertake an environmental and safety audit.

"This condition (underlying ours) is recommendatory, not mandatory," NAC said.

"In any event the audits, which were part of the process for HMC to secure its ISO 14001 on Environmental Management Systems, were undertaken and HMC indeed obtained its ISO 14001 Certification in the 2nd quarter of 2016," it added.

In fact, NAC said that HMC is now in the process of securing an ISO 45001 certification for Occupational Health and Safety Management.

"Furthermore, yet another environmental and safety audit was conducted by another independent 3rd party in the 3rd quarter of 2016, which has now been completed," it added.

It also said that the environmental standards of HMC is on par with NAC's other operations, namely Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation (RTN), Taganito Mining Corporation (TMC), and Cagdianao Mining Corporation (CMC).

"The audit reports for NIKL's largest operations, RTN and TMC, have also been received and are positive," NAC said.

To recall, the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau suspended HMC's operations to remove stockpiles from its Manicani mine in Leyte. HMC has not conducted mining operations at the site since

the late 1990s and the project is on a care and maintenance status.

The stockpiles for the most part consist of low-grade limonite ore that was not saleable during the time that mining operations were conducted in the late 1990s, but can now be disposed of given current market conditions. The request by HMC to the MGB to dispose of the stockpiles was made to avoid any possible environmental impacts that the stockpiles might cause, and to generate economic activity in Manicani.

In its letter dated 01 July 2014, the MGB directed and authorized HMC to transport and dispose of the nickel ore stockpiles, which had been accumulated from past mining operations.

Environment Secretary Regina Paz Lopez issued the suspension order after an audit of the mine, saying that it would be more detrimental to the island's environment if the mining waste removal continued.

"Our audit shows that they are taking too much soil, which goes to China. We are suspending the retrieving of the stockpiles, to address the ecological balance," Lopez earlier said.

Instead of shipping the ore to China, the DENR chief said she will order HMC to use the nickel ore for mine restoration and conduct the necessary remediation measures to prevent the nickel ore stockpiles from siltating and polluting the water bodies in the island.

"Put it back in the hole," Lopez said.

**JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ**



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## Paris climate pact now in force

WASHINGTON—The global accord to combat climate change signed in Paris last year officially entered into force Friday, putting pressure on nearly 200 countries to start executing plans to slash their greenhouse gas emissions.

The United Nations said this is a landmark that signals the beginning of a new chapter for humankind and demonstrates that countries are serious about addressing global warming.

"This is a moment to celebrate," said United Nations climate chief Patricia Espinosa. "It is also a moment to look ahead with sober assessment and renewed will over the task ahead."

The Paris Agreement seeks

to wean the world economy off fossil fuels in the second half of the century, limiting the rise in average world temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above preindustrial times.

It takes effect as greenhouse gas emissions are projected by 2030 to exceed what is needed by 12 billion to 14 billion tonnes to keep global warming to the internationally agreed target, the United Nations said this week.

So far, 196 countries, accounting for just over two thirds of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, have formally joined the accord. Many more countries are expected to

come aboard the coming weeks and months.

UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said Secretary General Ban Ki-moon plans to commemorate "this historic day for both the people and the planet" by holding a conversation on Friday with civil society organizations about how they can contribute to the objectives of the Paris agreement.

Representatives from 196 countries on Monday will convene in Marrakech, Morocco, for two weeks to discuss the nuts and bolts of the Paris accord and the policies, technology and finance needed to ensure the Paris goals are achieved.

"The timetable is pressing because globally greenhouse gas emissions which drive climate change and its impacts are not yet falling—a fact which the Marrakech meeting must have at the front of its concerns and collective resolve," said Espinosa.

World Bank president Jim Yong Kim said the milestone also serves as a reminder to rich countries that pledged to help developing countries combat climate change.

"Donor countries made a strong commitment in Paris. And now we must turn those commitments into action," he said. —REPORTS FROM REUTERS AND AP



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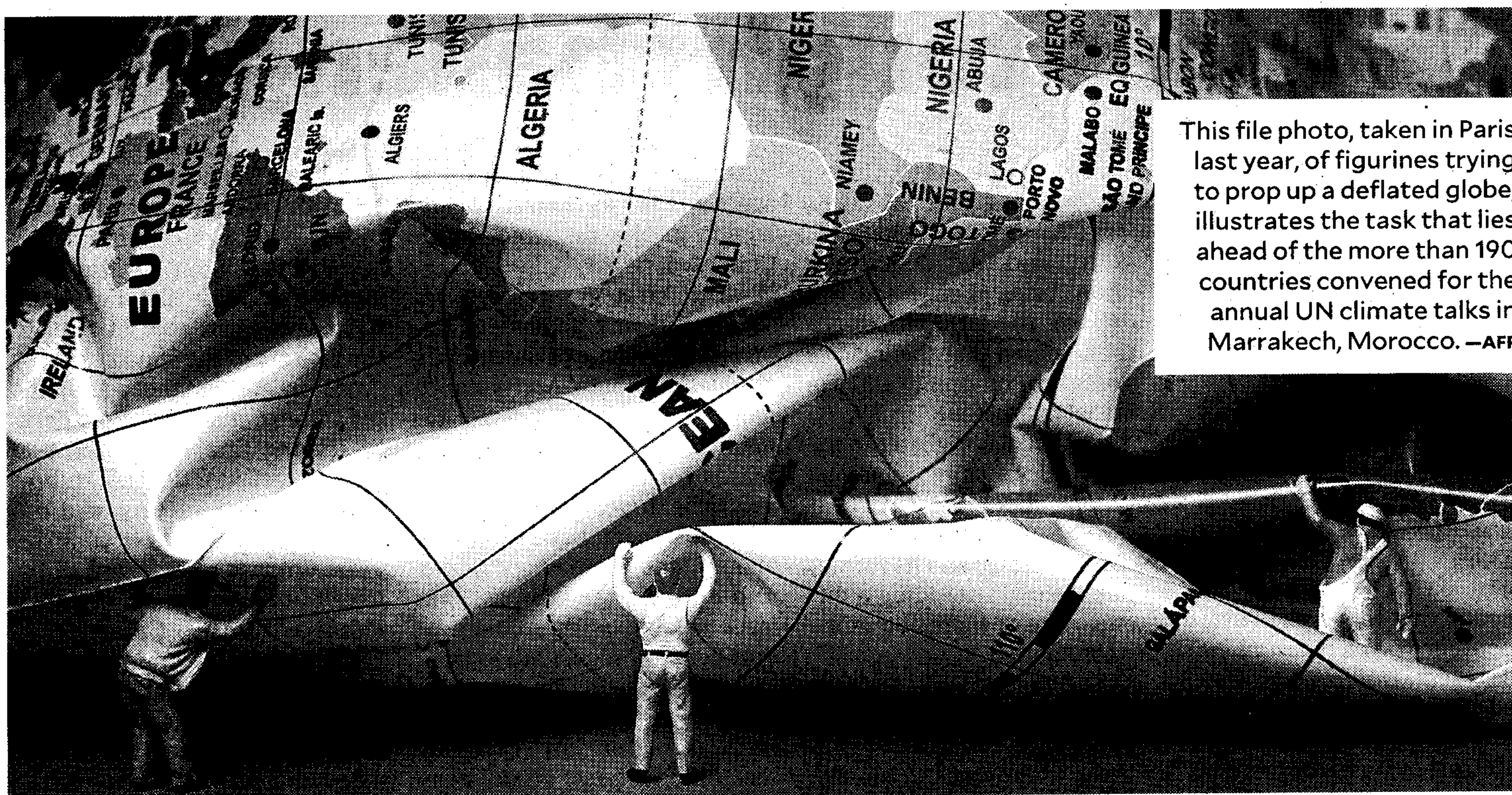
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CONTINUATION OF PARIS CLIMATE PACT...

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This file photo, taken in Paris last year, of figurines trying to prop up a deflated globe, illustrates the task that lies ahead of the more than 190 countries convened for the annual UN climate talks in Marrakech, Morocco. —AFP



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Paris climate agreement still up for Duterte review

President Duterte is waiting for new inputs of Environment Secretary Gina Lopez to get a "better informed view" on the controversial Paris agreement aimed at mitigating catastrophic climate change.

The President has dispatched Lopez to attend the next round of global climate summit in Morocco next week, that will review the pledges made in Paris last year.

"Secretary Gina Lopez will attend the Climate Change Meet in Marrakech and will report back to the President in order for him to have a better informed view regarding the Agreement," Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said.

The Paris climate change deal and the country's climate policy were among the topics tackled in the Cabinet meeting convened by President Duterte in Malacañang last Thursday.

The President earlier expressed misgivings on endorsing the Paris climate change deal, which calls on countries to limit carbon emissions,

due to concerns it might hinder the country's economic development.

Duterte, however, recently expressed willingness to approve the climate accord for Senate ratification if Lopez and legal advisers attest that it would be good for the country.

"I will follow what my advisers would tell me. If Gina Lopez would say it's good, and if the legal adviser says that I should sign, then I will sign," Duterte said in a recent media interview in Davao City. "The only problem is the paper is not yet with me. I cannot approve or disapprove anything that is not on my table," he added.

The global climate deal, signed by more than 190 countries including the Philippines in December 2015, came into force yesterday. Under the accord, countries that have ratified the accord agree to hold limit global warming to no more than 2C above pre-industrial levels.

**'It will do PH more good'**  
Thousands of jobs are seen to spawn

from ratifying the Paris agreement and will do more good than danger to our economy, an advocacy group said.

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) Executive Director Renato Redentor Constantino in a televised interview said the Philippines is at risk of being "an outsider" in climate negotiations should the agreement, which entered into force yesterday, not be signed.

Constantino said the country played an important role in creating the pact which "forced" first-world countries United States, China and those in the European Union to cut a big chunk of their greenhouse gas emissions to address the effects of climate change.

"Walang banta at mas malaki ang panganib kung hindi natin ito sasangayunan, dahil paano natin mapupuwersa yung malalaking bansa na umako sa kanilang pananagutan at responsibilidad na mas malaki ang gawin nila para sa kapakanan ng mundo (There will be no threat [in signing the agreement] and might pose even more danger if we don't agree to it. How will we force bigger countries to take their responsibilities for the welfare of our planet)," he said.

The ICSC official believes the pact would also be beneficial to the economy despite President Duterte's doubt that it would hinder the country's industrialization. (Genalyn D. Kabiling and Vanne Elaine P. Terrazola)



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### RATIFYING PARIS PACT

# YOUR MOVE, MR. PRESIDENT

By Leila B. Salaverria  
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte will get a fresh report on the Paris climate agreement from Environment Secretary Gina Lopez after she returns from a climate change conference later this month, Malacañang said on Friday.

Mr. Duterte earlier expressed reluctance to honor the historic pact that intends to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, arguing that this might slow the country's development.

But his tone has since softened on the issue, saying he would listen to his advisers with regard to the international accord.

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said Lopez is expected to report back to the President after her attendance at the Marrakech Climate Change Conference.

#### Better informed

Lopez will brief Mr. Duterte "in order for him to have a better informed view regarding the (Paris) agreement," Andanar said.

The climate change conference, to be held from Nov. 7 to 18, is expected to delve into how to implement the goals set by the Paris agreement.

Under the Paris agreement, countries agree to work to keep

global temperature from rising this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 C.

The Philippines has yet to ratify the agreement, which came into force on Friday.

#### Cautious

On All Saints' Day, Mr. Duterte said he was being cautious on the matter of the climate change agreement because it might contain "progressive clauses" that could tie the Philippines' hands when it comes to development.

"We're just starting. I invited a lot of investors, I will put up industrial estates. There will be a lot of smoke there and pollution. I will just look if I would have leeway and elbow room to move because the treaty now that is being signed or passed around for signing is binding," he said.

He noted that the other countries insisting on the agreement were already industrialized, unlike the Philippines.

But he also said he was just airing his misgivings, adding that he would follow what his advisers would tell him.

"If Gina Lopez ... if the National Police would say it's good, and if the legal adviser says that I should sign, then I will sign," he said. INQ

## *Lopez to represent PH in Morocco climate summit*

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Gina Lopez will attend the Climate Change Conference in Morocco to give President Rodrigo Duterte a clearer report on the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change, Malacañang said on Friday.

The climate change conference will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco from November 7 to 18. The Paris climate deal entered into force on Friday.

The climate deal's formal implementation comes after 73 out of 195 countries ratified the agreement on October 25, reaching the 55 percent of countries required for its entry into force.

The Philippines signed the agreement on April 22.

But when Duterte became president, he maintained his stance against ratifying the Paris agreement, arguing that climate mitigation, including reducing

the country's carbon emissions, would hamper economic activity and growth.

The President was referring to the previous administration's pledge, the "Nationally Determined Contributions," to cut the country's carbon emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

On November 1, the President denied he had rejected the Paris Agreement, saying he only had misgivings on the climate deal.

"I will follow what my advisers tell me. If Gina Lopez would tell me... it's good," Duterte said.

The Paris agreement is the first-ever pact binding all the world's nations, rich and poor, to a commitment to cap average global warming by curbing planet-warming greenhouse gases from burning coal, oil and gas.

"Humanity will look back on Novem-

ber 4, 2016, as the day that countries of the world shut the door on inevitable climate disaster," UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa said.

While cause for celebration, "it is also a moment to look ahead with sober assessment and renewed will over the task ahead," she said.

This meant drastically cutting emissions in the short term, "certainly in the next 15 years," Espinosa pointed out a day after a UN report said current trends were steering the world towards climate "tragedy."

By 2030, said the UN Environment Program, annual greenhouse gas emissions will be 12 to 14 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) higher than the desired level of 42 billion tons.

The 2014 level was about 52.7 billion tons. 2016 is on track to become the hot-

test year on record, and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere passed an ominous milestone in 2015.

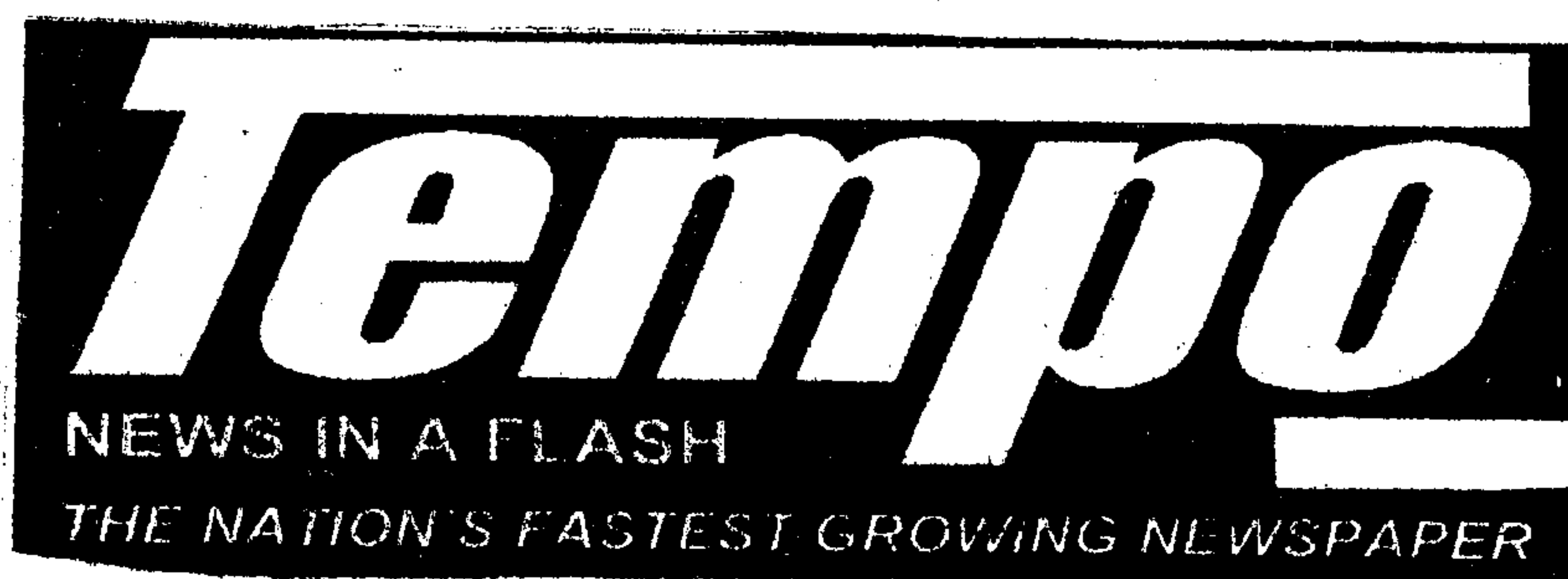
A major doubt looms over the process, however. US Republican nominee Donald Trump, has threatened to "cancel" Washington's participation in the agreement if he is elected president on November 8.

"Amid all the chaos going on around the world, this agreement shows that on climate change we actually are witnessing an era of global cooperation and consensus," said Mohamed Adow of Christian Aid, which represents poor people's interests in the climate forum.

The pact undertakes to hold global warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels, and to strive for 1.5 C.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE  
AND AFP**





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Rody wants better view on climate pact

President Duterte is waiting for new inputs of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez to get a "better informed view" on the controversial Paris agreement aimed at mitigating catastrophic climate change.

The President has dispatched Lopez to attend the next round of global climate summit in Morocco next week that will review the pledges made in Paris, France last year.

"Secretary Gina Lopez will attend the Climate Change Meet in Marrakech and will report back to the President in order for him to have a better informed view regarding the Agreement," Presidential Communications Secretary

Martin Andanar said.

The Paris climate change deal and the country's climate policy were among the topics tackled in the Cabinet meeting convened by Duterte in Malacañang last Thursday.

The President earlier expressed misgivings on endorsing the Paris climate change deal, which calls on countries to limit carbon emissions, due to concerns it might hinder the country's economic development.

Duterte, however, recently expressed willingness to approve the climate accord for Senate ratification if Lopez and legal advisers attest that it would be good for the country. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling)**





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Historic climate pact enters into force

**By Mariëtte Le Roux**

**PARIS -- A hard-fought pact to stave off worst-case-scenario global warming enters into force Friday after record-fast ratification by nations reassembling next week for a fresh round of UN climate talks.**

Dubbed the Paris Agreement, it is the first-ever pact binding all the world's nations, rich and poor, to a commitment to cap average global warming by curbing planet-warming greenhouse gases from burning coal, oil and gas.

"Humanity will look back on November 4, 2016, as the day that countries of the world shut the door on inevitable climate disaster," UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa said.

While cause for celebration, "it is also a moment to look ahead with sober assessment and renewed will over the task ahead," she said.

This meant drastically cutting emissions in the short term, "certainly in the next 15 years," Espinosa pointed out a day after a UN report said current trends were steering the world towards climate "tragedy".

By 2030, said the UN Environment Programme, annual greenhouse gas emissions will be 12 to 14 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) higher than the desired level of 42 billion tons.

The 2014 level was about 52.7 billion tons.

2016 is on track to become the hottest year on record, and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere passed an ominous milestone in 2015.

On Friday, the Eiffel Tower in Paris as well as government and public buildings in Marrakesh, New Delhi, Sao Paulo and Adelaide, among others, will be lit up in green to mark the entry into force of the historic pact.

After years of complex and divisive negotiations, a deal was finally endorsed in the French capital last December.

It had to be ratified by 55 parties to the UN's climate convention (UNFCCC), representing 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions to take effect.

It passed the threshold last month, and now has ratifications from 94 of the 197 UNFCCC parties.

### 'Amazing' speed

"For veterans of UN climate talks, who for years saw little or no progress on tackling climate change, the way in which Paris has supercharged action is just astonishing," said Richard Black of the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, an advocacy group in London.

A major doubt looms over the process, however. US Republican nominee Donald Trump, has threatened to "cancel" Washington's participation in the agreement if he is elected president on November 8.

"Amid all the chaos going on around the world, this agreement shows that on climate change we actually are witnessing an era of global cooperation and consensus," said Mohamed Adow of Christian Aid, which represents poor people's interests in the climate forum.

Yet, with or without the US, the agreement "will not deliver the safe world we need" without being drastically strengthened, he said.

Next week, negotiators will gather in Marrakesh for a follow-up to the Paris meeting, a chance to start putting political undertakings into practice.

"The timetable is pressing because globally, greenhouse gas emissions which drive climate change and its impacts are not falling," said Espinosa.

The pact undertakes to hold global warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels, and to strive for 1.5 C.



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## Pangilinan welcomes calls for ratification of Paris climate pact

By Angie M. Rosales

World action must be complemented with local initiatives, Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan yesterday said as he urged the ranks of those calling for the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change which entered into force yesterday, November 4.

"We welcome this initiative by the world leaders both in politics and science and hope that the Philippines will ratify this landmark climate deal," he said.

"On our end, we have filed several measures to increase their income in general and to counteract the devastating effects of disasters in particular. One of them is the Expanded Crop Insurance Act of 2016," the senator said.

Given that the agriculture sector incurred almost P10 billion damages due to climate change, the law provides for a safety net to farmers whenever natural disasters render their crops useless.

"Right now, only 3 percent of damaged crops are insured, leaving most farmers in debt. We aim to ease their burden a little by ensuring enhanced credit rating plus government support in agricultural production.

"Climate change is a global concern because it affects everyone. It is also local because it impacts on the food we eat. Those who grow or catch our food

must be able to build back faster and better," he said.

Despite President Duterte's stance against the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, at least 10 key agencies have already submitted their certificate of concurrence (CoC) to the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The CCC is collating all CoCs from 33 member-agencies of the Climate Change Commission Advisory Board (CCCAB) and the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (CCCCAM) and once completed, the DFA will endorse all CoCs and the instrument of ratification to the President.

The endorsement serves as DFA's CoC.

Sen. Loren Legarda, chairman of the Senate committee on climate change, vowed to shepherd the Senate's immediate concurrence to the United Nations' climate deal.

"The Paris Agreement is very important for the Philippines, being one of the more vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change. We need to ratify the Agreement so that we can access the Green Climate Fund. This is what we have been waiting for, for developed countries that are the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases to aid vulnerable, low-emitting nations like the Philippines. The Paris Agreement addresses the issue of climate justice which is the President's concern," she said.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Paris climate agreement becomes international law

**U**NITED NATIONS (AP) - The Paris Agreement to combat climate change becomes international law on Friday - a landmark demonstrating that countries are serious about tackling global warming amid growing fears that the world is becoming hotter faster than scientists expected.

So far, 96 countries, accounting for just over two-thirds of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, have formally joined the accord, which seeks to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). Many more countries are expected to come aboard in the coming weeks and months.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon plans to commemorate "this historic day for both the people and the planet" by holding a conversation with civil society organizations about how they can contribute to the objectives of the Paris agreement.

"For years, he warned that we

are the first generation to really feel the effects of climate change - and the last that can meaningfully prevent its worst consequences," Dujarric said.

"His push for action was backed by government officials, scientists, faith leaders, business executives and civil society activists around the world who understood that the future of our common home is at stake. They made today possible."

Scientists praised the speed at which the agreement, signed by 192 parties last December in Paris, has come into force, saying it underscores a new commitment by the international community to address the problem which is melting polar ice caps, sending sea levels rising and transforming vast swaths of arable land into desert.

"It took more than seven years for the Kyoto Protocol to go into effect while less than a year for the Paris climate agreement to achieve the same," said Dr. Feng Qi, executive director of the School of Environmental and Sustainability Sciences at Kean University in

New Jersey. "While the real effect of the agreement after it goes into effect is still uncertain, it is a simple sign that the international society is much more open to alter economic and political behavior to control climate change, which is by all means positive."

But scientists and policy makers say the agreement entering into force is just the first step of a much longer and complicated process of transitioning away from fossil fuels, which currently supply the bulk of the planet's energy needs and also are the primary drivers of global warming.

"Climate change is a marathon not a sprint and the agreement sets a course for the marathon in the years ahead," said David Sandalow, inaugural fellow at the Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy and a former under-secretary of energy in the Obama administration.

While the Paris agreement is legally binding, the emissions reductions that each country has committed to are not. Instead, the agreement seeks to create

a transparent system that will allow the public to monitor how well each country is doing at meeting its goals in hopes that this will motivate them to transition more quickly to clean, renewable energy like wind, solar and hydropower.

The agreement also requires governments to develop climate action plans that will be periodically revised and then replaced with new, even more ambitious, plans. Many of these details will begin to be addressed at the COP22 meeting next week in Marrakech, Morocco.

A report by the U.N. Environment Program released Thursday projects that annual emissions must be kept below 42 billion tons of CO2 (carbon dioxide) by 2030 for the world to have a chance to meet the goals set out in the Paris agreement. However, the agreement itself foresees emissions reaching 54 billion-56 billion tons in 2030, setting the world on a course to exceed the goal of limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).



## Historic climate pact takes effect

**PARIS:** A hard-fought pact to stave off worst-case scenario global warming came into force Friday. It is the first-ever pact binding all the world's nations, rich and poor, to a commitment to cap average global warming by curbing planet-warming greenhouse gases from burning coal, oil and gas.

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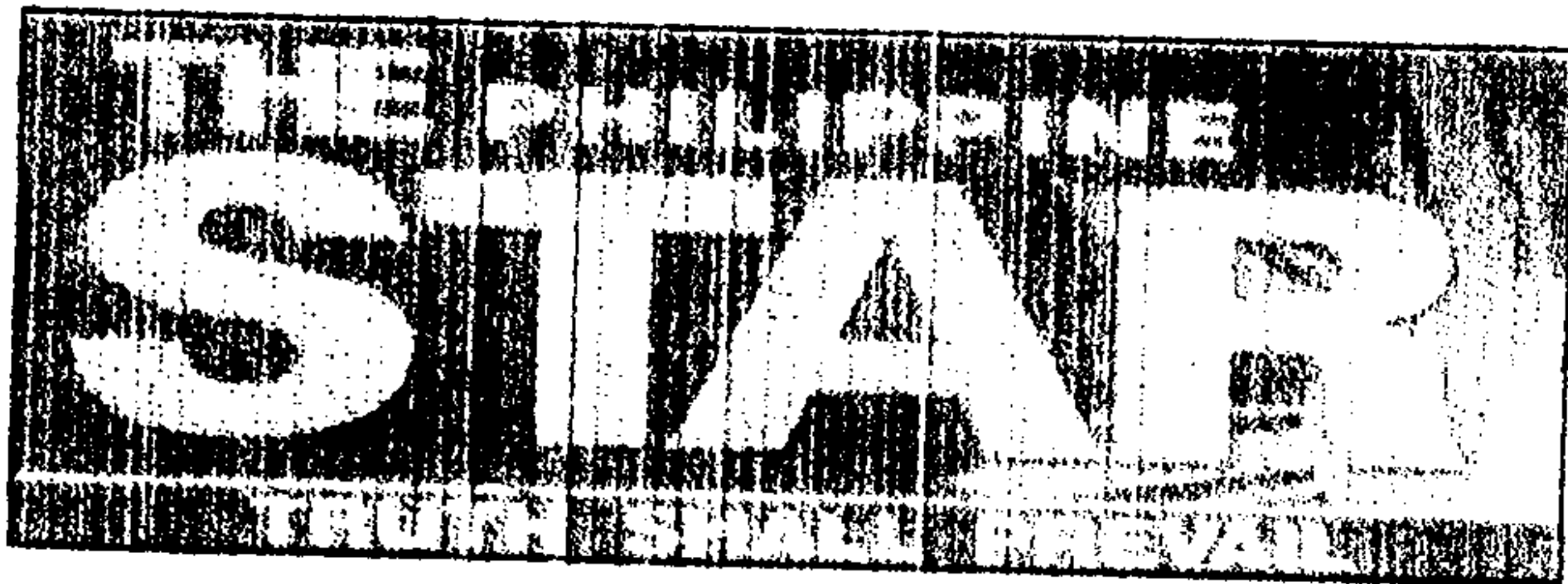
After years of complex and divisive negotiations, a deal was finally endorsed in the French capital last December.

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It passed the threshold last month, and now has ratifications from 94 of the 197 UNFCCC parties.

Next week, negotiators will gather in Marrakesh for a follow-up to the Paris meeting, a chance to start putting political undertakings into practice. **AFP**





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Palace: Climate confab before Paris pact

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and MARVIN SY

Malacañang will wait for the outcome of next week's climate change conference in Marrakech, Morocco before President Duterte will decide whether to ratify the Paris Agreement or not.

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez will represent the Philippines in the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties from Nov. 7 to 18 in Bab Ighli, Marrakech.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change seeks to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius, or if possible not more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"Sec. Gina Lopez will attend the Climate Change Meet in Marrakech and will report back to the President in order for him to have a better informed view regarding the agreement," Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said yesterday.

On Thursday, the Cabinet was briefed about the 2015 Paris Agreement and the Philippine Climate Policy. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change took effect yesterday.

Sen. Loren Legarda, one of the major proponents of the agreement, noted the importance of the Paris Agreement for the Philippines, being one of the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change.

Legarda has been pushing for the ratification of the agreement so that the Philippines can have access to the Green Climate Fund.

"This is what we have been waiting for – for developed countries that are the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases to aid vulnerable, low-emitting nations like the Philippines. The Paris Agreement addresses the issue of climate justice, which is the President's concern," she added.

"There is no provision in the Paris Agreement that would prevent our industrialization. We have nothing to lose, but everything to gain with it," Legarda added.

President Duterte earlier said the Paris Agreement would be disadvantageous to developing countries like the Philippines.

Over the weekend, Duterte said he would reconsider his decision not to support the ratification of the agreement by listening to his advisers.

Legarda also said it was premature and even unfair to blame President Duterte for the delay in the ratification of the Paris Agreement before it came into force yesterday.

She explained the delay could largely be due to the transition in national leadership, which came shortly after the Paris Agreement was signed in New York.

She noted that the document is not even with President Duterte yet so there is nothing for him to sign.



# THE STANDARD

DATE

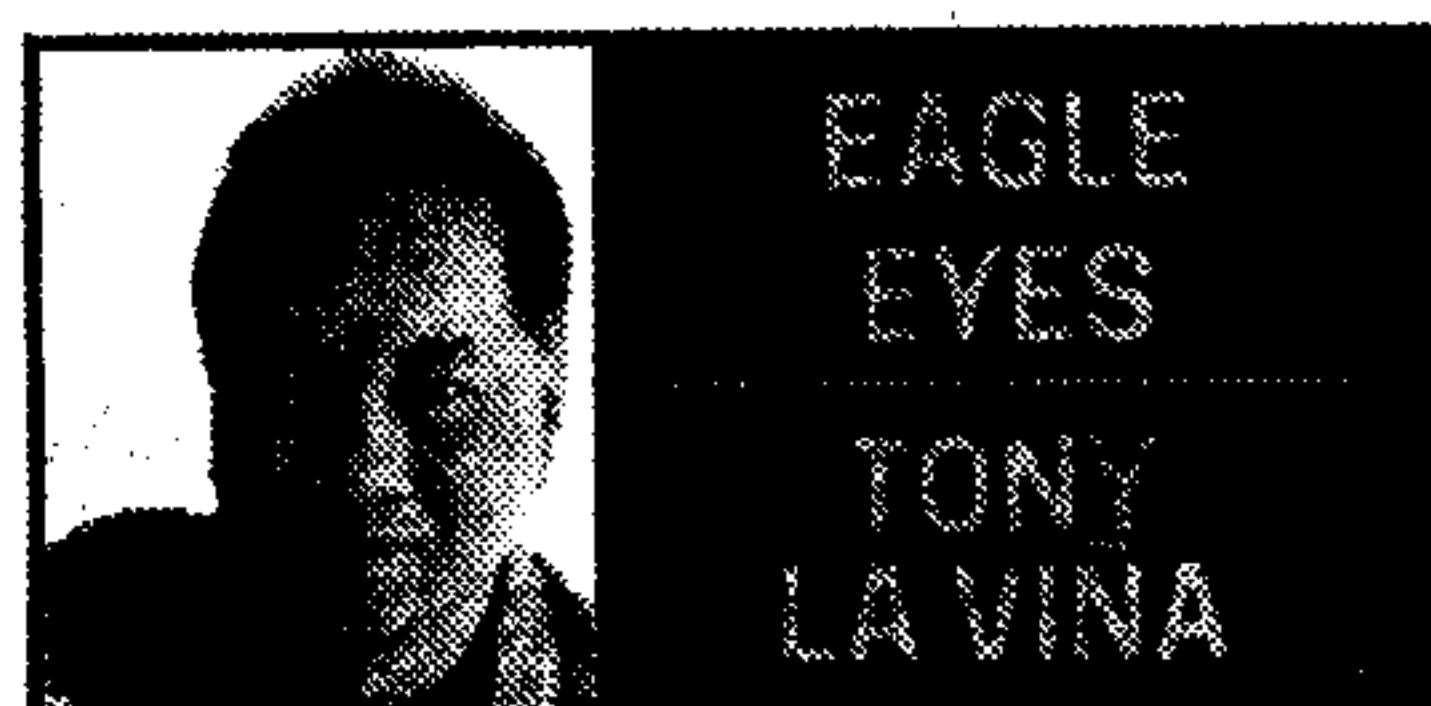
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## From Paris to Marrakesh, a lost Philippines



THE Paris Agreement is again in the news. Even as countries gather in Marrakesh, Morocco next week for the first meeting of the parties to the agreement, former President Fidel V. Ramos called to task President Duterte for refusing to ratify the Paris Agreement. According to Ramos: "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. 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."

As I wrote earlier this week in Rappler, while agreeing with President Ramos, I get where President Duterte is coming from. He is asking the right and good questions. As a veteran climate change negotiator, I am a witness to how all of Duterte's predecessors have asked similar questions and how they eventually came around to do the right thing for the country on climate change. I am confident that President Duterte, with the right legal, policy and technical advice, will eventually do the same. Hopefully, he will listen

to the experts and to the people in his Cabinet that knows the issue well.

In my online article, I pointed out that the Paris Agreement is not just a carbon emissions agreement but a comprehensive sustainable development agreement. It is an adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology and capacity building agreement—all of which are essential for our survival. We cannot cherry-pick but have to accept the whole package. But we can do so on our own terms.

To opt out of the Paris Agreement is to allow developed countries to escape their responsibility to compensate us for causing climate change. The Paris Agreement is the only process where we can get developed countries to be accountable for their emissions through a loss-and-damage mechanism and through provisions that require them as a matter of climate justice to provide support to us so we can adapt to and mitigate climate change. Indeed, the Paris Agreement has good provisions on finance, technology transfer, and capacity building. Our delegation worked hard in Paris to get the best text possible for these provisions.

The Paris Agreement does not impose emissions reduction limitations on us. We can determine our own targets based on our development needs. We can adopt targets but we can make that conditional on support by developed countries. That's what we did in Paris—we did offer 70 percent but we said we will do it only if support was given. If the Duterte administration wishes, it can lower the number to maybe 30 percent to 40 percent and perhaps commit to do 10 percent to 15 percent of that as uncondi-

tional since we are already doing many things on our own. Such a decision would be credible and acceptable.

Climate justice is enshrined in the Preamble of the Paris Agreement. This is the first time that the term has been included in a legally binding, multilateral document. Such a mention, even if it is qualified, strengthens the ultimate objective of the agreement and the Convention. By recognizing the inextricable link between moral obligation and historical responsibility, the Paris Agreement is given more credibility. The explicit inclusion of climate justice is certainly a good start for the next era of climate action.

These elements, among the many that make up the Paris Agreement, is what makes this legally binding document historic and revolutionary. While no one is under the illusion that what states achieved in COP21 will solve the climate crisis, its outcome is certainly a strong and unified signal to the world that the all countries are ready to move forward with their climate commitments, and in the future increase ambition to achieve the goals and the objectives of both the Paris Agreement and the climate change convention.

The Paris Agreement has a life of its own, regardless of what we do. We can certainly decide to isolate ourselves and be the only country in the world that does not ratify the Paris Agreement. If we decide to do that, we must be ready to address climate change on our own with our resources and with no one to help us. Among others, we will not be able to take advantage of the Loss and Damage mechanism that the

Paris Agreement establishes.

Climate change is real and will continue to grow in intensity regardless of us. That's why principled engagement with the government and continuous cooperation with the international community is the only option.

It is not too late to ratify the Paris Agreement in time for the first meeting of the Parties. If the President decides this week to endorse the agreement to the Senate, the Senate can concur by middle of next week, in time for the first Meeting of the Parties of the Paris Agreement which will be held in Marrakesh the week of November 14 (the climate change meeting begins November 7 but the first week will be mainly a meeting of the climate change convention, which we are a party to). Being a non-party in the first meeting means we will not be listened to as we are going to be mere observers. That would be unfortunate. If there is time, we should ratify by next week but if that's not possible, our next window is from January-May 2017 so we can participate fully in next climate meeting in June of that year.

After doing a stellar job in Paris negotiating a good climate change agreement, we lost our way in the transition to the new government. I do not blame President Duterte for that as it happens all the time in all issues because of the nature of our political transitions and because institutional memory is bad in this country. But let's fix this and we can do that by ratifying the Paris Agreement next week so our delegation can proudly participate as parties in the first meeting.

Facebook: deantonylavs Twitter: tonylavs



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Show me your airports and I will tell you what you are

LAST week there were pictures posted on Facebook of the new look of our Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 with all those shimmery paneling and lights that made the place look wide and bright. I wonder if airport planners and management took into consideration the total environment, as in clean, healthy and safe surroundings and air. Sometimes it is suffocating to be at the airport waiting for your flight especially if it is a long wait. Also, how about the maintenance cost and utility costs? Are LED lights really safe for our well-being?

One year ago today, I traveled to Greece and waiting at the airport there was relaxing. I found this brochure at the international airport called Green Care, 2nd issue. It showed graphs and data on how the airport management successfully handled solid non-hazardous waste and recyclables and how they reduced the airport's carbon footprint. What was impressive here was that they had these programs for caring for the environment in and around the airport.

The other achievements reported were:

### Powered by the Sun

- ✓ Construction and operation of 8.05 MW Photovoltaic Park since 2011.
- ✓ Production of >11,000,000 kWh of clean electricity every year (>10% of airport electricity needs)
- ✓ Equivalent of planting 1.5 million trees every year

### Museum

- ✓ Permanent exhibition of archaeological findings discovered during airport construction
- ✓ More than 200,000 visitors per year



### LEARNING & INNOVATION

MOJE RAMOS-AQUINO, FPM

- ✓ Airport's exhibition area available to environmental organizations for the promotion of their work

I noticed our own airports only feature commercial stalls for different products. In airports in the provinces, there are native delicacies for sale. Nothing much to inform about our culture especially our visitors.

### Monitoring water quality

- ✓ Regular monitoring of ground and surface water
- ✓ Initiations to save water as well as measures to avoid contamination

### Monitoring aircraft noise around the airport.

- ✓ Noise Monitoring System with stations in residential areas for continuous monitoring of noise levels
- ✓ Connection with radar to pair measured noise levels with aircraft flights
- ✓ Noise Abatement Procedure to reduce annoyance during afternoon and night hours
- ✓ "We listen" telephone line and website form for complaints

Last Saturday my good friend Liza Hizon and I brought our Malaysian friend Mlaw Tiang to Liliw, Laguna. (She marveled at the footwear made in Liliw and brought shoes for herself and her entire family. She could have bought more, but here luggage was already full). Along SLEX, we talked about the noise pollution here and how in other countries there are noise barriers along the highways to and from

the airport. In Berkeley, California, the family of Aunt Nena and Uncle Jose Jacob are protected from the noise of the freeway with noise barriers erected by the city government. While here in the Philippines, "magdusa ka!" I wonder how those who live in villages around NALA cope with the noise pollution with constant and regular take offs and landings of aircraft.

### Airport community

- ✓ Provision of environmental training to all members of Airport Community
- ✓ Regular site inspections and environmental audits of Third Parties
- ✓ Requirement for all major Third Parties to obtain certification according to ISO14001 and/or EMAS Regulation

### Saving water

- ✓ One of very few airports worldwide operating its own Sewage Treatment Plant
- ✓ Treats all sewage generated on airport site
- ✓ Treated effluent used to irrigate airport's non-public green areas

### Monitoring air quality

- ✓ One of best-equipped airports in the world with respect to air quality meteorological monitoring
- ✓ Air Quality Monitoring Network with mobile and permanent monitoring stations installed in municipalities around airport monitoring air quality on a continuous basis

### Preserving biodiversity and the cultural heritage of Greece

- ✓ Adoption of the Vravrona Wetland in 2008, a Coastal Conservation

included in the Natura 2000 network, with the aim of protecting and promoting this site of unique ecological and cultural value

- ✓ Programme carried out in collaboration with Municipality of Markopoulo and Hellenic Ornithological Society

- ✓ Creation of a safe haven for birds, drawing them away from the airport and therefore also improving aviation safety

- ✓ Implementation of very popular environmental educational programme for students of all levels and organizations

### Promoting recycling in the airport community

- ✓ Recycling Center with appropriate containers for all types of recyclable wastes (paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, etc.) as well as light bulbs, e-waste, batteries, etc. for all airport employees.

### Creating green areas

- ✓ Construction of 6 large parks, covering a total area of 84,000 sqm. Handed over to local Municipalities as well as several other planting initiatives both inside and outside airport fence.

Two big conglomerates are proposing to build new airports at Sangley Point, Cavite and in Bulacan while renovations are ongoing in many domestic airports around the country, as I write. I hope that for these two conglomerates to take the environment as a major consideration in their plans, not just profits, making every inch of the real estate earn them money. Let us include our cultural and heritage values, too, lest these airports become simply concrete, steel and glass jungles.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Peddalling for clean air

**TACLOBAN CITY** – Close to a hundred bikers pedalled along the city's main roads early Friday morning to drum up support for the campaign for

clean air.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca told reporters his

office coordinated with the Environment Management Bureau regional office 8 (EMB-8) in organizing the bike run.

The bikers proceeded to the reforested area in Barangay Utap to join DENR and EMB personnel and residents in planting trees.

Sibbaluca said the event was held to instill public awareness for clean air and environment protection.

It is also the highlight of the celebration of Clean Air Month, the National Environment Month and the climate change consciousness week on November 21-25. (Restituto A. Cayubit)



**BIKING FOR A CAUSE** – Close to a hundred bicycle enthusiasts joined the bike run around Tacloban on Friday. (Restituto A. Calubit)



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## LIVING PLANET REPORT: WWF PAINTS DIRE PICTURE FOR SURVIVAL OF THE SPECIES

PARIS—Nearly three-fifths of all animals with a backbone—fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals—have been wiped out since 1970 by human appetites and activity, according to a grim study released on Thursday.

On current trends, that plunge in stocks of global wildlife could extend to two-thirds by 2020, an annual decline of 2 percent, conservation group World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Zoological Society of London warned in their joint biennial Living Planet report.

There is no mystery as to why: our own ever-expanding species—which has more than doubled in number since 1960 to 7.4 billion—is simply eating, crowding and poisoning its planetary cohabitants out of existence.

Victims include gorillas and orangutans, rhinos and elephants, tigers and snow leop-

ards but also faceless species such as corals, a crucial cornerstone not only of marine life but also coastal human communities.

### White corals

Swathes of coral reef around the globe have already turned white, killed by warming waters, pollution and disease. The findings are based on long-term monitoring of some 3,700 vertebrate species spread across more than 14,000 distinct populations.

Scientists have tracked changes in the size of those populations, not how many species are threatened with extinction.

But the news on that front is not good either: experts now agree that Earth has entered only the sixth “mass extinction event”—when species vanish at least 1,000 faster than usual—in the last half-billion years.

“Wildlife is disappearing within our lifetimes at an unprecedented rate,” said Marco Lambertini, director general of

WWF International.

“Biodiversity forms the foundation of healthy forests, rivers and oceans. Take away the species, and these ecosystems collapse, along with clean air, water, food and climate services they provide us,” he said.

A dawning awareness—in government, business and society as a whole—that a healthy environment is not a luxury but the “foundation of future human development” is reason for optimism, he suggested in an interview with

### WHY ARE SPECIES POPULATIONS IN DECLINE?



Habitat loss and degradation



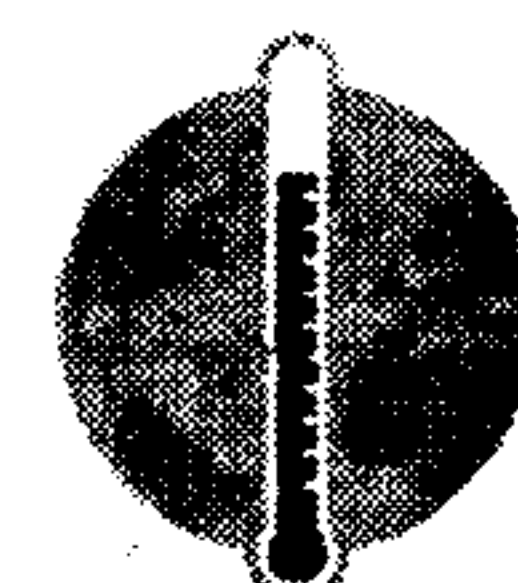
Overexploitation



Pollution



Invasive species and diseases



Climate change



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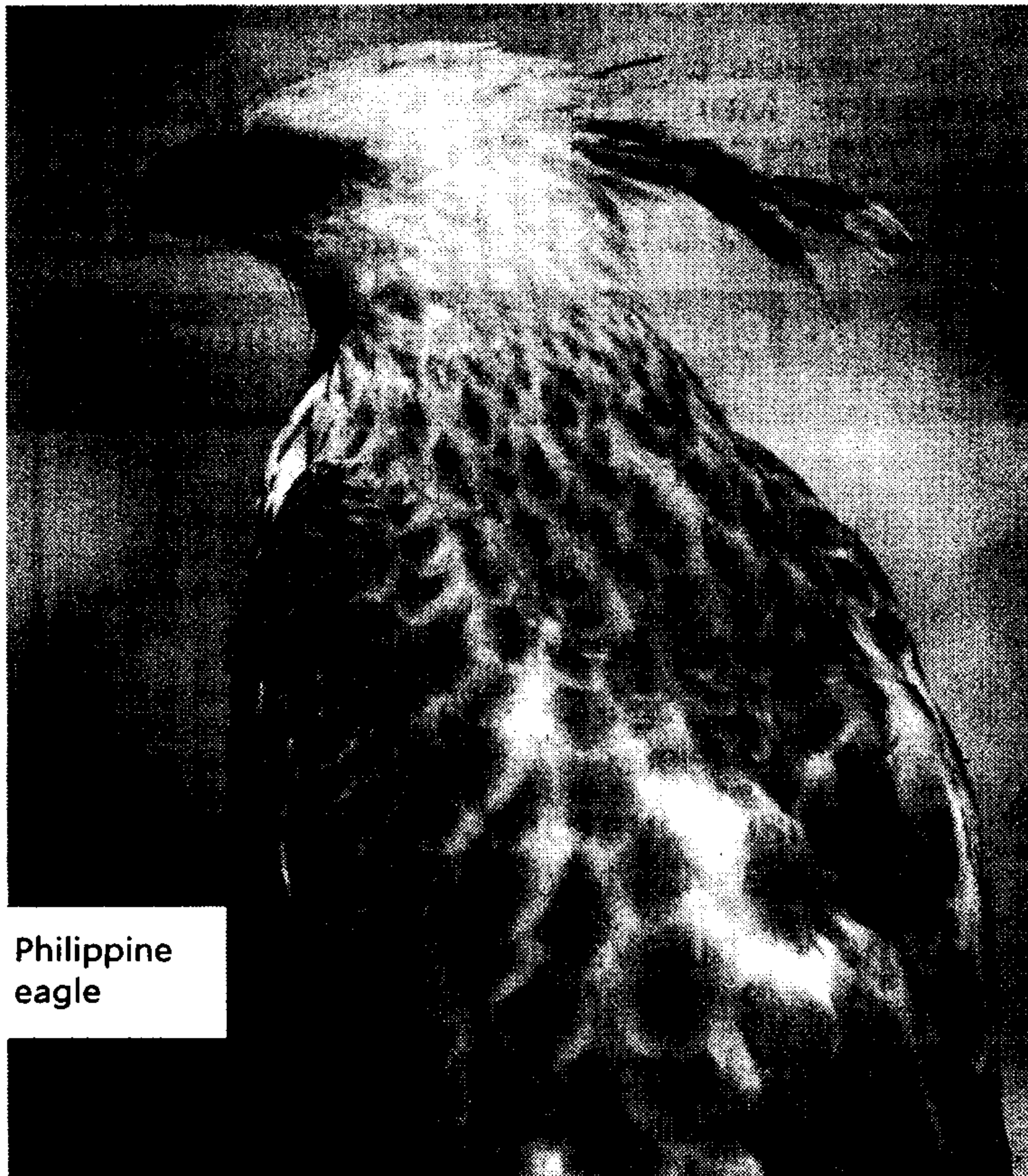
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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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LIVING THE PLANET REPORT CONT....



Philippine  
eagle



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

LIVING PLANET REPORT CONT.

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FROM A8

Agence France-  
Presse (AFP).

"This is really revolutionary," he said, pointing to a global pact to rein in climate change going into force next week, and a newly launched set of UN-backed Sustainable Development Goals running through 2030.

"We have succeeded in making a strong business case for climate," Lambertini said.

"Now we have to make an equally strong business case for conservation of natural systems."

### Hard sell

That is likely to be a hard sell.

Global warming has measurable impacts that have already threatened tens of millions of people, and even then it took nearly 30 years to strike a universal deal.

With biodiversity and ecosys-

### IN THE KNOW

2020 is the same year that commitments made under the Paris climate deal will kick in, and when the first environmental actions under the globe's new sustainable development plan are due. This is also when countries are supposed to meet international biodiversity targets.

Source: WWF Living Planet Report 2016

tems, the negative impacts are "less direct and less tangible on a global scale," Lambertini said.

The five main drivers of wildlife decline—in order of importance—are habitat loss, overconsumption, pollution, invasive species and disease, according to the report.

Climate change is poised to become a major threat in the coming decades, with some animals already in decline due to



Endangered Philippine species (from left): Tufted duck, tarsier, Philippine eagle and the brown deer —GEORGE TAPAN/REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE BOOK "GENERATIONS"

rising temperatures and changing weather patterns.

"This should be a wake-up call to marshal efforts to promote the recovery of these populations," said Ken Norris, director of science at the Zoological Society of London.

Freshwater environments such as lakes, rivers and wetlands have fared the worst, with an 81-percent decline in average population size between 1970 and 2012 for 881 species monitored.

Freshwater covers less than

a percent of Earth's surface, but is home to nearly 10 percent of all of the planet's known species.

### Seas empty

Marine and land vertebrates have suffered at about the same rate—with populations dropping 36 and 38 percent respectively over the same period—but for different reasons.

Commercial fishing has emptied the seas of 40 percent of sea life, and nine out of 10 fisheries in the world are either



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

LIVING PLANET REPORT CONT...

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over- or full-fished today.

Pollution and climate change are also wreaking havoc, especially along coastlines.

On land, the big threats are

loss of land to agriculture and cities, followed by rampant hunting, mostly for food but also for commerce—much of it in endangered species.

African elephants, slaughtered for their tusks, have dropped in number by more than a quarter since 2006.

The majority of Earth's land surface has today been resculpted by human hands.

Human activity has already pushed three of nine interlocking "Earth systems" beyond the threshold of a safe operating space, and two others—climate change and land-system change—are edging closer to the red zone, scientists say.

"Once we reach a point of no return, we are not just running out of resources," Lambertini said.

"We are damaging the ecosystems that are normally regenerating those resources."

—AFP



05 NOV 2016

# PEOPLES Tonight

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



**CLEAN-UP DRIVE IN KAWIT** - Barangay Chairman Alvin Bunag of Bgy. Samala-Marquez, Kawit, Cavite, led a massive clean-up drive along waterways on Covelandia Road and declogged the drainage system in the area yesterday.

*Photo by DENNIS CAPARAS ABRINA*



## Katutubong karunungan, gagamitin sa mga isyu ng kalikasan at kaligtasan

**N**AGKASUNDO ang higit 100 kinatawan ng mga pangkat etniko ng bansa sa pagkasa ng kapasiyahan hinggil sa kalikasan at kaligtasan sa nagdaang Pambansang Summit sa Wika ng Kaligtasan at Kalikasan nitong 26-28 Oktubre 2016, sa Philippine High School for the Arts, Bundok Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna.

Batay sa Kapasiyahan Blg. 1-2016, gagamitin ang katutubong karunungan “upang mapangalagaan ang kalikasan, at makaiwas sa mga sakuna at disaster dulot ng kapabayaang at pagmamalabis ng tao o kaya’y bunga ng pagbabagong klima.”

Dagdag pa, nagkasundo ang mga delegado mula sa iba’t ibang rehiyon ng bansa na gamitin ang wikang Filipino at mga katutubong wika sa pagsulat at pagpapabatid ng karunungan ito sa madla.

Bunga ang resolusyon ng dalawang araw na serye ng talakayan na sinimulan ng isang Kaamulan ng mga katutubong pinuno na nangyari noong 26 Oktubre. Nilahukan ang nasabing pagtitipon ng mga datu, bae, maaram, binukot, guro, at mag-aaral.

Kasama rin sa kapasiyahan ang mungkahi sa Tanggapan ng Pangulo ng Filipinas na patuloy na gamitin ang Filipino at mga katutubong wika sa paniniwalang mas mapadadali ang paghahatid ng serbisyo publiko.

Irerekomenda ang kapasiyahang ito sa mga ahen-siyang may kinalaman sa kalikasan at kaligtasan gaya ng DepEd, CHED, DILG, DSWD, NCIP, DENR, DR-RMC, at iba pa.

Naging panauhing pandangal si Senador Loren B. Legarda sa summit na pinangasiwaan ng KWF at may tangkilik mula sa Philippine High School for the Arts at Lalawigan ng Laguna. Dinaluhan din ito ng iba’t ibang eksperto sa kalikasan at kaligtasan gaya ng DSWD, DENR, at DSWD.

Umaasa ang KWF na makalilikha ang summit na ito ng isang komprehensibong aklat na nagtitipon ng mga katutubong karunungan hinggil sa kalikasan at kaligtasan. Inilunsad sa nasabing summit ang Kapayapaan sa Ilang Wika sa Filipinas, na bunga ng Pambansang Summit sa Kapayapaan na iginayak ng KWF noong 2014 sa Bukidnon.

Kasama ring inilunsad ng Aklat ng Kapayapaan ang Atlas ng mga Wika sa Filipinas, isang mapagtiti-walaang sanggunian hinggil sa 130 katutubong wika sa Filipinas.