

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 21 MAY 2016

DAY : **Saturday**

DENR

IN THE NEWS

The Manila Times

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

MGB: PH metals output value down 23% in 2015

BY JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ
REPORTER

THE value of Philippine metals output declined by nearly a fourth last year due to lower prices in the world market as a result of excess supply on weak global trading, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said on Friday.

The total value of metallic mineral production amount to P108.21 billion in 2015, down 23 percent from P140.15 billion a year earlier, and a reversal of the nearly 40-percent growth in 2014 versus 2013, MGB Director Leo Jasareno noted in a report.

Gold, silver, copper, and nickel all incurred sharp declines, Jasareno said.

The biggest losers were the base metals nickel, which declined by 29 percent, and copper by 19 percent.

From an average price of \$7.56

per pound in 2014, nickel dipped by \$2.22 at \$5.34 per pound. Copper was down from an average price of \$3.06 per pound to \$2.48.

"It is interesting to note that in February 2011 nickel was traded by as high as \$12.83 per pound. Since then nickel has dropped steadily," Jasareno noted.

According to the MGB, gold lost by as much as 8.35 percent and silver by 17.62 percent. The price of gold price declined from \$1,269.57 per troy ounce in

2014 to \$1,163.59 in 2015. Silver dropped from \$19.08 per troy ounce to \$15.72.

Nickel ore and mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide accounted for a 50.09 percent or P54.20 billion share of total output. Gold cornered 31.64 percent or P34.24 billion and copper accounted for 17.48 percent or P18.92 billion.

The combined output of silver, chromite, and iron ore totaled P0.85 billion or 0.78 percent of the industry production.

The value of gold and silver advanced in terms of production records last year.

Gold posted a 12 percent increase in volume and 4 percent in value from 18,423 kilograms at P32.97 billion to about 20,643 kilograms at P34.24 billion.

The key producers last year were the Masbate Gold Project of Film-inera Mining Corporation/Philippines Gold Processing and Refining

Corporation in Masbate Province; the Didipio Project of Oceana Gold (Philippines) Inc. in Nueva Vizcaya Province; and the Co-o Gold Project of Philsaga Mining Corporation Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corporation in Agusan del Sur Province.

The production volume and value of silver grew by 29 percent and percent, respectively, from 23,005 kilograms at P616.44 million to 29,780 kilograms at P647.02 million.

Nickel, copper, chromite, and iron ore suffered setbacks both in production volume and value, as base metals are always vulnerable to global economic conditions.

China, which consumed more metals than any nation over the past 10 years, has been reducing its demand for base metals. China has been the major market for Philippine nickel, copper, chromite, and iron ore.

The Manila Times

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Distressed communities lock down DENR as send-off to PNoy and Cabinet

'Six years of inaction and injustice' decried by mining-affected communities

A hundred members of communities displeased with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources stormed the gates of the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) on Visayas Avenue, locking the office down until a moratorium on large-scale mining across the country is released.

The mobilization consisted of distressed mining-affected communities supporting communities from Metro Manila and environmental advocates, protesting the "six years of inaction and injustice" against the environment and the people under the Aquino administration.

"President Aquino and his administration, from his first year in office up until his last remaining days, have continued to side with large corporations at the cost of the health, livelihood and security of communities affected by disasters, extractive industries and dirty energy and development projects," said Atty. Aaron Pedrosa, secretary-general of Sanlakas.

"The most recent confrontation on Manicani Island between communities and a docking ship from the Hinatuan Mining Corp. is a testament of the failure of the DENR to secure mining-affected communities from the sustained operations of suspended mining companies," said Pedrosa, who also heads Bulig Visayas, a broad solidarity network of affected communities demanding an equitable, just, sustainable and people-oriented rehabilitation and development in disaster-affected communities in the Visayas.

"Last May 15, at about seven o'clock in the evening, a large ship from the Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) attempted to dock on the island and seize the mined nickel resources from the area. The residents of Manicani were quick to assemble and block the HMC representatives, who were even escorted by the PNP-R8," according to Pascualito Ilagan, of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCI) Visayas Chapter.

Ilagan reiterated that the HMC was ordered to cease all mining operations as part of its suspension, following its disregard of the environmental protection mechanisms set by the DENR itself. "However, under the guise of 'rehabilitation,' the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region 8 has issued an Ore Transport Permit, enabling the company to grab mined nickel from the island. This was greatly opposed by the communities in the area," Ilagan added.

The community organization Save Manicani Movement (SAMAMO) has since called upon the public, media organizations and newly-elected officials, particularly the presumptive President Rodrigo Duterte to stand with them and protect the interests of the residents of Manicani Island.

"We demand the DENR to cancel the permit it has issued and fully stop HMC's mining operations, including its attempts to hoard the mined resources from the island. HMC must also provide compensation for the destruction it has brought to Manicani," said SAMAMO Public Relations Officer Becky Destajol.

"We also call upon the newly-elected local and national officials to side with the people of Manicani who have suffered enough destruction and displacement because of the failed rehabilitation program in our area and the presence of large-scale mining activities," Destajol added.

"The demands of the residents of Manicani echo the demands of many other mining affected communities and indigenous peoples who have time and again assembled in front of the DENR," said Atty. Pedrosa.

"From those terrorized continuing mining operations in Sta. Cruz, Zambales, all the way to Guian, Samar and to other areas in the country plagued by the environmental destruction, loss of livelihood, deterioration of health and harassment brought about by mining companies, mining-affected communities and environmental advocates demand a full moratorium on large-scale mining activities in the country," Pedrosa continued.

Pedrosa challenged President-elect Rodrigo Duterte to rectify the mistakes of the Aquino administration and bring about the change mining-affected communities are expecting.

"Environmental advocates and disaster-vulnerable communities will not stop demanding their rights and security even after Aquino leaves office. We urge the presumptive President to side with us in this battle for our environment and the future," Pedrosa concluded.

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The Standard

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Mitsubishi produces 600,000th unit, is bullish on PH

By Othel V. Campos

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. announced Friday that the company's automotive production has reached 600,000 units in end-March 2016 with an estimated value of P480 billion.

"This is another production milestone in MMPC's 53 years of existence as one of the major players in the local automotive, manufacturing industry," president Yoshiaki Kato said in a briefing at its plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

MMPC in a span over 50 years has manufactured several models that include Dodge Colt, Minica F4, Lancer, Cimarron and Canter (Mitsubishi trucks).

With several models reach-

ing their life cycle, Mitsubishi has moved on to producing the L-300 vans and the Mitsubishi Adventure with plans to beef up manufacturing by including the Mirage model in the production line starting 2017 under the vehicle incentive program of the Trade Department.

The Mitsubishi Adventure was the 600,000th vehicle unit produced by MMPC, while the Lancer 500,000th unit that was celebrated in its former plant in Cainta, Rizal.

Kato said the company was still selling Adventure, even after 18 years since its Philippine debut, because of its high level of performance and flexibility befitting the Philippine market.

Localization of parts for Adventure has reached a high level

of 67 percent while that of L-300 is at 61 percent.

"However, we regret that with the recent thrust of the Environment Department to shift to Euro 4 compliance, production of our pioneer models shall be deferred," said Kato.

Manufacturing of the same models will start as soon as the company devises Euro-4 compliant engines for Adventure and L-300 vans.

Kato reiterated the company's commitment to pursue manufacturing operations in the Philippine in the next 50 years.

"Our recent application to the CARS [Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy] program of the government shall attest to this commitment. Pending receipt of the certificate of recog-

nition for the program, the plant has been preparing already for the production line set-up of our entry model," he said.

The company as early as June 2016 plans to set up the press manufacturing or stamping facilities for side panels and roof that will account for almost half of the proposed initial capital expenditure the program, or about P2 billion for the press plant alone.

MMPC earlier announced an initial capital expenditure program of P4.3 billion to jumpstart the production of Mirage, the company's entry model in the CARS program.

MMPC currently brings in the Mirage sedan and hatchback variants from its hub in Thailand.



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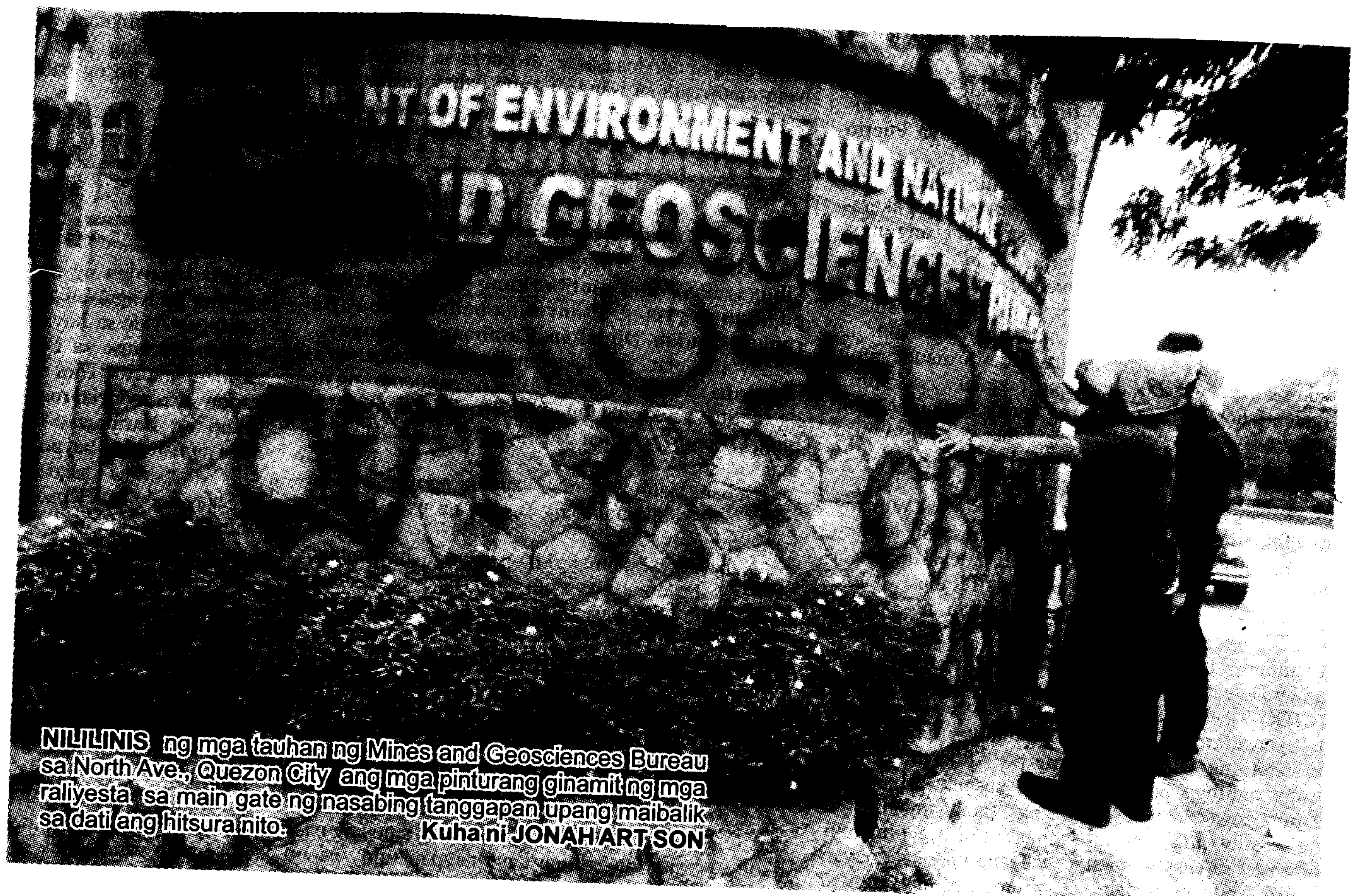
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NILILINIS ng mga tauhan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa North Ave., Quezon City ang mga pinturang ginamit ng mga raliyesta sa main gate ng nasabing tanggapan upang maibalik sa dati ang hitsura nito.

Kuhani JONAH ARTSON

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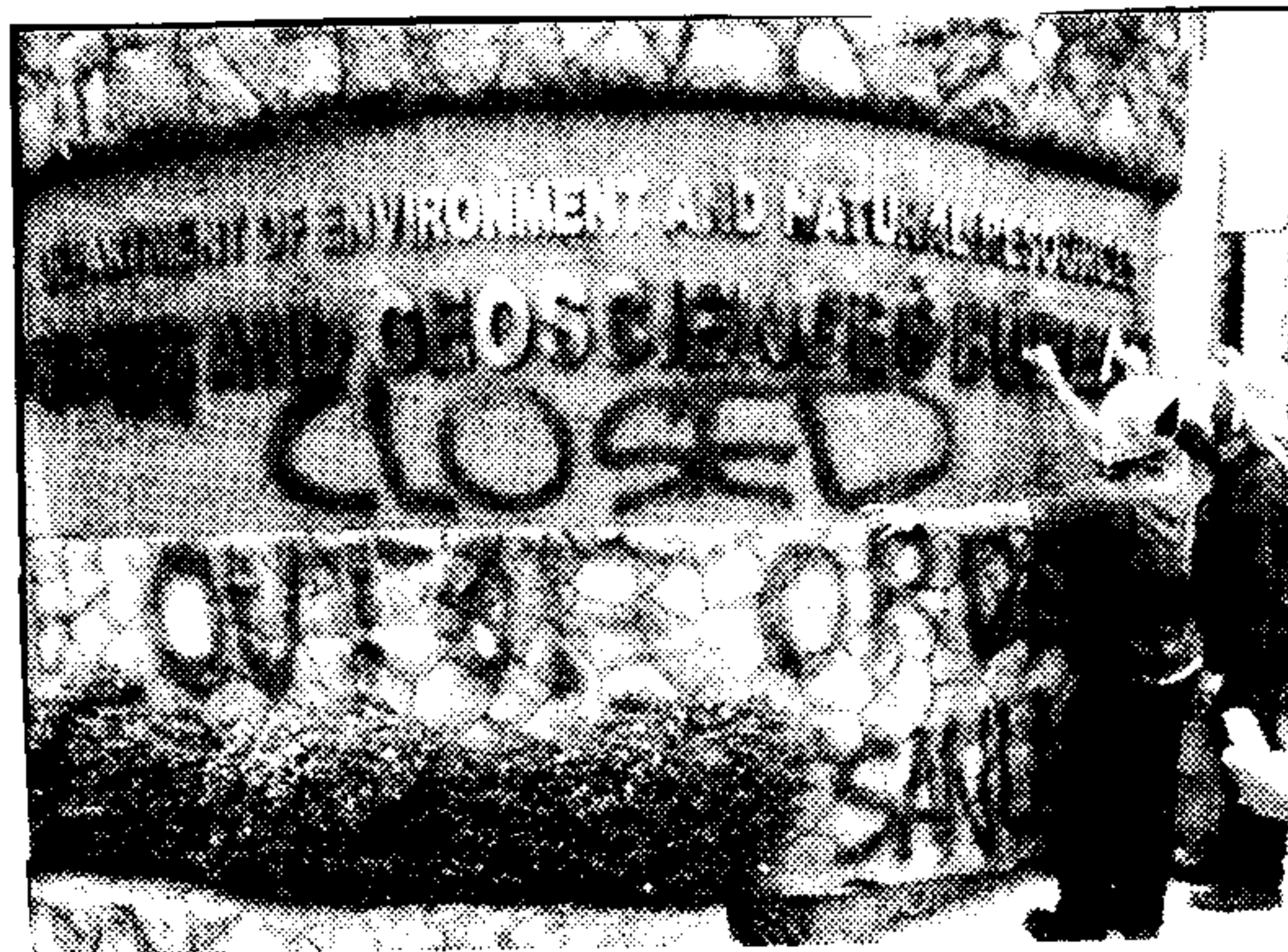
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Nililinis ng mga tauhan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang harapan ng kanilang tanggapan sa North Avenue, Quezon City matapos sulatan ng pintura ng mga nag-protesta laban sa nickel mining sa lalawigan ng Samar kahapon. (*Art Son*)

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UNDP urges Duterte gov't to plan resources management

By ROY C. MABASA

The next administration of incoming president Rodrigo Duterte should seriously consider the importance of effective management of the country's natural wealth not only to preserve it, but also to spur economic development and help reduce poverty in the Philippines.

United Nations Development Programme in the Philippines (UNDP) Country Director Titon Mitra issued

this call in anticipation of the worldwide celebration of the International Biodiversity Day tomorrow.

Mitra noted that few places in the world are as rich in biodiversity as the Philippines, which is considered as one of 18 mega-biodiverse countries harboring more diversity of life per hectare than any other country in the world.

However, this "remarkable asset" is now at significant risk as over exploitation and unsustainable practices, encroachment in forested areas, pollu-

tion, over-fishing, poor land management practices, and natural disasters exacerbated by climate change are contributing significantly to an alarming rate of biodiversity loss.

As a result, this natural abundance is now on a watch-list of biodiversity hot spots with at least 700 species threatened with extinction, dwindling forest cover to a meager 7.2 million hectares or 24 percent of the country's total land area and only two percent of the coral reef areas are in excellent condition.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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Search For Truth

By ERNESTO M. MACEDA

Cabinet shaping up

The Cabinet of presumptive President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has taken shape. The list, so far, includes:

Carlos Dominguez – secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF)

Vitaliano Aquirre – secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ)

Emmanuel Piñol – secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA)

Mark Villar – secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

Salvador Medialdea – executive secretary

Art Tugade – secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)

Jesus Dureza – presidential peace adviser of the Office of the Peace Process

Perfecto Yasay – acting-secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

Salvador Panelo – presidential spokesman

Peter Laurel – secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd)

Alfonso Cusi – secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE)

Silvestre Bello III – peace negotiator

Andrea Domingo – chairman of the Philippine Gaming Corporation (Pagcor)

Jose Calida – solicitor general

The Defense portfolio has been offered to Gilberto Teodoro.

Still to be filled are secretaries of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Health (DOH), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Cabinet secretary. Four of these department posts will be offered to communist leaders as Duterte conceded to them. Senator Juan Ponce Enrile advised the incoming President to think twice before striking a deal with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). However, it's the President's sole prerogative who to appoint as Cabinet secretaries. But under the principle of check and balance, they will have to pass the scrutiny of the Commission on Appointments (CA), as required by law.

Still to be announced are the heads of government financial institutions, such as Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Landbank of the Philippines and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).



Meanwhile, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said Villar would be violating Article 234 of the Revised Penal Code once he did his duties as DPWH secretary and refused to discharge his duties as reelected Las Piñas representative. Also, some people perceive that there is an outright conflict of interest in his appointment, coming from a family with subdivision projects.

As for Panelo, the lawyer of the Ampatuan, the relatives of the Maguindanao massacre urged President Duterte to reconsider his appointment, expressing disappointment over his selection as Duterte's spokesman. Also urging Duterte was executive director of the Center for International Law, Atty. Romel Bagares, saying his choice was uninspired.

Five new faces

The Commission on Elections (Comelec), acting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC), proclaimed 12 winning Senators, Thursday afternoon, with Senate President Frank Drilon topping the list with more than 18 million votes.

Five new faces made the list of winners. They are Joel Villanueva, Manny Pacquiao, Risa Hontiveros, Sherwin Gatchalian and Leila de Lima.

Reelected were Tito Sotto and Ralph Recto. Returning to the Senate are Panfilo Lacson, Richard Gordon, Miguel Zubiri and Francis Pangilinan.

Former Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chief Francis Tolentino, who placed 13th, questioned the proclamation before the Supreme Court (SC).

Also, the Comelec proclaimed a total of 46 party-lists.

Crime still high

The election of tough-talking President Rodrigo Duterte has not deterred criminals from committing crimes.

In Cagayan de Oro, Judge Emmanuel Pasal of RTC Branch 38 was ambushed but survived unscathed.

In Navotas, Roselle Joy Torres was shot in the head inside the Navotas Fish Port.

In Cotabato City, the house of MB Kalnganan Chairman Akmad Manedzin Ayunan was riddled with bullets.

In Zamboanga City, a three-year old girl was raped in front of his paralyzed mother by his stepfather, while her five-month old sibling died of hunger and malnutrition.

Akyat Bahay Gangs are active in Quezon City, San Juan and Mandaluyong.

A young girl was found dead in a quarry in Pampanga.

Higher GDP growth

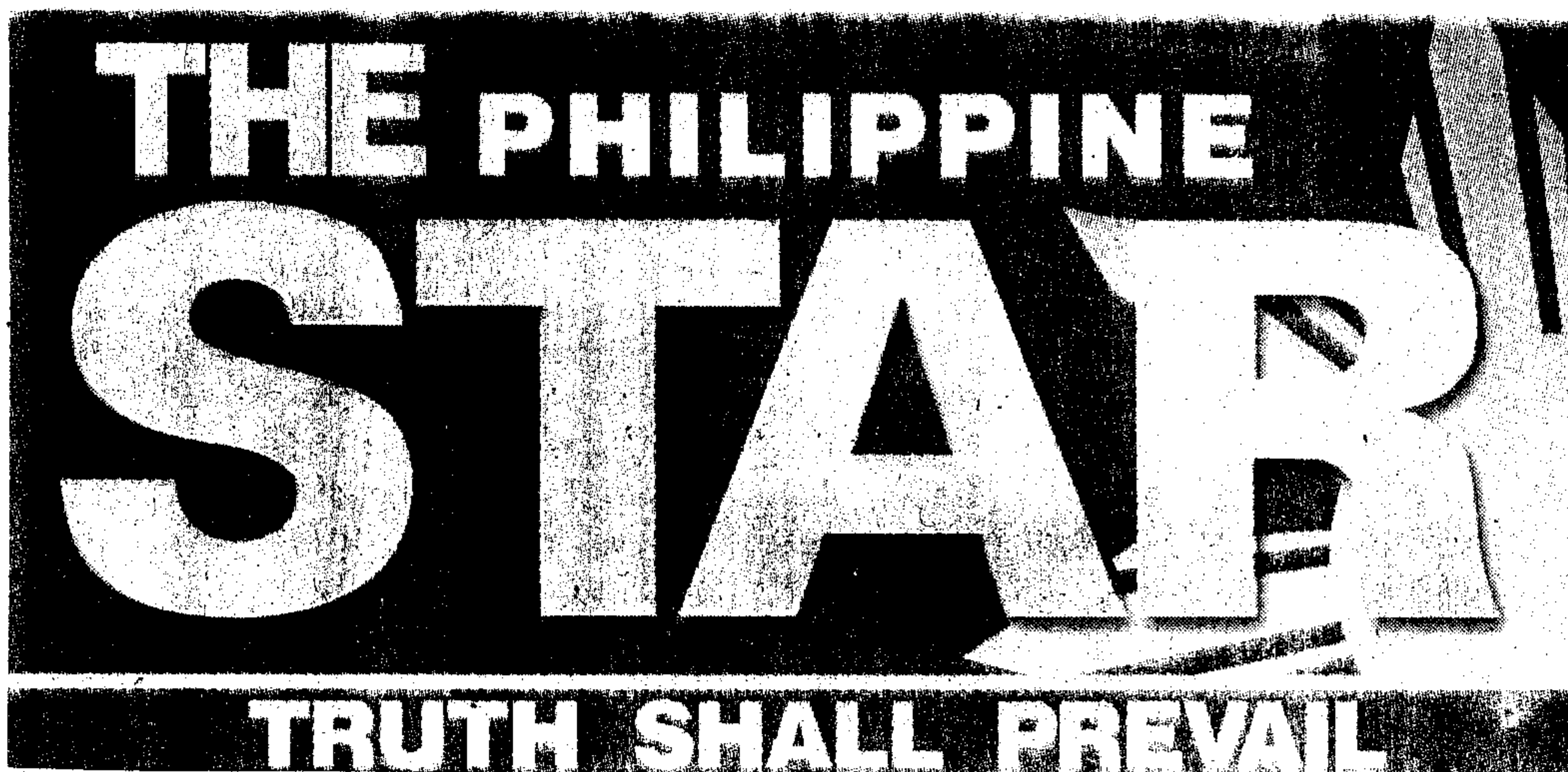
The Philippines recorded a 6.9 percent gross domestic product (GDP) rate in the first quarter of 2016, the highest in Asia.

It outpaced China, who recorded 6.7 percent; Vietnam, 5.5 percent; Indonesia 4.9 percent; Malaysia, 4.2 percent; and Thailand, 3.2 percent.

The 6.9 percent growth rate was caused by election spending and higher government budget releases.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) chief Emmanuel Esguerra said the agriculture and fishery sectors will continue to suffer from El Niño.

Esguerra called for added state spending to diversify crops.



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Cabinet shaping up

The Duterte administration has included intensified agricultural development in its eight-point economic program.

Tidbits

Newly elected Senator Leila de Lima said she will be in the opposition to President Duterte. She announced she is against the restoration of the death penalty and the shoot-to-kill policy against criminals. Meanwhile, newly proclaimed Manny Pacquiao said he is in favor of the death penalty, saying capital punishment is actually based on the Bible.

Hermilando Mandanas has won another term as Governor of Batangas, defeating Dong Mendoza and Vice-Governor Mark Leviste. He ran as an independent.

New Education Secretary Peter Laurel expressed support for the K-12 program.

Death toll from stomach flu in Zamboanga is at 14. The number of acute gastroenteritis patients reached 2,073, most of them were children aged five and below, since March 28 to May 10.

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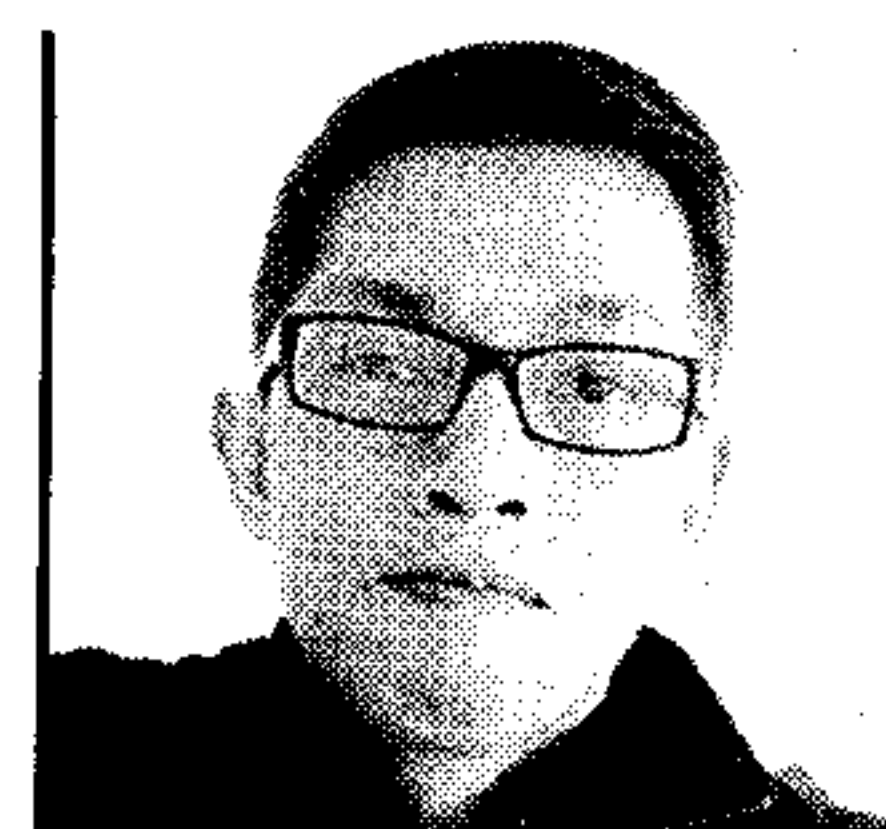
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

HOTSPOT

Rigged number, rigged economy



By TONYO CRUZ

MANY of my friends are happy to see the Philippines attaining a 6.9 percent economic growth rate for the first quarter of 2016, the highest in all of Asia.

Apologists and deodorants of President BS Aquino of course can't stop singing praises and snickering at the voters who opted for change.

By the way, the record growth is not entirely new. The Philippines has frequently registered stellar growth for the past years, as the administration has not been quiet about it and has used it to try to silence the restive public.

The growth rate has always been paid for by the highest tax rates in the region, as well as cheap wages, less expenditures for social services and infrastructure, one-sided and anti-public "private-public partnerships", and the neoliberal prescriptions of privatization, liberalization, deregulation and denationalization.

The way the Aquino administration has rigged official statistics should not be forgotten. Parts of Eastern Visayas for instance is not included in the dipping unemployment and underemployment numbers. And the definitions of both are likewise so liberal, as to brazenly lie about the state of joblessness in the country.

In short, ordinary people paid heavily for the bragging rights claimed by the Aquino administration, and there is a widespread feeling that they didn't benefit meaningfully from such record growth.

We also have to stress that even the so-called foundation purportedly laid by Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was paid for by sin taxes and the twenty percent increase in the VAT rate, among other burdens government made people to bear.

The verdict of May 9, 2016 is a rejection of the sophistry involved in the Aquino administration's self-glorification of its questionable economic record. Voters overwhelmingly repudiated the Daang Matuwid brand of jobless, high-taxes, low-wage and contractual labor-intensive economic growth that is rigged in favor of a few.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who is now only waiting his formal proclamation by Congress and his inaugural on June 30, should not just be skeptical of

the Aquino administration's numbers game. He should reject the discredited Yellow formulas and definitions, because those would deny him and the nation of an honest appraisal of the real state of the economy.

Without an accurate appraisal, Duterte may be prone to continue the wrong "solutions" and put the people and the economy in worse conditions.

Governor Joey Salceda, who is set to join Congress as representative of Albay's second district, has added his voice to the clamor of Makabayan and Bayan that the Duterte administration discard neoliberal policies. He is said to be advocating immediate economic relief for the people, and for big public investments to spur growth: P100-billion each for startups, for tourism and for Mindanao.

Commuters meanwhile should press Duterte to suspend or rescind the onerous contracts governing the MRT and the LRT1. The billions in taxpayer money given to MRT Holdings as lease, and the generous perks for the Ayala-Pangilinan LRT consortium could be better spent on actually buying trains and improving the management of the main mass transport system of Metro Manila. The neoliberal attack on public transportation should be stopped.

We should likewise press Duterte to stop the privatization of public hospitals under whatever guise, and of state colleges and universities through tuition fee increases and commercialization sprees. Public health and public schools should be rescued from neoliberal assaults.

And then, we have the plight of workers who are now suffering from two unrelenting problems: job insecurity and starvation wages. Duterte has promised to swiftly outlaw contractualization. Big Business should not cry "massacre," because all that would entail is restoring the proper allocations for their workers and employees, from their immense profits.

Besides, it is good for businesses in the long run if workers have job security and fair wages: productivity will go up, expertise and specialization would be attained, and workers would have the means to spur consumer spending for good and services produced by – wait for it – Big Business.

It is not impossible that, under Duterte, the Philippines would be a nation of gainfully employed workers and of

better businesses.

We hope that Duterte would be lots more truthful and honest about the economy, jobs, wages, livelihood and opportunities. We citizens should ask Duterte that the rigged statistics be corrected as to truly reflect the situation, and that he refrain from following the highly-deceptive positioning of the outgoing Aquino administration.

Duterte's offer to the Communist Party of the Philippines to join his government has lots of meanings – at once, both political and economic. (One of them is that he is staking his immense political capital to working together with the CPP. We have heard so many challenges hurled at the CPP, but we should also stress that Duterte must also make it worth the CPP's effort to join his government.)

And that means rejecting the most toxic neoliberal policies that could affect the CPP nominees' stints at DSWD, DOLE, DENR and DAR.

Or speeding up the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms between the NDF and the government. The NDF draft of the CASER presents immediate, medium-term and long-term alternatives to how the economy is built, supported, and its fruits shared broadly.

As Duterte sets up his government, we must all do whatever we can to air grievances, propose solutions, and present critiques.

The hope is that when such figures are similarly attained or surpassed under Duterte, it would really be a cause for nationwide celebration and for national happiness.

Because if Duterte would only uphold how the numbers are rigged, keep the same economic foundation, continue the same policy directions, perpetuate the same unfair sharing of burdens, and extend the absence of direct benefits to workers and the rest of our people while pampering the elite few – the people would be sorely disappointed and disgusted.

May this be the last time our government brags about pathetic, fake and elitist economic growth. It is now up to Duterte's political will and genius, and to our efforts as a people to make change happen.

Follow me on Twitter @tonyocruz and check out my blog tonyocruz.com

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir:

Ang pagbagong nagaganap sa ating gobyerno at maging sa London ay medyo magkakahalintulad. Sa London, ang naihal na mayor ay isang Muslim sa katauhan ni Sadiq Khan. Siya ang kaunaunahang Muslim na inihalal ng mga mamamayang London. Siya ay nanumpa sa Cathedral at maaaring iwelcome ng reyna ng London.

Ganoon din dito sa atin. Nais ng ating halal na Pangulo Duterte na isama niya sa kanyang kabinete ang mga die-hard komunista sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay sa kanila ng puwestong mamuno sa alin mang ahensiya ng Departamento ng Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, Labor and Employment and Social Welfare and Development. Kung saan ang mga ahensiyang ito ang lagi nilang binabatikos. Kung ang reyna ng London ay tinanggap ang pagkapanalo ni Mayor Khan, dapat tayo ring mga Pilipino ay matanggap natin ang kagustuhan ng ating Pangulo tungo sa pagbabago. Malay natin ang mga komunistang ito ay matugunan ang mga problema ng ating bayan sa pamamagitan ng kanilang pamumuno. Hindi ba marami silang isinisigaw na kamalian ng mga ahensiyang ito? Kung sila ang nakaupo na tiyak ako na alam nilang solusyunan ang mga problemang ito. Tulad ng illegal mining, illegal logging, contractualization, salary increase at ang mga kapakanan ng mga mangingisda at magbubukid. Hindi ba sila ang laging nagsasabi na sila ang tinig ng mga sector na ito? Ngayon, oras na nila upang tunay na makapaglingkod sa bayan na kanilang laging isinisigaw.

Inah A. Legaspi
Don Galo, Parañaque City

Dear Sir:

Binabalak ni incoming President Duterte na bigyan ng posisyon sa gobyerno ang ilang panig sa NPA. Ayos naman siguro kung ito ay mangyayari kasi isa ito sa mga paraan upang mapalapit ang mga miyembro nito sa ating gobyerno at baka magbalik loob pa sila. Sana maayos ang pagtupad sa tungkulin kung sino man ang itatalaga sa posisyon sa gobyerno. Huwag sana mangyari na kapag naka-upo na bilang Secretary ng halimbawa: DSWD, DAR, DFA, DOLE o ano pa man na ang pondo ng departamen-

to ay ipambibili lang nila ng armas ng mga NPA o kaya ay ibibigay lamang sa mga miyembro nila. Hati nawa ay hindi mangyayari ito, bagkus ay magiging maayos ang lahat at magkakasundo-sundo na.

Gloria Naval
San Nicolas, Pangasinan

Dear Sir:

Malaki ang aking agam-agam sa pagtatalaga sa mga makaliwang grupo na pamumunuan ang apat ng ahensiya ng gobyerno tulad ng Departments of Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, Labor and Employment and Social Welfare and Development. Takot baka ang mga pondo para rito ay magamit lamang sa kanilang pansariling kapakanan na ilalaan lamang sa kanilang tunay na grupo ang CPP-NDF-NPA.

Maaring magamit ang pondo sa muling pagpapalakas ng kanilang organisasyon o pagbili ng mga armas na mismong gagamitin laban sa gobyerno ni Pangulong Duterte at sa sambayanang Pilipino. Hindi natin maiaalis ang kanilang loyalty sa sambayanan o loyalty sa kanilang samahan?

Mayroon din namang katwiran si Pangulong Duterte sa pagtatalaga sa kanila sa posisyon na ito sa gobyerno dahil ang mga lider na ito ang siyang gumugulo sa takbo ng pamamalakad lalo na sa nabanggit na mga ahensiya. Sila ang madalas na bumabatikos sa mga ahensiyang ito. Tingnan natin kung tunay nilang magampanan ang tungkuling ito.

Harinawang ang kanilang pamamalakad ay makabawas sa mga problemang naka-akibat sa mga ahensiyang ito. Dito natin sila masusubukan kung sila ay para sa taong bayan o sa kanilang isinusulong na pamamaraang gobyerno, ito ay ang komunista. At nawa'y hindi ito maging balakid sa isinusulong ng ating sambayanang tunay na humihiling ng pagbabago tungo sa kaunlaran ng bawat Pilipino.

Raphael A. Jacobe
Pan Am Village, Taguig City

HATAW!

D'YARYO NG BAYAN

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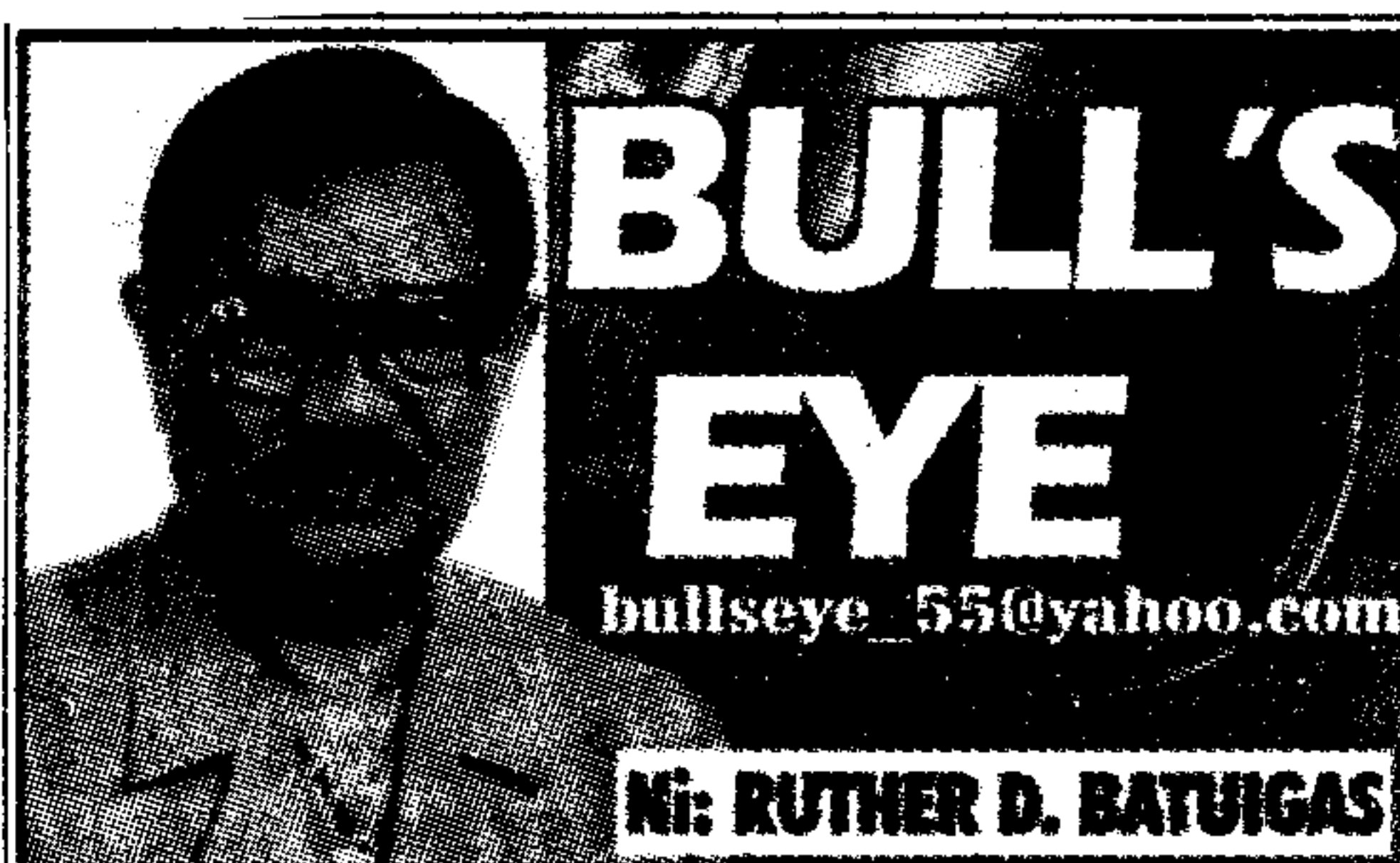
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DAPAT mag-ingat ang gobyerno sa pagpasok ng mga rebeldeng komunista bilang bahagi ng Gabinete ng bagong mauupong Pres. Rodrigo Duterte.

Tiyak na batid ni Duterte na may problemang hatid ang pagtatrabaho ng mga kawani ng gobyerno na kasama ang mga komunista kaya dapat pag-aralan ito nang husto.

Sa tingin ng iba, dapat talaga siyang maghunos-dili sa gagawing pagtatalaga sa mga opisyal ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) para pamunuan ang Dept. of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Dept. of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Dept. of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) at Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa totoo lang, mga mare at pare ko, posibleng may panganib itong dulot lalo sa seguridad na hindi dapat balewalain o kaligtaan.

Nauunawaan natin na bahagi ng laging pagtatalak ng mga komunista ang pakikipaglaban umano nila para sa karapatan ng kawawang mga manggagawa, magsasaka at mahihirap. Matinding hamon ang pagbibigay ni Digong ng pagkakataon sa kanila na maging bahagi ng gobyerno.

Pero ang tanong ay may magagawa ba sila para mataasan ang suweldo na noon pa hinihiling ng mga manggagawa? Maisasaayos ba nila ang mga problema ng mga magsasaka sa lupa na ka-

MAG-INGAT SA PAGPASOK NG KOMUNISTA

nilang sinasaka? Mabibigyan ba nila ng trabaho o kabuhayan ang mga mamamayan, lalo ang mga maralita na isang kahig, isang tuka sa buhay?

Malaking kapakinabangan kung may magagawa sila para mapabuti ang kalagayan ng pamumuhay ng mga mamamayan.

Gano'n pa man, nariyan pa rin ang tanong na umiinog sa isipan ng maraming taong-gobyerno. Mapagkakatiwalaan kaya ang mga komunista na ilang dekadang naging kaaway na mortal ng gobyerno?

May nagtatanong, paano raw kung may plano pala sila para isabotahe ang gobyerno at palihim itong isakatuparan upang mapahina ang pundasyon at mapadali ang gagawin nilang pag-sakop, na noon pa nila binabalak?

Marami rin ang nag-aala sa balak ni Duterte na palayain ang mga political prisoner. Hindi raw dapat magpadalos-dalos si Digong sa bagay na ito. Sa halip na makipagkaisa sa gobyerno ay baka lumikha pa raw ng pagkakagulo at pagkaka-watak-watak ang mga damuho kapag lumaya.

Manmanan!

SUMBONG: "Sir, madalas po may bentahan ng shabu at pot session sa mga puwesto dito sa loob ng Galas Market sa Union Civica St., malapit sa corner ng Luzon Ave., Galas, Quezon City. Alyas Rey Bulag, Mando, Boy Komang, Boy Muslim, Dudoy Bisaya. Sila po may hawak ng shabu dito sa palengke."

Bantayan!!!

TEXT 0905-6767673 para sa inyong mga sumbong, puna at reklamo.

X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ

BULGAR SA BALITA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

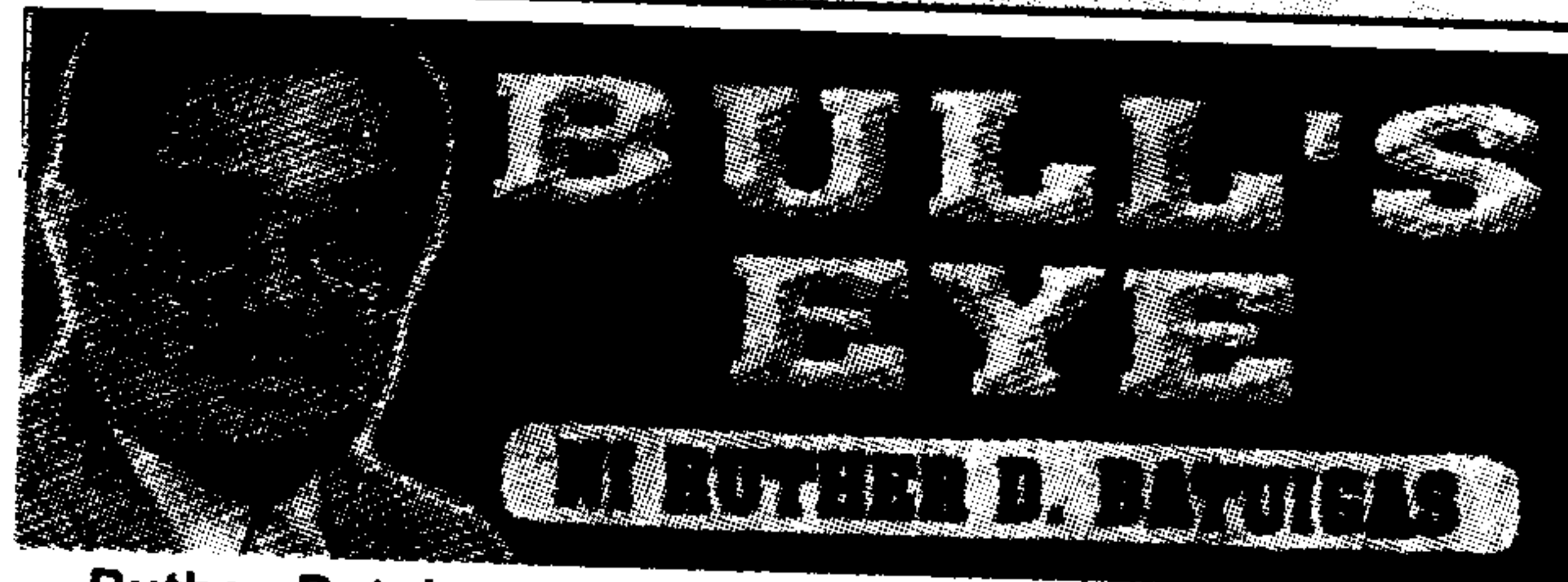
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Ruther Batuigas (E-mail: bullseye_55@yahoo.com)

MAG-INGAT SA PAGPASOK NG KOMUNISTA

DAPAT mag-ingat ang gobyerno sa pagpasok ng mga rebeldeng komunista bilang bahagi ng Gabinete ng bagong mauupong Pres. Rodrigo Duterte.

Tiyak na batid ni Duterte na may problemang hatid ang pagtatrabaho ng mga kawani ng gobyerno na kasama ang mga komunista kaya dapat pag-aralan ito nang husto.

Sa tingin ng iba ay dapat talaga siyang maghunus-dili sa gagawing pagtatalaga sa mga opisyal ng Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) para pamunuan ang Dept. of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Dept. of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Dept. of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) at Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

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Manmanan!

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

In PH, faith becomes a driving force vs coal

By **PURPLE ROMERO**

BATANGAS, Philippines (Thomson Reuters Foundation) – The Muslim cleric from the city of Batangas walked up to Archbishop Ramon Arguelles and held out his hand. "I am Imam Abdul Karim," he said, introducing himself. "I want to join you in your fight against coal."

Arguelles, a prominent Catholic figure from the neighboring city of Lipa, smiled and firmly shook Karim's hand.

Earlier this month, the two men met at the launch of the Piglas Batangas! Piglas Pilipinas! (Break Free Batangas! Break Free Philippines!) campaign, when thousands of people gathered to protest as part of a global movement against fossil fuels.

But while crowds in other countries blockaded and shut down coal plants, Karim and Arguelles are aiming for a more peaceful – and potentially powerful – means of uniting people against coal: Religious faith.

The Philippines already has 17 operating coal plants and Department of Energy has approved 29 more, all due to go online by 2020. By then, according to consultancy firm IHS, coal will make up 56 percent of the country's energy mix.

But in a country where religious faith is strong, activists believe the one thing as powerful as the Philippines' dependence on coal is its willingness to listen to its religious leaders.

Out of a population of 102 million, almost 75 percent of Filipinos are Catholics and another 10 percent belong to different Christian denominations. Five percent of Filipinos are Muslim.

Using the common language of faith, the country's religious leaders are trying to build a movement against the construction of the new coal plants.

The day of the Break Free protest, Arguelles held a mass before an estimated 10,000 people and reminded them of what Pope Francis had said about the environment, when he asked Catholics to embrace an "ecological conversion."

"This is the command of God. We should take care of his creation," Arguelles said.

That same afternoon, Karim spoke to the faithful in his mosque about Allah's message on environmental conservation. "Protect Mother Nature. Nature is the source of life," Karim said. "That's what we are taught as Muslims."

As is the case in so many countries, the Philippines' stance on climate change is rife with contradictions.

At last year's Paris negotiations, which reached a new global agreement to deal with climate change, outgoing President Benigno Aquino III asked for drastic efforts to reduce carbon emissions, making the plea on behalf of the Philippines and other nations that are most vulnerable to extreme weather and other effects of climate change.

Barely a month later, he attended the inauguration of a 300-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Davao city.

In the run-up to the conference, the Philippines declared it would cut its emissions 70 percent by 2030. But on

March 20, presumptive President Rodrigo Duterte lambasted the UN's call for developing countries to stop using coal as "hypocritical."

Even Batangas province itself mirrors the paradox: It is host to a coal-fired power plant and a 63 MW solar farm.

But the Philippines can't afford to straddle the divide, activists warn.

While the country's emission levels are low, accounting for only 0.3 percent of global emissions as of 2010, if all the proposed coal plants are built the country will have trouble meeting its emission reduction goal, according to Climate Action Tracker, an analysis of global efforts to reduce climate change.

And as global temperatures continue to rise, the Philippines finds itself on the frontline of the extreme weather events that often come with climate change.

In 2013, the country was hit by typhoon Haiyan, which killed at least 6,000 people, and droughts are causing farmers to go hungry in the southern region of Mindanao.

Coal also has a more immediate adverse effect on people's health, experts say. A 2016 report by Greenpeace and other non-governmental organizations warned that allowing additional coal plants to operate in the Philippines could more than double the annual number of premature deaths due to exposure to toxic pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

PROMISES AND PANELS

Religious leaders say prayers, however, won't be enough to wean the Philippines from coal.

Arguelles has asked local leaders to sign a covenant stating they will prioritise environmental protection when making decisions on behalf of the people.

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In PH, faith becomes a driving force vs coal

One of his biggest challenges is engaging newly elected Governor Hermilando Mandanas, who has said he remains open to approving coal-fired power plants in Batangas as long as they meet requirements for lower emissions levels.

In Quezon province, Father Raul Enriquez said churches must first and foremost stop accepting donations from companies engaged in extractive industries. Some parishes take money from coal and mining companies, he said, and "other convents were built on money that came from power plants."

In his parish in Agdangan, Enriquez, who is a member of the Philippines Against Dirty Energy Resources group, led the construction of the Luminous/Grace Sanctuary, which is powered by a solar generator.

He sees other priests installing solar panels on their churches, giving him hope that the message is getting through.

"Yes to God, No to Coal!" Enriquez said. "That should be our battle cry." (Reporting by Purple Romero; editing by Jumana Farouky and Laurie Goering; Please credit the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, climate change, women's rights, trafficking and property rights.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Dams pose flood threat when La Niña rains set in

By **FREDDIE C. VELEZ**

MALOLOS CITY, Bulacan — The provincial government of Bulacan is asking the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to use the La Mesa Dam as the main reservoir of the two water concessionaires serving Metro Manila so that Ipo Dam can make preemptive releases before a typhoon wreaks havoc.

Governor Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado revealed yesterday that such an arrangement should be done by the MWSS with its two concessionaires — the Manila Water Company Inc. and the Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Alvarado pointed out that Maynilad is directly using Ipo Dam as its

sub-reservoir, thus keeping its water level at 100 meters or just one meter away from its spilling level of 101 meters 365 days a year.

"This is why Ipo Dam cannot make preemptive releases before a typhoon hits and are forced to discharge excess water into the already swollen Bustos dam which in turn are obliged to release heavy volume of waters that causes flooding in the low lying coastal towns of Hagonoy and Calumpit," said Alvarado, who is also the chairman of the Regional Development Council.

The governor said that while long term solutions are underway like the rehabilitation of the brittle rubber gates of Bustos Dam and the rehabilitation and dredging of the Labangan Flood Control Channel in Calumpit,

the floods will keep on coming to Hagonoy and Calumpit and nearby areas if the wanton releases of water from the said dams continue.

Last Thursday a group of concerned engineers in Bulacan warned that flash floods have been forecast by the state weather bureau as a result of La Niña setting in later this year.

"Kawawa na naman ang taga Calumpit, Hagonoy, San Miguel at San Ildefonso nito kapag sunod-sunod na ang malalakas na ulan," they said.

They added that had concerned national government agencies heeded the advice of Alvarado years ago to convert the Bayabas River into a dam, then it would have mitigated the threat being posed this year by La Niña.

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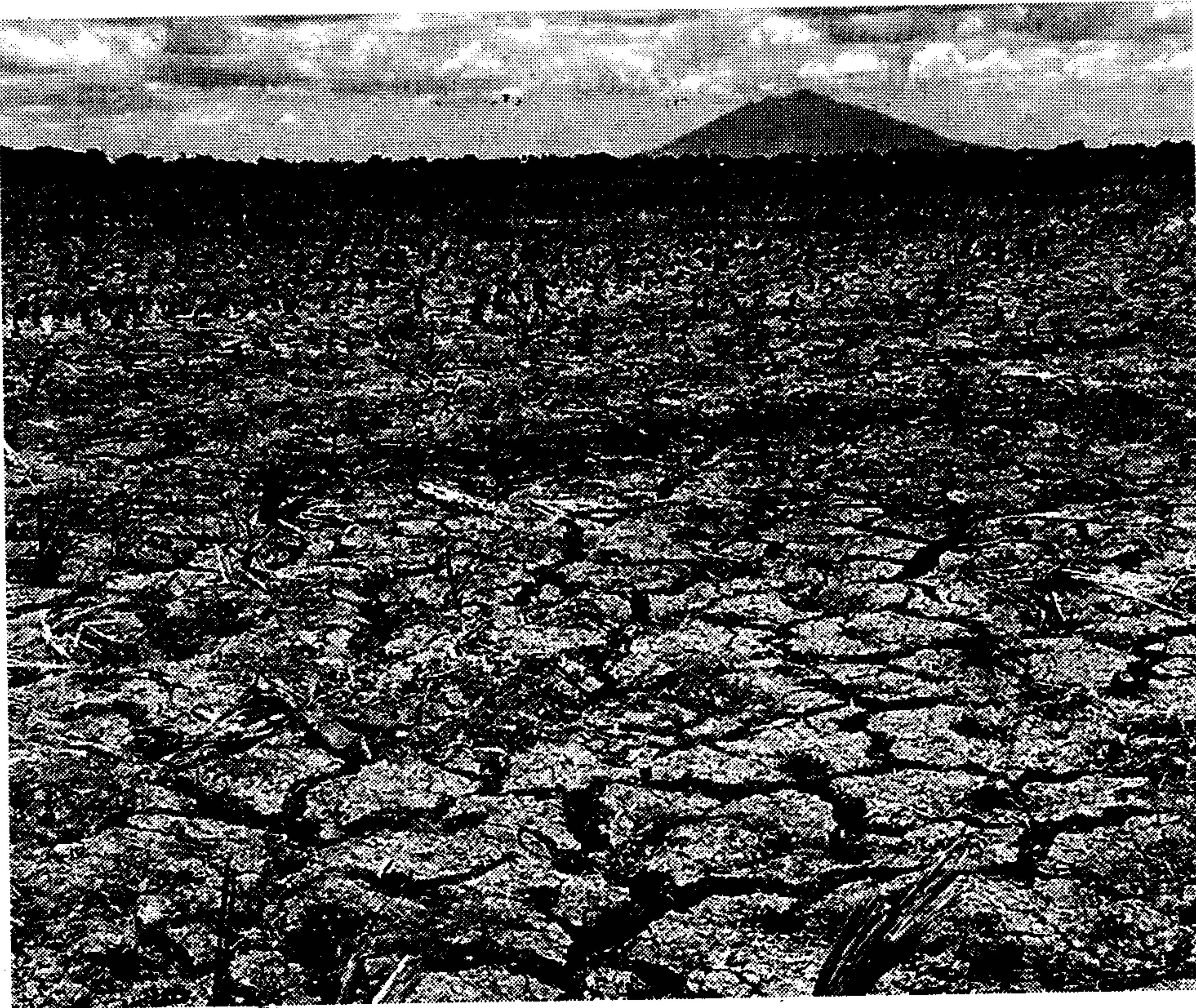
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Still parched. This farmland in Jaen, Nueva Ecija, much affected by El Niño, awaits the start of the rainy season. **MANNY PALMERO**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

On resort island, road-sharing advocates test law

A HARDLY known provision in the law that allows the people to initiate the enactment of laws is being tested in one of the prime tourist destinations of Cebu province, Bantayan Island, by advocates of a revolutionary proposal on how to use the country's roads and reduce pollution—equal sharing of streets between motor vehicles and human traffic.

Timing it with Earth Day 2016 on April 22, the advocates of road sharing filed a petition at the town council of Santa Fe, one of the towns on Bantayan Island, to divide all roads in the town in half. Half would be for vehicles and the other half to be turned into walkways and bicycle lanes.

Led by youth leaders Regine Ilustrimo and Jay Contento, the advocates are testing a little known law that allows 50 voters of a village or 100 of a town to directly propose an ordinance, or local law, through a petition

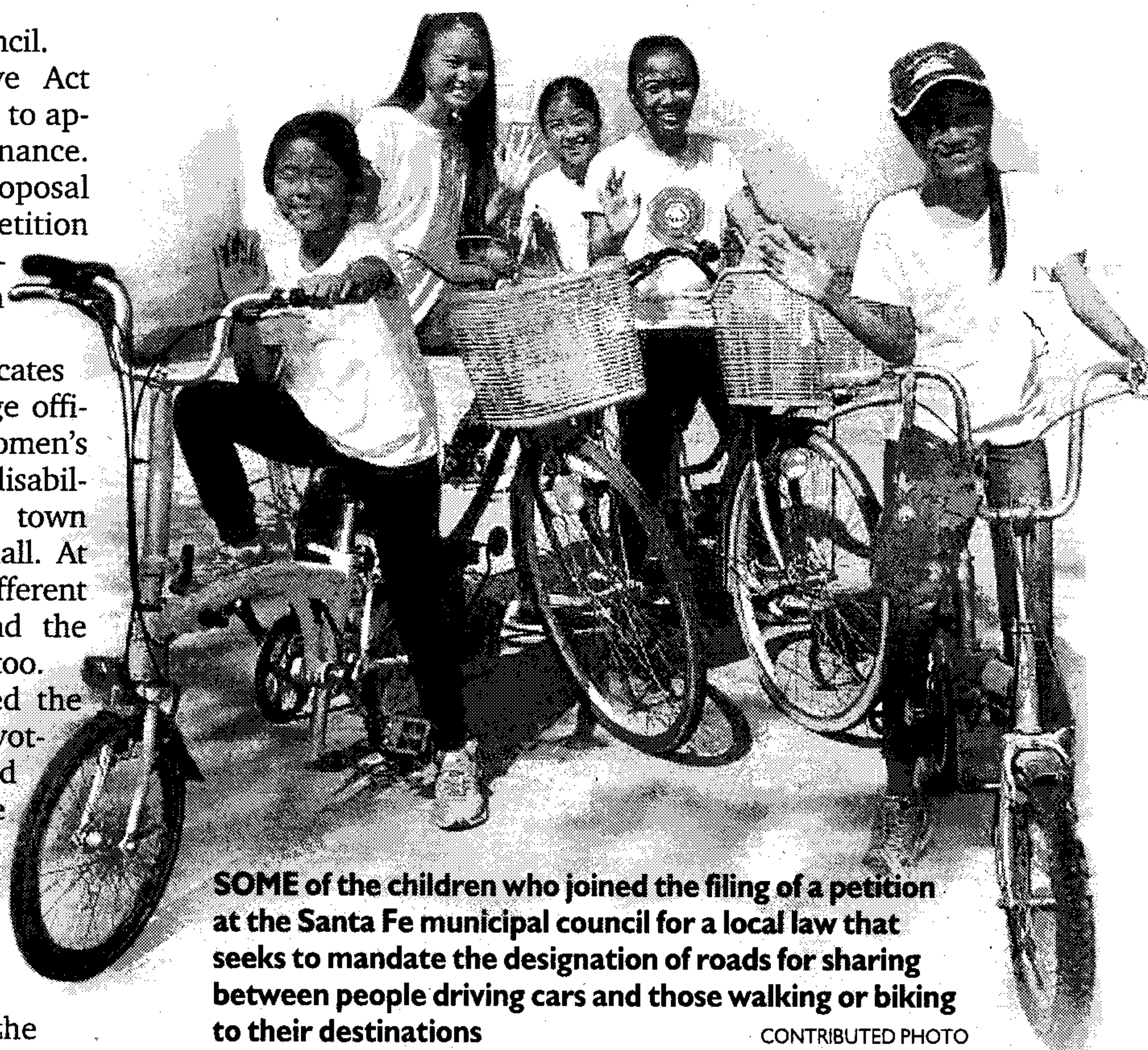
in the village or town council.

The People's Initiative Act gives the council 30 days to approve the proposed ordinance. Failure to act on the proposal empowers citizens to petition the Commission on Elections for a referendum on the proposed law.

The road-sharing advocates marched with local village officials, health workers, women's groups and persons with disabilities from the Santa Fe town plaza to the municipal hall. At least 24 lawyers from different parts of the country and the world gave their support, too.

While the law required the signatures of only 100 voters, the children submitted a petition signed by more than 600 voters and 1,200 children and youth leaders.

At the filing of the petition, Ilustrimo explained the reason for the



SOME of the children who joined the filing of a petition at the Santa Fe municipal council for a local law that seeks to mandate the designation of roads for sharing between people driving cars and those walking or biking to their destinations

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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on resort island & road — closing advocates fast lane

initiative. "Please give us a place to walk and bike safe from accidents," a statement released by the advocates quoted the 12-year-old as saying during the filing of the petition.

Justin Rose, an international environmental law professor at the University of South Pacific who went to Santa Fe from Australia to document the event, said the petition "is an act of great courage to begin the process of mind shift in the fossil fuel-based transportation systems."

Lawyers who supported the children's petition said the road-sharing principle is already mandated by an existing law, Executive Order No. 774.

They said EO 774 requires two departments—interior and public works—to heed the principle of "those who have less in wheels must have more in roads."

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The Manila Times

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LEPANTO MINING ISO 14001 CERTIFIED

MANKAYAN, Benguet: Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company (LCMC) had zero-nonconformity during the ISO 14001:2004 certification audit conducted by TUV Rheinland, Philippines Inc. in March 2016. TUV Rheinland audit team confirmed that LCMC's Environmental Management System (EMS) complies with and adequately maintains and implements the requirements of the standard. Thus, the ISO 14001:2004 + Cor. 1:2009 certificate was issued on May 12, 2016 to LCMC covering its Corporate Office in Makati City; Lepanto Warehouse in Malolos, Bulacan; and Lepanto Mine Division in Mankayan, Benguet. The zero-nonconformity finding affirms the company's commitment to become a socially responsible mining company through environmental stewardship. The certification is valid until September 14, 2018. **THOM F. PICAÑA**

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Magat land owners decry unfair settlement schemes

By Dexter A. See

ALFONSO LISTA, Ifugao—Several property owners in Barangay Sto. Domingo here have decried the alleged unfair settlement schemes allegedly being implored by the management of SN Aboitiz Power-Magat in the acquisition of lands to pave the way for the P900-million Magat River Irrigation System optimization project.

Lawyer Noel Magalgalit said his client who owns some 2.4 hectares of agricultural land that will be submerged by the project, is one of those who have received an unfair offer from the company just for them to allow the project to proceed.

In fact, Magalgalit revealed a land owner who

owns a 3,000-square meter land was paid more than P926,000 in livelihood gratuity plus P18 per square meter payment of the land allegedly based on existing values in the area.

Further, another land owner who owns a land 7,000 square meters was paid more than P1.7 million in livelihood gratuity and P18 per square meter value of the land while another land owner who owns a land measuring 3,600 square meters stands to receive P1.2 million in livelihood gratuity and P18 per square meter value of the land.

However, Magalgalit cited that his client, who has four heirs over the 2.4-hectare land that will be submerged, was offered only P525,000 in livelihood gratuity and P18

per square meter of the land.

"We find the offer to be unfair and not in accordance with standards comparing the same to the other offers made to the affected land owners," Magalgalit stressed.

It was learned that Judge Rufus G. Malacan of the Regional Trial Court Branch 15, dismissed the motion for reconsideration filed by NIA after it junked the expropriation proceedings filed against the land owner while the Court of Appeals denied the petition for certiorari with urgent motion for issuance of TRO and/or Injunction filed by the power firm seeking to stop the court proceedings, on the complaint for injunction filed by the affected land claimants before RTC-15.