

DATE : 21 JUL 2016

DAY : Thursday

**DENR**  
**IN THE NEWS**

# BusinessWorld

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Lopez halts shipments from Nickel Asia's Samar mine

By Janina C. Lim  
Reporter

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez ordered Nickel Asia Corp.'s (NAC) subsidiary, the Hinatuan Mining Corp., to halt the transport of ore from its site in Eastern Samar to curb the hazards posed by excessive soil extraction.

"Our audit shows that they are taking too much soil, which goes to China. We are suspending the retrieving of the stockpiles, to address the ecological balance," Ms. Lopez said during the sidelines of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines general membership meeting in Makati City, referring to Hinatuan's Manicani mine in Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

In the early 2000's, regulators suspended the Manicani mine in Guiuan over alleged damage to the environment, but then granted permission in July 2014 to dispose of the remaining stockpile of nickel ore after a letter written by some local community leaders requesting the government to issue a loading permit.

To date, the firm has loaded eight shipments with an aggregate total of 400,000 metric tons (MT) of nickel ore retrieved from Manicani. Some 2 million MT of nickel ore were left when the mine was suspended.

"About 1.4 million MT remains," Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Leo L. Jasareno said.

Ms. Lopez raised that she is proposing that the company to make use of the nickel ore in rehabilitating the site rather than

shipping the remaining stockpile to China.

"Put it back in the hole," Ms. Lopez added.

She was also quoted by the Reuters news service as saying of the quantities shipped so far: "That's enough. That's already a lot of money."

Sought for comment, Nickel Asia confirmed that the company spoke with Ms. Lopez on Wednesday.

"NAC stressed to Secretary Lopez that the removal of the stockpiles is the right thing to do from an environmental perspective, as it will do away with any potential environmental impacts that such stockpiles might pose, while at the same time providing badly needed employment and tax revenues," it said in a statement.

The firm added that it has not received any order from the



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### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

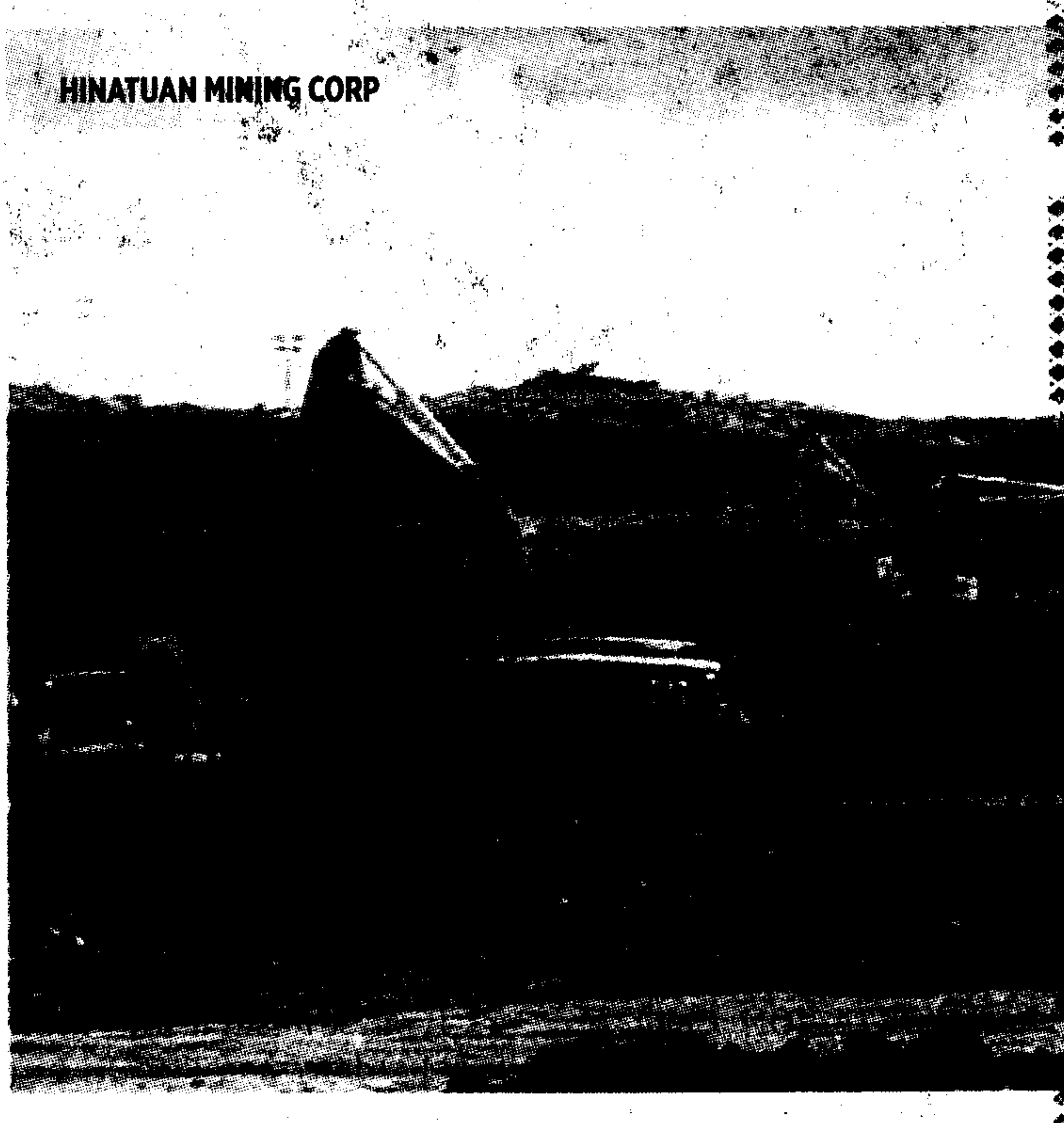
Lopez halts shipments from Nickel Asia's Samar mine

DENR-MGB to cease the removal of the stockpiles.

Nickel Asia noted that Hinatuan and the parent company have spent over P80 million in calamity support, including a cash-for-work program amounting to P25 million and the rebuilding of 500 homes, water facilities, and damaged schools and churches in the immediate area, which was in the path of typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

In addition, Ms. Lopez accepted the firm's invitation to visit its Rio Tuba mine in southern Palawan, according to Nickel Asia.

Rio Tuba was a recipient of Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award given last year during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference. It has also obtained its ISO 14001 Certification for its environmental management practices, as required by law.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Gov't stops nickel ore shipment from E. Samar

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

The government had stopped a local mining firm to transport nickel ore from Eastern Samar to China to avoid excessive soil extraction, preventing an affiliate of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) to earn further from the said activity.

"In our audit, they are taking too much soil. They are taking the soil out and it goes to China. We are suspending the retrieving of the stockpiles, to address the ecological balance," DENR chief Gina Lopez told reporters on the sidelines of the FINEX annual membership meeting in Makati.

Lopez said that instead of exporting ore to China, Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), which had acquired the rights to the Manicani mine site in 1987, should just use the nickel ore for mine restoration.

Manicani Island is a 1,000-hectare island said to have rich nickel deposit but in early 2000, mining operations on the island have been suspended.

Since then, stockpiles of ore, which are waste from the previous operations, have remain piled on the island.

In July 2014, the government ordered the company to dispose the nickel ore stockpiles situated in the contract area.

"I am committed to the welfare of the people in the island and I want to get them out of poverty. They [HMC] have to use the nickel ore for mine restoration. Put them back in the hole," Lopez said.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) director Leo Jasareno said that

the company had so far made eight shipments or about 400,000 metric tons (MT) of nickel ore from Manicani.

Jasareno, who was also in the same forum, said that about 2 million MT of nickel ore were left when the mine was suspended.

Now, there's still 1.4 million MT of nickel ore from the mine that has not yet been exported.

For its part, NAC argued that it has not engaged in mining in the area and is in fact, just following the government's order to remove the stockpiles of "mostly low grade limonite ore that was accumulated during the mining operations then."



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Lopez stops HMC from retrieving nickel ore from East Samar island

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

**N**EW Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez had cancelled a mineral ore transport permit (MOTP) of Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), effectively stopping the company from retrieving its nickel-ore stockpiles in Manicani Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

Lopez said the order aims to prevent further environmental damage caused by the "excessive soil extraction" on the island.

She claimed she was told the ores are being shipped out to China by

HMC, a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC). NAC is one of the biggest nickel producers in the country.

"In our audit, they are taking too much soil. They are taking the soil out and it goes to China. We

are suspending the retrieval of the stockpiles, to address the ecological imbalance," Lopez told reporters.

She said, instead of shipping the ore to China, the company should use the nickel ore for mine restoration.

"Put it back in the hole," she added.

So far, the company operating the mine has made eight shipments, or about 400,000 metric tons of nickel ore retrieved from Manicani mines' stockpiles. Director Leo Jasareno of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said about 2 million metric tons (MMT) of nickel ore were left when the mine's operation was stopped in 2010. There are around 1.4 MMT of nickel ore left on the island, he said.

A formal order canceling the permit earlier issued to HMC would be released soon.

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Lopez stops HMC from retrieving  
nickel ore from East Samar island

Lopez's directive came following the numerous complaints aired by antimining groups, which support the call of some residents to stop the hauling activities of HMC.

Alyansa Tigil Mina National coordinator Jaybee Garganera said, despite their repeated appeals to the DENR to stop the hauling activities in the area for years, HMC's mining activities continued.

The hauling of nickel-ore stockpiles in the area started as early as March 2014.

Residents were alarmed by the activities because the island was among those hardest hit by typhoons in the past, including Super typhoon Yolanda, which affected 171 towns and cities in five regions in the Visayas and Luzon.

HMC's mining operation in Manicani Island was ordered stopped was early as 2010, but the company as

able to secure an MOTP to haul its remaining stockpiles in the area covering an estimated 1.1 MMT of ore.

Residents of Manicani are suspicious the company has resumed operation and are hauling newly extracted nickel ores.

As early as March 2014, residents of Manicani Island, backed by Save Manicani Movement and the Homonhon Environment-Rescuers Organizations have called the attention of the DENR-MGB about the suspicious activities. The Ramos administration, as mandated by the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992, declared the coastal areas of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, and the islands of Manicani, Candulo, Suluan, Tubabao, Calicoan and Homonhon as protected landscapes and seascapes through Presidential Proclamation 469 signed in September 26, 1994.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# The world's disappearing sand

By VINCE BEISER  
New York Times News Service

**M**OST Westerners facing criminal charges in Cambodia would be thanking their lucky stars at finding themselves safe in another country. But Alejandro Gonzalez-Davidson, who is half British and half Spanish, is pleading with the Phnom Penh government to allow him back to stand trial along with three Cambodian colleagues. They've been charged, essentially, with interfering with the harvesting of one of the 21st century's most valuable resources: sand.

Believe it or not, we use more of this natural resource than any other except water and air. Sand is the thing modern cities are made of. Pretty much every apartment block, office tower, and shopping mall from Beijing to Lagos, Nigeria, is made at least partly with concrete, which is basically just sand and gravel stuck together with cement. Every yard of asphalt road that connects all those buildings is also made with sand. So is every window in every one of those buildings.

Sand is the essential ingredient that makes modern life possible. And we are starting to run out.

That's mainly because the number and size of cities is exploding, especially in the developing world. Every year there are more people on the planet, and every year more of them move to cities. Since 1950, the world's urban

population has ballooned to over 3.9 billion from 746 million.

According to the United Nations Environment Program, in 2012 alone the world used enough concrete to build a wall 89 feet high and 89 feet wide around the Equator. From 2011 to 2013, China used more cement than the United States used in the entire 20th century.

To build those cities, people are pulling untold amounts of sand out of the ground. Usable sand is a finite resource. Desert sand, shaped more by wind than by water, generally doesn't work for construction. To get the sand we need, we are stripping riverbeds, floodplains and beaches.

Extracting the stuff is an estimated \$70 billion industry. It runs the gamut from multinational companies' deploying enormous dredges to villagers toting shovels and buckets. In places where onshore sources have been exhausted, sand miners are turning to the seas.

This often inflicts terrible costs on the environment. In India, river sand mining is disrupting ecosystems, killing countless fish and birds. In Indonesia, some two dozen small islands are believed to have disappeared since 2005 because of sand mining. In Vietnam, miners have torn up hundreds of acres of forest to get at the sandy soil underneath.

Sand miners have damaged coral reefs in Kenya and undermined bridges in Liberia and Nigeria. Environmental-

ists tie sand dredging in San Francisco Bay to the erosion of nearby beaches.

People are getting hurt, too. Sand mining has been blamed for accidental deaths in Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Gambia. In India and Indonesia, activists and government officials confronting black-market sand mining gangs have been killed.

Stronger regulations can prevent a lot of this damage, and do in most developed countries. But there's a downside. Sand is tremendously heavy, which makes it expensive to transport. If you forbid sand mining in your backyard — as many American communities are trying to do — then it has to be trucked in from somewhere else. That drives up the price. Concrete is relatively cheap; if the cost of making a new building or road were to double, it could hit the economy hard.

Not to mention the extra truck traffic and pollution. California state officials estimated that if the average hauling distance for sand and gravel increased to 50 miles from 25 miles, trucks would burn through nearly 50 million more gallons of diesel fuel every year.

The fishing villages in the mangrove-rich estuaries of Cambodia's Koh Kong province might be the canaries in the global sand mine. For years, villagers have complained that rampant sand mining is wiping out the crabs and fish that provide their living. Locals told me on a recent visit that families have had to send members to work in Phnom Penh garment factories, or have



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## The world's disappearing sand



Tons of black sand that were hauled from the shores of Ilocos Sur / Manila Bulletin file photo

simply moved away. The dredging also threatens endangered native dolphins, turtles, and otters.

Last year, members of Mother Nature, an environmental group led by Gonzalez-Davidson and others, began a campaign to rein in the mining, organizing villagers to blockade and board the dredging ships. The government, which had expelled Gonzalez-Davidson a few months earlier for blocking road access to government officials trying to reach a hydropower dam in the province, arrested three of the activists, charging them with threatening to damage dredging boats, an offense that could mean two years in prison (Gonzalez-Davidson was charged in absentia as their accomplice a few months later).

Gonzalez-Davidson, who lives in Barcelona, is petitioning to be allowed back to attend his own trial. Meanwhile, the three jailed Cambodians have been

denied bail for the past 10 months. Their trial has finally been scheduled for the end of June.

There's an urgent question of justice for them. For the rest of us, there's a profound lesson. Hardly anyone thinks about sand, where it comes from or what we do to get it. But a world of seven billion people, more and more of whom want apartments to live in and offices to work in and malls to shop in, can't afford that luxury anymore.

It once seemed as if the planet had such boundless supplies of oil, water, trees and land that we didn't need to worry about them. But of course, we're learning the hard way that none of those things are infinite, and the price we've paid so far for using them is going up fast. We're having to conserve, reuse, find alternatives for and generally get smarter about how we use those natural resources. That's how we need to start thinking about sand.



# The Manila Times

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## DENR stops mine waste haul in Samar

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Regina Paz Lopez has stopped Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), an affiliate of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), from moving and loading mining waste from Manicani mine site in Guian, Eastern Samar, to prevent further environmental degradation resulting from excessive soil extraction.

Lopez said an audit of the mine showed that it would be detrimental to the island's environment if the mining waste removal continued.

"Our audit shows that they are taking too much soil, which goes to China. We are suspending the retrieving of the stockpiles, to address the ecological balance," she told reporters on the sidelines of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines general membership meeting in Makati City (Metro Manila).

Instead of shipping the ore to China, the DENR chief said she will order HMC to use the nickel ore for mine restoration and conduct the necessary remediation measures to prevent the nickel ore stockpiles from siltating and polluting the water bodies on the island.

So far, HMC has made eight shipments, or about 400,000 MT of nickel ore retrieved from Manicani. It was estimated that about 2 million MT of nickel ore were left when the mine was suspended.

Manicani, a 1,000-hectare island, has nickel deposit covered by MPSA 012-92-VIII awarded to HMC.

But mining operations on the island have been suspended since the early 2000s and HMC has been on a "care and maintenance" mode for the last 12 years.

Stockpiles of ore, waste from the previous operations, remain piled on the island.

As early as 2002, a special DENR task force recommended the disposal of nickel ore stockpiles on the island, to mitigate environmental risk.

In July 2014, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo Jasareno issued a letter authorizing HMC "to dispose of the nickel ore stockpiles situated in the contract area."

In May 2016, after obtaining a Mineral Ore Transport Permit (MOEP) from MGB Region 8 Office, the company resumed the removal of mining waste and loading it onto a barge for transport out of the mine site. The process was expected to be completed this year depending on the weather condition.

**JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## 13.5M seedlings for W. Visayas reforestation

Iloilo City – More than 13.5 million seedlings are being prepared to be planted for a massive reforestation program in the Western Visayas region.

Jim Sampulna, regional director of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-6), said the 13.5 million seedlings will be planted in 8,977 hectares identified for the Na-

tional Greening Program (NGP).

Sampulna is encouraging DENR field offices in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, and Iloilo to take advantage of the rainy season by planting seedlings

the soonest possible time.

On the other hand, Sampulna said DENR-6 must identify new reforestation sites for next year's reforestation.

"We have covered almost all available areas in the region for NGP,"

Sampulna noted.

Meanwhile, Camaligan National High School in Batan town, Aklan province is the winner for the Best Urban Greening School Site category of DENR-6's 2015 Search for the Best NGP Sites. (Tara Yap)



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Baguio offers to buy tree park to stop its use for buildings

'We understand  
that GSIS has  
plans to convert  
this forested  
lot into  
something ...'

BAGUIO CITY—To spare a tree park here from developers, the city government has offered to buy the forested lot from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

The one-hectare park lies next to the Baguio Convention Center, which the city government also bought from GSIS for P250 million.

Plans to build residential buildings in the park sparked a series of community protests in 2008.

The city's formal tender was delivered to the GSIS office in Pasay City on July 13 but the city government asked media to keep details of its offer confidential.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan's letter addressed to GSIS president Robert Vergara said the

city government decided to buy the lot "to hearken to the people's will."

In 2008, church groups, teachers and students from the University of the Philippines Baguio and neighboring high schools marched to demand the preservation of the tree park.

The park serves as an urban forest buffer against pollution generated each day by heavy traffic in an area originally designated as a government center.

The park is surrounded by UP Baguio campus, the Supreme Court compound, the old Court of Appeals building and Luneta Hill, which hosts a mall that had partnered originally with GSIS to build medium-rise residential buildings there.

The project was shelved due to the protests and the city gov-

ernment's enforcement of an ordinance, which classified the area as a park.

### Civil suit

GSIS had filed a civil suit against the city government, claiming that its zoning law may supplant a presidential decree, which required the agency to build the convention center after it transferred to GSIS the lots carved out of the government center reservation and the UP compound.

The convention center hosted the 1978 World Chess Championship series between Russian grandmasters Anatoly Karpov and Victor Korchnoi.

The land transfer was intended "as additional contribution of the national government to the system's retirement funds,"

according to the decree issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos.

In the letter, Domogan said the city government manifested its intention to buy the property during the April 27 hearing of the GSIS civil case.

"We understand that GSIS has plans to convert this forested lot into something that would augment the GSIS retirement plans and its actuarial solvency. But the city government is well aware of the [public] clamor ... to preserve this [forest]."

Domogan described the offer as "humble" but said it would be fair compensation given that the tree park would remain a forest and a park.

Vincent Cabreza, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Environment groups call on gov't to act vs plastic

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Environment groups have urged the government to decisively act against unrestrained plastic production and consumption and the consequent environmental pollution.

The EcoWaste Coalition, Earth Island Institute, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), Greenpeace, Mother Earth Foundation and Nilad asked the Duterte administration to enact a strategy to prevent and reduce plastic garbage from land sources that is finding its way to oceans.

The groups reiterated their call ahead of President Duterte's first State of the Nation Address next week. They said government should enact a blanket ban on single use plastic bags, among other vital measures, including an extended producer responsibility (EPR) and environmental levy on plastics, following a cleanup drive and waste audit last Saturday at Freedom Island off the coast of Parañaque City.

Some 125 people took part in the event, including Filipinos and visiting environmentalists from Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa from Africa; Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan from Asia Pacific; Argentina, Brazil and Chile from Latin America; and Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, the UK and US from Europe and North America.

The environmentalists are here for a weeklong meeting to address plastic pollution of the planet and come up with strategies for a sustainable, zero-waste future.

Of the 259 sacks of waste collected (weighing 1,482 kilos), 79 percent were plastic materials, of which 20 percent were junk food wrappers and sachets, 17 percent plastic bags, 12 percent composite packaging, nine percent food packaging, seven percent polystyrene containers, seven percent diaper liners, four percent hard plastics, one percent drinking straw and one percent plastic twine.

"To dramatically cut plastic use and disposal across the country, we urge the government to put the plastic bag ban among its top legislative priorities in the 17th Congress. We expect our lawmakers to cross party lines and stop this ugly plastic pollution that is defiling every corner of our country, including our rich but fragile marine ecosystems," said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition.

"Our legislators should also consider imposing EPR and environmental levy on plastic bags that will internalize external costs to trim down uncontrolled plastic use and littering, while providing incentives that will enhance shift in attitude and preference in favor of reusable alternatives," she said.

Froilan Grate, Asia-Pacific coordinator of GAIA, cautioned national and local policymakers against passing measures exempting oxo-degradable plastic bags from the comprehensive ban on disposable plastic bags being sought by ecology groups.

"Oxo-degradable bags, which are also made from petroleum-based polymers, are not exactly climate and environment-friendly. Their proliferation, particularly cities and municipalities

have adopted plastic bag ban regulations, has only reinforced the throw-away culture that is choking our surroundings with disposables and creating serious environmental and health crisis," he said.

"Our mounting plastic garbage has likewise become a magnet for waste-to-energy incinerator vendors and other quick-fix pushers who want to take advantage of the weak enforcement of the country's ban on waste incineration," he noted.

Numerous studies, including some that were published this year, point to the need for global action to deal with plastic pollution.

The paper "Plastic Debris Is a Human Health Issue" by Dutch researchers A. Dick Vethaak and Heather A. Leslie stated that "the global threat of highly persistent plastic waste accumulating and fragmenting in the world's oceans, inland waters and terrestrial environments is becoming increasingly evident."



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## 'Long, uphill climb before PHL could rid of coal dependence for power generation'

BY LENIE LECTURA [@llectura](#)

**T**HE country is still very much dependent on coal as a source of power, amid increasing support and encouragement for the utilization of renewable energy (RE).

# 44%

The coal's contribution to electricity production

"In terms of electricity production, we have noticed a high dependency on coal recorded at 44 percent as of March 2016. Natural gas and renewable energy supplied 22 percent and 25 percent, respectively," Department of Energy (DOE) Officer in Charge Undersecretary Mylene Capongcol said in her welcome speech during the fourth Annual Philippines Power and Electricity Week.

"While we saw significant growth in the use of variable renewable energy due to the different incentives provided by the Renewable Energy Act, the supply of electricity from hydro had been adversely affected by El Niño, registering a 1-percent decline over the past five years," she added.

The DOE official said the country managed to achieve a balanced energy-supply mix in 2015, with oil accounting for around 31 percent; followed by coal at 23-percent share; geothermal at 19-percent share; natural gas and hydro accounts for around 10 percent; while other RE sources, such as biomass, solar and wind, comprised the remaining 17 percent.

More than 53 percent of the country's total energy requirement is largely being supplied by indigenous energy, while 47 percent accounts for imported oil, mainly



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Long, uphill climb before PHL could rid  
of coal dependence for power generation

used for transport and coal, used for generating electricity.

The DOE is collaborating with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in crafting a sustainable national energy policy that will decide on the future of coal-power projects in the country. "For now, we encourage power generation using high efficient and innovative technologies to meet the expected demand in electricity," she said.

The new administration targets a GDP growth of 6 percent to 7 percent in 2016; 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent in 2017; and 7 percent to 8 percent until 2022, with most of the spending expected to support higher infrastructure needed to deliver basic services to the people. As such, higher growth for energy use, specifically for electricity, is expected, entailing significant amount of in-

vestments mainly coming from the private sector, Capongcol said.

"I am taking this opportunity, therefore, to provide a glimpse of what the Philippine energy sector offers," she added.

For the upstream oil-and-gas development, the DOE will continue the conduct of the Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR) with a target of 18 service contracts for award from now to 2030. The service contracts will form part of the petroleum reserves estimated at 94.74 million barrels (MMB) of oil, 3.96 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas and 41.34 MMB of condensate.

In terms of indigenous coal, the agency is monitoring 48 exploration service contracts for declaration of additional coal reserves in commercial quantity to enable the conversion of these service contracts to production contracts. "With this, we estimated the in-situ coal reserves to reach 4,297.7 MMT [million metric tons] by 2030," the DOE official said.

Despite achieving significant growth in the past, the downstream oil industry needs to sustain further investments to improve competition and achieve resiliency in the very volatile nature of oil prices in the international market. "With this, we are inviting foreign investors in oil refinery to provide a more stable and bigger oil-supply base for the country," Capongcol said.

Moreover, there is an expected higher demand for biofuels with the continuing implementation of biofuels law. "Biodiesel will increase from the current blend of 2 percent to 5 percent in the short term, i.e., by 2019, to reach 20 percent in the long-term period," she said.

For bioethanol, the increase will start at 10 percent for the short term to reach 20 percent in the medium- to

long-term period. Likewise, the DOE will promote a voluntary increase in bioethanol blend by 80 percent in the long term, depending on the availability of feedstock.

In terms of power development, based on the 2015 to 2030 Distribution Development Plans (DDPs) of 140 distribution utilities nationwide, Luzon grid will need additional capacities of about 5,000 megawatts (MW); the Visayas grid will need 1,300 MW; and Mindanao grid will require around 900 MW of new generation capacities.

In Mindanao, specifically, the agency is looking at new developments to make investments more attractive, such as putting in place an electricity market and, ultimately, making the interconnection with Luzon and the Visayas possible.

"We will, likewise, study further if there is a need for another round of installation targets for FiT [feed-in tariff] or can we now make RE market-based without prejudice to the need of the consumers of having affordable power rates," Capongcol said.

Moreover, investments in natural-gas industry are also needed primarily to support the power industry, and later on, other possible uses. By 2021, the supply of Malampaya gas may no longer suffice for higher requirements of gas, thus, investments in exploring and developing potential areas are necessary.

"As mentioned by DOE Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi, one of the projects that the DOE will be undertaking is putting up an LNG [liquefied natural gas] receiving and distribution center, where initial discussions with World Bank, through the International Finance Corp. were made for the conduct of feasibility studies," the DOE official said.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# LLDA's Acosta stops dump operation in Taytay, demolishes fish pen in Cardona

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

🐦 @jonlmayuga

**T**HE Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) is stepping up the campaign to protect the Laguna de Bay.

The 90,000-hectare lake is the country's biggest freshwater lake and a major fishing ground and aquaculture hub in Luzon. *Bangus* and tilapia produced in the lake augments fresh fish supply in Metro Manila's wet markets.

LLDA General Manager Nereus O. Acosta recently issued an ex-parte cease-and-desist order stopping the operation of a dump at a private property owned by a certain Jose Yun Kansoy.

The illegal dump is near the Taytay Pumping Station in Barangay San Juan, Taytay, Rizal.

Acosta himself led the enforcement team on July 14 to enforce the order dated June 30. The dump's operation has no permit from the LLDA.

The dumping of garbage and backfilling materials in the area also violates Board Resolution 408 series of 2011, which regulates development activities within the Laguna de Bay Region and the Laguna de Bay itself.

The stop order directs the owner to stop the illegal dumping of garbage and backfilling materials. The LLDA

is set to issue an order to demand payment of corresponding fees, administrative fines and penalties.

"LLDA does not single out certain types of establishments, but strictly imposes the guidelines and regulations set on all establishments, regardless of their industry type, to ensure the sustainable resilience of the Laguna de Bay Basin," Acosta said in a news statement.

Meanwhile, in the town of Cardona, the LLDA continues to demolish illegal fish pens as part of its effort to decongest the lake. A 22.3084-hectare fish pen within the jurisdiction of the Rizal Province was demolished on July 15 as part of the plan to rid the lake of fish pens that have been illegally operating along navigational lanes.

A certain Harry Arriola operates the demolished fish pen in Barangay Boor, Sitio Talim, Cardona, Rizal. Acosta said the operator failed to comply with LLDA requirements, and is operating without a valid permit, in violation of the Rules and Regulations Implementing the Revised Laguna de Bay Zoning and Management Plan.

Acosta emphasized that fish pen operators need to follow LLDA's requirements to maintain and protect the ecological balance and capacity of the lake.

"We are cleaning up the lake to stop overcrowding to maintain the lake's carrying capacity, which is only up to 10 percent of the total area," he said.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Shout out for startups – Impact Hub Manila

Business incubator Impact Hub Manila is urging more local startups to submit applications and beat the July 24 deadline for its Impact Hub Fellowship on Sustainable Energy Solutions challenge.

LizAn Kuster, co-founder of Impact Hub Manila, said they hoped more impact-oriented and innovative entrepreneurs would step up with their ideas and innovation ideas focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, access to energy, and off-grid power solutions to disrupt the global energy problem in an environmentally friendly way.

As of last Monday, Kuster said there have been 22 applicants or submissions. They hope to get more in the remaining days to July 24.

"Right now, we have 22 ideas on our online platform

but we want more," Kuster told **The STAR**.

In partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF), the business incubator launched the Impact Hub Fellowship on Sustainable Energy Solutions last June.

The challenge aims to find the best sustainable energy solution and give those behind it business incubation mentoring and assistance as well as a cash prize.

"Being topic-focused in our delivery of fellowship programs is unique in the incubator/accelerator space and ensures that we are targeting the key pressing issues," Kuster said.

Participants are given the chance to win more than P2.5 million worth of fellowship prizes, which include a P1.5-

million seed funding, skills development training, mentorship, access to a stimulating workspace at Impact Hub Manila, and valuable networks.

"We doubled and tripled the number of fellows we will support for this year from just one startup the last time, which enables us to support more entrepreneurs," Kuster added.

Impact Hub Manila just concluded their Fellowship Program on Innovations in Mobility with corporate partner local listed logistics company LBC.

Impact Hub Manila said that after the historic Paris climate agreement late last year, there has been a growing interest in the role of clean technology entrepreneurship and innovation including energy as an essential tool to reach climate change goals.

"With our partners, we are

excited to search for innovative ideas and enterprises which are aligned with our core values and objectives," Joel Palma, WWF Philippines president and CEO said in the launch last June.

"We believe that by supporting entrepreneurs in the energy sector, we can slow down climate change," Benjamin Abadiano, PEF chairperson, said.

Aspiring entrepreneurs or early-stage startups are encouraged to apply. Startup teams are mandated to register their business in the Philippines and be able to work and live in the country. Applications are open from June 16 until July 24, on the Impact Hub Manila website.

Impact Hub Manila, in collaboration with WWF and PEF will conduct a pitching workshop today.

– Rainier Allan Ronda



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# 'Green' energy seen only option for Ilocos N

By Lailani Adriano  
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—Members of the Ilocos Norte provincial board are studying a proposal to enact a policy that would make the province rely solely on electricity generated by renewable energy, as a display of support for its wind, solar and hydro power investors.

The proposal, initiated on Monday by Board Member Mariano Marcos II, chair of the committee on environment, also seeks to establish Ilocos Norte as the first "clean, green and coal-free province."

Ilocos Norte currently hosts wind power farms in the towns of Bangui, Burgos and Pagudpud that produce a total of 283 megawatts (MW).

The province also has solar power projects in the towns of

Currimaog and Burgos that can produce 26.7 MW, and the 5-MW Agua Grande hydroelectric plant in Pagudpud.

Marcos said Ilocos Norte's strategic location attracts a number of investment opportunities on power generation.

"There has been no proven system or technology yet that is not harmful to the environment," Marcos said. But as technology advances, Ilocos Norte intends to eliminate carbon emissions that contribute to global warming when coal, gas or oil are burned to generate electricity or to fuel cars, he said.

"To be consistent [about our environmental aspirations], we need to become clean all the way," he said.

According to Marcos, the province has opened up vast lands for green energy projects.

Most popular are the wind farms put up by the Northwind Power Development Corp. in 2005 along the coastlines of Bangui Bay facing the West Philippine Sea. These facilities have become tourist attractions.

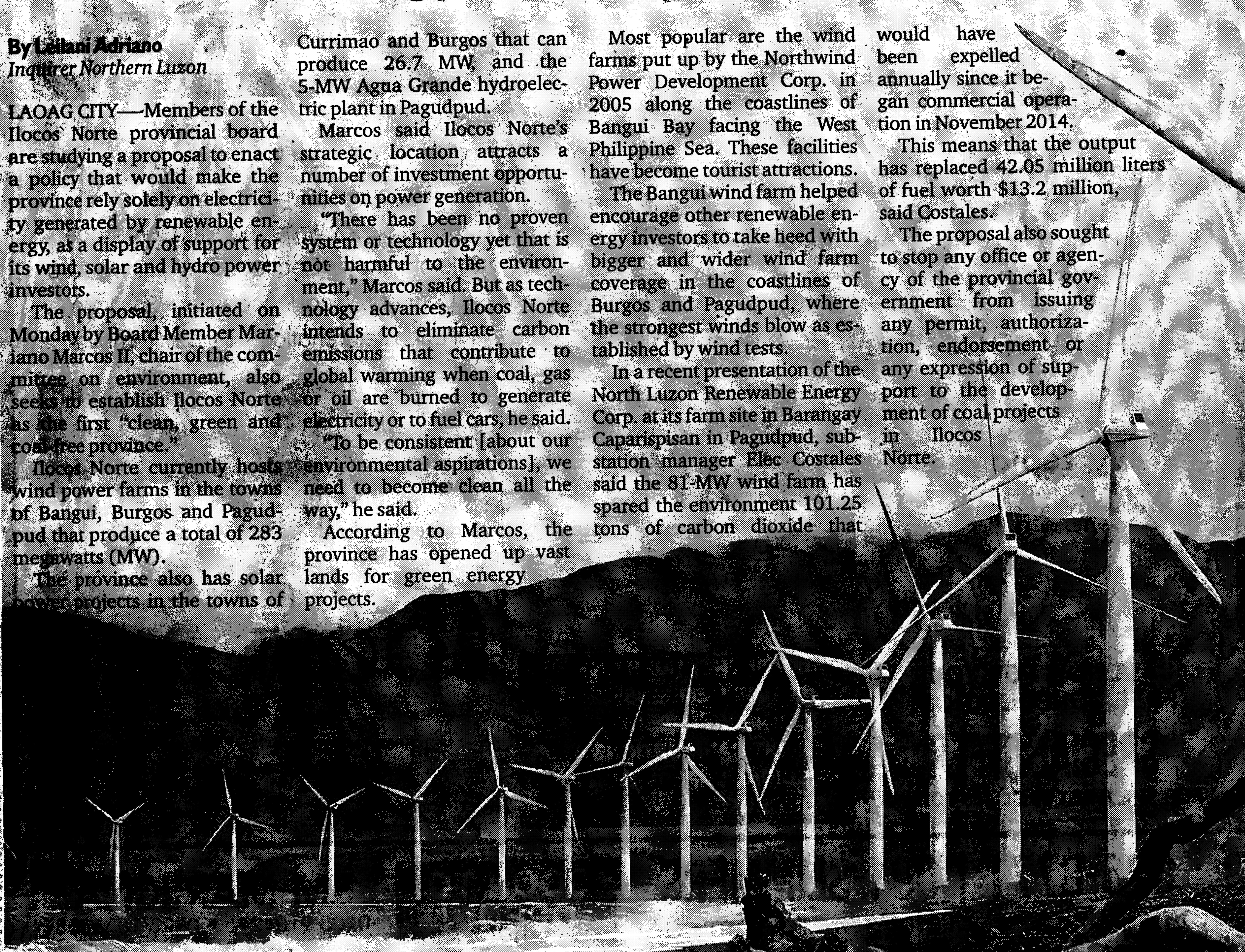
The Bangui wind farm helped encourage other renewable energy investors to take heed with bigger and wider wind farm coverage in the coastlines of Burgos and Pagudpud, where the strongest winds blow as established by wind tests.

In a recent presentation of the North Luzon Renewable Energy Corp. at its farm site in Barangay Caparispisan in Pagudpud, substation manager Elec Costales said the 81-MW wind farm has spared the environment 101.25 tons of carbon dioxide that

would have been expelled annually since it began commercial operation in November 2014.

This means that the output has replaced 42.05 million liters of fuel worth \$13.2 million, said Costales.

The proposal also sought to stop any office or agency of the provincial government from issuing any permit, authorization, endorsement or any expression of support to the development of coal projects in Ilocos Norte.



ILOCOS Norte is becoming known for its renewable energy projects, like windmills in the town of Bangui that is already producing electricity without the pollution associated with coal-fired plants or those run by fossil fuels.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Lawmaker re-files bill strengthening conservation of protected areas

By **FREDDIE G. LAZARO**

**LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte** – A lawmaker has re-filed a bill in Senate proposing the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act that aimed to help strengthen conservation efforts for close to 100 protected areas in the country.

Senator Loren Legarda said Senate Bill 32 completes the process for the declaration of 97 protected areas in the country via amendments to the existing National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Law or Republic Act 7586.

“Great challenges face us in the task of protecting and preserving our rich biodiversity. The proposed ENIPAS Law will secure the remaining protected areas in the country through strengthening access to funding and prosecution of prohibited acts,” said Legarda.

“Through this proposed measure, local communities and stakeholders will be able to do more to participate in the management and protection of our forests, oceans, flora, fauna and the indigenous peoples that reside in these sanctuaries,” she added.

Legarda explained that the NIPAS Act established a system of protected areas within the classification of national park as provided in the Constitution.

The system consists of all areas in

the Philippines proclaimed, designated or set aside by law, presidential decree, presidential proclamation or executive order as any of the following: National park, game refuge, bird and wildlife sanctuary, wilderness area, strict nature reserve, watershed, mangrove reserve, fish sanctuary, natural and historical landmark, protected and managed landscape/seascape as well as identified virgin forests before the effectivity of the NIPAS Act.

Since 1992, 113 have been declared through Presidential proclamations as protected areas under the NIPAS. However, only 13 protected areas have proceeded to be legislated.

For Region 1, at least 15 sites are identified as protected areas by the Philippine Area Management Board (PAMB) and are being promoted as ecotourism site.

These 15 protected areas include the Kalbario-Patapat Natural Park in Pagudpud; Tanap watershed forest reserve at Barangay Tanap in Burgos, Metropolitan Ilocos Norte watershed forest reserve in Sulbec, Pasuquin; and the Paoay Lake Natural Park; all in Ilocos Norte.

In Ilocos Sur, the Libunao protected landscape in Sinait; Bigbiga protected landscape in Marozo, Narvacan; Northern Luzon Heroes Hill in Magsaysay, Santa; Bessang Pass natural monument in Malaya, Cervantes; Lidlidda protected landscape located in between

Lidlidda and Banayoyo; Santa Lucia protected landscape in Salcedo; and the Tirad Pass National Park in Gregorio del Pilar Quirino, Sigay, Cervantes and Suyu.

Other protected areas in Region I are: Manleluag Spring in Malabobo, Catarataaan, Pacalat, Lawaklangka and Calomboyan Sur in Mangatarem, Pangasinan; Hundred Islands in Alaminos City; Agoo Damortis protected landscape and seascape in Agoo, Sto. Tomas and Rosario, La Union; and the Naguillian Watershed at Barangay Casilagan, Naguillian, La Union.

However, Legarda said it is imperative that the proclaimed protected areas are declared as such through Congressional fiat as required by the NIPAS Act and pursuant to the directive of the Constitution.

Legarda has fervently pushed for the passage of the ENIPAS to actively help areas that remain underprotected, including open seas, coastal areas, wetlands, and tropical forests.

In the last Congress, the Senate passed the ENIPAS bill on Third Reading, but the measure was pending in the House of Representatives.

If enacted, the ENIPAS will enhance conservation efforts for unique, rare and threatened species of plants and animals and their habitat, thus ensuring the sustainable use of our natural resources and cultural diversity.





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## Phil, 19 other countries launch global ecosystem program

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna - Twenty countries, among them the Philippines, launched recently a global ecosystem program.

Also involved in the recent launch of the Global Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Community of Practice (CoP) in Berlin, Germany were 10 international organizations and institutions.

The countries represented were Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building, and Nuclear Safety, spearheaded the launch of the EbA-CoP in Germany last June 16.

The other international organizations that participated in the activity were the United Nations-Food and Agriculture Organization, UN-Environmental Program-World Conservation Monitoring Center, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Conservation International, International Institute for Environment and Development, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Wetland International, World Resources Institute, and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) hosted by the Philippine government in the University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

The EbA-CoP approach is one of the CoPs adopted in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change last December.

The approach basically focuses on the use of ecosystems and biodiversity services as part of an overall strategy

to help people adapt to the adverse impact of climate change.

Ecosystem-based adaptation helps reduce the vulnerability to climate change of people through the sustainable management of natural resources and conservation of ecosystems, and using them purposely.

Locally, the EbA concept is part of the commitment of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to the Paris Agreement or UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on its inclusion in the naturally determined contributions as among the climate change adaptation priority issues that will address ecosystem resilience and ecological integrity.

The Philippine delegation shared experiences on various programs covering ridge-to-reef (mountain-to-sea) approach, greenhouse gas inventory, mainstreaming climate

resilience and green growth planning, sector vulnerability and risk assessment, and natural resources accounting and valuation.

All these factors are relevant to ecosystem-based adaptation.

The delegates from the Philippines were Alexis Lapid, eco-town program officer of the government's Climate Change Commission; Elizabeth Bardojo, environment planner/geographic information system specialist of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board - Southern Tagalog; Dolores Nuevas, GIZ-Philippines senior adviser; and Ma. Gerarda Asuncion Merilo, DENR-Environmental Management Bureau-Climate Change Office.

SEARCA, hosted by the government through the Department of Education, was represented by Lope Santos III, program specialist.

- Rudy Fernandez



# DENR chief backs Rody stand vs Paris climate change accord

By JONAS REYES

**S**TA. CRUZ, ZAMBALES – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez, during a visit to this mining-plagued town on Tuesday, said that the agency fully supports President Duterte's decision not to honor the Paris Climate Change conference accord.

Lopez said she and Duterte haven't discussed the issue yet, but said that the chief executive may have good reasons for not complying with the country's carbon emissions-reduction promise.

Duterte on Monday stressed that he is not obliged by the commitment

made by the previous administration, and pointed out that if the Philippines were to comply with the international covenant, it would hinder the economic growth of the country.

**'PH progress on the line'**

Despite the non-compliance of the Philippines to the Paris accord, Lopez assured that Malacañang has its own agenda on the climate change issue.

The President said that the accord prevents developing countries like the Philippines from conducting economic activities that first-world countries have done when they were still developing.

"We are going into it. But you are trying to stymie us with an agreement that says this is as far as you go—you

will maintain the present emission. So I said, 'that's stupid.' I said, 'I will not honor that'."

**Mining check**

Lopez's visit to here is more than just overseeing the stoppage of the mining operations.

She also met with residents who lamented that mining operations have ravaged their lands in the last few years.

Lopez visited areas damaged by rampant mining and announced that all mining operations here will be audited.

The town itself has four mining firms operating that the agency suspended for not complying with the environmental safety standards.

**Back to mining**

Fearing of losing their means of

livelihood, more than 200 mine workers and their beneficiaries from Eramen Minerals on Tuesday appealed to the national government to allow the resumption of operations of responsible mining firms.

"We believe that our company is operating responsibly. Government environment auditors have seen the manner how Ermane is operating. There is progressive rehabilitation of the mining areas," said Eramen labor leader Orlan Mayor.

He pointed out that on November 22, 2013, the company received the Presidential Titanium Award and Safest Surface Operation Award, adding that the company has also been actively implementing community and education projects.



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### De Lima: 'Pinas makikinabang sa Paris climate change pact

Hinimok ni Sen. Leila M. de Lima si Presidente Rodrigo Duterte na ikonsidera ang naunang posisyon na hindi kilalanin ang commitment ng bansa sa Paris Agreement on Climate Change, dahil malaki ang pakinabang ng bansa dito bilang signatory sa nasabing kasunduan.

Ipinarating ni De Lima ang kanyang 'unsolicited suggestion' kung saan sinabi nito na mahigit 200 bansa, kabilang ang Pilipinas, ang lumagda sa kasunduan sa idinaos na 21st Conference of Parties in France noong Disyembre.

"The Philippines which is a signatory to the Paris agreement stands to benefit more from honoring our commitment to this international agreement not only in terms of financial aid but also on technology-transfer and capacity-building assistance for disaster mitigation," paliwanag nito.

"As head of state, President Duterte should honor the Paris agreement if we also want other countries to rally behind us in our monumental victory in the West Philippine Sea arbitration case," ayon sa dating justice secretary,

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Duterte na hindi nito kilalanin ang commitment ng Pilipinas sa Paris Agreement on Climate Change dahil sa imposition ng ilang industrialized countries na magbawas ng inilalabas na carbon na pipigil sa industrial growth ng bansa.



# Honor Paris accord, nat'l scientist urges Duterte

By Irma Faith Pal  
*Inquirer Visayas*

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Philippines must honor the international treaty on climate change to show a good example to other nations, the country's national scientist said on Wednesday.

"If we don't abide by the Paris Agreement, we will contribute to the worsening increase in temperature that will endanger the whole world," said marine expert Dr. Angel C. Alcala.

President Duterte said he would not honor the Philippines' commitment to sign the Paris Agreement, which was reached by nearly 200 countries in Paris last December.

The agreement binds signatory nations to cutting down carbon emissions to contain global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, past which temperature rises would be irreversible.

Mr. Duterte said his administration would not honor the agreement, as it would restrict the economic development of the Philippines.

He blamed developing countries for carbon emissions that are raising temperatures.

Alcala recalled that right after the May 9 elections, Mr. Duterte said he would honor all international agreements that

past administrations had entered into, including the Paris Agreement on climate change.

"Now it looks like ... he has changed his mind," Alcala said.

"We should respect international agreements. Otherwise, we would be no different from other nations, big and small, [that cause] the rise in temperatures to dangerous levels of 2 degrees or [higher]," said Alcala, who is also chair of Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management.

## Good example

"Whether or not we are a non-polluter—because we don't produce as much carbon dioxide as the industrialized nations—we should be in unity with other countries by showing a good example on a globally important environmental issue," he said.

"Industrialization can continue as planned if there are provisions for sequestering the carbon dioxide produced through activities like planting more areas with forest trees, and protecting our existing tropical rainforests," he added.

Mr. Duterte said other countries "reached the apex" of industrialization, emitting contaminants along the way, and now were "trying to stymie our

growth that says you can go only up to here—that's stupid."

But Sen. Leila de Lima on Wednesday called on Mr. Duterte to change his stand and honor the Paris Agreement.

"The Philippines, which is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, stands to benefit more from honoring our commitment to this international agreement not only in terms of financial aid but also in technology transfer and capacity-building assistance for disaster mitigation," De Lima said.

De Lima placed the climate change deal in parallel with the ruling last week of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in favor of the Philippines in the dispute with China in the South China Sea.

"As head of state, President Duterte should honor the Paris Agreement if we also want other countries to rally behind us in our monumental victory in the [South China Sea] arbitration case," she said.

## 'Not zero-sum game'

Commenting on Mr. Duterte's fear that the temperature cap set in the Paris Agreement would stunt the economic growth of the Philippines, De Lima said it was "not a zero-sum game."

"We can still grow our economy and achieve [growth] without compromising our commitment and industrial growth toward combating climate change," she said. *With a report from Tarra Quismundo in Manila*