

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 11 JUL 2016

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR asked to probe slay

Anticoal activist buried amid cries for justice

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The family of an environmental activist, who was shot dead in front of her grandchildren at a videoke bar in Mariveles, Bataan province, on July 1, has pleaded to the Duterte administration to bring justice to the victim.

Gloria Capitan, 57, was shot in the head and neck by a gunman on a motorcycle at her videoke bar in Mariveles, but the police have not yet come up with leads that may help catch her killer.

Capitan was president of the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Mamamayan ng Lucanin (SNML), which had been campaigning against the operation of an open coal storage facility in Lucanin village in Mariveles.

Capitan's husband, Efren, is a Lucanin councilman.

The family appealed to President Duterte and Environment Secretary Gina Lopez during her burial on Sunday in Barangay Cabcaban in Mariveles. The burial drew 500 people who staged an indignation march, according to Derek Cabe, provincial coordi-



CALLS for justice ring out on Sunday during the burial of Gloria Capitan (inset), who fought to stop an open coal storage facility in Bataan.

nator of the Kilusan para sa Pam-bansang Demokrasya (KPD), which has been helping the SNML in the campaign to close the coal facility.

"My wife had no known enemy in the community except that she had been espousing a cause for a better environment [as president of the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Mamamayan ng Lucanin]," Efren said.

She was killed in front of her grandchildren who were playing in the bar.

On Sunday at the funeral, Capitan's son, Mar, expressed

hope that the President would order the police to conduct a "thorough, fair and swift" investigation into the killing.

Capitan became the first non-criminal and nondrug-related victim of extrajudicial killing under the new administration, said Fidel Fababier, KPD vice chair.

In March 2015, the SNML petitioned the Lucanin village council, the Mariveles government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to close the facility.

The village council had is-

sued the Seafront Shipyard and Port Terminal Services Corp. a certificate of clearance for its coal stockpile project there in January last year.

The SNML also complained to the Commission on Human Rights and Office of the Ombudsman against Lucanin officials and the Mariveles government for their "continued disregard of the people's complaint and problems regarding the operation of coal storage."

In a statement, Fababier said Capitan's death "cannot be divorced from the issues she took up during her lifetime, such as the ill effects of coal plants and coal storage facilities in Bataan."

In a separate statement, Reuben Muni, climate and energy campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, condemned the killing, calling it an "attempt to silence the growing opposition to coal-fired power generation not only in Bataan but also in other parts of the country."

"This is a challenge to President 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," Muni said. *Tonette Orejas and Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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COURT SCENE The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague hears the case brought by the Philippines against China in this 2013 photo. It is expected to hand down its decision on Tuesday. AP

UN law of the sea lays down the rules for planet's oceans

THE HAGUE—Centuries before international laws, pirates ruled the high seas, plundering and pillaging wherever they went.

Into this dangerous, unruly seascape steamed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), which will be the basis for a historic court judgement tomorrow in a dispute between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea.

Here are the answers to four questions about the obscure convention known by its acronym Unclos:

What does it do?

With at least 320 articles and nine annexes, the convention covers all aspects of regulating the planet's vast oceans and maritime waters.

It is the authority on everything from national sovereignty over the exploitation of natural resources, navigation and disputes between nations.

According to the UN website, the convention "lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas, establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources."

What are its origins?

For many centuries, the only law of the sea was brute force. In the 17th century, a country's rights over the seas were limited to "a narrow belt" extending from its coastline.

"The remainder of the seas was proclaimed to be free to all and belonging to none," the United Nations says on its website.

But by the second half of the 20th century, new technologies, modern oil and gas extraction methods, and a booming population gave rise to growing tensions around lucrative fishing grounds and competing de-

mands for the rights to precious resources.

In 1945, the United States unilaterally extended jurisdiction over all resources over its continental shelf, which led to similar moves by Argentina, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia as well as the scattered archipelagos of Indonesia and the Philippines.

By late 1967, the dangers were numerous—from nuclear submarines plumbing the sea depths to ballistic missiles and increasingly frequent oil spills.

In the face of this "looming conflict that could devastate the oceans," Malta's ambassador to the United Nations, Arvid Pard, called for "an effective international regime" over the seabed.

When was Unclos born?

The first Conference on the Law of the Sea was held in New York in 1973. For nine years, delegates argued and bartered as they drew up the text.

The UN General Assembly finally adopted the convention in April 1982. Signed by 150 countries and ratified by 67, it entered into force in November 1994.

How are conflicts resolved?

The convention also established the Hamburg-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Itlos), which along with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the International Court of Justice can rule on matters brought under Unclos.

Among other cases, in 1999, Itlos laid down annual quotas for bluefin tuna catches in a bitter dispute between Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

In 2015, the PCA ruled under the UN convention that Russia must compensate the Netherlands over the 2013 seizure of Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise ship during a protest against Arctic oil drilling. AFP

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Why climate change is an education issue

NEW YORK—Climate change affects us all, but we still are not acting as quickly as we should to address its causes, mitigate the damage, and adapt to its effects. Many people don't understand the risks climate change poses to global economic and social structures. And, sadly, many who do understand are dismissive of the far-reaching benefits a global shift to sustainability and clean energy would bring about.

According to a recent Pew study, seven out of 10 Americans classified as political independents were not very concerned that climate change would hurt them. Worse still, Yale University researchers recently found that 40 percent of adults worldwide have never even heard of climate change. In some developing countries, such as India, that figure climbs to 65 percent.

These figures are discouraging, but they can be improved. The Yale study concluded that, "educational attainment tends to be the single strongest predictor of public awareness of climate change." By investing in quality education, we can set the next generation on the right path to addressing this global problem.

Education and climate action work together in three ways. For starters, education fills knowledge gaps. Understanding how climate change is already having an impact on one's life can have practical benefits. This is especially true for poor populations that are most vulnerable to crop failures and natural disasters, such as landslides and floods, caused by climate change. Populations that must rebuild from scratch after each new catastrophe miss out on opportunities for rapid development. By understanding that their world is changing—and that the likelihood of future disasters is increasing—these populations can build resilience and learn to adapt to the sudden and slow stresses

WORLD VIEW

Felipe Calderón



of a changing climate.

Second, education challenges apathy. Knowing the measures available to address climate change can open up vast opportunities for economic growth. Global investors should be made to understand that sustainable solutions can increase wellbeing and create additional economic opportunities. To take one example, in Niger, education and improved farming techniques helped double real farm incomes for more than 1 million people, while restoring huge tracts of severely degraded land. In the United States, as of 2014, there were more jobs that depended on solar energy than on coal mining.

Still, many people insist that implementing measures to mitigate the effects of climate change is too costly to our current way of life. According to the Pew study, almost seven out of 10 people believe that, given the limitations of technology, they would have to make major lifestyle changes. This does not have to be the case, and education can challenge the kind of skepticism that forecloses opportunities for climate-smart living.

Finally, education furnishes the technical knowledge needed to build a better future through innovation—one that includes clean and safe energy, sustainable agriculture, and smarter cities. Broadening access to education would lead to more homegrown innovation—entrepreneurs

spotting opportunities to address local problems. Globally, we cannot rely on knowledge centers such as Silicon Valley or Oxford to develop a silver bullet to the climate problem. Solutions may come from tech hubs, but they will also come from villages and developing cities, from farmers and manufactures with vastly different perspectives on the world around them. And this will create a virtuous cycle. It is easier for educated people to migrate and integrate into new societies, sharing the knowledge they've brought with them.

Fortunately, younger generations today are better educated and more committed to reducing their own carbon footprint than previous generations were. They are leading the way and forcing us all to reconsider our own actions. But we must broaden the availability of education worldwide to ensure that their efforts are not in vain.

In recognition of education's importance, the government of Norway, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Erna Solberg, has established the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, of which I am a member. We will meet this week in Oslo, and it is my hope that we will confront the challenges of our time and act on the knowledge that education is the best problem-solving asset we possess.

Addressing the dangers of climate change is not only an existential imperative; it is also an opportunity to move toward a cleaner, more productive, and fairer path of development. Only an educated global society can take the decisive action needed to get us there. **Project Syndicate**

Felipe Calderón, former president of Mexico, is chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.

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Rody urged to study UN ruling carefully

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Marlon Ramos

CONFIDENT that the Philippines would get a favorable ruling from an international tribunal on its dispute with China over the South China Sea, Sen. Leila de Lima on Sunday said she hoped the Duterte administration would study the decision carefully before deciding what action to take so that Manila's 20-year effort to resolve the conflict would not go to waste.

The United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague will hand down a ruling at 11 a.m. (5 p.m. in Manila) tomorrow in the increasingly bitter dispute between the Philippines and China, in a closely watched case that risks ratcheting up

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tensions in Southeast Asia.

Most legal experts expect the ruling to go in favor of the Philippines, but the Duterte administration is not aflutter about that prospect.

It is up to Solicitor General Jose Calida to decide what the government should do if the ruling comes out in favor of the Philippines, Malacañang said yesterday.

President Duterte said last week his administration was willing to talk with China about sharing natural resources in the West Philippine Sea—South China Sea waters within the Philippines' 360-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ)—if the arbitral tribunal found for the Philippines.

Unclos case

Invoking the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), Manila lodged the suit against Beijing in January 2013, saying after 17 years of negotiations it had exhausted all other political and diplomatic avenues.

Angered by the Philippine move, China refused to participate, saying it would not comply with the ruling by a tribunal with "no jurisdiction" over the dispute.

The Philippines asked the court to void China's claims to almost all of the South China

Sea, including waters within Manila's EEZ and those close to the shores of other claimants in the strategic waterway—Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Manila also demanded respect for its right to fish and explore resources within its EEZ.

The case does not involve questions of sovereignty, an issue handled only by the International Court of Justice.

Speaking in a radio interview, De Lima said she was confident the Philippines would get a favorable decision from the court.

"We have international law as support for our position and recognition of the rule of international law, which was pointed out by the previous administration," said De Lima, who served as justice secretary to then President Benigno Aquino III and who supervised the Office of the Solicitor General, which represented the Philippines in the case against China.

Aware of Mr. Duterte's openness to bilateral talks with China, De Lima said the administration should first wait for the ruling to come down then study it well "before determining its next actions."

"The ruling will be put to waste if we just surrender what is supposed to be ours," she said, adding that joint explo-

ration means both the Philippines and China have the same rights to resources in the West Philippine Sea.

National interest

"The primordial consideration should always be national interest," De Lima said.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay on Friday said the administration hoped to quickly begin direct talks with China after tomorrow's ruling.

The President and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhou Jinhua met last week in Malacañang and discussed joint exploration.

Malacañang reiterated yesterday that it would wait for the ruling before making any move toward talks with China.

"Once we have the decision, what we will do is to study [it]. Then that's the time that we shall explore our next move," Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar told public broadcaster dzRB.

Andanar said the government would take all matters pertaining to the dispute with China "legally."

Legal experts agree that after three years of deliberations, two hearings and nearly 4,000 pages of evidence, the arbitral court is likely to find in Manila's favor—in a decision with far-reaching ramifications.

"An award from the tribunal

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Rody urged to study UN ruling carefully

that rejects some of China's more dubious claims would provide support for the mainstream views of other states in the region," Cecily Rose, assistant law professor of public international law at Leiden University, told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"China is bound to comply with the award. But should it refuse to do so, the tribunal has no enforcement mechanism to which it can turn," Rose said.

Regional tensions

The ruling comes against a backdrop of frequent military brushes between China and its rival claimants, whose EEZs ring the waters believed to hold untapped oil and gas reserves.

The tensions have also drawn in the United States, which has defense treaties with the Philippines and other regional allies.

In a show of strength last week, the US Navy sent warships to patrol close to some of the artificial islands that China built in the Spratly archipelago to bolster its claims to nearly all of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China Sea.

The US destroyers Stethem, Spruance and Momsen have been patrolling near Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), a rich fishing ground in the West Philippine Sea near the coast of Zambales province, which China seized in 2012 after a two-

month standoff, forcing Manila to bring the law of the sea case against Beijing early the following year.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is currently patrolling the South China Sea.

Manila and Washington have also concluded an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) that allows greater access by US troops to Philippine military bases, including one near Philippine islands in the Spratlys that China insists are parts of its territory, and to store weapons and equipment in those bases.

Comply with ruling

Washington on Friday urged the Philippines and China "to comply with the ruling" and appealed to "all claimants to avoid provocative actions or statements."

"Whatever the outcome, the case will not contribute to improved relations between China and other claimants in the South China Sea," Frans-Paul van der Putten, a senior researcher at the Clingendael think tank, told AFP.

China's state-run media on Friday said that Beijing would not take "a single step back" if the United States and the Philippines "act on impulse and carry out flagrant provocation."

Facing international pressure to comply with the arbitral

court's ruling, China, according to the state-run Global Times, will "fight back."

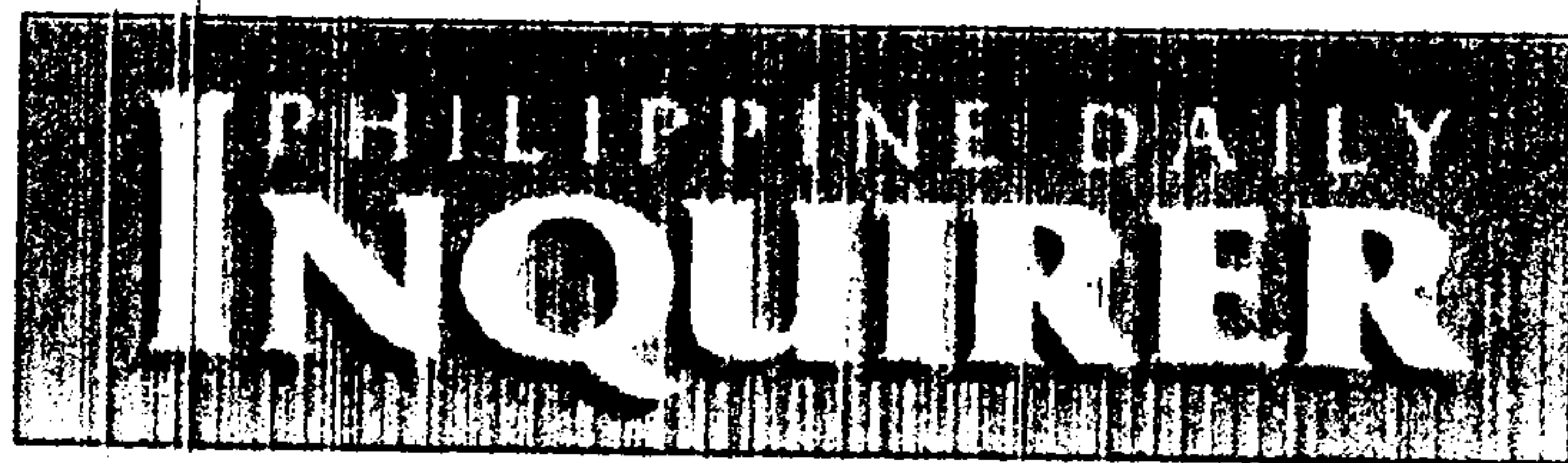
China, the paper said, could turn Panatag Shoal "into a military outpost" and "tow away or sink" the BRP Sierra Madre, an old and rusting hospital ship that Manila grounded on Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) in 1999 to mark Philippine territory in the Spratlys, to "resolve the standoff once and for all."

Beijing insists it has "undisputed sovereignty" over almost all of the South China Sea, basing its arguments on Chinese maps dating back to the 1940s marked with a nine-dash line that encompasses waters within the EEZs of the other claimants.

Expert Joris Larik from The Hague Institute for Global Justice said "China's position and credibility will be weakened if the arbitral panel finds against it."

But Chinese President Xi Jinping said China was "not afraid of trouble" and state-run newspaper People's Daily urged Beijing to prepare for a "military confrontation" in the South China Sea.

China launched military drills in the South China Sea on Friday, with its Navy carrying out combat exercises with live missiles, according to the PLA Daily, the Chinese military's official newspaper. **With a report from AFP**



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Time for a 'Filipino future'

ONCE UPON a time, our archipelago was merely a group of islands in the middle of an ocean. Its inhabitants seemed innately hospitable, especially to strangers and visitors. But they spoke vastly different languages and fought each other in tribal wars. Over time, the islands and their indigenous tribes evolved into distinct regions, defined by language, customs and their unique geography.

In the 1500s, European powers divided the world into East and West. Spain discovered the archipelago, then—with the friar's cross and conquistador's sword—christened its population, making it the sole Catholic country in Asia. Spain governed our islands as a colony (which it eventually called "Philippines") until late into the 1890s, extracting and producing its raw materials at very low costs and shipping these to Europe's factories for huge profits.

Then the United States bought the Philippines from Spain in the Treaty of Paris and vanquished the Filipinos in the Philippine-American War at the end of the 1890s; then it introduced different versions of the Christian faith and an educational system in which English replaced Spanish, as well as a new form of government called democracy, which made the Philippines Asia's first democratic nation. But the old colonial practices persisted: raw materials from the Philippine colony (legally named a commonwealth) were shipped to the mother country (United States) so US traders and industrialists could enrich themselves even more.

On July 4, 1946, the United States allowed the conversion of the commonwealth into a republic—opening up new opportunities for Filipinos to take their future into their own

hands. But the new elite that replaced the Spanish and Americans did little to change the feudal system, turning the "Pearl of the Orient" in the 1950s into the "Sick man of Asia" by the 1990s. A two-party political system copied from the United States degenerated into a dictatorship in the mid-1970s, and after the 1986 People Power Revolution further deteriorated into political dynasticism and "balimbing" opportunism.

It is hoped that the leaders elected last May will dream of and pursue a better future for all Filipinos, given the tough wisdom of President Duterte and the gentle service of Vice President Leni Robredo. There's a lot going for Filipinos who are gifted with seemingly inexhaustible natural resources, a well-educated population of over 100 million, more than 10 percent of which are abroad toiling overseas and sending back home to their families some \$25 billion. They can be organized into a global network to help Philippine manufacturers export finished products.

Let's pray that Filipinos seize this opportunity to create global value chains that can lift the majority from hunger and poverty, to show our Creator that He was not mistaken in giving this archipelago so much in natural bounty. Today's world is seeing—in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia—great movements to "take our country back." Using the growing BalikProbinsiya countryside entrepreneurship advocacy, the Philippines can show the way in that direction—peacefully, sustainably and inclusively.

—JOSE Z. OSIAS,
convenor, BalikProbinsiya,
jzosias@gmail.com

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1908

MANILA BULLETIN

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Public vigilance sought to curb illegal wildlife trade

By TARA YAP

ILOILO – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Western Visayas (DENR-6) is appealing for public vigilance in a bid to continuously curb illegal wildlife trading in the region.

DENR-6 Regional Director Jim Sampulna reiterated the need to watch out for illegal wildlife traders in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, and Iloilo provinces.

Records of DENR-6's Conserva-

tion and Development Division (CDD) showed that only 23 animals were rescued and released to their natural habitats since 2015.

There are also four other wild animals that are in protective custody in accredited centers in Iloilo and Guimaras provinces.

While the records are not too alarming, DENR-6 is particularly protective of animal species found only in Western Visayas region.

These include the Panay bushy-

tailed cloud rat, the Panay monitor lizard, the Visayan hornbill, and the Visayan spotted deer.

Dr. Emelyn Peñaranda, chief of DENR-6's CDD, also expressed concern over diminishing flora and fauna at the mountains of Central Panay.

Sampulna has directed forest rangers and deputized wildlife enforcement officers to coordinate with local governments for stronger monitoring and enforcement of the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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DENR to finish audit in less than a month

More mining firms face suspension

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

More mining firms may face suspension in less than a month from now as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) targets to finish the audit of all mining operations in the country by August.

This developed after the new DENR Secretary Gina Lopez, who is known for advocating against mining before accepting the position, led the suspension of all the large-scale mining companies in Zambales last week.

In a text message to Manila Bulletin, Lopez said the audit on mining firms already started and should be done by

August.

Ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte, the audit on mining firms is being undertaken to determine compliance with the mining and environmental laws.

According to Lopez, companies that are found disrespectful of these laws should be held liable and are at the risk of having their operations stopped.

She said the audit would be more of a leg work on the government's side than a completion of an audit check list on the miners' side.

"I am less interested in the documents than on what is happening on ground," Lopez said.

"Even if the company is ISO certi-



fied, if they are endangering or having adverse effects on the lives of the communities, their operations are still at stake. I don't just want a technical audit. I want an environmental and social audit. It's the right thing to do," she added.

Lopez was referring to the ISO 14001 certification that all companies are supposed to get in order to keep their mining permits.

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 will not be compromised.

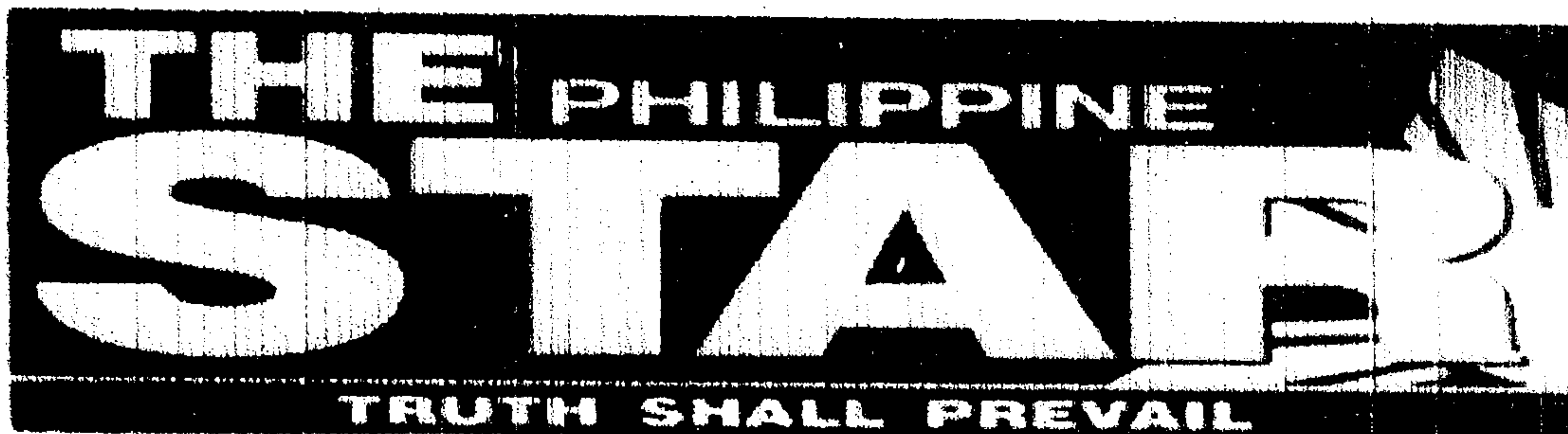
As of last week, majority of mining firms that

are members of Chamber of Mines of the Philippines are already compliant with the said certification.

On Friday, all large scale mining companies in Zambales were ordered to stop their operations on the grounds of environmental degradation.

Companies that were suspended because of separate writs of Kalikasan issued by the Supreme Court were Banguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc. and Ambles Diversified Metals Corp. Joining other large scale mining firms in Ambles like LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. and Era men Minerals Inc. are not allowed to operate from this day on.

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Gov't pushes solar power in buildings

By CZERIZA VALENCIA

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is in discussions with the Department of Energy (DOE) on the possibility of making it attractive for building owners in business districts to use solar power.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia said

increased use of solar power in business centers would help reduce the country's power requirements.

"Solar power and renewables are faster to implement than coal fired power plants but also has limited power capacity and are space intensive," he said.

"But solar panels can be

strapped on rooftops. So if solar panels are installed in buildings in Makati and Manila, that would be a lot of relief on our power supply requirements," he added.

He said Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi has not opposed the idea.

"I've been talking to the DOE secretary already and he does not seem to be averse toward it," said Pernia.

This still being a plan, Pernia said there are no identified financing mechanisms for the program yet.

The DOE, however, has an

existing program for providing solar power for at least 100,000 households in the country.

In September last year, the NEDA board approved the Access to Sustainable Energy Program of the DOE which would provide households electricity and energy services through a grant assistance of

solar home systems and rural power generation facilities.

The project cost of P4.89 billion is financed through official development assistance.

Pernia, however, said it would be more feasible if this would be done for commercial buildings whose owners could afford the cost.

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EDC, DepEd team up in Leyte greening program

By **FELIX N. CODILLA III**

ORMOC CITY –The Leyte Geothermal Business Unit (LGBU) of Energy Development Corporation (EDC) and Department of Education (DepEd) partnered anew in the planting and rehabilitation of endangered prime native tree species in eight schools in Kananga and Ormoc City.

A total of 92 seedlings of six premium native threatened tree species namely, Narra, Yakal-Saplungan, Kamagong, Batete, Mangkono and Bolong-eta were planted in the following schools: Limao National High School, Hiluctogan Elementary School, Aguiting Elementary School and Tongonan Schools for Excellence in Kananga, and Cabintan National High School, Milagro Elementary School, Lake Danao Elementary School and Nueva Vista Elementary School in Ormoc City.

The 67 seedlings replaced those that were previously planted in the six schools but were destroyed and uprooted by super-typhoon Yolanda.

A total of 25 threatened tree species, meanwhile, were planted in two new partner schools - Limao National High School and Cabintan National High School which also formally signed partnership commitment during the program.

Aside from planting, individual tree labels and billboards were installed in all schools to inform and educate stu-

dents about the planted trees as well as the importance of cultivating local tree species.



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South China Sea case lights up world's oldest tribunal

The little-known Permanent Court of Arbitration or PCA rules tomorrow on a bitter dispute over the South China Sea, which could have huge international ramifications

amid growing tensions in the key waterway.

The Philippines brought the case against China in 2013, asking the court to find that Beijing's claims to much of the

territory in the sea are invalid and violate the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Here are five facts about the tribunal based in The Hague:

What is the PCA?

The PCA is the world's oldest inter-governmental organization dedicated to resolving international disputes through arbitration "and other peaceful means."

It came to life in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference convened by Czar Nicholas II of Russia. It refers to contracts, special agreements and various

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treaties such as those set up by the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and UNCLOS to rule in disputes.

It also has a permanent overseas presence in Mauritius and can conduct hearings all over the world.

Interesting PCA cases

The PCA's arbitral tribunals have rendered more than 70 decisions in past cases and it currently considers 116 cases. Recently concluded cases include rulings in a bitter border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia and handing down an award in favor of the Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius in a fight with Britain over a marine protected area in the Chagos Archipelago. In another case, it gave India a partial green light to build a hydro-electric project in the Kishenganga River after a dispute with Pakistan, who was worried about the project's impact on water supply further downstream.

Is it a real 'court'?

The PCA is not a court in the traditional sense with judges to rule on issues. Rather it consists of arbitral tribunals put together for each case. Hearings are not open to the public or press, unless both parties in the dispute agree.

How does it work?

When diplomacy fails between two states they may turn to arbitration via the PCA.

Usually cases are settled on a pre-existing agreement – contained in a treaty or contract – that if a dispute arises it will be resolved through arbitration.

Once arbitration begins, an arbitral tribunal is appointed, consisting of one, three or five members. For the South China Sea arbitration a five-member panel has been appointed led by Ghanaian-born judge Thomas A. Mensah.

Are its decisions binding?

Yes. All decisions, called "awards" are binding on all the parties in the dispute and have to be carried out without delay.

There are some post-award proceedings available to parties unhappy with the tribunal's decision, but they are limited, particularly in inter-state disputes.

Experts also say enforcement is often the "Achilles Heel" of public international law.

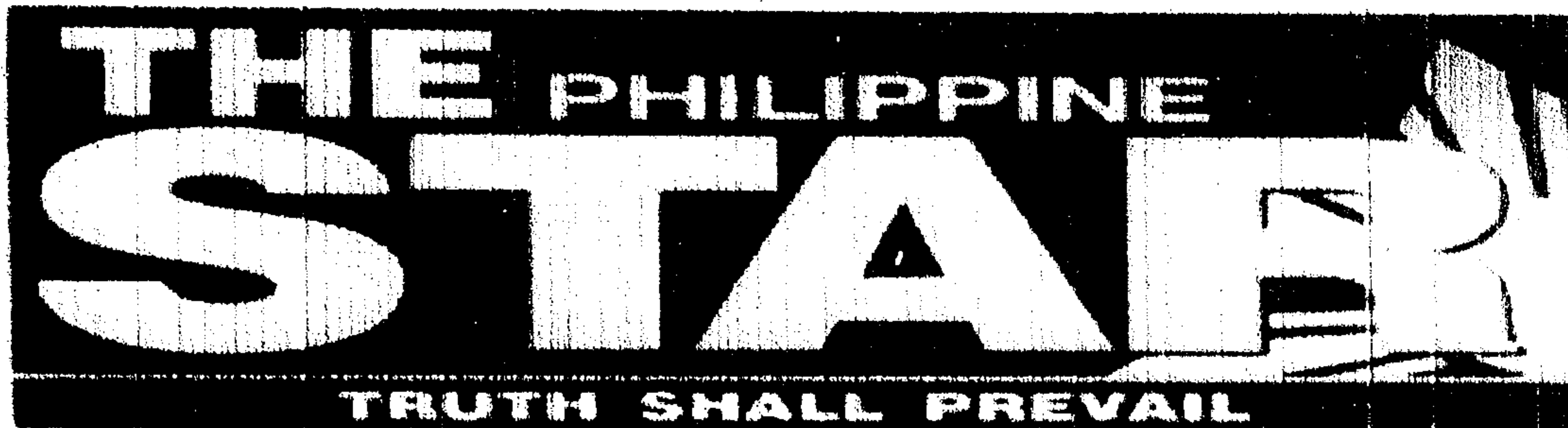
However, states who ignore or disregard the PCA's ruling risk losing credibility and losing out in the so-called "court of world opinion."

UNCLOS lays down rules for planet's oceans

Centuries before international laws, pirates ruled the high seas, plundering and pillaging wherever they went.

Into this dangerous, unruly seascape steamed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which will be the basis for a historic court judgment on Tuesday in a dispute between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea.

Here are the answers to four



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questions about the obscure convention known by its acronym UNCLOS:

What does it do?

With at least 320 articles and nine annexes, the convention covers all aspects of regulating the planet's vast oceans and maritime waters.

It is the authority on everything from national sovereignty over the exploitation of natural resources, navigation and disputes between nations.

According to the UN website, the convention "lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas, establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources."

What are its origins?

For many centuries the only law of the seas was brute force. In the 17th century, a country's rights over the seas were limited to "a narrow belt" extending from its coastline.

"The remainder of the seas was proclaimed to be free to all and belonging to none," the UN says on its website.

But by the second half of the 20th century, new technologies, modern oil and gas extraction methods, and a booming population gave rise to growing tensions around lucrative fishing grounds and competing demands for the rights to precious resources.

In 1945, the United States unilaterally extended jurisdiction over all resources over its continental shelf, which led to similar moves by Argentina, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia as well as the scattered archipelagos of Indonesia and the Philippines.

By late 1967 the dangers were numerous – from nuclear submarines plumbing the sea depths to ballistic missiles and increasingly frequent oil spills.

In the face of this "looming conflict that could devastate the oceans," Malta's ambassador to the UN, Arvid Pard, called for "an effective international regime" over the seabed.

When was UNCLOS born?

The first conference on the Law of the Sea was held in New York in 1973. For nine years, delegates argued and bartered as they drew up the text.

The UN General Assembly finally adopted the convention in April 1982. Signed by 150 countries and ratified by 67, it entered into force in November 1994.

What conflicts?

The convention also established the Hamburg-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), which along with the PCA and the International Court of Justice can rule on matters brought under UNCLOS.

Among other cases, in 1999, ITLOS laid down annual quotas for bluefin tuna catches in a bitter dispute between Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

In 2015, the PCA ruled under the UN convention that Russia must compensate the Netherlands over the 2013 seizure of Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise ship during a protest against Arctic oil drilling. – AFP

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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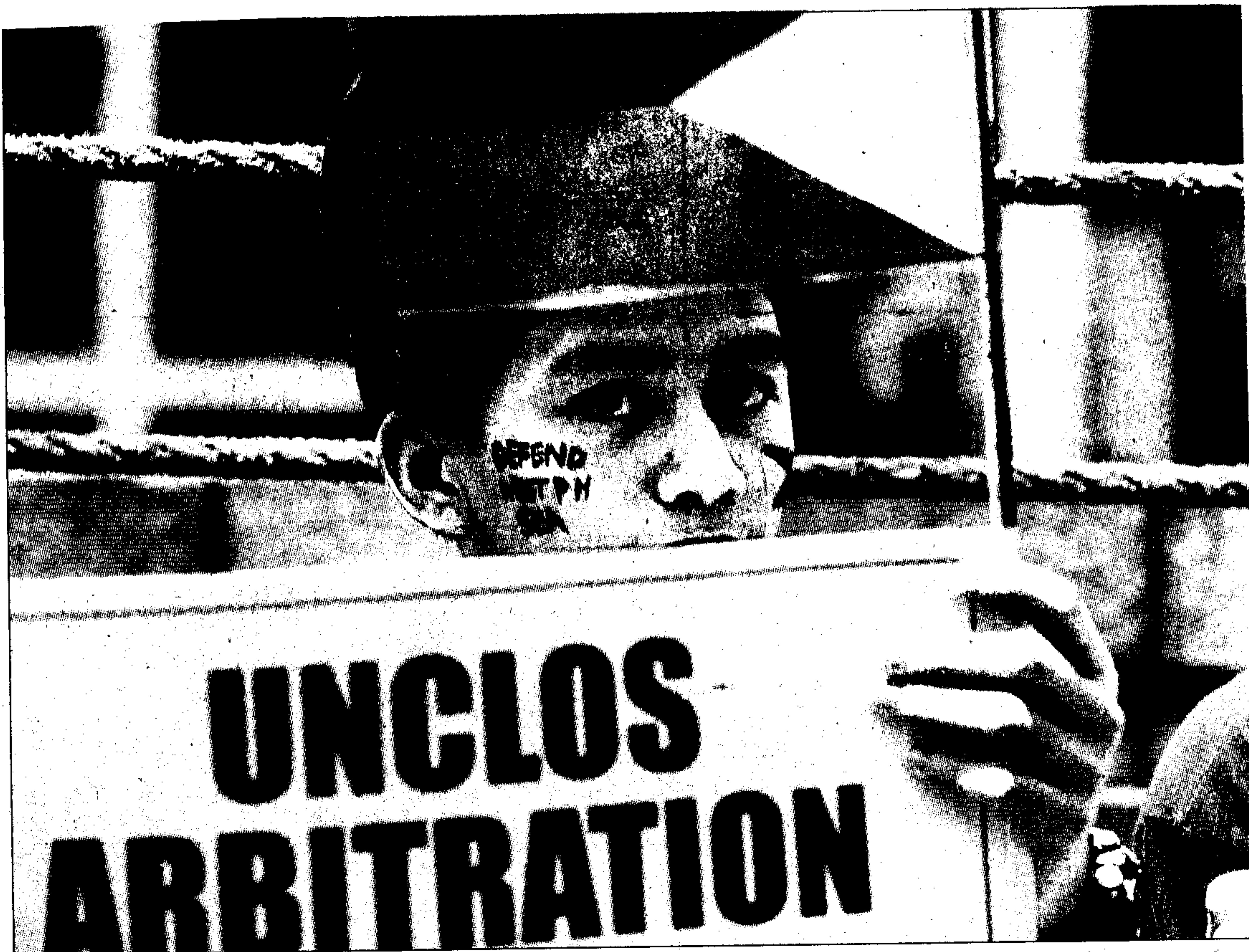
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

South China Sea. ---



In this June 10 file photo, a protester stands outside the Chinese consulate in Makati City to protest China's occupation and island-building in the disputed Spratlys island group in the South China Sea. China, which demands bilateral talks to resolve the disputes, has boycotted an arbitration case filed by the Philippines and vowed to ignore the verdict, which will be handed down tomorrow by the UN tribunal in The Hague.

AP

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UN court rules on sea row tomorrow

THE HAGUE – The world's oldest international arbitration tribunal will hand down a ruling tomorrow in an increasingly bitter territorial dispute over the South China Sea, in a closely watched case that risks ratcheting up tensions in Southeast Asia.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) will issue a written decision at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) after the Philippines challenged China's claim over much of the strategic waterway.

Legal experts agree that after three years of deliberations, two hearings and nearly 4,000 pages of evidence, the

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UN From Page 1

court in The Hague is likely to rule in Manila's favor in a decision with far-reaching ramifications.

"An award from the tribunal that rejects some of China's more dubious claims would provide support for the mainstream views of other states in the region," said Cecily Rose, assistant law professor of Public International Law at Leiden University.

"China is bound to comply with the award. But should it refuse to do so, the tribunal has no enforcement mechanism to which it can turn," Rose added.

The judgment comes against the backdrop of frequent military brushes between China and its Asian neighbors the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, which ring the waters believed to hold untapped oil and gas reserves.

China claims most of the South China Sea as its sovereign territory. It based its arguments on Chinese maps dating back to the 1940s marked with a so-called "nine-dash line."

Manila lodged the suit against Beijing in 2013, saying after 17 years of negotiations it had exhausted all other political and diplomatic avenues.

Manila stresses it is not asking the court to resolve sovereignty or delimit boundaries, but is seeking decisions on some key points.

Referring to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Manila contends the "nine-dash" line has no basis under international law and Beijing has no "historic" claim to the waters.

Manila also argued that Beijing violated the convention by preventing it from exercising its fishing and exploration rights and that Chinese fishing boats have irreversibly damaged coral reefs.

Angered by the move, Beijing refused to participate, saying it would not comply with the ruling by a tribunal with "no jurisdiction" over the issue.

Palace: Let's wait and see

Malacañang said yesterday it would still approach the issue from a legal standpoint and would act after the solicitor general shall have studied the results.

"Let us wait for the decision, study it and explore our next move," presidential communications Secretary Martin Andanar said over radio *dzRB* yesterday.

"Next week will be a historic week for everybody. Let's wait," Andanar said, adding that the government does not have a preconceived idea of how the case will turn out.

President Duterte said he was optimistic of a favorable ruling, but offered to hold conciliatory talks with China. He also vowed he would not "taunt or flaunt" any favorable ruling.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay, also in a softening of Manila's stance, said on Friday the Philippines was willing to have "joint exploration" of mineral resources in the disputed waters with China.

Sen. Leila de Lima yesterday cautioned Malacañang against pronouncements that could undermine the Philip-

piners' claim over the West Philippine Sea ahead of the release of the verdict of the PCA tomorrow.

De Lima cited the statements of Yasay, noting that joint exploration implied that both claimants have rights as well as maritime entitlement over the disputed waters.

"We must study well the implications of our pronouncements irrespective of whatever ruling will be of the arbitral tribunal, which is expected to rule in our favor," De Lima told *dzBB*. "All our efforts and our cause will be put to waste if we in effect surrender our sovereignty and rights."

"Since under UNCLOS an impleaded party is bound by a tribunal's ruling whether it participates or not, it therefore behooves China, as a law-abiding member of the community of nations, to do likewise," said Victoria Bataclan, ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and head of the Philippine Mission to the EU.

China 'not afraid of trouble'

But China's state-run media said Friday Beijing would not take "a single step back" in the waterway.

Expert Joris Larik from The Hague Institute for Global Justice think tank pointed out that Manila is aiming to "pierce" the nine-dash line, adding "China's position and credibility will be weakened if the arbitral panel finds against it."

But Chinese President Xi Jinping said Beijing was "not afraid of trouble" and state-run media urged China to prepare for "military confrontation" in the waters. — **AFF, Giovanni Nilles, Paolo Romero, Pia Lee-Bravo**



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Butchoy raises Angat Dam's water level

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – Rains during the onslaught of Typhoon Butchoy increased the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan, the provincial disaster risk reduction management office said yesterday.

As of 8 a.m. yesterday, the dam's water elevation was 179.68 meters.

The increase in the water level was felt only after Butchoy left the Philippines.

Heavy downpours on Thursday and Friday failed to raise the water level, which was at 179.36 and 179.35 meters, respectively. By Saturday, the water level further slid to 179.34 meters.

The current water elevation is more than 30 meters below its normal high water level of 212 meter.

Angat Dam supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's potable water.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tagaytay Highlands plants seeds of hope

Among the highly critical environmental concerns that pose a threat to mankind is climate change, the devastating effects of which are currently manifesting in extreme weather patterns all over the world. The good news is, in the fight against environmental degradation, our weapons can be as tiny as a seed or as big as our vision.

Bearing this in mind, Tagaytay Highlands recently rallied homeowners, employees and guests behind this year's "One Tree at a Time" program, and renewed its partnership with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) for the preservation of the environment.

In 2002, Tagaytay Highlands founder Willy Ocier pledged to plant 1,000,000 trees by 2050. Almost halfway through to the fulfillment of his pledge, Tagaytay Highlands has accomplished the planting of 485,600 fruit-bearing trees to date.

Meanwhile, the partnership with ACB that started in 2010 put the premier leisure destination as a recognized ACB's "Friend of Biodiversity", which positions Tagaytay Highlands as a business that cares for the environment and other causes.

"Tagaytay Highlands' annual tree-planting activity, in partnership with ACB, is part of

its green wave initiative and is one of our strategies in helping secure the environment so that future generations can still cherish what we have today," club president Jerry Tiu said during the event.

Representatives from neighboring countries who were present applauded the project.

Remarked Akmal Che Mustafa, Malaysian Embassy's deputy chief of mission, "In Malaysia, biodiversity conservation has always been an integral part of our efforts in sustainable development. To me, biodiversity is not only about preserving flora and fauna; it is likewise a factor that greatly impacts food security and climate change."

Other ASEAN diplomats who joined the event were Vietnam's second secretary Le Thi Thu Thuy; Myanmar Ambassador U Ye Myint Aung and second secretary Chann Nyein Soe; and Singapore deputy chief of mission and counselor Scott Loh. ACB executive director Roberto Oliva and Bb. Pilipinas-International 2014 Bianca Guidotti were also present.

Tagaytay Highlands has also released a photographic collection of "The Birds of Tagaytay Highlands" in tandem with the Wild Bird Club, proving that the mountain resort has been declared a bird sanctuary.



Guests pose for a picture with Tagaytay Highlands club president Jerry Tiu before the 'One Tree at a Time' event.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Audit won't spare ISO-certified mining firms — DENR's Lopez

By Janina C. Lim
Reporter

SECURING certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), as required by law, will not guarantee that miners will avoid the suspension of their operations following a government audit, Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez said.

"The audit will be holistic not just technical. I mentioned the ISO because it's in the law," said Ms. Lopez in a phone interview over the weekend.

Asked if the ISO 14001 standard for best practices in environmental management is sufficient to keep miners from running afoul of auditors, she replied: "No. No it doesn't... We should achieve high standards and protect our people."

Last year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued Adminis-

trative Order 2015-07 mandating all operating metallic mines in the country to secure ISO 14001 certification for their environmental management systems.

Failure to do so means suspension of the mining company's environmental compliance certificate and non-issuance of ore transport and/or mineral ore export permits, the lack of which would effectively halt exploration activity as well as the transport and export of mineral ores.

The deadline for the certification was April 30 but some miners who are still undergoing the process to secure certification requested an extension from former DENR Secretary Ramon J. P. Paje.

According to Ms. Lopez, the order to conduct the assessment has been signed and the audit has started. Earlier, she said that the results of the audit will come out Aug. 1.

The auditing team will be composed of a group from the Mines

and Geosciences Bureau and outside experts such as agriculturists, and fishery and social development experts, among others.

Sought for comment, Dante R. Bravo, president of Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc., one of the ISO-compliant metallic miners, urged that the audit be conducted transparently.

"ISO certification is just one aspect of compliance because it merely refers to environmental management system. But we are ready for that audit and we expect that it would be fair. We expect observance of due process. The audit findings should be transparent," said Mr. Bravo in a mobile message.

Jose Bayani D. Baylon, vice-president for corporate communications at NickelAsia Corp. said in a text message, "ISO certification is no guarantee that a firm will not fall short at one time or another, or that an incident will not happen just as an incident happening does not per se make a firm irresponsible."

"But as the secretary herself... and to quote her own words, 'ISO 14001 is another way of saying responsible mining,'" Mr. Baylon said, referring to the statement given by Ms. Lopez in her first news conference just 11 days ago when she formally assumed office.

In a mobile message, Francis Joseph G. Ballesteros, Jr., division head of Philex Mining Corporation's Public and Regulatory Affairs, also quoted her statement, adding that he hopes "she is not backtracking from that."

Mining stocks helped put a dampener on stock prices Friday, with all sectors advancing except industrials and the mining and oil sector.

Sentiment in the market was driven by the suspension of the mining operations of Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. and Benguet Nickel Mines, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the country's oldest mining firm, Benguet Corp.

On Friday, Benguet shares dropped 5.47% to close at P7.09.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Philippines-China bitter territorial dispute lights up world's oldest tribunal

THE HAGUE — The little-known Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) on Tuesday ruled on a bitter dispute over the South China Sea which could have huge international ramifications amid growing tensions in the key waterway.

The Philippines brought the case against the China in 2013, asking the court to find that Beijing's claims to much of the territory in the sea are invalid and violate the UN's Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Here are five facts about the tribunal based in The Hague:

WHAT IS THE PCA?

The PCA is the world's oldest inter-governmental organization dedicated to resolving international disputes through arbitration "and other peaceful means."

It came to life in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference convened by Czar Nicholas II of Russia. It refers to contracts, special agreements and various treaties such as those set up by the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to rule in disputes.

It also has a permanent overseas presence in Mauritius and can conduct hearings all over the world.

INTERESTING PCA CASES

The PCA's arbitral tribunals have rendered more than 70 decisions in past cases and it currently considers 116 cases. Recently-concluded cases include rulings in a bitter border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia and handing down an award in favor of the Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius in a fight with Britain over a marine

protected area in the Chagos Archipelago. In another case, it gave India a partial green light to build a hydro-electric project in the Kishenganga River after a dispute with Pakistan, who was worried about the project's impact on water supply further downstream.

IS IT A REAL 'COURT?'

The PCA is not a court in the traditional sense with judges to rule on issues. Rather it consists of arbitral tribunals put together for each case. Hearings are not open to the public or press, unless both parties in the dispute agree.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

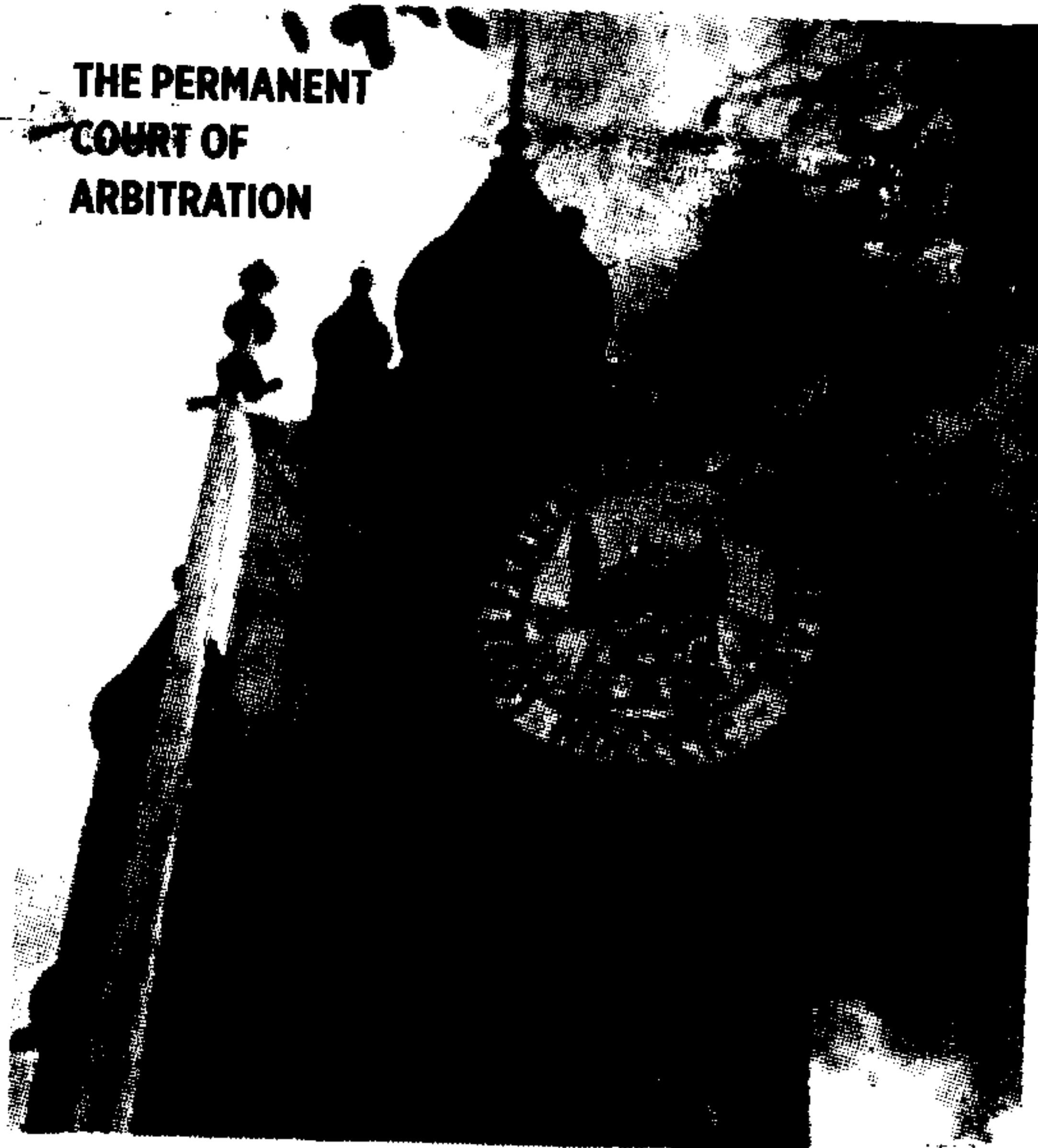
When diplomacy fails between two states they may turn to arbitration via the PCA. Usually cases are settled on a pre-existing agreement — contained in a treaty or contract — that if a dispute arises it will be

resolved through arbitration. Once arbitration begins, an arbitral tribunal is appointed, consisting of one judge or five members. For the South China Sea arbitration a five-member panel has been appointed led by Ghanaian-born judge Thomas A. Mensah.

ARE ITS DECISIONS BINDING?

Yes. All decisions, called "awards" are binding on all the parties in the dispute and have to be carried out without delay. There are some post-award proceedings available to parties unhappy with the tribunal's decision, but they are limited, particularly in interstate disputes. Experts also say enforcement is often the "Achilles Heel" of public international law. However, states who ignore or disregard the PCA's ruling risk losing credibility and losing out in the so-called "court of world opinion." — AFP

THE PERMANENT
COURT OF
ARBITRATION



HTTP://WWW.HAGUEJUSTICEPORTAL.NET

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Sea dispute lights up world's oldest tribunal

THE HAGUE: The little-known Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) on Tuesday rules on a bitter dispute over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) that could have huge international ramifications amid growing tensions in the key waterway.

The Philippines brought the case against China in 2013, asking the court to find that Beijing's claims to much of the territory in the sea are invalid and violate the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

➤ **DisputeA8**

■ DISPUTE FROM A1

Sea

Here are five facts about the tribunal based in The Hague, The Netherlands:

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Interesting PCA cases

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AFP

The Manila Times

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UN court likely to rule in favor of PH — experts

THE HAGUE: An international tribunal will hand down a ruling on Tuesday in an increasingly bitter dispute over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), in a closely-watched case that risks ratcheting up tensions in Southeast Asia.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) — the world's oldest international arbitration tribunal — will issue a written decision at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) after the Philippines challenged China's claim over much of the strategic waterway.

Manila lodged the suit against Beijing in 2013, saying after 17 years of negotiations it had exhausted all other political and diplomatic avenues.

Angered by the move, Beijing refused to participate, saying it would not comply with the ruling by a tribunal with "no

► **FavorA2**

jurisdiction" over the issue.

Legal experts agree that after three years of deliberations, two hearings and nearly 4,000 pages of evidence, the court in The Hague is likely to find in Manila's favor -- in a decision with far-reaching ramifications.

"An award from the tribunal that rejects some of China's more dubious claims would provide support for the mainstream views of other states in the region," Cecily Rose, assistant law professor of Public International Law at Leiden University, told *Agence France-Presse*.

"China is bound to comply with the award. But should it refuse to do so, the tribunal has no enforcement mechanism to which it can turn," Rose said.

Military tensions

The judgment comes against a backdrop of frequent military brushes between China and its Asian neighbors the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei Darus-

salam and Taiwan, which ring the waters believed to hold untapped oil and gas reserves.

The tensions have also alarmed the United States, which has key defense treaties with many regional allies, and in a show of strength last week sent warships to patrol close to some of the reefs and islands claimed by China.

Washington on Friday "urged both parties to comply with the ruling and urge all claimants to avoid provocative actions or statements."

"Whatever the outcome, the case will not contribute to improved relations between China and other claimants in the South China Sea," Frans-Paul van der Putten, a senior researcher at the Clingendael think-tank, said.

Newly-elected Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he was optimistic of a favorable ruling, but offered to hold conciliatory talks with China. And he vowed he would not "taunt or flaunt" any favorable ruling.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay, in a softening of Manila's stance, said also on Friday the country was willing to share natural resources with China.

The Manila Times

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■ FAVOR FROM A1

UN court

But China's state-run media said Friday Beijing will not take "a single step back" in the waterway.

The Asian economic and military powerhouse claims most of the South China Sea, even waters approaching neighboring countries, as its sovereign territory, basing its arguments on Chinese maps dating back to the 1940s marked with a so-called "nine-dash line."

Expert Joris Larik from The Hague Institute for Global Justice think-tank pointed out that Manila is aiming to "pierce" the nine-dash line, saying "China's position and credibility will be weakened if the arbitral panel finds against it."

But Chinese President Xi Jinping said Beijing was "not afraid of trouble" and state-run media urged China to prepare for "military confrontation" in the waters.

China launched drills in the sea also on Friday, state media reported, with the navy carrying out combat exercises with live missiles according to the *PLA Daily*, the military's official newspaper.

No 'historic' claim

Manila stresses it is not asking the court to resolve sovereignty or

delimit boundaries but is seeking decisions on some key points.

Referring to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Manila contends the "nine-dash" line has no basis under international law and Beijing has no "historic" claim to the waters.

Manila has further argued that Beijing violated the convention by preventing it from exercising its fishing and exploration rights and that Chinese fishing boats have irreversibly damaged coral reefs.

The Philippine government also says some of the "islands" claimed by Beijing are merely rocks, and not entitled to a "territorial sea" or an exclusive economic zone.

Tensions between China and its neighbors in the sea have at times flared into open conflict including in 1988 when Vietnam and China fought a naval battle on Johnson Reef in the Spratly Islands that killed about 70 Vietnamese.

The sea's shipping lanes connect East Asia with Europe and the Middle East, and over \$5 trillion (4.5 trillion euros) in ship-borne trade passes through them annually.

AFP

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Small-scale miners to also undergo audit—Lopez

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

SMALL-SCALE miners will also be subjected to strict regulation as part of the government's campaign against "irresponsible" mining, according to the chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

already started last week and it will take less than a month to weed out those who violate various environmental and mining laws.

By August, she said the DENR, through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)—the government's primary main regulatory body—will determine which companies may be held liable for "causing people to suffer."

Asked what kind of documents

300,000

The number of small-scale miners in the Philippines

would be required of large-scale mining companies for the audit, she said: "I am less interested in the docu-

ments than on what is happening on the ground. My commitment is to the well-being of the farmers, fishermen and communities. The quality of their lives cannot be less important than the money companies make."

According to Lopez, even if large-scale mining companies are ISO 14001-certified, they will still be held accountable "if they are endangering or having adverse effects on the lives

of the communities in their operations is still at stake.

MGB Director Leo Jasareno earlier said having an ISO 14001 certification means a mining firm's operation is on a par with international standards and ensures that it does not "compromise" the environment.

"I don't just want a technical audit. I want an environmental and social audit. It's the right thing to do," Lopez said.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tough to keep the world from warming when carbon is cheap

CARBON markets, the free-enterprise solution to saving the world from global warming, are now in danger themselves.

The idea was simple enough: Set a cap on carbon emissions, issue enough permits to allow power plants, refineries and the like to stay within those limits and then shrink the cap over time to achieve reductions. The companies whose emissions fall fastest can sell their permits for a profit to slower responders—call it a reward for good behavior.

The reality, though, is more complex. Undercut by a lack of political will on the size of caps and overtaken by costly new environmental mandates, carbon markets in the US, Europe and Asia are collapsing, with prices so low they've become virtually valueless. The credits auctioned in the US Northeast in June, for instance, sold for just \$4.53 a short ton, a 40-percent drop from December.

"Climate policy has been muddled and messy," said Michael Grubb, a

professor at University College London's Institute for Sustainable Resources who has advised the UK energy regulator. "Governments have set inadequate targets due to lobbying pressures and because they didn't think carefully enough about overlapping efforts. That has destroyed investor confidence that carbon prices will rise."

The idea of a carbon market originated 20 years ago with Richard Sandor, an economist who also pioneered interest-rate futures and derivatives at the Chicago Board of Trade.

Today there are 38 countries, cities, states and provinces using pricing systems in an attempt to put a lid on greenhouse gases, according to the World Bank.

The problem is that the permits are selling at a slower and slower rate. The surplus of allowances is becoming so large in systems run by Europe, California and Quebec—which together account for more than 90 percent of global trading—that by 2022

it could cover the emissions spewing from every car on Earth for a full year, according to estimates by the London environmental group Sandbag Climate Campaign CIC and Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

In California's market, all 23 million allowances sold in an auction in 2014. In May 7.3 million permits found buyers, only 11 percent of what was put up for sale.

'Extreme paranoia'

THE markets are crumbling just as the UK's vote to leave the European Union (EU) throws into question the future of the world's largest market by threatening to shrink demand. Nor does the collapse bode well for China, as the world's top greenhouse-gas emitter prepares to start its own next year.

Alex Rau, a principal at the carbon-trading advisory group Climate Wedge Ltd., chalks up the downfall largely to "an extreme paranoia" that the price of carbon will rise too high.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tough to keep the world from warming
when carbon is cheap

So instead of strengthening caps unpopular among some oil companies, polluting factories and consumers who ultimately shoulder costs, politicians around the world have stitched together a patchwork of overlapping measures that are less vulnerable to lobbyists.

Take the US, where states including California run carbon markets but have also imposed other regulations that require gasoline suppliers to cut the carbon intensity of their fuel and utilities to buy increasing volumes of solar and wind power.

"When you put in place all these other mandates, there is little work left for carbon markets," said Meredith Fowlie, an economist and research associate at the University of California at Berkeley department of agriculture and resource economics.

'Insanely expensive'

POLICIES are undercutting the markets in some places.

"Some of the renewable-energy

subsidies are stupidly, insanely expensive per ton of carbon dioxide saved," said Louis Redshaw, who has his own emissions-trading company, Redshaw Advisors Ltd. in London, and was previously head of carbon at Barclays Plc. "Politicians are not only failing to deliver a comprehensive carbon price for the economy, they are busy undermining them where they exist."

In California the state Air Resources Board still has the authority to pull excess permits from circulation to avoid a glut, said Dave Clegern, a spokesman for the agency. "One auction tells us very little," he said. "We're in the long game here."

Anna-Kaisa Itkonen, a spokeswoman for the European Commission in Brussels, noted that its emissions targets under a climate agreement hammered out by leaders in Paris last year were among the most ambitious in the world. EU carbon allowances fell 0.7 percent to settle at €4.55 (\$5.03) a metric ton on ICE Futures

Europe in London on Friday, the lowest since June 30. They've dropped 45 percent in the year to date.

Germany, meanwhile, acknowledged that the system run by the EU is in need of an overhaul, especially in light of the Paris climate pact. "We will need to look at our ambition," Michael Schroeren, a spokesman for Germany's environment ministry, said in a statement. "After more than 10 years of emissions trading in Europe, we can look back on the lessons learned."

China risks falling into the same trap as others. While regulators looking to establish a national market there appear to be trying to avoid an oversupply, prices are already plummeting in pilots they're running, said Sophie Lu, an analyst in Beijing at Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Just as carbon market history has repeated itself around the world, Lu said, China "may not be willing to pay the political and economic costs." *Bloomberg News*

The Manila Times

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Lopez bent on audit, says ISO certification 'not enough'

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Regina Paz Lopez is coming up with a new set of guidelines and standards to audit all operating mines in the country "because an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification is simply not enough."

In a text message, Lopez said she expects the audit of all existing mining operations, which is part of the process to weed out illegal and irresponsible miners in the country, to be completed by August this year.

"I am less interested in the documents than on what is happening on the ground. My commitment is to the well being of the communities. The farmers, the fishermen, the communities... the quality of their lives cannot be less important than the money companies make," Lopez said.

Lopez earlier challenged the mining firms to prove "your [continued] existence in this country."

The country's big mining lobby

has said that 14 out of its 22 members have already secured ISO certification in response to Lopez's call for all miners to have ISO 14001 certification.

According to her, 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."

ISO 14001 is considered as a seal of world-class good housekeeping for mining companies.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said more than half of their members have fully complied with the regulatory requirement while the rest are in the process of securing ISO 14001 for their operations.

"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," SAID May Anne Caddac, COMP spokesperson. "Change is here through responsible mining."

But Lopez stressed that the ISO 14001 certification would not save mining companies from her more stringent environmental requirements.

"Even if the company is ISO certified, if they are endangering or having adverse effects on the lives of the communities, their operation is still at stake. I don't just want technical audits. I want an environmental and social audit. It's the right thing to do," she stressed.

Audit to cover 105 mines

The audit will cover some 105 metallic and non-metallic mines nationwide including quarrying and small-scale mining.

► ISO B5

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■ ISO FROM B1

Lopez bent

As of July 2016, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo Jasareno said 70 per cent of the 42 operating metallic mines in the Philippines have yet to secure ISO 14001 certification for their operations.

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

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

the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Measure of responsible mining

DAO 2015-07 institutionalizes an environmental management system that ensures the adherence of local mining operations to international standards, particularly the ISO 14001 Certification, as a measure of responsible mining in the country.

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

As mandated under Executive Order No. 79, it will also guarantee 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 holders of valid and existing Mineral Agreements (MA) and Financial or Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAA) that are in the operating period.

The MA or FTAA holders engaged in metallic mining operations should secure the ISO 14001 Certification within one year from the date of said DAO; while in the case of an MA or FTAA holder filing for a Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility (DMPF) for metallic mineral, the ISO 14001 Certification should be secured within one year from receipt of the order approving the said DMPE.

Meanwhile, Lopez said that the DENR will also go after small-scale mining activities, saying that much needs to be done in fixing the mining sector to ensure the protection of the environment and the people who stand to be affected by highly extractive industries.

"All mining. Anything extractive.

This is going to be a holistic audit, social, environmental," she said.

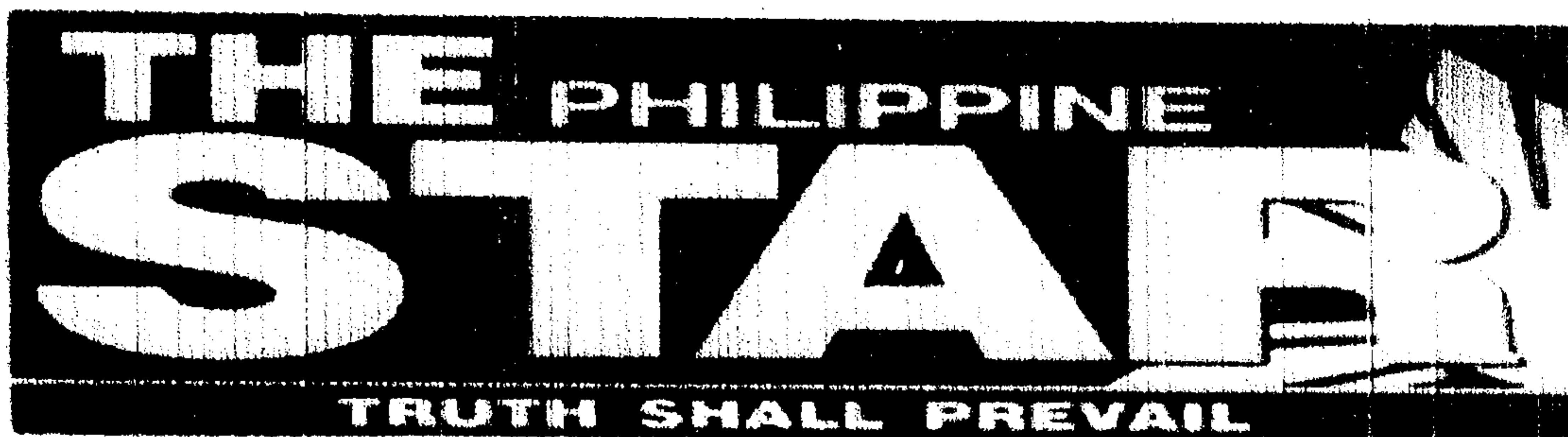
At present, an estimated 300,000-400,000 individuals are into small-scale mining, with operations being financed by firms and cooperatives.

Under Executive Order No. 79, small-scale mining should be done within a declared Minahang Bayan (people's small-scale mining area).

There are only five declared Minahang Bayan in the Philippines—including Barangay Maputi, Banaybanay Town, Davao Oriental; Barangay Waso, Llorente Town in Eastern Samar; Buenavista, Quezon; and two others in the provinces of Dinagat Island and Agusan del Sur.

Three years after the signing of EO 79, the MGB has yet to approve new applications for Minahang Bayan permits, making all small-scale mining outside the five areas illegal.

JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

39 caves placed under DENR protection, management

Thirty-nine more caves across the country have been placed under the protection and management of the government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said over the weekend.

The figure brought to 454 the total number of caves that are now part of the country's natural wealth and require sustainable management and protection.

In a memorandum, the DENR said it was necessary to preserve the caves so the public could enjoy them.

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The directive was meant to promote public awareness on the significance of the caves as part of the country's natural resources and ecosystem.

Six of the 39 caves are located in the Cordilleras, 15 in the Bicol region, seven in Ilocos region, six in Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos), three in Davao del Norte and two in Cagayan.

Nine of the caves were categorized under Class I based on their delicate and fragile

formation, threatened species and extremely hazardous condition.

Activities allowed in these caves are limited to mapping, photography, and educational and scientific purposes.

Twenty-three were listed under Class II for having parts that are hazardous as well as sensitive geological formation, cultural and historical values or ecosystem.

Seven others, including the Dalangin Cave in Camarines Sur and the Sibud-Sibud Cave

in Abra, were placed under Class III or those that are safe for exploration and activities like collecting guano and bird's nest.

The DENR - Biodiversity Management Bureau had been studying the caves for their classification as provided under Republic Act 9072 or the National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act.

The law mandates the DENR to formulate, develop and implement a management program to conserve and protect these caves.

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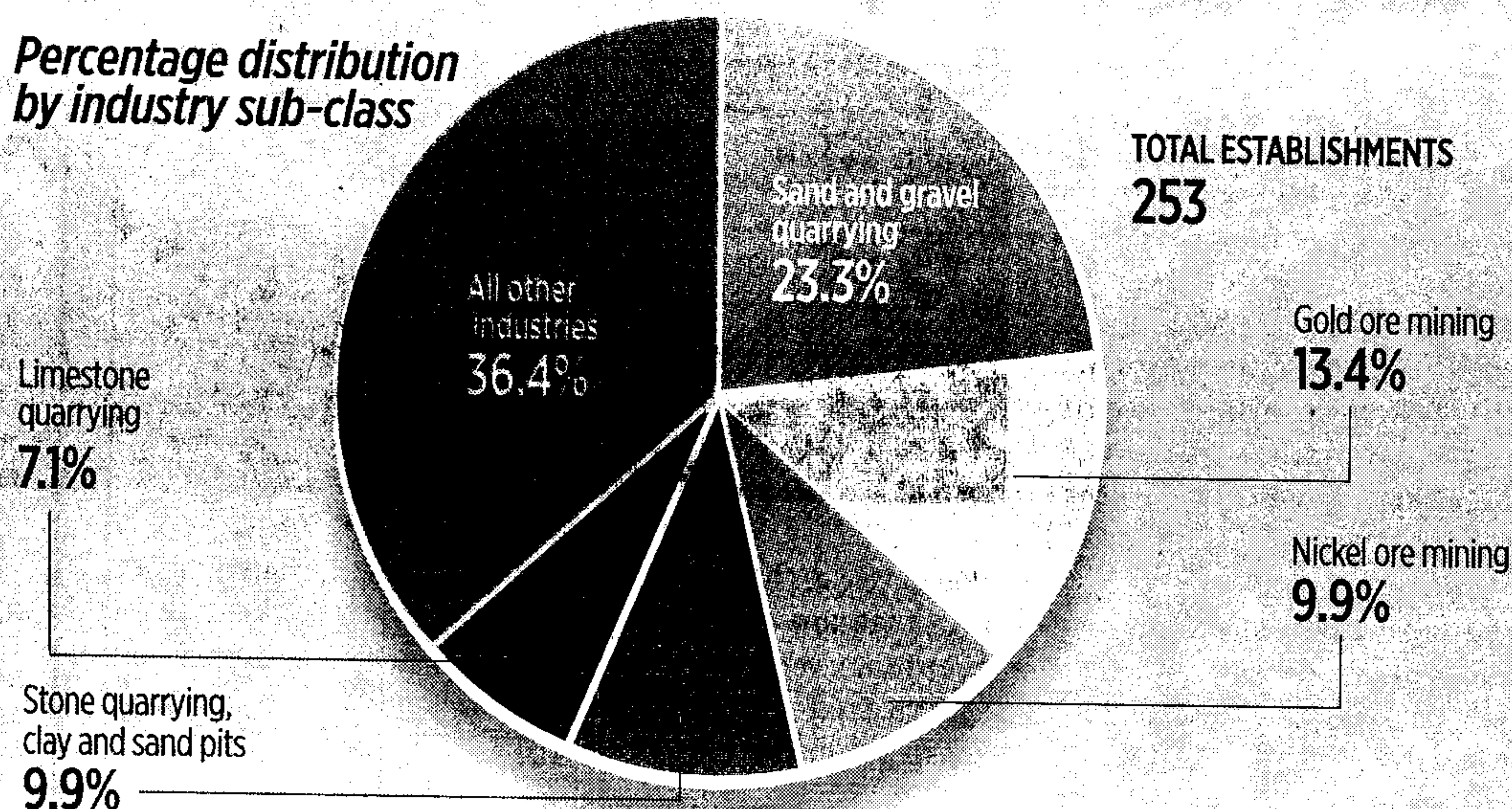
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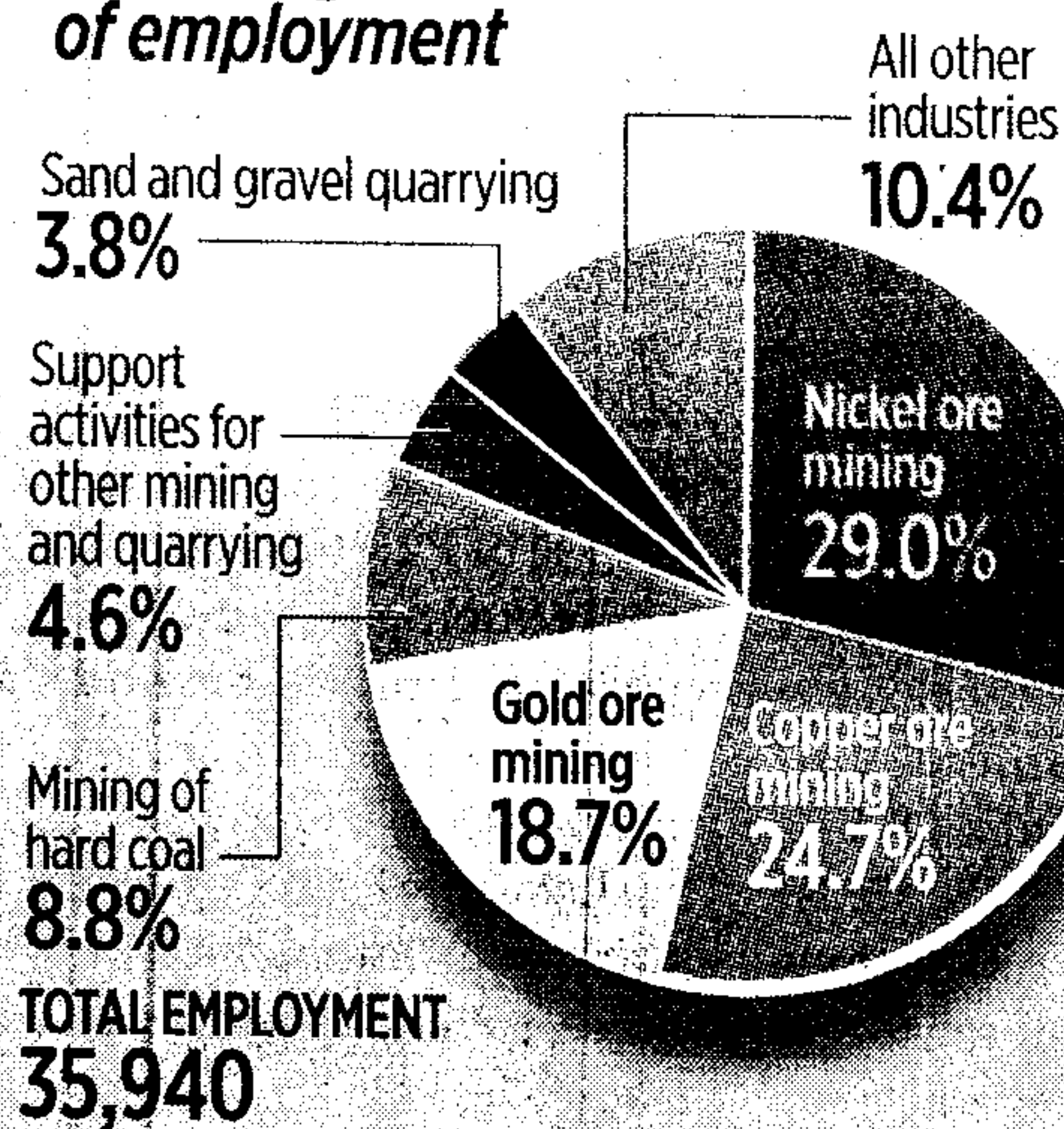
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PHILIPPINE MINING AND QUARRYING SECTOR PROFILE, 2013

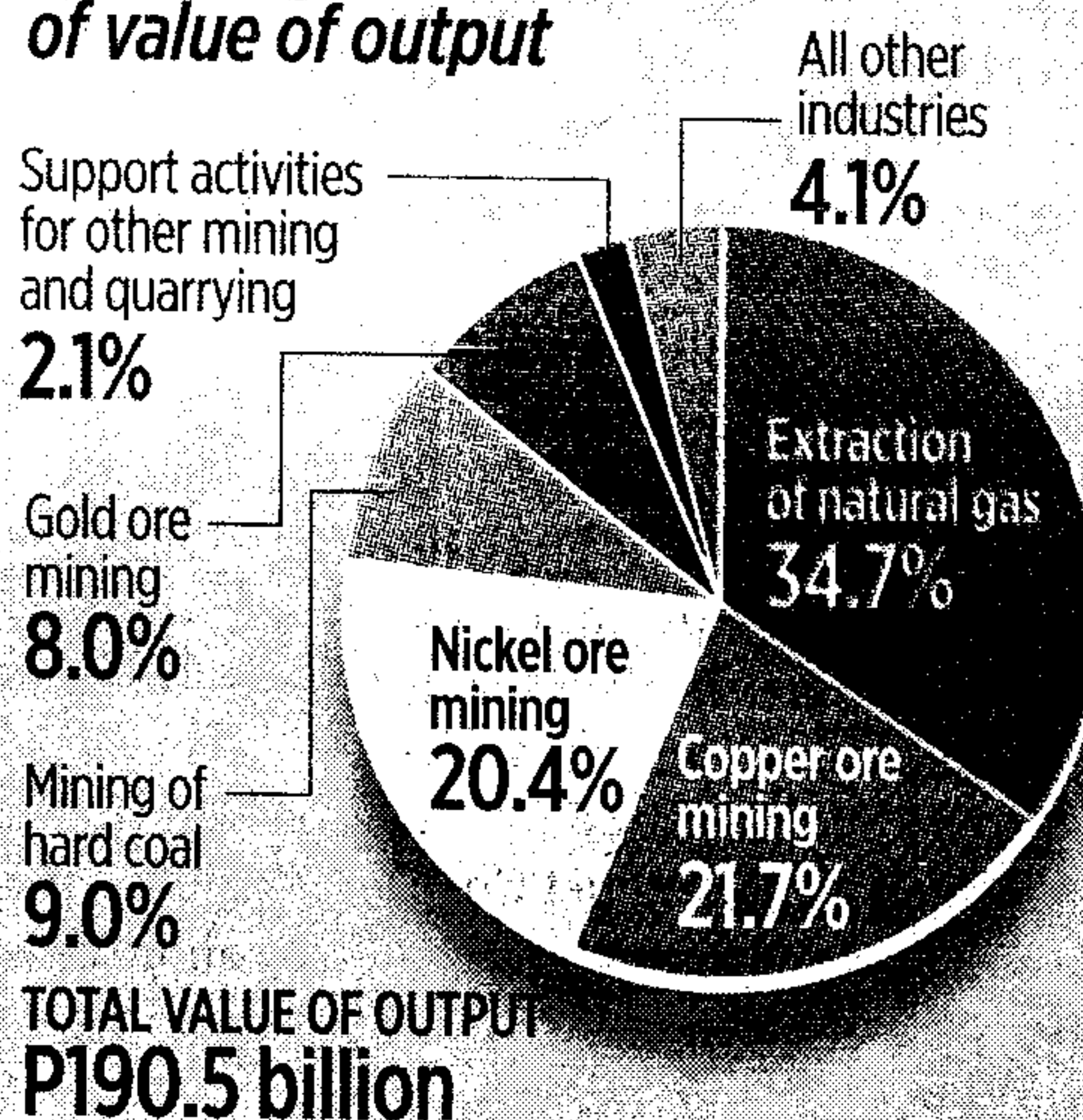
*Percentage distribution
by industry sub-class*



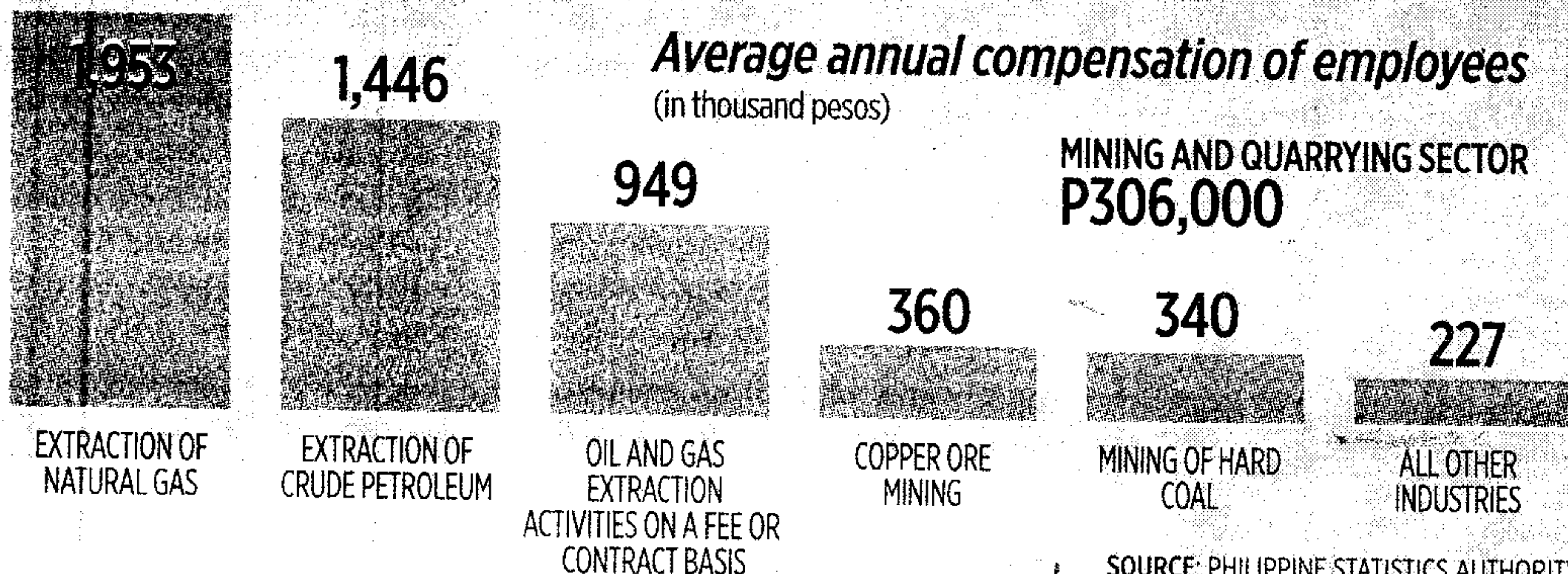
*Percentage distribution
of employment*



*Percentage distribution
of value of output*



*Average annual compensation of employees
(in thousand pesos)*



SOURCE: PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UN sea law lays down the rules for the planet's oceans

THE HAGUE — Centuries before international laws, pirates ruled the high seas, plundering and pillaging wherever they went.

Into this dangerous, unruly seascape steamed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which will be the basis for a historic court judgment on Tuesday in a dispute between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea.

Here are the answers to four questions about the obscure convention known by its acronym UNCLOS:

WHAT DOES IT DO?

With at least 320 articles and nine annexes, the convention covers all aspects

of regulating the planet's vast oceans and maritime waters.

It is the authority on everything from national sovereignty over the exploitation of natural resources, navigation and disputes between nations.

According to the UN Web site, the convention "lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas, establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources."

WHAT ARE ITS ORIGINS?

For many centuries the only law of the seas was brute force. In the 17th century, a country's rights over the seas were limited to "a narrow belt" extending from its coastline.

"The remainder of the seas was proclaimed to be free to all and belonging to none," the UN says on its Web site.

But by the second half of the 20th century, new technologies, modern oil and gas extraction methods, and a booming population gave rise to growing tensions around lucrative fishing grounds and competing demands for the rights to precious resources.

In 1945, the United States unilaterally extended jurisdiction over all resources over its continental shelf, which led to similar moves by Argentina, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia as well as the scattered archipelagos of Indonesia and the Philippines.

By late 1967 the dangers were numerous — from nuclear submarines

plumbing the sea depths to ballistic missiles and increasingly frequent oil spills.

In the face of this "looming conflict that could devastate the oceans," Malta's ambassador to the UN, Arvid Pard, called for "an effective international regime" over the seabed.

WHEN WAS UNCLOS BORN?

The first conference on the Law of the Sea was held in New York in 1973. For nine years, delegates argued and bartered as they drew up the text.

The UN General Assembly finally adopted the convention in April 1982. Signed by 150 countries and ratified by 67, it entered into force in November 1994.

WHAT CONFLICTS?

The convention also established the Hamburg-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), which along with the PCA and the International Court of Justice can rule on matters brought under UNCLOS.

Among other cases, in 1999, ITLOS laid down annual quotas for bluefin tuna catches in a bitter dispute between Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

In 2015, the PCA ruled under the UN convention that Russia must compensate the Netherlands over the 2013 seizure of *Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise* ship during a protest against Arctic oil drilling. — AFP

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Hague tribunal to rule in tense South China Sea row

THE HAGUE — An international tribunal will hand down a ruling on Tuesday in an increasingly bitter dispute over the South China Sea, in a closely-watched case that risks ratcheting up tensions in Southeast Asia.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) — the world's oldest international arbitration tribunal — will issue a written decision at 0900 GMT after the Philippines challenged China's claim over much of the strategic waterway.

Manila lodged the suit against Beijing in 2013, saying after 17 years of negotiations it had exhausted all other political and diplomatic avenues.

Angered by the move, Beijing refused to participate, adding it would not comply with the ruling by a tribunal with "no jurisdiction" over the issue.

Legal experts agree that after three years of deliberations, two hearings and nearly 4,000 pages of evidence, the court in The Hague is likely to find in Manila's favor — in a decision with far-reaching ramifications.

"An award from the tribunal that rejects some of China's more dubious claims would provide support for the mainstream views of other states in the region," Cecily Rose, assistant law professor of Public International Law at Leiden University, told AFP.

"China is bound to comply with the award. But should it refuse to do so, the tribunal has no enforcement mechanism to which it can turn," Ms. Rose said.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Hague tribunal to rule in tense
South China Sea row

MILITARY TENSION

The judgment comes against the backdrop of frequent military brushes between China and its Asian neighbors the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, which ring the waters believed to hold untapped oil and gas reserves.

The tensions have also alarmed the United States which has key defense treaties with many regional allies, and in a show of strength last week sent warships to patrol close to some of the reefs and islands claimed by China.

Washington on Friday "urged both parties to comply with the ruling and urge all claimants to avoid provocative actions or statements."

"Whatever the outcome, the case will not contribute to improved relations between China and other claimants in the South China Sea," Frans-Paul van der Putten, a senior researcher at the Clingendael think-tank, told AFP.

Newly-elected Philippine President Rodrigo R. Duterte said he was optimistic of a favorable ruling, but offered to hold conciliatory talks with China. And he vowed he would not "taunt or flaunt" any favorable ruling.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay, also in a softening of Manila's stance, said Friday the country was willing to share natural resources with China.

But China's state-run media said Friday Beijing will not take "a single step back" in the waterway.

The Asian economic and military powerhouse claims most of the South China Sea, even waters approaching neighboring countries, as its sovereign territory, basing its arguments on Chinese maps dating back to the 1940s marked with a so-called "nine-dash line."

Expert Joris Larik from The Hague Institute for Global Justice think-tank pointed out that Manila is aiming to "pierce" the nine-dash line, adding: "China's position and credibility will be weakened if the arbitral panel finds against it."

But Chinese President Xi Jinping said Beijing was "not afraid of trouble" and state-run media urged China to prepare for "military confrontation" in the waters.

China launched drills in the sea on Friday, state media reported, with the navy carrying out combat exercises with live missiles according to the *PLA Daily*, the military's official newspaper.

NO 'HISTORIC' CLAIM

Manila stresses it is not asking the court to resolve sovereignty or delimit boundaries, but is seeking decisions on some key points.

Referring to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Manila contends the "nine-dash" line has no basis under international law and Beijing has no "historic" claim to the waters.

Manila has further argued that Beijing violated the convention by preventing it from exercising its fishing and exploration rights and

that Chinese fishing boats have irreversibly damaged coral reefs.

The Philippine government also says some of the "islands" claimed by Beijing are merely rocks, and not entitled to a "territorial sea" or an exclusive economic zone.

Tensions between China and its neighbors in the sea have at times flared into open conflict including in 1988 when Vietnam and China fought a naval battle on Johnson Reef in the Spratly Islands which killed about 70 Vietnamese.

The sea's shipping lanes connect East Asia with Europe and the Middle East, and over \$5 trillion (4.5 trillion euros) in shipborne trade passes through them annually. — **AFP**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Six botanical pesticides being developed

RESearchers from the Central Luzon State University have found six plants possessing botanical pesticide or biopesticide properties, which can be an alternative to commercial pesticides.

A biopesticide is a substance derived from plants capable of protecting selected crops against certain diseases and pests.

The team of researchers, led by program leader Dr. Annie Melinda Paz-Alberto of the Institute of Climate Change and Environmental Management, has developed six biopesticides from plants collected in Central Luzon provinces—Nueva Ecija, Bataan and Aurora.

However, the biopesticides have to be further studied, field tested and patented prior to its promotion to farmers.

Plant samples were collected from the forests in identified sites. They were later screened to determine whether they have potential as biopesticide and processed into liquid biopesticide.

Dr. Ronaldo Alberto, the project focal person, explained that the biopesticides extracted could not be applied to crops as a

preventive or curative measure. However, the preventive approach is more effective based on their microplot trials on selected crops, like tomato, pepper, bitter gourd and onion.

The screening of indigenous plants as sources of biopesticides for vegetables, such as in lettuce, cabbage, tomato and sugarcane, is being done in Northern Mindanao. So far, 11 plant species with pesticidal properties have been collected and are undergoing tests to find out which can be used as biopesticides.

The biopesticides were developed under the Biodiversity Industry Strategic S&T Program of Philippine Council of Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology.

It hopes to address the challenges in biodiversity through the assessment and conservation of critical biological diversity for ecosystem services and development of biodiversity-based products, such as biopesticides, nutraceuticals, food and novel products. **S&T Media Service**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gov't stops nickel mining in Zambales

BY JED MACAPAGAL



Four nickel miners in Zambales have been ordered to stop operations until after they have corrected the damage they did to the environment.

NICKEL mining operations in Zambales have ground to a halt after the Mines and Geosciences Bureau ordered two mining companies to stop operations.

The move could curb the Philippines' nickel ore shipments, the country being the top supplier to No. 1 market China, and push up global prices further.

News last week that the Philippine government would review all mining operations in the country lifted the price of nickel by 8 percent in two days. It hit an eight-month high of \$10,410 a ton last week.

MGB ordered Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc. and Zambales Diversified Met-

See GOV'T ► Page A4

GOV'T

als Corp. to stop operations after the Supreme Court issued a Writ of Kalikasan and the local government of Zambales suspended all mining operations in the province.

The other two nickel miners in Zambales are Eramen Minerals Inc. and LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. which had earlier been ordered to stop operations for destroying the environment.

Of the four nickel miners, two (Benguet and Eramen) are ISO certified, LNL is in the process of getting its certification. Only Zambales is not certified.

The government also suspended issuing permits for new mines until after it has finished its audit of mining companies, checking if they have secured their green papers or ISO certification, proof that they are observing earth-friendly mining practices.

The Philippines has stopped issuing new permits to develop mines since 2012 amid efforts to boost the state's revenue share from mining, but has allowed exploration until now.

The Zambales local government earlier issued Executive Order No. 1 which orders an immediate stop and moratorium on all mining operations in the province. The order also requires consultations with residents affected by the mining operation before mining would be allowed to resume.

"The suspension order signed by the regional directors of the MGB, DENR and Environmental Management Bureau in Region 3 is effective immediately," Leo Jasareno, MGB director said.

Local residents complained of presence of nickel in river systems, farmlands, fishponds and seashores adjacent to the concession areas.

The miners cannot resume operations until after they have resolved issues on tree cutting and earthballing operations in the site; completion of exclusive mine haul road; full rehabilitation of mined out and open areas; full remittance of the final mine rehabilitation funds; compensation and rehab of damaged farmlands, fish ponds and bodies of water and repairs of road damages caused by hauling operations.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources I conducting a month-long audit on all existing mines, saying only 30 percent of the 42 metallic mines in the country were able to secure the required International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 to continue operations.

The ISO 14001 certification was earlier required by the MGB to all metallic mines with a deadline

that expired last May 1. All mining firms that fail to secure this will not get an ore transport permit and will be prohibited to export minerals abroad.

Also, non-metallic mines are now required to secure the same certification for them to continue operating until next year.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines had said 13 of its members are already ISO 14001 compliant namely Benguet Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., Philex Mining Corp., Oceana-GoldPhils. Inc., Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc., Eramen Minerals Inc., Rio Tuba Nickel Mines Corp., Filminera Resources Corp., Carmen Copper Corp., Greenstone Resources Corp., MarcVentures Mining & Devt. Corp., Taganito Mining Corp. and Cagdianao Mining Corp under its affiliate Hinatuan Mining Corp.

President Duterte, who took office last week, has warned he would cancel mining projects causing environmental harm.

Of around 40 metals mines operating in the Philippines, Gina Lopez, DENR secretary, said she didn't "even know of one" that practised responsible mining, strictly adhered to environmental standards or took full care of the local communities where they operate.

Following the month-long audit, she said mines found in violation of regulations would be suspended.

"I will not allow any kind of activity which impinges on the life of our people," said Lopez, who believes the country can benefit more from developing tourism than mines.

The Philippines' mining sector, one of the world's largest in the 1970s, has since struggled partly due to environmental rules and policy flip-flops, missing much of the mining boom in recent decades and now facing much lower commodity prices.

Despite the Philippines' rich mineral reserves, mining contributes less than 1 percent to its economy. Of 9 million hectares identified by the government as having high mineral reserves, only 3 percent is being mined.

Commodities giant Glencore Plc last year quit the \$5.9 billion gold-copper Tampakan project in the southern Mindanao island. The project failed to take off after the province where Tampakan is located banned open-pit mining in 2010.

"I'm not against mining as an industry. However, I am very much against making money and making people suffer," said Lopez. - *with Reuters*

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SUPALPAL!



NI NON ALQUITRAN

Ret. Gen. Garbo, sangkot sa illegal mining sa Paracale?

SA gabi na nag-ooperate ang ilegal na minahan ng ginto sa Bgy. Bulaay sa Paracale. Camarines Norte habang hindi pa nakakausap ng bagman na si Hector Honasan si Bicol PNP commander Chief Supt. Melvin Buenafe. At habang patuloy naman ang pagmina ng ginto sa Bgy. Bulaay, nanatiling nakamasid ang mga residente dito kay PNP chief Dir. Gen. Ronald de la Rosa bunga sa pagyayabang ni Honasan na "pasok" na sila dito. Kaya naman nagmamatyag ang mga residente kay Gen. Bato ay sa kadahilanang ibinabando n'ya na lalabanan

n'ya ang corruption alinsunod sa kautusan ni President Duterte. Kung tungkol sa laban sa droga, mukhang nasa tamang direksiyon itong mag-among sina President Digong at Gen. Bato subalit pagdating sa corruption mukhang mabagal silang kumilos. Ano sa tingin n'yo mga kosa? Kaya sa ngayon, pakuya-kuyakoy lang si Honasan at tuloy ang singil n'ya ng lingguhang payola na umaabot na 55 financiers ng illegal mining para tuloy ang ligaya nila habang abala itong sina President Digong at Gen. Bato sa kampanya laban sa droga. Get's n'yo mga kosa? Punyeta! Pasasaan ba't tatamaan din ng kidlat nina President Digong at Gen. Bato itong illegal mining ni Honasan sa Paracale, di ba mga kosa? Anong sey mo Gen. Buenafe Sir!

Sa biglang tingin naman, lugi ang gobyerno dito sa pagbalasa ni Gen. Bato sa PNP kung saan aabot sa 41 police officials, kabilang na sina NCRPO chief Dir. Joel Pagdilao, QCPD director Chief Supt. Edgardo Tinio at PRO6 director Chief Supt. Bernie Diaz, ang tinamaan. Ang kasalanan lang ng mga tinamaang police officials? Napapuwesto sila noong si ret. Gen. Marcelo Garbo pa ang deputy chief for operations ng PNP. Sinabi ng mga kosa ko

(Sundan sa page 4)

sa opisina ni Gen. Bato subalit hindi naman maapektuhan ang monthly take home mo sa pamilya mo. Kabilang sa iilan na nakakuha ng puwesto ay itong si dating Bicol police commander na si Chief Supt. Jun Marquez na, ayon sa mga kosa ko, ay nakasahod din ang palad kay Honasan. Hepe na ng DIDM si Gen. Marquez. Bago ko pala makalimutan Gen. Bato Sir, ibinando ng mga kosa ko sa Paracale, na itong si Garbo din ang nagpabukas ng illegal mining sa Bgy.

Bulaay noong aktibo pa s'ya sa PNP. At ang monthly payola ni Garbo kay Honasan ay P350,000, ayon sa mga kosa ko sa Paracale. Itinuloy kaya ni Honasan ang payola ni Garbo para me panggastos s'ya sa black propaganda o pagsangkot n'ya sa droga nina President Digong at Gen. Bato? Tanong lang po! Hehehe! Dapat lang talagang maipasara itong minahan ng ginto ni Honasan para mawalan ng pondo si Garbo, di ba mga kosa?

Tungkol naman sa kampanya laban sa droga, dapat suportahan ng bawa't Pinoy itong sina President Digong at Gen. Bato. Ayon kay NCRPO director Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde, bumaba ang crime incidents sa Metro Manila nitong nagdaang mga araw dahil nagtatago na ang mga drug pushers at users dahil sa takot nila kina President Digong at Gen. Bato. Hindi naman kaila sa atin mga kosa na karamihan sa krimen sa ngayon ay drug-related. Abangan!

na kahit si Garbo ay deputy lamang ni retired PNP chief Dir. Gen. Ricardo Marquez, eh s'ya ang nasusunod ukol sa reassignment sa PNP para isulong ang kandidatura ni LP standard bearer Mar Roxas. Si Garbo at sina Pagdilao, Tinio at Diaz mga kosa ay inakusahan ni President Digong na nasa likod ng malawakang problema ng droga sa bansa, na tahasan namang pinabulaanan nila. Hehehe! Nagulat din ako sa expose ni Digong dahil nakadaup-palad ko ang apat na heneral at wala akong natatandaan o nakitang pahiwatig na sangkot sila sa droga. Subalit panoorin na lang natin ang kasunod na kabanata nitong expose ni President Digong dahil naniniwala s'ya sa ebidensiya na hawak n'ya, di ba mga kosa? Tumpak!

Kaya naman nasabi ng mga kosa ko na lugi ang gobyerno dito sa pagbalasa ni Gen. Bato sa PNP dahil karamihan sa 41 opisyaales na nasibak sa puwesto ay naging floating status sa Camp Crame. 'Ika nga ay reporting sila sa opisina ni Gen. Bato. Kung itong mga heneral ay sumusuweldo ng mahigit P100,000 kada buwan, ibig sabihin n'yan nawawala sa kaban ng bayan ay aabot sa P4 milyon, di ba mga kosa? Sinabi ng mga kosa ko na kapag nasa floating status ka, sumipot-dili ka na lang