

DATE : 06 JUN 2016
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DENR
IN THE NEWS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



CONCURRENCE WITH PARIS PACT

Secretary Emmanuel M. de Guzman, vice chair of the Climate Change Commission (seated third from left), and Environment Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje (fourth from left) present signed Resolution 2016-002 of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation endorsing ratification of the Paris Agreement on mitigating global warming. Seventeen government agencies have so far submitted their Certificate of Concurrence to the ratification. Also in photo (seated from left) are Climate Change Commissioner Veronica Victorio, Fr. Robert Reyes, Presidential Adviser on Environmental Protection Secretary Nereus Acosta and Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Rosalina Bistoyong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR chief elected VP of UNEA-2

ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje was elected as one of the vice presidents of the UNEA-2 Bureau representing the Asia Pacific Group, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The new Bureau members of the UNEA-2, comprising of a president, eight vice presidents, and a rapporteur representing five geographical regions who will serve a term until December 6, 2017, was elected during the opening session of the UNEA-2.

The assembly, which represents the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, enjoys the universal membership of all 193 UN Member States and the full involvement of major groups and stakeholders.

Countries represented in the UNEA-2 Bureau are Costa Rica as president; Philippines, Iraq, Barbados, Gabon, Nigeria, Czech Republic, Montenegro, and the United States of America as vice presidents; and Belgium as rapporteur.

At the opening of the Ministerial Dialogue on "Commonalities and complementarity: joining forces for a more effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda," Paje said

almost half of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are directly linked to the environment and to multilateral agreements (MEAs).

"Hence, clustering the MEAs in relation to the SDGs would ensure the integration of efforts towards the central theme, 'To leave no one behind,'" he said.

Paje added that in order to ensure coherent implementation of MEAs at the national level in support of the 2030 Agenda and vice versa, there is a need to increase support for four "I"s: Institutions, Implementation, Investments, and International Cooperation.

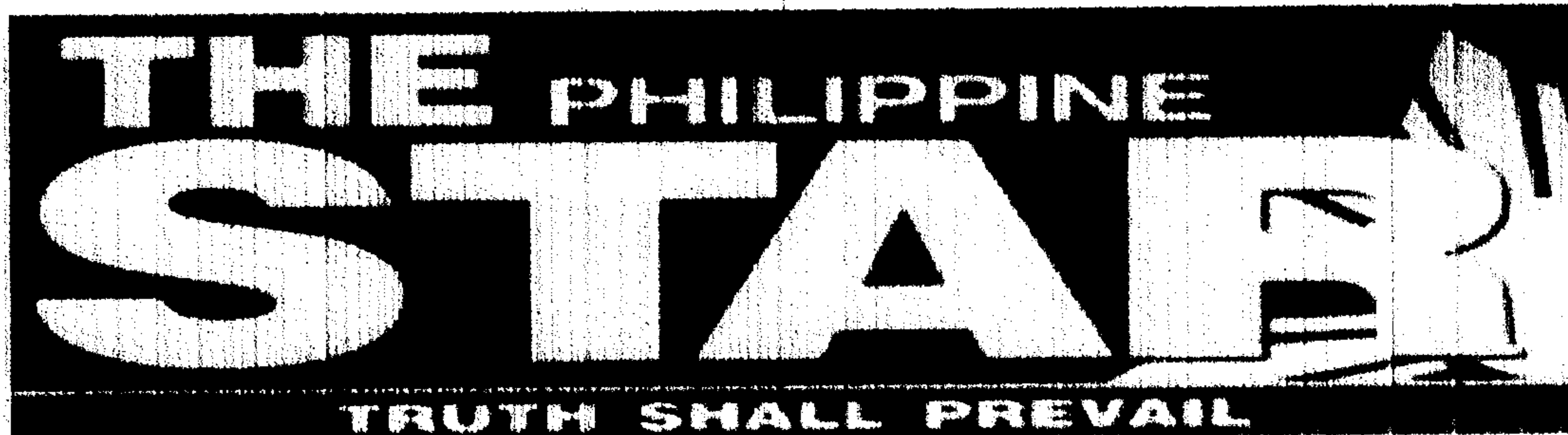
In an interview with the UN Environment Program (UNEP) for an outreach video, Paje said the Philippines and UNEP both share the commitment to advancing a global environmental agenda that promotes coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

Paje said as a newly-elected vice president of the UNEA-2 Bureau, he would ensure that the mission and mandate of UNEP would be carried through in all national, regional, and international environmental efforts.

Cristina Lee-Pisco



PAJE



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Rescued eagle turned over to DENR

A Philippine eagle caught in a forest in San Luis, Aurora has been turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), authorities said over the weekend.

The eagle was received on Thursday by the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), which assessed the condition of the raptor before it was transferred to the Ninoy

Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City.

DENR community officer Jimmy Aberin, who took the eagle to the NAPWC, said the raptor was caught in a trap meant for monkeys.

The farmer who set up the trap rescued the eagle on Wednesday and sought the help of village officials.

BMB director Theresa

Mundita Lim said the eagle's rescue indicated that people are aware of the country's conservation program.

"The presence of a healthy juvenile eagle in Aurora means that a pair of adult eagles have successfully bred and raised their young as well as our hopes for the species' continued presence in the Sierra Madre region," Lim said.

— Rhodina Villanueva



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

EDITORIAL

Zero tolerance for wildlife trafficking

The Philippines is not only among the most vulnerable to climate change, it is also among the most in need of help in protecting its wildlife. As World Environment Day is observed on June 5, the focus is on zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife. Environment advocates in the country are committed to this, but with limited resources, protecting wildlife is easier said than done.

Within its maritime territory, the country cannot adequately keep out foreign poachers of endangered species such as sea turtles and sea-horses or prevent the harvesting of corals, the breeding ground for marine life. Inland, human activities are threatening wetlands, the natural habitats of a wide range of wildlife including crocodiles.

On land, wildlife traffickers collect pangolins, owls and large parrots, Bohol's iconic tarsier, and even geckos for processing into aphrodisiac. Conservation efforts have improved the population of the Philippine Eagle, but in the wild, the raptor continues to be hunted down for sport. Flowers and trees are also considered wild-

life, and the Philippines has many wild orchids and other flora facing extinction.

Wildlife trafficking is a global problem, which prompted the United Nations to make the campaign against it the theme of this year's World Environment Day. Among the most vulnerable to wildlife trafficking are developing countries, which are home to endangered elephants, tigers, rhinos and gorillas. In several countries, even the effort to fight global warming by turning to plant-based fuels is threatening ecosystems and destroying the natural habitats of endangered wildlife. The UN is calling for resolute action and international cooperation in stopping human greed and overcoming indifference to a serious problem.

The UN stresses that environmental problems are threatening economies, communities and national security. Being blessed with rich biodiversity, the Philippines has a greater responsibility as a custodian and must do more to protect its gifts. These blessings are part of every Filipino's natural heritage and must be preserved for future generations.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Protect Sierra Madre, Duterte told

LUCENA CITY—The list of problems that advocates of protecting the country's longest mountain range want to present to President-elect Rodrigo Duterte is long and old.

But Fr. Pete Montallana and Rañcy Astoveza see new hope for Sierra Madre in the incoming Duterte administration.

Montallana, activist priest who heads the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance (SSMNA), and Astoveza, a leader of the Agta tribe that calls parts of Sierra Madre its home, are asking Duterte to heed their call for tougher measures to preserve whatever is left of the mountain range's forests.

Included on their wish list is a stop to logging and destructive farm practices, halt to the implementation of plans to build dams

in the mountain range, suspension of plans to build more roads that would make Sierra Madre more accessible and removal of corrupt officials and employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

It is uncertain if their call would be heeded by Duterte, but if sources in the incoming President's camp are to be believed, the Sierra Madre protection advocates are barking up the right tree.

According to the source, Duterte is also planning to head the DENR for at least a year and



IN 2009, tribe members walked 148 km from General Nakar town in Quezon to Metro Manila to dramatize their protest against the proposed Laiban Dam in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

run the department with the help of a retired military officer.

This came after reports that Duterte had planned to nominate Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate as DENR chief but Zarate

begged off.

"With his election as the next President, our people see in him a new hope to save our homeland," said Astoveza, who heads an Agta community in northern

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PROTECT SIERRA MADRE. . . . Duterte

Quezon.

Among the proposed projects that Astoveza and Montallana are opposing is the P18.7-billion New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project proposed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

It seeks to tap the Kaliwa River in the mountain village of Pagsangahan in General Nakar town in Quezon province for hydroelectricity and irrigation.

Aside from the proposed Kaliwa Dam, another dam is being planned in Kanan River, also found in Sierra Madre, that would be part of a P46.5 billion hydroelectric, wind farm and bulk water project.

Astoveza, also a member of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, said Agta

leaders are wary of the projects because the proposed site lies between the Marikina and Real-Infanta fault lines.

In case of a dam break, water escaping from the Kaliwa Dam would flood a watershed area covering 9,700 hectares and displace 1,465 families, according to studies conducted by Montallana's SSMNA.

SSMNA said rainforests hosting endemic and endangered species would also be buried underwater as these and sections of ancestral lands claimed by Agta, Dumagat and Remontado tribes would form part of the reservoir.

"This is a matter of life and death for us," said Astoveza. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Karlos Manlupig, Inquirer Mindanao*

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rody orders big mines: Stop destruction

By Frinston Lim
and Danilo V. Adorador III
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has accused mining companies of destroying the environment, warning they should “shape up” or local

investors would take over their mining assets.

“They have to stop,” Duterte said on Saturday during a thanksgiving party at the Crocodile Park attended by some 200,000 people.

“Mining people must shape up. Most of what you do today,

especially in Surigao, is dig holes. And they are destroying Mindanao,” he said.

As an alternative, Duterte said he would have all Filipino mining workers organized into a cooperative and “give them instructions on how not to end up spoiling the land.”

“All the big mining companies who are destroying the environment, they have to stop,” he said.

Duterte said this was the reason he did not give the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) portfolio

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rody orders big mines: Stop destruction of environment

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to Leoncio Evasco, his national campaign manager.

Evasco, a former political detainee, was once a city administrator of Duterte when he was mayor of Davao City.

Military enforcer

Duterte said Evasco wanted to be DENR secretary, but he did not give it to the mayor of Marikina town in Bohol province, because he needed someone from the military.

He said he expected resistance from mining firms, and

that someone from the military as DENR secretary could rally government soldiers in implementing his order.

"The problem with the DENR is that I have a big problem with mining companies. They are destroying the soil," he said, adding that he had "to use the military" against it.

Dulmar Raagas, president of Chamber of Mines-Caraga Region Inc. (CMRI) and Bishop Modesto Villasanta of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, an organization that is a coconvenor of the environment advocacy group Cara-

ga Watch, said the mining sector was confident Duterte would be "fair to mining companies."

"Our members have always been for responsible mining, and we find no disagreement with President Duterte on his declared policy for an Australian-standard mining operation. It's actually good for our members because once the government raises the bar, it means we have to double our efforts," Raagas said.

Villasanta said it was time that the incoming President himself oversaw the mining in-

dustry, which he described as "being pampered and treated with kid gloves by the Aquino administration."

"We need an iron hand to keep this 'pasaway' mining companies in check," he said of Duterte's plan to have himself installed as the country's temporary environment department chief.

Politically connected

Villasanta also called on Duterte to revisit the case of SR Metals Inc. (SRMI) in Agusan del Norte province, which has been accused of overextracting

nickel ore worth billions of pesos, while allegedly damaging the environment.

Caraga Watch had earlier accused the Aquino administration of protecting the mining firm because its owners are politically connected with the Liberal Party.

With over 20 operating large-scale mining companies, the Caraga region is known as the country's de facto mining capital.

Duterte's vow to rid the country of irresponsible miners, Villasanta said, "bodes well for Caraga and its people."

The country has among the

largest untapped mineral resources in the region, but years of opposition from the Catholic Church and a strong antimineral lobby, as well as insurgency and widespread corruption, have stalled many projects, including the \$5.9-billion, gold-copper Tampakan project in Mindanao discovered in 1991.

Swiss giant Glencore quit the Tampakan project in 2015, with the venture halted by a ban on open-pit mining in South Cotabato province imposed since 2010. A local company has taken over the project. *With a report from Reuters*



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte to mining firms: Shape up

By JANVIC MATEO

DAVAO CITY – President-elect Rodrigo Duterte read the riot act to mining firms that he said are plundering the environment and making huge profits from the country's resources.

Speaking during the "Du31" thanksgiving and victory party organized by his supporters on Saturday, the tough-talking Duterte directed his ire at mining firms

that he said have despoiled the land, particularly in Mindanao.

"Mining people must shape up," he said. "They have to stop the spoiling of the land," Duterte told a cheering crowd of more than 200,000 people who trooped to Crocodile Park in Davao City where the thanksgiving party was held.

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Duterte

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"In Surigao, they are destroying the land. They are destroying Mindanao," he added.

He noted that many big mining firms are owned by foreigners, who make huge profits using the country's natural resources.

Duterte also promised to help the people of Mindanao, particularly those who have been placed on the

margins of business endeavors because of the select few that benefit from the country's resources.

"The poor people of Mindanao will be first," he said in Filipino. "All the big mining firms that have destroyed our land here, they will have to stop. They have to leave."

It was in this context that Duterte explained why he opted not to give

the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to the Left.

He said that his long-time aide, outgoing Maribojoc, Bohol Mayor Jun Evasco expressed interest to head the agency. Evasco was a former member of the New People's Army before he became chief of staff of Duterte and later a local elected official. —With Edith Regalado

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE*editorial***Duterte must
'fix' mining**

UNFORTUNATELY lost in all the controversy about language and insults, President-elect Rodrigo R. Duterte has been establishing the foundation of some basic policy decisions that are critical and were ignored in the Aquino administration.

One of the most serious and glaring lapses of policy has been in regard to the mining industry. Rather than try to actually do something about both the taxation system and potential environmental problems for this industry, the Aquino administration simply stopped new mining investment and stuck its head in the sand. While properly recognizing that there were serious issues that needed to be addressed, the government—including the legislature—just ran away.

Pick up a foreign news report about mining in the Philippines and you will always read that the country is one of the most mineral-rich areas on earth. As rich as the country is in mineral products, we are equally as "poor" when it comes to a sensible mineral extraction and processing policy. Is there any nation that has had successive governments as incompetent and ineffective as ours with regards to this issue?

Incoming President Duterte has consistently been an outspoken opponent of mining, resented particularly by the foreign mining interests operating in Mindanao. For more than 20 years, Davao City was completely off-limits to any sort of mining activity at Duterte's instance. In his comments directed to the mining companies, "I am putting you on notice. I don't want you here." Staunch environmentalist Gina Lopez endorsed Duterte's antimining stance prior to the elections.

Mineral extraction and processing is a complex issue involving national economics, the rights of the indigenous peoples, environmental concerns and—in most mineral-rich area—security. But to simply ignore the Philippines's mineral wealth makes no sense either. In recent comments, Duterte indicated that maybe the best way to move forward is for ownership of mining companies left to local Filipino companies. This will be a challenge given the great long-term capital commitment need for mining. But it is also probable that Filipinos could more effectively police the mining practices of Filipino companies.

The "no mining under any circumstances" groups bring hypocrisy to a new astounding level. When they organize a "throw your smartphone and laptop into Manila Bay Day," we might raise our respect. On the other hand, mineral extraction has been a grim environmental problem since the ancient days of King Solomon's mines. But if you are smart enough to invent a standard of living that depends on mining, then you should be smart enough to provide for the necessary minerals in a safe way.

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The Manila Times

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Big mining firms told: 'Shape up'

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE
REPORTER

INCOMING President Rodrigo Duterte has warned big mining companies to shape up, accusing them of destroying the environment.

In his speech at his thanksgiving party in Davao City on Saturday evening, Duterte said big mining firms, particularly in Surigao del Norte in southern Philippines, have to stop the destruction.

"The problem with big mining companies is they are destroying the soil of our country... It has to stop," he added.

"The mining people must shape up. Most of what you do today, especially in Surigao [del Norte], is dig holes. [You] are destroying Mindanao," the country's next leader said.

Duterte said only the big mining interests from Manila are benefiting from mining and

➤ 'Shape up' A2

the small ones in Mindanao are at the losing end.

"Ang masakit, pati mga [What hurts, is that even the] Moro people, they are being pushed over to the marginal side of business. This must change," according to him.

As an alternative, Duterte said he

will have all Filipino mining workers organized into a cooperative.

He added that people from Mindanao would be given priority.

"Mauuna muna ang mga taga-Mindanao na mahihirap [The poor of Mindanao will be given the priority]," Duterte said.

"We will support them and give them instructions on how not to end up spoiling the land," he added.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1908

MANILA BULLETIN

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Rody's anti-mining stand in Mindanao draws support

By CHARISSA M. LUCI

A Liberal Party stalwart yesterday backed incoming president Rodrigo R. Duterte's plan to stop mining operations in Mindanao.

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, who served as chairman of the House Committee on Indigenous People in the 15th Congress, lauded Duterte for baring a planned crack-down on big mining in Mindanao, particularly in Surigao del Norte during his thanksgiving party last Saturday in Davao City.

"Mining has caused mountains to be flattened, rivers to be polluted and communities to be displaced. It is also the reason why many lumads who oppose the destruction of their ancestral lands are being killed," he said in a statement.

"When I was chair of the Committee on Indigenous Peo-

ples, I used to conduct hearings on killings of Lumads. I fought for indigenous peoples' rights and against the degradation of their environment. During the hearings, it was observed that most of the time, the root cause of the violence is mining," he pointed out.

Duterte was earlier quoted as saying that mining is "destroying Mindanao."

He expressed hope that incoming Duterte administration would push for the passage of a new mining law - the Minerals Management Law - which seeks to better regulate the mining industry.

The proposed law seeks to identify no-go mining zones such as sacred sites of IPs, prime agricultural lands, protected areas and critical watersheds and heritage sites, as it also seeks to increase excise taxes and the revenue share of host communities.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mining firms warned: Shape up or ship out

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

PRESIDENT-elect Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday night warned mining firms to stop destruction of the environment.

"I have a big problem with mining companies; they are destroying the soil of our country... Alam mo mining people must shape up. Karamihan ginagawa niyo ngayon especially in Surigao puro butas-butas na. You have to stop, you are spoiling the land, they are destroying Mindanao," Duterte said during his thanksgiving party in Davao City on Saturday night.

He said he initially wanted to tap outgoing Maribojoc, Bohol Mayor Leoncio Evasco Jr., his campaign spokesperson, as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources but said this would have an adverse effect on the campaign against illegal miners, Evasco being a former communist member.

Duterte said he will give the

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MINING

post to another person whom he did not name.

Evasco, a former priest who joined the underground movement in the '80s, was arrested in Libunga, Cotabato and Duterte, who was then Davao City prosecutor, handled the case against him.

When President Corazon Aquino ordered all political prisoners released, Evasco was one of them. Duterte then got Evasco to work for him as his chief of staff in Davao City when he was elected mayor.

After that, Evasco returned to his hometown in Maribojoc, Bohol and got elected as mayor for three consecutive terms.

Duterte said Evasco asked the DENR post from him but he turned him down.

"Yan ang mahirap kung ilagay ko siya (Evasco), komunista siya noon and enviable because you have to use the force of the military and the police to enforce (the law). Eh kung walang maniwala sa kanya, sabihin 'Eh preso ka lang namin noon bakit kami maniwala sa'yo?' So, ni-reserve ko muna ang DENR for somebody," he added.

He said mining companies

have also displaced a number of Moros in Mindanao. He added he plans to give the lands back to them and teach them to mine without destroying the environment.

"They are just along the marginal side of business endeavors here in Mindanao. That has to change. And I would like it to be like a cooperative... and we will give them instructions how not to end up spoiling the land natin dito. Mauna muna ang mga taga-Mindanao na mahirap. Lahat ng mining na malalaki na sumira ng ating (environment), we have to stop. They have to stop," he said.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte tells mining firms to 'shape up'

PRESIDENT-ELECT Rodrigo R. Duterte has warned mining companies whose operations threaten the environment to either upgrade their practices or face closure.

"Mining people must shape up," Mr. Duterte told supporters Saturday at a Davao City concert celebrating his May 9 election victory.

Much of what they do now, "especially in Surigao," is problematic.

"They have to stop. They are spoiling the land. They are destroying Mindanao," Mr. Duterte said.

Mindanao, Mr. Duterte's home and the second-largest Philippine island, is estimated to sit on \$300 billion worth of mineral deposits, from nickel, copper to gold.

But the island is mostly undeveloped due to a combination of government neglect and decades of insurgency from leftists and Islamic separatists.

The Surigao region, which consists of two provinces, is one of the more heavily mined areas in Mindanao, home to the nation's Muslims. Surigao has been hit by calamities that environmentalists say were exacerbated by mining. It is one of Mindanao's oldest port areas, created during Spanish colonization, and

Duterte, SI/5

has abundant mineral reserves including gold, iron, manganese, silica, cobalt, copper and chromite, and has one of the world's largest nickel deposits on Nonoc Island.

The development of Mindanao's mineral deposits must be reserved for locals of the island, and the projects should be run like cooperatives supported by government, rather than by big companies, Mr. Duterte said.

"Miners of these deposits must come from Mindanao," Mr. Duterte said.

"And we will support them, give them instruction on how not to spoil the land. Mindanao's poor should be given first crack. All large mining operations will have to stop. I have a big problem with mining companies. They are destroying the soil of our country."

Mr. Duterte, who has been mayor of Davao City for more than two decades, will take office on June 30 for a six-year term, replacing President Benigno S. C. Aquino III, who is constitutionally limited to a single term. —

Bloomberg

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Duterte tells mining firms to 'step up'



'MINERS of these deposits must come from Mindanao.' — President-elect Rodrigo R. Duterte

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Shock and awe?

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON



'His most recent pronouncement calling for the closure of big mining firms in Mindanao is to me both amusing and scary.'

THE more I listen to President-elect Duterte the more I am convinced he is the Filipino equivalent of a number of "historic" figures - from the late Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf of Desert Storm and "Shock and Awe" fame, to the recently late boxing great Muhammad Ali who was famous for his loudmouth, to the current Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and his penchant to say things that many find honest but alienating.

I was not one of the millions who voted President elect Duterte into office but I am one of the 100 million who must now recognize the fact that he is the next president of the Philippines. Thus I will not share in any guilt feelings about his missteps and verbal miscues but I surely will share in either the benefits or negative consequences of the Duterte presidency. And of course I am hoping for the former rather than the latter. I am not a poor loser.

But I remain a bit uneasy about the freewheeling ways with which the next President conducts his press briefings and am one of those who heaved a sigh of relief when it was announced that he would stop having them. There is no value, in my eyes, of conducting briefings prior to the assumption into office of the new Administration that only results in miscommunication, misunderstanding or, worse, bad blood between the next President and the media that is tasked to cover him and to communicate to the public the key messages he has to deliver. Admittedly there is much about the incoming government that we want to know more about - from the who's who of the Cabinet to the whys and wherefores of the next president's policies. But the way the recent briefings have been conducted seem to indicate that we have started on the wrong foot.

In total contrast to the usual "honeymoon period" that is given a new government.

His most recent pronouncement calling for the closure of big mining firms in Mindanao is to me both amusing and scary. Amusing because, as an employee (in my other life) of one big one, I know how big mining firms conduct their business - specifically the large scale firms that are publicly listed and thus subject to a host of regulations that small scale miners - and of course the illegal ones - do not have to comply with. The next President's sweeping anti-big mining pronouncement smacks to me as being as no different from the ignorant, if not hypocritical, position taken by some of the Catholic bishops whom he himself has criticized.

But the fear I have about such pronouncements come not from a fear of losing a job; it comes from a fear of a manner of leadership that speaks frankly even if un- or misinformed; one that speaks one's mind without realizing the implications that every word uttered by a President carries the weight of policy (even if unofficial); one that speaks in a way that is controversial, sometimes it seems for contro-

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Page 2: Shock & Awe
by JB Baylan

SHOCK

versy's worth.

If Duterte were to shut down every large scale mining firm as a matter of policy who am I to stop him? If that is what he perceives

is best for national development, a position far worse for the industry than outgoing PNoy's EO79, who am I to argue with him? It may work against my interest as an employee of a large scale mining operation, but if the President-elect

can and will act against the very interest of some of the people closest to him, like the Alcantaras, then for better or for worse that would be an interesting development in the history of presidential leadership in this country.

It will prove that, like Muhammad Ali, Rodrigo Duterte is not just a loudmouth, but that with that loudmouth comes a punch that can knock to sleep the very people who helped elect him president.

Now that would be truly something.

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Mining firms na nagdudulot ng polusyon binalaan ni Digong

"Mas makakabuting magsara na lamang ang malalaking kumpanya ng minahan".

Ito ang naging babala ni President elect Rodrigo Duterte sa mga kumpanya ng minahan partikular na sa Surigao del Norte lalo na ito ang dahilan kayat't nagdudulot ng problema sa kalikasan.

Ang babala ay ginawa ni Duterte noong thanksgiving party sa Davao City noong Sabado ng gabi.

Itatalaga ni Duterte na isang retired military general ang ilalagay niya sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para manguna sa pagpapatupad ng kanyang magiging kautusan.

Ang nasabing departamento ay nais niya sanang ibigay kay Leoncio Evasco na kanyang national campaign manager.

Umaasa ang incoming president na may aalma mula sa mining firms sa kanyang naging babala. - *Rudy Andal*-

HATAW!**D'YARYO NG BAYAN****PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS****3 PNP generals
pinagre-resign****BIG MINING
FIRMS INUTUSAN
MAGSARA NI DUTERTE****Page 2**

DAVAO CITY - Kabilang ang malalaking kompanya ng minahan sa mga pinuntirya ni incoming President Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang speech sa isinagawang thanksgiving party sa Davao.

Pinaalalahanan ni Duterte ang malalaking kompanya ng minahan, partikular sa Surigao del Norte, na mas magandang magsara na lalo't nagdudulot ng problema sa kalikasan.

Ito rin aniya ang rason kung bakit hindi niya ibinigay ang posisyon bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kay Leoncio Evasco, na kanyang national campaign manager.

Sinabi ni Duterte, si Evasco ay dating political detainee noong siya ay naging city administrator.

Imbes na si Evasco, mas gusto ni Duterte na ibigay ang posisyon sa isang militar.

Umaasa ang incoming president na may 'resistance' mula sa mining firms at ang isang militar na kanyang itatalaga bi-

lang DENR secretary ang mangunguna sa pagpatupad ng kanyang magiging kautusan.

Samantala, pinagbibitiw sa serbisyo ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte ang tatlong police generals na nakatalaga sa Kampo Crame at huwag nang hintayin na sila ay pahiyain pa sa publiko.

Sinabi ni Duterte, ang tatlong heneral ay inakusahang mga corrupt.

Aniya, panahon na para tuldukan ang korupsiyon lalo sa hanay ng pambansang pulisya.

Gayonman, tumanggi si Duterte na pangalan ang tatlong heneral.

Una rito, inihayag ni Duterte na tatlong high-ranking officials ng PNP ang may ugnayan sa sindikato ng illegal drugs.

Hindi napigilan ni Duterte na magmura nang magsalita hinggil sa corrupt na mga opisyal ng PNP.

Samantala, hindi pa nagbibigay ng pahayag ang pamunuan ng PNP hinggil sa panibagong bantat ng susunod na pangulo ng bansa.



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Anti-mining nabuhayan ng pag-asa

Ikinatuwa ng ilang kongresista ang talumpati ni incoming President Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang thanksgiving party sa Davao City kamakalawa ng gabi kung saan binanggit nito ang pagbabawal ng pagmimina sa Mindanao.

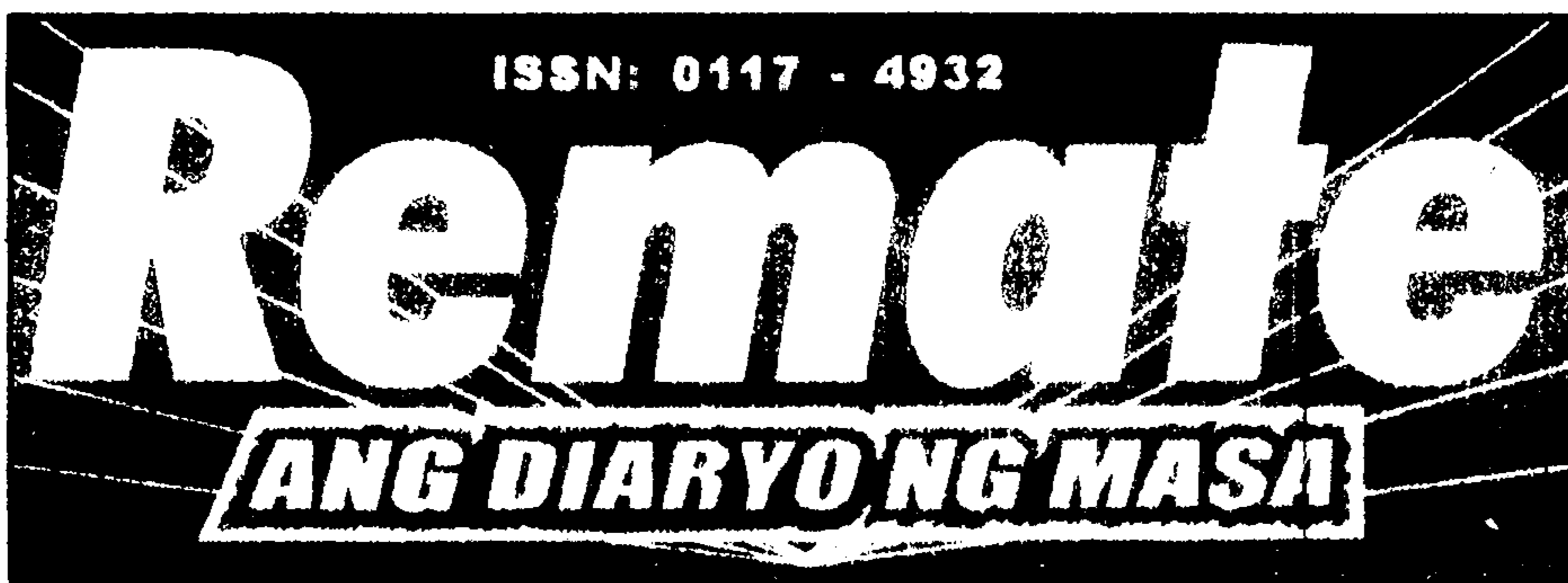
Ayon kay Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, susuportahan niya ang kampanya ni Duterte laban sa pagmimina dahil tulad ng sinabi ng bagong pangulo ay nakasisira ito sa kalikasan.

"Mining has caused mountains to be flattened, rivers to be polluted and communities to be displaced. It is also the reason why many Lumads who oppose the destruction of their ancestral lands are being killed," ani Baguilat.

Sa kanyang talumpati, sinabihan ni Duterte ang mga mining companies na maghanap na lang ng ibang negosyo dahil hindi nito papayagan ang pagsira ng mga ito sa Mindanao kapag tuluyan na siyang manungkulan bilang Pangulo.

"I agree as under the current mining regime, ecosystems are being destroyed, indigenous peoples are being driven away from their homes, mountains of ore are being shipped overseas with little regulation and taxation and the victim has been Mindanao, as well as other mining areas such as parts of the Cordillera," ayon kay Baguilat.

"Kami ay natutuwa dahil bibigyan na ng atensyon ng gobyerno ang matagal nang problema natin sa pagmimina. Sana hindi lang sa buong Mindanao kundi sa iba pang rehiyon ipatupad," pahayag naman ni Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate. (Bernard Taguinod)



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PAGMIMINA IPAUUBAYA NI DUTERTE SA TAGA-MINDANAO

NAKAHANDANG ipagkaloob ng incoming Duterte administration sa mga mahihirap na Filipino ang karapatang magmina ng mga mineral sa bansa sa halip na malalaking korporasyon at kompanyang multinasyunal.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa harap ng 500,000 tagasuporta sa isinagawang thanksgiving party sa Crocodile Farm sa Davao City, sinabi ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte na bibigyan niya

ng prayoridad ang mga mamamayan ng Mindanao sa pagmimina.

"Mauna muna ang mga taga-Mindanao na mahihirap. We will support them and give instruction on how to manage mining efforts without destroying the land in Mindanao," sabi ni Duterte.

Ipinaliwanag ni Duterte na nararapat sa mahihirap na mamamayang Filipino ang pagasikaso sa pagmimina dahil ang malalaking korporasyon at kompanya

ay walang pakialam sa pagsira sa kalikasan, at tanging sila-sila lamang na mayayaman ang nakikinabang.

Tuturuan aniya ng gobyerno ang industriya ng pagmimina nang parang isang kooperatiba na pawang Filipino

ang nagmamay-ari.

"The problem with big mining companies is they are destroying our land, mining people must shape up, lahat ng malalaking miners must stop, they are despoiling our land," ngitngit ni Duterte.

Kumbinsido si Duterte

na agrabyado ang mahihirap na taga-Mindanao at small-scale miners sa industriya ng pagmimina sa Southern Philippines.

"Ang masakit, pati Moro people are at the marginal side of business. This must change, ani Duterte. **DAVE B**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Return to sender, group urges Duterte on Canada waste

By ELLALYN B. DE VERA

An environmental group urged yesterday President-elect Rodrigo Duterte to ensure that the 1,300-ton waste shipments dumped into the country will be returned to their sender – the govern-

ment of Canada.

Environmental group Ban Toxics likewise appealed to Duterte to ratify the Basel Amendment and Minamata Convention as soon as he assumes the presidency.

The call came as the country joined in the celebration of the World Environ-

ment Day last Sunday.

Ban Toxics said that ratifying the Basel Amendment and Minamata Convention — treaties that control waste trade and mercury pollution, respectively — should be among the priority environmental agenda of the incoming president.

The return of Canada's waste shipments, most of which are still rotting in Manila's ports, should also be top on his list, the group added.

"This is a golden opportunity for President-elect Duterte to prove his mettle when it comes to the environment," said Ban Toxics CEO Shalimar Vitan.

"As president, it is within his power to finally resolve the Canada waste crisis. He can also prevent future waste dumping by any country by ensuring the ratification of the Basel Amendment," she added.

The President-elect is staunchly against the dumping of Canada's waste into the country. Last year, he urged the Aquino administration to file a diplomatic protest against the Canadian government for its 1,300-ton shipments of trash exported from 2013 to 2014, calling the act a "derogation of our national dignity." A formal protest filed with the Basel Convention Secretariat will compel Canada to repatriate their waste.

The Basel Amendment is an amendment to the Basel Convention which the country ratified in 1993. The Convention prohibits the exportation of hazardous wastes from developed to developing countries. The Amendment, which the Philippines has not yet ratified, addresses

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Return to sender, group urges
Duterte on Canada waste



Some of the container vans that contained waste products from Canada. (news.abs-cbn.com)

a loophole in the convention by additionally prohibiting the movement of all wastes, even those meant for recycling.

Ban Toxics is also calling on the President-elect to push his administration into ratifying the Minamata Convention. The Minamata Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from mercury pollution. Mercury, even in low doses, is extremely harmful to human health. Once released, it persists in the environment and gets absorbed by organisms.

The Philippines has signed Minamata, but has yet to ratify it. Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is currently revising

regulations on mercury use to enforce stricter measures.

"Mercury pollution is widespread in the Philippines — the biggest uses are in small-scale gold mining and for dentistry, as dental fillings," said Vitan. "We urge the incoming administration to speed up the approval of the new mercury regulations with a mercury phase out timeline of 2020."

"President Duterte should also champion the immediate ratification of this treaty, not just to support global efforts to eliminate mercury use, but also to prevent further mercury pollution and poisoning in the country," she added. (Ellalyn B. De Vera)

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Not out-of-context

1. This is what President-elect Duterte said: (Past tense) "May mga journalists namatay dahil may ginawa silang masama sa iba." [There are journalists dead because they have wronged others.]

2. President-elect Duterte's critics misquote him; claim he said: (Future tense) "May mga journalists na mamamatay pag may ginagawa silang masama sa iba." [Journalists will be dead because they are doing wrong to others.]

Duterte said (1) in the past tense. Duterte was making a statement based on history. This is what has in fact been happening to journalists through the management of different presidents, giving the Philippines the reputation of being 3rd, behind Iraq and Syria, most unsafe country for journalists.

Duterte's critics lied when they said he said (2). Duterte said (1), not (2). Careless journalists inaccurately paraphrased what Duterte really said In (1). Duterte is not endorsing killing; he is not condoning, celebrating the murder of journalists when the journalists are doing wrong things!

Duterte critics deliberately, maliciously misquoted. That way, the public will believe that Duterte's persuasion is... "I, the President, agree that journalists must be killed, without due process, when they do illegalities." President-elect Duterte's statement (1) is contextually contrary to (2) which is the misquotation of journalists. All his critics and journalists at his press conference are fluent in Filipino. They can see the contextual difference between (1) and (2).

DAHLI ASPILLERA



'Some in media not only do out-of-context, but outright maliciously misquote or inaccurately paraphrase. They get people to believe that the President wants journalists killed without due process when they do illegalities.'

The president-elect hit the Romualdos of Camiguin for their politics of convenience, saying they have been changing parties through the years depending on who is in power. Baby Romuldo is running for governor of Camiguin. She is the wife of JJ Romualdo who is the mayor of Mambajao. Seeking re-election for the lone district of Camiguin is Rep. XJ Romualdo, brother of JJ. XJ replaced his then re-electionist father who died in April 2013. Another Romualdo, Dan-Dan is running as provincial board member.

The Romualdos are members of the Liberal Party although sources said they are supporting presidential candidate Senator Grace Poe. The presidential bet of the Liberal party is Mar Roxas.

The Romualdos have virtually built a dynasty in Camiguin over the last two decades. Duterte urged residents in Camiguin to bring down the Romualdos from power. He said the time has come for the people to reject feudalism

and embrace real change.

The EcoWaste Coalition repainted armchairs that were freshly coated with paints containing dangerous levels of lead during this week's Brigada Eskwela. Members of the EcoWaste Coalition went to Isabelo de los Reyes Elementary School in Tondo, Manila to repaint 50 armchairs painted with lead-containing orange Triton Quick Drying Enamel. The group repainted the armchairs with lead-free orange Boysen Quick Drying Enamel.

Using a portable X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) device, EcoWaste detected lead reaching 91,300 parts per million (ppm) in the orange Triton paint, way above the 90 ppm maximum limit under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 2013-24, also known as the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds. A yellow Triton Quick Drying Enamel paint used in some other armchairs was also found to

contain high concentrations of lead at 65,100 ppm. The group placed this leaded paint with lead-free yellow Davies Gloss-It Quick Dry Enamel.... "We are deeply upset by the continued production and sale of highly leaded paints that are finding their way into the school system in breach of the government's lead-free paint policy in schools...Repainting armchairs with a lead-free paint, we admit, is a temporary remedy. Sooner or later, the paint coating, including the leaded paint underneath, will come off and create a lead hazard requiring immediate attention.... We therefore urge national and local government agencies to undertake enduring and holistic interventions that will protect our school children as well as their teachers against lead exposure."--Eco-Waste Coalition

DepEd Memo No. 85, Series 2016 directed schools to use lead-free paints "at all times," particularly during the Brigada Eskwela activities. DepEd should conduct an inventory of paints used in this year's Brigada Eskwela and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of the department's lead-free paint directive in country's public schools.

Children's developing brains are permanently damaged by exposure to lead, the EcoWaste Coalition said, stressing that even at very low exposures, lead can cause learning disabilities, low IQ, inattentiveness, poor impulse control and aggressive behavior. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned "there is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe."

Dahliaspillera@yahoo.com

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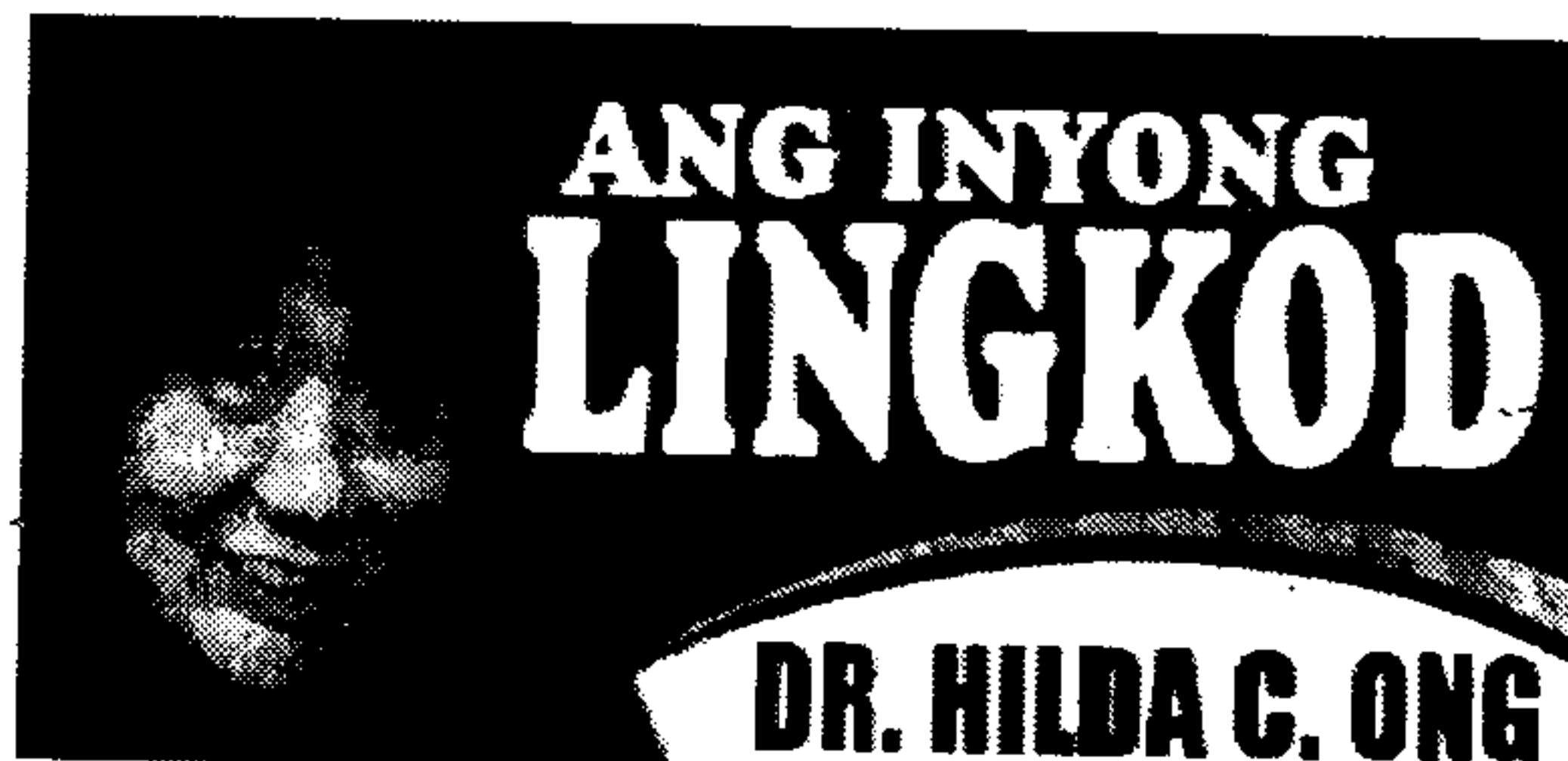
LUMAGDA sa isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) at Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technologies Research and Development (PCIEERD) para sa pagtutulungan hinggil sa Climate Resilient Infrastructure Initiative (CRII).

Pinangunahan ng mga Executive Directors ng dalawang ahensya ang paglagda sa kasunduan, sina Dr. Seville D. David, Jr. ng NWRB at Dr. Carlos Primo C. David ng PCIEERD.

Layon ng nilagdaang MOA na pagtibayin ang pagtutulungan ng NWRB at PCIEERD sa paglalagat ng mga "science-based information for the planning of critical infrastructure" na may pagsasaalang-alang sa climate change, disaster risk reduction principles, at paggamit ng pinakabago at pinaka-detalyadong datasets.

Maglalaan ang PCIEERD ng pool of researchers na makikipagtulungan sa mga teknikal na empleyado ng NWRB ukol sa CRII at iba pang climate-resilient studies.

Gagawa rin ang dalawang ahensya ng isang "science and technology based repository of data for the efficient management of water resources in the Philippines underlining the worsening impacts of climate



NWRB AT PCIEERD LUMAGDA SA KASUNDUAN UKOL SA 'CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE'

change".

Apat ang proyektong pagtutuunan ng pansin sa pagsasanib puwersa ng NWRB at PCIEERD, ang Automated Dam Monitoring (Inflow, Outflow, and Current Water Level), Quantitative Hydrological Studies for Critical Watersheds, Angat Reservoir Research, at ang Water Resources Accounting for the Whole Country.

Talaga namang isa sa pinaka-vulnerable sa matinding epekto ng climate change ang ating bansa kung kaya kinakailangan talagang maging handa ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan upang makatugon sa kinakaharap nating environmental catastrophe na ito.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Unplugging a Mighty River to Counter Climate Change

By ABRAHM LUSTGARTEN

Wedged between Arizona and Utah, less than 32 kilometers upriver from the Grand Canyon, a soaring concrete wall blocks the flow of the Colorado River. There, at Glen Canyon Dam, the river is turned back on itself, drowning more than 322 kilometers of red gorges and replacing the Colorado's free-spirited rapids with an immense lake of flat, still water called Lake Powell, the nation's second-largest reserve.

When Glen Canyon Dam was built, giant dam projects promised to elevate the American West above its greatest handicap — a perennial shortage of water. These wonders of engineering would bring wild rivers to heel, produce cheap, clean power and stockpile water necessary to grow a thriving economy in the desert.

But today, there are signs the promise of this great dam and others has run its course.

Climate change is making the West hotter and drier, and many of the dams have proved far less efficient and effective than hoped. They have altered ecosystems and disrupted fisheries. They have left taxpayers saddled with debt.

And reservoirs created by these dams lose hundreds of billions of liters of precious water each year to evaporation and to leakage underground, perhaps making the West's water crisis worse.

"The Colorado River system is changing rapidly," said Daniel Beard, a former commissioner of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which oversees the dams. "We have a responsibility to reassess

the fundamental precepts of how we have managed the river."

That reassessment, Mr. Beard and others said, demands that it is time to decommission one of the grandest dams of them all, Glen Canyon.

The Glen Canyon Dam was completed in 1963. It took 17 years for the reservoir to fill; 19 years later, a steady decline began. Thanks to the steady overuse of the Colorado River system — which provides water to one in eight Americans and supports one-seventh of the nation's crops — Lake Powell has been drained to less than half of its capacity, rendering it incapable of generating the amount of power the dam's builders originally planned.

More than 606 billion liters of wa-

ter evaporate from the lake every year. Another 454 billion liters are believed to leak out of the bottom each year into fissures in the earth. These debits amount to "the largest loss of water on the Colorado River," Mr. Beard said, enough to supply nine million people each year.

Still, water managers dispute the notion that it's time for a change. Michael Connor, the deputy secretary of the Department of Interior and a former commissioner of reclamation, credited Glen Canyon with numbing the pain of the recent drought. "Look at the last 15 years," he said. "It's the lowest inflow in history, and there's been no shortages on the Colorado River."

There is also a political tide to be reckoned with: the delicate peace

Abraham Lustgarten is a reporter for the news site ProPublica.

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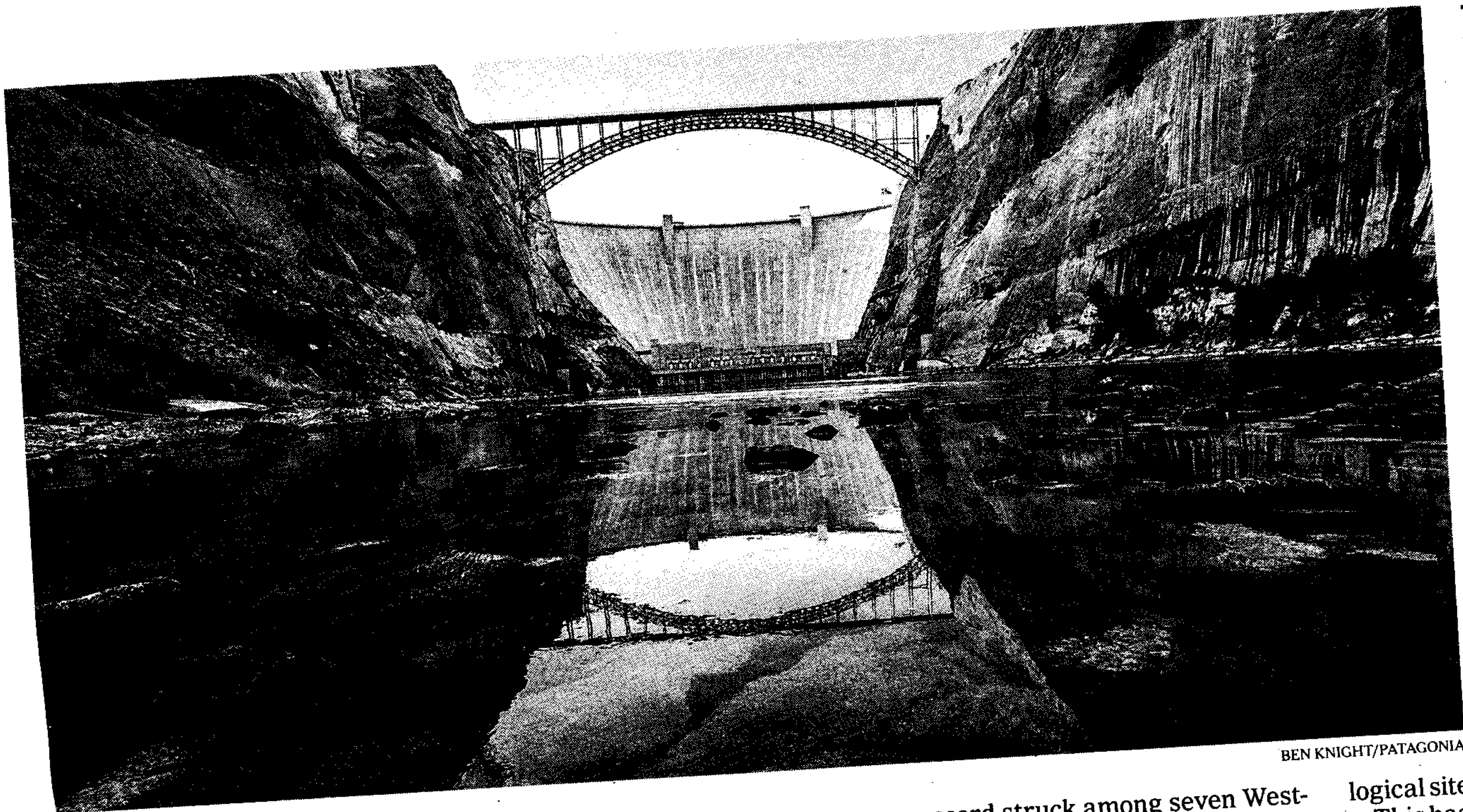
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Unplugging a Mighty River to Counter
climate change



BEN KNIGHT/PATAGONIA

The Glen Canyon Dam, on the Arizona-Utah border, as seen in the documentary "DamNation." The efficiency of the dam has dwindled.

liters of water would be saved each year.

The Glen Canyon Dam's gates would be opened and the water behind it allowed to pass through, restoring the natural flows into the Grand Canyon and draining Lake Powell. Vast tracts of land now submerged would be restored. Dozens of archaeological sites would be revealed.

accord struck among seven Western states in 1922, and later with Mexico, that divides Colorado River water among them and the fear that they'd never be able to reach such an agreement again.

But decommissioning the dam could offer a solution hard to ignore — a cheap and large source of water where it is desperately needed.

The idea is this: Since two of the nation's largest reservoirs — Lake Mead and Lake Powell, just 483 kilometers apart — depend on the same dwindling water source but are each less than half full, they should be combined into one. In all, according to Tom Myers, a hydrologist who studied the proposal for an environmental group that supports the idea, about 677 billion

logical sites would be revealed. This has long been the campaign of ardent environmentalists. But the Bureau of Reclamation and environmentalists disagree how much water would be saved by combining the reservoirs.

Jim Lochhead, chief executive of Denver's water utility, said decommissioning the dam would probably require an act of Congress, a new agreement among seven state legislatures, a revised treaty with Mexico, and a lengthy environmental impact analysis.

"A half a million acre feet sounds like a lot of water," he said, referring to the water saved by combining the reservoirs, "but I don't think it's significant enough, frankly, to justify going through all of that."

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General na Silasabing

NDRRMC naghahanda na sa La Niña

Patuloy ang ginagawang paghahanda ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) upang matugunan ang banta ng La Niña sa bansa.

Ayon kay Mina Marasigan, tagapagsalita ng NDRRMC, bagama't sinasabi ng PAGASA na ang La Niña ay maaaring maranasan ng ating bansa sa last quarter ng taon hanggang sa mas maaga sa susunod na taon.

Sinabi ni Marasigan na nagpapatuloy aniya ang kanilang kampanya para bigyan ng kaalaman ang mamamayan ukol sa posibleng kakaharaping sakuna.

Partikular dito ang pagpapatibay ng kanilang bahay, pagputol ng punong kahoy sa kanilang paligid, paglilinis ng estero, paghuhukay o dredging ng ating mga ilog, katuwang ating lokal na pamahalaan.

Dahil ang La Niña anya ay maaring magdala ng patuloy na pag-ulan na magdudulot ng pagbaha sa ating mga lugar.

Aniya, bagama't tag-ulan na pero may nararanasan pa ring mainit na panahon, kailangang

paghandaan ito nang mabuti upang maiwasan ang anumang mangyaring masama pagsapit ng malakas na buhos ng ulan na makapagdudulot ng pagbaha.

Sa mga liblib na lugar, patuloy ang ginagawang pag-aaral o estratehiya ng ahensya para makarating sa mga mamamayan ang mga babala dahil sila ang karaniwang naapektuhan kapag may bagyo o sakuna. Maglalagay din sila ng emergency integration center.

Bukod dito, ang PAGASA ay nagde-develop umano ng mga application o nasa testing stage na para agarang aksyon, bukod sa makakatanggap ng tungkol sa balita nangyayari, at agad ding maipalabas ang thunderstorm warning at rainfall warning sa mga mobile phone.

Mananatili rin aniya ang programang project Noah dahil sa malaking naitutulong nito sa pagbibigay ng impormasyon tungkol sa bagyo o sakuna. (Ricky T. Tulipat)

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DOF sees May inflation at 1.4%

BY ANGELA CELIS

THE country's inflation rate may have inched up to 1.4 percent in May, the Department of Finance (DOF) said.

In its latest economic bulletin, the DOF said the projected inflation rate is higher than the 1.1 percent price increase last month but still lower than the 1.6 percent price increase in the same month last year.

"An uptick in inflation rate may be attributed to an increase in food prices, particularly vegetables," the DOF said.

According to the agency, the forecast inflation rate is within the 2 to 3 percent projection for 2016.

"This low rate allows room for monetary policy to sustain rapid economic growth," it said.

Meanwhile, the DOF said the forecast that it will be lower than the inflation rate recorded in May 2015 can be traced to comparatively lower fuel and electricity prices that the country still enjoys.

Meralco rates for May are, on average, 15 percent lower than the same month last year.

Just last month, Emmanuel Esguerra, National Economic and Development Authority director-general, warned of the upside risks in the medium term due to a potential recovery in oil prices, El Niño and the possible occurrence of La Niña in the latter part of 2016.

"International oil prices remained below 2015 levels and this is projected to become unstable on the back of a potential oil production freeze over the medium term by Russia and selected members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries," he said.

On the domestic front, Esguerra stressed that with the El Niño phenomenon likely to last until July 2016, appropriate timing of rice importation remains critical to avoid supply disruptions which could result in unstable rice prices.

On the other hand, he noted that further intensification of La Niña in the second half of the year could provide upside pressures on the prices of agricultural commodities and utilities.

"To help mitigate the impact of El Niño and prepare for the highly likely occurrence of La Niña, government agencies should coordinate and study various response measures on their possible effect towards agricultural production," Esguerra said.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UST holds pioneering confab, exhibit on freshwater biodiversity

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas (UST) will gather experts from international scientific communities in the 1st Philippine Symposium on Freshwater Biodiversity and Ecosystems from June 7 to 10 at the UST Paredes Building in España, Manila.

A pioneering undertaking in the country, the UST confab will bring together minds in the fields of limnology, freshwater ecology, biodiversity, and conservation biology to shed light on important issues the freshwater ecosystems face today.

Recent, relevant, and updated results of studies on the ecology and biodiversity of freshwaters within the Philippine territory and the rest of Tropical Asia will be presented during the four-day event, symposium chair Rey Donne S. Papa, Ph.D. said.

Freshwater ecosystems serve as the primary source of water for human consumption in the domestic, industrial, and agricultural spheres, which are affected by destructive human activities like the spread of pollution, wreckage of habitat, exportation of rare and endangered species, and climate change.

Participants to the event can take part in keynote and plenary lectures, parallel sessions, and poster exhibits to be presided over by speakers from USA, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, among others.

The event will also feature the rich and unique biodiversity of the Taal Lake in Batangas and promote its protection and conservation in an exhibit titled "TAALAMAN: The Lake's First Biomuseum" to be mounted from June 7 to 17 at the UST Museum and Main Building Lobby.

The 'biomuseum,' also a pioneering endeavor in the Philippines, will display a dry exhibit in the form of informative posters about Taal Lake and a "wet exhibit," which will showcase live specimens of various animals and plants in glass aquaria.

Organized by UST Graduate School biodiversity and conservation biology class, the 10-day exhibit is considered the first of its kind in the country. Admission is free.

The events are in partnership with the International Society of Limnology and co-organized by the California Academy of Sciences, PUSOD, Inc., University of the Philippines Institute of Biology, Ateneo de Manila University, Association of Systematic Biologists of the Philippines, Biodiversity Management Bureau, and the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute. Fund and sponsored by the United States Agency International Development, the UST College

of Science, and UST Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences.

For more information, visit www.psfbe2016.org.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Environmental crimes cost world econ \$258B

ENVIRONMENTAL crimes are rising due to weak laws and enforcement, costing the global economy as much as a record \$258 billion, about a quarter more than previously estimated, the United Nations Environment Program (Unep) and Interpol said.

The groups released a study on Saturday, on the eve of World Environment Day, that said the proceeds from crimes, ranging from illegal logging to the trafficking of hazardous waste and illicit gold mining, are funding rebel groups and criminal syndicates.

The scourge includes a rise in the poaching of elephants and rhinos, along with white-collar crimes, such as exploiting the carbon credit market.

Unep and Interpol said environmental crimes now cost between

\$91 billion and \$258 billion, compared with a 2014 estimate of \$70 billion to \$213 billion.

"The last decade has seen environmental crime rise by at least 5 percent to 7 percent per year," growing two to three times faster than global economic output, they said in an e-mailed statement.

The agencies called for stronger actions, such as legislation and sanctions, and for more investment, saying international agencies' spending of \$20 million to \$30 million a year to combat the crimes is just a small fraction of the criminal proceeds.

Their recommendations include disrupting overseas tax havens and boosting economic incentives to stop people "at the bottom of the environmental crime chain" from getting involved. *Bloomberg News*

X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ • BULGAR SA BALITA

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DUTERTE SA 3 HENERAL: 'RESIGN O IPAHIHIYA KO PA KAYO!'

**'BIG MINING FIRMS,
MAGSARA NA' - DU30**
DAVAO CITY – Malalaking kompanya ng mina-

han ang isa sa mga pinun-
terya ni incoming Presi-
dent Rodrigo Duterte sa
kaniyang speech sa isina-
gawang thanksgiving par-
ty sa Davao.

Ngayon pa lang pi-
naalalahanan na ni Duterte
ang mga malalaking kom-
paniya ng minahan, par-
tikular na sa Surigao del
Norte, na mas magandang
magsara na ang mga ito lalo
na't nagdudulot ito ng
problema sa kalikasan.

Ito rin umano ang rason
kung bakit hindi niya bini-
gay ang posisyon bilang
kalihim ng Department of
Environment and Natural
Resources (DENR) kay
Leoncio Evasco, na kani-
yang national campaign
manager.

Sinabi ng alkalde na si
Evasco, ay dating politi-
cal detainee noong naging
city administrator ito ng
opisyal.

Sa halip na kay Evasco,
mas gusto si Duterte na
ibigay ang posisyon sa
isang militar.

Umaasa ang incoming
president na may resis-
tance mula sa mining firms
at ang isang militar na
kanyang itatalaga bilang
DENR secretary ang man-
gunguna sa pagpapatupad
kanyang magiging kautu-
san.