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DAY : SUNDAY

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

Ilulunsad ni Cimatuu

PINAS KONTRA BASURA

ITO si PBB (PINAS the BASURA BUS-TER) na siyang maskot ng 'PERA sa BASURA ng BATA' project ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



Ilulunsad ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatuu PINAS KONTRA BASURA

NAKATAKDANG ilunsad ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Roy A. Cimatuu si PBB aka PINAS: The Basura Buster para tuluyan nang malutas ang matagal nang problema sa basura.

Kasabay sa unang taong selebrasyon ng Battle for Manila Bay ang paglabas sa publiko ng mascot na kahuhumalingan ng mga bata dahil sa kaaya-ayang itsura nito na magtataguyod sa usaping segregasyon o paghihiwalay ng basura sa bawat tahanan.

Ang kasalukuyang proyekto ng DENR na tatawaging Pera sa Basura ng Bata (PBB) ang maglulutoon ng pansin sa

kaalaman ng mga musmos sa pagbibigay ng halaga sa kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng tamang segregasyon ng nabubulok, hindi nabubulok at residuwal na basura.

Magugunitang matagal nang suliranin ng bansa ang basura na inaasahang mababawasan lamang ng aabot sa 70% hanggang 80% sakaling maisagawa ang tamang segregasyon.

Ihaharap ni DENR Sec. Cimatuu si PBB sa taumbayan kasabay ng pagpilis nito sa isasagawang paglilinis sa Manila Bay na ipinag-utos ng Mandamus ng Korte Suprema at Administrative Order ni Pang. Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Aniyay "Kung may kasabihang TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE, maaari na rin sabihin ng Manila Bay Inter-Agency Task Force ang mga katagang TO SMELL IS TO BELIEVE, dahil pwede nang maamoy ang tunay na simoy ng dagat, dahil matagal din itong nawala."

Malaki na umano ang ilinaba ng coliform level ng Manila Bay kung saan ang dating bilyon ay naging milyon, ang may bilang na milyon ay daang libo na lang ngayon at malaki ang kumpiyansa ng kalihim na tuluyan na itong maibaba sa antas na

100 Most Probable Number na itinuturing na batayan na ligtas na languyan o paliguan ng tao.

Kaugnay pa nito ay inaasahang tuluyang lilinis ang tubig sa baywalk area sa kahabaan ng Roxas Blvd. makaraang pasinayaan ang Sewerage Treatment Plant ni DENR Sec. Cimatuu, SC Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta, Sen. Cynthia Villar, SC Justice Rodil Zalameda, DILG Sec. Eduardo Año, DOT Sec. Berna Romulo Puyat, MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, Court Administrator Midas Marquez, Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso at US Ambassa-

dor Sung Kim.

Sa naturang STP na umano daraan ang maruming tubig na nanggaging sa tatlong estero na nagmula sa Padre Faura, Rajah Soliman at San Antonio de Abad sa Maynila.

Base sa pahayag ni Sec. Cimatuu "Ito na ang nakikita naming solusyon para mambalik ang buhay ng Manila Bay."

Kasabay ng selebrasyon ang coastal clean-up projects sa Baseco Manila; Obando, Bulacan; Balanga, Bataan at Macabebe, Pampanga.

Inaasahang aabot sa 20,000 katao ang makikilahok sa naturang selebrasyon na inaasahang magiging daan upang lalong umaganap ang pakikibaka ng proyektong BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY.



BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY: DENR CHIEF CHALKS UP GAINS

By Rio Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has found a cause for celebration: The water quality of major outfalls directly draining into Manila Bay a year after the polluted water body started undergoing rehabilitation have shown significant improvements.

"There is reason to celebrate because a year after we launched the Battle for Manila Bay, we have recorded significant improvements in the water quality from major drainage outfalls," Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

The DENR chief heads the Manila Bay Task Force.

Before the Jan. 26, 2019 rehabilitation, the DENR posted extremely high fecal levels from major Manila Bay outfalls.

According to Cimatu, the most recent data from the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau showed that the coliform levels "drastically decreased."

Citing EMB data, he said the fecal coliform count at the Padre Faura outfall is now down to 920,000 most probable number per 100 milliliter (mpn/100ml) from its pre-rehab record of 7.21 mil-

lion mpn/100ml.

From 35 million mpn/100ml recorded before the rehabilitation began, he added, the coliform level at the Raja Soliman/Remedios drainage outfall across Aristocrat Restaurant went down to 11 million mpn/100ml, while the coliform level at the Manila Yacht Club outfall went down to 54 million mpn/100ml from a high of 110 million mpn/100ml.

Despite such improvements, Cimatu vowed to do more interventions, especially since the standard fecal coliform level in Manila Bay is 100 mpn/100ml based on its classification as "Class SB"

coastal and marine water.

In 2019, over 10,000 volunteers joined a massive cleanup activity along Roxas Boulevard in Manila and other areas in the bay region.

President Rodrigo Duterte allocated P42.95 billion for the implementation of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project within three years with 13 government agencies tasked to clean up the bay.

The government targets the source of water pollution in an effort to rehabilitate, restore and maintain the historic bay to a level fit for swimming as mandated in the mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008.



Water quality sa Manila Bay bumubuti na-DENR

MATAPOS simulan nitong nakalipas na taon ang Manila Bay rehabilitation program ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources unti-unti nang bumubuti ang kalidad ng tubig sa mga pangunahing kanal at lagusan na patungo sa Manila Bay makaraang isallalim ito sa rehabilitasyon.

Ayon kay Environment Sec. Roy A. Cimatu kum-piyansa ang ahensya na maliinis nito ang Manila Bay sa pakikipagtulungan na rin ng mga iba't ibang sector.

"There is reason to celebrate because a year after we launched the 'Battle for Manila Bay,' we have recorded significant improvements in the water quality from major drainage outfalls," ani Cimatu, na siya rin chairs ng Manila Bay Task Force.

Bago ang isinagawang rehabilitation kicked off nitong Enero 26 ng nakalipas na taon naitala ng DENR na mataas ang fecal coliform level sa mga pangunahing outfalls ng Manila Bay.

Subalit ngayon sinabi ni Cimatu sa pinakahuling tala ng DENR Environmental Management Bureau makikita na ang coliform level ng coliform ay lubhang bumaba.

Gamit ang EMB data sinabi ni Cimatu na ang fecal coliform count sa Padre Faura outfall ay bumaba ng 920,000 na bumaba umano ng 100 milliliter (mpn/100ml) mula sa kanyang pre-rehab record na 7.21 million mpn/100ml.

Mula sa 35 milyon mpn/100ml na iniulat bago simulan ang rehabilitation, sinabi ni Cimatu na ang coliform level sa Raja Solliman/Remedios drainage outfall sa kabuuan ng Aristocrat Restaurant ay bumaba ng 11 milyon mpn/100ml.

Kaugnay nito, ang coliform level sa Manila Yacht Club outfall sa kasalukuyan ay 110 million mpn/100ml miula sa high 54 million mpn/100ml, ayon pa sa DENR chief.

Samantala sa kabila umano ng pag-unlad ng kalidad ng tubig sa mga estero at ilog sinabi ni Cimatu marami pang dapat isagawa lalo na ang standard fecal coliform level ng Manila Bay na 100 mpn/100ml base sa classification nito bilang "Class SB" coastal and marine water.

SANTI CELARIO



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Kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay bumubuti na matapos ang rehabilitasyon - DENR

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(Boy Celario)



Juvenile eagle spotted at Mount Apo

By IVY TEJANO

DAVAO CITY – Forest guards reportedly saw an endangered juvenile Philippine Eagle resting in the forest of Mount Apo early this month, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) said.

PEF executive director Dennis Joseph Salvador said the eaglet was first seen last January 8 as forest guards were conducting foot patrol in the area.

The eaglet was discovered calling loudly atop a tall tree in the forest, PEF director for Research and Conservation Dr. Jayson Ibañez told the Manila Bulletin in an interview.

After the PEF received the report, Ibañez said their biologists joined the forest guards in their patrol on

January 15, and took photos and video footage of the eaglet using digiscoping techniques.

Ibañez said a meticulous inspection of the photos and videos of the eagle confirmed that it was a juvenile bird, estimated to be just over a year old.

“We know it is a juvenile based on its physiological attributes. Additionally, it exhibited behaviors consistent with a very young bird,” Salvador said.

Ibañez said the eaglet was clearly hatched in the wild. He added that there were living creatures like eagles living freely in the wild, and that these must be protected.

The PEF had announced the discovery of a new nesting territory in

Bukidnon in February 2019. After two weeks of expedition to confirm reports, the presence of a 10 to 11-month-old eaglet and its parents was verified.

“We cannot guarantee 100 percent that eaglet would be safe, but the presence and regular patrols of our forest guards can help protect the eaglet and its parents from harm,” Ibañez said.

Indigenous “Bantay Bukid” forest guards are being supported by the City Government of Davao and are provided allowances, gears and accident insurance.

Ibañez also said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has deputized most of the forest guards as wildlife law enforcers.



Juvenile PH eagle found in Mount Apo

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Senate to tackle ban on single-use plastics soon

By VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

The Senate will soon start tackling proposals to prohibit single-use plastics in the country.

Senator Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, said this as she reiterated the need to curb plastic wastes, which she described as the "most alarming environmental issue."

"Ang plastic ang isa sa pinaka-malubhang nakakapinsala sa ating kapaligiran at pumapatay sa mga yamang dagat. Alam natin lahat iyan dahil sa lahat ng mga cleanups, puro plastic wastes ang nako-collect natin (Plastics are one of the major causes of our environment's degradation and it kills our water resources)," Villar said during the second Principals' Meeting and Conference of the Manila Bay Task Force in Manila recently.

While noting the initiatives of some cities against plastic waste, Villar said the enormity of the problem requires a nationwide ban on single-use plastics.

In November last year, President Duterte was reported to be mulling the prohibition on plastics. The ban, however, would require legislation from Congress, said Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo.

There are at least seven bills in Senate seeking to ban or regulate plastic products in the country.

Villar's Senate Bill 333, for instance, proposes to regulate the manufacturing, importation, and single-use of plastic products; and prohibit the issuance of the single-use plastics by food establishments, stores, markets, and retailers.



NATIONWIDE BAN SA PAGGAMIT NG PLASTIC ISUSULONG

MULING ipinahayag ni Senadora Cynthia Villar ang panukalang ipagbawal ang "single-use plastic" sa pagpupulong ng pinuno ng mga ahensiyang naatasang maglinis at mag-rehabilitate sa Manila Bay.

Sa 2nd Principals' Meeting at Conference ng Manila Bay Task Force na idinaos sa Diamond Hotel, Manila, binigyang-di-

in ni Villar na ang plastic waste ay nakaalarma.

"Ang plastic ang isa sa pinakamalubhang nakakapinsala sa ating kapaligiran at pumapatay sa mga yamang dagat. Alam natin lahat iyan dahil sa lahat ng mga cleanups, puro plastic wastes ang nako-collect natin," ani Villar.

Iginiit din ni Villar, chairman ng Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources na sa kabila ng pagbawal ng mga siyudad sa paggamit ng plastic, napakalaki pa rin ng ating problema sa plastic.

Bunga nito, naniniwala ang senadora na kailangan ang nationwide ban sa plastic na suportado naman ni President Rodrigo Duterte.

Sinabi rin ng senadora, magsasagawa siya ng public hearing sa Senate Bill 333 o ang Single-Use Plastic Product Regulation Act na layong i-regulate ang manufacturing, importasyon at single-use ng plastic products.

Sa ilalim ng panukala, ipagbabawal ang single-use plastics sa

food establishments, mga tindahan, merkado at retailers.

Pinaaalalahanan din ang consumers na gumamit ng reusable materials at ang manufacturers na kolektahin, mag-recycle at itapon ang single-use plastics na nasa merkado. Hindi na rin papayagan ang importasyon ng single-use plastics.

"We also seek to amend the 20-year-old Solid Waste Management Act to include the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility which will require the manufacturers using plastic materials in their packaging to be responsible in recovering the plastic wastes," dagdag pa ni Villar.

Idinaos ang principals' meeting bago pa ang pagdiriwang ng first anniversary ng Battle for Manila Bay sa January 26. Itinampok sa pagpupulong ang mga nagawa ng task force gaya ng pagpapababa sa fecal coliform levels sa ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay mula bilyon at ang matagumpay na

relokasyon ng informal settlers.

Pinasalamatan ni Environment Secretary at Manila Bay Task Force Chairperson Roy Cimatu ang mga kasapi ng task force at ang mga taong araw-araw na naglilinis sa Manila Bay.

"What we started here is the beginning of something transformative for the Philippines—a true revolution. Let the battle for Manila Bay rage on!," ayon kay Cimatu.

Itinatag ang Manila Bay Task Force sa ilalim ng Administrative Order 16 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte noong February 19, 2019.

Ang AO ay base sa writ of continuing mandamus na ipinalabas ng Supreme Court noong December 2008. Inuutusan dito ang 13 agencies at private entities na maglinis, ayusin at papanatiliing malinis ang tubig ng Manila Bay kung saan tayo puwedeng lumangoy, mag skin-diving at iba pang contact-recreation.

VICKY CERVALES



SMC builds roads, AEV makes cement out of plastic garbage

By CLAIRE JIAO
(Bloomberg)

One of the world's top plastic polluters is giving its garbage a second life by using it to construct much-needed infrastructure.

Philippine companies like San Miguel Corporation (SMC) and Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. are using discarded shopping bags, sachet wrappers and plastic packaging to fire cement plants and build roads as the country embarks on an 8 trillion-peso (\$157-billion) infrastructure push through 2022.

San Miguel has laid down its first road combining plastic scraps with asphalt, it said in November. The surface material, developed with Dow Chemical Co., used 900 kilograms (1,984 pounds) of plastic to pave a 1,500-square meter (16,145-square foot) test site near the capital.

For Aboitiz's Republic Cement & Building Materials, Inc., plastic serves as an alternative to coal for heating kilns used in making cement. The company is sourcing waste from consumer giants like Nestlé Philippines, Inc. and Unilever Philippines, Inc. as it processes at least 25,000 tons of plastic annually, director Angela Edralin-Valencia said in an interview.

The two initiatives target soft plastics that are hard to recycle and make up a significant chunk of the trash piling up in Philippine landfills and clogging waterways. Waste management systems have failed to keep up with a growing population and robust consumption in the Philippines, which uses 48 million shopping bags and 164 million plastic sachets every day, according to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA).

It's a similar story across Asia's emerging markets, where rising incomes and burgeoning middle classes have spurred greater plastic use. China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are the top sources of plastic waste in the world's oceans, according to Ocean Conservancy, Inc. and McKinsey & Co.

With the Philippine government planning a construction spree of airports, highways, rails, bridges



File photo provided by SMC when it started testing asphalt produced with recycled plastic waste and bitumen on a 1,500 sqm pilot site at its new logistics center in General Trias, Cavite.

and dams over the next three years, San Miguel and Republic Cement hope to tap the expected spike in activity to make a dent in the country's plastic problem.

The "Build, Build, Build" program is the centerpiece of President Rodrigo Duterte's blueprint for the Philippines, one of Asia's fastest-growing economies. Gross domestic product is expected to grow 6.5%-7.5% a year through the end of 2022, driven by infrastructure spending.

San Miguel, the Philippines' largest company, is building more than ₱900 billion worth of the government's flagship projects, including several toll roads around the capital and a 2,400-hectare complex north of Manila that will be the country's biggest airport.

According to San Miguel's initial findings, roads using plastic scraps exceed government standards and are stronger and more durable than those made with conventional asphalt.

Republic Cement likewise expects to "comfortably meet" market demand for cement, while using plastic to replace as much as 10% of its coal requirements, Valencia said.

The company could process as much as four times more plastic waste, but limited garbage collection and poor segregation by households and at landfills make it difficult to sift for usable scraps, Valencia said.

Nestlé and Unilever have launched their own collection programs, offering cash and free products like shampoo and laun-

dry detergent – also packaged in sachets – for plastic scraps that are properly cleaned and cut. Both companies aim to collect and process more plastic than they produce, and make 100% of their packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025, they said in separate statements.

"Nestlé is aiming for plastic neutrality, which is essentially recovering plastics equal to what we produce," Kais Marzouki, chairman and chief executive officer of the Philippine unit, said in a statement.

Initiatives to address the issue can have unforeseen consequences. Shredding plastic for asphalt and cement production breaks down waste to microplastics that are even more difficult to collect and reuse, said Beau Bacongus, GAIA's regional plastic campaigner for Asia-Pacific. Feeding plastic into cement kilns releases toxic fumes, she added.

"It's garbage in, garbage out," she said.

Republic Cement's Valencia says plastic-derived fuel involves less carbon emission than coal, while other fumes are subject to regular government monitoring. Unlike incineration, which is banned in the Philippines, the higher temperatures in cement kilns leave behind no plastic ash, Valencia said.

As the Philippines mulls regulations on the import and use of single-use plastic, GAIA's Bacongus said companies should also rethink how they package and market their products.



Nestlé to invest \$2 billion to boost use of recycled plastics

ZURICH (Reuters) – Food giant Nestlé will invest up to 2 billion Swiss francs (\$2.07 billion) to source more recycled plastics for packaging its products and reduce its use of new plastics by a third by 2025, it said on Thursday.

Regularly cited by environmentalists as one of the top plastic polluters, Nestlé is under pressure to show it is serious about addressing the waste reduction problem.

It has vowed to make 100% of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025.

"We are high up on the list because we are one of the largest companies out there in packaged goods and now we're also taking

pretty big steps in using our size to actually solve the problem," Chief Executive Mark Schneider told journalists.

Nestlé will allocate more than 1.5 billion francs to pay for the extra cost of food-grade recycled plastics.

"At the moment, outside PET bottles, there's not a lot of recycled plastic available that is suitable for packaging food," Nestlé Chief Technology Officer Stefan Palzer told Reuters on the sidelines of the event. He said Nestlé's readiness to pay a premium should encourage investment in the area.

Schneider said the investment would have a neutral impact on

earnings.

Peer Unilever has said it wants to halve its use of new plastic by 2025. Schneider said that goal had set a high benchmark for the industry, but most of Unilever's plastic packaging did not need to be food-grade quality.

Nestlé, known for KitKat chocolate bars and Maggi soups, will also launch a 250 million franc sustainable packaging venture fund to invest in promising startups in that space.

Schneider said there was a very vibrant food startup scene on the US West Coast for both food and food packaging.

"There's more venture capital flowing into the food space these days because there's a lot happening there and the payback also comes quickly, after six months you know if the product is good," Schneider said.



Pushing the global launch of a trillion trees; Lingayen's and Pangasinan's classic bagoong lechon



PEACE-MAKER

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

We are already at 83 and we and our lady, former Congresswoman Gina, are still pushing our billion trees program for the Philippines which we launched when we were speaker of the House in 1992 and in the five times we had the good fortune by God's grace to be elected speaker.

Actually, our dream at the time was for a worldwide launch of a trillion trees to green the countries and the communities of the world, provide timber, housing, and fruits for all peoples, and save our planet Earth and the environment at the same time.

At the World Summit organized by the New York- and Seoul-based Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Seoul on February, 2017; at the African Summit in Dakar, Senegal, on January, 2018; and at the 10th General Assembly of our International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Moscow on October, 2018, we proposed the launching of a trillion trees program as a jobs-creating economic activity and to help fight climate change and environmental degradation.

We told delegates then that we believe reforestation and tree farming—on the scale and intensity the planet needs—can and must become a significant jobs-creating economic stimulus for developing countries—if not all countries—that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the China-led AIIB, the regional banks, parliaments, political parties, and civil society should champion.

“Massive tree planting can become a virtuous circle—of planting, cultivating, harvesting, processing timber, and replanting, a forever cycle that can generate tens of millions of jobs worldwide for poor young men and young women in the emerging countries, apart from addressing food shortage and expanding upland agriculture, and especially, perhaps more importantly, contributing in a most significant and in a most major way in the battle against climate change and environmental degradation.

“For just as valuable, these new forests control mountain erosion, prevent the silting of streams and rivers, save human life from destructive floods that overflow the rivers, destroying crops, fish farms, livestock, cities, townships, villages, and hard-

won economic gains.

“I propose these programs can be organized through what we may call ‘Billions of Trees Foundations’ managed by civil-society groupings, and strongly supported by governments, parliaments, and the political parties, or perhaps, even better, undertaken by governments themselves, and actively supported even managed by the private sector.”

Last week, we were very much elated to hear that the World Economic Forum is programming an initiative to “grow, restore, and conserve one trillion trees around the world and in a bid to restore biodiversity and help fight climate change.”

The Philippines’, with God’s benediction, should support and be among those in the forefront of this global effort, and already US President Donald Trump, before a “skeptical on climate change” is now active in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum, whom we had the privilege to meet a few years back.

Every family, every Filipino, should line up behind the world’s planting of trees to save our present and future generation and insure the longevity of our planet Earth.

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A few days ago, we met with our friend retired bemedalled police general and former three-term congressman Leopoldo Bataoil, who is now mayor of Lingayen town, the capital of our home province of Pangasinan.

The competent, popular, and hardworking soldier mayor discussed his program to achieve sustainable growth and development for his town under the vision “Arangkada, Lingayen!” or move-fast Lingayen.

Pol, as he is popularly called, is also proud of his town’s and province’s unique delicacy, the Lingayen lechon (roast pig) bagoong, which he said was launched only a few months ago and which demand and popularity have been continuously increasing, indeed worthy of emulation by the other provinces.

The Lingayen lechon, sprinkled with Pangasinan’s unique delicacy product, bagoong (fermented baby fish), is actually a brainchild of Mayor Bataoil. It is promoted as well by the province’s commercial center, Dagu-

pan City, and by other towns and gaining ground nationally.

According to Pol, the idea of lechon bagoong came up during his dialogue with Lingayen’s market vendors, following the directive of President Duterte to clear the nation’s sidewalks of ambulant vendors and illegal structures.

Mayor Bataoil suggested then to a local lechon vendor named Emil to use the Lingayen bagoong sauce, brushed on the lechon, which the vendor heeded, and the rest, according to Bataoil, is history.

Pol is also proud of his town’s other delicacy, the longganisa bagoong, sparingly sprinkled on the country’s favorite pork sausage and which has also gained favor among Pangasinan and Ilocano loyalists, rich, middle class and the rural folks, and also gaining ground among the Tagalogs and should also extend to the Visayans and tourists.

We wish to point out that our great former President Fidel V. Ramos, West Pointer and hero of the EDSA People Power Revolution, was born in Lingayen and also relished the Pangasinan bagoong with wife Ming Ramos, and his parents, the late Foreign Minister Narciso Ramos and his Ilocana wife Angela Valdez, a renowned schoolteacher.

Pangasinan’s other late great national leaders Speaker Eugenio Perez, last speaker of the Commonwealth and first speaker of the Republic, and his lady, social worker and a renowned national leader herself, Consuelo Salazar Perez, Senators Teofilo Sison, Cipriano Primicias and Geronima Pecson, Justice Secretary Jose Bengzon, Governors Aguedo Agbayani and Amado Espino, Rep. Amadeo Perez, Dagupan Mayors Liberato Reyna, Felipe Cuison, Cipriano Manaois, Al Fernandez. And so are today’s Belen Fernandez and Brian Lim, dedicated bagoong (fermented baby fish) and Agamang (fermented tiny shrimps) enthusiasts.

The Pangasinan bagoong and agamang are now world-renowned among Filipinos in the US, Europe, and Asia and some Europeans are already sprinkling the sauce with Western vinegar on green leafy salads.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE:

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Software maker pushes plastic recycling

TAGUIG — Enterprise application software maker SAP, a company listed in the New York Stocks Exchange, said that it has joined the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership community.

The cross-industry collaboration aims to create a cleaner ocean by 2030 by reducing the amount of plastics entering the ocean through the merging of old and new technologies.

The new Plastics Cloud offers links to a secondary materials marketplace for recycled plastics and alternatives.

In a statement, SAP reported its plan to launch the next phase of its so-called Plastics Cloud to allow businesses to shift rapidly to alternatives to single-use plastics.

Likewise, the company vows to invest in materials collection infrastructure. "SAP is committed to a significantly cleaner ocean by 2030," said SAP co-executive officer and executive board member Christian Klein.

"We want to achieve this objective

together with customers, non-government organizations, governments and partners. We will provide them with the tools, insights and solutions to eliminate waste and maximize resource productivity," he added.

SAP said many of its customers have also made commitments to a cleaner planet and that it will support accelerating the move to a restorative and regenerative economy.

By updating the Plastics Cloud, SAP said it will help companies produce products more responsibly by providing global insights about the materials and where they go after their end life.

"This support will be based on local recycling infrastructures and policies in each city, region and country. It will allow them to calculate more accurately the environmental and business impact of using more recycled or reusable

materials and packaging," the SAP official said.

SAP said its software systems also help companies adapt to changing regulations, such as extended producer responsibility policies, while staying current with local markets, global standards and best practices.

The new Plastics Cloud offers links to a secondary materials marketplace based on Ariba Network, which connects packaging and consumer products companies to new sources of recycled plastics and plastic alternatives.

This will complement initiatives such as the UK digital waste map announced last year by waste-insights company Topolytics Limited.

Consumers, regulators, investors and employees are driving the momentum for business to drive responsible growth.

Experience management firm Qualtrics, a SAP company, has conducted a large-scale global study with the World Economic Forum to understand better the experience citizens around the world are having with various issues on the Forum's sustainability agenda, including the use of plastics.

When asked what method they favor for reducing the harmful effects of plastics, nearly 50 percent of the 10,501 research participants said they prefer replacing plastics with other materials.

On the other hand, while vast majorities called recycling very important, only 30 percent of participants said recycling was the best solution to the plastics crisis.

J.H. Dodson @tribunephil_jhd



RECYCLING plastics uses lesser energy than manufacturing using raw materials.



Reusing, repurposing for the environment

Recycling plastics use less energy compared to manufacturing them from raw materials

As plastics are non-biodegradable, they pose a grave threat to all life forms on earth as they litter the environment, especially bodies of water which become polluted.

Recycling plastics prevents their being turned into pollutants and recycling plants abound worldwide to turn the material into new usable products.

When plastics are recycled, the amount of waste from the material is reduced substantially when the opposite would burden landfills, the spaces for which are diminishing each year – areas better used for agriculture.

Experts maintain that recycling

plastics necessitate the use of less energy compared to manufacturing them from raw materials. The energy saved can be used for other economic activities, they say.

Likewise, collecting and recycling plastics generate jobs and open new business fronts, contributing in the long run to improving the economy and the quality of life of people in communities active in recycling.

Industries across the world are gradually realizing the many advantages of recycling not just plastic but many other waste materials for effective waste management.

Wrenn Sanchez @tribunephil_wrenn



SEARCH FOR KIN OF 'LONESOME GEORGE' ON



A SCIENTIFIC expedition to the Galapagos Islands will spend 10 days searching for relatives of two tortoise species believed to be extinct, including those of the archipelago's Lonesome George, park officials said Friday.

George, the last known member of the Pinta tortoise species, died in 2012 at over 100 years of age after refusing to mate in captivity with females from related subspecies.

Park rangers and scientists from the Galapagos National Parks and Galapagos

Conservancy will tour the Wolf Volcano on Isabela Island in hopes of "locating and removing a group of giant tortoises with partial lineage" to the extinct Pinta and Floreana species, the park said in a statement.

They chose the area because whalers and pirates who would eat the animals were thought to have dumped some of the tortoises there in the past to lighten their ships' loads.

The Galapagos Islands, located 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the coast of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean, were made famous by Charles Dar-

win's studies of their breathtaking biodiversity.

In 2008, a similar expedition took blood samples from 1,726 tortoises, 17 of which had a "significant percentage" of genes in common with the Pinta species while about 80 showed a "partial lineage" to the Floreana species, PNG said.

Studies have found "tortoises that have up to 90 percent of the extinct species' genes, meaning that at least one of their parents is a purebred and possibly lives on Wolf Volcano," said Jorge Carrion, the park's director. **AFP**