

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 25 JUL 2016

DAY : Monday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## DENR: Hinatuan nickel mine closure voluntary

By Amy R. Remo

THE MOVE to halt the mining operations of Hinatuan Mining Corp., a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp., (NAC) was "voluntary" and not due to any suspension order by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Secretary Regina Lopez said.

"We wish to clarify that the DENR has not issued any order suspending the mining operations of Hinatuan Mining Corp in Manicani Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The Mines Bureau, however, sent a letter directing the company to explain within seven days the adverse observations made by a composite inspection team of the DENR," Lopez said in a statement issued Friday.

She said Hinatuan agreed it would just complete the ongoing loading of 50,000 tons of stockpiles, which was already granted through a permit issued by the previous administration.

"Thereafter, Hinatuan has voluntarily committed to the DENR that it will suspend all loading activities in the island until such time that it has fully explained in writing the ad-

verse observations of [Mines and Geosciences Bureau], and the completion of the audit being conducted by the DENR on the company's mining concession," Lopez said.

Last July 8, Lopez issued an order imposing a moratorium on new projects and an audit on existing mine sites.

"The audit shall cover all operating mines under suspended and/or care and maintenance status while the moratorium shall cover the acceptance, processing, and/or approval of mining applications and/or new mining projects for all metallic and nonmetallic minerals," Lopez's first memorandum order read.

The order was seen to dampen appetite for new investments and breed more confusion and uncertainty in the capital-intensive and risky mining business, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) earlier said.

As of end June this year, Nickel Asia Corp. saw a 31-percent decline in its sales of nickel ore shipments to an estimated P5.15 billion due mainly to the continuing weakness in the price of the commodity in the global market.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



SEMIRARAMINING/ANNUAL REPORT

## SC restores damage suit versus Semirara Mining

THE Supreme Court (SC) has reinstated the civil suit filed by HGL Development Corp. to seek damages from listed Semirara Mining Corp. (SCC) over a land dispute — nine years after it was dismissed by an Antique court on the grounds of forum-shopping.

In a 35-page decision dated June 6, the SC First Division remanded the civil suit to the Culasi Regional Trial Court Branch 13 and ordered it to determine the damages to be awarded to HGL.

The damage suit stemmed from the failure to implement the Oct. 6, 2004 writ of preliminary injunction ordering the Consunji-led company to stop using HGL's grazing land, an order upheld by the high court in a Dec. 6, 2006 decision.

HGL's petition actually asks the high court to cite Judge Culasi RTC Branch 13 Judge Rafael O. Penuela in indirect contempt. Mr. Penuela on July 18, 2007 dismissed its damage suit on the grounds of forum shopping, even as the SC decision upholding the injunction became final and executory in March that year.

The high court said the contempt petition was "completely baseless" and riddled with defects. HGL, it noted, did not appeal the dismissal with the RTC before heading to the high court. SCC's "repetitive" claims of forum shopping was also deemed "tenacious, at worst, but not contumacious."

Relaxing its stance on procedural lapses, however, the high court still decided to reinstate the damage suit against SCC "in the interests of substantive justice and equity."

The high court noted that it already upheld the right of HGL to the injunction in 2006, but that was rendered an "empty victory" because of the firm's failure to recover its pasture leaseholding. SCC, it noted, thwarted the court sheriff's attempt to enforce the injunction back in 2004.

"For no justifiable reason, said Writ was never enforced and HGL never enjoyed the protection and benefits of the same," read the decision penned by Associate Justice Teresita J. Leonardo-de Castro.

Because of this, the high court ordered the Culasi RTC to conduct hearings to determine "the damages to which HGL is entitled because of the non-enforcement of the Writ of Preliminary Mandatory Injunction dated October 6, 2004."

The injunction won by HGL in 2004 stemmed from an earlier petition to recover the possession of the land, which was covered by a 25-year Forest Land Grazing Lease Agreement (FLGLA) granted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) effective from Aug. 28, 1984 to Dec. 31, 2009. — **Vince A. A. F. Nonato**



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## Capiz lifts 50-yr mining ban; groups condemn ordinance

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.  
*Inquirer Visayas*

ILOILO CITY—Environmental groups and residents of Capiz province have condemned the passage of a provincial ordinance lifting a landmark 50-year ban on large-scale mining in the province.

The Capiz Environmental Protection Alliance (Cepa) said the passage of Provincial Ordinance No. 9 “is an act of treachery” by the provincial board against the position of Capiceños who fought against the operation of large-scale mining in the late 1990s.

The previous provincial board passed the ordinance on May 11, two days after the national and local elections. The decision, however, was made public only last week.

Capiz Gov. Antonio del Rosario said he was against the ordinance and he would ask the provincial board to repeal the lifting of the moratorium once he receives a formal opposition from Capiz residents.

“I only learned about it from the media. I am against it because Capiz is dependent on agriculture and its aquatic and marine resources. I will not implement an ordinance that is detrimental to the interest of the people,” Del Rosario told the *INQUIRER* on Sunday.

Capiz is a top producer of rice and seafood. Its capital, Roxas City, has been dubbed the “seafood capital of the Philippines.”

The provincial board, in the ordinance, said it was lifting the moratorium in re-

sponse to appeals of officials of Maayon town who wanted to allow the operation of the Australian-owned Teresa Marble Corp.

Maayon officials had cited economic benefits for the community, including creation of jobs, business opportunities and other social benefits.

“This honorable body has come realize that it is of the best interest of the community of the province of Capiz that it is about time to fulfill the economic and social benefits of the mining project ...,” the ordinance said.

Cepa said the ordinance was passed “suspiciously” and without public consultation.

“[The mining moratorium] was a product of almost half a decade of advocacy, lobbying and social mobilizations for the preservation and protection of the environment in Capiz. The moratorium for mining activities in a province was a people’s victory in the fight against commercial mining,” said Darlene Surriga, Cepa advocacy officer.

On Aug. 27, 1999 the provincial board passed an ordinance declaring a 15-year moratorium on all large-scale mining activities and the acceptance and processing of all application for mineral agreements.

Three years later, on Feb. 15, 2002, the board amended the ordinance extending the moratorium to 50 years.

Environmental advocates have hailed the 1999 and 2002 ordinances as landmark pieces of legislation passed by a local government. Several provinces, including Guimaras, have also passed similar ordinances.



# The Manila Times

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## Complaint vs OceanaGold formalized

**BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya:** Governor Carlos Padilla has led the provincial government in formalizing the request to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the immediate cancellation of OceanaGold Philippines Inc.'s (OGPI) renewal of its exploration permit.

Padilla said in a letter addressed to Environment Secretary Gina Lopez they are formalizing their request for the cancellation or suspension of the exploration permit and that an exploration moratorium be declared pending amendments to mining policies.

Lopez on Wednesday assured Padilla and residents of Kasibu town that she would cancel the extension of the exploration permit granted to OGPI amid strong opposition from residents and anti-mining advocates to the mining activities in the area.

"Seemingly, the issuance of the exploration permit last April, 2016

which resumes the exploration activity of the company was a midnight deal and very suspicious," Padilla said in the letter.

OceanaGold in a press statement said that its five-year extension to the exploration period of its Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) was granted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) that is valid from March 2016 to 2021. The MGB is an agency under DENR.

He said the cancellation of the exploration permit is urgent because Nueva Vizcaya is a critical watershed of four major water and energy projects such as the Ramon Dam, San Roque Dam, Pantabangan Dam and Addalam National Irrigation System.

He also said that it is of importance to protect watershed areas in the province to maintain sufficient irrigation water supply to hundreds of thousands of agricultural lands in

Region 2 and Region 3 aside from the power they generate.

"In its societal vision, we are a watershed haven and we promote the development of the province as an agro-forestry area and eco-tourism because of its rich and fertile soil, semi-temperate climate and its natural wonders," Padilla said in his letter to Lopez.

Padilla also said that in Kasibu town, host to OceanaGold's FTAA coverage, is the location of the fourth longest cave system in the country called the Capisaan Cave System and the plantations of citrus and other high value crops that farmers sustainably produce are now being threatened.

"Most of the communities where the ongoing exploration is being undertaken oppose this activity as indicated on their various petition papers submitted to you by our partner Alyansa Tigil Mina," Padilla said.

**LEANDER C. DOMINGO**



# Malaya Business Insight

www.malaya.com.ph

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Mining, traffic top business SONA concern

BUSINESS awaits President Duterte's definite plans on mining, traffic, red tape, drugs and infrastructure in his State of the Nation Address today.

They however, have no liking for "blaming and credit grabbing".

The SONA should be an occasion for the new administration to paint his vision for the country and set the tone for action on his campaign promises, Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation said.

Business leaders interviewed over the weekend are hopeful they would hear clear directions and the actual actions laid down.

Ortiz-Luis meanwhile said he does not care for "blaming like what the previous administration did, or credit grabbing".

But he said he expects this SONA to be "not the usual."

"What I want to hear is what so far has the government has done as promised (during the campaign); what and where are we now in the fight against crime and drugs; what has been accomplished at this time to gauge whether or not he is nearer his deadline. That significant changes will be felt in the first six months," Ortiz-Luis added

On the business side, Ortiz-Luis said he would like to see what has been done so far in easing doing business, and what else would be done and what government agencies involved in this drive have done.

Specific issues that Ortiz-Luis wants to be addressed are on mining. "People having difficulty in understanding what President Duterte has said and what environment secretary Gina Lopez has been doing," Ortiz-Luis said.

For the general public, Ortiz-Luis said President Duterte should bare what specific actions would be done to solve traffic as well as red tape.

Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said Duterte is "very clear where he wants to bring this country to in six years.

"The Philippines during his presidency will be on high growth trajectory of 7 to 8 percent. He will see to it that the

### MINING

economic growth will be inclusive," Dee said.

But Dee said the SONA should discuss this government's fight against drugs and criminality; infrastructure development in the regions in order to disperse the population, and finally improving the lives of the people.

Francis Chua, chairman emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said it would be best to give Duterte "all the chance to tell us his vision and his expectation from us."

"He wants change for the best, we

should also do our share to support all his endeavor for the ultimate good of the masses and our country," said Chua.

Peter Perfecto, executive director of the Makati Business Club for his part said he has no expectations in the SONA as Duterte has made very clear already his priority agenda and his government has already hit the ground running.

"I will, however, listen to his address for any new priorities and/or direction shifts and see how these will impact on doing business and the economy," Perfecto said. - *Irma Isip*

### FIRMS

we will issue a circular on that," he added.

Dooc recalled that when he was still with Philam Life he required the company to reach out to the beneficiaries by sending out letters to the last known addresses of the policyholders until they are able to close many accounts.

"There is a provision in the Civil Code, that the government can recover (the unpaid claims) but it would require, I think, the Solicitor General to file a petition for the government to take control of the amount," Dooc said.

"I just think we need some kind of regulation," he added.



# PEOPLES Tonight

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## ANTIPOLO QUARRY IPINAPASARA!

Bumidok  
paubos,  
3 ilog  
paitay na

**DAHIL sa paubos nang kabundukan ng Antipolo City sanhi ng walang habas na quarrying operations, napipintong mas mabilis na ang pagbaha sa Metro Manila dahil sa kawalan ng mga bundok at punong-kahoy na pipigil sa tubig-ulan mula sa Sierra Madre mountains.**

Pahina 12

### ANTIPOLO...

From Page 1

Ito ang pangamba ng mga mamamayan ng Antipolo na ipinaabot kay DENR Sec. Gina Lopez dahil sa muling "full blast" operation ng Hardrock Aggregates, Inc. sa pagpapasabog ng kabundukan at paghahakot ng graba ng daan-daang dump trucks araw-araw, mula Antipolo patungo sa mga construction sites.

Nauna rito, ipinasara ni Antipolo City Mayor Casimiro "Jun-jun" Ynares III ang Hardrock matapos i-ere sa ABS-CBN ang kalunos-lunos na kalagayan ng mga mamamayan na nakatira sa paligid ng quarry site at ang panganib na dulot ng pagkawasak ng kalikasan lalung-lalo na sa mga taga-Marikina at San Mateo.

Sa "Notice of Violation" na ipinadala ni Violeta Sabulao-Faiyaz, CENR-WM officer, noong May 26, 2016, na nilagdaan ni Mayor Ynares, nakitaan ng kulay brown ang Nangka River mula sa tributaries nitong Bibit at Kamias rivers, dahil sa pagdaloy ng mga putik at bato sa quarry site ng Hardrock.

Gayundin, sinita nila ang Hardrock sa paggamit ng Kingsway, isang public road, bilang paradahan ng daan-daang dump trucks, dahilan para wala nang madaanan ang mga mamamayan.

Subalit sa hindi malamang kadahilanan, biglang pinayagan ni Mayor Ynares na muling makapag-operate ang Hardrock noong unang linggo ng kasalukuyang buwan, sa kabila ng patuloy nitong pagpatay sa Nangka, Bibit at Kamias rivers, ang patuloy na paghambalang ng daan-daang dump trucks sa mga kalsada, pagpapasabog ng dinamita sa mga bundok, at ang kabuuang pagkawasak ng kalikasan.

Ayon kay Marcial V. Briones, presidente ng Kingsway Homeowners Association, Inc., hindi katanggap-tanggap sa mga residente ang ingay ng mga trak, ang pagbalik ng droga at prostitusyon sa kanilang lugar, ang alikabok na siyang sanhi ng pagkakasakit nila sa бага, ang pagbaha sa kanilang lugar dahil kung saan-saan na lang dumudumi ang mga daan-daang drivers at pahinante ng mga trak, ang pagtabon sa Bibit at Kamias rivers dahil sa mga batong nahuhulog sa pagpapasabog ng bundok.

Ipinanukala umano ng Hardrock na maglalagay sila ng portalets sa gilid ng kalsada subalit ito ay maring tinutulan ni Briones at sinabing "kung ikaw ay lalagyan ng kubeta sa harap ng iyong bahay, papayag ka ba?"

Kasabay nito, hiniling din ng Save the Mountains of Antipolo Coalition (SMAC) kay Sec. Gina Lopez na bigyan ng pansin ang kanilang kalagayan, "dahil tanaw na tanaw umano mula sa Lopez compound ang pagkaubos ng kabundukan ng Antipolo dahil sa paspasang quarrying ng limang mga dambuhalang kumpanya doon."

Idinagdag pa ng SMAC na marami nang namatay sa mga malagim na aksidente sa Marcos Highway dahil sa mga dump truck ng Hardrock na kadalasang nawawalan ng preno o lasing ang mga nagmamaneho.

"Tag-ulan na at nangangamba kaming dadaloy ang mga putik at bato sa Nangka River hanggang sa Marikina River at Pasig River at mas mabilis na ang pagbaha sa buong Metro Manila," ayon sa SMAC.



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**Bundok sa Antipolo paubos  
na, quarry ipinasasara**

**DAHIL** sa paubos nang kabundukan ng Antipolo City sanhi ng walang habas na quarrying operations, napipintong mas mabilis na ang pagbaha sa Metro Manila dahil sa kawalan ng mga bundok at punongkahoy na pipigil sa tubig-ulan mula sa Sierra Madre mountains.

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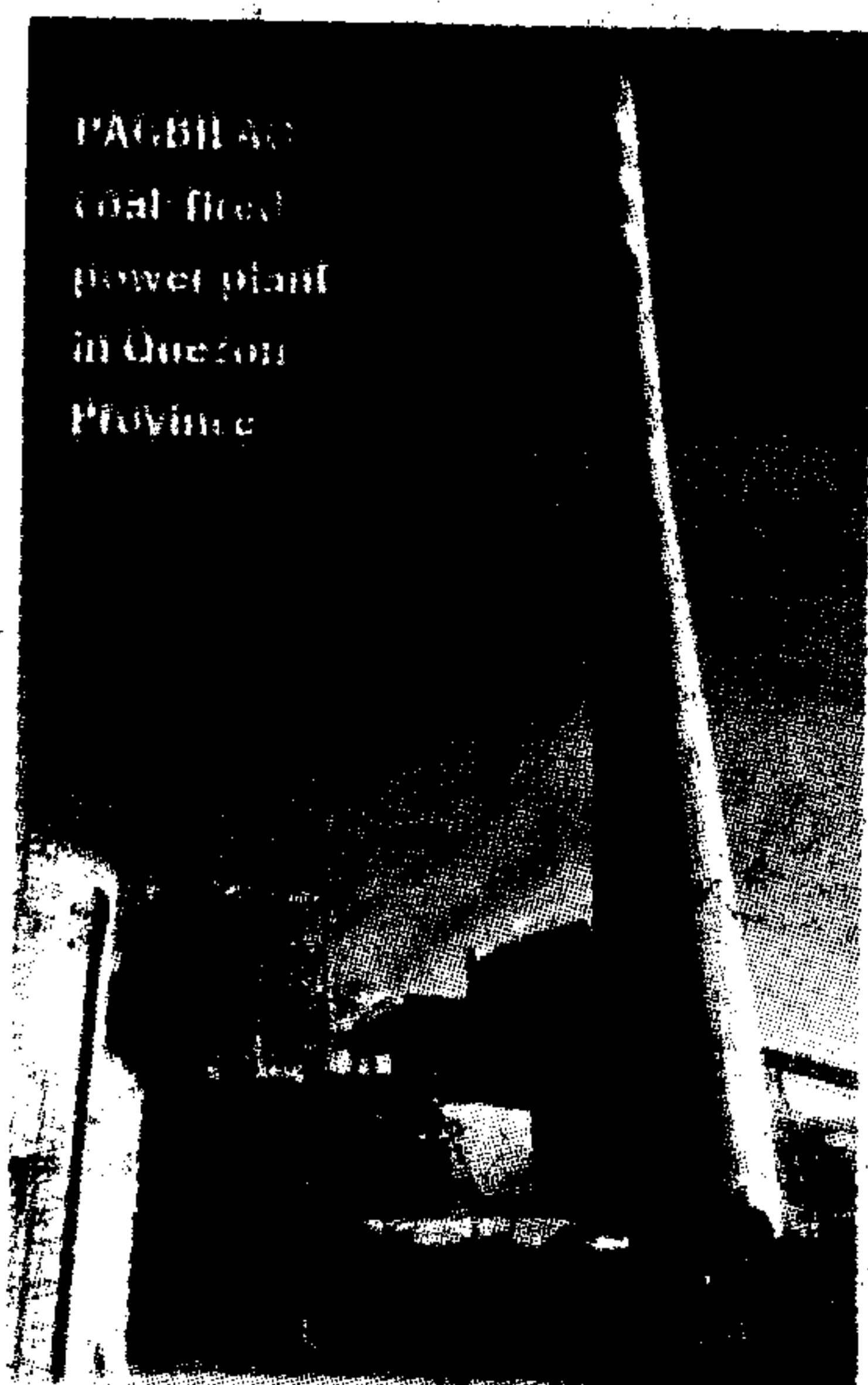
## Philippines' new energy dev't plan shows that coal change is coming

**By Victor V. Saulon**  
Sub-Editor

IF THINGS GO as planned, the Philippines should have a new power development plan by year-end that will set out how coal can be replaced with renewable energy sources.

Or at least this is what the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said on June 16, 2016.

A few days later, President Rodrigo R. Duterte appointed staunch environmentalist Regina L. Lopez to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), one of the three state agencies that will review the government's energy policy along with the CCC and the Department of Energy (DoE).



PAGBILO  
coal-fired  
power plant  
in Quezon  
Province

BW FILE PHOTO

This left then-DoE Secretary Zenaida Y. Monsada pondering on the fate of 13 coal-fired power plant projects, six of which are in Luzon and five in Mindanao, which are currently being built.

"The shift from coal does not seem accurate," she said. "Are you going to kill the coal plants? You just cannot... if they meet the environmental standards and all the requirements."

She said the DENR could impose stricter standards in its issuance of environmental compliance certificates of proposed projects, but she doubts if these can be applied to existing plants.

"Maybe the thrust is, if you need to stop issuing permits for new coal plants? When should you start doing that, so that by 2030 you have more renewable energy or at least almost equal to coal in terms of output," she said.

The Philippines by 2030 should already have reduced emissions by 70%, as part of its commitment during the December 2015 Paris climate talks, which in turn also resulted in nearly 200 countries agreeing to limit the increase in the earth's temperature to well below 2°Celsius while aiming for an ambitious goal of 1.5°Celsius.

By that same year, the DoE also aims to achieve a generation mix that sources 30% of power from coal, 30% from natural gas, 30% from renewables, and 10% from other sources such as oil-fired plants.

Ms. Monsada has since been replaced by Alfonso G. Cusi, who admitted that he was still studying many issues involving the energy industry.

"I'm asking for the rationale. What's the rationale of that 30-30-30-10... I'd like to understand. I'd like to know," he said.

In the meantime, companies building coal-fired power plants up for completion between this year and 2020 have invested millions of dollars to stay on schedule, as indicated by their commitments to service contracts awarded to them by the DoE.

They account for 68% or 4,792 megawatts (MW) of the 7,040 MW new capacity in the four years. Of the additional power from coal plants, 2,762 MW will come from Luzon, 420 from the Visayas, and 1,610 MW from Mindanao.

Apart from these projects, several others are awaiting "financial closing" — bank loans or investments — that could move their proposed plants from the "indicative" phase to "committed" or those that have started construction and have clearer target dates for commercial operation.

These indicative projects are the ones most likely to be hit should the government come up with a stricter policy on coal-fired power plants, or if indeed these will be replaced by renewables.

In Luzon, nine such projects are in the pipeline with an estimated capacity of 5,600 MW.

**CAPACITY**



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### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Philippines' new energy dev't. plan shows  
that coal change is coming

Visayas has about 900 MW while Mindanao has five projects with 1,400 MW. They still outpace the future capacity coming from renewable energy. For instance, solar power plants in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao are expected to deliver only 178.1 MW, 263.2 MW and 166 MW, respectively.

As it stands now, the country has about 16,451 MW of dependable capacity, which looks sufficient to meet an estimated demand of 12,000 MW.

Ideally, the grid operator maintains contingency reserves that can answer any reduction in

supply due to the loss of the largest generating unit, which is the 670-MW coal-fired power plant in Sual, Pangasinan.

However, for five times in June, these reserves fell below the capacity of that plant, prompting the "yellow alerts" and leaving doubts about electricity reliability and sufficiency.

"If you project it, say, up to 2030, the consensus view is that demand from the current 12,000 MW could rise to as much as 20,000 or even 22,000 or 24,000 MW. Clearly the country needs more capacities to build in the next 15 years or so," Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman of Manila Electric Co., said in a recent press briefing.

Coal power plants remain the most viable option cost-wise.

Rough estimates place the cost of producing a megawatt of power from coal at \$2 million, well below wind power's \$2.25 million or hydro's \$3 million per MW. These plants are also the most dependable source of base-load power that can consistently meet demand for 24 hours straight.

"Over the time the cost of solar is really going down, so we don't really know what it will be... over five years. But the rough estimate is about \$1.5-2 million total project cost per megawatt," said Salvador Antonio R. Castro, Jr., president of CleanTech Global Renewables, Inc., which, in March 2016, switched on a 15-MW solar farm in San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

By the end of the month, Mr. Cusi is expected to meet with Ms.

Lopez about striking a balance between the country's need for reliable power and meeting the demands of a society that has increasingly looked at coal plants as out of place in a planet wary of global warming.

This may leave a comforting thought to project developers, at least until such time that the case for solar power has become more compelling. With the advent of new and cheaper technology that can store the energy from the sun, this lull may be short-lived.

VICTOR V. SAULON (@victorsaulon on Twitter) covers the energy beat and handles a section for the *BusinessWorld* on weekends. Outside work, he travels and hones his skills in photography.





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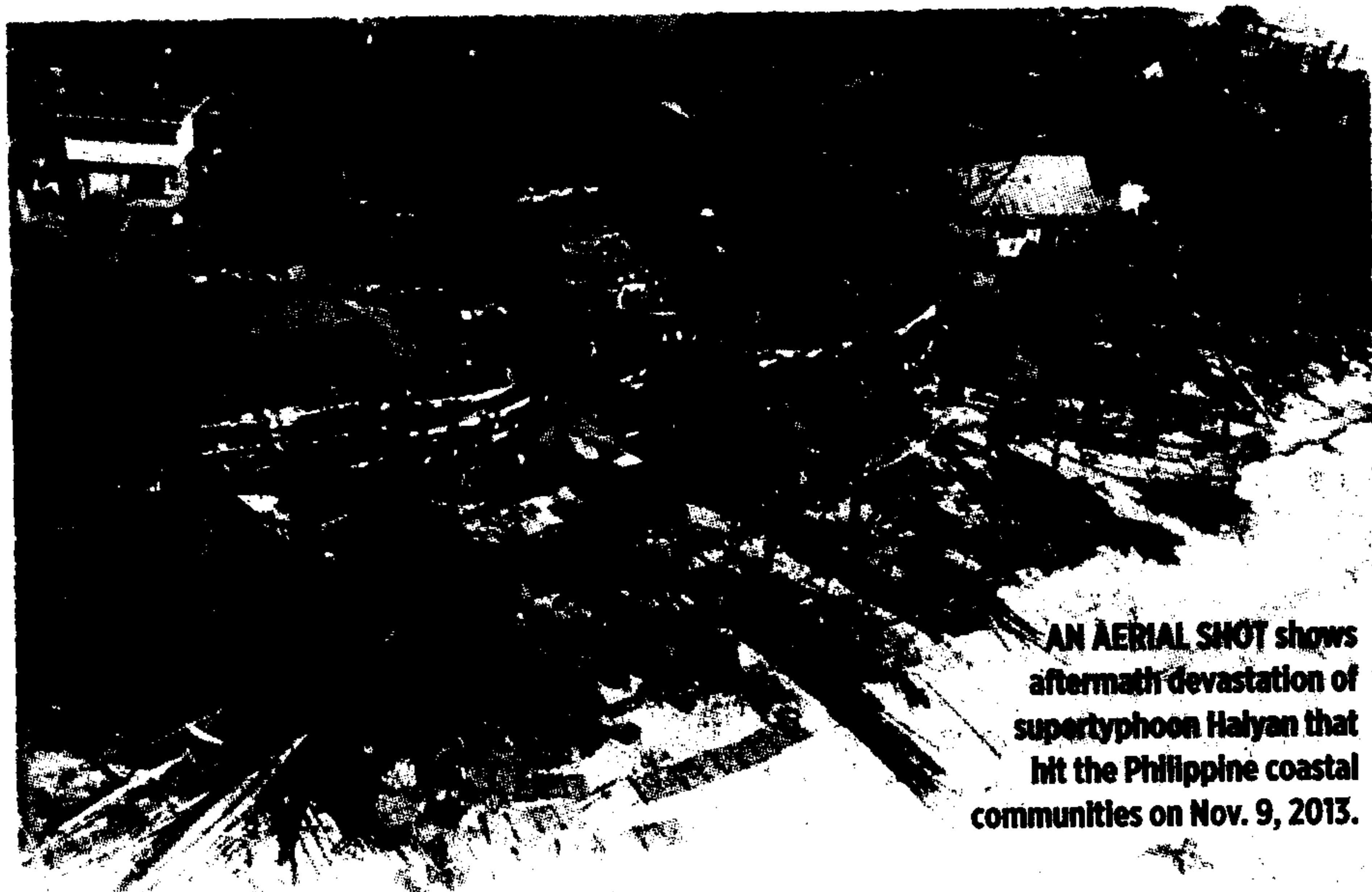
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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



AN AERIAL SHOT shows aftermath devastation of supertyphoon Haiyan that hit the Philippine coastal communities on Nov. 9, 2013.

# 'Yolanda prompted us to reject coal use'

SUPERTYPHOON YOLANDA (International name Haiyan), one of the strongest storms ever recorded, left a "deep imprint on everyone" at the First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPH), the parent company of Energy Development Corporation (EDC).

This was admitted by FPH Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Federico R. Lopez said during his keynote speech last June 17 at the SharePhil Summit 2016 in Makati City.

The typhoon brought about "considerable corporate and personal damage" on the company's geothermal plants in Leyte, where Yolanda made landfall, he said.

As a result of the devastation, the Lopez-led company was prompted to walk its talk — it rejected the use of coal, one of the cheapest but dirtiest fuels, to generate power.

"We made public our group's stance that we would no longer consider building, developing, or investing in coal-fired power plants despite the fact that every other business group and bank in the country is doing so. We're making it our mission to help the country navigate the challenging transition toward a cleaner decarbonized future," Mr. Lopez said.

Mr. Lopez also warned shareholders during the summit that they can no longer overlook the costs of such disasters and that Filipinos are not ready to face calamities brought by climate change.

"The later the carbon emissions to be reduced, it will be more difficult, drastic, and impossible those reductions be. Much of the warming already occurring will trigger widespread tipping points and feedback

loops on ecosystems that cannot be reversed and will exacerbate climate change even more," Mr. Lopez said.

### COAL RECONSIDERED BUT LATER REJECTED

These sentiments were the diametric opposite of what has been publicly expressed by Mr. Lopez.

During the sidelines of the stockholders' meeting last May 23, the diversified conglomerate had considered to invest and build coal-power plants but explained that the idea was already scrapped.



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### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Yolanda prompted us to reject coal use!

"In fact at some point we were studying it, we were going to invest in it. We even had plans that we announced. We've scrapped all of that already," Mr. Lopez said.

Despite the drive towards renewable energy, coal still remains the cheapest and most dependable source of energy in the country. During his first media briefing held on July 4, Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi said that the Philippines will retain coal as a core part of its electricity generation mix.

"Coal is the more dependable, the more reliable source for base load [...] As a developing country we cannot afford not to have coal," Mr. Cusi said.

Being one of Asia's fastest growing economies with a current gross domestic product growth projection of 6%, the country aims to double its capacity to generate power by 2030 to avoid a power shortage that took place in the 1990s.

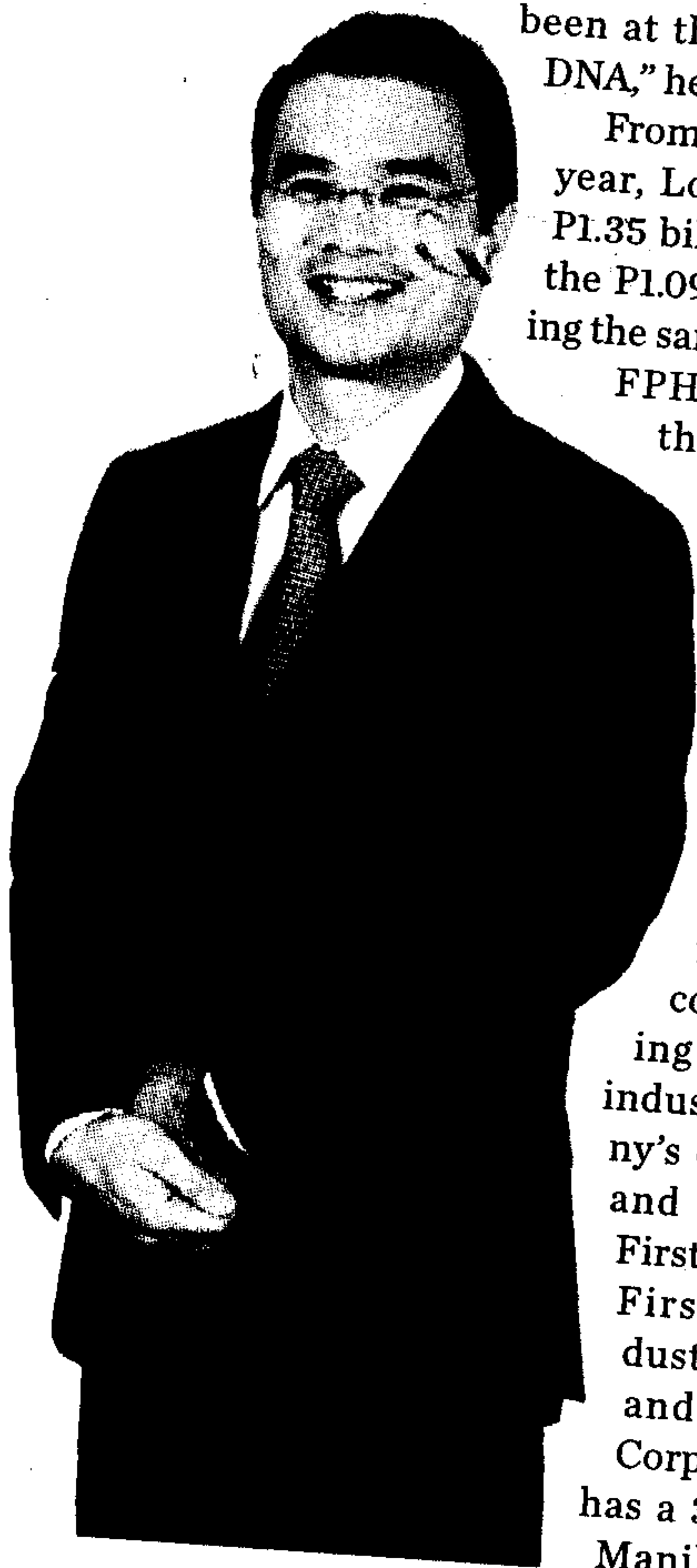
But these developments haven't made a dent in the company's commitment for a greener future.

"Social Justice also emerges in the way we approach our geothermal business. In the broadest sense, social justice is that

of doing right for society. It has always been at the core of our Group's DNA," he added.

From January to March this year, Lopez Holdings earned P1.35 billion, 24% higher than the P1.09 billion reported during the same period in 2015.

FPH was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission with the purpose of purchasing and acquiring shares in the power generation, real estate development, roads and tollways operations, manufacturing and construction, financing and other service industries. The company's other subsidiaries and affiliates include First Gen Corporation; First Philippine Industrial Corporation; and Rockwell Land Corporation. FPH also has a 3.95% interest in Manila Electric Company. — **Mac Norhen E. Bornaes**



FPH Chief Executive Officer and Chairman Federico R. Lopez



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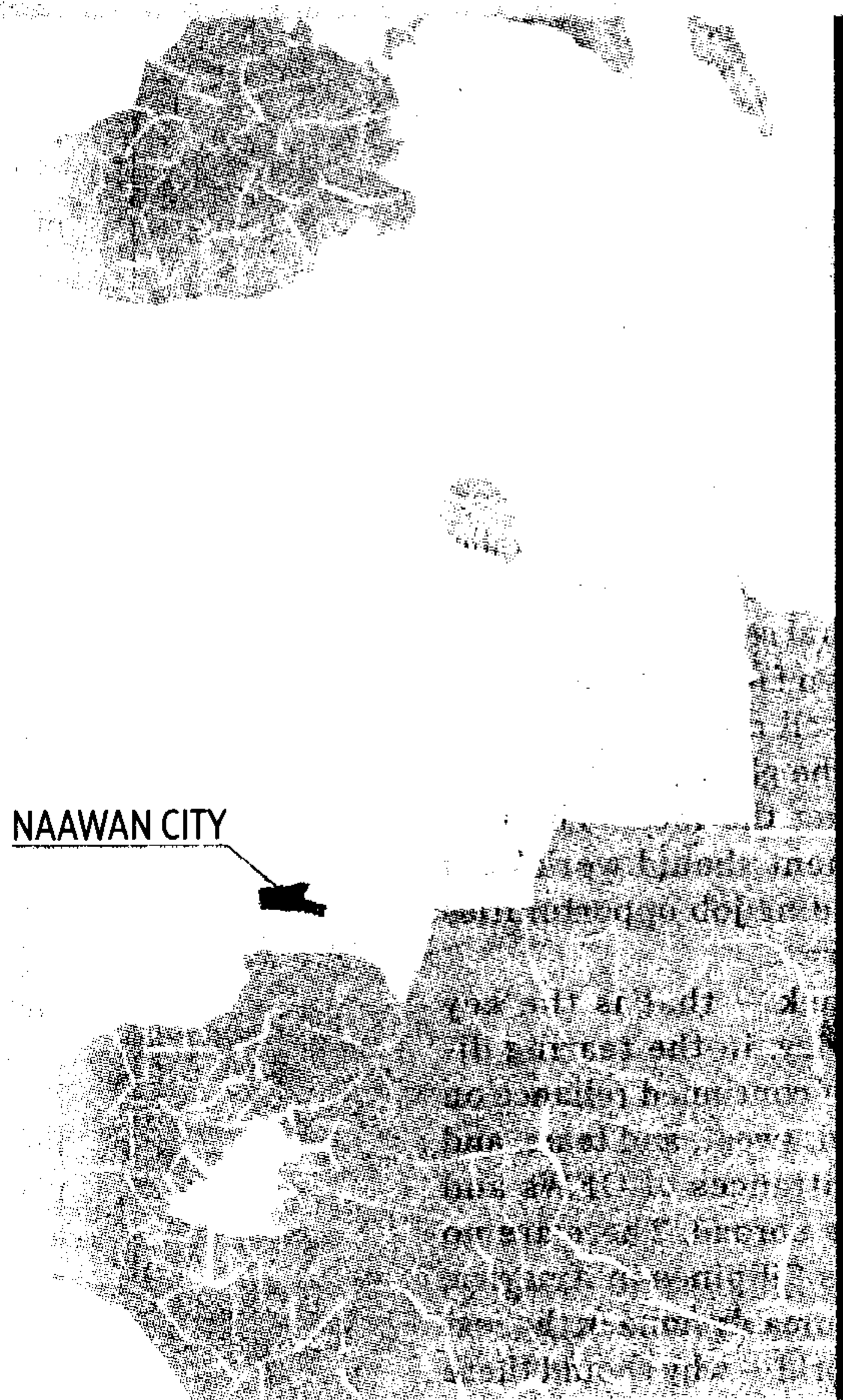
## #nationataglance

### NORTHERN MINDANAO: NAAWAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL **Building up environment stewards through PES**

A SMALL coastal town with a population of less than 20,000 is among the first in Mindanao to adopt the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), an environmental protection scheme that is taking off globally and is being pushed by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA). "Through an ordinance issued by the local government of Naawan to adopt PES, households were required to pay certain fees for every cubic meter of water that they consume. As a result, the local government was able to raise a sizeable fund that was utilized for the municipality's reforestation program," MinDA Executive Director Janet M. Lopez said in a statement. MinDA Chair Luwalhati R. Antonino, for her part, said they have been setting mechanisms to help other local government units adopt PES. "As the island-region pursues inclusive socioeconomic growth and development, we believe that it must also sensibly manage its environment and natural resources to sustain them into the future," Ms. Antonino said.—

**Carmelito Q. Francisco**

NAAWAN CITY





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### An environment agency without environmentalists

HIS CLAIMS to the contrary, Ramon Jesus Paje will go down in history as the environment secretary who had the most chance to make an impact on forest buildup in this country but squandered it. The National Greening Program (NGP), which is touted as the banner environment program of the previous Aquino administration, got a huge P7-billion allocation but has nothing much to show for it.

Last year, in reaction to the Commission on Audit's findings that the NGP is a failure, Paje claimed that, on the contrary, the greening activity has been a success, saying that the survival rate of the planted seedlings was 80 percent nationwide. He was either naive or deliberately misleading the public.

To begin with, Paje's survival-rate figure comes from the Forest Management Bureau, an arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The department's reliance on an in-house monitoring and validating team, instead of on an independent and objective watchdog, has been and

continues to be one of the fundamental flaws of government greening programs; it is responsible for the illusion of success. The fact is there are but a few growing trees in the plantations.

To bring home the point, I have personally been to two NGP sites where not even 10 percent of the seedlings have survived, but which the DENR records as having 90 plus-percent survival rates.

If Paje has a problem with that, I am daring him to stick his name to his 80-percent-survival-rate claim by executing a promissory note that if an honest to goodness counting of the trees/seedlings in the plantations will reveal a significantly lower figure, he will be personally held liable for the deficit.

I must point out that the absence of a mechanism to exact accountability for the failed government regreening programs stems from a crucial mistake. With one failed program after another and the accountable DENR people getting nary a rap on the knuckles from the past administra-

tions, the tradition of failure continues. Meanwhile, the country's mountains remain bare; and, yes, with the loss of the funds and the precious growing time of trees, the vulnerability of the nation to climate change grows by the day.

But what really dooms the government's greening program right from conception is the fact that up to now DENR people, from the secretaries down to ordinary employees, do not consider the success of greening programs a matter of personal and professional urgency, or a matter of honor and achievement, to merit their passion and dedication. All we have in the department is a caboodle mechanically coping with targets of seedlings disposed of and areas planted, period. People who do not know the joy of developing forests through their own loving contributions. In other words, we have an environmental agency bereft of environmentalists, so what else can we expect?

—ESTANISLAO C. ALBANO JR.,  
casigayan@yahoo.com



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Samar wild vine has potential as biofuel

By NESTOR LABREIMATEA

CATARMAN, Northern Samar — A wild vine that thrives in the hinterland barangays of Palapag, Northern Samar, could be developed as a biofuel if it gets government support.

Palapag Mayor Ricardo Daiz said the vine, locally known as Dulce de corombot, is found only in his town. Given a government boost it can help solve the demand for biofuel in the country and can also be exported.

Daiz said the wild plant is highly flammable and but its fruit is sweet.

The mayor said he plans to propose to Agriculture Secretary Manny F. Piñol developing the commercial conversion of dulce de corombot into biofuel.

Daiz said a Korean firm had

approached him with a proposal to mass produce the wild vine and build a biofuel plant in the town. He said there was no follow-up on the proposal.

Palapag, which will celebrate the 421st feast of its patron said, Our Lady of the Assumption on August 15, is one of the oldest towns in the country.

It looms large in the history of the galleon trade because the bee wax used by kings and queens in Europe were made in Palapag town, which was the center of Catholicism in the Visayas.

Its famous son is Juan Ponce Sumuroy, who led the revolt on June 1, 1649 against the Spaniards in Samar.

The town, which faces the Pacific Ocean, is five hours from Tacloban City via a newly built highway.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# A better life with a healthy planet

BENTHAM

**By Jeremy Bentham**  
*Contributor*

CLIMATE change was considered one of the world's biggest challenges at the recent World Cities Summit in Singapore.

The global population is growing—from more than seven billion today, to an estimated 10 billion by the end of the century.

And as the number of people swells, we expect the growth of cities to accelerate. More than half of the human beings on the

planet already live in cities.

By 2050, the proportion is on track to be around three-quarters, with half of this growth in Asia alone.

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

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

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

compared to today.

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

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

In it, we can see a possible path—challenging though it may be—to a world where emissions of carbon dioxide are at net zero levels.

That means the emissions that remain are offset, or captured and stored below ground.

This is not just a target for Shell; it is something the world must achieve.

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

or hydrogen-powered cars; by building high-capacity public transport systems.

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

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

But adding carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology to power stations and industrial

## A better life . . . From page B2-1

complexes will be critical to reduce emissions enough to reach net zero.

Renewables will, of course, continue to grow rapidly as part of the mix, but mainly produce electricity. Today, electricity accounts for less than one-fifth of the total energy used in the world.

For renewables to have a major impact, our scenario shows the share of electricity in the energy mix will need to grow to at least half.

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

Yet even with all this change, greenhouse gas emissions will continue to enter the atmosphere for the foreseeable future. The production of chemicals used in so many of the things we take

for granted will continue to rely on oil and gas.

Where very high temperatures or dense energy storage are required—such as in the manufacture of iron, steel and cement, or in heavy freight and air transport—we will almost certainly see the continued use of hydrocarbon fuels.

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

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

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

*(The author is vice president for global business environment at Shell and head of the Shell Scenarios team.)*



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Bohol next stop for climate change mitigation program

BY LALYN B. DE VERA

**T**he Climate Change Commission (CCC) will bring its flagship capacity-building program on climate change to Bohol province this Wednesday.

After pilot runs in Davao and Cagayan de Oro earlier this year, Bohol is the third venue for the Communities for Resilience (CORE) convergence forum on July 27-28.

The forum will bring together local government units (LGUs) within the Wahig-Inabanga Upper River Basin, which hosts the largest and most important river in Central Visayas.

CORE aims to strengthen the capacity of LGUs to cope with climate change impacts, such as strong typhoons and severe floods and droughts.

Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman,

CCC vice chairman and executive director, said Bohol LGUs will be trained in implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management.

"We aim to increase the resilience to climate vulnerability of communities in Bohol, particularly those within the Wahig-Inabanga Upper River Basin which is one of the areas in the country at high risk to climate change impacts," De Guzman said.

The Wahig-Inabanga has high potential as a source of surface water for agricultural, household, commercial, industrial and recreational uses.

It is one of the 18 river basins and communities identified by experts as pilot areas and models for the convergence of climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction programs of the government.

"CORE is in line with the thrust

of the present administration to prioritize the poor and promote local action," De Guzman said.

He said the CCC is happy to bring the CORE to Bohol, which recently earned the reputation as one of the most disaster-prone provinces in the

country.

The province was devastated by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake in 2013 that triggered geological and topographical changes in the province.

In 2014, flooding became the biggest concern for the province, espe-

cially in the towns of Inabanga and Duero following the onslaught of storms "Seniang" and "Queenie."

Recently, the provincial government placed Bohol under a state of calamity after El Niño destroyed ₱313-million worth of high-value crops.



# BusinessWorld

## **INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# *#nationataglance*

CENTRAL VISAYAS: BOHOL

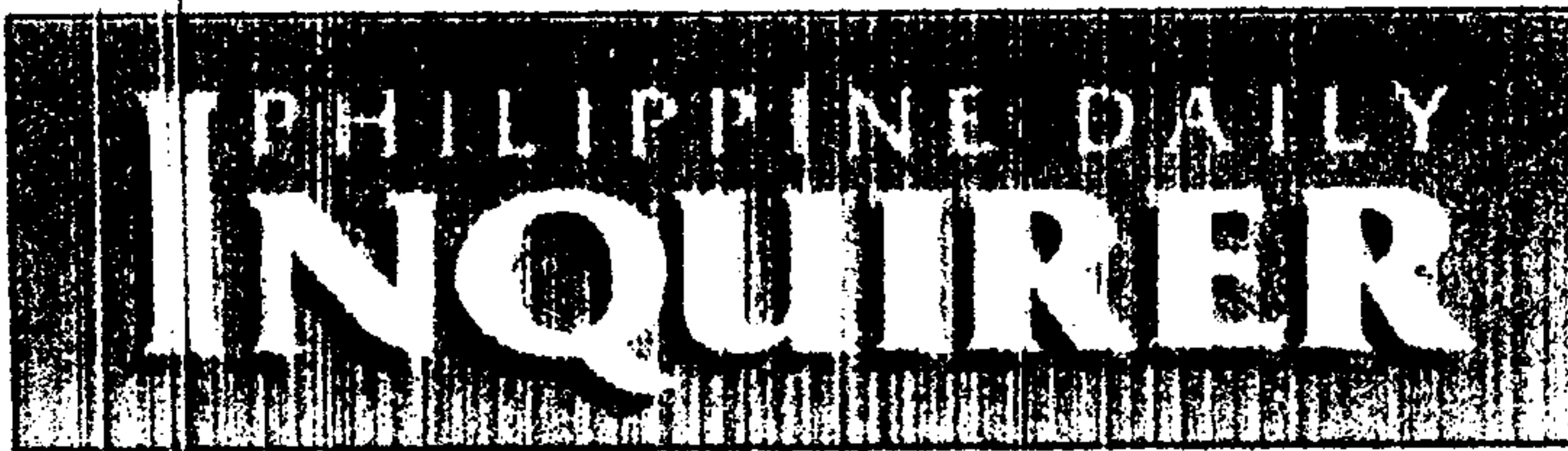
### **Climate change adaptation training for LGUs**

BOHOL province will be the next stop of the Communities for Resilience or CORE Convergence Forum on July 27-28. Participants will come from local government units (LGUs) within the Wahig-Inabanga Upper River Basin, which hosts the largest and most important river in the region. CORE, a flagship program of the Climate Change Commission, aims to strengthen the capacity of LGUs to cope with climate change impacts, such as strong typhoons and severe floods and droughts. The first two forums were held in the cities of Davao and Cagayan de Oro.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Climate change of heart

PRESIDENT DUTERTE is no climate change denier. In fact, in his very first Cabinet meeting, he declared: "Climate change is here. We were warned several years ago." He proceeded to underscore the vulnerability of our country to the effects of climate change by referencing Supertyphoon "Yolanda," echoing what he had voiced out during the campaign period.

This ready acknowledgment of the reality of global warming, coupled with his proenvironment stances (albeit equivocal), has caused green groups to warm up to the idea of the Duterte presidency. That his environment secretary, Gina Lopez, has started to crack down on wayward mining firms was seen as another promising sign that, insofar as environmental issues are concerned, "change is coming."

His latest pronouncement about not honoring the Paris Agreement—and even calling it "stupid" and "absurd"—has thus made headlines, and elicited reactions from environmentalists and policymakers alike. "I am pissed and angry about Duterte's stand," declared climate activist Renee Karunungan on her Facebook page, before proceeding to offer counterarguments against the oft-repeated statements in support of the President's position.

On the other hand, Rodne Galicha, the director of The Climate Reality Project Philippines, expressed the desire to sit down with the President, being the ex-officio head of the Climate Change Commission, so that he would "understand the context of the processes of the climate talks."

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The President's position shouldn't have come as a surprise. As early as March, he had been expressing his resentment over developed countries—the ones historically responsible for climate change—not doing their fair share of emission reductions, while passing on the burden to others.

In May, he reiterated his position at a time when he was still holding press conferences in Davao City: "They (the developed countries) were... booming and they were really flooding the contaminants sa air. Now that they are rich, we are still rural. We have hand-me-down machinery and they tell us to cut our emissions

### COMMENTARY

*Gideon Lasco*

and limit productivity."

Insofar as his positions are concerned, he is actually in good company, both here and abroad. Asad Rehman of the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice described the Paris Agreement as "a great escape for the big polluters, and a poisoned chalice for the poor." Rehman added: "We've got some warm words about temperature levels, but no concrete action. Rich countries aren't pledging to do any more about their inadequate emissions reduction targets which are going to lead us to 3.7 degrees warming of the planet. None of the developed countries are doing their fair share to reduce their emissions and move away from dirty energy."

For his part, environmental policy expert Antonio La Viña framed the President's statement in the context of longstanding Philippine positions. Writes La Viña on his Facebook page: "The President simply reiterated a pillar of climate justice." He proceeded to recount that other Philippine presidents, from FVR to P-Noy, have actually raised the same issue of commensurability.

The legitimacy of demanding climate justice notwithstanding, there are strong reasons why we should abide with the Paris Agreement—while pushing for stronger commitments in the future.

First and foremost, the Paris Agreement is precisely to protect the most vulnerable nations in the world, like the Philippines, from the effects of global warming—we are ranked 13 among 186 countries in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index for 2016—and it does have provisions to help us. As La Viña stresses, while the Philippines has committed to an ambitious 70-percent reduction of carbon emissions by 2030, this is contingent on receiving financial and technological support.

It is true that our own commitments to the Paris Agreement will steer us toward renew-

able energy, and away from coal, but isn't that a good thing in itself? Independent of the clear and present threat of global warming, coal is "dirty energy," and while it might have short-term appeals, its long-term effects to human health and the environment are catastrophic. Experts emphasize that the reduction goals should not get in the way of industrialization if we take the path of sustainable development.

Secondly, if we turn our back on the Paris Agreement, we will embolden countries, particularly big carbon emitters like China and the United States (28 percent and 16 percent of the world total, respectively), to renege on their own commitments—to the detriment of the whole world, particularly of our own country. The Paris Agreement is already fragile to begin with—Donald Trump is threatening to "cancel" it should he (God forbid) be elected US president—and our own withdrawal will deal it a further blow. The alternative stand—of using the Paris Agreement as a starting point to demand stronger action in the next round of the five-year renewal of commitments—makes more diplomatic sense.

Finally, the attitude of disregarding international agreements—and in such a colorful manner—can have consequences in our international standing beyond the realm of climate action. To start with: How can we expect China to respect the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the South China Sea if we ourselves cannot abide with an agreement we signed and even campaigned for?

To his credit, Mr. Duterte has shown a willingness to change his mind on certain issues. Here's hoping for a climate change of heart.

*Gideon Lasco is a physician and medical anthropologist. Follow him at Gideon Lasco on Facebook and @gideonlasco on Twitter and Instagram.*



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# BusinessMirror

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## 'PHL voice at UN key to global climate pact'

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

**T**HE Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (iCSC) on Thursday urged the Philippines to continue to engage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiating process in order to influence the level of ambition, targets and rules of climate action that benefit vulnerable countries.

The iCSC said the Philippines's voice at the United Nations is very important it being the current leader of Climate Vulnerable Forum, a group of 50 countries that suffer most from the impacts of climate change. The Philippines took over the presidency of Climate Vulnerable Forum on January 2015.

Francis de la Cruz, associate for Energy Policy at the iCSC, issued a statement following President Duterte's pronouncement that he will not honor the country's commitment under the Paris climate deal in December 2015.

"It is important to clarify that, when the Philippines signed up to the Paris Agreement, it was primarily driven by the interests of vulnerable countries to create

remain differentiated respecting national conditions, and taking into account the development needs of developing countries.

The Philippine targets contained in the country's national plan or are mostly "conditional" and contingent on financial support from the international community, he added.

iCSC said President Duterte's sentiments and decision "to instead put the spotlight on the hypocrisy of industrialized nations, which should carry much of the climate burden," is understandable.

However, the group said the Philippines should keep demanding that industrialized nations aggressively cut their greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions and provide financial and technical support with a sense of urgency so developing countries could adapt to the impacts of climate change and build resilient economies using climate-friendly and resilient energy infrastructure.

"As we've seen over the years, it is developing and poor countries that suffer most from the devastating impacts of climate change—impacts on both our people's lives and our economies," the group added.

According to iCSC, clean energy should not just be a preserve of rich countries. Sadly, however, iCSC believes the Philippines has lagged behind many Asian countries in profiting from the renewable-energy investment boom.

"The Duterte administration

### \$328.9B

**The highest-ever figure of clean-energy investment, which surged in 2015, up 4 percent from 2014**

a resilient future for our people. In order for countries like the Philippines to survive the devastating impacts of climate change, and stay below dangerous levels of climate change [stay below 1.5 degrees Celsius], global emissions need to be reduced," he said.

According to de la Cruz, the carbon-reduction commitments



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Phl voice at UN key to global climate pact'

can provide much-needed leadership in thinking differently about the way we produce and consume energy. It is possible to meet poverty reduction and development objectives through cleaner, safer and more sustainable technologies and initiatives," de la Cruz said.

He added that such investments create jobs, improve local environmental quality, and help curb GHG emissions. Clean-energy investment surged in 2015 driving the world total to its highest ever figure of \$328.9 billion, up 4 percent from 2014's \$315.9-billion total investments, the group said, citing a Bloomberg New Energy Finance report.

The Philippines is currently ranked 22nd in the May 2016 edition of Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index by Ernst and Young, beating South Korea and a host European countries in the ranking based on a number of macro, energy market and technology-specific indicators, iCSC noted.

"It is time for the Philippines to leapfrog to a low-carbon future starting with a comprehensive review of our energy policies to signal to investors that we are ready for climate-friendly investments. It is high time for the country to welcome capital resources knocking on our doors," de la Cruz said.

The group is looking forward to engaging the Duterte administration as it formulates strategies

that will serve the interests of Filipinos impacted by the adverse impacts of climate change. "The new administration should use its immense political support to carry through reforms that bring lasting change using the right climate and energy investments," iCSC said.

### **Ratification of climate agreement**

At the UN, France's environment minister, who was in charge of global climate negotiations, said on Wednesday she and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will be pressing governments to speedily ratify the historic agreement on climate change reached last December.

Segolene Royal told reporters after meeting the UN chief that they want the agreement ratified by the time the parties to global climate talks that led to the Paris Agreement hold their next meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco, from November 7 to 18.

She said she will write again to all world leaders to get their timetables for ratification and will return to Africa to talk to heads of state and government to push for speedy action.

The agreement will enter into force once 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of global emissions have formally joined it.

To spur action, Ban said on Tuesday he is inviting countries to deposit their ratifications on September 21, during the annual ministerial meeting of the General Assembly.

He told a high-level meeting promoting the new UN goals to tackle poverty and inequality, and preserve the environment that 178 countries have signed the agreement and 19 have deposited their ratifications. But he said the 19 countries account for less than 1 percent of GHG emissions.

The secretary-general encouraged at least 40 countries who committed to ratify the agreement by the end of the year—including major emitters like the United States, China, Australia, Indonesia, Mexico and Argentina—to do it sooner to accelerate its entry into force and progress on addressing climate change.

"We cannot wait any longer," Royal said. "It's time for actions. This year will be the hottest in history. Last year was the hottest in history and next year... would be the hottest."

Under the agreement, countries set their own targets for reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other GHG. The targets are not legally binding, but countries must update them every five years.

Already, states face pressure to do more. Scientific analyses show the initial set of targets that countries pledged before Paris don't match the agreement's long-term goal to keep global warming below 2°C (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), compared with pre-industrial times. Global average temperatures have already climbed by almost 1°C. **With AP**



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EDITORIAL p. 2

# President Duterte's first SONA today

**P**RESIDENT Duterte delivers his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) today, the 25th day of his administration, before a joint session of Congress at the Batasan. Like his Inaugural Address in Malacañang last June 30, the SONA will be simple, direct, and forceful, like the man himself. It will not be a long one, partly because he is just beginning and he still does not have much to report. But it should be loaded with the new President's plans for the nation in the next six months before this year ends – and then in the next six years before he steps down from office.

These first three weeks of the Duterte administration have been dominated by his war on drugs – the center of his campaign which revolved around the basic idea of change. The Philippine National Police last Friday reported that as of 6 a.m. of July 22, 240 people were dead, 3,228 had been arrested, and 120,200 had surrendered in 63,973 raids and other police operations. The figures do not include those who may have been executed by vigilante groups.

The anti-drug campaign has had the biggest impact so far among all the many changes now taking place in the country. We had all been complacent about the state of our nation, not knowing that in communities all over the country, the lives of thousands of people were being destroyed by drugs. There are charges that abuses may have been committed in the anti-drugs campaign. These should be acted upon, but on the whole the nation has welcomed the campaign which

stands out as the first big change being carried out by the new administration.

The President's SONA is expected to outline what changes are coming next. Some Cabinet members have already given us an inkling of what we may expect in the coming months, such as in the workings of government and of the justice system, in an infrastructure program to massively step up national economic development, in solving traffic and other transportation problems that are holding back progress, in a major push for increased agricultural production, in expanding employment opportunities as the core of a total effort to solve the problem of mass poverty among our people. These and other plans and programs will be the core of today's SONA.

We also expect changes in the way the members of Congress and their guests gather to hear the President and how the SONA will be received by the people. The President has asked that the affair at the Batasan be kept short and simple, without the red-carpet displays of women's fashion that marked previous SONAs. We also do not expect protest demonstrations as in the past when the President's effigy was burned by angry and disgruntled elements.

But the nation's attention – and that of the world – will focus on the address itself. In the coming months and years, we will be referring to today's address with all its plans and its promises. And the President will be judged by how well he has achieved the goals he is setting forth in this, his first SONA.