

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 06 MAY 2016

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Mt. Hamiguitan World Heritage Park in Davao Or. inaugurated

SAN ISIDRO, Davao Oriental – President Aquino on Wednesday led the inauguration of the Mt. Hamiguitan World Heritage Park in Sitio Tumalite, Barangay La Union here.

Accompanied by Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) secretary Luwalhati Antonino, the President was met by top officials of Davao Oriental led by Governor Corazon Malanyaon, Congressman Nelson Dayanghirang and Mayor Justina Yu of San Isidro town.

Upon his arrival, Aquino, assisted by Malanyaon, unveiled the marker of the Mt. Hamiguitan World Heritage Park that was also witnessed by more than 2,000 residents from San Isidro and the nearby towns of Governor Generoso and Lupon.

After the unveiling, the President and his party climbed the 87 steps leading to the Natural Science Museum and toured the facilities where he was briefed by Dr. Roy Ponce, Technical Consultant for Mt. Hamiguitan.

Tourism magnet

“We feel so elated that the President has graciously included us, among the places to visit in the short period remaining in his term,” Malanyaon said in her message as he also expressed gratitude to the Aquino administration “for all the support extended to us by the National Government particularly the timely intervention and the assistance in the rehabilitation of all the towns hit by Typhoon Pablo.”

The Mount Hamiguitan World Heritage Park, Malanyaon said is a tourism facility complex showcasing Davao Oriental’s most treasured jewel – the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mt. Hamuguitan was named inscribe by UNESCO as a World Heritage site in 2014, the only mountain range heritage site in the country.

Wealth of wonders

“Mt. Hamiguitan boasts of a beautiful pygmy

forest, one of the very few all over the world, and hosts a rich biodiversity and endemism of flora and fauna, an embodiment of ecological balance, which in these age and time, we can seldom see and behold,” the governor pointed out.

President Aquino also emphasized in his message that Mt. Hamiguitan is a critical habitat and that he lauded the efforts of the local officials of Davao Oriental in preserving the area.

He encouraged the people in the area to help the government in its monitoring efforts and management in the biodiversity of Mt. Hamiguitan.

Infrastructure development

Aquino said Mt. Hamiguitan’s natural park is now accessible to tourists and visitors with the completion of the ₱236.36-million road concreting project with a span of 4.9 kilometers.

It took 13 months of massive construction work before the buildings including the museum interiors, outdoor interpretation sites, park amenities and landscaping of the Mount Hamiguitan World Heritage were completed in December last year.

The park and its amenities are situated at the buffer zone area of the heritage mountain covering around 12.84 hectares which houses the interpretation site, a natural science museum, research center and cabin, bird watching view deck, a hanging bridge, a nature trail for leisure hiking, sunset view deck and Café Hamiguitan.

Added features of the park are a tree-top obstacle and a flying lemur gliding ride for the more adventurous individuals. (Alexander D. Lopez)

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Chinese woman charged with wildlife smuggling

By FRANCO G. REGALA

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga — A Chinese national who allegedly smuggled seven endangered animals recently has been charged with violating the Wildlife Conservation law, which prohibits the collection, trading and exploitation of wildlife resources in a criminal complaint filed before the Angeles City Prosecutors Office, here.

Peimin Zhang, 46, was arrested at 2:30 a.m. last April 27 by combined agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Clark security personnel at the intersection of Manuel A. Roxas Avenue-Yokohama in Clark Freeport Zone, a few minutes drive to or from her residence at Villa No. 716 Florida, Fontana Leisure, here.

Found in her possession were a box containing three Palawan cobras and four Pangolins inside her Mitsubishi Grandis van, according to Atty. Ricardo Diaz, NBI Region 3 director.

Francisco Milla Jr., DENR regional director said the animals are under the "Red List" of species threatened with extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"Naka-file na sa Angeles prosecutor's office yung kaso. Applicable po sa foreigner yung parusa na nandoon sa Wildlife Resources Conservation Act Section 27 and 28 of RA 9147," the DENR Information Office said in reply to email queries from this reporter.

The agency said Zhang has been released while her case is awaiting action in court. If found guilty of the crime, however, she could face six months to one year jail term plus a fine of P10,000 to P100,000.

Currently, the endangered animals are under the custody of the DENR office.

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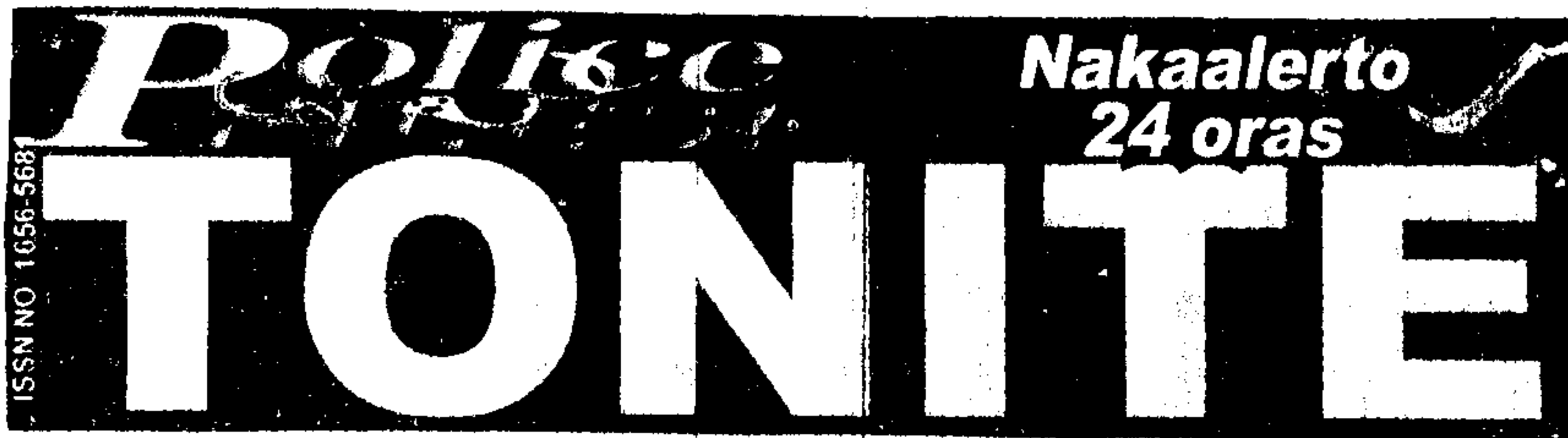
Wildlife smuggle foiled

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Acting on a tip, National Bureau of Investigation agents nabbed on Monday a Chinese woman for carrying four pangolins and three Palawan cobras believed smuggled from the South.

Peimin Zhang was driving a Mitsubishi Grandis Sedan, which hid a box containing the animals, when she was stopped by the agents, according to lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI Central Luzon director.

Pangolins and Palawan cobras are in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's list of wildlife animals threatened with extinction.

The NBI agents trailed the vehicle and stopped it for inspection inside the Clark Freeport. When the agents found the box, Peimen failed to present the papers authorizing her to transport and own the animals, Diaz said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Text BRIGADE

Mga reporter ng bayan

I-text sa 09201309296

Kung ikaw ay may alam na katiwalian sa gobyerno, nakitang krimen sa inyong lugar at puna sa administrasyon, i-text agad para malaman ng publiko bilang reporter ng bayan. Ang inyong celfone number at seguridad ay aming pangangalagaan. Salamat po sa pagtitiwala. - Editor

Illegal logging sa Wawa Dam Montalban, Rizal

- Good day po. Sana po ay manmanan ng mga awtoridad sa loob ng isang linggo ang nangyayaring illegal logging dito. May magbaba ng troso dyan pagdating ng gabi mga alanganing oras. Gumamit kayo ng look out po ninyo kasi ang bantay nila mga sundalo na na-assign dyan. Basta kung hindi uling ay troso ang binababa nila dyan sa bungad lang unang akyat papuntang Wawa Dam Montalban, Rizal. - Concerned citizen

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High manganese level in water supply

IN A recent letter, Maynilad warned that it has "observed water discoloration in the southern portion of our concession area, (which) is due to the presence of high manganese level in the raw water supply that we are getting from Laguna Lake." Maynilad blamed the current drought and El Niño as the reason "more sediments such as manganese... enter our water treatment facility."

The letter went on to say: "We are continuously adjusting our operations in our treatment facility to fully contain the level of dissolved manganese. We advise our customers to put a clean cloth over your faucet to filter the water." As to whether Maynilad is able to treat this current high level of manganese, the utility firm was not clear.

Maynilad gets its Laguna Lake water source at Putatan where it has a water treatment plant which supplies consumers with 100 mil-

lion liters per day, and which began operations in January 2011.

Manganese poisoning involves permanent neurological disorder called manganism, with symptoms of tremors, difficulty in walking, facial muscle spasms, irritability, aggressiveness, and hallucinations.

There are hundreds of factories which throw their wastes in Laguna Lake, but they get away with it by simply paying an environmental fee to the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA). It is not known if LLDA uses the money for environment cleanup or simply for its overhead expenses. A water sampling conducted about 10 years ago revealed the presence of about 30 toxic heavy metals in Laguna Lake. (Read more: [wikipedia-manganism/http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp151-c2.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp151-c2.pdf))

—BERNIE V. LOPEZ,
eastwindreplyctr@gmail.com

Balabag mining project just a step away from full-scale gold, silver production

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

GOVERNMENT regulators have flashed the green light for the development of the Balabag Gold-Silver Project of TVI Resource Development (Philippines) Inc. in Zamboanga del Sur, following the approval of the project's Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility (DMPF).

The announcement was made through a news statement issued by the Canadian mining company TVI Pacific Inc., which has a 30.66-percent equity interest in TVIRD.

TVIRD, in turn, has a 100-percent stake in Balabag Gold-Silver

Project, and is currently seeking public listing in the Philippine Stocks Exchange (PSE).

TVIRD's operation of the gold-silver mine in Zamboanga del Sur is expected to boost the country's annual gold output—as well as

investment in mining—despite the moratorium on the processing of new mining-project proposals pending the enactment of a new mining revenue-sharing scheme by Congress.

The DMPF was the last major hurdle for TVIRD to initiate the development, construction and operation of the Balabag mine, the TVI statement released on Wednesday added.

The DMPF for the Balabag project, which was approved by the DENR on April 29 this year, authorizes TVIRD to proceed with the development and operation phase, initially over a 180-hectare portion of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) area, which is covered an approved environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The 180-hectare area covers all currently defined resources at the

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A broader look at today's business

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Balabag mining project just a step away from full-scale gold, silver production

project, as well as proposed mining and processing-facility sites. TVIRD has the option of submitting an amended ECC that would allow exploration and mining to cover the entire 4,779-hectare MPSA area.

The statement said TVIRD intends to submit an amended ECC with the DENR, in order to access areas with future resource-development potential.

"Balabag is the fourth mining project to be successfully permitted by TVIRD in the Philippines over the past 11 years, and I am confident that TVIRD will secure the necessary funds to move the project forward prior [to] its listing [in] the PSE later this year," said Clifford James, chairman and CEO of TVI and concurrent chairman of TVIRD.

James said securing the DMPF for the Balabag project will greatly support TVIRD's efforts to list in

the PSE, and that the listing could provide TVI with both a short and long-term source of funding for the company's resource acquisition and development activities.

TVIRD's MPSA with the government for the Balabag project covers 4,779 hectares in the town of Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur, approximately 75 kilometers east-northeast of TVIRD's Canatuan mine.

According to TVIRD, a total of 296 holes have been drilled for a total of 34,156 meters at the Balabag project up to mid-2013. Based on results of drilling completed to the end of June 2011, the project has estimated an indicated mineral resources of 1.78 million tons, averaging 2.34 grams per ton (g/t) gold and 72.3 g/t silver, containing 134,262 ounces of gold and 4,148,196 ounces of silver.

While exploration and development work have been put on hold at

the Balabag project since the mid-2013 pending the approval of permits from the government, work on the engineering design for a gold-silver processing plant to process ore on-site continued.

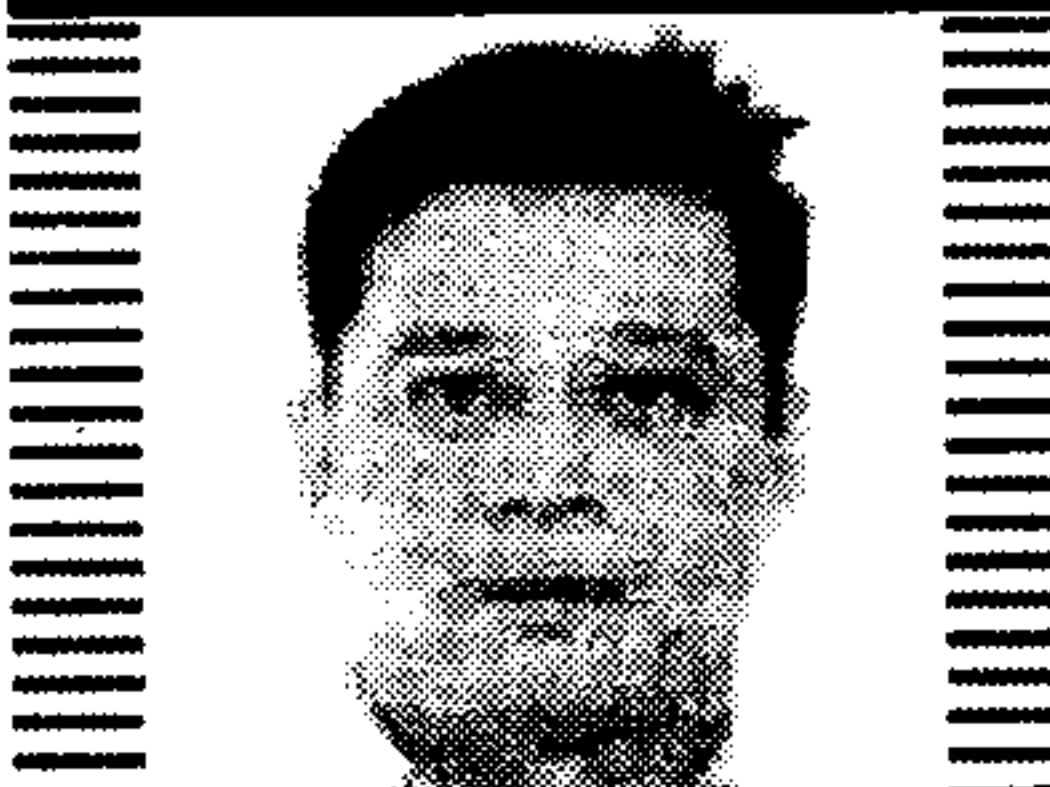
So far, TVIRD has also constructed and maintained 16 km of access roads to the project in anticipation of the commencement of construction.

TVIRD secured its ECC on the project from the DENR in October 2013. TVIRD also got an approval of its Social Development Management Program in May 2014. It also entered into a memorandum of agreement with Subanen leaders in August 2014, as part of the DMPF process and a prerequisite for a certification precondition to be issued by the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, another requisite for the operation of the Balabag project.

PEOPLES Tonight

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

THE LAST MOHICAN



By MARIO FETALINO JR.

KUMBINSIDO ang maraming mahihirap na Pilipino kabilang na ang mga miyembro ng urban poor at mga obrero sa bansa na kung ano ang ginawa ni Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez ay siya ring gagawin niya sa lahat ng Pilipino pag-upo niya sa Senado.

Nakilala si Martin dahil sa kanyang pagtulong sa mga naapektuhan ng bagyong Yolanda sa Leyte at patunay dito ang mga testimonya ng mga pamilyang tumanggap ng kanyang tulong.

Lalo pang lumitaw ang malasakit ni Martin dahil

Romblon tagumpay vs mining

sa kawalan ng aksiyon ng pamahalaan para sa mga nasalanta ni Yolanda kaya hindi nakakapagtaka na dikit na dikit ang adbokasiya ni Martin sa marami nating mga kababayan na nangangailangan ng tulong.

'Ika nga nila, "gawin lang ni Martin ang kanyang ginawa sa Leyte, masaya na kami". Oo nga naman. Sa panahon ngayon, kailangan ng ating mga kababayan ang malasakit at ito ay dadalhin ni Martin sa Senado.

Maruming pamumilitika ang gamit ng mga kalaban ni Malabon Mayor Lenlen Oreta ngayong halalan sa pag-aakala sa paraang ganito nila matatalo ang butihing alkalde.

Marami kasing bintang ang ipinupukol kay Oreta at kabilang na rito ang mga akusasyon na malinaw na wala sa kaarakter ni Mayor.

Mabuti na lang at matatalino na ngayon ang mga botante at may ka-

kayahang matanto kung ang isang reklamo ay may basehan o paninira lamang.

At hindi naman nahihirapan ang mga taga-Malabon na dedmahin ang mga bintang paninira kay Oreta dahil na rin sa dami ng ginawa ng Alkalde para umunlad ang Malabon.

Nariyan ang bagong bukas na ospital ng Malabon, ang magarang gusali ng city hall, ang malakas na komersiyo, at maaasahang peace and order situation sa syudad na tanda ng pagsulong ng mga taga-Malabon tungo sa pag-unlad.

Kaya hindi nakakapagtaka na pagkatapos ng halalan, si Oreta pa rin malamang ang mamumuno sa Malabon.

Galit ang mining companies sa ilang lalawigan ng bansa kabilang na ang Romblon dahil daw sa LGUs na kontra sa negosyo ng pagmimina.

Aba eh hindi natin masisi ang mining companies na magalit dahil malaking pera ang nawawala sa

kanila.

Pero mas hindi ko masisisi ang mga lider ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Romblon sa pangunguna ni Gov. Eduardo Firmalo sa pagkontra sa mining dahil sisirain nga naman ng mga ito ang magandang kapaligiran at likas na yaman ng naturang probinsya.

Bibihira lang sa mga lalawigan ang tutol sa mining dahil nakakapagbigay daw ito ng trabaho at ibang benepisyo tulad ng edukasyon sa mga mahihirap na komunidad.

Ngunit mas binibigyang halaga ni Firmalo at ng mga taga-Romblon ang kinabukasan ng mga susunod pang henerasyon na talaga namang dapat ipaglaban.

Maaari po kayong mag-email sa lastmohican2004@yahoo.com. Pwede rin po kayong sumali sa talakayan sa programang "Rock'a Politics" sa 1530 Ang Bagong DZME tuwing 9-10 ng umaga, Lunes-Biyernes. My God is powerful!

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ECCP warns of severe water shortage by 2025

Businessmen call on gov't, private sector to address 'telling signs'

By Amy R. Remo

THE EUROPEAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) is seeking the creation of a "super agency" that will address the possible "severe water shortage" by 2025.

"Metro Manila, along with several key cities in the country including Angeles, Baguio, Cebu, and Davao, would most likely experience severe water shortage by 2025. What we are experiencing right now are telling signs that point in that direction," said ECCP vice president Henry V. Schumacher.

"We needed to come out with ways where everyone would continue to have access to sustainable water supply. There has to be water security in the country. Filipinos must learn how to conserve water and reduce water pollution," Schumacher said.

He called for an immediate multisectoral dialogue to address and avert a looming water crisis in the country. The Philippines is the second Southeast Asian country to sound the alarm on the scarcity of water supply. Thailand already made the warning last month.

Schumacher said there was a need for the government, private sector and water industry stakeholders to meet and come up

with solutions amid water level dropping to critical levels due to the El Niño phenomenon.

Stakeholders should be able to draft and implement solutions that would ensure there was enough water supply for the agriculture sector and that drinking water remained readily available, he said.

Schumacher said it was unacceptable for the Philippines to be experiencing a water crisis when freshwater supply from dams, lakes, rivers and streams is placed at 146 billion cubic meters, while groundwater is at 20 billion cubic meters.

The ECCP official stressed the need for increased investments in seeking fresh water sources and using technology to develop modern sewerage treatments and desalination.

"There is enough freshwater that can be tapped. It is just a matter of proper management, infrastructure development, coordination between the government and private sector, and the public learning how to use them properly," Schumacher said.

"A lot of communities in the provinces right now are being deprived of reliable water supply. In 10 years, these very same communities, heavily dependent on farming, would have no water supply if water resources were not managed properly," he said.



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ECCP SOUNDS ALARM

Key Phl cities at risk from severe water shortage

By RICHMOND MERCURIO

Metro Manila and other key cities in the Philippines are in danger of experiencing drought in water supply in a decade's time unless immediate measures in improving water security are put in place, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) said.

"Metro Manila along with several key cities in the country including Angeles, Baguio, Cebu, and Davao will most likely experience severe water

shortage by 2025. What we are experiencing right now are telling signs that point in that direction," ECCP vice president Henry Schumacher said.

To avert the water crisis, Schumacher said there is need for the government, private sector, and water stakeholders to meet and come up with solutions as the country at present experiences El Nino and with water levels dropping to critical levels.

The ECCP, for its part, intends to push hard for the

creation of a super agency that will be responsible for all water-related matters in the country.

"We need to come out with ways where everyone will continue to have access to sustainable water supply. There has to be water security in the country. Filipinos must learn how to conserve water and reduce water pollution" he said.

For Schumacher, ensuring there is enough water supply



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ECCP sounds alarm

for the agriculture sector and drinking water remains readily available should be two of the top priorities.

He said the agriculture sector accounts for up to 85 percent usage of fresh water in the country annually, with the rest divided among the other industries and household consumption.

"A lot of communities in the provinces right now are being deprived of reliable water supply. In 10 years, these very

same communities, heavily dependent on farming, will have no water supply if water resources are not managed properly," he said.

With the abundance of freshwater supply like dams, lakes, rivers and streams in the Philippines, Schumacher said it is unacceptable for the country to be experiencing water crisis.

"There is enough freshwater that can be tapped. It is just a matter of proper management, infrastructure development,

coordination between the government and private sector, and the public learning how to use them properly," he said.

Schumacher likewise added the need to push for increased investments in tapping fresh water sources and the use of technology including sewerage treatment and desalination.

According to ECCP, the Philippines is the second Southeast Asian country to sound the alarm on scarcity of water supply after Thailand did last month.

BusinessWorld

INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

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Water crisis requires quick action — ECCP

THE Philippines needs to head off a looming water crisis, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) said as it called for a multisectoral approach to address the problem.

"Metro Manila along with several key cities in the country including Angeles, Baguio, Cebu, and Davao will most likely experience severe water shortage by 2025. What we are experiencing right now are telling signs that point in that direction," ECCP Vice-President Henry Schumacher said in a statement yesterday.

He said there is a need for the government, the private sector and water stakeholders to meet and produce solutions as water levels dip to critical levels amid the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

He said that two priorities at this time are to ensure sufficient water supply for farms and readily available drinking water for the people.

"We need to come out with ways where everyone will continue to have access to sustainable water supply. There has to be water security in the country. Filipinos must learn how to conserve water and reduce water pollution," he said.

Mr. Schumacher placed the agriculture sector's water usage at around 85% of available fresh water yearly, with the rest divided among other industries and household consumers.

He said the Philippines was the second Southeast Asian country to sound the alarm on the scarcity of water supply after Thailand expressed the same fears last month.

"A lot of communities in the provinces right now are being deprived of reliable water supply. In 10 years, these very same communities, heavily dependent on farming, will have no water supply if water resources are not managed properly," he said.

Mr. Schumacher said that once the multi-sectoral dialogue is convened, "the ECCP will push hard for the creation of a super agency that will be responsible for all water related matters in the country." — **Victor V. Saulon**

READ FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
<<http://goo.gl/qA9NYK>>

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ECCP raises alarm vs water shortage in RP

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) is calling for the holding of an immediate multi-sectoral dialogue to address and avert a looming water crisis in the country.

ECCP vice president Henry Schumacher said there is need for the government, private sector and water stakeholders to meet and come out with solutions as the country experiences El Nino and with water levels dropping to critical levels.

Schumacher said the two top priorities are to ensure that there is enough water supply for the agriculture sector and that drinking water remains readily available.

"Metro Manila along with several key cities in the country including Angeles, Baguio, Cebu and Davao will most likely experience severe water shortage by 2025. What we are experiencing right now are telling signs that point in that direction," Schumacher said.

"We need to come out with ways where everyone will continue to have access to sustainable water supply. There has to be water security in the country. Filipinos must learn how to conserve water and reduce water pollution," he added.

The Philippines is the second Southeast Asian country to sound the alarm on scarcity of water supply after Thailand did last month.

According to Schumacher, the agriculture sector accounts for up to 85 percent usage of fresh water in the country annually with the rest divided among the other industries and the household consumption.

Schumacher said that once the multi-sectoral

dialogue is convened, the ECCP will push hard for the creation of a super agency that will be responsible for all water related matters in the country.

"A lot of communities in the provinces right now are being deprived of reliable water supply. In 10 years, these very same communities, heavily dependent on farming, will have no water supply if water resources are not managed properly," he said.

Schumacher said it unacceptable for the country to be experiencing water crisis when freshwater supply from dams, lakes, rivers and streams is placed at 146 billion cubic meters, while the total amount of groundwater is at 20 billion cubic meters. **Ed Velasco**

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Watchdog airs last-ditch appeal for garbage-free *miting de avance*

A waste and pollution watchdog pleaded for garbage prevention and control as various political parties gear up for their respective *miting de avance* tomorrow, May 7, the end of the official campaign period.

In an ultimate bid to sway political parties and their backers against the reckless generation of trash, the EcoWaste Coalition called out rally organizers to, for a change, wrap up their campaign in an environmentally-caring manner.

"It's ok for your supporters to come in full force, but please ask everyone to mind their trash and to keep rally sites litter-free," said Aileen Lucero, coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition.

"Whether held indoors or in iconic places like the Plaza Miranda or the Quirino Grandstand, organizers should ensure that garbage in political assemblies is kept to the minimum," she said.

"Please do not turn May 7 into a 'black' Saturday for Mother Earth due to unrepressed littering as if the streets and parks are open dumps," she said.

Huge public gatherings often leave tons of rubbish such as littered campaign leaflets, discarded posters, used beverage and food containers, food leftovers, plastic bags and cigarette filters, lamented the EcoWaste Coalition.

"In most cases, the responsibility of clearing rally sites of garbage falls on overworked and underpaid street sweepers and waste haulers," Lucero observed.

The EcoWaste Coalition insisted that it is possible to gather en masse to publicly display our political choices without creating horrendous amount of trash.

The group recalled that the massive "Million People March" held in August 2013 at the Rizal Park to denounce the rotten pork barrel system was almost litter-free, drawing positive remarks for being "clean" despite being "leaderless."

"We hope that organizers for this Saturday's political blitz will take full responsibility in making sure their activities are waste-free," Lucero said.

To assist the rally organizers, the EcoWaste Coalition group reiterated the following five tips to help in making the *miting de avance* eco-friendly:

- o Constantly remind the participants through the public address system to mind their garbage and not to leave any litter behind.

- o Request participants not to bring single-use disposable food and beverage containers to the rally site and, if this cannot be avoided, to repeatedly warn the public against improper disposal.

- o Enforce the ban on littering, open dumping and open burning under RA 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

- o Desist from lighting firecrackers and fireworks, throwing confetti and releasing balloons and sky lanterns.

- o Assign a good number of eco-volunteers who will clean up right after gathering. **PNA**

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LANDBANK WINS 2 TWO 'KAMPEONNGKATUBIGAN' TROPHIES IN 2ND WORLD WATER DAY AWARDS – LANDBANK recently received two 'KampeonngKatubigan' awards for championing programs for water access and environmental sustainability. Maynilad Water Services (Maynilad) and National Water Resources Board (NWRB) conferred the awards for LANDBANK's environmental programs – Manila Bay SUNSET Program Partnership and Adopt-A-Watershed Phase II – at the second World Water Day Awards. LANDBANK First Vice President/Corporate Affairs Department Head Catherine Rowena Villanueva (4th from left), together with LANDBANK Countryside Development Foundation, Inc. (LCDFI) Executive Director Butch Garcia (2nd from right), received the 'KampeonngKatubigan' awards from Maynilad President & CEO Ramoncito Fernandez (leftmost) and National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David Jr.



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Public warned of hailstorms this month

By HELEN FLORES

State seismologists yesterday warned the public against hailstorms due to warmer weather this month.

Senior weather forecaster Rene Paciente of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said hailstorms usually happen in May, especially during severe thunderstorms.

"We can expect thunderstorms to occur more frequently this month," Paciente

said, adding that thunderstorms are triggered by "intense heating in the ground."

Paciente said the warm weather caused by El Niño could also generate severe thunderstorms.

He said thunderstorms are more frequent in Mindanao due to the hotter weather in the region.

Other parts of the country, including Metro Manila, have experienced thunderstorms in the past days.

Some of the warmest temperatures recorded in the country were 38.5 degrees Celsius in Quezon City on May 14, 1987; 38.6 in Port Area, Manila on May 17, 1915; 38.1 in Parañaque City on May 18, 1969 and 38.5 degrees Celsius in Cavite on May 16, 1987.

The highest temperature recorded in the Philippines was 42.2 degrees Celsius in Tuguegarao City on May 11, 1969, PAGASA said.

Paciente clarified that the occurrence of thunderstorms in some parts of the country does not mean the rainy season is near.

PAGASA may officially declare the onset of the rainy season associated with the southwest monsoon next month.

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Less than zero agri growth seen with La Niña due in late 2016

By Janina C. Lim

ECONOMISTS are projecting agriculture growth to contract or remain flat at best amid a severe El Niño and the possibility of the dry spell being followed by a La Niña event.

“At best zero, with high probability of low negative due to El Niño effect in the first half,” said Rolando T. Dy, Vice-Chair of the M.A.P. AgriBusiness and Country-

side Development Committee, and the Executive Director of the Center for Food and AgriBusiness at the University of Asia & the Pacific.

In a text message to *BusinessWorld* when queried on his outlook for agricultural growth, Mr. Dy said that the estimates already assume a recovery from good rainfall starting June. He added that the 3.5% target of the agriculture sector is “not attainable.”

Earlier this year, Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala said that

the department is aiming for growth of 3% to 3.5% this year, a figure that has already taken into account over a year of a strong El Niño.

Market economist of the Land Bank of the Philippines, Guian Angelo S. Dumalagan, said in an e-mail interview that agricultural growth will be in negative territory.

“At the very least, the agricultural sector may decline by 0.3% this year given forecasts of a prolonged and severe El Niño,” he said, adding that strong rains and storms that

may potentially follow the dry spell, which may further depress farm output towards the end of 2016.

“This year’s dry spell is developing to be much worse than in 2015, and that could mean that farm output this year might be much lower than the previous year’s level.”



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <http://goo.gl/TsWwTW>

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Sketches

By ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Cooperating for sustainability

FRANKFURT – Being one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, the Philippines often gets special mention at the 49th annual meeting here of the Asian Development Bank, whose theme is “cooperating for sustainability.”

So it's dismaying to find out that like a lot of things in the Philippines, certain climate programs are stuck in limbo.

At a seminar last Wednesday on advancing clean and climate-resilient development in the Asia-Pacific, Romell Cuenca, deputy executive director of the Climate Change Office of our Climate Change Commission, was asked why it was so hard to secure funding from the office, which he had earlier said had P1 billion on hand for climate financing. Cuenca admitted that in the past six years, not a single project had gotten off the ground, ostensibly for failure of the applicants to complete certain requirements.

In an earlier seminar, Preety Bhandari, director of the ADB's division on climate change and disaster risk management, told us that the e-tricycle project in Metro Manila is on hold over procurement issues and production capacity of the country. “We're holding our breath,” she said, adding, “it's up to the government to decide its fate.”

The ADB is also supporting the long-derailed plan to revive the railway service from Manila to Legazpi City. “Now we're in a holding pattern with the upcoming election,” Bhandari said.

Multilateral development banks and bilateral partners are prepared to assist the Philippines in coping with climate change, in terms of funding, technological aid and sharing of experience. Let's hope the next administration can do a better job of tapping proffered partnerships and utilizing the assistance.

With efficient governance, we might yet achieve the sustainability of Frankfurt.

The tulips are in bloom in this German city; they open late in the morning, and then fold close as evening approaches.

Green spaces dot Frankfurt. Over half of the city's land area has been allocated for offsetting climate change, giving people wide areas for outdoor recreation. Its 8,000 hectares of



forested area – about a third of the entire metropolis – helped earn Frankfurt last year's honor of being named the world's most sustainable city.

It was only fitting that the German government, host of this year's ADB meeting of the board of governors, picked Frankfurt as the venue. The Germans are hoping to share with the world their experience in developing sustainable cities.

For those used to urban blight in the crowded cities of Asia, among the most striking features of Frankfurt, apart from the numerous green areas where squirrels and rabbits romp, is the cleanliness.

Getting there wasn't easy; we were told that it took the Germans 40 years to learn proper waste management – sorting and incinerating trash for conversion into energy. By sharing the German experience with those who are now faced with garbage problems, the learning process can be shortened to just three to four years, according to Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, ADB governor for Germany and the state secretary for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Compared with starting from scratch, sharing knowledge, experience and technological expertise can drastically cut consultancy and other costs, Fuchtel pointed out. By learning from others, there's no need to make the same mistakes, he added.

Frankfurt Mayor Peter Feldmann told a seminar here on “cities of the future” that they were cutting carbon emissions by 95 percent and energy consumption by 50 percent, and have committed to use 100 percent renewables by 2050.

In the Philippines, business groups have expressed concern about the government's carbon emission reduction targets. They might want to heed German Chancellor Angela Merkel's words at the reception her government hosted for the ADB: “Sustainable development and good business go hand in hand.”

Frankfurt is also shifting to housing units that not only have low energy consumption but also generate their own energy supply, Feldmann said.

He didn't go into details, but I can guess that generating one's own energy supply involves recycling – a key factor in sustainability. An example is the recycling of human waste into biogas. The Germans have improved the technology and are selling it to the world.

In the so-called City of Sustainability – a showcase of German innovations in green technology, set up at the ADB meeting venue here, one of the items on exhibit is a contraption that ferments biowaste, and then converts it into biogas used for industrial-scale food refrigeration and cold storage facilities. Fraunhofer Umsicht has set up a biogas-driven facility for cold storage in India. It is useful in areas where toilet facilities are lacking and energy supply is unreliable.



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cooperating for sustainability

Consultancy firm Arcadis ranked Frankfurt No. 1 in its 2015 Sustainable Cities Index, which assessed 50 of the world's biggest cities including Metro Manila. Our capital region ranked a dismal 46th in sustainability, below Indonesian capital Jakarta. We were ahead only of fast-growing mega cities Mumbai, Wuhan, New Delhi and Nairobi. In Asia, Seoul ranked sixth most sustainable; Hong Kong was eighth and Singapore 10th. Tokyo was 23rd, Kuala Lumpur 26th, Shanghai 35th and Beijing 39th.

Rankings were based on 20 indicators, including not only environmental factors but also health services, education facilities, ease of doing business, work-life balance and income inequality.

"Sustainable" cities, according to Arcadis, are those that "work well for their citizens in the present without causing problems for themselves and the rest of the world in the future."

The ADB is now stressing sustainability and requiring climate screening in picking products for funding. It is tapping the private sector and multilateral partners such as Germany for support in climate financing and creating quality jobs in a safe environment. ADB President Takehiko Nakao announced that the bank is doubling its annual climate financing to \$6 billion by 2020.

Among the key thrusts are energy efficiency, sustainable transport, integrated disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

* * *

So what's the world's most sustainable city like? Frankfurt is an aviation hub, with its airport (run by Fraport) ranking 12th globally last year in terms of passenger traffic. The city has buses, commuter trains and subways that run at precise times. Bicycles are ubiquitous, and the wide sidewalks have bicycle lanes.

There are open-air markets that sell fresh, artisanal (and often organic) goods. You can drink water straight from the tap. Buildings have walkalators, smart escalators and energy-efficient lighting.

Waterways are clean and the fresh air is great for the lungs. When you stop to smell the flowers, no vehicle emission spoils the wonderful scent.

Who knows - with proper leadership, and by learning from others, even Metro Manila might become a sustainable mega city.

* * *

CORRECTION: While there was talk about a plan, no Chinese came out to challenge Takehiko Nakao's bid for the ADB presidency in 2013. In fact, I was told, all ADB presidents in the past 50 years have been elected unopposed. Sorry for the error.

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