

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 10 AUG 2016

DAY : Wednesday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

# The Manila Times

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Lopez vows to support displaced mine workers

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Regina Paz Lopez on Tuesday reaffirmed her commitment to provide local mine workers displaced by a crackdown on illegal and irresponsible mining operations with alternative livelihood.

In response to growing concerns about a series of shutdowns of mining companies, Lopez said the DENR would tap displaced workers to the implement the National Greening Program (NGP).

Providing alternative livelihood is part of the DENR's move to expand its role beyond regulation to be more development-driven by using its resources for sustainable development.

"Obviously, communities stay long after mining operations close down. The people are not given sustainable livelihoods that outlive mining," Lopez said.

The NGP is geared toward planting 1.6 million hectares with trees by the end of 2016. The rehabilitation initiative doubles as an anti-poverty measure due to its cash-for-work component.

In November last year, then-President Benigno Aquino 3rd issued an executive order creating the "Expanded NGP" to reforest "all remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands" from 2016 to 2028.

Lopez noted the minerals development industry, one of the most capital-intensive industries in the country, employs only 250,000 workers or about 0.6 percent of the total labor force.

There are 40 large-scale metallic mines and 65 non-metallic mines in the Philippines. On the other hand, about 300,000 individuals are into small-scale mining, a mining activity considered by the government as illegal outside the Minahang Bayan area.

Eight mining companies have been shut down by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau for failing to comply with regulatory requirements. On Monday, Lopez stopped all small-scale mining activities outside the Minahang Bayan.

Lopez said the DENR is eyeing other revenue streams as an alternative to mining, such as developing ecotourism spots throughout the country. She cited the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City and Palawan as models.

"These are superb examples of ecotourism following the basic concept of preserving the country's natural resources without extraction while generating revenues that can possibly beat the 1 percent of GDP the mining industry is giving the country," she said.

**JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ**



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## DENR to aid mine workers displaced by closures

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it will seek to provide alternative livelihoods for mine workers displaced by recent mine closures.

"This is how unsustainability manifests itself. Irresponsible mining has a perverse vicious cycle: mining businesses produce mining-related jobs for affected communities. Obviously, communities stay long after mining operations close down. The people are not given sustainable livelihoods that outlive mining," Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez said in a statement the agency sent to reporters via e-mail on Tuesday.

The statement was made in response to the plight of mine workers displaced by the suspension of mining companies found to be subpar in terms of environmental and safety standards.

To date, the government has suspended eight mines after Ms. Lopez issued the first memorandum order for a review of mines' compliance in early July.

The industry currently consists of 40 large-scale metallic mining companies, 65 nonmetallic firms, and an estimated 300,000 small-scale and illegal mine operations throughout the country.

The DENR may direct mine workers to the National Greening Program (NGP), a reforestation initiative, under a cash-for-work arrangement, according to Ms. Lopez.

Initially, the NGP set a target of 1.6 million hectares for reforestation by the end of 2016. In November, however, the timetable for the project implementation was stretched by former President Benigno S. C. Aquino III who issued an executive

order rationalizing the expansion of the NGP in a bid to reforest "all remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands" by 2028.

In addition, Ms. Lopez said the DENR is also looking at promoting alternative industries such as ecotourism. She pointed to sites like Palawan as well as the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City as models.

"These are superb examples of ecotourism following the basic concept of preserving the country's natural resources without extraction while generating revenue that can beat the 1% of GDP the mining industry is giving the country," she added.

The La Mesa Ecopark reportedly generates P40 million in revenue annually while the government of Palawan generated P19 billion from tourism in 2015. — **Janina C. Lim**

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

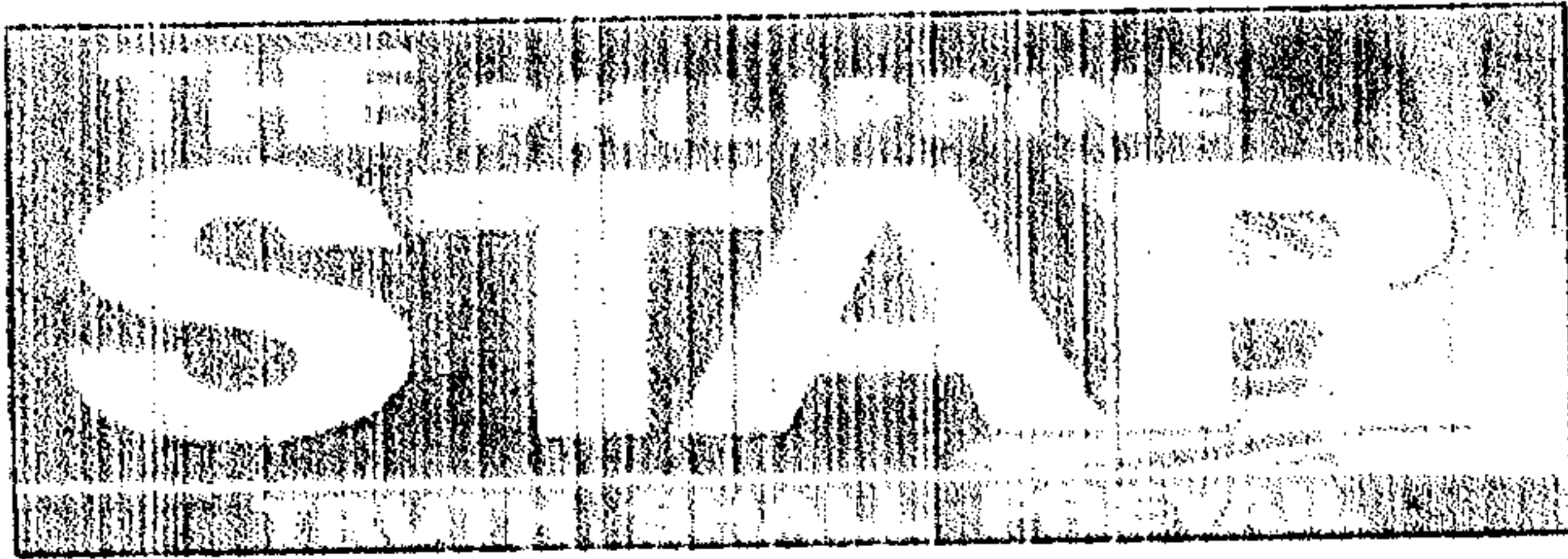
DENR to aid mine workers  
displaced by closures



BW FILE PHOTO

**ENVIRONMENT** Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez said the DENR is looking at promoting alternative industries such as ecotourism — citing Palawan as well as the La Mesa Ecopark (above) in Quezon City as models.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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# Lopez suspends Bulacan iron-mining company

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

🐦 @jonlmayuga

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has suspended an iron-mining company operating in Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan, for causing environmental pollution.

Environment Senior Undersecretary Leo L. Jasareno, concurrent head of the department's Mining Audit Team, said Ore Asia Mining Co. also failed to secure the ISO 14001 certification as required by DENR Executive Order 2015-07.

The company has been the subject of complaint by affected residents in Doña Remedios Trinidad.

The audit team inspected the area and found out that the river tributary from Sibul stream was affected by Ore Asia's operations.

"The river water has become reddish-brown because of the discarded water from the mines that was dumped to the waterway," Jasareno said.

He added that the Mineral Ore Transport Permit (MOTP) issued to Ore Asia has been withdrawn, as a consequence of the water pollution it caused and the company's failure to secure ISO 14001 certification.

"Once you withdraw the MOTP, hauling also stops," Jasareno said.

This means that the company is now prohibited from shipping out iron ore.

"Ore Asia is the only iron-producing mine

in the country as of today," Jasareno said.

Last year Ore Asia produced 40,000 metric tons of iron ore.

Aside from exporting iron ore, Ore Asia processes iron and supplies Eagle Cement, which is operating in the same province, Jasareno said.

Ore Asia is the seventh mining company to be suspended since Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez assumed the top DENR post.

Lopez had, so far, suspended two nickel-mining companies operating in Zambales; two in Palawan; one on Manicani Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar; and one in Surigao del Norte.

Meanwhile, Lopez said the mining audit will cover all mining companies operating in the country.

"Small, big, everyone. We'll finish it in two weeks," Lopez said. She vowed to make the results of the audit transparent and will be posted in a DENR web site.

"We are not selective in the audit. Not only the operations but the environment clearance certificate, the permit...all will be audited in light of the common good," Lopez said.

According to Jasareno, the mining audits are now simultaneously being conducted in various parts of the country. The audit teams, he said, are expected to come up with recommendations.

"We are waiting for the result of the audit and their recommendation. But let me clarify that the recommendations of the audit team is not final. We would still have to validate it," he added.



# Small-scale miners seek help from gov't

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AN UMBRELLA group of small-scale miners yesterday called on the Duterte administration to help them ramp up their operations instead of banning their trade, which was the only source of livelihood for many of them.

The Philippine National Coalition of Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners (PNCASM) was reacting to an announcement made last Monday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources about

having no small-scale mining allowed.

Environment Secretary Regina Lopez said in a briefing there was no permit issued to small-scale miners.

Environment Undersecretary Leo Jasareno said this meant that any small-scale mine that was operating "is not legal."

PNCASM describes itself as representing small mines that are flourishing in provinces that include Kalinga, Romblon, Compostela Valley, South Cotabato and Camarines Norte.

Eve Cubelo, who is part of the secretariat that convened PNCASM, said in an interview that making small-scale mining illegal would not deter miners who had no other resources but this activity.

"This policy of criminalizing artisanal and small-scale mining will not make it stop," Cubelo said. "*Lalo lang silang magtatago* (They will only hide from the government more carefully)."

"We call on the government to help small-scale miners meet mining standards and uplift their situation instead of ban-

ning their livelihood," she said.

Cubelo said there were 350,000 miners depending on small-scale operations across the country. If those indirectly depending on small-scale mining for their livelihood are included, the number rises to three million.

"We understand where Secretary Lopez is coming from, but if she says this is illegal, what is the alternative for the miners?" Cubelo said.

In a statement, Lopez said the DENR was committed to provide alternative

livelihood to mine workers displaced by the suspension of mining activities that failed to meet standards.

Lopez said the DENR could tap displaced workers for the National Greening Program (NGP), a reforestation effort geared to cover 1.6 million hectares with trees by the end of 2016.

She said the DENR was also eyeing other revenue streams as an alternative to mining such as developing ecotourism spots such as the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City and similar projects in Palawan.



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## Demilitarize lumad territories — Lopez

**ENVIRONMENT** Secretary Gina Lopez has called for the immediate demilitarization of lands owned by the *lumad* or indigenous peoples in Mindanao to ensure the safe return of those who left their communities because of heavy militarization and encroachment of mining activities on their ancestral lands.

Lopez made the call after she visited on Friday the Haran compound of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines which has been serving as refuge for around 300 *lumad* evacuees who fled their homes and farmlands last year following harassment by paramilitary groups and indiscriminate killings of their leaders.

"Why do you have to bring these people out of the forests and bring them to the city? This is senseless," Lopez pointed out.

The Environment chief said the commander of the Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Division, Major Gen. Rafael Valencia, already assured her about the withdrawal of military troops from *lumad* areas next week.

Lumad leaders claimed military personnel and some of their fellow IPs belonging to paramilitary groups have struck fear among IP members and forced them to evacuate their lands to allow large-scale mining and logging companies to proceed with their operations.

They further alleged that some mining firms had turned IP members against each other by arming and forcibly offering them money in exchange for their lands.

Lopez vowed to immediately look into the permits of the mining companies mentioned by the *lumad* leaders and pri-

oritize them in the ongoing mining audit being conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

DENR Undersecretary Leo Jasareno, head of the agency's mining audit team, assured the *lumad* that their ancestral lands encroached by mining operations will be returned to them within the month.

"The DENR would return their lands to the *lumad* within August, as long as it is proven that the areas were occupied without the consent of the entire tribal community since it is illegal for mining companies to operate in ancestral lands," Jasareno said.

During her visit to the UCCP compound, Lopez could not hide her dismay when she found out that the tents occupied by the *lumad* were set on fire by still unidentified men last February, hurting at least

five evacuees.

Deeply touched by the plight of the *lumad* evacuees, Lopez promised she would do everything in her power to make sure their ancestral lands are returned to them.

The DENR secretary also invited members of the civil society, including the youth and mountaineering groups, to help and join the *lumad* in their journey back to their ancestral lands.

"Let us help give them their lands back. This would be good for character formation," Lopez said.

At the same time, Lopez promised to help provide the needs of the *lumad* in order for them to start new lives.

She said she would coordinate with the Department of Agriculture in assisting the *lumad*, who rely heavily on agriculture to support their livelihoods. **PNA**



## Quarrying threatens irrigation dams, canals

By **Gabriel Cardinoza**  
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Irrigation dams and canals in San Fabian and Rosales towns in Pangasinan province are being threatened by sand and gravel quarry sites that operate too close to the structures, according to a farm irrigators' group.

"When the rivers swell, the strong current will erode the foundation and protection walls of the structures, causing these to weaken and eventually collapse," said Oftociano Manalo, president of the Pangasinan Federation of Irrigators' Associations.

The irrigation systems in San Fabian and Rosales can serve 4,000 hectares of farms in each town.

Manalo said his group had been trying to determine how the quarry operations have been allowed near the waterways. Under mining regulations, provincial governments issue permits for quarry sites

with areas within or below 5 ha.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources oversees quarry sites with areas exceeding 5 ha. As a policy, quarry operations must be at least a kilometer away from irrigation structures.

The National Irrigation Administration has no authority to stop the quarry operations, "so we are appealing to authorities to safeguard the structures that we are using," Manalo said.

He said irrigators also welcomed plans to abolish irrigation service fees by appropriating a maintenance budget for irrigation dams.

"It would be a big help for us because we won't have to pay P1,750 during wet crop season and P2,450 during dry crop season," he said.

He said 70 percent of the irrigation fees is used for maintenance while the rest is for salaries of contractual employees.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# 'Shock and awe' mining industry crackdown rattles nickel markets

AS THE Philippines' tough-talking new President ratchets up a campaign against irresponsible mining, the suspension of a quarter of the country's nickel mines and the risk of more action to come is spooking global nickel markets.

The Southeast Asian nation is China's biggest supplier of nickel ore—used to make stainless steel—and with few alternative suppliers available, the crackdown pushed nickel prices up 13 percent last month.

President Duterte, who swept to power on June 30 with a vow to crush crime by targeting hundreds of suspected drug dealers, has warned miners to follow tighter environmental rules or shut down, saying the country could survive without mining.

"Whether it is legal or not it will destroy the country," Duterte told a forum last Thursday. "It's about time to reconfigure the wealth of the nation among its citizens."

Six out of 27 nickel mines were suspended in the first weeks of an audit that began on July 8—representing 8 percent of total output—and the suspension of a seventh was announced on Thursday.

Mining has powerful opponents in the Philippines, including the influential Catholic Church, following public anger over past environmental disasters and the displacement of local communities.

Despite a wealth of untapped resources, a once thriving industry in the 1970s is now dominated by a few local miners, mostly nickel producers, and even fewer foreign players, led by Australian miner

OceanaGold Corp. Mining contributed less than 1 percent to the Philippine economy last year.

## Open pit 'madness'

"I would like that the mining companies, the ones that we suspend, must rehabilitate. That is social justice," said Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez, a staunch environmentalist appointed by Duterte who believed open-pit mining was "madness."

The government has not said how many of the country's 40 mines have been audited so far, but Leo Jasareno, who is supervising the audit as a senior undersecretary in Lopez's department, said he expected it to be completed this month.

"For as long as there is cause and the reason falls within (legal) grounds, the government has the authority to cancel mining contracts," Jasareno said.

Jasareno was replaced earlier this week as head of the government's Mines and Geosciences Bureau by Mario Luis Jacinto, a geologist who worked in southern Davao City where Duterte was mayor for 22 years.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said some miners were weighing up possible legal options in the event of more mine closures.

## Nickel shock

But they would "rather have the Philippine government appreciate the industry for its merits," said chamber spokesman Ronald Recidoro.

The Philippines supplied 95 percent of China's nickel ore imports in the first six months of 2016, according to Chinese customs data, and while global stocks were high, a suspension or closure of more mines could drive refined nickel prices up further.

"If the Philippines does shut its mining industry, the fact that you've got high stocks simply won't matter, the market will simply skyrocket," said Wood Mackenzie analyst Andrew Mitchell.

Nickel touched an 11-month high of \$10,900 a ton on July 21, and has stayed well above \$10,000 since.

## Responsible mining

The government is now also investigating public complaints of environmental infractions against a local iron ore miner and against OceanaGold's exploration of an area near its Didipio gold mine that complainants want for agriculture, said Jasareno.

OceanaGold declined to comment on the exploration issue, but chief executive Mick Wilkes said the company supported Duterte's stance on responsible mining and was happy to work with the new administration.

Manila-based business consultant Peter Wallace said Duterte appeared to be employing his "shock and awe" strategy in his war against drugs in dealing with miners.

"If it puts fear into the irresponsible lot and gets them to close down or for local governments to force their closure, this is good. But if it scares away the responsible ones that's not so good," he said. **Reuters**



## King-king project gets 25-yr MPSA extension

VILLAR-CONTROLLED St. Augustine Gold and Copper Ltd. (SAGC) on Monday announced that regulators had approved the renewal for another 25 years of the mineral production sharing agreement for the \$2-billion King-king project in Compostela Valley.

This develops as Environment Secretary Regina Lopez on the same day celebrated the shuttering of illegal mining, especially those related to gold.

"Who needs gold? Gold is not essential for survival," Lopez said in a briefing.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau confirmed that the renewal of the MPSA for King-king was granted to Nationwide Development Corp. (Nadecor), SAGC's partner.

However, INQUIRER sources said the renewal was actually approved under the previous administration. Upon her appointment as DENR chief, Lopez vowed that no new mining activities would be allowed.

"The renewal of the MPSA represents another milestone in our ongoing efforts to advance and de-risk the King-king project," St. Au-

gustine president and chief executive Paolo A. Villar said in a statement.

"With all major mine permits approved, the MPSA renewal now paves the way for the next phase of King-king's development," Villar said.

He said SAGC, through Nadecor, would provide the needed financing, technology, management and personnel for King-king's development, construction and operation.

Villar said that following the approval earlier of the Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility (DMPF), Nadecor and SAGC would work cooperatively to advance the project to construction to be followed by operation of the mine.

He said the King-king Project was expected to have positive impact on all project stakeholders and the community at large, and has been "designed to minimize any environmental impact."

Nadecor and SAGC expect to extract from King-king 3.16 billion pounds of copper and 5.43 million ounces of gold over 25 years. **Ronnel W. Domingo**



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### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Nadecor-St. Augustine to hire small-scale miners

DAVAO CITY — St. Augustine Services, Inc. (SASI), the partnership between Nationwide Development Corp. (NADECOR) and St. Augustine Gold and Copper Ltd., said it is planning to take in small-scale miners in response to Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez's order to stop small-scale mining outside designated areas.

Jonathan A. Bañez, SASI community development officer, said the company submitted a plan to the government to set aside an area for community mining for those individuals absorbed by the company.

"We are even willing to assist the government in helping small-scale mining operations become regulated and comply with responsible mining policies," Mr. Bañez said in an interview.

SASI holds a mining production sharing agreement with the government for copper and gold in Kingking, Pantukan, Compostela Valley, which is considered to have one of the richest mineral reserves in the country.

Mr. Bañez declined to provide more details on the plan, which is awaiting government review.

Earlier this year, Nadecor Operations Manager Petronilo V. Cancino said in an interview here that the partnership is aiming to start mining by 2017.

Mr. Bañez pointed out that some small-scale miners in the Pantukan area "have been using dynamite and backhoes (in their operations)," but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been unable to address this.

"The government needs to come up with a clear policy on how to deal with (small scale miners)," he said.

Mr. Bañez said that while big companies "have been the whipping boys of the government," small scale miners "seemed to be protected... even when they have been destroying the environment."

About two weeks ago, the National Economic and Development Authority's Davao Region office wrote Ms. Lopez to review and establish regulations for small-scale miners as initiatives in the past to establish the Minahang Bayan did not take off.

The Minahang Bayan is a government-approved community-based mining zone. Among the areas where it was established was Compostela Valley. — **Carmelito Q. Francisco**



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### CELLAR DWELLER NO MORE? PHILIPPINE MINING PRE-DUTERTE AS SEEN BY FOREIGN INVESTORS

The Philippines' attractiveness as a mining investment destination improved in the Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2015 published before President Rodrigo R. Duterte took office at the end of that month. From 95<sup>th</sup> out of 122 mineral-rich areas around the world in the 2014 round, climbed to 72<sup>nd</sup> out of 109 jurisdictions in last year's Investment Attractiveness Index. Out of the two components making up the overall index, the Philippines was the most ground in the Best Practices Mineral Potential Index, which rates areas according to geologic attractiveness. From 65<sup>th</sup> place in 2014, the Philippines climbed to the 35<sup>th</sup> spot in last year's survey round. Despite the Aquino administration's moratorium on new mining tenements, the Philippines also improved its Policy Perception Index (PPI), which measures the impact of government policy on investor attitudes. From 113<sup>th</sup> in 2014, the country went up to 89<sup>th</sup> in last year's survey round. Apart from the Philippines, other locations that emerged from the bottom 10 of the PPI were Bolivia, Ecuador, Mendoza in Argentina, and

#### Investment Attractiveness Index

2015 ranking\* (out of 109)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

43

NEW ZEALAND

44

INDONESIA

49

PHILIPPINES

72

MALAYSIA

76

FIJI

79

NEW CALEDONIA

88

SOLOMON ISLANDS

105

Philippines score

2015

56.59

2014

48.78

2013

64.54

2012/  
2013

59.36

2011/  
2012

64.12

0 10 20 30 40 50 60

#### Policy Perception Index

2015 ranking\* (out of 109)

NEW ZEALAND

30

FIJI

53

MALAYSIA

64

NEW CALEDONIA

66

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

77

PHILIPPINES

89

INDONESIA

91

SOLOMON ISLANDS

96

2015 41.48

2014 33.46

2013 42.41

2012/  
2013 37.40

2011/  
2012 33.12

0 10 20

#### Best Practices Mineral Potential Index

2015 ranking\* (out of 109)

INDONESIA

3

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

12

PHILIPPINES

35

NEW ZEALAND

62

MALAYSIA

78

FIJI

93

NEW CALEDONIA

101

SOLOMON ISLANDS

104

2015 0.67

2014 0.59

2013 0.79

2012/  
2013 0.74

2011/  
2012 0.85

0.0 0.2 0.4

NOTE: \*The Philippines was classified in the indices under the Oceania group, composed of eight economies.

SOURCE: FRASER INSTITUTE ANNUAL SURVEY OF MINING COMPANIES 2015 BUSINESSWORLD



## KAMPANYA VS ILLEGAL MINING PINAIGTING

**BILANG** na ang araw ng mga small scale miner na iligal na nagmimina sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa.

Ito ang ipinahiwatig ng pamahalaan matapos lumagda sa isang memorandum of agreement ang apat na departamento - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Transportation (DOTr) at Department of National Defense (DND) - kasama ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP) at Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) para puksain ang iligal na pagmimina, pagtotroso, pangingisda at

polusyon.

Tinawag ni DENR Secretary Gina Lopez ang grupo bilang National Anti-Environmental Crimes Task Force na makatuwang nila kontra mga indibidwal o grupo na gumagawa ng environmental crimes.

Ayon kay Lopez, ang anumang paglabag sa batas ay dapat papanagutin, ito man ay maliit o malaking grupo.

Ang mga small scale miner ay ang kadalasang nagmimina ng ginto.

Sinabi ni Lopez na hindi kailangan ang ginto para mabuhay at ang mas mahalaga, aniya, ay ang ligtas na kapaligiran at malinis na hangin.

"We don't need gold

to live. Gold is not an essential thing for survival," aniya.

Ipinahayag naman ni DENR Undersecretary Leo Jasareno na may tatlong Minahang Bayan ang naaprubahan sa Masbate, Samar at Davao Oriental habang ang ibang aplikasyon ay nasa proseso pa lamang.

Ang Minahang Bayan ay itinakda ng pamahalaan sa isang lalawigan para maging sentro ng pagkukunan ng mineral ng maliliit na minero at masubaybayan ang produksiyon ng ginto.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Jasareno na kahit naaprubahan ang Minahang Bayan, hindi pa rin maaaring makapag-

mina ng ginto ang mga small scale miner dahil kailangan pa nilang kumuha ng permit sa Provincial Mining for Regulatory Board (PMRB).

Aniya, ang anumang pagmimina na gagawin ng mga small scale miner ay maituturing na iligal hanggang wala silang hawak na permit.

Sa pagtaya ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), aabot sa may 300,000 hanggang 400,000 ang mga small scale miner sa bansa at 60 porsiyento ng kanilang nakukuhang ginto ay isang porsiyento lamang ang nabebenta sa Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

MONCHET LARANO



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DAHIL sa quarrying at operasyon ng pabrika ng semento ay nalalapit nang mapatag ang isang bundok na nasasakupan ng BARANGAY SAN JOSE, ANTIPOLO CITY, kung saan ay pinangangambahan ng mga residente sa naturang lugar na mas magdudulot ng matinding perhuwisyo kapag nagkaroon ng mga kalamidad.

Isang opisyal ng Home Owners Association na nagpapatawag lamang sa code name na "BLACK PANTHER" para sa seguridad ng kaniyang buhay at huwag siyang mapaginitan sa kanilang barangay na patuloy pa rin umano ang walang habas na pagpapasabog ng mga dinamita na isinasagawa ng TERESA MARBLE CORPORATION sa bundok ng BRGY. SAN JOSE, ANTIPOLO CITY, na may mga pagkakataon pang ang mga malalakng tipak ng bato ay nagtatalisika na umaabot sa mga kabahayan; kung saan ay may mga nadidisgrasya rin umanong mga tao sa isinasagawang blastings.

Sa operasyon naman ng SOLID CEMENT CORPORATION na nasa SITIO TAGBAK, BRGY. SAN JOSE, ANTIPOLO CITY na mina-manage na ng CEMEX na isang MEXICAN MULTINATIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS COMPANY, ay nagliliparan naman umano ang 'dusts' sa ere na ang mga bubungan ng bahay halos masemento na rin dahil sa mga alikabok na ibinubuga umano ng naturang pabrika ng semento; kung saan ay namamatay rin umano ang mga halaman dahil sa epekto ng mga ibinubuga ng nasabing pabrika.



## KABUNDUKAN SA RIZAL PROVINCE NAPAPATAG NA

Naipunto naman ni TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES (TUCP) SPOKESMAN ALAN TANJUSAY na kailangan umanong mapagtuunan ng pansin ang sitwasyon ng mga quarrying at cement factories hindi lamang sa naturang lalawigan kundi sa buong bansa na mabigyan ng seguridad ang mga trabahador lalo na ang mga natotoka sa mga blastings; kung saan ay marami umanong mga trabahador ang underpaid sa kanilang mga peligrong pagtatrabaho na aniya ay dapat masiyasat ang lahat ng mga kompanya sa mga pagmimina o quarrying at mga cement factories.

"Ang gobyerno natin ay dapat na masiyasat ang kalagayan ng mga manggagawa kung sapat ba ang pasuweldo at benepisyo kapalit ng peligrong pagtatrabaho nila, bukod diyan ay ang ating kalikasan ang mapangalagaan dahil pag nasira ang ating mga kabundukan ay tayo rin ang magsa-suffer pagdating ng panahon," pagpupunto ni TANJUSAY.

PAGING DENR SECRETARY GINA LOPEZ..., pakisiyasat nga po ang sitwasyon ng mga residente sa BRGY. SAN JOSE, ANTIPOLO CITY na kinaroroonan ng bundok na pinupulbos ng TERESA MARBLE CORP at ng SOLID CEMENT., kung ang mga ito ba ay sumusunod sa itinatakda ng ating batas.

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## EDITORIAL

### PANAGUTIN SILA LAHAT SA MGA KOMUNIDAD

TAGBAGYO at tag-ulan na at muling nasasaksihan ang mga epekto ng pagsira sa kalikasan ng mga mining company gaya ng mga matitinding baha, landslide at pagpasok ng mga alon ng dagat sa mga dalampasigan.

Sa mga pangyayaring ito, mayroon bang balakin ang pamahalaan na pag-aralan at iharap sa dambana ng katarungan ang mga responsable rito?

Matatandaang naging marurupok na ang mga trensera ng mga dalampasigan sa tabing dagat dahil sa malalang blacksand mining at madali nang hambalusin at sirain ng mga daluyong o storm surge ang mga komunidad na matatagpuan sa mga lugar na ito, kasama na ang kanilang kabuhayan.

Dinadaluhong at sinisira naman ng mga baha at putik ang mga komunidad sa paligid at kabuhayan ng mga pinatag at kinalbong kagubatan at bundok ng mga kompanya sa pagmimina.

Hindi rin kaila sa lahat kung paano kumikital ng buhay at sumisira ng kabuhayan at ari-arian ang mga landslide mula sa mga kinalbong kagubatan at kabundukan ng mga minero.

Totoo na may kinakansela nang mga permiso o prangkisa o konsesyon sa pagmimina at tila magpapatuloy ang aksyong ito ng pamahalaan.

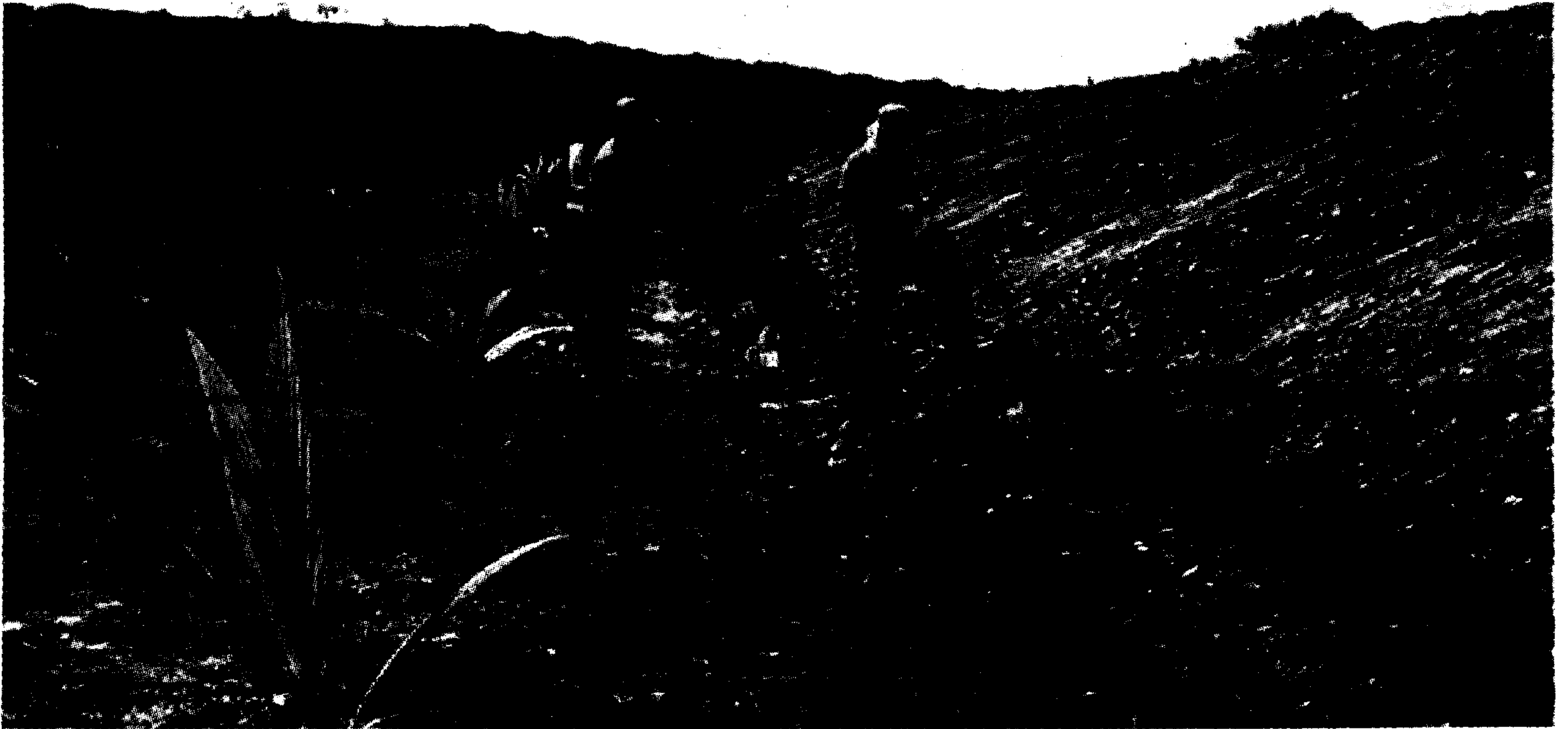
Nakababawi rin ang pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng mga multa at iba pang mga bayarin ng mga minero subalit sa kasaysayan, naiwan sa malungkot na kalagayan ang mga komunidad.

Subalit malinaw na hindi sapat ang mga ito para bawiin ng mga komunidad ang mga nasisira nilang buhay, ari-arian at hanapbuhay.

Ano-ano ang mga gagawin ng pamahalaan upang makaamot ang mga komunidad mula sa mga multa at iba pang bayarin ng mga kompanya at taong nasa likod ng mga mapanirang pagmimina, lalo na kung iisipin na ang korapsyon sa pamahalaan ang nakatulong sa mapanirang pagmimina?



**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



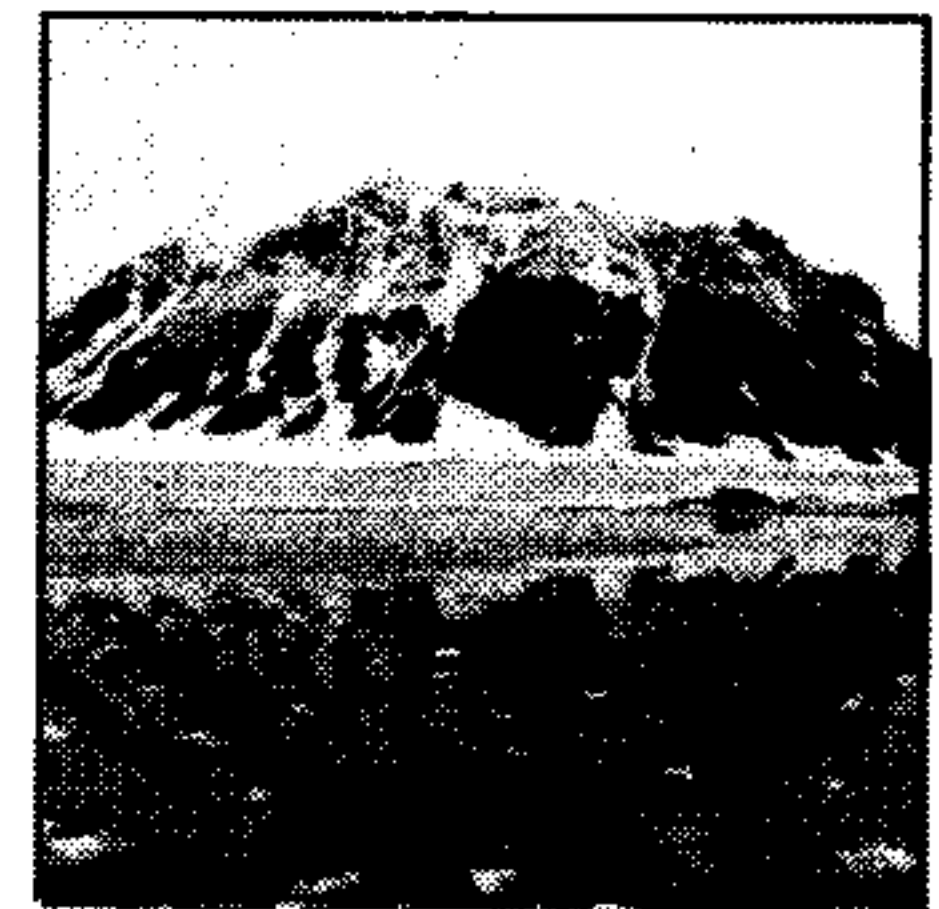
**RESIDENTS** try growing coconut in the rich soil of Manicani Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HINATUAN MINING CORP.



STUDY

# Global climate deal likely to enter into force in 2016



By ALISTER DOYLE

**O**SLO, Norway — A global agreement on climate change looks likely to enter into force this year, a study showed on Friday, making it harder for Republican Donald Trump to pull out if he wins the US presidency.

Countries accounting for 54 percent of greenhouse gas emissions have signaled intent to ratify this year, according to the tally of national pledges by the Marshall Islands which is a strong backer of the plan agreed in Paris in December.

That is just a fraction short of the required 55 percent of emissions, and support from at least 55 nations, the Pacific island nation said.

The deal formally enters into force 30 days after the twin threshold is crossed.

“What we agreed in Paris at the end of last year will likely now have the force of the law by the end of this year,” Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine wrote in a report compiled by her foreign ministry. “This is a big recognition of the urgency with which we must now get on with the job.”

The Paris Agreement aims for a massive shift in global energy use to phase out greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from burning fossil fuels, in the second half of the century in favor of cleaner energies such as solar and wind power.

So far, an official UN count shows that 22 states accounting for just 1.08

percent of emissions have formally ratified the deal, part of efforts to limit rising temperatures and more floods, droughts and rising seas.

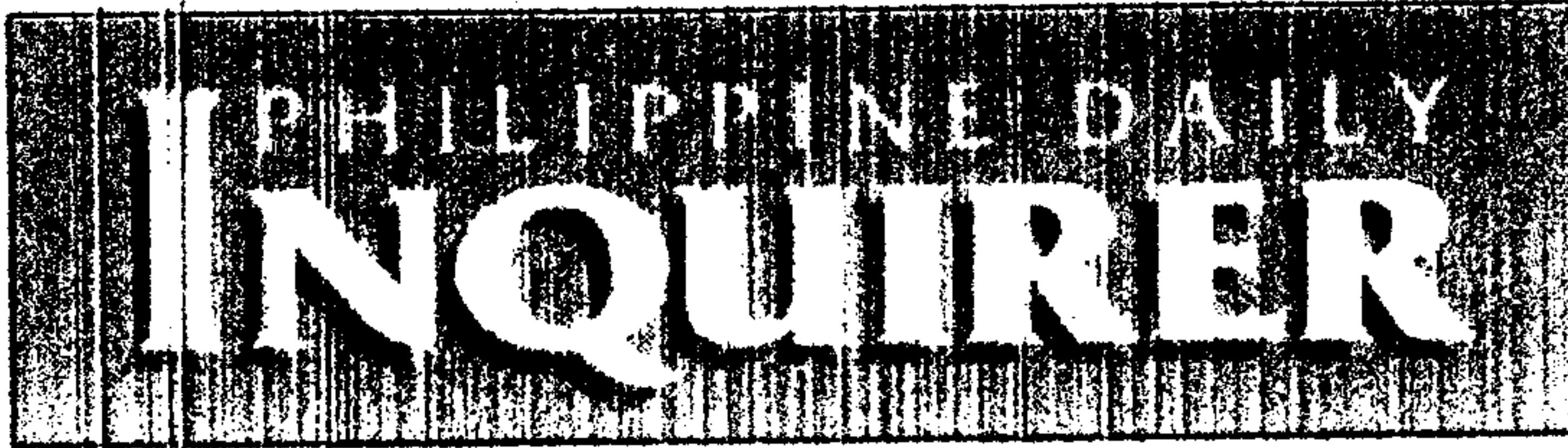
China and the United States, the top emitters accounting together for 38 percent, have promised to join this year. Other big emitters including Australia, Canada, Mexico and Indonesia also plan to sign up in 2016, the Marshall Islands study said.

Once the pact enters into force, the agreement sets a formal four-year process for withdrawal.

Diplomats say that will make it harder for Trump to carry out a threat to renegotiate Paris if he beats Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Trump doubts mainstream scientific findings that human activity causes global warming.



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Page 1

# Demolition of fish pens in Laguna Lake starts



PERSONNEL of the Laguna Lake Development Authority demolish fish pens that the agency says are operating illegally in Laguna Lake.



**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

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**By Maricar Cinco**  
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

**SAN PABLO CITY**—Two fish pens, occupying about 100 hectares in the Laguna Lake, were demolished early Tuesday as part of the government's effort to ease the overly congested water body covering parts of Laguna and Rizal provinces and Metro Manila.

The pens, each occupying about 50 ha, are owned by Seven Eleven Fishing Corp. According to records of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), the pens went through several changes of ownership over the years without proper documentation with the agency.

"If this were a bank, this [is a case] of bad loan," LLDA general manager Nereus Acosta said.

Acosta, who led the demolition in an area near Binangonan

town in Rizal province, said the agency was carrying out orders from President Duterte to clear the lake of illegal structures.

He said two operations that dismantled illegal fish pens in the lake were undertaken by the LLDA before the President delivered his State of the Nation Address on July 2 and mentioned his administration's plan to rehabilitate Laguna Lake.

In his speech, Mr. Duterte in-

structed Environment Secretary Gina Lopez to address the heavily silted water body that supplies *bangus* (milkfish) to Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Lopez recently said she planned to remove the fish pens and transform the 90,000-ha lake, the largest inland water body in the Philippines, into an ecotourism zone.

In a telephone interview, Acos-

ta said the LLDA would demolish illegal structures weekly, depending on the weather condition.

The lake's current carrying capacity allows up to only 9,000 ha for aquaculture, but fish pens and cages are occupying 12,315.80 ha of the surface water.

"She (Lopez) wants it done by, like, tomorrow. Ideally, this may take us until the end of the year

[to clear 3,000 ha]," Acosta said.

There are currently 358 legitimate operators of fish pens and cages on the LLDA list, which shows a mix of corporations and individual owners.

Acosta said illegal and delinquent fish-pen owners were given a 48-hour notice and encouraged to carry out "self-demolition."

The Association of Laguna

Lake Fish Producers and Fish-erfolks Inc., a group of fish-pen owners, said that while it supported the government's effort to clean the lake, the LLDA was also at fault for failing to police the illegal structures and encroachments.

Acosta, in an earlier interview, said the LLDA did not have the "policing facilities" to cover the entire lake area.



# Malaya Business Insight

www.malaya.com.ph

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Company converts grass into green coal

A GREEN technology company will expand the present area planted to bana grass from 200 hectares to 2,000 hectares to produce more green coal. Bana grass can be made into coal and biodegradable plastics.

Mackay Green Energy Inc. is already exporting bana grass to Japan and Korea from Zamboanga, where an initial 200 hectares has been planted on idle lands.

Mackay said the expansion to 2,000 hectares this year will create 600 permanent and 3,000 indirect jobs.

The bana grass, once fermented, produces lactic acid and various other valuable enzymes. The lactic acid is being used in the production of biodegradable plastics, specialist car parts and high value chemicals.

MGE said it has secured the world's

See COMPANY ► Page A4



Workers harvest bana grass, which to untrained eyes look similar to sugar cane.

## COMPANY

best technologies to enable the conversion of the bana grass to green coal. It has superior qualities to fossil-based coal and can be co-fired in existing coal power plants without the need to make drastic changes.

"It is a key factor for power plants since the greenhouse gas emissions can be directly reduced," said James Mackay, chairman and chief executive officer of MGE.

The company focuses on the development of various renewable energy systems designed to efficiently convert biomass to energy and fuels.

According to Mackay, plans are being finalized for the installation of two 3-megawatt green coal power plants, where the gas from the bana will provide fuel to run the power plant and at the same time produce 100 tons per day of green coal.

Biomass or green coal production will be increased

to supply both the local and international markets.

Mackay said the first green coal production will start in the last quarter of 2016.

The Mackay variety bana grass crop, initially imported from Australia, is being supplied by MGE through its existing plantations, which are strategically located in the key areas of Butuan, Iloilo, Misamis Oriental, Negros, Nueva Ecija, Leyte, Rizal, Tuguegarao and Zamboanga.

It plans to construct an integrated production facility that will encompass green coal, power, green gas, fuels and chemical all derived from the Mackay variety bana grass.

Bana grass is pest-resistant, non-allergenic and highly tolerant to drought and typhoons. Bana grass has adapted to the climate and rainfall in the Philippines and is growing beyond expectations. - *Irma Isip*



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

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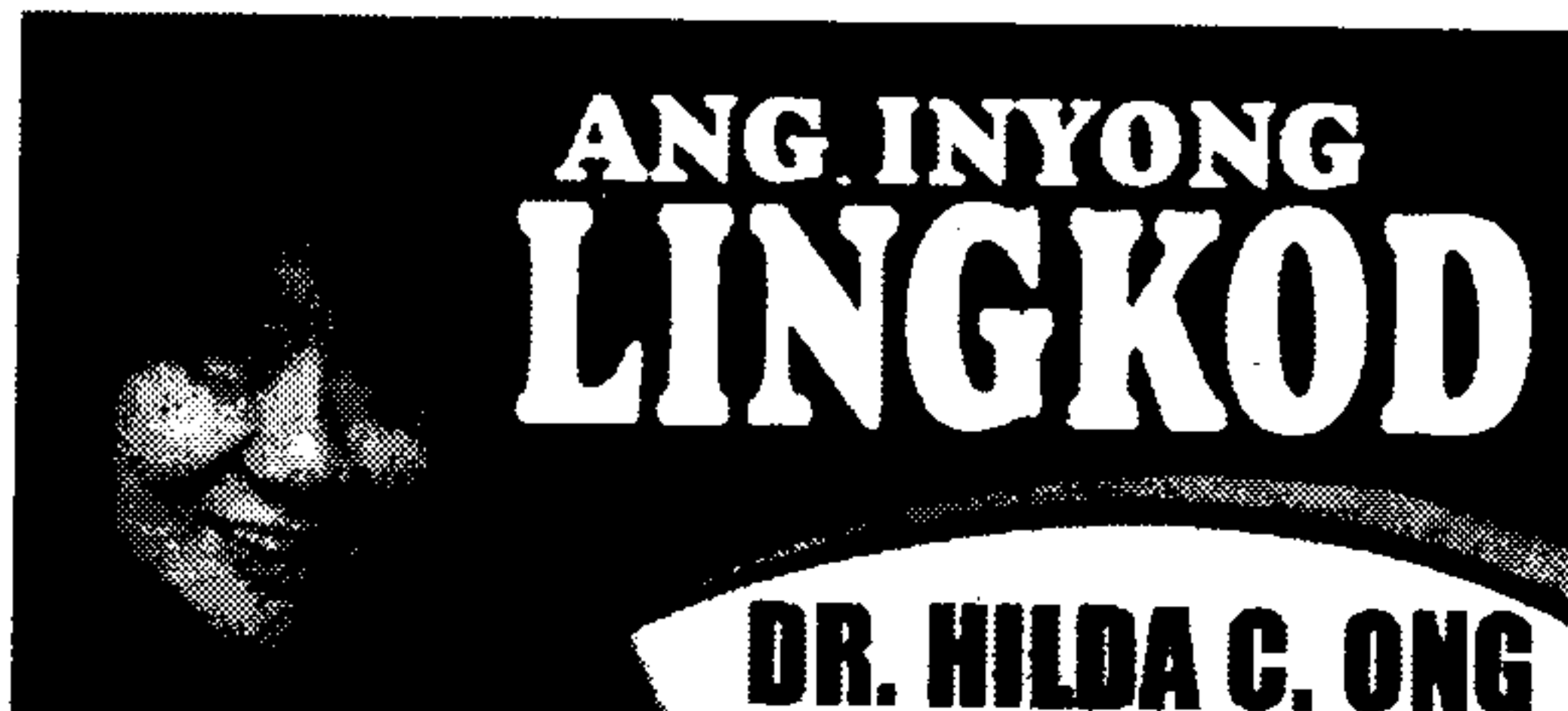
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NAKAKUHA ng akreditasyon buhat sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na kasalukuyang pinamamahalaan ni Secretary Gina Lopez, ang Central Laboratory ng Maynilad Water Services, Inc.. Iginawad ito ng departamento matapos ang mahaba-habang pagsusuring isinagawa.

Ang Maynilad's Central Laboratory ang siyang nagsasagawa ng mga pagsusuri hinggil sa kalidad ng tubig at wastewater sa nasasakop na lugar nito kabilang ang bahagi ng Maynila, Quezon City at Makati, gayundin ng mga lungsod ng Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas at Malabon at kabilang din ang lungsod ng Cavite, Bacoor at Imus, at mga bayan ng Kawit, Noveleta at Rosario sa lalawi-



**DR. HILDA C. ONG**

### **MAYNILAD LABORATORY, PASADO SA DENR**

gan ng Cavite.

Huling bahagi pa ng taong 2015 isinagawa ang pag-aanalisa at pagsusuri ng DENR sa laboratory at dumaan ito sa 'stringent assessment' ng mga eksperto buhat sa departamento.

Kaya naman nangangahulugan ang pagpasa nito na ang Maynila Central Laboratory ay may sumusunod na mataas na pamantayan sa quality,

accuracy, at precision of chemical at microbiological testing results na inilalabas nito. Walang dapat ipagduda at ikabahala ang publiko sa tubig na nagmumula sa mga tubo ng Maynilad.

Maliban dito, awtorisado na rin

ang Maynilad Central Laboratory na kumuha ng environmental data para sa isinasagawang Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system, environmental monitoring at mga pagsasaliksik na isasagawa ng DENR at mga kaugnay na ahensya ng pamahalaan upang magamit bilang datos sa paggawa ng mga desisyon o mga hakbangin kaugnay sa environmental planning at policy making ng mga namamahala sa pamahalaan partikular sa mga may kinalaman sa public sanitation.



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## Illegal fish cages sa Laguna Lake dinemolis

**SINIMULAN** nang gibain kahapon ng umaga ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang ekta-ektaryang illegal fish cages sa Lawa ng Laguna matapos itong banggitin sa SONA ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Inatasan ni DENR Sec. Gina Lopez ang pamunuan ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) na baklasin ang mga iligal na baklad na nakaaapekto sa kabuhatan ng maliliit na mangingisda sa nasabing lawa.

Aabot sa 51 ektaryang bangusan at bighead carp ng 7/11 Fish Inc. na pag-aari ng isang Teodor Espeque ang unang nasampolan ng gibaan

ng grupo ng LLDA sa pangu-  
nguna ni General Manager Ne-  
ric Acosta.

Dakong 8:00 ng umaga ay nagsimulang magkaroon ng pagpigil sa pagitan ng care-  
taker ng 7/11 Fish Inc. na si  
Ronaldo de Guzman at demo-  
lition team ng LLDA.

Tumagal ng halos kalahat-  
ing oras ang paliwanagan  
bago nahikayat ni GM Acosta  
at iba pang kinatawan ng fish  
pen mula sa Binangonan,  
Rizal bago nasimulan ang de-  
molisyon. Katuwang ang mga  
tauhan ng Phil. Coast Guard  
ay naging matagumpay ang  
operasyon.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ni  
Acosta na bukod sa 51 ektar-  
ya ay may kabuuan pang  
3,500 hectares ang target na  
idemolis ng ahensya sa mga  
susunod na araw.

**CESAR BARQUILLA**



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## AWARENESS

# Indigenous peoples' right to education



**D**URING the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (1995-2004), the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed August 9 of every year as International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (IDWIP), to draw attention to social causes and issues that the world's indigenous populations face today, and to celebrate their lives, cultures, and achievements. "Indigenous peoples are free and equal to all other individuals," the UN says.

This year's IDWIP theme was "Indigenous People's Right to Education," focusing on the challenges that indigenous peoples (IPs) meet in the context of education that is appropriate to their culture, their values and their knowledge systems, taking into account education in their languages.

IPs' right to education is protected by human rights instruments such as Article 14 of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states that "IPs have the right to

establish their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning," as well as Goal 4 of 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development which calls for "ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations."

IPs are ethnic groups who are native or are generally regarded as "original inhabitants" of a territory or region, especially before the arrival and intrusion of a foreign culture. They are a group of people whose members share a cultural identity that has been shaped by their geographical region.

There are 370 million IPs spread across 70 countries worldwide, according to the UN. Many of these groups are the holders of unique languages, belief systems, customs and traditions. International law protects the rights of IPs, but still they face many threats from the likes of climate change and

industrialization.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted on September 13, 2007, outlines the rights that government should respect and recognize. The Philippines, which protects IPs' rights to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions and institutions, voted in favor of the UN Declaration. There are more than 14 million IPs in the country, majority of whom are in Mindanao, belonging to the Lumads. The Cordillera IP groups (Igorots) of the Luzon uplands also account for a significant portion of the indigenous population.

The Philippine government promotes and protects IPs' rights, especially human rights. Republic Act 8371, the landmark Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, guarantees rights to ancestral domain, self-governance and empowerment, social justice and human rights, education and cultural integrity. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples is the government agency responsible for protecting the rights of the IPs.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### UN calls for worldwide protection of IPs

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

Agencies of the United Nations (UN) yesterday urged countries to ensure that the rights of some 370 million indigenous peoples (IPs) are protected and respected.

The UN's Children's Fund, Population Fund, and Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, said countries should prioritize the fulfillment of the rights of the IPs.

The agencies said governments should ensure that the IPs are not left behind in efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

There are some 370 million IPs in 90 countries around the world who make up less than five percent of the world's population, yet represent around 15 percent of the poorest people.

Two-thirds of the world's IPs are in Asia and the Pacific. They include groups often referred to as tribal peoples, hill tribes, *adivasis*, *janajati*, *orang asli*, *aboriginal* or natives.

"Indigenous peoples make significant contributions to humanity's cultural, intellectual and economic wealth," the agencies said in a message marking the International Day of Indigenous People.





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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

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## Magat Dam hits critical level

By VICTOR MARTIN

TUGUEGARAO CITY -

Heavy rains failed to improve the water level in Magat Dam located at the boundary of Ifugao and Isabela provinces, which dipped to its lowest this year yesterday.

As of noon, the National Irrigation Administration-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MRIIS) said the water was 159.95 meters, or

way below the normal level of 183 meters.

The dam is one of the country's major sources of power and irrigation.

Rodolfo Mejia, NIA-MRIIS division manager, said the rains dumped by tropical depressions Buthoy and Carina over the region failed to improve the water level since

Aug. 2.

The water should be at least 160 meters for the dam to continue generating electricity.

The dam's most recent power shutdown, which affected the entire Luzon grid, occurred in March 2010, when its water level dropped to 152.7 meters.

Magat Dam's power plant,

owned and operated by Norwegian-Filipino consortium SN Aboitiz Power, continues providing electricity, although in lesser volume.

Mejia said dam and agriculture officials in the region are ready to conduct cloud-seeding.

"We are waiting for the go signal from the Bureau of Soil Management (BSM)," he said.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# DENR suspends operations of Ore Mining & Dev't Corp.

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has suspended the operations of Ore Asia Mining and Development Corp., the only iron-producing mine in the country, in line with its drive against irresponsible mining.

DENR Undersecretary Leo Jasareno, head of the mining audit team, said mid-scale miner Ore Asia failed to secure the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 certification for Environmental Management System (EMS).

Failure of companies to secure or maintain ISO 14001 certification will result in the suspension of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) and non-issuance of ore transport permit (OTP).

"There were also complaints of siltation of the river, which is a tributary of the Sibul Spring in Bulacan," Jasareno said.

"The ore permits allow the transport of the ore from the mine to the market. If you withdraw the OTP, hauling would also stop," he added.

Last year, Ore Asia's mine located in Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan produced about 40,000 tons of iron.

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

Former DENR chief Ramon Paje signed Administrative Order 2015-07 mandating all mining contractors to secure ISO 14001 certification that shows mining operations pass the international standard and have a good EMS.

Meanwhile, Environment Secretary Gina Lopez plans to create a separate website which will post the results of the agency's audit of all suspended and existing mines.

"All audit findings will be made public. We want everything to be transparent," Lopez said.

To date, the DENR has suspended seven mining companies already and is on track to finish the audit of all 42 metallic mines within the month.