

**DATE**

21 JAN 2016

**DAY**

**Thursday**

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

DATE

A-3

PAGE

# The Manila Times

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**MINING AWARDS** President Benigno Aquino 3rd presents the Presidential Mineral Industry and Environmental Award to executives of SR Metals Inc. for Surface Mining Operation Category during the presentation on Wednesday in Malacanang. The Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award was officially established in 1997 by virtue of Executive Order 399 in compliance with the policy that mineral exploration and mining operation shall be pro-environment and pro-people. MALACANANG PHOTO



# The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

21 JAN 2016

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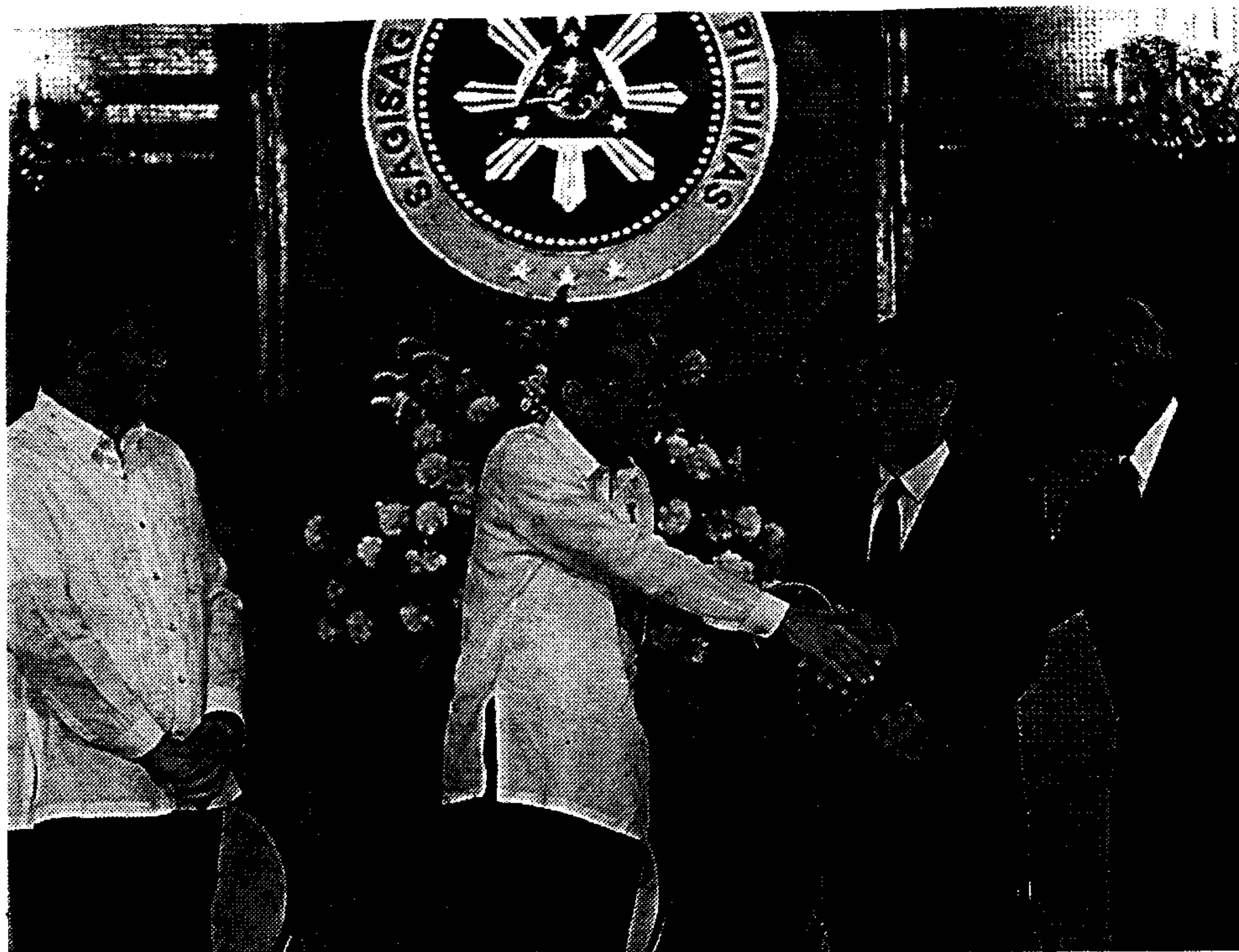
PAGE

A-3

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**Presidential Award.** President Benigno Aquino III presents the Presidential Mineral Industry and Environmental Award to executives of Coral Bay Nickel Corp. in the mineral processing category in Malacañang on Wednesday. **MALACAÑANG PHOTO BUREAU**

21 JAN 2016

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

# Makaya

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## Aquino lauds miners for minimizing impact on the environment

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday recognized "responsible" mining companies that cooperation with the government in minimizing their impact on the environment particularly the forests.

Aquino said this complemented the nationwide Anti-Illegal Logging Campaign that was launched in 2011 and have already resulted in the reduction of illegal logging hotspots from 197 to 23, and the National Greening Program that aims to plant 1.5 billion seedlings in 1.5 million hectares which will be reached within the year.

Aquino said he hopes the miners' good practices and cooperation with government would continue beyond his term and that other similar firms would follow.

The President conferred the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) on Silangan Mindanao Mining Corporation, Inc. for the Mineral Exploration Category; Coral Bay Nickel Corporation for the Mineral Processing Category; and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation, OceanaGold Philippines, Inc. and SR Metals, Inc. for the Surface Mining Operation Category for ensuring that their operations are safe, environment-friendly, and helpful to the communities in which they operate.

Aquino, who was assisted by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje, also conferred the Best Mining Forest Award to te Aglubang Mining Corporation and Alagag Mining Corporation; Holcim Philippines; Taganito Mining Manufacturing Corporation and Coral Bay Nickel Corporation.

The PMIEA, which was established in 1997 through Executive Order No. 399, recognizes the outstanding commitment of mining companies for exemplar practices in mineral exploration, quarrying operation, surface mining operation, and mineral processing.

"Your companies are embodiments of our belief that inclusive growth is the most potent philosophy—both in business and governance. Fostering good will in the areas that support your success is not only the right thing to do, it also ensures the sustainability of your operations, and secures the future of your firms," the President said.



## Mining industry gets boost from PNoy

By MADEL SANMETER-NANAY

President Aquino on Wednesday led the awarding ceremonies for the Presidential Mineral Industry and Environmental Awards (PMIEA) in Malacañang, as he vowed that his administration will continue working with the mining industry to ensure sustainable and responsible mining operations in the country.

"We cannot simply ignore the value of mining that is done responsibly, under fair and effective government regulation. The Philippines, after all, is one of the most mineral-rich countries in the world, and I believe it to be government's responsibility to pave pathways through which our countrymen can benefit from our natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner," Aquino said at the awarding ceremonies.

This year's awardees include Silangan Mindanao Mining Co., Inc. for the Mineral Exploration category; Coral Bay Nickel Corp. for Mineral Processing category; and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., OceanaGold (Phils.), Inc., and SR Metals, Inc. for the Surface Mining Operation category.

"The criteria that our awardees have met are, in fact, simple. These companies have performed well in protecting the environment, keeping their operations safe, and helping the communities in which they operate," Aquino said.

The President meanwhile assured that the government will continue to work with mining firms "in the belief that it is through constant communication and cooperation that we will give rise to industries that are truly sustainable, inclusive, and profitable."

# The Manila Times

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Aquino awards 'crony' mining company

PRESIDENT Benigno Aquino 3rd on Wednesday cited a controversial mining firm owned by one of the Liberal Party's (LP) campaign contributors, businessman Eric Gutierrez, and

party stalwart, Caloocan City Rep. Edgar Erice, for practicing "responsible and sustainable" mining amid illegal mining accusations that hounded the firm.

Gutierrez and Erice are the top honchos of SR Metal Inc. (SRMI), which had been previously accused to have violated the conditions of their small-scale mining permits since 2005.

Erice, according to The Manila Times columnist Erwin Tulfo in his previous articles, "is one of the LP leaders who are seeing to it that their campaign booty is swamped with cold cash."

"Erice, a member of LP's national executive committee, is also known as a 'godfather' or protector of a group of erring mining companies including those owned by businessman Francis Enrico "Eric" Gutierrez," alleged Tulfo in his column, Deadshot, published last year.

Speaking during the presidential mineral industry environmental awards ceremony in Malacañang, the President cited SR Metals among the mining firms that "have performed well in protecting the environment, keeping their operations safe, and helping the communities in which they operate."

"Your companies are embodiments of our belief that inclusive growth is the most potent philosophy—both in business and governance. Fostering good will in the areas that support your success is not only the right thing to do, it also ensures the sustainability of your operations, and secures the future of your firms," he said.

Besides SR Metals, this year's awardees are Silangan Mindanao Mining, OceanaGold, RioTuba Nickel Mining, and Coral Bay Nickel.

"I made it a point to be here today to thank all of you personally, and to express my hope that, next time, most of you will have shifted from the runner-up awards, to the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award. Moving forward, our government will continue working with you, in the belief that it is through constant communication and cooperation that we will give rise to industries that are truly sustainable, inclusive, and profitable," Aquino said.

SR Metals, according to Tulfo, was among Aquino's biggest contributors in the 2010 elections.

Erice had admitted being a shareholder in Gutierrez's firm and its subsidiaries San R Mining and Construction Corp. and Galeo Equipment and Mining Company, Inc. which have been the subject of complaints of residents in Agusan Del Norte town of Tubay.

JOEL M. SY EGCO



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### PNoy honors responsible mining firms

**PRESIDENT** Benigno S. Aquino III yesterday hailed the mining industry's best practices during the presentation of the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) to last year's winners.

The PMIEA, which was established in 1997 through Executive Order No. 399, recognizes the outstanding commitment of mining companies for exemplar practices in mineral exploration, quarrying operation, surface mining operation, and mineral processing.

President Aquino, together with Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje, handed out the award to Silangan Mindanao Mining Corporation, Inc. (Mineral Exploration Category); Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (Mineral Processing Category); and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation, OceanaGold Philippines, Inc. and SR Metals, Inc. (Surface Mining Operation Category).

"These companies have performed well in protecting the environment, keeping their operations safe, and helping the communities in which they operate," the President told industry leaders at Malacañang Palace's Rizal Hall.

"Your companies are embodiments of our belief that inclusive growth is the most potent philosophy - both in business and governance. Fostering good will in the areas that support your success is not only the right thing to do, it also ensures the sustainability of your operations, and secures the future of your firms," the Chief Executive added.

With the government's continued support, President Aquino said he is optimistic that the companies that finished as runners-up would get the major awards.

"Moving forward, our government will continue working with you, in the belief that it is through constant communication and cooperation that we will give rise to industries that are truly sustainable, inclusive, and profitable. You will remember how I signed Executive Order No. 79, which mandates a

more equitable revenue sharing scheme, and helps ensure transparency and accountability in mining. In 2014, we also completed the go and no-go zone maps that indicate areas where mining is prohibited, such as prime agricultural lands and tourism development areas," he said.

President Aquino thanked the mining companies for their cooperation and participation in government programs to minimize the impact of industry on the environment, particularly the forests.

"For instance, there is our Nationwide Anti-Illegal Logging Campaign, which we launched in 2011. Since then, we have reduced the number of illegal logging hotspots from 197 to just 23. We have confiscated 32.66 million board-feet of illegally cut and processed logs, and have used them to repair school buildings and construct school seats. There is also our National Greening Program, whose goal is to plant 1.5 billion seedlings in 1.5 million hectares around the country, and our honorable Sec. Mon Paje tells me that we are on track to reach this goal by this year," he said.

President Aquino also urged the mining companies to continue and improve their work.

The PMIEA runners-up were Mt. Labo Exploration and Development Corporation/Galeo Equipment Corporation; Holcim Philippines, Inc. - La Union Plant; Holcim Philippines, Inc. - Davao Plant; La Farge Republic Aggregates, Inc.; La Farge Republic, Inc. - Bulacan Plant; Eagle Cement Corporation; Minimax Mineral Exploration Corporation/Agata Mining Ventures, Inc.; Cadiano Mining Corporation; and Apo Cement Corporation.

Recipients of the Best Mining Forest Award were Aglubang Mining Corporation and Alagag Mining Corporation; Holcim Philippines; Taganito Mining Manufacturing Corporation and Coral Bay Nickel Corporation.

**Efren Montano**



# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

# Rescued scops owl chicks turned over to DENR team

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

**R**ESIDENTS of Barangay San Francisco, Bulacan, Bulacan, formally turned over two of three rescued Philippine scops owl chicks to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The scops owl chicks were picked up by a team from the DENR Regional Office on Wednesday morning, said one of its rescuers, Lorenzo Santos, 21.

Santos said he and his father found the scops owl chicks while looking for fuel wood in the forest two weeks ago. Apparently newly hatched, the scops owl chicks were "running" astray on the ground at the boundary of their barangay and nearby Barangay Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

"We thought they were quail birds [*pugo*]. When we caught them, we realized they were actually young owls. We decided to bring them home because we didn't know where their nest was," Lorenzo said.

He said they kept the birds at

a cage and fed them with chicken meat for days while deciding what to do with them.

One of the chicks died on Tuesday, a day after Lorenzo heeded the advise of his cousin, William Linag, to turn over the chicks and inform the DENR about it.

"We didn't know what to do. We searched the internet and found out that they were scops owl. But we were feeding them. Unfortunately, one of the chicks died before the DENR team picked them up," Linag said.

Lorenzo posted a photo of the chicks in his Facebook account to ask for help, calling the attention of concerned netizens to help facilitate the turn-over to the DENR.

Upon learning of the situation, Director Theresa Mundita Lim of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) called the attention of the DENR Regional Office, requesting them to immediately send people to pick up the scops owls.

On Wednesday the team finally arrived and took the scops owl

chicks. It was not immediately known where they plan to bring the chicks, but Santos and Linag said they need intensive care because they are still young and would not survive without expert care.

Scops owl (*Otus megalotis*) is a common owl endemic to the Philippines.

Like other known owl species, scops owl prey at night on insects, live alone or in monogamous pairs.

Scops owl breed through the year, laying clutches of 1-2 eggs and nest in tree holes in lowland forests in Luzon, according to BirdLife International.

In the Philippines, more than half of the native bird species are threatened and are listed as "endangered" because of hunting and the massive destruction of habitat.

The DENR-BMB is mandated to implement the Wildlife Act which promotes the protection and conservation of all wildlife and their ecosystems. The law prohibits catching and making pets out of wild animals.



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

## DENR urged to protect Manicani, uphold status as protected area

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

**M**ANY key biodiversity areas (KBA) in the Philippines remain unprotected despite their status as a protected area (PA) covered by the National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas) Act, environmental groups said.

The Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI), a network of over 250 non-governmental organizations, blamed the poor implementation of the Nipas Act for the deterioration of some PAs.

Ed Garingan, project manager of PMPI, cited the case of the Manicani Island, a KBA and covered by the Guiuan Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape, which continue to experience environmental degradation despite its status as a PA.

The Guiuan Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 469, signed by former President Fidel V. Ramos, declared the coastal areas of Guiuan and the neighboring islands, such as Manicani, Candulo, Suluan, Tubabao, Calicoan and Homonhon and their surrounding reefs, as a protected landscape and seascape in 1994.

Even with its status as a PA, Garingan said Manicani has not been spared by key players and backers of large-scale mining, who appeared to have found a way to bend the law mandating the island's protection and conservation.

The island's ecosystem has been severely damaged by the operation of a large scale nickel mine for almost two decades. He said that even today, despite the declaration of the Guiuan Bay Protected

Landscape and Seascape as a PA by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 469 in 1994, and an order stopping large scale operation on the island in 2002 issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), mining activities continue in the area.

"What we are fighting for is for the government to uphold the status of the island as a protected area. It should be protected against all forms of destructive activities," Garingan said.

Garingan lamented that the DENR and the local government of Guiuan seemingly have flashed the green light for the proponent of the mining project to haul stockpiles of nickel ore in the island to the dismay of concerned residents. Hauling of stockpiles, Garingan said, is by itself part of mining operation, which fueled fears that the destructive mining operation in the island will eventually resume.

Last year the Diocese of Borongan called the attention of DENR officials led by Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje and Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo L. Jasareno the issue raised by concerned residents of the island.

In a letter dated August 18, 2015, members of the Borongan clergy expressed fear that the DENR and the MGB will eventually

p-2

# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DENR urged to protect Manicani,  
uphold status as protected area

of lifting the current suspension order issued against the Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) to lift the suspension order and allow the company to resume mining operation.

They said events that unfolded over the past two years led them to believe that the attempt of the mining company to resume operation is gaining ground.

The Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery has written Jasareno dated June 23, 2014, endorsing the request for lifting of the suspension order.

The MGB Regional Office 8 has forwarded to the MGB central office a memorandum dated June 25, 2014, recommending the disposition of the nickel ore stockpiles to "prevent siltation problems."

Subsequently, the Multipartite Monitoring Team and the Rehabilitation Fund Committee has forwarded to the mining regulatory body resolutions recommending the disposition of the nickel ore stockpiles.

On the other hand, local officials of Barangay Buenavista issued Resolution 17, Series of 2014, recognizing and supporting the authorization to dispose nickel ore stockpile issued by Jasareno to HMC.

The local governments of barangays Buenavista, Hamorawon, San Jose and Banaag have issued a manifestation of support to the authority to dispose nickel ore stockpile issued by the MGB to HMC.

Worse, the Protected Area Management Board has issued a Resolution 001, Series of 2014, recommending for the approval to a casuseway-pier applied for special use agreement within protected area and/or foreshore-lease agreement by HMC.

The DENR-Borongan has also granted the HMC a special land use permit for the use of the existing causeway-pier as berthing area.

"The above-mentioned events reinforced our fears and apprehensions regarding the mining status in the Diocese of Borongan and have rekindled our longstanding resolve that mining should be permanently stopped, including the loading of the existing stockpiles in the island of Manicani," the clergy wrote.

The island, they said, has an area of 1,165.89 hectares with no major water sources. The island's residents depend on rain for water. With the impending operation of mining, it is certain that access to potable water will be a major problem of the people, they said.

According to Garingan, residents of island have witnessed the massive destruction of the island's environment because of the nickel mining operation.

The mining company, residents said, has a bad record, which include operating without necessary permit and extracting nickel ore beyond what is allowed by the government.

PMPI called on the DENR and local officials to permanently ban mining in the island and uphold its status as a KBA and PA.



# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

21 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

### • DENR-8 releases rescued owl, pythons

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte (PIA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the region has released back to the Samar Island Natural Park forest area in Paranas, Samar a Philippine eagle owl or “bukao” and two juvenile reticulated pythons, or “sawa,” as these are called in the local dialect. The bukao is a threatened animal specie. Prevalent in the country, with Samar known as their natural habitat, the pythons were captured by Tacloban residents in two separate incidents while the owl was turned over to DENR by an unidentified person last year. Endemic to the Philippines, the lowland forests on Samar Island are also an ideal natural habitat for the bukao which feeds on insects, small mammals and birds. DENR-8 Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca said releasing the rescued animals was meant to reintroduce them back to their natural habitat.

# The Manila Times

DATE

X-7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Zambales folk block nickel haul

SANTA CRUZ, Zambales: Residents since Tuesday have barricaded the national highway here, blocking hauling trucks of a mining firm from transporting nickel to a port, an official of the Concerned Citizens of Santa Cruz (CCOS) said.

CCOS Chairman Dr. Benito Molino said haulers of Zambales Diversified Metals Corporation/ DM Consunji Inc. (ZDMC/DMCI), were stopped by residents led by two barangay councilmen from Barangay Bayto.

"The barricade put up by the residents of Barangay Bayto, led by Kagawad Raul Ecleo and Louie Mirador, is their way of defending their rights – the right to live, right of the next generation, right to livelihood and the right to a healthy and balanced ecology," Molino added.

Barangay Bayto is the barangay most affected when mud floods hit the town of Santa Cruz after Typhoon *Lando* struck in October last year.

Some 200 people staged a stake out along the highway to prevent movement of hauling trucks from the quarry site of ZDMC/DMCI. The group said they are also mobilizing people from the towns of Candelaria and Infanta in Pangasinan to strengthen their line.

*The Manila Times* learned that about 50 trucks were not allowed to pass through the barricade and remained in the quarry site. Each truck contains P25,000 to P30,000 of nickel, adding that the market price of nickel has gone down from P40,000 per truck.

The ZDMC/DMCI is one of the four mining companies operating in the town, which operates along with three other mining companies in Zambales the CCOS is opposing.

Molino said in October last year, almost the whole town of Santa Cruz, particularly Barangay Bayto, was flooded with reddish mud and water, destroying many houses and appliances.

This also caused the death of two residents of Barangay Bayto, as well as animals.

Molino added that residents in the villages raised alarm upon learning that Governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., allegedly said that mining has nothing to do with the mud floods that affected the town.

"Because of these Bayto has the most number of people who joined the anti-mining rally after the typhoon," he said.

Molino added that Mayor Consolacion Marty and officials of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources also cleared the mining companies of responsibilities for the mud flood and logs that hit the towns of Santa Cruz, Candelaria and Infanta in Pangasinan last year.

*The Manila Times* tried to get comment from Ebdane but a provincial staff who requested anonymity said the governor was unavailable to issue a statement.

PATRICK ROXAS



21 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

# Biodiversity conference slated in February

A major biodiversity event in Southeast Asia will take place on Feb. 15 to 19 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dubbed "ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity (ACB2016)," the international conference will focus on the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in Southeast Asia.

The event is organized by the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) in cooperation with the Royal Thai Government, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, through the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning.

Lawyer Roberto Oliva, executive director of ACB, said that with the theme Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, ACB2016 is expected to draw some 500 delegates from ASEAN national governments; private sector companies; international, regional and national institutions; non-governmental organizations; academic, science and research community; students; media; and ACB partner countries and organizations.

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Oliva said the conference will report the progress and gaps of the ASEAN region in meeting the 2020 global biodiversity targets, known as Aichi Targets. "It will also showcase innovative policies, good practices and experiences in meeting such targets in the ASEAN region; and provide a platform for ASEAN governments and relevant stakeholders to discuss and recommend ways forward to meet the Aichi Targets."

"We hope to provide an opportunity for biodiversity stakeholders to enhance partnerships and form new alliances; discuss ways and means to financially sustain biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region through the ASEAN Biodiversity Fund and engage more sectors, particularly the business community, in biodiversity conservation and advocacy," he added.

Oliva said the ASEAN region is home to four of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots which are characterized both by exceptional levels of plant and animal endemism and by

serious levels of habitat loss.

"Land conversion, forest fires, shifting cultivation, large-scale mining, wildlife hunting and trading, population growth and poverty, climate change, and lack of appropriate conservation management policies all contribute to habitat destruction and the consequent loss of biological diversity. Biodiversity loss could trigger enormous effects on health and wealth. The conference will give stakeholders an opportunity to unify conservation efforts in all fronts," explained Oliva.

ACB2016 will be conducted through plenary and breakout sessions, panel discussions and presentations to facilitate exchange among participants. There will be parallel events, exhibits and fun events.

Clarissa Arida, ACB director for program development and implementation, said the conference will feature plenary presentations on issues to be taken up at the forthcoming 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Mexico in December 2016.



Children look for recyclable plastic in a canal in Peshawar, Pakistan last Sunday.

REUTERS



# The Manila Times

DATE

A-7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Benguet pays 'tree-bute' to SAF44

**TUBA, Benguet:** Families and friends of the fallen Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police planted trees in Tuba, Benguet, to commemorate the first death anniversary of the SAF 44 killed in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

Called a "Tree-bute" to SAF 44, relatives and friends of other SAF men joined the families of 14 soldiers from Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) who planted trees on a site in Badiwan.

The "tree-bute" site is located in Badiwan, Tuba, Benguet, which is part of a theme park being developed by Cordillera Heritage Foundation Inc. (formerly Smile Movement Inc.). The site will be known as Badiwan Hobbitat, after the shire in movie, Lord of the Rings, inhabited by the Hobbits.

The CAR-SAF families started the "tree-bute" last March 2015 after the Mamasapano encounter. The activity was shared on social media, which inspired the other families to join in the planned commemoration activity in Baguio.

Lead organizer Julie Cayang-o said other families were moved by the unity of the Cordilleran families that started with the "tree-bute."

A two-day program was held in

Ibaloi Heritage Park and candles were floated on Burnham Lake last week.

Families of 37 from SAF 44 started with a candle lighting on Friday and prayer walk from Session Road to Ibaloi park on Saturday, followed by a short program and boodle fight. It was concluded with a tree planting at Badiwan.

Merlyn Gamutan, the widow of Joey Gamutan from Basilan, said they were awed by the way Cordilleran family members accorded such heroic tribute to them.

"It is only here that we see people treat the SAF 44 as heroes," she said.

"We hope the administrator of this site will allow us - the rest of the SAF 44 - to be part of this 'tree-bute' site that our beloved husbands, fathers, sons will be accorded the same love and respect," Merlyn added.

The "tree-bute" is a project of the foundation where individuals can plant and dedicate a tree to their loved ones as a living commemoration. By dedicating the trees to their dead loved ones, the organizers hope that the trees will be nurtured with love and care as they have taken care of their dearly departed.





## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

21 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

### Dagdag Balita

#### DENR: Magtanim ng kawayan sa tabing ilog

Umaapela ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na magtanim ng kawayan upang malaban ang epekto ng climate change.

Paliwadag ng Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau ng DENR, malaki ang matutulong ng kawayan upang magkaroon ng malinis at sanwang hangin at maiwasan ang pagguho ng lupa lalo na sa mga tabing ilog.

Ang kawayan na pinakamataki at pinakamabisa tumubong sa mundo ay may malawak na mga ugat kaya't hindi madaling mamamatay.

Tiniyak ng DENR na mekipagtutungan sa mga lokal na sangay ng pamahalaan upang maisakatuparan ang nasabing hakbang.

Benigno N. Tolosa





*The only paper you read from cover to cover!*

21 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

# N. Cotabato under state of calamity due to El Niño

By JOHN UNSON

**NORTH COTABATO** – The provincial board here has declared a state of calamity to hasten the release of funds to mitigate the effects of the dry spell.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved the recommendation of provincial officials to declare a state of calamity on Tuesday, citing losses incurred by farmers, whose crops had been destroyed due to lack of rain.

Records from the office

of North Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Talino-Mendoza and provincial agriculturist Eliseo Mangliwan showed that close to 28,000 hectares of rice have been damaged by the drought since November.

Mangliwan said damage

to crops due to El Niño was placed at P238 million. He said rats also recently infested several parcels of land.

A local radio report on Monday said the provincial government needs an initial P4-million budget for cloud-seeding operations.

Cynthia Ortega, provincial disaster risk reduction and management officer, said they would conduct cloud-seeding operations over the

watershed of Alamada town, the Arakan Valley complex and Mt. Apo.

Last week, the Zamboanga city government also declared a state of calamity due to the dry spell.

The local water utility imposed rationing for 12 hours because of the low water level. The city agriculture office also reported that damage to agriculture had breached P10 million.



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### DA allots P416 million to mitigate El Niño effect in Negros Occidental

**B**ACOLOD CITY—To mitigate the effects of El Niño in Negros Occidental, the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region 18 has allocated almost P416-million worth of comprehensive mitigation and adaption measures for the province, one of its officials said.

DA-18 Technical Director for Research and Regulation Joyce Wendam said on Tuesday the measures will be implemented in three phases, which includes the pre-emptive and preparatory actions, actions during the event and aftermath actions.

Within the first quarter the pre-emptive and preparatory action stage will be implemented, Wendam said.

Actions include the creation of the Provincial El Niño Task Force composed of the DA-18, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, local government units and other attached agencies.

Wendam said the DA-18 has allotted P7 million for this phase intended for cloud-seeding operation, with counterpart fund from the OPA.

The DA official added that they will immediately request assistance from the Bureau of Soils and Water Management if there is really a need for cloud-seeding operation.

Almost P180 million will also be spent for technical-support services under the pre-emptive and preparatory actions, including the procurement of construction materials for vertical-shellfish production, marine-engine assistance,

seedling-planting propagation and diversion-dam projects.

The phase two, or actions during the event, will have a budget of P125-million worth for production services that will also be implemented in the first quarter.

Measures include procurement and distribution of drought-resilient seeds of *palay* and corn, and planting materials for alternative crops like sweet potato, *gabi* (taro), legumes and vegetables, and of El Niño kits, pump and engine sets, and drill water pumps.

The DA-18 has also set aside almost P1.3 million in food-assistance fund mainly as hunger and malnutrition mitigation for affected families.

Moreover, for aftermath actions, technical-support services amounting to about P110 million will be implemented on the second quarter of 2016, mainly covering procurement of farm machinery and equipment, particularly to support and augment farmers for land cultivation, reproduction and post-production.

"For the DA, the El Niño mitigation and adaption measures fund for this year will still come from Region 6 as the newly-created region will not have its own budget in 2017 yet," Wendam said.

The prolonged dry weather in Negros Occidental due to El Niño has brought crop damage and production losses amounting to P35.148 million as of Tuesday, a report of the OPA showed. **PNA**

21 JAN 2016



DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### ***Text BRIGADE***

*Mga reporter ng bayan*

**I-text sa 09201309296**

*Kung ikaw ay may alam na katiwalian sa gobyerno, nakitang krimen sa inyong lugar at puna sa administrasyon, i-text agad para malaman ng publiko bilang reporter ng bayan. Ang inyong cellphone number at seguridad ay aming pangangalagaan. Salamat po sa pagtitiwala. - Editor*

### **North Cotabato nasa state of calamity sa El Niño**

**COTABATO CITY** - Isinailalim na sa state of calamity ang lalawigan ng Cotabato dahil sa epekto ng tagtuyot o El Niño phenomenon.

Ayon sa impormasyon mula sa tanggapan ng Cotabato Provincial Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC), halos lahat ng 18 walong mga bayan at isang lungsod sa probinsiya ay apektado ng tagtuyot.

Sinabi ni provincial agriculturist Engr. Elesio Mangliwan, umaabot na 27,558 hektaryang lupain ang naapektuhan nang matinding init ng panahon.

Tinatayang nasa P238 milyon naman ang halaga ng mga pananim na nasalanta bunga ng pagbaba ng water supply at pagatake ng mga pesteng daga.

Kabilang sa mga naapektuhan ang palay na may pinasalang umaabot sa P15,039, 972.70; pananim na mais nasa P50,043,942.65; oil palm nasa P5,982,912.00; industriya ng niyog nasa P115,693,368.00; rubber plantation nalugi na sa P48,250,935.00; cacao P2,293,290.00; sa pananim na kape umabot na ang sira na katumbas sa P713,496.00.

Sa kabuuan aabot na sa P238,017,946.35 ang halaga ng mga pananim na napinsala dahil sa El Niño.



# The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

21 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

A-7

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**High and dry.** Drought creeps in, as can be seen on these bare vegetable farmlands in Tuba, Benguet. DAVID CHAN



P.1

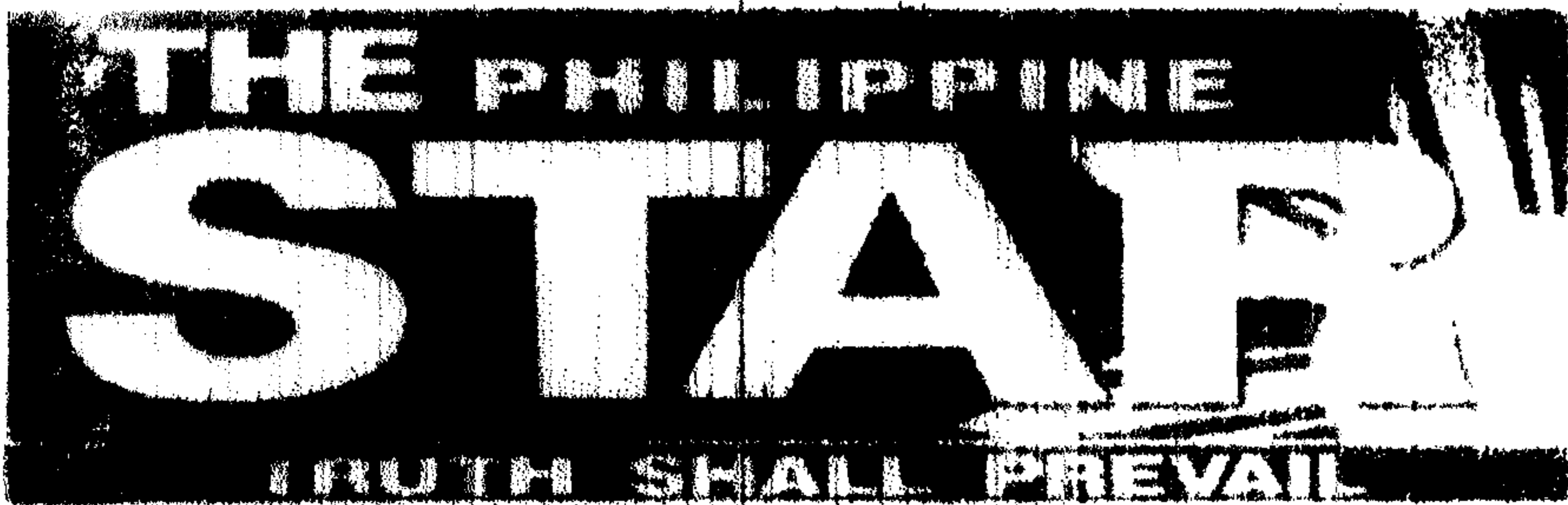
21 JAN 2016

DATE

B5  
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF



The only paper you read from cover to cover!

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# 2015 a 'tipping point' for climate change

PARIS (AFP) – When future generations write the history of humanity's faltering quest to repair Earth's climate system, 2015 will have its own chapter.

Nature, along with the usually fractious family of nations, conspired to make it a landmark year: almost certainly the hottest on record for the planet as a whole, and a rare moment of unity when 195 states pledged to curb the carbon pollution that drives global warming.

Whether the Dec. 12 Paris Agreement is the key to our salvation or too-little-too-late depends on what happens starting now, experts and activists told AFP.

"The most compelling thing you can say about Paris is not that it saved the planet, but that it saved the chance of saving the planet," said Bill McKibben, founder of the grassroots organization 350.org and an architect of the worldwide movement to divest from fossil fuel companies.

Robert Stavins, director of the Harvard Environmental Economics Program at the Harvard Kennedy School, was also chary: "We will only be able to judge whether it is truly a success years, perhaps decades, from now."

But whatever lies ahead, they all agree, the last year has been a "tipping point" on climate change.

"Paris represented a real sea change in seriousness in coming to grips with the issue," said Alden Meyer, a veteran climate analyst from the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists who has followed the UN process for nearly three decades.

Much of that seriousness was driven by a crescendo of deadly extreme weather and the growing confidence of science in connecting the dots with long-term shifts in climate.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will likely report Wednesday on record-breaking heat in 2015.

### The 'golden spike'

They could point to the most powerful hurricane ever registered; freakish, above-freezing temperatures – if only for a day – at the North Pole in December; or life-threatening droughts in eastern and southern Africa.

Some of that will be chalked up to El Niño, a natural weather pattern that creates havoc along the tropical and southern Pacific Rim every five or six years. But the very fact that this El Niño is the most intense ever measured may itself be a by-product of global warming.

Scientists reported last week that climate change has probably pushed back the next Ice Age by 50,000 years.

That may sound like good news, but more than anything it is a stunning testament to the extent to which human activity – mainly burning fossil fuels – has played havoc with the planet's thermostat.

Experts have also come a step closer to concluding that our impact on Earth's bio-chemical systems has been so massive as to justify the christening of a new geological era.

The "golden spike," or start date, for the Anthropocene – the "Age of Man" – will probably be the mid-20th century.

What Saleemul Huq, director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka, calls a "greater planetary conscious-

ness" on climate has shown up in business and politics as well.

In the World Economic Forum's annual survey on global risks over the coming decade, released last week, some 750 experts put "failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation" at the top of the list for the first time.

"Mitigation" means cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and "adaptation" refers to coping with the consequences of climate change.

In third and fourth position are "water crises" and "large-scale involuntary migration."

### Record clean energy investment

In the business arena, the balance of investment is shifting away from fossil fuels and towards renewables, Bloomberg New Energy Finance reported recently.

Despite tumbling oil and gas prices, global investment in clean energy reached \$329 billion (300 billion euros) in 2015, a new record, Bloomberg said.

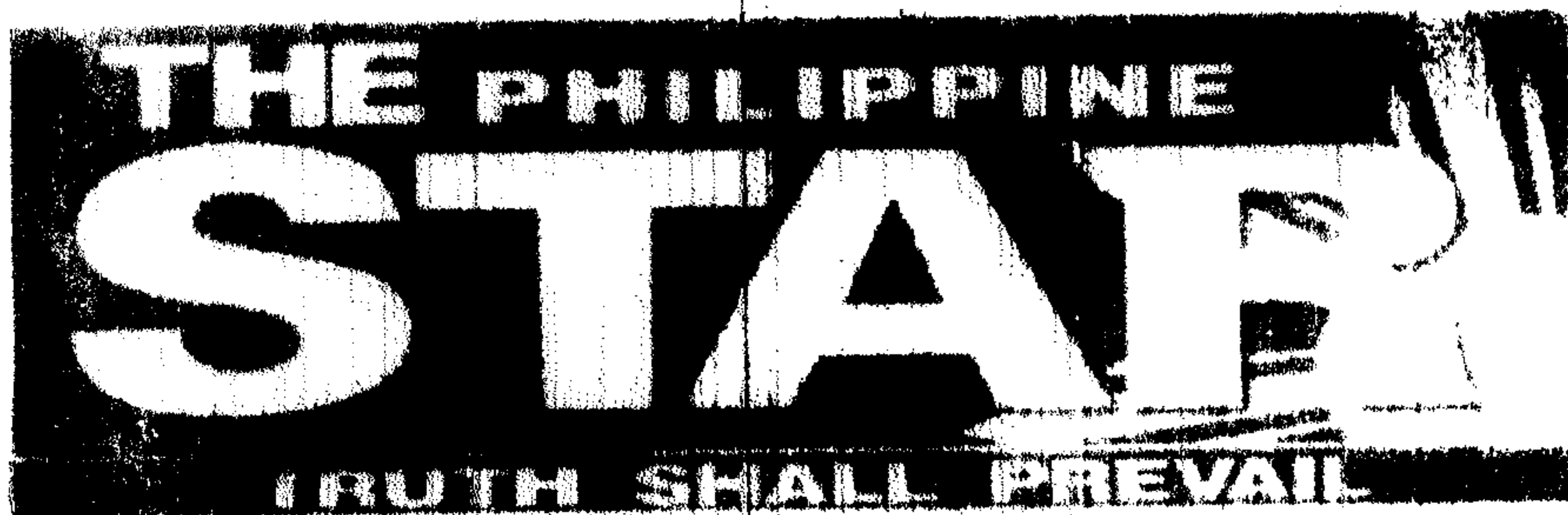
US President Barack Obama has dealt the US coal industry – already reeling from bankruptcies – another body blow in announcing a freeze on new coal mine permits on federal land.

The 2015 watershed on climate change has crystallized a gradual shift from debate over the reality and extent of global warming, to a discussion on what to do about it.

"After having concentrated for years on the problems generated by climate change, we are seeing across the globe solutions responding to the crisis," said Pascal Canfin, a former French government minister and the new head of WWF France.



P.2



*The only paper you read from cover to cover!*

21 JAN 2016

DATE

B5  
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

2015 a 'tipping point for climate change

But Canfin and others caution against undue optimism.

"There's a huge amount of resistance and inertia built into the system," said Huq. "Changing the global economy is not a trivial matter."

Much of that resistance will come from the fossil fuel industry, faced with the fact that 80 percent of known reserves must stay in the ground to have even a shot at holding global warming to "well below two degrees Celsius" (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above mid-19th century levels, much less the 1.5 degree target climate-vulnerable countries fought so hard to include in the Paris Agreement as an aspirational goal.

"The writing is on the wall for coal. But the oil and gas industry is much bigger and more powerful," said Meyer. "You don't want to delude yourself that they are going to go away quietly."

21 JAN 2016

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**



*Hindi lamang ang creek ang makikitang punung-puno ng basura kundi maging ang kalsada sa lungsod ng Maynila. Ang kawalang disiplina patungkol sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura ang isa sa pangunahing dahilan sa matitinding pagbaha na tila napapabayaan na ng pamahalaang lungsod. (Kuha ni Miguel de Guzman)*





21 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## More plastic than fish in oceans by 2050

DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP) – Plastic rubbish will outweigh fish in the oceans by 2050 unless the world takes drastic action to recycle the material, a report warned Tuesday on the opening day of the annual gathering of the rich and powerful in the snow-clad Swiss ski resort of Davos.

An overwhelming 95 percent of plastic packaging worth \$80-120 billion a year is lost to the economy after a single use, said a global study by a foundation fronted by yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur, which promotes recycling in the economy.

The study, which drew on multiple sources, proposed setting up a new system to slash the leaking of plastics into nature, especially the oceans, and to find alternatives to crude oil and natural gas as the raw material of plastic production.

At least eight million tons of plastics find their way into the ocean every year – equal to one garbage truckful every minute, said the report by the Ellen

MacArthur Foundation, which included analysis by the McKinsey Centre for Business and Environment.

"If no action is taken, this is expected to increase to two per minute by 2030 and four per minute by 2050," it said, with packaging estimated to represent the largest share of the pollution.

Available research estimates that there are more than 150 million tons of plastics in the ocean today.

"In a business-as-usual scenario, the ocean is expected to contain one ton of plastic for every three tons of fish by 2025, and by 2050, more plastics than fish," it said.

"This report demonstrates the importance of triggering a revolution in the plastics industrial ecosystem and is a first step to showing how to transform the way plastics move through our economy," said Dominic Waughray of the World Economic Forum, the hosts of the annual talks in Davos who jointly released the report.



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

# Filling up vacancies and drawing up a nat'l job program

**I**N the remaining months of the Aquino administration, it would do well to consider Sen. Ralph Recto's call on it to substantially fill up the hundreds of thousands of vacancies in the government service.

Of the 1,513,695 permanent positions in the national government, he said, only 1,295,056 are occupied today. This leaves 218,639 vacant positions in the various departments, bureaus, and commissions of the national government. There are, in addition, many positions -- the number yet undetermined -- in local governments and in government corporations.

The greatest personnel needs are in the Department of Education, which needs 62,320 new teachers; and the Department of Health which needs 21,118 health workers. The Philippine National Police needs to fill 22,685 slots. The Judiciary has 9,914 vacancies; the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 9,675; the Commission on Audit, 7,752; the Department of Agriculture, 4,633; and the Department of Public Works and Highways, 1,396. And these are only the ones with the biggest number of open positions.

At a time when so many Filipinos need employment, so much so that 5,000 of them leave every day to work in various countries abroad, all pos-

sible efforts must be exerted to provide jobs for them. The vacancies in government need not all be filled but making a substantial number of appointments to these vacancies will help.

Ultimately, private commercial and industrial firms should be the principal providers of jobs, but they need government assistance in the form of incentives and a business climate that encourages private investment.

In March, 2015, President Obama of the United States announced a job creation program called TechHire Initiative. With \$100 million in new federal investments, the government connected with 20 communities working with each other and with national employers to recruit and train workers in technology and other in-demand fields. The administration then announced a competition for innovative approaches to connect Americans to paths to good jobs in technology and other in-demand fields.

If a country as advanced as the US sees and values the need for an employment program for its people, a nation like the Philippines should see how much more it needs such a program. On top of filling vacancies that we now have, as Senator Recto recommends, the government should study and look into all possibilities to create jobs and, if necessary, train Filipinos for them.



21 JAN 2016

DATE

6

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

### EDITORIAL

## PUNAN ANG MGA BAKANTE SA GOBYERNO AT LUMIKHA NG ISANG PAMBANSANG PROGRAMA NA MAGKAKALOOB NG MGA TRABAHO

**S**A mga natitirang buwan ng administrasyong Aquino, makabubuti kung ikokonsidera ang spanawagan ni Sen. Ralph Recto na punuan ang daan-daang libong bakanteng posisyon sa gobyerno.

Sa 1,513,695 permanenteng posisyon sa gobyerno, sinabi ng senador na nasa 1,295,056 lamang ang okupado. Nangangahulugan ito na may 218,639 na bakanteng posisyon sa iba't ibang departamento, kawanihan, at komisyon sa pamahalaan. Bukod pa rito ang maraming puwesto — hindi pa tukoy ang aktuwal na bilang — sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at mga korporasyong pag-aari ng gobyerno.

Pinakamarami ang bakante sa Department of Education, na nangangailangan ng 62,320 bagong guro; at ang Department of Health, na kapos naman sa 21,118 health worker. Kailangan namang punan ng Philippine National Police ang 22,685 slot. Ang Hudikatura ay may 9,914 vacancy; ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 9,675; ang Commission on Audit, 7,752; ang Department of Agriculture, 4,633; at ang Department of Public Works and Highways, 1,396. At ilan lamang ang mga ito sa may pinakamararaming bakanteng posisyon.

Sa panahong napakaraming Pilipino ang nangangailangan ng trabaho, kaya naman nasa 5,000 sa kanila ang umaalis sa bansa araw-araw upang magtrabaho sa ibayong-dagat, dapat na gawin ang lahat ng paraan upang mapagkalooban sila ng mga hanapbuhay. Hindi kailangang mapunan ang lahat ng bakanteng puwesto sa gobyerno, ngunit magiging malaking tulong na kung makapagtatalaga ng mga tauhan sa mga posisyong ito.

Sa katotohanan, dapat na mga pribadong kumpanyang komersiyal at industriyal ang dapat na maging pangunahing tagapagkaloob ng trabaho, ngunit kailangan nila ang tulong ng gobyerno sa paraan ng mga insentibo at paghimok sa pagtatatag ng mga negosyong humihimok ng pribadong pamumuhunan.

Marso 2015 nang ihayag ni President Obama ng United States ang programang lilikha ng trabaho na tinatawag na TechHire Initiative. Sa \$100 million halaga ng mga bagong pamumuhunan, makakaugnayan ng gobyerno ang 20 komunidad na nagtutulungan, katuwang ang mga national employe, sa pagkuha ng serbisyo at pagsasanay ng mga manggagawa sa mga larangan ng teknolohiya at iba pang in-demand sa ngayon. Kalaunan, inihayag din ng administrasyon ang paligsahan sa pinakamahuhusay at makabagong paraan upang maiugnay ang mga Amerikano sa magagandang trabaho sa teknolohiya at iba pang larangan.

Kung ang isang bansang kasing unlad ng Amerika ay nauunawaan ang pangangailangan sa isang programa sa paglikha ng trabaho para sa mamamayan nito, ang isang bansang gaya ng Pilipinas ay dapat na higit na makita ang pangangailangan ng mga Pilipino sa isang programang tulad nito. Bukod sa pagpuno sa mga bakanteng posisyon na mayroon sa gobyerno ngayon, inirekomenda rin ni Senator Recto na pag-aralan ng gobyerno at tukuyin ang lahat ng posibilidad upang makalikha ng trabaho, at kung kinakailangan, ay sanayin ang mga Pilipino para sa mga hanapbuhay na ito.