

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 08 JUL 2016

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

DENR DAILY NEWS CLIPPINGS

07 July 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Mayor seeks cancellation of forest land titles (news)

- Mayor Materno Luspian of Mankayan in Benguet has asked DENR to cancel 3 land titles covering 60 hectares
- It is exactly located in Barangay Bulalacao which serves as a water source for the villages of Bulalacao, Tabio and Poblacion
- DENR Dir Pablo ordered investigation of the complaint stating that land titles issued within communal forests are void.

Clock ticking for removal of barge from resort area (news)

- In Panglao Bohol, The Philippine Coast Guard in Bohol is asking a Cebu-based shipping to remove its cargo vessel that sank in the waters of Panglao.
- The reloating would take about 2 months

Other news

- Dagupan to turn waste into fuel
- US destroyers sail close to Sino-held reefs

MALAYA

\$15b and counting (Column by Jose Bayani Baylon)

- That United States estimated the natural wealth of Mindanao to be about \$70 trillion, said to be up to 70% of the Philippines total mineral resources.
- Observers of the mining industry feared that the selection DENR Sec Regina Lopez could shoo away investors and cause drying up on investor pipeline into Mindanao

Other News

- Mining firm allots P3M for PGH Philhealth Ward
- 13 miners ISO certified

MANILA BULLETIN

Duterte son sounds alarm on coastal garbage mess (news)

- Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte implements ban on the disposal of waste materials along coastlines and beachfronts
- That country's beaches face a threat of garbage ranging from cigarette butt, empty bottles and even medical wastes
- Davao City Vice Mayor Duterte espouses that shorelines, especially tourist destinations have not been given the needed attention when it comes to protection

Antique clamps down on quarry operations (news)

- Governor Rhodora J. Cadiiao issued a series of Executive orders to implement stricter measures on sand and gravel quarry operations in Antique.
- Quarry permits of 12 individuals were illegal as is does not conform with the provisions of the provincial ordinance regulating sand and gravel quarry operations.
- The illegal permits was issued to Helen Grace Varona of Sebaste, Nestor Khoyute of Tibiao, Othelo Yap of Calusi, Yoyeen Sumugat of Culasi, Carla Sabay of Culasi, Vincent Kasilag of San Jose and Maxnell Sentina of Sibalom.
- Their permits were done hurriedly despite the failure of the permit applicants to comply with all the requirements.

Aklan: DENR warn contractor (news)

- The DENR through RED Sampulna warned the Oriental Energy and Power Generation Project Corporation to stop its pre-development works because of illegally cutting trees.

Other News

- 2 lumads shot dead in Davao del Norte
- Majority of mining firms now compliant with ISO 14001
- Northern Samar: Patent titles distributed

MANILA TIMES

PNP condemns tribal leader's slay (news)

- PNP condemns the killing of Datu Ruben Labawan, a tribal leader in Panabo City known for his anti communist stance.
- Regional Director Chief Supt Manuel Gaerlan ordered the Acting Provincial Director of the Davao Del Norte Police to investigate the killing
- Labawan came from a meeting organized to discuss priority projects for the Lumads called the Sloping Agriculture Land Technology

Other News

- More miners take in DENR's ISO Challenge

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

2 lumads shot dead

- NPA Chief leader Ruben Labawan and Chieftain of the Ata-Manolo tribe in Paquibato district Romeo Tanio was shot dead.

Other News

- Philex, Silangan Mining Show ISO compliance
- A Law Each Day (Keeps Trouble Away)
- P65-B coal plant to rise in La Union

THE STANDARD

Lowdown (Column) Jojo A. Robles

- Eco-waste Coalition called on Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte to look into the awarding by the local council of the Davao City Coastline Port Development Project to Reghis Romero.
- Fuentes said the council failed to conduct consultation about the P40-billion project before it was awarded to Mega Harbour Port and Development Inc.
- Such that most people had not even heard the project.

Other news

- Shame of the generals
- Miners secure ISO

BUSINESS WORLD

Other news

- Mines chamber lists firms meeting ISO standard
- Santa Rosa City in Laguna named PHL's National Earth Hour Capital
- Coal Asia vows to help clients affected by ban on Indon vessels carrying coal to the Philippines

BULGAR

Hindi lang droga at krimen, problema sa kalikasan dapat ding tutukan (Column)

Fr. Richard Bulatong

- Hindi lang ilegal na droga at kriminalidad ang dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng bagong administrasyon-urgent din na matutukan ni Pangulong Digong ang suliranin sa kalikasan.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mayor seeks cancellation of forest land titles

BAGUIO CITY—The mayor of Mankayan town in Benguet province has asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel three land titles it issued for lands inside a communal forest there.

Materno Luspian said the titles covered 60 hectares of land within the communal forest of Barangay Bulalacao, which serves as a water source for the villages of Bulalacao, Tabio and Poblacion.

Luspian said the municipality had already detected signs of clearing in the forest. "Nobody was caught but we suspect the holders of the titles were behind these clearings," he said.

Ralph Pablo, DENR Cordillera director, ordered an investigation of the complaint, pointing out that titles issued within communal forests are void.

Luspian said the existence of the titled forest lots was discovered in 2011 when municipal officials stopped a group of villagers from developing portions of the Bulalacao forest.

"The people showed us the titles as proof of ownership of portions of the communal forest they were developing. When we investigated further, we confirmed that the titles were indeed issued by the DENR [in 1997]," Luspian said.

"Why would the DENR issue titles within a communal forest?" he said.

He said the municipal government would develop the Agaki water source inside the forest to serve at least five villages. **Kimberlie Quitasol,**
Inquirer Northern Luzon

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

LANGLAD, Boko—The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in Boko is asking a Cebu-based shipping firm to quickly remove its cargo vessel that sank in the waters off Panglao town to prevent further damage on the marine environment.

[illegible]

He said, "We will also be conducting a survey on Friday to check the damage on corals. The waters of Panglao are rich in marine resources."



THE BARGE Castor II as it starts to sink in waters off Panglao town, Bohol province, after running aground at the height of stormy weather on Sunday. LEO UD TO HAN INQUIRER VISAYAS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Dagupan to turn waste into fuel

DAGUPAN CITY—This city by the sea will start producing diesel for public utility jeeps and motorboats, and biogas for household use with a P385.4-million waste-to-fuel facility that will be built this year.

The facility will rise on a 1.93-hectare land in Tondaligan Park in Barangay Bonuan Gueset, part of a 72.18 ha of coastal land declared as site for parks and playgrounds. It will replace the decades-old open dump inside the park.

The project will ensure that "our garbage, our plastic debris, will not pollute our seas," Mayor Belen Fernandez said.

According to the National Solid Waste Management Commission, Dagupan is among the nine Pangasinan cities and towns still operating open dumps.

Fernandez said the project would need at least 30 metric tons of solid waste to produce biogas and to operate at 95-percent capacity.

The facility will be put up with the help of the US government, American firm Procter and Gamble, Asian Development Bank and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. **Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

US destroyers sail close to Sino-held reefs

HONG KONG—US destroyers have sailed close to Chinese-held reefs and islands in the disputed South China Sea in recent weeks, US naval officials said on Thursday, patrols likely to fuel tensions ahead of an international court's ruling on Beijing's sweeping maritime claims.

The destroyers Stethem, Spruance and Momsen have been patrolling near Chinese-held reefs in the Spratly archipelago and Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, which is near the Philippines, the officials said.

The patrols were first reported by the Washington-based Navy Times newspaper.

Pressure has been rising in the region ahead of a July 12 ruling by the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration on the dispute between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea in the Dutch city of The Hague.

From page A1

China has refused to participate in the case and vowed to ignore the ruling, which the United States insists is binding and an important test of Beijing's willingness to adhere to international law.

While not close enough to be within 21.6 kilometers—a so-called freedom-of-navigation operation that would require high-level approval—the destroyers operated within 25.2 to 36 km of the Chinese-occupied features, the Navy Times reported.

US carrier patrol

The USS Ronald Reagan and its escort ships have also been patrolling the South China Sea since last week.

Lt. Clint Ramsden, US Pacific Fleet spokesperson, said he could not go into operational or tactical details but that the patrols were part of a "routine presence."

"All of these patrols are conducted in accordance with international law and all are consistent with routine Pacific Fleet presence throughout the Western Pacific."

US Navy officials said Chinese naval ships, and sometimes fishing vessels, frequently track US ships in the South China Sea but it is not yet known if the presence of the destroyers attracted particular attention.

Manila is challenging the legality of Beijing's actions and claims to almost all of the South China Sea—the first legal case involving the South China Sea.

With legal experts expecting the ruling to go Manila's way, nullifying the basis for Beijing's territorial claims, US and other regional naval officials are

bracing for tensions in the weeks and months after the ruling.

Peaceful resolution sought

China frequently blames the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, where its territorial claims overlap in parts with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Speaking in Beijing following a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that while he could not comment on the Philippines' legal case, he called for a peaceful resolution of differences.

"I did stress to Minister Wang, as I have with all other countries involved, the need to resolve their differences in a peaceful manner and to avoid any escalation or misunderstandings that could put security and development in the region at risk," Ban said.

Forced arbitration

Wang repeated China's position that it also wanted a peaceful resolution, but that it could not accept forced arbitration.

"This approach will not help bring about a peaceful resolution of disputes. On the contrary, it would only escalate the disputes and tension and should be resisted by all countries and people who uphold justice," he said.

China has accused the United States of militarizing the waterway with freedom-of-navigation patrols, while Washington has expressed concern about China's building of military facilities on artificial islands it controls in the South China Sea.

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US destroyers sail close to Sino-held reefs



US SEA PATROL US destroyers Stethem, Spruance and Momsen have sailed close to Chinese-held reefs and islands in the disputed South China Sea in recent weeks.

US NAVY

In an editorial published on Wednesday, China's Communist Party newspaper People's Daily warned that there would be a "price to pay" if the United States crossed China's "bottom line" by meddling in the South China Sea disputes.

"If the United States, regardless of the cost, chooses the path of 'brinkmanship' that pressures and in-

timidates others, there will be only one result, that is, that the US bears all the responsibility for possibly further heightening tensions in the South China Sea," the editorial said.

On Tuesday, Chinese state-run newspaper Global Times wrote in an editorial that China should prepare for military confrontation over the South China dispute, but foreign ministry spokesperson Hong Lei played down the comment on Wednesday, saying China was committed to peace.

Hong said China would work with Southeast Asian countries "to safeguard the peace and stability of the South China Sea."

US response

US officials say the US response should China stick to its vow to ignore the ruling could include stepped up freedom-of-navigation patrols close to Chinese-claimed islands in what is one of the world's busiest trade routes.

In a telephone call on Wednesday, Wang told US Secretary of State John Kerry that the United States should do nothing to harm China's sovereignty and security in the South China Sea.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement that Wang told Kerry, who initiated the phone call, that the United States should stick to its promises not to take sides in the dispute.

China hopes the United States "speaks and acts cautiously, and take no actions that harm China's sovereignty and security interests," the statement paraphrased Wang as saying.

Wang also said relations between China and the United States were generally on a sound track and that the two sides should further focus on coopera-

tion while managing their differences.

Issues of mutual interest

The US state department confirmed that Kerry had spoken to Wang, without providing details.

"The two discussed issues of mutual interest. We are not going to get into the details on this private diplomatic conversation," said state department spokesperson Gabrielle Price.

US officials say they fear China may respond to the ruling by declaring an air defense identification zone in the South China Sea, as it did in the East China Sea in 2013, or by stepping up its building and fortification of artificial islands.

Ironclad commitment

On Wednesday, US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg reiterated that the US commitment to stand side by side with the Philippines was "ironclad" and extended to bringing legal, diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the South China Sea dispute.

"As allies, we stand together whenever the other is threatened and we will always continue to do so," Goldberg said in a speech during the celebration of the 240th anniversary of US independence in Manila.

In an interview with reporters after his speech, Goldberg said that while the United States was neither a party nor an observer in the arbitration case, it supported the Philippines and hoped parties would abide by the arbitral tribunal's ruling.

"We hope that it's observed, because the rule of law ... is always the best way [to deal with sea disputes]," Goldberg said. *Reports from Reuters and Estrella Torres*

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

\$15B and counting

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON



'For a while, observers of the mining industry feared that the selection of Regina Lopez could shoo away the investors and cause a drying up of the investor pipeline into Mindanao.'

THE Duterte Presidency provides Mindanao - long denied proper representation in the national government in Manila - a unique chance to shift the focus of investors towards the island. The island for the longest time has been called the "next frontier" of the Philippines.

Mindanao is the second largest island in the Philippines with a land area of 10 million hectares - one third of the country's total size - and is larger in size than 125 countries in the world. It is also the eighth most populous island in the world.

In 2011 it was reported that the United States estimated the natural wealth of Mindanao to be approaching \$70 trillion, said to be up to 70% of the Philippines' total mineral resources. These range from gold and copper to nickel, and may not even include natural gas reserves that are said to be buried in an area covering about seven provinces.

No wonder that for mineral resources exploration and utilization alone, investments that reach \$15 Billion have been planned for Mindanao and with a Mindanaoan now president, the transformation of plans into reality could be hastened.

Fifteen billion dollars is not loose change by any measure.

For a while, observers of the mining industry feared that the selection of Regina Lopez could shoo away the investors and cause a drying up of the investor pipeline into Mindanao. Her initial pronouncements were not helpful, and with videotapes of many of her previous public statements seemed to indicate that Lopez and the industry would be enveloped in controversy and lawsuits for the duration of the Duterte Administration. But this initial fear may turn out to be baseless, because Lopez has herself made an apparent about-face; while pronouncing very clearly in the past that "there is no responsible mining in the Philippines", last July 1 she stated very clearly during her first press conference as DENR secretary that "ISO 14001 is another way of saying responsible mining."

ISO 14001 certification had been mandated by her predecessor as Secretary, and mining operators complied. As per data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, more than half of the 42 large scale mining operations have obtained their ISO 14001 certification and the rest are in the process with fully complying with its requirements.

Which should be good news for Mindanao. Because if the \$15 billion in mining investments slated for Mindanao are to be implemented only by ISO 14001 certified mining firms, then Mindanao will reap the rewards of responsible mining that will create jobs and opportunities for the many on the island who today are part of millions who still live beneath the poverty line.

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Mining firm allots P3M for PGH PhilHealth Ward

HINATUAN Mining Corp. (HMC), an affiliate of Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC), has allocated P3 million to refurbish a ward at the state-owned Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Manila.

Jose Bayani "JB" Baylon, NAC vice president for corporate communications, said NAC-HMC noticed a vacant ward at PGH which was vacated when the Ophthalmology Department moved to the Jose Rizal Eye Center.

"It was easy for us to donate P3 million

for the project," said Baylon.

He said the funding for the PGH Philhealth Ward project was immediately approved by HMC vice president Rolly Cruz, NAC vice president for legal Atty. Bodeck Fernando, and NAC SVP Martin Antonio Zamora.

Dr. Gerardo D. Legaspi, PGH Director, said the Philhealth Ward should answer the needs of patients who want to be treated as private patients but cannot afford it.

"Someone paying for health insurance

should get good quality care from doctors and PGH as well and yet we have acceptable accommodation and comfort through the Philhealth Ward," said Legaspi.

Legaspi said the Philhealth Ward, which has 28 compartmental beds, is designed to enhance privacy of patients and reduce communicable infections.

"It is going to be an example for Philhealth to see how a well-run ward like that will offer more services to its members," he said.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

13 miners ISO certified

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said that 13 of its 21 metallic mine members, have secured the required International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 and are not in risk of being suspended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to operate and ship ores abroad.

The chamber also reported that eight members (tables on this page and page A4) are still on the process of securing the ISO 14001 certification.

It can be noted that the ISO 14001 certification was earlier required by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to all metallic mines with a deadline that expired last May 1. Under the order, mining firms who fail to secure it will not be given

See 13 MINERS ► Page A4

Compliant Miners

Company
Benguet Corp.
Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.
Philex Mining Corp.
OceanaGold Phils., Inc.
Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines, Inc.
Eramen Minerals Inc.
LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. *
Berong Nickel Corp. *
Rio Tuba Nickel Mines Corp.
Filminera Resources Corp.
Carmen Copper Corp.
Apex Mining Co. Inc. *
TVI Resources, Devt. Inc. *
CTP Contruction & Mining Corp.
Greenstone Resources Corp.
Hinatuan Mining Corp.
MarcVentures Mining & Dev. Corp.
Pacific Nickel Phils., Inc. *
Platinum Group Metals Corp. *
Philseaga Mining Corp. *
Taganito Mining Corp.
SR Metals Inc.

Continued

13 MINERS

with ore transport permit and will be prohibited to export minerals abroad.

Aside from metallic mines, non-metallic mines are now also required to secure the said certification for them to continue operating until next year.

Earlier, DENR secretary Regina Lopez ordered an audit on all existing mines since according to her, only 30 per cent from the 42 metallic mines in the country were able to secure the ISO 14001.

"Its my challenge to the mining companies, prove it. If you feel that your existence in the country is good then prove it... Should any mine be suspended or closed, I will take special care to make sure that anyone who works in the mine will not be disadvantaged," she recently claimed.

Lopez declined to provide the names of mining firms that are yet to secure the certification but mentioned that the results of the audit will be released next month.

In an earlier interview with the MGB, it also verified that SR Metals Inc., a firm that is not affiliated with COMP is also ISO

Non-Compliant Miners

Company
Philippine Gold Processing and Refining Corp.
Johnson Gold Mining Corp.
Mt. Sinai Mining Exploration and Dev't Corp.
Krominco Inc.
Cambayao Mining Corp.
Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.
Citilnickel Mines and Development Corp.
Berong Nickel Project
Carrascal Nickel Corp.
Oriental Synergy Mining Corp.
Sr Metals, Inc.
Adnama Mining Resources Inc.
Sinostell Phils. H.Y. Mining Corp.
Northwean Metals and Minerals Co., Inc.
Century Peak Corp.
Libjo Mining Corp./East Coast Resources Com., Inc.
Leyte Ironsand Corp.
Ore Asia Mining & Development Corp.
Strong Built (Mining) Development Corp.
Atro Mining - Vitall Inc./Hard Rock Mineral Trading Inc.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte son sounds alarm on coastal garbage mess

DAVAO CITY – Presidential son and this city's Vice Mayor Paolo Z. Duterte said that he is hoping that the administration of President Duterte implements a ban on the disposal of waste materials along coastlines and beachfronts.

Duterte, who is currently acting mayor, said in a statement that he wanted to be part of a campaign that would preserve the beauty and cleanliness of beaches.

Vice Mayor Duterte said that the country's beaches face a threat of garbage, ranging from cigarette butts, empty bottles as well as medical wastes.

"The irresponsible disposal of cigarette butts on our beaches, if left unchecked, will be a cause of a major problem in the future," said Duterte.

"If we are not going to do anything to stop this today, then we can only ex-

pect a bigger problem in the future."

The Baler example

Vice Mayor Duterte cited Baler as an example of areas that did not implement cleanliness drives in tourist areas like beaches.

This, despite Baler having a ban on drinking and smoking along its beaches.

But when he visited Baler to campaign for his father's presidential bid early this year, Paolo saw the extent of the town's problem.

"The problem showed that our shorelines, especially the tourist destinations, have not been given the needed attention when it comes to environmental protection," he said.

"The government has disregarded this very important task."

Smoking ban

According to Duterte, banning smoking on the beaches and Philippine shorelines is one of the best ways

to remedy this problem.

"We want to preserve the environment. We want to keep the beauty of our beaches," he said.

Davao City has been strictly implementing a smoking ban since 2002. In 2012, the ban was strengthened. Under the law, no one is allowed to smoke in all public places, including beaches.

Two years ago, the city filed a case against a beachfront owner for allegedly throwing medical waste at Talomo Beach. (Yas D. Ocampo)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

• **N.Samar: Patent titles distributed**

CATARMAN, N. Samar – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office 8 (DENR 8) based in Tacloban City recently distributed free patents for land titles to beneficiaries from this province. DENR-Eastern Visayas Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca awarded to titles to beneficiaries from the municipalities of Lavesarez, Bobon, Mondragon, Gamay, and Mapanas. The free patent titles are for agricultural purposes through DENR's Handog Titulo Program. Sibbaluca said the 218 free patent titles covering an area of 182.60 hectares were distributed to qualified beneficiaries in a simple ceremony held at the provincial capitol here, recently. Sibbaluca said that the land titles, which secure ownership of occupied land, can be used as collateral for loans to start a business or for other important needs. (Restituto A. Cayubit)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

2 lumads shot dead in Davao del Norte

By **ANTONIO COLINA**
and **YAS D. OCAMPO**

DAVAO CITY – Two lumads were shot and killed by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels at around 4 p.m. on Wednesday, after attending a forum organized by the National Commission for Indigenous People (NCIP) in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

Datu Ruben Labawan, 42, tribal leader of the Ata tribe of Paquibato District and his companion Romeo Tanio, 49, were shot from behind by armed men on board two motorcycles.

Capt. Rhyen B Batchar, chief of Di-

vision Public Affairs Office of the 10th Infantry Division, said that the two victims joined the convergence forum and consultation organized by the NCIP in Brgy. Gredu, Panabo, along with other lumad leaders and representatives of the national and local government agencies.

The meeting supposedly discussed pilot areas within lumad communities for the Slope Agriculture Land Technology, a farming method implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NCIP and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Municipal Agrarian Reform

Office and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office of Panabo.

Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, 1003rd Infantry Brigade commander, linked the killing to the communist rebels and questioned the group's sincerity in the resumption of peace talks.

But he added he is not also discounting the possibility that it could be due to "pangayaw," or tribal war, between the families of the two victims.

He vowed that the military will do its part to prevent further bloodshed involving lumads.

The Philippine National Police, meanwhile, echoed the condemnation of the death of the Lumad leader.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Antique clamps down on quarry operations

SAN JOSE De BUENAVISTA, Antique (PNA) — Governor Rhodora J. Cadio issued a series of Executive orders to implement stricter measures on sand and gravel quarry operations in Antique.

The issuance of three Executive orders was made this week after she was informed of some irregularities in the issuance or approval of quarry permits of at least 12 quarry operators by the previous administration.

It was learned that the approval of the quarry permits of Helen Grace Varona of Sebaste, Nestor Khoyute of Tibiao, couple Marilou and Christopher Maguad of Valderama, Natalie Dela Torre of Hamtic, Kim Nabalán of Sibalom, Rotsen Khoyute of Tibiao, Othelo Yap of Culasi, Yoyeen Sumugat of Culasi, Carla Sabay of Culasi, Vincent Kasilag of San Jose and Maxnell Sentina of Sibalom was done hurriedly despite of the failure of the permit applicants to comply with all the requirements as stipulated in the Provincial Sand and Gravel Quarry ordinance.

Provincial Legal Officer Atty. Arthur Lastimoso said that the approval of the quarry permits of these 12 individuals was illegal as it does not conform with the provisions of the provincial ordinance regulating sand and gravel quarry operations in the province.

"There is an existing Provincial Ordinance that should be the basis for the issuance of quarry permits but this ordinance was not followed," Lastimoso said.

Also on Monday, Gov. Cadio issued Executive Order No. 08 requesting Antique Provincial Police Office Director Sr. Supt. Louis Garong for police assistance in the implementation of the quarry ordinance to prevent untoward incidents that may arise with the recall of the 12 quarry permits issued to the above-named applicants.

"Gov. Cadio wants to ensure that the quarry ordinance is properly implemented and that no untoward incident would happen in the field. You know, some quarry operators may defy the recall and suspension of their quarry permits that we need police assistance," Lastimoso added.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

• **Aklan: DENR
warns contractor**

ILOILO CITY — For illegally cutting trees inside a reforestation site, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Western Visayas regional office (DENR-6) sternly warned the private firm that will build a P4.5-billion hydropower plant in Aklan. DENR-6 Regional Director Jim Sampulna told Manila Bulletin that Oriental Energy and Power Generation Project Corp. must stop pre-development works for its 18-megawatt (18-MW) hydropower plant in Madalag town. DENR-Aklan Director Ivene Reyes earlier disclosed that Oriental Energy chopped trees to pave way for construction of road networks. But these trees are within a 2.3-hectare site of DENR's National Greening Program (NGP). As early as April 2016, DENR-Aklan ordered Oriental Energy to stop its pre-development operations. However, DENR-6 found last June 2016 that Oriental Energy's subcontractor continued to cut trees for the road construction within the protected forest area. (Tara Yap)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Majority of mining firms now compliant with ISO 14001

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

In response to the new Environment Secretary Gina Lopez's call for responsible mining, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) came up yesterday with the list that will determine if mining companies are already compliant with international standards and it showed that most of its members already do.

COMP consists of companies coming from exploration, mining, mineral processing and services industries. Most of its members own the major mining operations in the Philippines.

During the past administration, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) mandated all mining companies to be certified with ISO 14001 - Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

The ISO 14001 - EMS standard requires every mining contractor the highest, most acceptable level of efficiency in terms of extracting minerals, while at the same time ensuring that the environment is not compromise.

It seeks a systematic framework to manage the immediate and long-term environmental impacts of an organization's products, services, and processes.

Lopez, upon taking over the DENR secretary position, then made a follow up on the list, wanting to make sure that all mining companies in the Philippines are compliant with this standard.

In its latest data, COMP said that as of now, 13 of its members have already complied with ISO 14001 standards,

while eight companies are still on the process of securing it.

The companies that are fully compliant are Benguet Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., Philex Mining Corp., OceanaGold Philippines, Inc., Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines, Inc., Eramen Minerals, Inc., Rio Tuba Nickel Mines Corp., Filminera Resources Corp., Carmen Copper Corp., Greenstone Resources Corp., Hinatuan Mining Corp., MarcVentures Mining and Development Corp., Taganito Mining Corp.

The ones that are yet to secure the certification are LNL Archipelago Minerals, Inc., Berong Nickel Corp., Apex Mining Co., Inc., TVI Resources Development, Inc., CTP Construction and Mining Corp., Pacific Nickel Philippines, Inc., Platinum Group Metals Corp., Philsaga Mining Corp.

"If a mine will have an ISO certification 14001, it means that its basic operations will be at par with international standards," Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Leo Jasareno said.

Lopez was also mandated by President Rodrigo Duterte to assess all the operations of mining companies in the country.

So aside from the ISO certification, these firms, including those that are not members of COMP, would likewise have to undergo an auditing process that should begin immediately.

"There will be an assessment of all existing mining operations. We have to evaluate them. It is non-negotiable. There will be an audit to all existing mines... Mining companies have to get their acts together," Lopez said in an earlier interview.

"I am not against the mining industry, I am against suffering. It's my challenge for the mining companies to prove their existence in this country," she added.

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PNP condemns tribal leader's slay

DAVAO CITY: The Philippine National Police (PNP) has condemned the killing of a tribal leader and his companion on Wednesday afternoon in Panabo City and vowed to solve the case.

Regional Director Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan has also ordered the acting Provincial Director of the Davao del Norte Police Provincial Office Director Senior Supt. Ferdinand Sifuentes to create a Special Investigation Task Group to look into the killing and exert maximum effort to solve the case and file appropriate charges against the assailants.

Datu Ruben Labawan, a tribal leader known for his anti-communist stance, was killed while his companion died later in a hospital due to gunshot wounds during an afternoon ambush staged by armed men in Purok Talong, Barangay Gredu in Panabo City, Davao del Norte on Wednesday.

Panabo City Police chief Alvin Saguban reported that six armed men on board three motorcycles staged an ambush killing on the spot the leader of the Ata tribe in Paquibato District while his companion, Romeo Escosar of Purok Mangga in

Barangay Gredu was injured but later declared dead on arrival at the Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) in Davao City.

Saguban said Labawan came from a meeting called by the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) for tribal leaders from Davao region at the RJ3 Restaurant in Panabo.

The meeting was organized to discuss a priority project for the lumads called the Slope Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NCIP, TESDA and the Municipal Agrarian Reform Office.

Labawan has been actively supporting the Peace and Development Outreach Program or Oplan Bayanihan of the Philippine Army that has been opposed by the New People's Army (NPA) and criticized by the progressive humanitarian advocates because it allegedly brings fear among the indigenous peoples in the hinterlands.

It was learned that Wednesday's incident was the second attempt on Labawan's life.

PNA

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

More miners take on DENR's ISO challenge

THE Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) is claiming that 14 out of its 22 members already ISO certified, which Environment Secretary Regina Paz Lopez cited as a benchmark to responsible mining.

The rest of the members are in the process of securing an ISO 14001 certificate. In a statement, said May Anne Cacdac, COMP spokesperson.

"We here at the Chamber commend our responsible members and commit to continue our responsible ways until all our member companies have fully complied with ISO 14001," Cacdac said. "Change is here through responsible mining."

The mining lobby issued the

statement in response to the challenge by the DENR secretary to prove mining companies deserve to continue operating in country.

Lopez earlier said that the DENR will conduct an audit of all mining operations as part of the process to weed out illegal and irresponsible miners. The assessment will focus on whether mining is safe for the country and will take a month to complete.

"ISO 14001 is just another way of saying responsible mining. If you're really responsible, like really responsible, then you have to have the highest standards and the standard we want for our beloved country is ISO 14001," she said.

Pangilinan-led Philex Mining Corp. was the first to take on the challenge, issuing a statement on Wednesday, saying that the company has been ISO-compliant even before the Duterte administration came into office.

Philex obtained its IMS Certification from TUV Rheinland as early as April 2015, while Silangan was recently awarded its ISO 14001 Certification last June.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo Jasareno said that 70 percent of the 42 operating mines in the Philippines have yet to secure an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 certification.

Established in 1996, the ISO 14001 EMS is a systematic framework to manage the immediate and long-term environmental impact of an organization's products, services and processes.

The requirement is mandated under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2015-07 signed by then Environment Secretary Ramon Paje early last year upon the recommendation of the MGB and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

DAO 2015-07 institutionalizes an environmental management system that ensures local mining operations adhere to international

►Miners B4

standards, particularly ISO 14001, as a measure of responsible mining.

It will ensure appropriate measures are in place to achieve minimal negative impact of mining on the environment, Jasareno said.

Executive Order No. 79 also guarantees the compliance of mining contractors with applicable mining and environmental laws, regulations, and requirements in mining operations while gearing towards growth.

The DAO covers all operating mines with valid and existing Mineral Agreement (MA) and Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA).

The ISO certified miners include Benguet Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., Philex Mining Corp., OceanaGold Phils. Inc., Ben-

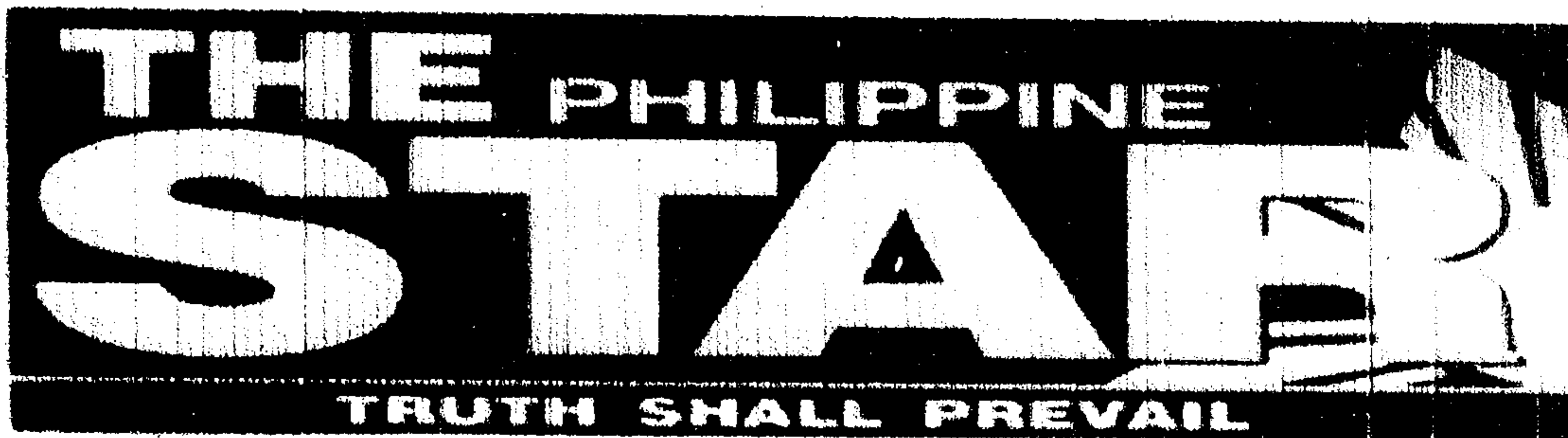
guet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc., Eramen Minerals Inc., Rio Tuba Nickel Mines Corp., Filminera Resources Corp., Carmen Copper Corp., Cagdianao Mining Corp., Greenstone Resources Corp., Hinatuan Mining Corp. (Tagana-an), MarcVentures Mining & Dev. Corp., and Taganito Mining Corp.

COMP members that requested for an extension of the compliance were LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc., Berong Nickel Corp., Apex Mining Co. Inc., TVI Res. Dev. Inc./Minimax

Mineral Explo. Corp., CTP Contruction & Mining Corp. (Adlay and Dahican), Pacific Nickel Phils. Inc., Platinum Group Metals Corp., and Philsaga Mining Corp.

Jasareno noted these companies requested for an extension beyond the April 30 deadline, noting that the application process usually takes at least a year to complete.

JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ



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Philex, Silangan Mining show ISO compliance

"We are compliant!"

This, in effect, was what both Philex Mining Corp. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Silangan Mindanao Mining Corp., said last Tuesday in response to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez's call for an audit of mining companies to be ISO-compliant or face suspension.i

In her first press conference held after assuming office, Lopez said securing an ISO 14001

(certification) is responsible mining.

"ISO 14001 is another way of saying responsible mining," she said. "If you're really responsible, like, responsible, then you have to have the highest standards, and the standards we want for our beloved country is ISO 14001." Lopez added "that's the law, that's what the President said, and then you follow the law."

Philex Mining Corp. obtained its IMS certification

from TUV Rheinland as early as April 2015, while Silangan Mindanao Mining Corp. was awarded its ISO 14001 certification in June this year before the Duterte administration came into office.

"With these certifications, we have emphasized our care for the environment and the safety of our people. Environmental awareness and looking after the safety of workers are the trademarks of a responsible miner," said Philex Mining CEO and president Eulalio

Austin, Jr.

An IMS certification covers all company processes and the management requirements on environment as well as quality and labor protection. It includes both ISO 14001:2004 certification for instituting a systematic approach for the improvement of performance in environmental protection and an OHSAS 18001:2007 certification, a recognized standard for the internal and external assessment of Occupational Health & Safety

(OH&S) Management Systems.

For Silangan Mindanao, meanwhile, its ISO 14001:2004 certification was awarded for its pre-mining development activities given by Certification International Philippines.

"This is hard proof of Silangan's hard work in establishing the culture of responsible mining. This certification is also a result of an actual audit done by an internationally accredited

independent group. We are probably the first mining company who received an ISO 14001 certification prior to the actual mining operation," said Yulo Perez, president and CEO of SMMCL.

Perez said the certificate was in compliance with DENR Administrative Order 2015 - 07, which required mining companies to secure ISO 14001 certificates to enforce environmental compliance and promote responsible and sustainable mining.

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A Law Each Day (Keeps Trouble Away)

By JOSE C. SISON

Friendly reminder

One week after the Duterte Administration has assumed power, people cannot really help but feel quite hopeful and encouraged that our country will finally be on the road to peace and prosperity. Foremost among the initial moves of Duterte that inspires optimism is his choice of cabinet members and head of important government agencies rendering basic services. Most of them create a feeling of confidence that improvement in public service is finally in sight. While some of them have occupied government positions in past administrations, their track record of service have been wholly satisfactory.



The choices indeed come from broad sectors of our society: the elite and the non-elite, the leftist and rightist, liberal and conservative. Most noteworthy however is that a number of them do not have such a close and intimate relationship with Duterte as would create the impression of exclusivity where complete transparency in government service may be eliminated. So far no one among them can be considered as a *kabarkada* in its strictest sense although there are some *kaeskvelas* from San Beda College and *kababayans* from Davao and other provinces in Mindanao. But apparently, their loyalty goes beyond the personal level and extends to the people in general unlike in the past administration where "*kayo ang boss ko*" is but an empty slogan and a publicity gimmick.

Another striking aspect in the new appointments is that all of them seem to know the problems in their respective departments that could not be solved or remained unsolved in the past administration. They are all aware of the existing situations that cry for immediate action because nothing has been done or could be done by Noyoy Aquino and his cohorts during the past six years. So they have already studied them and formulated concrete plans of action that will make people sit up, take notice and somehow feel some forthcoming improvements.

Most welcome indeed at this stage are the new members of the cabinet starting from the Executive Secretary, the *primus inter pares*, or the first among equals, Salvador Medialdea, Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Martin Andanar, Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano, Secretary of Agriculture Emmanuel Pinol, Secretary of Budget and Management Benjamin Diokno, Education Secretary Leonor Briones, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Regina Lopez, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr., Health Secretary Paulynn Jean Rosell Ubial, Secretary of Information and Communications Technology Rodolfo Salalima, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ismael Sueno, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, Secretary of Labor and Employment Silvestre Bello III, National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Secretary of Public Works and Highways Mark Villar, Secretary of Science and Technology Fortunato de la Pena, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Judy Taguiwalo, Tourism Secretary Wanda Corazon Teo, Secretary of Trade and Industry Ramon Lopez and Secretary of Transportation and Communications Arturo Tugade.

The list is quite impressive indeed. Most of them have careers in government and acquired a lot of experience in civil service and will therefore be almost "at home" in their new positions so that they will immediately be "off the ground and running."

Other notable appointees in strategic and important government bureaus and agencies are Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Cesar Dulay, Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Chairman Martin Delgra III, Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente, National Economic Development Authority Secretary Ernesto Pernia, Solicitor General Jose Calida, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., National Bureau of Investigation Director Dante Gierran, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Chief Isidro Lapena, and Philippine National Police Chief Ronald Dela Rosa also known as *Bato* to signify his rock-fisted style of fighting crime and lawlessness *ala* Duterte himself.

But even as Filipinos are already whiffing the fresh air of change and feeling its initial effects, they are somewhat still bothered and alarmed by other developments. And this is especially true in the fight against the drug menace and other heinous crimes which remarkably accelerated during the dying days of the previous administration.



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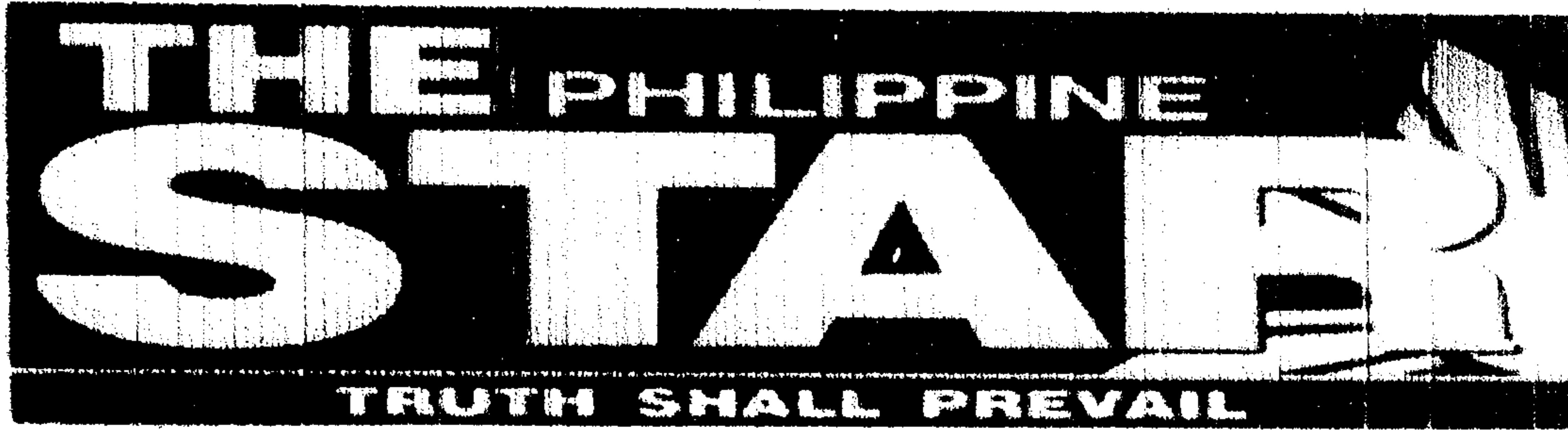
To be sure, the general public seems relieved with the surrender of thousands of drug dealers, pushers and users because of fear generated by the accelerated operations against them conducted by our law enforcers. This is a clear sign that the drug menace and other drug related crimes may be finally curbed. Yet they are also disturbed because so many alleged drug dealers, pushers have been killed in these increased operations conducted all over the country. Even if our law enforcers believe that the suspects are indeed guilty, our Constitution says that "no person shall be deprived of the right to life... without due process of law."

In his inaugural address President Duterte has already assured us that he knows the law and what is right or wrong. Such statement is reassuring indeed even if his iron-fisted approach against crime and corruption persists. In fact this novel approach and different style of fighting these twin evils besetting our country for so many years now appears to be effective. Since he assumed office a week ago, government officials and other civil service employees have become more efficient in doing their jobs. Red tape has been significantly cut. Government papers and other documents or certificates applied for, that took months or weeks before being issued are now readily available in a matter of days. Obviously the "8888" hotline to Malacanang appears to intimidate government workers into doing their jobs without waiting for some grease money in return.

But in his eagerness and apparently sincere desire to change the system of governance, he has still gone beyond the rule of law as shown by his recent announcement about the five Police Generals involved in illegal drug operations. He may have solid evidence but instead of going public about it, he should have instructed government prosecutors to file the appropriate charges against them so that both sides may be heard in the proper forum. The right to due process of law must still be upheld. Hopefully he takes this reminder as a friendly advice from one who wishes him to succeed for the sake of our country and people.

Email: attyjosesison@gmail.com





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P65-B coal plant to rise in La Union

LUNA, La Union – A P65-billion coal power plant will be constructed in Barangay Carisquis in this town.

The project will generate 600 megawatts of electricity, Luna Mayor Victor Marvin Marron told **The STAR**.

"The plant will be environ-

ment-friendly because it will be equipped with modern technology called supercritical pulverized coal power plant that prevents emission of polluted smoke," Marron said.

Marron said a series of public hearings was conducted after the project proponent, Global

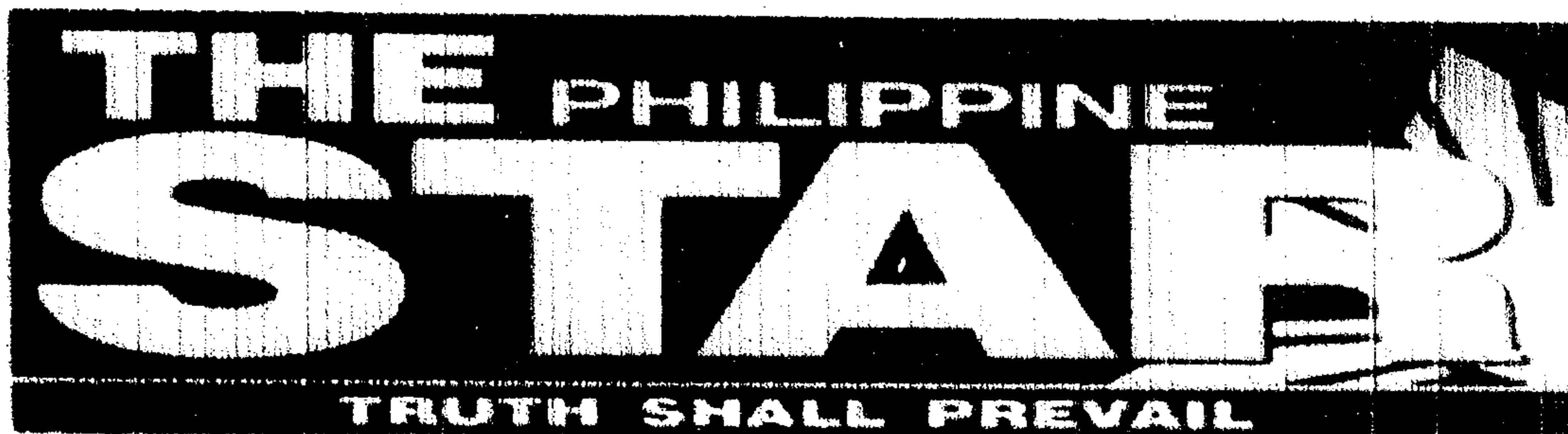
Power Corp. and Vivant Corp., issued a letter of intent to put up the power plant this year.

Municipal and provincial officials unanimously endorsed the project.

Marron said they were waiting for the issuance of an environmental compliance cer-

tificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

He said at least 3,000 workers would be needed to build the power plant. The plant is expected to generate P500 million in additional revenues from real property tax alone. – **Jun Elias**



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2 *lumads* shot dead

DAVAO CITY – Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels shot dead the leader of a *lumad* tribe and his associate along the national highway in Panabo City, Davao del Norte on Wednesday.

Capt. Rhyen Batchar of the public affairs office of the 10th Infantry Battalion identified the victims as Ruben Labawan, 42, chieftain of the Ata-Manolo tribe in Paquibato district, and Romeo Tanio, 49.

The victims had just attended a meeting organized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples at the RJ3 Restaurant in Barangay Gredu when unidentified men on two motorcycles shot them from behind.

The victims were pro-

nounced dead on arrival in a hospital.

Col. Ricardo Nepomuceno, 1003rd Infantry Brigade commander, condemned the attack even as he questioned the sincerity of communist insurgents to resume peace negotiations with the government.

Peace talks with communist rebels are set to resume in Oslo, Norway this month.

Maj. Gen. Rafael Valencia, 101st Infantry Division commander, said Labawan had actively worked with the government in identifying programs to alleviate the condition of *lumad* communities.

Pursuit operations have been launched for the rebels.

– Edith Regalado, Jaime Laude

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JUDD A.
ROBLES

An environmentalist group has questioned the awarding to a Manila-based businessman of a 200-hectare reclamation project along the coast of what is jocularly being called the new capital of the Philippines, Davao City. Ann Fuertes, executive director for Interface Development Interventions, an arm of the Ecowaste Coalition, called on presidential daughter and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte to

look into the awarding by the local council of the Davao City Coastline Port Development Project to Reghis Romero.

Fuertes said the council failed to conduct consultations about the P40-billion project before it was awarded to Mega Harbour Port and Development Inc., a new firm which Romero has formed. She said most people had not even heard of the project until after the ordinance approving the deal was passed on second reading by the council.

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Critics of the deal doubt if Romero can finish the project, as stipulated in the contract, in three years. They also asked if Romero's new company has the financial capability to undertake such a huge project.

These are important issues, considering Romero's track record in completing projects in partnership with the government. That record doesn't look good.

Under President Fidel Ramos, Romero's R-II Builders Inc. won a P6.6-billion

contract to transform the Smokey Mountain dumpsite in Tondo, Manila, into a mass housing and commercial center. After more than 20 years, the project has not been completed.

This, even after the National Housing Authority paid Romero P806 million for P211 million worth of work. That's why Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago once called the Smokey Mountain project "the most lopsided deal in Philippine history."

It is doubtful if Romero or his Mega Harbour have P40 billion to fund the

Davao project by themselves. But will any bank or consortium of banks advance him that kind of money for the Davao reclamation project?

Again, Romero's track record is a good guide. The Smokey Mountain contract required Romero and R-II to raise P6.6 billion in exchange for 40 hectares of reclaimed land. He has come up with only P300 million in financing so far.

But did the government punish Romero for his failure to fulfill his end of the bargain? On the contrary, the

government gave him not 40 but 79 hectares as a reward.

By rights, the reclaimed land in Smokey Mountain belongs to Home Guaranty Corp., which guaranteed the deal financially. But Romero refuses to hand over the property, which his company has rented out, with the proceeds going directly to him.

If President Digong Duterte really hates corruption, the Smokey Mountain deal should grab his attention. As would yet another deal between Romero and the government.

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IN BRIEF

Miners secure ISO

THE Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said most members have secured the International Standards Organization 14001- Environmental Management Systems certification.

The group made the statement after Environment Secretary Regina Lopez said all mining companies would be required to secure the ISO certification.

CoMP said of its 21 members, 13 mining companies had already secured the ISO 14001 certification. These firms include Benguet Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., Ocenagold Philippines Inc., Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc., Eramen Minerals Inc., Rio Tuba Nickel Mines Corp., Filminera Resources Corp. and Carmen Copper Corp.

Other mining companies which were able to secure the certification were Greenstone Resources Corp., Hinatuan Mining Corp., MarcVentures Mining & Development Corp. and Taganito Mining Corp.

COMP said the remaining eight members were in the process of securing the ISO certification.

These companies include LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc., Berong Nicjel Corp., Apex Mining Co. Inc., TVI Resources Devevelopment Inc., Minimax Mineral Exploration Corp., CTP Contruction & Mining Corp., Pacific Nickel Phils. Inc., Platinum Group Metals Corp. and Philsaga Minig Corp. Anna Leah E. Gonzales

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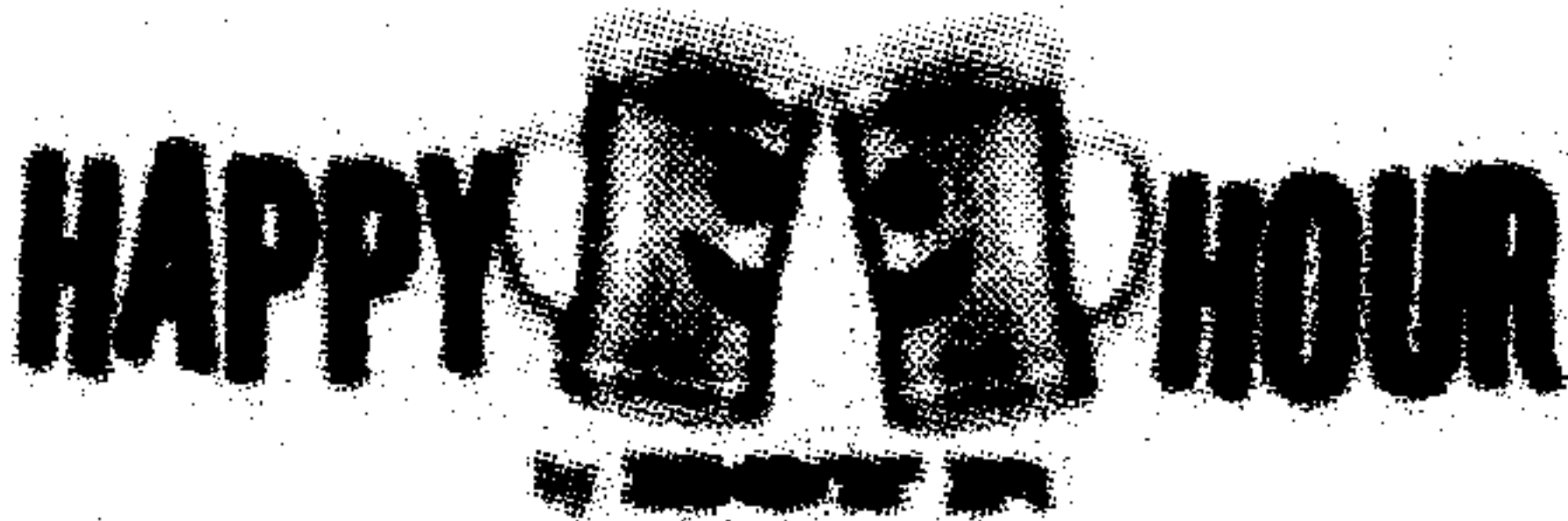
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Shame of the generals

AS EXPECTED, denials and protestations of innocence were issued by the generals who were called out by President Rodrigo Duterte as alleged drug protectors during the 69th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force in Clark. This bold move by the president has earned both admiration and concern.

Admiration because it is unprecedented and bolsters long-held suspicions that high-ranked officials are on the take and are some of the reasons why the drug menace continues to spread across the country. Concern because the "announcement" could result in trial by publicity with the implicated officials as good as guilty, what with the chief himself saying these generals are involved in the business of illegal drugs.

Aside from the generals, their loved ones and families will now be subjected to scrutiny and gossip naturally. Many Filipinos after all thrive on this national pastime and relish the thought that the once mighty are now fallen.

Duterte fans, however, believe the tough talking former mayor, who was also a prosecutor, would not have dared to name

names unless he had solid evidence to back up his accusations. Senator Ping Lacson, himself a former Philippine National Police Chief, says he has reason to believe the president must have strong evidence to substantiate his claims. Two of those named matched the information he has, the senator added.

While due process must be observed and that the accused be given the opportunity to defend themselves, this latest action of Duterte has convinced many that their votes were not wasted—because it takes a president with strong political will to do what he just did. While others were just content to whisper, sometimes even look the other way so as not to rock the boat, PDiggy said it loud and clear. And for those generals who are dirty and are in the list reportedly held by the president, it will soon be game over.

Philex takes up the Gina challenge

Reacting to Environment Secretary Gina Lopez's call for an audit of mining companies to be ISO 14001-compliant or face suspension, Philex Mining Corp. and its wholly owned subsidiary Silangan Mindanao Mining Corp. declared, "We are compliant!"

In a press statement, Philex disclosed that it obtained IMS certification from TUV Rheinland in April 2015 while SMMC received ISO 14001 certification just recently, in fact before President Duterte assumed office.

"With these certifications, we have emphasized our care for the environment and the safety of our people. Environmental awareness and looking after the safety of workers are the trademarks of a responsible miner," said Philex

president and chief executive Eulalio Austin Jr.

An IMS certification covers all company processes and the management requirements on environment as well as quality and labor protection.

SMMC's ISO 14001: 2004 certification was awarded for its pre-mining development activities by Certification International Philippines – proof of "Silangan's hard work in establishing the culture of responsible mining," said SMMC president and chief executive Yulo Perez. "This certification is also a result of an actual audit done by an internationally accredited independent group. We are probably the first mining company who received an ISO:14001 certification prior to the actual mining operation," Perez added.

According to MVP Media Bureau head and Philex senior vice president for public and regulatory affairs Atty. Mike Toledo, Philex and SMMCI have both set the benchmark and inspiration for other mining companies to follow as evidenced by the said IMS and ISO certifications, along with numerous awards on corporate governance and sustainability and active participation in government transparency initiatives. In their combined 60 years of operations, both companies have been living the tradition of responsible mining, Toledo stressed.

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For comments, reactions, photos, stories and related concerns, readers may email to happyhourtoday2012@yahoo.com. You may also visit and like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/happyhourmanilastandard>. We'd be very happy to hear from you. Cheers!

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Mines chamber lists firms meeting ISO standard

THE Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) late Wednesday released a list of its members that have secured International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification.

"We here at the Chamber commend our responsible members and commit to continue our responsible ways until all our member companies have fully complied with ISO 14001," read the COMP's e-mail sent along with the list.

The organization was updating the industry's compliance with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 2015-07, re-

quiring compliance for all metals miners with the standard, which lays out best practices in environmental management for many types of industries.

The chamber listed the following companies as fully compliant:

Benguet Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., Philex Mining Corporation, OceanaGold Phils., Inc., Benguet Corp., Nickel Mines, Inc., Ermen Minerals, Inc., Rio Tuba Nickel Mines Corp., Filminera Resources Corp., Greenstone Resources Corp., Carmen Copper Corp., Hinatuan Mining Corp. (Tagana-an), MarcVen-

tures Mining & Dev. Corp., and Taganito Mining Corp.

The chamber added that Cagdianao Mining Corp., and Hinatuan Mining Corp., units of Nickel Asia Corp., are also ISO-certified.

Earlier, Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Leo L. Jasareno said that out of the 42 operating metals mines, only 30% or 13 or 14 companies have fully complied while others are going through the process.

Chamber members still undergoing certification are LNL Archipelago Minerals, Inc., Berong Nickel Corp., Apex Mining Co., Inc., TVI Res. Dev. Inc./

Minimax Mineral Explo. Corp., CTP Construction & Mining Corp. (Adlay & Dahican), Pacific Nickel Phils., Inc., Platinum Group Metals Corp., and Philsaga Mining Corp.

In a phone interview, Nelia C. Halcon, the chamber's executive vice-president said that some companies still securing their ISO certification may have requested for consideration.

"The process entails a lot of paperwork by audit certifying companies which includes a certifying authority that is internationally-accredited," Ms. Halcon said in a phone interview.

Failure to obtain certification means suspension of the mining company's environmental compliance certificate (ECC) and non-issuance of ore transport (OTP) and/or mineral ore export permits (MOEP). The lack of these permits effectively bars the firm from transporting and exporting its mineral ores.

The deadline for the certification was April 30 but miners that did not fully complied with the mandate requested former DENR Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje for an extension.

Asked on whether an extension will be granted for those still undertaking the process, Envi-

ronment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez said in a mobile message: "All mines that cause suffering to the people must be closed."

"The President's clear instruction is for the common good and the rule of law, and that is exactly what I intend to do," Ms. Lopez added.

Sought for comment, Jose Bayani D. Baylon, vice-president for corporate communications NickelAsia, one of the ISO-compliant metallic miners, said in a text message: "The DENR secretary has described ISO certification as 'another way of saying responsible mining' and all we can say is Amen!" — **Janina C. Lim**

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Santa Rosa City in Laguna named PHL's National Earth Hour Capital

HALF OF all people live in cities, which generate 70% of global CO2 emissions. As more Pinoys troop to these increasingly-crowded hubs to find jobs — heavy traffic, polluted air, clogged waterways and rising living costs have become a daily urban reality for millions. Three cities, all finalists for WWF's Earth Hour City Challenge, are showing the country what can be done to make our cities a little greener.

Proclaimed as the Philippine Earth Hour National Capital, Santa Rosa City in Laguna has initiatives ranging from the erection of solar street lights to the construction of a composting facility designed to minimize landfill waste. Santa Rosa City will now be recognized along with 2016 Global Earth Hour Capital Paris this coming October in Quito, Ecuador. Santa Rosa City additionally placed 5th in WWF's We Love Cities Campaign, a related social media contest which was won by Bogor, a green city in Indonesia.

Placing 4th in the We Love Cities Campaign is San Carlos City in Negros Occidental, which has positioned itself as the emerging Renewable Energy (RE) hub of Asia, hosting two solar parks, a bioethanol, plus a biomass power plant. WWF believes that a swift but careful transition to RE is critical to curb climate change.

Not to be outdone, Makati City in the National



Capital Region is developing a center to provide *barangay* officials with the basic knowledge and design skills to be able to promote urban design projects designed not just to be eco-friendly, but to promote the respective cultural identity of each *barangay*. Makati placed 19th in the We Love Cities Campaign.

First launched in 2011, WWF's Earth Hour City Challenge is a year-long initiative designed to mobilize action and support cities in the global transition towards a climate friendly and one-planet future by stimulating the development and dissemination of best practices for climate mitigation and adaptation. Seven Philippine cities joined in August 2015 — Cagayan de Oro, Makati, Naga, Parañaque, San Carlos, Santa Rosa and Quezon City. A total of 124 cities from around the world joined the 2015 to 2016 challenge.

The We Love Cities Campaign on the other hand, uses the power of social media to raise additional awareness for the 47 entries of the Earth Hour City Challenge, while giving the public a chance to celebrate, vote for and suggest improvements for their home cities. WWF-Philippines ran the We Love Cities Campaign from 13 May to 26 June 2016.

WWF-Philippines will recognize all three finalist cities in Manila on Aug. 12. "Each of our seven cities is a winner. We want to promote their solutions to hasten the transformation of our own urban hubs into eco-friendly, stress-free and low-carbon living spaces," says Earth Hour Philippines Director Atty. Gia Ibay. "Traffic, smog and garbage don't have to be our daily realities. We CAN make our cities more liveable and sustainable. The solutions are already here."

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Coal Asia vows to help clients affected by ban on Indon vessels carrying coal to the Philippines

COAL Asia Holdings Inc. on Wednesday said it would extend assistance to its clients affected by the ban of coal shipment to the Philippines by vessels bearing the Indonesian flag.

"Due to Indonesia's recent repeated ban of its flagged coal vessels to sail to the Philippines, Coal Asia and its subsidiary Titan Mining are prepared to assist their clients to cushion the impact of the shortfall in coal import by making available its equivalent local resources," said Coal Asia in a disclosure to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

Earlier, Coal Asia reported its annual production capacity of high-grade coal is less than 100,000 metric tons. It has two mining facilities in Davao Oriental and Zamboanga—both held through its fully owned unit Titan Mining Energy Corp.

In the same disclosure, Coal Asia said its subsidiary has completed another 1,000-MT coal shipment to Sarangani Energy Corp. (SEC) located in Maasim, Sarangani province.

SEC's second 105-megawatt (MW) section of the 210-MW baseload coal-fired power plant is expected to begin operating in 2018.

SEC Section 1 began operating in April, providing 105 MW of much-needed additional baseload power to more than 3 million residents of Sarangani province, General Santos City, and other key areas of Mindanao.

When it reaches its full 210-MW capacity in 2018, SEC will be

serving over 6 million people in key population areas in Mindanao.

The \$570-million SEC power plant is the single largest investment in Sarangani province and the entire Region 12.

Earlier, the Department of Energy (DOE) dismissed fears the country's coal supply would be immediately affected by the Indonesian ban on coal shipments to the Philippines.

"The coal itself may come from Indonesia, but the vessel that will transport the coal to the Philippines does not bear the Indonesian flag. Remember the travel ban is only for vessels bearing the Indonesian flag," former Energy Secretary Zenaida Monsada said.

"Besides, only small ships would be affected. The vessels that transport coal to the Philippines are usually large ones and do not carry the Indonesian flag," she said.

The country's coal supply is mostly sourced from Indonesia because it is cheaper.

DOE records showed the country imported 16.55 million metric tons (MMT) of coal from Indonesia in 2015. The volume represented 95.11 percent of the country's total coal importation last year, which stood at 17.4 MMT.

Aside from Indonesia, the country's coal supply is being sourced from Russia, Australia and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the country's total consumption of coal stood at 22 MMT. Of this volume, coal used for power accounted for 79.77 percent.

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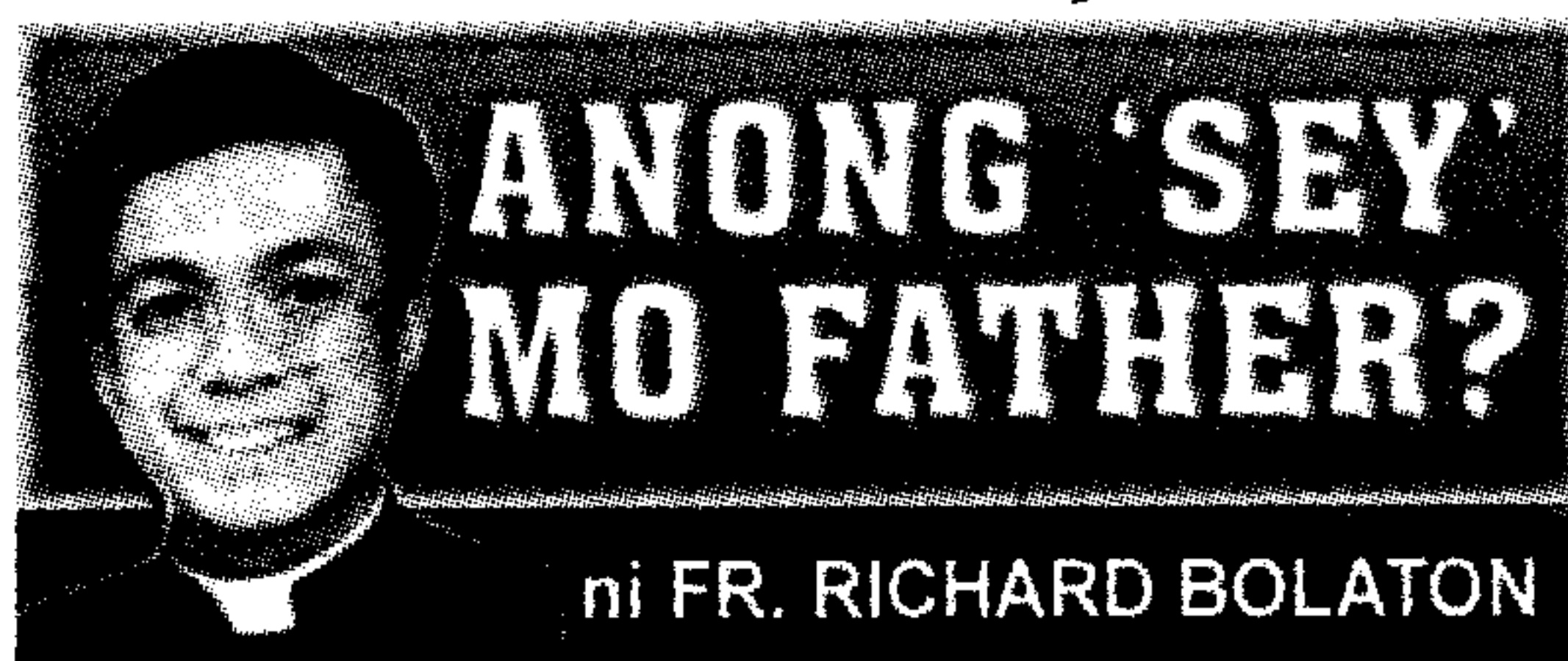
ISANG taon matapos ilathala ni Pope Francis ang kanyang *Liham Ensiklikal 'Laudato Si'* tungkol sa pangangalaga aniya sa kalikasan at mundo na "tahanan nating lahat," nanawagan kamakalawa si Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle sa lahat ng mananampalataya na seryosohin ang hamon ng Banal na Papa.

Ayon sa butiing Cardinal na itinalaga ni Papa Francisco bilang pinuno ng *Caritas Internationalis*, global organization ng Simbahang-Katolika na ang mission ay "to build a better world", ang challenge ngayon ay "to turn the document into action," alinsunod sa panawagan ng pahanon tungo sa "integral ecological conversion."

Paanyaya ng prelado, "let us take the bold step of reviewing and changing our lifestyle, our patterns of consumption, of spending." Ipinahayag ni Tagle ang pag-asang mas lumawig at lumalim pa ang interes ng mga may tunay na malasakit sa mga darating na henerasyon tungkol sa napakahalagang usaping ito.

Itinuturing ng Cardinal na "gift to the whole of humanity" ang napapanahong liham ni Papa Francisco. "We at Caritas, witnessed in many parts of the world how caring for the poor is closely tied to caring for the earth," paliwanag niya. Kapag nagdurusa raw ang sangnilikha, "it is the most vulnerable people who suffer the most." aniya.

Dagdag pa ng Obis-



Hindi lang droga at krimen, problema sa kalikasan dapat ding tutukan!

po, "We realized too, that the earth would only be a beautiful home for all of us if we all take responsibility of it." Tulad ng pahayag ng Banal na Papa Francisco, nanawagan ang Arsobispo ng Maynila sa lahat ng sektor na makialam, makisangkot at makiambag sa urgent issue.

Noong Hunyo 18 ng nakaraang taon, inilimbag ng Vatican ang kauna-unahang encyclical ng Santo Papa tungkol sa kalikasan. Itinuturing itong "landmark document" para sa pagbabagong-loob at samasamang pagkilos sa pagpapahalaga at pagpapanatili ng likas na yaman ng daigdig sa kapakanan ng kasalukuyan at maging sa mga paparating na panahon.

Patuloy na umaalingawngaw ang mga salita ni Pope Francis sa puso'tisip ng mga nagmamahal at nagmamalasakit para sa higit na kabutihan ng lahat— "na ang suliranin sa kalikasan ay isa lamang sa mga bunga o sintomas ng mas malawak na problemang may kaugnayan sa politika, ekonomiya, kultura, edukasyon, espirituwa-

na pagsasalalay natin sa mga solusyon ng teknolohiya.

Panahon na upang ituon ang ating sarili hindi lamang sa mga problemang hinaharap ng bansa at lipunan ngayon, kundi sa nakaba-

bagabag ding kondisyon na dulot nang pagbabago sa klima at pag-init ng daigdig dahil sa ating kapabayaang. Seryosong hamon ito sa ating lahat upang simulan nang pangalagaan ang iisang tirahan nating lahat!

lidad at lahat ng aspeto ng buhay ng tao."

Bilang tugon sa paanyaya ng Simbahan dito sa ating bansa, inilunsad ng Caritas Philippines ang Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) na naglalayong ilunsad ang isang agenda para sa "development and ecology" na magbibigay-prayoridad sa mga pangangailangan ng mga mahihirap tulad nang nakasaad sa encyclical.

Samakatwid, hindi lang ilegal na droga at kriminalidad ang dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng bagong administrasyon— urgent din na matutukan ni Pangulong Digong ang suliranin sa kalikasan. Lubos nga ang ating pasasalamat sa pagtatataga niya ng isang kalihim para sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na tunay na makakalikasan.

Kaisa ng Kanyang Kabanalan Papa Francisco, sama-sama nating baguhin ang mga pag-uugaling humahadlang sa solusyon na nagmumula sa pagtangg sa problema o sa kawalang-pakialam, sa kikit-balikat na pagtanggap dito o sa bulag

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

By Leo Villanar
Inquirer Staff

PANGLAO, Bohol — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) today is asking a Cebu-based shipping firm to quickly remove its cargo vessel that sank in the waters off Panglao town to prevent further damage on the marine environment.

The PCG said it is asking the shipping firm to remove the vessel from the waters off Panglao town, Bohol province, after it ran aground Sunday night. The vessel, a cargo ship, is currently stuck on a reef and is leaking oil into the sea.

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THE BARGE Castor II as it starts to sink in waters off Panglao town, Bohol province, after running aground at the height of stormy weather on Sunday. LEON VILLANAR