

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 24 JUN 2016

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

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THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Malaya

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Paje welcomes Lopez as new DENR chief

BY ANGELA LOPEZ DE LEON

OUTGOING Environment Secretary Ramon Paje yesterday welcomed the appointment of Regina Lopez as his successor.

"On behalf of the entire DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) community, I would like to congratulate and welcome the appointment of Ms. Gina Lopez as the next secretary of the department," Paje said.

He said he could not think of anyone better to succeed him in the DENR than Lopez, "whose passion and track record on various environmental causes cannot be understated."

On Tuesday, Lopez announced she had decided to accept the offer of incoming President Rodrigo Duterte to lead the DENR.

The DENR is the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources.

"I'm sure the incoming DENR Secretary will do a good job. I feel that the department is in good hands," said Paje, who is scheduled to step down from office on June 30.

A noted environmentalist, Lopez is currently chairwoman of the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.



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Paje all praises for new DENR chief

OUTGOING Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje is all praises for his successor Regina "Gina" Lopez.

Paje told the men and women of DENR are in good hands with Lopez.

President-elect Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte personally handpicked Lopez to the post he earlier offered to the left.

"In behalf of the entire DENR community, I would like to congratulate and welcome the appointment of Ms. Gina Lopez as the next secretary of the department," Paje said.

Citing the passion and track record of the incoming secretary when it comes to various environmental causes, Paje said he could not think of anyone better to succeed him.

"I'm sure the incoming DENR secretary will do a good job. I feel that the department is in good hands," said Paje.

Lopez on Tuesday has accepted the DENR post.

Joel dela Torre

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Nobody better than Gina

By Dona Z.
Pazzibugan

OUTGOING Environment Secretary Ramon Paje yesterday said he "could not think of anyone better" than antimin- ing activist Gina Lopez to succeed him as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"I'm sure the incoming DENR secretary will do a good job. I feel that the department is in good hands," Paje said in a statement.

He added that Lopez's "passion and track record on various environmental causes cannot be understated."

While environmental activists lauded President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's choice, mining companies reacted negatively after Lopez accepted the appointment on Tuesday.

Lopez, who currently chairs the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, left for Japan on Wednesday, according to her staff.

She begged off from answering questions by e-mail until her return.

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Gina Lopez: Where there's mining, there is also poverty

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INCOMING Environment Secretary Regina "Gina" Lopez said there was no such thing as responsible mining, saying the industry has caused suffering and injustice especially in poor areas.

"How can it be responsible to do open pit mining in a country that is most vulnerable to climate change?" Lopez told the INQUIRER in a text message.

Lopez, who on Tuesday accepted an offer from President-elect Rodrigo Duterte to lead the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said putting the lives and future of farmers and fishermen at stake "for the money foreigners and rich people want to make" is hardly responsible.

She made the statements amid the

mixed reactions her appointment has generated. The anti-mining advocate, as DENR chief, will take supervision over the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), which regulates the mining industry in the Philippines.

"If there is responsible mining why is it that wherever there is mining, there is poverty?" she said. "The poorest sites in the country are mining areas."

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) earlier said its members continue to advocate responsible mining to benefit not just the communities that host mining projects but also the entire country.

Mining firms were quick to express acceptance of Lopez as DENR chief.

"We will also engage with DENR secretary-designate Gina Lopez to promote environmentally sensitive and

responsive mining," said Jose P. Leviste Jr., chair of OcenaGold Philippines. "We welcome and support a policy balanced between environmental protection and resource development."

Gerard H. Brimo, president and chief executive of Nickel Asia Corp., noted Duterte has already made clear his policy in support of responsible mining.

Philex, for its part, said the President-elect has every right to appoint whoever he deemed fit to become the next DENR secretary, "not just on a matter of competence, but also on a matter of trust and confidence as a member of his official family."

"Philex has committed to support President Duterte and his drive against illegal and irresponsible mining," company senior vice president Michael Toledo said.

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Duterte man pacifies business: Gina Lopez is not the Cabinet

By Amy R. Remo

ASSUAGING fears of a blanket anti-business stance from the incoming administration, incoming National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Director General Ernesto M. Pernia said "a single cabinet member doesn't make a cabinet."

Pernia was reacting to the comments made by Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), who said the country needed guidance from its government in diversifying beyond electronics its export portfolio.

But Pernia alluded Pangilinan's comments to the recent appointment of anti-mining advocate Gina Lopez as chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The news had sent share prices of mining and oil stocks plunging on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"For the export thing, I'm sure you are referring to mineral exports. It's a sensitive matter. I've been seeing the (effect on) stocks in mining and oil. Let me tell you that, well, a single cabinet member doesn't make a cabinet... Certainly, we're going to have to agree on what policies, or what exports, or what areas will be needing emphasis," Pernia said. Pangilinan's statements came after Pernia discussed on Thursday the economic strategy of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte during a special joint meeting hosted by the Makati Business Club, US-Philippine Society and the Philippines-US Business Council.

During a small group discussion with Duterte and Finance Secretary Carlos G.

Dominguez, Pernia said he suggested splitting the DENR and strengthening the natural resources side to include the "blue economy." He said the blue economy, or the development of marine resources and ecosystems, "is a big thing." He clarified it was still an idea that needed further discussing.

He said Dominguez, a Mindanao-based businessman, believes the private sector should be a major player in the economy. He also said Dominguez understood that the government was just an enabler and a provider of conducive environment for businesses.

Pernia made the same remark when Makati Business Club chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. asked about the incoming administration's position on agrarian reform.

Incoming Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano reportedly said he would be pursuing the said reforms with minimum exemptions.

"We are aware of the orientation of Rafael Mariano but he's just one of the many in cabinet. There are many of us who are not too excited about agrarian reform program including myself. We are going to temper his enthusiasm about what he plans to do with the agrarian reform," Pernia said. Mariano was once a representative of the militant Bayan Muna Party-list.

The remarks of Pernia were welcomed by del Rosario, who noted these implied "there will be discussions and debate."

"Hopefully, good sense will prevail. Some things are just not realistic to implement abruptly even if the direction has been set. It's good to be prudent to make sure everyone understands the impact of decisions," Del Rosario added.

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Lopez: Madness to even consider open-pit mining

THE INCOMING secretary in charge of the environment, a mandate that covers the Philippines' mining industry, has slammed the use of open pits to extract minerals, describing it as "madness" even to consider the method in the resource-rich country because of its environmental impact.

This stand of Regina Paz L. Lopez, an environmentalist who on Tuesday accepted President-elect Rodrigo R. Duterte's offer to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, could set her on a collision course with the industry.

"Open-pit mining as in the use of explosives is horrific for the environment. It's a cheap way to extract. And for the topmost country vulnerable to climate change it's madness to even con-

sider it," Ms. Lopez said in a text message to Reuters.

"We must stop killing our future for the interests of a few."

News of Ms. Lopez's appointment sent Philippine mining stocks tumbling.

The country sits on mineral reserves worth \$1.4 trillion, but mining accounts for less than 1 percent of GDP, as policy bottlenecks and an anti-mining lobby led by the Roman Catholic Church hamper development.

In an interview with DZMM on Thursday, Director Leo L. Jasareno of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said the mining industry contributed 0.7% to GDP last year. That compares to the 8.2% contributed by tourism.

The biggest stalled venture for the industry is the \$5.9 billion

gold-copper Tampakan project on Mindanao island.

Glencore last year quit the project which has failed to take off after the province where Tampakan is located banned open-pit mining in 2010.

The Philippines' mining law allows open-pit mining.

While not saying she would stop any form of mining, Ms. Lopez said we "will not allow any activity that causes suffering."

"I will not allow any activity that disadvantages our farmers and fishermen. Food security and the quality of life of our people are the topmost priority," she said.

Among those using the open-pit method is top nickel ore producer, Nickel Asia Corp. The Philippines is the biggest nickel ore supplier to China, shipping 34.3 million tons last year.

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Lopez: Madness to even consider open-pit mining

The country has previously suffered mining disasters. In 1996, a tunnel leak at the Canadian-owned Marcopper Mining Corp.'s copper mine in Marinduque dumped 1.5 million cubic meters of tailings into surrounding waters, contaminating rivers.

Mr. Duterte, who starts his term on June 30, has warned he will cancel mining projects causing environmental harm.

But his spokesman, Ernesto Abella, in a news conference in Davao City on Thursday, played down the statements of the President-elect and his designated Environment Secretary.

"The fact that she [Ms. Lopez] accepted it [the post] means that she's willing to adjust her position, I'm sure," Mr. Abella said.

Business consultant Peter Wallace said Ms. Lopez would

have to recognize the need to compromise.

"We can't have no mining, that's just completely untenable," he said.

Philex Mining Corp. Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan said the industry needed to give Ms. Lopez the chance to "articulate her policies."

"For us we have to take the view that it is business as usual," said Mr. Pangilinan, who somewhat in jest had called Ms. Lopez, in the context of her appointment, as the "elephant in the room." The two had a widely reported disagreement at a 2012 forum.

For its part, Philex said in a statement that it is "open to whoever the President-elect appoints as the DENR Secretary."

"Philex has committed to support President Duterte and

his drive against illegal and irresponsible mining," the statement quoted lawyer Michael T. Toledo, head of the MVP Group Media Bureau and senior vice-president for Public and Regulatory Affairs at Philex. "We are open to sitting down and working with the new DENR Secretary to further the President's call, to stamp out the illegal and irresponsible miners who give the industry a bad name."

Mr. Pangilinan is also chairman, president and CEO of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT). Hastings Holdings, Inc. — a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc. — maintains interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group. — **main report by Reuters**

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Open-pit mining is madness: Lopez

REGINA Lopez, the incoming secretary in charge of Philippine mining has slammed the use of open pits to extract minerals, describing it as "madness" even to consider the method in the resource-rich country because of the environmental impact.

She will also start reviewing mining contracts right after the June 30 inauguration of president-elect Rodrigo Duterte.

This stance by Lopez, an environmentalist who on Tuesday accepted President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's offer to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, could set her on a collision course with the mining industry.

"Open-pit mining as in the use of explosives is horrific for the environment. It's a cheap way to extract. And for the top most country vulnerable to climate change it's madness to even consider it," Lopez said in a text message to Reuters.

"We must stop killing our future for the interests of a few."

News of Lopez' appointment sent Philippine mining stocks tumbling.

The Philippines sits on mineral reserves worth \$1.4 trillion, but mining accounts for less than 1 percent of GDP, as policy bottlenecks and an anti-mining lobby led by the Roman Catholic Church hamper development.

The biggest stalled venture is the \$5.9 billion gold-copper Tampakan project on Mindanao island.

Glencore last year quit the project which has failed to take off after the province where Tampakan is located banned open-pit mining in 2010.

The Philippines' mining law allows open-pit mining.

While not saying she would stop any form

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of mining, Lopez said we "will not allow any activity that causes suffering."

"I will not allow any activity that disadvantages our farmers and fishermen. Food security and the quality of life of our people are the topmost priority," Lopez said.

Among those using the open-pit method is top nickel ore producer, Nickel Asia Corp. The Philippines is the biggest nickel ore supplier to China, shipping 34.3 million tons last year.

The country has previously suffered mining disasters. In 1996, a tunnel leak at the Canadian-owned Marcopper Mining Corp's copper mine in Marinduque dumped 1.5 million cubic metres of tailings into surrounding waters, contaminating rivers.

Duterte, who starts his term on June 30, has warned he will cancel mining projects causing environmental harm.

Lopez would have to recognize the need to compromise, said business consultant Peter Wallace.

"We can't have no mining, that's just completely untenable," said Wallace.

Philex Mining Corp Chairman Manuel Pangilinan said the industry needed to give Lopez the chance to "articulate her policies." "For us we have to take the view that it is business as usual," Pangilinan said.

Meantime incoming presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella clarified yesterday that Duterte is not against mining in general as he recognizes the contributions of the mining sector in growing the economy.

He said Duterte simply wants to promote responsible mining which basically means protecting the environment at the same time you are mining the

precious metals in the country. He said this means replanting trees and ensuring proper waste disposal, among others, in the areas where the mining operations are done.

"Definitely, the President (elect) is not anti-mining, let's make it very clear. He actually, he supports each and every venture that will contribute to the health of the Philippine economy. However, he is very clear that he needs whatever venture we go into, whatever enterprise we go into, it must be in a responsible manner, but he is not anti-mining, definitely not," he said.

Abella said Duterte himself recommended following the mining practices in Canada and Australia which promotes the protection of the environment.

Duterte, during a business forum in Davao and an oath taking event in Sarangani, had warned miners that they should leave the industry if they cannot practice responsible mining and ensure the protection of the environment.

To oversee the protection of the environment and ensure compliance with responsible mining practices, Duterte had appointed Lopez who is a known environmentalist and anti-illegal mining advocate.

On proposals to split the Department of Environment and Natural Resources into two departments to create a separate Department that would oversee the geosciences and mining, Abella the suggestion would be taken into consideration by the incoming Cabinet. - Jocelyn Montemayor and Reuters



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Lopez expected to soften stance vs mining – Abella

By ANTONIO COLINA

DAVAO CITY – Incoming Environment Secretary Gina Lopez will have to soften her stand against mining in deference to President-elect Rodrigo R. Duterte's position on responsible mining, according to the next administration's spokesman.

"The fact that she accepted it, meaning she will adjust to it," incoming spokesperson Ernesto Abella told reporters in a press briefing.

Before her appointment, Lopez was a staunch anti-mining advocate.

Reading four-paragraph statement issued by Incoming Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar, Abella acknowledged that the mining plays a key role in the Philippines.

"The Duterte administration is committed to promoting a robust and dynamic economy, with every sector contributing to its growth... The key word here is responsible," he said.

He cited the Duterte's pronouncement at the second day of the "Sulong Pilipinas: Hakbang Tungo sa Kaunlaran" on

Tuesday that mining firms will "have to do it right. If you cannot do it right, then get out of the mining."

He said Duterte is also planning to apply the responsible mining practices in Canada and Australia to ensure the protection of the environment.

Duterte earlier said that there will be a massive review of the mining claims.

He also lamented that he wants trees be replanted in areas where mining companies used to operate and should not leave toxic materials.

"If you cannot do it I will cancel

your permit. Maawa ako sa bayan ko," he said.

Mindanao Business Council (MBC) chair Vicente Lao, who presented the other half of the recommendations of private sector to Duterte's 10-point socio-economic agenda during the two-day consultative meeting, said that one of the recommendations of the private sector is to limit and gradually eliminate the export of mineral ore.

"Instead, they recommended a shift to value-added processing that would facilitate a strong domestic mineral products industry," he said.

Daily Tribune

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'Lopez has to adjust her stand on mining'

By Ted Tuvera

Appointed Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez has to compromise her anti-mining advocacies.

This is what incoming presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said during a press conference yesterday after President-elect Rody Duterte's appointment of Lopez that has apparently caused a preview of how the mining industry in the country might be.

The mining shares in the country have dropped for two consecutive days following Lopez's acceptance of Duterte's invitation for the DENR post.

It is noted that some miners are dismayed over the appointment of Lopez as DENR secretary. They however, expressed their willingness to cooperate.

But Duterte's mouthpiece said that they are certain that Lopez, an executive of major media network ABS-CBN, is ready to bend her stand

on mining.

"The fact that she accepted (the DENR post) proves that she is willing to adjust her position on mining," Abella told reporters yesterday in Quezon City.

Abella also had to clarify Duterte's long-standing position on mining after gaining an anti-mining reputation for banning the said industry in his Davao City turf.

"Duterte is not anti-mining, but it must be done in a responsible manner," he said.

"The President-elect supports every venture that will contribute to the health of the country's economy," Abella added.

It should be cited that the mining sub-index dropped to seven percent in 10, 601.60 points while the benchmark index 0.008 percent in 7,760.86 points.

The worst affected is the Philex Mining owned by businessman Manny Pangilinan.

Since Tuesday, more than 20 percent dropped of the mining price of Philex equivalent to almost P10 billion loss to the company.

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Lopez told: Abide by Rody's mining policy

By John Paolo Bencito and F. Pearl A. Gajunera

DAVAO CITY—Incoming Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary Gina Lopez will have to adjust to the “responsible mining policy” of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte.

In a media briefing here, incoming presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella

said that when Lopez—an anti-mining advocate—accepted the invitation to join Duterte's Cabinet, it meant she would follow whatever guidelines that the President would give.

“The fact that she accepted it, it means that she will advocate the position of the president,” Abella said.

“The president is not anti-mining. He actually supports each and every

venture that contributes to the health of the Philippine economy,” he said.

“What the president is demanding is that those who do that must be very careful,” he added.

On Tuesday, Duterte told the mining companies during a speech at a business forum here: “You have to do it right. If you cannot do it, then get out of mining.”

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Lopez...

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Duterte has also asked miners to apply the standards of responsible mining practiced in developed countries such as Canada and Australia, to ensure the protection of the environment.

Abella said a responsible miner will replant the trees that were cut during their excavation while the irresponsible miner would just leave it as it is.

He also said mining companies must be careful in making sure that any toxic chemicals do not get into the water.

Lopez, whom Duterte appointed as Environment secretary, has gone around the country campaigning against mining, particularly in Palawan and other eco-tourism sites, advocating the need to protect the country's rich biodiversity.

Lopez's appointment as Environment secretary had sent mining investors in panic and stocks entered a third day of volatility.

Stock analysts say investor jitters are seen to continue until Lopez presents her mining policies.

Mining and oil, which consists heavily of miners, lost 736.48 points, ending at 10,715.36 as of noon Thursday. The PSE index was almost flat, closing at 7,767.06.

In January 2013, Lopez rallied with residents in the seven towns of Surigao del Sur to oppose mining in eco-tourism sites. She also urged them to join her in generating 10 million votes for the Save Palawan Movement.

At the International Conference of Mining in Mindanao held at the Ateneo de Davao University in January 2012, Lopez asked if it is possible to have “responsible mining if government has a problem with governance.”

“The fact is, people are suffering and government has not demonstrated the ability to protect our people. Should we go on in this enterprise when we can't even assure the well being of our people?” she asked.

Lopez, scion of the Lopez group which owns broadcast giant ABS-CBN and has vested interests on power generation and energy, explained her opposition to mining last Tuesday.

“Mining has a pathetic track record. Pathetic. Wherever there's mining, the people are poor. So why are we doing it? It's crazy,” Lopez said in an ANC television interview.

“For me, large scale, small scale, it's just...when you destroy the environment and you cause suf-

fering to our rivers and streams, our agricultural land, our fishery resource, you kill everything. Is it worth it?” she said.

The DENR post was among four departments that Duterte offered to the Communist Party of the Philippines “if they decide to join my government” but later withdrew the offer, saying there are serious problems particularly on mining that would require the active role of the military.

In his victory party at the Crocodile Park here, Duterte warned large-scale mining firms that are destroying Mindanao that they have no place under his administration. He vowed to give priority and assistance to poor Mindanawon miners who will band into a cooperative.

“The mining people must shape up,” said Duterte as he cited the destruction wrought by big mining firms, especially in Surigao. “You have to stop,” he said.

Philex Mining Corp. said Thursday it is open to working with Lopez to help improve the country's mining industry.

In a statement, Michael Toledo, MVP Group Media Bureau head and senior vice president for Public and Regulatory Affairs at Philex, said that the president-elect has every right to appoint whoever he deems fit to become the

next secretary, not just on a matter of competence, but also on a matter of trust and confidence as a member of his official family.

“Philex has committed to support President Duterte and his drive against illegal and irresponsible mining,” Toledo said.

“We are open to sitting down and working with the new DENR secretary to further the president's call, to stamp out the illegal and irresponsible miners who give the industry a bad name,” Toledo added.

Toledo said that Philex has adhered to “doing what is right” according to international standards, in response to the president-elect's statements made at the recent Sulong Pilipinas Davao conference.

Toledo said that Lopez should be given a chance as she is a known advocate for climate change and environmental protection.

“I understand that she has made recommendations to President Duterte on how to move the industry forward; we are always open to working with whoever would want to improve the industry and move the nation forward towards economic development and inclusive growth,” Toledo said. **With Anna Leah E. Gonzales**

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Cabinet clash looms over mining policies

By PRINZ MAGTULIS
and LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Trouble could be brewing between the departments in charge of mining and of revenues under the Duterte administration.

Incoming finance chief Carlos Dominguez II maintained "responsible" mining would remain part of the next government, even saying it will not ask for the bigger revenue share opposed by the industry.

"Responsible mining plays a key role in the Philippines. The key word here is 'responsible' and our president has made his position very clear: 'You have to do it right...'," Dominguez said in an e-mail.

"I (also) see no problem with the revenue sharing as specified in the current law," he told **The STAR**.

But incoming Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Gina Lopez, an anti-mining advocate, said even "responsible mining" is not acceptable.

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"How can it be responsible to do open pit mining in the (country that is) most vulnerable to climate change? How it can be responsible to put the lives and future of our farmers and fishermen at stake for the money foreigners and rich people want to make?" Lopez argued.

She added, "If there is responsible mining, why is it that wherever there is mining, there is poverty? The poorest sites in the country are mining areas. What is responsible about the benefit of a few to the detriment of the majority? That doesn't sound good to



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me at all."

Lopez stressed that mining only benefits a few rich people and puts agriculture and fisheries at a delicate level.

Outgoing Environment Secretary Ramon Paje believes that all existing mining contracts will be safe under the incoming Duterte administration, even if it has an anti-mining advocate as environment chief.

"Under the Aquino administration, we respected all existing mining contracts... What we stopped was issuing new ones. I believe they will do the same," Paje said in a phone interview.

Lopez, current chairperson of the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, told **The STAR** that she remains firm on her stand against mining in the Philippines as she said "an economic paradigm that puts people at risk is not the way to realize the country's potential."

"I am not keen on mining in this country because we are the most vulnerable to climate change and we are in a geo-hazard zone. Any kind of mining is putting our people's lives at risk because we are an island ecosystem with an intricate network of eco functions which rely on each other," Lopez said.

"We haven't even begun to explore the potential of our bio-diversity. Why will we sacrifice all of that for the wealth of a few," Lopez said as she stressed that her dictum on existing mine sites in the Philippines should cause "zero suffering to nearby communities, agricultural lands and bodies of water."

"Sadly, I don't know of even one mine that has been able to do that, precisely because we live in a geo-hazard zone," Lopez added.

But president-elect Rodrigo Duterte views the mining industry as a key player in the Philippine economy, his spokesman said yesterday, as investors see a tougher regulatory environment due to his designation of an anti-mining advocate for an environment chief.

A day after Duterte announced his offer to Lopez, mining and oil stocks fell by more than four percent, a development attributed to investors' anxiety over the next administration's policies.

Duterte's spokesman Ernesto Abella, however, maintained that the next president is not anti-mining.

"The Duterte administration is committed to promoting a robust and dynamic economy, with every sector contributing to its growth. Responsible mining plays a key role in the Philippines," Abella

said in a press conference in Davao City.

Abella said Duterte wants the standards of responsible mining in developed countries like Canada and Australia applied in the Philippines "to ensure the protection of the environment."

"He (Duterte) supports each and every venture that contributes to the health of the economy, but he is clear that for whatever venture we go into, it should be in a responsible manner. He is not anti-mining. Definitely not," the incoming presidential spokesman said.

When asked how he can reconcile his pronouncement with the potential appointment of Lopez, who has been a critic of mining, Abella said: "The fact that she accepted it means that she is willing to adjust her positions."

Lopez said in an earlier interview that she is willing to dialog with mining firms and to cleanse the DENR ranks.

On Wednesday, Duterte announced that there would be a "comprehensive review" of all mining concessions to ensure that their operations are not destroying the environment.

He also asked mining firms to plant trees and wash away the chemicals they leave behind to avoid destroying the environment.

"If you don't do it, I will

cancel the permit," Duterte said. "When you're spoiling the land, I'll cancel it (permit) without hesitation. That's the bottom line."

The incoming president stressed that the mining players "have to do it right because the precious metals belong to the Filipino people."

In 2012, President Aquino issued Executive Order 79 that stopped the issuance of new mining permits until the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 was amended.

This was supposed to be done through a mining fiscal regime bill, which would have given the government higher revenue share from mining proceeds.

But Paje, who co-chairs the interagency Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC), said the bill did not even pass in the House of Representatives.

"But it was Congress' call. We cannot meddle with them," Paje said.

He added that the MICC has the minutes of deliberations on the bill, which Lopez may review when she assumes office on June 30.

Paje and Lopez will meet on June 28 for the transition.

"We welcome Gina Lopez's entry to the department. Her ties with the civil sector will improve the agency," Paje said.

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Karla Espinosa, national coordinator of the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), said her office, which is attached to the Department of Finance, is willing to work with Lopez as it continues with its mandate to improve transparency and monitor mining revenues.

EITI data showed that the government received P40.7 billion from miners.

Separate MGB from DENR

Amid the controversy stirred by Lopez's appointment, incoming socioeconomic planning secretary Ernesto Pernia recognizes the possibility of creating a division in the DENR which exercises regulations for the protection of the environment and the direct management of industries that make use of natural resources, including mining.

The department's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) specifically takes care of the permitting process for the mining industry.

"These are large responsibilities and separating them would be more tractable," said Pernia.

Pernia, however, still has no firm position on the matter.

"This is just on top of my head because of the controversy," he said. "I haven't cleared this yet (with the incoming president)."

Lopez's appointment has spooked the industry, caused mining stocks to tumble.

During the special joint meeting of the Makati Business Club and the US Philippines Society in Makati City yesterday, Philex Mining Corp. chairman Manuel

V. Pangilinan reiterated his earlier proposal to separate the regulatory functions of the DENR and the industry management and promotion function of the MGB.

Pangilinan said he respects Lopez's appointment and would cooperate with the DENR.

In a statement yesterday, Philex Mining said it is committed to work with the new administration.

"The president-elect has every right to appoint whoever he deems fit to become the next secretary, not just on a matter of competence, but also on a matter of trust and confidence as a member of his official family," said Philex.

"Philex has committed to support president Duterte and his drive against illegal and irresponsible mining. We are open to sitting down and working with the new DENR secretary to further the president's call, to stamp out the illegal and irresponsible miners who give the industry a bad name," it added.

Groups welcome Lopez

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya)

welcomed the appointment of Lopez to the DENR but added a word of caution on her support for eco-tourism projects in coastal areas. Cesar Lanos of the Mansaka tribe of Davao and Midsuburan Datu Jimid Pinayao Masayagan of the Lumad Mindanaw People's Federation are also hoping for the appointment of a fellow lumad (native) to both the environment and the agriculture agencies.

Indigenous peoples (IPs) allied to the Katribu (Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas) also urged Lopez to support the Novo Vizcayano and other peoples' call to stop mining operations and cancel the permit of Oceana Gold Philippine Inc. (OGPI) in Nueva Vizcaya.

The non-government organization Alyansa Tigil Mina supported Lopez's view on mining and hopes for the delivery and implementation of no-go zones against mining.

"We can't afford to lose more forests from mining projects. While we believe that minerals have a role to play in our industrialization, the current mining law is inadequate and not enforced diligently," Alyansa Tigil Mina national coordinator Jaybe Argonera said.

A week ago indigenous peoples put up barricades in an attempt to stop the operations of the OGPI in Nueva Vizcaya province.

The IPs affected by destructive mining also called on Lopez to thoroughly pursue president-elect Duterte's promise to heed the people's demand to end large-scale and destructive mining throughout the country.

"This promise can now be realized with the immediate termination of the mining permit and a stop of the operations of OGPI," members of the Katribu said, adding that this would bring relief to the communities affected by mining in Nueva Vizcaya.

Igorot woman leader Piya Malayao, speaking in behalf of Katribu, said Lopez is fully aware that the Filipino people, specially the IPs, have not ben-

efited and have even suffered from the previous regimes' implementation of a liberalized mining policy.

Katribu said almost 60 percent of approved mining are inside IP territories and have resulted in the destruction of IP land and livelihood.

It added that the Indigenous Peoples Agenda recommends the re-orientation of domestic mining industry, repeal of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and enactment of a pro-people, pro-environment law.

Lopez is set to hold a press conference on June 29 to elaborate on her plans for the DENR.

— With Alexis Romero, Ding Cervantes, Artemio Dumlao, Rhodina Villanueva, Janvic Mateo, Czeriza Valencia, Edith Regalado

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MVP calls for separate mining bureau

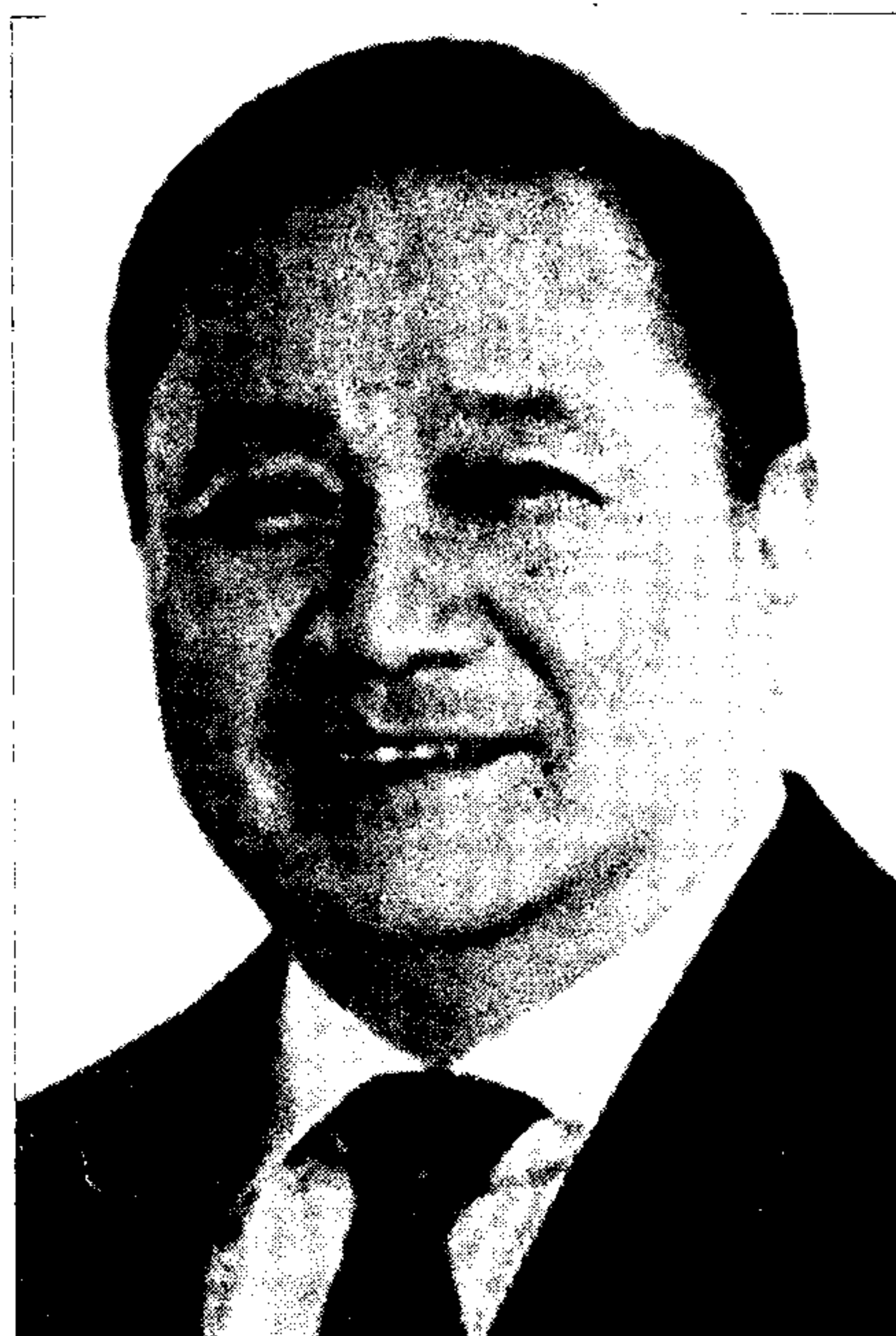
By LEE C. CHIPONGIAN

Business tycoon Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP) yesterday said the incoming Duterte government could consider separating the mining bureau from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the same model adopted by the US government.

Pangilinan followed through on a comment made by the next administration's Socio-economic Planning Secretary Dr. Ernesto Pernia, who was a guest speaker at the forum hosted by the Makati Business Club and the Philippines-US Business Council.

Pernia, an economist from the University of the Philippines' economist, said during a panel discussion that regulating the environment should be separate from regulating natural resources.

"It's a good idea," said Pangilinan in the sidelines of the joint business meeting. "But it is not an independent (office) it will still be a government agency," said Pangilinan, who is chairman and CEO of Philex Mining Corp., the country's biggest gold producer. Pangilinan is also Chairman of telecommunications giant Metro Pa-



MANUEL V. PANGILINAN

cific Investments Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"It's up to the government to determine how they want to organize themselves," he added, whether they want an all-encompassing DENR or break it up for a more effective monitoring and supervision of the environment, specifically the mining sector.

Pangilinan has expressed concern about the development of a responsible

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MVP calls for separate mining bureau

mining sector and suggested further dialogues and engagement between the government and the mining operators.

Pangilinan's mining business and the whole mining sector are in the news lately following President-elect Rodrigo Duterte's choice of new DENR chief Gina Lopez, a known anti-mining advocate and a member of the influential Lopez clan.

Pernia, however, said that as part of Duterte's cabinet, Lopez will be work-

ing with the entire team in crafting what the new administration wanted in terms of socio-economic agenda.

"A single cabinet member doesn't make a Cabinet," said Pernia.

He shared a meeting he had with Duterte and incoming Finance Secretary Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez recently where they discussed the shape of the DENR as an agency.

"I suggested to them why don't we split the environment and natural resources as a department. In terms

of administration, the environment is really more regulation and promotion, and natural resources is more about production, output and products."

"It would make more sense but as I said, one cabinet member doesn't make a Cabinet," Pernia reiterated.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau, currently under the DENR, is the government's primary agency for the "conservation, management, development, and proper use" of the country's mineral sector.

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AFTER WEDNESDAY'S SELLDOWN OVER
INCOMING ENVIRONMENT CHIEF

Mining stocks regain luster

By IRIS GONZALES

Mining stocks recovered yesterday after Wednesday's sharp decline as incoming presidential spokesperson Ernie Abella assured the public that the Duterte government's mining policy would not depend on just one Cabinet secretary alone.

During yesterday's trading session, mining stocks recovered by 252.01 points or 2.37 percent to end at 10,866.71, an

improvement from Wednesday's bloodbath when mining stocks shed 837.14 points or 7.31 percent to close at

10,614.70.

Mining investors panicked on Wednesday after staunch anti-mining advocate Gina Lopez accepted the offer of incoming president Rodrigo Duterte to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which approves permits for mines and coal plants.

"The Duterte administration is committed to promote a dynamic economy including responsible mining," Abella said in a press conference yesterday.

He assured the Duterte government is not anti-mining, but would advocate for responsible mining.

"The president is demand-

ing that all those who engage in mining must be very careful in doing it," Abella said.

The incoming president also wants to apply the standards of responsible mining in developed countries such as Canada and Australia.

In response, corporate tycoon Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman of Philex Mining

Corp. said this is possible.

"I've always felt that if the Canadians, Australians, South Africans can do it, why can't the Filipino do it. If we have to conform to international best practices especially in mining, then we should," Pangilinan said.

In a separate commentary on major listed mining player

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Mining... From B-11

Semirara Mining and Power Corp., COL Financial said the company's operations are not likely to be halted.

"While we believe the new administration will likely implement stricter environmental protection policies and steeper penalties for violations (and thus leading to higher operating cost for Semirara's mining operation), we view the worst case scenario that Semirara's mining operation will be halted is unlikely," it said.

President-elect Duterte has said in the past he is in favor of "responsible" mining and that the sector plays a key role in the future growth of the country.

Furthermore, the company's coal operating contract (COC) in Semirara Island is primarily governed by the Department of Energy (DOE) as opposed to other mineral/metal mining contracts which are under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)/Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

"Semirara accounts for more than 90 percent of the country's coal production and supports key sectors of the economy such as power generation, cement manufacturing and exports. Furthermore, management is confident that its operations will not be severely affected by future permitting issues as the required environmental compliance certificates (ECC) for all of its businesses (coal mining, Calaca units 1 to 4, Calaca expansion projects) have already been secured," COL Financial also said.

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Mining shares start recovering

Philippine shares dove once more on Brexit jitters, while the mining stocks, which have been on a landslide in the past two days, have already started recovering.

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) on Thursday went down by 26.59 points, or 0.34 percent to 7,729.78, while the wider all shares fell by 4.70 points, or 0.10 percent to 4,598.44.

Except for mining and oil, the rest of the sectors were down. This was in contrast in the last two trading days where mining stocks crashed on the

news that an anti-mining advocate will be taking over the DENR post.

Despite this, businessmen said it will just be business as usual for the industry and this has calmed investors.

As a result, mining closed 252.01-points higher, or 2.37 percent to close at 10,866.71.

Finally, Philex Mining Corp., the country's biggest mining company, recovered with 0.46 additional points, or 6.55 percent to close at ₱7.60 per share. On Thursday, total value turnover was also down at ₱5.9 billion. (Madelaine B. Miraflor)

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Mining shares tuloy sa pag-dive

Tuloy-tuloy na sumadsad ang halaga ng mga mining stocks matapos tanggapin ng anti-mining advocate at environmentalist na si Gina Lopez ang posisyon na maging bagong kalinig ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Mula sa 4.09% na pagbagsak ng mining shares noong Martes, lalo pa itong bumaba sa 7.31% kamakalawa.

Sa kabila nito, sinabi ng mga mining company na 'business as usual pa rin' ang sitwasyon.

Nangako rin sila na suportahan ang panawagan ni incoming president

Rodrigo Duterte na ipairal ang 'responsible mining' upang makatulong sa pag-asenso ng mga komunidad at ng bansa sa kabuuan.

Kahapon ay ibinunyag ni DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Leo Jasareno na 2% lamang ng kabuuang kita ng mining company ang share ng gobyerno na pinaghahatian pa ng national government at ng local government unit.

Mayroon na umano silang panukalang batas na itaas sa 10% ang parte ng komunidad at LGU upang makapantay man lamang sa ibang bansa subalit ibinasura ito ng Kongreso.

Nauna rito, nilinaw ni Lopez na hindi siya kontra sa tamang pagmimina kundi sa pagmimina na nakakasira sa kapaligiran.

Kaugnay nito, nagpahayag ng suporta ang Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) sa pagkakatalaga kay Lopez sa DENR.

"By appointing Gina Lopez, the incoming President Rodrigo Duterte clearly articulated the policy shift to sustainable green agenda," sabi ni Fr. Edwin Gariguez, executive secretary ng Caritas Philippines, sa post nito sa CBCP website. (Lhean Angeles/Noel Abuel)

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Philex Mining supports drive against illegal and irresponsible mining

Philex Mining Corporation, one of the oldest and largest mining companies in the Philippines, fully supports the drive of President-elect Rodrigo Roa Duterte against illegal and irresponsible mining in the country and commits itself to work with him and his administration in addressing this problem which has tainted the image of the industry for so long.

In a statement released earlier, Atty. Michael T. Toledo, Philex Senior Vice-President for Public and Regulatory Affairs and Head of MVP Group Media Bureau, had said that "Philex is now on its 60th year as a company. That's 60 years of responsible mining, of setting the benchmark as an inspiration for other mining companies to follow as evidenced by our IMS Certification, numerous awards on corporate governance and sustainability, as well as active participation in government transparency initiatives. Surely, we do not want that kind of image or reputation to be tainted by the 'scalawags in the industry' that operate illegally and irresponsibly."

Toledo added that Philex is one with the vision and plan of incoming President Duterte to ensure protection of the environment and a fair share of revenues from the country's natural resource wealth.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Stock market drops; Philex, other mining issues recover

THE stock market fell Thursday on profit-taking, but mining issues recovered after being spooked by the appointment of an anti-mining crusader to the top post of the Environment and Natural Resources Department.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index lost 26.59 points, or 0.3 percent, to 7,729.78 on a value turnover of nearly P6 billion. Gainers and losers were even at 100 each, with 47 issues unchanged.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which owns Philex Mining Corp., the biggest miner, rallied 3 percent to P6.80. Philex surged 6.4 percent to P7.60, while Nickel Asia Corp., the largest nickel producer, jumped 6.7 percent to P5.13.

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. dropped 2.6 percent to P847, while unit Ayala Land Inc. declined 1.6 percent to P38.95.

The pound, meanwhile, climbed against the dollar in Asian trade

while stock markets were mostly up but traders stepped nervously as Britain began voting in a knife-edge in-out EU referendum Thursday.

Attention around the globe is now fixated on the ballot, which opinion polls are saying is too close to call but bookmakers suggest will definitely see a victory for the "remain" camp.

On equity markets, Tokyo ended up 1.1 percent and Sydney was 0.2 percent higher while Hong Kong rose 0.4 percent. Shanghai closed 0.5 percent down and Seoul shed 0.3 percent.

In early European trade London and Frankfurt each rose 0.5 percent and Paris added 0.6 percent.

Markets suffered a sharp sell-off last week after surveys indicated Britain would leave, which many analysts warn could lead to another global rout just months after a China-fueled sell-off that wiped trillions off valuations.



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PADER ANG BABANGGAIN NG INCOMING DENR SEC

PINANGALANAN na ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte ang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sa katauhan ni ABS-CBN Foundation head Gina Lopez.

Bagama't kilala siya dahil kapatid niya ang chairman ng ABS-CBN Broadcasting, mas napsil siya ni Duterte dahil sa kanyang adbokasiya tungo sa pagmamahal at pagmamalasakit sa kalikasan.

Kaya naman, umani ito ng pagkagulat hindi lamang sa kagawaran, kundi maging sa industriya ng pagnenegosyo tulad ng pagmimina at oil and gas exploration.

Bakit kanyo?

Mantakin ninyo naman, isa si Lopez sa kontra sa pagmimina, lalo na yaong mga umaabuso sa ating kalikasan.

Napatunayan na ni Lopez ang kanyang kakayahang upang ituon ang atensiyon sa pagsasaayos ng ating Inang Kalikasan, tulad ng paglilinis sa mga estero't tubig daluyan na ilang dekada nang napuno ng basura kung kaya kaunting ulan ay nagiging sanhi ng mga pagbaha sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Dahil diyan, hindi na dapat pang kuwestyunin ang kanyang hangaring mapaayos man lamang ang pangangasiwa sa kagawaran tungo sa pag-aalaga ng ating kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Isa sa kanyang prayoridad ay ang pag-igihing mabuti ang pagre-regulate ng pagmimina sa bansa na siyang sumisira at nagpapahirap ng ilan nating kababayan sa kabundukan na apektado ng malakihang pagmimina.

Dahil anti-mining advocate si Lopez, tila nanginginig na ngayon ang sektor ng pagmimina, lalo't sa kanyang panunungkulan ay tiyak na hihigpitan at todo ang pag-monitor sa aktibidad sa pagmimina.

Isa sa dapat niyang pagtuunan ng atensiyon ay ang pagtukoy kung sino-sino itong mga abusadong minero na iresponsableng nagsasagawa ng kanilang operasyon.

Batay sa datos ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), aabot na pala sa 24 mining firms ang lumabag sa mga alituntunin ng pagmimina.

Ang problema, dahil kakarampot lamang at kayang-kaya ng mga dambuhalang kompanya ang multa o parusa sa mga sumisira sa ating kalikasan, naidadaan sa pera-pera na lamang ang kanilang kasalanan.

Madalas, ayon sa MGB, ang paglabag ay dulot ng 'di tamang paggamit ng bagong teknolohiya at maling pamamaraan ng pagmimina.

Ang masaklap dito, bakit nga ba sila nakapagsimulang mag-operate kung hindi naman pala angkop ang kanilang mga kagamitan at kasanayan?

Dito masasabi nating may pagkukulang ang regulatory function ng mga ahensiya.

Isa rin sa dapat pag-ibayuhin ay ang profit sharing sa pagmimina.

Isiniwalat ng MGB na 2 percent lamang pala ang bahaging napupunta sa komunidad kung kaya hanggang ngayon ay hindi umaasenso ang buhay ng bawat pamilya na apektado ng mining operation.

Dapat sigurong itaas na ang porsiyentong dapat mapunta sa komunidad, at ang mungkahi ay gawin man lamang 10 percent, na siya namang standard percentage sharing sa iba pang bansang laganap ang minahan.

Bukod pa ryan, dapat paigtingin pa ang pagpapatupad ng 'No Go Zone' policy, na naglalayong huwag payagan ang pagmimina sa mga lugar na protected at lugar na itinuturing na tourist destination.

Batid natin na ang pagmimina ay parte ng pag-asenso ng isang bansa kaya malabong maipatigil ito o tuluyang magpatupad ng mining ban sa buong Pilipinas.

Bagkus ay dapat lamang talagang huwag masilaw at magpakain sa sistema ng korapsiyon ang mga bagong lider na naatasang magbantay sa ating kalikasan dahil kung hindi ay mahihirapan nang ibalik ang dating anyo at kayamanang mayroon ang ating mga kabundukan.

Para kay Sec. Gina Lopez, good luck at sana'y tatagan mo ang inyong loob dahil higante at pader ang inyong babanggain dito.



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DUTERTE 'DI ANTI-MINING

HINDI lubusang laban sa pagmimina si President-elect Rodrigo Duterte, ayon sa kanyang spokesman.

Ginawa ni Presidential spokesperson-designate Ernesto Abella ang pahayag, ilang araw makaraang hirangin ni Duterte si anti-mining advocate Gina Lopez bilang susunod na kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay Abella,

sinusuportahan lamang ni Duterte ang 'bawat pangangahas' na makapag-aambag sa pag-unlad ng bansa.

"The president is not anti-mining. He actually supports each and every venture that contributes to the health of the Philippine economy," ani Abella.

"What the president is demanding is that those who do that must be very careful," dagdag pa niya.

Ang pagkakatalaga

kay Lopez sa DENR ay ikinaalarma ng mining sector, tulad ng nakita sa pagbagsak ng mining stocks.

Subalit sinabi ni Abella na hindi babagsak ang mining sector sa Pilipinas basta responsableng ginagawa ng mga kompanya ang kanilang mga aktibidad.

"The fact that she's accepted means she's willing to adjust her position. I'm sure," sabi pa niya.

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Location clearance sa Batangas ipakakansela sa DENR

TINIYAK ng mga local environmentalist na aapela sila sa kahirang na kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na si Regina Paz L. Lopez, para kanselahin ang "location clearance" ng JG Summit at

huwag ipagpatuloy ang napipintong pagpapatayo ng dalawang boilers ng coal fired-power plant sa Batangas City.

Isisiwalat din ng mga ito ang korapsyon sa DENR kaya't walang aksyon maging ang Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) at ang pulisya laban sa talamak at malawakang illegal na pagmimina at quarry sa mga Brgy. San Marcelino, Bacao, Piña, Sto Niño, at Mataas na Kahoy, pawang sa bayan ng Taysan, Brgy. Tanggoy sa bayan ng Balayan, Lobo, Laurel, Lemery, Mabini, Calatagan, Calaca at Batangas City.

Banta rin sa seguridad ng bansa ang mining at quarry operations sa Brgy. San Marcelino at Sto. Niño, 'pagkat ang mga nahuhukay na ginto at panambak ay ipinupuslit ng operators ng minahan at quarry, isa rito ay kinilalang Mr. Lee, patungo sa China kung saan tinutunaw ang mga ginto. Ang bato at lupa ay binibistay naman sa crasher at ang panambak ay ikinakarga sa barges at barko patungong West Philippine Sea para gamitin sa ginagawang air strip at ibang pang istraktura ng mga Chinese sa pinag-aagawang mga isla, ayon pa sa pagbubunyag ng mga environmentalist.

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Deloso vows to suspend mining in Zambales

By JONAS REYES

IBA, Zambales — “My first duty on July 1, 2016 is to suspend all mining operations in Zambales.”

With this declaration, incoming Governor Amor Deloso affirmed his certain adherence to the Supreme Court’s (SC’s) issuance of a Writ of Kalikasan against five mining companies, namely Benguet Corporation Nickel Mines Inc. (BNMI), Eramen Minerals Inc. (EMI), LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. (LAMI), Zambales Diversified Metals Corporation (ZDMC), and Shangfil Mining and Trading Corporation (SMTC).

“We don’t want Sta. Cruz to be submerged in mud again during this rainy season. The safety of the people and the protection of the environment will be first on my agenda, not mining,” Deloso said.

The SC referred the case to the Court of Appeals (CA) to hold trials based on the plea of Sta. Cruz residents, determining whether the case warrants the issuance of a Temporary Environmental Protection Order (TEPO).

Once the TEPO is issued, mining operations in the town will be suspended, but Deloso said that if it can be done in Sta. Cruz, it would be better to suspend mining operations in others Zambales towns as well.



AMOR DELOSO



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Diwalwal, isasara na?

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Uunahin ba ni Gina Lopez ang maliliit na

minero sa Diwalwal? Kaya bang ipasara ni Digong ang mga lungga ng ginto rito? O kung itutuloy man ay isasalin lang sa malaking minero?

May agam-agam dito. Pero, lalaban sila kapag inalis ang kanilang kabuhayan.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES

Aquino confers awards on outstanding Cabinet men

A week before moving out of Malacañang, President Benigno Aquino 3rd honored his official family for its dedicated service to the country.

In a simple ceremony at the Palace, Aquino bestowed the Order of Lakan-dula with the rank of Gold Cross Bayani and the Presidential Medal of Merit on his Cabinet officials.

"All of you in this hall have answered the call to bring change to our country and I, myself, am a witness to the depth of your sacrifice. Many of you gave up jobs and put your careers on hold to take far less lucrative positions; many of you gave up time with your loved ones; many of you have willingly stood with me in the cross airs of opponents of reform, and have thus been on the receiving end of baseless attacks even on your character," he said.

"Some of you have put your own lives in peril, not once but multiple times, responding to disasters both natural and man-made. Each of you has shared in the burden, and each of you has made it a little bit easier to carry the responsibility of bringing hope and a better life for our people," he added.

Aquino said that over the course of his administration, he remained keenly aware of everything that his Cabinet officials have given.

"This is why, every time I am praised for anything, I make it a point to say that I couldn't have done anything without you, and without our countrymen, simply because that is the truth," he said.

As they leave office, Aquino said he and his administration "can do so with our heads held high, because we've done right by the Filipino people."

"Thus, on behalf of our people, and from the bottom of my heart, I must say: Thank you very much. For practically all of you, the solitary reward for your work may have been just a few kind words from me, or an invitation to share a modest meal, so perhaps this formal reward can somehow try and make up for that shortfall," he said.

All members of Aquino's Cabinet received the Order of Lakan-dula with the rank of Gold Cross

Bayani, while others received Presidential Medal of Merit.

Aquino said he bestowed the two awards: The Order of Lakan-dula—one of the Senior Honors of the Republic, meant to recognize civil and political merit—and the Presidential Medal of Merit, granted to those who have rendered outstanding service to the President.

Among those who received the Order of Sikatuna were Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Emmanuel

Esguerra, Mindanao Development Authority chairperson Luwalhati Antonino, National Security Council Cesar Garcia, Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo, Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez, Interior and Local Government Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, Health Secretary Janette Garin, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, Education Secretary Armin Luistro, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, Foreign Affairs Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and resigned TESDA head Joel Villanueva.

The Presidential Medal of Merit Awardees were Social Secretary Susan Reyes, Presidential Protocol chief Celia Anna Feria, PDSPO Secretary Manuel Quezon 3rd, Philippine Economic Zone Authority head Lilia de Lima, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System administrator Gerardo Esquivel, Government Service Insurance System president Robert Vergara, BCDA president Arnel Paciano Casanova, Climate Change Commission Secretary Mary Ann Lucille, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chairman Chito Cruz and GOCC Commission Secretary Cesar Villanueva.

"Now that our time in office is coming to an end, we must continue to do our own, small part in the grand task of building a nation. And I hope that, perhaps even on an unofficial level, we may still find ourselves working together, as fellow citizens this time, to give rise to a Philippines that we can be truly proud of," Aquino said.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Coal plants now face hurdles

By Alena Mae S. Flores

NEW coal power plant projects are facing uncertainties following the appointment of Regina Lopez as the new Environment secretary, an industry executive said Thursday.

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte named Lopez as the new head of the Environment Department, which is in charge of issuing environmental compliance certificates to new power projects.

Lopez is a daughter of ABS-CBN chairman Emeritus Eugenio Lopez Jr. Her family controls renewable energy producer First Philippine

Holdings Corp., which declared its stance against coal projects.

Other power companies, however, are building thousands of megawatts of new coal-fired power plants across the country's three power grids to meet the rising power demand.

"With a true bloodied environmentalist heading the DENR, get-

ting an ECC for coal plants will really go through very stringent requirements," said Rolando Bacani, president of Global Business Power Corp., one of the largest independent power producers, which owns and operates several coal power plants.

Bacani, however, said he remained optimistic that the construction of coal plants would continue "until such time that reliable sources of non-fossil-fired baseload plants are available and acceptable to the Filipinos [natural gas and nuclear power plant]."

Global Business Power is building a 670-megawatt coal-fired power plant in La Union.

Meralco PowerGen Corp., the power generation arm of Manila Electric Co., is waiting for new policies from the department to determine whether these policies will have an impact on projects in the pipeline.

"We will have to wait for new policies, if any is forthcoming," Meralco PowerGen general manager Aaron Domingo said, adding existing power projects had already gone through the proper and complete process to secure the ECCs.

Meralco PowerGen, together with partners, is putting up several coal-fired power projects such as the 455-MW San Bue-

naventura coal-fired power plant in Quezon, 1,200-MW Atimonan coal project also in Quezon and the 600-MW Redondo Peninsula Energy Corp.'s coal plant in Subic.

Other companies that have ongoing coal power projects and new coal projects in the pipeline are San Miguel Corp., Aboitiz Power Corp., AES Philippines, Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.

The coal plants are also facing challenges this year as the Climate Change Commission pushed for a review of the country's energy policy with the view of eventually replacing coal plants with renewable energy projects.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Solons not giving up on Nat'l Land Use, Management bill

By ELLSON A. QUISMORIO

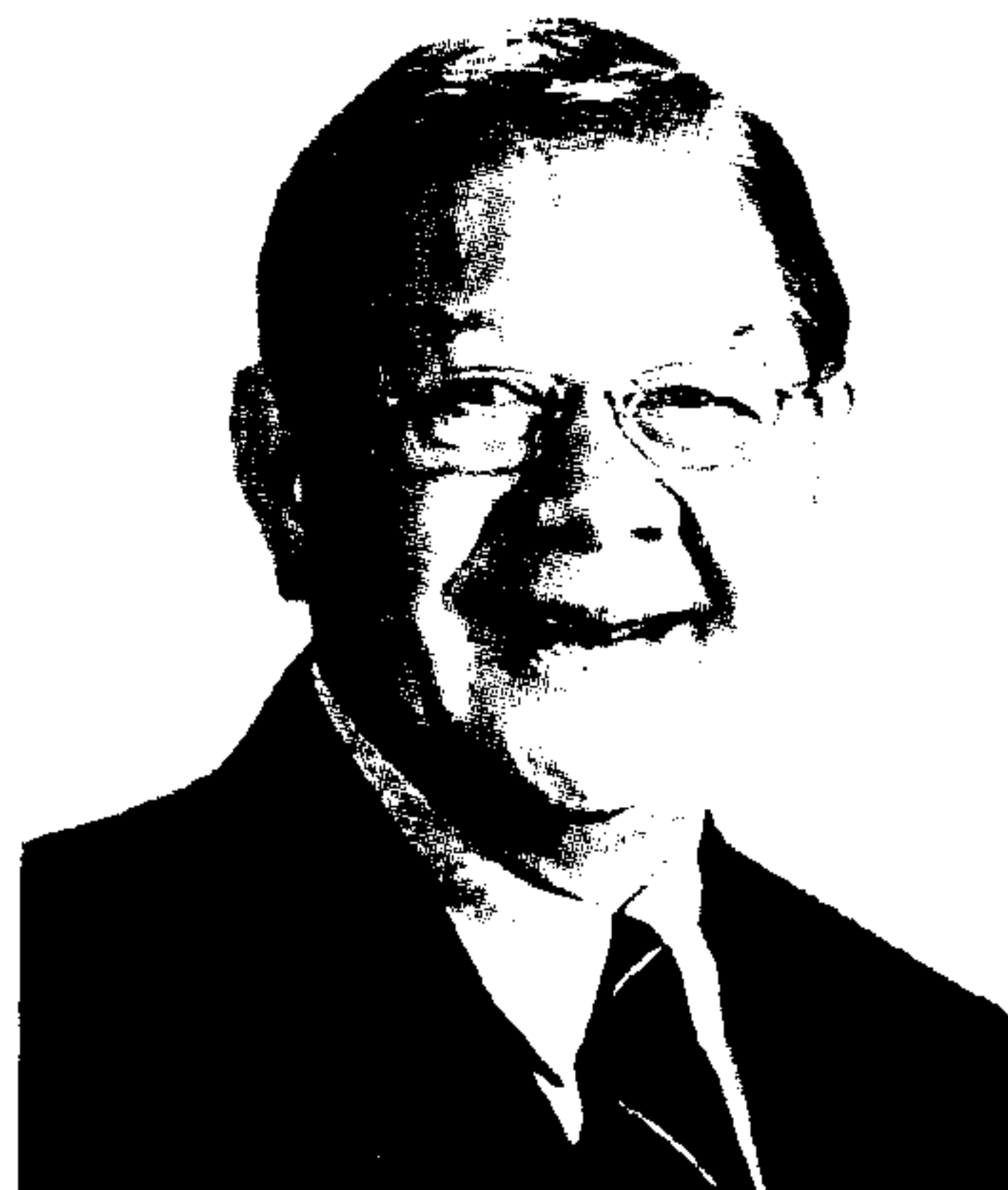
House members led by no less than outgoing Speaker Feliciano Belmonte are expected to pursue their pet measure known as the National Land Use and Management Act in the 17th Congress.

As early as June 2, 2014, the House of Representatives (HOR) approved the proposed law as House Bill (HB) 4382 on third and final reading and transmitted it to the Senate.

The measure, however, failed to reach plenary consideration by the time Congress adjourned sine die last June 6.

"We have to arrest the current degradation of the country's land resource through a clear land use policy which would rationalize the use of lands and make land markets work and attract more direct foreign and local investments," said Belmonte, who was re-elected as Quezon City 2nd district representative in the May 9 elections.

HB 4382 (a consolidation of several similar bills) is titled "An Act instituting a National Land Use and Management Policy, providing the implementing mechanisms therefore, and for other purposes."



BELMONTE

The authors pointed out that the proposed land use statute should complement the proposed amendments to the Build-Operate-Transfer Law to encourage more private sector investments in infrastructure.

The proposed Act divides the standardization of the classification of land use, for purposes of planning and management, into the following areas: 1) Protection Land Use; 2) Production Land Use; 3) Settlement development; and 4) Infrastructure development.

It also creates and designates the National Land Use Policy Council as the highest policy-making body on all matters pertaining to land use and management.

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Dagupan's land use plan praised for transparency

DESPITE being one of the premier cities of Pangasinan and Region 1, Dagupan City used to operate under a Comprehensive Land Use Plan that was drafted almost four decades ago, way back in 1978. By comparison, neighboring cities such as Laoag, Candon, Vigan, San Fernando, San Carlos, Urdaneta, and Alaminos have updated their plans within the last 10 years.

Accordingly, one of the top priorities of reelected Dagupan City Mayor Belen T. Fernandez was to enlist the help of key stakeholders and experts in order to draft and implement an updated

Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). The updated CLUP addresses three vital areas, namely land use planning, zoning ordinances and sectoral strategies. Due to this, an up-to-date and thorough understanding of Dagupan's current socio-economic and geophysical environment was necessary before undertaking the initiative.

In order to properly represent a major cross section of Dagupan, five separate public hearings were conducted, in the spirit of inclusion and transparency. This prompted the non-government advocacy group Transparency In Public Service (TIPS) to commend the city's ad-

ministration. "Despite its tremendous importance in affecting the lives of constituents, a CLUP is not something that a common citizen knows about, or is actively involved in," noted TIPS spokesperson Brent de Jesus. "The local government of Dagupan took remarkable steps to make sure that the public had full access to the development of the CLUP every step of the way. Not only is this the ideal way to engage the citizens, it will result in plans that will truly benefit the majority," he added.

The revised CLUP aims to further improve the city's economic activity by adopting a new spatial strategy, that enables

barangays to catch up with urban area development. This is done by grouping contiguous barangays into growth centers, and each growth center treated as a Planned Unit Development (PUD) site. These centers then become the focus of more intensive policy interventions, investments, and decentralized services.

"Since this is a new concept in city planning, the local government went to great lengths in order to explain and educate the people," de Jesus explained. "Apart from public discussions, relevant documents and key points were likewise posted on various social media channels, as well as traditional media such

as print and television," he pointed out.

The approval of the new CLUP likewise augurs well for Dagupan, as this will jumpstart infrastructure and development projects in newly identified growth areas such as Lucao-Pantal tourism growth center, Poblacion growth center, Caranglaan-Tebeng growth center, and the Bonuan growth center.

"Our CLUP has long been overdue for updating, but I am glad that we got it done," said Mayor Fernandez. "It was the full participation of the people that resulted in such a groundbreaking and progressive plan. Truly, the city's progress is the people's progress," she added.



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Marine protection bill pushed

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar has vowed to pursue legislation aimed at balancing the Philippine's need to increase marine life production and the need to sustain biodiversity of the country's marine waters in the 17th Congress.

Villar, current chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, said she has a greater appreciation of the importance of protecting the country's marine environment, noting there is a huge link between marine protection to agriculture sector and future food security.

"We know that farming and fishing or the fisheries sector make up the bulk of our agriculture sector. The Philippines being an agriculture country, so it is important that we have a steady or sustainable supply and sources of food – vegetables, livestock, and fishes," said Villar in her speech during the recent Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary 32nd National Convention. **(Hannah L. Torregoza)**

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Sea turtle rescued, released

By **RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT**

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte – A sea turtle was rescued recently in Calbayog City, 170 kilometers north from here, by the maritime police, a report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office in Eastern Visayas (DENR-8).

DENR-8 Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca told reporters that the sea turtle was rescued by the 802nd maritime police led by PSINP Glenn Michael Amoyen while conducting seaborne patrol operation.

Sibbaluca said the sea turtle, measuring 87 cm. long, 62 cm wide and weighing 25 kilos was released back to sea the same day after it was tagged and assessed and determined by his field men in Calbayog City to be in good condition.

He appealed to the public to report to his office any sea turtle capture in the future, asking that the marine animal be released back to its marine habitat.

He issued stern warning not to harm or kill marine turtles as they are protected by law. Sibbaluca also stressed that perpetrators will be punished in accordance with law.

The DENR-8 official said he is soliciting support from the public, concerned government agencies, non-government and private organizations, local government units, and stakeholders to help protect and preserve endangered marine turtles.

He reiterated that the agency and field staff are intensifying their campaign in the region to protect marine turtles, particularly in the coastal areas in Eastern Visayas.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

*Ex-LWUA execs
in hot water over
excessive expenses*

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A TOTAL of 1,327 counts of graft and malversation await former officials of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) for having been allegedly reimbursed "excessive, extraordinary" expenses for supposed meetings, entertainment and public relations activities amounting to nearly P13 million.

EX-LWUA/A19

Ex-LWUA execs in hot water over excessive expenses

From page A1

The Office of the Ombudsman will charge former LWUA Administrator Lorenzo Jamora with 150 counts of graft and malversation and 32 other executives of LWUA and local water board districts with a combined 1,177 counts in the Sandiganbayan.

In a statement yesterday, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales said the officials illegally charged expenses for "meetings, seminars and conferences, official entertainment and public relations" without presenting official receipts in 2006.

She said the expenses were in excess of what was allowed by the Department of Budget and Management.

One of the government-owned and -controlled corporations, LWUA serves as the only lending institution for water districts outside Metropolitan Manila.

Morales said the Commission on Audit (COA) disallowed the LWUA officials' claims for reimbursement ranging from P230,000 to P986,356 each by issuing a notice of disallowance in July 2009.

The COA found that the LWUA officials were reimbursed P12,879,337.77 by merely submitting pro forma certifications of expenses instead of official receipts.

"By attesting that the funds were spent on meetings, seminars and conferences, official entertainment and public relations, when in truth and in fact there were no receipts and other supporting documents to prove such expenses, respondents made untruthful statements on a public document to facilitate the misappropriation of public funds," Morales said.

She said the water officials "acted with evident bad faith and/or gross inexcusable negligence when they caused and/or participated in the illegal release of funds."

The Ombudsman also found the 33 officials guilty of the administrative offense of dishonesty, grave misconduct and falsification of official documents.

Since they no longer hold office, they were ordered to pay a fine equivalent to one year's salary.

At the same time, they were also perpetually disqualified from holding public office while their retirement benefits were forfeited.

The other LWUA executives who will be charged are Leopoldo Palad with 263 counts of graft and malversation; Primo Lomibao, 230 counts; Daniel Landingin, 101 counts; Emmanuel Malicdem, 74 counts; Eleanora de Jesus, 63 counts; Lilian Asprer, 54 counts.

Lourdes Perele, 43 counts; Wilfredo Feleo, 41 counts; Julita Corpuz, 36 counts; Aurora Raymundo-Arnaez, 15 counts; Leonard Matti, 15 counts; Francisco Dumpit, seven counts; Eduardo Bangayan, 11 counts; Jesus Copuyoc, 12 counts; Arnaldo Espinas, 12 counts; Almer Zerrudo, 12 counts; Edelwina Parungao, 11 counts.

Manalo Kagahastian, 12 counts; Manuel Yoinco, 13 counts; Alfredo Espino, 12 counts; Rebecca Barbo, 11 counts; Armando Fernandez, 12 counts; Edwin Ruiz, 12 counts; Bernardito de Jesus, 13 counts; Antonio Magtibay, 13 counts; Enrique Gita, 12 counts.

Avelino Castillo, 20 counts; Venus Pozon, 14 counts; Julian Tajolosa, 13 counts; Mario Quitarano, 10 counts; Hermilo Balucan, nine counts; and Edison Cuenca one count.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

LEAVE PANATAG
Zambales fishermen and members of private groups stage a rally in Masinloc on Wednesday, demanding China leave Panatag Shoal. Also known as Scarborough Shoal, Panatag Shoal is a traditional fishing ground for Filipino fishermen located 230 kilometers off the coast of Zambales, well within the Philippines' 320-km exclusive economic zone.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Zambales fishermen stage protest

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

By Allan Macatuno
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC, Zambales—Carrying Philippine flags and placards that denounced China's occupation of Panatag Shoal, some 100 fishermen staged a rally in Masinloc town on Wednesday in anticipation of a UN-backed international tribunal's ruling on the Philippines' territorial dispute with China in the West Philippine Sea.

The fishermen, who came from coastal towns in Zambales, called on Chinese coast guards to leave Panatag Shoal, a traditional fishing ground for Filipinos located 230 kilometers off the coast of Zambales province.

The shoal is well within the Philippines' 370-km exclusive economic zone (EEZ), part of the South China Sea that Manila calls West Philippine Sea.

"This [assembly intends] to show our opposition to what China is doing. They have been driving away our fishermen from our territorial waters," said lawyer Aleta Tolentino, one of the organizers of People Power Volunteers for Reform (PPVR).

PPVR, National Youth Movement for the West Philippines Sea and other private groups organized the rally to denounce China's seizure and occupation of Philippine-claimed reefs in the West Philippine Sea, including Panatag Shoal.

China seized Panatag, internationally known as Scarborough Shoal, in 2012 after a two-month standoff with the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard to add it to a string

of reefs that it had grabbed and started to develop into artificial islands to assert its claims to almost all of the South China Sea.

The loss of Panatag forced the Philippines, which has no military muscle to defend its territory, to bring a law of the sea suit against China in the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague in 2013.

In the suit invoking the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), the Philippines asked the tribunal to invalidate China's so-called nine-dash-line claim that covered 90 percent of the South China Sea and demanded respect for its right to exploit resources within its EEZ, which is recognized under Unclos.

The Philippine action angered China, which refused to take part in the arbitration and said it would not abide by any ruling of the tribunal.

It has since blockaded Panatag Shoal, stationing coast guards in the area to chase away Filipino fishermen from the reef, which the United States believes China plans to develop into another artificial island as part of its push for militarization of the South China Sea.

The United States has warned China that the plan would be seen as a "provocative action" and urged Beijing to abide by the ruling of the UN tribunal.

The ruling is expected to come within weeks, and the consensus among officials and analysts in Asia and countries outside the region is that the decision will go largely against China.

Even China expects the tribunal to rule against it, and it

has been gathering allies, including faraway and landlocked countries in Asia and Africa, to support its stand that it has sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea.

Harassment of fishermen

Although a signatory to Unclos, China denies the Philippines rights to Panatag Shoal, also known locally as Bajo de Masinloc, and aggressively prevents Filipino fishermen from approaching the reef's lagoon.

One incident reported here by fishermen involved Chinese Coast Guard vessels ramming Filipino fishing boats.

"Our fishermen are fighting for their right to livelihood. We are supporting them because part of our engagement is to give them assistance," Tolentino told the INQUIRER by phone.

Although the fishermen are hopeful that the arbitration tribunal will rule in favor the Philippines, they remain apprehensive about possible retaliation from China, she said.

"Even if we win [the arbitration case against China], they (Chinese coast guards) may become more aggressive after the ruling," she said.

Norma Amata, a PPVR organizer in Zambales, said the rally showed the Filipino fishermen were united in their stand for territorial rights.

She said the rally was not intended to provoke China.

"We all know that Bajo de Masinloc belongs to the Filipinos. We staged this peaceful rally to ask the Chinese to leave

the shoal and respect whatever the UN ruling will be," she said.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "We are certain that China will not recognize the UN ruling so we will continue to show our opposition to China's invasion."

Joely Saligan, 36, a fisherman from Barangay Calapan-dayan here, reported that Chinese coast guards threatened to cut off the anchor of his group's fishing boat when it sailed to Panatag Shoal in April.

"Philippines go away! Go home!" Saligan said, quoting one of the Chinese coast guards.

He said several Chinese vessels also chased away 11 other Philippine fishing boats, each carrying nine to 10 fishermen.

"The chase lasted for about five hours. They (Chinese coast guards) only stopped and left when it was almost dark," Saligan said.

He said the Chinese coast guards were armed with automatic weapons.

On June 12, a group of 15 Filipino youth volunteers and an American sailed to Panatag to plant the Philippine flag on the reef in time for the celebration of Independence Day.

The group, members of the youth volunteer movement called Kalayaan Atin Ito (Kalayaan This is Ours), reached the shoal at 7:30 a.m. but was driven away by Chinese coast guards, according to lawyer Joy Ban-eg, a coordinator for the group.

"They (Chinese coast guards) chased us in their speedboats, blocked our path, and hosed us," Ban-eg said.

BusinessWorld

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Diplomat pegs \$300-M damage on West PHL Sea

By Melissa Luz T. Lopez
Reporter

CHINA'S RECLAMATION activities across disputed islands in the West Philippine Sea have cost about \$300 million in terms of environmental damage, Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. said, as the country grows more "aggressive" ahead of an expected ruling in the arbitration case initiated by the Philippines in 2013.

Speaking before the University of Asia and the Pacific's mid-year economic briefing, the ambassador to the United States said Asian countries have felt "distrust" over

Mr. Cuisia said a decision from the five-member tribunal of maritime experts is expected very soon, which will involve final and binding ruling between the countries, with the Philippines ready to accept the court's decision.

"In a post-arbitration scenario, the international community can count on the Philippines' respect for their ruling. We hope China will too," the ambassador said.

"China's actions, judged by any metric, can't be seen as consistently striving for regional cooperation as their officials claim. On the contrary, their actions have contributed to distrust felt by

China's actions, especially after the country caused irreparable damage felt across the coasts of disputed waters, including those covering the Spratly islands and Scarborough Shoal.

Huge oil and gas deposits are also said to be stored beneath the surface which spans 3.5 million square kilometers. Other countries with claims over the area include Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, and Malaysia.

"Reclamation activities have cost irreversible damage estimated at \$300 million to the region's marine ecosystem, and adversely affected millions of people who have depended on the South China Sea as their

countries such as the Philippines and Vietnam, and has shaken the peace and stability in the region."

China's "excessive" claims have since stood in gross violation of international law, and has led to expansive environmental damage, Mr. Cuisia said, citing China's island-building activities that have ruined up to 70% of coral reefs, a 40% depletion of fish stocks in seawaters, and rising acidification.

Even prior to securing a favorable ruling, Mr. Cuisia said the Philippines "appreciates" US support for the peaceful resolution of the territorial dispute.

"Both President (Barack H.) Obama and Defense Sec. (Ash-

ton B.) Carter have come up with strong statements saying that the commitment of the US to the Philippines is iron-clad... I take their word for it," Mr. Cuisia said.

In 2013, the Philippines protested before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague Chinese claims in the South China Sea. This has been the traditional name of the disputed area, although the Philippines now calls it the West Philippine Sea — the same designation by statements from the US government.

The Philippines invoked the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea — which China is also a party to — contesting the latter's "historical" ownership using a nine-dash line Chinese map dating back to the 1940s.

ton B.) Carter have come up with strong statements saying that the commitment of the US to the Philippines is iron-clad... I take their word for it," Mr. Cuisia said.

"The US has made clear it does not take sides on the competing territorial claim, but it has [a] clear stake in preserving freedom of navigation and commerce through one of the world's busiest sea lanes. We appreciate US statements consistently stating that the US will sail, fly, and operate anywhere that international law permits."

The Hague tribunal has held two hearings on the case. — **with reports from AFP**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Second most dangerous

WHO REMEMBERS Dexter Condez, who was described as the most vocal figure among the Ati in their struggle for their ancestral land rights in world-famous Boracay? The spokesperson of the Boracay Ati Tribal Organization was gunned down on Feb. 22, 2013, as he was heading home after a meeting, and three years later the persons responsible have yet to be held to account.

EDITORIAL His murder is among a long list of murders of environmental activists, indigenous people included, who have spoken out in defense of their rights, their lands, and their natural resources against the inroads of developers, mining and agribusiness firms, logging concessions, etc.

Yet, as cold-blooded as it was, Condez's killing, because it happened in 2013, is not among those documented to have placed the Philippines in yet another unenviable distinction: as the second deadliest country for environmental activists among 16 countries in the world in 2015. The distinction was made official early this week by Global Witness, a London-based advocacy group that documented 185 such killings all over the planet last year. In its report, Global Witness said the figure (185) is 60 percent more than in 2014 (116) and the highest since it started its documentation in 2002.

In 2015, Brazil was the deadliest country in the world for environmental activists, with 50 killings; the Philippines was second with 33, followed by Colombia with 26. Almost 40 percent of the 185 killed, or 67, were indigenous people, according to Global Witness. Indeed, 22 of the 33 on the Philippines' scorecard were from indigenous communities fighting to defend their lands from agribusiness and mining interests.

Who remembers Dionel Campos, the leader of the Malahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa Sumusunod (Mapasu) in the province of Surigao del Sur, and his relative Datu Bello Sinzo? Who remembers Emerito Samarca, executive director of the Alternative Learning Center for culture and Livelihood Development (Alcadev), who served communities seldom reached by govern-

ment services? Per eyewitness accounts, Campos and Sinzo were shot dead in the wee hours of Sept. 1, 2015, by uniformed armed men who had rounded up the community on suspicion that its members were supporting the communist New People's Army. Samarca's corpse—the throat slit, the hands and feet bound—was later found in the Alcadev compound.

But what were these groups up to? What were their primary concerns? Alcadev, a privately owned secondary school, had *lumad* children as students. Mapasu, a community organization, campaigns against the exploitation of coal, nickel and gold reserves by foreign and local mining companies.

The year 2015 was "the deadliest year on record for killings of land and environmental defenders, people struggling to protect their land, forests and rivers," Global Witness said in its report. It said conflicts involving mining, agribusiness, hydroelectric dams and logging were the cause of most of the killings.

Specifically, Global Witness said "one of the root causes of conflict in the highly militarized Mindanao region" was "the encroachment of agribusiness and mining interests in indigenous peoples' lands without their consent." It said those who oppose such projects are "finding themselves in the firing line of private security companies, state forces, and a thriving market for contract killers."

Were the five Manobo leaders reported killed by the military's Special Forces in Pangantucan, Bukidnon, on Aug. 18, 2015, fighting for their community's rights and interests? The military said the five men were communist insurgents, but the NPA said they were civilians. Was Condez killed in 2013 because of his spirited defense of the Ati's right to a 2.1-hectare beach front property in Boracay?

Lamentably, this "second most dangerous for environmental activists" distinction for the Philippines comes after its tag of "second most dangerous country for journalists," second only to war-wracked Iraq. And it doesn't seem like this long-running tag would be erased from the records soon, the tone of the incoming administration's pronouncements on the matter being hardly encouraging.

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EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL

Gampanan ang papel

May mga sumusuporta pero may mga tumututol din sa pagkakatalaga ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte kay Gina Lopez bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Naging bentahe ni Lopez na tumatayong chairperson ng ABS-CBN Foundation ay ang pagiging environmentalist nito.

Sa dami ng inisyatibong pinangunahan ni Lopez para sa ating kalikasan dahil sa kaliwa't kanang mga programa at proyekto ay nag-iwan ng marka sa bawat Filipino ang kanyang pangalan upang kilalanin ito bilang isang environmentalist at swak na swak sa puwesto.

Ang marubdob nitong pakikipaglaban sa pagmimina at coal-fired power plants ay nakadagdag din ng puntos para katigan ng karamihan ang pagkakatalaga kay Lopez para pamunuan ang DENR.

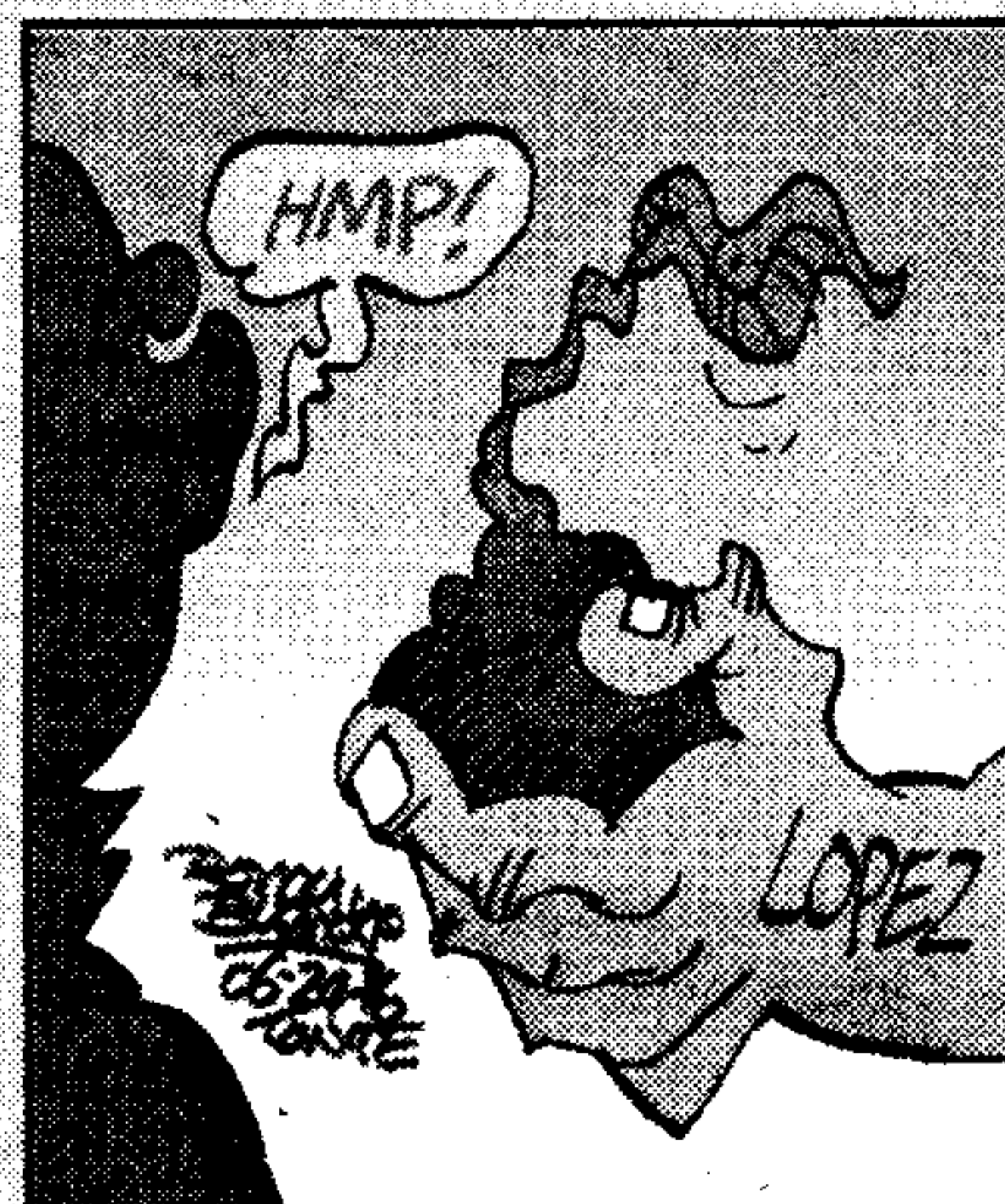
Mukhang sa pamamagitan ng presensiya ng isang environmentalist sa DENR ay matutuldukan na ang panggagahasa sa ating kalikasan at harimawa ay magkaroon na tayo ng isang maaliwalas na kapaligiran na ligtas sa anumang kalamidad o trahedya na hatid ng

pag-abuso sa kalikasan.

Sa haba ng panahong lumalaban ni Lopez para protektahan ang kalikasan ay panigurdong marami na siyang solusyong maipapanukala at maipatutupad kalaunan.

Pero sana bilang isang anti-mining advocate ay maging patas ito sa pagdedesisyon sa lahat ng usapin sa DENR, lalo na patungkol sa mining. Kumbaga magdedesisyon ito bilang isang pinuno at hindi bilang lumalaban sa pagmimina.

Kaakibat nito ay nananawagan kami ng pagtataguyod ng isang environmentally sensitive at responsive mining upang wala nang buhay pa ang masakripisyo dahil sa mga iresponsableng pagmimina na tiyak din siyang hangad ng bagong itinalagang pinuno ng kagawaran.



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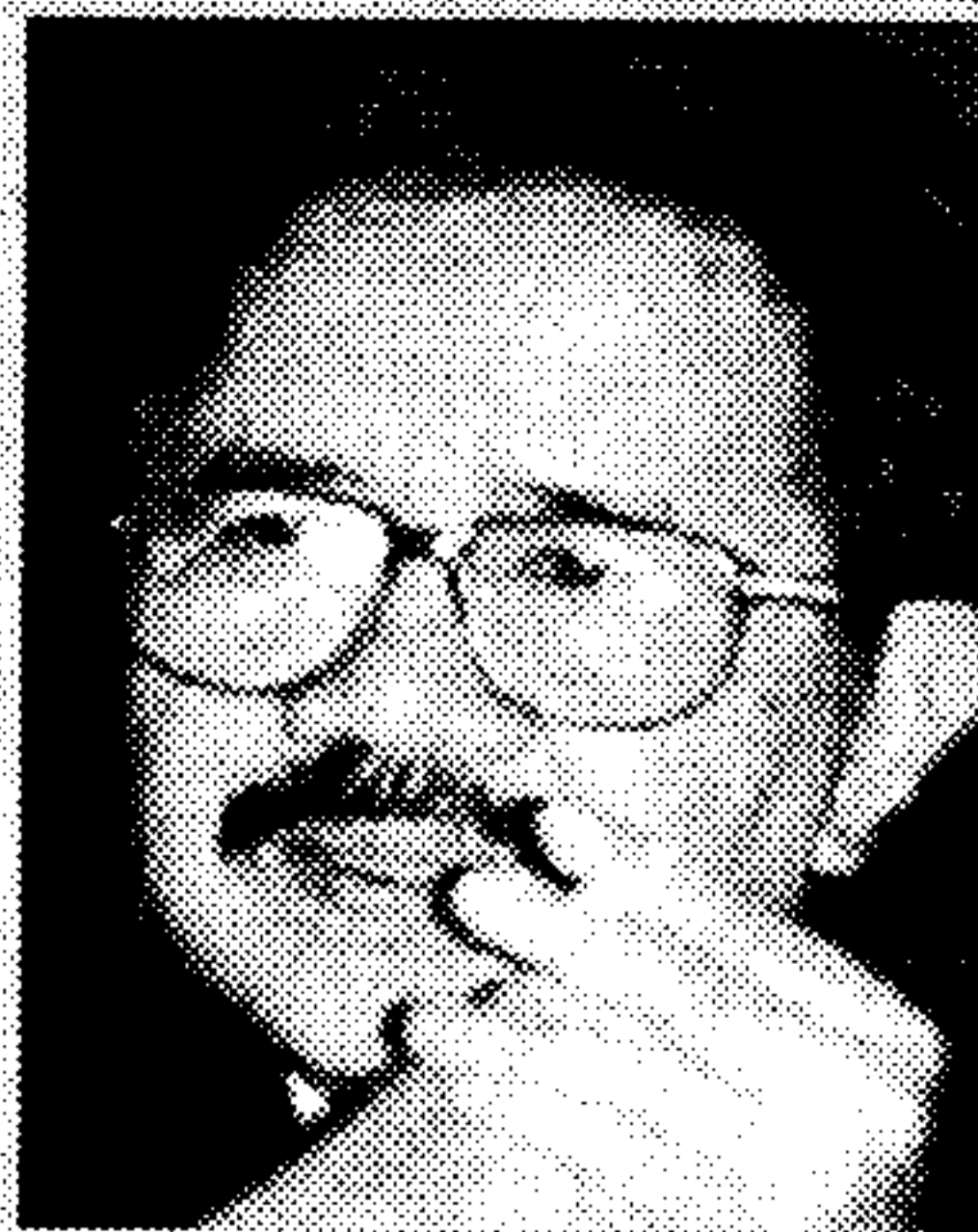
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Shooting from the hip

AMADO P. MACASAET

'I do not think Gina Lopez knows mining and the harm that she says it brings.'



FROM the day Rodrigo Duterte was declared winner in the last national elections, he has been telegraphing his punches. A few of them, like the use of force, are beginning to scare businessmen.

His image did not improve when he announced that Gina Lopez will be in-charge of all mining operations. If she runs true to form she may not approve any new mine for the simple reason surface mining harms the environment.

The Bureau of Mines Geo-Sciences was made like a doormat by the President and Miss Lopez. Neither holds the Bureau liable for pollution caused by mining. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources was also ignored.

I personally believe that the stock brokers should be denied permits or take them back for not putting the mines to work. Miss Lopez whose family has never been involved in mining as far as I know does not give any attention to the fact that about half of listed issues do not operate for so long.

It must be pointed out these brokers make money without operating the mines. In fact, the group of Tónico Garcia and his father were or are still active in the trading of shares but not of the controversial Tampakan copper gold deposits in South Cotabato.

We missed a golden opportunity to develop what is said to be Southeast Asia's largest gold copper-deposits. A foreign consortium from Europe and later some investors from other foreign countries joined the foreign group which spent more than a million dollars for the natives.

There are enough laws that take care of environmental harm resulting from a leak in the pond. If Ms. Lopez is so interested in protecting the environment from the harm that she says is created by mining operations, why does not she identify them and recommend the closure or delisting of non-operating mines whose shares are traded but do not yet operate?

What proof does Miss Lopez have to substantiate her fears that new mines should not be given permits to operate? She has no proof but President Noynoy Aquino refused to give new mines a permit to operate.

Born with a silver spoon in her mouth, I do not think Gina Lopez knows mining and the harm that she says it brings. It is not funny that two Presidents refused to act in giving mining a permit to operate.

How much does Gina Lopez know about the environment that she claims is harmed by open pit mining? This requires full knowledge of chemistry.

On the other hand, Duterte is proving the truth of the adage which says "look before you leap." He said he will be responsible for all his acts. That is a motherhood statement which need not be said by an incoming President.

I recall that immediately after the Comelec declared him winner in the Presidential race, he started talking like he is already in office. He could not wait. Other President-elect would say he is picking the best men for their respective jobs without identifying who they are. He should name them only by inference.

The purpose of so doing is to invite or get a feel of how people will accept the nominee. One small problem is Jess Dureza who is also President Chairman of the Philippine Press Institute. He will be serving two masters. Loyalty to the PPI is not necessarily loyalty to the President.

Word went around that Duterte ignores the law in the process of making peace. He opens himself up to a possible accusation that he violates the Constitution in the name of peace.

email:amadomacasaet@yahoo.com

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DEMAND AND SUPPLY

Duterte surprises again... with Gina



By BOO CHANCO

Just when you think you have president-elect Rodrigo Duterte all figured out, he does something totally out of the realm of the possible — like appointing Gina Lopez as Secretary of DENR. No one was more surprised than Gina herself.

Stock analyst and business columnist John Mangun had this reaction: "Connect the dots... Duterte signs a deal for a P39 billion Davao seaport... which is 50 km from the \$2 billion KingKing copper/gold mine... which has Manuel Paolo Villar as president... and then puts Gina Lopez in charge of the environmental protection."

Mr. Duterte must have a hidden message there or I guess we should just be ready for more surprises in the next six years. Mr. Duterte has a way of thinking that is so out of the box, so different from conventional wisdom that you need time to process what it is all about. Many times you are not sure, but something in your gut tells you Mr. Duterte is so right about it.

No one of Mr. Duterte's rivals for the presidency in the last election would have considered appointing Gina to head DENR. For one thing, Gina is so openly anti-mining and most, if not all of them, must have taken money from mining interests to fund their campaigns.

Then it also seems obvious that as president, you want to minimize trouble with a fairly influential business constituency. It isn't just the big mining companies listed in the stock exchange that you must think about. Mining is a fairly important source of income for local governments and a horde of unemployed people in the countryside.

Gina, from the 30 years I have known her, isn't likely to budge from her lifelong crusade against anything that degrades the environment. Mining does that. She likely believes "responsible mining" is an oxymoron, nothing more than an attempt by PR people to make

a distinction where there is none.

Indeed, Cathy Yang riled Gina last Tuesday evening on ANC's Business Nightly when she insisted in putting forward the economic contributions of "responsible mining." No such thing, Gina insisted, and she went on to cite study after study that shows mining's lack of positive impact on the poverty levels in the communities where they operate.

Actually, I have long felt an anomaly in combining environmental protection with the management of natural resources in one Cabinet portfolio. The two are by nature opposed to each other. Protecting the interest of one is always at the expense of the other.

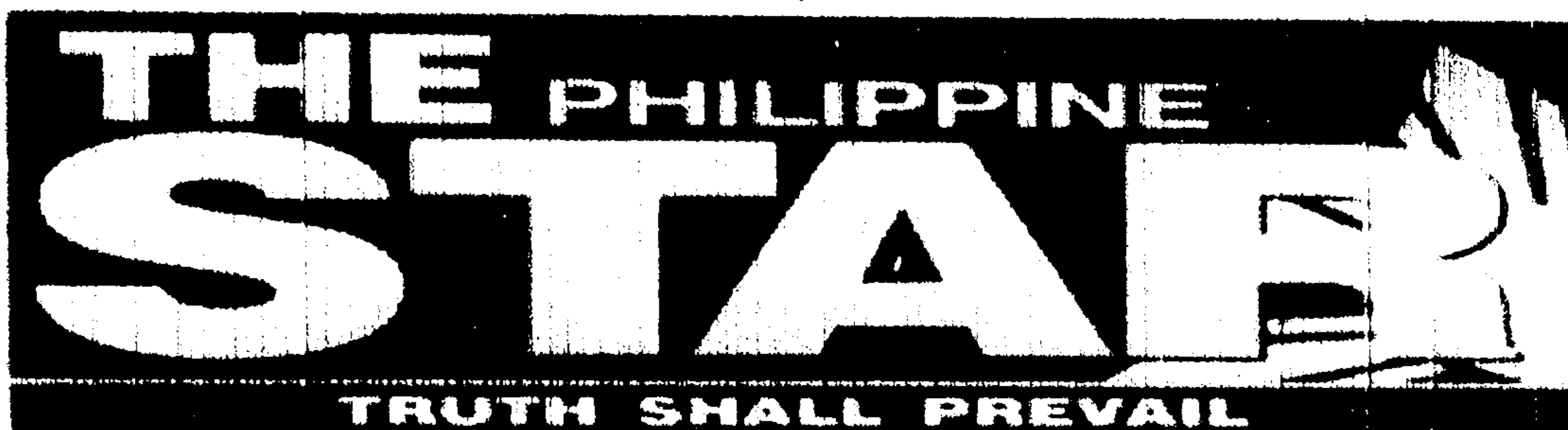
Having a Cabinet member who has made no secret of her staunch opposition to mining definitely means environmental protection is now front and center in the Duterte administration.

Maybe that is not such a bad thing. Gina's acceptance of the Duterte offer to head DENR came on the same day the Supreme Court granted a petition for a Writ of Kalikasan to aggrieved residents of Zambales against five mining companies for spoiling their environment and threatening their livelihood sources.

Television news footage showed how badly the miners damaged the Zambales landscape. I understand the problem in Zambales can be traced to a governor who lost in the last election. What happened there should be proof that issuance of mining permits shouldn't be devolved to LGUs.

In a way, the president-elect may have thought of Gina in the face of this runaway problem in the mining sector. We can try to differentiate the big and supposedly responsible miners from the small scale miners, but in the end it all boils down to a national crisis.

Mr. Duterte, who promised change, must have thought the only way he can deliver on his promise is to appoint someone who is a certified game changer. Indeed, Mr. Duterte promised the position to the communists shortly after



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte surprises again... with Gina

he was elected. Then he talked of appointing a retired general. And out of the blue he offered it to Gina.

Perhaps, Mr. Duterte thought that anyone else appointed to the position would be severely tested by opportunities for corruption. Mr. Duterte promised a corruption free regime and he can be assured on this point only by someone like Gina.

Gina can be really bullheaded on things she is totally convinced of. In a way, she is like the female version of Mr. Duterte himself. She is not afraid to step into controversies and she can be very feisty in defending her position.

Of course, as Secretary of DENR, she will have to start thinking in terms of whole pictures and not remain absolutely focused in her version of reality. She will have to consider that she cannot always be correct and what she had seen as an environmental activist is only part of a bigger reality.

Some people say the mining industry is as good as dead in the next six years. It was barely alive in the last six. But that's the point too.

The reluctance of the Aquino administration to approve any new mining activity must have been rooted in P-Noy's own inability to convince himself that "responsible mining" is possible under our current conditions.

Maybe a hiatus in the industry is not a totally bad thing. We can use the time to get a national consensus on how we can protect the environment while exploiting our natural resources. The mining industry must convince the Filipino people they can be trusted. DENR and Malacañang officials may be influenced by a wider and more obvious public buy-in.

Maybe it is also a good idea to leave some of our natural wealth to the next generation who may hopefully be wiser than us. We have after all, used up almost all our timber and we have spoiled wide tracks of land from irresponsible mining.

One thing I have learned not to do when

Gina talks to me about her next bold, audacious project is to say it is impossible. She cleaned up the Paco Estero, a waterway that had been murky and stinky way back in the mid '50s when I was in Grade One at Paco Catholic School in a classroom near its bank.

She cleaned up the estero beside Malacañang, too, but complained to me about how bureaucrats, including Mar Roxas, made the task more difficult than it should have been. The Pasig River is proving more difficult, because as she explained, she has to clean the esteros flowing to it first, particularly the San Juan River. I guess she needs more resources to get the work done.

Maybe it is the Ananda Marga mind discipline in her that enables Gina to have laser focus on the things she wants to do. My only worry is that the bureaucracy and its rules may prove frustrating to Gina. It is good she will have the assistance of DENR career Usec Mitch Cuna who will guide her through the legal labyrinth.

Again, columnist and stock analyst John Mangun sums up how owners and investors in mining companies should view Gina's appointment:

"You own a mining company. Gina Lopez and the anti-mining activists are not going to go away. Do you prefer to have Ms. Lopez:

1. As head of DENR where she must listen to the mining companies, follow the law, and justify her decisions based on law and regulations?

2. Stand outside your mine holding a sign and leading protesters against your business?"

Change is coming, as Mr. Duterte promised, and if Gina is even half successful as DENR Secretary, it will be dramatic in a sector of the economy that needs tough regulation for the sake of our future generations.

Boo Chanco's e-mail address is bchanco@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @boochanco

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The motivations of an advocate

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON



'Makes you wonder what really motivates some people who claim certain advocacies.'

LAST 22 June I received this text from a person I will just identify as "BF":

"Good morning sir, how's your night did you sleep well? Good News: It's confirmed Ma'm Gina Lopez is now the incoming DENR secretary. Maybe it's bad news to your company, mukhang mahihirapan kyo na ma lift ang suspension sa inyong company, at naririnig ko ang sigawan sa tuwa ng mga anti sa XXXXx, Lalo na ang boses ni vicky, tsk tsk tsk, sayang, rikatulong ang grupo ko sa pag dispose ng stockpile ng company nyo, isang tao lng sir hiling ko para din naman sa inyo yon, nilaglag mo kmi. mahirap mag hanap ng kakampi para sa side nyo. GOOD LUCK."

Actually, two days before that, or on 20 June, a colleague at work in a minesite received this:

"Good morning xxx my relation to be your friend, was my personal decision, but our withdrawal of support to your company is a matter of our principle, against mining operation in (name of place edited out), and to mr baylon decision to ignor our plea. sorry po mga sir, and thanks."

Notice how prominent my name appears in the text above. Who is BF and what "plea" is he talking about?

BF happens to be a former resident of a mining area where our company is operating. He used to be part of an anti mining group and was introduced to us as someone who was going to switch sides. As is part of my "Doubting Thomas" philosophy of advocacy I convinced him and about twelve other members of his group to visit Rio Tuba to better understand who we were and how we do mining. The trip happened, and as students of Mining Engineering at UP can attest (they met each other for dinner at Max QC Circle), BF and company became believers in responsible mining.

So much so that last 11 January, I received this text from him:

"May mga nagtanong sa akin, kong totoong itinatag ko ang pro pepple para suporahan ang mining, at kong sino ang nsa likod nto? Sbi ko ang pro people itinatag para suportahan mga taga XXXXX, at ang nsa likod nto ay mga tao sa XXXXX, suportado namin ang loading ng stockpile, kc ito ang kagstohan ng majority ng taga XXXXX, inggit lng po ang nangingibabaw sa mga anti."

But why the apparent 180-degree turn?

I met BF and his leaders last 14 June at Via Mare at St Luke's. We discussed the issues in the mine area and his group agreed to be more active in advocating for responsible mining. We also agreed for ten of them to travel from Manila to visit the operations area. They also submitted a few project proposals for our company to consider funding, including a chapel for the community cemetery.

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THE MOTIVATIONS

The day after the meeting BF had this to say by text:

"Good morning po sir jib, maraming salamat po sa pagharap nyo sa amin kahapon, may mga issue po kami na nalinawan, bagama't ipinahiwatig nyo na sasagutin nyo mga expenses ng aming grupo, gsto pa rin po sana namin na mapundohan ang aming grupo para po sa mga pag pupulong at gagawin namin, na wala kyo puedi naman po kami gumawa ng expenses report, para po ma monitor nyo kong saan namin ginagamit ang aming pundo. salamat po."

The funding request was for P50,000.

A few days later we had a text exchange as he was inquiring about the trip. Then this text on 16 June:

"Okey po sir, puedi po ba magkaron ng pocket allowance ng 1,500 bawat isa?" To which I replied that I would need to request for P15,000 to cover ten people.

On the 19th of June he texted me the names of his nine companions.

And then this in the afternoon:

"Good morning po sir, and happy fathers day po, sir pasensya na po, may request lng po sana ako, baka naman po puedi dagdagan ng isang tao kasama namin dyan (name of location edited out),

11. (name of additional passenger edited out)"

To which I said that my budget was only for ten people. And then I get these texts in succession:

"Okey po sir pasinsya na po ulit, okey po kong hindi na puedi mag

dagdag ng isa, palitan nyo nlang po yong pangalan ko, ipalit nyo nlang po si (name edited out), hindi nlang po ako sasama. si XXXXX po kasi galing dyan sa XXXXX, at may mga nkausap syang mga tao na nag trabahao dyan sa XXXX na may lihim na syentimento laban sa company, yon sana ang gsto namin mkausap, para mapaliwanagan. Pero okey lng po kong yon ang pasya nyo. salamat nlang po sa pag bibigay mo sa amin ng konting atensyon. GOD BLESS XXXXX."

And then this

"Gud pm po sir, ang ilan sa aking mga kasama ay nagpasya na hindi na rin tutuloy dahil sa kaniang mga trabaho, so we decided to cancelled the trip to XXXXX. Thanks po sir."

And then he sends the 20 June text to my colleagues blaming me

for "ignoring" their plea.

So that's it. The "plea" that turned a former anti Into a pro and back into an anti-mining advocate was to bring eleven instead of ten people on a trip, which was not as originally agreed upon.

Makes you wonder what really motivates some people who claim certain advocacies. It doesn't seem to be about whether mining is or can be responsible and good for my community; it seems to be about "can I get an extra free ride"? Scratch the surface and you find their principles to be as shallow as the roots of the Tumbleweed. Which is why they end up like many of our politicians - great acrobats who can tumble from one side of the fence to the other.

These are not the allies I would like to have next to me in the trenches.

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Ways to make China comply with UN ruling on S. China Sea

THE Philippines is not exactly helpless if the United Nations Arbitral Court decides in favor of the Philippines in its case against China's nine-dash line map and its transforming into islands, rocks in the Spratlys that are only seen during low tide.

In his lecture before members of the Philippine Press Institute yesterday at the Century Park Hotel, Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio said, "there is no world policeman to enforce the rule" but the following can happen:

1. The world's naval powers which consider freedom of navigation and over flight their national interest have declared they will sail and fly in the high seas and the Economic Exclusive Zones of the South China Sea.

Carpio expects the United States, which insists on freedom of navigation in the maritime waters where some \$5.3 trillion pass through annually, to "really wave

the UN ruling."

France's Defense Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, called for "regular and visible" European patrols in the South China Sea during the recent Shangrila Dialogue in Singapore.

2. If the China National Offshore Oil Corporation lifts the oil and gas in the Reed Bank, the Philippines can sue the CNOOC in countries where the

CNOOC has assets like Canada and the U.S.

3. China has secured four permits from the International Seabed Authority to explore the seabed, and has two pending applications. The Philippines can ask ISA to suspend the four permits and the processing of the two pending applications using the ruling. 4. The Philippines can also ask the UN Commission

on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to suspend the processing of China's extended CS claims until China complies with the ruling.

That's why it is doubtful that China would withdraw from the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea over an adverse ruling on the case filed by the Philippines because if they are not part of UNCLOS they would not be able to explore the seabed.

Carpio said the Philippines would just have to be creative.

Carpio proposed to suspend for 100 years any claim in the South China Sea and declare the area a Marine Protected Area and allow the reefs to recover. No military facilities. Only Coast Guards would be allowed to protect the resource rich area.

The future generation will thank us for this.

Blog: www.ellentordesillas.com
E-mail: ellentordesillas@gmail.com

ELLEN TORDESILLAS



'It is doubtful that China would withdraw from the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea over an adverse ruling.'

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Pharmaceuticals: Help prevent toxic doses

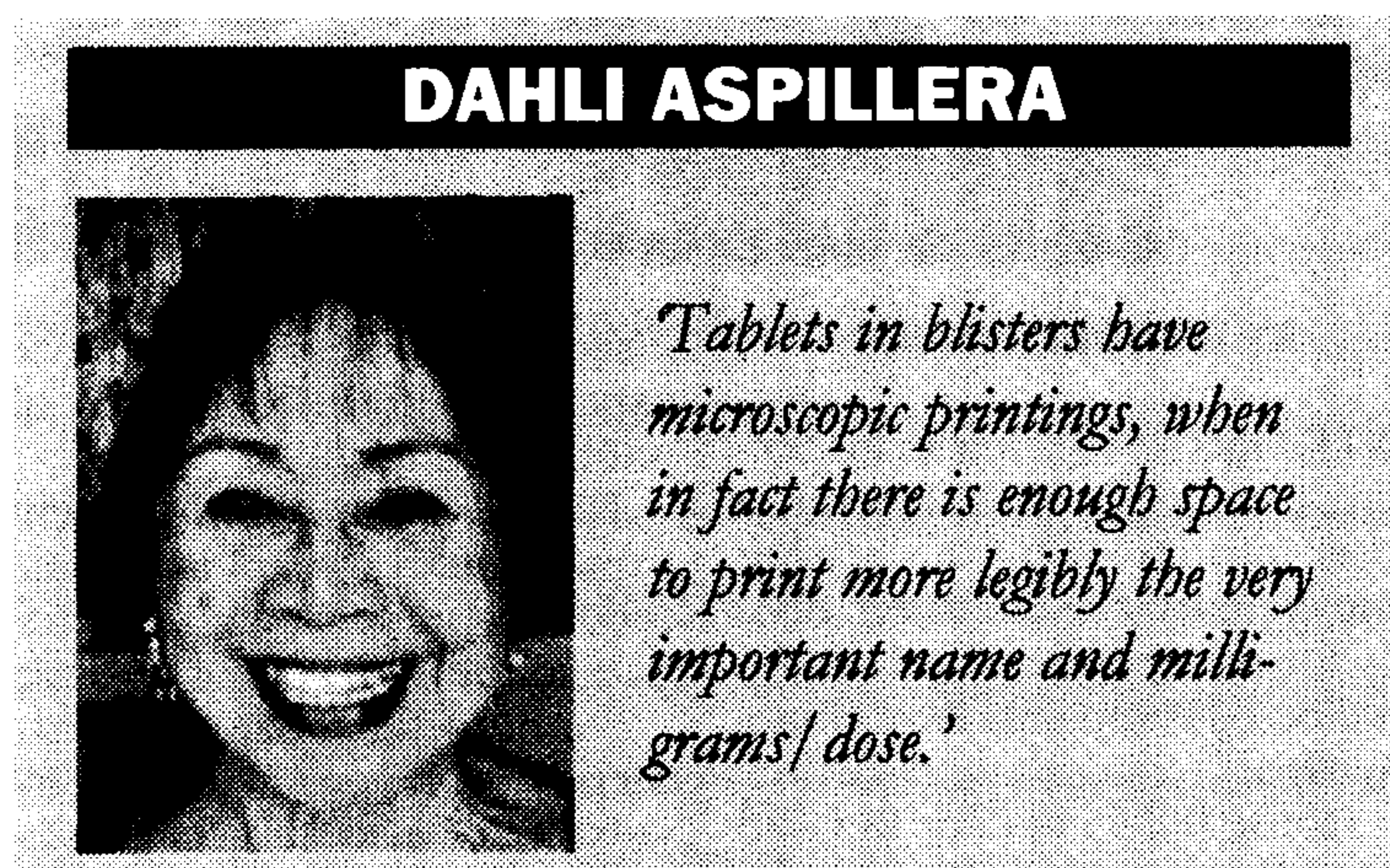
HELP spread information to protect the elderly from overdoses of medications and supplements.

The nation's elderly people are at risk of unintentional poisoning and deaths due to the overuse or misuse of medicines and mineral/vitamin supplements. Such can be prevented for pharmaceuticals to use legible print on blister and other packaging.

At a forum aptly themed "Bantay Kalusugan para kay Lolo at Lola: Tamang Paggamit ng Gamot at Iba Pa," [health watch for grandparents: cautious use of medicines, etc.] pharmacology and toxicology experts took turns to enlighten the elderly audience about the factors that contribute to altered effects of drugs among senior citizens and the do's and don'ts to avoid poisoning.

The forum was held in observance of the National Poison Prevention Week as per Proclamation No. 1777, Series of 2009, by the Philippine Society of Clinical and Occupational Toxicology (PSCOT), PGH, and the EcoWaste Coalition.

"Social and economic factors such as vices, dietary preferences and polypharmacy (the simultaneous use of multiple drugs) increase the risk to incidence of Adverse Drug Events--ADE--among the elderly, which can be avoided through the rational use of drugs."--Dr. Lynn R. Panganiban, NPMCC UP-PGH. Due to the elderly's poor eyesight, absentmindedness and lack of awareness and understanding of the intended uses of drugs, they



DAHLI ASPILLERA

Tablets in blisters have microscopic printings, when in fact there is enough space to print more legibly the very important name and milligrams/dose.'

are prone to ADE from the use of a drug.

Dr. Panganiban with Dr. Carissa Paz C. Dioquino and Dr. John Paul Ner emphasized that 1) the administration of medicines should be supervised; 2) pills should be stored in their original containers, or in pill boxes or organizers, to avoid mixing of pills; 3) the labels on medicine containers should be retained and kept legible; 4) self-medication or buying medicines marketed as "wonder" or "miracle pills" with cure-all indications should be avoided; 5) a list of medications currently taken should be kept and those that are no longer used should be discarded; and 6) polypharmacy (especially of over-the-counter drugs) should be avoided.

The experts also reminded the elderly to consult a doctor when new signs and symptoms appear and when contemplating to take an over-the-counter medicine.

To avoid mishaps and acci-

dental poisoning, the experts also stressed that elderly patients should request for a written treatment plan from their doctors.

The treatment plan should include the name(s) of the drug(s), dosage, indication(s) and instructions as to the manner of administration, and also make a note regarding adverse effects to be monitored and food to be avoided.

For his part senior citizen Noli Abinales, President of the EcoWaste Coalition, commended the NPMCC UP-PGH and PSCOT for paying attention to overdose and poisoning cases involving the elderly, which often go unnoticed and unrecorded.

"We laud and thank our poison centers and poison experts for their efforts to uphold the right to chemical and pharmaceutical safety of vulnerable groups such as the elderly, and may they get more budgetary support for their crucial work from the incoming administration,"--Abinales.

Based on NPMCC UP-PGH's census of poisoning cases, the top five toxicants affecting the elderly include pesticide (e.g., Malathion), sodium hypochlorite (e.g., Zonrox), kerosene, benzodiazepine (e.g., Diazepam), and ethanol (e.g., alcoholic drinks).

What about those individuals who believe that "when a little is good, a lot must be better." This writer is referring to the people who were told by their friends and relatives that Vitamins E and C are great, so they take 3, 4, 5 times the recommended doses. They are confident that whatever excess there is, the excess is discarded in the urine. What they don't realize is that the kidney must work long and hard and overtime, to clean up all that excess Vitamin E and Vitamin C from every molecule of blood that goes through the glomerulus of the kidney. Overdosing abuses these hair-thin tubes to destruction.

Good eyesight can be had from the Vitamin A from a single carrot. But people with weakening eyesight, aware of this, would juice 8 carrots a day to drink. Again, the poor kidney has to work long and hard and overtime to get rid of all that excess Vitamin A.

If a little is good, is a lot better? No.

For more info: EcoWaste Coalition, Unit 329, Eagle Court, 26 Matalino St., 1101 Quezon City, Philippines, Phone/Fax: 4411846 E-Mail: info@ecowastecoalition.org

Website: <http://ecowastecoalition.blogspot.com>

Dahliaspillera@yahoo.com

X-FILES

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BARKONG SUMADSAD SA CEBU MIYEMBRO NG CeMAP.

KAYA pala sobra ang pananahimik nitong si CEMENT MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CeMAP) PRESIDENT ERNESTO ORDONEZ sa isyu ng PANAMA NIAN-REGISTERED CARGO VESSEL na MV BELLE ROSE na sumadsad sa pamosong dive spot MONAD SHOAL sa CEBU na sumira sa may 3-ektaryang coral reefs ay miyembro pala ito ng asosasyong pinamumunuan nitong si ORDONEZ?

Pinalalabas ng mga awtoridad na cement clinker ang lulan ng barko, pero may mga insider sa BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) ang nagbisto na cement bulk ang epektos na laman ng sumadsad na barko at natuklasang miyembro ito ng CeMAP na posibleng nagpupuslit din ng semento sa bansa at hindi ang mga lokal na importer na inakusahan kamakailan ni ORDONEZ ng technical smuggling.

Bakit naglabasan sa mga ulat na cement clinker na "raw material" sa paggawa ng semento ang lulan ng MV BELLE ROSE gayong purong bulk cement ang totoong laman nito? At bakit biglang natiyope si ORDONEZ na ngawngaw nang ngawngaw sa mga lokal na importer ng semento pero nagtetengang-kawali pagdating sa mga miyembro ng CeMAP?

Kung pinagbayad ng gobyerno ang UNITED STATES NAVY sa barkong pandigma nito na nakasira sa TUBATTAHA REEF, hindi ba dapat na pagbayarin din ang miyembro ng CeMAP na may-ari ng kargadang bulk cement dahil nawasak ang may tatlong kilometrong bahura sa Cebu?

Malinaw na sinisira ng CeMAP na kontrolado ng multinational companies ang maraming lugar sa PILIPINAS, partikular sa BULACAN, winawasak pa nila ang ating coral reefs KAYA DAPAT NANG IPATIGIL NI INCOMING DENR SECRETARY GINA LOPEZ ANG PAGMIMINA NG SEMENTO SA BANSA at pagmultahin ang CeMAP officials sa patuloy na pagsira sa kapaligiran.

Kabilang sa malalaking importers ng semento at cement clinkers ayon sa NCL TRADING JOINT STOCK COMPANY ng HO CHI MINH, VIETNAMN ay ang mga miyembro ng CeMAP tulad ng HOLCIM, APO CEMENT at REPUBLIC CEMENT, kaya malinaw na nadedehado ang mga lokal na negosyante na sinisiraan pa ng CeMAP.

Malaki raw ang kabulastugan nitong si Ordonez na naging opisyal ng CeMAP gayong walang kaugnayan sa cement industry., kahit nga sa hardware ay wala raw itong si Ordonez, kaya bakit siya naging attack dog ng CeMAP gayong naging undersecretary lamang siya ng mga kagawarang walang kinalaman sa industriya ng semento? Bakit mas kinikilingan niya ang mga FRENCH, SWISS, MEXICAN at JAPANESE na may-ari ng mga kompanyang nakapaloob sa CeMAP at gusto niyang tumigil ang mga lokal na importer gayong hindi nila masuplayan ng semento ang buong bansa?

Kung titigil nga naman ang local importers, muling magkakarron ng shortage sa semento at tiyak na lolobo ang presyo ng produktong ito., kaya, kung ganito ang lohika e ang dapat kay Ordonez ay kasuhan ng local importers dahil unfair competition ang malinaw na taktika niya.

Kung kayo po ay may suliranin o puna sa maling gawain ng ilan nating mga government officials o anumang reaksiyon lalo na sa mga nababatikos ng ARYA ay bukas po ang espasyo para sa inyong mga nais ipaabot., mag-email lamang po sa aryakolum@yahoo.com

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ANG barkong sumadsad kamakailan sa pamosong dive spot sa CEBU ay pinalalabas ng mga awtoridad na cement clinker ang lulan gayong may mga insider sa BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) ang nagpapahayag na cement bulk ang epektos na lulan ng MV BELLE ROSE, na malaking kuwestiyonable ngayon ang sobrang pananahimik ni CEMENT MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CeMAP) PRESIDENT ERNESTO ORDONEZ hinggil sa isyu na may 3-ektarya ng coral reefs ang nasira sa pagsadsad ng barko.

Ang PANAMANIAN-REGISTERED CARGO VESSEL na MV BELLE ROSE na sumadsad sa MONAD SHOAL, CEBU ay natuklasan na miyembro raw ito ng CeMAP na pinamumunuan ni ORDONEZ.

Bakit nga ba naglabasan sa mga ulat na cement clinker na "raw material" sa paggawa ng semento ang lulan ng MV Belle Rose, gayong purong bulk cement ang totoong laman nito? Bakit biglang natiyope si Ordenez na ngawngaw nang ngawngaw sa mga lokal na importer ng semento pero nagtetengang-kawali pagdating sa mga miyembro ng CeMAP?

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Malinaw na sinisira ng CeMAP na kontrolado ng multinational companies ang maraming lugar sa PILIPINAS, partikular sa BULACAN, winawasak pa nila ang ating coral reefs kaya dapat nang ipatigil ni INCOMING DE-

BARKONG SUMADSAD SA CEBU, CEMENT BULK ANG KARGA?

PARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) SECRETARY GINA LOPEZ ang pagmimina ng semento sa bansa at pagmultahin ang CeMAP officials sa patuloy na pagsira sa kapaligiran.

Ang mga miyembro raw ng CeMAP tulad ng HOLCIM, APO CEMENT at REPUBLIC CEMENT ay kabilang umano sa malalaking importers ng semento at cement clinkers ayon sa NCL TRADING JOINT STOCK COMPANY ng HO CHI MINH, VIETNAM.

Sa isyung ito ay marami ang bumabatikos sa personalidad nitong si ORDONEZ na naging opisyal ng CeMAP gayong wala naman daw itong kaugnayan sa cement industry o kahit man lang sa hardware e siya pa ngayon ang attack dog ng CeMAP gayong naging undersecretary lamang siya ng mga kagawarang walang kinalaman sa industriya ng semento?

Itong si ORDONEZ e mas kinikilingan pa raw niya ang mga FRENCH, SWISS, MEXICAN at JAPANESE na may-ari ng mga kompanyang nakapaloob sa CeMAP at gusto niyang tumigil ang mga lokal na importer gayong hindi nila masuplayan ng semento ang buong bansa? Kung matitigil nga naman ang mga local importers e muling magkakaroon ng shortage sa semento at tiyak na lolobo ang presyo ng produktong ito..., aba, e kung ganito ang sistema ni ORDONEZ e dapat na kasuhan siya ng local importers dahil unfair ompetition ang malinaw na taktika nito.

Kung kayo po ay may suliranin o puna sa maling gawain ng ilan nating mga government officials o anumang reaksiyon lalo na sa mga nababatikos ng ARYA ay bukas po ang espasyo para sa inyong mga nais ipaabot..., mag-email lamang po sa aryakolum@yahoo.com

ABOT-SIPAT



ni Ariel Dim Borlongan

Ordonez sa sumadsad na Panamanian-registered cargo vessel kamakailan sa pamosong dive spot Monad Shoal sa Cebu na sumira sa may tatlong ektaryang coral reefs.

Pinalabas kasi ng mga awtoridad na cement clinker ang lulan ng barko pero ilang insider sa Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang nagbisto na cement bulk ang epektos na lulan ng sumadsad na MV Belle Rose sa Cebu at kaduda-duda ang pananahimik ni Ordonez dahil natuklasang miyembro niya sa CeMAP ang posibleng nagpupuslit din ng semento sa bansa at hindi ang mga lokal na importer na inakusahan niya kamakailan ng technical smuggling.

Bakit naglabasan sa mga ulat na cement clinker na raw material sa paggawa ng semento ang lulan ng MV Belle Rose gayong purong bulk cement ang totoong laman nito? At bakit biglang natiyope si Ordonez na ngawngaw nang ngawngaw sa mga lokal na importer ng semento pero nagtetengang-kawali pagdating sa mga miyembro ng CeMAP?

Kung pinagbayad ng gobyerno ang United States Navy sa barkong pandigma na nakasira sa Tubattaha Reef, hindi ba't dapat na pagbayarin din ang miyembro ng CeMAP na may-ari ng kargadang bulk cement dahil nawasak ang may tatlong kilometrong bahura sa Cebu?

Malinaw na sinisira ng CeMAP na kontrolado ng multi-national companies ang maraming lugar sa Filipinas, partikular sa Bulacan, winawasak pa nila ang ating coral reefs kaya dapat nang ipatigil ni incoming Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez ang pagmimina ng semento sa bansa at pagmultahin ang CeMAP officials sa patuloy na

CEMENT BULK, HINDI CLINKER ANG KARGADA NG BARKONG SUMADSAD SA CEBU?

KADUDA-DUDA pagsira sa kapaligiran.

Kabilang sa malalaking importers ng semento at cement clinkers ayon sa NCL Trading Joint Stock Company ng Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam ay mga miyembro ng CeMAP tulad ng Holcim, APO Cement at Republic Cement kaya malinaw na nadehado ang mga lokal na negosyante na sinisiraan pa ng CeMAP.

Isyung BOC pa rin, bakit kaya ayaw gayahin ng isang deputy commissioner si Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence Group Jessie Delloso na nag-file na ng courtesy resignation dahil ilang araw na lang ay pupuwesto na si incoming President Rodrigo Duterte.

Batid ni Delloso na hindi siya pananatilihin ni incoming BOC Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon dahil matunog nang ipapalit sa kanya si retired Marines Lt. Gen. Juancho Sabban kaya may katuwirang umalis na siya sa tungkulin at magbigay-daan sa kanyang kahalili.

Pero kakaiba ang isang opisyal dahil kapit-tuko pa rin sa kanyang puwesto. Aba, umaaasa pa rin talaga na pananatilihin siya ni Faeldon sa puwesto.

Bago mag-eleksiyon, ipinagmamalaki ng opisyal na brod niya sa fraternity si Sen. Chiz Escudero na business associate rin niya sa negosyong malunggay tablets. Ngunit natalo si Chiz kaya naghahanap siyempre ng bagong padrino.

Pero may tsismis ngayon sa BOC na kaya ayaw mag-resign ng opisyal ay dahil nag-iipon pa siya ng pabaon mula sa mga pobreng importer.

Kalat na kalat nga na pumalag ang importer na si Mr. T., dahil humingi raw ng pabaon ang opisyal na nagkakahalaga ng P3.5 milyon. Ang masama, kahit ibinigay raw ang naturang halaga, patuloy pa ring iniipit ng BOC ang kanyang epektos kaya luring-lugi na raw si Mr. T.

Totoo ba ito Mr. Deputy Commissioner, humingi ka pa ng pabaon kay Mr. T? Aba, baka bali-kan ka ni Pangulong Digong dahil handa raw tumestigo si Mr. T.

Patay kang bata ka!

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PAGPASOK NG MGA KALIWA SA GABINETE, TAMA LANG

SANG-AYON tayo sa plano ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte na mabigyan ng pwesto sa gabinete ang ilang makakaliwang personalidad o aktibista upang magkaroon sila ng pagkakataon na magbigay ng serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan.

Sa halip kasi na tuligsain ng mga ito ang gobyerno ay bakit hindi natin sila bigyan ng pagkakataon na maranasan na magsilbi nang sa gayon ay mismong malaman nila kung paano ang pagpapatakbo ng isang tanggapan?

Kabilang sa mga posibleng tanggapan na maibigay sa mga makakaliwa ay ang Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Mapapansin din natin na mula sa iba't ibang sektor ng lipunan nanggaling ang mga gabineteng posibleng maitalaga ng administrasyon ni Duterte.

Naniniwala kasi tayo na sa ganitong paraan ay mas mapapadali ang pagbibigay ng serbisyo sa publiko kung ang bawat kalihim na itatalaga ay may karanasan sa tanggapan na kanyang paglalagyan.

Ang pagiging dalubhasa sa isang larangan ay isa rin sa maaaring pagbatayan ngunit para sa atin, ang karanasan ang higit na dapat pag-

ALINGAWNGAW

ni ALVIN FELICIANO



batayan at ito ang ginawa ni Duterte sa pagpili ng kanyang gabinete.

Ngayon pa lang ay inaalam na ng mga posibleng itilagang kalihim ang mga problema ng departamentong ibibigay sa kanila nang sa gayon ay sa unang araw pa lamang ng kanilang pag-upo sa pwesto ay maaari na nila itong bigyan ng sapat na aksyon.

Makaaasa rin ang mga Filipino na mauubos na ang mga korap na naglipana sa mga nakalipas na administrasyon at makatitayak din tayo na isa-isang ipakukulong ni Duterte ang mga personalidad na sangkot sa katiwalian.

Tama rin lang na tapusin na ng paparating na administrasyon ang problema sa insurgency dahil isa ito sa nakapigil sa pag-unlad ng isang bansa.

Kapag naisakatuparan nang tama ang lahat ng plano ni Duterte ay tiyak na hindi magtatagal ay magiging payapa na ang Pilipinas at magsisimula na rin ang pag-unlad ng kabuhayan ng ating mga kababayan.

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SIKRETA
NI CRIS A. IBON
ENVIRONMENTALIST
BIGO VS JG SUMMIT

TULUYANG mabubura sa mapa ng daigdig ang buong bansa, sanhi ng pagkaapruha ng batas para makapagtayo ng higanteng mga planta na magdagdag ng polusyon sa kapaligiran at kalikasan taliwas sa policy ng pamahalaan na magbawas ng carbon emission sa hinaharap.

Puntirya ng pamahalaan na mapagaan ng 70 porsiyento ang carbon emission pagsapit ng taong 2020 kayat hindi angkop sa paninindigang ito ng pamahalaan ang pagtatayo ng JG Summit Coal-Fired Thermal Plant sa Brgy. Simlong, Batangas City, ayon sa pahayag ng mga environmentalist.

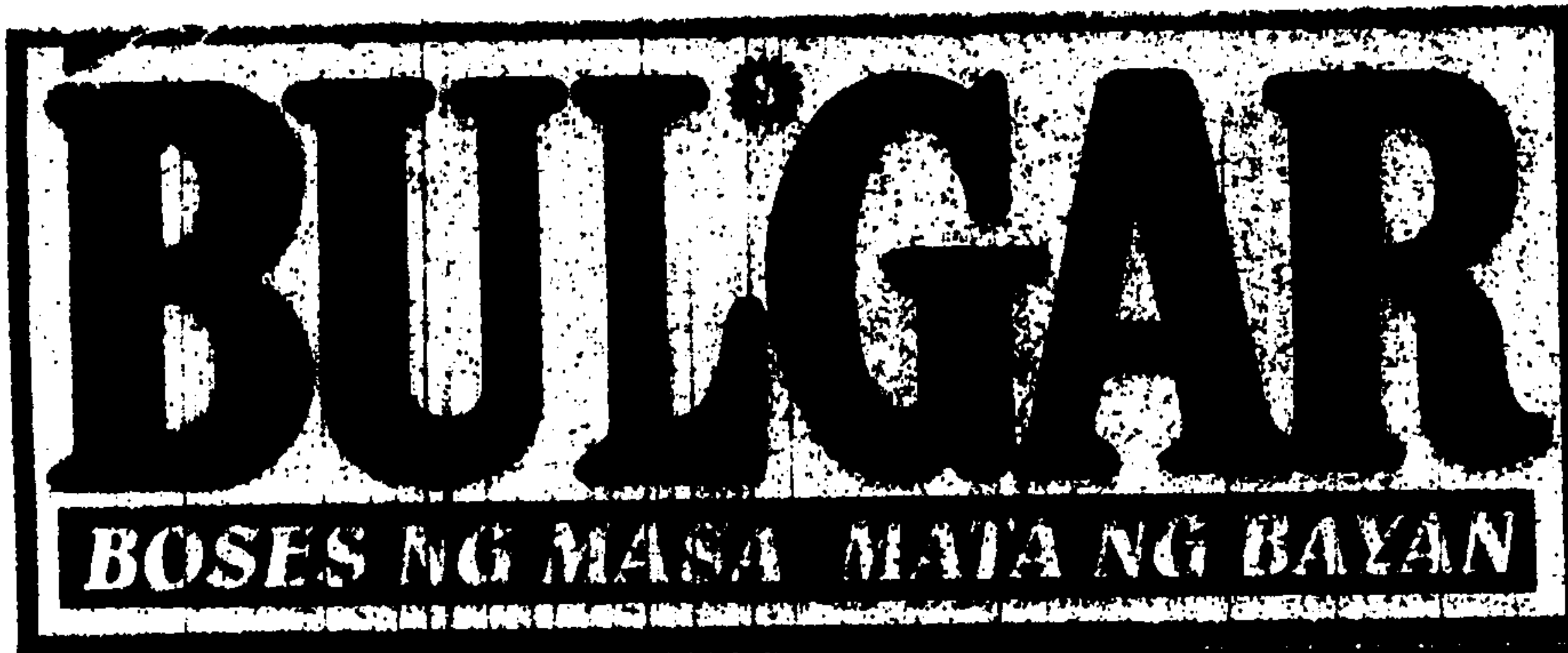
Nabigo ang panawagan ng mga environmentalist sa mga miembro ng konseho ng Batangas City na huwag aprubahan ang pagbibigay ng "locational certificate" upang makapaglagay ng 600 megawatts coal-fired power plant ang JG Summit sa naturang lungsod.

Si out-going Sangguniang Panglungsod Kagawad Gerry dela Roca, chairman ng Land Use Committee at lima pa nitong katoto sa city council ang may malaking papel na ginampanan kayat napagtibay ang kahilingan na mabigyan ng "location certificate" ang JG Summit.

Pinagtibay ng mayorya ng konseho ang pagbibigay ng clearance para sa pagtatayo ng 600 megawatts coal-fired power plant gayong ang nauna at orihinal na kahilingan ng JG Summit ay para sa paglalagay ng 300 megawatts coal-fired plant lamang sa naturang barangay.

Magkano kaya usapan sa pagitan ng JG Summit at ng mga bumuto pabor sa pagbibigay ng clearance kayat dedma sa mga ito ang pandaigdigang panawagan na pagaanin ang kalawakan, kapaligiran sa bigat ng polusyon na ibinubuga mula sa mga "fossil fuel" kabilang dito ang coal? Nagtatanong lang naman.

Dapat inisip ng mga kagawad ng konseho na may sagradong obligasyon ang mga ito para pangalagaan ang kanilang mga mamamayan at iligtas ang buong planeta sa pagkawasak.



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Pagsingaw ng baho sa port area, abangan!

□□□

IBINUNYAG ng isang hindi nagpakilalang PPA official na wala raw bisa at hindi makatatayo ang naging desisyon ng PPA dahil isang collegial body ang PPA na nanggagaling daw ang kapangyarihan sa board.

Ang board ng PPA ay binubuo ng Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Trade and Industry, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), at pribadong sektor.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

US warns China: Stop provocations

Ruling must be binding

Willett reiterated the US view that the ruling must be binding.

She declined to detail how the United States might respond should Beijing stick to its vow to ignore the ruling, but said: "I do think it's an important inflexion point, not just for the United States, but for the whole region."

Willett said Washington hoped China would see the ruling as "an opportunity to restart serious discussions with their neighbors."

China has accused the United States of "hyping" the issue and warned in May that international complaints about its actions in the South China Sea would snap back on its critics.

But it has largely avoided specific threats of how it might respond to the arbitration ruling.

On Monday, the US Navy chief, Adm. John Richardson, said China's large-scale land reclamation in the South China Sea and militarization of artificial islands had extended its potential ability to deny access to some of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Show of strength

The US aircraft carriers John C. Stennis and Ronald Reagan staged joint operations last weekend in seas east of the Philippines in a show of strength ahead of The Hague ruling, prompting strong Chinese criticism.

The Chinese Communist Party newspaper, People's Daily, on Wednesday accused Washington in an editorial of seeking to turn the South China Sea "into a powder keg" and warned it not to underestimate China's determination to defend its territorial claims.

Hegemony

The editorial cited the joint exercises of the two US aircraft carriers in the Philippine Sea as a sign of US hegemony and said Washington had made a mistake in seeking to intimidate China.

In making displays of military power aimed at China, the United States has "picked the wrong counterpart," said the editorial, the contents of which are usually vetted by high-ranking party officials.

China's 'allies'

China has listed more than 40 countries it says supports its position on the arbitration case.

Willett said it was not even clear what those countries "have allegedly agreed to."

"There's some skepticism about that grouping," she said.

Only eight countries have publicly supported China's position, including landlocked states such as Niger and Afghanistan, according to Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Willett played down an apparent display of disunity by Southeast Asian countries last week.

Chinese pressure

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), following a foreign ministers meeting in China, issued and then abruptly withdrew a statement that expressed deep concerns over tensions in the South China Sea, a retraction widely seen as the result of Chinese pressure.

A senior US official said Asean countries were "under an intense amount of pressure" and made clear that behind the scenes, Washington was working to stiffen their resolve.

Reports from Reuters and AP

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US WARNS CHINA

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

US warns China: Stop provocations

Washington to rally support for UN ruling on sea dispute

WASHINGTON — The United States warned China on Wednesday against taking “additional provocative actions” following an impending international court ruling on the South China Sea that is expected to largely reject Beijing’s broad territorial claims.

A senior US state department official voiced skepticism at China’s claim that dozens of countries backed its position in a case the Philippines has

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brought against Beijing and vowed that Washington would uphold US defense commitments.

Colin Willett, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia, said Washington had “a lot of options” to respond to any such Chinese moves in a region he said was vital to US interests.

Rallying allies

She also made clear that with a ruling expected possibly within weeks, the United States was working to rally sometimes wavering allies and partners in the region to ensure a unified front.

How Washington handles the aftermath of the ruling is widely seen as a test of US credibility in a region where it has been the dominant security presence since World War II but is now struggling to contain an increasingly assertive China.

“We, the United States, do have very clear national interests in the area,” Willett told Reuters.

“We have an interest in upholding our defense commitments and our security partnerships,” she added.

PH challenge

The Philippines is contesting China’s claim to an area shown on its maps as a nine-dash line stretching deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia, covering hundreds of disputed islands and reefs, and encompassing a vital global trade route.

The consensus among officials and analysts inside and out the region is that the ruling of the United Nations-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, expected to come within weeks, will go largely against Beijing.

US warnings

US officials have warned China against declaring an air defense identification zone (Adiz) in the South China Sea, as it did in the East China Sea in 2013, and against stepping up its building and fortification of artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago.

They say that beyond diplomatic pressure, the US response to such moves could include accelerated “freedom of navigation” patrols by US warships and overflights by US aircraft as well as increased defense aid to Southeast Asian countries.

Willett said that while it was still unclear how the arbitration tribunal would rule, “it isn’t in [China’s] interest to take additional provocative actions” after it does.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

EU calls for free passage

BRUSSELS—Countries must be free to pass through the South China Sea, the European Commission said on Wednesday, in its first diplomatic admonishment of Beijing after Chinese jets intercepted a US military plane over the contested waters last month.

The commission avoided directly criticizing Beijing, a major trade partner, but warned in a new policy document that it opposed “unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tensions,” in a sign of concern at China’s construction and militarization of artificial islands in the South China Sea.

“The EU (European Union) wants to see freedom of navigation and over flight upheld in the East and South China Seas,” the EU executive said in its doc-

ument, which is aimed at framing the bloc’s China policy over the next five years.

EU governments must still approve the document.

While the European Union says it is neutral in the South China Sea dispute between China and other Asian nations, Washington has been urging Brussels to speak out against Beijing’s claim to almost all the South China Sea.

Predatory approach

The United States says Beijing is taking a predatory approach to a vital trade waterway where Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and the Philippines have rival claims.

An international court in The Hague is expected to rule soon on China’s claims in a case brought

by the Philippines, although Beijing says it does not respect the court’s jurisdiction and the United Nations body does not have powers of enforcement.

In a further sign of tensions, Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited Natuna Islands in the South China Sea aboard a warship on Thursday to assert Jakarta’s sovereignty after Beijing said it had an “overlapping claim” over nearby waters. *(See story on Page A1.)*

In one of a series of recent encounters, two Chinese fighter jets intercepted a US military reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea in May, demanding that Washington end surveillance near China.

The interception came a week after China scrambled fighter jets as a US Navy ship sailed close to a disputed reef in

the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year.

Prime importance

“The large volume of international maritime trade passing through that area means that freedom of navigation and over flight are of prime importance to the EU,” the commission said.

“The EU should encourage China to contribute constructively to regional stability ... and support for the rules-based international order,” it said.

Despite the commission’s careful language, the European Union is increasingly concerned by the tensions and French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called this month for “regular and visible” European patrols in the South China Sea. *Reuters*