

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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# DENR

## IN THE NEWS



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Gina calls for review of mining law in PH

By **Germelina Lacorte**  
*Inquirer Mindanao*

DAVAO CITY—Environment Secretary Gina Lopez on Thursday said she would initiate a review of the 1995 Philippine Mining Act that opened the country's mining sector to 100-percent foreign ownership, which she described as "treasonous and should not have been passed at all."

"It must be reviewed," Lopez said, citing a recent statement of Jesuit priest Joel Tabora, president of Ateneo de Davao University, about the mining law.

"In my view, the 1995 mining act is treasonous because our Constitution says that the minerals belong to the state, which means they belong to the people," Tabora said.

Speaking to local reporters on the sidelines of the Min-

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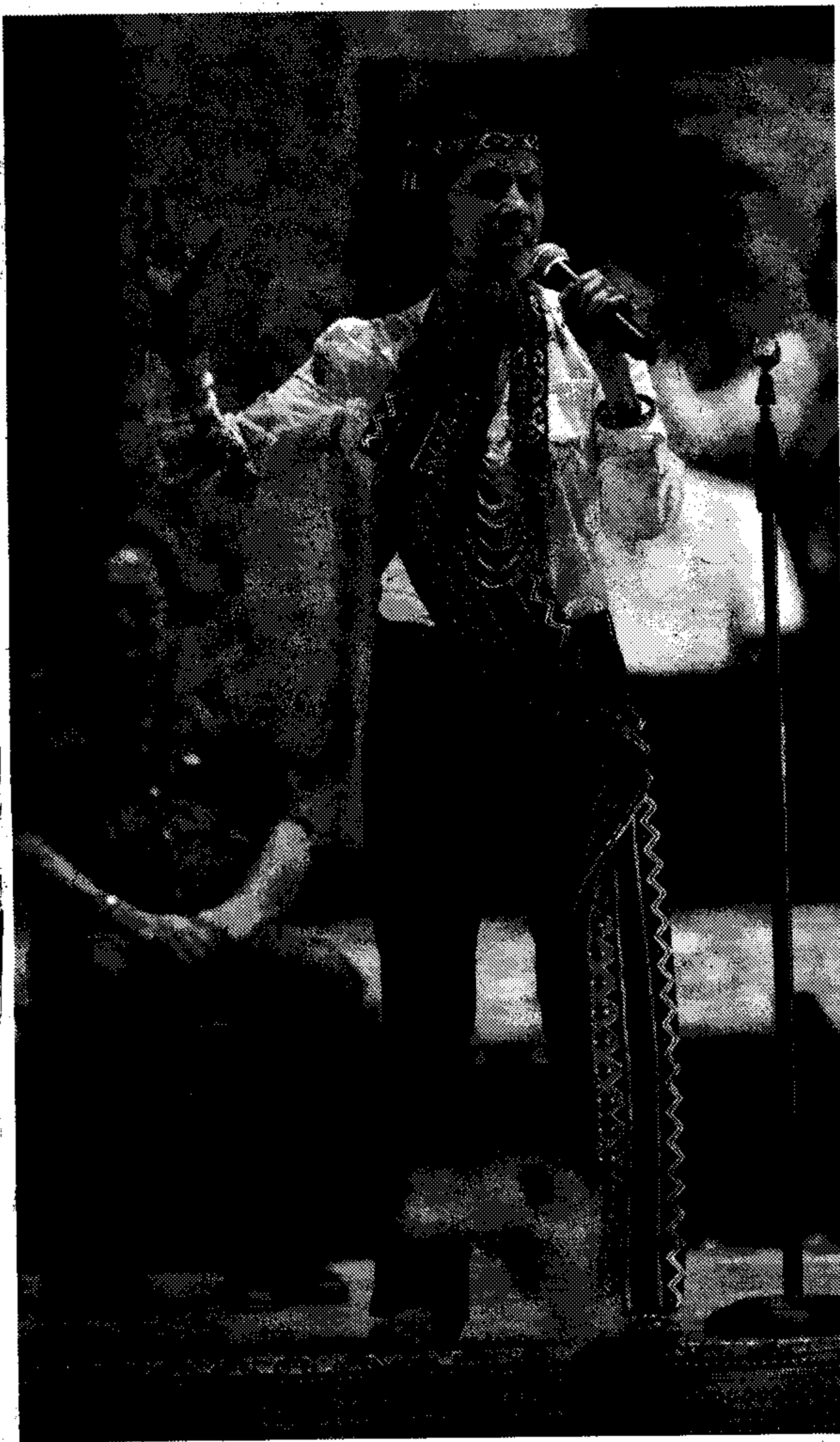
danao Environment Summit, Lopez said the mining law allowed "foreign companies to take the country's minerals away almost for free."

"It's time for all of us to demand that this treasonous law be repealed and replaced with a [law] that would be in the interest of the Filipino people," she said.

"My commitment for Mindanao is social justice," Lopez said.

"The definition of social justice is that the resources of Mindanao must necessarily be enjoyed by the people of Mindanao," she added.

Lopez called for the shutdown of Claver Minerals Development Corp. in Surigao del Norte province for violations of environmental laws.



**'GILO' FOR MINING ACT REVIEW**  
Wearing ethnic accessories, Environment Secretary Gina Lopez speaks with passion at an environment summit in Davao City of her commitment for social justice in Mindanao. Seated at left is Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol.

KENT CAPUTE/DAVAO CITY INFORMATION OFFICE

## Gina calls for review of mining law in PH

### 3 firms under audit

She said three other big mining companies are undergoing an environmental audit.

Undergoing audit are Taganito Mining Corp. and Greenstone Resources Corp., both in Surigao del Norte and Sagittarius Mines Inc. in Tampakan, South Cotabato province.

Taganito is involved in nickel mining, Greenstone in gold processing and Sagittarius in gold and copper mining.

The results of the audit are expected to be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) within a week, Lopez said.

She said the audit results would be the basis of a DENR decision whether to allow the companies to continue operating.

"It's not only the technical [aspect] that is being audited, but also [the] social aspect, its effects on the water, health and the environment," she said.

Lopez said she would also look into mining operations that threatened two protected areas in Davao Oriental province, including Mt. Hamiguitan's pygmy forest.

"A mine in between two protected areas? That's crazy," she said.

"I will not wait for even an hour, they'll have to go," she said, referring to mining companies that have been audited and found to be degrading the environment.

### Family business

Lopez said she would not hesitate to "use the full force of the law" if Energy Development Corp. (EDC), owned by her family, would be found to have violated environmental regulations.

The DENR chief was responding to complaints from residents of Negros Oriental province, where EDC plans to expand the operation of its geothermal power plant on Mt. Talinis.

Residents and environmentalists running the Save Mt. Talinis Campaign have denounced the company for allegedly damaging the protected forest on the mountain, particularly through cutting old-growth trees.

"We will look into this and I assure the public that the DENR will be fair through the entire process and take into account the concerns of all," Lopez said in a statement.

EDC, which operates a 223-megawatt geothermal plant in Valencia town, submitted an application for environmental clearance certificate for the expansion of the plant's capacity by 60 megawatts, she said.

Lopez said the Environmental Management Bureau had held public hearings on EDC's application.

"Through good environmental governance, we aim to harmonize our economic activities with nature through sound practices that will not only address climate change but [also] ensure the sustainable use of our resources, conservation and preservation," she said.

"Our concern for the environment and the pursuit of the common good transcends familial and other ties," she added. *With a report from Ronnel W. Domingo in Manila*





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Gotcha

By JARIUS BONDOC

## Philippine nickel ore used in China's island building?



Was Philippine soil used in China's island building in the disputed seas? That news, attributed to Zambales governor Amor Deloso, needs confirming. More so since it infers treason by sinister parties.

But the report needs some correcting first. Published last week, it quoted Deloso as saying that two mountains in his province were leveled as landfill for China's reclamation of Scarborough Shoal. Seven nickel mines operated by Chinese nationals supposedly did it during the tenure of his predecessor Hermogenes Ebdane. The seven mines were not identified. Deloso further was quoted as citing a Dept. of Foreign Affairs estimate of the reclamation at 3,000 hectares. Thus the shoal allegedly has been converted into an artificial island. Severely affected was the environment of Santa Cruz municipality, and the marine resources of Scarborough.

Fact is, while China invaded Scarborough in 2012, it has not made the shoal into an artificial island. The island making occurred in 2013-2014 in seven other portions of the South China (West Philippine) Sea. Like Scarborough, the seven are within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Those are Mischief Reef, Fiery Cross Reef, Cuarteron Reef, Gaven Reef, Johnson South Reef, Hughes Reef, and McKennan Reef. China began reclaiming Mischief in 1995, and expanded the area, along with the six other rocks. The artificial islands consist of sand from the seabed and rocks. Portions have been concreted as seaports. On Fiery Cross is a three-kilometer long aircraft runway. The DFA and the US State Department estimate the reclamation to cover 3,200 acres, or 1,300 hectares.

Scarborough, also called Panatag Shoal and Bajo de Masinloc, is a traditional Filipino fishing ground. It is 123 miles from the coast of Masinloc, Zambales. The recent ruling of the UN arbitral court declared Scarborough as a traditional fishing ground of other East Asians as well.

**Probers must get figures on how much ore was extracted in Zambales and Mindanao, and how many barges were used.**

This column exposed starting 2012 the destructive nickel mining in Santa Cruz and surrounding Zambales towns. The provincial capitol had granted hundreds of small-scale mining permits. With Filipinos as fronts, Chinese nationals actually engaged in large-scale mining. Not mere picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows were used, but dozens of heavy excavating equipment and bulldozers, and hundreds of dump trucks. Hundreds of thousands of tons of nickel ore – rocks the size of a fist to a football – were loaded onto bulk-cargo ships and transported to China. Three big Chinese miners were involved: Nihao, Wei-Wei, and Jiangxi.

Nickel is used in the steel and communications industries. It is a crucial component in China's weapons and shipbuilding, as well as spyware. The processed nickel from Zambales likely was used in China's equipment to grab Scarborough.

\* \* \*

The news item went on about the destruction of Zambales' forests and Scarborough's marine resources. Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Gina Lopez was reportedly aghast with the news. She has ordered an investigation, and promised to punish any department underling involved in the environmental mess.

This column in fact reported the harmful effects of the nickel mining on the townfolk's health. The deforestation dried up the rivers and destroyed wildlife. Seas were muddied. Floods ruined farmlands. Emissions from the hundreds of dump trucks made northern Zambales the most afflicted with respiratory ailments.

The Noynoy Aquino administration paid no heed then. The governor, a former police general, once headed the close-in security of President Cory Aquino's family. Noynoy was said to be his friend. Police and natural resources officials did not enforce health and environment laws against the Chinese nationals.

Still, was Philippine soil used to reclaim the rocks and underwater elevations that China grabbed? And did the filling material also come from other nickel mines, including in Surigao and Agusan?

It would help Secretary Gina's investigators to gather data from various agencies. From the Mines and Geosciences Bureau they can get info on how much nickel ore was extracted in Luzon and Mindanao in 2012-2014. One mine in

Agusan, operated by friends of Noynoy and campaign contributors of his Liberal Party, had in fact over-extracted millions of tons of ore. President Rody Duterte has denounced that miner, SR Metals Corp., for environmental ruin.

With the data, the investigators can calculate how much ore could have been used to reclaim 1,300 hectares of reefs up to, say, ten meters high.

How was the ore transported to the artificial islands? Investigators should study the aerial and satellite photographs of the Chinese rush construction. Those show that not only dredgers were used to suck up sand from the seabed onto the rock formations. There were also dozens of hauling barges called LCT (Landing Craft Tank). It would surprise the investigators to find out that China sold very cheap LCTs to Philippine nickel mines.

The Maritime Industry Authority would have the figures. Investigators would be able to calculate, at 300 tons load capacity per LCT, how many trips it took to transport the nickel ore to the reclamations.

Now why would China use nickel ore as landfill instead of processing it for steel mills? The answer lies in the gap between low-grade Philippine nickel and the Chinese processors' high-grade preference. Also worth looking into is the location of the ore processing plants far inland of China. Loading and unloading the ore from ships to trains would have been more expensive than converting the ore into instant landfill.

The intelligence agencies would have more info on that. They likely know too, which Filipino nickel miners collaborated in the Chinese reclamation binge.



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**Gov't suspends  
seventh mining firm**

The Philippine government has suspended the operations of a seventh nickel miner, Claver Mineral Development Corp., a cabinet member said yesterday, deepening an environmental crackdown that has caused jitters in global nickel markets. The Philippines is the biggest supplier of nickel ore to top market China and the suspension of some mines and the risk of more closures sent global nickel prices to an 11-month high of \$10,900 a ton on July 21. "Today we are suspending Claver Mineral. We will audit all the mine sites of Mindanao," Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez said, referring to the nickel-rich southern Philippine island. Claver runs a mine in the Surigao del Norte province in Mindanao. Lopez made the announcement during a mining forum in southern Davao City, but did not immediately say what prompted the suspension. The government has now suspended seven miners, all of them nickel producers, amid an ongoing audit that began on July 8 that aims to check whether companies are complying with regulations to protect the environment where they're operating. (Reuters)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Philex defers comm'l operations of Silangan Mine in Surigao to 2020

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLORES

**T**he commercial operations of Philex Mining Corp.'s Silangan Mine in Surigao del Norte will no longer happen between 2018 or 2019 as the company initially planned as the it may still need more time to work on the project's feasibility study.

Silangan Mine, one of the company's prospective mineral reserves in Surigao del Norte, is Philex Mining's next big potential mining venture, next to its Padcal copper-gold project whose whose mine life is expected to end in December 2022.

Philex Mining Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan said that Silangan Mindanao Mining Corp. (SMMCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of the company, has pushed back mining operations in Silangan Mine.

Pangilinan said they now expect commercial operations

at the mine site by 2020, a year later than it earlier expected.

"We are currently completing requirements for the feasibility study on Silangan," Pangilinan said.

It was reported before that Philex is looking at 2018 or early 2019 for the commencement of initial ore production at the the site.

As of end 2014, the company has already poured in as much as ₱13 billion for the project's initial exploration and related works, on top of the project's total funding requirement of US\$1.2 billion.

Pangilinan, however, said that the estimated cost of developing its new Silangan copper-gold mine has been reduced to US\$900 million.

The Silangan project is located in Surigao del Norte, at the northern part of Mindanao. It combines the development of Boyongan and Bayugo deposits, which are comprised of gold, copper, and silver.



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Audit of Mindanao mining operations to begin next week

BY MANUEL T. CAYON  @awimailbox  
Mindanao Bureau Chief  
& JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
 @jonlmayuga

**D**AVAO CITY—Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez disclosed the near completion of a comprehensive audit of all mining operations in Mindanao, warning of immediate closure of violators.

Lopez said final judgment on each mining operation would depend on the performance audit.

"To all those who would not pass the audit, I will not wait one hour to close it. It will not be allowed anymore," she told a news briefing shortly before a Mindanao environmental summit at the Ateneo de Davao University.

Lopez did not say how the audit went so far and where the audit is currently done.

Also next week, the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would enter into an agreement with the Army to crack down on illegal-logging operations.

Mr. Duterte earlier gave the go signal to the revolutionary New People's Army to conduct its own anti-illegal-logging crackdown and punish suspected violators, according to its own revolutionary justice.

Lopez said she would create a civic-organization arm in the DENR. "It would not be a desk. It would be an arm within the DENR."

The DENR is also about to craft a more activist agenda to find possible solutions to the "most pressing environmental problems facing Mindanao today."

The agenda would come out in Friday's strategic-planning workshop with select representatives of civil-society organizations.

The bulk of the agenda items would emerge from a two-day Mindanao environment summit, which began on Thursday and participated in by 4,000 people, mostly students of Ateneo de Davao University, a key partner of the DENR in holding the summit.

Other participants come from tribal and Muslim groups across Mindanao.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Mining to become sunset industry – Rody

DAVAO CITY – Mining and logging will be sunset industries in the years to come.

This was how President Duterte described the state of the two sectors as he ral-

By EDITH REGALADO

lied efforts to preserve what's left of the country's natural resources.

"There has to be a limit, and along the way, if God grants

me life, for six years flat, we will realize that dream because *ayaw ko na talaga* (I really don't like it anymore). After so much, there should be no

more mining," the President told participants yesterday in the "Oya Mindanao" environment summit at the Ateneo de Davao University.

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## Mining From Page 1

He added he would no longer allow even the cutting of a single tree as he intends to kill logging in the country.

"If there are 24 hours in a day, logging is already too late and it's on the 25th hour. We cannot cut trees anymore."

The President said he is aware that his move to stop mining would make some people mad, particularly the ones he called the "oligarchs."

The President also lamented how certain elected and appointed officials involved

in environmental concerns are making money because of the power they wield over those engaged in the mining industry.

"Many will get angry. Many would like to maintain the status quo. If they are there, they wield power. Maybe elected, appointed officials would hang on to that," he said.

The President decried that such practice forms part of what is really a corrupt society that "sucks, stinks."

"That is why slowly, I will destroy such system and open

all opportunities for all Filipinos – irrespective of tribe or religion. You should understand that it is about time that we reconfigure the wealth of the nation."

Duterte lamented how the mining industry has benefited only a few who transmit their incomes abroad after taking advantage of the country's fertile soil.

"We will go after mining that do not follow the strictest standards. I am telling you that the best mining practices can be found in Canada and Australia. If you cannot follow that standard, then I am sorry, and yet again even if

it's legal, we can only hold so much... that is why mining has to stop."

"How many holes are there if you give everyone who has money to apply (for mining permit)... it would be a wobbly island. *Maraming tubig na hindi naman dapat yan* (Too much water that should not be there). Although there is water and God created the planet that there is water here, there is soil and there are rocks, and you say it is legal and you issue permits and you number to a thousand... whether it is legal or not, it will destroy the country," Duterte said.



# BusinessWorld

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## Duterte: Mining, logging are 'sunset' industries

ADDRESSING a conference on environmental issues in Davao City on Thursday, President Rodrigo R. Duterte stepped up, with his trademark candor, his administration's stand on the mining and logging industries, and on the influence of what he called the "oligarchy" in business and politics.

Mr. Duterte's remarks at the Mindanao Environment Summit held in his hometown were a continuation of Wednesday's remarks partly on the oligarchy, wherein the President singled out businessman and Marcos-era trade minister Roberto V. Ongpin to amplify his point.

On Thursday afternoon, at the summit that already took a lively turn that morning with the remarks of his environment secretary, Regina Paz L. Lopez, Mr. Duterte branded the mining industry as "a sunset industry, almost."

He also included logging as being "*wala na talaga* (no more), it's not even sunset time."

"It's already too late... if there is 24 hours in one day, logging is on its 25<sup>th</sup> hour. *Tapos na 'yan* (It's finished)," he added.

"Many will get mad, many will get angry, many would like to maintain the status quo... maybe elected officials in power, they will hang on to that. *Kaya dahan-dahan kong sisirain iyan* (That's

why I will destroy this [industry] slowly). And open all opportunities to all Filipinos. Irrespective of tribe, race or religion."

*"Yung mga mina napupunta iyan sa mga oligarch. Walang iba*

*'yang ginawa kung 'di mag* influence-peddling (Mining goes to the oligarchs. All they do is influence-peddling)," Mr. Duterte also said.

"That is why I am fighting a monster. I am just two months old there but believe me I will destroy their clutches *sa ating buhay* (in our lives)."

But even as Mr. Duterte asserted that "the wealth of this country is owned by only a few guys," he also said: "*Hindi naman lahat mayaman na* (Not all the rich are) oligarchs."

Some, he said: "built their empire through the years. For example, I'm not saying it because she's here. Gina — she's a billionaire but look at the way she treats herself. She's a crusader, and she loves the country, and she hates oligarchs," Mr. Duterte said of his environment secretary, who is a member of the Lopezes of Iloilo, a long-influential family in business, politics, and media.

### 'SOCIAL INJUSTICE'

For her part, Ms. Lopez gave a pep talk at the summit that was directed at the broader audience of "business interests" and "foreign interests."

"When the resources of one land are destroyed for the business interests of a few, and when the resources of one land are not enjoyed by the people of their land, it is social injustice," she said.

"Mindanao must be for Mindanaoans, must be for Mindanaoans. You live here. You live here. This is your land. Why is

Mindanao being used by business interests? Hello! Why is Mindanao being used by foreign interests? Hello!" she added.

*"Ang yaman yaman na nila, di ba? (They're already too rich, aren't they?)"*

"Businesses have no right to kill our land, sea, and air for their own interests. DENR officials have no right to allow this to happen."

In her address, Ms. Lopez called in an official of the Protected Area Management Board to have him explain an authorized mining project that "is not acceptable to me."

"And if you or anyone else in the group [will allow this], I will shoot you. *Babarilin kita*. You f—ing do it. You understand? You will not let injustice reign in this land. Is that clear?" she told the official as recorded in a video posted by the ABS-CBN News Web site.

Soon after she sought to her stage another official, newly appointed Mines and Geosciences Bureau chief Mario Luis J. Jacinto, to make him affirm that no mining company or business entity can



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Duterte: Mining, logging  
are 'sunset' industries



DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez with Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto C. Abella and Ateneo de Davao President Fr. Joel E. Tabora.

buy him with P5 billion, P10 billion, P20 billion. "No, they cannot buy me. People of Davao know that," Mr. Jacinto, a former Davao Region director for the department, made this and similar assurances.

### SUSPENSION

Ms. Lopez that day also announced the suspension of Claver Mineral Development Corp., which operates in Claver, Surigao del Norte.

"Today we are suspending Claver Mining. It's really bad. It is located near white sand," she said, qualifying this suspension as part of an extensive audit on all operating and suspended mines. "We are conducting not only technical audit but also social, environmental, and health audit," she said.

The audit of mining companies in Mindanao would be completed by next week, she added.

Ms. Lopez's senior undersecretary and Mr. Jacinto's predecessor, Leo L. Jasareno, who heads the audit, said for the nationwide review, 40 metallic mines will be

completed this August and 65 non-metallic mines by September.

Mr. Jasareno in a radio interview in June pointed out that the mining industry contributed only 0.7% to GDP last year.

"If they don't pass audit, then they are finished. I will follow due process but justice delayed is justice denied," Ms. Lopez for her part said.

Moreover, she reiterated an earlier pronouncement that she is opening an "arm" of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to strengthen the role of civil society and non-government organizations in her agency's tasks.

"I am opening up an arm for civic society, not a desk," Ms. Lopez told the summit that was held yesterday in coordination with the Ateneo de Davao University. The summit ends today.

### 'TREASON'

Later that afternoon in his address, Mr. Duterte also touched on his predominant governance themes, assuring in part thoroughness in the campaign against drugs, and, on the theme of corruption, singling out the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office as "a corrupt agency."

"And if you would notice I never appointed anyone there. I'm looking for a killer," he said.

For his part, Fr. Joel E. Tabora, Ateneo de Davao president, said, "The Philippine Mining Act to my view is treason," adding that the law is hailed as progressive

by those who have mining interests."

But under this President and Environment Secretary Lopez we can now demand that this treasonous law be replaced with a law that will instead benefit the Filipino people," Fr. Tabora added.

Meanwhile, a group of large-scale mining companies in the Davao Region criticized their non-inclusion in this forum.

In a statement yesterday, the Alliance of Responsible Miners of Region XI (ARMOR-XI) said: "We welcome any initiative that aims to advance the welfare of our environment," and as "responsible stakeholders, the Mindanao mining industry wishes to be part of this endeavor."

ARMOR-XI President, Rodulfo A. Palma, who signed the statement, said it was unfortunate that the organizers of the summit did not invite them, adding they could have contributed their "modest, yet meaningful ideas and participate in a balanced discussion."

Mr. Palma reiterated that ARMOR-XI members "adhere to and support the direction of the Duterte administration calling for responsible mining practices, as we continue to advance the interest of the industry."

Among ARMOR-XI member companies are: Sagittarius Mines, Inc., Apex Mining Co., Inc., Nationwide Development Corp. San Agustin Services, Inc., and King Eagle Exploration and Mining Corp. — Carmencita A. Carillo, Carmelito Q. Francisco, Maya M. Padillo, and Joseph U. Vizcarra



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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## Not enough soil in Zambales mountains to fill Scarborough, says ex-Gov. Ebdane

By JONAS REYES

IBA, Zambales — Former Zambales Governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. described as absurd allegations that he sold Zambales mountain soil to the Chinese for their supposed reclamation of Scarborough Shoal.

In a radio interview, Ebdane said there is not enough soil in the mountains of Sta. Cruz, Zambales to ►6



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## Not enough soil in Zambales... ◀1

turn Scarborough Shoal into a military installation.

"Do the math!" Ebdane dared, stressing that 450 trucks would need more than one trip each to move 3,500 hectares of land that was allegedly used in the reclamation of Bajo de Masinloc.

"Nickel laterite itself is valuable and is sold to manufacturing firms using nickel to make stainless steel from ordinary steel. And no country or businessman in their right mind would buy a material with a high price of per

cubic meter just to use it as a reclamation material," he stressed.

The former Public Works Secretary explained that the material commonly used as reclamation medium is shale. "For reclamation medium, the material used should be heavier than water. So the most commonly used material is shale."

Nickel laterite, he said is "mud that sticks to your shoes when you're up in the mountain. It is mud, and mud when mixed with water, would dissolve." If nickel laterite was indeed used in the

reclamation of Scarborough Shoal, the water near the area would have reddened.

### Mountain sale

Ebdane pointed to records which show that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) gave permits to mining companies like Eramin, Benguet, in 2004. On that year, mining firms conducted explorations on the area. In 2007, the mining companies started operations. "The governor of Zambales from 2004 to 2007 was Vic Magsaysay, and mining was in full operation from 2008 to 2012," he added. After Magsaysay stepped down, (Gov. Amor) Deloso

was the governor from 2008 to 2010 during the height of mining operation in Zambales.

Ebdane served as Zambales governor from 2010 to 2016.

Ebdane said mining permits came from the DENR. "There is no power or authority for the governor of Zambales to grant a permit. Paano ko maibebenta yung tatlong bundok eh sila naman yung nakaupo noon? (How was I able to sell three mountains when it was them who was in power)," he asked.

### No power over mining

He pointed out that the governor doesn't even have the power to stop the mining operations. "Ang kelangan magpatigil ay ang DENR, kaya ako noon eh hindi ko maibigay yung order na stoppage kasi wala akong karapatan (The proper agency to stop mining operations is the DENR. That is why during my time I couldn't order them to stop because I did not have that power)," he said.

### Deloso suspends mining

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez said heads will roll if a fact-finding team tasked to investigate China's alleged use of Philippine soil in its reclamation

project uncovers any wrongdoing on the part of local and environment officials.

"That's horrible. I will find out whoever gave the permit. China can never be allowed to use our soil as their landfill. We're gonna look into this and make it never ever happens," Lopez said during a radio interview.

"If there are DENR officials, they will be made accountable... Heads should roll. If the truckloads came from us. We should be aware. If they were getting truckloads of our soil, there were probably some trail," Lopez added.

Gov. Deloso who suspended mining operations in the province earlier told Manila Bulletin that the Chinese through some of their mining companies have been operating in the province's mountains, extracting soil and boulders that were used to build China's artificial island measuring around 3,500 hectares in the reclaimed area near the Scarborough Shoal.

Deloso said the Chinese used "the boulders as the bedrock and the soil as the foundation of its bases." (With a report from Franco G. Regala)



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Duterte hits corruption in PCSO, illegal mining

By Teri Tuvera

President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday said he wants a "butcher-like" leader to head the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) as he claims it to be a corrupt agency.

"If you notice, I haven't appointed anyone in PCSO. It's very corrupt! I'd be needing a volunteer to kill those who are corrupt there (in PCSO). Kill them, you have my blessing," the President said.

Furthermore, President

Duterte and Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez are passionately going after mining firms which continue to practice environmentally destructive open-pit methods and corporations which are granted mining permits through money, influence and sheer greed.

"I am fighting a monster. Believe me, I will destroy their clutches on our nation," the President said.

The President stressed that it

is not proper to grant permits solely on the basis that a mining firm can afford it as he pointed out that he is determined to put a stop to destructive mining practices simply because the land has already taken a beating.

"What I am sure of, I am a worker of government. Mining is a sunset industry and also logging. It is already too late. If there were 24 hours in a day, logging is on its 25th hour. We cannot cut trees anymore," Duterte said.

Proud of the fact that during

the elections, the former Davao City mayor refused to accept campaign contributions from individuals who had vested interests, the President feels he owes no favor to anyone and he serves not one but everyone.

"The oligarchs are resisting because it will destroy the power vortex. I do not owe anyone. Many would like to maintain the status quo. I will destroy this little by little. I will open the country's resources to all Filipinos regardless of tribe, race or religion. We have only one nation," he stressed.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## DUTERTE VOWS TO DESTROY 'OLIGARCHS' IN ILLEGAL MINING

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has vowed to go after "oligarchs" involved in illegal mining activities.

In his speech during an environmental summit in Davao City on Thursday, Duterte slammed oligarchs who use their "influence" to benefit from the illegal mining industry.

"Oligarchs benefit from mining. All they do is influence peddling," the President said.

"We will go after them. Whether it is legal or not, mining will destroy the country." He said oligarchs, whom he described as "monsters," also use their money and power to

advance their own interests.

"I am fighting a monster. I am just two months old [into the presidency] but believe me, I will destroy their clutches," Duterte stressed.

He cited corruption as one of the reasons mining companies continue to receive permits from

government.

"Our resources are being enjoyed by those with the right connections. I do not brag. Had I not become president, I would not know what will happen to the country. It's pitiful," he added.

Duterte however said that not all

businessmen were oligarchs.

He mentioned environment Secretary Regina "Gina" Lopez, whom he described as a "crusader" against oligarchs.

"She's a billionaire. But she's a crusader, she loves the country, and she hates oligarchs," Duterte said.

On Wednesday evening, Duterte singled out businessman Roberto Ongpin as an example of an oligarch, citing his political connections which he allegedly used to promote his business interests.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE**



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# DENR to end illegal logging, mining in eight days – Lopez

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV  
and ELLA VERA DE VERA

**D**AVAO CITY – Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Gina Lopez said she will end illegal logging and mining operations in the country in eight days, with her “Duterte team” backing her up in the protection of the environment.

In a press conference on Thursday at the Ateneo de Davao University (ADDU), Lopez said she wants to copy President Rodrigo R. Duterte's hardline stance against drugs and criminality in her fight for environmental protection.

She said that she is set to sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on Monday next week with Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Ronald Dela Rosa, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, and Interior and Local Government secretary Mike Sueno to assist the DENR in the implementation of stricter monitoring and protection of the country's natural resources.

“The MOA, in essence, commits that the police and the military will assist

the DENR in protecting the resources of the country, including the DILG. We will not allow any illegal activities that adversely affect the lives of the people,” she said.

The DENR secretary said she will only consider nothing but the “rule of law and the common good” as she threatened to punish the logging and mining companies who cause suffering for many people.

She said she tasked the former chief of police at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Peter Mutoc whom she described as her “General Bato,” the moniker of PNP chief Dela Rosa, as enforcing officer of the DENR-Law Enforcement and Operations to monitor and enforce the cease and desist order to erring companies and local government officials.

Mutoc said that they will treat illegal loggers and miners just like “drug lords” but within the bounds of law.

Lopez said they are also reviewing the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) and auditing both the metallic and non-metallic mining companies that will be completed next week.

Leo Jasareno, head of the DENR's Mining Audit Team, said that they can



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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

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stop the operations if they find out that companies fail to comply with the regulatory standards.

He said the DENR's mining audit is a comprehensive assessment and will be the basis for the "final judgment" whether to close the mining companies.

"The audit is not just technical. The audit is also social kung may komunidad na nagdurusa, kung may nagkakasakit hindi pwede' yan. We are testing the water, the agriculture, the fishing kung palpak sila dyan, they are not following the law," she said.

She said that she wants social justice for the Filipino people, most especially those from Mindanao.

"My definition of social justice in the context of environment is that the resources of Mindanao must necessarily be enjoyed by the people of Mindanao," she said.

She added that she is tapping civil society organizations (CSOs) to help in the efforts of the DENR.

"I don't want DENR to be just a regulatory agency. I want to work with the people of Mindanao such that their recourses can lead to their quality of life," she said.

She called on the people of Mindanao to make the region a model of social justice and upliftment during the Mindanao Environment Summit also held at the Ateneo de Davao University.

Lopez pointed out that Mindanao's resources are for its people and not for business and foreign interests.

Some 4,000 representatives from civil society, including indigenous peoples, farmers, fisher folk and the academe attended the summit highlighted by the presentation of the state of the Mindanao environment (SOMEDay).

Lopez decried the environmental damage brought about by several business interests, particularly the mining sector, as shown in SOMEDay, calling the destruction, a "social injustice."

She pointed out that it "hurt her" to see and hear communities in damaged areas losing their livelihood and their resources due to the seeming indifference of mining and other businesses taking advantage of Mindanao's wealth.

"We should all work together to make sure that Mindanao's resources are enjoyed by the people of Mindanao," she said.



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## PERMIT SA PAGMIMINA HIHIGPITAN NA

IPASASARA ang lahat ng mga pasaway na mining companies na hindi sumusunod sa inilatag na environmental rules, ito ang naging banta ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa mga pasaway na minero.

Aba'y kayang-kaya nga naman na mabuhay ang Pilipinas kahit walang buwis mula sa mga minahan.

"I can forego the P40 billion I collect from you, and the Filipinos will survive without you.

"Either you follow strict government standards or you close," ani ng Pang. Duterte.

Hindi nagkamali si Pang. Duterte sa pagkakatalaga niya kay Gina Lopez bilang Environment Secretary dahil sa may krusada itong ipinaglalaban para sa kapakanan ng kapaligiran at kalikasan

ng bansa.

Nagalak nga si Pang. Duterte nang tanggapin ni Lopez ang alok niya na pamunuan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"She is not incompetent, she is a bright lady. She is simply a crusader," pagmamataki pa nito.

Kung tutuusin, si Lopez ay kilalang environmentalist na nasa likod ng iba't ibang mga proyekto na may kinalaman sa pagsasaayos ng ating kapaligiran.

Gusto ng kalihim na tutukan niyang mabuti ang DENR para maisaayos niya ang mga likas na yaman na sinira ng mga gagong mga mining firm na kung saan ang bansa ang siyang pumapasan sa mabigat na pinsala mula sa kamay ng

## JUAN DE SABOG

ni JOHNNY MAGALONA



mga minero.

Sa ngayon, ayon kay Pang. Duterte, magiging mahigpit na ang kanyang pamahalaan sa pagbibigay ng permit sa mga nasa mining industry dahil sapat na ang ginawa nilang pagpapasasa sa maraming taon na namamayagpag sila..



# BusinessWorld

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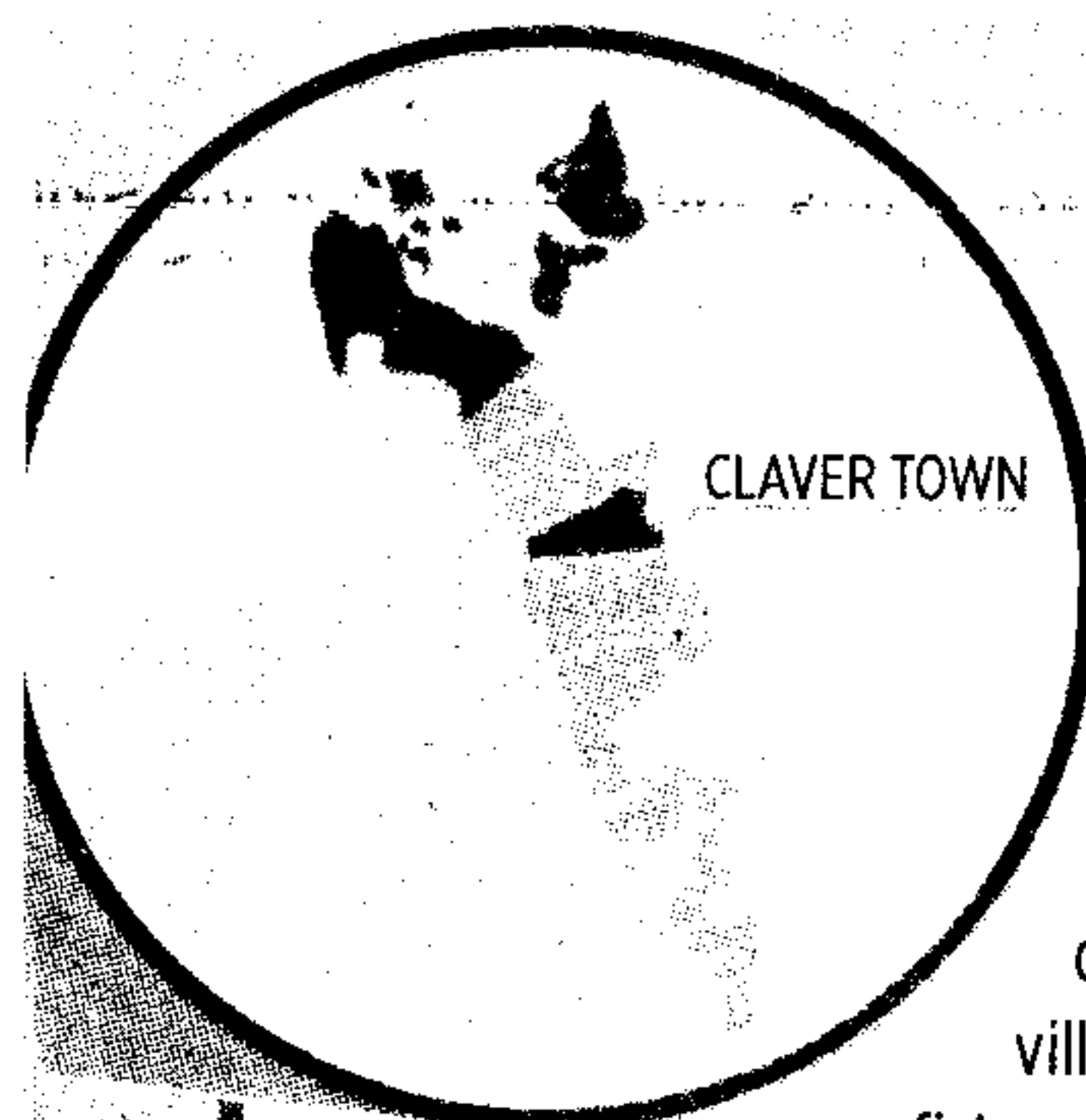
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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



CLAVERTOWN

### CARAGA: SURIGAO DEL NORTE AND SURIGAO DEL SUR

#### **Police finding alternative jobs for illegal fishermen through LGU, in mining firms**

INSPIRED by the anti-illegal drug campaign, the police here conducted "Oplan Panagat" in the coastal villages, resulting in the surrender of 15 fishermen suspected to be engaged in illegal fishing activities. Chief Insp. Rommel Cacayan, chief of the Municipal Police Office, said most of these fishermen engage in dynamite fishing and catching marine life using cyanide. He said the local government unit (LGU) is willing to facilitate finding jobs for the fishermen. "Aside from the LGU, we are also trying to negotiate [with] the mining companies in this town to hire the fishermen so they won't go back to their illegal activities," he said. — **Roel N. Catoto, MindaNews**

### CARAGA: SURIGAO DEL NORTE AND SURIGAO DEL SUR

#### **DENR audits 7 mining firms**

MINING firms in the two Surigao provinces are being audited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez said the audit is intended to confirm whether or not there are violations in their operations. "We are looking at their operations and their impact to the environment," she told MindaNews. She identified these firms as Marc Ventures Development Corp. located in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur; Clarence T. Pimentel Mining Corp. and Carrascal Nickel Corp., both operating in Carrascal town in Surigao del Sur; Platinum Group Metals Corp., Adnama Mining Corp. and Taganito Mining Corp., all located in Claver town in Surigao del Norte; Hinatuan Mining Corp. in Tagana-an town in Surigao del Norte; and Greenstone Resources Mining Corp., Inc. (GRCI) in Tubod town in Surigao del Norte. Ms. Lopez said the audit will be concluded this week. — **Roel N. Catoto, MindaNews**

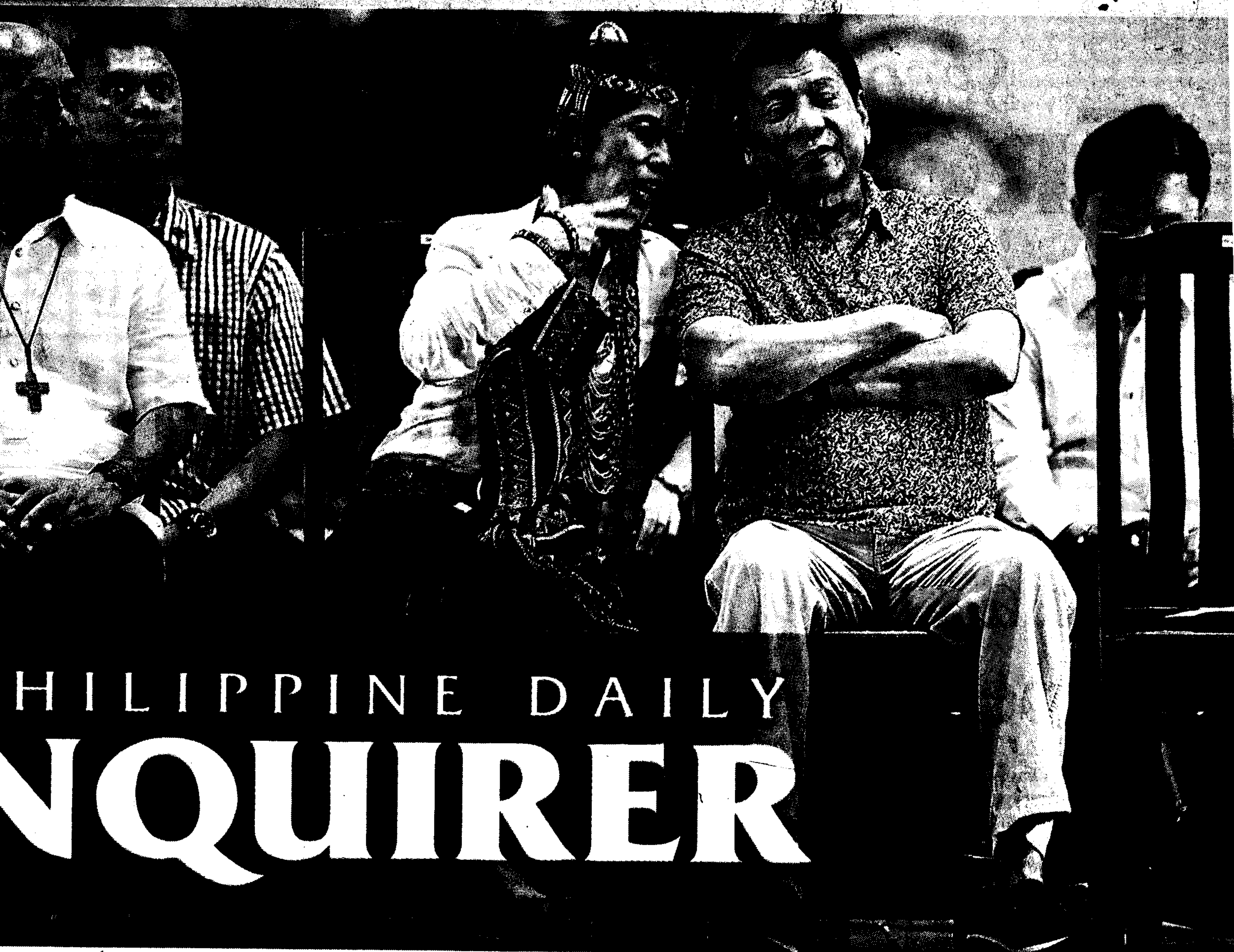


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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
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**GIN IN DAVAO** President Duterte, who has threatened to destroy oligarchs, says not all the rich are bad, citing Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, whom I  
aire but an environmental advocate.

KENT CAPUTE/DAVAO CITY INFORMATION OF



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

**LAGUNA** Lake, the country's largest body of freshwater, is dying due to heavy pollution and siltation attributed to wastes generated by lakeshore industries and communities. Church leaders likened the lake's slow death to the murder of innocent people. The task of keeping the lake alive, however, rests not solely on the government but on people themselves, said organizers of an event aimed at raising awareness on the lake's condition.

AL BENAVENTE/CONTRIBUTOR



# Prelate on Laguna Lake: It will die

By Romulo O. Ponte  
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CALAMBA CITY—Likening the slow death of Laguna Lake to murder, especially of innocent people, Catholic Church leaders and government officials have appealed to residents in lakeside communities and industries to do their share to save what remains of the crucial body of water.

In a gathering in this city last week, retired Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said it is the duty of everyone to take care of the lake by not contributing to its death.

"Time will come, that if Laguna Lake is not preserved and protected, it will no longer serve life. It will die. It will be killed," said Rosales in his homily during a Mass here.

The Mass was celebrated as part of an activity to call attention to the condition of the biggest freshwater lake in the country that covers communities in the provinces of Laguna and Rizal, and Metro Manila. More than 4,000 people, including government officials and workers, students and priests, attended the event.

Fr. Robert Reyes, the "running priest" who is also an environmental advocate, challenged the crowd to be involved in efforts to save Laguna Lake from extinction.

Reyes, citing accounts of scientists, said the lake had become heavily silted and polluted. Fish pens also crowd the lake, leaving little fishing ground to small fishermen who still depend on the lake to survive.

"Worse than a marshland, Laguna Lake would become a 'Smokey Mountain' in the future because of the continuous flow of dirt and wastes," he said.

"Owners of private corporations and industries are the real pests in our environment because [they] exploit and destroy nature just for money without due regard for its protection and sustainability," he said.

Lawyer Ipat Luna, who represented Environment Secretary Gina Lopez in the activity, urged those who attended the event to help in protecting the dying lake.

She said residents could do their share in saving Laguna Lake by ensuring that the wastes do not reach the lake.

Luna said people should avoid dumping domestic waste into the lake that could further poison it.

"[Let us nurture] watersheds to protect the lake and the environment," she said.

Mayor Cesar Perez, of Ibaños town, urged people to cooperate in efforts to save the lake by not using it as a septic tank.

"Our environment does need us but we need our environment [to survive]," he said.

He said people should dispose of their wastes properly and stop dumping these into canals and rivers that flow into the lake.

Participants from 10 parishes in northern communities in the cities of San Pedro, Biñan, Sta. Rosa and Cabuyao joined a fluvial procession toward the gathering's venue, Pantalan ng Aplaya (Port Aplaya) here.



# BusinessMirror

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### EDC welcomes DENR probe into Negros expansion

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

**E**NERGY Development Corp. (EDC) President and COO Richard B. Tantoco welcomes Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez's announcement to investigate the alleged violations committed by the company in its operation in Negros Oriental.

"We look forward to the opportunity to show Secretary Lopez that our Negros expansion is perfectly above board and the allegations about expanding into Mount Talinis are untrue. Responding to complaints from local residents in Mount Talinis against the EDC's planned expansion of its geothermal plant in Negros Oriental, Lopez on Thursday said she will not hesitate to "use the full force of the law" to protect the environment and preserve the ecological balance of Mount Talinis and other biodiversity areas.

EDC is one of the companies owned by Lopez's family. It is a subsidiary of First Gen, a pioneer in renewable-energy development in the Philippines.

Lopez vowed to look into the complaints of residents and non-governmental organizations based in Negros who oppose EDC's expansion, saying it would lead to destruction of old growth forests on Mount Talinis.

"We will look into this and I assure the public that the DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] will be fair through the entire process and take into account the concerns of all," Lopez said in a statement.

EDC, which operates a 223-megawatt geothermal plant in Valencia, Negros Oriental, submitted an application for environmental clearance certificate for the expansion of the plant's capacity by 60 additional megawatts.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau office in the region has held public hearings on the application to gather the position and opinions of stakeholders.

"Through good environmental governance, we aim to harmonize our economic activities with nature through sound practices that will not only address climate change, but ensure the sustainable use of our resources, conservation and preservation" Lopez said.

Lopez added that she adheres to strict compliance with environmental laws, rules, regulations and standards, and pointed out that under her watch, "there is no room for violation."

"This is our guiding principle, our commitment, our preaching and our practice in our quest for sustainable development. This is our call to all stakeholders," she said. "Our concern for the environment and the pursuit of the common good transcends familial and other ties."

Zeph Repollo of 350 Pilipinas earlier accused EDC of killing 576 trees on Mount Talinis or Cueernos de Negros a few years back.

Mount Talinis is a key biodiversity area spanning 23,565 hectares. It covers the towns of San Jose, Sibulan, Dauin, Zamboanguita, Siaton, Santa Catalina, Pamplona, Amlan and Valencia, the EDC's base of operation.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Rody to destroy triangle fish pens in Laguna Lake

By GIOVANNI NILLES

The large fish pens in Laguna Lake will have to go to give small-time fisherfolk better opportunities to earn a living.

"Laguna de Bay, whenever I look down there – I am sorry if you have one there – those triangles... you could not see (spaces)... and the fishermen are left with nothing," President Duterte said during a meeting with members of the Pastoral Parish Council for Responsible Voting in Malacang on Wednesday.

"And I said: one of these days, I will destroy them. It cannot be that they will be there for all time at the expense of the poor fishermen. I've warned them," the President said.

Members of the militant Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya-Pilipinas) welcomed the move, saying fisherfolk had long waited for "a leader who will address the welfare of small fishers."

"Large portion of Laguna de Bay has been occupied by big fishing and aquaculture companies for decades," Roman Antazo, Pamalakaya secretary general, said in a statement.

The group said almost 60 percent of the 94,000-hectare lake had been leased to big fish

pen operators by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) through the Fishpond Lease Agreement in violation of the law that only allowed 10 percent of the inland waters to be occupied privately.

"Although the LLDA only allows a maximum of 50 hectares per fish pen operator, some private fishing corporations managed to own more than what is designated by using different dummies in exchange for big taxes and fat commissions," Antazo stated.

He said the once communal fishing grounds had become "privatized."

"We have experienced several forms of harassment from the armed fish pens personnel and deprivation (of) our livelihood," Antazo said.

Pamalakaya tried but failed to get previous administrations to dismantle and refrain from awarding fishpond lease contracts to big fishing corporations and individuals.

Pamalakaya also warned Environment Secretary Gina Lopez against transforming Laguna de Bay into an eco-tourism zone, saying this might dislocate the poor and affect supply of fish in Metro Manila. – With Rhodina Villanueva





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**EDITORIAL****A crowded lake**

Anyone flying in or out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport can see that much of Laguna de Bay is now occupied by large fish pens. Experts have previously pointed out that the pens have caused heavy siltation.

Combined with indiscriminate reclamation and construction in an area that is supposed to be a natural floodplain, the fish pens have aggravated flooding in the lakeshore area. In previous torrential typhoons, it took up to two months for floodwaters to recede in the lakeshore areas of southern Metro Manila and neighboring Laguna.

Apart from the flooding, the fish pens have endangered the livelihoods of marginal fisherfolk. The large-scale breeding of predatory fish such as tilapia has also killed other freshwater species – a phenomenon that is also being seen in Taal Lake as fish pens sprout in the area, threatening the unique volcanic-aquatic ecosystem.

Now President Duterte has promised to dismantle much of the Laguna de Bay fish pens. He had mentioned the problem in his first State of the Nation Address, and repeated it the other day. Fisherfolk groups have pointed out that about 60 percent of the lake is now occupied by large fish pens, when the law allows only 10 percent of the 94,000-hectare lake to be allotted for this purpose. How this was allowed by the Laguna Lake Development Authority deserves scrutiny.

Many of the large fish pens are reportedly operated by persons connected with political clans, or are directly operated by local politicians around the lake. Several local government units also undertook reclamation projects that have worsened flooding in the lakeshore area. Perhaps it would take a strong-willed chief executive – one who does not owe his landslide victory to local government officials – to dismantle the fish pens.





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Editorial :

A crowded lake





# BusinessMirror

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### More investors eye Philippines for waste-to-energy ventures

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

**T**HE government is now seriously looking at waste-to-energy (WTE) or energy-from-waste to help address the country's garbage problem, an official of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) said on Thursday.

Potential investors from European countries, Korea, Japan, Australia, United States and China are now looking at the Philippines for possible WTE ventures, said Ely Ildefonso, executive director of the NSWMC.

There are also "homegrown" technology developers who expressed interest venturing into WTE, he added.

Experts are eyeing WTE as solution to the country's perennial garbage problem as WTE technologies also help reduce greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions.

The NSWMC has recently approved the WTE guideline that would allow the use of technologies that would convert waste into viable en-

ergy, Ildefonso added.

"One of the resolutions passed by the NSWMC is the waste-to-energy guideline. The benefit of this is to reduce the greenhouse-gas emission emitted by garbage in open dumps. We can now convert all these GHG into energy," he said.

"The guideline adopting any technology that can convert waste-to-energy will be allowed with certain standard, and following existing laws. Waste-to-energy technologies do not necessarily involve incineration," Ildefonso said.

WTE technologies would reduce the country's GHG emission while effectively reducing up to 95 percent the volume of wastes produced every day. In Central Luzon, he said, agricultural wastes from sugarcane could be disposed of through gasification.

There are now two waste-to-energy plants in Central Luzon, he said.

Following the approval of WTE guideline, he said a good number of investors have started to inquire about the possibility of doing business using various WTE technologies.

Among the WTE technologies allowed under the guideline are gasification, pyrolysis, bioreactor, biomethanation, hydrolysis, pyrolytic gasification, plasma and other thermal processes.

"These technologies do not use incinerators. There are a number of waste-to-energy technologies that we can adopt to reduce GHG and convert garbage into energy," Ildefonso said.

The Clean Air Act prohibits waste incineration in the Philippines.

Environmental groups have expressed opposition to a proposal to lift the ban on the use of incineration in the Philippines to address the looming garbage crisis in the Philippines.

Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez said she is not in favor of any kind of pollution. "As long as it does not pollute the air, I am open to possibilities," she said.

The NSWMC, Ildefonso said, is also considering possible public-private partnerships as an option, but private companies capable of financing are free to invest on their own, Ildefonso said.



# Rody to Gina: Destroy Laguna fish cages

By John Paolo Bencito, Sandy Araneta  
and Anna Leah E. Gonzales

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday ordered Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Paz Lopez to destroy the fish pens crowding the Laguna de Bay and instead transform it into an economic haven.

Laguna Bay is a 911-square-kilometer body of water into which 21 river tributaries drain. It reportedly supplies 30 to 40 percent of the total fish requirement of Metro Manila.

Its 90,000 hectares of brackish water experienced deterioration

courtesy of the past administrations' development projects under the Laguna Lake Basin 2020 scheme, which aims to convert the Laguna de Bay into a full commercial, industrial and economic hub in the year 2020.

"One of these days, I will destroy the fishpens. They cannot remain for all time at the expense of the poor fishermen. I've warned their owners," Duterte said during the courtesy call of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting late Wednesday night.

"I'm saying in a diplomatic way that Laguna Lake shall be transformed into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of the watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution," Duterte added.

The President's order comes in the wake of militant fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya-Pilipinas) warning

Lopez about the possible implications of transforming the Laguna de Bay into an eco-tourism zone following reports that fish products from the lake acquired high level of toxic chemicals that are dangerous to human's health.

"This is not the first time fish contamination was reported in the media but it was never proven. The people around the lake and even the whole of Metro Manila consume the fish from the lake and yet there were no reported bad effects," said Roman Antazo, Pamalakaya secretary general and a fisherman from Laguna Lake, in a statement.

If the conversion pushes through, it would affect tens of thousands of fisherfolk families living and rely-

ing on Laguna Lake, Antazo said.

"Let's say fish from Laguna de Bay isn't safe anymore due to pollution; does transforming it to an ecozone significantly solve the problem? No, because untreated water wastes dumped into the lake come from thousands of industrial and commercial establishments around it," he said.

Transforming the lake would also create a major shortage of fish in the National Capital Region, Pamalakaya said.

Lopez recently bared "initial plans" to carry out the President's order which include removing fish pens from the lake, reconfiguring the sewage systems of the lakeside communities and reforestation of the mountains around it.



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The Manila Times

News

## Dismantle fish pens in Laguna – Duterte

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the dismantling of illegal structures at the Laguna Lake, particularly fish cages that affect the livelihood of small fishermen.

The 90-hectare lake supplies more than half of Metro Manila's milk fish and *tilapia* requirements, but supply has been dwindling because of illegal fish pens.

In his speech at the environment summit in Davao City on Thursday, Duterte vowed to give

priority to poor fishermen in the use of the Laguna de Bay.

He noted that small fishermen eking out a living at the lake are left with very little area to fish because most areas of the lake had been allocated for private fish pens owned by big corporations.

"The poor will be my priority. Wherever there is inequality, it will be resolved in favor of the poor as against the rich," the President said.

Duterte directed Environment Secretary Regina Lopez and Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol to reduce the area occupied by retired generals and local officials.

"I told them dismantle all those things and give back Laguna de Bay to the poor fishermen of the country," the President said.

As of June 30, 2016, there were 357 registered and un-registered fishpen owners op-

erating at the Laguna de according to the Laguna Development Authority.

In his first State of the Na Address, Duterte said he plan convert the Laguna de Bay into eco-tourism zone.

"The Laguna Lake shall transformed into a vibrant nomic zone showcasing eco-ism by addressing the neg impact of the watershed des tion, land conversion and p tion," he said.

"The poor fishermen will priority in its entitlement," President added. lcc

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### **Sa Laguna de Bay** **Palaisdaan ng malalaking** **korporasyon** **ipinabubuwig ni Digong**

**IPABUBUWAG** ni Pangulong (PPCRV) sa Palasyo ka-Rodrigo Duterte ang mga palaisdaan ng pagmamay-ari ng malalaking korporasyon at mayayamang negosyante na umookupa sa malaking bahagi ng Laguna de Bay.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa courtesy call ng volunteers ng Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting

(PPCRV) sa Palasyo ka-Rodrigo Duterte, tuwing nagbibiyaha siya sakay ng chopper o eroplano ay nakikita niya mula sa himpapalaking bahagi ang Lawa ng Laguna.

Nangangahulugan aniya ito na ang maliliit na mangingisda ay wala nang

puwesto sa lawa, at monopolyado na ito ng malalaking korporasyon.

"Iyang Laguna de Bay, whenever I look down there. I'm sorry if you have one there, 'yung mga triangulo. Wala ka nang makitang ano... The only spaces, 'yung isang triangulo dito, the small one is just to divide maybe the one on the right or on the left. Ang mga fishermen diyan wala na," aniya.

Balak ni Pangulong Duterte na ipabaklas sa susunod na mga araw ang corporate at private fishpen upang mapakinabangan ng

maliliit na mamamalakaya ang Lawa ng Laguna.

Nabatid sa Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA), halos 60 porisyento ng 94-ektaryang lawa ay ipinaupang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) sa malalaking korporasyon sa pamamagitan ng Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA)

Anang PAMALAKAYA, paglabag ito sa batas na nagtatakda na 10% lang ang puwedeng okupahin ng pribadong sektor.

(ROSE NOVENARIO)



# PEOPLES Tonight

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Caloocan drive vs waste slated

By **EDD REYES**

**CALOOCAN** City Mayor Oscar "Oca" Malapitan launched a citywide war against waste in order to maintain cleanliness in all communities as part of the city's intensify campaign against dengue.

The three-day campaign in each of the city's 16 zones dubbed as "Oplan Clean Agad" include information dissemination through door-to-door flyers distribution and barangay-level lectures on dengue prevention on day one.

On Day two, a clean-up proper, de-clogging of waterways like creeks and canals, emptying of cans, bottles and other receptacles of stagnant water, removal of trash and clutters are scheduled while on day three, fogging, misting and larvicidal treatment of canals and drainages to eliminate the breeding grounds of mosquitoes will be implemented.

This year's opening salvo of Oplan Clean Agad will be held in the first three clusters wherein the first cluster in Zone 13, Barangay 132-155 will be held on August 5, 6 and 7. Second cluster in Zone 12, Barangay 132-141 on August 12, 13 and 14 and the third cluster in Barangay 178 on August 19, 20 and 21. Other zones and barangays will be scheduled on later dates.

Mayor Malapitan stressed the need to maintain clean surroundings at all times since prevention is better than cure. "The months of June-August register high incidence of dengue cases specially among children," Malapitan said.

"The city spends so much in treating dengue victims in hospitals. If we can drastically reduce the dengue inci-

dence in Caloocan, the city would save a big amount of funds, which can be re-channeled to building new health centers in the barangays," the mayor added.

Apart from this annual campaign against the potentially fatal disease, during the entire year, the Caloocan Health Department and Environmental Sanitation Services (ESS) will regularly conduct measures to raise dengue awareness and promote a clean environment.

With **Hannah Rhocell-Hynnia Cruz (OJT)**





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### DEMAND AND SUPPLY

By BOO CHANCO



### Go Gina, go!

Like President Duterte, Gina Lopez is a person we would have to invent out of necessity, if she didn't exist. Digong and Gina have big jobs to do and we are lucky to have people like them who are totally committed to cleaning up the country and making life better for everyone.

Both are controversial and they relish their images for all the right reasons. The mere mention of their names strikes fear in the hearts of the folks who have been less than socially responsible through the years. They have set out in their minds what they want to accomplish and they have the political will to see that happens.

If Gina were not the Environment and Natural Resources secretary, we would right now feel totally helpless. It should anger every Filipino to read the stories and see the pictures of how Zambales was ravaged by mining companies with the connivance of its previous governor.

Not only that, the Chinese were apparently allowed to level a couple of mountains so they could obtain the rocks and soil they used in making islands out of some contested coral reefs in the West Philippine Sea. Now, with President Duterte and Sec. Gina working together, there will be hell to pay.

Some people think Gina is nothing but a mantra mumbling do-gooder who belongs to the Save the Earth fringe and is ill-equipped to perform her tasks as DENR secretary. They are totally mistaken.

Gina has been at it for decades now. She knows the problems and is a passionate crusader for environmental protection. She has also been fighting for the rights of our marginalized citizens, from abused children to the poor people in far off communities victimized by the big guys.

Gina knows how difficult and how dangerous her task is. She lost a number of her own people who were killed in the process of Gina's seemingly impossible goal of reforesting the Balara watershed area many years ago. But she is tough as nails and is not easily scared off by problems or threats.

Gina also loves what more ordinary leaders see as impossible tasks... like cleaning up the Pasig River. The only reason the Pasig River isn't clean yet is because it is such a big job that requires years and a more supportive national administration.

Gina is also approaching the Pasig river clean-up job by first focusing on the *esteros* and other tributaries flowing into the River. It makes no sense to try to clean up the river and allow dirty water from its tributaries to flow in.

She managed to clean up the Estero de Paco and another *estero* near Malacanang. She wants to go after the San Juan River next, but was frustrated by the lack of national and local government support.

Now she has to clean up the Laguna de Bay after President Duterte directly ordered her to do so. She also got orders to close the mines that have violated conditions of their permits, specially with respect to environmental issues.

But I think she has to admit that there is such a thing as responsible mining, except that implementation of tough government regulations is needed to keep them responsible. The mining industry is subject to the ups and downs of the world commodities market and we have seen how supposedly responsible miners abandon their obligations when they experience a downturn.

It doesn't matter that the miner is a big foreign company. As President Duterte pointed out, look what happened to Marcopper. A big Canadian company listed in the Toronto Stock Exchange suffered an accident and abandoned its clean up obligation and the damage to the environment is felt up to today.

I had visited the Marcopper mine site in its glory days and they seem to have been doing everything right, in a word, responsibly. They had a medical facility on site that also served the local community. Their power generators also provided power to the locals. But when tragedy struck, they simply left and abandoned everything.

Then we have big local mining companies like Philex. It recently had an accident, but Philex showed what being responsible meant. It helps that it is a local company and it had a reputation to protect and nowhere to flee. They made things right again. This is the kind of mining company Gina must help become the example for the rest.

The mining industry is required by law to rehabilitate fully exploited mine sites, and by requirement of law must set aside money to ensure this happens. This is what Sec. Gina must be strict with. Perhaps it is necessary to regularly assess the fund balance to see if there is a need to top it up.

I am confident the mining industry and Sec. Gina can live together, if they can just sit back a moment and figure out where their interests converge. As a public official, Gina is obligated to uphold the national interest... so should the mining industry.

An enlightened private sector industry shouldn't be too focused on the bottom line and sacrifice public good. As President Duterte puts it, it is as simple as that. And for now, we can only cheer Gina from the sidelines and urge her to go, go and go get the job done.

RJ

An old friend, Chickie Locsin, reacted to a column a few weeks ago about some Duterte appointments including RJ Jacinto. Chickie wishes to rectify some points about RJ.

1) RJ didn't cause the family corporation to collapse. Ramon was excluded from the family corporation. When the family was in exile during martial law, Ramon's businesses thrived thru martial law, under the stewardship of Gringo Honasan and returned to Ramon in a healthy state when they returned. The favorites of their dad were Joselito and Pocholo so they were the only two in the corporation. It is not true Ramon "inherited a family corporation and lost it all"

Ramon was not part of the family corporation which unfortunately floundered and collapsed due to poor management. When the family returned from exile and regained the various companies, his father allowed him to keep DZRJ. Over time Ramon built, his own business empire from this.

2) It is not true that Ramon started a family feud - The truth of the matter is that a younger sister triggered a family feud that ended in court.

Oh well... I am not inclined to get involved in their family feud so I will stop here.

Boo Chanco's e-mail address is [bchanco@gmail.com](mailto:bchanco@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter @boochanco



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Pineda, GMA launch modern farming for Aetas

By **FRANCO G. REGALA**

**FLORIDABLANCA, Pampanga** — The provincial government has launched a program for the Indigenous People (IPs) here to better their farming and improve their income.

In ceremonies held Wednesday, Governor Lilia Pineda and former president now Rep. Gloria Macapagal-

Arroyo led the launching of season-long Training on Vegetable Production for the Indigenous People (IPs) at Floridablanca National Agricultural School (FNAS).

Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) Officer Ed Salenga said the provincial government has partnered with Allied Botanical Corporation, a leading supplier of seedlings in the Philippines,

the Department of Agriculture and OPA to conduct a 12-day training and actualization of modern farming for the Aeta farmers.

"The Aeta participants will undergo trainings every Friday for 12 months on how to plant high-value crops by using modern methods like greenhouse planting, proper soil conditioning, crop planning and more," said Salenga.



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Water district officials sacked

By A. Perez Rimando

OROQUIETA CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman has ordered the dismissal from the government service of 10 top officials of the water district in this capital city, a court report recently stated.

The report said Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales found the officials of the Oroquieta City Water District “guilty of grave misconduct.”

The Ombudsman identified the discharged executives as general manager Ricardo Ravacio, corporate account analyst Leonita Loma, board member Diego Yew; division managers Rosalyn Policarpio, Aljun John Berenguel and Bobith Balancio; finance officers Nelda Antonette Cabatingan, Arleen Adlaon and Joey Kim Villabert; and former district chairman Evelyn Catherine Silagon.

The report said the aforementioned OCWD top personnel were meted “the accessory penalties of cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits, perpetual disqualification from reemployment in the public service and barred from taking the civil service examinations.”

The Ombudsman, in a separate decision, added that “the respondents would be indicted for multiple counts of malversation of public funds.”

The report noted that graft investigators confirmed the findings of the Commission on Audit that the accused local water district officers “caused 91 fund withdrawals totaling P790,515.80 which were spent as organizational costs and debt write-offs despite insufficient supporting documents.”

The Ombudsman further said “another P5,543,716.85 in public funds were also disbursed with no appropriate supporting papers.”



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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## Champagne makers seek grapes that beat climate change

REIMS—France's Champagne country has little to celebrate as global warming threatens to wreak havoc on production, forcing winegrowers to take a sober look at their future.

"We are taking a very long-term view," says Thibaut Le Mailloux of the Champagne Committee, a trade association of independent winegrowers and

merchants.

Climate change has already had an effect on the champagne production cycle.

The past 20 years has seen the harvest brought forward by about two weeks; grapes are bigger and the alcohol content has risen by around one degree.

For the time being these factors help production, but they

could spell disaster if, as experts predict, average global temperatures rise by up to five degrees Celsius between now and the end of the century.

"We really must start researching now as in 25 years it will be too late," Le Mailloux says.

The Champagne Committee is looking to develop new, more

resistant grape varieties while retaining all the properties of the "King of Wines."

Joining forces with the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and a winegrowers institute in the southern region of Montpellier, they have embarked on a 15-year program to create grape varieties that will beat climate change. **AFP**