

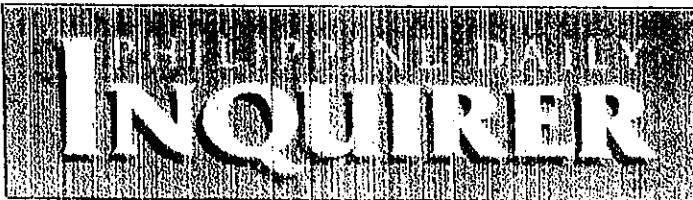
07 JAN 2017

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DAY** Saturday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# PETRON SHARE PRICE SLIDES ON SETTLERS' COMPLAINTS

By Daxim L. Lucas

@daxINQ

Shares of Petron Corporation were battered on the Philippine Stock Exchange Friday after Environment Secretary Gina Lopez was quoted as saying she would order a stop to the operations of the petroleum giant's power plant in Limay, Bataan, due to complaints lodged by the local mayor—accusations that the company denies.

Petron's stock price dropped by 5.34 percent in a single day to end the trading session at P9.75 per share, and wiping P5 billion off the market capitalization of the country's largest petroleum refiner and retailer.

The company, which is a subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation, refuted the claims of environmental and health issues raised by the Limay may-

or, as well as the informal settlers who have been living on a Petron-owned property adjacent to the Bataan refinery.

In particular, the informal settlers—who have regular access to a range of Petron-funded medical services—have complained about the supposed ill effects of ash byproducts that the company deposits in a portion of the property.

"Our ash pond is located within our facility and near our offices," Petron said in a statement. "It has the necessary regional and local permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is surrounded by dikes, and regularly watered to prevent dispersion."

"Ash from the pond, certified by DENR as nonhazardous, will be used as raw material for our cement manufacturing plant," the company said.

"Thus, reports of ash spill and tons of ash found along the coastline of a distant river, which is almost a kilometer away from our facility, is far from the truth."

In an interview, Petron vice president for refinery Freddie Yumang said the company had originally intended to build an ash pond for its refining byproducts on another site within its sprawling compound, far from the complaining informal settlers. The municipality of Limay, however, denied the company a key construction permit, forcing it to use a temporary site on its property—closer to a local community—which the local mayor is now also complaining about.

Yumang explained the property now inhabited by informal settlers was originally meant to serve as a buffer be-

tween Petron's refinery and local residents.

On Friday, the company organized a site visit for journalists to its facilities in Limay, Bataan.

"We brought major media outfits to the site to see for themselves how clean the river is and how we carry out adequate measures to contain our bottom ash to avoid dispersion," the company said, adding that it was also inviting other concerned stakeholders from both media and government to visit the facility.

"We want to show you a side of this whole story, that we believe, would make it complete and accurate," Petron said. "Nevertheless, we assure that we will continue to assist the residents and work with the DENR and the municipality to do what is right and necessary." INQ

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## Petron denies ash spill from coal power plant

By Alena Mae S. Flores

THE Energy Department is investigating reports the Environment Department has asked San Miguel Corp. to stop operating its coal-fired power plant in Limay, Bataan.

"We are investigating. I'm having things checked first," Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said.

Reports were initially circulating that the coal power plant of San Miguel and Petron Corp. in Limay caused an ash spill, affecting the health of residents in the area.

"Not true news," San Miguel president Ramon Ang said when asked about the Environment's plan to shut down the plant.

Ang was quoted in a TV news that the San Miguel and Petron were merely helping in the clean-up operations.

Petron's 180,000 barrel-per-day refinery is located in Limay, Bataan.

"Our ash pond is located within our facility and near our offices. It has the necessary regional and local permits from the (Environment), is surrounded by dikes, and regularly watered to

prevent dispersion," Petron said.

Petron said ash from the pond, certified by Environment as non-hazardous, "will be used as raw material for our cement manufacturing plant."

"Thus, reports of ash spill and tons of ash found along the coastline of a distant river, which is almost a kilometer away from our facility, is far from the truth," Petron said.

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this whole story, that we believe, would make it complete and accurate. Nevertheless, we assure that we will continue to assist the residents and work with the (Environment) and the municipality to do what is right and necessary," the company said.

Petron in December completed the acquisition of the 140-megawatt solid fuel power plant of SMC PowerGen Inc. in Bataan for P20.029 billion.

"The purchase of the power plant would lower the power and steam costs of the Petron Bataan Refinery," Petron said earlier.

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THE EXponent OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## A new life for Laguna de Bay

In his State of the Nation Address on July 25, 2016, President Duterte spoke out on many of his concerns – among them Laguna Lake. “Itong Laguna Lake, naubos ang mga... wla na ang fishermen. Iyon na lang – one big fish pen to the other... makita mo sa plane every time I go to Davao... And the fishermen are complaining about their loss. Talagang wala na sila; kasi ang maliit na lugar, iyon lang ang kanila.”

The President said Laguna Lake would be transformed into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of watershed destruction, land conversion, and pollution... And the poor fishermen will have priority in its entitlements.”

That was about six months ago. The administration is now moving to carry out President Duterte’s plans for the Philippines largest lake, a great part of which has been taken over by private individuals and companies who have subdivided it into fish pens and fish cages. They cover 12,315 hectares, of which 10,438 have records in the Laguna Lake Development Authority. Fishermen have to find their way around the maze of 358 fish pens and 2,890 fish cages, marked by a forest of bamboo poles sticking out of the water.

Secretary Gina Lopez of the Department of

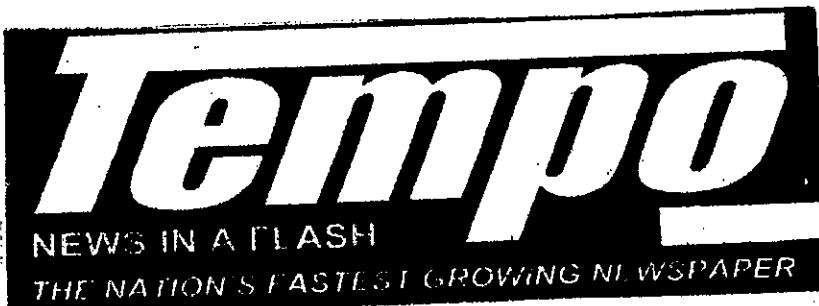
Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) took the first step when she declared a moratorium on the issuance and renewal of permits for fish pen operations in the lake starting this month of January. At the same time, President Duterte has ordered the demolition of all illegal structures in the lake.

Laguna Lake supplies 80 percent of the fish supply in Metro Manila, but Secretary of Agriculture Emmanuel Pinol said Pangasinan and other inland fisheries will be able to make up for the loss. The DA is now looking at potential fishing areas that can be developed with its assistance.

Thus what started as President Duterte’s reaction to the unjust treatment of small fishermen denied access to their traditional fishing grounds in the lake will now lead to the revival of Laguna de Bay which has long suffered from pollution and siltation along its shores, causing flooding in lake towns of Rizal and Laguna.

Along with the plan to build a highway around the lake, the fish pen clearing operation will help restore the lake close to its pristine condition – a clean and healthy natural resource for all, especially small fishermen, a beautiful ecotourism site for visitors, and a great place around which ordinary people can live and enjoy its peace, quiet, and natural beauty.

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### EDITORIAL

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Laguna Lake supplies 30 percent of the fish supply in Metro Manila, but Secretary of Agriculture Emmanuel Piñol said Pangasinan and other inland fisheries will be able to make up for the loss. The DA is now looking at potential fishing areas that can be developed with its assistance.

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### EDITORIAL

## PANUNUMBALIK NG BUHAY SA LAGUNA DE BAY

**S**A kanyang State of the Nation Address noong Hulyo 25, 2016, nagsalita si Pangulong Duterte tungkol sa maraming bagay na mahalaga para sa kanya – kabilang sa mga ito ang Lawá ng Laguna. "Itong Laguna Lake, naubos ang mga... wala na ang fishermen. Iyon na lang – one big fish pen to the other... makita mo sa plane every time I go to Davao.... And the fishermen are complaining about their loss. Talagang wala na sila; kasi ang malit na lugar, iyon lang ang kanila."

Sinabi ng Pangulo na ang Laguna Lake ay magiging "vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of watershed destruction, land conversion, and pollution... And the poor fishermen will have priority in its entitlements."

Walong buwan na ang nakararaan simula noon. Ngayon, sinisimulaan nang ipatupad ng administrasyon ang mga plano ni Pangulong Duterte para sa pinakamalaking lawa sa Pilipinas, na ang malaking bahagi ay sinakop na ng mga pribadong indibiduwál at mga kompanya, pinaghati-hatián at nilagyan ng fish pens at fish cages. Sinakop nila ang 12,315 ekarya, na 10,438 ang may record sa Laguna Lake Development Authority. Ang mga manggingisda ay nakikiraan na lamang sa pagitan ng mga bakod ng 358 fish pens at 2,890 fish cages, na tila naging gubat na sa maraming dulo ng mga kawayan na nakalitaw sa tubig.

Ang unang hakbang ni Secretary Gina Lopez ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay ang pagdedeklara ng moratorium sa pagbibigay at pag-renew ng mga permit para sa operasyon ng fish pen sa lawa simula ngayong buwan. Kasabay ito ng utos na demolisyón ni Pangulong Duterte sa lahat ng mga illegal na istruktura sa lawa.

Sa Laguna Lake nang gagaling ang 30 porsiyento ng mga isdang ibinibenta sa Metro Manila, pero sinabi ni Secretary of Agriculture Emmanuel Pinol na kayang punuan ng mga pangisdaan sa Pangasinan at iba pang inland fisheries ang mawawala. Pinag-aaralan na ng DA ang mga potensiyal na lugar na maaaring gawing palaisdaan na kanilang susuportahan.

Ang nagsimulang reaksiyon ni Pangulong Duterte sa pang-aapi sa maliliit na manggingisda sa kanilang minana at tradisyunal na baluwarte sa lawa ay mauuwi sa mulung pagsigla at pagkabuhay ng Laguna de Bay na matagal na nagdurusa sa polusyon at natatambak na banlik sa mga pampang na nagdudulot ng mga pagbaha sa mga bayan ng Rizal at Laguna na nasa gilid nito.

Kasabay ng planong konstruksyon ng highway sa palibot ng lawa, makatutulong ang pagtanggal sa mga fish pen upang manumbalik ang dating malusog at magandang lawa – na may biyaya para sa lahat, lalo na para sa maliliit na manggingisda, isang marikit na ecotourism site para sa mga bisita, at maaliwalas, payapa at tahimik na pasyalan at pamayanan ng mga karaniwang mamamayan.

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## Group lauds order on Laguna fish pens

THE fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas or Pamalakaya has lauded the Department of Environment and Natural Resources order to dismantle fish pens in Laguna de Bay starting this year.

The next step, the group said, is the complete rehabilitation and preservation of the 90,000-hectare brackish lake—by opening the Napindan Hydraulic Control Structure in Taguig City.

The NHCS has a channel that prevents the flow of saltwater from Pasig River and Manila Bay to the lake that would desalinate Laguna de Bay and keep it purified for commercial and industrial purposes, Pamalakaya said.

However, the NHCS harms the residents of Laguna and the lake itself because saltwater is

essential to the lake “to keep the ecological balance that gives nutrients to the fish and other lake species,” the group added.

“In effect, the existence of the Napindan channel puts the country’s largest lake in its dying stage,” Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya chairman, said. “The Napindan promulgates flooding mitigation in the communities around the lake and in Metro Manila, but in reality, it aggravates the flooding in Laguna de Bay communities because it prevents the water from flowing out of the lake.”

“Although it’s a welcome development, abolition of fish pens should be followed with strong restrictions from industries and factories that dump their chemical and industrial wastes into the lake,” Hicap said. Sandy Araneta

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Nationwide audit on mining firms faces more uncertainties; no one is safe

By MARLYN

The nationwide audit on the country's 41 metallic mines, which was supposedly done in August last year, is facing more uncertainties as even those that were declared safe before may also undergo another review.

To recall, 20 of the 41 metallic mines are currently facing possible suspension, while 10 have already been suspended prior to the audit.

This means only 11 mining companies — or the likes of Philex Mining Corp., the largest gold and copper producer in the Philippines — were declared safe.

But the technical working group, which is tasked to evaluate the 20 mines that were recommended for suspension, is now seeing the need to review the audit results on all mining companies to further validate the credibility of the overall findings.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau's

(MGB) Assistant Director Danilo Uykieng, who was recently been appointed as the head of the audit's technical review committee, said in a phone interview that there's still some issues as to how the mining audit team, formerly led by ex-MGB Director Leo Jasareno, conducted the evaluation.

He said the process in terms of how the mining audit team came up with the list of companies recommendation for suspension is still not very clear the same way how it ended up sparing the 11 mines.

Uykieng said that raising such question would also be, in a way, beneficial to miners seeking for a more credible mining audit result.

Since the start, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) has always been concerned with the integrity of Lopez's mining audit because of the way it was conducted and the questionable role of anti-mining civil society organizations (CSOs) who have no certified

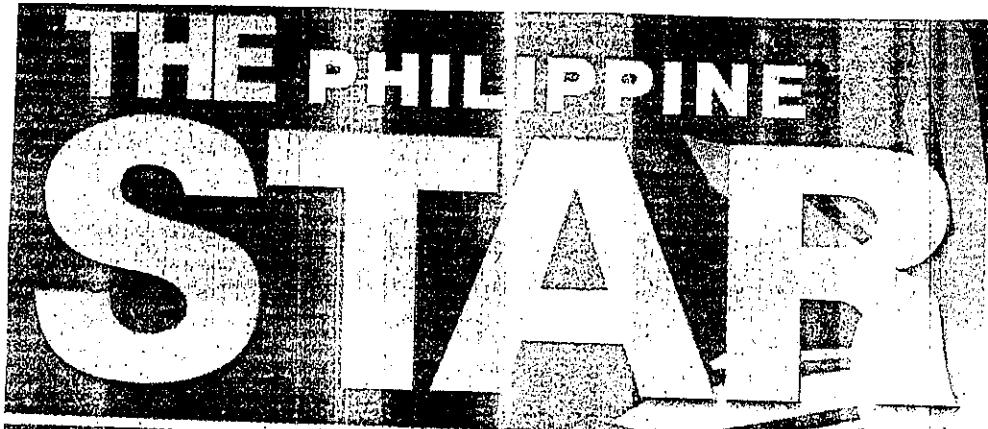
expertise in any field relevant to the audit in the evaluation process.

"There may be another review on all 41 metallic mines (for the sake of government's credibility) because there are still questions (how the audit team arrived in those numbers)," Uykieng told Business Bulletin on Thursday.

"There will be no exemption. We will look at all of them again," he added, pointing out that the result may entirely change once another review has been conducted.

According to him, the technical working group had so far finished reviewing the audit reports of three of the 20 mining companies facing suspension.

"The evaluation of the audit reports and responses are still on-going by the technical working group... it's still too early to say if there are companies to be shutdown until the respective audit reports and responses are fully evaluated and reviewed," Uykieng said.



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**TRUTH SHALT PREVAIL**  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## FNI affiliate appeals ECC cancellation

Ipilan Nickel Corp., an affiliate of listed Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc. (FNI), is seeking the reversal of an order canceling its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for its nickel project in Palawan.

In a disclosure to the local bourse, FNI emphasized Ipilan continues to implement significant activities such as lodging of community development programs with various beneficiaries, confirmatory drilling, preparation and submission of definitive project feasibil-

ity study, local government endorsements and application for Mineral Production Sharing Agreement operation.

FNI assured that it undertakes land acquisition for road lots and foreshore lease application, commissioning and completion of environmental assessment update studies and numerous meetings with the mine rehabilitation and fund committee.

"Based on records, we maintain that the lone basis for the cancellation of our ECC (such as that 'the project was never

implemented') has no factual basis," the company said.

FNI's Ipilan mine was supposed to start operations and trial shipments early this year after the DENR approved its Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility (DMPF).

The DMPF is the final document that must be issued by the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau before a mining project can start operations.

The approval covers 343.3 hectares while the remaining area of more than 2,000 hectares

— REN SIMEON

will still be subject to further exploration. Approved annual production rate is 1.5 million wet metric tons (WMT).

Based on the study of the Philippine Mineral Reporting Code, the explored portion of the property has proven and probable ore reserves of 28.6 million WMT and recommended to extend the mine life beyond 12 years.

Also included is the recommendation to increase mine production capacity to three million WMT within two years

as part of the 2015 pre-feasibility study.

Last August 2015, FNI acquired for \$50 million the Southern Palawan Nickel Ventures Inc. (SPNVI), which owns at least 90 percent of Ipilan Nickel Corp.

The Ipilan mine is seen to augment the company's operations in Surigao and double FNI's yearly production capacity as it is projected to produce up to three million WMT annually on full capacity.

FNI earlier said putting the Ipilan mine into operation

would help ensure the supply of medium and high-grade saprolitic ore to the steel market.

The additional production capacity would make FNI the second largest producer of nickel direct shipping ore in the country, next to Nickel Asia Corp.

In a separate disclosure, FNI said its operating subsidiary Platinum Group Metals Corp. signed a contract for the delivery two million WMT of nickel ore to Guangdong Century Tsingshan Nickel Industry Co. Ltd. at spot price for the 2017 mining season.

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# DENR hit over 'costly, idled' air pollution monitors

**Groups question equipment's accuracy; gov't execs defend chosen technology**

By Jaymee T. Gamil  
@jaymee\_gamil INQ

Two advocacy groups are calling for an audit of the air quality monitoring equipment used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), raising questions about their accuracy and cost-effectiveness.

Doubts were raised over the equipment's reliability two days after the DENR released air pollution data in Metro Manila, which it said reached "extremely dangerous" levels because of the fireworks and firecrackers used during the recent New Year's Eve revelry.

"We discovered that most of these expensive air monitor instruments are currently not properly working and some are even not functional anymore," United Filipino Consumers and Commuters president Rodolfo Javellana said in a statement.

The Coalition of Clean Air Advocates of the Philippines (CCAAP) also assailed the decision of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to use the long-path Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (Doas) system, rather than a point monitoring system, saying the former was "grossly disadvantageous" to the government.

Long-path devices measure air pollutants along a path. Under the Doas system, the pollutants and their concentration are measured based on their ability to absorb light.

A point monitoring system, on the other hand, measures "exactly what the human body would be exposed to as if that person is breathing the air at



The DENR air quality monitoring station in Marikina City, one of the 27 located across the country—PHOTO FROM DENR-EMB

quality monitoring (because) it is expensive and limited in its usefulness," Galvez said.

In a recent press briefing, DENR-EMB Officer in Charge and Assistant Director Jacqueline Caancan said the department was already consolidating the results of an investigation conducted last year on such allegations.

She also pointed out that the DENR's 27 monitoring stations nationwide cost P3 million each, for a total of P81 million—not "billions of pesos" as alleged by the two complaining groups.

Seven of the stations are located in Metro Manila.

Caancan said the department would conduct an inven-

reach 50 percent of the total," the official stressed.

Jean Rosete also said the Doas system was an "equivalent" method for "prescribed" systems of air quality monitoring.

"Everything is above-board," added Rosete, chief of the DENR-EMB Air Quality Management Section.

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### 'Air quality monitor' ng DENR walang silbi?

THE SOUTHERN WATCH

**Paul's Alarm**

By Paul Gutierrez

BAGO ang lahat, muli nating binabati si Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Ed Año na kahapon ay nakita natin ang larawan dito sa *People's Tonight* habang tina-tanggap kay DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang kanyang ika-4 na estrelyo.

Kumpaga, 'full general' na tóng ating kaibigan na alam nating nagdala ng kasiyahan hindi lang sa kanyang pamilya bagkus, sa ating buong Sandatahang Lakas.

Muli, mabuhay ka, Gen. Ed at sana, magpakan...ton ka naman, hehehe!

Naunong Huwebes ay nakabasa tayo ng artikulo hinggil sa panawagan ng 'Coalition of Clean Air Advocates of the Philippines' (CCAAP) na, "imbestigahan" ni DENR Secretary Gina Lopez ang umano'y bilyones na halaga ng mga 'air qual-

ity monitor' na binili ng dalawang nagdaang administrasyon na anila'y "palpak." Sa madaling salita, "walang silbi."

Sa ganang atin naman mga kababayang tanong natin ay ito: Meron bang binili ang Pangkat ni Noy, as in, "PNoy," at bagoito, ang gobverno ni Madam Gloria, na mga air quality monitor? Dangan kasi, wala pa akong nakita kehit isa, hehehe!

O baka naman kaya wala pa akong nakikita kahit isa eh dahil tama ang bintang ng koalisyon na palpak nga ang mga ito at "hindi angkop" sa partikular na kondisyon ng Pinas kaya hindi naggamit?

Ang mga 'monitor' na ito, mga kabayan, ang siyang "sumusukat" sa 'pollution level' sa ating kapaligiran partikular na dito sa Metro Manila upang malaman ng public kung puwede pa ba nilang "singhutin" ang

hangin sa kanilang pali-gid o isa na itong "lason" na puwedeng magdala ng mga sakit at kapag minalas, ng kamatayan.

Kung totoo naman na hindi rin nagagamit ang mga ito, 'waste of taxpayers' money' ang tawag dito na ang ibig sabihin ay simple lang sa wikang Ingles pa rin: 'graft and corruption.'

Dangan kasi, alam na palang walang silbi at hindi angkop sa 'Pinas,' "ipinilit" pa rin eh, bakit? Dahil pa mayroong "padulas" o "tóngpats" sa transaksyon?

Partikular na naku-tuon ang "ngitngit" ng CCAAP dito sa Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) na umano'y nasa likod ng sabihin pa ay "maanomalyang transaksyon."

Sa pahayag pa ng grupo, lumalabas na ilang beses na nilang inireklamo ang transaksyon ito subaliit, "dedma" lang ang DENR sa napakahabang panahon, bagay na hindi natin ipinagtataka.

Sa laki kasi ng burukrasya ng DENR na hanggang ngayon ay si-

nasabing "kontrolado" pa rin ng mga 'appointee' ni PNoy (dahil hindi pa rin sila napapalitan), hindi malayo na "hinaharang" nila na makarating sa atensyon ni Sec. Gina ang kanilang reklamo.

At bakit naman nila papayagan na agarang makarating sa butihing kalihim ang reklamo kung sila mismo ang "tatamaan" at hahabulin sa kasong plunder sakaling magkaroon isang malaliman at seryosong imbestigasyon, aber?

Yun nga lang, ayon pa rin sa CCAAP, noong Agosto 2, 2016 pa nila umano nakausap si Sec. Gina na anila'y dating 'trustee' sa kanilang board subalit wala pa ring nangyayari hanggang ngayon ha imbestigasyon.

Hmmm. Harinawang "nakalimutan" lang ni Sec. Gina ang isyu sa daming mga problemang kinakaharap ngayon ng DENR (katulad ng pag-lilinis sa Laguna de Bay at ang isyu ng illegal mining) kaya mainam na balikan at busisiin na niya ito nang husto.

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### AIR...

From Page 1

Kilos na po kayo, madam secretary! Abangan! CARRY ON, GOV. OYIE

Iisa namang isyu na hindi dapat ikabahala ng Novo Ecijanos ay ang anunsyo ng Ombudsman na "sinampahan" na nila ng kasong katiwalian at kriminal si ex-Gov. Aurelio 'Oyie' Umali hinggil sa kanyang PDAF (pork barrel) noong siya ay

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales ang pag-sasampa ng kasong 'malversation' at paglabag sa RA 3019 laban kay Umali, 'pork barrel queen' Janet Napoles, Department of Agriculture (DA) regional director Renato Manantan, Narcisa Maninding, Anita Tansipek at Coron Bautista.

Ang kasó ay patungkol sa P15 milyon PDAF noon ni Umali para sa mga proyekto na walang siyang kinalamnan sa anumang si-

mga proyekto ang iginagalang na lider ng buong Lalawigan.

Ayon sa kanyang abugado na si Atty. Honorio Reyes, "nakahanda" si Gob. na harapin ang mga kasó at "patunayan" na sablay ang akusasyon ng Ombudsman.

Nakahanda si Gov. Umali na humarap saan mang hukuman at ahenesiya, higit sa lahat sa taumbayan upang ipakita na walang siyang kinalamnan sa anumang si-

kalabán ni Gob. hinggil sa isyu katulad ng sa kulungan na agad ang bagsak niya, abá'y hindi dapat "banghíaan ng loob" ang taláksan niyang mga taga-suporta dahil ang prosesong ligal ay nagsisimula pa lang. Uulitin natin: Nag-sisimula pa lang po, mga kabayan.

Sa ganang atin naman na kahit paano ay kilala ang pagkatao ni Gov. Oyie sa kanyang pagrespeto at pagtulong

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## Pang-Masa

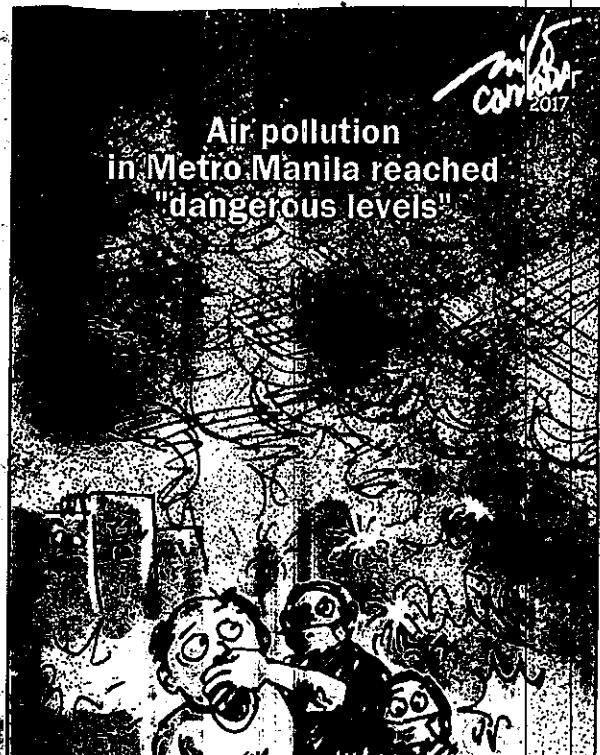
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Editoryal

### Air pollution, pinalubha ng mga paputok

**G**RABE ang air pollution sa Metro Manila pero lalo pa itong pinalubha noong gabi ng Disyembre 31, 2016 nang salubungin ang pagpalit ng bagong taon 2017. Tumaas ang lebel ng air pollution na umabot sa 2.5 PM (particulate matter). Mas mataas ito kumpara sa lebel ng air pollution noong Disyembre 31, 2015 habang sinasalubong ang 2016. Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), mas mababa ang naitalang air pollution noong nakaraang taon dahil umulan at kakaunti ang nakapagpaputok. Hindi kafulid ngayon na bagamat umambon, naging maganda rin naman

Air pollution  
in Metro Manila reached  
"dangerous levels"



ang panahon sa magdamag kaya nagpatuloy ang pagpapaputok. Ang usok mula sa mga paputok ang naging dahilan ng paglubha ng air pollution at magpatuloy pa ito hangga't walang ngipin ang pamahalaan para maipatigil ang paggawa at pagbebenta ng paputok.

Ang DENR ang nararapat manguna sa kompanya para lubusang maipatigil na ang paggawa at pagbebenta ng paputok. Kung hindi gagawa ng aksyon ang DENR, magpatuloy ang pagkasira ng kalikasan dahil sa air pollution na pinalulubha ng mga paputok tuwing sasapit ang bagong taon.

Dapat lamang ang total ban sa paputok sapagkat bukod sa air pollution, marami ring napipinsala dahil sa insidente ng sunog, pagkasugat, pagkaputol ng daliri, kamay at pagkulag.

Mahigpit ang pagtutol ni President Rodrigo sa mga paputok at naipasunod niya ito sa Davao City kung saan naging mayor siya sa mahabang panahon. Ganoon rin ang dapat niyang gawin sa buong bansa. Ipagbawal ang paputok sa susunod na pagdiriwang ng bagong taon.

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# Abante

UNA SA BALITA

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### 2016, pinakamainit na panahon sa buong mundo

Naitalang pinakamainit na panahon sa buong mundo ang nagdaang taong 2016, ayon sa Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) ng European Union at US-based climate centre.

Sa ulat, nahigit pa ng taong 2016 ang naitalang init sa mundo noong taong 2015.

Ang Arctic region ang nagpakita ng matinding pagtaas ng temperatura habang marami pang lugar sa mundo kabilang ang mga bansa sa Africa at Asya na nakaranas din ng maituturing na "unusual heat".

Base sa pag-aaral, ang global surface temperature noong 2016 ay pumalo sa average na 14.8 degrees Celsius o 58.64 degrees Fahrenheit na mas mataas ng 1.3 degrees Celsius na mas mataas sa normal na temperatura sa 18th century.

Noong Pebrero 2016, ang temperatura sa mundo ay naitala sa 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Tinukoy ng mga eksperto ang pag-init ng panahon sa mundo bunsod ng stoking wildfires, heat waves, droughts, pagbaha at iba pang kalamidad.

Maging ang National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) ay inaabhang maglalabas na ang nakaraang taon ang pinakamainit sa bansang New Zealand. (Noel Abuel)

### BALITANG ABROAD

### May ebidensyang nakisawsaw ang Russia sa US polls

Pinaninindigan ng mga spy chief ng Estados Unidos na mayroon silang malakas na ebidensiya na nagpapatunay ng pakikialam ng bansang Russia sa nakaraang presidential election para matiyak ang panalo ni President-elect Donald Trump.

Ayon sa ulat, sinabi ni National Intelligence director James Clapper, kumpiyansa ito sa resulta ng kanilang imbestigasyon at nakatakdang isapubliko sa susunod na linggo ang motibo ni Russian Pres. Vladimir Putin.

Idinagdag pa nito,

na dati na aniyang may kasaysayan ang Russia ng panghihimasok sa mga eleksyon kahit sa kanilang sariling bansa.

Samantala, nakatakda ring ipaalam ni Clapper gayundin nina Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director James Comey at Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Brennan, si Trump hinggil sa mga detalye ng imbestigasyon.

Noong nakaraang linggo nang patawan ng sanction ni outgoing US President Barack Obama ang Russia kautnay ng isyu sa cyber vote hacking. (Noel Abuel)

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# INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## The future of PH energy

### COMMENTARY

LAURENCE DELINA

Sydney, Australia—The future of energy is now committed to an age of sustainable energy, ushered in by rapid transitions to renewable energy systems coupled with large-scale harvesting of energy efficiency potentials. The Philippines should fit into this imagined future if we don't want to be left behind. President Duterte should therefore encourage and adopt a reflective mindset to drive the country toward this direction.

Mr. Duterte promised quality life for all Filipinos, envisaging an industrialized Philippines. One of the important things about being a relatively poor and trailing, but hopeful, country like the Philippines is that we are provided with a bird's eye view of what we want to emulate—and, more importantly, what we want to skip. Mr. Duterte's gaze on China could well bring about this vision.

China currently leads the global effort to transition toward sustainable energy—replacing coal-fired power plants with cleaner energy, at a faster pace. The results are far-reaching: reduced air pollution and reduced emissions. The ongoing Chinese energy transition would only make today's cheap coal-fired power plants stranded assets in the near term.

If Mr. Duterte is serious in speeding up Philippine development, he can apply a leapfrog mentality that would totally skip coal-based development, and emulate China in its energy transition.

A sustainable energy future offers

development and climate dividends for present and future generations of Filipinos. Development dividends include domestic energy security, which is key in Philippine socioeconomic development; climate dividends are made through reductions in climate-changing greenhouse gases, minimizing future impacts in an already-climate-disrupted Philippines.

A low-carbon development pathway powered by sustainable energy is technically and economically possible. A Stanford University study envisages a 100-percent renewable-energy-powered world from combined water, wind and sunshine energy systems. This research includes a vision for a sustainable energy future for the Philippines, suggesting that we can tap our renewable resources using existing technologies, which continue to reduce in price, while creating new jobs and reducing air pollution.

Key in our sustainable energy leapfrog is the creation of a regulatory and investment climate that would support rapid deployment of sustainable energy technologies, especially for small and medium-size enterprises, cooperatives, and ordinary Filipino households. This means: providing investment security through schemes such as feed-in tariffs; reducing lengthy permit and

license processes; designing innovative financing mechanisms; and strengthening capacity. We also need to revisit systems and institutional arrangements that discourage the participation of small players in energy production. It's time to open up the energy market for more players, not just for big established energy corporations.

Mr. Duterte could gaze at Germany, a well-recognized country in terms of sustainable energy. Germany's feed-in tariffs guaranteed prices for 20 years, critically providing investment security especially for smaller investors such as cooperatives. It has also prioritized these little guys' power over those of energy corporations.

These are not prescriptions but encouragements. Our ability to gaze at others, to make sense of how they did it, and to imagine how to replicate them are vital, but our ability to create an alternative path is far more important. The forces of the market and the physics of the climate system are strongly pointing to this path: a sustainable, low-carbon development pathway wholly powered by sustainable energy. This transition offers new opportunities for all Filipinos. We should not miss it.

Dr. Laurence Delina ([l.delina@bu.edu](mailto:l.delina@bu.edu)), from South Cotabato, is a sustainability scientist at Boston University, where he leads the future of energy research project: "Strategies for Rapid Climate Mitigation: War mobilisation as model for action?" (Routledge 2016) is his latest book.



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**TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL**  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## BMB head appointed to UN body

Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau chief Theresa Mundita Lim has been appointed to head a United Nations committee on biodiversity conservation.

Lim will serve a two-year term at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as the head of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

SBSTTA is an intergovernmental body that gives

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

scientific advice to the CBD's Conference of Parties or COP.

The Canada-based CBD is an international legally-binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity, fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, who endorsed Lim to the post, welcomed the

appointment and called it a recognition of the country's efforts to conserve and protect its biodiversity.

"It would allow the Philippines to show how its biodiversity programs can benefit humanity. Biodiversity is the wealth of the planet. In the Philippines, our aim is to explore biodiversity in a way that benefits the surrounding communities," Lopez said.

As SBSTTA chair, Lim will advise and recommend to the COP's other bodies the assessment of the status of biodiversity and other measures taken to successfully implement the convention, if necessary.

Lim is a graduate of veterinary medicine from the University of the Philippines and has been championing wildlife protection and biodiversity conservation in the Philippines.