

DATE

01 MAR 2016

DAY

Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

11 MAR 2015

DATE

A-16
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P6-B steel plant in Bulacan gets DENR go-signal despite protests

By Ron Lopez
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF MALOLOS—A P6-billion steel mill project being opposed by church leaders and residents of its host town in Bulacan province has been granted an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

But Del Pilar Steel Inc. (DPSI), a subsidiary of Steel Asia Corp., may not proceed to build its steel rebar manufacturing facility in Plaridel town until it settles the land classification of its 16-hectare proper-

ty, which is still considered agricultural, according to the ECC issued by Environment Assistant Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna.

Cuna serves as director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

DPSI bought the property from Asian Land Strategies Corp., owned by the late Plaridel Mayor Amando Buhain, for P434 million in 2013. The property, located at Grand Industrial Estate in Plaridel's Barangay Parulan, is the subject of a land conversion request filed in the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Steel Asia said the DPSI mill

project was designed to produce 1.2 million metric tons of steel annually to address the increasing demand for the metal in the country. The firm hopes to operate the plant by the end of the year.

Bishop Jose Oliveros and 142 priests of the Diocese of Malolos have urged President Aquino to order the relocation of the plant. They supported the clamor of Kalikasang Dalisay para sa mga Mamamayan ng Plaridel (Kadamay), a group composed of residents and farmers, which issued a rebuttal of the DPSI environmental impact assessment report as well as the ECC.

In a Feb. 24 letter to Environment Secretary Ramon Paje Jr., Kadamay said the project site "is within the service area of Angat-Maasim Rivers Irrigation System and is still considered agricultural land so it should be nonnegotiable for conversion."

Eriberto Garcia, Kadamay president, said the ECC was issued prematurely and should be revoked.

The document requires DPSI to implement a comprehensive social development program and to develop and maintain a 7-meter buffer zone along the periphery of the project site with "vegetation cover to enhance the condition of the

ecosystem and to serve as noise, vibration and dust buffers."

"The more critical concern of a buffer zone and a contingency plan for oil spill risk management and the discharge of oil-contaminated runoffs have not been addressed," Kadamay said.

The ECC also requires DPSI to "institute remedial measures to avert flooding in the immediate vicinities resulting from the siting and project construction," and to conduct an environmental health impact assessment, the results of which would be submitted to the EMB.

Moreover, DPSI must secure

a water permit from the National Water Resources Board since it requires a huge volume of surface and ground water.

"This project is going to be the biggest steel rolling mill in the Philippines and one of the biggest in Asia but we wish [Paje] to recognize and appreciate that this is going to be one of, if not, the closest to communities, schools and productive rice fields," Kadamay said.

"Thus, the risk of public health and safety to people, property and agricultural livelihood is extremely high," it said.

8710 MAR 2016

THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DATE

PAGE 13

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

Western Visayas eyes 6 mineral reservation sites

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY – The importance of Western Visayas as a resource-laden region is being highlighted with six sites therein being eyed as potential mineral reservations.

Leo Van Juguan, Regional Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)'s Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Region VI (MGB-6), said that these mineral reservations being looked at in Negros and Panay Islands have important raw materials, including

gold, copper, limestone and silica that could very well play pivotal roles in national development.

In particular, the MGB-6 is looking at 102,308 hectares of potential mining reservations in Negros Occidental and Antique provinces.

Of the proposed mineral reservation sites, more than 98,593 hectares are in Negros Occidental province, particularly covering Sipalay City as well as Cauayan and Hinoba-an towns.

The remaining 3,715 hectares of proposed mineral reservation sites are in Patnongon, San Remigio and

Sibalom towns in Antique province.

Juguan said that the MGB-6 had already coordinated with the local governments in those two provinces last year.

This year, he said, the agency will be conducting geological assessments and environmental resource mapping in the six specific areas.

It should be noted that Western Visayas region is where the country's biggest coal producer, the Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) is operating, that is, on Semirara Island in Caluya town, Antique province.

MAR 2016

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

DATE

A-7

PAGE

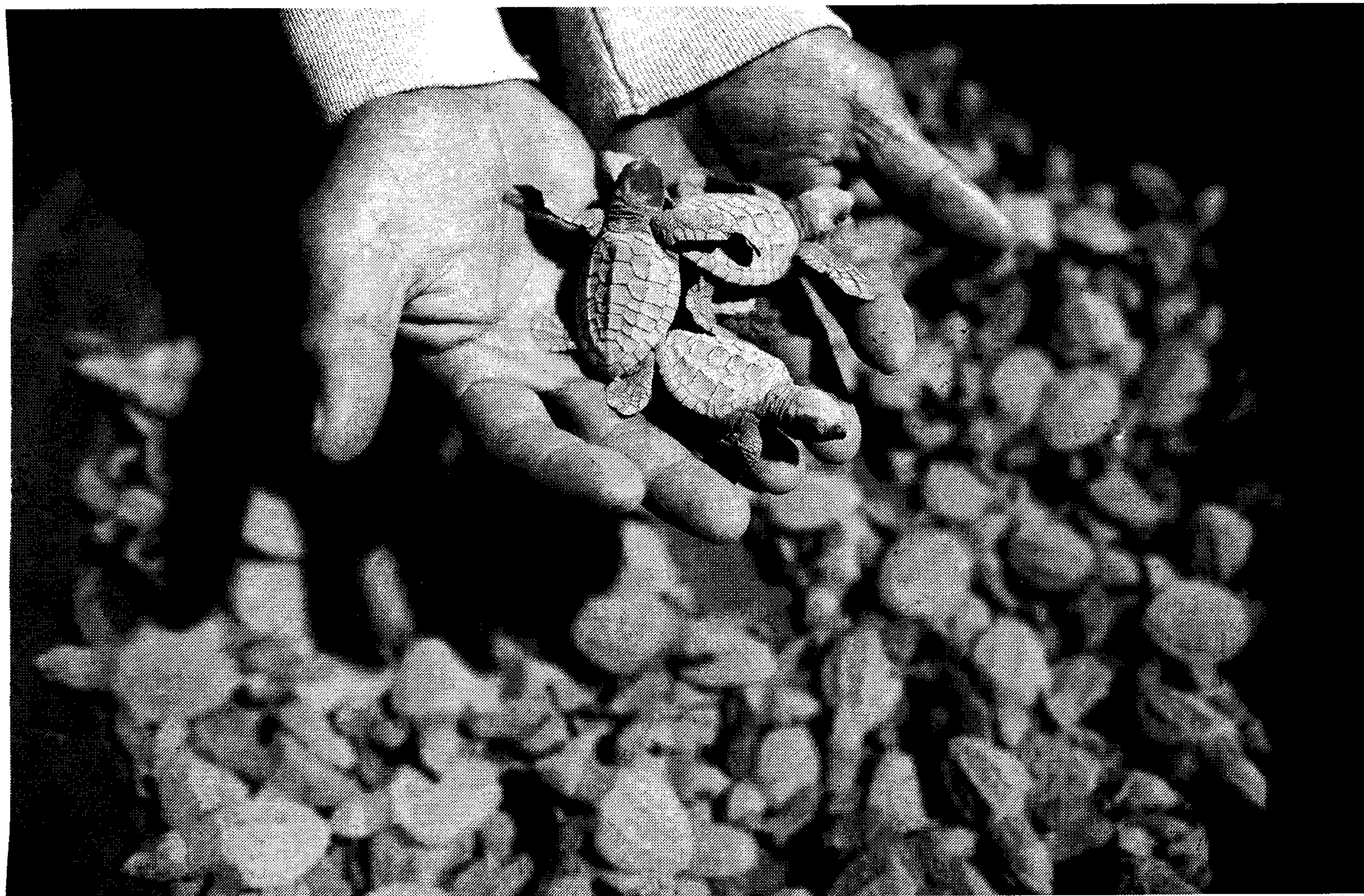
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-1

Conservationists release endangered turtles to sea



Turtle tale. Olive ridley sea turtle hatchlings are released at a beach in Morong, Bataan. AFP

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

01 MAR 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2

Conservationists release

MORONG, Bataan—
Hundreds of tiny turtle hatchlings emerge above a Philippine beach at night and immediately look to the sea, hoping to beat huge odds and start a remarkable trans-oceanic journey lasting decades.

The olive ridleys, each shorter than a credit card, are among five species of sea turtles in the Philippines that are in danger of extinction, mostly because they are prized as a protein-rich food.

"Not too long ago, all marine turtle eggs here ended up in the pot," said Manolo Ibias, 63, a part-time fisherman and farmer who in his youth stole ridley eggs buried along the coast to eat as omelettes.

As a late convert to conservation, Ibias has for the past 17 years led Pawikan Conservation Center, a community-based effort to protect turtles in Morong, a town about 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of Manila, which is the olive ridleys' largest known egg-laying site in the country.

Globally, all seven known marine turtle species are declining or near extinction, mostly because of human actions, according to the Swiss-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

These include accidental capture by giant nets of industrial-scale fishing trawlers, as well as coastal development that rob the migratory reptiles of nesting sites.

And while the sea turtle trade is banned under an international convention, their meat and eggs remain a source of food and income for many people, such as those in the mostly poor fishing villages near Morong.

They are also harvested around the world for medicine, religious ceremonies and as articles of fashion.

Conservation efforts

In the Philippines, government-led conservation efforts began in the early 1980s, said Angelita Vilorio, from the government's threatened species management unit.

Vilorio said these efforts, focused mainly on educating communities but with little funding, were aimed at protecting about 100 major nesting sites, including at Morong.

A law was also passed in 2001 punishing the trafficking of turtles and other endangered species

with stiff jail terms and fines.

"Our goal is to reach a stable population, when they will no longer be endangered," she said.

However, turtle numbers are likely still in decline, according to Romeo Trono, who previously ran the government's sea turtle conservation program and is a respected global expert on the animal.

While some local communities have been educated, Chinese traders have emerged as the greatest threat, bringing boats close to Philippine islands and filling them with turtles bought from local poachers, Trono said.

In China, turtles have for centuries been prized for their medicinal value and as a food, and rising incomes in the world's most populous nation have fueled demand.

Eleven Chinese fishermen were arrested for poaching more than 500 marine turtles last

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

01 MAR 2016

DATE

A-7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-3

Conservationists release

year and are on trial on the western Philippine island of Palawan.

But Vilorio conceded Chinese-orchestrated poaching remains a major problem in the Philippines, a nation of more than 7,000 islands with a small and poorly funded coast guard.

"Our waters are too vast. We cannot effectively conduct patrols," Vilorio said.

Slim survival chances

Morong's Pawikan center, named after the Filipino term for the animal, is promoted as a showcase for the national efforts to protect the species.

But it also illustrates the many challenges.

For five months starting each October, about 200 turtles lay an astounding 19,000 rubbery, ping pong ball-sized turtle eggs—mostly olive ridley—at Morong.

To protect them from poachers,

the center's 17 volunteers, mostly local fishermen and farmers, dig the eggs up and bury them at a guarded artificial hatchery nearby.

They also take turns patrolling the seven-kilometer (four-mile) stretch of South China Sea coastline in an all-terrain buggy in a bid to stop residents of nearby villages from stealing them.

Natural predation from birds and fish, as well as human activity, mean just one percent of hatchlings typically survive into adulthood, according to conservation groups.

At Morong, the odds are even worse.

Relocating the eggs initially to the artificial hatchery cuts their survival chances because they are taken away from their natural habitat, according to Ibias.

And with no national government financial support, the center relies almost entirely on tourists for funding—which has some po-

tentially deadly consequences.

As a survival instinct to avoid predators, the hatchlings always emerge from their shells at night and aim to get straight to the water.

However, to cater for the tourists, the hatchlings are prevented from immediately running from the sand to the ocean, sometimes being made to wait hours in a big bucket until tourists turn up in the morning.

For P50 (about \$1), visitors can pick one up, take a photo with it, then release it into the ocean. But preventing the hatchlings from immediately crawling to the water exhausts them, Trono explained.

He warned low nesting numbers at Morong indicated the species may disappear locally soon.

Ibias also warned conservation efforts could eventually fail, with impoverished villagers often feeling they have no choice but to eat turtle eggs. **AFP**

The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Police arrest 6 mining protesters in Zambales

CANDELARIA, Zambales: Six people were arrested on Monday while police dispersed more than 200 residents of Barangay Uacon in this town who blocked the national high to prevent hauling trucks of Benguet Nickel Mines, Inc. (BNMI) in transporting nickel ore from the mine site to the port in Barangay Binabalian of this town.

Arrested residents were identified as Marlo Murciano, Elmer Manamtam, Bitoy Ednalan, Roy Edejer, Baba Edejer, Jojo Excio, and Charm Jad Barrera.

The policemen, armed with truncheons and riot shields, escorted about 100 hauling trucks of BNMI out of the mine site and warned protesters they will be dispersed if they become violent.

About 20 BNMI blue guards from the Longinus Security Agency were also deployed to secure the highway on Sunday to ensure that hauling trucks safely pass through the human barricade.

BNMI is one of the biggest mining operators in Zambales, reportedly owned by Philip Romualdez, the brother of senatorial candidate and Rep. Martin Romualdez.

According to Dr. Benito Molino, head of Concerned Citizens of Sta. Cruz (CCOS) a group advocating an end to destructive mining activities in Zambales, Binabalin Port is where nickel ore, laterite and black sand from the mountains are harvested, loaded in cargo ships and exported to China.

During the barricade, village resident Lolita Jimenez called on



HUMAN BARRICADE Residents of Barangay Uacon in Candelaria, Zambales block the national highway to prevent hauling trucks of Benguet Nickel Mines, Inc. from transporting nickel ore extracted from the mine sites to the port. Police dispersed the barricade and arrested six anti-mining protesters. PHOTO BY PATRICK ROXAS

Romualdez to prove his concern for the people according to his political ads, by asking his brother to stop the destructive mining operations of BNMI, especially in Zambales.

The residents vowed to continue the barricade until destructive mining is stopped in their town.

The barricade in Barangay Uacon is the second to be staged by the residents demanding for a stop of mining operations in the province.

Since January 19 hauling operations of Zambales Diversified Metals Corp./DMCI has been

paralyzed when residents of Barangay Bayto in Sta. Cruz staged a human barricade that also prevented its hauling trucks from taking out nickel from the mining site.

Molino said the peaceful barricade was armed with a resolution by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Zambales calling for a moratorium on mining operations in Sta. Cruz.

On Oct. 18, 2015, the towns of Infanta in Pangasinan as well as Sta. Cruz and Candelaria in Zambales were flooded with reddish mud and logs which the resi-

dents blamed to mining sites in the province.

The mining firms – BNMI, Eramen Minerals, Inc. (EMI), LNL Archipelagic Minerals, Inc. (LAMI), and ZDMC/DMCI – denied their mining operations caused the flooding.

The barricading residents also called on the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MBG) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to implement the said resolution calling for a moratorium.

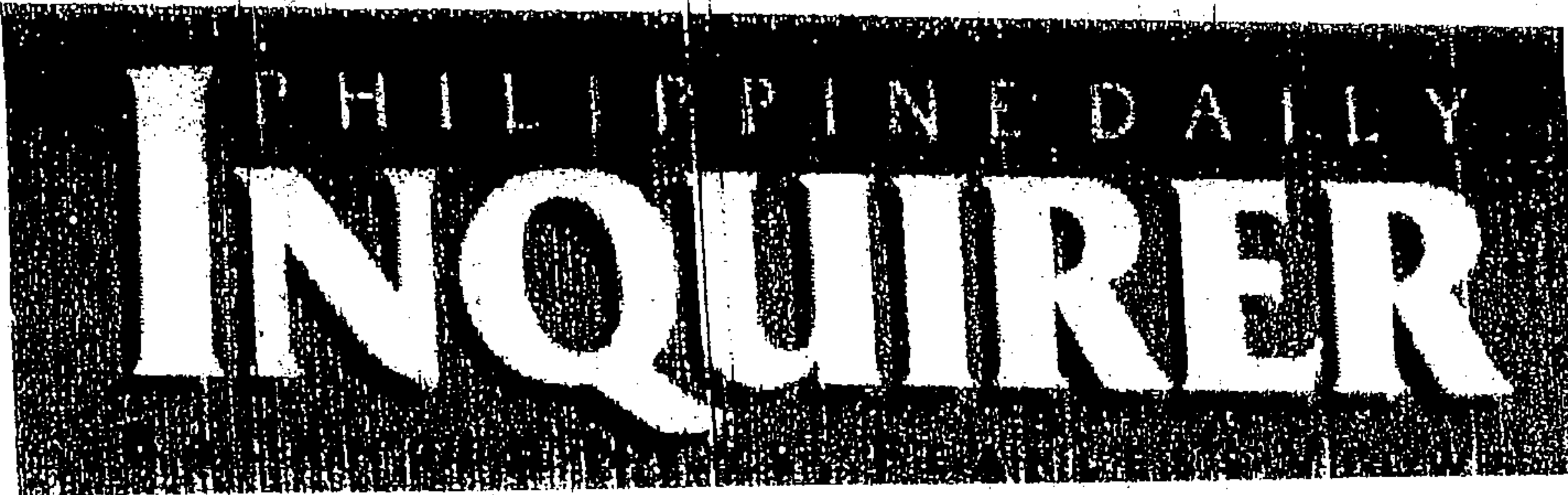
PATRICK ROXAS

01 MAR 2016

DATE

A-5

PAGE



UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

More red tide alerts seen due to El Niño

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *Inquirer Visayas*

SONIA Francisco is relieved. Now, she can gather and sell shellfish again after the red tide alert that was imposed in November last year on her hometown in Altavas, along with the towns of Balete and New Washington in Aklan province, was lifted on Jan. 29.

The feeling may just be short-lived, however. Fishing families and those living in the coastal areas should brace for more possible red tide alerts due to the prolonged dry spell, according to University of the Philippines marine scientist Rhodora Azanza.

"In line with the predicted strong El Niño event in the coming months, the intensity, number and duration of *Pyrodinium* blooms during this event can also be expected to rise," Azanza, a professor of marine science at UP Marine Science Institute, said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

Pyrodinium bahamense is the primary organism responsible for paralytic shellfish poisoning (commonly referred to as red tide) in the Philippines. The organism produces "cysts," or seeds, that can be dormant for a period of time and deposited in the waters and sediments of the affected areas.

Its rapid increase or accumulation (bloom) is usually episodic and predictable, occurring during the southwest monsoon (*amihan*), Azanza said.

Major blooms were also recorded during the El Niño in 1997 to 1998. An increasing number of blooms were observed in 2015, from a single affected area in January to 15 areas in December, Azanza said.

The "harmful algal bloom" red tide phenomenon occurs when algae rapidly multiplies, producing toxins that can be fatal to humans and other wildlife. Higher than

usual temperature of surface water brought about by global warming due to high carbon emissions is among the contributors to the occurrence of the blooms.

The shellfish toxicity level in the affected areas is above the regulatory limit of 60 microgram saxitoxin/100 grams of shellfish meat.

Fish in areas affected by red tide can be consumed but must be fresh and washed thoroughly. The internal organs, including gills and intestines, should be removed before cooking and eating, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The harvesting and selling of shellfish are banned in the areas covered by the alerts, severely affecting the livelihood of

residents in coastal communities.

Before the ban in Altavas was lifted, Francisco's family struggled to recover from joblessness. "We are still waiting for assistance from the government because many of us were unable to harvest and sell oysters and other shellfish because of the ban," she told the INQUIRER in Hiligaynon.

She said at least 100 residents of her village of Odiong alone were severely affected by the ban. Those gathering oysters, who usually earned from P150 to P200 per day, had to sell roasted bananas so they could buy rice for their families.

The Aklan provincial board earlier declared a state of calamity covering Altavas, Batan and New Washington to enable the release of assistance to the affected residents.

Capiz, dubbed the country's seafood capital because of its supply of fish, shellfish and other seafood, has also been reeling from

01 MAR 2016

DATE

A-5
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P2

More red tide alerts seen due to El Niño

red tide since last year.

Francisco said several residents had received 10 kilos of rice, eight packs of noodles and

six cans of sardines per family. She was not among the beneficiaries because she has fish corals or traps.

X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ • BULGAR SA BALITA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

01 MAR 2018

DATE

3
PAGE

✓
UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

PAANO LALABANAN ANG EL NINO?

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... Ang lahat ng pagpapalang ito ay mapapasainyo kung susunod nga kayo sa Panginoon ninyong Diyos... bubuksan ng Panginoon ang kalangitan, ang imbakang kanyang pagpapala, upang ipadala ang ulan sa kapanhuhunan, at pagpapalain ang lahat ng inyong gawain..." (Deuteronomio 28:2, 12, Bibliya).

MATINDING EL NINO, TATAMA SA RP: Naala-ala ba ninyo ito? "Hindi ko masabi kung dapat tayong matakot o hindi, pero may ulat na nagsasabing tatamaan ang bansa ng matinding El Nino umpisa sa susunod na mga buwan, at maaaring magtagal ito hanggang sa matuyuan talaga ang bansa. Ang ulat ay galing sa PAGASA, o sa weather bureau, ayon sa mga balita.

"Batay sa tradisyon, pinaniniwalaang nagdadala ang El Nino ng pag-iinit ng tubig sa mga karagatan, na siyang dahilan upang masipsip ang tubig-dagat pataas, at nagiging malitim na ulap na nagdadala naman ng mababangis na pag-ulan sa iba't ibang dako.

"Pero kakaiba ang ulat na naglalabasan ngayon, sapagkat lumilitaw mula dito na ang El Nino na darating ay magiging sanhi ng mas kokonting pag-ulan sa hilaga at gitnang Luzon, kasama na ang Palawan, at maging ng ilang lugar sa Central Visayas at Mindanao. Ang ibig sabihin nito, magiging mas mainit ang temperatura, na mangangahulugan din ng mas kokonting ani mula sa agrikultura.

MAPAPATIGIL BA ANG EL NINO? "Pero, anuman ang dala ng El Nino sa kanyang pagdating sa bansa—mas mabibigat na pag-ulan na magdadala ng mga baha o mas mainit na kapaligiran na makakasira naman sa agrikultura—makikita natin mula sa mga press advisories na wala namang magagawa ang gobyerno, at magiging ng sinuman, upang pigilan ito.

"Tunay nga, masakit ang katotohanan: walang makakapigil sa El Nino o maging sa kanyang kapareha, ang La Nina, na kumakatawan naman sa matitinding pagbuhos ng ulan. Sa madaling salita, anuman ang dumating sa atin, hindi maiiwasan ng maraming Pilipino ang kapinsalaan at kamatayang dulot ng mga pag-ulan, pagbaha o tagtuyot.

"Puwera na lamang kung mag-uumpisa tayong maniwala na ang pag-iinit ng kapaligiran sa buong mundo, at ang mga ulan at baha na regular ng nagdadala ng pinsala sa ating mga buhay, ay mayroong batayang espirituwal, ayon sa Bibliya, daan upang kaakibat ng mga pagkilos ng pamahalaan para maibsan ang pighating dulot ng mga nasabing kalamidad ay mag-aaral din tayo ng Bibliya upang alamin kung ano ang mga remedyong nakasaad doon.

PAANO LALABANAN ANG EL NINO? "Una, dapat nating intindihin na ayon sa Deuteronomio 28:15, 22-23 ng Bibliya, may babala ng global warming and climate change na magdudulot ng nagbabagang langit, lupang sintigas ng bakal, nakakatupok na tag-init at tagtuyot, at pag-ulan ng alikabok. Ano ang dahilan ng mga ito? Sabi ng Deuteronomio 28:15: "... kung hindi na kayo makikinig sa Diyos at hindi na kayo susunod sa Kanyang mga utos..."

"Tapos, may babala naman si Jesus, ang ating Diyos at Tagapagligtas, na darating talaga ang ulan, baha at hangin. Sa Mateo 7:24-27, sinabi ni Jesus na pagdating ng mga kalamidad na ito, tanging ang mga taong nakikinig at sumusunod sa Kanya ang maliligtas at di mapipinsala o mamamatay. Pero, paliwanag ni Jesus, mamamatay ang mga nakikinig sa Kanya pero di naman Siya sinusunod.

"Batay sa mga bahaging ito ng Bibliya, maliwanag na walang makakapigil sa mga kalamidad sa pananalasa sa mundo. Pero dahil sa Kanyang dakilang pagmamahal at awa sa atin, nagbigay ang Diyos ng remedyo: kailangan nating makinig at sumunod sa Kanya, kung nais nating maligtas at magtagumpay. Ibig sabihin, dapat tayong magbasa ng Bibliya at sumunod sa Kanya. Kung hindi, kamatayan ang naghihintay sa atin.

PAKINGGAN AT PANOORIN: "Tambalang Batas at Somintac", isang news-commentary radio program, sa DZEC 1062 kHz, at sa iba pang Radyo Agila provincial stations, sa <http://www.eaglebroadcasting.net/radyoagila> at sa www.youtube.com (i-type po ang DZEC Radyo Agila Tambalang Batas at Somintac 1062 Live), alas 6 hanggang alas 7 ng umaga, oras sa Pilipinas. Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

01 MAR 2016

DATE

A-12

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

BY ALBERT BALBUTIN
HARIBON FOUNDATION

TOPICS from how bills get passed in congress to information regarding the status of Philippine forests were discussed during the latest Haribon Meets U (HMU) on February 18 at the foundation's headquarters in Cubao, Quezon City.

HMU is a set of informal meet ups designed to update Haribon members with the latest in environmental topics and even policy actions that the foundation takes part in.

The talk provided a glimpse into the challenges of passing environmental legislation, particularly that of the Forest Resources Bill (FRB) with key provisions on protection of remaining natural forests. Citing DENR figures, Philippine forest cover is down to a fourth its size compared to forest cover in the 1900s. This is merely half of what is required to maintain ecological services in the country, which is at 54 percent according to "The Philippine Forest Ecosystem in Baseline Assessments" by P. Sajise and N. Tapay.

Given the situation, Haribon's Chief Operating Officer Maria Belinda De La Paz effectively impressed upon the Haribon members present the importance of the FRB via slides, maps, and her own personal experiences in forest conservation work. At one point during her talk, she referred to a map of a location in Quezon province showing encroachment into what was once un-touched natural forest over a number of years.

She talked about provisions in the FRB that include the use of the functional definition of forest, referring to forests as an "ecosystem"

Haribon looks into green legislation pending in congress



■ Haribon Chief Operating Officer Maria Belinda de la Paz shares her experiences in Haribon's push for the Forest Resources Bill (FRB). PHOTO BY ALBERT BALBUTIN

rather than what current definitions used by the DENR reflect: a mere collection of trees in at least half a hectare or land. Both the National Land Use Act (NLUA) and the Alternative Minerals Management Bill (AMMB) use the functional definition of forest.

De La Paz also shared with members Haribon's involvement in pushing for another bill in congress, the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System or E-NIPAS. This bill aims to strengthen an already existing bill, the NIPAS Act. Despite being passed in 1992, there are only 13 specific laws established under NIPAS. The

E-NIPAS law however is expected to provide legal basis for the protection of 101 protected areas.

The Philippines today may be world-renowned for its coral reefs, unique wildlife, and picturesque natural environments, but this will change if these bills are not passed in time.

"We have existing Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations for our protected areas, except that there aren't enough funds being allocated. With the E-NIPAS these sites will benefit from the funding mechanism established under NIPAS for its proper management," adds De la Paz.

If passed, the FRB would become the Forest Resources Act, ensuring the best protection of our water and food sources, for communities in upland and forested areas, and it would conserve the precious and unique biodiversity of the Philippines.

An integral part of Haribon since its formation in 1972, Haribon membership transforms regular citizens into biodiversity champions. They protect, conserve, and save biodiversity while forming lasting friendships with other environmental advocates. Be a Haribon member today and attend the next HMU.

Register: bit.ly/joinHF Email: membership@haribon.org.ph, or call: +63 (2) 421-1209.

>>newsonH

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Priest relieved over treasure diggings in old cemetery

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Church officials have ordered the relief of the parish priest of San Joaquin town in Iloilo province for allowing the “unauthorized” diggings at a Catholic cemetery that has been declared a national cultural treasure.

Fr. Nelson Silvela is among those facing a criminal complaint for the diggings at Campo Santo de San Joaquin, a mortuary chapel at the Spanish-era cemetery.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo appointed Fr. Junnick Territorio, episcopal vicar and chancellor of the archdiocese, as the new administrator of the San Joaquin parish, 54 kilometers from Iloilo City.

“He (Territorio) will be re-

porting directly to the archbishop about the pastoral care of the parish,” said a statement released by Msgr. Joemarie Delgado, director of the Jaro Archdiocesan Commission on Social Communications.

Silvela filed for an indefinite leave of absence effective on Feb. 28. He could not be reached for comment and has not been seen in the town.

The cemetery, including the Campo Santo, and San Joaquin Church are among the structures and sites declared national cultural treasures by the National Museum of the Philippines. These are also popular tourist destinations.

On Feb. 24, police arrested 10 men believed to have been digging for hidden treasure inside the Campo Santo in Baran-

gay Purok Uno. A 50-foot deep excavation was found in the area.

Confiscated from the suspects were several pieces of equipment and gadgets, such as a metal detector, two submersible pumps, shovel, digging bars, safety helmets, a hacksaw and emergency lamps.

On Friday afternoon, the municipal police filed the criminal complaint against Silvela and the 10 men at the Iloilo Provincial Prosecutor’s Office for violation of Republic Act No. 10066, or the National Cultural-Heritage Act of 2009.

The suspected treasure hunters were identified as Ardenito Arguilles Jr., Ferdinand Caras, Alfé Depol, Isidro Quiatchon Jr., Ceferiano Cabo, Christopher Cabo, Jimmy

01 MAR 2016

DATE

A-5

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Priest relieved over treasure diggings in old cemetery

P. 2

Moscoso, Jeven Moscoso, Andres Dela Cruz and Arnel Vejo.

None of them are from San Joaquin. Some are from the neighboring towns of Tigbauan and Miag-ao in Iloilo, while several others are from Capiz province and Manila.

Napoleon Secondes, the barangay chief, said he had called the attention of Silvela after a "kagawad" (watchman) reported the diggings on Dec. 17 last year.

"He (Silvela) told me he has a project at the cemetery and that I refer to him any queries about the diggings," Secondes told the INQUIRER in Hiligaynon.

He said he did not further question the diggings then because "it was the priest who sanctioned it."

But residents later asked why the diggings were done at night

and while the entrance of the cemetery and mortuary remained locked.

Hundreds of them have been offering prayers and lighting candles at the cemetery since Thursday. They were again expected to pray the Holy Rosary at the cemetery on Sunday afternoon.

Delgado said the archdiocese would also investigate the incident. "What is important now is that the pastoral needs of the people will not be compromised," he told the INQUIRER.

He said the people were disheartened with what ~~has~~ happened and stressed that Lagdameo and the archdiocese did not authorize the diggings.

The archdiocese will coordinate with government agencies for the possible restoration and repair of damaged structures.

BusinessMirror

DATE

4-12

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

ADB backs first climate bond in Asia in landmark \$225-M PHL deal

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has backed the issuance of the first climate bond in Asia and the Pacific.

The ADB will provide credit enhancement to the Philippine firm AP Renewables Inc., a subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corp. (AboitizPower), for the Tiwi-MakBan geothermal energy facilities.

The P10.7-billion (\$225-million equivalent) local currency bond comes in addition to a direct the ADB loan of P1.8 billion (\$37.7 million equivalent). The ADB's credit enhancement is in the form of a guarantee of 75 percent of principal and interest on the bond.

"The successful use of credit enhancement for Tiwi-MakBan

reflects our evolving strategy to make creative use of the ADB's expanding balance sheet to support infrastructure investment in Asia and the Pacific," said Todd Freelands, director general of the ADB's Private Sector Operations Department. "Credit-enhanced project bonds offer an attractive alternative to bank financing, and by mo-

bilizing cost-effective, long-term capital can help close the region's infrastructure gap."

The climate bond, which has been certified by the Climate Bonds Initiative, is the first in Asia and the Pacific and the first-ever climate bond for a single project in an emerging market. In 2015 the ADB committed to double its financing for climate-change adaptation and mitigation by 2020, including playing a catalytic role to crowd-in private-sector climate finance.

"This is a landmark transaction for the Bank of the Philippine Islands [BPI], the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific region in terms of both capital markets development and climate finance," said Reginaldo Cariaso, managing director of BPI Capital Corp., which acted as lead arranger and sole underwriter of the bond issuance. "The transaction is highly innovative, representing the first project bond ever issued in local currency in the power sector in the Philippines and the first credit-enhanced project bond in Southeast Asia (excluding Malaysia) since the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis."

AboitizPower is a major power developer in the Philippines and an emerging leader in renewable energy in Southeast Asia. Since acquiring the Tiwi-MakBan complexes in 2009, AboitizPower has

“Credit-enhanced project bonds offer an attractive alternative to bank financing, and by mobilizing cost-effective, long-term capital can help close the region's infrastructure gap.”—FREELAND

invested in the rehabilitation of the facilities to improve performance and extend their operating life. With the refurbishment complete, the project is now undertaking its first-ever debt financing.

"This transaction validates the successful rehabilitation program of the Tiwi-MakBan facilities," said Liza Montelibano, first vice president and chief financial officer of AboitizPower. "The deal opens a new avenue for financing and re-financing our various projects, allowing AboitizPower to redeploy capital toward our large pipeline of new power investments that include renewable energy. We are committed to support the energy needs of the country, and in building renewable-energy resources through our brand, Cleanergy."

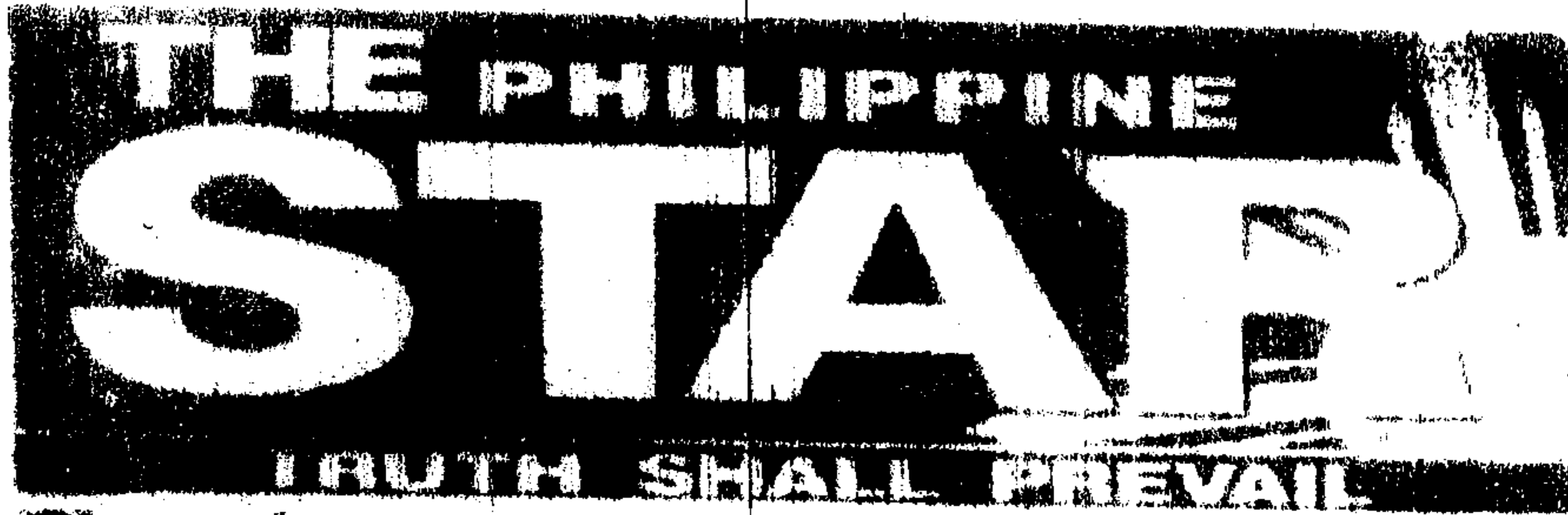
AboitizPower's Cleanergy portfolio is composed of 29

hydro and geothermal power-generation facilities with a total of 915 megawatts attributable net sellable capacity.

The ADB's credit enhancement will be risk-participated by the Credit Guarantee Investment Facility (CGIF), a multilateral facility established by Asean+3 governments and the ADB to develop bond markets in the Asean+3 region. Tiwi-MakBan is CGIF's first support for project bonds and illustrates the facility's growing role in contributing to local debt capital-market development.

The ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.

01 MAR 2016



The only paper you read from cover to cover!

DATE

A-27

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Don't build airport in Laguna de Bay, Sangley Point'

The government should call off its plan to build a new international airport either in Sangley Point in Cavite or Laguna de Bay, geologist Kelvin Rodolfo has said.

In a meeting organized by environmental group Save Our Shores at the Malate Church over the weekend,

Rodolfo said building the airport in either areas would require land reclamation.

"It is susceptible to liquefaction especially if there is an earthquake...There might be subsidence or when the ground surface sinks because of the weight of the airport," said Rodolfo.

He said both areas are

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

also prone to storm surges that could wipe out the airport.

Rodolfo said it is dangerous to build the airport in Laguna de Bay, which is only a kilometer away from the West Marikina Valley Fault. He said nearby structures are

expected to collapse in case of a magnitude 7.2 earthquake.

Rodolfo said the government should just improve the Clark International Airport in Pampanga.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)

said it is considering either Sangley Point and Laguna de Bay based on the recommendation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Transport Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya said the DOTC is waiting for JICA to submit its final report on the pre-feasibility study.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Maritime transport critical to regional development

DESPITE MUCH research and repeated policy pronouncements on the importance of regional development, the country's spatial growth has actually become more rather than less skewed. With climate-change-induced disasters in addition to increasing sociopolitical restiveness in the regions, the subject of spatial inequalities has assumed renewed relevance ("Skewed regional development," Opinion, 4/27/15). Indeed, the issue is figuring prominently in the run-up to the May elections.

Regional development continues to be concentrated in Metro Manila (National Capital Region or NCR) as indicated by its 37-percent share of total GDP in 2014, having risen monotonically from 30 percent in 1988. The NCR's persisting dominance is even more poignantly exemplified by its income per capita that's nearly threefold the national average, 2.3 times the next highest (Calabarzon's), and more than 13 times that of the poorest region, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. With such obscene interregional inequality, it's little wonder why there's deep disaffection and seething frustration particularly in Mindanao vis-à-vis imperial Manila.

Calabarzon's and Central Luzon's relatively large shares of GDP can be attributed to their proximity to the NCR. Noteworthy is that if their shares are aggregated with the NCR's, this mega-industrial region would in effect be owning close to two-thirds of the annual national pie. Being close to the seat of the central government arguably confers a huge advantage in terms of, among others, the national budget for both physical and social infrastructure. It follows that a drastic rebalancing of the national development strategy beyond this mega-urban agglomeration is long overdue.

Basic to such rebalancing is infrastructure, but while there seems so much concern about roads, railways and airports, little is said about maritime transport despite the archipelagic nature of the national economic landscape. The remark that it takes appreciably longer to ship cargo to Manila from Davao than from Bangkok or Singapore has become legendary. The recently amended Cabotage Law (Republic Act No. 10668) is welcome, but for it to matter, improvements in

COMMENTARY

Ernesto M. Pernia

the maritime ports in the Visayas and Mindanao island-regions are required.

There is plenty to ship from these regions for Luzon's domestic market or for export. Mindanao's Davao region is reportedly the fastest-growing (9.4 percent in 2013-14) in the country, followed by Northern Mindanao, Caraga, Soccsksargen and Zamboanga Peninsula (due partly to their lower base). Growth was attributable to the buoyant recovery of agriculture following the devastation wrought by Typhoon "Pablo" in 2012. Davao region's agriculture alone grew 12 percent, with the others' at slightly lower clips.

While tourism, mining and IT industries are also on the rise, agriculture is the backbone of Mindanao's economy. As such, it produces 88 percent of the country's pineapple, 81 percent of banana, 75 percent of coffee, 60 percent of coconut, and 53 percent of corn for domestic consumption and export.

The well-known long neglect of agriculture is virtually synonymous with the neglect of Mindanao. Historically, the government seems to have been ill-advisedly obsessed with self-sufficiency in rice despite the country's lack of comparative advantage in this crop—at the expense of other high-value crops for which it can reap greater bang per buck.

For instance, solely by dint of private-sector initiatives, the Philippines has been the second largest exporter of Mindanao banana via the ports on the Davao Gulf. This industry has demonstrated remarkable resilience following Pablo and despite pest infestation and the Panama disease. Growers have opened up new areas west of Davao City that is relatively secluded from typhoons.

The World Bank notes that with proper government support by way of better land transport and port infrastructure, among others, the

banana export industry can maximize its growth potential while remaining competitive in the world market. To the extent that the infrastructure will also benefit such other export produce as pineapple, coconut and corn, Mindanao's economy will be given a further boost.

These considerations plus recent developments in the shipping industry make the provision of modern port infrastructure in Mindanao an imperative. This, along with full implementation of the cabotage reform, will significantly cut the exorbitant costs of domestic shipping. Likewise, the cost advantage of foreign shipping derives from the use of more efficient larger ships compared with the smaller vessels currently used by local shipping lines.

At present there are only two modern container ports in Mindanao—the Philvitec Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental and the Panabo port in Davao del Norte. The Sasa port in Davao City used to be Mindanao's premier port located on a deep channel protected by Samal Island. But Sasa's deteriorated facilities and lack of modern ship-to-shore cranes are reportedly causing long ship queues and waiting times of up to three days. This is unfortunate, especially at a time when the new banana plantations west of the city are starting to bear fruit, which would have to be trucked a long distance to Panabo.

The planned modernization of Sasa (besides, perhaps, the port in Tagum) for both cargo and passenger will be timely in the context of the Asean Economic Community, particularly in the nearly 20-year-old framework—known as Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area, or BIMP-EAGA—for which Mindanao is at the forefront. This will be the very first public-private partnership project in Mindanao following the first such project in the Visayas, the modernization of the Mactan-Cebu international airport. One hopes these critical projects to disperse regional development will not be the last.

Ernesto M. Pernia, PhD, is professor emeritus of economics, University of the Philippines, and former lead economist, Asian Development Bank.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

China's thirst threat

HONG KONG—When identifying threats to Himalayan ecosystems, China stands out. For years, the People's Republic has been engaged in frenzied damming of rivers and unbridled exploitation of mineral wealth on the resource-rich Tibetan Plateau. Now it is ramping up efforts to spur its bottled-water industry—the world's largest and fastest-growing—to siphon off glacier water in the region.

Nearly three-quarters of the 18,000 high-altitude glaciers in the Great Himalayas are in Tibet, with the rest in India and its immediate neighborhood. The Tibetan glaciers, along with numerous mountain springs and lakes, supply water to Asia's great rivers, from the Mekong and the Yangtze to the Indus and the Yellow. In fact, the Tibetan Plateau is the starting point of almost all of Asia's major river systems.

By annexing Tibet, China thus changed Asia's water map. And it is aiming to change it further, as it builds dams that redirect trans-boundary riparian flows, thereby acquiring significant leverage over downriver countries.

But China is not motivated purely by strategic considerations. With much of the water in its rivers, lakes and aquifers unfit for human consumption, pristine water has become the new oil for China—a precious and vital resource. China seems to think that the bottling of Himalayan glacier water can serve as a new engine of growth, powered by government subsidies. As part of the official "Share Tibet's Good Water with the World" campaign, China is offering bottlers incentives like tax breaks, low-interest loans, and a tiny extraction fee of just 3 Chinese yuan renminbi (\$0.45) per cubic meter (or 1,000 liters). According to a 10-year plan unveiled by Chinese authorities in Tibet last fall, extraction of glacier water will increase more than 50-fold in just the next four years, including for export.

However, by encouraging its companies to tap Himalayan glaciers for premium drinking water that can satisfy a public skeptical about the safety of tap water, China is raising the environmental stakes throughout Asia.

Some 30 companies have already been awarded licenses to bottle water from Tibet's

WORLD VIEW

Brahma Chellaney



ice-capped peaks. Two popular brands in China are Qomolangma Glacier, sourced from a supposedly protected reserve linked to Mount Everest, on the border with Nepal; and 9000 Years, named after the assumed age of its glacial source. A third, Tibet 5100, is so named because it is bottled at a 5,100-meter-high glacial spring in the Nyenchen Tanglha range that feeds the Yarlung Tsangpo (or Brahmaputra River)—the lifeblood of northeastern India and Bangladesh.

Ominously, the Chinese bottled-water industry is sourcing its glacier water mainly from the eastern Himalayas, where accelerated melting of snow and ice fields is already raising concerns in the international scientific community. Even the Chinese Academy of Sciences has documented a sharp decrease in the area and mass of eastern Himalayan glaciers.

One of the world's most biodiverse but ecologically fragile regions, the Tibetan Plateau is now warming at more than twice the average global rate. Beyond undermining the pivotal role Tibet plays in Asian hydrology and climate, this trend endangers the Tibetan Plateau's unique bird, mammal, amphibian, reptile, fish and medicinal-plant species.

Nonetheless, China is not reconsidering its unbridled extraction of Tibet's resources. On the contrary, since building railways to Tibet—the first was completed in 2006, with an extension opened in 2014—China's efforts have gone into overdrive.

Beyond water, Tibet is the world's top lithium producer; home to China's largest reserves of several metals, including copper and chromite (used in steel production); and an important source of diamonds, gold and uranium. In

recent years, Chinese-controlled companies have launched a mining frenzy on the plateau that not only damages landscapes sacred to Tibetans, but also is eroding Tibet's ecology further—including by polluting its precious water.

These are precisely the kinds of actions that caused China's water crisis in the first place. Instead of learning the lessons of its past mistakes, China is compounding them, forcing a growing number of people and ecosystems to pay the price for its imprudent approach to economic growth.

Indeed, China has implemented no effective safeguards against adverse impacts from intensive water mining. Bottled water is being sourced even from protected reserves where glaciers are already in retreat. Meanwhile, the glacier-siphoning boom is attracting highly polluting ancillary industries, including manufacturers of plastic water bottles.

Make no mistake: Glacier-water mining has major environmental costs in terms of biodiversity loss, impairment of some ecosystem services due to insufficient runoff water, and potential depletion or degradation of glacial springs. Moreover, the process of sourcing, processing, bottling and transporting glacial water from the Himalayas to Chinese cities thousands of miles away has a very large carbon footprint.

Bottling glacier water is not the right way to quench China's thirst. A better alternative both environmentally and economically would be to boost investment in treatment facilities to make tap water safe in cities. Unfortunately, China seems determined to remain on its current course—an approach that could do irreparable and severe damage to Asia's environment, economy and political stability.

Project Syndicate

Brahma Chellaney, professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin, is the author of nine books, including "Asian Juggernaut, Water: Asia's New Battleground," and "Water, Peace and War: Confronting the Global Water Crisis."

01 MAR 2016

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

DATE

PAGE

B-4

WB names new Phl country director

The World Bank yesterday announced the appointment of Mara Warwick as its new country director in the Philippines effective March 1.

Trained as an environmental engineer, Warwick has expertise in flood management, urban development, urban environmental services, and disas-

ter risk management. She joined the World Bank in 2003.

Warwick, an Australian national and the first female country director for the Philippines, replaces Motoo Konishi, who retired recently after 35 years of service at the World Bank.



Warwick

In the Philippines, she will manage a growing portfolio of projects that support the country's goal of promoting and sustaining inclusive growth-growth that reduces poverty and creates more and better jobs.

From 2003 to 2009, Warwick managed water supply, wastewater, solid waste and flood management projects in China and the Philippines.

"It's a great honor for me to return to the Philippines and be a part of the country's steadfast efforts to address extreme poverty and promote prosperity that is shared by all Filipinos," said Warwick. "The World Bank remains a long-term and committed partner of the Philippines in this endeavor."

Prior to her appointment as country director in the Philippines, Warwick served as the portfolio and operations manager for China, Mongolia and Korea, based in Beijing.

In her previous post, she supported the Chinese government's expansion into technically complex programs and projects including climate change mitigation and adaptation, rehabilitation of contaminated land, and social service reform.

From 2010 to 2012, Warwick was sector coordinator for sustainable development in Ankara, Turkey, and she also coordinated the World Bank's development policy and investment lending in the energy, environment, urban and rural development, transport and social development (health, education) sectors in the Europe and Central Asia region.

Before joining the World Bank, Warwick worked in the private sector as a consultant engineer.

She received her B.E. in Civil Engineering from the University of Adelaide, Australia and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Environment Engineering and Stanford University in the US.

01 MAR 2016

DATE
B-7
PAGE

The Manila Times

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

RECEIVED



■ The exhibit also features angels floating and flying in his pastel landscapes

Artist paints 'love for earth'

BACK in the day when being environmentally friendly was not yet in vogue, Fernando Modesto would often insert comments like "this is good for the environment" in conversations, which often received puzzled reactions from his friends and co-artists.

On his latest one-man exhibit titled *Love the Earth, Heal the Spirit*, the artist harks back to his comments on the

environment in the past. He shows landscapes of places he has visited. In "Capri," he captures the beauty, ethereal quality of its caves, "Tuscany" and its beautiful trees, and the mystical ambiance of the island of "Syquijor."

Running until March 15 at the Hiraya Gallery in Manila, it also features new paintings and touches on his more serious side. His angels



■ On his latest one-man exhibit, Fernando Modesto harks back to his comments on the environment in the past

are floating and flying in his pastel landscapes ("Angel in flight") and fantasy takes on his favorite artists ("Tapias" and "Picasso's Back") giving us a glimpse of his more spiritual side. His artworks continue to be colorful with bright splashes of paint and textured molding paste.

Modesto has been in the Philippine Art Scene since the late 60's with his colorful persona, loud laughter and

overall irreverent Art. He has exhibited his works at the CCP, Hiraya, Metropolitan Museum, as well as international exhibitions in London, England, Japan, South Korea, Turin, Italy, and in Jakarta, Indonesia where the artist lived for two decades.

This is Modesto's first show in 2016 and will run until March 15 at Hiraya Gallery, located at 530 UN Avenue, Manila.