

DATE

27 JAN 2017

DAY

Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gov't starts dismantling fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay

Dona Z. Pazzibugan
@dpazzibuganINQ

After issuing a final warning to all fish pen operators last month, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) began dismantling fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay on Thursday.

"All the 90,000 hectares of Laguna Lake will be accounted for," Environment Secretary Gina Lopez said.

She posted on Facebook a short video of two boat crew members toppling a wooden post of a fish pen.

This is "how fish pens are dismantled—very laborious!" Lopez said.

She said even the lake's navigational highways had been blocked by illegal fish pens.

"You can already see the small fishermen going back to the lake to fish, just like in the old days. (This is) how (the lake) should be—for the people and not for big corporations who don't even give back to the people," Lopez added.

Environment Undersecretary Arturo Valdez said clearing operations were simultaneously done in the Taguig, Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Binangonan, Rizal, sides of the lake.



DOWN IT GOES A demolition team member pulls down a post of a fish pen in Laguna de Bay on Thursday. The lake is being cleared of obstructions on orders of President Duterte. —LYN RILLON

The operation was conducted jointly by the DENR, Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Navy and Philippine Army.

Valdez said the objective was to clear the lake of all illegal structures before President Duterte's second address to a joint

session of Congress in July.

Duterte's order

In his first address to Congress last year, Mr. Duterte ordered the dismantling of big fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay to allow small fishermen to gain access to their traditional fishing grounds.

Valdez said all fish pens in the lake were considered illegal, as the LLDA did not renew their permits after these expired last Dec. 31.

In a statement, the DENR said it would "zero in today on large, illegal fish operators that have benefited and profited from the lake region since the '70s."

27 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

Page 1 Story

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gov't. starts dismantling fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay

"Operators have been given enough time to dismantle their own pens last year and as of January this year, all permits to operate have been canceled," it added.

Earlier, Lopez assured small-scale fishermen that they would not be adversely affected by the clearing operations.

Valdez said earlier that the DENR would not touch the *baklad* or fish traps owned and operated by fishermen.

He said the "only way" to save the heavily polluted lake and give access to small fishermen was to dismantle all illegal structures there.

Cmdr. Armand Balilo, spokesperson for the Coast Guard, said 150 coast guards and 18 vessels were deployed to help in the clearing operation.

"The plan is to conduct dismantling almost daily until June. We are committed to carry out the President's order," he said.

The multiagency team led by Valdez and newly appointed LLDA General Manager Jaime Medina combed the lake for obstructions on Thursday.

According to the LLDA, the structures belonged to two corporations—Christina Fishing Corp. and East West Fishing Corp., both owned by Alex Gozon.

LLDA information officer Maureen Tolentino said Gozon previously requested and was allowed to move his structures to a section of the lake in Muntinlupa City, but failed to do so, making the structures "illegal."

Valdez said Gozon was aware of the demolition.

Once the underwater fish nets are removed, small fishermen began fishing in the area, making a "powerful image of small fishermen taking back [the Laguna de Bay]," he said.

Moratorium

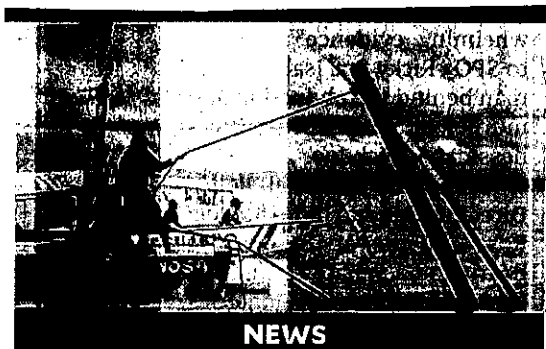
Last month, the LLDA imposed a "temporary moratorium" on the operation of fish pens and fish cages on the lake.

A fish-pen operator who requested anonymity said the operators received on Jan. 12 a letter of instruction signed by former LLDA General Manager Nereus Acosta telling them to demolish their structures by themselves.

"Why should we demolish if there is no written order or signed board resolution? They should make a study first of their policy of zero fish pen," said Mel Felix, a fish-pen operator. —WITH

REPORTS FROM JULIE M. AURELIO AND MARICAR CINCO INQ.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



NEWS

Laguna de Bay area cleared of fish pens

Environment personnel, backed by government troops aboard over a dozen motorboats, on Thursday began reclaiming Laguna de Bay for small fishermen by dismantling structures of a 100-hectare fish pen owned by a businessman in waters off Cardona, Rizal province. "The thrust is to clean up the lake," Environment Undersecretary Arturo Valdez said. —STORY BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

A12

27 JAN 2017

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Illegal fish pens dismantled in Laguna de Bay

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

CARDONA, Rizal – A government task force led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has started dismantling illegal fish pens in Laguna de Bay.

The task force which is also composed of representatives of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), National

Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army removed the fish pens along this town yesterday.

The PCG deployed 20 vessels and 120 personnel to provide security to the task force.

Arturo Valdez, DENR undersecretary for environment and head of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force, said they have so far dismantled 200 hectares of illegal fish pens.

"Those who refuse to remove the structures may be

arrested. We have to enforce environment laws," Valdez said.

He said the task force would meet with the stakeholders today to determine the fastest way to dismantle the fish pens. He said they are targeting the removal of more than 13,000 hectares before President Duterte delivers his second State of the Nation Ad-

dress in July.

Valdez said they would also ensure that the owners of illegal fish pens would not rebuild their structures.

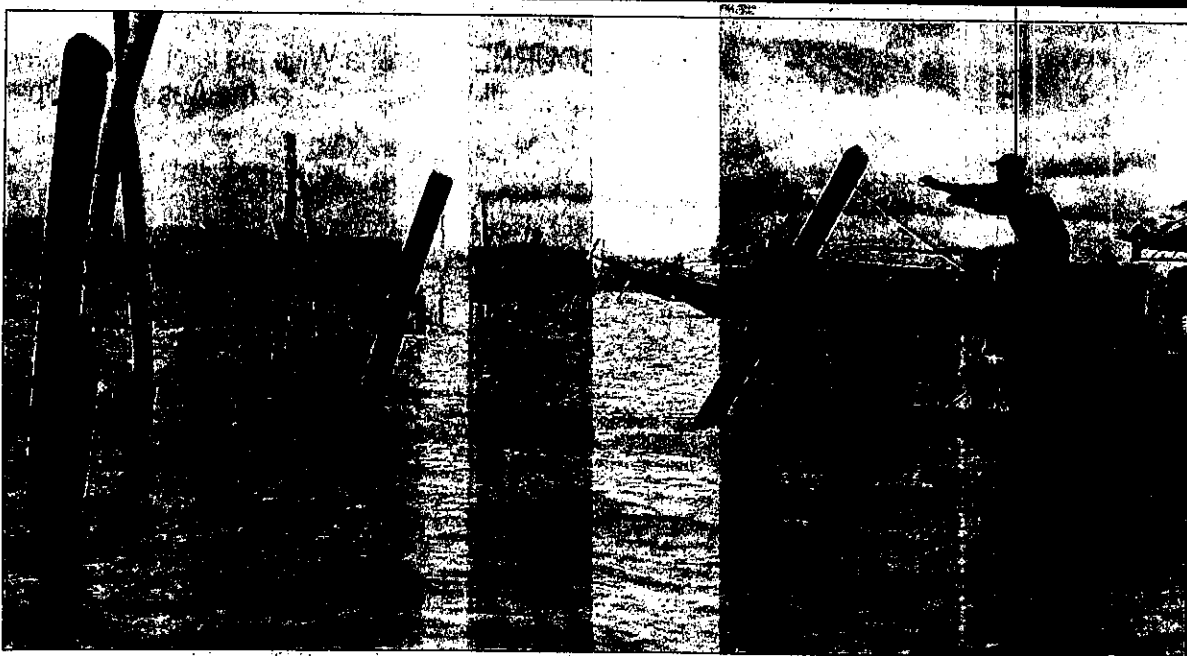
He said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources would raise *bangus* and tilapia once the area is cleared.

"Several corporations had taken advantage of the lake when it should be enjoyed by

all Filipinos, especially those who are living along its shorelines," Joey Medina, LLDA general manager, said.

In accordance with the Fisheries Code, only 10 percent or 9,000 hectares of Laguna de Bay should be allotted for aquaculture. Fish pen operators are occupying 13,000 hectares.

—With Rhodina Villanueva



Members of a government task force led by the DENR dismantle fish pens in Laguna de Bay yesterday.

Abante

UNA SA BALITA

27 JAN 2017

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

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LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Fish pens sa Laguna de Bay ginigiba

Sinimulan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagsira sa mga fish pen sa Laguna de Bay bilang bahagi ng direktibang 'zero fish pen policy' ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Gina Lopez, noong nakaraang taon pa nila inabisuhan ang mga fish cage operators na tanggalin ang mga lambat sa Laguna de Bay.

Sa mga hindi tumatama sa ultimatum ng DENR, puwersahang binaklas ng mga tauhan ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), National Bureau of Inves-

tigation (NBI), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at Philippine Army (PA).

Simula noong Disyembre 2016, kanselado na ang paglalabas ng permit para sa mga fish pen.

Ayon sa hepe ng DENR National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF) na si Arturo Valdez, bukod sa Laguna de Bay ay magkakaroon din ng paglilinis sa iba pang lawa at ilog na sakop ng Laguna Lake na gagawing economic zone.

Wawalisin din ang mga nakatayong fish pen sa Binangonan sa Rizal; Taguig, Parañaque at Muntinlupa. (Jun Tadios)



Business World

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27 JAN 2017

DATE

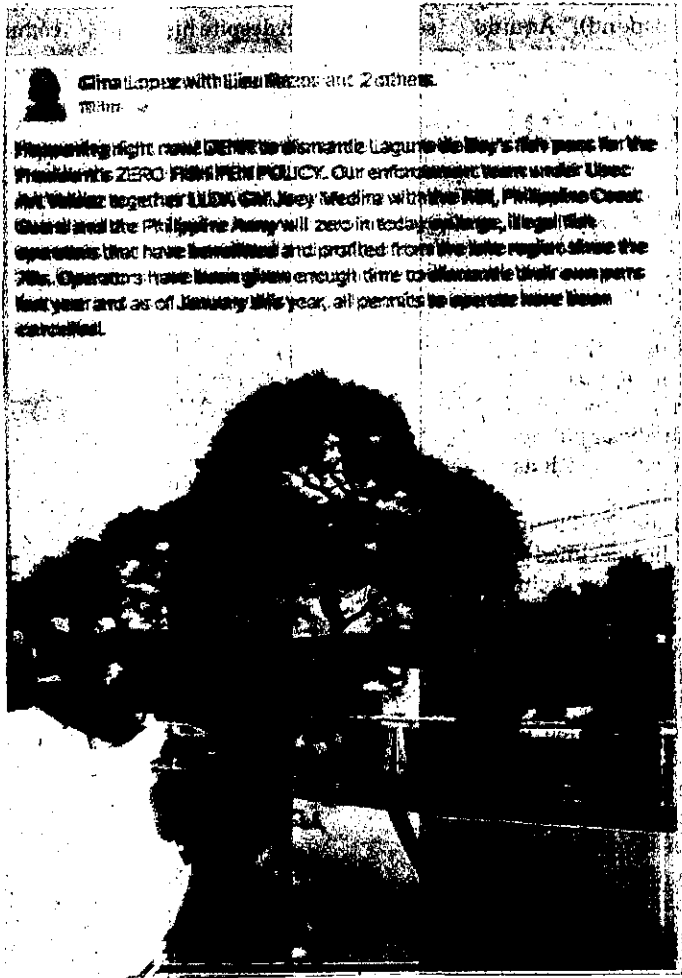
12/61

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



27 JAN 2017

DATE

B-8
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Local tribes approve Hedcor's Benguet hydro

Hedcor Inc., a unit of Aboitiz Power Corp., has secured the approval of the affected local tribes for its 19-megawatt (MW) Bineng combined hydropower project in La Trinidad, Benguet.

In a statement, Hedcor said the indigenous people of La Trinidad Organization (LTIPO) inked a partnership with Hedcor for the development of the 19-MW hydropower project.

LTIPO formally approved the project on Jan. 25 with the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA), allowing various benefits to the indigenous people (IP) organization for clearing Hedcor to operate in their domain.

"We are happy that the IPs of La Trinidad see the benefit of our project. Hedcor will continue to partner with the communities to make a better community," Hedcor senior vice president Chris Faelnar said.

Under the agreement, LTIPO is allotted one centavo per kilowatt royalty share from the generation of

the hydropower plant.

About P600,000 will be remitted to LTIPO annually out of the generation of the hydropower plant and about P800,000 for their development fund.

Part of the agreement is also the construction of the IP multi-purpose building with a view deck where one can view the project and nearby scenic spots in a bid to spur tourism in the area.

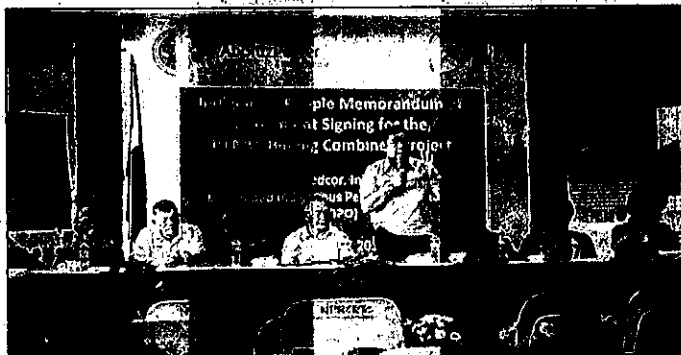
"The provisions of our MOA will surely benefit the IP community," IP municipal representative Charles Abela said.

The proposed Bineng combined hydropower project, which will harness the Balili River which flows northward of Baguio City to La Trinidad, is expected to be operational by 2018.

It will raise the capacity of the 25-year-old run-of-river hydropower plant from 5.48 MW to 19 MW.

Built in 1991, the Bineng hydropower plants are one of the first plants to be constructed by Hedcor in Benguet.

— Danessa Rivera



PARTNERS: Chris Faelnar thanks the IP community during the MOA signing for the Bineng combined project. The project will bring benefits to the IP community.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

La Trinidad, Benguet, IPs okay Hedcor hydro project

THE Indigenous People (IP) of La Trinidad Organization (IPLTO) inked a partnership with Hedcor Inc. for the development of the 19-megawatt (MW) Bineng combined hydropower project.

"We are happy the IPs of La Trinidad see the benefit of our project. Hedcor will continue to partner with the communities to make a better community," said Chris Faenar, Hedcor senior vice president.

On January 25 IPLTO formally approved the project with the sign-

ing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA). The MOA will give rise to various benefits to the IP organization for clearing Hedcor to operate in their domain.

IPLTO is allotted 1-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour royalty share from the generation of the hydropower

plant. With the projected energy output, about P600,000 will be remitted to IPLTO annually out of the generation of the hydropower plant and about P800,000 for their development fund.

The long-awaited IP multipurpose building will also be erected by virtue of this agreement. A view deck, where one can view the project and nearby scenic spots, will surely spur tourism in the area.

IP Municipal Representative Charles Abela is thankful for the milestone the project has become.

"The provisions of our MOA will surely benefit the IP community," he said.

The proposed Bineng combined hydropower project has a total ca-

capacity of 19 MW. It will harness the Balili River, which flows northward of Baguio City to La Trinidad. The project is expected to be operational by 2018.

IPLTO President Pendon Thompson has fond recollections on how Hedcor sustained its relationship with the community. "Other companies will promise the moon and

stars, but they are all talk. Hedcor never promised us anything back in the days, but they did all the things we asked, even beyond what the law requires."

Hedcor became the silent partner of the community, always lending a hand to its partners and helping make Barangay Bineng a better place to live in.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

IP group allows development of Aboitiz plant in Benguet

ABOITIZ Power Corp. affiliate Hedcor, Inc. signed a partnership deal with the indigenous people (IP) of La Trinidad Organization (LTIPO) to allow the development of the 19 megawatts (MW) Bineng hydropower project in Benguet.

Hedcor said under the agreement, the IP organization will receive benefits such as one centavo per kilowatt royalty share from the generation of the power plant.

With the projected energy output, about P600,000 will be remitted to LTIPO annually out of the generation of the hydropower plant and about P800,000 for a development fund aside from the construction of a multi-purpose building.

The proposed Bineng combined hydropower project will harness the Balili river which flows northward of Baguio City to La Trinidad and is expected to be operational by 2018.

"We are happy that the IPs of La Trinidad see the benefit of our project. Hedcor will continue to partner with the communities to make a better community," Chris Faelnar, Hedcor senior vice president, said in a statement.

Earlier, the Zamboanga Del Norte Electric Cooperative signed with HedcorBukidnonan additional 5 MW power supply from the 68.8 MW Manolo Fortich hydropower project.

The Manolo Fortich project will tap the rivers of Tanaon, Guihean and Amusig for its two cascading run-of-river power plants that will produce 360 gigawatt hours of energy. This will be completed by the third quarter this year.

The first of the two cascading run-of-river hydropower plants, Manolo Fortich 1, which is contracted to JV Angeles Construction, is now 70 percent complete, while the second unit being constructed by Sta. Clara International Corp. is 68 percent done.

Hedcor currently operates 22 hydro power plants in the country - five in Davao City, four in Davao del Sur, 11 in Benguet, one in Mountain Province and one in Ilocos Sur - that produce a combined capacity of 185 MW.

The Aboitiz group is aggressively developing and diversifying its portfolio especially in the renewable sector, which now includes the 45 MW Nalatang B in Benguet and the 360 MW Magat hydroelectric power plant in Isabela as well as the 8.8 MW Aseag biomass energy facility under construction in Lian, Batangas.

At present, the Aboitiz group and its partners produce 3,350 MW of total net sellable capacity, 38 percent of which comes from its renewable power plants all over the country.

27 JAN 2017

DATE

4/51

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Hedcor's hydro project gets approval from IPs

THE indigenous people (IP) of La Trinidad have agreed to the 19-megawatt (MW) Bineng combined hydropower project of Hedcor, Inc. in Benguet, the company said on Thursday.

"We are happy that the IPs of La Trinidad see the benefit of our project. Hedcor will continue to partner with the communities to make a better community," said Chris Faelnar, Hedcor senior vice-president, in a statement.

Hedcor and the indigenous people signed the memorandum of agreement on Jan. 25.

With the agreement, the organization is allotted a centavo for each kilowatt hour royalty share from the generation of the hydropower plant.

Based on the projected energy output, around P600,000 yearly will be remitted to the IPs for allowing the plant to operate in their domain. A separate P800,000 is earmarked for their development fund.

The agreement will also pave the way for the construction of multi-

purpose building for the people, with a view deck which Hedcor expects to spur tourism in the area.

This comes after Hedcor obtained clearance from the Department of Energy to conduct a study on the impact of three proposed run-of-river hydro power projects in Benguet with a combined capacity of 98 MW.

One of the projects is the Bineng hydroelectric power facility, which aims to increase the combined capacity of three cascading plants to 19 MW from 5.48 MW. The revamp of what Hedcor calls Bineng 1, Bineng 2 and Bineng 2b is projected to generate 42.7 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) more or a total generation of 62 million kWh annually. — **Victor V. Saulon**



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <https://goo.gl/0mYyb>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

29 JAN 2017

DATE

4
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rody: Phl to continue using coal

DAVAO CITY – The Philippines has no choice but to continue using coal to address the increasing demand for power in the country, President Duterte said yesterday.

"At this time, whoever is the president of the Philippines would always contend with coal. There's so much coal still that can be utilized by civilization for the next 50 to 70 years. And to be worrying about pollution, well, you just have to come to terms with it that in our time, in our generation, it is really what it is. There is nothing you can do about it," Duterte said during the ceremonial switch-on of the first 105-megawatt section of the Sarangani Energy Corp. (SEC) in Barangay Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani province.

The President also led the groundbreaking ceremony for the second 105-MW section of the SEC facility.

According to Duterte, coal remains the most viable and cheapest energy source in the country.

The operation of the power plant is in line with the Duterte administration's plan to energize the entire country by the end of its term by encouraging the private sector to increase investments in power generation and provide stable, affordable and sufficient energy.

The SEC baseload coal-fired power plant will have the capacity to produce up to 210 MW of electricity for southern and south central Mindanao.

According to the website of the Alsons Power Group, the first 105-MW section began commercial operations in April last year and currently supplies General Santos City, Sarangani and other key areas of Mindanao.

The second 105-MW section of the SEC plant is expected to start operation in 2018.

The Alsons Power Group, Mindanao's first independent power producer, has awarded the \$280-million engineering, procurement and construction contract for the second 105-MW power plant to the Yokohama, Japan-based global engineering firm JGC Corp. and its local subsidiary JGC Philippines Inc. – Edith Regalado

THE STANDARD

27 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

AC

PAGE

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LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Villar opens eco-waste summit

SENATOR Cynthia Villar opened on Thursday the four-day Third National Integrated Eco-waste Management Exhibition with the theme "Engaging Response to the Changing Environment" at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

The four-day exhibition, spearheaded by Director Eli Eldifonso of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-NCR, showcases initiatives, best practices, emerging technologies, lectures and presentations by experts on varied subjects of interest will also be conducted.

After the opening on Thursday, there will be product demonstrations and explanations from sponsors on Jan. 27; an e-concert with True Faith and Sponge Cola on Jan. 28, a bikathon dubbed "Padyak Para sa Kalikasan" on Jan. 29 and a Zumba dance exercise.

The summit aims to shed light on environmental and ecological

issues that disrupt the processes of Mother Nature and the creatures living within it. In light of the celebration of the Waste Management Act anniversary and the Zero Waste Month every January, the summit seeks to educate the public on the destruction of the environment and what they can do to help alleviate this situation.

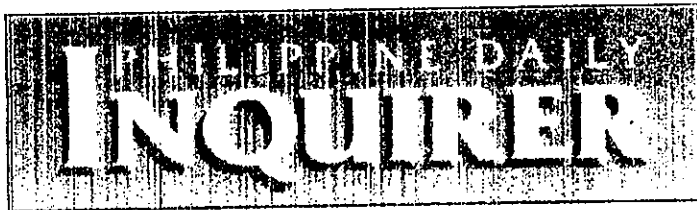
One of the highlights of the summit is the "Walkthrough the Environment," an interactive activity with 10 stations that will make you experience what the environment is going through right now and will help you reflect on what you can do to save Mother Earth.

Along with raising awareness, the E-Summit works with government agencies and non-government organizations to urge the public, especially the youth, to participate in effective solid waste management, healthier lifestyle programs, and other initiatives that would help

save the environment and promote a healthy way of life.

Officials of the DENR-NCR, Environmental Management Bureau, Climate Change Commission, National Solid Waste Management Commission, Metro-Manila Development Authority and other national agencies and local government units, as well as CEOs and senior managers of private companies participating as exhibitors are also attending the opening day of the event.

This event was made possible by sponsors LG Lopez JFE, Landbank, Cemex, Development Bank of the Philippines, Maynilad, JJ Esteban Enterprises, Cleanway, Metroclark Waste Management, Plantex, LG Lopez Industrial Sales and Services Inc., Eco-system Technologies Inc., and EEI Corp. Our minor sponsors, Malabon Soap, Full Advantage Phils international and media partners WhenInManila.com and Buhay Pinoy at PTV4.



27 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

B2-1

PAGE

★
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

LEPANTO GETS P502.5M IN FRESH CAPITAL FOR BENGUET PROJECT

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@ronwdomingoINQ

Felipe U. Yap is infusing P502.5 million in fresh capital into Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., part of which will be used to bring forward to development the \$2-billion Far South East (FSE) gold

and copper project in Benguet.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Lepanto vice president Odette A. Javier said the mining firm was issuing 3.35 million common shares at 15 centavos each to Yapster e-Trade Inc.

Yapster, where Yap serves as chair same as in Lepanto, "will

take up the private placement share, subject to a two-year lock-up period," Javier said.

She said proceeds from the private placement will be used for further exploration and initial development of the FSE project, and settlement of outstanding debt.

She said the new project was

adjacent to the Victoria gold project, and Lepanto had drilled over 35 kilometers in the area.

"Drilling continues to increase the resource/reserve with a view to completing a bankable feasibility study as soon as possible," Javier said.

In July 2016, the Chamber of

Ministry of the Philippines said there were 11 projects that were expected to start operation by 2019 and which account for \$23 billion or about P1 trillion in investments.

These include the FSE project, the deposit in which was discovered in 1980. INQ

THE STANDARD

27 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

C2

PAGE

★

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Wetlands important for migratory birds'

By Butch Gunio

BALANGA CITY, Bataan—The Balanga wetlands and marshlands are important to the existing migratory bird ecosystem in this part of the country, the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines said here.

"These wetlands and marshlands in Balanga villages of Tortugas, Puerto Rivas Ibaba, and Sibacan are important to the ecosystem involving migratory birds," WBCP member Karen Ochavo pointed out during the water bird census here on Saturday.

"What the city government doing here in Balanga to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitat is commendable, insofar as not disrupting the balance of the ecosystem," Ochavo added.

City Administrator Rudy de Mesa said Mayor Francis Garcia and Vice Mayor Vianca Venzon-Gozon, as presiding officer of the city council, are committed to protecting the migratory birds and their habitat in the city.

"Our Ibong Dayo Festival is a Hall of Fame awardee as Best

Tourism Event City Category from Department of Tourism, thus protecting the migratory birds is aligned with our tourism thrust," De Mesa said.

"The mayor is also thankful for the villagers and visitors for not harming the birds, and cooperating with the city in its drive to protect the environment," he added.

The census counted 15,075 migratory birds in one day at the wetlands in four seaside villages of this city, lower than last year's number, as tallied by representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and WBCP.

Cristine Cingco, WBCP secretary, said not all the migratory birds have arrived at Balanga. "It was very windy, only a few fishponds were dry, and the tide was high," she added.

Cingco said the census still came up with a good number, considering the counts in Candaba, Pampanga, and other bird-watching sites were much lower.

There were 34 bird species spotted in Balanga but egrets, terns and plovers were the most seen in the wetlands.

27 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Seedlings for reforestation

ILOILO CITY — More than 13 million seedlings will be planted to reforest areas in Western Visayas this year.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Director Jim Sampulna said his office plans to implement the 12-year expanded National Greening Program (eNGP).

The 13.1-million seedlings of different species will be planted in 11,815 hectares in areas in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, and Iloilo provinces.

More than P300 million will be allocated for the next phase of the reforestation.

"We not only want to attain climate resiliency or ecological balance, but we also want to see economic improvement of our people," said Sampulna.

The eNGP expects to generate 13,063 jobs in the region.

The DENR has hired former communist rebels, indigenous peoples (IPs) and people's organizations as foresters. (Tara Yap)

Maynilad's 'Plant for Life' plants 95k trees in 2016

WEST Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) planted a total of 95,700 trees in 2016 through its "Plant for Life" program—the company's flagship initiative that aims to save the watersheds from denudation.

Last year, over 1,500 volunteers from Maynilad and its partner organizations planted a total of 70,700 indigenous trees over 58 hectares of the Ipo Watershed, as well as 25,000 mangrove propagules along the Manila Bay coastline in Cavite City, Bacoor City, and the municipalities of Noveleta and Kawit in Cavite Province.

To date, Maynilad has planted around 486,300 saplings—using indigenous trees like narra, cupang, acacia and alibangbang—in the Ipo Watershed since 2007.



Miss Maynilad Water Warrior and Miss Earth Philippines 2016 finalist Jan Louise Abejero plants saplings at the Ipo watershed.

Moreover, a total of 112,000 mangrove propagules have already been planted in the Cavite coastal areas since 2013.

For 2017, the company aims to plant 60,000 trees in Ipo Watershed and 15,000 mangroves in Cavite to cover an additional land area of approximately 53 hectares.

"This year, we intend to expand the coverage of our 'Plant for Life' activity to the shorelines of Laguna Lake, where the presence of mangroves will help to provide sanctuary for aquatic fauna and improve the quality of water in the lake," said Maynilad president and chief executive officer Ramoncito Fernandez.

Maynilad's "Plant for Life" program welcomes volunteers who wish to plant trees in these watershed areas.

Malaya

Business Insight

UNDISCOVERED TREASURES 11

PAGE 1/2

DATE

A12

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Undiscovered treasures

FROM food to scenic spots, to its lovely and friendly people, the Visayas region has so many undiscovered treasures just waiting to be shared with the rest of the world.

Resilient Ormoc

Despite the natural disasters that have befallen it, Ormoc in Leyte stands as proof of man's resilience and determination, and a wonderful travel destination. You can enjoy the city's delicacies like chocolate moron and cassava cake or stay at the resorts, where you are guaranteed good food and excellent service.

When in Ormoc, don't fail to see Lake Danao Natural Park and Lake Danao, the famed violin-shaped body of water. It is one of the eight lakes in the Philippines that you must visit, according to online news Web site Rappler. Experts say the lake is volcanic in origin.

Other places worth visiting in the economic, cultural, and commercial hub of Western Leyte are the sugarcane and pineapple plantations in the mountains. And don't leave Ormoc without enjoying a glass of fresh pineapple juice—it's the best.

Bountiful Roxas

Known as the seafood capital of the Philippines, Roxas City, Capiz is one of Panay Island's centers of education, trade and economic activity, owing to its geography and proximity as a sea port.

Enjoy the city's festivals, including SinadyasaHalaran Festival celebrated in the first week of December in commemoration of the city's founding. Also not to be missed is the Diwal Festival signifying the city's importance as the country's seafood capital. Diwal is a prized and sought after shellfish which is delicious when baked with cheese and garlic.

When in Roxas, don't forget to visit Panay Church and the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine or the beautiful Likтинon Falls. You can also shop for Capiz products hand-crafted by local artisans.

Charming Calbayog

There's a lot to see and experience in Calbayog. Located in the western part of Samar, it is known as the City of Waterfalls. Places you must visit are Nijaga Park and the Guinogo-an, Tinago-an and Danao Caves, as well as the Tabokno and Pan-as Falls.

The Philippines' leading airline, Cebu Pacific, introduced three new routes to Eastern and Western Visayas to connect Cebu—the Queen City of the South—to Leyte, Samar and Panay Island.

Cebu Pacific will have daily flights between Cebu and Ormoc and Cebu and Roxas, and four times weekly (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday) between Cebu and Calbayog using ATR 72-500 aircrafts.

With the lowest all-in year-round fare, Cebu Pacific one-way flights from Cebu to Calbayog is priced at P1,927, Cebu to Ormoc at P1,591 and Cebu to Roxas at P1,983.

Aside from Cebu, the airline also operates flights out of five other strategically-placed hubs in the Philippines: Manila, Davao, Clark, Kalibo, and Iloilo. Cebu Pacific's extensive network covers over 90 routes and 64 destinations, spanning Asia, Australia, the Middle East, and the United States.

Cebu Pacific's 58-strong fleet is comprised of six Airbus A319, 36 Airbus A320, six Airbus A330, eight ATR 72-500, and two ATR 72-600 aircraft. Between 2016 and 2021, CEB expects delivery of two more brand-new Airbus A330, 32 Airbus A321neo, and 14 ATR 72-600 aircraft.

For bookings and inquiries, guests can visit <http://cebupacificair.com> or call the reservation hotlines (+632)7020-888 or (+632)230-8888. The latest seat sales can be found on Cebu Pacific's official Twitter (@CebuPacificAir) and Facebook pages.

Guests may also download the Cebu Pacific official mobile app on the App Store and Google Play.

Malaya

Business Insight

When in Ormoc, don't fail to see Lake Danao Natural Park and Lake Danao, the famed violin-shaped body of water. (rise.ph)

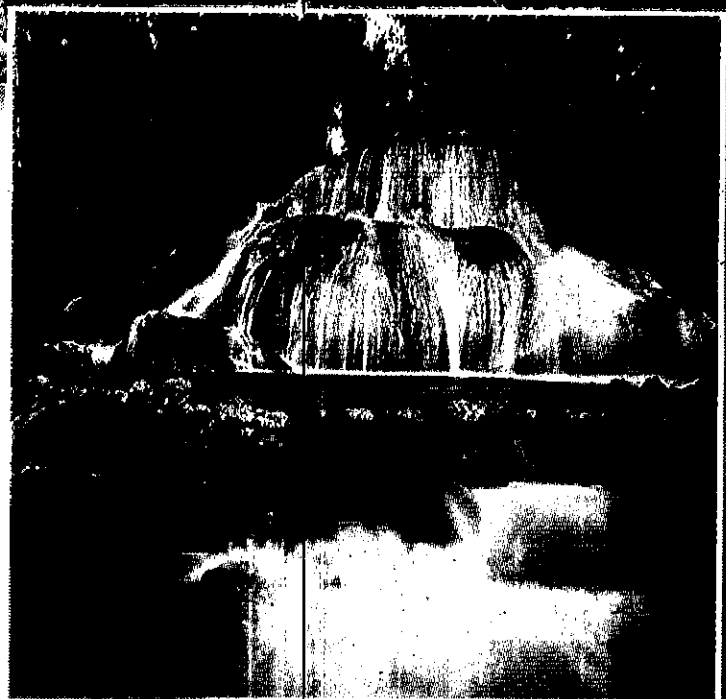
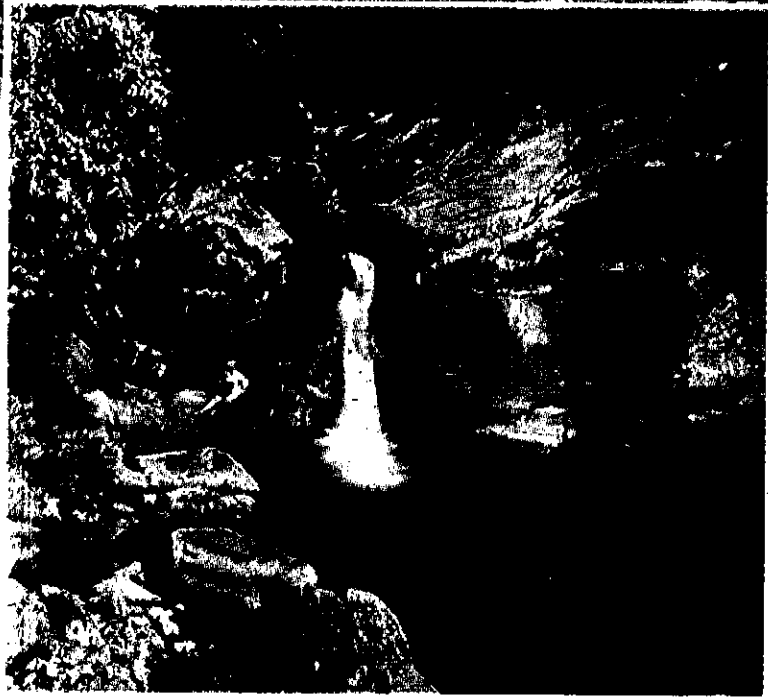
UNDISCOVERED TREASURES JAN 2017

PAGE 2/2

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When in Roxas, don't forget to visit Panay Church and the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine or the beautiful Liktinon Falls. (lakadphilippines.com)

Places you must visit in Calbayog are Nijaga Park and the Guinogo-an, Tinago-an and Danao Caves, as well as the Tabokno and Pan-as Falls.

27 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

12
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

RESEARCH

What mackerel and a volcano can tell us about climate change

PORTLAND, Maine, United States (AP) — What could an Indonesian volcanic eruption, a 200-year-old climate disaster, and a surge in the consumption of mackerel tell us about today's era of global warming?

Quite a bit, researchers say.

A group of scientists and academics with the University of Massachusetts and other institutions made that assessment while conducting research about a long-ago calamity in New England that was caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora half a world away in 1815.

A cooled climate led to deaths of livestock and changed fish patterns in New England, leaving many people dependent on the mackerel, an edible fish that was less affected than many animals. The researchers assert that bit of history gives clues about what food security could be like in the modern era of climate change.

"How we respond to these events is going to be critically important for how we come out of this in the long term," said Karen Alexander, the lead author of the study and a research fellow in environmental conservation. "We can learn from the past how people dealt with the unanticipated."

The research group's findings were published this month in the journal *Science Advances*. They looked at what the catastrophic Tambora eruption meant for the Gulf of Maine and nearby human food systems.

The Tambora eruption was one of the most powerful in recorded history, and was followed by a short time of climate change — specifically, global cooling — and severe weather. Its impact on weather, food availability and human and animals deaths worldwide has been studied extensively. The year that followed the eruption, 1816, is often described as the "Year Without a Summer."

The researchers behind the Science

Advances article found that alewives, a fish used for everything from fertilizer to food by 19th-century New Englanders, did not fare well. But mackerel had better survival rates and became a critical source of protein and jobs, Alexander said.

As crops failed and famine began to spread, the little fish emerged as a staff of life, the report states. It's a scenario similar to what parts of the developing world are experiencing today as climate change affects food security.

The study states there is a parallel between the need for immediate adaptation after Tambora and the challenges in coping with the climate-driven devastation caused by storms, floods, and droughts today. It notes that the loss of food staples due to climate change caused people in the northeastern states to move — something seen today in places such as Pakistan and Syria.

"Understanding how adaptive responses to extreme events can trigger unintended consequences may advance long-term planning for resilience in an uncertain future," the report states.

How fisheries in the developing world will adapt to future climate change is an important contemporary food security issue, because fish are a vitally important protein resource worldwide. More than a billion of the world's poor obtain most of their animal protein from fish, and 800 million depend on fisheries and aquaculture for livelihoods, according to the nonprofit research group WorldFish.

The report illustrates how abrupt changes in climate can have unexpected consequences long after conditions moderate, said Andy Pershing, chief scientific officer and ecosystem modeler for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland.

"Good stewardship of our natural resources can help buffer against some climate impacts. Unlike the people in 1815, we have an idea of what's coming, and we need to make sure we are prepared," he said.