

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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DENR

IN THE NEWS

BusinessMirror

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

In support of responsible mining



Arrenz Joseph B. Magnabihon
Driving Momentum

WITH a new and strong-willed leader at its helm, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continues to examine the operations of all violators of the country's mining and environmental laws. Upon taking office, Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez cast a very wide net by ordering an extensive audit of all mines in the country to determine their compliance to government's responsible-mining policies. As of this writing, the crackdown on irresponsible mining has resulted in the suspension of eight mining firms due to an array of environmental-law violations. The nationwide mining audit is expected to wrap up within the month, but there's no slowing down in the issuance of suspensions.

The fight for clean air, potable water and the protection of the environment is, indeed, a noble cause, worthy of such intense passion and commitment exemplified by the new DENR leadership. However, one cannot simply brush aside the significant contribution and potential of the mining sector in industrializing the Philippines, just because of a few bad eggs. Let's not fall for the false dichotomy between mining and the environment: Laying down the facts, mining plays an important role in economic development, as it creates the opportunity for a country to supply raw materials to its manufacturing sector using its own natural resources. Mining activities also generate employ-

ment for communities and create economic activity in remote areas, which would, otherwise, have little or no economic activity at all. On the other hand, mining has unwanted impacts, such as deforestation, soil erosion, water pollution, to name a few, as it alters the environmental landscape of an area. However, the mining sector is not oblivious to the environmental consequence of its operations. Rather, responsible players in the industry are leading the way through their efforts to limit their environmental footprint, having received international recognition for their environmentally sustainable operations.

One month ago, the Chamber of Mines released its list of ISO 14001

Certification-Environmental Management Systems compliant mining firms answering the government's challenge for responsible mining. The ISO 14001 is a global certification that assures a mining firm's adherence to the "highest, most acceptable level of efficiency in terms of extracting minerals, while, at the same time, ensuring that the environment is not compromised." In addition to the sector's concerted effort for efficient and responsible mining, mining firms are key drivers of social development in remote areas as they build communities and develop infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, hospitals and schools, complementing the government's efforts. There

are numerous examples of mining communities where the mined-out areas are undergoing rehabilitation through tree planting and community development, paid for by the mining firms.

Responsible mining is the only way to go as it allows the nation to benefit from a thriving mining industry. While the actions of the DENR to weed out irresponsible miners should be supported, there must also be equal recognition and support for firms that advocate and epitomize responsible mining in our country.

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Duterte asked to revoke mining firm's suspension

By Butch Gunio

STA. CRUZ—Workers and beneficiaries of the suspended mining firms here appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to allow the reopening of responsible mining firms.

"We believe that our company is operating responsibly," said Orlan Mayor, leader of Eramen Minerals Inc. workers.

"Government environment auditors have seen there is progressive rehabilitation of the mining areas," he added.

"In fact on November 22, 2013, we received the Presidential Titanium Award and the Safest Surface Operation Award," Mayor said.

Eramen has been also actively implementing community and education projects. "We have been consistently receiving livelihood trainings from them and structure donations," said Barangay Tubotubo

South *Kagawad* Marcelo Ebuén.

"I have been a scholar of Eramen for four years now and am receiving school supplies, uniforms and a P500 monthly stipend. The company continues to provide for us but we are afraid will soon close unless they open again," said the teary-eyed 17-year-old Ricelyn Alag whose father is dead and whose mother has no permanent job.

"Despite being suspended our company still provide for the salaries of the personnel and the benefits of our scholars and livelihood trainings of women and farmers," said Mayor.

"The four mining firms in Sta. Cruz have alleviated the poverty of more than 3,000 mine workers and their families," he said.

Other suspended mining firms are Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines Inc., LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc., and Zambales Diversified Metals Corp.

The Standard

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Market declines; Semirara up

STOCKS fell Friday, as investors treaded carefully and grew cautious before next week's speech by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index, the 30-company benchmark, shed 22 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 7,930.75. Despite the loss, the bellwether was still up 14.1 percent since the start of the year.

The heavier index, representing all shares, also dropped 10 points, or 0.2 percent, to settle at 4,697.50, on value turnover of P8.7 billion. Losers outnumbered gainers, 107 to 92, while 45 issues were unchanged.

Seven of the 20 most active stocks ended in the green, led by Semirara Mining and Power Corp. which climbed 5.9 percent to P112 and DMCI Holdings Inc. which advanced 3.9 percent to P12.70. Cemex Holdings Philippines Inc. rose 2.3 percent to P12.66.

PhilWeb Corp., the gaming company led by businessman Roberto Ongpin, slid 35.7 percent to P5.66.

Meanwhile, Asian stocks markets moved cautiously in early trade Friday despite a positive lead from Wall Street and further overnight gains in the price of oil.

US and European markets ticked up overnight, supported by a dovish outlook for US interest rates and some healthy post-Brexit data in Britain.

The oil price has also continued its upward trend, with Brent crude holding above \$50 a barrel on official data showing lower US crude stockpiles and hints of a possible production freeze.

But traders treaded carefully Friday morning, with Asian markets moving in and out of positive territory.

Tokyo was flat by the break, even as the yen eased against the dollar, with the greenback changing hands at 100.19 yen against 99.94 yen Thursday in New York.

A weaker yen is a plus for Japan's exporters,

as it boosts the overseas profitability of exporters.

Hong Kong fell 0.3 percent, reversing early gains as casino companies Sands China and Galaxy Entertainment both plunged more than three percent.

Shanghai, Seoul, Taipei and Kuala Lumpur were all down, while Sydney was up 0.1 percent and Wellington rose 0.2 percent.

Minutes from the Federal Reserve's July meeting released Wednesday have pushed global stocks higher by suggesting that policymakers were unlikely to go ahead with an imminent interest rate hike.

In Europe, stocks advanced Thursday after British retail sales surged by 1.4 percent last month, indicating there was no immediate fallout from the June vote to pull out of the European Union.

Some energy stocks in Asia got a lift after the oil price rally continued overnight -- holding above the psychological \$50 mark, which it reached Thursday for the first time since early July. **With AFP, Bloomberg**

HATAW!

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70 ILLEGAL LOGGERS SUMUKO SA ISABELA

CAUAYAN CITY, Isabela - Sumuko at nanumpa ang 74 katao na sangkot sa illegal logging activity sa Ilagan City.

Ang mga sangkot sa labag sa batas na pamumutol ng mga kahoy sa mga kagubatang sakop ng Ilagan City ay nanumpa sa harapan ni Mayor Evelyn Diaz na sila ay iiwas na sa illegal logging activity.

Sa kanyang pahayag, binigyang-diin ni barangay chairman Gaylor Malunay, Liga ng mga Barangay President ng Ilagan City, sila ay natututwa dahil tumugon ang

lahat ng mga inanyayahan kasama ang mga chairman upang manumpa na hindi na muling magsagawa ng ilegal na pamumutol ng mga punongkahoy.

Iginiit ni Malunay na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ay seryoso sa iba't ibang kampanya kabilang ang illegal logging.

Ayaw nilang mangyari na matulad ang illegal loggers sa mga sangkot sa illegal na droga na napapatay.

Una rito, nagsalita rin si Mayor Diaz at nagbigay ng tatlong araw na deadline sa mga sangkot sa illegal logging na magpakita at lumagda ng Memorandum of Undertaking na hindi na sila masasangkot sa nasabing ilegal na gawain.

Layunin ng hakbang ng lady mayor na matigil ang illegal logging activity sa Ilagan City.

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QC waste-to-energy plant opposed

By CHITO A. CHAVEZ

Environmental groups on Friday asked Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista to scuttle a plan to build a waste-to-energy (WtE) facility, warning it could turn Quezon City into the "waste incineration capital" of Metro Manila.

An article in the Nikkei Asian Review last Tuesday said Hitachi Zosen will construct in Quezon City "a garbage

incineration facility capable of processing the waste of three million residents with a power plant able to pump out more than 20,000 kW."

The project's estimated cost of around \$395 million (P18.17 billion), including initial investment outlay and operational expenses for 20 years, will be regained through waste processing charges and electricity sales, the article said.

Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition appealed to the city government "not to go for this costly waste incineration scheme, which the industry has re-branded, cashing in on of concerns over climate change, as a WtE facility."

Lucero said there are "far su-

perior environmentally-sound, sustainable and cheaper solutions for managing discards that will not circumvent the ban on burning waste, while recovering resources, saving energy, creating jobs and instilling ecological values among businesses and households."

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA 9003) provides for waste avoidance and volume reduction through segregation at source, composting, recycling, reuse and other measures excluding incineration, she said.

Joey Papa, president of the Bangon Kalikasan Movement, said the construction of this incinerator might be used "to justify the continued dumping operations in Payatas since a landfill will still be required for the toxic ash resulting

from the combustion of discards." Papa said some 30 tons of ash are produced for every 100 tons burned.

"To be blunt about it, WtE is a technology Without Thinking of Everybody's safety and public health at large," he said.

Dr. Angelina Galang, president of Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy, said WtE technology "is not the answer to our need for energy. It emits toxic dioxins and furans and burns resources, which can otherwise be recycled or composted. It promotes the generation of waste because the combustion chamber must be constantly fed with waste. It is the most expensive energy source according to some experts."

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Waste-to-energy financing projects generate revenues

THE Carbon Finance Support Facility (CFSF) program of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank) to help mitigate climate change has so far generated about P7.4 million in revenues for participating companies.

Two piggery farms assisted by LandBank, namely Marcela Farms Inc. in Bohol and Biotech Farms Inc. in South Cotabato, managed to generate a total volume of 27,487 carbon credits, or Certified Emission Reduction (CER), which generated a total of P7.4 million in additional gross revenues for both companies.

"The CFSF is part of LandBank's response to the global call for immediate and appropriate action to mitigate climate change," said Cecilia C. Borromeo, LandBank officer in charge.

Under the CFSF, both farms were able to produce 4,506 megawatt-hour of energy, which is equivalent to an estimated P27 million of power savings.

The CFSF is the LandBank's flagship program for climate-change mitigation, which provides financing and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) services to eligible piggery farms that adopt animal waste-to-

energy technologies and eventually generate carbon credits for selling to carbon buyers.

The bank is set to receive its first issuance of carbon credits from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the two piggery farm projects, in line with its Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement with the World Bank.

Under the agreement, the WB will buy carbon credits from LandBank's CFSF program of activities (POA) for Piggery projects for the period 2015 to 2020, with the fixed price of €4 per CER.

"This CER issuance is a first for the country and we look forward to supporting more waste-to-energy projects, as we hope to encourage more local enterprises to lead socially responsible and environmentally conscious operations," Borromeo said.

The CFSF-POA is the Philippines's first programmatic CDM project, enhancing the importance of the CER issuance. Currently, LandBank has 26 piggery farms in the process of inclusion under the CFSF-POA. *Rea Cu*

Case clippings

BY JUSTICE S J RANADA JR.

ATTORNEY'S FEES—considered as liquidated damages

Attorney's fees provided for in contracts are in the nature of liquidated damages agreed upon by the parties. These fees are to be paid in case of breach of the contractual stipulations necessitating a party to seek judicial intervention to protect its rights. Normally, the obligor is bound to pay the stipulated indemnity without the necessity of proof of the existence or the measure of damages caused by the breach.

Vil-Rey v Lexber
15 Jun 2016

GR 189401
Sereno, CJ

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Police **TONITE** Nakaalerto 24 oras

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**Text
BRIGADE**

Mga reporter ng bayan

I-text sa 09201309296

Kung ikaw ay may alam na katiwalian sa gobyerno, nakitang krimen sa inyong lugar at puna sa administrasyon, i-text agad para malaman ng publiko bilang reporter ng bayan. Ang inyong cellphone number at seguridad ay aming pangangalagaan. Salamat po sa pagtitiwala.

- Editor

**Panggigipit ng mga tauhan ng
DENR sa San Antonio Biri,
Northern Samar**

Magandang hapon po. Isa po akong AB political science student. Masyado po ang panggigipit dito ng mga tauhan dito sa San Antonio Biri, NORTHERN SAMAR. Hinihinging porsyento sa bawat proyektong magawa. Sana'y makaabot po ito kay Presi-

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DENR employees undergo drug test

PILAR, Bataan — In response to a call for a drug-free Philippines by President Rodrigo Duterte, the 160-strong staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Bataan, led by its head Raul H. Mamac, underwent drug-test recently, becoming the first national government agency to do so.

The sudden and unannounced drug test, supervised by the Bataan PNP Crime Laboratory, was carried out to the surprise of the DENR personnel right after the Monday flag raising ceremony.

"No one knew that we were going to conduct a drug test, which I personally led in front of my personnel. And they all followed suit," said Mamac. (Mar T Supnad)

HATAWA!

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Kawani ng DENR patay sa motorbike

CAUAYAN CITY, Isabela - Binawian ng buhay ang isang kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) makaraan masangkot sa aksidente sa lansangan kamakalawa ng gabi sa bahagi ng Brgy. Busilac, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao.

Ang biktima ay si Jefferson Macadangdang, 26 anyos, residente ng nasabing lalawigan.

Batay sa paunang pagsisiyasat ng Alfonso Lista Police Station, sakay ng motorsiklo at habang binabagtas ng biktima ang lansangan sa kahabaan ng Sitio Kamanggaan, Brgy. Busilac, nang bumangga siya sa poste sa gilid ng lansangan.

Ang biktima ay nagkaroon nang malubhang sugat sa iba't ibang bahagi ng kanyang katawan.

Bagama't naisugod sa pagamutan, ang biktima ay idineklarang dead on arrival ng attending physician.

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Group asks govt to grant perks to geothermal plants

By LENIE LECTURA [@llectura](#)

A GROUP of geothermal-energy developers has urged the government to provide incentives to address the barriers related to costs and resource-exploration risks. In particular, the National Geothermal Association of the Philippines (NGAP) said geothermal projects should be included in the feed-in tariff (FiT) program.

FiT is a preset power price that is guaranteed to qualified new renewable-energy providers. Under Republic Act 9513, or the 2008 Renewable Energy Act, FiT is already provided to solar-, wind- and other renewable-energy sources considered "emerging technology" for the Philippines, but geothermal is not yet included.

The Department of Energy (DOE), according to the group, is actively encouraging the development of renewable-electricity generation through the National Renewable Energy Program, which outlines the government's goal to increase geothermal-power capacity by 75 percent, with an addition of 1,465 megawatts (MW) for the period 2013 to 2030.

SEE "GEOTHERMAL PLANTS," A2

Geothermal plants...

CONTINUED FROM A1

However, the DOE, in consultation with NGAP, has determined that meeting that target will require certain enabling actions by the government, as detailed in the Geothermal Road Map.

"The DOE realizes that it can no longer hope to discover conventional 'elephant-sized' geothermal resources, as these have been fully accessed and evaluated by the former state-owned energy development and public-utility companies," the NGAP said.

"With an appropriately structured FiT rate that will provide guaranteed payment to investors through a universal charge, these acidic and lower enthalpy resources can be developed to generate electricity," it added.



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Negros Occ biomass power plants attract \$161-M foreign investments

Partners Bronzeoak Philippines Inc. and Swiss ThomasLloyd Group have taken in three more investors for its biomass power projects in Negros Island.

The International Finance Corp., with support from the Government of Canada and Clean Technology Fund, bared a \$161-million investment in three biomass power plants in Negros Occidental.

"This funding will help utilize agricultural waste to generate reliable base load power, providing additional income to farmers, reducing fertilizer costs, and helping contribute to a healthful ecology," Bronzeoak Philippines CEO Jose Maria Zabaleta said.

The power plants are being built in the towns of Manapla, San Carlos and La Carlota

which is expected to generate 70 megawatts of clean renewable energy by converting sugarcane waste to electricity using a low carbon-emitting process called circulating fluidized bed boiler technology.

The three power plants are expected to qualify for the biomass feed-in-tariff (FIT) of the Energy Regulatory Commission, which has an installation target of 250 MW.

"ThomasLloyd is delighted that IFC has chosen to participate in these investments. With its use of local sugar cane waste, this project is an exciting development for all the stakeholders and especially for the local community," ThomasLloyd Group Ltd. executive director Tony Coveney said.

ThomasLloyd CTI Asia

By DANESSA RIVERA

Holdings is the principal financial sponsor. WBE (Hong Kong) International Green Energy Limited, another shareholder, will provide engineering and construction services.

Before it was identified as feedstock for biomass power plants, sugarcane waste was burned in the fields, a practice that contributed to air pollution.

IFC country manager Yuan Xu said energy is central to a country's development so the Philippines needs to further diversify and secure its energy sources.

"Converting agricultural waste to biomass power is a sustainable way of creating economic value while caring for the environment," he said.

IFC said the contribution of Clean Technology Fund and

the Government of Canada through the IFC-Canada climate change program, has helped make the investment viable.

To date, Canada has provided CA\$271 million to the program to enable climate change investments that are generating significant environmental and economic benefits in developing countries.

"We are pleased to support innovative projects abroad that help reduce global greenhouse gases. Through our partnership with the IFC, the Government of Canada will deliver funds that will enable the growth of renewable energy while supporting the creation of green jobs," said Catherine McKenna, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change.



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Angat Dam water level rises

Meanwhile, the water level in the Angat Dam rose to 190.01 meters yesterday following heavy rains dumped by the enhanced southwest monsoon in the past days.

Although the dam's water elevation has increased by 12.61 meters, it is still 20 meters below its spilling level of 210 meters.

The PDRMO of Bulacan said families who were evacuated in the towns of Sta. Maria, Marilao, Plaridel, Norzagaray and Bocaue have started to return home as the weather continues to improve.

— With Helen Flores, Rudy Santos, Ding Cervantes, Ric Sapnu, Ramon Efren Lazaro



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