

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 25 MAY 2016

DAY : Wednesday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### UN: Humanitarian needs grow every year

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

As humanitarian needs continue to grow every year and more people need more help for longer periods of time, humanitarian partners around the world will commit to take concrete action to address this during the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit.

The United Nations called on the international community to stand up and take action for humanity amidst man-made and natural disasters, conflict and violence that have affected millions of people.

"Disasters, both man-made and natural, are becoming more frequent, more complex and more intense. More than 60 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and violence," the UN said on the eve of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said humanitarian partners around the globe will commit to take concrete action to address this during the two-day summit that opened on Monday.

Some 5,200 participants, including 65 heads of state, 177 UN member states, crises-affected communities, NGOs, private sector and UN agencies representatives are attending the Summit.

It follows an extensive global consultation with 23,000 stakeholders worldwide to identify the key humanitarian challenges of our time.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has laid out his vision for the Summit in an Agenda for Humanity focusing on a set of core commitments: to prevent and end conflicts; uphold the norms that safeguard humanity; leave no one behind; change

people's lives – from delivering aid to ending need; and invest in humanity.

"Let us not underestimate the gravity of what lies before us in the coming days: A once in a generation opportunity to set in motion an ambitious and far-reaching agenda to change the way that we alleviate, and most importantly prevent, the suffering of the world's most vulnerable people," said Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief coordinator.

More than 130 million people are in need of assistance and protection across the world, driving up the costs of delivering life-saving assistance and protection.

UN-led appeals have grown six-fold from \$3.4 billion in 2003 to nearly \$21 billion.



**KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE:** Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje (2nd from left) receives from Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration climate data division chief Rosalina de Guzman (left) and Bureau of Soils and Water Management laboratory services division chief Gina Nilo (2nd from right) knowledge products on climate change developed with the assistance of the Philippine Climate Change Adaptation Project to improve the country's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change. Other knowledge products produced are the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape Management and the Interim Report on Pilot Testing the Feasibility of Weather Index-Based Crop Insurance Application. Joining them is DENR Assistant Secretary for foreign-assisted and special projects Rommel Abesamis.



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NATIVE TREES - - - -

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## Money does grow out of native trees

By Riza T. Olchondra

EPHRAIM Cercado, a general surgeon by profession and a farmer by choice, walks slowly around a friend's flowering *yakal* tree on a sunny Saturday morning while he tells of the toils of a native tree farmer.

"Tree farming for lumber can be profitable, a farmer can make millions in one harvest, but that comes after waiting 10, 25, 50 years or so depending on species, for a return on investment. And it's so hard to find planting material, especially for native species, because no one is focused on propagating them," he says while squinting at fallen leaves and twigs to find those winged seeds of the dipterocarp [from Greek, meaning two-winged fruit] *yakal*.

Cercado's own farm in Romblon has *toog* (Philippine rosewood), *ipil*, *almaciga*, *narra*, *kamagong* (locally known as *mabolo*), *dau* (or *dao*, the Pacific walnut). He shares seed material with other native tree enthusiasts, and sells seedlings of various species to stimulate cash inflow. Mostly, he simply finds it relaxing to spend weekend mornings looking for little

seeds that will grow into giant trees.

Some like the *yakal* may only need a few decades to be fully grown, but others such as the ironwood species could keep growing for 100 years, says Cercado. And, after years and years of growing and protecting one's tree plantation, there is little assurance of harvest.

"Supposedly, based on our laws, if you plant a tree, you can grow it for lumber. But in practice, with the current log ban, it is so hard to get a permit for tree cutting even for tree farms and plantations," he says. "Currently the only species allowed to be cut and sold are mahogany, *falcata*, paper tree, *ipil ipil* and *acacia*."

There are some registered native tree plantations but it seems nobody has recently tried applying for a tree-cutting permit, Cercado says. Interpretation of the law seems subjective and it is hard to secure permits, he says.

Besides these factors that discourage the propagation of native trees, confusing implementing rules and their interpretation could also hamper development. Presently, bulk of the wood supply in the Philip-

pinos is imported but as developments are driving up demand, prices could be prohibitive.

"The intent of the current log ban is good but it may be more sustainable to allow plantations to cut trees for lumber as long as they are readily replaced," Cercado says. "We must implement clear cut laws related to the cutting of trees without permits and outside of plantations."

The total log ban was introduced in 2011, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has declared it a success because the number of illegal logging hotspots in the country went down to 23 by the end of 2015 from 197 in early 2010.

The DENR says the anti-illegal logging campaign led to the confiscation of almost 31 million board feet of illegally cut logs, lumber, and other forest products. The seized products were used to manufacture a total of 146,471 school armchairs and furniture, and to repair 388 school buildings.

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THE WORLD-FAMOUS Ironwood tree.

SURIGAODELSUR.GOV.PH

Confiscated forest products donated to other government agencies were converted to 1,820 chairs, 105 double-deck beds, 110 hospital beds, and partly used for repairs of 102 core shelters and 18 buildings. The anti-illegal logging campaign also resulted in the filing of a total of 1,549 cases against violators with 202 persons convicted, according to the DENR.

There are questions, however, on whether the campaign would be more sustainable if government supported native tree planting for lumber, with former illegal loggers employed as seed gatherers and plantation stewards. •

In his plantation, Cercado muses that while tree farming for lumber can be profitable, it takes 10 to 25 years to start harvesting decent-sized logs.

"Many of the trees that has just been planted, I will likely not live to harvest. They would be for my children," he says.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### PH's aggressive action vs global warming urged

By Bernadette E. Tamayo

SENATOR Loren Legarda has renewed her call for more aggressive action to address the climate change crisis.

She made the appeal during the 10th anniversary of An Inconvenient Truth, the documentary film on Former US Vice President Al Gore's campaign to educate people about global warming.

"A lot has changed

since that year when An Inconvenient Truth was launched, especially on how we perceive the climate change phenomenon. People now have a better understanding of the climate crisis and how it is linked to our survival. An Inconvenient Truth continues to ignite climate action," Legarda said.

Legarda, chairperson of the Senate Committee

on Climate Change, said the government must draw sectoral roadmaps that will lead to the achievement of its INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions), especially in energy, transport, forestry and agriculture.

"The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which was signed by 175 countries, including the Philippines, proves that we now realize the urgency of taking action to address climate change and mitigate its impacts," she said.

"But these realization and commitments must be translated into concrete action, mainly through the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions," Legarda told participants to the An Inconvenient Truth anniversary celebration organized by The Climate Reality Project Philippines in Cebu City.

She said for the Philippines, climate action means achieving its goal of 70 percent greenhouse gas emissions reduction as stated in its INDCs submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"We certainly cannot go business as usual. In the energy sector, there should be a good energy mix where there is a bias for renewables. There is no reason to hesitate or delay action on a challenge so compelling, on a threat to humanity so clear and present," she said.

"For every second that ticks away is but a second closer to the next calamity. We must lead the way towards meaningful change for our children and grandchildren, for all of humanity, for all species in the world, and for Mother Earth," added Legarda.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Investing in biodiversity is investing in our future

WITH PRESUMPTIVE President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's agenda getting to be progressively developed, the observance of International Biodiversity Day last May 22 offered a timely reminder of the need for and importance of effectively managing the country's natural wealth.

Few places in the world are as rich in biodiversity as the Philippines, which is considered one of 18 mega-biodiverse countries. The country is known to harbor more diversity of life per hectare than any other country in the world. This immense natural wealth—and this is a remarkable asset—however, faces significant risk. Over exploitation and unsustainable practices, encroachment on forested areas, pollution, over-fishing, poor land management, and natural disasters exacerbated by climate change are contributing significantly to an alarming rate of biodiversity loss.

So what's at stake? Some 52,000 recorded plant and animal species (the Philippines ranks fifth globally in the number of plant species); a total of 464 reef-building coral species, or nearly half of all known coral species in the world; an estimated 10,000 aquatic species, or approximately one fifth of all known species globally. In fact, the country's marine waters are seen as the epicenter of marine biodiversity on earth.

Worryingly, this natural abundance is now on a watch list of biodiversity hot spots. The Philippines has at least 700 species threatened with extinction. Forest cover has dwindled to a meagre 7.2 million hectares or 24 percent of the country's total land area. Only 2 percent of the coral reef areas are in excellent condition.

These numbers are not just a concern of aesthetics, of preserving natural beauty; they are also a critical economic and social issue. Biodiversity managed effectively can help reduce poverty, preserve livelihoods and traditional

## COMMENTARY

*Titon Mitra*

lifestyles, and make a significant contribution to national economic growth. Note, almost 70 percent of the country's population is dependent on the environment and natural resources for a living.

These resources utilized sustainably can make a remarkable difference in the lives of many Filipinos. Global sales of pharmaceuticals derived from genetic resources account for \$75 billion to \$150 billion. A study commissioned by the UN Development Programme found that the net present sustainable bio-prospecting value of the Philippines' forests is approximately \$36 million annually in perpetuity. The goods and services provided by the marine coastal resources of the country are estimated to be over \$556 million annually. And, of course, the correlation between conserving natural beauty and generating significant revenue from tourism is obvious.

If biodiversity management becomes effective, it will produce revenue, which in turn will provide the financing for biodiversity management. If the condition of their biodiversity is improved, the ecosystems' contribution to resilience-building of communities and to mitigating the effects of anthropogenic and natural pressures (e.g., climate change), will become better and their ability to provide ecological goods will be enhanced. These are virtuous circles, indeed. So whether it is an economic or social argument, or something driven by a broader concern to ensure that highly diverse areas re-

main so, it is clear that we must immediately secure and enhance what is left of these resources.

A number of measures can be readily adopted.

First, spending on biodiversity has to increase. The government expenditure for biodiversity conservation during the period 2008-2013 is 0.08 percent of the GDP—and that is only 0.31 percent of the national budget.

Second, immediately secure the remaining pockets of biodiversity. For example, there are 1,816 "marine protected areas" (MPAs) throughout the Philippines, covering more than 400,000 ha. The challenge, however, is that only 10-15 percent of these MPAs have been effective in protecting the resources in them.

Finally, provide the incentives to consolidate and increase R&D investment in characterizing the country's genetic pool in biodiversity areas. Fast-tracking the translation of R&D results into commercialization through the private sector will provide not only significant returns on investment but a strong source of revenue for government.

The repercussions of biodiversity loss are much more expensive than the cost of sustaining, protecting and managing biodiversity. The quantity and quality of water, food, pharmaceuticals, energy—almost everything that sustains life—suffer. We need to move quickly to viewing biodiversity as an investment that can deliver significant economic and social returns. It is possible. It is promising. And it would provide a major contribution to both economic development and poverty reduction in the Philippines.

*Titon Mitra is the country director of the UN Development Programme in the Philippines.*



# BusinessWorld

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## V20 forms alliance on climate change

**By Melissa Luz T. Lopez**

*Reporter*

NATIONS deemed most vulnerable to the ill effects of climate change have forged a partnership for preparedness and support among each other during times of disaster.

In a statement, the Finance department announced the creation of the Global Partnership for Preparedness (GPP) during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, on Tuesday, which would act as a support system during times of natural disasters.

The group is led by National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan who chairs the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) economies that represents 43 developing nations seen most exposed to climate change.

"The partnership will strengthen preparedness capacities initially in 20 countries, so they attain a minimum level of readiness by 2020 for future disaster risks mainly caused by climate change," the statement read.

Formed in October through a communique forged in Lima, Peru, the V20 nations earlier agreed to put up a risk pooling mechanism that would distribute economic and financial risks, as well as best practices and efforts in responding to climate-related disasters.

Among the goals which the GPP must lay out include better access to risk analysis and early warning systems; contingency plans for clear responsibility, triggers for action, and pre-committed finance; and social protection, basic services, and capacity-building against shocks.

"If we plan ahead, we will create a situation where instead of wave after wave of climate-driven natural disasters destroying what gains communities have made, they can pick up their lives again as soon as possible," Mr. Tan was also quoted as saying.

Also aboard the GPP are offices under the United Nations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Office

for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, and the World Food Programme, alongside the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

The Philippines earlier led the so-called V20 economies during the historic Paris agreement among countries on strategies to slow down the increase in global temperatures to 2° Celsius or lower.

The Finance department said more than 1,000 deaths occur yearly in the Philippines due to natural calamities, with typhoons accounting for 74% of lives lost, 62% of damage to properties, and 70% of damage to agriculture.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

# Adios El Niño, hello La Niña

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE COUNTRY'S rainy season has finally begun and drought-stricken farmers may expect relief in the coming months from the exceptionally strong El Niño dry spell since last year, the weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) declared the onset of the rainy season on Tuesday due to consecutive days of rainfall over the western side of the country, but also warned that La Niña is coming.

While El Niño is associated with drought in the country due to below normal rainfall, La Niña is associated with flashfloods due to above normal rainfall.

Pagasa said the widespread rainfall experienced in the past few days and the change in the wind system from the easterlies to the south to southwest direction suggested the start of the rainy season.

"These prominent changes suggest a strong manifestation of the shift from dry season to wet season. The onset of the rainy season associated with the southwest monsoon (or "habagat") is now in progress," Pagasa deputy administrator Landrico Dalida told a news conference Tuesday.

He said El Niño was weakening and was expected to end in July but "La Niña conditions are favored to follow during the second half of 2016."

"We are estimating that in the next two to three days there will be more rains. It's about time to tell everybody that the rainy season is now in progress," Pagasa weather services assistant chief Anthony Lucero said.

Lucero said the worst of El Niño seemed over since the rains had already started.

"We expected that the worst impact of El Niño will be felt in May. As we end (the month), it seems (the impact) was not really that bad. Yes, we were affected but not that bad," he said.

He said with rains expected in the coming months, the number of provinces suffering from drought or dry spell would also go down.

In April, 28 provinces mostly in Mindanao were officially declared in drought due to below normal rainfall. This month, 37 provinces are expected to be in drought.

Pagasa weather division chief Esperanza Cayanán said heavy rains usually begin in July, but the peak of the rainy season is in August.

The destructive typhoons are usually experienced from October to December.

"Since we have a projection of an incoming La Niña we expect we will experience more rains. We have to prepare for La Niña," Cayanán said.

Pagasa said no cyclones were forecast in May and June, due to the impact of El Niño.

But from July to October, eight to 17 cyclones are expected.

Lucero said while El Niño was weakening, its impact would continue to be felt until August.

"There's still an ongoing El Niño. We expect that this will end by late July," he said, adding that the amount of rains in the past days were still below normal.

He said the country would continue to feel the impact of El Niño until August when La Niña is expected to develop.

"By the end of the year, we'll have a La Niña episode that will continue in the coming months," Lucero said.

With La Niña more rainfall is expected over the eastern side of the country.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Mindoro folk wary of 'La Niña'

By Robert A. Evora

NAUJAN, Oriental Mindoro—Island folk in this province are bracing for the coming of "La Niña" as they feared it would bring the same widespread destruction they experienced at the onslaught of Super Typhoon "Nona" in December last year.

The people's fear stems from release this month of a controversial result of an investigation conducted by Task Force Iwas-Baha absolving the ongoing construction of a mini-hydro power project in the highlands of this municipality.

In clearing the Sta. Clara International Corp., the probe body instead blamed "climate change" and the "upstream activities" of mountain dwellers, including Mangyans, as the culprits behind the P4.5 billion worth of destruction wrought by Super Typhoon "Nona."

Oriental Mindoro Gov. Alfonso V. Umali Jr. formed the multi-partite probe body to find out persistent allegations by "Nona" victims that the blasting activities in the construction site of the SCIC had something to do with "heavy floodings and the cascades of big boulders and rocks rolling down from the mountain tops of Catuiran River," in Naujan town.

The SCIC is the owner of the P1.2-billion eight-megawatt Lower Catuiran Mini-Hydro Power Project in its more than 3,000-hectare project site in mountainous forest lands of sitio Arangin, Bgy. Malvar, this town.

Super Typhoon "Nona" left "enormous damage" to agriculture, infrastructures, environment and power installations with an estimated cost placed at P4.5 billion, including 13 deaths.

The task force said, in its 27-page report, the upstream activities of upland dwellers, like "kaingin-making, excessive gathering of forest resources especially those with unique characteristics, timber poaching and gold panning, which are destructive activities, to some extent had aggravated the effects of Typhoon "Nona."



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### CROSSROADS

#### (Toward Philippine Economic and Social Progress)

By GERARDO P. SICAT

### Incoming president Duterte's peace offer to the CPP

My column last week (May 11), "The first 100 days: Accelerating momentum for more foreign direct investments" was printed in the newspaper edition but was omitted in the digital (Internet) issue of **Philippine Star**. To make it accessible to digital users, that column is referenced below and its textual content added to digital archives under my column.

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The offer given by incoming president Rodrigo Duterte to the Communist Party for peace and participation in his government needs careful study.

**The offer of peace and participation.** Duterte indicated he is prepared to release political prisoners, give the rebels amnesty and invite their participation in four important departments of the government (Labor (DOLE), Land Reform (DAR), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)).

This is obviously a bold opening gambit by the new national leader who wants to end the communist rebellion. During the presidential campaign, candidate Duterte said he is a socialist and he is on the side of the poor.

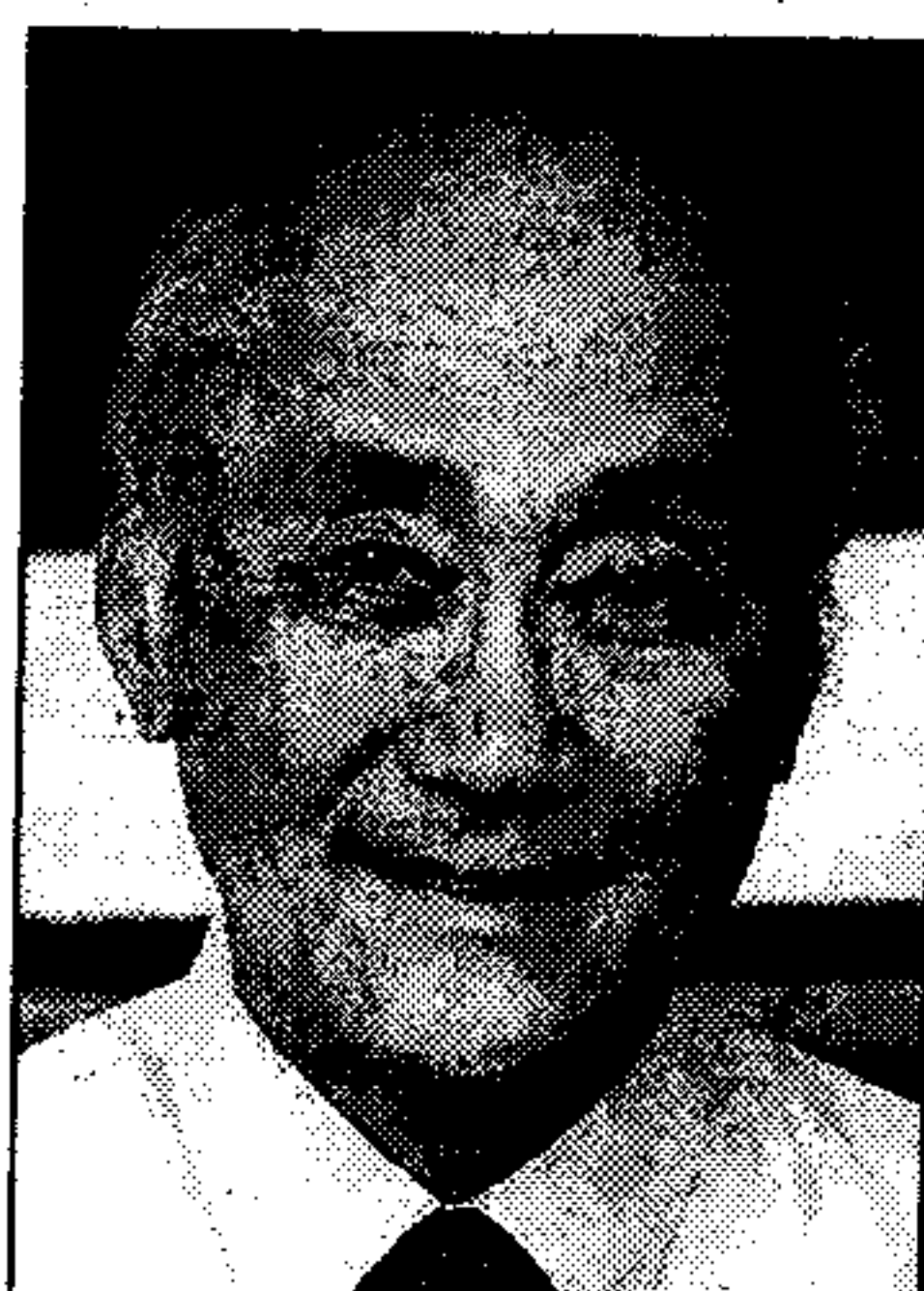
Mayor Duterte even indicated he is prepared to meet Jose Ma. Sison face to face in the Netherlands. There is much goodwill between them that could be harnessed for the common national good.

The offers of peace and government are substantial, delicate and generates concern among those who are skeptical. Some government officials (for instance, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Rep. Rodolfo Biazon), have given their warnings in the form of advice.

The risky gambit, however, could put an end to a festering social issue that has plagued the nation for decades. High risks could lead to big rewards. I suppose incoming president Duterte assesses there are good prospects for success since he holds the cards.

There is much to be gained if the opposing sides worked together for the common good rather than neutralize each other in the field of combat. There is room for cooperative action. Of course, all these aspects of working relations have to be negotiated.

The communist movement in the country needs to recognize the changing realities on the ground. There is much to be done in terms of economic and social reform by the government. Cooperative effort, if achieved, could help speed up such reforms to improve the working man's lot while enhancing businesses to thrive.



From the viewpoint of the government, it is better to appropriate money for peace than for bullets. Much can be gained by the permanent cessation of hostilities and by finding common cause for national progress.

**The status of the civil-armed conflict.** In the course of the last three decades, the NPA rebellion has been steadily losing ground. There are cases of encounters with NPA rebels, but these have been relatively small, skirmish types of operations.

The armed struggle in the field has been decimated, much reduced for several reasons: (1) Improved economic progress within the nation, despite inequities and poverty that continue (2) The participation of party-list groups in government (3) Co-optation of those who used to be part of the movement for work within the body politic and in business activity.

When I went on a road tour of Mindanao in the second half of 2015 and looked into the NPA story in the region, one common thread of the peace and order issue in the rural areas often involved NPA activities.

There was much evidence, based on intensive interviews with many local officials and business people, that the NPA movement was on the decline for the reasons that I have already mentioned. Some of the activities the local NPA groups tried to undertake had been dismissed as pure and simple banditry.

The imposition of "revolutionary taxes" had become a way of life for some groups which had simply found an easy and sustained way to make money. In short, some of it had become protection money that had been imposed on locals, no different from the mafia groups.

In my interviews, the main message I got from mayors and other officials was that there was more banditry than revolutionary zeal involved. Incidentally, the only mayor who had a different view of the matter then was Rodrigo Duterte, whom I asked the same question. He seemed to believe at the time (this was mid-2015) that the NPA continued to represent a problem that needed solution by government.

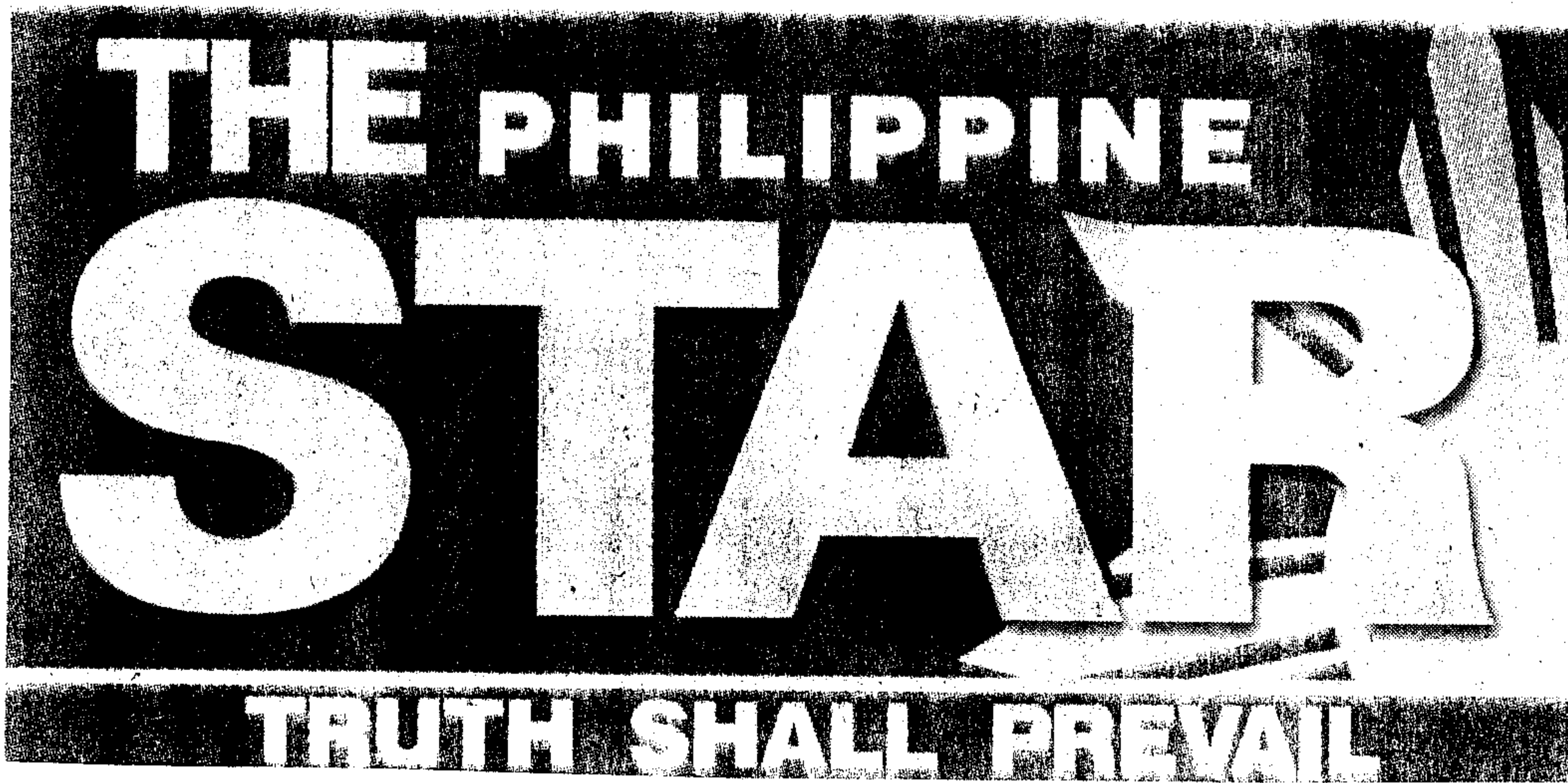
The 1987 Constitution introduced into the legislature the recognition of single party representation of causes. This has led to the growth of single party political cause groupings that are recognized as part of the political system.

This development has weakened the armed struggle since these party groups have attracted former rebels. Cause oriented groups tend to be more vocal about their specific interests partly due to the peace process that has been undertaken with them. That process has been stalled due to the failure of both parties – the government and the NPA movement – in concluding a total peace agreement.

**To be on board a fast train to progress.** Recent encouraging statements by incoming president Duterte seems to indicate his actions will sustain an already good rate of economic progress.

Rather than hinder further progress, the Communist Party will find it difficult to stop a fast moving train. It is, therefore, better to be on board it and help it move even better toward many social goals.





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## **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

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*Incoming president Duterte's peace offer to the CPP*

Although he did not have much of an economic platform during the presidential campaign, Duterte's embrace of a number of important economic reforms very quickly should further sustain the already high rate of economic growth the country has been experiencing.

In the last decade – to add the six years of the current Aquino administration – the rate of economic growth has been above six percent per year. This growth has been sustained by improved macro fundamentals, strong balance of payments due to high receipts of remittances and earnings from exports and BPO operations.

On top of this existing framework, Duterte's economic program puts the amendment to the economic restrictions on foreign capital among his top priorities. This will be a strong signal for higher inflows of more foreign direct investments in the future. His robust support for the implementation of the reproductive health program reverses the timid approval of this recent milestone reform.

Within such an environment, the economy, therefore, is set to move on a stronger pace of growth. This will make it possible to reduce the incidence of poverty and improve living standards in the country.

My email is: [gpsicat@gmail.com](mailto:gpsicat@gmail.com). Visit this site for more information, feedback and commentary: <http://econ.upd.edu.ph/gpsicat/>.





## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

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### WALANG KATAPUSAN ANG PAGKAWASAK NG MUNDO SA PATULOY NA PAGGAMIT NG FOSSIL FUELS

ANG paggamit sa lahat ng fossil fuel reserves ay walang dudang magwawasak sa Earth, mas hindi akma ng sumuporta ng buhay kaysa pagtaya ng mga siyentista.

Ang karaniwang temperatura ay aakyat sa 9.5 degrees Celsius (17 degrees Fahrenheit) — limang beses na mas mataas sa sukdulan ng global warming na itinakda sa climate talks sa Paris noong Disyembre, ayon sa mga siyentista.

Sa Arctic region — na ang init at higit pa sa doble ng global average — papalo ang thermometer sa hindi kapanipaniwalang 15C hanggang 20C.

Ang pagsusunog sa lahat ng batid na reserbang langis, petrolyo, at uling ay magdudulot ng hanggang limang trilyong tonelada ng heat-trapping carbon sa himpapawid, karamihan ay sa paraan ng carbon dioxide, iniulat ng grupo ng siyentista sa journal na Nature Climate Change.

Ang bilang na ito — may sampung beses ng 540 bilyong tonelada ng carbon na ibinuga sa mundo simula nang magsimula ang industriyalisasyon — ay magkakaroon ng katotohanan sa pagtatapos ng ika-22 siglo kung hindi babawasan ang paggamit sa fossil fuel, dagdag ng pag-aaral.

Karamihan sa taya ng UN climate science panel para sa greenhouse gas emission ay hindi lumalagpas sa dalawang trilyong tonelada ng carbon, higit pa sa sapat upang magdulot ng nakapanghihilakbot na pagtaas ng dagat, tagtuyot, heat wave, at baha.

Tunay na upang mapigilan ang higit na pag-iinit ng mundo sa paglimita sa 2C (3.6 F), ang kabuuang carbon budget ay dapat na nasa isang trilyong tonelada, ayon sa United Nations.

Gayunman, hindi tamang balewalain na lang ang mga nakababahalang scenario na gaya nito, ayon sa pangunahing may akda ng pag-aaral.

"It is relevant to know what would happen if we do not take actions to mitigate climate change," sabi ni Kasia Tokarska, doctoral student sa University of Victoria sa British Columbia, Canada.

Aniya, walang katiyakan na ang 195 bansang nagkasundo sa Paris Agreement ay tutupad sa kanilang naipangako upang limitahan ang global warming sa 2C (3.6 F) sa pamamagitan ng pagbawas o tuluyang paghinto sa paggamit ng fossil fuels.

Muling nagtipun-tipon ang mga negosyador sa siyudad ng Bonn sa Germany ngayong linggo upang balangkasin ang pagpapatupad sa makasaysayang kasunduang pulitikal at pandaigdigan, ngunit abala sila ngayon sa pagtalakay sa mga gagawing proseso.

"Policymakers need to have a clear view of what is at stake... if no meaningful climate policies are put in place," sabi ni Thomas Frolicher, isang eksperto sa environmental physics sa science and technology university na ETH Zurich.

Una nang natukoy sa mga pananaliksik na bababa ang inaasahang pagtaas ng temperatura ng Earth kapag naabot na ang dalawang milyong tonelada, dahil mababawasan na ang epekto ng carbon.

Batay sa pagtaya ng mga naunang climate model, ang pagkaunti ng fossil fuel reserves ay nagpapainit sa planeta ng 4.3C hanggang 8.4C. Sa bagong pag-aaral, itinaas ito sa pagitan ng 6.4C at 9.5C.

Gayunman, kahit na matagumpay na mabawasan o matuldukan ng sangkatauhan ang paggamit nito ng petrolyo, gasolina at uling, maaaring ang kalikasan mismo ang magdagdag ng greenhouse gases, babala ng mga siyentista.

Daan-daang bilyong tonelada ng carbon, karamihan ay sa paraan ng methane, ang nakaimbak sa permafrost ng sub-Arctic region. At laging nariyan ang posibilidad na pasabugin ng global warming ang methane reserves na ito.

Agence France Presse



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# The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## El Niño toll reaches P1.5B in Region 12

*GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Around P1.5 billion worth of agricultural crops have been devastated due to onslaught of the long dry spell spawned by the El Niño phenomenon in parts of Region 12.*

Amalia Jayag-Datukan, Department of Agriculture Region 12 director, said Tuesday such figure covers the actual production and opportunity losses sustained by the region's farming or agriculture sector as a result of the prolonged intense dry weather.

Citing their monitoring, she said the area's farming sector already posted around P208.98 mil-

lion in production losses, with corn absorbing the most damage with P115.102 million, palay with P69.704 million and high-value crops with P19.669 million.

The area's livestock sector reported losses of around P4.517 million, she said.

In terms of opportunity losses, Datukan said they recorded a total of P1.309 billion for corn and

palay crops alone.

Such loss is mainly due to the area's failure to produce around 36,483 metric tons (MT) of corn and 25,595 MT of palay due to the dry spell.

"These are projected harvests for corn and palay that were not realized because of the El Niño," she said.

As of the third week of May, Datukan said the dry spell already affected a total of 88,126 hectares of farm lands in the region.

It covers 14,400 hectares of palay, 28,207 hectares of corn and 45,519 hectares of high-value crop production areas.

North Cotabato reported damage area of 43,426 hectares; Sarangani with 22,085 hectares; Sultan Kudarat with 15,979 hectares and South Cotabato with 6,636 hectares.

All four provinces were earlier placed under the state of calamity due to the impact of the El Niño.

DA-12 recorded a total of 9,021 palay farmers and 23,781 corn farmers in the region that were directly affected by the calamity.

Sarangani posted the most number of affected farmers with 12,463, followed by North Cotabato with 11,250, Sultan Kudarat with 4,941 and South Cotabato with 4,421. PNA





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Rainy season officially here -- PAGASA

**THE Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration yesterday announced the start of the rainy season.**

"The onset of the rainy season associated with the SW monsoon, locally known as the Habagat is now in progress. We expect to have more rainfall in two or three days from now," PAGASA said.

The weather bureau said widespread rainfall during the past few days suggested the manifestation of shift from dry to wet season.

PAGASA said eight to 17 tropical cyclones is expected until October while stronger typhoons are ex-

pected in last quarter of 2016.

Peak season of typhoons is between July and August.

Weak El Niño is present in the tropical Pacific and expected to end around the month of July.

PAGASA said La Niña weather phenomenon expected in the second half of 2016.

Cloudy sky with scattered rains in the afternoon are anticipated to continue in coming days.

PAGASA said they announced the onset of rainy season earlier due to expected rain fall in the next two to three days.

**Melnie Ragasa-Jimena**



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## *Malaysia detains 3 Pinoy fishermen*

A MALAYSIAN naval patrol detained three Philippine fishermen for encroaching in territorial waters in the disputed Spratlys this month, the Philippine military said on Tuesday, in what may be the first such incident involving Southeast Asian neighbors.

Malaysia and the Philippines have overlapping exclusive economic zones in the disputed South China Sea, which is believed to have rich deposits of oil and gas and is almost entirely claimed by China.

On May 9, the Philippine vessel was about 29 kilometers southwest of Rizal (Comodore) Reef, one of nine Philippine-held territories in the South China Sea, when a Malaysian patrol boat intercepted it for encroaching in territorial waters.

When the vessel tried to flee, the patrol boat gave chase, and briefly detained the fishermen.

Hours later, they were turned over to Philippine troops stationed on Rizal Reef, said a Philippine Navy spokesperson.

"The Western Command is saddened by the incident involving our fellow Filipinos," Capt. Cherryl Tindog said in a statement, adding that the fishermen received medical treatment.

"They are in stable condition, except for some bruises."

The statement gave no reason for the time elapsed since the event.

The fishermen complained of having been punched and kicked during questioning by the Malaysian Navy after being apprehended, Tindog added.

"We were treated like criminals," said Nelson Plamiano, one of the fishermen.

The Malaysian Navy did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

*Reuters*



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Duterte sets condition for prisoner release

By JONATHAN SANTES

DAVAO CITY – Incoming president Rodrigo Duterte has pulled back on the throttle about his plan to free all political prisoners. Leaders of the communist movement, he said should first return to the country and participate in peace talks with the government.

"You must come here. We must be talking to each other," Duterte said during an impromptu press conference Monday night.

According to him, any resolution of conflict, particularly on the release of the political prisoners, "should be (done in) good faith, (because it is) a show of confidence."

Duterte likewise reiterated his invitation to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison, who is currently on exile in Utrecht, The

Netherlands, to return to the country.

"If (Sison) wants to talk, and join the government, he could," he added.

Duterte pointed out that if the leaders of the CPP and the National Democratic Front (NDF) would come back to the Philippines and "would be willing to talk peace, peace will come to the land."

"I suppose we can work together to have a peaceful nation. Yan ang habol ko (That's what I'm after)," he stressed.

Earlier, Duterte said he was willing to order the release of political prisoners as a gesture of goodwill with the CPP-NDF, which, together with their military arm the New People's Army (NPA), have been in armed struggle with the government for more than four decades.

He has also offered key agencies of government – the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to be headed by the communist movement.

Sison lauded Duterte's gesture but declined any post in government although they reserved the right to recommend an appropriate candidate for the post.

Recently, Duterte named former Justice Secretary and peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III as Labor secretary.

#### Three Dutertes

On June 30, there will be three Dutertes who will be taking their respective oaths of office.

Lawyer Sarah Duterte Carpio will replace the incoming 16th president of the Republic as Davao City mayor. Her sibling, Paolo, is the city's vice mayor.

Most likely, the Duterte patriarch said he will be his lonesome at his inaugural. And he is feeling bad that he can't attend the oath-taking of his children.

"How could I be here (in Davao)? Wala naman akong bilocation. I could not be here and there at the same time. It's just too bad I can't be here with my two children," he said.

Duterte wanted a simple inauguration at the Malacañang Palace where he intends to keep the guest list to 150 to include members of the diplomatic corps and generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Sa inauguration sabi ko nga simple lang (For my inauguration, as I said, I want it to just be simple). I will take my oath of office not in Luneta (Quirino Grandstand) because I will just create a monstrous traffic congestion I hate putting pressure on people and become an inconvenience to everybody," he said.

#### Strict mining laws

Duterte noted that existing laws do not allow a total ban on mining in the country but "there are stringent measures not (being) followed by mining companies."

"I will be strict in the rules regarding the protection of our environment," the mayor emphasized.

He surmised that former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro is having second thoughts about taking the defense portfolio because of the present state of affairs. Teodoro sits as chairman of

Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI) which is a privately owned company.

"I called (Teodoro) initially. Yun ang sinabi niya, to give him more time to think and ponder. Nahirapan siya. Parang ayaw," Duterte bared.

Teodoro denied he turned down Duterte's offer but bided for more time.

#### Smell around

In Monday's free-wheeling press briefing, Duterte also weighed in on the tragic death of five concert-goers in Pasay city.

"Usually, ang ganung rock concert, ganyan la-labas ang droga (Usually, during rock concerts, drugs surface). It is being passed around like candies. But I am not yet the president, it behooves upon the Pasay City government and the police, which has jurisdiction (over the Mall of Asia Arena) to look into this incident. The PDEA (Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) or maybe NBI (National Bureau of Investigation) may pitch in," Duterte said.



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*Duterte sets condition for prisoner release*

He likewise urged authorities to be more vigilant when it comes to monitoring rock concerts.

"Government security must be able to smell around and to arrest immediately (any suspects)," Duterte said.

#### Pro-Hillary

Asked who was he rooting for in the United States primaries, Duterte said he is hoping Hillary Clinton would win the presidential race because "Donald Trump hates Muslims," he explained. Duterte has kept close ties with Muslims, which comprise about 17 percent of the population in Mindanao.

On the issue of handling drug offenders, Duterte does not "be-grudge" Tanauan, Batangas Mayor Antonio Halili for parading drug pushers around his town in a "shame campaign."

"I am lawyer and I know we're not supposed to do that. But I will not begrudge the mayor. I won't even comment on it," he said.



### **Publiko pinag-iingat sa pagbili ng school supplies**

Nagbabala ang isang waste and pollution watchdog na mag-ingat sa mga school supplies na pinaniniwalaang kontaminado ng mga cancer-causing chemicals na magdudulot ng panganib sa kalusugan. Kamakailan ay inilabas ng EcoWaste Coalition ang resulta ng ginawang pagsusuri sa ilang items na kanilang nabili sa iba't-ibang tindahan. Mismong si toxicologist Dr. Erle Castillo ang nanguna sa pagbibigay ng impormasyon ukol sa panganib na dulot ng 'phtalate'. Apat sa limang school supplies na kanilang nasuri ay positibo sa toxic phthalates DEHP at DINP, mga kemikal na nagiging sanhi na hormonal imbalance sa tao. Kabilang sa school supplies na nabili sa Quiapo, Divisoria at Cubao na may mataas na antas ng kemikal ay ang ilang mga ballpen, raincoat, plastic envelope at shoulder bag. "The unregulated use of PVC-based children's products is not only a public health issue, but an environmental one as well. Burning PVC products at the end of their useful lives will generate extremely toxic pollutants known as dioxins," ani EcoWaste Coalition coordinator Thony Dizon. **(Chito A. Chavez)**



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## CHAIRMAN'S FILES!

NI: Chairwoman Ligaya V. Santos

(Anumang opinyon, tips, reaksiyon ay maari ninyong ipadala sa  
joy\_column@yahoo.com o mag-text  
sa 0932-3214355. Ang Chairman's Files ay lumalabas tuwing  
Lunes, Miyerkules at Biyernes)

UMAABOT sa mahigit P9M ang halaga nito mula sa mga nakumpiskang kemikal at drug laboratory ang winasak sa destruction activity sa Green Planet Management Inc (GPMI) isang accredited treatment facility ng DENR. Kabilang sa sinunog ng PDEA (composed of ethanol, hydrochloric acid, hydrogen peroxide, xylene, acetone, sulfuric acid, toluene, acetic acid, acetonitrile, diethyl ether, ammonia, dichloromethane, acetic anhydride, mercuric chloride, tribond, acid waste and organic waste) at 3,926,500 grams of solid chemicals (composed of red phosphorus, iodine, activated charcoal at caustic soda).

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# BusinessWorld

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Manila Jockey Club to acquire property next to Apo Reef resort

MANILA JOCKEY Club, Inc. (MJC) will acquire about 20 hectares of beachfront properties in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro.

The racetrack operator told the Philippine Stock Exchange on Tuesday that its board of directors has approved the acquisition.

The parcels of land, which MJC targets to acquire, are adjacent to the 74-hectare beach property of Apo Reef World Resorts, Inc. (ARWR) in Occidental Mindoro.

The listed company has yet to disclose more details on the proposed property acquisition.

MJC is currently implementing an investment agreement to secure a 50.6% stake of ARWR, as it ventures into the tourism business.

ARWR owns 122 hectares of beachfront and valley properties in Occidental Mindoro. The province is home to the 34-square kilometer Apo Reef.

Apo Reef is the second largest contiguous coral reef in the world and the largest in the country, according to information posted on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Web site.

MJC posted a net loss of P16 million during the first quarter of the year, slightly bigger than the P15.8 million incurred in the comparable 2015 period.

Shares in MJC barely moved in Tuesday's trading, closing at P2 per share. — **Keith Richard D. Mariano**