

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 29 AUG 2016

DAY : **Monday**

DENR

IN THE NEWS

29 AUG 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Davao forum on eco-friendly schools

By ELAINA DE VERA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will host a national forum on eco-friendly schools and cities in Davao City that aims to overcome challenges, and provide opportunities and replicate good practices among schools and cities nationwide.

The forum, to be held on Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, is expected to be attended by some 200 representatives from champion schools in the National Search for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools, environmentally-sustainable cities, non-government organizations and various government agencies in the country are expected to attend the three-day forum.

It will include a mix of lectures and technical sessions, through in-

teraction with the participants and workshops.

Discussions will revolve around ways to heighten the mentoring by environmentally-sustainable cities in the build-up of more sustainable and eco-friendly schools and how to create an informal network of eco-schools and eco-cities for the continuing sharing and upscaling of good practices.

The forum will be a platform for the discussion of best practices through eco-school programs, and eco-cities initiatives.

In addition, it will help clarify the role of the local government units and schools in the creation of an eco-school and an eco-city.

Speakers will come from the local government, academe, private and international sector, such as Inter-national Global Environment Strat-

egies, European Union Switch Asia Policy, and Thailand's Department of Environment Quality Promotion.

DENR Assistant Secretary and chair of the National Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Education Corazon Davis said the forum will enhance the attainment of the joint goals of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities and the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education, by urging more cities and local government units to have schools with curricula and co-curricular programs on environmental sustainability, and urging the participation of the local government units, in cooperation with the government and private sector, in expanding the participation of schools in the 2017 National Search for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools.



29 AUG 2016

DATE

13

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR holds eco-schools' forum in Davao City

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources will conduct a national forum on eco-schools and eco-cities in Davao this week to overcome challenges, upscale opportunities and replicate good practices among schools and cities in the country.

DENR Assistant Secretary Corazon Davis said the forum will be held from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, and some 200 representatives from champion schools in the National Search for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools are expected to attend.

Davis, who also chairs the National Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Education, said the three-day forum will include a mixture of lectures and technical sessions, through interaction with the participants and workshops.

Discussions will revolve around ways to heighten the mentoring by environmentally-sustainable cities in the build-up of more sustainable and eco-friendly schools and how to create an informal network of eco-schools and eco-cities for the continuing sharing and upscaling of good practices.

Davis said the forum will be a platform for the discussion of best practices through eco-school programs, and eco-cities initiatives.

Cory Martinez



29 AUG 2016

DATE

12

PAGE

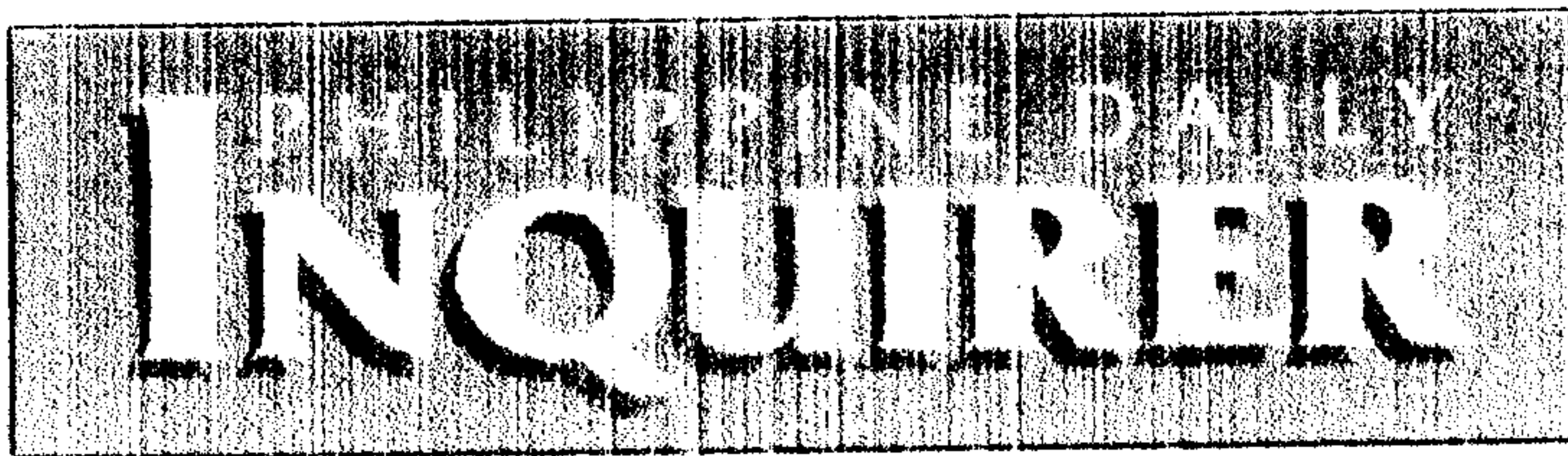
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DENR hosts eco-friendly school forum

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be hosting a national forum on eco-friendly schools and cities in Davao City that aims to overcome challenges, and upscale opportunities and replicate good practices among schools and cities nationwide. The forum, to be held on Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, is expected to be attended by some 200 representatives from champion schools in the National Search for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools, environmentally-sustainable cities, non-government organizations and various government agencies in the country are expected to attend the three-day forum. The three-day forum will include a mix of lectures and technical sessions, through interaction with the participants and workshops. (Ellalyn B. De Vera)



29 AUG 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gina defends DENR exec; 'not happy' with another

By Jaymee T. Gamil

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Gina Lopez has taken up the cudgels for the former head of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) after antimining protesters called for his removal from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a protest turned dialogue on Tuesday, members of Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), Sanlakas, Lilak and Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, among others, called on Lopez to rid the DENR of officials accused of corruption or inaction, including former MGB chief Leo Jasareno who now leads Lopez's mining audit and whom she earlier named a department undersecretary.

The groups' members include farmers and residents of large-scale mining areas in Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Zambales, Bulacan, Masbate, Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.

While praising Lopez's mining audit—which has led to the closure of 10 mining sites in Zambales, Palawan, Bulacan and Surigao del Norte—"we also call for serious reforms within the DENR and for its leadership to investigate and hold accountable officials found to have abused their authority or violated their mandate and engaged in corruption," ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera said.

Sanlakas secretary general Aaron Pedrosa pointed out that Jasareno and other DENR officials had been named respondents in various cases filed by communities against destructive mining, including a petition for a writ of kalikasan and continuing mandamus against mining operations, and an Ombudsman complaint for malfeasance filed by Sta. Cruz, Zambales, residents. There was also a pe-

tition for continuing mandamus filed by residents of Manicani, Guiuan, Eastern Samar, over the continued hauling of mineral ore despite a DENR suspension order.

Aside from Jasareno, the protesters named the other officials as former Secretary Ramon Paje, Environmental Management Bureau Director Juan Miguel Cuna, former Eastern Visayas MGB regional director and now Assistant Secretary Nonita Cagiuoa, and former Central Luzon MGB regional director and now MGB Assistant Director Danilo Uykieng.

Lopez, who allowed the protesters to enter the DENR offices so she could meet with them personally, ended up defending Jasareno whom she called to join the meeting.

"You have to believe in my judgment. I have the right and I want you to trust me. I want to choose the people I want to work with. I have worked with Leo even before and I'm working with him now. He is a good man. He really is a good man. He's good, honest and dynamic. With Leo's able help, we have been able to close down 10 mines. We're gonna close down eight more," Lopez said.

She, however, admitted that she was "not very happy" with Cagiuoa, whom the groups accused of disobeying an order to suspend the hauling of mineral ore in Manicani.

"I told her, 'If you let me down again, I'm very strict on corruption.' But some of them are appointees from Davao, so what can I do?" Lopez said. "But the President has gone very strict on corruption, so if she goes wrong once, *wala na*."

Iloilo opens sanitary landfill

SECRETARY Gina Lopez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources opened and inaugurated Iloilo City's engineered sanitary landfill facility in Barangay Calajunan in Mandurriao district over the weekend.

Joren Sartorio, chief of the city general services office, said the DENR chief inspected the P200-million facility covering 3.3 hectares inside the 23-hectare Calajunan dumpsite owned by the city government.

Sartorio said the sanitary landfill project was mandated under Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act.

The sanitary landfill facility was realized with a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines in 2014. The project, which is a joint venture undertaking by contractors Persons and Sta Clara, includes several cell sites, ponds, wash bay and water treatment of the leachate from garbage water.

The GSO is also requesting the Environment and Management Bureau (EMB) of the DENR to conduct water testing and determine the water quality to be drained towards the creek.

Iloilo City produces 260 metric tons of garbage daily. Only residual or excess wastes are to be dumped at the landfill facility.

An organization of women salvagers was organized two years ago and is now producing fancy jewelry items and household decors made from recyclable scraps gathered from the dumpsite.

Some of their products are sold in the local markets and exported to Saudi Arabia for overseas Filipinos. **PNA**

29 AUG 2016

Malaya
Business Insight

www.malaya.com.ph

DATE

B-4

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Scavenging. Despite the danger, a scavenger looks for materials that can be salvaged in a big patch of water lily clogging the Manila Bay off Roxas Boulevard.

PHOTO BY MIKE TABOY

29 AUG 2016

THE STANDARD

DATE

UPPER HALF

A-6
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Erap orders crackdown on cleaners with cyanide

By Sandy Araneta

MANILA Mayor Joseph Estrada on Sunday ordered the City Health Office to launch a crackdown against local jewelry shops that are selling silver jewelry cleaners containing the deadly cyanide compound.

Estrada said City Ordinance No. 8178 passed in 2008 prohibits the retail of all metal and jewelry cleaners containing cyanide and imposes a P5,000 fine or a one-year jail term for violators.

"We will enforce the city ordinance against the selling of these cyanide-containing silver cleaners, and the silver polish itself, we will get rid of it immediately. This product is lethal," Estrada said.

He issued the directive after the EcoWaste Coalition urged mayors and local health and police chiefs to crack down on vendors of silver jewelry cleaners.

On August 20, EcoWaste Coalition conducted a "test buy" and managed to purchase silver cleaning products in a shopping mall in Quiapo, in a beads and accessories store in Villalobos Street, and in another silver jewelry store in Carriedo Street, proving that such harmful merchandise is still being openly sold despite government regulations against it.

Estrada directed City Health Officer Benjamin Yson to coordinate with the Manila Police District in conducting surprise raids against the erring business establishments.

"We will continuously monitor these stores to make sure that silver cleaners are not sold for household use. It's supposed to be for limited industrial use only. Violators will be duly penalized," Estrada said.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

High level of lead found in kids' toys

A TOXIC and pollution watchdog yesterday cautioned the public against buying a toy ruler-wristband that contains high-level of hazardous lead.

The EcoWaste Coalition aired the warning after finding dangerous amount of lead in a toy ruler with Ninja Turtle characters commonly sold outside public elementary schools.

The ruler, which is sold for P5 per packet, also doubles as a wristband and comes with a crayon eraser.

As per X-Ray Fluorescence screening, the Ecowaste discovered that the toy ruler-wrist band contained 47,000 parts per mil-

lion (ppm) of lead, exceeding the government's limit of 90 ppm for lead in decorative paints and the production of toys as well as school supplies.

The group, however, said no lead was detected on the crayon eraser.

The EcoWaste said the product provides no information about its manufacturer, importer or distributor.

"As a precaution against potential lead exposure, we advise parents not to allow their children to buy and use this toxic ruler that also functions as a wrist band," said Thony Dizon, coordinator of the EcoWaste's Project Protect.

According to the EcoWaste, the

product is made of a flexible metal sheet that is covered with a thin colored plastic wrapper with Ninja Turtle design.

The group noted that product examination showed that the metal sheet – a recycled roll-up tape measure – is coated with yellow paint, which apparently contains lead above the regulatory restriction for lead in paint.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "children are particularly vulnerable to the neurotoxic effects of lead, and even relatively low levels of exposure can cause serious and, in some cases, irreversible neurological damage." – *Angela Lopez de Leon*



29 AUG 2016

DATE

14

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Ninja Turtles toy rulers contain lead -- EcoWaste

By CORY MARTINEZ

A NON-GOVERNMENT environmental group yesterday warned parents and students against buying Ninja Turtles toy rulers found to contain high concentrations of lead, a hazardous substance.

The EcoWaste Coalition issued the warning after finding dangerous amount of lead in the cheap toy, which doubles as a wristband and comes with a crayon eraser.

The group's project coordinator, Thony Dizon, said the product, which is sold for P5 per packet, had no information about its manufacturer, importer and distributor.

Based on the X-ray screening conducted by the group, the toy ruler-wrist band was found to contain 47,000 parts per million (ppm) of lead. No lead was detected on the crayon eraser.

"As a precaution against potential lead exposure, we advise parents not to allow their children to buy and use

this toxic ruler that also functions as a wrist band," Dizon said.

The product is made of a flexible metal sheet that is covered with a thin colored plastic wrapper with Ninja Turtle design.

Product examination shows that the metal sheet -- a recycled roll-up tape measure -- is coated with a yellow paint, which apparently contains lead above the regulatory restriction for lead in paint.

DENR Administrative Order 2013-24, also known as the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, sets a maximum allowable limit of 90 parts per million for total lead in paint.

The same regulation prohibits the use of lead in the production of toys as well as school supplies.

"Sooner or later, the plastic wrap will get torn with frequent use exposing the lead-coated metal strip," Dizon warned. "Lead can enter a child's body through the ingestion or inhalation of lead-containing paint chip and dust," he said.

29 AUG 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR chief to inspect Semirara

ILOILO CITY – Secretary Gina

Lopez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will personally inspect the country's leading coal mine in Semirara Island, Caluya town, Antique.

"I will travel there myself," Lopez told Manila Bulletin while in Iloilo City over the weekend.

The DENR earlier issued a show-cause order against Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC), a subsidiary of DMCI Holdings, Inc., over alleged violations of environmental laws.

SMPC has explained why its Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC), which is issued by DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), should not be revoked.

Two attached agencies of DENR — the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and EMB — are checking SMPC's explanations.

Antique Governor Rhodora Cadio is seeking for a dialogue with Lopez.

"DENR should consult the Antique provincial government with what it will do with Semirara," Cadio said.

She said the people of Caluya and Antique province are stakeholders in the coal mine, but they have been kept in the dark.

"We are not only talking about environmental problems, but the socio-economic repercussions," Cadio said.

A total of 14 miners were killed when SMPC's Pani-an Pit collapsed in July, 2015 and February, 2013. The bodies of several missing miners were never recovered.



29 AUG 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Lopez to inspect top coal plant in Semirara

ILOILO CITY – Secretary Gina Lopez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will personally inspect the country's leading coal producer in Semirara Island, Caluya town, Antique province.

"I will travel there myself," said Lopez.

DENR earlier issued a show-cause order against Semirara Min-

ing and Power Corp. (SMPC), a subsidiary of DMCI Holdings Inc.

SMPC has already explained why its Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC), which is issued by DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), should not be lifted despite various alleged violations and complaints from residents.

Two attached agencies of DENR

– the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and EMB – are conducting validation of SMPC's explanations.

On the other hand, Antique Governor Rhodora "Dodod" Cadiao is seeking for a dialogue with Lopez.

"DENR should consult the Antique provincial government with what it will do with Semirara," appealed Cadiao. **(Tara Yap)**



29 AUG 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

MGB to review Aquino EO on mining agreements

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) is set to review the executive order on mining agreements issued by the past administration, as stakeholders consider this an investment dampener for the country.

Former president Benigno

Aquino III issued EO 79 disallowing the approval of new mineral agreements until legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms takes effect.

"We are starting to review it, we are looking into the provisions, what it has accomplished, its intention, if it's still needed and if it's in the

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

best interest of the country," Environment Undersecretary and MGB director Mario Luis Jacinto said.

The issuance implemented reforms in the mining sector despite the existing Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which is considered one of the best mining laws in the world.

Stakeholders consider the EO a dampener as far as investments are concerned, as gross domestic product could have grown to 10 percent had mining been allowed to flourish. The mining industry contributes a measly 0.7 percent to the country's GDP.

"We have a good mining

law. EO 79 is something that is not needed, it is just a matter of making sure everything is clear," Jacinto said.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said the unstable policy regime of the last administration resulted in staggering loss of opportunity as no new mining agreements were issued and the industry's

fiscal and regulatory regime came under very close scrutiny from the executive, legislative, and judicial departments.

Amid the government's ongoing crackdown on irresponsible mining firms leading to suspension of several operations, Jacinto maintained that MGB would continue to

formulate policies that are most responsive to the industry.

"We will perform in the highest degree of professionalism, an institution that will respond proactively with the industry that it serves," he said.

Meanwhile, Jacinto also debunked claims that there might be a conflict between the mandate of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its attached agency.

"I believe there is balance in the existing structure now. The developments that we are taking should be on the basis of what is best for the community, for the people and for the country," he said.

"Even if it's a separate department, you still have to comply with environment regulations. We need a balance on the development of natural resources and on environmental protection and enhancement," Jacinto said.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Stakeholders seek review of mining tax

BY JED MACAPAGAL

STAKEHOLDERS and experts in mining industry are appealing to the government to review taxes on the industry to make it more responsive to its needs and allow it to grow.

Ramon Clarete, University of the Philippines School of Economics professor, said at the recent Philippine Mining International Conference that the tax system should encourage exploration activities.

"Impose low tax at the start, in fact subsidize exploration, and when it starts operating...you move on to a higher tax rate... (It must be) responsive to the movements of the metal prices so in times of higher prices, the government would be able to capture the extra income coming from the industry. But if it is down, metal taxes should also go down. So, it's going to be variable in terms of metal prices so that sharing would be constant," Clarete said.

"I think the present tax rate is so traditional it is not responsive to the needs of the industry," he added.

One of the biggest issues in the mining industry under the previous administration was the proposed amendments in the mining revenue sharing to increase government's share to 10 percent of gross revenue or 55 percent of adjusted net mining revenue, whichever is higher.

Under the current Philippine Mining Act of 1995, government gets 50 percent share in profits of foreign miners operating in the country under Financial or Technical Assistance Agreements, and a 2 percent excise tax on actual market value of output under Mineral Production Sharing Agreements with local companies.

Benjamin Philip Romualdez, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines president, said during the same event the taxes paid by mining firms should be looked at based on the entirety of a project's mine life.

He added the high cost of exploration activities must also be considered.

"Many companies continue to pay taxes to the government while we are still recording losses because we are not the same as a BPO (business process outsourcing) or a mall. Tax rates for us must be cognizant to what is the nature of our business," Romualdez said.

"Many companies spend a lot of money and the contribution to government already starts by the mere fact that we already are providing services and facilities to the communities," he said.

If quantified, the benefits of mining projects to the communities are not just through taxes but also through services and facilities being provided for free by mining operators, noted Romualdez.

Aside from seeking a review of mining tax, Clarete also mentioned that the government should be investing the taxes collected from mining firms into another form of asset.

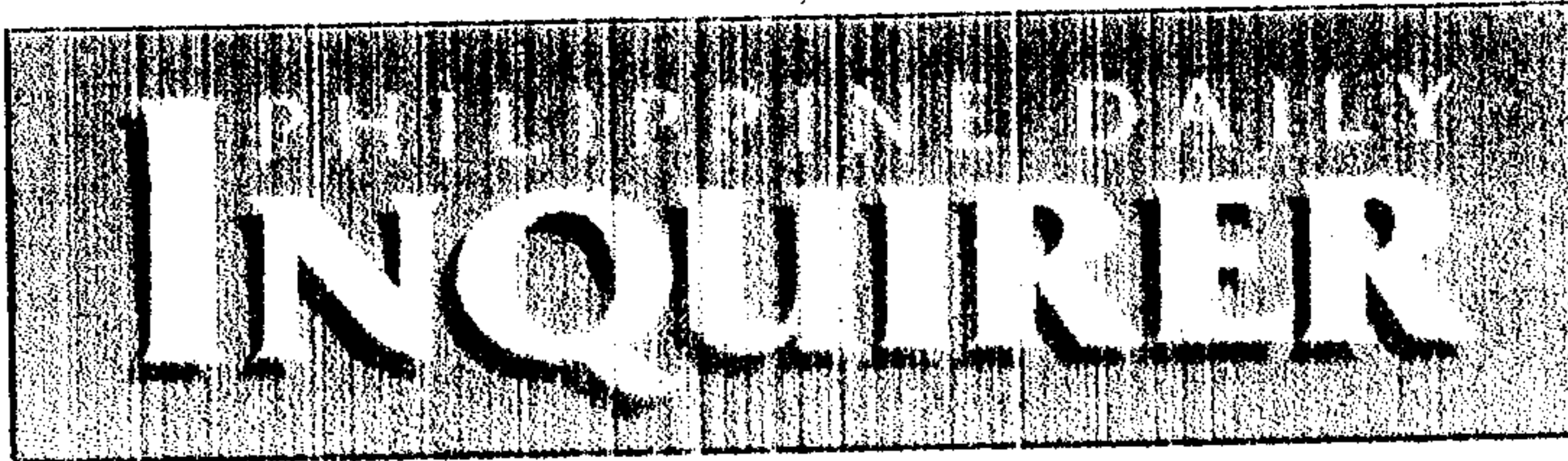
"Some countries rich in oil and fuel they just spent but did not reinvest some of their excess income to something. So, after decades of extracting, they have nothing. They remain poor," Clarete explained.

"But there are other countries who are more responsible and plowed back some of that income and transformed natural assets into human capital or even produced capital... I think that's what we need to do. Minerals do not need to be depleted, they just need to be transported into some new assets," he added.

Earlier, Environment secretary Regina Lopez said the government still needs to get more share from mining firms.

"I feel that the government should get more. That's my take. If you look at the numbers, the suffering goes to the community but the bulk goes to taxes. I don't think that's right. And if you look at our share in the taxes, we don't get much at all," Lopez had said.

29 AUG 2016



DATE

UPPER HALF

A-18
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Antimining group hopeful of Rody's green policies

ALYANSA Tigil Mina (ATM) welcomes President Duterte's pronouncements on environment concerns. Specifically, he has directed the review of mining permits and contracts, as well as logging and other environment-sensitive projects. He also assured that these permits and contracts will be amended, suspended or canceled, as needed.

This is consistent with what President Duterte publicly espoused during his presidential campaign. The appointment of environmental advocate Gina Lopez to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources affirms the President's sincere resolve to address the many issues and concerns plaguing the mining industry.

ATM also welcomes the pronouncement of newly-elected House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez that Congress will consider the requirement of a legislative franchise for mining operations. This proposal calls for a review and amendment of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 (Republic Act No. 7942), which is consistent with our demands.

We, therefore, urge the 17th Congress to consider the proposed mining bills—including the Philippine Mineral Resources Act (House Bill 54 and HB 113), the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) law and the new fiscal (tax) regime for mining. While we still need to study further the details of the legislative franchise requirement, we believe that this added layer of regulation will benefit all stakeholders, especially mining-affected communities and local government units.

ATM fully supports the initiatives of Secretary Lopez to introduce substantial reforms in the DENR. Mining-affected communities and support groups are ready to engage in the ongoing mining audit. We will

contribute in submitting evidence and documents showing violations of mining companies and their abuse of human rights in mining communities, particularly of indigenous peoples. We will participate in the scheduled environmental summits to be held at various island-regions and specific provinces. This is crucial for the DENR to acquire the necessary feedback and peoples' agenda on preserving and managing our forests and natural resources.

There are several concrete actions that President Duterte and Secretary Lopez can immediately put in effect to fast-track the implementation of the changes in the DENR. Specifically, we recommend:

a) The establishment of a technical working group to study the policy issues and legislative measures that will operationalize the passage of a new mining law, including the requirement of a legislative franchise for mining operations.

b) The issuance of a DENR administrative order clarifying the timeline, parameters and decision-making process of the ongoing mining audit.

c) The review of all pending cases; complaints and petitions at the regional and national mine adjudication boards; this is exceptionally important so that the suspension orders or cancellations of mining permits and contracts stand on strong legal grounds.

ATM is hopeful and optimistic that substantial changes will happen in the mining industry and in the DENR with the policy directions set by President Duterte.

—JAYBEE GARGANERA,
national coordinator,
Alyansa Tigil Mina,
nc@alyansatigilmina.net,



29 AUG 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

E-1

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

BULL MARKET, BULL SHEET



By WILSON LEE
FLORES

WEEDING OUT BAD MINERS FROM GOOD

Philex Mining SVP Atty. Mike Toledo recently expressed confidence that the sincere anti-corruption drive of President Duterte and his DENR Secretary Gina Lopez will weed out the bad miners from the many good and ethical miners, thus giving hope to this important industry. The miners are hopeful that the Philippines will benefit from \$34 billion in projects to be developed in the next six years.

Atty. Toledo said that the Philippines has been blessed by God with some of the world's richest mineral resources, that environmentally sound mining can unleash this natural wealth to enrich far-flung rural areas and can support Duterte's dream of Philippine industrialization.



29 AUG 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gov't opposition to Tampakan mine project to send negative signal to investors .

The government's opposition to the \$5.9 billion Tampakan copper and gold mine project in Mindanao is seen to send negative signals to foreign investors, an economist said.

Ramon Clarete of the Uni-

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

versity of the Philippines-School of Economics said the decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to not allow the project to commence operations might drive investors away.

"They (government) just changed the rule in the middle of it. It's not good because it will send signals to investors that this is not a good country to do business with, and we lost almost \$6 billion," Clarete said during the recently-concluded Mining Philippines Conference 2016.

The Tampakan project in South Cotabato is considered as potentially the country's biggest foreign investment and believed to be one of the largest gold prospects in the world.

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez earlier said it was former president Benigno Aquino III who issued the environmental compliance

certificate (ECC) for the Tampakan project, which covers an area of around 10,000 hectares spanning four provinces.

"The project should never have been given an ECC. DENR did not really want to issue the ECC. But it was brought up to the President and they mandated the ECC," Lopez said.

But, the project has been put on hold since the province of South Cotabato banned open-pit mining in mid-2010.

Clarete noted that if the Tampakan operations started four years ago, it could have made a positive impact in terms of investments for the country.

The Tampakan mine project was supposed to start operations in the next two years, as part of the aggregate \$14.75-billion investments for 2018.

The mine reportedly has an estimated 2.94 billion tons of mineral resource containing 15 million tons of copper and 18

million ounces of gold.

It is projected to produce 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold per year in the initial mine-life of 17 years, with potential for mine-life extension.

Value of the mine's production is estimated at \$37 billion over a period of 20 years.

Clarete noted that if the Tampakan operations started four years ago, it could have made a positive impact in terms of investments for the country.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), meanwhile, urged the government to move forward and prepare for future investments in the local mining sector.

According to COMP, over \$30 billion in investments have been lined up over the next five to 10 years.

Clarete also cited the need for a transparent policy regulatory regime for mining investments.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Irresponsible activism

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON



'It's amazing how much progress is being denied in so many communities in this country by the lies of so few.'

I was tagged yesterday on a Facebook post which showed some activists on the island of Manicani posing before a streamer which had these words:

When all the trees are cut down
When all the animals are dead
When all the rivers are poisoned
When all the air is unsafe to breathe
Only then will you realize
You cannot eat money!!
NO TO MINING!

I wanted to laugh at the illogic except that it is such a serious and irresponsible sort of activism that propagates such messages that it isn't funny.

Blaming the denudation of our forests on mining for example is one giant lie that irresponsible anti mining activists repeat and repeat knowing that Joseph Goebbels has said something about lies becoming truths when repeated often enough.

Blaming animals dying on mining is another laughable untruth except it is repeated often enough to become a truth in the eyes of the unthinking.

Blaming the death of our rivers on mining, or the pollution in the air are two more untruths that irresponsible activists just repeat and repeat until it becomes a mantra. And no matter how tiring it can be, we who know better can only repeat and repeat the truth just to counter these lies.

To think that many of these irresponsible activists are sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church - the same Church that has many times in the past tried everything it can to stop the truth from becoming known.

How many more Galileos are there to condemn?

How many churches all over the country have beautiful pews and beautiful benches and beautiful staircases made from the finest wood our forests offered? They had to be encased in temples to God built to last a lifetime - using bricks and mortar and cement that had to be produced by reducing limestone hills to nothing through open pit quarrying. And then the temples have to be adorned with icons and items made from the finest and most valuable minerals - gold preferably, with precious stones even. All these had to come from the bowels of the earth, mines in order to honor God as man - the clergy - thought it best to honor Him.

He who was born in a manger, walked in sandals and worked as a carpenter. He who wouldn't recognize the adornments worn by the princes of the Church He is supposed to have founded and in whose name so many were killed and enslaved.

One wonders why of all the rivers in this country the Pasig River is the most environmentally dead? Not by mining, mind you, but by senseless urbanization and rapid population growth. And despite years of advocating its revival, what has been achieved? In contrast, it took Singapore ten years to cleanse the Singapore River - because they knew what to do and were not limited to irresponsible activism that resorts to slogans.

As irresponsible activists in the Philippines do.

The fact that these students of Goebbels refuse to acknowledge that responsible miners convert mined out areas back into forests speaks volumes about their credibility. Except that in the eyes of the funders of irresponsible activists it is the slogans that matter - never mind that on the island of Manicani a very small minority is seeking to impose its anti-mining will on a vast majority. Even if it means rendering the latter helpless and hopeless.

It's amazing how much progress is being denied in so many communities in this country by the lies of so few.

Such is the impact of irresponsible activism.

MABILIS SA BALITA

Abante

TONITE

29 AUG 2016

DATE

4

PAGE

UPPER HALF

UPPER

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

SPY ON THE JOB

REY MARFIL



e-mail address: rey_d_spy@yahoo.com

Mainit ang panahon

Mapa-droga at mina, maging posisyon sa gobyerno -- lubhang napakainit ng panahon. Himayin ang laman ng peryodiko, pakinggan ang balita sa radyo at panoorin ang newscast sa telebisyon -- magkakadugtong ang kuwento; kundi droga, kaliwa't kanang akusasyon at sibakan sa mga ahensiya.

Sa usapin ng mining, good news sa mga taga-Romblon ang pagkakatalaga ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kay DENR Sec. Gina Lopez, siguradong bantay-sarado ang Sibuyan Island sa mga mandarambong at nanggagahasa ng bundok sa aming lalawigan.

Kamakailan lang, dalawang minero ang nasawi matapos madaganan ng malalaking tipak ng bato at natabunan ng gumuhong lupa sa Brgy. Dulangan, Magdiwang Romblon. Ang Magdiwang ang tinaguriang 'mining town' ng probinsiya at ilang taong pinagkakitaan ng mga naglipanang kurimaw.

Ngayong mainit ang usapin sa mining -- malamang dinadaga sa dibdib ang mga may-ari ng small-scale mining tenement rights sa Romblon province at kung tama ang direksyon ni Gina Lopez, aba'y makatwirang magpatupad ng "name and shame campaign" katulad sa anti-drug campaign ng pamahalaan.

Ang Sibuyan ang binansagang 'Last Frontier of Biodiversity' at kung hindi papangalagaan ng pamahalaan, ano pang silbi ni Gina Lopez na halos ituring na 'Anak ng Romblon' dahil matiyagang binantayan ang Sibuyan Island kahit wala pang pinanghahawakang posisyon sa Malacañang.

29 AUG 2016

THE STANDARD

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mobile app to protect Cotabato forest

AT LEAST 120 forest rangers and technicians can now use a web-based mobile application to gather critical information in real time and address threats to the Cotabato region's natural forest and biodiversity.

The forest field men recently underwent training on the application called Lawin (Landscape and Wildlife Indicators) Forest and Biodiversity Conservation System.

Director of the region's environment office, Datu Tungko M. Saikol encouraged the forest rangers to learn and apply the system as they perform their duties.

"You should practice this technology as this would make your job easier and [more] efficient," Saikol said, noting that the system provides features that would help the rangers identify threats to the natural forests and biodiversity.

Under the system, patrol rangers can quickly issue alerts on an impending destruction in the forest and wood areas, such as illegal logging activities.

"It can be used as evidence and it can be sent to the law enforcement officers for necessary action," Saikol said.

Rodolfo Aragon, specialist of the environment department's Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience Land Evaluation, reminded forest rangers and field workers of the importance of their role in environmental protection.

"Lawin will tell you that you have to go and patrol the forest. If the forest is under threat, we have to eliminate the threats. The LFBP system will only work for you if you go to the forest," Aragon explained.

"It is your eyes on the ground. However, it is useless without enforcement," he added.

Rodolfo Santos Jr., B+WISER monitoring and evaluation specialist, meanwhile, emphasized that the Lawin system is an innovation of the government that would help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, such as Life on Land and Climate Action.

The system also records data on wildlife indicator species for healthy forests to determine how the forest ecosystem is responding to management interventions.

Project Lawin was developed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the B+WISER of the United States Agency for International Development. It aims to improve the response mechanism to address observed threats and ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts inside the country's protected areas over the long-term.

Saikol said public support is necessary for the success of this new system in monitoring and enforcing wildlife laws, particularly in areas considered hot spots for timber and wildlife poaching. **PNA**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

CdO to host 3rd International River Summit in N

By BUTCH D. ENERIO
Correspondent

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— This city will be the host to the third International River Summit (IRS) from November 24 to 26, a biennial multipartner national initiative, which serves as avenue to identify opportunities, problems and best practices.

The conference aims to effectively manage rivers across four vital issues on governance, biodiversity conservation and management, climate change and disaster risk-reduction management and water quality.

The summit's organizers expect more than 1,600 participants coming from the different local government units (LGUs) in the country, leading experts, scientists, policy-makers, river administrators,

indigenous communities, support groups, people's organization and practitioners. About 200 foreign guests and experts are expected to attend. The mayor of the host city, Oscar S. Moreno, said the holding of the summit here is a bold move of the organizers and the LGU to gather the participants to tackle a huge environmental issue and take the challenge to protect river basins in the country.

"Mindanao for the last five years has experienced severe flooding, including that which devastated this city where more than a thousand died and countless bodies are yet to be found during the flood brought by Typhoon Washi [local name Sendong] thus, the decision to hold this summit," Moreno said.

The third IRS, with the theme "Healthy Watersheds, Clean

Rivers Safer Communities," is a global platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience toward the building of an inclusive agenda for sustainable development and resiliency of river-basin ecosystem, said Dr. Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, Summit chairman, 3rd IRS.

Quiaoit said the state of Mindanao's eight river basins, part of the 18 river basins in the entire country, will be highlighted during the summit where eminent leaders and stakeholders would share knowledge and best practices to formulate a blueprint of needed actions to address pressing issues affecting river basins and their communities.

Consistent with the initiatives in the first summit held in Iloilo City in 2012 and second summit held in Marikina City in

2014, the Cagayan de Oro would foster information changes on the latest technology, research, approaches and practices on the watersheds river-basin governance.

The organizers said the summit is also the venue to build a consensus that will address policy and program implementation of the river-basin management from international to the local levels, and to open avenues for greater cooperation in finding sustainable solutions for development and environmental stewardship. They said the cross-cutting issues during the summit are sustainable development; best practices; lessons learned; river basin policies; sustainable mechanism; and youth and community empowerment.

29 AUG 2016

DATE

4

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



**'Sindikato sa
Laguna lake'**

DEKADA nang problema ang Laguna lake.

Mistulang *septic tank* ng mga dumi mula sa mga pabrika at mga kabahayang nakapaligid dito.

Panahon pa ni dating Pres. Gloria Arroyo, nagkalat na ang mga *fish pen* sa Laguna lake. Sa termino ni Pres. Benigno Aquino III lalo pa itong lumala. Walang ginawa sa problema sa loob ng anim na taon.

Tanging si Pres. Rodrigo Duterte lang ang presiden-teng umupak sa mga salot na ekta-ektaryang *fish pen* sa Laguna lake.

Sinakop na kasi ng mga nagmamay-ari ng korporasyon ang lawa. Ang mga pobrang maliliit na mangingisda, 'tyaga nalang sa mga tira. Isa sa mga itinuturong dahilan ng prob-

lema ang pagbibigay ng *permit* ng Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Mismong si General Manager Nereus Acosta na ang nagsabi, karamihan sa 400 naka-rehistrong may ari ng *fish pen* sa LLDA "*dummy*" lang ng mga Koreano at Tsinong negosyante. Aminado rin ang ahensya, hirap silang paalisin ang mga *fish pen operator* sa Laguna lake dahil may inis-yung lisensya sa kanila.

Noong 2006, inilantad ng **BITAG** sa telebisyon ang problemang ito. Pang-aabuso sa kapangyarihan ng mga mangilan-ngilang nagmamay-ari ng mga baklad. Malalaking korporasyon ang nasa likod ng mga *fish pen* noon. Mga gobernador, kongresman, mayor, heneral ng AFP at PNP ang karamihan sa kanila. Ganito rin ang sinabi ni Pres. Duterte noong July 25 sa kanyang SONA.

Malaking hamon ngayon kay DENR Sec. Gina Lopez na linisin ang Laguna lake. *Marching order* ng presidente, gibain ang mga ekta-ektaryang *fish pen*. Hangga't hindi sinusuri ng kalihim ang listahan ng LLDA ng mga *dummy* ng naglalakihang korporasyon hindi malulutas ang kasalukuyang problema sa Laguna lake.

Abangan ang **BITAG Live** araw-araw na sabay na napanood at napapakinggan tuwing alas 10:00-11:00 ng umaga sa Radyo5 92.3 News FM at AksyonTV. Para sa iba pang mga palabas, mag-subscribe sa **BITAG OFFICIAL** YouTube channel.

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

29 AUG 2016

DATE

PAGE 4

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

METROFILE

Manila Water extols Mandaluyong City's support to Lingap Sapa

MWSS East Zone water and used water concessionaire Manila Water recently commended the city government of Mandaluyong for its unrelenting support to the latter's Lingap Sapa program, an advocacy calling for the clean-up of creeks and water bodies, which has been honored with a Silver Award by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines. Lingap



Photo shows Mandaluyong City Mayor Menchie Abalos (fifth from left) holding the certificate of appreciation handed by Manila Water Advocacy and Research Department Mead Fernando Busuego III (3rd from right), together with Manila Water area business manager Kristoffer Sabater (4th from left) and other officials along with managers from Mandaluyong Business Area.

Sapa is one of Manila Water's environmental programs aimed at reviving rivers by reducing pollution brought about by indiscriminate disposal of solid wastes as well as ensuring proper management and treatment of used water. Mandaluyong City has been an ardent supporter of Manila Water's environmental programs and a major mover in promoting the East Zone concessionaire's Toka Toka movement which calls for the city and its residents to do its share in protecting the environmental by way of proper disposal of garbage, regular desludging of septic tanks every five years, connecting to Manila Water's sewer network and supporting the company's community-based sanitation and sewerage projects. Several barangays initially participated in the Lingap Sapa program that included Barangay Mauway led by Barangay Captain Denny Calimlim, Barangay Hagdang Bato represented by Barangay Captain Richmond Jae San Diego, Barangay Daang Bakal spearheaded by Barangay Captain Richar Bassig, Barangay Bagong Silang with Barangay Captain Marc Anthony Dominguez and Barangay Additional Hills headed by Barangay Captain Ken Flaminiano. Other staunch advocates of the program were the City Environment Council and Councilor Cherry Lynn Pablo Santos.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR orders probe on La Union land-grabbing

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union—The Regional Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here has ordered an investigation into an alleged land-grabbing scheme in La Union, linking some employees of the department.

The order of DENR Regional Director Paquito T. Moreno Jr. came following the complaint of one Ann Paredes, accusing Graciano Boquiren and Santiago Santiago Jr., both employees of DENR; and Arnel Mañalac, a private land surveyor, of having allegedly conspired with each other in the conversion of a titled property she bought located in Barangay Pugo, Bauang, La Union, into a "land underwater," causing its reversion to the State.

Paredes also accused officials of the judiciary and military of being involved in the reported land-grabbing scheme, alleging that after her property was reverted, it was awarded to the group of Alberto Hidalgo through foreshore lease agreement purportedly approved by then regional director Samuel Peñañiel.

BUSINESSMIRROR correspondent

Orly Guirao reported the land-grabbing scheme in a report published on this page on August 22.

Moreno directed the DENR regional legal division to investigate the alleged land-grabbing activity and to file administrative and criminal charges against all those involved, including former DENR officials and private individuals whoever they may be.

"We appreciate Ms. Paredes for her courage of revealing this allegedly anomalous land grabbing scheme involving DENR officials and employees," said Moreno, pointing out he was not yet the regional director when the alleged anomalies in the issuance of foreshore lease agreement happened.

Moreno assured the complainant that appropriate actions are ongoing and, if substantial evidence warrants, administrative sanctions will be imposed on Boquiren and Santiago.

Moreno said the regional office maintained a 24-hour hotline—0998-4797464—manned by the Regional Public Affairs Office to receive complaints from the public concerning the services of the regional office or against any of its officials and employees. *PNA*

29 AUG 2016

DATE

3

PAGE



29 AUG 2016

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

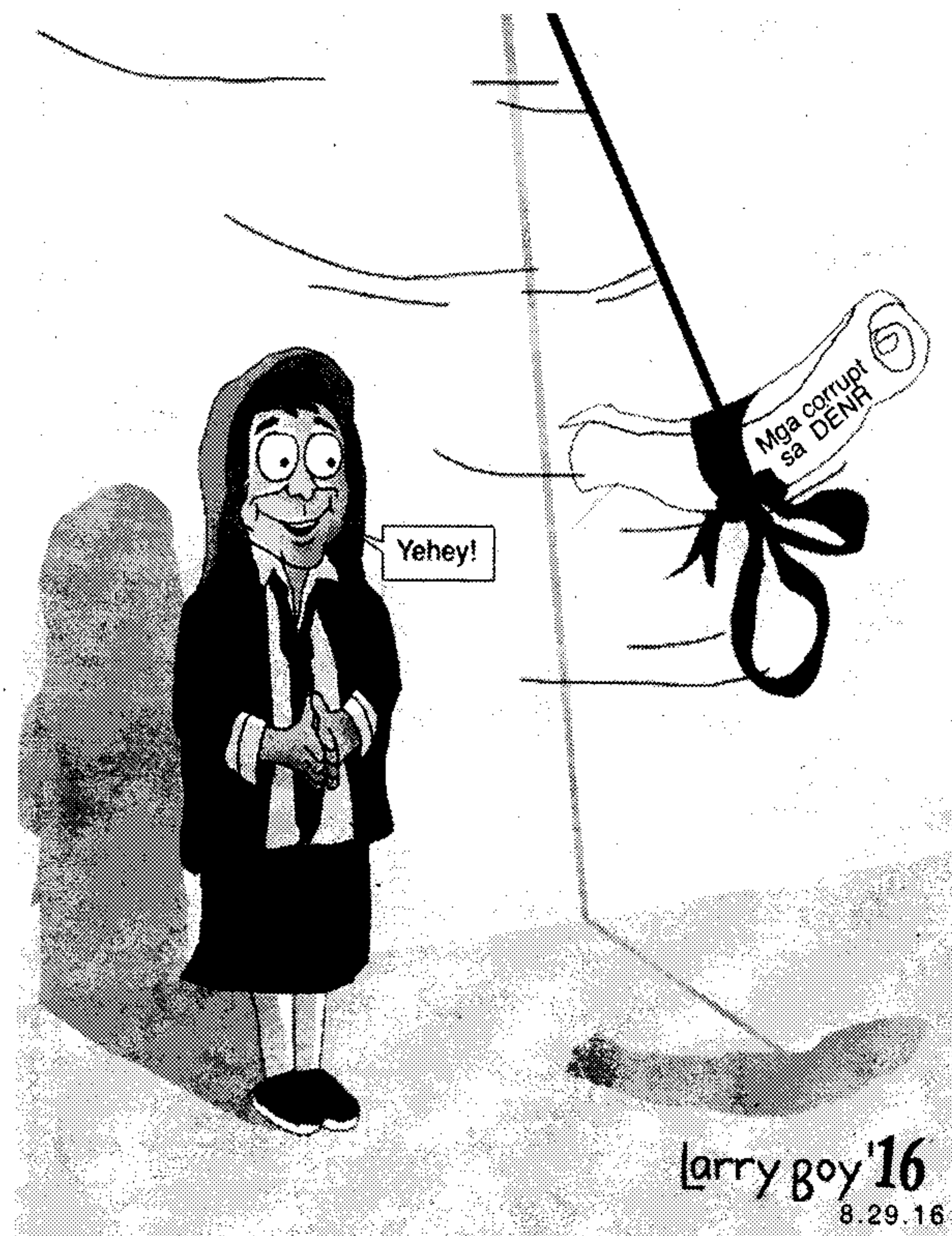
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Editorial

Mga corrupt sa DENR, dapat nang pangalanan

STYLE ni President Rodrigo Duterte na pangalanan ang mga pulitiko at opisyal ng pamahalaan na sangkot o protector ng illegal drugs. Sana ganito rin ang gawin sa corrupt officials ng mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan kabilang ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Pangalanan din sana ang mga corrupt sa DENR para mailigtas ang kapaligiran sa pagkasira. Karamihan umano sa mga nirereklamo ay ang mga opisyal sa Mines and Geosciences Bureau na sangkot sa pag-aapruba ng mga illegal na pagmimina.

Maraming environmentalists at mining advocates ang nasiyahan sa sinabi ni DENR Sec. Gina Lopez noong nakaraang linggo na nangakong aaksiyunan



ang reklamo sa mga corrupt mining officials. Nagasalita si Lopez sa DENR Central Office sa Quezon City. Isasailalim umano sa imbestigasyon ang mga corrupt sa nasabing tanggapan at kapag napatunayan, masisibak sila sa puwesto.

Marami nang sinira ang mga illegal miners at walang ginagawa ang mga dating namumuno sa DENR. Hinayaang masira ang mga bundok. Halimbawa ay ang kabundukan sa Compostela Valley at Davao Oriental. Dahil sa illegal na pagmimina, butas-butas na ang mga bundok sa mga nasabing lugar. Parang sungkaan ang tuktok ng mga bundok.

Nasisira ang kapaligiran dahil sa ginagawang pagmimina. Hinuhukay at binubutas ang mga bundok nang walang pakundangan. At ang ugat ng mga nangyayaring ito ay hindi masawatang corruption sa tanggapan.

Nang hirangin si Lopez ni Duterte noong Hunyo para pamunuan ang DENR, sinabi niya, "I don't like mining, the foreigners and the rich are the only ones benefiting from it but the farmers and the fishermen suffer."

Inaasahan ang mga pagbabago sa DENR lalo na ang may kaugnayan sa illegal na pagmimina. Ipagpatuloy ni Lopez ang reporma at wakasan na ang corruption na matagal nang namamayani sa tanggapan.

X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ • BULGAR SA BALITA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

29 AUG 2016

DATE

4

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF



MAY MGA CORRUPT OFFICIALS PA BA SA DENR?

PINASISIYASAT ng mga grupong kontra pagmimina ang hanay ng mga opisyaes ng DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) na matigil kung hindi man ganap na mapatalsik ang lahat ng sinasabing mga corrupt officials sa nasabing ahensiya, kung kaya namayagpag ang naging pag-abuso naman ng mga malalaking kompanya ng pagmimina sa ating bansa.

Kamakailan ay nagrali ang iba't ibang militanteng grupo sa harap ng DENR office sa QUEZON CITY na ipinananawagan ng mga ito kay DENR SECRETARY GINA LOPEZ na siyasatin umano ang mga inaakusahang kurap na mga opisyaes, kung saan ay tinuran ng mga militante sina dating SEC. RAMON PAJE, dating MINES AND GEO-SCIENCE BUREAU (MGB) DIRECTOR at ngayon ay SENIOR UNDERSECRETARY

LEO JASARENO, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU DIRECTOR ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL CUNA, dating EASTERN VISAYAS MGB REGIONAL DIRECTOR at ngayon ay ASSISTANT SEC. NONITA CAGUIOA, at si dating CENTRAL LUZON MGB REGIONAL DIRECTOR at ngayon ay MGB ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ATTY. DANILO UYKIENG.

Inihayag nitong si ALYANSA TIGIL MINA NATIONAL COORDINATOR JAYBEE GARGANERA na kailangan umanong ireporma ang leadership ng DENR, kung saan ay siyasatin o imbestigahan ang mga opisyal na umabuso umano sa kanilang mga posisyon o nagsilabag sa kanilang mga mandato o naging mga corrupt at ang 'doble-kara' ay hindi dapat umanong manatili sa ahensiya.

Magandang panimula umano ang nagawa ni SEC. LOPEZ sa naging pagkansela sa 10 mining projects na kinabibilangan ng ZAMBALES, PALAWAN,

BULACAN at SURIGAO DEL NORTE na ito ay indikasyon umano sa pagpapakita ng sensiridad sa mandato ng ahensiya; kung saan ay dapat lamang na ang makapanatili sa posisyon ay yaong hindi sangkot sa anumang korapsiyon..

Teka, puwede bang bigyan ng matinding aksiyon ni SEC. LOPEZ ang mga LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS na nagbigay ng pahintulot na pagbentahan ng lupa ang CHINA kaya nakapagpatayo sila ng man-made island sa gitna ng karagatang pinagaawayan at ngayon ay hinahabol ng PILIPINAS na mabawi ang lugar dahil sakop ito ng katubigang teritoryo ng ating bansa? SINO-SINONG MGA OPISYAL ANG DAPAT NA MAPANAGOT SA PAGBEBENTA NG MGA LUPANG GINAMIT NG CHINA SA PAGTATAYO NILANG ISLA SA GITNANG KARAGATANG DAPAT AY SAKOP NG PILIPINAS?

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

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Lumad' evacuees returning to Lianga

DAVAO CITY—More than 3,000 Manobo "lumad" evacuees, who have been staying at the sports complex in Tandag City in Surigao del Sur province, are planning to return to their homes in Lianga town on Sept. 2.

Their homecoming will happen exactly a year and a day after they were forced to leave their communities when members of the paramilitary group Magahat-Bagani killed three lumad leaders in the village of Diatagon town on Sept. 1 last year.

But Michelle Campos, daughter of one of those killed, said government soldiers are still in their villages. "We want them out of our villages before we return home," she said on Sunday.

Campos' father, Dionel, and lumad leaders Emerito Samarca, administrator of the Alternative Learning Center for Agriculture and Livelihood Development (Alcadev), and Juvello "Bello" Sinzo were shot and killed by Magahat-Bagani militiamen in the upland community of Sitio (subvillage) Han-ayan.

Dionel was the chair of Malahutayong Pakigbisog sa mga Sumusunod (Persevering Struggle for the Next Generation) or Mapasu, an indigenous peoples' organization opposed

to the entry of logging and mining companies in Lianga, but which the military has branded as a communist front.

Then Gov. Johnny Pimentel said the Magahat-Bagani was created by the military, an accusation that the Armed Forces of the Philippines had denied.

Almost a year after the killings, no suspect had been arrested, even as the government dangled a P3.6-million bounty for the heads of suspected militia lead-

ers Bobby and Loloy Tejero and Margarito Layno.

Campos, in a telephone interview, said they still want the Magahat-Bagani disbanded, and those behind the killings arrested.

"Soldiers also have to leave our communities. We need to go home," she said.

On Aug. 24, representatives of the provincial government inspected 11 communities abandoned by the evacuees.

"Our hearts were crushed up-

on seeing our houses damaged, our once productive farms covered with weeds and our schools rendered unusable," Mapasu said in a statement.

"We saw 10 houses burned to the ground. There were houses with walls, roofs and floors dismantled and used as firewood. In some houses, belongings were scattered, destroyed and stolen. Most of the houses were damaged, having been left unused because of our forcible

evacuation," the group added.

Six other schools for lumad children were also damaged.

Mapasu said members of the group that visited the site on Aug. 24 were "enraged upon seeing the large military camps in our communities in Kilometer 9 and Han-ayan."

Campos said despite military presence, they will go home Friday to reclaim their communities. *Nico Alconaba, Inquirer Mindanao*



"LUMAD" children sing the national anthem before they attend classes at an evacuation center in Ta