

**DATE**

18 JAN 2017

**DAY**

Wednesday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Duterte reappoints bypassed Cabinet execs

President Duterte has reappointed nine Cabinet members bypassed by the Commission on Appointments (CA) last month before the month-long Christmas recess of Congress.

Reappointed were Emmanuel Piñol of agriculture, Rafael Mariano of agrarian reform, Leonor Briones of education, Regina Lopez of environment and natural resources, Paulyn Jean Ubial of health, Vitaliano Aguirre II of justice, Judy Taguiwalo of social welfare and development, Ramon Lopez of trade and industry, and Perfecto Yasay Jr. of foreign affairs.

Malacañang has submitted the Cabinet members' new appointments to the CA for confirmation or rejection.

Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III, who is CA majority leader,

said the commission would shortly schedule hearings on the reappointed Cabinet members.

He said he would like to get Piñol's comment on his proposal to return four agriculture-related agencies to the Department of Agriculture.

The four are the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Food Authority (NFA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA).

President Duterte has placed these offices under the supervision of Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr., who recently took over housing agencies after the resignation of Vice President Leni Robredo from the Cabinet.

Albano said returning the

By JESS DIAZ

four agencies to the agriculture department is critical in the overall planning and implementation of programs for rice and agricultural products sufficiency.

"For instance, how can Secretary Piñol effectively visualize the requirements for enhancing rice production if he does not control irrigation? You cannot produce rice without irrigation," he said. He said that returning the NFA to the DA "makes a lot of sense."

"You cannot separate rice production from rice importation. With the NFA under Piñol, he could plan for rice importation, if it is needed, based on rice production data generated by DA agencies," he added.

He stressed that with the

return of the NFA to the DA, Piñol would have sole responsibility for the sufficiency or insufficiency of rice in the market.

As for the PCA and FPA, Albano said the two offices, like the NFA and NIA, are agriculture-related.

He also said the return of the four to the DA would also allow Evasco to focus on his new job as housing czar, in addition to being secretary to the Duterte Cabinet.

"The latter post alone was a full-time job under P-Noy, held by former energy secretary Jose Rene Almendras. Aside from preparing for the weekly Cabinet meetings, the Cabinet secretary follows up and coordinates with Cabinet members on what was taken up in these meetings," he said.

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Group to DENR: Spare 'baklad' in Laguna de Bay from demolition

**T**HE Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Tuesday cautioned the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against dismantling small fish traps within Laguna de Bay.

Fish traps, or *baklad*, allow fishermen to catch fish in open waters. These should not be mistaken as fish cage or fish pen, as the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF) gear up to dismantle fish cages and fish pens starting this month, Pamalakaya Chairman Fernando Hicap said.

The DENR's moratorium on fish cage and fish pen operation starts this year in line with President Duterte's marching order to allow small fishermen to benefit from the lake's bounty.

Some small fishers in Laguna de Bay have resorted to building *baklad* because fish becomes harder to catch in open waters.

According to Pamalakaya, the average fish catch in Laguna de Bay is 2 kilograms to 3 kg per day, compared to 10 kg to 15 kg per day three decades ago, before fish cages and fish pens started to mushroom and occupy large portions of the lake.

The DENR has given the fish pen and fish cage operator until March to harvest their cultured fish and to remove their structures.

The agency also announced that it will demolish illegal and unregistered fish cages and structures first, causing apprehension among small fishers who own small *baklad* and fish cages.

"We fear that even the *baklad* owned by small fishers will not be spared from government's campaign to dismantle wide fish pens in the lake. Those *baklad* are the Laguna

lake fishers' alternative livelihood since open fishing is not that sustainable anymore," Hicap said.

Pamalakaya said large fish pens and fish cages should be demolished to allow small fishermen to cover more areas when fishing in open water.

The group also said the abolition of fish pens should lead to proper and complete rehabilitation of the dying lake and not to conversion of the productive fishing water into eco-tourism zone.

The Laguna de Bay is the largest freshwater lake and biggest aquaculture hub.

Around 13,000 hectares of the lake's 90,000 hectares surface are occupied by fish cages and fish pens, making the region the biggest producer of cultured tilapia and *bangus*, which supplies Metro Manila other areas of Luzon with affordable fish.

Jonathan L. Mayuga

# HATAW!

## D'YARYO NG BAYAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

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## BULABUGIN

ni Jerry Yap

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### Pagbuwag sa fish pen ginamit na media mileage

## GRAFT CONVICTED LLDA GM NERIC ACOSTA MATIGAS ANG ULO O SUPER KAPALMUKS!?

KAKAIBANG klaseng nilalang din pala si Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) general manager Nerius "Neric" Acosta.

Hindi natin alam kung sadyang matigas ang kanyang ulo o kapalmuks lang talaga siya.

Mismong ang mga mangingisda ay bantad na bantad na sa style 'papogi' ni Acosta.

Hindi ba't iniutos na ni Pangulong Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte na gibain na ang mga fish pen na namamayagpag diyan sa 90,000 hectares Laguna de Bay?!

Kaya naman agad gumawa ng kautusan si Environmental and Natural Resources secretary Gina Lopez para kay GM Acosta na agad gibain ang mga fish pen lalo na 'yung mga katagoryang wide-corporate na umookupa sa communal fishing ground ng maliliit na mangingisda sa Laguna de Bay.

Pero nang gawin ito ng batang Phoy na si Acosta, tila media projection lang para ipakita kay Pangulong Digong na sumunod siya sa utos.

Sabi nga ng lider ng mga mangingisda na si Danny Ramos, "Tanda namin nang may dumating na media at pumormang babaklasin ng mga tauhan ng LLDA ang isang malawak na fish pen dito sa Binangonan, pero pag-alis ng taga-media, hindi tinuloy baklasin ang fish pen. Katunayan ay nananatili pa rin ang naglalawakang mga fish pen sa amin."

Ginoyo ang Pangulo, nilinlang ang mga mamamayan at inisa-

han ang maliliit na mangingisda.

Ang gulang po ninyo, GM Neric Acosta!  
Hindi ba ninyo naiisip mag-resign GM Acosta?!

Bakit hindi mo gayahin si dating GM Edgar Manda, may delicadeza?

Kayo po 'e kakaibang talaga. Kakaiba ang kakapalan ng mukha?!

Hakhakhak!

By the way, ano na ang nangyari sa conviction ninyo sa kasong graft dahil sa hindi tamang paggamit sa pork barrel noong Bukidnon congressman pa kayo noong 2002?!

Napagsilbihan na ba ninyo ang sentensiyang 10-taon kulong?

Kung hindi kami nagkakamali, mga mag-sasaka naman ang inagrayado sa P5.5 million Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) na para sana sa Bukidnon Vegetable Producers Cooperative, na ang kanyang ina, si dating Manolo Fortich mayor Socorro Acosta, ay director at cooperator.

Ang sentensiya naman sa kanyang ina ay 12 hanggang 20 taon na pagkakakulong.

Bukod sa kulong, iniutos din ng Sandigan-bayan ang perpetual disqualification sa magina sa public office.

'E ano palang ginagawa ninyo ryan sa LLDA, Mr. Acosta?

Wala ba kayong planong magbalot-balot gayong hanggang ngayon 'e hindi pa rin ninyo sinusunod ang utos ng Pangulong Digong?!

Ano ba ang pumipigil sa iyo para gibain 'yang mga fish pen na 'yan?!

Magkano, 'este ano ba talaga ang dahilan?!

Paki-explain!

# PHILIPPINE MIRROR

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AMIN NG KATOTOHANAN  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## MALALAKING PALAISDAAN SA LAGUNA DE BAY BUBUWAGIN NA

UMARELA ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga fish pen operator sa Laguna de Bay na kusang buwagin ang kanilang mga istruktura.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, pinuno ng National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF), binibigyan pa nila ng pagkakataon ang mga operator na maisalba ang kanilang mga ari-arian bago puwersahan nilang buwagin bago matapos ang buwan.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the

government," wika ni Valdez.

Ang pagbuwag sa malalaking palaisdaan sa Laguna de Bay ay isa sa mga kautusan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para makapanngisda ang maliliit na mangingisda sa lawa.

"That's the presidential instruction after all and the DENR is dead set on implementing it unless of course a new directive from no less than President Duterte is given," ani Valdez.

Pinayuhan ni Valdez ang mga umalmang operator na kay Pangulong Duterte uma-  
pela at hindi sa DENR dahil malinaw, aniya, ang direktiba sa kanila ng

Malakanyang na buwagin ang malalaking palaisdaan sa riasabing lawa.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang DENR at LEDA ay nagmamapa ng phase-by-phase approach para sa kanilang clearing operation.

Binanggit pa ni Valdez na may ilang fish pen operator na kusa nang inalis ang kanilang mga palaisdaan para maibenta pa ang kanilang mga produkto.

Nagpatupad na rin ng moratorium ang DENR sa pag-iisyu ng permit epektibo noong Enero 1.

Nais din ng Malakanyang at DENR na malinis at maisaayos ang Laguna de Bay.

MONCHET LARAÑO

# THE STANDARD

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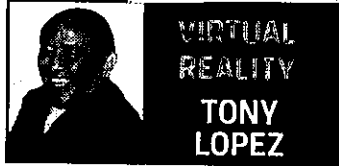
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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



### The alleged San Miguel pollution

ON FRIDAY, Jan. 13, I joined San Miguel Corp. president and vice chairman Ramon S. Ang on a whirlwind helicopter tour of Petron Refinery's 400-hectare industrial complex in Limay, Bataan. He was furious. Petron or more specifically, a brand-new SMC coal power plant was accused, in an ABS-CBN prime time newscast, of spewing dangerous ash fall onto a barrio, Sitio Pexsite, some five kilometers away from the refinery complex.

The Channel 2 newscast even interviewed a man who had *galis aso* (scabies) and another person, a certain Mang Danny, who apparently was going blind because of alleged pollution. Danny said he was holding a tree trunk and suddenly a gust of strong wind and dust penetrated his eyes.

In the first place, scabies is caused not by pollution but by tiny mites that reside on the outer layer of the skin. They are living things, not an inanimate matter like ash or industrial dust.

In the second place, if it is true the SMC coal plant emits pollution, the first to be adversely affected should be Petron's some 1,400 employees and residents in Limay. I talked to Petron's resident doctor of the past three years, Homer Paras. He said there had been no single case of scabies or eye infection at the Petron premises. So, if Ground Zero has no pollution, why would a barrio five kilometers away have it?

In the third place, the source of the alleged pollution, SMC's coal plant, could not have caused the ash fall because it is not yet operational. It will be operational only in May 2017, four months from today.

And even when it becomes operational, the coal plant has what RSA calls an electrostatic resuscitator that will spray or capture any ash and convert it into liquid, not flying dust travelling in the air several kms away. The coal plant will produce two kinds of ash as a by-product—the top ash the one captured by the resuscitator

Turn to A5

### The alleged...

From A4

and the bottom ash which is also captured by another device because it is a very good raw material when mixed with cement. The bottom ash is called calcine, a 90-percent calcine limestone powder with sulfur. It is cooked at 900 degrees centigrade and then fed into a kiln at 1600 degrees. It then becomes chemical gypsum. Since it is a very good material for making quality cement (it makes the cement adhere properly or cure itself well), San Miguel obviously has no reason to let such kind of ash go to waste as an ash fall. RSA calls their power plant

triggered a cease and desist order against the San Miguel coal plant. "We're issuing a cease and desist order to the plant... They have to stop operations. I'm gonna insist that they take care of all the medical bills," Environment Secretary Gina Lopez was quoted by ABS-CBN as barking. "Heads will roll. I'm not going to take this sitting down we're gonna clean up the organization," Lopez added.

Lopez's CDO had the effect of putting in peril a refinery and power plant complex where San Miguel has invested at least \$10 billion. It is the largest such oil refinery in the Philippines and the most modern in Asia, gloats RSA.

As it turns out this Secretary

triggered a cease and desist order against the San Miguel coal plant. "We're issuing a cease and desist order to the plant... They have to stop operations. I'm gonna insist that they take care of all the medical bills," Environment Secretary Gina Lopez was quoted by ABS-CBN as barking. "Heads will roll. I'm not going to take this sitting down we're gonna clean up the organization," Lopez added.

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ransom.

Gina, as you probably know, is undergoing vetting by the powerful Commission on Appointments. Not all its 24 members (including 12 from the House of Representatives) are warm to her. In the first round, the CA refused to confirm her as DENR chief. She has singlehandedly frozen mining in the Philippines thru the power of the permit system.

Whenever a bureaucrat has the power to issue permits, he or she wields tremendous power whose use or misuse could mean life or death for a huge company like San Miguel (which generates P700 billion in revenues and P50 billion in profits annually, the largest in the Philippines).

# X-FILES

SAGAD SA SHOWBIZ

BULGAR SA BALITA

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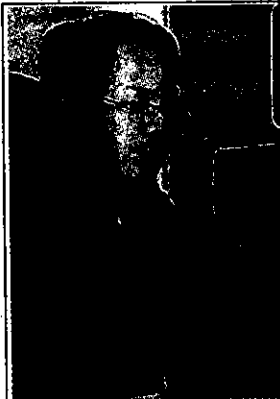
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### PULIS! PULIS!

## REKLAMO VS STONE CRUSHER SA BATANGAS

**NAKATANGGAP** tayo ng reklamo sa ilang concerned citizens sa Calatagan, Batangas.

Inirereklamo nila ang isang stone crusher sa may Brgy. Luk-suhin sa bayan ng Calatagan. Masyado na raw delikado sa kanilang kalusugan ang mga nalalanghap nilang alikabok mula sa mga ginigiling na mga bato, bukod sa nasisira ang kanilang pananim dahil napupulbusan ng alikabok. Kinatatakutan nila ito pag pumasok na naman ang summer o tag-init.

Ang naturang kumpanya ay pag-aari raw ng mga banyagang Lebanse, pero pinatatakbo ng mga Filipino.

Teka, may permit kaya ang naturang stone crusher?

Calatagan Mayor Peter Oliver Palacio, Sir!, may permit ba sa munisipyo nyo ang inirereklamong stone crusher na ito?

Dapat itong paimbestigahan ng magitong na DENR Sec. Gina Lopez.

Aksyon, Ma'am Gina!!!

# MABILIS SA BALITA

## Abante

# TONITE

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### Kalbong bundok, drainage system sinisi sa paglubog ng CDO

Tiniyak kahapon ng National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) na hindi sila nagpapabaya sa sitwasyon sa dinaranas na walang humpay na pagbaha dulot ng walang tigil na pag-ulan sa Cagayan de Oro City at sa malaking bahagi ng Visayas at Mindanao.

Ayon kay NDRRMC spokesperson Mina Marasigan, tuluy-tuloy ang pagbibigay nila ng weather updates sa regional offices kaugnay sa low pressure area o sama ng panahon.

Isinisi naman ng NDRRMC ang matinding pagbaha sa nakakalibong kabundukan at mahihingang drainage system sa Cagayan de Oro City.

Sinabi ni Marasigan na ang mga bagay na ito ang kanilang rerepasuhin kasa-ma ang mga opisyal ng mga naapektuhang lugar. Base sa pagtaya ng Pagasa, hindi na low pressure area (LPA) ang naghatid ng ulan sa malaking bahagi ng Visayas at Mindanao kundi ang umiiral na cold front.

Ayon kay Pagasa forecaster Glaiza Escullar, maaaring umabot pa hanggang weekend ang ulan dahil sa makapal na ulap na namataan.

Bunsod ng naranasang kalamidad, isinailalim na sa state of calamity ang Cagayan de Oro City. (Betchai Julian)



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Violence, water, governance

Lack of water will breed violence. The only way to stop this is through good water governance. If President Duterte wishes to stop this violence, and simultaneously reduce poverty, he must add another priority to his fight against drugs, corruption and *jueteng*.

He must add water governance. Duterte has demonstrated good water governance in Cebu through his Presidential Assistant for the Visayas, Michael Diño. Cebu has never had such progress in this area before. Duterte must now expand this on a nationwide scale and give water governance the attention it never got.

#### Why violence

The Pacific Institute (PI), which studies the link between violence and water, found a four-fold increase in violent consultations over water during the last decade. PI president Peter Gleick said: "The risk of conflict over water is growing—not shrinking—because of increased competition, bad man-

#### COMMENTARY

ERNESTO M. ORDOÑEZ

agement, and ultimately, the impact of climate change."

We are running out of water. We can survive without electricity but we cannot survive without water: to drink, to grow the food we need and to meet other basic requirements. The Kidapawan, North Cotabato violence can ultimately be traced to little food and little water because of El Niño.

According to the United Nations, the greatest challenge facing the world today is water. Some countries are waging wars over water. In the Philippines, violence is already erupting as people fight over water.

How does our water situation compare to other nations? Consider the following table from the Asian Development Bank. See table below.

#### Problem

The problem is that we have

no good water governance. More than 30 water related agencies do not even talk to each other. Let us look at the results from this bad governance.

ADB studied five dimensions of water security: household, economic, urban, environment, and resilience. This was done across 48 countries. The Philippines emerged in the bottom 20 percent at number 38. Indonesia did much better at number 27.

On an overall 1 to 5 index across these dimensions, both Indonesia and the Philippines got a rating of 2, which indicates a very serious problem. But Indonesia is far better off. It has a score at 50 on a 1 to 100 scale, while the Philippines is only at 40. Because of good governance, Singapore has a high score of 83 with a very good index rating of 4.

#### Hopeful future

There is hope that good water governance is around the corner. In a meeting with the five coalition Agri-Fisheries Alliance, Duterte committed to address our current water crisis. Consis-

tent with this, we saw Duterte's successful water initiative in Cebu. He must now implement this throughout the country.

On Jan. 20, a public-private sector meeting will be held to be led by the Office of the President, department secretaries with Secretary Gina Lopez, the legislature with Sen. Loren Legarda, LGUs and private sector leaders from both agriculture and industry. This will be done at the executive secretary's conference room in Malacañang to approve an approach for "out-of-the-box" strategies, plans, and implementation programs. Specific short and long term actions will be discussed and measured on the five water security aspects found in the table above.

A proposed plan is to have a National Water Summit in June to usher in Duterte's second year as a possible start of a golden age for good water governance.

We will then have better water quality and availability, prevent water-related violence, and reduce poverty in our water-starved nation. INQ

#### WATER SECURITY SCORES

COUNTRY	Household	Economic	Urban	Environment	Resilience	Overall Score	Index	Rank
Singapore	20	18	19	15	11	83	4	3
Malaysia	20	15	16	13	9	73	3	8
Indonesia	8	14	8	13	6	50	2	27
Philippines	9	11	5	8	7	40	2	38

SOURCE: Asian Development Bank



The author is Agriwatch chair, former Secretary of Presidential Programs and Projects, and former Undersecretary of DA and DTI. Contact is agriwatch\_phil@yahoo.com.

# THE STANDARD

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Philippines' Earth Hour Capital

On August 18, 2016, the City of Santa Rosa was named the Philippine Earth Hour National Capital by the World Wildlife Fund or WWF for its pioneering initiatives on climate mitigation and adaptation, particularly its initiatives like putting up solar street lights and construction of a composting facility.

According to City Environment and Natural Resources Officer

Erlinda Creencia, Santa Rosa was chosen from among several cities in the country and in the world to compete in the Earth Hour City Challenge of WWF. "We competed along with Makati City in Metro Manila and San Carlos City in Negros Occidental," she said.

"We won the title 'National Earth Hour Capital' of the Philippines while Paris bagged the 'Global Earth Hour Capital,'" the environment officer said.

The National Earth Hour Capital is the first of its kind award ever given in our country.

The City also placed fifth in WWF's We Love Cities Campaign, a related social media contest for the 41 Earth Hour City Challenge finalists. It was won by the City of Bogor in Indonesia.

"This recognition links the many efforts and initiatives of the City in our commitment to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and not to mention, positioning the City in the global arena in terms of successful environmental and sustainable development programs," said Ms. Creencia.

In addition, Ms. Creencia emphasized that the City could not have done it without the participation of the people. "We cannot do it single-handedly, we received help from stakeholders, partner national and local government agencies, international funding institutions, non-government organizations, environmental advocates and individual program supporters," she said.

Hence the awarding ceremonies for environmental partners held annually dubbed as the Santa Rosa Environment Day.

Furthermore, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office also received another award - the Silver Award for Provincial Environmental Compliance Audit 2016 from DILG IV-A on December 14, 2016. The recognition was given for the city's "outstanding performance and highly commendable practices in Solid Waste Management in terms of adhering to the Supreme Court Mandamus to clean and rehabilitate the Manila Bay and its watershed especially on the principles of R.A. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000." **CIO Santa Rosa**