

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

The Manila Times

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY URGES COAL MINER

'Semirara must answer DENR allegations'

BY VOLTAIRE PALAÑA

THE Department of Energy (DOE) has ordered Semirara Mining & Power Corporation (SMPC) to clarify the allegations of environment-related violations raised against its coal-mining operations by the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Due to such allegations and other issues, DENR Secretary Regina Lopez said her agency will issue a show-cause order to the country's biggest coal miner covering the Molave Coal Project.

The DENR will give the miner seven days to explain why its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) shouldn't be withdrawn.

"It will not be easy to close, because we don't want brownouts,"

Lopez said, noting that coal is still critical in the country's energy mix.

"The problem is that Semirara produces low grade cheap coal and [our power sector is] still very much dependent on coal. We don't want to have brownouts but Semirara has to get its act together," Lopez said.

In a letter dated 12 August 2016 to Semirara Chief Executive Officer Isidro A. Consunji, the DOE asked the company to explain in writing the collateral issues such as toxic waste, sulfur content, mining overburden, and land-grabbing and deprivation of livelihood raised by the DENR against the mining

industry which includes Semirara. The DOE asked the company to submit a report within 48 hour, saying strict compliance with the obligations under the ECC is critical to the stability of the coal supply requirements of the country.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on Monday, SMPC said it received via facsimile a letter from the DOE.

The department noted the collateral issues raised against the company, including toxic waste affecting the mangroves; sulfur content of coal produced; adverse effect on the lives of seaweed farmers; poverty level in Semirara at 47 percent;

mining overburden affecting the housing community within your operating area; and land-grabbing.

"Further, the DOE's technical staff and other concerned government agencies will be conducting technical audit(s) at the corporation's operating site to look into and assess the mat-

ter," the disclosure read.

SMPC produces 97 percent of the country's coal output, supplying 30 percent of the power industry's requirement.

The 600-MW Calaca power plant was designed to specifically take in coal from Semirara.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Federalism seen to offer uncertain future for mining, power sectors

By LENIE LECTURA

@llectura

Part Two

ENERGY industry stakeholders weigh in on the potential impact of a shift to a federal form of government under the Duterte administration.

Regulators, industry players and observers agree that a push for federalism has its advantages and disadvantages. Definitely, they noted, federalism would allow, on one hand, the autonomous regions to realize their full potentials as self-governing units.

On the other hand, there are challenges, and probably conflicts, that will be encountered but must be dealt with in order to achieve the very objective of a federal form of government.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), an independent and quasi-judicial five-man regulatory body, said there is a need to thoroughly study this possible structure.

ERC Chairman Jose Vicente B. Salazar, in an interview, said an advantage of a shift to a federal system of government is that this would allow for the adoption of regulatory policies that are dependent on the economic development and condition of a specific region.

"These policies would, therefore, be more attuned to the particular situation in that region," Salazar said.

However, this advantage could also be a disadvantage, as jurisdictional conflicts

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may arise between federal and state regulators, he explained. "Hence, policy differences may affect national development plans."

As such, Salazar said, lawmakers and concerned parties must weigh in on the possible impact this could have on the power sector.

"In considering the shift, a careful study on the impact on the system as a whole and on the rates to be recovered from all consumers must therefore be taken into consideration," the ERC chief said.

Harmonizing difficulties

THE ERC is tasked to promote competition, encourage market development, ensure customer choice and penalize abuse of market power in the electricity industry.

To carry out this undertaking, the ERC promulgates necessary rules and regulations, including competition rules. The ERC can also impose fines or penalties for any noncompliance with or breach of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR). Penalties also carry



FILE PHOTO

on violations of other rules and regulations the ERC promulgates or administers, as well as other laws it is tasked to enforce.

An industry expert, meanwhile,

commented on the difficulty in harmonizing an overall policy.

"For example, in the US federal system, California is going extremely for green energy. But some states in the US are still into coal," said the person familiar with the matter but is not authorized to speak for the Department of Energy (DOE). "What happens is that it is quite difficult to impose an all-out clean-energy policy on a national level."

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Federalism seen to offer uncertain future for mining, power sectors

With federalism, the needs of different regions would be easily addressed. "It can be observed that a policy imposed on all may not be effective in one province because the needs of one locality differ from the other," the energy expert said. "Hence, different policy approach per region seems beneficial as varying needs can be easily addressed."

Spug areas

FORMER House Energy Committee Chairman Reynaldo V. Umali said he is in favor of a federal form of government. "It is definitely more advantageous. Under the present system, the smaller towns, barangays and some local government units are somewhat neglected," Umali said in an interview. "But soon, they will have the opportunity to chart their own course."

He cited the National Power Corp. (Napocor)-Small Power Utilities Group (Spug) as one of those

that will definitely benefit if and when a federal form of government is put in place.

"In Spug areas, assistance is not often provided. If at all there is assistance from the government it's still not enough. Improvement is not felt in these areas," Umali said. "But under a federal form of government, these communities can chart their own programs that they themselves will benefit from."

Through its Spug, the Napocor continues to pursue its mandate to provide electricity in off-grid areas, particularly in areas where private investors hesitate to come in due to lack of infrastructure and political and security concerns.

The Spug areas include Palawan, Romblon, Marinduque, Mindoro, Catanduanes, Basilan, Sultan Kudarat, Masbate, Antique, Guimaras and Cagayan. Umali said these areas continue to seek investments.

"One disadvantage is that since they are small 'states,' so to speak, the ability to raise capital may be limited. You need large investments to develop stable, reliable and affordable power," he added. "They may encounter difficulties, especially for poor areas that do not have too much revenue source. *Mahihirapansila makakuhang* [They would have difficulty securing] funding *kasimalakiang investment sa power* [because of the huge amount of in-

vestment required]."

Uncertainty worries

SINCE there are several models of federal states to study, Umali said he is confident the current administration would carefully layout its plans and programs that are necessary in order to achieve its goal.

An industry source, meanwhile, explained how a shift to federalism might bring "uncertainty" in the power system.

"If there is a federal state then the transmission lines and other sources of power generation could be affected," the person said. "Hence, there could be possible power interruption or inefficient delivery of power. Why? Because some may claim that this area is ours, which could include these vital power facilities."

The person who requested anonymity to avoid a backlash from players in a tight industry added: "As it is now, we are already having transmission right-of-way problems."

"Can the NGCP [National Grid Corp. of the Philippines] still perform its duties? What about the long-term contracts that had been entered into? Would these still be enforced or scrapped?" Indeed, changing the rules in the middle of the game only brings uncertainty and may only discourage investors, the person said. *To be concluded*

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DMCI nickel mines lay off workers, put expansion on hold

MANILA — DMCI Holdings, Inc. said on Monday its nickel mining units are laying off hundreds of workers and putting plans to ramp up production on hold, as a government crackdown has begun to take its toll on the beleaguered sector.

DMCI's Berong Nickel Corp. will lay off over 300 seasonal workers in the coming weeks while its Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. has already let go of more than 100 personnel, the conglomerate told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Berong and Zambales Diversified are among the 10 mines, eight of them nickel ore producers, the government has suspended as a five-week-old crackdown on mines accused of violating environmental rules continues.

The closures and the threat of more mines being suspended

in the world's top nickel ore supplier lifted prices of the metal to a one-year high of \$11,030 a ton on Wednesday.

DMCI said its DMCI Mining Corp. unit has suffered a 25% drop in nickel ore shipments in the first half of 2016 because of an earlier drop in nickel ore prices and is bracing for an even tougher second half because of the mine suspensions.

"Early this year, we were planning on expanding our operations. But with the suspension, we have no choice but to put everything on hold," DMCI Mining Corp. President Cesar Simbulan, Jr. said in a statement.

The DENR and the Department of Energy have also separately asked DMCI's coal mining unit, Semirara Mining Corp., to explain alleged environmental violations. — **Reuters**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Nickel mines lay off workers

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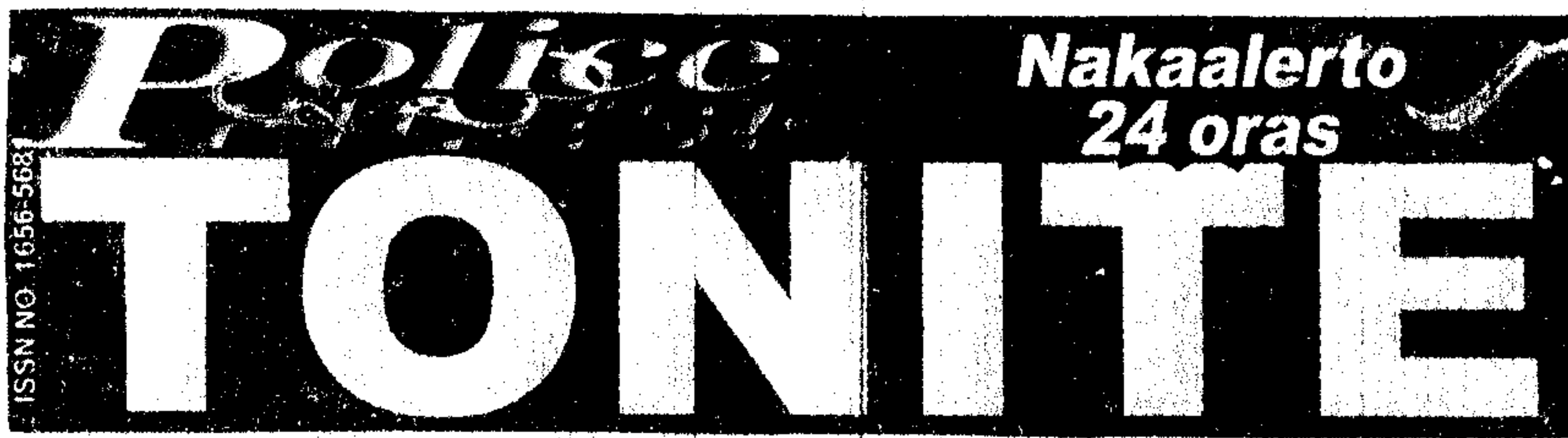
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NICKEL

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CHAIRMAN'S FILES!

NI: Chairwoman Ligaya V. Santos

(Anumang opinyon, tips, reaksiyon ay maari ninyong ipadala sa joy_column@yahoo.com o mag-text sa 0932-3214355. Ang Chairman's Files ay lumalabas tuwing Lunes, Miyerkules at Biyernes)

**MINAHAN SA SURIGAO, TALAMAK,
PAGING DENR SEC. GINA LOPEZ**

Good day ma'am marami mga reklamo ditto sa Carascal at karatig bayan ng lalawigan ng Surigao dahil sa pagmimina, sana makarating kay DENR Secretary Gina Lopez ang reklamo namin thanks! — 092149509+++

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MGB-Bicol head wants culverts at CamNorte mine sites demolished

RAWIS, Legazpi City – Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Bicol director Guillermo Molina yesterday asked for funds from the MGB Central Office for the destruction of the culverts at mine sites in Paracale, Camarines Norte.

Molina said despite the demolition last July 29 of illegal mining shafts in Sitio Bolaay, Bgy, Palanas in Paracale town, culverts constructed from concrete cement and iron bars remain erected along the village' coast.

The MGB official said if not dismantled, miners will reopen the tunnels.

Culverts serve as entrance to mine tunnels.

Molina said about 60 culverts were constructed along the shore of Sitio Bolaay.

Sitio Bolaay was declared by MGB-Bicol in January

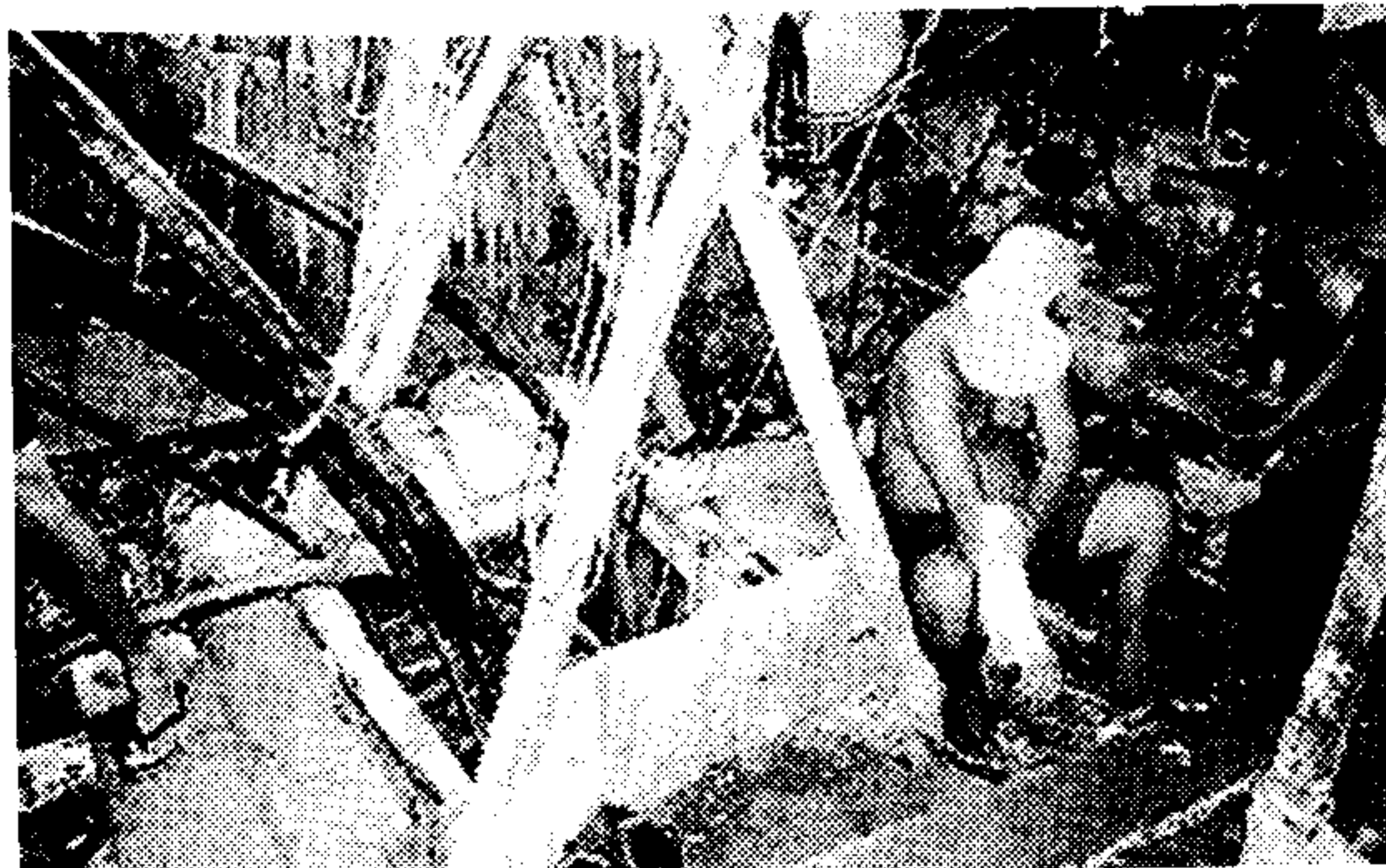
2014 as a "danger zone" for small-scale mining activities since it is located near the shoreline and is vulnerable to storm surges.

Paracale kagawad Serafin Dasco, who is opposed to a halt in mining in Sitio Bolaay, said the dismantling of make-shift dwellings and equipment at the mine site would abruptly end the livelihood of the local miners.

Molina urged Camarines Norte Gov. Edgardo Talado and the Sangguniang Bayan of Paracale to step-up the preparation of documents for the proposed "minahang-bayan site" in the province.

Mining firm Golden River Mining Corp has allowed a 20-hectare area in Bgy. Kasalogan, Paracale to be used as "minahang-bayan site" for small-scale miners.

Sonny Sales



GOLD MINING CULVERTS. Culverts built from concrete cement and iron bars remain at the coast of Sitio Bolaay in Bgy. Palanas, Paracale, Camarines Norte even after the dismantling of miners' dwellings and equipment at the site last July 29. Mines and Geosciences Bureau Bicol director Guillermo Molina had asked the MGB Central Office to provide funds for the hiring of a blasting contractor to demolish the gold mining culverts. Molina said if not blasted, miners will reopen the tunnels.

Photo Courtesy of Camarines Norte News

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Hinatuan asks DENR to lift suspension

By Anna Leah E. Gonzales

GUIUAN, Eastern Samar—A unit of Nickel Asia Corp. asked the government to lift the suspension of ore transport permit imposed on Hinatuan mine in Manicani Island.

Hinatuan Mining Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nickel Asia, operates the nickel mine in Manicani. The government suspended the ore transport permit of the mining company early this year, saying there was an "excessive soil extraction" in the area.

"In the assessment, they are taking too much soil. They are taking the soil out and it goes to China," said Environment Secretary Regina Lopez.

Lopez said the company should use the remaining stockpile to rehabilitate the mined-out areas.

"They have to use it for restoration. Put it back in the hole," Lopez said.

Hinatuan Mining communication relations manager Francis Malone, however, said

using the ore stockpile in restoration was not possible. "Who will return it? Where will they return it? Those stockpiles are meant to be disposed. We can't put it back. At the first place, it was them who recommended us to do such activity," Malones said.

The government suspended the mining operations of Hinatuan in the early 1990s. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau in 2014 ordered the company to dispose of its remaining ore stockpile.

"They have not given us any opportunity to talk to them. The evaluation is unfair," Malones said.

Hinatuan Mine project manager Manolito Javar said the government's accusations were baseless.

Javar said that of the 1.4 million metric tons of ore stockpile, the company was only able to ship more than 265,000 MT of ore to China.

Residents of Manicani also asked the government to lift the suspension order, as a lot

of people were affected by the suspension. Imelda Raganas, a community leader, said the government should allow the removal of stockpile to continue because it was the source of income for the residents.

"We don't have another source for livelihood. There are too many fishermen in our area. We are appealing to the government to allow the transport of ore," Raganas said.

Data provided by the company showed a total of 495 residents would lose their jobs due to the suspension order.

Meanwhile, Nickel Asia vice president for corporate communication Jose Bayani Baylon said the company was currently waiting for the mine audit. "We are awaiting for the DENR to schedule the audit of the HMC stockpile removal operations on Manicani ASAP, so that the loading can resume leading to the removal of an environmental hazard and the generation of much needed income for the residents," Baylon said.

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DMCI mines fire 400 workers

By Jenniffer B. Austria

MINING companies owned by the Consunji Group are laying off 400 workers and putting on hold their expansion plans after operations were ordered suspended by the Environment Department.

DMCI Holdings said in a disclosure to the stock exchange Berong Nickel Corp. was set to lay off over 300 seasonal workers in the coming weeks, while Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. fired over a hundred personnel due to the suspension orders.

"Early this year, we were planning on expanding our operations. But with the suspension, we have no choice but to put everything on hold," said DMCI Mining president Cesar Simbulan, Jr.

"We actually acquired over P100 million in additional heavy equipment during the first half, and had plans of hiring more workers to ramp up production. Unfortunately, this is no longer possible," added Simbulan.

DMCI Mining in the first six months of 2016 registered a 25-percent decline in nickel ore shipments to about 873,000 wet metric tons from 1.16 million tons to due to receding nickel prices and sluggish demand for lower-grade nickel.

The average selling price per wet metric ton in the six-month period fell 40 percent from \$41 to \$28.

With the suspension orders, DMCI is bracing for an even tougher second half. DMCI Mining said it was fully cooperating with the government to facilitate the audit and lift the suspension order.

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DENR officers linked to land grabbing

BAUANG, La Union — Land grabbing of prime beachfront properties of this town, once the “beach capital of the country,” has gone rampant due to the connivance of officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office and an influential group of real estate developers believed well connected with high government authorities, including the Office of the Solicitor General, the judiciary and the military.

If remained unchecked, the land grabbing operations may lead to a bloody conflict between the landowners and the real estate group.

This developed as one of the affected lot owners, Ann Paredes, filed a case for violation of the anti-graft and corrupt practices act against three of

officials of the DENR before the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB).

Named respondents in the case were Graciano Boquiren, special investigator assigned at the DENR's office in Pangasinan; and Santiago S. Santiago, Jr. and Arnel Manalac, both geodetic engineers of the agency's regional office in San Fernando, La Union.

The complainant claimed that Boquiren, Santiago and Manalac conspired in faking a survey that declared Paredes' 761 square meter property as “underwater and salvage zone” thus prompting the agency to issue a reversion/cancellation order turning the lot as “part of the public domain.”

With the reversion/cancellation order, the DENR then awarded the property to a certain Alberto Hidalgo who had applied for foreshore leasehold on the property.

Paredes protested the action taken

by the agency in a complaint-letter to then DENR Secretary Ramon Paje.

But while her protest was being investigated, DENR regional executive director Samuel Penafiel approved Hidalgo's application for a foreshore lease agreement (FLA).

Armed with the FLA, Hidalgo, according to the complaint of Paredes, developed the otherwise “underwater” property into a “high-end” beach housing estate, using goons led by a certain Ricardo Aromin.

Hidalgo's group first put up huts and semi-permanent structures to assert its position on the government-leased lot owned by Paredes.

Having positioned in the area, the influential Hidalgo group also managed to sell two-parcel lots, just alongside Paredes' property, to a Norwegian national married to a Filipina and to a Swiss national, also married to a

Filipina, who constructed a P20-million mansion and a P30-million house, respectively.

“How can they build big houses if the lands were underwater as declared by the DENR,” Paredes contended in her complaint.

To substantiate her complaint, Paredes presented to the Ombudsman a copy of the transfer certificate of title (TCT) issued by the Register of Deeds of La Union.

Two other beachfront properties with an aggregate area of 1,925 sq. m. owned by Immaculada Corazon Lim and Cherry Lyn Dy Castillo were similarly issued reversion/cancellation of title orders by the DENR.

Like in Paredes' case, Lim's and Castillo's properties were awarded to Hidalgo under a foreshore lease agreement granted to him by the DENR.

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Environment dep't explains greening program 'in detail'

THIS REFERS to Estanislao Albano's and Tony Leviste's letters (Opinion, 7/25/16 and 8/1/16, respectively) expressing their dissatisfaction with the National Greening Program (NGP).

For their and the public's complete understanding of the NGP, we wish to explain in detail.

Formally launched on May 13, 2011, the NGP aimed to plant 1.5 billion seedlings over 1.5 million hectares in six years, primarily for poverty reduction, food security, environmental stability, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Under the program, farmers—considered among the poorest of the poor—have been trained and hired to develop agroforestry plantations that involve timber, fuelwood, coffee, cacao, rubber, bamboo, rattan and fruit-bearing trees, to provide them with permanent livelihood and raise their level of living.

As of Aug. 5, 2016, the NGP had planted 1.08 billion seedlings on a 1.45 million-hectare spread and generated about 3.3 million jobs. By the end of 2016, it would have 1.37 billion planted seedlings on 1.6 million hectares, thus exceeding its overall target of 1.5 million hectares, without exhausting its total allocation of 1.5 billion seedlings.

Admittedly, the NGP's implementation has not been without challenges, as attested by the Commission on Audit, but these have been addressed.

On the delays in the delivery of seedlings: At the start of implementation in 2011, we did experience delayed deliveries to some planting sites because of the PhilGEPS' (Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System) requirement on seedlings purchases from commercial nurseries. Beginning 2012, the NGP had allowed community organizations to do seedling production and partnered with state universities and colleges, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in propagating planting materials, especially the endemic species.

Survival of seedlings is an utmost concern; the science of forestry and technology is focused on this. Site characterization is a major requisite to ensure species-site and market matching. The quality of planting materials is continuously enhanced through clonal nurseries and proper sourcing of superior seeds from seed production areas. Likewise, replanting activities are done by the contracting

peoples organizations (POs) within three years after planting, without cost to government.

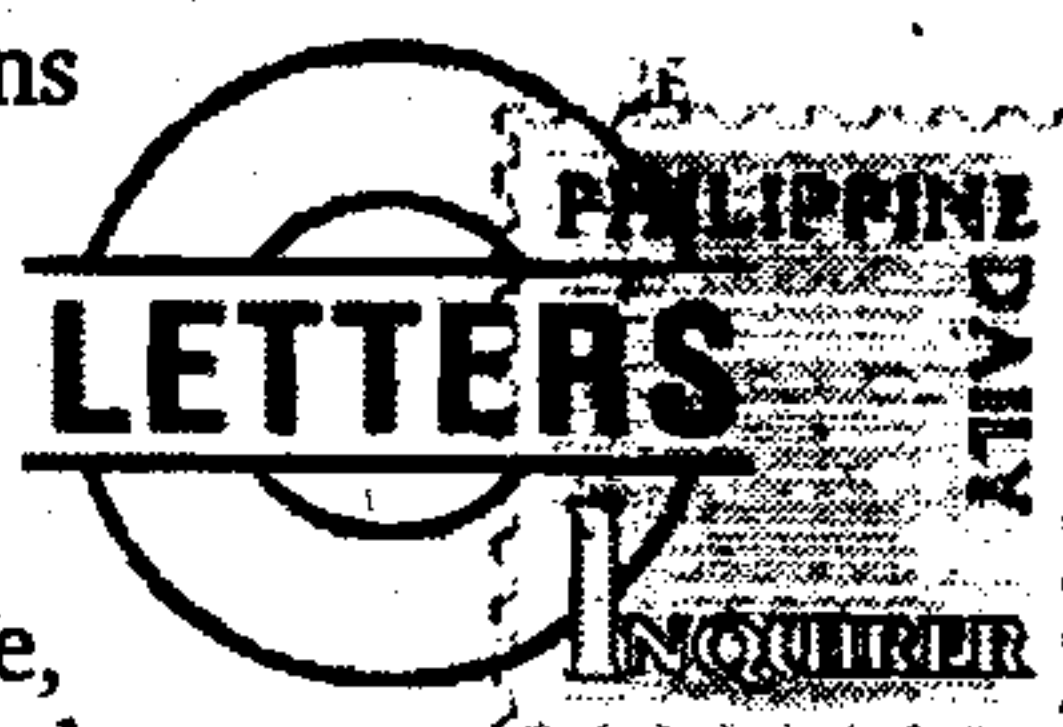
On maintenance, protection and mechanisms to exact accountability, here are some of the NGP's good governance practices:

- Incorporated in a database, all NGP sites are "geotagged" with geographic coordinates and time stamp to define the exact location of plantations.
- All sites are covered with individual certificate of site development, duly signed and attested by the respective Centros, Penros and regional directors, with pictures taken before and after planting.
- Reports on the conduct of annual 100-percent monitoring of all NGP sites are submitted under oath by the regional offices.
- Funds are directly released to the implementing offices (Penros/Cenros).
- All procurements adhere to the procurement law. Payments to creditors, like POs, are done through Advice to Debit Account (ADA), thus promoting checkless/cashless transaction.
- The National Economic and Development Authority's Philippine Institute for Development Studies (Neda-Pids), an independent third party audit, was commissioned and, based on its findings, recommended the NGP's continuation.

We thank the Aquino administration for giving the NGP utmost support, and our partner CSOs, POs, academe, media and private sector, for their enthusiastic collaboration. It is because of their help that the NGP has become a success and the Philippines has been ranked fifth among countries with greatest forest area gain from 2010-2015 (2015 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Forest Resources Assessment Report).

Under the leadership of Secretary Gina Lopez, a staunch environmentalist, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is confident of taking the Expanded NGP (Executive Order No. 193) to even greater heights.

—RICARDO CALDERON, director,
Forest Management Bureau,
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources



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ABUSO SA TREE PLANTING AT COASTAL CLEAN-UP

PORMAHAN na naman ang iba't ibang grupo, pribado o gobyerno, para sa "International Coastal Clean-Up" (ICC) sa Sabado, ika-20 ng Agosto, 2016.

Ito Ang Totoo: bukod sa pagkakataong umepal, tahasan ding inaabuso ang dapat sana'y magandang layunin ng ICC.

Halimbawa sa Subic Freeport, nakikinabang ang pribado na mga negosyo sa sama-samang pagkilos ng mga kabataan, guro, mag-aaral, civic orgs. at empleyado ng gobyerno.

Bukod sa oras at pawis ng volunteers, ginagamit din ang mga equipment ng Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) tulad ng back hoe at dump

trucks na gastos ang pera ng mamamayan.

Ito Ang Totoo: ang mga lugar na kontrolado at ginagamit sa negosyo ng mga pribado ay dapat sila ang naglilinis nang tuloy-tuloy, hindi lamang sa araw ng ICC.

Halimbawa, itong Lighthouse Marina Resort na paispo-sponsor pa sa lokal na ICC pero lugar nito ang pinalilinis sa volunteers na walang kamalay-malay na pinag-sasamantalahan na pala sila.

Walang iniba ito sa mga "Tree Planting" at "Mangrove Tree Planting" na merong dapat sana gumawa sa sariling lugar pero ipinagagawa at pinagagastusan sa iba, pati sa gobyerno, sa pamamagitan ng mga aktibad na patok sa media, tulad halimbawa ng



ITO ANG TOTOO

ni VICVIZCOCHO

"Arbor Day."

Kamakailan ay may "Mangrove Tree Planting" na ginanap sa inisyatiba ng SBMA sa may Triboa Bay na eksklusibo sa mga nagyayamanang may-ari ng "vilas," kasama na ang kasalukuyang SBMA chairman na si Roberto V. Garcia.

Ito Ang Totoo: dahil ang direktang nakikinabang ay pribadong kompanya at nagyayamanang mga residente, hindi na dapat ipako sa mga volunteer at gastusan ng pera ng bayan ang pagtatanim ng mangroves sa naturang lugar.

Sa nakalipas na panahon,

may 10,000 seedlings ding itinanim sa tree-planting sa may Holy Land na theme park ng pamilya ni Chairman Garcia.

Umaayon po tayo sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng "tree planting," "mangrove tree planting" at "coastal clean-up."

Subalit naniniwala tayo na hindi dapat pinapayagang abuso ng makakapal ang mukhang may-ari ng lugar o negosyo na hindi makatarungang nakikinabang sa pawis, oras at salapi ng mamamayan. Ito Ang Totoo!

50,000 tibig trees planted in Orani

By Butch Gunio

ORANI, Bataan—The Orani Water District has planted 50,000 trees in the Tala watershed in the last five years.

In its fifth year of reforestation, the OWD planted more than 10,000 *tibig* tree seedlings in the watershed in the upland Barangay Tala in Orani.

“We are very happy that despite the bad weather volunteers joined us in our fifth year of reforestation,” OWD general manager Benni Andres said during the tree planting on Saturday.

The OWD employees were joined by policemen, government employees, fishermen and other volunteers.

The water district is conserving 28 hectares of the watershed, which is part of the Bataan National Park.

During its anniversary every February, the OWD sponsors a fun run to raise funds for its reforestation program.

The OWD used the P116,960 raised last February in the planting activity on Saturday.

Andres said their reforestation effort at the Tala watershed area aims to preserve Orani aquifers.

“We have to protect and preserve our source of water by reforesting watershed areas,” Andres stressed.

The reforestation program of OWD annually attracts the support of various sectors.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Maynilad slows down service due to turbid Ipo Dam water

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  @jonlmayuga

THE high turbidity level of raw water coming from Ipo Dam due to heavy rains over the last few days has forced Maynilad Water Services Inc. to slow down operations.

More than half of Maynilad's customers experienced water-service interruption. Company officials said the situation would remain so until the situation at Ipo Dam improves.

In a statement, Maynilad said water production at its La Mesa Treatment Plants 1 and 2 has been reduced since Saturday.

Turbidity level refers to the sedi-

ment content in the dam's water.

The continuous rains brought by the monsoon caused the turbidity level to increase, as soil eroded from the Ipo watershed area is dumped into the dam.

Normal turbidity in Ipo Dam is at 300 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU).

As of Saturday, this level has increased to 1,600 NTU, forcing

Maynilad to reduce the output of its La Mesa Treatment Plants 1 and 2 by 400 million liters per day (MLD) so it can remove the increased sediments from the raw water.

This situation adversely affected water service to about 850,000 accounts, or 66 percent of the West Zone, particularly those in elevated areas.

These accounts currently experience low pressure to no water, as well as some discoloration in the water supply.

"We are continuously monitoring the raw-water quality in Ipo Dam and conducting the necessary system adjustments so we can return to normal water-production levels at the soonest possible time," said Maynilad's Water Supply Operations Head Ronaldo Padua.

The turbidity of Ipo Dam raw water also happened in August 2012.

"We can't determine yet the definite schedule of water resumption. But we are closely monitoring the turbidity level of water in Ipo Dam. Once the quality of water improves, we will increase the production. We will constantly update you on this," Maynilad said.

Maynilad will deploy 54 water tankers so it can deliver potable water to affected areas. Customers may request for water-tanker delivery through its special water-tankering hot line 737-3311. For updates and other inquiries, they may also call the Maynilad hot line 1626, visit its web site contact page www.mayniladwater.com.ph/contact.php, send an SMS to Maynilad's text hot line 0998-8641446, send an e-mail to customer.helpdesk@mayniladwater.com.ph, or visit the company's social media accounts: Twitter, @maynilad; Facebook, MayniladWater.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Government's flooding failure

"Worst Flooding in 50 Years"—2009

"Massive Flooding from Habagat"—2012

"Habagat Rainfall Amount this Month Higher than Ondoy"—2013

"Rescuers on Speedboats Haul Rain-soaked Residents off Rooftops"—2015

"Torrential Monsoon Rains Bring Manila to a Standstill"—2016

THE newspaper headlines tell the story. We might have thought that Tropical Storm Ondoy in 2009 might have been the worst in terms of flooding in Metro Manila. We were wrong. Some seven years later and nothing has really changed for the better.

Even as recently as last December, the government was saying that "flood projects are in the pipeline," it would appear that the only thing in the "pipeline" are more floodwaters. As much as it pains us to say it, the previous administration had six long years to take action to spare people and property from the effects of flooding, and nothing was effectively accomplished.

It is not as if flooding is a problem that requires reinvention of the wheel. More pumping stations and equipment are needed. The waterways and *estero* of the metropolis need to be cleaned regularly and kept clean. Areas that are particularly prone to flooding because of the natural topography have to be given special consideration. But nothing is done and the people continue to suffer. Why?

The one thing the government is good at is giving excuses. It is not good at taking responsibility. After each of the above-mentioned events, the government was quick to pat itself on the back for a job well done in rescuing the affected. But at no time, did the government ever seem to say that its performance to mitigate the flooding was unacceptable.

Reducing the flooding problem to manageable levels in Metro Manila is will require a concerted effort by several government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Works and Highways, as well as the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. A unified effort across all levels of government from barangay to Malacañang is going to be necessary. But one thing we know that is crystal clear. This situation can no longer be allowed to continue as it is.

The administration needs to prioritize the flooding problems and appoint a task force to come up with a complete and comprehensive plan to address the problem. No longer can stopgap measures be employed. No longer can the emphasis be on rescue while ignoring long-term solutions. This is a local problem, but only the national government has the resources and the authority to get the job done. It is completely unacceptable that every time there are a few days of heavy rain, Metro Manila must come to a standstill. While the government did little since 2009 to address the failures of the past, it is time for the Duterte administration to take charge.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

A Great British View

By ASIF AHMAD

Fear of climate

There are good reasons to fear the impact of climate change. In a specially commissioned study, Lord Nicholas Stern concluded that unless action is taken to keep global warming below the 2C threshold, in South East Asia we will see a rise of 4.8C by 2100, mean sea level will go up by 70cm and amongst other impacts, rice yield will fall by 50 percent. For the Philippines, ranked as the 2nd most vulnerable to climate change in the world, this would be catastrophic and poses the greatest threat to lives than any other issue. No amount of Canute like rhetoric will stop the tides that will overwhelm much of the archipelago. We need action not words.



The role the Philippines played in helping the world reach the historic Paris Agreement was powerful and influential. Together, we committed to plans to reduce emissions, make progress reports and at the insistence of the Philippines, moved our goals to limiting temperature rise to 1.5C. This was a conditional offer. We recognised the need for equitable burden sharing between developed and developing countries. We accepted the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We will deliver our end of the deal – financial investment, technology transfer and capacity building. All of us pledged to play our part and no one has the luxury of opting out.

The UK passed a law that binds us to a steep 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050. We have already reached eight percent in 2014 and yet we experienced the fastest growth in the G7. Our R&D expenditure on clean energy has doubled and we will end unabated coal fired power plants by 2025. With Germany and Norway, we will put together a \$5B global package for reforestation. Developed countries will mobilise \$100B per annum from the public and private sector to help the poorest and most vulnerable countries deal with climate change. As a country that has hitherto declared progressive intentions and stands as a great example to others, the Philippines is well positioned to attract early allocations of international funds.

The Philippines is in the fortunate position of sourcing 34 percent of energy needs from renewables, including geothermal power. But without a change in policy, 70 percent of power supply will rely on coal by 2030. From being a low carbon emitter, the Philippines is trending towards a 400 percent increase in power related emissions alone by 2030. Clean coal technology should be the norm until alternatives tip the balance to renewable energy. Methane from urban waste, power from biomass including crop remnants that are now just burnt off and river currents for electricity are ideal options where geography challenges the provision of a national grid. But successive administrations have not championed green alternatives and fallen for the lure of expediency. The real result has been to deprive power to the poor in urban and rural areas of deprivation. The Philippines has to become a far bigger player in the LNG scene and we are working with the Department of Energy to make natural gas a more viable part of the mix. The true cost is not just the price of power. The full cost is food insecurity, premature death and sickness from pollution and foregoing the dividends of a green economy.

Help can only come to those who help themselves. Every family stands to benefit from energy efficiency. Our embassy building in Manila reflects heat, brings in natural daylight, powers off unwanted equipment and has solar panels. Good design is not always the most expensive option. Stronger implementation of building codes, stopping belching vehicles and punishing those who spread illegal industrial waste require determination by public officials. Enforcement should target guilty offenders and not blanket bans that impact adversely on innocents who adhere to best practice. Better roads, more trains and efficient airports contribute to emissions reduction as well as benefitting the public and adding impetus to economic growth. Action on illegal logging, recycling and changing packaging of consumer goods are compatible measures alongside reforestation. Responsibility for the appalling state of rivers and lakes in the Philippines today lies squarely on individuals who treat them as refuse dumps, overuse fresh water for personal gain and conspicuous indifference of central and local government officers and regulators.

The survival of the Philippines requires Filipinos to change and adapt, take responsibility for energy and environmental conservation and at the very least, comply with existing laws and regulations. Economic development is not the price of action on climate change. The green economy is already valued at over \$5 trillion and alternative energy industries alone will support over 20 million jobs globally. The Philippines should use its talent pool and resource base to turn fear of climate into an opportunity.

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‘Developed countries should contribute to Green Climate Fund’

President Duterte should urge developed countries to provide financial and technical assistance so poor nations could cope with the effects of climate change as provided under the Paris Agreement.

Sen. Loren Legarda said that

under the agreement, industrialized countries must raise and contribute \$100 billion to the Green Climate Fund annually to help developing nations like the Philippines and member-states of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

“The President was right about climate justice – those causing climate change are the ones who should provide help. That’s what the Philippines and the CVF member-states fought for in the Paris Agreement,” Legarda told journalists

during the CVF high-level climate policy forum yesterday.

Earlier, Duterte drew flak for saying the country would pursue projects to meet the power demands of the economy, despite commitments to reduce carbon emissions

as provided in the agreement.

Legarda reiterated her call for vulnerable nations to take urgent action, even as the world waits for the agreement to take full effect.

“We cannot wait for the agreement to take effect before

we take action. We must continue to rally our respective states to take urgent action because global warming will not halt as institutions and nations all over the world debate whether to ratify or not,” she said.

– Paolo Romero



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Phl dilemma over the Paris Climate Change Accord

By HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ

With the Philippines having officially participated for the past two decades since the first Conference of Parties - COPI in Berlin until COP21 in Paris - where the global deal was forged, it is now incumbent on our government to hold a national consultation to firm up its intended nationally determined contributions (INDC).

This will be the gateway for the Duterte policy for industrialization and sustainable development. It is also essential to resolve the clash between policy and reality.

We have pledged support to the world's goal of reducing global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius. And the Philippines, as chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, went further by striving for 1.5 degree C to raise global ambition.

However, at the Senate hearings in July 2015, the Dept. of Energy (DOE) unfolded a terrifying trend to use coal as a major energy source over the next few de-

CADES. Currently, coal comprises almost 40 percent of the country's energy mix. There are 17 existing coal plants in the country, with a capacity of 18,500 MW.

DOE has approved 29 more coal-fired plants. Twelve of these plants with a total capacity of 3,400MW are already under construction, scheduled for completion by 2018. It is estimated that these plants will require at least 10 million tons of coal a year. Thus, without any significant intervention, the Philippines can expect an extremely high dependence of 70 percent on coal from 2030 to 2050, according to DOE Undersecretary Loreta Ayson during a Senate hearing last year.

This move has been justified as a cheap solution to the country's precarious power supply. "Cheap" in the sense that coal subsidies and coal impacts on the environment and human health are not taken into account. If these subsidies and impacts are factored in, coal would be far more expensive than renewable

energy sources.

Last year, Philippine imports of foreign coal soared to a record 15.2 million tons - and so did concerns about our energy security. By relying on imported coal, the Philippines has firmly placed the country's energy security in the hands of foreign countries.

These facts did not elude Senator Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate Climate Change Committee, and Naderev Sano, a former colleague at the Climate Change Commission. Both courageously questioned and attacked Philippine reliance on coal imports.

The trend, Legarda pronounced, was "detached from human reality." She regretted that certain government agencies provided permits to new coal plants, despite scientific evidence that carbon dioxide from widespread coal-use is the main culprit for global warming.

"What is simply ironic about this vigorous push for coal-fired power plants in our country is while the whole world is

moving away from coal, we are embracing it as the cure for our development challenges," Yeb Sano stressed.

In terms of public health, higher coal dependence is a distinct threat. A few months ago (Feb. 3, 2016), a new Greenpeace Southeast Asia report revealed the health impacts of existing coal-fired power plants, estimating some 960 premature deaths each year due to stroke, ischemic heart disease, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

If the planned power plants become operational, Greenpeace projects premature deaths may rise to 1,100 yearly - more than double the current number

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Phl dilemma... From page 9

of people dying from coal-related pollution in the Philippines.

Even more seriously, the growing reliance on coal con-

tradicts the principles of the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change. The strategy specifically calls for a national economic shift towards low-carbon, sustainable development that is "imperative for a country and a people aspiring to be resilient in a turbulently changing climate."

In the long run, broader coal-use negates our quest for intergenerational equity and social justice. More, it runs counter to our anti-poverty rhetoric, including sustainable development for current and future generations.

In many parts of the globe, as documented by the World Future Council and Climate Action Network, leaders are beginning to discover that fighting poverty and protecting the climate go hand in hand. Scaling up renewable energy can benefit development pro-

grams by boosting energy access for the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the population.

It is therefore imperative for us to overcome these policy and program barriers. To resolve them, we must bring together the best minds in our scientific, technological, academic, legal and legislative communities.

At the same time, we must begin to earnestly work on key and related aspects that will define our ability to give flesh to our Paris commitment. Among these are initiatives to scale up low-carbon investments and bold solutions by:

- Providing a central platform for domestic industries and businesses to commit to meaningful climate actions that encourage low-carbon investments.

- Ensuring that our economic planners decouple our prosperity and development from coal and fossil fuel use.

- Planning and legislating carbon pricing, which is the key to unleashing potential investments needed for energy infrastructure development?



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Phil. dilemma over the Paris Climate Change Accord

- Creating incentives to reduce emissions in all sectors, alongside a mechanism for trading emission units in global markets.

- Adopting the global environmental disclosure system that enables companies, cities and regions to be transparent and accountable.

A final barrier, perhaps, is our inability to respect the principle of "Common but Differentiated Responsibility," one of the cornerstones of sustainable development. As an ethic of international environmental law, this principle pervades the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The iffy and tenuous nature of our INDC impairs this principle. Our INDC stresses that our total mitigation contribution to the Paris Accord will "necessarily be conditional on the extent of financial resources, technology development and transfer, and capacity building that will be made available to the Philippines."

Our stance as an independent nation should be to do all that we can do to fulfill our contractual obligations. It smacks of hypocrisy to claim that we will cut emissions by 70 percent – but only if our palms are greased by largesse from the international community.

(Former secretary of the Department of Environment, Heherson T. Alvarez currently chairs the Advisory Board of the Washington D.C.-based Climate Institute, one of the oldest environmental organizations in the USA.)



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LOREN URGES URGENT CLIMATE ACTION

SENATOR Loren Legarda has urged nations vulnerable to climate change not to wait for the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change before taking action against natural disasters.

Legarda, who chairs the Senate Committee on Climate Change, made the appeal yesterday during the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) High-Level Climate Policy Forum.

At present, 22 of the 197 Parties to the Convention have ratified the Paris Agreement, but they represent only 1.08 percent of the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

For the Agreement to take effect, at least 55 nations representing 55 percent of global GHG emissions must ratify it.

The CVF High-Level Climate Policy Forum was also the venue for the ceremonial turnover of CVF Presidency from the Philippines to Ethiopia.

"We must continue to rally our respective states and the community of nations to take urgent climate action because global warming will not halt as institutions and nations all over the world debate whether to ratify or not," she said.

Bernadette Tamayo

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Vulnerable but not incapable'

WHAT does the future hold for us-nations greatly vulnerable to the ill effects of climate change?

We are walking on thin ice. Our future is uncertain because we are facing a crisis that we cannot resolve on our own.

Sea level rise threatens to submerge island nations including our fellow CVF member states--Kiribati, Marshall Islands and the Maldives. Ocean acidification is causing irreversible damage to our coral reefs, while the sudden shifts from hot temperatures to incessant rains pose uncertainties to agriculture, greatly affecting our food security. The warming climate is now one of the most significant risks for World Heritage Sites, including the Philippines' own Ifugao Rice Terraces. Extreme rainfall and heavy floods constantly threaten lives, livelihood and development.

This is why we were not content with the use of the phrase "well below the 2°C goal" when the Paris Agreement was being drafted. Instead, we pushed for the inclusion of the 1.5°C global warming limit as our main goal.

It was not an easy journey during the Paris Agreement negotiations yet we continue to move forward through the challenging path of pushing for its ratification. At this point, 22 of the 197 Parties to the Convention have ratified the Agreement, but they represent only 1.08% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.[1] This is still too far from the required representation of 55% of GHG emissions in order for the Agreement to take effect.

The 2015 Paris Agreement has been hailed by many as a landmark agreement, but its aspirations will not happen on its own. This is where the role of the CVF becomes even more crucial.

Allow me first to congratulate our



Opening Statement of Sen. Loren Legarda delivered during CVF High Level Climate Policy Forum held at Senate Of The Philippines on Aug 15, 2016-Ed.

Climate Change Commission for representing the Philippines in the CVF. It was a challenge for our country to lead the CVF during that crucial period of crafting and negotiating the Paris Agreement. We could not have done it without the solidarity among the CVF member states and the immense support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Now that Ethiopia will assume the CVF Presidency, I am certain that, with the unequivocal support of every member, it will continue to steer the CVF towards our common goal of being the voice of reason in the climate negotiations and asserting the rights of vulnerable nations.

Bending the global warming curve to 1.5°C is a moral imperative, because it means saving the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people; it means upholding the human rights of the poor and vulnerable; it means ensuring the integrity of our ecosystems.

Global warming has already breached the 1°C level with unprecedented warming in the past months. We have already borne countless tragedies and losses from recurring impacts of extreme weather events under

a 1°C global warming. How much more with higher temperatures?

We cannot wait for the Agreement to take effect before we take action. We must continue to rally our respective states and the community of nations to take urgent climate action because global warming will not halt as institutions and nations all over the world debate whether to ratify or not.

Although we are not major emitters of GHG, we cannot let our respective economies grow through the ways that caused today's climate crisis; we cannot let human society live in a world fraught with dangers.

Quality of life comes with a price tag, but it is not necessarily beyond our reach. Building livable cities and communities requires good planning. More importantly, it requires a genuine commitment to the ultimate goal of putting the Earth's and our people's survival foremost over all other concerns.

I am glad that we are graced with the presence of cabinet secretaries whose roles are crucial in the Philippines' journey towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy. Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade and Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi have both shown commitment and managerial expertise during their previous stints in the private sector. We also have Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia. I am certain they will be our good partners in this endeavor, particularly on energy that is affordable, sustainable and clean, and on transportation that is efficient, reliable, convenient, and inexpensive. I hope our Department of Transportation will be open to the road-sharing scheme where half the road is allocated to well-designed sidewalks for pe-

that though we are vulnerable, we are not incapable.

We strive for 1.5°C to thrive and we can do this together. The dream of a safer world needs the cooperation of all countries, and of every man, woman, and child.

If we start today, there is no promise that we will be lucky enough to see the undoing of the damage within our lifetime, but at least, we leave our world with the gift of hope for a better, kinder future.

Thank you.

destrians, bike lanes, and urban gardens and the other half for private vehicles and an organized transport system.

We now enter a new era of development pursuits which challenges us to do more, to do better, and to be more innovative. Delivering on our commitments to the Paris Agreement is our way of telling and showing the world

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**Senado 'di pumalag sa 'pagpatay'
ni PDu30 sa climate change agreement**

Hindi pinalagan ng Senado ang pagpatay ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa nabuong climate change agreement sa Paris, France noong nakaraang taon.

Katwiran ni Sen. Loren Legarda, chair ng Senate committee on climate change, ang pagbasura ni Pangulong Duterte sa Paris agreement ay pasok sa tinatawag na "climate justice" kung saan dapat, aniya, na tulungan ng mga industrialized nations ang mga maliliit na bansa.

Sinabi ni Legarda na tama ang Pangulo na dapat tulungan ng mauunlad na bansa ang mga maliliit na bansa

na naapektuhan at nagdurusa sa climate change sa pamamagitan ng tulong pinansyal o teknikal.

Aniya, hindi nagkamali ang Pangulo dahil ang mga industrialized nations ang nagdudulot ng mapaminsalang greenhouses gas emissions kung kaya't tama lamang na tulungan ang mga bansang apektado tulad ng Pilipinas.

Matatandaang ibinasura ni Duterte ang Paris agreement dahil inoobliga ang Pilipinas na bababaan ang carbon emissions, na siyang nagdudulot ng matinding pinsala sa kalikasan. (BJadulco)

X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ • BULGAR SA BALITA

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15 'SAWA' NAKUHA SA BAHAY NI ESPINOSA

NABUNYAG na 15 pythons ang nagsisilbing pet ni Albuera, Leyte Mayor Rolando Espinosa, isa sa mga pinanganang protektor ng illegal drugs ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Dahil dito, nakatakhang kasuhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR si Espinosa ng paglabag sa Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Ayon kay DENR region 8 Director Leonardo Sibbaluca, 11 sa mga nakuha nilang pythons ay lokal o mula dito sa Pilipinas samantalang ang apat ay nagmula sa Burma.

Ang pinakamaliit sa nakuha nilang python ay kasinglaki ng hinlalaki samantalang ang pinakalamalaki ay limang metro ang haba o sapat na laki para makalunok ng isang buong aso, baboy o isang maliit na bata.

Sinabi ni Sibbaluca na inaayos na nila ang kondisyon ng mga python bago nila ito ibalik sa kanilang habitat sa isang protected area ng Denr sa Eastern Visayas.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Natural gas fueled most of Philippines's power needs from Jan to Aug—DOE

BY LENIE LECTURA [@llectura](#)

THE country's natural-gas output as of early August amounted to 73,665 million standard cubic feet (MMcf), with most of it used to boost the country's power generation.

Latest data from the Department of Energy (DOE) showed that 68,91 MMcf of the country's gas production went to power-generation use, while the industrial sector took up 1,623 cubic feet.

Meanwhile, the transport industry recorded zero consumption.

68,91 MMcf

The locally sourced natural gas consumed for power-generation use

taled 1,642,176 Bcf; 30,516 MMcf for industrial sector; and 184 MMcf for the transport sector.

DOE officials said the country's natural gas is being consumed domestically. It relies on the Malampaya deep-water gas field to fuel 30 percent of the country's power requirements.

The figures are from January to August 9 this year. In all, natural-gas consumption during the period stood at 70,534 MMcf.

In the same data, the DOE said gas output in 2015 reached 122,541 MMcf, down from 130,351 MMcf in 2014.

Natural-gas output peaked in 2011 at 140,368 MMcf. Total consumption stood at 137,066 MMcf. Of which, the power generation's share in the output for that year stood 133,732 MMcf; industrial at 3,288 MMcf; and transport at 47 MMcf.

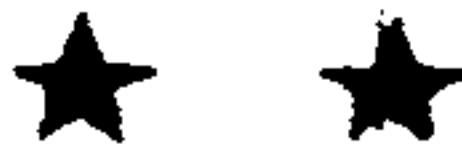
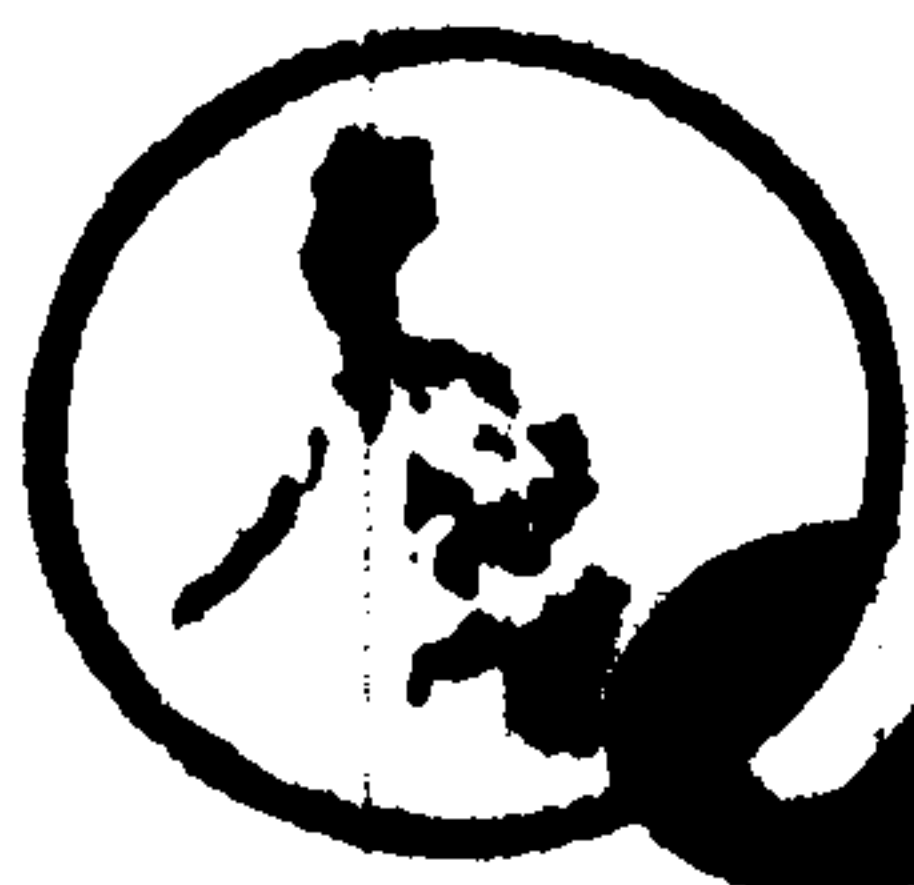
From 1994 up to August 9, 2016, the same data showed that output reached 1,736,700 billion cubic feet (Bcf), while consumption stood at 1,637,230 Bcf.

During the said period, natural-gas consumption for power generation to-

The Malampaya natural-gas facility supplies gas to three power plants with a total capacity of 2,700 megawatts (MW), providing about half of Luzon's power needs.

These power plants are the 1,000-MW Santa Rita; the 500-MW San Lorenzo; and the 1,200-MW Ilijan.

However, natural gas from the Malampaya gas field is expected to last by 2029 to 2030, more than five years than its earlier projected depletion date of 2024.



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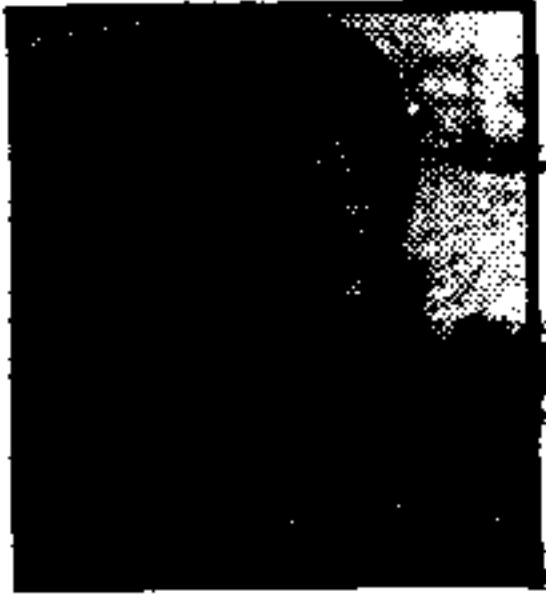
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PAHINA SIYETE

MGA PASAWAY

NA PABRIKA,

IPINASARA NG LLDA

Clemen Bautista

NAGPATUPAD ang Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ng Cease and Desist Order (CDO) o pagpapasara sa mga pabrikang nagdudulot ng polusyon sa ilog na inireklamo ng mga kababayan nating nakatira malapit sa ilog. Ang ipinasara nitong Agosto 11, 2016 ay ang Azzions Recycling Solutions Inc. na nasa Golden Mile Business Park (GMBP) sa Carmona, Cavite. Ang pag-iisyu ng CDO ay pinagpapahayag ni LLDA General Manager Neric O. Acosta. Sa nilalaman ng ex parte CDO noong Agosto 10, 2016, na nilagdaan ni GM Acosta, iniutos ang agarang pagpapatigil sa pagtatapon ng nakasusulasok at nakalalasong waste water sa ilog ng Carmona. Natuklasan ng LLDA na ang itinatapon ng tubig mula sa nasabing establisimyento ay banta sa buhay, kalusugan ng mga mamamayan at sa kaligtasan at kabutihan ng mga hayop at halaman.

Bilang pagtupad sa mandato ng LLDA at batay sa Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, ang CDO ay iniisyu laban sa mga tao at mga pabrika na hindi sumusunod sa mga pamantayan na itinakda sa pagtatapon ng waste water upang maiwasan ang polusyon sa Laguna de Bay. Ang CDO laban sa Azzions Recycling Solutions Inc. ay ipinatupad bilang tugon ng LLDA sa reklamo ng mga concerned resident sa Barangay Tubigan sa katabing munisipalidad ng Biñan, Laguna noong Mayo 23, 2016. Ang nasabing barangay ay nasa tapat ng Golden Mile Business Park na pinaghiwalay lamang ng ilog ng Carmona. Si LLDA General Manager Neric O. Acosta ang principal author ng Clean Water Act. Ipinahayag niya na ang LLDA ay hindi namimili ng mga uri ng establisimyento na ipinasasara. Tungkulin ng ahensiya na mahigpit na ipatupad ang mga patakaran na itinakda sa lahat ng mga establisimyento anuman ang kanilang industriya upang matiyak ang sustainable resilience ng Laguna de Bay Basin.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni LLDA GM Acosta ang tungkulin ng ahensiya ay matiyak na ang Azzions Recycling Solutions Inc. ay sinusunod ang mga regulasyon ng LLDA at ng Clean Water Act. Umaasa siya na ang pagpapatupad ng Cease and Desist Order ay isang malinaw na halimbawa kung bakit dapat ipatupad ang mga batas na kaugnay sa proteksiyon o kaligtasan ng ating mga tubig. Anumang bagay na nakapipinsala sa kaligtasan ng tubig ay kailangang alisin sa ating mga ilog.

Sa pagsusuri ng Environmental Laboratory and Research Division ng LLDA, natuklasan na ang Azzions Recycling Solutions Inc. ay hindi sumunod sa mga pamantayan na sa Class C water Parameters, Chemical Oxygen Demand, at biological Oxygen Demand.

Ang pagpapasara ng LLDA sa mga pabrikang nagdudulot ng polusyon sa ilog ng Carmona ay ikinatuwa hindi lamang ng mga nakatira sa nasabing lugar, kundi maging ng mga

environmentalist.

Magsilbi nawa itong babala sa iba pang business establishment na ang laman ng utak ay kumita nang limpak na sa salapi at walang pakialam sa ating kapaligiran.