

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 02 AUG 2016

DAY : Tuesday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Miners told: Behave, or else...

Follow regulations or get buried in your mining pit.

President Duterte issued this stern warning to mining firms yesterday as he vowed to be tough on businesses that are destroying the environment and violating government standards.

"If you refuse to obey, I will place you inside

the mining pit and cover it. You want to try it, fine. Let's do it," the President told a press briefing at Malacañang.

Duterte said he was ready to forgo revenues being generated from mining companies as the country could survive without them.

"You only give me

Turn to Page 6

## Miners From Page 1

P40 billion each year. I can do away with the P40 billion. I will shutter you all. You obey or we will survive as a nation without you," he told mining firms.

Duterte also scored the mining firms for "destroying the land" and for criticizing Environment Secretary Gina

Lopez's strict implementation of mining regulations.

"Lopez has my full support. So stop this nonsense of discrediting her because I won't believe you a bit," the President said.

"She (Lopez) is not incom-

petent, she is a bright lady. And she is simply a crusader," he added.

Duterte said he would tap the military and police to shutter mining firms. He said mining operations resulted in landslides in some areas.

"You say mining is a critical component of the Philippine economy, of course it is, it's income. But you are also making a critical damage," he said.

Marcopper Mining Corp., the company that spilled mine and toxic wastes into the Boac

River in 1996, has yet to fully clean up its mess, Duterte said.

"Oligarchs forge partnerships with foreigners and they get rich at the expense of our native land. Do not do it. I will not allow it," the President noted.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Du30: PH can live without mining

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINES can survive without revenue from mining companies, President Duterte said yesterday as he warned the firms to strictly follow environmental rules and regulations or face closure.

Mr. Duterte said mining companies contributed about P40 billion a year to government coffers, but declared that he was willing to forego the revenue if they did not shape up.

"You obey or we will survive as a nation without you," Mr. Duterte told a media briefing where he fielded questions from the Malacañang Press Corps for the first time.

"I can forego the P40 billion I collect from you guys and the Filipinos will survive without you. Either you follow strictly

government standards or you close down," he said.

It was the boldest statement yet from Mr. Duterte against domestic miners whom he warned before he took office on June 30 to "shape up" and to "stop spoiling the land."

## 7 suspended

The government has so far suspended the operations of seven domestic nickel mines for failure to comply with environmental regulations.

Environment Secretary Gina

Lopez, who began an audit of all mining sites on July 8, last week vowed to close more mining operations as public complaints mounted against those causing environmental destruction.

## Leave Gina alone

Mr. Duterte also told mining companies not to attack Lopez through publicity, and described her as a bright person and a crusader.

"You try to castigate Gina Lopez for being strict and yet you destroy the land, destroy the soil. And then you get rich from it," he said.

Lopez has been tussling with business groups over her statements critical of the mining industry. She had said that mining had not lifted people from poverty, but that it had con-

tributed to the poisoning of waterways and agricultural lands.

Mr. Duterte noted that mining companies, such as Marcopper, had yet to clean up the mess they had made.

"I will not allow it," he said.

He also warned that he would look for all mining pits without licenses and order the military and the police to close them.

## 'Stuff you in hole'

"If you will not follow, I will stuff you in that hole and cover you up. You want to try it, fine, let's do it," he said.

As the companies bore holes in the earth, landslides occurred, he said.

"And then you will say mining is a critical component of the Philippine economy. Of course

it is. It's income. But you are also causing critical damage," he said.

Some mining executives, however, said the sector was being unfairly targeted.

"The industry is using less than 20,000 hectares out of the 30 million hectares comprising the total land area of the Philippines," said Dante Bravo, president of Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc., the Philippines' second biggest nickel ore miner.

"And we are contributing so much to the national economy and local development. So I think we should be treated fairly," Bravo told Reuters.

The Philippines is the biggest supplier of nickel ore to top consumer China, taking over from Indonesia after that country banned shipments of

unprocessed mineral ore in 2014.

Mining contributes less than one percent to the Philippine economy, with a large chunk of minerals from gold to copper and nickel remaining untapped, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Of the 9 million hectares identified as having high mineral reserves, only 3 percent is being mined, according to the MGB.

The suspension of nickel mines in the Philippines and the risk of more closures lifted global nickel prices to an 11-month high of \$10,900 a ton on July 21. It peaked at \$10,800 on Monday after rising nearly 13 percent in July, the biggest monthly gain since April 2014.

With a report from Reuters



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Duterte warns mining companies

By REUTERS

**P**hilippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday warned mining companies to strictly follow tighter environmental rules or shut down, saying the Southeast Asian nation could survive without a mining industry.

"We will survive as a nation without you," Duterte told a media briefing, referring to the country's miners. "Either you follow strictly government standards or you close down."

It was the boldest statement yet from Duterte against domestic miners that he warned in the weeks before he took office on June 30 to "shape up" and to "stop spoiling the land."

The Philippines has so far suspended the operations of seven domestic nickel mines for failure to comply with environmental regulations.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez, who began an audit of all mining sites on July 8, last week vowed to close more operations as public complaints mount against those causing environmental destruction.

"You try to castigate Gina Lopez for being strict, and yet you destroy the land, destroy the soil, and then you get rich,"

Duterte said, again referring to miners without giving names.

He said he can forgo the annual 40 billion Philippine pesos (\$852 million) in government revenue from the mining industry.

Some mining executives say the sector is being unfairly targeted.

"The industry is using less than 20,000 hectares out of the 30 million hectares comprising the total land area in the Philippines," Dante Bravo, president of Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc., the Philippines' second-biggest nickel ore miner.

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Duterte: PH can survive sans mining

BY MANOLO SERAPIO JR  
AND ENRICO DELA CRUZ

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday warned mining companies to strictly follow tighter environmental rules or shut down, saying the Philippines could survive without a mining industry.

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Mining firms told: Follow rules

**PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte warned yesterday mining firms to comply with environmental rules or risk being shut down.**

The President insisted that the country will survive without mining revenues.

"I can forego the P40 billion I collect from you, and the Filipinos will survive without you. Either you follow strict government stan-

dards or you close," Duterte told Palace reporters in his press briefing in Malacañang.

The President again defended the campaign of Environment Secretary Gina Lopez against irresponsible mining, pointing out that the anti-mining advocate is a "crusader."

"She is not incompetent, she is a bright lady. She is simply a crusader," the

President said.

It will be recalled that Lopez launched a government audit of mining operations last month, resulting in the suspension of at least seven mining activities.

Duterte also has appointed Mario Luis Jacinto as the new mines bureau director to oversee the implementation of mining projects in the country.

**Efren Montano**

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

PDU30 sa mining companies:

*Ms Tina Mendoza*

### **“SARHAN KO KAYO LAHAT!”**

“We will survive without you”

Ito ang binitiwang salita ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga mining companies na hini-mok nitong magsara na lamang ng kanilang kum-panya kung hindi tatalima sa environmental rules.

Sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na kaya ng pamahalaan na mamuhay kahit wala ang P40B na noko-kolekta nitong revenue sa

mga mining companies. Aniya, kung kapalit ng perang ito ay pang aabusong lamang sa yamang ka-likasan ng bansa ay mainam nang sarhan na lahat ang mga mining compa-nies.

“I will not allow it, sarhan ko kayo lahat. I can forego of P40B we collect and the Filipinos will survive without it. Pag ayaw nyong sumunod ipapasok ko kayo sa butas at tak-

pan ko kayo. Butas ng butas, landslide nang landslide, kaya nagkakaroon na ang ating bansa ng critical damage” pahayag ni Pangulong Duterte.

Aniya, ang mga mayari ng mining companies lamang ang yumayaman at nasasaalang-alang pa dito ang likas na yaman ng bansa.

Muli ay dinepensahan ni Pangulong Duterte si Enviroment Secretary Gi-

na Lopez.

“She is not incompetent. She is a bright lady. She is simply a crusader,” pagtatanggol pa ni Pangulong Duterte kasabay ng paggigit na may basbas nya ang kampanya ni Lopez laban sa mga tiwaling mining companies.

Samantala sinabi rin ni Pangulong Duterte na paiimbestigahan nito ang black sand mining operation sa Zambales.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

***Irresponsible mining haharangin ni Digong***

Iginiit kahapon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na hindi papayagan ng kanyang administrasyon ang irresponsible mining.

Siniguro ni Pangulong Duterte sa media briefing sa Malacañang, ipapasara niya ang lahat ng minahan sa bansa na hindi susunod sa batas lalo ang sumisira sa kalikasan at kapaligiran.

"I will not allow irres-

ponsible mining. Iipapasara ko ang lahat ng minahan na hindi susunod sa batas," wika pa ni Pangulong Duterte.

Aniya, mayroong basbas niya si DENR Sec. Gina Lopez upang ipatupad ang batas lalo sa mga mining firms na lumalabag sa batas at sumisira sa ating kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Idinagdag pa ng Pa-

ngulo, hindi siya manghihinayang sa P40 bilyon na kita mula sa mga minahan taon-taon kung sila naman ay lumalabag sa batas at mga irresponsible miners.

Wika pa ni Duterte, tatakbo ang gobyerno kahit walang ire-remit na kita ang mga minahan na patuloy naman sa paglabag sa batas. (Rudy Andar)





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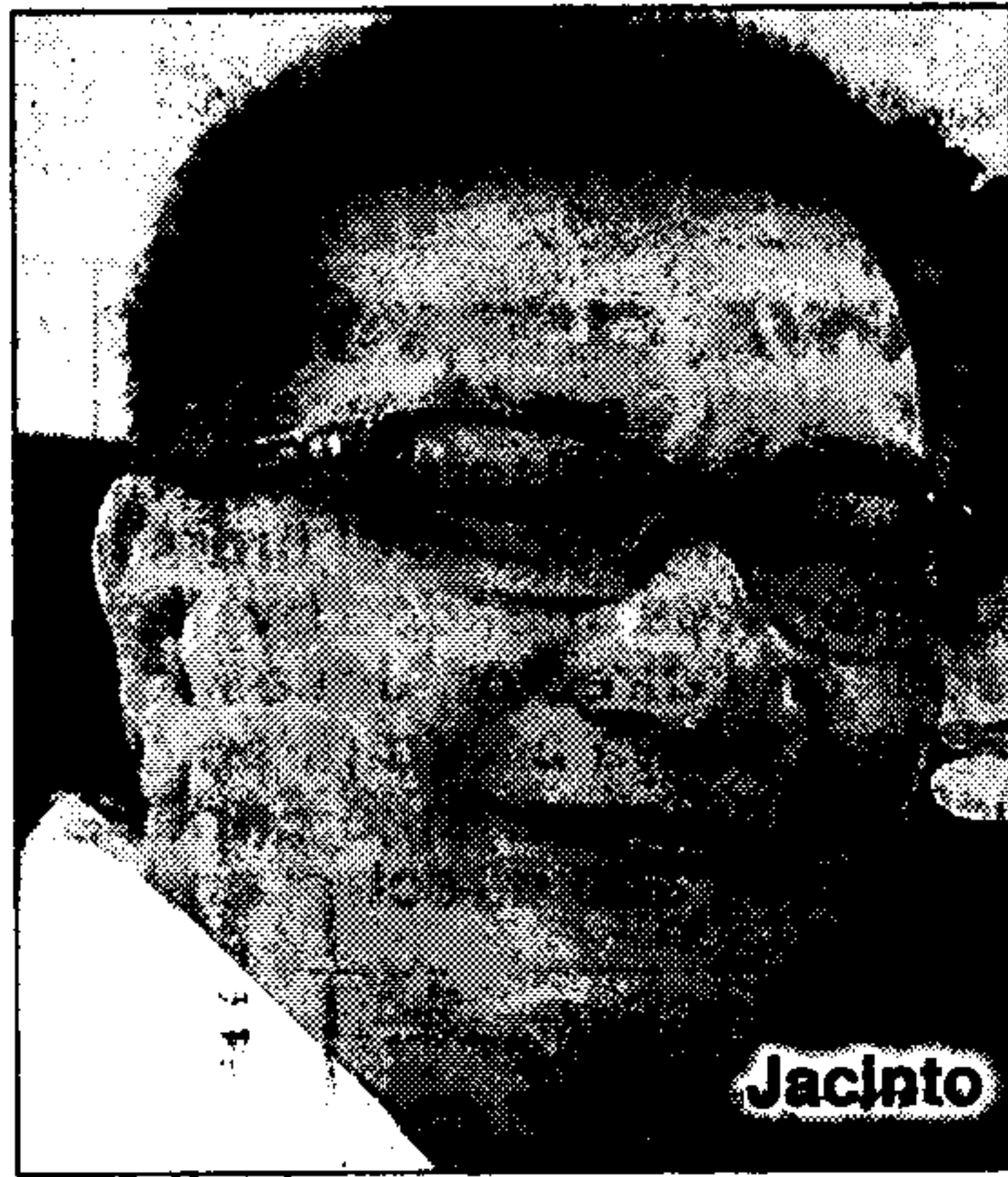
# New head of mines regulator named

President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed Mario Luis Jacinto as the new head of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

As MGB chief, Jacinto will oversee the implementation of mining projects in the country.

Jacinto, who replaced Leo Jasareno, will continue to serve the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as one of its un-

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON



dersecretaries.

He will also be tasked with supervising the operations of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Apart from this, Jacinto shall be in charge of ensuring that all actions pertaining to permits, clearances, certificates, personnel recruitment, movements, and appointments relating to MGB and EMB functions are

thoroughly reviewed and evaluated.

Jasareno, on the other hand, will continue to head the ongoing audit of the country's mines until the release of the results by the middle of the month.

"Leo will be undersecretary for Operations and senior USec., second to me," Environment chief Gina Lopez said in a text message.

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Jacinto gets Palace posts as DENR undersecretary, MGB, EMB head

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

**A** NEWLY appointed undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is taking over the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), and will also be tasked to concurrently oversee the functions of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

President Duterte issued Presidential Directive 002 dated July 26 naming Mario Luis Jacinto as one of the three undersecretaries of the DENR and director of the MGB.

He is taking the place vacated by former MGB Director Leo Jasareno, who has been at the helm of the MGB for more than five years.

The MGB is the government's main mining regulatory body. The office of the MGB director is authorized to issue or cancel mining permits, or even sign mining contracts in behalf of the DENR chief.

The appointment also gave Jacinto the authority and supervision over the organization and operations of the EMB "for the purpose of overseeing the effective and successful implementation of the programs, activities and projects."

Jacinto was tasked to assist Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez "by ensuring that all actions pertaining to permits, clearances, certificates, personnel recruitment, movements and appointments relating to MGB and EMB

functions that are authorized to be signed, issued by or delegated to the environment secretary, are thoroughly reviewed and evaluated by his office of consideration and final disposition of the environment secretary," the order stated.

Jacinto's designation to the MGB came as the DENR is conducting an "airtight" mining audit of all operating mines in the Philippines under Lopez.

So far, the mining audit had resulted in the suspension of four nickel-mining companies—two in Zambales and two in Palawan.

Lopez had ordered to include social and environmental criteria in the conduct of the mining audit on top of technical or physical audit normally being conducted by the MGB in rating the performance of mining companies.

A graduate of Bachelor Science in Geology of the University of the Philippines, Jacinto was formerly regional and later city environment and natural resources office, and development planning consultant of Davao City under then-Mayor Duterte.

Jacinto has been assigned to various MGB posts in Mindanao from 1977 to 1995, and served the city government in various capacities as consultant on research and planning between 1995 prior to his designation to the DENR by President Duterte.

Jacinto has also experience in the private sector, having been a consultant to a number of mining companies from 1992 to 1995.



## Duterte names new MGB chief

By Ronnel W.  
Domingo

MARIO Luis J. Jacinto, who had worked as consultant in several mining companies, has been named the new chief of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Jacinto officially received the agency's banner from his predecessor Leo Jasareno during a turnover rite yesterday.

Through Presidential Directive No. 002 dated July 26, President Duterte also named Jacinto Undersecretary at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and gave him authority over the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Based on information forwarded from the MGB director's office, Jacinto started as a geologist at the Bureau of Mines regional office for Mindanao in 1977, working his way up the ranks to become executive director of MGB in the Davao region until 1992.

After leaving the bureau, Jacinto worked with mining firms in various capacities as consultant, including stints with the Minexplo group, Delta Mining Corp., Aromac Minerals Corp., Placer Pacific (Philippines) Ltd.

In the past 15 years, Jacinto held different positions at City Hall in Davao City, including consultant on development and planning.

When asked for comment, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines declined to give any.

The Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association, meanwhile, welcomed the development.



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## Expert from Mindanao appointed to head MGB

HARDLY have miners come to terms with the fact a staunch environmentalist has taken over the department overseeing their industry, when President Rodrigo R. Duterte replaced the chief of the attached Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

In Presidential Directive No. 002 signed on July 26 and uploaded on the MGB Web site, Mr. Duterte named Mario Luis J. Jacinto director of the MGB, concurrent with his rank of undersecretary at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), replacing Leo L. Jasareno who is assuming the higher rank of senior undersecretary, though his actual portfolio is unclear.

Before this, DENR had only one senior undersecretary — Joselin Marcus E. Fragada — who is in charge of field operations and line bureaus.

The same order said Mr. Jacinto “shall have the authority and supervision over the organization and operations of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for the purpose of overseeing the effective and successful implementation of its programs, activities, and projects.”

Mr. Jacinto, a 1977 BS Geology graduate at the University of the Philippines, was tasked to assist Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Paz “Gina” L. Lopez “by ensuring that all actions pertaining to permits, clearances, certificates, personnel recruitment, movements, and appointments relating to MGB and EMB functions that are authorized to be signed, issued by, or delegated to the DENR Secretary, are thoroughly reviewed and evaluated by his office for consideration and final disposition of the DENR Secretary.”

### ‘LEO IS THE BEST!!!!’

While neither affected official was immediately available for comment, Ms. Lopez said Mr. Jasareno was being bestowed a higher rank.

“I like Mr. Jasareno. I am making him senior USEC [undersecretary],” Ms. Lopez said via text.

“LOUIE (Jacinto) was sent to me. Leo is the best!!!!”

MGB, SI/5

COUNTRIES  
been warned about  
of such...

Ferron  
country's second largest  
mining by output — said he re-  
mains hopeful, whoever is put in  
charge of industry regulation.  
...we are hoping that the  
industry would continue to be  
...to the...



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### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

**MGB,**  
from SI/1

After graduating from UP, Mr. Jacinto worked with DENR and MGB mainly in Mindanao and particularly from Davao City, conducting geological mapping and materials exploration.

An expert in environment and natural resource (ENR) management, Mr. Jacinto had also served as consultant for various firms and the World Bank-funded ENR Sectoral Adjustment Program.

Mr. Jacinto took post-graduate training and studies in ENR Management and Mining Management with the Development Academy of the Philippines, UP Los Baños, as well as in Nairobi, Kenya; Washington D.C. and the People's Republic China.

It was not immediately known what had prompted the changing of the guard at the MGB.

In some interviews with journalists, Mr. Jasareno had detailed action taken against MGB regional personnel who had been found negligent in enforcing mining-related environmental regulations and, just last June, admitted that roughly half of the country's 44 metal mines had been warned about falling short of such standards.

Mr. Jasareno had enforced the moratorium on new mining permits that has been in place since 2011 and extended indefinitely through Executive Order No. 79 signed by former president Benigno S. C. Aquino III on July 6, 2012.

Latest official data on the MGB Web site show that value of mining investments had risen by 62.7% to \$1.5 billion in 2013 from \$921.7 million in 2012 but has been on the decline since then: to \$1.193 billion in 2014 and then to \$924.9 million last year.

The same data show mining contributing 0.6-0.7% annually to gross domestic product from 2012 to last year (0.7% in 2016's first quarter) as well as 0.6-0.7% to total employment (0.5% in the first quarter of this year).

Production of precious metals increased last year. Gold grew 12% to 20,643 kilograms (kg) in 2015 from 18,423 kg in 2014, while silver increased to 29,780 kg from 23,005 kg.

But output of base metals dropped, among others: copper

concentrate by 3% to 337,185 dry metric tons (DMT) in 2015 from 349,269 DMT in 2014; mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide, also by 3% to 84,995 DMT from 87,280 DMT; nickel direct shipping ore by 2% to 32.304 million DMT from 33.128 million DMT; chromite by 67% to 15,502 DMT from 47,056 DMT; and iron ore by 73% to 41,942 DMT from 153,775 DMT.

Value of total metal output dropped 23% to P108.212 billion last year from P140.150 billion in 2014.

Of 9 million hectares identified as having high mineral reserves, only 3% is being mined, according to the MGB.

Sought for comment, Dante R. Bravo, president of Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. — the country's second largest nickel miner by output — said he remains hopeful, whoever is put in charge of industry regulation.

"But we are hoping that the industry would continue to be given a chance to grow as the industry is a partner to national development, provides significant revenue to the government, both national and local, and provides immediate employment, with due regard to strict environmental compliance and social develop-

ment," Mr. Bravo said via text.

Mr. Duterte on Monday warned mining companies to strictly follow tighter environmental rules or shut down, saying the Philippines could survive without a mining industry.

"We will survive as a nation without you," Mr. Duterte told a media briefing, referring to the country's miners. "Either you follow strictly government standards or you close down."

The Philippines has so far suspended the operations of seven domestic nickel mines for failure to comply with environmental regulations. Ms. Lopez, who began an audit of mining sites on July 8, last week vowed to close more operations as public complaints mount against those causing environmental destruction.

Mr. Duterte said the government can forgo the nearly P30 billion in taxes, fees and royalties collected each year from mining.

— **Janina C. Lim with Reuters**



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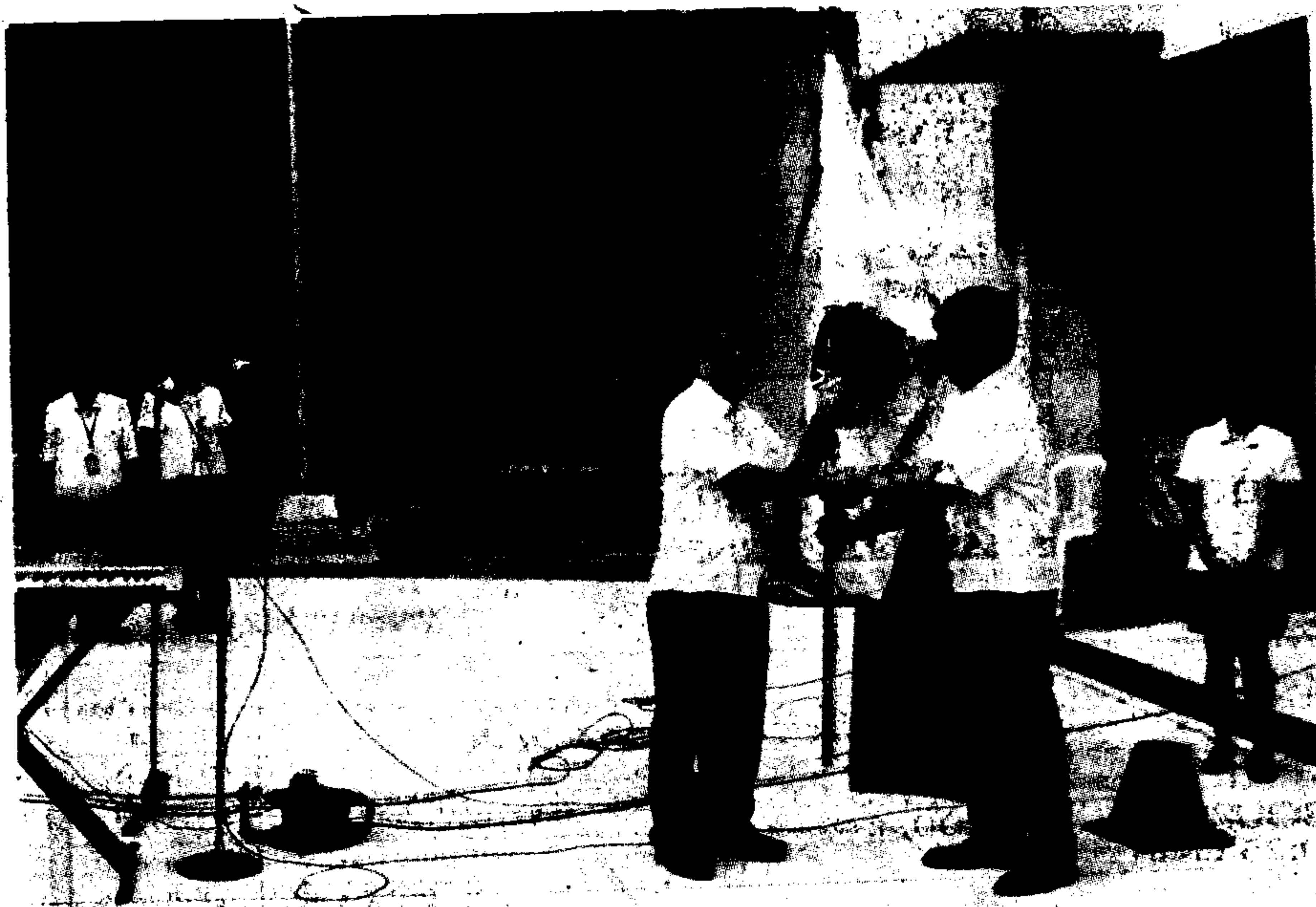
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**TURNOVER AT MGB** – Outgoing Director Leo L. Jasareno (right), turns over the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) emblem to newly appointed Director Mario Luis J. Jacinto (left), during the flag ceremony on August 1, 2016 at the MGB Central Office compound. (Photo from [mgb.gov.ph](http://mgb.gov.ph))

## New MGB director takes over amid mining audit

By MADELAIN B. MIRAFLOR

In the middle of a crucial audit on mining firms, President Rodrigo Duterte suddenly decided to appoint a new chief for Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) tasked to regulate the mining sector.

In his Presidential Directive No. 002, Series of 2016, Duterte designated Mario Luis J. Jacinto as the new director of the MGB in a concurrent capacity corollary to his appointment as under-secretary at the DENR.

Jacinto replaced Leo Jasareno, who had been the MGB director for the past

five years and had been orienting and mentoring the new DENR chief Gina Lopez about the sector since day one of her appointment.

The appointment also came amid the much talked about ongoing audit on mining firms, which is being led by Jasareno and Lopez herself.

Despite Jacinto's appointment, Lopez said Jasareno will still "be on top of the operations" of the ongoing audit.

"Leo is going to be a senior under-secretary second to me. He will finish the audit because he started it. He will be on top of the operations. He is dynamic and honest. I need him. He resonates with my values and integrity," Lopez said

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### New MGB... ◀B-1

in a text message.

The companies that were suspended so far are BenguetCorp Nickel Mines Inc., Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc., Eramen Minerals, Inc., Berong Nickel Corp., and Citinickel Mines and Development Corp.

Lopez said more companies should have the same fate in the next few days, wanting to have the audit done within this month.

Jasareno handed over the position to Jacinto in a turnover ceremony held on Monday at the MGB Central Office compound.

He shall perform the functions as provided in the Philippine Mining Act and all other laws, rules, and regulations.

Furthermore, he shall have the authority and supervision over the organization and operations of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for the purpose of overseeing the effective and successful implementation of its programs, activities, and projects.

Jacinto was tasked to assist the DENR Secretary by ensuring that all actions pertaining to permits, clearances, certificates, personnel recruitment, movements, and appointments relating to MGB and EMB functions that are authorized to be signed, issued by, or delegated to the DENR Secretary, are thoroughly reviewed and evaluated by his office for consideration and final disposition of the DENR Secretary.

From 1977 to 1983, the new MGB chief served as geologist and senior ge-

ologist at the Bureau of Mines regional office for Mindanao in Surigao City.

During that period, he was also the Acting Mineral District Officer in the Bureau of Mines' Mineral District Office No. 2 in Cagayan de Oro City as well as the Mineral Operations Officer in the Surigao Office.

Aside from his stint in the government, he also served as a consultant in various mining projects in the private sector.

Lopez made almost the same statement to Bulletin when she said the government doesn't mind if some of the US\$30-billion worth of investments expected in the mining sector over the next 10 years wouldn't take place at all.

According to her, if putting into place stringent regulations in the sector will result in lost of investments, then it is a consequence she is willing to deal with.

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Jacinto replaces Jasareno as mining bureau director

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday appointed geologist Mario Luis Jacinto as undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and new director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Leo Jasareno, former MGB director was named undersecretary of another unit at DENR and will still be the head of the ongoing audit on all mining companies.

Jacinto was named to the new position last Tuesday, July 26, but announced only yesterday. Jacinto will supervise the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Jacinto will also assist DENR secretary, Regina Lopez processing permits, clearances, certificates, personnel recruitment, movements and appointments at MGB and EMB for the approval of the DENR chief.

Jacinto served as regional technical director of the MGB in the Davao region 1987 to 1990 and as regional executive director of the DENR from 1990 to 1992. His latest service under the government was as consultant on research and planning which lasted from 2014 up to June this year.

DENR and MGB earlier said that the Mindanao leg of the ongoing audit on all mining firms is expected to be completed this week with overall results expected to be transmitted by the middle of the month.

The DENR also noted before that the audit is composed of not just physical and technical but also social and environmental aspects to become a total impact evaluation of the operations of the mines.

See JACINTO ► Page A4

### JACINTO

The MGB added that the audit team is not solely composed of personnel from the DENR as it also include people from the Department of Agriculture for the effects of mining operations on farmlands, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the effect on the bodies of water, the Social Action Center for the effect on communities and the Department of Health for the effects on health.

Lopez' first order as DENR chief was an audit to around 105 metallic and non-metallic mines nationwide including quarrying and small-scale mining practitioners to ensure that mining operations in the country do not damage the health of people and the environment.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines on the other hand declined to comment on the sudden change of leadership in the MGB.



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Duterte appoints mining director

By Anna Leah E. Gonzales

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte appointed Mario Luis Jacinto as the new head of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, replacing long-time mining chief Leo Jasareno.

Duterte issued Presidential Directive No. 002, Series of 2016, designating Jacinto as MGB director corollary to his appointment as undersecretary at the Environment Department.

Jacinto will have the authority and supervision over the organization and operations of the Environmental Management Bureau and oversee the effective and successful implementation of its programs, activities and projects.

He was also tasked to assist the DENR Secretary by ensuring that all actions pertaining to permits, clearances, certificates, personnel recruitment, movements and appointments are authorized to be signed, issued by, or delegated to the DENR Secretary.

The directive was signed on July 26, 2016.

Jacinto earlier served as MGB regional director in Region 11. He also earlier served as city planning officer in Davao.

MGB is an attached agency of DENR which is in charge of taking direct charge in the administration and disposition of mineral lands and mineral resources. It also promulgates rules and regulations, policies and programs relating to mineral resources management and geosciences developments.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



THIS 20-meter-wide sinkhole swallowed seven houses in the village of Virac in Itogon town in Benguet province last year. The provincial government has set aside funds to fill the pit to protect residents and property in the area. ELIZA CONSUL/CONTRIBUTOR

# Giant sinkhole in Benguet mining town plugged

By Kimberlie Quitasol  
and Vincent Cabreza  
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

## *In Cotabato, another pit forces evacuation*

BAGUIO CITY—A 20-meter-wide sinkhole, which opened up and swallowed seven houses in the mining town of Itogon in Benguet province last year, is being filled with river soil and silt as a precautionary effort, more so with the onset of the monsoon season.

It would take 134 10-wheeler trucks to fill up the pit with 2,000 cubic meters (3,200 tons) of soil and silt that would be extracted from the Acupan River, according to Itogon Mayor Victorio Palangdan.

The first-class municipality classified a settlement in the sub-villages of Kamangaan and Upper Batuang in Barangay Virac as a danger zone, after portions of a road and a mountainside sank on Oct. 22, 2015,

KORONADAL CITY—Local officials have forcibly evacuated 134 families after a sinkhole, measuring 50 meters wide and 40 meters deep, was discovered in their village in Polomolok, South Cotabato province.

two days after Typhoon “Lando” (international name: Koppu) slammed the Cordillera region.

Palangdan said 43 families were told to leave their homes and settle at a relocation site being developed by the local government on land donated by a mining firm.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau concluded in April that the huge hole was a natural phenomenon created by strong rains dumped by Lando. It re-

ported that the Virac void was the result of a “piping gully” that developed when rainwater penetrated natural ground openings and man-made tunnels.

Similar sinkholes have been reported in the town in the past, but the one in Barangay Silway “is the biggest so far,” said Jonathan Fabulare, municipal disaster risk reduction officer.

The families have taken shelter at Silway 8 Elementary School.

The municipal environment and natural resources office has sent a team to the area to investigate. **Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao**

Tests conducted by a team of MGB geologists found geological weaknesses that could be traced to the 1990 earthquake that struck Luzon, the report said.

The team also found signs of

water saturated cavities below the old Virac settlements. Natural sinkholes collapse when underground water dissolves rock bases made of limestone.

The hole at Virac, however, was due to piping, which geologists described as a form of underground soil erosion. The erosion takes the shape of a pipe that directs or channels water toward any form of exit.

“Abnormally high” rainfall on Oct. 19 last year appeared to

have been the primary reason for the giant pit, the MGB said. According to a weather report, Lando dumped 775.4 millimeters of rain in the area on that day—an amount equivalent to a month’s rainfall.

Palangdan said the provincial government had taken charge of the refilling operations, as well as the rerouting of the Batuang Road which was eaten up by the pit. Refilling and the construction of a 30-meter road should be completed in October, he said.

The MGB declared the safety of the relocation site. But Palangdan said the municipal government must build an access road and put up water and electricity systems before families could rebuild their houses there.

The displaced families are now staying in houses of relatives.



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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

• **Sinkhole probe**

GENERAL SANTOS CITY (PNA) - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has launched a probe into the emergence of a sinkhole in a village in Polomolok town in South Cotabato. A team from the MGB in Region 12 conducted an inspection at the site in Purok Maunlad of Barangay Silway 8 in the said town on Monday to determine the status and the possible cause of the land subsidence, which initially emerged on Thursday last week. Polomolok Vice Mayor Eliazar Jovero said they requested the MGB-12 to evaluate the suspected sinkhole, which forced some 134 families settled near the site to evacuate over the weekend. He said the municipal government ordered the evacuation on Friday night due to safety concerns.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Capiz governor opposes mining

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — Despite the lifting of the mining ban, Capiz Governor Antonio Del Rosario remains strongly opposed to large-scale mining in the province.

Del Rosario said mining can harm the agricultural and fisheries resources of the province, which enjoys the reputation as the country's Seafood Capital.

Last May 11, the Capiz provincial board lifted a 50-year mining ban. The lifting of the ban was revealed only last July.

In August 1999 the board approved a 15-year mining ban, extending it to 50 years in February 2002.

The board lifted on the request

of the government of Maayon town. Maayon officials said potential minerals were found in the village of Canapian.

At that time the governor was Victor Tanco Sr. Del Rosario assumed office last June 30.

Tanco did not sign the resolution lifting the ban and Del Rosario said he will not sign it either.

The provincial board will also allow private companies to get an exploration permit from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR-6 Regional Director Jim Sampulna had reminded provincial officials that the Duterte administration is against any new mining activities.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## NEDA-Davao Region bats for regulating small-scale mining

**By Carmelito Q. Francisco** *Correspondent*

DAVAO CITY — The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in Davao has put forward a recommendation to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to organize and regulate the widespread small-scale mining in the region.

NEDA Regional Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim, in an interview with *BusinessWorld*, said she has sent a letter to Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez to suggest that DENR take steps in helping small-scale farmers benefit more from the trade and at the same time protect national interest.

"Small-scale mining is really chaotic so there must be clear mechanisms that will help these people live better," Ms. Lim said.

"They (small scale miners) should organize into mining cooperatives because (government) assistance can be provided (to them)," she added.

One form of government assistance is introducing programs for the development of value-added products instead of the miners relying solely on raw gold ores.

"Organizing them would really work wonders for them," said Ms. Lim.

In Compostela Valley province, for example, a group of jewelry makers in Monkayo town has been tapped by the local government and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to lead the revival of gold jewelry production through a shared service facility (SSF) built in 2015.

The SSF replaced a jewelry training center that was destroyed by typhoon Pablo (international name: Bopha) in 2012.



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <<http://goo.gl/vWQn8v>>



# The Standard

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Responsible mining is not an oxymoron

IT IS imprudent and inappropriate for a Chief Executive to appoint as head of a Cabinet department an individual who is a declared critic of the institutions and people who comprise his or her constituency. That is a formula for disaster, at the very least. Yet, President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed an established critic of the Philippine mining industry, Regina Lopez, as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which is the mother agency of MGB (Mines and Geosciences Bureau).



RUDY ROMERO

BUSINESS CLASS

Secretary Gina Lopez has never made any bones about her disdain for Philippine mining people and their operations. She believes that they now are, and always have been, ravagers of the environment. She thinks that the Philippine mining industry is incapable of operating responsibly. In her opinion, responsible mining is an oxymoron.

That is the Secretary's opinion, and she is entitled to it. But it is an incorrect opinion. The Philippine mining industry as a whole does not have a record of irresponsibility. Responsible mining is not an oxymoron in this country.

Zeal in a person is a wonderful thing and Secretary Gina is to be commended and praised for her zeal in protecting this country's environment. But like many things in life, zeal can often be excessive. The Secretary's zeal appears to have gotten the better of her where the Philippine mining industry is concerned. Borrowing an expression from the shipping industry, we seem to have a case of "woman overboard" here.

Filipinos should be proud of the fact that their country is a major player in the world markets for gold, copper, nickel and chromite and a significant player in the world markets for a number of other metals. The Philippine supply position always figures in the setting of world market prices for gold, copper, nickel and other important metals. And all that Secretary Lopez has to say is that responsible mining is an oxymoron in this country.

From the day that it exported its first shipment of gold early in the 20th century, the company that was founded by American judge John Hausermann, Benguet Consolidated Mining Co. Inc., has been regarded with respect in world mining circles. The same has been true in the Philippine capital and securities markets, where Benguet Consolidated has always been regarded as a blue-chip stock.

Benguet Consolidated was joined by several leading copper producers—ACMDC (Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.), Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., Philex Mining Corp. and Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corp.—in the blue-chip section of then-Manila Stock Exchange when mining shares dominated the securities market. The record of these mining companies was never marred by charges of irresponsible behavior and unethical operating practices. Canadian Philippine joint venture, Marcopper Mining Corp., which began operations in the 1970s, was charged and found guilty—rightly—of pollutive practices in Marinduque.

Mineral products exports, especially copper concentrate, were one of the main props of the Philippine economy in the four decades following World War II, joining coconut products, sugar and timber in the Big Four of Philippine export trade. Not only has the mining industry been instrumental in the development of the national economy but its operations provided the impetus for the development of the areas in which the likes of Benguet Consolidated have been operating. The fortunes of municipalities like Mankayan in Benguet, Toledo City in Cebu and Masinloc have strengthened and the lives of their residents have improved because of the revenues—for the local governments as well as for the local citizenry—that the mining companies have created. Without the economic difference that the companies have made, these places would likely have remained fifth-class and sixth-class municipalities.

The individuals behind the major gold and copper, nickel and iron ore industries—the Hausermanns, the Sorianos, the Brimos, the Cabarruses and the Elizaldes—and their people took care of the communities and citizenries in which the companies operated. They practiced responsible mining. They showed that mining and a sense of responsibility can go together.

So did the mining industries in the countries that depended on, and became prosperous from mining: Canada, South Africa, Australia, the US, Chile and others. Some companies in those countries have from time to time been charged with environmentally harmful behavior, but I do not recall anyone in those countries—not in their countries, not on their private sectors—declaring, in blanket fashion, that responsible mining is an oxymoron. It is not.

This is not to say that there have been no cases of irresponsible mining in this country. Doubtless there have been. Truth to tell, this country's mining laws appear to have been administered with considerable laxity in recent decades. Irresponsible mining is not fatherless; its father is bad administration of the mining laws. With Bureau of Mines (now the MGB) officials approving every mining application that is placed under their noses, irresponsible mining is bound to ensue.

But now there is Secretary Gina on her high white horse, declaring "Responsible mining is an oxymoron" to all and the world. Please get off your high horse, Gina, and take a long hard look at the overall situation. Many people admire your courage and your devotion, but the nation's mining policy is too important a matter to be left to one person, no matter how well-meaning.

=000=

**Correction.** Many columns ago, I stated that the late popular Makati mayor Maximo Estrella was convicted in connection with a street-reflectors case. I was wrong and I sincerely apologize to his family and friends.

E-mail: [rudyromero777@yahoo.com](mailto:rudyromero777@yahoo.com)



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# PH soil for China's reclamations, treason with govt consent

BY YEN MAKABENTA  
Columnist

"First Read."

It will feature and highlight stories and issues that demand urgent commentary and publication. In style, it will be like the front-page "Good Morning" column that I used to write for a now defunct newspaper

(Philippine Daily Globe), and which some readers apparently miss. So here goes:

The following story, not the state-of-the-nation address of President Duterte, made me cry (to use the lachrymose words of Communications Secretary Martin Andanar).

It concerns the discovery and revelation that while the country was howling about China's forced takeover of the Scarborough Shoal and its land reclamations and infrastructure buildup in the South China

► MakabentaA4

First Read

STARTING today, I will open every Observer column with a section called

■ MAKABENTA FROM A1

## PH soil for China's reclamations, treason with government consent

Sea, China, with the evident consent of the Aquino administration and the collusion of local executives, bought two entire mountains in the province of Zambales to generate soil for its land reclamations in the disputed waters.

### Exposed by online media

An online website and news portal, called the Maharlikan, first exposed what had happened in a report posted on November 8, 2015.

The report was headlined, "Chinese Mining Firms in the Philippines are smuggling soil to build Chinese Islands."

The report opened with these ominous words: "Inside sources from the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) have found out that some Chinese mining firms are smuggling soil and rocks to help build a chain of Chinese islands in the West Philippine Sea. NICA agents were baffled to find out that besides the Ore and Nickel that these mining firms are exporting to China, a large amount of soil and rocks are secretly smuggled then ends up directly in one of the Chinese reclamation islands. The smuggling operation usually happens during the heat of the day so as to hide the operation as an ordinary day in the mining area.

"It's quite saddening that the soil and rocks used in building the Chinese islands have come from the Philippines. In simple words, the Philippines itself is indirectly contributing to building the islands, to what these islands will be utilized later on as Military bases to solidify and expand the Chinese encroachment on Philippine territories."

The Maharlikan posted the story along with pictures of Chinese ships hauling away the soil and rocks; and pictures of trucks delivering the raw materials to the ships. The photographic documentation must have



OBSERVER  
YEN  
MAKABENTA

been supplied partly by the NICA source. And there should be even more incontrovertible evidence in NICA's files.

Mainstream media did not get hold of the story until now, or would probably not have been interested then, being mostly yellow media.

### Toll on Zambales environment

The story finally broke into the open when a new provincial government took over in Zambales soon after the May 9 elections. Gov. Amor Deloso, the new governor, revealed in a media conference that two mountains and almost half of Zambales were sold to China in recent years and some rocks and soil were shipped to the disputed islands to reclaim 3,500 hectares.

The online website, Get real Philippines, was the first media organization to alert me to this appalling story, in an article written by the highly readable Ilda.

Ilda asked what the hell was the BS Aquino government doing all these years? How in the world did BS Aquino allow China to use Philippine soil to reclaim the disputed territory - the same one that caused the Philippines to file a case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague?

When the case was filed in January 2013, it would appear from the NICA disclosure that then president Aquino and his government already knew that Philippine soil was being used for the Chinese land reclamations, because it was the government intelligence agen-

cy that documented the earth-moving operations and the involvement of the Chinese mining firms.

### Need for sweeping inquiry

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez has promised that her department will investigate the matter.

She declared: "This is horrible. I will find out whoever gave the permit. China can never be allowed to use our soil as their landfill. If there are DENR officials involved, they will be made accountable... Heads should roll. If the truckloads came from us, we should be aware."

Lopez is talking only of a DENR inquiry. A bigger inquiry is needed to determine the full extent of accountability and liability in this distressing case. The inquiry should encompass the DENR, the provincial and municipal governments, and the security agency. If the report is true, that some Chinese troops are actually based now in some parts of Zambales, then national security may have been breached.

### We strain to find the words

It's fortunate that this scandal did not blow up before the Hague tribunal reached its verdict, because had the judges known what our officials were secretly doing, they might have dismissed the case for our lack of seriousness. They surely would not have ruled so overwhelmingly in our favor as they did.

We are now so inured to venality in public office, and its ever increasing outrageousness, that we Filipinos strain to find the words to describe the new crimes and suspects.

Marcos tried calling them "notoriously undesirable."

Congress passed a law on the crime

of plunder, which made plunder a non-bailable crime.

President Cory Aquino tried to teach Juan Ponce Enrile a lesson by charging him with "rebellion complexed with murder." It was an embarrassment for her government.

We talk of crimes being heinous to make them reprehensible and non-bailable.

The rape of the Zambales environment for Chinese money is worse than heinous.

It is hideous and grotesque.

We should not balk at calling this "treason." Or we should try labeling it as "treason complexed with government consent."

### We might miss the point

With this level of venality and audacity, we not only run risk of running out of words; we are in danger of missing the point.

What is wrong with this country is not that we don't have the laws that criminalize such activities. It is that we lack the ability and the will to enforce the law, and apply the punishment.

We thought the coming of the punisher would end the impunity. When we turned around, we saw to our alarm, however, that he may actually be increasing the number of those who go unpunished.

This unusual Zambales case confronts us with a test which we must frankly face. Through the years we have been confronted by various forms of treachery in our public life, in times of war, and in times of peace, but we never had the institutional fortitude to resolve the cases with finality.

The forms of treason have changed in our history; but the essential crime remains the same.

yenmakabenta@yahoo.com

# HATAW!

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Ex-Zambales governor

## EBDANE IIMBESTIGAHAN SA IBINENTANG 'LUPA' MULA SA MINAHAN

PAIIMBESTIGAHAN ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang ulat na tinulungan ni dating Zmbales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane ang China para matambakan ng lupa upang maangkin ang Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal na sakop ng Masinloc, Zambales at bahagi ng West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Buo aniya ang kanyang suporta kay Environment Secretary Gina Lopez kay ipasisiyasat niya ang isiniwalat ni Zambales Governor Amor Deloso na pinayagan ni Ebdane na magbenta sa China ng lupa at malalaking bato mula sa

tatlong bundok ng lalawigan na ginagamit sa reclamation projects sa Panatag Shoal.

"Yes, Gina Lopez has my full support," ayon sa Pangulo kung paiimbestigahan si Ebdane, sa media interview sa Rizal Hall ng Palasyo kagapon.

"You sell your country to the dog, oppressing the people," sabi niya.

Nauna nang sinuspinde ni Deloso ang mining permits sa kanilang lalawigan.

Sa naging desisyon ng Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ay idineklara na sakop ng 200-mile exclusive economic zone

ng Filipinas ang mga territoryong inaangkin ng China sa WPS.

Ipinabubusisi rin niya kay Lopez ang pagkakasangkot ni Eric Gutierrez, may-ari ng mining firm na SR Metals Inc., sa black sand mining sa Agusan del Norte.

Si Gutierrez ay isa sa mga campaign donor ni Liberal Party presidential bet Mar Roxas at kasosyo ni Caloocan City Rep. Edgar Erice.

Nagbanta ang Pangulo na ibabaon niya sa butas ng mining pit ang mining executives kapag napatunayan na sangkot sila sa illegal mining.

(ROSE NOVENARIO)



# X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ • BULGAR SA BALITA

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

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### CONTRACTOR PERHUWISYO SA MGA RESIDENTE?; PAGING DENR SEC. LOPEZ

SA halip na ginhawa at maalwang kapaligiran dahil sa mga proyektong inilulunsad ng DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) ay matinding perhuwisyo umano ang idinulot ng matikas na "DR ROBLES CONTRACTOR" sa mga residente ng BRGY. MAY-IBA, TERESA, RIZAL.

Ang siste, isang KA YCO na residente sa naturang lugar ang lantarang naglagay ng karatula sa harap ng kaniyang bahay ng mga katagang "DPWH AT CONTRACTOR IBALIK NINYO ANG SINIRA NINYO"... kung saan, nang umabot umano sa kaalaman ng "DR ROBLES CONTRACTOR" ay pinakiusapan si KA YCO na tanggalin na ang karatula at gagawin na nila ang pagsasaayos sa harap ng mga bahay ng mga naninirahan sa lugar.

Lumalabas na may road wid-

ening project ang DPWH sa BRGY. MAY-IBA, TERESA na hindi naman umano inayos ang pagkakagawa ng nasabing proyekto; kung saan, ang dating patag na harapan ng mga naninirahan sa lugar ay uka-uka na ang mga lupa na ang ilang parte naman ay halos naka-hanger at hindi na nila maiayos ang pagkakaparada ng kanilang mga sasakyan. Natapos umano ang widening project na iniwan namang nakatiwangwang ang mga lupang napagbubungkal.

Ayon kay KA YCO, mula noong kaniyang tanggalin ang karatula dahil na rin sa pakiusap ng kontratista ay 3 buwan na ang nakalilipas ay hindi pa rin tinutupad ng kontratista ang ipinangako at hindi na rin matagpuan pa ito ng mga nagsisipagreklamong mga residente.

Ang naturang kontratista ay minsan na rin umanong pinaimbestigayan ng SANG-

po sa pagbibigay nyo ng espasyo itong hinaing namin at sana ay makatulong po ang inyong kolum na ARYA para sa pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan. Mabuhay po kayo. NOLLY po ito ng ANTIPOLLO CITY.

NOLLY, maraming salamat sa pagtitiwala ninyo sa ating kolum at nakatitiyak naman po ako na ang kolum na ito ay makakarating sa tanggapan ni DENR SECRETARY GINA LOPEZ para magawan naman po niya ng aksiyon o mautusan ang

GUNIANG BAYAN ng TANAY, RIZAL dahil naman sa drainage project ng TANAY- TERESA na halos 2 taon bago natapos na nagdulot ng matinding perhuwisyo sa mga naninirahan sa lugar... na kung aanalishain e may mga paglabag ngang nagawa itong kontratista na ito kaya nag-imbetiga ang KONSEHO ng TANAY.

PAGING DPWH SECRETARY MARK VILLAR..., pakisiyasat nga po itong kontratista na inirereklamo ng mga naninirahan sa BRGY. MAY-IBA na matapos nilang matrabaho ang road widening ay basta na lamang iniwang nakatiwangwang ang iba't ibang mga kalat o mga napaghukayang lupa?

\*\*\*

Sir Irwin, dito po sa RIZAL lalo na po dito sa ANTIPOLLO CITY e tuloy pa rin po ang pagpapasabog sa mga kabundukan dito ng mga Q U A R R Y I N G . . . dumadagundong po ang lupa kapag nagpapasabog po sila. Hindi po ba pinahihigpitan na ngayon ng DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES ang pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan? Sana po ay mabigyan ito ng pansin ng ating gobyerno kasi po kung aasa lang kami sa mga local government po namin dito e sigurado pong wala kaming maasahang pagpabor sa amin, kasi matagal na po itong mga quarrying dito sa aming lalawigan. Maraming salamat

kaniyang mga opisyal para sa pag-aksiyon hinggil po sa inyong hinaing.

\*\*\*

Kung kayo po ay may suliranin o puna sa maling gawain ng ilan nating mga government officials o anumang reaksiyon lalo na sa mga nababatikos ng ARYA ay bukas po ang espasyo para sa inyong mga nais ipaabot..., mag-email lamang po sa [aryakolum@yahoo.com](mailto:aryakolum@yahoo.com) o magtex sa 09334089090.

# BusinessWorld

## INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## PCPC gets go-ahead for Iloilo coal-fired plant

PALM CONCEPCION Power Corp. (PCPC) has obtained a provisional certificate of compliance (CoC) from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), giving the company the authority to operate its 135-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Iloilo.

"PCPC was granted the provisional CoC after careful determination by ERC of the company's compliance with the financial, technical, and environmental requirements," said Winifredo S.M. Pangilinan, PCPC senior vice-president, in a statement on Monday.

PCPC owns a two-unit circulating fluidized bed combustion coal-fired power plant in Barangay Nipa, Concepcion, Iloilo. Each unit has a capacity of 135 MW.

"The construction of the power plant is already 99.5% completed as of end of July 2016," the company said, adding that it expects commissioning to be completed by this week.

The power plant will be supplying electricity to the Visayas grid under a power supply agreement with distribution utilities in Negros,

Cebu, Leyte and Panay as approved by the ERC.

"PCPC is a critical addition to the power generation industry especially in Panay, Negros and Cebu Islands since it will augment the growing power requirements in Iloilo, Aklan, Negros and Cebu, which are among the top tourist destinations in the country," the company said.

PCPC said the issuance of the provisional certificate signifies the power generation company's compliance with the requirements under the 2014 Revised Rules for the Issuance of

Certificate of Compliance for Generation Companies/Entities with Self-Generation Facilities.

The company said it was advised by the ERC that the provisional certificate will eventually be replaced by the final CoC. Generation companies are required to secure the certificate from the regulator before it starts to operate commercially.

PCPC is a joint venture of Palm Thermal Consolidated Holdings Corp. and Jin Navitas Resource, Inc. Palm Thermal is a subsidiary of listed company A Brown Co., Inc. — **Victor V. Saulon**



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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**SEA OF GARBAGE**

A man tries to look for recyclable materials on Manila Bay which seems to be covered in garbage following heavy rains brought on by Tropical Storm "Carina."

MARIANNE BERMUDEZ



# Loren: PH can progress under Paris pact

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PHILIPPINES does not have to turn its back on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in order to pursue development if it considers a transition to a low carbon economy through the use of clean energy sources, Sen. Loren Legarda said yesterday.

Legarda, a staunch advocate for the environment, was reacting to President Duterte's assertion he would not honor the pact as it would inhibit the country's development.

He later clarified the remark in his State of the Nation Address on July 25 where he explained that addressing global

warming was a top priority of his administration but international efforts must be based "upon a fair and equitable equation."

Legarda, a member of the Philippine delegation to Paris, had vowed to push for the treaty's ratification by the government—a treaty the previous administration had vigorously campaigned for because the Philippines is one of the nations most vulnerable to climate change.

"There is no provision in the Paris agreement that would prevent our industrialization," Legarda said in a statement.

"The agreement also obliges developed nations to assist us and other developing countries

through financial and technical support in preparing for natural hazards, reducing disaster risk, addressing climate change impact and moving toward a low carbon economy," Legarda said, noting the pact dovetailed with President Duterte's call for an equitable formula.

## Greater responsibility

She said industrialized nations—for so long the world's major carbon producers—"should have greater responsibility to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions."

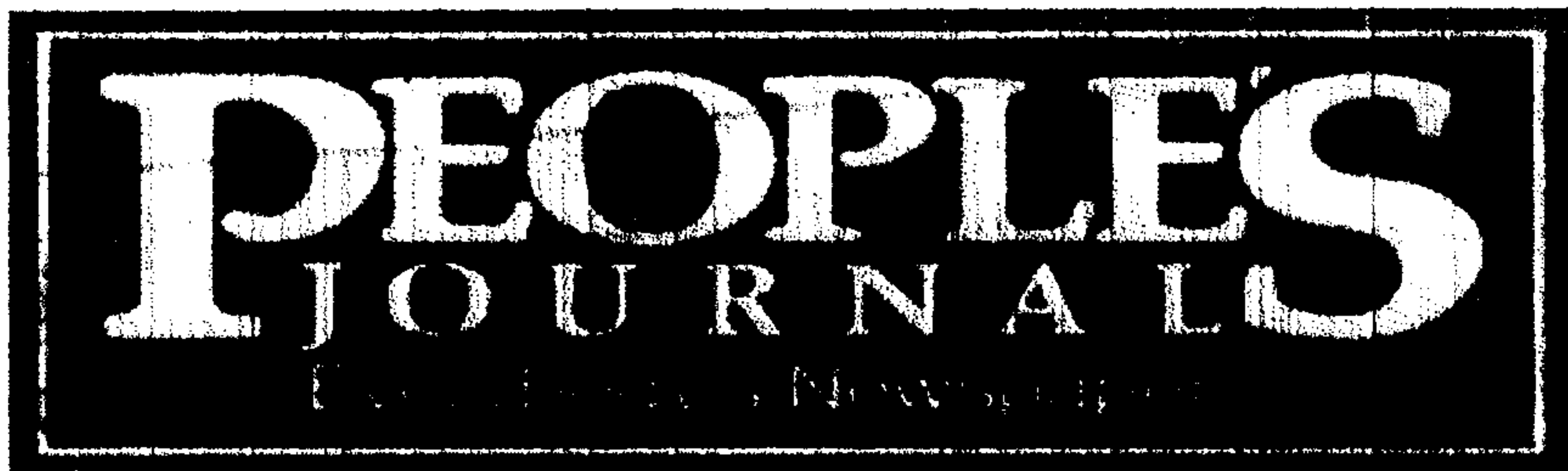
Under the Paris Agreement hammered out last December, 195 UN member states pledged

to cut down on their carbon emissions in order to contain global warming by under 2 degrees Celsius, the point beyond which the rise in the earth's temperature would be irreversible.

Legarda said that despite this carbon cap, the Philippines could still pursue development efforts through a "long-term transition to a low carbon economy" which would entail shifting to clean energy sources like wind and solar, and a gradual weaning away from coal.

At a climate forum in March, Legarda noted the Philippines' heavy reliance on coal, with consumption rising 27 percent between 2012 and 2014.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# WE NEED NOT REJECT PARIS PACT — LOREN

Honoring agreement won't stunt growth, senator says

By Bernadette E. Tamayo

THE country's development won't stagnate even as it keeps its commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sen. Loren Legarda said yesterday.

The Philippines, as chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), helped craft last year the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which seeks to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and possibly not more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Philippines also signed the Paris Agreement in New York last April 22 but the Senate has yet to ratify it.

Legarda said the government should consider a long-term transition to a low carbon economy but maintained that industrialized nations have greater responsibility to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

She made the remark a week after President Rodrigo Duterte said that some of the treaty's provisions could be disadvantageous to the Philippines.

In his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 25, the President said: "Addressing global warming will be our top priority, but upon a fair and equitable equation. It must not stymie our industrialization."

Legarda agrees with the President's statement since the Philippines has long been calling for industrialized countries, which have the historical responsibility in causing global warming, to financially and technically assist developing countries in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts while reducing their own GHG emis-

sions.

However, Legarda said "there is no provision in the Paris Agreement that would prevent our industrialization."

The treaty also obliges developed nations to assist us and other developing countries, through financial and technical support, in preparing for natural hazards, reducing disaster risks, addressing climate change impacts, and moving towards a low carbon economy, she said.

"That is why, the proposed GHG emissions we submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is conditional," she said.

"This means that the success of our goal to reduce our GHG emissions to 70 percent by the year 2030 will depend on both our efforts and the assistance that will be provided to us by industrialized nations," she said.

Under the Paris Agreement, emission reduction efforts should be substantially undertaken by developed countries that have the capacity to do so.

Legarda said that even in the absence of any international agreement, "it makes good economic and environmental sense to invest in clean energy and low carbon infrastructure."

"A low carbon economy may seem ideal at first but if we look at the worsening effects of conventional energy sources it should not be hard to understand the need to adopt this concept," she said.

"Growth is difficult to imagine without energy but energy that does not take into consideration the needs of future generations can only destroy and not build," she added.



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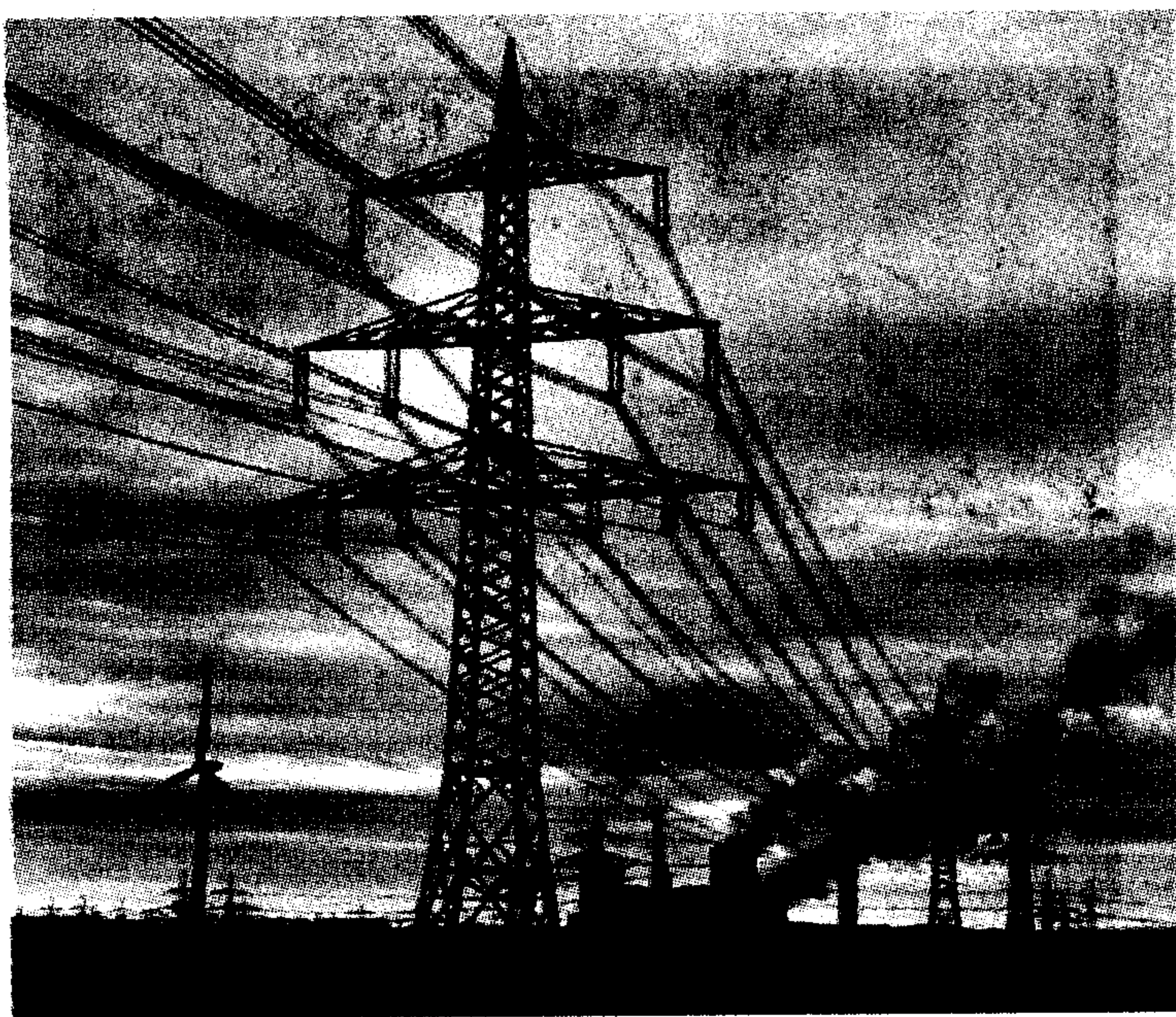
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### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



AFP

GREENPEACE has come up with a study that shows the country will be able to source 50% of its power requirements from renewables using existing technology.

## Greenpeace asks gov't to clarify intentions on 70% emissions pledge

GREENPEACE is seeking clarification from President Rodrigo R. Duterte on the latter's intentions in regard to the Philippine pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 70%, made ahead of the Paris climate summit in December.

"We are asking the President to reconsider that statement, and if he is amenable, we want to talk to him," Reuben Andrew A. Muni, climate and energy campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, told reporters on the sidelines of an energy industry forum on Monday.

Mr. Muni was referring to a pronouncement by Mr. Duterte that he would not honor the previous administration's pledge to cut emissions by 70% from a business-as-usual scenario. The reduction was supposed to come from the energy, transport, waste, forestry and industry sectors.

"We are willing to sit down with the President's team who advises him," he added.

The Philippines made the pledge ahead of the adoption of an agreement to keep the rise in global temperature within 2 degrees Celsius at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015.

Mr. Muni said his group, which campaigns globally for the environment, believed that the President had not been briefed comprehensively about the Paris agreement. He added that the country's pledge — or what the United Nations call "nationally determined contributions" — is up for review ahead of its implementation in 2020.

He also said his group will also push for the adoption of an energy mix policy that calls for sourcing half of the country's power needs from renewable energy by 2020.

"We want a bigger share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix," he said.

He said Greenpeace has come up with a study that shows the country will be able to source 50% of its power requirements from renewables using existing technology.

As of 2015, the energy mix has been dominated by coal power plants with a share of 34.2%.

Hydroelectric power plants were a distant second with 18.7%, followed by oil-based and gas-fired plants with 16.6% and 16.8%, respectively. Geothermal plants accounted for 9.7%, with renewable energy technologies wind, biomass and solar contributing 2.3%, 0.9% and 0.8%, respectively.

He said by 2020, the other half of the energy mix should come from "transition fuels" such as liquefied natural gas, with coal gradually decreasing its share.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia was in the spotlight last week after the Philippine Commission on Human Rights (CHR) acted on its complaint alleging that the world's largest carbon producers abused human rights by contributing to climate change.

The commission has ordered companies including Royal Dutch Shell Plc. and Chevron Corp., which has local units, to respond to the allegations.

Greenpeace described the investigation by the commission as "groundbreaking and unprecedented in taking steps to address the impacts of climate change on human rights and the responsibility of private actors."

"The companies are given 45 days to comment or answer upon receipt of the petition and the order. After which, the petitioners are given 30 days to respond. This will be followed by public hearings — dates to be set by the CHR," it said in a statement. —

**Victor V. Saulon**





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Bistek orders massive tree planting in public schools

**QUEZON City Mayor Herbert Bautista has ordered massive tree planting in the city's public schools as part of the city government's urban reforestation and greening program.**

Bautista issued the order to city schools superintendent Elizabeth Quesada who was tasked to immediately identify schools where trees can be planted.

He also directed Quesada to prepare a master development plan for each public school to include reforestation efforts.

Bautista disclosed that for this program, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be turning over to the city government 20,000 saplings and 12,000 saplings for city's public schools.

He said the reforestation of public schools will also encourage students to care for Mother Earth as support for Republic Act No. 10176 or Arbor Day Act of 2012, which underscores the need for a collaborated effort between the State and its citizenry to combat the loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by undertaking a nationwide tree planting activities and providing effective measures for their maintenance and sustainability.

At present, there are 96 public elementary schools and 46 public high schools in Quezon City.

**Cory Martinez**





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### DENR's move to keep lake fish clean hailed

THE environment-advocate group EcoWaste Coalition has expressed its strong support for the plans of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to test the fish from Laguna Lake to determine if they are safe from environmental toxins such as lead and mercury.

Aileen Lucero, the group's national coordinator, said they support the initiative of Secretary Gina Lopez to look into the potential toxic metal contamination of Laguna Lake fish, which are mainly coming from industrial and domestic pollution sources.

Lopez had suggested the testing of fish, in coordination with other government agencies such as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Department of Health, as she noted that "Laguna de Bay is overfished" and "fish in (the lake) have been found to be heavy in mercury."

Lucero said that the decline or rise in toxic metal concentrations in Laguna Lake fish, as the sampling data would show, will be a good indicator of the effectiveness of government's interventions and help the Duterte administration in realizing its vision for the country's largest freshwater lake.

The group recalled that a fish sampling conducted in 2010-2011 showed that "mudfish from Laguna Lake is not fit for long-term human consumption primarily due to lead and mercury contamination."

While the levels of arsenic, cadmium and chromium do not pose significant non-carcinogenic health effects associated with the consumption of mudfish from Laguna de Bay, the concentrations of mercury and lead showed elevated levels that are likely to cause adverse health effects on fish long-term consumers, according to the report of Prof. Victorio B. Molina of the University of the Philippines-Manila who conducted the study.

**Cory Martinez**



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Malalaking fishpen sa Laguna Lake babaklasin

Ipatatigil ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ang ilang malalaking fishpen sa Laguna de bay.

Ayon kay Sec. Neric Acosta, Presidential adviser on Environment Protection, ide-demolish ang mga ilegal at sumobrang structures na nakatayo sa lawa.

Maging ang mga hindi nagbabayad ng permit at hindi sumusunod sa patakaran.

Matatandaang sa SONA ni Pangulong Duterte, sinabi nitong gagawing ecopark ang Laguna de bay.

Target ng pamahalaan na gawing ecopark ang 10 libong ektaryang Laguna Lake at kapag natanggal na ang malalaking fishpen, makakatulong ito sa kasalukuyang kabuhayan ng maliliit na mangingisda.

“Pag tinanggal ang malalaking fishpen, magkakaroon ng pagkakataon ang maliliit na mangingisda. Iyan po ang kagustuhan ng ating Pangulo na maging kapakipakinabang ang napakalaking lawa ng Laguna de bay” ayon pa kay Sec. Neric Acosta. (Lhean Angeles)



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**



**CONTRACTOR  
PERHUWISYO SA MGA  
RESIDENTE?; PAGING  
DENR SEC. LOPEZ**

SA halip na ginhawa at maalwang kapaligiran dahil sa mga proyektong inilunsad ng DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) ay matinding perhuwisyo umano ang idinulot ng matikas na "DR ROBLES CONTRACTOR" sa mga residente ng BRGY. MAY-IBA, TERESA, RIZAL.

Ang siste, isang KA YCO na residente sa naturang lugar ang lantarang naglagay ng karatula sa harap ng kaniyang bahay ng mga katagang "DPWH AT CONTRACTOR IBALIK NINYO ANG SINIRA NINYO"... kung saan, nang umabot umano sa kaalaman ng "DR ROBLES CONTRACTOR" ay pinaakiusapan si KA YCO na tanggalin na ang karatula at gagawin na nila ang pag-sasaayos sa harap ng mga bahay ng mga naninirahan sa lugar.

Lumalabas na may road widening project ang DPWH sa BRGY. MAY-IBA, TERESA na hindi naman umano inayos ang pagkakagawa ng nasabing proyekto; kung saan, ang dating patag na harapan ng mga naninirahan sa lugar ay uka-uka na ang mga lupa na ang ilang parte naman ay halos naka-hanger at hindi

na nila maiayos ang pagkakaparada ng kanilang mga sasakyan. Natapos umano ang widening project na iniwan namang nakatiwangwang ang mga lupang napagbubungkal.

Ayon kay KA YCO, mula noong kaniyang tanggalin ang karatula dahil na rin sa pakiusap ng kontratista ay 3 buwan na ang nakatilipas ay hindi pa rin tinutupad ng kontratista ang ipinangako at hindi na rin matagpuan pa ito ng mga nagsisipagreklamang mga residente.

Ang naturang kontratista ay minsan na rin umanong pinaimbestigayan ng SANGGUNANG BAYAN ng TANAY, RIZAL dahil naman sa drainage project ng TANAY-TERESA na halos 2 taon bago natapos na nagdulot ng matinding perhuwisyo sa mga naninirahan sa lugar... na kung aanalishain e may mga paglabag ngang nagawa itong kontratista na ito kaya nag-imbetiga ang KONSEHO ng TANAY..

**PAGING DPWH  
SECRETARY MARK  
VILLAR..**

PAKISIYASAT nga po itong kontratista na inireklamo ng mga naninirahan sa BRGY. MAY-IBA na

matapos nilang matrabaho ang road widening ay basta na lamang iniwang nakatiwangwang ang iba't ibang mga kalat o mga napa-ghukayang lupa?

\*\*\*

Sir Irwin, dito po sa RIZAL lalo na po dito sa ANTIPOLLO CITY e tuloy pa rin po ang pagpapasabog sa mga kabundukan dito ng mga QUARRYING... dumadagundong po ang lupa kapag nagpapasabog po sila. Hindi po ba pinahihigpitan na ngayon ng DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES ang pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan? Sana po ay mabigyan ito ng pansin ng ating gobyerno kasi po kung aasa lang kami sa mga local government po namin dito e sigurado pong wala kaming maasahang pagpabor sa amin, kasi matagal na po itong mga quarrying dito sa aming lalawigan. Maraming salamat po sa pagbibigay nyo ng espasyo itong hinaing namin at sana ay makatulong po ang inyong kolum na ARYA para sa pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan. Mabuhay po kayo. NOLLY po ito ng ANTIPOLO CITY.

NOLLY, maraming salamat sa pagtitiwala ninyo sa ating kolum at nakatitiyak naman po ako na ang kolum na ito ay makakarating sa tanggapan ni DENR SECRETARY GINA LOPEZ para magawan naman po niya ng aksiyon o mautusan ang kaniyang mga opisyal para sa pag-aksiyon hinggil po sa inyong hinaing.

\*\*\*

Kung kayo po ay may suliranin o puna sa maling gawain ng ilan nating mga government officials o anumang reaksiyon lalo na sa mga nababatikos ng ARYA ay bukas po ang espasyo para sa inyong mga nais ipaabot... mag-email lamang po sa aryakolu@yahoo.com o magtex sa 09334089090.