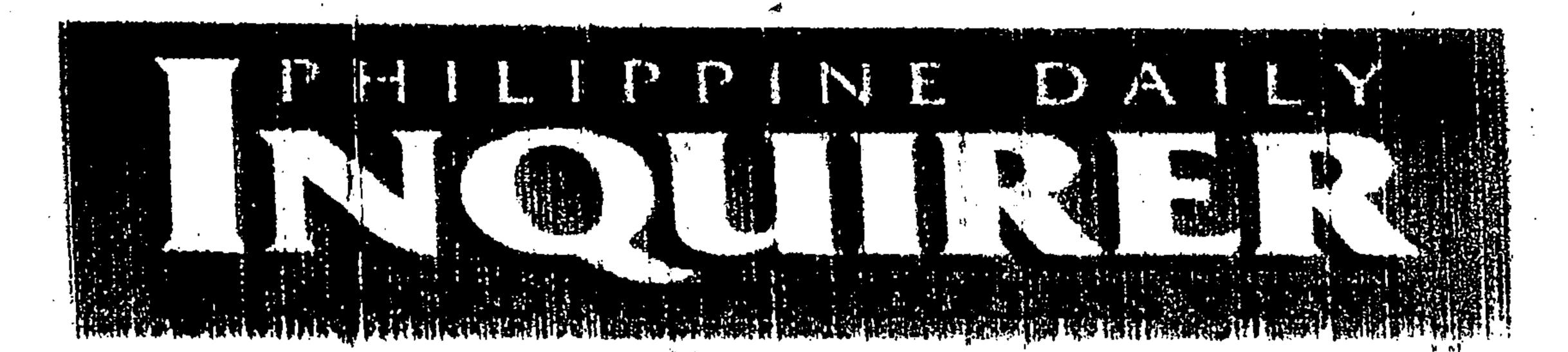
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

2 Zambales mining firms suspended

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MINES and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has ordered the suspension of two nickel mines in Zambales until they have complied with six conditions.

In an order dated July 7, the MGB's Central Luzon office ordered Zambales lution to give due course to the petition for Diversified Metals Corp. (ZDMC) and Benguetcorp Nickel Mines Inc. (BNMI) to stop their operations immediately.

In issuing the suspension order, the MGB cited as reasons the writ of kalikasan that the Supreme Court issued in June against ZDMC and BNMI, along with the other mining firms that operate in Zambales.

In a statement following the issuance of the writ of kalikasan, BNMI said it would work for the reversal of the suspension.

"We respect the Supreme Court's resowrit of kalikasan, but we categorically deny that the petition has legal and factual merits," BNMI said.

"We will reiterate our position in the court and have the petition dismissed in accordance with the law," it added.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Change has come but climate change was first

RECOGNIZING THE reality of a climate crisis heading toward more disasters, Climate Reality Project Philippines hopes that newly installed President Duterte and his administration will push for the ratification of the Paris Agreement; act on the intended nationally determined contribution to reduce carbon emission by 70 percent by 2030; prioritize the development and use of renewable energy sources; and require all local government units to formulate and implement local climate change action plans and to maximize the People's Survival Fund.

It may be noted that on the matter of reducing carbon emission, opportunities and assurances for finance and support are available. For this reason, the government should stop all ongoing construction work on coal-fired power plants and review all approved contracts on such projects.

We also appreciate President Duterte

and his agriculture secretary's recent pronouncements on climate adaptation, especially in the field of agriculture. We hope that in doing so, the new administration will pass policies on: the prohibition of genetically modified organisms; the promotion of indigenous knowledge, systems and practices; and sustainable, organic farming while integrating technologies which will not harm ecological balance.

Climate Reality Project Philippines is elated to know that in the first meeting of the Duterte Cabinet, among the most urgent concerns discussed, the President emphasized the issue of disaster risk reduction and management in relation to climate change. The mere recognition of the reality of climate change is a sign of hope that his administration will seriously work on mitigation and adaptation. Hoping that Resolution No. 2016-001 (on

developing a clear policy on coal-fired power plants in pursuit of a low carbon development pathway for the Philippines) of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Executive Order No. 2016, s 2016 (adopting a policy to ensure sustainable renewable energy resource management and mandating the Department of Energy to lead in its implementation) be continuously implemented by the concerned agencies, encouraged by the President's political will for genuine climate action.

We call on the DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to work together with the CCC to once and for all address the issue of coal mining and power plants and lead the use of renewable energy in government offices and official residences.

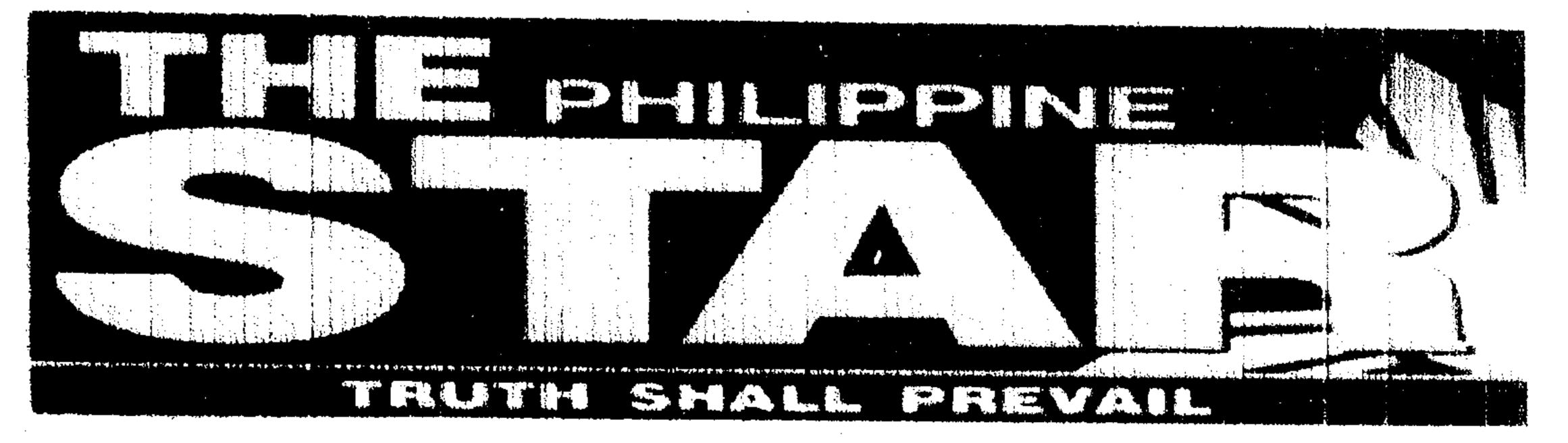
Indeed, change has come, but climate change came here first.

Congratulations, President Duterte!

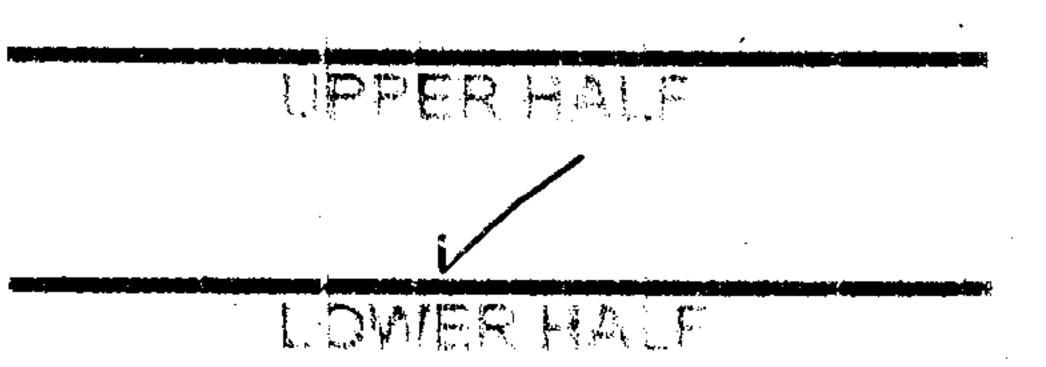
Nobel Laureate and former US vice president Al Gore got the world talking about climate change with the Academy Award-winning film "An Inconvenient Truth." It was just the beginning of a climate revolution; later that year, he founded The Climate Reality Project to move the conversation forward-from awareness to action.

Climate Reality Project Philippines is a diverse group of more than 500 passionate Filipino individuals who have come together to help solve the greatest challenge of our time. We are cultural leaders, marketers, organizers, scientists, storytellers and more, and we are committed to building a better future together.

-RODNE R. GALICHA, Philippine manager, The Climate Reality Project, pangkalahatan@gmail.com



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INTIATIVES SERVICE

DENR suspends

Zambales-based mining firms

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has suspended the operations of four mining companies in Zambales for breach of environmental standards.

Suspended by the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) were Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc., Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. and Eramen Minerals Inc.

The suspension followed

the Writ of Kalikasan issued by the Supreme Court against the four mining firms, said MGB director Leo Jasareno.

Jasareno clarified the preventive suspension against the companies had nothing to do with the audit ordered by newly-installed Environment Secretary Gina Lopez on all mining firms operating in the country.

"The suspension order – signed by the regional directors of the MGB, DENR, and Environmental Management Bureau- is effective immediately," he said.

The suspension covers all extraction of nickel ores and the future expansion of mining areas. It will be implemented until companies employ a sys-. tematic mining method with defined benches and cleaning.

The MGB also required the companies to have desig-

nated stockpile areas that are equipped with proper drainage system in line with the conditions of their environmental compliance certificates.

The government regulator also ordered the firms to employ proper care and maintenance measures for the duration of the suspension – including the continuous implementation of all environmental protection and

enhancement programs.

Last month, the High Court already issued a Writ of Kalikasan on the four companies and Shangfil Mining and Trading Corp. and ordered the Court of Appeals to conduct hearings to determine if a temporary environmental protection order should be issued.

This is not the first time that the firms' operations were suspended by the government as a similar order was issued in

July 2014.

The new administration remains firm on its thrust of suspending mining companies that fail to secure international certification on safety standards as it calls for responsible

mining in the Philippines.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) disclosed Thursday that Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc., and Eramen Minerals Inc. were ISO: certified.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INTIATIVES SERVICE

The Philippines is willing to share natural resources with Beijing in contested South China Sea areas even if it wins a legal challenge to China's maritime claim next week, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said yesterday.

Yasay said President Duterte's administration hopes to quickly begin direct talks with China following an international tribunal's verdict on the case, with the negotiations to cover jointly exploiting natural gas reserves and fishing grounds within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"We can even have the objective of seeing how we can jointly explore this territory: how we can utilize and benefit mutually from the utilization of the resources in this exclusive economic zone where claims are overlapping," Yasay told AFP in an interview.

The Philippines, under the previous Aquino administration, filed in 2013 a legal challenge with a UN-backed arbitral tribunal in The Hague contesting China's claims to nearly all of the strategically vital sea.

China's claims reach almost to the coasts of the Philippines and some other Southeast Asian nations, and the Asian

Turn to Page 12

Duterte From Page 1

giant has in recent years built enormous artificial islands in the disputed areas to enforce what it says are its indisputable sovereign rights.

The Philippines' case enraged China, which repeatedly vowed to ignore the tribunal's ruling and is currently holding military drills In the northern part of the sea as a show of force.

Duterte, who took office on June 30, has adopted a more conciliatory approach to China than Aquino.

The previous president refused to hold direct talks, and likened China's expansionist efforts in the sea to Nazi Germany's march on parts of Europe ahead of World War II.

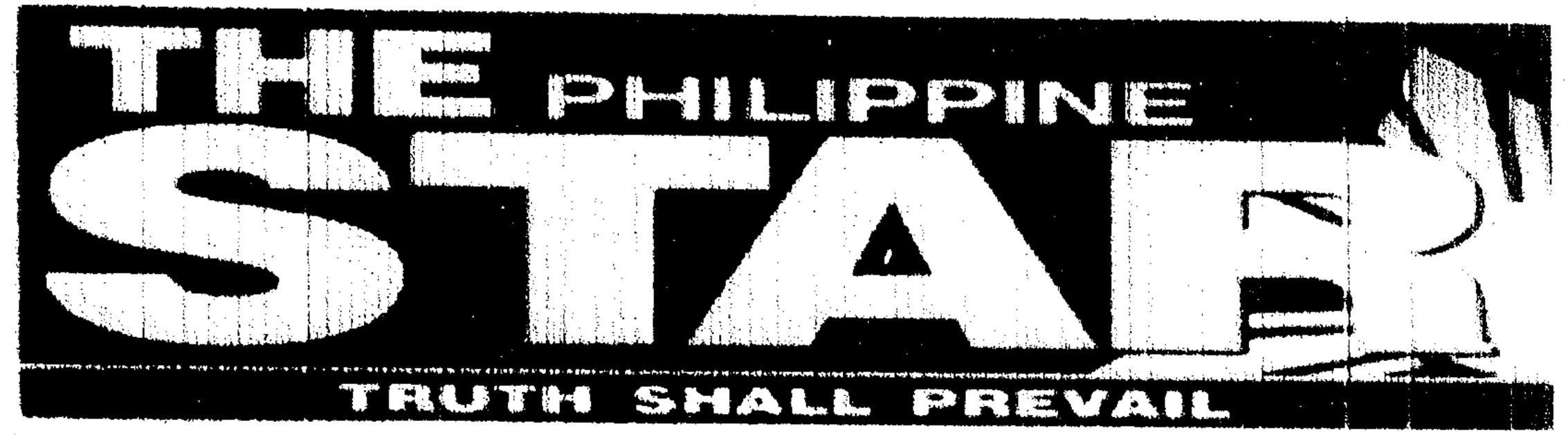
Yasay signaled yesterday that Duterte would be making no such analogies, emphasizing his administration would seek to ensure the best possible relations with China.

"I would like to be forward-looking on these matters," he said when asked to comment on Aquino's Nazi statement.

"I would like to make sure whatever actions this administration will take, the statements we will be making will be in the pursuit of strengthening our relationship with everybody and will be for the purpose of making sure there will be no stumbling block to our negotiating a peaceful solution to the issue."

He also said China and the Philippines had agreed not to make any "provocative statements" following the release of the ruling.

Yasay said after the ruling is released, the Philippines would study it closely, discuss it with allies and then



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INTIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte open to joint exploration with China

seek to launch talks with China "as soon as possible."

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) falls within 200 nautical miles of its coast. A nation has sovereign rights to exploit natural resources in that zone. Both China and the Philippines are signatories to UNCLOS.

Fish, drill together

Yasay said the Philippines was open to sharing Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, a rich fishing ground within the Philippines' EEZ that China took control of in 2012 and has banned Filipino boats from entering. The shoal is also called Bajo de Masinloc.

"It's my understanding that in the long course of history, Scarborough Shoal has been the traditional fishing grounds not only for Filipinos but also for Vietnamese, sovereignty would not be he said at a forum in Quezon approach. - With AFP, Romina Chinese. We can continue solved for many years, de- City.

with this arrangement," he scribing it as a "generational

God-given for all and for work cooperatively. everyone to enjoy. We can work at joint benefit in so far with China's ambassador as using the marine resources Zhao Jianhua on Thursday. put it aside and continue in the area."

Yasay said the Philippines would also consider jointly exploring a natural gas field is similarly within the Philip- da also said the Philippines mienda added. pines' EEZ and far from Chi-should consider joint devel-

est to do that and that will be case in The Hague. a big step forward if everyone asked about jointly developing Recto Bank.

Yasay insisted the Philippines would not concede any of its rights in the sea.

"The resources there are ants must in the meantime

Duterte and Yasay met fairs yesterday.

"We may win some or lose

He added the Philippines issue," and that rival claim- and China should set aside the ruling "for future generations" and begin discussions at once as equals.

"Both sides can agree to Zhao was seen again at the with the bilateral talks. No Department of Foreign Af- country will lose face because of anything because Former foreign assistant both states are just pushing at Recto (Reed) Bank, which secretary Alberto Encomien- their vital interest," Enco-

He said he remains optina's nearest major landmass. opment and exploration of mistic of a fruitful relation-"I think it would be in the disputed areas with China, ship between the Philippines pursuit of our national inter- whether it wins or loses its and China under the Duterte administration.

He added the three meetcan agree on proceeding on some but the bottom line is, ings between Chinese digthat basis," Yasay said when the best way to go whichever nitaries and Duterte should the arbitration comes down, be considered proof of both whether you set it aside or sides' readiness to reconnot, is to go ahead with dis- nect with each other. He also cussing the joint exploration lauded Duterte's wait-andand development. That is the see handling of the issue as But he said the issue of soft way to go to reconnect," against Aquino's "too noisy"

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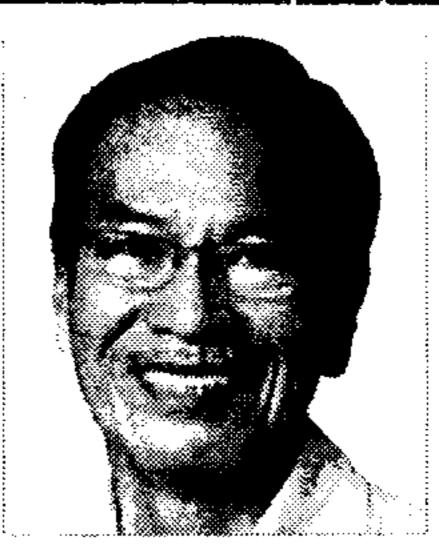
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

At Ground Level

By SATUR C. OCAMPO



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Self-restraint must prevail over SCS row

Both by its extensive propaganda blitz and by conducting military drills in the Paracels, China seeks to impress upon the world its resolve to assert sovereignty over almost all of the South China Sea – no matter how the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration will decide: to uphold or negate such a claim. The decision is set to be issued this coming Tuesday.

The Philippines has challenged the basis for the claim – a "nine-dash line" map drawn up in 1947 that encompasses several of our maritime claims and those of other neighbor nations. In 2013 the Aquino government filed a case at the arbitral court, after China seized and occupied the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal off the Zambales coast, a traditional Filipino fishing ground. The case is anchored on the provisions of the 1996 United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea or UNCLOS.

China adamantly refused to participate in the case proceedings in The Hague, declaring it would neither recognize nor accept the court's ruling. China's foreign ministry spokesman's latest statement says: "China does not accept any decision imposed by a third party as a means of resolution (of the dispute)." That practically throws out respect for a multilateral institutional process and the rule of law.

Instead, China insists that bilateral negotiations are the only acceptable means of resolving pending conflicts with the Philippines as well as with Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, and Taiwan who are all affected by its claim.

Legal experts who have followed the progression of the case predict the court will rule in favor of the Philippines. One of them, Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, has provided substantial documentary evidence for the case to debunk the Chinese claim.

China is obviously vexed. A ruling negating its claim – although no mechanism is provided for its enforcement – will provide the Philippines a stronger moral high ground in seeking international support to pressure China to abide by it. Further, the ruling can be potentially useful for the other affected states in asserting their respective maritime claims.

It's therefore not surprising that China, through one of its official publications, *China Daily*, recently offered to start negotiations with the Philippines on SCS-related issues, "such as joint development [of maritime mineral and other resources] and cooperation in scientific research."

However, the offer is premised on this condition: "if the new [Duterte] government puts the tribunal's ruling aside before returning to the table for talks (underscoring mine)." Whoever in China's officialdom imposed such a ridiculous condition could either be joking or, worse, imperiously arrogant. If it's the latter case, which is more likely, the Chinese leaders are greatly mistaken.

They may have misconstrued as weakness or naivete President Duterte's public statements regarding the arbitral court's anticipated ruling. While expressing optimism that the court will rule in our favor, the president has said

he wouldn't flaunt it. But if the ruling is not favorable, he would accept and abide by it. Whatever the judgment of the court, once he receives a copy, Duterte has vowed to act accordingly based on the national interest. A very reasonable, commendable stand.

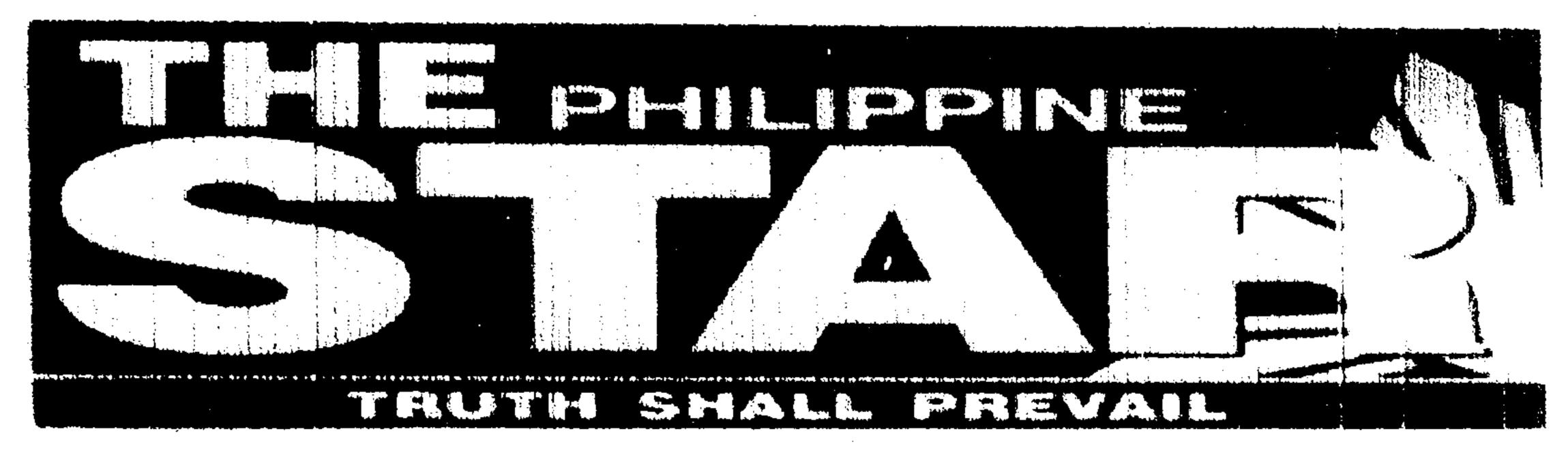
Then he added, as if addressing China, "When (the ruling) is favorable to us, let us talk."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. elaborated that the new government wants to re-establish closer relations with China. (Relations were strained under the Aquino government, which called on the US to help confront China's aggressive actions in the SCS.) In the event of bilateral talks with China, Yasay sees the need for a "special envoy to help us in reaching out on backchannel basis."

Moreover, in light of President Xi Jinping's bragging that China is "not afraid of trouble" and its state media's saberrattling over the SCS, President Duterte reiterated his pronouncement before he assumed office last June 30: "We are not prepared to go to war. War is a dirty word."

Yasay segued: "Nobody wants to resolve our conflict in a violent manner, nobody wants war," adding, "It is my understanding that the President would like to maintain stronger, better relationships with everybody, including China, the United States, Japan, and all."

But war between the Philippines and China consequent to a court decision adverse to China is not the cause for concern. It's the mutual display of maritime military prowess in the South China Sea and intensified war-mongering between the US and China that tend to create the specter of looming war.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Self restraint must prevail over SCS ROW

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For instance, reacting to the US deploying two of its biggest aircraft carriers to patrol in the SCS, China's *Global Times*, in an editorial, urged China to speed up the development of its military deterrence capabilities (China has only one aircraft carrier). It boasted:

"Even though China cannot keep up with the (US) militarily in the short term, it should be able to let the (US) pay a cost it cannot stand if it intervenes in the South China Sea disputes by force. China hopes disputes can be resolved by talks, but it must be prepared for any military confrontation. This is common sense in international relations."

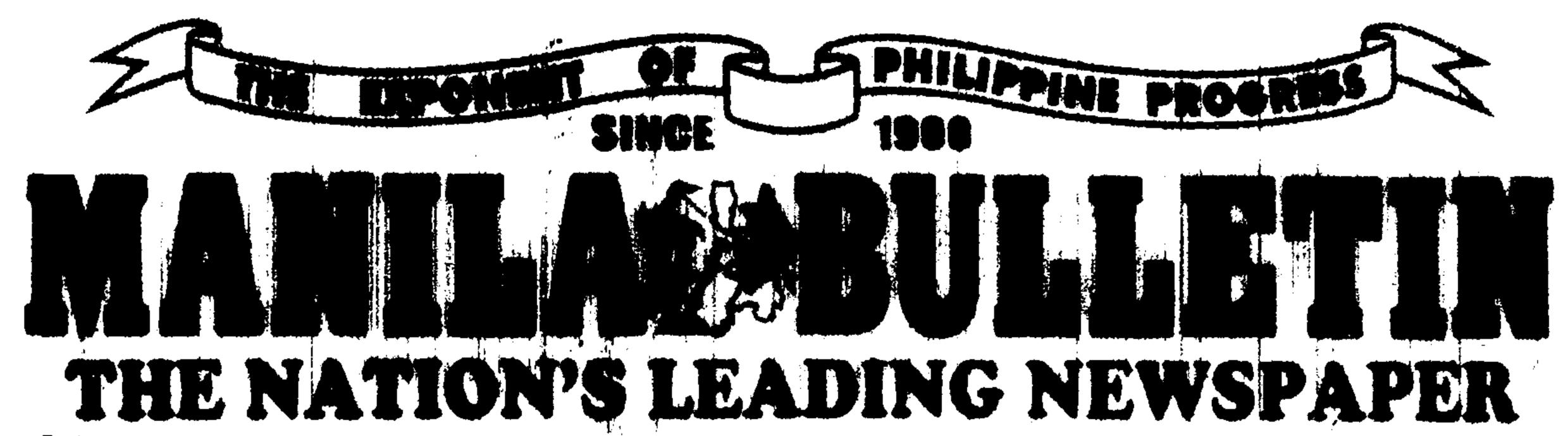
The People's Daily, China's prime newspaper, declared in an editorial:

"If the United States, regardless of the cost, chooses the path of 'brinkmanship' that pressures and intimidates 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 US response: It doesn't seek confrontation with China, but if the latter ignores the court ruling it would, among other measures, step up patrols close to Chinese-claimed islands in the SCS.

So far, no outright talk of a shooting war. It will be best for all the parties concerned that the US and China exercise self-restraint – before and after the arbitral court's ruling is handed down on July 12.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR orders all large-scale mining operations in Zambales stopped

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

Il large scale mining companies in Zambales were ordered to stop their operations more than a week after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Gina Lopez, who is known for advocating against mining, took over the agency overseeing the controversial sector.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), a bureau under the DENR, has suspended the operations of two more mining companies in Zambales on the basis of environmental degradation.

The companies that were suspended because of separate writs of Kalikasan issued by the Supreme Court were BenguetCorp Nickel Mines, Inc. and Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., joining other large scale mining firms

in Zambales like LNL Archipelago Minerals, Inc. and Eramen Minerals, Inc. that are not allowed to operate from this day on.

"It was in view of the Writ of Kalikasan issued by the Supreme Court and the newly signed Executive Order by the local government unit of Zambales, suspending all mining operations in the province," MGB Director Leo Jasareno said.

"The suspension order – signed by the regional directors of the MGB, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Environmental Management Bureau in Region 3 – is effective immediately," he added.

The DENR said the joint suspension order was imposed "in order to ensure that the environment, particularly the communities, farmlands, and water bodies are not in any way compromised."

The agency said these firms can only push through with their operations if they were able to address the issues arising from the tree-cutting and earthballing operations.

It also said that the construction of an exclusive mine haul road shall be completed, while all mined-out and open areas shall be fully rehabilitated.

MGB also wants the Final Mine Rehabilitation/Decommissioning Funds of these companies to be fully deposited.

And then, the bureau also wants all farmland, fishfonds, and water bodies adversely affected by the mining operations to be rehabilitated and that the owners concerned to be duly compensated.

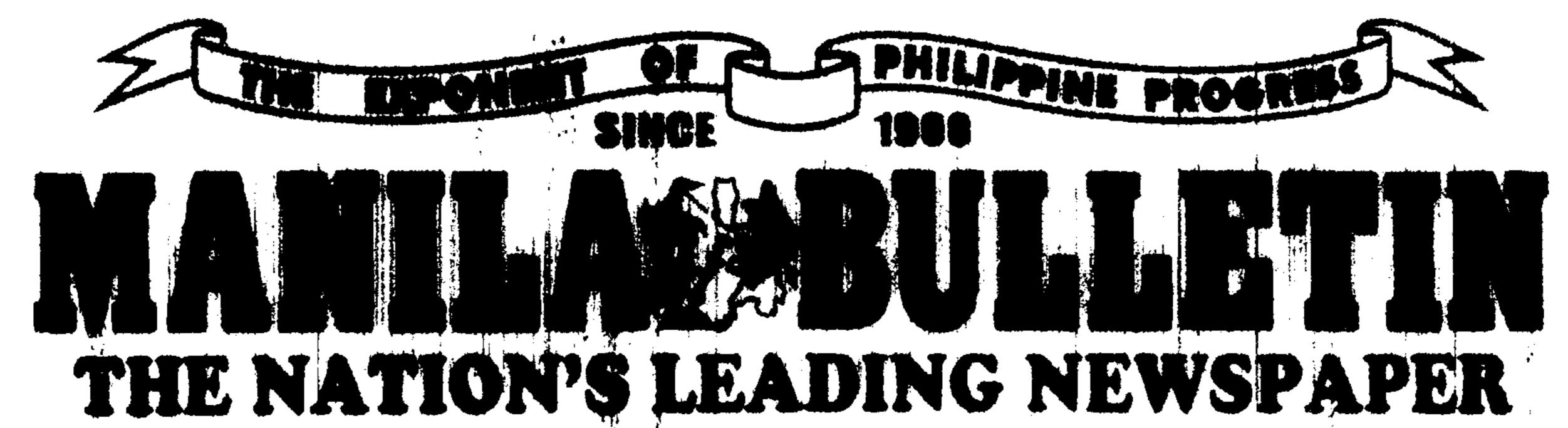
MGB also reminded that "an audit of the mining operations shall be undertaken by a composite team of the DENR to determine compliance with the min-



ing and environmental laws"

This is in response to President Rodrigo

Duterte's first directive to Lopez.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

₱65-B coal power plant to be built in La Union

By ERWIN G. BELEO

LUNA, La Union — The feasibility study of the proposed \$\mathbb{P}65\$-billion modern coal power plant, which will be situated in a 40-hectare idle land in the coastal Barangay of Carisquis, here, is now ongoing and expected to be completed within a year.

Mayor Victor Marvin Marron said the project will generate 600 megawatts of electricity. But far more than that, he emphasized that the project will need at least 3,000 workers uplift the local economy to about ₱500 million in real property tax alone.

"The plant will be environment-friendly because it will be equipped with modern technology called as the 'supercritical pulverized coal power plant' without emitting polluted smoke," Marron said.

Marron said a series of public hearings were already conducted after the project proponent – a joint venture of Global Power Corporation and Vivant Corporation – issued a letter of intent to put up the power plant early this year.

"The feasibility study is very important because it will determine the project's impact on health and sanitation, environment and the community. This project is very important to us here in Luna because we have limited economic activity in our town," Marron said.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Beijing won't 'step back'; PH willing to share resources

BEIJING/WASHINGTON (AFP/AP) – Beijing will not take a "single step back" in the contested South China Sea, state-run media said Friday, despite reports of US naval patrols close to its artificial islands ahead of a tribunal ruling in the dispute.

But the Philippines is willing to share natural resources with Beijing in contested South China Sea areas even if it wins a legal challenge next week, Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told AFP Friday. Yasay said President Rodrigo Duterte's administration hoped to quickly begin direct talks with China following Tuesday's verdict, with the negotiations to cover jointly exploiting the sea's natural gas reserves and fishing grounds within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The United States, meantime, urged respect for the decision an international arbitration court is expected to hand down next week on territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Beijing won't 'step back... 1

"We urge both parties to comply with the ruling and urge all claimants to avoid provocative actions or statements," Abraham Denmark, the senior Pentagon official responsible for East Asia, told a congressional hearing about the decision, already rejected in advance by Beijing.

Beijing asserts sovereignty over almost all of the strategically vital waters in the face of rival claims from Southeast Asian neighbors, and has rapidly turned reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes.

It is currently holding a week of military drills around the Paracel Islands in the northern part of the sea, during which other ships have been prohibited from entering the waters.

The Virginia-based Navy Times reported this week that three US destroyers – the Spruance, Stethem and Momsen – have been patrolling near the Chinese-claimed Scarborough Shoal and Spratly Islands further south.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and supporting vessels are also in the South China Sea, the US Navy has said.

Military outpost

The Navy Times cited experts describing the deployments as "a mes-

sage of resolve to the Chinese and US allies in the region" and "a deliberate show of force" ahead of an international tribunal ruling.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague is set to release its final decision Tuesday in a case brought by the Philippines, challenging China's position.

In an editorial Friday the Global Times newspaper, which is close to the ruling Communist Party and often takes a nationalistic tone, said: "If the US and the Philippines act on impulse and carry out flagrant provocation, China will not take a single step back."

Faced with further escalation from Manila, the paper said China "will fight back."

It could turn Scarborough Shoal — an islet it wrested from Philippine control in 2012 — "into a military outpost", it said, and "tow away or sink" an old landing craft Manila grounded on the Chinese-claimed Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratlys to "resolve the standoff once and for all."

Rule of law or power

Denmark also told the congressional hearing that the ruling of the Arbitral Tribunal would be a chance to determine "whether the Asia Pacific's

future will be defined by adherence to international laws and norms that have enabled it to prosper, or whether the region's future will be determined by raw calculations of power."

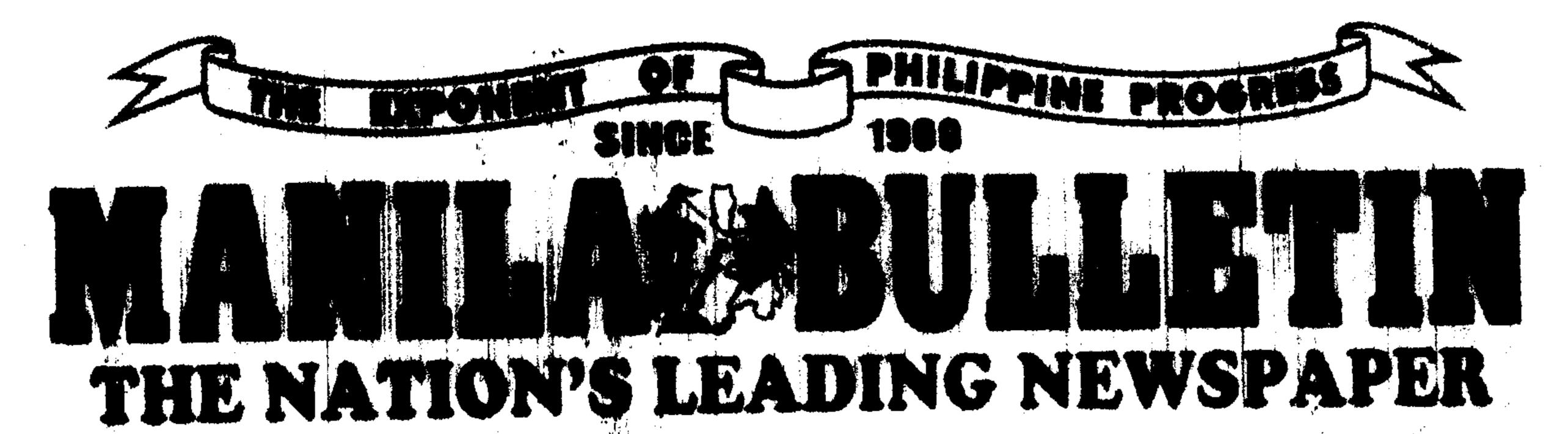
Rep. Randy Forbes, the Virginia Republican who chairs the House sub-committee on sea power, said the world is watching whether China behaves like a responsible stakeholder in the international system, and, if not, to see how America responds.

"What we do or don't do to support our allies and the rules-based international system in the weeks ahead will have echoes across the region and in other corners of the globe," Forbes said.

Senior State Department official Colin Willett said the US will not hesitate to defend its national security interests and honor commitments to Asia Pacific allies and partners.

Some experts have speculated that China might militarize Scarborough Shoal off the Philippine coast where a standoff with China prompted the Philippines to initiate the legal case in 2013. In the past two years, China has constructed artificial islands and placed military facilities on disputed features elsewhere in the South China Sea.

Willett said the ruling in the case would not resolve sovereignty issues, but could potentially narrow down the areas that are legitimately subject to dispute.



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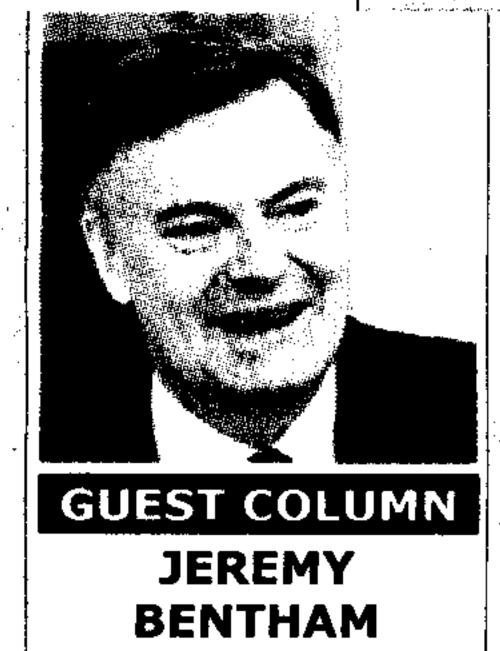
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Guest Column

A better life with a healthy planet



limate change is critical to the future being considered right now at the World Cities Summit in Singapore.

It is one of the world's biggest challenges. The global population is growing — from more than 7 billion today, to an estimated 10 billion by the end of the century. And as the number of people swells, we expect the growth of cities to accelerate. More than half of the human beings on the planet already live in cities. By 2050, the proportion is on track to be around three-quarters, with half of this growth in Asia alone.

Today, cities consume two-thirds of world energy. By 2040, we can expect cities to be using almost 80 percent.

Demand for energy to power people's lives is rising, and rising fast.

Even with heroic efficiency efforts, the amount of energy the world is consuming by the end of the century is likely to double compared to today.

Yet how do we halt the accumulation of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?

The Shell Scenarios team models possible futures and has just published its latest supplement, A Better Life with a Healthy Planet: Pathways to Net Zero Emissions.

In it, we can see a possible path—challenging though it may be—to a world where emissions of carbon dioxide are at net zero levels. That means the emissions that remain are offset, or captured and stored below ground. This is not just a target for Shell; it is something the world must achieve.

Cities, and how we plan them, will be central to achieving this. They have a huge opportunity to become more energy efficient — through building standards; by using waste heat from power generation to warm homes; by encouraging high-density living to reduce travel and encourage smaller electric or hydrogen-powered cars; by building high-capacity public transport systems.

The evolving energy mix will be vital, too. Natural gas, for example, produces half the carbon dioxide and one-tenth of

the air pollution of coal when burnt for power.

Gas power stations also partner well with renewables, providing reliable electricity when there is no sun or wind.

But adding carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology to power stations and industrial complexes will be critical to reduce emissions enough to reach net zero.

Renewables will, of course, continue to grow rapidly as part of the mix, but mainly produce electricity.

Today, electricity accounts for less than one-fifth of the total energy used in the world. For renewables to have a major impact, our scenario shows the share of electricity in the energy mix will need to grow to at least 50 percent.

This means people must meet the costs of electric or hydrogen-electric cars, for example. Households and businesses not supplied with waste heat must be warmed with electricity. Food processing and light manufacturing must also go electric.

Yet even with all this change, greenhouse gas emissions will continue to enter the atmosphere for the foreseeable future.

The production of chemicals used in so many of the things we take for granted will continue to rely on oil and gas. Where very high temperatures or dense energy storage are required—such as in the manufacture of iron, steel and cement, or in heavy freight and air transport—we will almost certainly see the continued use of hydrocarbon fuels.

There will also be regions that switch to low-carbon energy at different speeds, for political, economic or demographic reasons.

Continuing emissions will have to be offset. We can plant forests and use agricultural practices that raise the carbon content of the soil, such as ploughing partly burned biomass into fields.

We can also burn biomass for power, coupled with CCS. Plants can suck carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Using CCS can make sure it never goes back.

Whether in cities or beyond, none of this will be easy. But all of it is possible, if the world starts work right now.

BusinessMirror

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Lopez vows to shutter failed miners

INERS in the Philippines will be shuttered this year if they fail environmental checks, according to the country's environment secretary, who's spearheading tougher regulation of the resources sector.

Regina Paz L. Lopez, hired by new President Rodrigo Duterte to clean up mining, announced the probe last week on assuming the post. The audit will be completed in three to four weeks and may result in mines being closed in the next six months, Lopez said in

How can their business interest be more important than the lives of our people?"—LOPEZ

a Bloomberg interview.

"If they are killing our rivers, how can their business interest be more important than the lives of our people? I

will not allow suffering," said Lopez, who has previously disclosed that she doesn't like mining. "The main thing is that whatever we do, the welfare of the people must be paramount."

The Philippines is the world's biggest source of mined nickel, and supplies almost all of the nickel ore imported by China and used to make stainless steel. Nickel surged about 8 percent in two days, after Lopez announced the probe, amid concerns that closures would cut

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failed miners Continued from A1

supply and deepen an emerging global shortage. Nickel Asia Corp. and Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc., the nation's top two producers of nickel ore, say they operate according to the standards demanded by their new regulator.

Open-pit ban

THE new environment chief said on Thursday she will oppose the Tampakan copper and gold-mine project on Mindanao island in the south of the Philippines, which has been on hold because of a local government ban on open-pit mining.

"Open-pit mining? It's horrible," Lopez said. "Tampakan is on top of hundreds of hectares of agricultural land, the food basket of Mindanao, and you want to put a 700-hectare open-pit mine? I don't care how much money they give us. It's not worth it. Who is making the money here, and who is taking the risk?"

Mining has been halted in other areas, too. Operations in Zambales province, in the north of the Philippines, have been suspended by the local government because of "complaints on environmental degradation," according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Leo L. Jasareno. The Supreme Court separately issued a stop order against mining companies in the province in June.

Fiery campaign

DUTERTE was sworn in last month after a fiery campaign, including pledges to crush crime, fight corruption and halt environmental abuses. The country also has significant resources of gold, copper and other minerals.

The worst hit by the measures will be nickel miners, because "increased costs from compliance to environmental regulation will be exacerbated by the current low nickel prices and the probable reentry of Indonesian nickel ore into the global market," analysts from BMI Research said in a note on Thursday. Indonesia banned exports of raw materials, including nickel ore, from the start of 2014, handing the Philippines a bigger role in supply of the material.

Nickel on the London Metal Exchange is up 10 percent this year, but remains at less than a fifth of its record price in 2007, as consumers work through high inventories. There will be no very big price increases, while inventories stay high and commodity markets depressed, Dmitry Kuznetsov, overseas marketing manager at GMK Norilsk Nickel PJSC, said last month. Citigroup Inc. forecasts nickel sliding to \$8,500 a metric ton this year, compared with \$9,725 on Friday. Bloomberg News

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A broader look at today's business

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CRACKDOWN AGAINST'IRRESPONSIBLE'MINERS BEGINS IN ZAMBALES

Govt starts tightening screws on mining firms

By Jonathan Mayuga 🂆 @jonlmayuga

HE government has started tightening the screws on miners, as widely feared with the appointment of known antimining advocate Regina Paz L. Lopez as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Regulators have suspended the operations of two large-scale mining companies in Zambales, effectively stopping all mining activities in the province, a declared mineral-reservation area.

The preventive suspension order was jointly issued against the Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc. (BCNMI) and Zambales Diversified Nickel Corp. (ZDNC) by three regional officials of the DENR in Central Luzon—Francisco E. Milla Jr., Lope O. Cariño Jr. of the Mines and

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Govt starts tightening screws on mining tirms

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Geosciences Bureau (MGB), and Lormelyn E. Claudio of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

On July 1 the provincial government of Zambales issued an order stopping all mining operations in the province. The order, however, affects only small-scale mining, as large-scale mining falls under the jurisdiction of the national government through the DENR, or the Mining Industry Coordinating Council.

MGB Director Leo L. Jasareno said the order, dated July 7, was due to the numerous complaints against mining operations in the province coming from concerned residents and other stakeholders.

The order took effect immediately.

This is the first to be issued against "irresponsible" mining companies under the administration of President Duterte and Lopez, who earlier declared that mining will undergo strict regulatory process.

"The preventive suspension order against BCNMI and ZDNC was issued in view of the writ of kalikasan issued by the

Supreme Court [SC], Executive Order 1 issued by the governor of Zambales, and the numerous complaints aired by concerned residents and other stakeholders against mining operation in the province," Jasareno said.

"In order to ensure that the environment, particularly the communities, farmlands and water bodies are not in any way compromised as a result of the mining operations, pursuant to the pertinent mining and environmental laws, your operations in Santa Cruz, Zambales, are hereby suspended immediately...," the order stated.

The companies were ordered to address issues arising from tree-cutting and earth-balling operations; complete the construction of an exclusive minehaul road; rehabilitate mined-out areas, deposit Final Mine Rehabilitation/Decommissioning funds; compensate towns and rehabilitate their affected farmlands, fishponds, including water bodies; and repair all damaged portions of the roads affected by their operations.

The MGB suspended the two mining companies for nine months, starting July

2014, for violation of environmental and mining laws.

To recall, the MGB ordered the suspension of four mining companies, including Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., BenguetCorp Nickel Mines Inc., Eramen Minerals Inc. and Lnl Archipelago Minerals Inc., which stemmed from an earlier show-cause order, requiring the companies to defend their unsystematic mining or stripping method in their respective mining areas following numerous complaints aired by community stakeholders in Zambales.

The suspension order against ZDMC and BCNMI were temporarily lifted last year after substantial compliance of corrective measures ordered by the DENR-MGB.

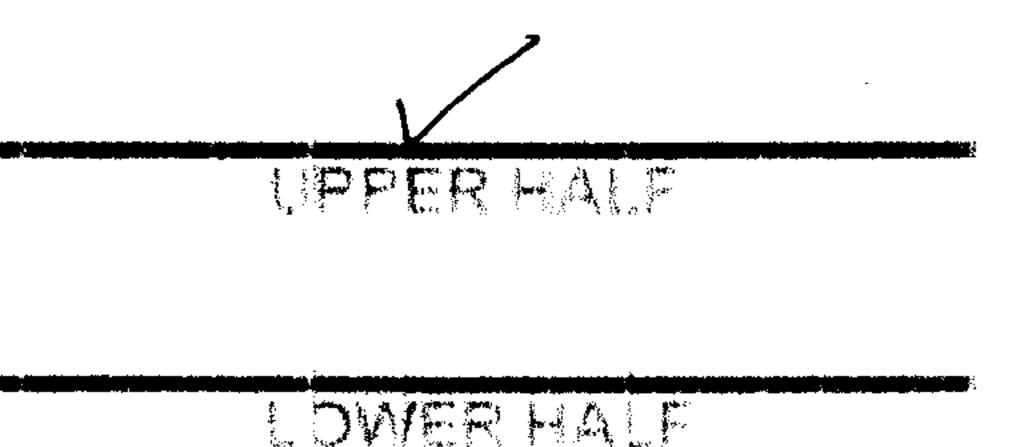
On June 21 the SC en banc issued a writ of kalikasan against five mining companies operating in Zambales.

Aside from BCNMI and ZDMC, also ordered to defend themselves against allegations of causing environmental degradations were Eranmen Minerals Inc., LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. and Shangil Mining and Trading Corp.

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MGB suspends operation of 2 Zambales miners

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THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has suspended the operations of two mining companies in Zambales Province due to complaints about environmental degradation as a result of their nickel ore extraction.

But MGB director Leo Jasareno clarified that the preventive suspension against Benguetcorp Nickel Mines Inc. and Zambales Diversified Metals came prior to the audit ordered by Environment Secretary Regina Paz Lopez on all mining firms operating in the country.

"It was in view of the writ of kalikasan issued by the Supreme Court and the newly signed executive order by the local government unit of Zambales, suspending all mining operations in the province," Jasareno said.

"The suspension order – signed by the regional directors of the MGB, Department of Environment and Natural Resource, and Environmental Management Bureau in Region 3 – is effective immediately," he added. Last month, the high court issued a writ of kalikasan against BNMI, ZDMC, LnL Archipelago Mining Corp., Eramen Minerals Inc. and Shangfil Mining and Trading Corp. and ordered the Court of Appeals to conduct hearings to determine if a Temporary Environmental Protection Order should be issued.

Meanwhile, Zambales Governor Amor Deloso has issued E.O.1, ordering the immediate stoppage and moratorium on all mining operations in the province. It also orders the conduct of consultations with residents affected by mining operations before such operations are al-

lowed to resume.

On Thursday evening, Lopez told ANC's Market Edge that she has ordered the suspension of four mining companies (BNMI, ZDMC, LNL Archipelago an Eramen Minerals Inc.) as part of the crackdown against miners causing environmental degradation and denudation of forests.

"They need to get their act together," Lopez said.

Of the four violators mentioned by Lopez, two remain operational – BNMI and ZDMC – while LNL Archipelago and EMI have been suspended and non-operational for over a year now.

This is not the first time that the companies' operations were

halted by the government. In July 2014, the MGB had ordered the suspension of mining companies after failing regulatory evaluation of their operations.

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MGB suspends...

Systematic mining method

The suspension covers all extraction of nickel ores and future expansions of mining areas. It will be implemented until such time that the nickel miners are able to employ a systematic mining method with defined benches and cleaning/removing of all stand-by stockpiles within the open cut areas.

The indefinite suspension stems from an earlier show cause order

requiring the companies to defend their unsystematic mining or stripping method in their respective mining areas after local residents complained of nickel siltation in river systems, farmlands, fishponds and seashores adjacent to the concession areas.

The MGB also required the companies to have designated stockpile areas that are equipped with proper drainage system in line with the conditions of their environmental compliance certificates.

The government regulator also ordered the firms to employ proper care and maintenance measures for the duration of the suspension – including the con-

tinuous implementation of all environmental protection and enhancement programs.

Failure to comply

In June 2015, the MGB reaffirmed the suspension order against the nickel miners after failing to comply with all the conditions set by the government regulator under a Temporary Lifting Order.

"After the 90-day deadline for the mining companies to comply with the conditions, the MGB did a validation of their compliance. In its ensuing report, the validation team found that not all the conditions have been complied with, including the exclusive mine road to be built, and recommended for the suspension of the mining operations again," Jasareno said. The conditions in the TLOs include: 1) construction of an alternative mine haulage road; 2) resolution of the alleged coastal destruction brought about by the mining operation; 3) full payment of the claims for compensation for damages of fishponds; 4) conduct of Sediment Flux Monitoring; 5) full rehabilitation of the adversely affected river systems; and 6) progressive rehabilitation of inactive mining areas to address the issue of large disturbed mining area.

Although there are ongoing actions on the part of the mining contractors to comply with the conditions, the team recommended maintaining the suspension order until all conditions are fully complied with, subject to another validation by MGB.

JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ

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Zambales miners begs DENR to lift suspension on four mining firms.

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APAT na minahan sa lalawigan ng Zambales ang sinuspinde ang operasyon epektibo kahapon.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Na-Resources-Mines tural and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), ito ay Anila, nasira ang matapos lumabag ang mga ito sa batas ng kalikasan o environmental law.

Tinukoy ni DENR Sec. Gina Lopez ang apat na kompanya na Benguetcorp Nickel Mines Inc., subsidiary listed company ng Benguet Corporation; Diversified Zambales Metals Corporation; LNL Archipelago Mineral, Inc.; at Eramen Minerals, Inc.

Sinabi ni MGB Director Leo Jasareno na ang Benguet at Zambales ay itinuturing na malaking nickel mining company dahil nagpoprodyus ang mga ito ng mahigit sa 50,000 metriko tonelada kada taon.

Ang mga naprodyus na nickel ay ini-export sa China.

Ang suspensiyon ng MGB sa nabanggit na mga minahan ay mula sa desisyon ng Korte Suprema na inaatasan ang mga ito

na patunayan na hindi nakasisira sa kapaligiran ang pagmimina nila ng nickel.

Nauna rito, nagsampa ng reklamo ang mga residente ng bayan ng Santa Cruz sa Zambales laban saapat na minahan.

kanilang mga palaisdaan, ilog at sakahan, naubos ang mga puno sa kanilang kagubatan at nasira ang mga daan dahil sa operasyon ng nasabing mga minahan.

Sinabi ng MGB na aalisin lamang ang suspension order sa apat na kompanya kung maipatutupad ng mga ito ang mga inilatag na kondisyon, kabilang na ang pagtatayo ng eksklusibong daan para sa minahan, pagkukumpuni ng mga nasirang daan, rehabilitasyon ng mga naapektuhang sakahan at palaisdaan at bayaran din ang mga apektadong magsasaka at mangingisda.

Tiniyak naman ni Lopez na magpapatuloy ang pag-iimbestiga at pagtukoy sa mga kompanya ng minahan na hindi sumusunod sa environmental safety standards. MONCHET LARANO

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Greenpeace demands justice for killing of anti-coal activist

By Gerry Baldo

Greenpeace Southeast Asia has condemned the murder of anti-coal activist Gloria Capitan by two gunmen in Bataan on July 1, the very first day in office of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Reuben Muni, Greenpeace climate and energy campaigner for Southeast Asia, said "Greenpeace condemns in the strongest terms the murder of Gloria Capitan, a staunch anti-coal advocate who bravely stood up against plans for coal stockpiles and a coal-fired power plant in Mariveles, Bataan, at the height of overwhelming local government

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national policy favoring the same."

In less than a week after Capitan's murder, Energy Secretary Alfredo Cusi said the country cannot dispense with coal as an energy source.

"Ate Glo, as she was fondly called, was a member of the Coal-Free Bataan Movement, which Greenpeace Philippines works with. She was gunned down by two motorcycleriding assassins on the night of July 1, 2016. She was 57," Muni said.

"Her untimely passing is not only a significant loss to the coal-free movement in the Philippines, but the manner of her death is a huge blow to our struggle for human rights and against criminality," he added.

"Greenneace, together with

other organizations working on the anti-coal campaign in Bataan, condemns this attempt to silence the growing opposition to coal-fired power generation not only in Bataan but also in other parts of the country," he stressed.

"Greenpeace demands justice for Gloria Capitan and other fallen environmental defenders This is a challenge to President Rodrigo Duterte's drive against criminality, which shouldn't be limited to stopping drug-related crimes but should also go after criminals who target activists standing up to powerful interests. Those who defend the environment need to be protected." Muni concluded.



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INSIDENTE NG KARAHASAN SA ISANG BANSA, INIUUGNAY SA KLIMA

ISANG hindi katanggap-tanggap na katotohanan sa buhay na ilang bansa ang mas marahas kaysa liba. Ang pagtukoy sa dahilan kung bakit mas marahas ang ilang lipunan o komunidad kumpara sa iba ay isang malaking trabaho para sa mga social scientist, dahil kung mababatid ang dahilan sa mga pagpatay ay mas malaki ang tsansa na matuldukan na ito nang tuluyan.

Ibinatay sa marami at magkakaparehong pagaaral, isang bagong dokumento sa Behavioral and Brain Sciences—na pinangunahan ni Paul A. M. Van Lange, ng Vrije Universiteit sa Amsterdam—ang nagpanukala ng modelo para sa pag-unawa sa karahasan gamit ang pinasimpleng acronym na CLASH, o CLimate, Aggression, and Self-control in Humans.

Iginiit ng mga awtor na ang klima—sa paraan ng kulturang hinuhubog nito—ay ang pangunahing nagbubunsod ng mga pagsalakay at pag-atake. Ayon sa kanila, ang paninirahan sa isang lugar na maraming uri ng klima at may mas mababang temperatura ay nagbubunsod sa mga tao upang mas mangamba para sa kanilang hinaharap at mas magkaroon ng kontrol sa sarili, sa tinatawag ng mga mananaliksik na estratehiyang "slow life", taliwas sa "fast life" na iniuugnay sa mga lugar na mas mainit at mas bihirang magpalit ng klima, na karamihan ay malapit sa equator.

"Climate is one of the broad and ubiquitous variables that is likely to be a powerful cause of culture (how groups organize, the norms they share, and how individuals think and behave)," sulat ni Van Lange sa *Science of Us* journal.

Hinuhubog ng klima ang pagpaplano sa maraming paraan, ayon kay Van Lange, gaya ng kung paano mag-iimbak ng pagkain sa taglamig o ang pagtitipun-tipon ng magkakaanak at magkakaibigan kapag bumuti na ang panahon. At bagamat nakatutulong ang niyebe laban sa iba't ibang banta sa kalikasan, mas maraming mapanganib na hayop at nakahahawang sakit kapag mainit ang panahon.

"We do acknowledge that various other factors are linked to climate — such as prosperity — and they are also partially caused by climate," ani Van Lange.

Ayon sa CLASH, ang karahasan ay nagmumula sa mga taong nag-aakalang magiging maiksi lang ang kanilang buhay kaya hindi na nagpaplano para sa kinabukasan, at nababawasan na rin ang kontrol sa sarili. "We see evidence of a faster life strategy in hotter climates with less temperature variation — they are less strict about time, they have less use of birth control, they have children earlier and more often," saad sa pahayag ni Brad Bushman, isa pang awtor ng pag-aaral.

Seryoso ang ipinahihiwatig ng datos tungkol sa karahasan at klima. Sa meta-analysis noong 2013, sinuri ang 60 pag-aaral sa kaugnayan ng klima at mga alitan ng sangkatauhan, at natuklasan ng mga awtor na sa bawat standard deviation, ang median effect ay mas mataas ng 14 na porsiyento sa mga hindi pagkakasundo sa pagitan ng mga grupo at isang porsiyento naman ang itinaas sa mga indibiduwal.

Gaya ng iginigiit ng grupo ni Van Lange, may "general trend" ang distansiya ng isang bansa sa equator at ang karahasang naitatala rito.

CNN