

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR sees rollout of waste-to-energy projects in Philippine cities next year

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

A DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) undersecretary on Monday said the Philippines and Japan are strengthening their waste-to-energy (WTE) cooperation, and are eyeing Quezon and Davao cities as potential pilot sites.

"The government of Japan is very much willing to assist us in addressing our garbage problem through waste-to-energy," DENR Undersecretary for International Affairs and Foreign-Assisted Projects Jonas R. Leones said.

The collaboration between the two nations on WTE projects, the DENR official added, is likely to rollout next year in the two key cities, and will likely increase by eight more within the same year.

"The dialogue among the Philippines [and the] DENR and Japan Ministry of Environment is a continuing process," he said. "By next year, we hope to set the projects in Quezon City and Davao City rolling," he added.

Dialogues

LEONES had met with officials from Japan's Ministry of Environment, led by Shigemoto Kajihara, vice minister for global environmental affairs, on Monday to strengthen strategic partnership between the two countries on waste management, especially on WTE.

Leaders of civil-society organizations opposed to incinerator use and officials from the Japanese Embassy in the Philippines attended the dia-

40,000 tons

The amount of garbage the country has to dispose of in a single day

the looming garbage crisis in the Philippines, consistent with the DENR and National Solid Waste Management Commission's (NSWMC) plan to promote WTE using advanced technologies that hurdle environmental standards.

"There's already a guideline on WTE. Not all incinerations are prohibited by law," Leones said, stressing there are incineration technologies that comply with dioxin emissions standard.

"Right now, we are applying a World Health Organization guideline. Unlike before, we are not capable of measuring and monitoring dioxins and other toxic substances from incinerations. During my watch as EMB [Environmental Management Bureau] director, we worked on it, that's why we now have the capacity to measure dioxins and other toxic substances," he added.

Duterte visited Japan last month, and brought home 12 major Japanese investments worth P89.73 billion. These investments are expected to generate 250,000 jobs for Filipinos.

The first environment dialogue on waste management between the Philippines and Japan was held in October last year, wherein both countries agreed to identify model areas to promote cooperation between Manila and Tokyo on waste management

ment practices in the two countries were held.

The two also successfully provided support for the drafting of the WTE guideline, wherein the Philippine and Japanese experts were among the consultants.

During Monday's dialogue, the Ministry of Environment of Japan proposed to provide a comprehensive support, with Quezon City and Davao City as model cities for WTE, together with Osaka and Kitachushu, through a "sisterhood" pact.

Waste-disposal plan

IN Quezon City, particularly the Payatas dump, the plan is to convert 1,200 tons/day (t/d) of waste into energy equivalent to 25 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The WTE project in Quezon City will be supported by Osaka, Japan, in partnership with Hitachi Zosen Corp. and Ex Research Institute Ltd.

On the other hand, in Davao City, the plan is to convert 600t/d to produce 11.7 MW. It will be supported by Kitayushu City, in partnership with Nippon Steel and Sumikin Engineering Co. Ltd.

To recall, the NSWMC, led by its secretariat's Executive Director Ely Ildefonso, bared that potential investors from European countries, South Korea, Japan, Australia, the United States and China are now looking at the Philippines for possible WTE ventures.

This came after NSWMC approved last year the WTE guideline that would allow the use of appropriate technologies that would convert waste into vi-

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DENR sees rollout of waste-to-energy project in Philippine cities next year

emissions by garbage in open dumps by converting them into energy.

The guideline adopting any technology that can convert WTE will be allowed with certain standard, and abiding with existing laws.

According to Ildefonso, WTE technologies do not also necessarily involve incineration.

He said WTE technologies would reduce the country's GHG emission while effectively reducing up to 95 percent the volume of waste produced every day.

In Central Luzon agricultural waste from sugarcane could be disposed of through gasification. There are now two WTE plants in Central Luzon.

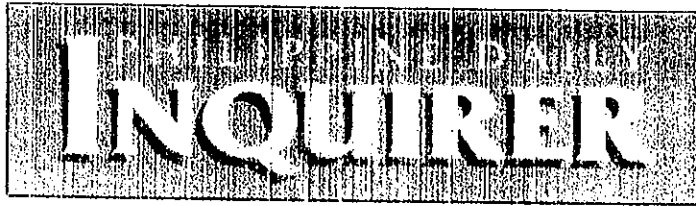
Among the WTE technologies allowed under the guideline are gasification, glycolysis, bioreactor, biomethanation, hydrolysis, pyrolytic-gasification, plasma and other thermal processes.

These technologies do not use incinerators. There are a number of WTE technologies that the private sector wanting to do business in the Philippines can adopt to reduce GHG and convert garbage into energy, Ildefonso said.

The country produces around 40,000 tons of garbage every day, or 14.6 million tons in a year, 70 percent of which are household waste.

These waste end up in open dumps, the operation of which is prohibited under RA 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. There are still more than 300 open dumps in various parts of the country, which the government need to shut down.

Last year the NSWMC, in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman, started filing cases against local



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte to honor Paris Agreement

President Duterte is honoring the Paris Agreement on climate change after describing the international covenant as "stupid" and "absurd" on fears that it would stunt the country's economic progress. The change of heart came after a majority of Cabinet members voted to uphold the treaty, which was signed by the Philippines and nearly 200 other countries in Paris last year.

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Duterte to sign Paris climate pact

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ

After calling it "stupid" and "absurd," President Duterte yesterday announced he has decided to honor the Paris Agreement on climate change, the international covenant which he feared would only stunt the country's economic progress.

Addressing a group of journalists in Malacañang, the President said he had a change

of heart on the issue after majority of the members of his Cabinet voted to uphold the treaty adopted by the Philippines and nearly 200 other countries during the 21st Conference of Parties held in France last year.

"After so much debate, I will sign the climate change agreement," Mr. Duterte said before swearing in the newly elected officers of the National Press Club.

"It was a unanimous vote, ex-

cept for one or two [who opposed it]. I was one of those... [But] since it's a Cabinet decision, I would go along with it and sign it," he said.

Mr. Duterte had previously said he "will not honor" the proposed restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions, arguing that such "limitations" could stymie the country's industrialization.

The President said Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. also vehemently opposed the climate change pact, but even-

gave in after hearing the arguments of other Cabinet members during their meeting which lasted for several hours.

The Chief Executive, however, did not hide his reservations about the international treaty

contributing the money to a common fund. Read again because it does not say about payment of damages that you will incur in a storm or a typhoon like [Supertyphoon] 'Yolanda.'"

He also argued that econom-

it's binding. But there is no sanction. So that if it is a low country in terms of economic level, the big ones will always force upon you to do it," he said. INQ



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rody to ink Paris climate pact

Bowing to the will of his Cabinet, President Duterte has changed his mind and is now ready to sign the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Duterte acceded to the near-unanimous position of his Cabinet after discussing the merits of the Paris agreement, its impact on the economy, how the Philippines could access the multibillion-dollar Green Fund and other related matters.

"After so much debate, I will now sign the climate

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change (agreement), because (of the) unanimous vote except for one or two. And I am the other one," Duterte said yesterday.

Speaking during the signing of an executive order that expands the composition of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) in Malacañang, Duterte said he needed to thresh out matters with his official family. "For me, because it's a Cabinet decision, I'll go along with it and sign it. As I have promised you, I will not solve this problem alone. I will give it, place it on the table, give the Cabinet members, the whole of the Cabinet, to vote," Duterte said.

"Right now, I am not really comfortable with it. Of course, we are now bound if we sign it. But in matters of enforcement, if they say it's a binding treaty, there has to be a sanction. So otherwise if you don't, there's something coming up your way," the President said.

In his previous speeches, Duterte said he was not ready to accede to the agreement because it would limit, if not impede, the country's industrial and economic development.

He also blamed developed countries for contributing heavily to the damage on the environment, which led to rising climate levels.

"The problem is, read again and again and then you'll find that there is sanction. Even in the matter of contributing the money to a common fund," he added.

The Paris agreement took effect last week. The Philippines has been a proponent under the previous Aquino administration but the Palace has yet to submit the agreement to the Senate for ratification.

Duterte again raised his concerns over the apparent lopsided provisions on sanctioning countries that violate the agreement.

The 2015 Climate Change agreement sets a goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

The agreement calls for zero net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions to

Climate Fund.

Duterte said the Green Fund is not an outright payment for damages.

"For after all, *ang hinihingi lang nila sa atin* is 0.3. With China about 24 carbon emissions, footprints," he noted.

Duterte also questioned why the Philippine Congress passed a law, where the country has to reduce by 70 percent carbon emission when there is much lower target under the Paris Agreement.

"*Tayo 0.3 lang ang hinihingi nila sa atin*. But *ang* national law *natin* says that over the years, we will have to reduce it by 70, if I'm not mistaken. *Hindi na kaya, sobra nga eh*," he said.

Duterte said he discussed the matter extensively with members of the Cabinet during a meeting last week.

US pressure

Taking potshots anew at the United States, the President expressed apprehension over how countries such as the Philippines would be at a disadvantage in terms of enforcement of sanctions.

"So, that if it is a low country in terms of economic level, the big ones will always force upon you to do it. But if it is the highly industrialized countries, there's nothing you can do about it because the sanctions... cannot be done by the smaller nations, let alone without the powers of pressure," he said.

"The name of the game is pressure," Duterte said.

Reading from the provisions of the agreement, Duterte said acceding to the agreement does not give the country automatic access to the Green Fund.

"The other thing is, they get the money. Now remember, contrary to popular belief, we read the contract word for word, 'the fund to be culled from rich industrial countries' only up to that point," the President said.

While the Paris Agreement gave clear pathways and a final destination in respect to decisive action on climate change, the UN said many of the details regarding how to move forward as one global community still need to be resolved.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte finally agrees to sign climate accord

By GENALYN D.

It took his whole Cabinet to finally convince President Duterte to sign the

landmark climate accord but pressed for "sanctions" on countries who do not comply with the provisions of the binding accord.

After a long discussion with Cabinet members supportive of the climate deal which calls on countries to limit carbon emissions to mitigate climate ►6

Duterte finally agrees...

change, the strong-willed Chief Executive relented.

"After so much debate, 'yung climate change, pipirmahan ko because it's a unanimous vote except for one or two. Ako 'yung isa which was arguing about," Duterte said during the oath-taking ceremony of new National Press Club officers at the Palace yesterday.

"Because it's a Cabinet decision, I'll go along with it and sign it. As I have promised you, I will not solve this problem alone. I will give it, place it on the table, give the Cabinet members,

the whole of the Cabinet to vote," he added.

The President previously hesitated to honor the international climate agreement due to concerns it was limiting the country's economic and industrial growth.

The United Nations pact, agreed by 195 countries including the Philippines last December, aims to limit global warming to not more than two degrees Celcius above pre-industrial levels by 2100. The deal came into force last Friday with 94 countries ratifying the accord. The Philippines, one of

the countries vulnerable to natural disasters, has yet to formally ratify the agreement.

No sanctions

In his remarks, the President raised concern over the lack of sanctions that would hold countries accountable if they do not comply with the international climate accord.

"If it's a binding treaty, you have to have a sanction. If you read the treaty, it's binding but there is no sanction," he said.

Nothing in the climate deal also compels the rich countries to shell out funds for environmental damages, according to the President.

"Contrary to the popular belief, we

read the contract word for word, 'yung mga pera na to be culled sa mga rich industrial countries, hanggang doon lang. And there is no binding agreement that they have to pay this and that," he said.

"The industrialized countries have been known not to honor financial obligations especially America. It has not paid its dues to the United Nations," he added.

By ratifying the agreement, he said Philippines could avail of around \$200 million for climate mitigation projects.

But he said the funds could not be used to compensate for damage incurred by climate vulnerable countries. He said the agreement states that the money will only be used for projects

for reducing carbon emissions, "not an outright pay for the damage."

Duterte likewise admitted there was "no point" in signing the global climate deal since the country's environmental laws have already set higher targets to cut carbon emissions by 70 percent.

"Ang hinihingi na 3. There's no point in insisting on signing it because the national law which binds only says we have to reduce it by 70... We overshoot it by a thousand miles," he said.

"That's why it took us several hours to finish the Cabinet meeting only to dwell on that particular issue. But hopefully, I said, with the decision, which I myself decided to be decided by the committee as a whole," he added.

'Outnumbered' Duterte yields to climate accord

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he will finally sign the Paris agreement on climate change after he was outvoted by his Cabinet who "unanimously" agreed to it.

"After so much debate *iyong* (climate change agreement) *pipirmahan ko* because a unanimous vote except for one or two - *ako iyong isa*," the President said during the oath-taking of National Press Club officials in Malacañang.

Duterte said he would go along with the decision of the majority, but wants to ensure that if the country ratifies the agreement all clauses of the treaties would be enforced by all countries.

He said some "industrialized" countries have a tendency not to honor their financial obligations. He cited the United States as an example.

"Industrialized countries are known not to honor financial obligations, especially America. It has not paid its dues to the United Nations," he said.

The President also said all treaties should have sanctions. He said the Paris agreement is binding but had no sanctions.

Close to 200 countries, including the Philippines, signed the Paris agreement in France in

December 2015, which binds all signatories to reduce the greenhouse gases and keep global temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius.

In the same agreement, wealthy and industrialized countries were asked to set aside at least \$100 billion yearly as financial assistance to developing countries to enable them to actualize renewable energy sources starting 2020.

The President reiterated his opposition the Philippines' commitment to cut down its carbon emissions when the country is still on the point of becoming industrialized, when industrialized countries have already been giving off a greater carbon footprint than the Philippines.

Duterte also said there was no point in signing the Paris Agreement, which commits the Philippines to decreasing its carbon emission by 0.3 percent because there is an existing law in the Philippines that requires the country to reduce it by 70 percent.

"We overshoot it by a thousand miles," he said.

The Paris Agreement became international law on November 4.

The President had earlier said that he was not keen on signing the Paris agreement as it might hamper the progress of the country.

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Will Duterte flip-flop again on climate pact? (Let's hope so)

BY BEN KRITZ Columnist

LAST Friday, the supposedly groundbreaking Paris Climate Agreement forged in December last year took a step closer to reality when the threshold for implementation – ratification by at least 55 countries collectively responsible for at least 55 percent of the world's emissions – was passed. As of Friday, 97 of the 197 signatories, together accounting for 67.5 percent of emissions, had ratified the pact, meaning it now comes into force, although it will take further discussions (which begin in Morocco this week) to determine how to enforce it.

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■ KRITZ FROM A1

Will Duterte flip-flop again on climate pact? (Let's hope so)

The Philippines is not one of the countries to have ratified the pact. In mid-July, just about two weeks after taking office, President Rodrigo Duterte declared the pact "stupid" and "absurd" and said he would not honor it, complaining that the Philippines' commitment to reduce its emissions by 70 percent by 2030 was ridiculous. The world's biggest polluters ought not to impose limitations on still-developing countries like the Philippines, he said, and should bear the biggest burden of cleaning up the climate mess.

That was actually a fairly reasonable assessment, which more people would have probably taken seriously if not a month later, reportedly after a discussion with US Secretary of State John Kerry, Duterte had changed his tune, and declared he was open to accepting the pact "as long as it is fair to our economic situation." For now, that seems to be the position he is sticking with, as he has detailed Environment Secretary Gina Lopez to attend the next round of international climate talks in Marrakesh.

Duterte is known to have an appreciation for environmental issues, so his initial disagreement with the Paris Agreement was not based on specious reasons. The 70 percent emissions reduction pledge, which former President BS Aquino 3rd unilaterally made on his own, unsupported by any scientific fact apart from his overweening desire to attract attention to himself, was in fact utterly ridiculous; the most any other country promised was in the neighborhood of 20 to 30 percent. In order to achieve the target, virtually all economic activity would have to stop; in terms of the Philippines' impact on the world's climate, as it stands now the country only contributes about 0.3 percent of global emissions, meaning its sacrifice would be virtually meaningless.

Duterte's fear was that the imposition of emissions limits, at least those as severe as the country would commit to under the Paris Agreement, would hamstring his goal to boost the country's industrial development, and he

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BEN KRITZ

medium term (perhaps the next 15 to 20 years), the Philippines will have to rely primarily on conventional sources of power such as coal and gas until renewable energy develops further; it is moving in a positive direction, and with encouraging speed, but it won't get there fast enough to meet the country's needs in the next few years.

Like it or not, that is going to create emissions, even if the country selects the cleanest available technology. Under those circumstances, pledging to keep emissions from increasing or even pledging a smaller, more manageable degree of reduction (such as by focusing on reducing the country's overpopulation of excessively polluting vehicles) would have made sense. Of course, "sense" and "BS Aquino 3rd" were not usually found in the same sentence during his six years in office, and thus he has left his successor and the country with a considerable dilemma.

The problem is this: Having been ratified by the necessary number of signatories, the Paris Agreement is now in force. The discussions this

week and after will now focus on implementation, not the terms of the agreement itself, which makes it an all-or-nothing proposition for the Philippines—either it honors its 70 percent commitment, or it does not. If it does, it likely consigns itself to retarding its own development; if it does not, it likely disqualifies itself from whatever assistance and cooperation the rest of the world devises—assuming that actually happens, which is by no means certain at this point—to help the developing world.

Neither outcome is particularly attractive, but the latter probably does the least harm. Malacañang's instruction to Lopez ought to be to tell the rest of the gathering in Marrakesh to take their agreement and stuff it. The other side of that coin, of course, is that the Philippines will need to develop its own substantial climate change mitigation plan, but if the country can clearly demonstrate that is exactly what it intends to do, it could become a hotspot for renewable energy and climate mitigation investment, while the rest of the world wrangles over the details of implementing the Paris accord.

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2 sides of Marcos burial issue

The Supreme Court issues today its ruling on the question of whether the remains of former president and dictator Ferdinand Marcos deserve burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the resting place of heroes.

There are those who say the justices have already decided on the issue, and that the administration has pulled the right strings so that President Duterte could repay his debt of gratitude to the Marcos family, specifically for contributing to his election campaign.

Others hold on to a thread of hope: They mounted on Sunday a protest concert billed "Pray for Eight" (a reference to the need for at least eight justices to vote against the Marcos burial), which gained political status with the attendance of former president Noynoy Aquino and the candidate he supported, Mar Roxas.

Though it is everyone's right to attend a public gathering, the presence of the two men at the concert held at the Luneta lent it a partisan tinge. Even this paper's cartoon mascot was moved to comment, "*Buhay pa rin ang mga dilawan!*" or "The yellow forces are still alive!" Well, gasping for air and holding on to the final vestiges of organization might—but alive nonetheless.

So the ruling to be handed down today by the high court will be read through the lens of the partisan and the political, and parsed by symbolists for "deeper" meanings beyond the immediate and practical.

But a commentary in Monday's opinion pages illustrates the broader implications of exactly what interment in the Libingan means, to both the survivors of the deceased and the wider community and next generations for whom the cemetery of heroes is supposed to serve as a lesson in history and heroism.



AT LARGE

RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID

I'm referring to Eduardo Tadem's commentary on the burial last July 26 of Bartolome "Bart" Pasion, who served as a private in the Armed Forces, but who devoted much of his long life to the struggle for peasant rights.

As the title of the piece puts it, in Pasion we have "A Huk vet in the Libingan ng mga Bayani."

This is certainly ironic since hundreds of soldiers and policemen lost their lives fighting the Huks, as the members of the Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (People's Army against the Japanese) were called. Anyway, what is a hero? Is he or she necessarily a former high official or dignitary? Does one have to be a former soldier who fought in behalf of his or her country? What does the offer from the military to have Pasion buried in the Libingan mean to the debate over Marcos' resting place?

I guess you can argue it both ways.

Marcos partisans may argue that if a former Huk, who devoted his life battling the establishment for the rights of his fellow peasants, deserves burial in the Libingan, then so does a former president who also (claimed to have) fought the Japanese.

On the other hand, you could say that if the Libingan is reserved for genuine heroes, for men and women who devoted their lives in service of their country and for ideals, does a corrupt and venal ex-president deserve a place among them?

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which President Duterte once denigrated as biased in favor of richer countries that are responsible for much of the effects of climate change, came into force last Nov. 4.

Sen. Loren Legarda, the "UN Global Champion for Resilience," said she welcomes the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and is calling on concerned agencies, particularly the Climate Change Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs, to work for the ratification at the local level.

Ratification, she said in a statement, would enable the country to "gain access to funds that will help the country adapt to climate change impacts." Indeed, if, as environmentalists claim, the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, all the more we should stand behind the Paris Agreement.

Of the more than 30 government bodies involved in assessing and implementing the Paris accord, 10 agencies have so far submitted their certificates of concurrence. Once these certificates are complete, the DFA will then endorse these to Malacañang for certification.

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Paris Agreement

ALTHOUGH the world is not yet on the edge of the hopeless stretch, people across the globe, including Filipinos, must act now -- and fast.

In the view of many, experts, specialists and other concerned authorities ought to arrest global warming.

No less than United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

In urging the implementation of the historic agreement, which took effect last Friday, Ban urged nations to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"We remain in a race against time. But with the Paris Agreement... the world has the plans we need to make the shift to a low-emission, climate-resilient path," said the UN official.

According to Ban, now is the time to strengthen global resolve and do what science demands.

The world's countries should seize the opportunity to build a safe and more sustainable world for all, he added.

The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, which is brought about by society's addiction to fossil fuels.

This it will do by keeping the global temperature rise this century well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Certainly, the worsening of climate change causes great concern among the authorities and even the ordinary citizens.

That's why the world's nations, including the Philippines, should join forces for our common future.

Duterte to ratify climate agreement

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said he will sign the Paris Agreement, a global pact that aims to curb the effects of climate change.

Duterte said he made the decision after consulting members of his Cabinet, who were mostly in favor of the pact's ratification.

"After so much debate, *young* climate change *pipimahan ko* [I will sign the climate change agreement],"

the President said. "It's a Cabinet decision, I'll go along with it and sign it."

However, Duterte warned that industrialized nations may violate the agreement.

"Whatever it is, the industrial countries have been known not to

honor financial obligation, especially America. It has not paid its dues to the United Nations," he added.

Under the Paris agreement, 197 countries committed to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius.

The Philippines, under then President Benigno Aquino 3rd, pledged a 70 percent cut in emissions by 2030.

Duterte had expressed misgivings about the pact, threatening at one point that he would not honor

it because it was unfair that the country's economic progress will be impeded by cutting its carbon emissions even if it is not a major contributor to global warming.

But Duterte explained that he was only expressing his opinion when he first talked about the agreement.

"When I said that I was not into it, I was only expressing my opinion. I do not lose the freedom of expression just because I am the President. I am not barred from giving my own opinion just because I am the President," he said.

DU30 flip-flops, says RP to ratify climate pact

The Philippine government will ratify a global pact aimed at taming climate change, President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday said, reversing his opposition to the historic United Nations agreement he previously dubbed "crazy."

In announcing the decision to sign up to the Paris Agreement, Duterte said he still had misgivings but his Cabinet members overwhelmingly disagreed with him. "After so much debate, the climate change (agreement), I will

sign it because it was a unanimous vote except for one or two (in cabinet)," Duterte told reporters.

The Philippines last year signed up with the rest of the world to the pact, which aims to cap global warming at well below two degrees

Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and 1.5 Celsius if possible, compared with pre-industrial levels.

But shortly after taking office on June 30, Duterte criticized the commitments made by the

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administration of his predecessor Benigno Aquino.

Those commitments were to cut emissions of the greenhouse gases blamed for global warming by 70 percent by 2030 from 2000 levels, on condition it got support from developed nations to convert to clean technologies.

When he railed in July against the Philippines' commitments, Duterte said the agreement would stop developing countries from industrializing by burning fossil fuels — as rich nations had done.

"There is no treaty to honor. We have not signed the treaty," Duterte said then.

"If you will not allow us to reach parity, you are already there and we are still here, then I'm saying that's crazy. I will not agree to that."

But the Paris Agreement does indeed allow for developing nations to continue to burn fossil fuels.

Duterte's cabinet members, some other lawmakers and one of his most important political allies, ex-president Fidel Ramos, said following those comments that they would try to educate the president about the Philippines' climate future.

Committing to the pact is a two-step process. The first occurred with the initial pledges and agreement in Paris last year. The second is a formal ratification.

The pact went into force last week after 55 parties to the UN's climate convention (UNFCCC), responsible for at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, ratified it.

In little over four months in office, Duterte has created an international reputation for incendiary rhetoric that is not necessarily backed up by action. **Ted Tuvera and AFP**

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Philippines to ratify climate pact

THE PHILIPPINES will ratify a global pact aimed at taming climate change, President Rodrigo R. Duterte said Monday, reversing his opposition to the historic United Nations agreement he previously dubbed "crazy."

In announcing the decision to sign up to the Paris Agreement, Mr. Duterte said he still had misgivings but his Cabinet members overwhelmingly disagreed with him.

"After so much debate, the climate change (agreement), I will sign it because it was a unanimous vote except for one or two," he said in remarks at Malacañan Palace on Monday.

The Philippines last year signed up with the rest of the world to the pact, which aims to cap global warming at well below 2° Celsius (36° Fahrenheit), and 1.5° if possible, compared with pre-industrial levels.

However, shortly after taking office on June 30, Mr. Duterte criticized the commitments made by the administration of his predecessor Benigno S. C. Aquino III.

Those commitments were to cut emissions of the greenhouse gases blamed for global warming by 70% by 2030 from 2000 levels, on condition it got support from developed nations to convert to clean technologies.

When he railed in July against the Philippines' commitments, Mr. Duterte said the agreement would stop developing countries from industrializing by burning fossil fuels — as rich nations had done.

"There is no treaty to honor. We have not signed the treaty," Mr. Duterte said then.

"If you will not allow us to reach parity, you are already there and we are still here, then I'm saying that's crazy. I will not agree to that."

However the Paris Agreement does indeed allow for developing nations to continue to burn fossil fuels.

Mr. Duterte's Cabinet members, some other lawmakers and one of his most important political allies, ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, said following those comments that they would try to educate the president about the Philippines' climate future.

Committing to the pact is a two-step process. The first occurred with the initial pledges and agreement in Paris last year. The second is a formal ratification.

The pact went into force last week after 55 parties to the UN's climate convention, responsible for at least 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions, ratified it. — AFP

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rody agrees to sign Paris climate pact

By John Paolo Bencito

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said Monday he will sign the Paris Climate Agreement but he will also press for sanctions on highly industrialized countries.

"After much debate, I will sign the climate change agreement because it's a unanimous Cabinet vote, except for one or two members," Duterte said, saying that he and Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr., were against signing the deal.

Duterte maintained that he isn't confident that the deal will be beneficial to the country "but of course we are bound if we sign it but in matters of enforcement, if it's a binding treaty, there has to be a sanction. So otherwise if you don't, there's something coming up your way," he said.

"Read [the document] again and again and [you will] never find that there is a sanction, even in the matter of contributing the money to the common fund," he added.

Duterte earlier slammed Western countries for imposing carbon limits on the Philippines to mitigate the impact of climate change when the highest carbon emissions came from industrialized countries.

"Industrialized countries are known not to honor financial obligations, especially America. It has not even paid its dues to the United Nations," Duterte said.

The Philippines has pledged to decrease its carbon emission by 0.3 percent, even as national law already states that the country has to reduce it by 70 percent by 2030—a target conditional on assistance from the international community.

Duterte's earlier misgivings about the deal triggered critical reactions from both allies and opponents, most notably former President Fidel Ramos who said that the country needs to ratify the deal or Filipinos will suffer from climate change.

After Duterte has signed the deal, the Senate would have to ratify the deal

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Duterte changes heart on climate change pact

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has had a change of heart and is now willing to allow the country's ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Duterte said he made the decision after consulting his Cabinet, who were mostly in favor of the ratification.

"Akonaman it's a Cabinet decision. I will go along with it, I will sign it," the President said in a speech before the National Press Club officers in Malacañang.

Duterte said that the decision came after his Cabinet took a vote on the issue.

"After much debate, iyong climate change, pipirmahan ko because it's a unanimous [Cabinet] vote except for one or two," the President said.

The President previously expressed apprehension in ratifying the Paris Agreement believing it was unfair for the poorer countries more vulnerable to effects of climate change.

But Duterte said that if the country ratifies the

agreement, there should be an assurance of the clauses being enforced by all countries.

In Paris last December, nearly 200 countries — including the Philippines under then President Benigno Aquino III — agreed on a binding global compact to slash greenhouse gases and keep global temperature increases to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius.

Manila promised to cut carbon emissions by 70 percent by year 2030, even if the country is not a major emitter.

Wealthy countries were also asked to set aside at least \$100 billion yearly as financial assistance to developing countries to enable all countries to actualize renewable energy sources starting 2020.

Duterte had expressed reservations on the pact, saying cutting carbon emissions at a point when the Philippines' economic rise is just starting will be unfair since industrialized countries have been giving off such emissions for decades. He said that



PRES. DUTERTE

he will not ratify the Paris Agreement, pointing out it was unfair for the poorer countries more vulnerable to effects of climate change.

The agreement came into force last Friday.

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Paris accord lalagdaan na

Pipirmahan na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Paris agreement matapos pagbotohan ito sa Cabinet meeting. Sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang mensahe sa oath-taking ng bagong mga opisyal ng National Press Club (NPC)

na ginanap sa Malacañang na kinonsulta niya sa kanyang Gabinete ang tungkol sa Paris agreement kaugnay sa climate change deal at unanimous ang naging boto na dapat igalang at pirmahan ang kasunduan.
(Rudy Andal)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PH backs climate pact

Count the Philippines as among the countries set to ratify the landmark Paris climate pact.

President Duterte has finally agreed to endorse the global climate agreement but pressed for "sanctions" for countries who do not comply with the provisions of the binding accord.

The President changed his mind about the United Nations deal,

which calls on countries to limit carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, after a long discussion with the Cabinet members who were supportive of the deal.

"After so much debate, 'yung climate change, pipirmahan ko because it's a unanimous vote except for one or two. Ako 'yung isa which was arguing about,"

(Turn to Page 11)

PH...

(From Page 2)

Duterte said during the oath-taking ceremony of new National Press Club officials in Malacañang.

"Because it's a Cabinet decision, I'll go along with it and sign it. As I have promised you, I will not solve this problem alone. I will give it, place it on the table, give the Cabinet members, the whole of the

Cabinet to vote," he added.

The President previously hesitated to honor the international climate agreement due to concerns it was limiting the country's economic and industrial growth.

The United Nations pact, agreed by 195 countries including the Philippines last December, aims to limit global warming to no more than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The deal came into force last Friday with 94 countries ratifying the accord. The Philippines, one of the countries vulnerable to natural disasters, has yet to formally ratify the agreement.

In his remarks, the President raised concern about the lack of sanctions that would hold countries accountable if they do not comply with the international climate accord.

"If it's a binding treaty, you have to have a sanction. If you

read the treaty, it's binding but there is no sanction," he said.

Nothing in the climate deal also compels the rich countries to shell out funds for environmental damages, according to the President.

"Contrary to the popular belief, we read the contract word for word, 'yung mga pera na to be culled sa mga rich industrial countries, hanggang doon lang. And there is no binding agreement that they have to pay this and that," he said.

"The industrialized countries have been known not to honor financial obligations especially America. It has not paid its dues to the United Nations," he added.

By ratifying the agreement, he said Philippines could avail around \$200 million for climate mitigation projects. (Genalyn D. Kabiling)



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Duterte nakumbinsi na sa Paris climate pact

Pumayag na rin si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na iendorso ang global climate agreement, kasabay ng pagtulak ng parusa sa mga bansang hindi tatalima sa mga nakapaloob na probisyon sa kasunduan.

Nagbago ang isip ng Pangulo hinggil sa United Nations (UN) deal, na nananawagan sa mga bansa na limitahan ang carbon emissions para mapigilan ang climate change, matapos ang pakikipagpulong sa mga miyembro ng kanyang Gabinete na pabor sa kasunduan.

"After so much debate, 'yung climate change, pipirmahan ko because it's a unanimous vote

except for one or two. Ako 'yung isa which was arguing about," ani Duterte sa oath-taking ceremony ng mga bagong opisyal ng National Press Club sa Palasyo.

"Because it's a Cabinet decision, I'll go along with it and sign it. As I have promised you, I will not solve this problem alone. I will give it, place it on the table, give the Cabinet members, the whole of the Cabinet to vote," dagdag pa ng Pangulo.

Una nang tinanggihan ng Pangulo na pirmahan ang nasabing international climate agreement dahil malilimitahan umano nito ang economic at industrial growth ng bansa.

Ang United Nations pact na pinagkasunduan ng 195 bansa noong Disyembre, kabilang ang Pilipinas, ay naglalayong limitahan ang global warming ng hindi tataas sa '2C above industrial level'.

Nitong Biyernes, kumilos ang kasunduan nang ratipikahan ng 94 bansa.

Samantalá sa kanyang pahayag, binanggit ng Pangulo ang kawalan ng parusa sa mga bansang hindi tutugon sa kasunduan.

"If it's a binding treaty, you have to have a sanction. If you read the treaty, it's binding but there is no sanction," ayon sa Pangulo.

Genalyn D. Kabiling

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IDINAOS nitong October 28, 2016 sa Luxent Hotel, Quezon City, ang "Water Sector Convergence Dialogue for the National Water Plan" na pinangunahan ni Executive Director Dr. Sevillo D. David, Jr., ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), isang tanggapan sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa naturang pagtitipon, ibinahagi ng NWRB ang estado ng proposed amendments of the Water Code of the Philippines at ang magiging laman ng National Assessment Report on Water-Related Disasters na nakatakda nating isumite sa Republic of Korea.

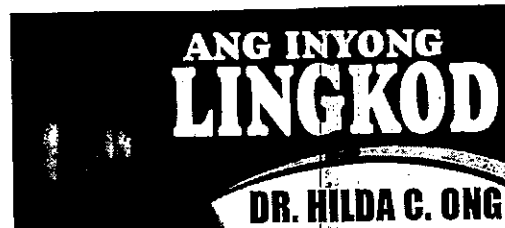
Gayundin ay ipinaliwanag ng National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) ang "Policy Directions for Water Resources Management" sa loob ng Philippine Development Plan 2017 - 2022 sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Pangulong Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Hiningi rin ang komento

at pananaw ng iba't ibang stakeholders ukol sa usapin hinggil sa water utilization; water quality, sewerage and sanitation; watershed management and integrated area development; flood management, water-related disasters and climate change; data collection and research; at advocacy and academic engagement.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Field Operation Juan Miguel "Mitz" Cuna, ang mensahe ni Secretary Regina Paz Lopez, "hinamon niya ang mga dumalo na magsama-sama upang makabuo ng isang malinaw na panuntunan, regulasyon at komunikasyon tungo sa lisang pagkilos.

Hinimok din niya ang lahat ng may kinalaman sa water sector na mag-isip "out



"WATER SECTOR CONVERGENCE DIALOGUE", ISINAGAWA NG NWRB

of the box", pagbibigay-diin niya "Let us view water, not only as an available resource that has to be allocated for our needs, but look at its source - the watersheds, the rain, urban and agricultural runoff, wastewater."

Ani pa ng kalihim, mahalaga ang kontribusyon ng

bawat isa lalo na ng mga government agency on water upang magkaroon ng isang National Water Plan na magbibigay-pansin hindi lamang sa domestikong gamit ng tubig kundi maging ang epekto nito sa agricultural sector, health and sanitation, manufacturing and production, tourism and recreation, at marami pang iba.



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Kinumpirma ng City Environment And Natural Office (CENRO) illegal na dumpsite sa hangganan ng Barangay Cuayan at Barangay Manuali sa bayan ng Porac, Pampanga. Ayon kay Derly Valencia, hepe ang CENRO, ipinasara na ito at kinasuhan na ang operator na si Julieta Iglesia kaugnay sa kasong paglabag sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act RA 9003. Kasama ng mga tauhan ng CENRO sa nag-inspeksyon sa open dumpsite ay si Chairman Art Candelaria at ilang opisyal ng Barangay Cuayan. Sinikap namang hingan ng panig si Porac Mayor Carling Dela Cruz subalit hindi ito tumutugon sa text at tawag. *Gary Bernardo*

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Prioritize environmental care, world urged

TEHRAN—United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged governments, businesses and citizens around the world to prioritize environmental care and the sustainable management of natural resources for preventing conflict, building peace and promoting lasting prosperity.

He made the remarks in a message on the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, 6 November 2016.

The full text of his message reads:

"This year, the world began implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With 17 universal and interdependent Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda is a transformational blueprint for peace, prosperity and dignity for all on a healthy planet. To achieve this vision, we must recognize that we have a duty of care towards the environment in peacetime and during war.

"Poor governance of the environment and natural resources can contribute to the outbreak of conflict. It can fuel and finance existing conflicts and it can increase the risk of relapse. Conversely, there are

ENVIRO-WATCH

many examples of natural resources serving as catalysts for peaceful cooperation, confidence-building and poverty reduction.

"In the aftermath of violent conflict, natural resources, such as land, timber, minerals, oil and gas, are often the primary assets that governments need to support livelihoods and economic recovery. How governments manage these resources can fundamentally alter the course of post-conflict peace building. That is why it is so important that we work together to combat environmental crime, end the illegal exploitation of natural resources, improve transparency, share benefits more equitably and encourage the participation of women, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups in decision-making.

"The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes that "sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development." That is

why, earlier this year, all 193 Member States of the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a resolution committing to protect the environment in areas affected by armed conflict. At the same time, the United Nations International Law Commission is currently reviewing the international legal framework for protecting the environment before, during and after armed conflict. It aims to establish guidelines that can better support environmental preservation, particularly in protected areas and environmentally sensitive sites, such as drinking water aquifers, which are of critical environmental and cultural importance and can be severely affected by warfare.

"With the 2030 Agenda and the concurrent efforts of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the International Law Commission, we have a range of important tools at our disposal. On this International Day, I urge governments, businesses and citizens around the world to prioritize environmental care and the sustainable management of natural resources for preventing conflict, building peace and promoting lasting prosperity."

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PLCPD, PopCom eye environment approach to development projects

THE Philippine Legislators Committee for Population and Development (PLCPD), Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE) and the Commission on Population (PopCom) will hold three-day conference starting on Tuesday to drumbeat their Population-Health-Environment (PHE) approach to development.

This approach, said the PopCom chief Jeepy Perez, recognizes the crucial link between people and their environment.

On the other hand, PLCPD Executive Director Romeo Dongeto stressed that, "Integrated population, health and environment programs have shown better results than single-sector programs and are more programmatically efficient."

Perez and Dongeto argued that PHE programs have also demonstrated cost-effectiveness by reaching more beneficiaries than single-sector interventions, while achieving lower operating costs and fostering community goodwill and trust.

Now on its sixth year, the PHE National Conference will look at the prospects for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using the PHE approach and for intensifying, replicating and expanding the integrated PHE approach in various settings, such as urban and rural, community and ecosystem and across landscapes (such as aquatic and upland).

PHE also has applications on the different strategic points of intervention,

like climate-change actions, disaster mitigation, poverty alleviation, food security, public-health programming, improved technology and sustainable energy and others.

The conference will explore the successes and challenges in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to draw lessons for mainstreaming the PHE approach in the crafting and implementation of the next Philippine Development Plan and plans for achieving the country's SDG targets.

PLCPD is a member of the sixth PHE Steering Committee. The theme of the conference is "Engaging the Government in Mainstreaming the PHE Approach Towards the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals."

The three-day conference includes plenary sessions with national and international experts followed by parallel sessions for solicited papers.

At noon on Tuesday, November 8, a press conference will be facilitated by PLCPD and attended by key officials from PopCom, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Economic Development Authority and the Philippine Information Agency.

Providing civil society perspective are representatives from PATH Foundation Philippines, Conservation International and FPE.