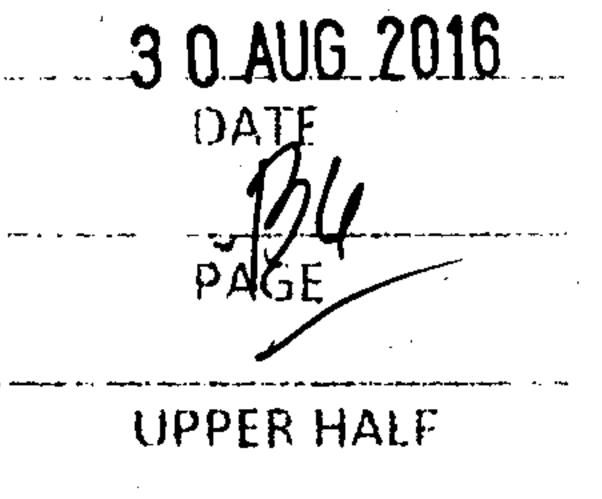
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE		30 AUG 2016
DAY	•	Tuesday

DENR DENR



LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Caraga left-leaning groups back govt drive vs 'irresponsible' mining, contractualization

By Jonathan L. Mayuga @jonlmayuga

Paz L. Lopez has found a strong ally in her campaign against "irresponsible" mining, particularly in the Caraga region, which hosts some of the country's large-scale mines.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the 500-strong Caraga Watch, a coalition of progressive environmental and workers' groups in the industrial and agricultural sectors, have expressed support behind President Duterte and Lopez's campaign.

The group staged a rally in front

of the regional office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) on Thursday to manifest their support behind the Duterte administration's ongoing mine audit, which, so far, has caused the suspension of 10 large-scale mining operations.

MGB officials in Region 13 welcomed the support of antimining activists.

"This is the first time in my over 25 years in the service to have witnessed such a display of support from the left-leaning organizations here in Caraga, expressing their optimism in the government's effort at environmental governance in the mining sector," MGB Region 13 Director Alilo Ensomo Jr. said in a news statement.

The rallyists belong to the Nagkahiusang Gamayng Minero, Anakpawis, Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas based in the Caraga region.

Caraga Watch officials held a one-hour dialogue with Ensomo, where they expressed their appreciation of Lopez for her eagerness to hear the struggles of local and indigenous peoples in Mindanao that were caused by erring mining firms.

In a position paper, Caraga

Watch said Lopez's advocacy bodewell for the region and its people. They said the time has come to stop indiscriminate mining, which result in environmental destruction in the region.

The group also decried the prevailing contractualization in the mining industry in Caraga and called on the DENR leadership to list it as a priority concern in its agenda for the region.

According to Ensomo, while the government is clamping down on contractualization in the country, the DENR commits to put mining contractualization on the spotlight of its agenda, as well.

Data from MGB Region 13 show that Caraga is home to one of the world's largest iron-ore deposits, and largest nickel and gold deposits in the country with significant reserves of copper, chromite and coal.

3 O AUG 2016

DATE
A
PAGE

UPPER HALF

IOWER HALF

p.1

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Lopez to turn miners into E-NGP partners

By Jonathan L. Mayuga #@jonlmayuga

HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is seeking a budget of P28.67 billion for its operation next year, including a whopping P9.4 billion to implement the Expanded National Greening Program (E-NGP) with the help of the private sector, particularly mining firms.

Under the leadership of Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez, the DENR would continue to rehabilitate open, degraded and denuded forest, but would focus more on promoting enterprise development to empower upland dwellers, Environment Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Marlo Mendoza said.

Under the National Expenditure Program (NEP) submitted by Malacañang to Congress, the DENR's budget request for 2017 is higher by P6.87 billion, compared to the current year's P21.8 billion.

Around P6.9 billion will go to personnel services, which is higher by P2.5 billion from this year, to cover the mandated hike in the salary of government workers, which takes effect next year, Imee de la Cruzof the DENR's Budget Division point told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

Next year the DENR will spend around P10.9 billion for maintenance and other operating expense and P10.86 billion for capital outlays.

P9.4B

The budget being sought by the DENR for the Expanded National Greening Program in 2017

3 0 AUG 2016 UPPER HALF

Lopen to turn.....

IOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

and promoting transparency are there. We have outlined anticorruption measures, that is why they are confident that the budget would go to the intended purpose, including social justice, ensuring equity and marked improvement on the people's living conditions," Mendoza said. Next year he said the DENR

in. Of course, good governance

would be outcome-oriented.

"In the past, it was input and output—how many hectares have been planted. The way the programs and plans were designed, we failed to ensure these will translate into a more positive wellbeing of our upland farmers" he said. It has been demonstrated that environmental projects will be more successful or have an impact if they are directly linked to livelihood. We will now look into it from a social entrepreneurship or enterprise development point of view," he added.

According to Mendoza, the National Convergence Initiative of the past administration will be adopted in the implementation of the E-NGP, which will also promote agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, and land and water conservation. "There will be more cash crops and more fruit trees," he said.

Mendoza said because of climate change, lowlands have become flood-prone. "We will also train upland farmers science-based soil conservation and water-conservation technologies," he said.

"There will be extension officers who will really talk to the farmers. Of course, our extension officers would also be trained first. For agroforestry, we will have special arrangement with the Department of Agriculture under the convergence," he added.

Mendoza said contour farming would be the name of the game in upland areas.

"We will influence the farmers what to plant and how to do farming. Upland has big impact on lowlands, which is in our mandate. Our upland development programs would be geared toward making communities climate-proofed, but at the same

time, farmers would be making money," he said. "We will cluster organizations and link them to markets." Meanwhile, the DENR is also seeking close to P600 million in funding for the rehabilitation of the country's coastal and marine ecosystem.

Instead of just rehabilitating the country's degraded network of coral reefs, the target is to establish more marine protected areas, Mendoza said.

From the food-security point of view and climate-change mitigation, the DENR would also invest in the establishment of MPAs, which, Mendoza said, is cost-effective than the costly artificial coral restoration or rehabilitation.

"Experts said if you protect an area, recovery is faster. With corals recovering from damage, there will be more fish and more marine life," he said.

"We would like to capacitate LGUs [local government units] because there is really a need to establish more MPAs by teaching them. If they are capacitated, if they understand that there is a link to poverty reduction and climatechange resilience, together with mangrove and beach-forest rehabilitation, they will appreciate it more," he said.

According to Mendoza, the DENR will map out areas and identify which of them are prone to coastalerosion, storm surge and areas that really need rehabilitation.

According to Mendoza, the DENR would be more proactive. "We will help decide which crops to plant best and we will link them to markets. Agroforestry technologies will also be taught. There are good models but they are not used. We would use them heavily and mainstream these models. The science community would play a role in this," he said.

Mendoza also said governmentto-government linkages would also play an important role in achieving Lopez's brainchild programs to empower upland communities.

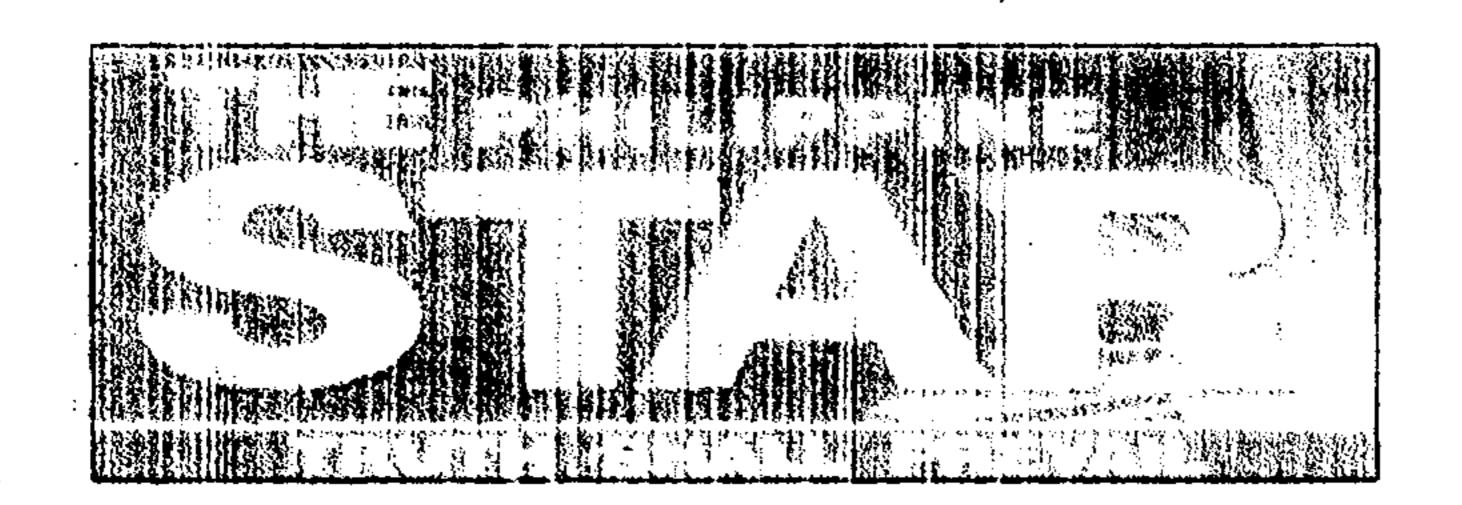
"When Secretary Lopez said we will help the upland farmers and we will promote social justice, she is serious and we will help them," Mendoza said.

The bulk of the DENR's budget next year goes to the massive reforestation program of the government, with the DENR being the lead-implementing agency. For 2017, the DENR is seeking P9.4 billion for the E-NGP, to sustain the massive reforestation effort of the previous administration by rehabilitating 300,000 hectares.

An environmental advocate, Lopez has been tightening the screws on mining, and has, so far, caused the suspension of 10 large-scale mining operations. Lopez promised to turn the miners affected by the campaign against irresponsible mining into DENR partners through the NGP, as she vowed to promote enterprise development in pursuing the program.

The budget request for the E-NGP is P1.2 billion higher than the current year's budget of P8.1 billion. Part of the budget is for the maintenance of NGP sites established in 2014, 2015 and 2016, covering a total of 985,000 hectares.

The DENR is scheduled to defend the agency's proposed budget in Congress on September 5, although Mendoza said preliminary meetings have already been held with Sen. Loren B. Legarda, chairman of the Senate on Committee on Finance, and Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. "The Duterte administration believes in the new thrust of Secretary Lopez. There are certain principles that the secretary believes



UPPER HALF LOWER HALF PAGE

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mining roadmap to lift up sector

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The completion of the mining industry roadmap would likely propel the sector and significantly exports remains at 5.1 percent improve its contribution to the economy, an official from the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) said.

The roadmap for strategic metallic minerals started during the last administration and is still ongoing. The roadmap for copper has been completed while that of gold and nickel are still being finalized.

"We're hopeful it will be finished towards the middle of the administration. We really need the roadmap to see where things are going," NEDA-Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources director Mercedita Sombilla said.

Sombilla said the roadmap would allow the country to weigh the potential of downstream development of miner- Lopez to consider the impact als or the creation of domestic of the government crackdown mineral processing plants.

"It will dictate the feasibility of really going downstream and up to what extent, the structure and directions, capacity building, and how will that be linked to primary activities that are now being done," she said.

Sombilla also sought the passage of a new fiscal regime and revenue sharing arrangement given the measly contribution of the industry to the overall national economy.

The share of mining to in the last 10 years and the Philippines is at the bottom compared to other countries that are exporting minerals.

In terms of tax contributions, the government collects only 12 percent from mining companies, significantly lower than other mining-producing countries such as Chile and Indonesia at 23.1 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

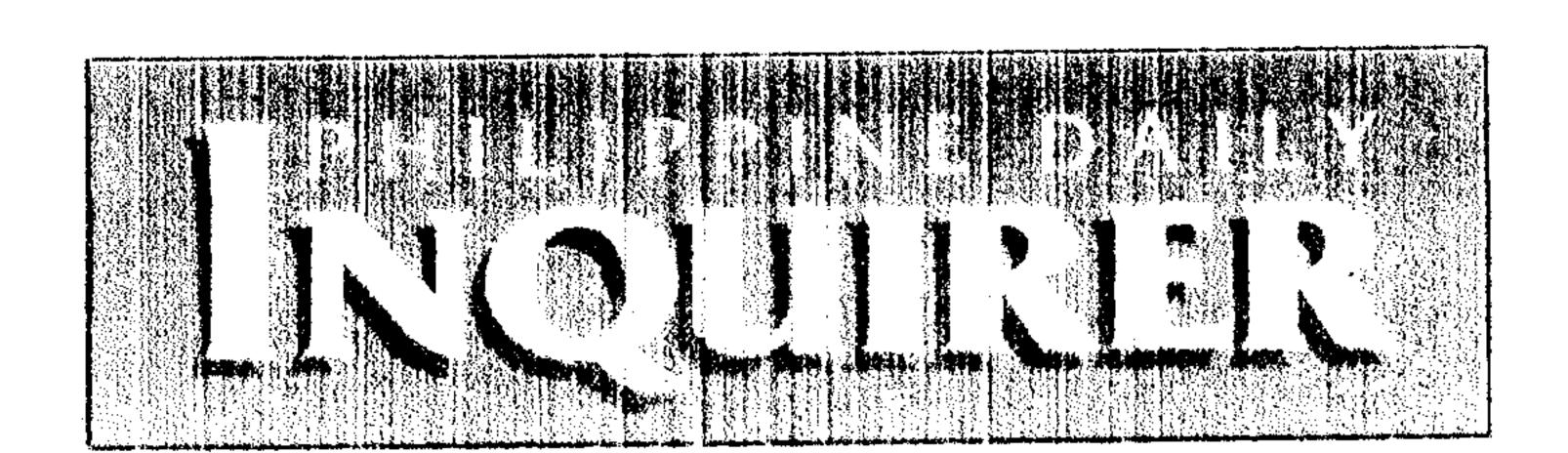
Meanwhile, the NEDA official also lauded the ongoing audit on all mining firms.

"This will provide us directions on where mining will go. Some of those in place may continue, some will be strengthened and some might be demoted," she said.

Sombilla, however, urged Environment Secretary Gina on the economy.

"One thing is very clear, the total closure of mining will have some impact on our GDP (gross domestic product)," she said.

"It has to be responsible where people would benefit, not just the economic part but the environment and social as well. We have to come up with a balance to promote the mining industry," Sombilla added. . 263



DATE

UPPER HALF

13/32 PAGE

OWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UK firm gives up on PH mine project

Lites perceived lack of gov't support for industry

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LONDON-BASED ECR Minerals Plc has given up its option for a deeper involvement in the Danglay gold prospect—formerly called Itogon—in Benguet because of what it perceived as a lack of government support for the domestic mining industry.

ECR said it would cease to be operator of the Danglay project, in which it has over the past few years earned a 25-percent interest that it expected to be in the form of a shareholding in Cordillera Tiger Gold Resources Inc.

The company had an option to earn an-

other 25-percent interest in Cordillera Tiger through more investments, but ECR let go of such "earn-in" option.

"A new government took office in the Philippines on [June 30]," the company said in a statement. "Since then, the new administration has not adopted a supportive stance toward the mining industry and in view of this, the directors believe the termination of the earn-in option is appropriate."

ECR said that as operator of Danglay, it has done "significant exploration programs" in the area in 2014 and 2015, which led to results showing an initial inferred mineral resource estimate "and a promising target for further exploration."

Inferred resources refer to mineral reserves that are economically feasible to extract.

Exploration results so far showed that Danglay has 1.2 million tons of material that could yield 60,500 ounces of gold.

ERC said the target for further exploration could have up to 170,000 ounces of gold.

"Cordillera Tiger continues to await the issuance of the final renewed Exploration Permit (EP) comprising the Danglay project," the company said.

"Within 15 days of receiving the renewed EP, Cordillera Tiger will be required to submit various documents to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the Philippines and provide proof of its financial capability in respect of the exploration and environmental work plans submitted to the MGB in connection with the EP renewal," it added.

ECR said the budget for these plans—to be implemented over the two-year term of the permit—amounted to about £270,000 or P16.4 million.

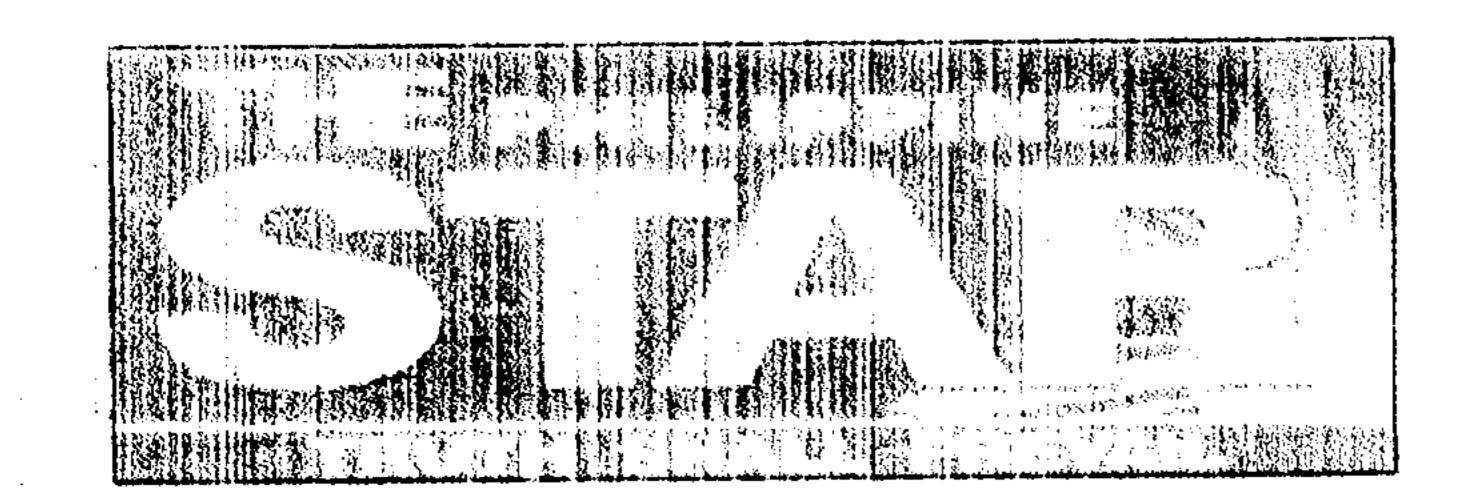
"As a result of the termination of the UK FIRM/BO

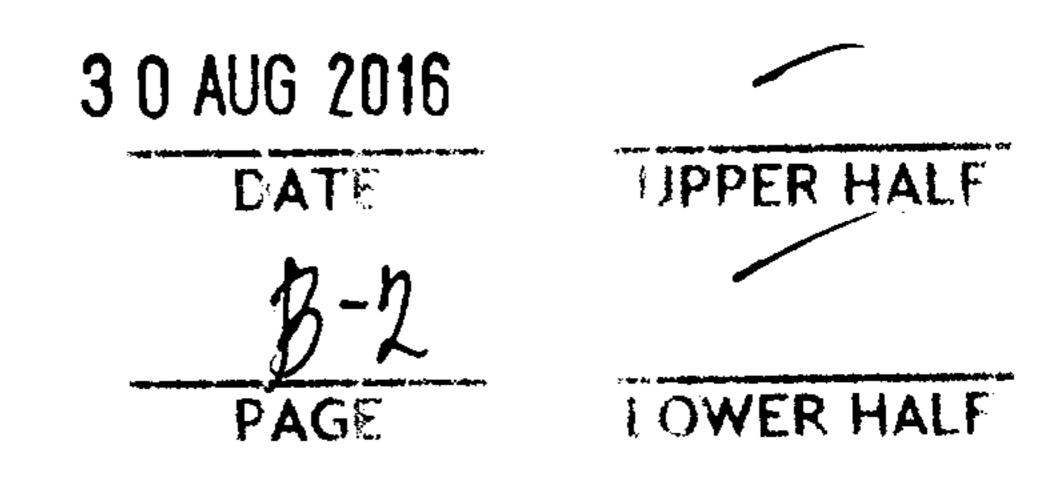
UK firm gives up on PH mine project From page BI

Earn-in Option, ECR is no longer the operator of the Danglay project and has no further financial obligations in respect of the pro-

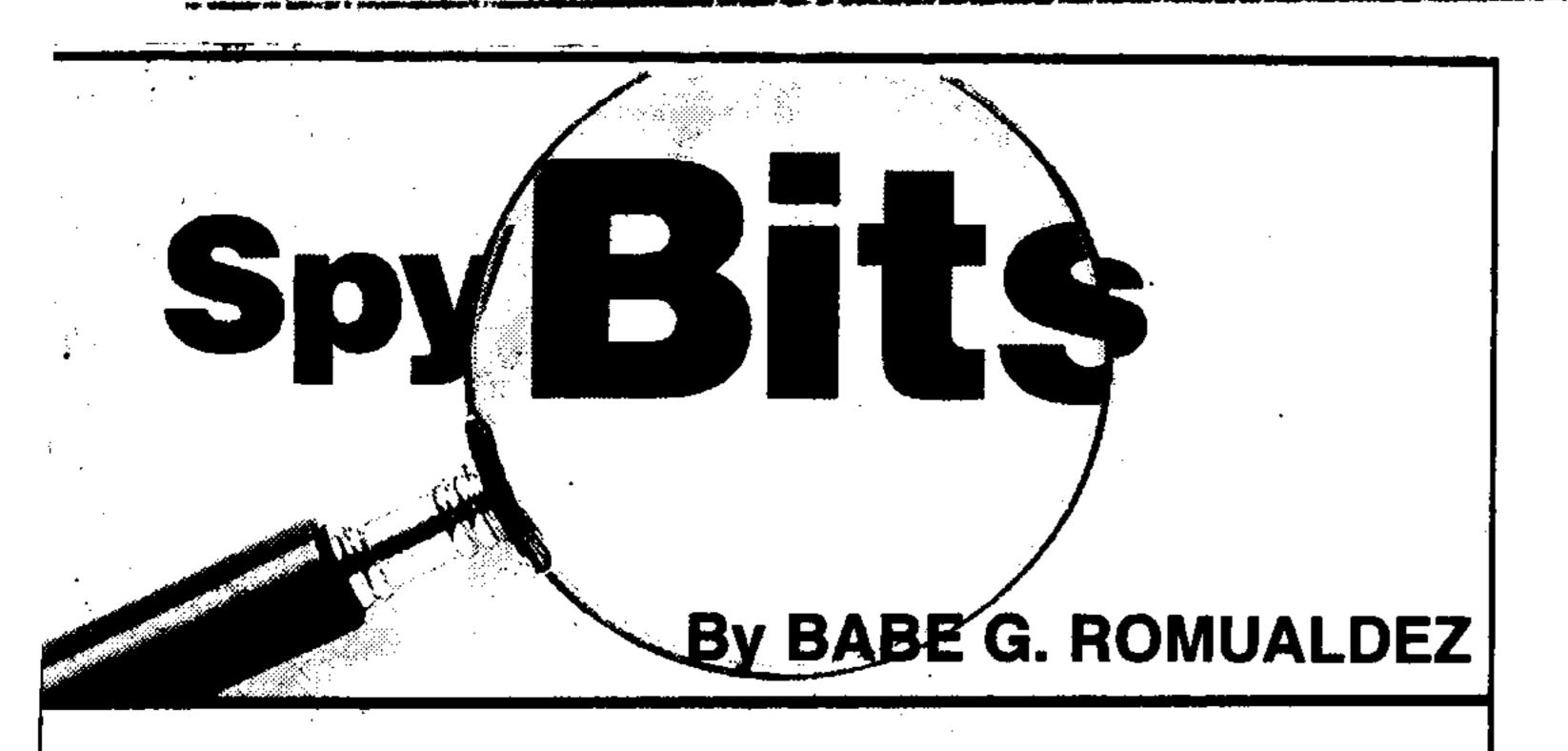
ject," ECR said.

"Discussions with Tiger International regarding the future of the project, including funding for any further exploration activities by Tiger International or parties other than ECR, have been initiated," the company said.





STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Biochar technology for mine rehab

Nickel mining companies Marcventures Mining and Development Corp. (MMDC) and Benguetcorp Nickel Mines Inc. (BNMI) have been given the green light by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to engage in a mine rehabilitation project using activated biochar technology. According to Marcventures vice chairman Isidro "Butch" Alcantara, the project is not only in compliance with the new policy direction of the DENR to rehabilitate mined-out areas, but also complements the Surigao nickel miner's initiatives in providing sustainable, organic and environmentally enhancing livelihood activities.

Both MMDC and BNMI entered into an agreement with the Philippine Biochar Association (PBiA), headed by its president Philip Camara, to advocate the extensive use of biochar which we are told has been proven effective in soil enhancement as well as environmental protection and maintenance. According to PBiA, biochar is charcoal created by burning (with minimal oxygen) agricultural or forest wastes known as biomass, and is said to be the most effective way to remove carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere.

Experts describe biochar technology as one of the most promising strategies in restoring carbon to depleted soils and sequestering significant amounts of CO2 for as long as 1,000 years and even beyond. Since biochar is a more stable source of nutrient than manure or compost, it enhances productivity when added to the soil, resulting in increased crop yields and at the same time reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Obviously, the use of biochar can help mitigate the adverse effects of chemicals in the environment.

"The idea is to convert mined-out lands into arable lands which can be planted to renewable cash crops, which then provide continuing livelihood to communities, especially the indigenous peoples," Butch explains, adding that Marcventures plans to tap companies that engage in contract growing of cash crops such as coffee to help in the project.

MMDC and BNMI will each put up 50-hectare pilot farms in Surigao and Zambales, respectively, for the immediate implementation of the project. Both provinces have a lot of organic materials such as rice husks, which is a key comperent in biochar Since the residents of host communities will produce the biochar specific the biochar specific product product the biochar specific product the biochar specific product product product the biochar specific product pr

the initiative is also projected to result in renewable and continuing income-generating cash crops.

The DENR, with Gina Lopez at the helm as secretary, has indicated the need for mine rehabilitation programs to ensure a continuing livelihood component to residents in host communities – calling on mining companies not to wait for the mine life to end before undertaking progressive rehabilitation activities.

US-India LEMOA no lemon

Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar's three-day visit to the US signals a significant shift in the foreign policy of India and also underscores the country's increasing concern over China's growing aggression, analysts and observers posit. Aside from visiting the Pentagon and the US Air Force bases at Langley and Andrews, Parrikar is set to sign the US-India Logistics and Exchange Memorandum of Agreement or LEMOA which was agreed upon "in principle" during the visit of US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter to India last April.

Under the LEMOA, the two countries will share military logistics and will facilitate the use of facilities for berthing and refueling for warships and aircraft. Although the agreement has provisions that gives India the right to refuse access to its bases any time, there is no mistaking that the relationship between the US and India has grown exponentially from the time of then-US president Bill Clinton's visit to India in 2000.

Prior to that, India has kept the US at arm's length and was closer to Russia which was the source of most of its military hardware. Obviously, things have since changed. According to sources, India has placed orders for 15 heavy-lift CH-47F Chinook choppers expected for delivery in 2019, as well as Apache Longbow attack helicopters manufactured by Boeing that beat Russia's offer of Mi-28N Nigh Hunters and Mi-26 heavy-lift choppers.

India is also looking at acquiring predator drones and is hoping to get manufacturing rights for a US fighter aircraft as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" initiative. Aside from the US, France also supported the application of India to become a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime, and there's speculation that Washington is more amenable now to sharing drone technology with its ally.

Not surprisingly, China is unhappy with these recent developments, especially the enhanced technological and defense cooperation efforts under the ambit of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative or DTTI between the two countries. India is also becoming more vocal in issues involving China as seen in its call for the parties to peacefully resolve disputes over contested maritime territories in the South China Sea, and to respect the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UN-CLOS). After all, 55 percent of India's trade passes through the straight of Malacca that leads to the South China Sea. India now seems ready to play a more major role as seen in its bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In any case, the buzz is that Modi wants the LEMOA in place before the November elections since a win by Donald Trump could hurt US-India relations.

Email: spybits08@gmail.com



3 0 AUG 2016 DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Good examples of responsible mining cited

AMID THE government's crackdown on erring mining companies, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) chief acknowledged some firms are "good examples" for responsible mining.

"Many of the companies who have been in the mining industry for almost centuries, we have the good examples of Benguet Corp. and Philex Mining Corp. They did not run away from their obligations

•

when accidents happened," said MGB Director Mario Luis A. Jacinto, when asked to name com-

panies that he thinks employ responsible mining practices. — Janina C. Lim



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link http://goo.gl/bmaixt

•

Business Weller

3 0 AUG 2016

TE UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Black sand mining next on environment crackdown

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said it will review black sand mining operations in the Philippines, picking up from where the previous government left off in its crackdown on miners that fail to meet environmental standards.

"We are reviewing it, which mining we will not go for that will destroy the beaches," MGB concurrent Director Mario Luis A. Jacinto told reporters last week when asked whether the Duterte government will continue its predecessor's review of black sand mining operations in the country.

In 2014, the MGB suspended a number of illegal black sand mining operations along the coastline of Cagayan province.

Later that same year, the Mining Industry Coordinating Council, a panel under the purview of the Office of the President, issued a resolution ordering an evaluation of all existing black sand mining operations in the country—from the issuance of permits to sanctions that may be imposed on companies that violate conditions set by those permits:

"We must make sure that we are able to fully assess, identify where are the possible sources and whether these are viable and whether these are marketable," Mr. Jacinto said.

Last year, the first report of the interagency Fact-Finding Committee on Illegal Mining entitled "Philippine Mining Unearthed" was launched, flagging quarrying of magnetite black ore or black sand as the most common form of illegal mining operations.

Top markets for black sand exports are China and Taiwan. — **JCL**

Business Word I CHESE YOUR DISHESS WIELLIGENCE

DATE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

BOTO

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

GFNI says fund managers concerned over DENR crackdown vs mining firms

INTERNATIONAL fund managers are still keen on the Philippine nickel mining sector, but the government's crackdown against mining companies is a cause of concern, according to Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. (GFNI).

In a statement, GFNI said its executives recently met fund managers in Singapore who have "expressed an interest" in the nickel mining sector in the Philippines.

However, GFNI said potential investors "raised concern over the seemingly aggressive stance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against mining companies."

Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez has ordered an audit of the mining industry for environmental compliance, with at least eight nickel-ore miners suspended for failing to meet standards.

GFNI, the country's second largest nickel miner, assured investors that the DENR's actions are directed against illegal and non-compliant miners.

"The government has established rules and regulations, and FNI has consistently complied with

the rules and regulations as we are committed to responsible mining. FNI has been granted ISO Certification 14001:2015 Environment Management Systems Certification for our operations in Surigao and received favorable feedback following a recent audit by regulators," the company's President Dante R. Bravo was quoted as saying in a statement. FNI is the company's ticker symbol on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Mr. Bravo said the company is poised to benefit from a further recovery in nickel ore prices and an expansion of its production capacity. After a decline earlier this year, nickel prices have recently rebounded by more than 30%, with Moody's calling a bottoming of base metal prices.

"We plan to increase our production of medium and high-grade nickel ore to capitalize on the recovery... FNI is one of the lowest cost producers in the country. Our production will be year-round when the Palawan mine is operational in 2017," he said.

The Philippines is the largest exporter of nickel ore to China, which is the largest consumer of nickel in the world.

At the same time, GFNI sees positive long-term growth prospects.

"Indonesia's mineral ore export ban and China's projected steady growth have kept up nickel demand. The inventory of refined nickel and nickel pig iron in China are gradually depleting. We also see the increasing demand for new energy vehicles, which use nickel in their new battery systems and the use of stainless steel in the construction of new nuclear power reactors in China to meet increasing demands for electricity as integral to the company's growth story," Mr. Bravo said.

For the first semester, GFNI booked a P281.88-million net loss, reversing the P152.97-million profit registered during the same period a year ago.

Revenues dropped 61% to P701.2 million for the first half, from the P1.79 billion recorded in the same period last year, "due to the increase in volume shipped, change in product mix and decline in the selling price of nickel ore." – Janina C. Lim

Daily HOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

3 0 AUG 2016

DATE

9

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

More investors looking at local nickel mining

Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc. (FNI), the second largest nickel producer in the country and the largest single lateritic mine exporter in the world, yesterday said more foreign investors have expressed interest in the nickel mining sector in the country.

The Philippines is the largest exporter of nickel ore to China, the world's largest consumer of nickel. After the declines in nickel price early this year, nickel price has rebounded by more than 30 percent.

The financial industry, including ratings agency Moody's, has been calling a bottoming of base metal prices, including nickel.

Moody's has upgraded its outlook for the global metals industry from negative to stable.

"FNI is well positioned to benefit from the further recovery in nickel ore prices and the expansion of our production capacity. We plan to increase our production of medium and high-grade nickel ore to capitalize on the recovery," said Atty. Dante Bravo, president of FNI.

"FNI is one of the lowest cost producers in the country. Our production will be year-round when the Palawan mine is operational in 2017," he added.

Rising demand from the stainless steel industry in China and the tightening of supply due to the closure of several nickel mines in the Philippines are factors which are expected to push the price of nickel higher.

FNI, however, said that potential investors, in one of their meetings, have raised concern over the seemingly aggressive stance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against mining

companies in the country.

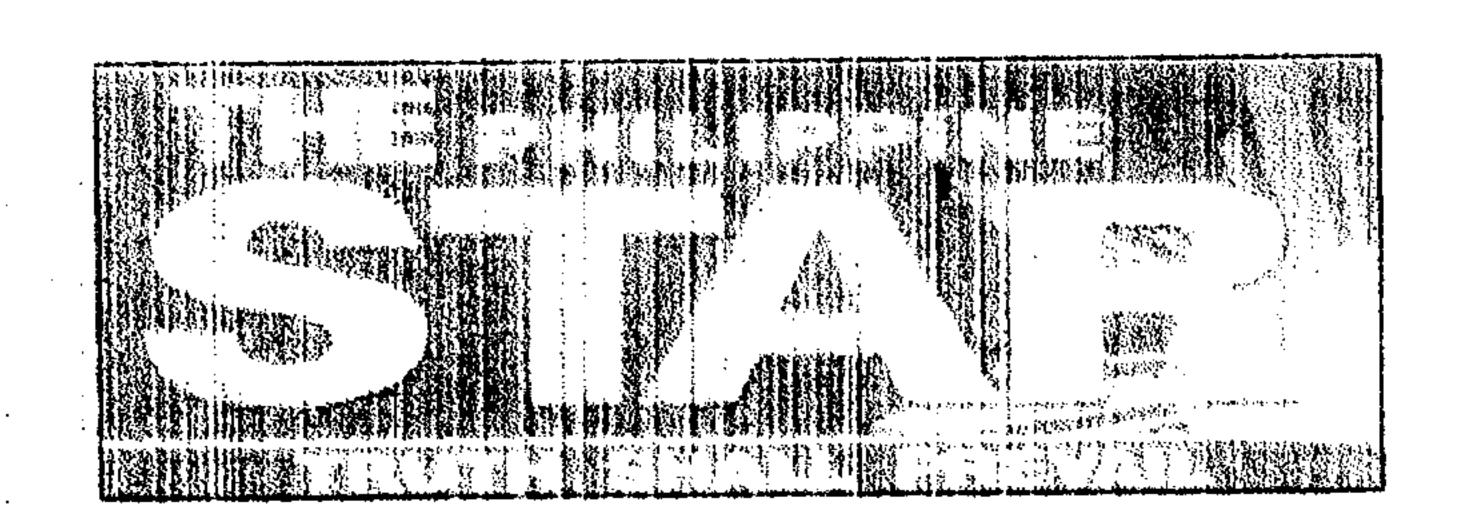
But the company explained the policies of the new administration and reassured investors that the DENR's recent actions were taken against illegal and non-compliant miners. Miners who are compliant have nothing to fear.

Commenting on the situation, Bravo said, "The government has established rules and regulations, and FNI has consistently complied with the rules and regulations as we are committed to responsible mining."

"FNI has been granted ISO Certification 14001:2015 Environment Management Systems Certification for our operations in Surigao and received favorable feedback following a recent audit by regulators," he added.

A global fund manager earlier commented, "We are starting to see an upturn in prices, driven by the increasing global deficit of nickel. We are also heartened to see that responsible miners, such as FNI, are coming out to reassure investors and it is important that the mining industry is seen to be fully transparent in the current climate."

"Our long-term growth prospects are positive. Indonesia's mineral ore export ban and China's projected steady growth have kept up nickel demand. The inventory of refined nickel and nickel pig iron in China are gradually depleting. We also see the increasing demand for new energy vehicles, which use nickel in their new battery systems and the use of stainless steel in the construction of new nuclear power reactors in China to meet increasing demands for electricity as integral to the company's growth story," said Bravo. PNA



DATE 12 PAGE JPPER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Cagayan declares war vs illegal logging

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The provincial government of Cagayan has intensified its campaign against illegal logging.

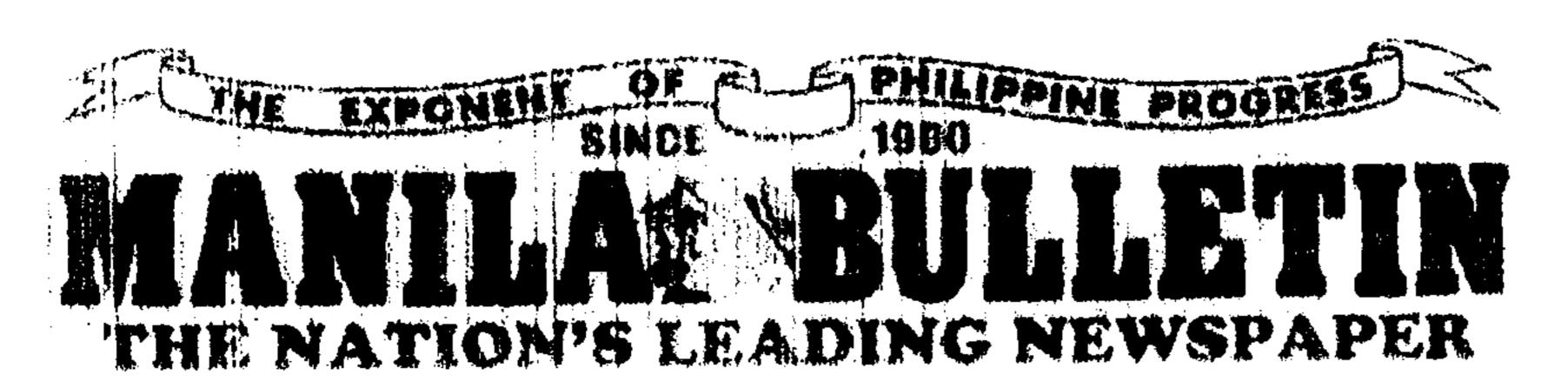
Gov. Manuel Mamba formed Task Force Lingkod Cagayan even as he challenged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to file charges against those behind illegal logging.

Mamba warned illegal loggers and their protectors that he would identify them if they would not stop their illegal activities.

At least 1,600 board feet of illegally sawn lumber were recently seized in Barangay Naguilatan in Peñablanca town.

Nelson Tumalian, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said they would put up more checkpoints in the province to prevent illegal logging.

— Victor Martin



DATE

UPPER HALF

13

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Southern Leyte aims to be E. Visayas' greenest province

MAASIN CITY, Southern Leyte — Southern Leyte could become the greenest province in Eastern Visayas because of its massive tree planting campaign.

Southern Leyte Rep. Roger G. Mercado said close to six million trees have been planted in various parts of Southern Leyte and more are still being planted.

Mercado said on Monday 10,000 seedlings were planted in Barangay Laboon, the birthplace of President Rodrigo Duterte, as part of a reforestation drive.

"We have to be known as the greenest province in Eastern Visayas as we have planted almost six million trees and more are being planted. We have to care for our mother earth by planting trees and this helps fight global warming and climate change," Mercado told Manila Bulletin.

He said they started planting trees in Southern Leyte in 1987.

Joined the tree planting in the mountain of Laboon were Mrs. Luz Mercado, Southern Leyte Governor Damian Mercado, Maasin City Mayor Niko Mercado, city officials, provincial officials, and officials and employees of various national government agencies, students, women's groups and civic organizations.

Mercado, who marked his 65th birthday, said trees were always planted in Maasin during his birthday and other celebrations of the city and provincial governments.

He said that after Southern Leyte was struck by the deadly Guinsaugon landslide and Typhoon Yolanda, the residents have grown more concerned about the environment.

na tau en Canna lfant antaŭ		
	DATE	
	3	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	CACE	the programme of the second

2 0 AHC 2040



UPPER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

lpo dam, magpapakawala ng tubig

Dahil sa mataas na 101.00m. oras.

hil sa patuloy na nararanasang pag-ulan. Kaunti

level ng tubig, posibleng Ayon sa PAGASA, lugar. Habang may inismagpakawala ng tubig ang management ng Ipo yal na ring mga pagbaha mula sa Ipo Dam sa An- dam ay nakatakdang sa Tarlac at Pampanga. gat, Bulacan anumang magpatupad ng spill- Nakararanas din ang ing operation kaya pina- Metro Manila, kasa-Sa abiso ng Philip- yuhan ang mga residen- ma ang Bulacan, Rizal pine Atmospheric Geo- te na nakatira sa mababa- at Quezon ng mga bigphysical Astronomical bang lugar at nasa palibot laang pag-ulan dahil sa Services Administration ng Angat river sa Norza- hanging habagat at thun-(PAGASA), alas-sais ng garay, Angat, San Rafael, derstorm. umaga kahapon, nasa Bustos, Baliuag, Pulilan, 100.95m na ang antas ng Plaridel at Hagonoy na ng PAGASA na wala tubig sa dam at inaasahan bantayan ang sitwasyon nang umiiral na bagyo sa pang lalong tataas da- partikular ang pagtaas ng water level sa ilog.

nito ang spilling level na warning alert sa Central ngan)

Luzon at mga karatig na

Gayunman, nilinaw loob ng Philippine area of responsibility (PAR). Inihayag ng PAGASA (Betchai Julian/Cherk na lamang ay aabutin na na nananatili ang flood Balagtas/Jun Borlo

PAGASA: Wet Christmas, asahan

Asahang makararanas ng wet Christmas season ang bansa.

Ito ay matapos ihayag ng Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na may posibilidad na magiging maulan ang 'ber' months hanggang pagsapit ng pagpasok nito sa bansa.

Ayon sa PAGASA, posibleng sumabay na rin ang panahon ng La Niña sa pagpasok ng buwan ng Setyembre dahil sasabayan ito ng amihan na siyang nagdadala ng malamig na hangin.

Sinabi ng PAGASA na kadalasang tumatagal ng anim na buwan ang La Niña kaya asahan ang maulang Pasko.

Huling naranasan ang La Niña noong taong 2011 at 2012 kung saan mahigit 1,000 katao ang namatay

sa pagtama ng bagyong Sendong.

Samantala, aasahan pa rin umano ang isolated thunderstorm sa Metro Manila at mga karatig na araw hanggang ngayong araw kahit nasa labas na ng teritoryo ng Pilipinas ang bagyong Dindo. (Betchai Julian)



PAGE
UPPERHALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Para sa inyong reaksyon: I-type ABANTE EDITORIAL">EDIT

Seryosohin ang baha!

Kung dati ay boses lang ng Metro Manila ang umaalingawngaw sa kakaangal tuwing tag-ulan dahil sa problemang baha, ngayon ay halos lahat na ng lalawigan sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao ay mayroong ganitong problema.

Ang nakakalungkot, hindi lang sa panahon ng bagyo nangyayari ang mga pagbaha sa kasalukuyan. Sa buhos lang ng habagat o monsoon rains at thunderstorms ngayon, napakaraming lugar na ang lumulubog sa baha.

Nandito na nga ang epekto ng global warming. Ramdam na ramdam na ang ngitngit ng kalikasan. Marami nang pagaaral at pananaliksik ang ginawa. Ilang beses na ring naiulat at naging sentro ng diskusyon ang sumasamang kalagayan ng Mother Earth.

Lahat ng pag-aaral at pananaliksik na ito ay seryosong nagbababala ukol sa unti-unting paglubog ng kalupaan. Habang bumababa ang lupa, tumataas naman ang tubig sa mga karagatan, ilog at iba pang 'body of water'.

Kahit pa sabihing bibilang ng ilang taon bago ito aktuwal na masaksihan, hindi tama na hintayin na lang ito. Maaaring hindi na maaawat ang senaryo pero maraming puwedeng magawa para mabawasan o maremedyuhan ang impact nito.

Itong mga lumalalang pagbaha, lalo na sa mga lugar na hindi naman dating binabaha, importanteng pinag-aaralan na ito ng gobyerno. Dapat alamin ang ugat ng problema, bagama't alam naman ng lahat na itong mga pag-ulan naman talaga ang lumulikha ng baha.

Pero dapat, hindi basta tinatanggap na dahil malakas ang ulan ay babaha. Dapat ay mayroong maaayos na flood control system. Hindi rason na hindi naman dating problema ang baha sa lugar kaya hindi handa ang local government sa problema.

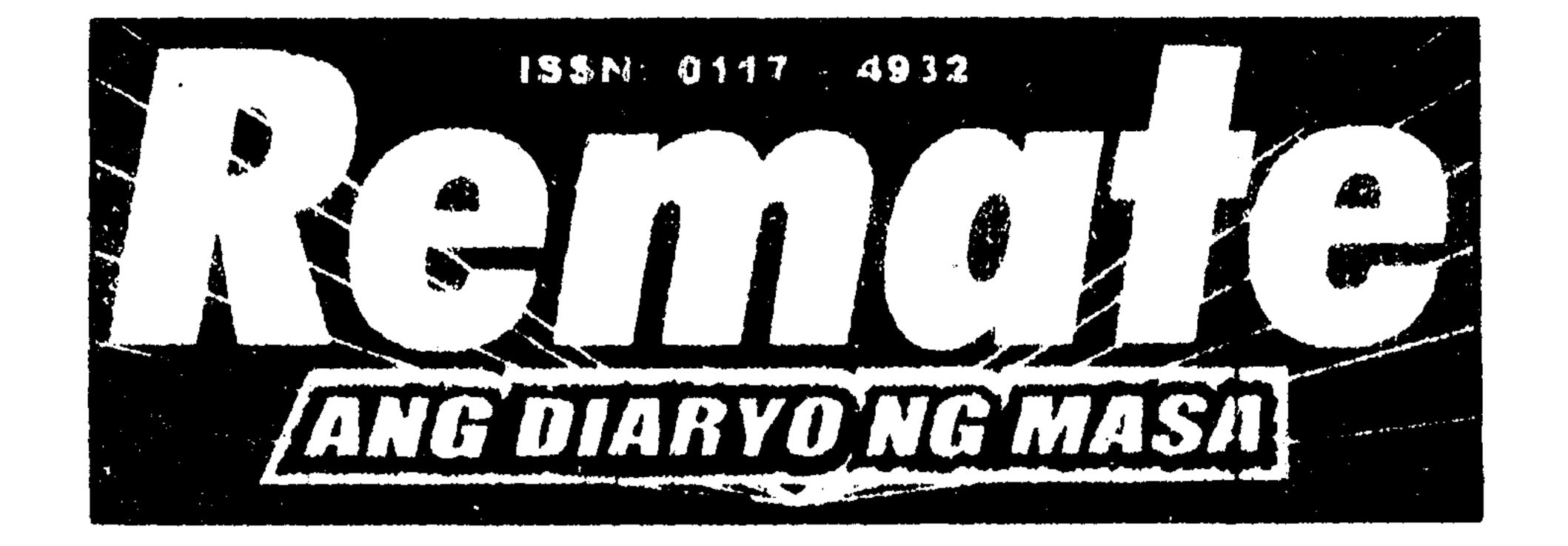
Ang pamahalaan, kailangang preparado at armado sa pagharap sa tinatawag na "inevitable". Kahit hindi problema noon, dahil nagsisimula na ang problema ngayon, kailangang kumikilos na ngayon pa lang ang mga gobernador, mga alkalde at barangay officials sa tulong at pag-alalay ng national government.

Sa Mindanao, bago pa pumasok ang panahon ng tag-ulan ay may mga lugar nang binabaha noon pa. Hindi pa tapos ang tag tuyot sa ilang bahagi ng Luzon, ang ilang bahagi ng Mindanao, nilulunod na ng baha.

Sa Luzon, gumagrabe ang flood problem ng Bulagan at Pampanga.

Hindi sapat na ini-evacuate ang mga binabahang kababayan. Hindi sapat na naka-ready ang mga relief goods. Hindi sapat na sinisigurong 'zero casualty' sa ganitong mga sitwasyon.

Kailangang iresolba ang mga pagbaha.



BLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

3 0 AUG 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

PERSONAL na pinangunahan ni general manager J.R. Nereus O. Acosta ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ang paghahain ng Cease and Desist Order (CDO) sa Azzions Recycling Solutions, inc. na matatagpuan sa Golden Mile Business Park (GMBP) sa Carmona, Cavite.

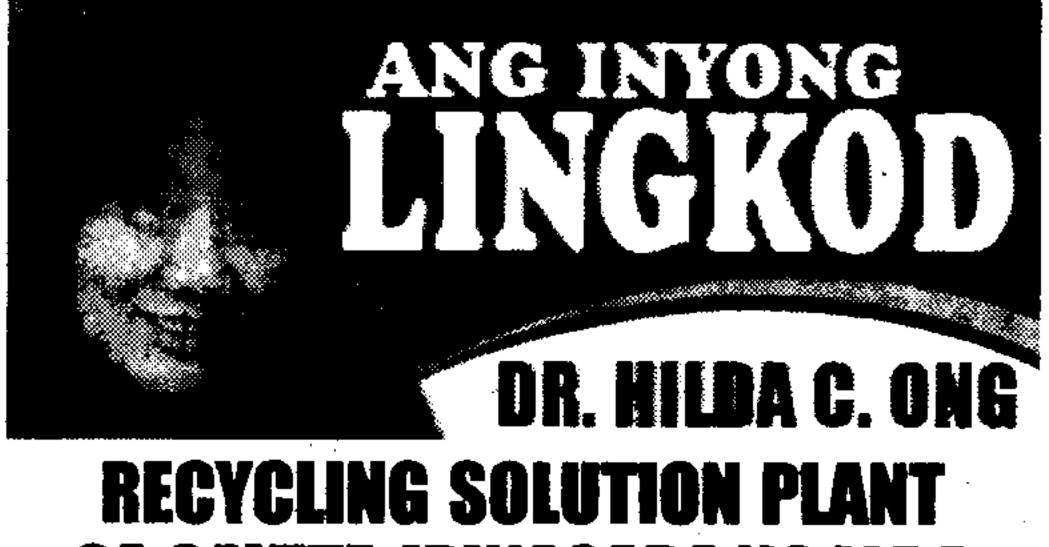
lbig sabihin nito, hindi muna pupuwedeng magkaroon o bumalik sa operasyon ang nabanggit na negosyo habang patuloy ang pagsusuri ng LLDA hinggil sa pagsunod nito sa mga pamantayang itinakda ng batas gayundin ang pagbabayad ng kaukulang multa.

Pupuwede rin na tuluyan nang maipasara ang naturang recycling solution plant kung manatutunayan ang paulit-ulit na paglabag nito.

Sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ng LLDA, may mga katunayang nakuha na ang Azzions Recycling Solutions ay nagtatapon ng wastewater sa Carmona River na lubhang delikado sa buhay ng mga nakapaligid na residente, sa mga hayop at halaman, at panganib sa public health.

Ang inilabas na CDO ay alinsunod sa mandato ng LLDA at sa Republic Act No. 9275, Philippine Clean Water Act.

Naghain ng reklamo ang mga residente ng Barangay Tubigan sa Biñan, Laguna na kabilang sa munisipalidad ng GMBP na pinaghihiwalay lamang ng Carmona River



SA CAVITE, IPINASARA NG LLDA

matapos mapansin ang kahina-hinalang pagtatapon ng maduming tubig buhat sa recycling solution plant.

Sa ginawang pagsusuri ng Environmental Laboratory and Research Division ng LLDA, lumabas na bagsak ang Azzions Recycling Solutions, Inc. sa effluent standards for Class C Water parameters' Chemical Oxygen Demand and Biological Oxygen Demand.

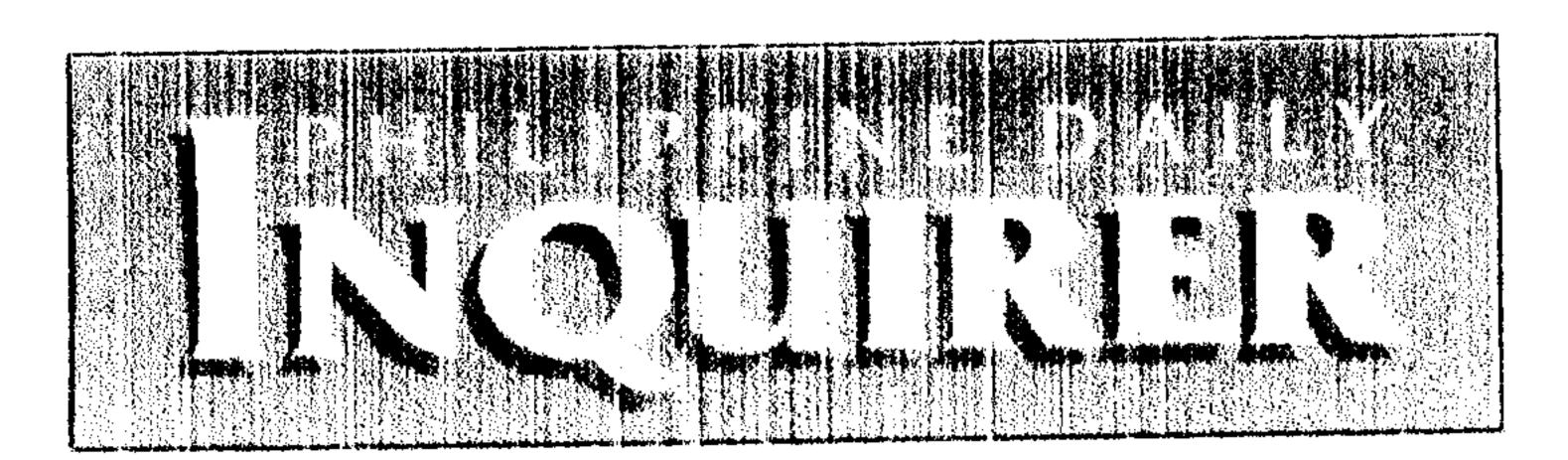
Hinihikayat ng LLDA ang lahat ng mga mamamayan na nakapalibot sa Laguna de Bay mga lungsod ng Maynila, Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pasig, Marikina, Quezon, Caloocan at Pasay at munisipalidad ng Pateros, bayan ng Carmona, Silang, General Mariano Alvarez (GMA), at Tagaytay City sa Cavite, bayan ng Tanauan, Sto. Tomas, at Malvar sa Batangas, Lucban sa probinsiya ng Quezon, at kabuuang lalawigan ng Laguna at Rizal, na agad na iparating sa ahensya ang anomang sumbong o reklamo ng paglabag sa mga batas na nagpoprotekta sa lawa ng Laguna.

"Magandang senyales na

nagmumula sa ating mga kababayan ang paghahain ng sumbong at reklamo sa anomang inaakala nilang pagdudumi sa Laguna de Bay. Ibig sabihin nito, nandiyan 'yong pag-iingat at pagtatangi sa napakahalagang lawa na ito.

Anomang sumbong ay agad na bibigyang aksyon ng LLDA sang-ayon na rin sa mga umiiral na patakaran at regulasyon na walang sisinuhin gaya na rin ng pagnanais ni Pangulong Rodrigo R. Duterte," dagdag pa ni GM Acos-

Ang Laguna de Bay ang siyang pinakamalaking katubigan na nasa loob ng kalupaan sa bansa na may lawak na 95,000 ektarya. Mahalaga ang lawa dahil pinagkukunan ito ng pagkain at kabuhayan, inuming tubig, ginagamit sa transportasyon at mga libangan.



3 0 AUG 2016 UPPER HALF DATE LOWER HALF

PAGE

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Lumad' expect Rody's presence in homecoming

By Chris V. Panganiban Inquirer Mindanao

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del said the Magahat-Bagani was Sur—When more than 3,000 created by the military, an ac-Manobo evacuees start their cusation that the Armed four-hour, 110-kilometer trek Forces of the Philippines had back to their upland homes in denied. Lianga, Surigao del Sur Army soldiers have set up province, on Friday, they expect camp in Han-ayan and are only no less than President Duterte to supervise their return from Tandag City.

vise the safe return of the 'lumad' (indigenous) back to their communities," said Bishop Modesto Villasanta of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, a convener of the Friends of the Lumad in Caraga.

Commitment

Mr. Duterte made his commitment to be in Tandag on that day during a meeting in Malacañang on Aug. 15, Villasanta said.

The scheduled homecoming will happen exactly a year and a day after the lumad people were forced to leave their communities when members of the paramilitary group Magahat-Bagani killed three of their leaders in the village of Diatagon in Lianga.

The militiamen shot and killed administrator Emerito Samarca of the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (Alcadev), Dionel Campos and Juvello Sinzo in Diatogon's Sitio Han-ayan. Almost a year later, no suspect has been ar-

Loloy Tejero and Margarito Layno.

Then Gov. Johnny Pimentel

awaiting word from Manobo people about their confirmed date of return be-"The President himself had fore their pullout, said Col. assured us during our meeting Isidro Purisima, commanding that he will personally super- officer of the 75th Infantry Battalion.

Mandate

Purisima said details of the turnover would be threshed out during a meeting today between military and lumad representatives, including Villasan-

"Even before, we are ready to assist them. This is our mandate to protect the civilians from any harm," he said.

He denied claims from Malahutayong Pakigbisog sa mga Sumusunod (Persevering Struggle for the Next Generation) or Mapasu, an indigenous peoples organization, that his men had ransacked houses and damaged the facilities of Alcadev. The military has branded Mapasu a communist front.

Military camps

"There is no truth to it. In fact, we guarded Han-ayan from anybody who will infiltrate the community while the residents were away," Purisima said.

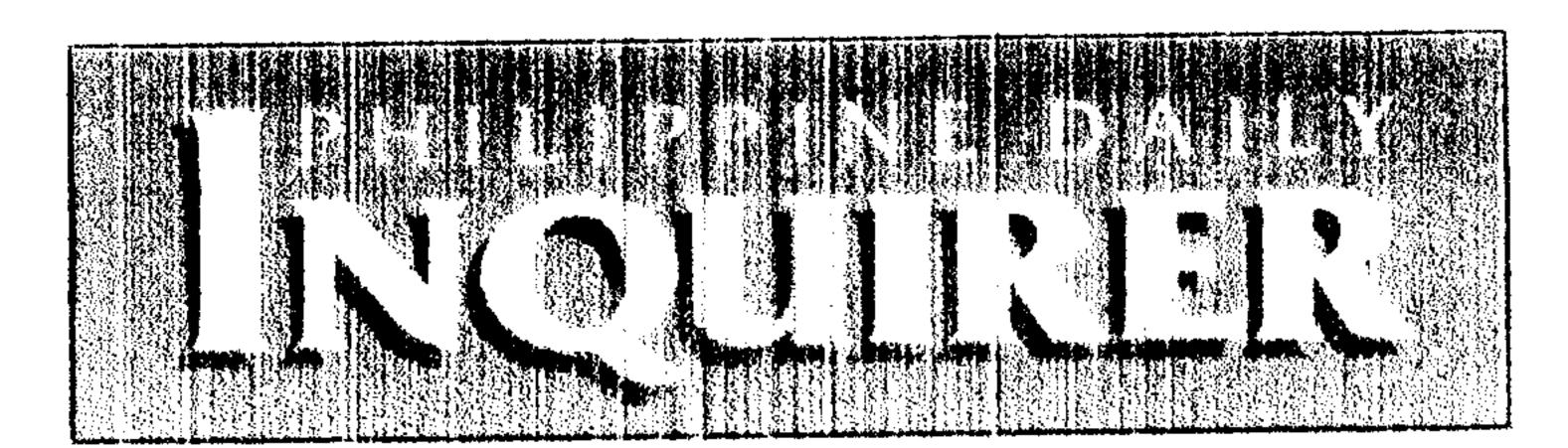
In a statement, Mapasu said rested even as the government it had sent a group to the site on put up a P3.6-million bounty Aug. 24 and was "enraged upon on militia leaders Bobby and seeing the large military camps

in our communities at Kilome- . schools rendered unusable," it ter 9 and Han-ayan." The inspection in 11 communities was initiated by the provincial government.

"Our hearts were crushed upour once productive farms covered with weeds and our Egua.

said.

The group's strong opposition to the entry of logging and mining companies in Lianga may have drawn the on seeing our houses damaged, ire of the Magahat-Bagani, which is led by Datu Calpet



UPPER HALF DATE

OWER HALF

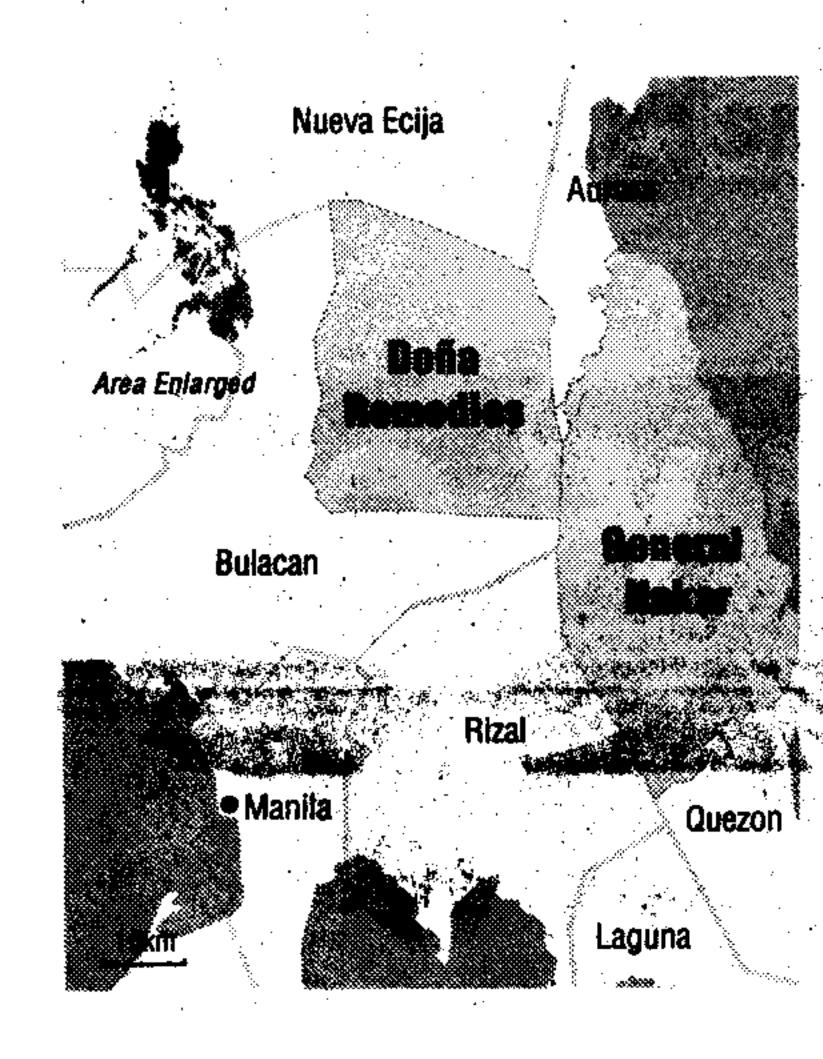
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



ARMY soldiers discovered the wreckage of a helicopter carrying pilots Miguel Logronio and Jay Gregorio in this dense portion of Doña Remedios Trinidad town in Bulacan province on Aug. 27. They were on a rescue mission on Aug. 22 when their aircraft crashed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 48TH INFANTRY (GUARDIANS) BATTALION, PHILIPPINE ARMY

Bodies of pilots recovered from Bulacan crash site



SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—The bodies of two pilots of a helicopter on a rescue mission were recovered on Saturday, six days after it crashed in the mountains of Doña Remedios Trinidad (DRT) town.

The remains of retired Col. Miguel Logronio and Jay Gregorio were found near the wrecked helicopter by members of the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion at Sitio Macua in Barangay Kabayunan in DRT.

The pilots, on Aug. 22, took part

in a search, rescue, and retrieval operation for the employees of a construction firm who were trapped in a tunnel of the Sumag River Diversion Project (SRDP).

The helicopter took off on the same day at the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System compound in Barangay Bigte in Norzagaray town, also in Bulacent but after a few min. ther would be connected to the utes, the Air transportation of Cityley-Angat transpasin tunfice control tower lost contact with the chopper.

On Aug. 13, floodwater

spawned by heavy monsoon rain submerged the SRDP site at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountain range in General Quezon Nakar town in province. Initially, two workers died and four others were declared missing in that incident.

The project involves the construction of a 600-meter tunnel nel at leads to Angat Dam in Carmela Reyes-Es-Bullen. trope, laquirer Central Luzon

Daily aily all thout fear or favor

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Skills-based training on 'climate smart' agriculture recommended

A skills-based training on "climate smart" agriculture is being pushed into the education curriculum by South East Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

Because of the adverse effects of climate change, training among potential agriculturists, both amateur and professionals, now not only has to be "experiential," but has to be "climate smart," based on the SEARCA project report from six trial sites.

Dr. Gil Saguiguit Jr., SEARCA director, said the piloting work in school gardens becomes tools by which the citizenry will learn to protect the environment, provide food needs of communities, and instill in the domestic workforce needed skills on agriculture.

"These pilot school gardens serve as an alternative source of food and incomfor rural families to address the looming problems of rural poverty and hunger. which prevent access of many school children to quality education," said Saguiguit in a memorandum of agreement signing ceremony.

By being climate smart, the "pilot sites in school gardens established under the SEARCA project, were put up with greenhouses and rainwater collection system.

The mini-greenhouses are sized five by four meters, ser—as seeds nursery. Under greenhouses, seedlings are protected from excessive heat of the sun or from strong winds which is what characterizes climate change (increase in temperature by two to three degrees during a more extreme drought phenomenon "El Niño").

The gardens have its own rainwate collection system. Water is conserved and supplies irrigation needs for growth of plants.

Since droughts become more destructive as a result of climate change, rainwater has to be collected, stored, and used as source of water when the severe drought phenomenon 'El Nino' occurs as what happened in the first half of 2016.

Now, rainwater also becomes a more abundant source of water during La Nina (more storms, stronger winds, greater hurricanes)—which may also become more prevalent in the rainy season due to climate change.

PAGE

IOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

La Niña seen affecting PHL until Feb 2017

By Jasper Emmanuel
Y. Arcalas

A Niña may persist until February 2017, which could help farmers recoup the losses they incurred due to El Niño, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

"There is a 55-percent to 60-percent chance that it [La Niña] would persist until the beginning of 2017," FAO said in its latest report, titled "Early warning-early action analysis for a potential La Niña in 2016-2017."

La Niña is the cooling of sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific. It occurs roughly every three to five years and lasts from six to 24 months, according to FAO.

FAO said La Niña will start affecting Southeast Asian countries, particularly Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, next month.

The Philippines will experience an above-average amount of rainfall during La Niña, with intensified downpours during the end of 2016 and start of 2017, FAO said.

"The timing of a La Niña onset is key to determine how its consequences will impact on agriculture," FAO said. "If La Nina sets in early [from July onward], enhanced rainfall could benefit crop development of the 2016 main season crops in the northern hemisphere countries and the 2016 secondary crops in the southern hemisphere, bringing relief to current drought-affected areas," it added.

The state weather bureau said there's a 55-percent to 60-percent probability that the country will be affected by La Niña this year. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said it may occur by the latter part of September or October and would persist until the end of the year.

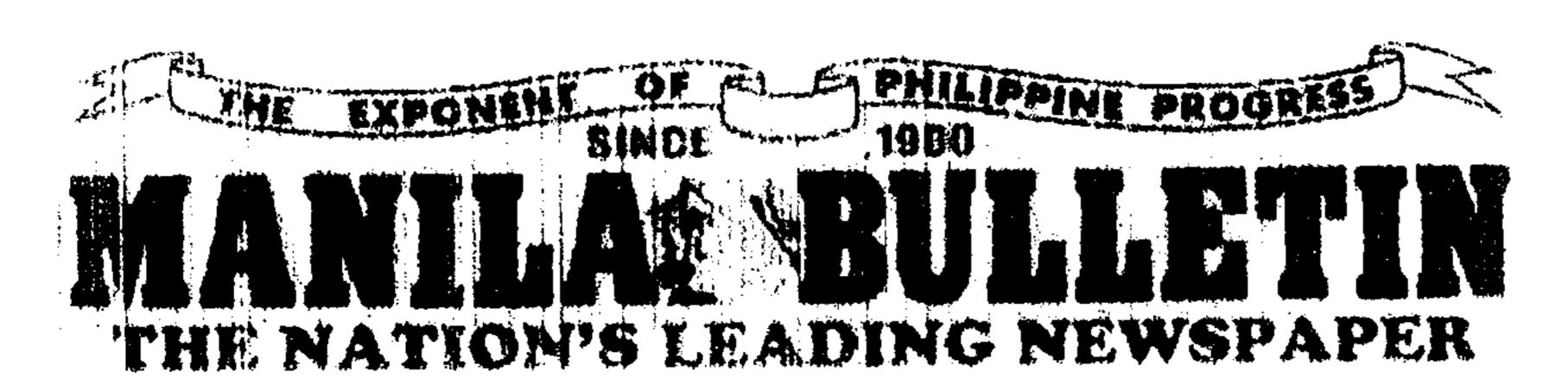
Economist Pablito Villegas, who is also spokesman of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Fisheries Inc., earlier said the occurrence of La Niña will boost the agriculture sector, particularly the production of crops such as corn.

"Hopefully, La Niña will allow farmers, particularly in Mindanao and Cagayan Valley, to increase corn production," Villegas said.

However, Villegas added that if La Niña will be extreme, then it may have an adverse impact on the agriculture sector, particularly on the livestock and poultry subsectors.

"La Niña weather can expose animals to diseases because of the changes in the weather," he said.

FAO also said La Niña may cause flooding in low-lying agricultural areas, and increase pest and farm diseases. To help farmers cope with the ill effects of La Niña, FAO urged governments to advise farmers on seed drying methods and storage, support agricultural extension services, and provide submergence-tolerant rice varieties.



DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

MMDA to focus on flood control amid revamp

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is undergoing a major reorganization since it is no longer in charge of managing traffic in Metro Manila.

Thomas Orbos, MMDA officer-in-charge (OIC), said he will implement a reshuffle of officials while at the same time do an inventory and audit of the agency's resources.

"We will not be removing people but since traffic management is out of our hands, I have to realign the resources to focus on the rest that I have to work on. I am still rationalizing things," said Orbos, who replaced former MMDA OIC Emerson Carlos recently.

Orbos said all offices would be affected by the reshuffle since the agency is now shifting its focus—from traffic management which was the core of the agency to urban renewal and development.

"It (reshuffle) has nothing to do with competence or whatever. It is not a new mandate, but a new focus," he added.

Orbos said the agency is now shifting its focus on including flood control and solid waste management, and urban renewal after the Department of Transportation (DOTr) took over the full control of traffic management in the metropolis.

DATE

UPPER HALF

ラリ PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

4 firms eyeing EPC pact for 1,200-MW coal-powered plant

By ETRICALL VELABOR

are in the queue for the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract of the 1,200-megawatt Atimonan coal-fired power project being advanced into implementation by the power generation subsidiary of Manila Electric Company.

According to Meralco President Oscar S. Reyes, the award of the project's turnkey contract is targeted in the latter part of 2015 or early next year.

"We have four very promising choices for the EPC contractor of Atimonan," he said, without hinting if Meralco PowerGen (MGen) will tap the same Japanese-Korean duo that had been engaged as EPC contractor for the San Buenaventura coal-fired power project.

The Atimonan project will comprise of two generating units with 600MW capacity each. This is a venture that opted for technology shift from initially gas to coal-fired development.

The project is placed under

corporate vehicle Atimonan One Energy Corporation (AiE) and it will be the first fully owned development of Meralco PowerGen.

The company further indicated that "various other development activities continue with the final preparations for the start of the pre-works on site." It was emphasized that the land conversion of the power plant site was already secured May this year; and acquisition processes had already been completed.

MGen added they are now pursuing talks on right-of-way acquisition for the setting up of a transmission line and related facilities to underpin the eventual wheeling of the plant's generated capacity.

The Atimonan project's power supply agreement (PSA) on its electricity output had also been filed last April with the Energy Regulatory Commission.

"A1E is awaiting review and approval of the PSA by the ERC for it to issue notice-to-proceed for the EPC and achieve financial close for the project," Meralco has noted.

DATE

UPPER HALF

33

PAGE

OWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Exploring, developing technologies for PH's renewable energy sources

By MANILA BULLETIN RESEARCH

Philippines' Renewable Energy Act of 2008, mandates the State to speed up the exploration and development of renewable energy resources and boost the latter's utilization. Thankfully, various initiatives help realize these goals.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is involving resource assessment that includes exploring micro hydro, solar, wind, and biomass sources, and supporting local projects, in promoting further uses of renewable energy sources in the country.

"In terms of wind energy, in localization, we would not compete with big [technologies]. So we are [focusing on] small systems, for the off-grid, remote areas," DOST - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) Supervising Science Research Specialist Mel Dimapilis said.

Using the Light Detection and Ranging technology, the whole country would be mapped in terms of renewable energy resources, with suitability of putting up power plants in sites with large amounts of such being determined.

"The map is for the investors, because the absence of reliable data on [a] resource is a gap that we saw on renewable energy," Dimapilis said.

A total of four sites — three in Mindanao and the other in Palawan — would be targeted for wind resource assessment.

Micro hydro power testing facilities in Rizal will cater to the needs of industries that import micro hydro systems, and a turbine that utilizes the resource type will be developed.

Sweet sorghum, which can serve as a viable alternative to

sugarcane and can produce higher yield, is ready to be adopted as raw material for bioethanol. Validation studies of the University of the Philippines (UP) - Los Baños and the Mariano Marcos State University have confirmed the substance's potential.

On research and development

In developing renewable energy technologies, proponents would first identify the gaps, uncover what had been done through literature reviews, and learn about the status of the target technology in the country.

"Once a year, we call for proposals. We disseminate this all over the country, with DOST's identified priority areas made known," Dimapilis said.

Dimapilis said that researchers have to deal with long procurement processes in some government institutions, which cause delays. Securing funds from DOST entails several steps, too.

Promoting renewable energy

A project under development is a small wind turbine system, which is based on a permanent magnet generator, and spearheaded by UP Diliman Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute (EEEI) Professor Miguel Escoto, Jr.

"We had an arrangement with DOST stating that they would make the research on the turbine, and then we would [conduct] the research on the permanent magnet generator," Escoto said.

The project involves developing the blades of the three-bladed
wind turbine and ensuring the
structure's robustness, coupling
the generator to the turbine, and
pilot testing, among others. The
system can produce more than
enough power to run the pumps.

"If you're on the other side of the hill on the island, the wind might not be the same," Escoto said.

UP Diliman EEEI's Power Electronics Laboratory and select graduates of the Master of Science in Energy Engineering program serve as the project's proponents, with PCIEERD providing some funding and support.

"We thought of potable water as the benefits to the community, and we scaled it up to the point where we could feed a school, not just one or two houses," Escoto shared.

The project also aims to lessen Filipinos' dependence on expensive technicians from abroad.

Escoto pointed out that putting turbines in the waters might affect marine life, but wave energy can be utilized near the shores without harming the environment.

"The [renewable energy] program's aim is linked to the over-all goal of the Philippines to increase its energy self-sufficiency," Dimapilis said. (Interview by Monch Mikko E. Misagal)

POWERTRENDS 2016

11th International Exhibition and Conference on Directions for Power, Energy and Electricity

SEPTEMBER 21 TO 23, 2016 SMX CONVENTION CENTER, METRO MANILA

Scan this QR Code to register.

