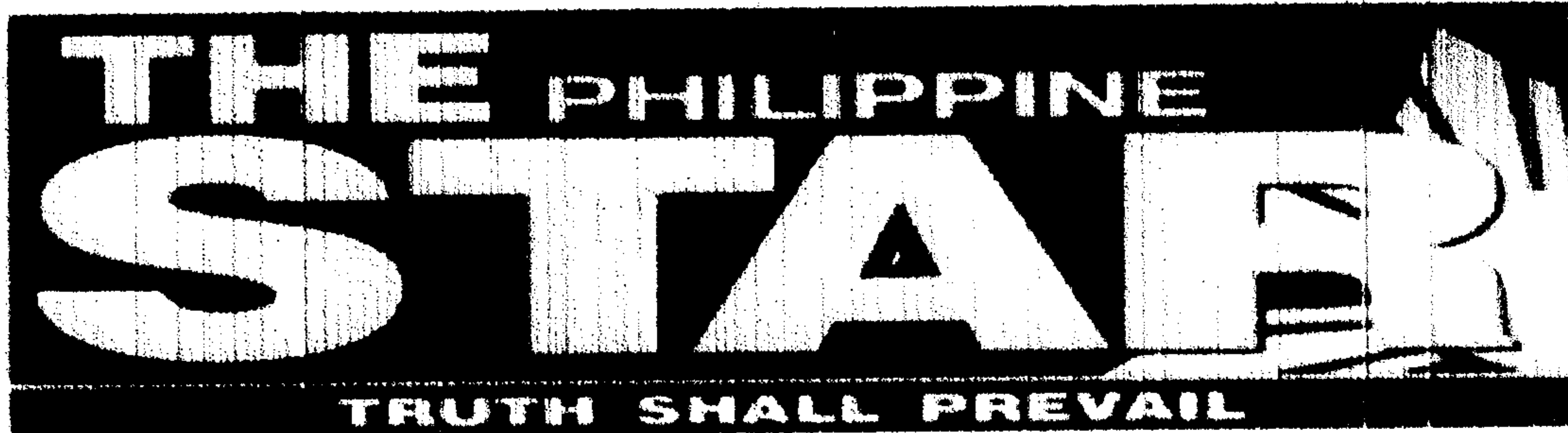


STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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# DENR

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Time to 'walk the talk' on climate pact – CCC chief

Following the signing of the historic Paris deal on climate change on Friday, Climate Change Commission Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said it is now time for the signatories to "walk the talk" and work toward the goals of the agreement.

"We cannot afford any more delays in carrying out concerted action to combat climate change and its impacts," he said in a statement after 175 countries signed the agreement.

"The 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature cap is not simply a number or goal. It is a matter of survival for billions of people; it is a matter of survival for highly vulnerable nations like the Philippines," he added.

The climate deal was the first legally binding global agreement on climate change.

The signing paved way for the country-signatories to ratify the deal in their respective countries and integrate environment and climate

By JANVIC MATEO

change programs in their specific national development policies in order to deliver commitments.

"To limit global temperature rise to stay below 1.5 degrees Celsius is crucial to reducing disaster risk and achieving our sustainable development goals," he said.

"Our country will face greater difficulty to address poverty incidence, hunger and food security, health issues, security issues, among many other societal and economic concerns, if we go business as usual about dealing with climate change. Everyone must participate and work together because all of us are in danger, all of us will be affected," he added.

De Guzman and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje led the Philippine delegation to the signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

De Guzman earlier urged Filipinos to help the government in its

efforts to deal with climate change and its impact.

"Climate change affects people, natural resources, livelihood and lives. We are all part of the ecosystem. Everything and everybody in its path is affected. Ecosystems, infrastructure, economies and cities are all in danger," he said.

The CCC earlier rolled out the Communities for Resilience initiative, which involves partnerships with grassroots communities within the 18 major river basins in the country.

Through the project, the CCC said it intends to promote deeper understanding of climate and disaster risk especially in communities identified to be more vulnerable to disasters caused by climate change.

It also seeks to strengthen the technical knowledge and capacity of local government units in developing the Local Climate Change Action Plan through a series of convergence consultations and training.





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# PINAS LUMAGDA SA PARIS DEAL VS CLIMATE CHANGE

**NAGKASUNDO** ang mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan, pribadong sektor, non-government organizations at civil society na magtutulong upang mabawasan ang greenhouse gas emission ng 70 porsiyento sa 2030.

Kasunod ito ng paglagda ng Pilipinas sa Paris agreement sa climate change sa headquarters ng United Nations sa New York, USA.

Si DENR Secre-

tary Ramon J.P. Paje ang naging kinatawan ni Pangulong Noynoy Aquino sa high-level signing para sa bagong kasunduan ukol sa climate change.

Ayon kay Paje, ang kasunduan ay isang pagpapakita ng komitment ng Pilipinas na makabuo ng kontribusyon o National Determined Contributions (NDC) para sa climate mitigation at adaptations na ipatutuhin sa 2020.

Iginiit niya na ang pakikiisa ng Pilipinas ay isang katiyakan na makikipagtulungan ito sa iba pang bansa laban sa global warming.

"[With the covenant] we will be making actual deliveries on our intended contributions, transforming them into realities across a wide range of sectors, from energy, industry and transport, to agriculture, waste and forestry," anang kalihim.

Aabot sa 50 organisasyon at ahensiya ang nakiisa sa paglagda sa kasunduan na naghahayag ng kanilang suporta sa layunin ng nilagdaang Paris Agreement.

Isa sa komitment ng Pilipinas ang makapagtanim ng 7.8 bilyong puno na makatutulong sa pagbawas ng mga buga ng polusyon gaya ng carbon na nagpapataas sa greenhouse gas emission. **MONCHET LARANO**



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Gov't pushes for sustainability of country's protected areas

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

The government is pushing for the sustainability of the country's protected areas (PA), aiming to discuss with PA managers new paradigms to improve the livelihood of rural communities.

To make this happen, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is holding 2nd PA conference after 15 years.

The agency will bring together some 200 PA managers and stakeholders from local government units, indigenous communities and civil society for the conference to be held from April 26 to 28 in Mandaluyong City.

"For this year, the meeting seeks to discuss new paradigms and good practices, as well as strengthen partnerships for more effective management of species and their habitats within PAs and to improve the livelihoods of rural communities," the DENR said in a statement.

The conference is seen as an opportunity to review the implementation of Republic Act No. 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act, while emphasizing the role of PAs in providing and sustaining ecosystem services and benefits.

This will be the second time the DENR holds a conference devoted to PA management. The first one took

place in Davao City in 2001 when the participants focused on building lessons from past experiences in the field to serve as guide in improving PA management.

The 2nd PA Conference is being organized by the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and will carry the theme, "Sustaining Ecosystems Services and Benefits from Protected Areas."

The highlight of the conference is the launching of the "Guidebook to Protected Areas in the Philippines" by Environment Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje and Senator Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate Climate Change Committee.

The confab will be divided into three plenary sessions, with each session having two breakout sessions.

The first plenary session, which will be chaired by BMB Director Theresa Mundita Lim and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Roberto Oliva, will be on harnessing the benefits of PAs.

The economic aspects of PAs will also be discussed, including sustainable tourism.

The second plenary session will be on enhancing PA governance, with topics on inclusion of PA management in academic curriculum, public-private partnerships, integrating ecosystem

management, and initiatives in biodiversity conservation. The session will be chaired by Clarissa Arida of the ACB's Programme Development and Implementation, and Rodolfo Ferdinand Quicho Jr. of the Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme in the Philippines.

Improving advocacy and enforcement in PAs will be the focus of the third plenary session, which will be chaired by Tanggol Kalikasan's Atty. Maria Paz Luna and Atty. Maria Generosa Misleng. Legal experts will discuss issues and challenges in PA law enforcement, including implementation of rules of procedure for environmental cases.

Since the last conference, PA management in the Philippines has undergone several developments, among which are the country's commitments to various international agreements; recognition of the increasing role of indigenous and local communities in conservation areas; and climate change adaptation and mitigation.



# The Manila Times

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**


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## Debates reflect society's lack of environmental concern

BY ANA DOMINIQUE A. ALMAZAR  
HARIBON FOUNDATION

IN less than a month, we, Filipinos, will elect a new set of leaders for our country. The debate series administered by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), "PiliPinas Debates" is deemed as one of the major avenues for the candidates to publicly engage in a formal discussion of certain issues of national concern such as the environment. Unfortunately, the latter was barely given regard.

It can be observed that during the first PiliPinas Debate on February 21, nothing in relation to our environmental concerns was mentioned. The lack of which was compensated in the second presidential debate where the issue on climate change was raised through the question of Amy Pamintuan to Mayor Rodrigo Duterte which was "Paano natin matutupad ang ating commitment sa UN habang tumataas naman ang dependence natin sa coal para sa ating energy security?"

Sadly, this highlight, which could have been our chance to determine the credible recipient of our green votes, only lasted a few minutes with their rather imprecise pronouncements until the candidates veered away from the topic and used the time to exchange critical remarks instead.

The sole Vice Presidential PiliPinas debate for the upcoming elections, on the other hand, measured the candidates' stand on the same issue, climate change, only with the question: "Do you think the Philippines is doing enough to address the urgency of climate change?" answerable by a mere yes or no, to which all candidates answered with the latter.

The debates, together with the responses of the candidates, reflect Philippine political society today: the concerns of voters and the proposed actions of our candidates showed

a lack of interest and attention to environmental concerns despite its contribution to economic development, political stability, and the overall well-being of the Filipino society. We believe that the protection of the environment should be a core agenda of every candidate.

We live in a megadiverse country—we share our home with numerous unique species and yet we are gradually losing them, our forests, coral reefs and other ecosystems. In the last several decades, our forests have been in steady decline. In fact, according to DENR's (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) latest estimate of forest cover is at around 24 percent (2003) from the original forest cover of 68 percent (1900's).

Oftentimes, our aspirations for a better quality of life, sadly, mean that we take more from the environment. Despite being one of the richest countries in terms of biodiversity, the Philippines is considered to be a biodiversity hotspot.

The last of the debate series before the general elections is set this Sunday, on the 24th of April. Let us be conscious that the upcoming election is our chance to make a positive impact on the environment. We need leaders who will champion our concerns, who will win the battle of conservation for us. Let us choose the leader with a clear environmental agenda recognizing that a strong environmental conservation program is key to economic growth, social and cultural sustainability and political stability. Let us elect the candidate who truly cares about our future and those of the generations to come.

*Act. Make an Impact. Show support for the passage of Forest Resources Bill and other Green Bills. Volunteer for us! Contact Nikki Almazar at [membership@haribon.org.ph](mailto:membership@haribon.org.ph) or 421-1209 today*





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Phl designation of Tubbataha as sensitive area backed

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) yesterday endorsed the Philippines' application to designate its Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and World Heritage Site as a particular sensitive sea area.

The Philippines is proposing the Tubbataha park to be an "Area To Be Avoided" by ships and other watercraft over 150 gross tons plying the area.

Gilberto Asuque, permanent representative to the IMO, submitted the application at the plenary meeting of the 69th session of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee held at the IMO headquarters in London on April 20.

The application will be endorsed to the Maritime

Safety Committee for consideration and approval of protective measures to be implemented in the Tubbataha park.

The measures are designed to further protect Tubbataha from the hazards of international shipping.

The Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee are expected to approve the designation and suggested navigation routes by early 2017.

The Philippines decided to designate the Tubbataha park as a particular sensitive sea area to protect the biodiversity and ecological sensitivity of the area from the threats of international shipping.

Tubbataha park is located in the Sulu Sea, approximately 80 nautical miles from Palawan. The park is a living laboratory for the study of marine ecological processes and climate change adaptation. It lies at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the richest biogeographic region in the world.

Tubbataha park encompasses an area comprised of a 97,030-hectare "Core Zone" and a 350,000-hectare "Buffer Zone" surrounding it.

In 1993, it was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was also listed in 1999 in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

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# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## IMO backs PHL's bid to designate Tubbataha as 'sensitive sea area'

THE International Maritime Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee (IMO-MEPC) has endorsed the Philippines's application to designate the world-renowned Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and World Heritage Site as a Particular Sensitive Sea Area.

Gilberto G. B. Asuque, permanent representative to the IMO, submitted the application at the plenary meeting of the 69th session held at the IMO Headquarters in London on April 20, the Foreign Affairs Department said in a news statement.

The decision of the Philippines to designate

Tubbataha as a sensitive area is aimed at protecting the biodiversity and ecological sensitivity of the area from the threats of international shipping.

Tubbataha is in the Sulu Sea, approximately 80 nautical miles from the island of Palawan. It is a living laboratory for the study of marine ecological

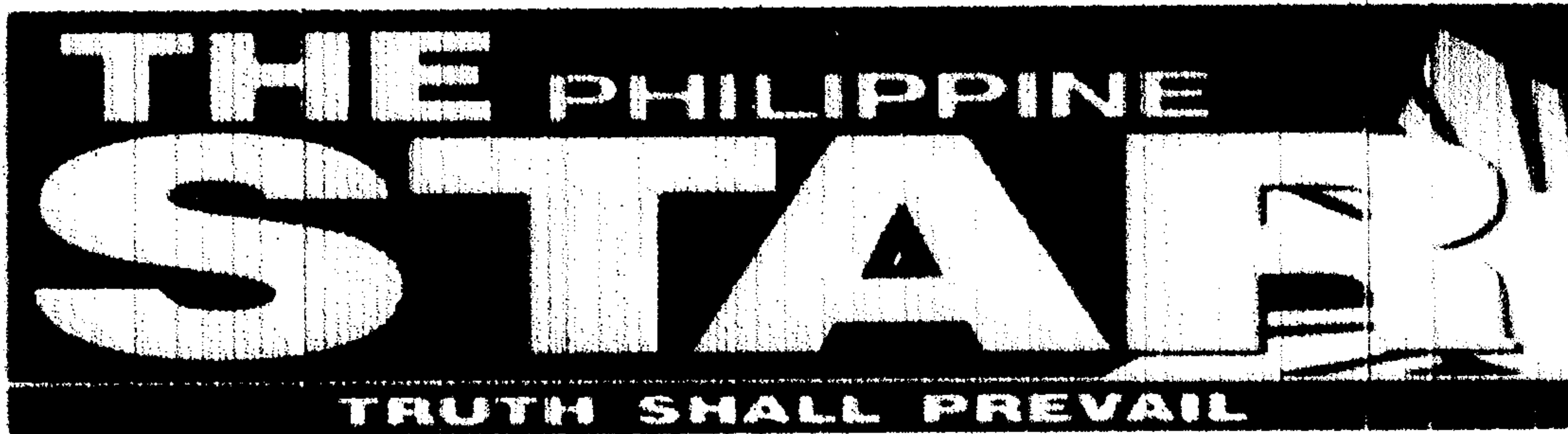
processes and climate-change adaptation. It lies at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the richest biogeographic region in the world.

Tubbataha presently encompasses an area comprised of a 97,030-hectare "core zone" and a 350,000-hectare "buffer zone" surrounding it. In 1993 it was inscribed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site, and was also listed in 1999 in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Since 2009 Tubbataha has been designated by the government as a national marine park through Republic Act 10067.

The area is significant in terms of its unique ecological, socioeconomic, scientific and cultural characteristics. Its extensive coral reefs and associated ecosystems are very vulnerable to damage from international shipping activity, in particular physical damage and pollution, arising from operational discharges and maritime incidents, as well as the introduction of alien invasive species.

The application will now be endorsed to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) for the consideration and approval of protective measures to be implemented in Tubbataha. These IMO-sanctioned measures are designed to further protect the area from the hazards of international shipping. *Recto Mercene*





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### **EDITORIAL**

## Beyond pledges

Coinciding with the 46th observance of Earth Day on April 22, 171 countries including the Philippines signed in New York a landmark treaty to fight climate change. Under the deal hammered out in France last year, nations committed to implement measures that will drastically cut carbon emissions, with full implementation of the treaty seen by 2020.

The commitments are voluntary and the deal must be ratified by each country. As of Earth Day 2016, only 15 states had ratified the deal. Still, getting 171 states on board was a significant feat after many years of resistance to such a global agreement. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hailed the treaty as "a new covenant for the future." The agreement was adopted by 196 states that participated in the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change in Paris last December.

Under the deal, the Philippines committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent by 2030. The reductions will be made in the energy, forestry, industry, transport and waste sectors.

Government officials admit that the country has set one of the most

ambitious goals, many of which require substantial funding. Environment officials have expressed hope that the country can get sustained financial assistance in climate change mitigation. President Aquino has also urged affluent economies to assist developing countries in coping with climate change.

Even if financial aid is less than adequate, however, the Philippines has a stake in ensuring that its commitments under the UN agreement will go beyond best-efforts pledges. The country has been identified by experts as one of the most vulnerable to climate change. This has been evident in the killer typhoons and cataclysmic flooding that have devastated many parts of the country in the recent past.

This year the country is experiencing one of the worst droughts induced by El Niño. Crops have been destroyed and even fisherfolk have seen their catch dwindle. Grass fires have decimated hundreds of hectares of mountain forests.

The nation cannot afford to dither in fighting climate change. Describing the Paris agreement as a covenant for the future should not mean putting off the implementation of commitments.



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## From The Stands

By DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS

### Loren on signing of Paris Agreement/Leni Robredo choice of lawyers



The Philippines is one of 175 countries that formally signed the Paris Climate Agreement on Earth Day at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 22.

The Philippine delegation that signed the agreement was led by Environment Secretary Ramon Paje who was with Senator Loren Legarda, UNISDR Global Champion for Resilience, as co/head of delegation. Secretary Paje, signed the agreement on behalf of the Philippine government.

Now Sen. Legarda is rallying the Philippine government to act on the ratification of the agreement and be true to its commitment in Paris (last year) to keep a global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius.

"We will muster all the energy and resources within our means, sustain advocacy at the grassroots level, and rally

the executive and legislative branches of the Philippine government, as well as the local government units, so that the Philippines can be true to its commitment in Paris to keep a global temperature rise this century well below two degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels," said Legarda.

The senator also said she will rally her fellow senators to act on the Philippine ratification and will call on legislators from other nations to ensure the early entry into force of the agreement.

In her capacity as UNISDR Global Champion for Resilience, Legarda has written to parliamentarians of the 43 countries making up the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) urging them to ratify the Agreement.





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Loren on signing of Paris Agreement / Leni Robredo choice of Lawyers

"I also call on my fellow legislators in the Women in Parliaments Global Forum, my fellow policy-makers in GLOBE International, and everyone who values life and our future – to let us continue to rally our networks, organizations, and civil society in ensuring that our governments keep the promises they delivered in Paris," she said.

On my candidate for vice president. More than 200 alternative lawyers, legal advocates, paralegals, and human rights defenders from different areas in the country have made public their support for vice presidential candidate and Naga Rep. Leni Robredo in the coming May 9 elections.

Robredo, a human rights lawyer and development worker prior to becoming a legislator, was praised that her platform, "*Inaangat ang nasa laylayan ng lipunan*" focuses on poverty and inequality.

According to the group, their endorsement extends their advocacy for programs and policies that "empower communities through equal access to education, employment, food, land and other resources and justice."

"To champion her is to elevate our shared aspirations for gender equality, peace and sustainable development," they added.

Signatories include individuals from different civil society organizations from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, including Ateneo Human Rights Center, Balaod Mindanaw, Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Children's Legal Bureau, Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau, Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Kaisahan, Rainbow Rights, and Tanggol Kalikasan. Also





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Loren on Signing of Paris . . . . .

among them, Alternative Law Groups and Saligan, where Robredo served as coordinator of its branch in Bicol before running for Congress.

The group appealed to Filipino voters to reject candidates against democracy, referring to "personalities with tainted political histories and short-sighted promises."

"We condemn beliefs and behavior that contribute to promoting extrajudicial killings, gender-based violence, as well as discrimination against the poor and marginalized," they said.

They emphasized civil society's role as government watchdogs, citing the fight against Martial Law that led to the People Power Revolution as an example. According to them, human rights violators and plunderers must be held accountable, "from the years of the dictatorship until recent times."

\* \* \*

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, the presidential candidate named the "greenest" by environment advocates, urged her rivals on Friday to adopt a people-centered approach in their environment, climate change, and disaster risk reduction platforms.

"We are resource-rich but income-poor, partly because we view environmental protection as a roadblock to development. That should not be the case. What we are doing is ensuring that whatever gains we get now will be enjoyed by generations to come," Santiago said in time for Earth Day.

Santiago was named the "greenest candidate" by the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment. She was also lauded by a green group initiative

called Luntiang Bayan: Boto Para sa Tao, Hayop at Kalikasan as the presidential candidate who has done the most for the environment, citing the numerous laws and bills she drafted.

The senator also topped the scorecards launched by the Green Thumb Coalition on Friday, bagging 79 percent in "people-centered sustainable development," 78 percent in "human rights and integrity of creation," and 50 percent in "climate justice."

In her platform of government, Santiago highlighted the need for evidence-based planning. "To combat climate change, we must practice both mitigation and adaptation, and our decisions must be based on data and science," she added.

Santiago also vowed to capacitate local government units to better implement environment protection, climate change and disaster risk reduction programs; take advantage of indigenous knowledge; and foster transparency in the sector.

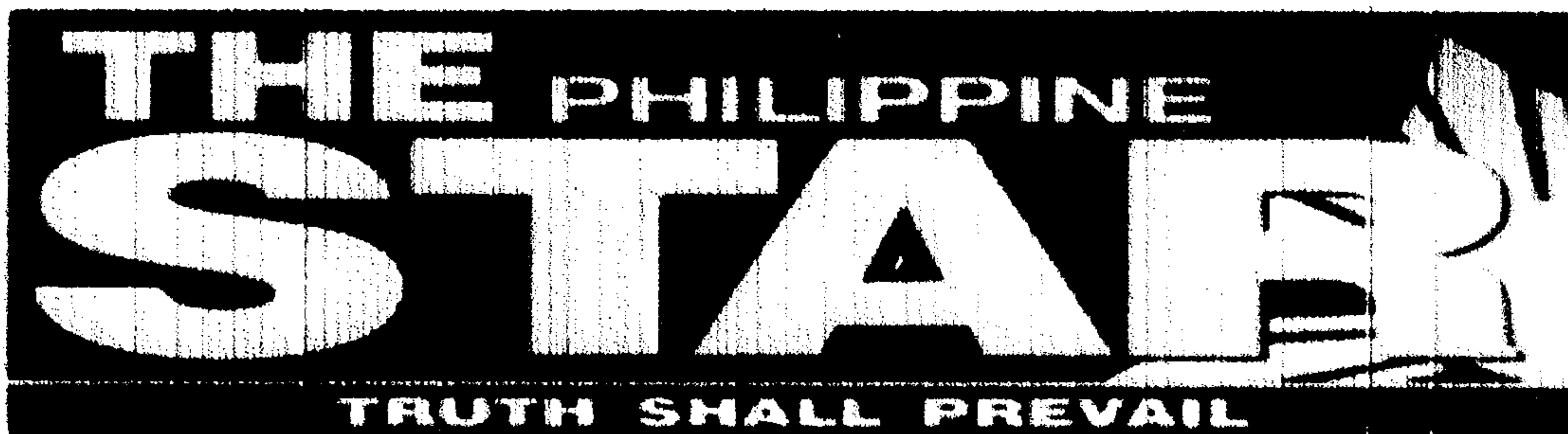
The senator also wants to revisit the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which she said allowed the market to dictate the country's energy mix, and the Mining Act, citing research that the cost of mining activities outweighs the benefits.

\* \* \*

A feather in the cap for Gingoog's brightest artist. A few months ago, Jed Balsamo (who calls himself Jed Skywalker of Star Wars fame) joined the Maurice Ravel International Composition Competition organized by the Ravel Association together with other institutions of the provinces of Bergamo and Novara in Northern Italy and dedicated to the great French early 20th-century

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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Loren on Signing of Paris...

### TORREVILLAS From page 11

composer Maurice Ravel.

Jed entered the A, C and D categories of the competition. He became a semi-finalist for categories C and D. Then he advanced to the final round of 20 composers for Category C with his composition "Andar 2.0, CB. 5a No. 4a (MMXV) for violin and piano, where he was the only remaining Filipino composer in the entire competition. His work was awarded one of the "Special Mentions" in the final adjudication.

Jed is probably the first Filipino to have reached the final round and got a Special Mention. Actually, Jed told me, "To have reached the final round was already enough for me." He adds that he hopes his experience will be an inspiration to young Filipino composers to continue creating meaningful music to enrich Philippine music literature."

By the way, Jed's upcoming projects are:

1. "Simoun" (a new ballet based on Rizal's "El Filibusterismo" for Ballet Philippines to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the novel's publication and the 155th birth and 120th death anniversaries of Rizal).

This will be performed on 21-23 October at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Tanghalang

Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) with the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Gerard Salonga. Libretto, choreography, and direction will be by Paul Morales (artistic director of Ballet Philippines).

On the matinee shows on those dates, Ballet Philippines will also present "Crisostomo Ibarra" which is based on Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere"; also done by Morales with Jed as composer and the live music will be performed by a piano quintet. It will be the first time that these two seminal novels in dance form will be presented back to back.

2. The 3rd Angeles City Choral Festival where Jed is the featured composer/arranger with the Ateneo Chamber Singers as the guest choir with conductor Maestro Jonathan Velasco. The performance will be on 22 October at Holy Angels University in Angeles City, Pampanga.

3. "At Isasayaw Ko" (a dance-musical for Ballet Philippines based on the songs of VST), of which Jed is the musical director. This show will feature live music performances also by the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra.

\* \* \*

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THE REPORT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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## El Niño's wrath apparent along Cebu Transcentral Highway

By MARS W. MOSQUEDA JR.

**C**EBU CITY – The extremely hot weather condition brought about by the prolonged El Niño phenomenon has evidently affected corn fields and flower plantations in barangays situated along the Transcentral Highway.

The highway traverses the mountain barangays of Cebu City towards the town of Balamban in Cebu's mid-west area. It includes the city's top producers of flowers and vegetables.

A quick check of farms and plantations along the Transcentral Highway showed corn farms drying up and flowers withering as a result of the extremely hot weather condition.

"We tried to save the corn but there was not enough water to keep those alive," said 71-year-old Anastacio Cabajar, who owns a small corn farm in Barangay Manunggal.

At Cebu City Hall, the City Agriculture Office said it will further request for financial assistance from the city government to effectively respond to requests for help from farmers in the city's mountain barangays.

City Agriculturist Joey Baclayon told reporters that his office will ask for an additional fund of ₱29 million to be used to purchase water drums and hoses. These tools will be distributed to farmers and residents in mountain barangays to help them store water amid the extremely hot weather.

Baclayon expects the effect of the El Niño phenomenon to even worsen next month, when the season is expected to grow hotter.

In March alone, the city has recorded ₱13 million worth of damage as a result of the prolonged hot weather. Such damage is apparent in the city's agricultural farms and flower plantations.





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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Drought-hit farmers block Koronadal highway

By JOHN UNSON

**SOUTH COTABATO** – After the Kidapawan rally, Koronadal farmers hit by drought have taken over the Koronadal-General Santos highway to demand rice assistance and seek government intervention in mitigating the effects of El Niño on their crops.

Farmers said they have been experiencing heavy crop losses due to the dry spell, which has hit their province since late November.

They have been picketing along the stretches of Koronadal-General Santos Highway since Saturday, taunting authorities by lying on concrete pavements in shifts to drum up their protest action.

Some farmers have since been displaying the banners of left-leaning party-list groups, waving them high whenever reporters come close.

To prevent disruption of traffic flow, police established a guarded detour for vehicles plying the highway via narrower roads straddling southeast of Koronadal City and South Cotabato's

nearby Tupi and Tampakan towns.

Farmers started picketing on Friday in front of the Department of Agriculture office in Koronadal.

Many of them were carrying placards that appealed to the government to provide them food rations.

Talk and text messages have been circulating in Central Mindanao since Sunday, purporting that the farmers are being manipulated by leftist groups to embark on mass action to embarrass Malacañang and derail the candidacy of administration bets for national and local positions

### **Maximum tolerance**

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ricardo Marquez said they would observe maximum tolerance, one of the lessons learned from the bloody clash in Kidapawan City on April 1.

Marquez called on the public, particularly militant groups, to respect police authorities who are only doing

their jobs.

"Let them express their legitimate right to protest," said Marquez in a chance interview with reporters at Camp Crame, Quezon City.

He added that members of militant groups should remember that other people also have the right to use the roads.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento said his department is ready to accept complaints or charges stemming from the dispersal of protesters in Kidapawan City last week.

Sarmiento said the DILG is committed to get to the bottom of the bloody protest without fear or favor.

He also gave assurance that the DILG is working hard to extend all the necessary assistance to help farmers and policemen in the bloody incident that left three persons killed and 100 others, mostly policemen, injured.

### **Still no rice**

In Pampanga, the Rural Missionaries of the Philip-





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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Drought-hit farmers block Koronadal highway

piners (RMP) decried yesterday the failure of the government to distribute rice to hungry farmers affected by El Niño in Mindanao despite available government funds.

"It is public knowledge that they have been devastated by the El Niño phenomenon, worsening their already impoverished state caused by landlessness and lack of livelihood," RMP national coordinator Sr. Mary Francis Añoover said in a statement.

She noted that "at present, tens of thousands of farmers are demanding relief from Mindanao, Negros island and Cagayan Valley."

"It is ironic that those who cultivate for the country's food needs still have to barricade a highway to get attention for food aid. This has become a complete picture of government abandonment and Aquino who is President appears not to be his brother's keeper," the RMP said in a statement.

It said the violent dispersal of farmers in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato last

April 1 "did not cow the hungry farmers to sustain their mass actions demanding for relief."

"If the farmers do not organize themselves and act in unison, they and their families would certainly die of starvation," Añoover said.

The RMP noted that apart from the 6,000 farmers asking for 15,000 sacks of rice from the government, farmers in Bukidnon want 4,200 sacks of rice while those from Koronadal in South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani demand 15,000 sacks each.

Farmers in General Santos City said they need 8,000 sacks to tide them over in the next days of drought.

RMP also noted that in Negros, farm workers are demanding government aid as they are facing *tiempo muerto* (dead season), the non-existence of sources of livelihood as their lands are monocropped with sugarcane.

The dead season in Negros is estimated to affect five million farmers, Añoover said.

"Farmers protesting by the tens of thousands is

serious and their legitimate demands should not be belittled," Añoover said.

RMP said it has launched a relief mission called "Food Aid in, Soldiers Out" to gather support for farmers in Mindanao and other regions affected by drought.

"This initiative is to inform and encourage the public that aside from hunger, landlessness, farmers are also the usual victims of militarization and other forms of human rights violations perpetrated by government forces," the group said.

Farmers blamed the counter-insurgency program of the Aquino administration, Oplan Bayanihan, for the "systematic abuse" and demanded justice for the victims.

"We appreciate that the massive number of poor farmers are now mobilizing under their cry, 'Land, Food and Justice,' as they are their fundamental concerns. Hence, it is our utmost duty to ask Aquino, why the inaction? Why the callousness?" Añoover said. — **With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Ding Cervantes**



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

26 APR 2010  
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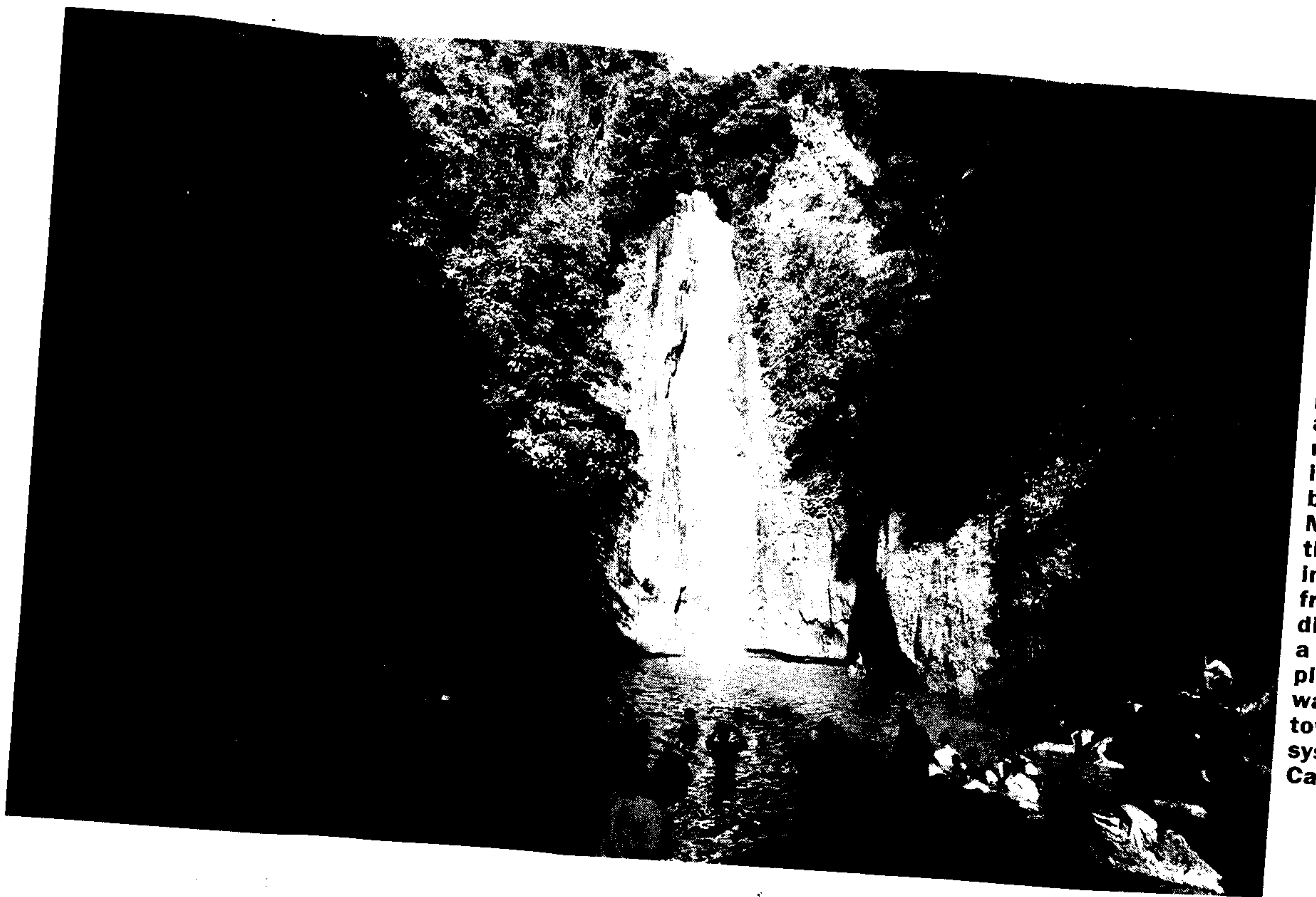
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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Est. Name & worth apparent along Cebu



**NATURE'S REFRESHMENT**  
- Local and foreign tourists cool off and enjoy water from the Mantayupan Falls in the town of Barili, Cebu province. With a height of 98 meters from its peak to the basin below, Mantayupan is the highest falls in Cebu. Water from the falls is diverted to power a hydropower plant and supply water to the town's irrigation system. (Juan Carlo de Vela)



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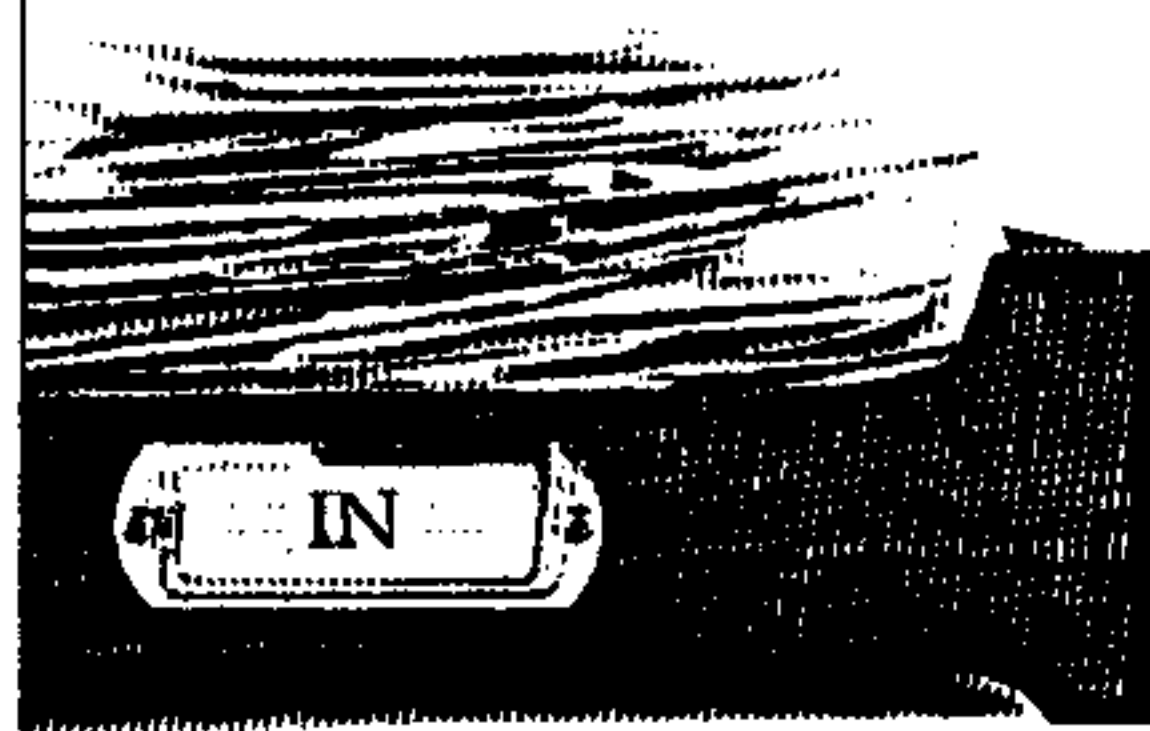
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A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## DSWD clarifies report on El Niño funds

### MAIL



Please e-mail your letters to the editor to [oped@businessmirror.com.ph](mailto:oped@businessmirror.com.ph). Letters chosen for publication in this section are edited for brevity and clarity.

WE are writing to clarify the issues raised in the news article, "Church official, group slam govt for delay in release of El Niño funds," published in the BUSINESSMIRROR on April 22.

The article mentioned that National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace/ Caritas Secretariat Fr. Edwin Gariguez said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) claimed that it has Quick Response Fund (QRF) of P1.32 billion and additional fund of P6.7 billion for cash for work (CFW), but these funds were not yet fully downloaded to local government units (LGUs). This is despite the request of LGUs

for assistance. He mentioned that a ranking official of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao confirmed that their request has not been acted on despite follow-ups.

We would like to clarify that the proposed funds to support the implementation of CFW and livelihood interventions for El Niño, amounting to P6.7 billion, has not been released by the Department of Budget (DBM). However, despite this, the DBM allowed us to use the QRF amounting P1.32 billion and regular funds to respond to El Niño requirements.

On the P1.32 billion 2016 QRF, we would like to share with you that, out of the amount, the DSWD has released P739,492,203.33 as of April 19, covering the assistance for El Niño-affected families nationwide through the LGUs. The amount includes the cost of food assistance and the implementation CFW. It may be significant to mention that the ARMM has its own fund source. Even with the separate funding, the DSWD provided to the DSWD-ARMM P389,811,605 since 2015 to augment their resources for El Niño. The amount was utilized for the implementation of CFW in El Niño-affected areas.

To date, the P1.32 billion 2016 QRF has been exhausted. However, an additional QRF

amounting P662,500,000 was provided by the DBM. Aside from this, the DSWD also draws funds from the climate-change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM) fund to augment its support to El Niño-affected LGUs.

With the additional QRF CCAM funds, the DSWD has downloaded P615,376,370 through DSWD-Field Office XII intended for El Niño-affected areas in the region and in ARMM. Of the amount, P256,760,050 was earlier earmarked from the 2016 QRF, P190,560,300 came from the additional QRF, and P168,056,020 from the CCAM funds. For the information of Gariguez, the DSWD in Northern Mindanao has also engaged the support of the Diocese of Malaybalay in augmenting the DSWD social workers and local social-welfare office personnel to ensure the quick distribution of relief goods to families affected by drought in the province.

Along with the rest of the government, the DSWD recognizes the urgency of responding to the situation of hunger affecting the poor in many parts of the country.

We hope that this clarification finds space in your newspaper.

**CEZARIO JOEL C. ESPEJO**

Director, Social Marketing Service, DSWD



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### DEBATE SIDE ISSUE

Fishermen, supported by activists like Greenpeace Philippines, bring their concerns to the Pantar River in Dagupan City, which hosted the final presidential debate on Sunday.

They urged the incoming President to create a Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to ensure sustainable fishing practices and enforce a recovery plan for fisherfolk.

EV ESPRITU / INQUIRER  
NORTHERN LUZON





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# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

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## West Philippine Sea watch: Nations take sides

**T**ENSIONS in the South China Sea are rising, pitting China against smaller and weaker neighbors that all lay claim to islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters rich in fish and potential gas and oil reserves.

China's recent construction of artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago, complete with airstrips and radar stations, and US patrols challenging Beijing's vast territorial claims, have caused concern that the strategically important waters could become a flashpoint.

China said the United States is overblowing a humanitarian emergency mission that involved one of its military planes landing on an artificial island—which also happens to be one of three recently built military outposts with long runways.

The Y-8 transport aircraft made a trip to Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratlys to evacuate three injured construction workers, according to the Ministry of Defense.

State Department Spokesman John Kirby questioned the need for a military aircraft, citing concern that China keeps militarizing the disputed region. He said that the injured workers were involved in infrastructure improvements of a military nature.

"One could argue that it's just another sign that the Chinese are willing to keep militarizing the effort in general," he told reporters.

China's Defense Ministry said it was completely within the mission of the People's Liberation Army to rescue people—and carry out construction activities and deployment of defense facilities on related islets and reefs in the Nansha Islands, the Chinese name for the Spratlys.

### More Chinese ships

FILIPINO fishermen said they've seen more Chinese coast guard ships than usual around the contested Scarborough Shoal, which China effectively took over in 2013 after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels.

Although fishermen have been complaining they're being driven away by Chinese ships, the Philippine Defense Department said it could not confirm an increase in Chinese presence at the shoal, 145 miles (230 kilometer) from Luzon island.

Meantime, the US Air Force flew its first mission over the Scarborough area as part of a new Air Contingent force stationed in the Philippines. It involved four A-10C

Thunderbolt jets and two Sikorsky HH-60 helicopters.

The mission: establishing air and maritime "domain awareness" and "assuring all nations have access to air and sea domains throughout the region in accordance with international law," according to a US military statement.

Free navigation "is extremely important, international economics depends on it—free trade depends on our ability to move goods," said Col. Larry Card, commander of the Air Contingent, part of the stepped-up US assistance to its Philippine ally.

### Nations take side

AS China and other claimants await the ruling of a United Nations tribunal on a case filed by the Philippines, which challenges Beijing's vast territorial claims, world and regional players are lining up behind one side or the other.

China has refused to take part in the proceedings at the UN Court of Arbitration, and it's not clear how the ruling can be enforced.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Moscow, said Russia is against any interference



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West Philippine Sea watch;  
Nations take sides

“The US and Vietnam share the interest in maintaining peace and stability in the region. So does China. But its massive land-reclamation project in the South China Sea and increasing militarization of these outposts fuel regional tension and raise serious questions about China’s intentions.”

—US DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN

from third parties—a reference to the US—“or any attempts to internationalize these disputes.”

Russia repeated China’s position that “only parties can resolve their dispute through direct talks.”

Britain, on the other hand, said it will stand alongside the US in supporting the ruling.

Hugo Swire, British minister of state for the Foreign Office, told a Washington think tank that growing tensions in the South China Sea are driven by China’s assertive actions. He said any ruling by the court should be binding on both parties.

In Southeast Asia, which is broadly divided between pro- and anti-China blocs, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Beijing

had reached consensus with Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Lao PDR—its traditional allies—on the South China Sea issue.

The four countries say territorial disputes are not an issue between China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and should be resolved by parties directly.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hua Chunying said earlier that the case filed by the Philippines is an attempt to deny China’s sovereignty over the Spratly Islands and “an abuse of international law.”

### No rift with White House

THE Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Harry Harris has denied reports of a disconnect with the

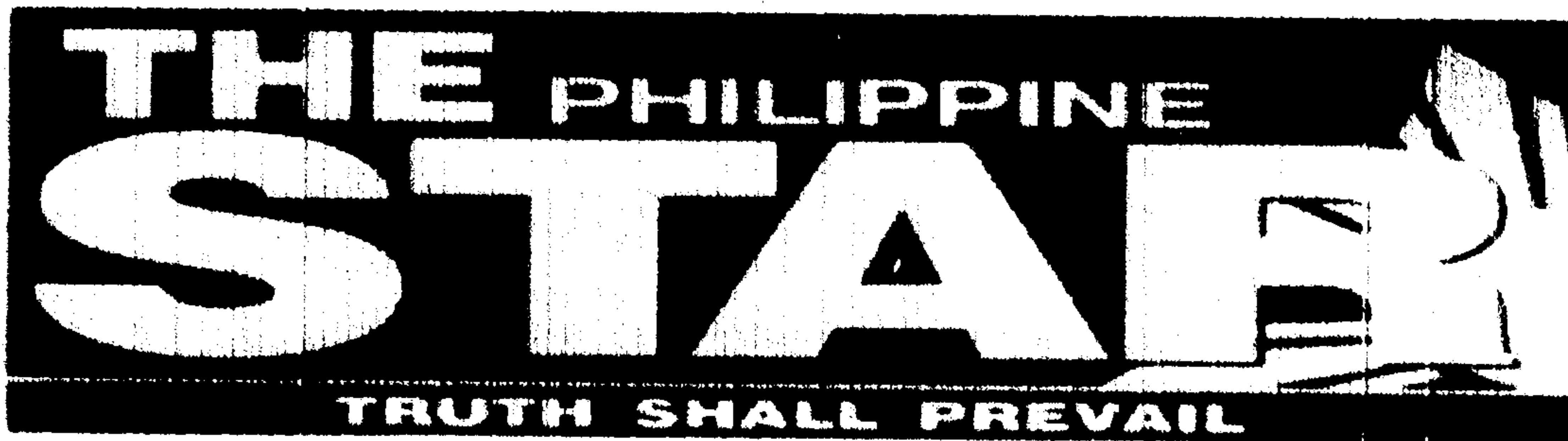
White House in strategy over the South China Sea.

*Navy Times* reported on a gag order issued to military commanders for making comments over the South China Sea in the run-up to the nuclear summit in Washington that included China.

Harris said in a statement “any suggestion that the White House has sought to ‘tamp down’ on my talking about my concerns is patently wrong.”

He said during recent congressional testimony and press engagements in Washington, “I was very public and candid about my concerns regarding many issues in the Indo-Asia-Pacific to include the fact that China’s militarization of the South China Sea is problematic.” AP





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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## SC justice sees Phl victory vs China on maritime claim

By JAIME LAUDE

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio has expressed confidence that the Philippines will prevail legally against China's massive maritime claim in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea.

However, Carpio admitted that the enforcement of the international court ruling would come slowly.

In a lecture at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan yesterday, he assured his civilian audience, headed by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, that China's nine-dash-line claim in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea would not be honored by the international court.

"I am almost sure we are going to win our case," Carpio said, one of those representing the Philippines before The Hague-based international court. The court is expected to release its verdict next month or early June.

He said the Philippines' legal panel has clearly and thoroughly presented the country's case before the UN court.

This includes the submission and presentation of pieces of evidence, China-own published books, ancient maps and historical finds to disprove China's claim that South China Sea is an integral part of its maritime domain since ancient times.

China has been fabricating evidence to support its maritime and sovereignty claim in the disputed region, Carpio said.

One of these fabricated pieces of evidence is the installation of fake markers in the disputed region.

Carpio said that some of these Chinese markers recovered during a series of archaeological expeditions from 1974 to 1979 were found to have been ante-

dated back in 1912.

Out of these archaeological finds, China published a book to bolster its historical stand that it was the Chinese who were the first occupants of the Spratly islands.

China had the book reprinted in 1997 only to discover that it failed to exclude confidential attachments as to how these fake markers found their way to the Spratlys.

He said some of these markers were dated 1912 and even years before, but these were only brought and planted in the disputed region in the 1970s.

Since the international court has no enforcement power, Carpio pointed out that it would take a lot more effort and time on the Philippine side to have China honor and comply with the court judgment.

China has declined to participate in the UN international court proceedings, maintaining that the UN court has no jurisdiction over the issue.

But Carpio cited Nicaragua's case filed before the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration where it won its case against the United States government.

Initially, the US refused to honor the court's verdict, but Nicaragua did not give up until eventually Washington succumbed to international pressure and honored the court ruling.



# BusinessWorld

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### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Allowance for gov't workers hiked after 13 years

THE BUDGET department increased the allowable expenditure of government officials and employees for participating in seminars, conventions and similar activities.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad on April 22, issued National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 563 to update the guidelines for the participation of government workers in gatherings sponsored by non-government or private institutions.

The updated guidelines raised to P2,000 the daily expenditure that each government worker may incur during an event. The amount is chargeable against public funds.

The allowable cost of participation was last adjusted 13 years ago, with the Budget department raising the daily limit to P1,200 from P900.

"In cases where the convention is held out-of-town, authorized participants may be entitled to travel expenses and allowances as authorized under existing rules and regulations," NBC 563 read.

The DBM further required government personnel to avail of early registration rates to cut costs of participation in conventions, seminars, conferences and the like.

"All expenditures for the purpose shall be subject to the usual budgeting and accounting rules and regulations," NBC 563 read.

The budget circular further maintained the prohibition on charging fees for personal or individual membership in a private organization against government funds.

NBC 563 covers all activities requiring the payment of registration and related fees for the participation of government personnel in conventions, seminars, conferences, symposia and other similar events.

The government allows government officials and employees to participate in such events "as part of the human resource development program of the government, chargeable against government funds." — **Keith Richard D. Mariano**



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### Indeed, US bases' removal in 1992 a 'magnificent' decision

THIS IS in reaction to Hermenegildo C. Cruz's commentary titled, "What's magnificent about withdrawal of US bases?" (Opinion, 4/11/16).

Cruz disputes the view that the Philippine Senate's removal in 1992 of the US bases from our country was magnificent. (The 12 senators, headed by the late senator Jovito Salonga, who voted for the termination of the Philippine-US bases treaty, were later called the "Magnificent 12.")

Cruz rather sees it as an "unmitigated disaster." For three reasons: First, he said, we would still be in possession of the Panatag Shoal and other areas in the West Philippine Sea now occupied by China were the US bases still around; second, we lost more than 80,000 jobs created by the US bases; third, we've ceded in effect our rich fishing grounds to China, gravely affecting the livelihood of our fishers.

We disagree with Cruz. China's sudden claim to the West Philippine Sea has nothing to do with the "absence" of the United States from the country. It has more to do with China's emergence as a global superpower.

The presence of the US bases a

deterrent to China's expansionist incursions? For one, the United States has repeatedly said it will not engage in any military activity against China over the Philippines' claim in the West Philippine Sea. Besides, available data show that the United States has more economic and geopolitical interests in China than in the Philippines. In fact, America owes China a whopping \$1.2 trillion, not to mention its \$65.77-billion direct investments in China and a valuable market for US products. It's simply hard to see that the United States would cross swords with China just to take up the cudgels for the Philippines.

On the jobs supposedly created by the presence of the US bases in the country, what kind of jobs? Recall the time Clark and Subic still hosted the US bases; they became R & R hubs for American soldiers, where 55,000-60,000 prostitutes plied their trade. In fact, Clark and Subic became known globally as centers of prostitution, where Filipino women were being "sold" cheap, with many of them ending up sexually violated with impunity.

To be sure, a large number of Filipino fishers have been denied

access to traditional fishing territories because of Chinese harassment and intimidation. But how is that different each time the United States and the Philippines conduct Balikatan exercises? A fishing ban is imposed every time, to throw a security blanket around participating American soldiers. Which means, the disruption of the fishers' livelihood not just in West Philippine Sea, but also wherever these military exercises are undertaken.

So what was magnificent about the removal of the US bases? Admittedly it has not made us independent from the United States; still, it was a victory for patriotic Filipinos who, until today, are fighting against American control of various aspects—economic, political, cultural—of our life as a people. It showed us that a people's collective will and action are vital elements in their pursuit of independence, a cause we have been fighting for—for centuries.

—SALVADOR FRANCE,  
vice chair,

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang  
Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas,  
convener, Pilipinong Nagkakaisa  
Para sa Soberanya



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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



GENTRI TREE PLANTING ON EARTH DAY CELEBRATION - Cavite 6th district Rep. Luis "Jon Jon" Ferrer IV, General Trias Mayor Antonio Ferrer and Vice Mayor Morit Sison participate in the clean-up drive and tree-planting activities organized by the Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) led by Dr. Renato Escurel (right) in celebration of Earth Day last Saturday at General Trias Sports Park in Bgy. Santiago. Hundreds of volunteers from local government and private sectors joined the activities.

Photo by DENNIS CAPARAS ABRINA

### Cavite nakiisa sa pagdiriwang ng Earth Day

**NOONG** April 23, 2016 ay ipinagdiwang ang Earth Day sa buong Pilipinas. At isa ang lalawigan ng Cavite sa nakiisa sa pagdiriwang na ito.

Second week ng April pa lamang ay nag-umpisa nang ipagdiwang ang Earth Day sa Noveleta sa pamamagitan ng mangrove planting. Ito ay ginanap sa Bgy. San Rafael IV sa tulong ng Coast Guard, Philippine Navy

at private corporations tulad ng Petroleum gas company.

Sa station level ng Bureau of Fire Protection-Noveleta ay ipinagdiwang ang Earth Day sa pamamagitan ng pagtipid ng kuryente, paglilinis sa kapaligiran at pagdidilig ng mga halaman sa paligid.

Sa General Trias naman ay nagkaroon ng tree-planting activity ang Philippine Nation-

al Police na may temang, "Tubig ay Buhay, Huwag Sa-yangin Para Hindi Kula-ngin." Ito ay ginanap sa General Trias Sports Park, Bgy. Santiago, kasama ang mga personnel, field trainees na sumasailalim sa field training program at ang kanilang field training officer. **Dennis Caparas Abrina**, may ulat ni **Ma. Joana Q. Kilap-kilap (OJT)**



# HATAW!

## D'YARYO NG BAYAN

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### ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGY IPINAKIKILALA NG MAPECON

**ITUTULOY** ng Mapecon problems. Umaasa ang kompanya na makukuha nito ang suporta ng publiko. Ito ang inihayag ni noted inventor Gonzalo Catan, Jr., MGCPI executive vice president, nagsabing ang programa ay nabuo kasunod ng mga resulta ng pagsasaliksik kaugnay sa malawakang populasyon ng waterlilies at pagtambak ng putik sa Laguna Lake at Pasig River. Ang waterlilies, ayon sa pagsasalik-

sik, ay maaaring i-convert sa alternative fuel habang ang putik ay maaaring gawing vermicast (organic fertilizer) sa pamamagitan ng patent ng kompanya na Green Charcoal technology.

Ang Green Charcoal technology, paliwanag ni Catan, ay iko-convert ang biowaste sa green charcoal sa porma ng pellets, firelog at briquette na environment friendly. Ito ay activated car-

bon na nabubuo mula sa coconut shell, coal at iba pang forest waste gamit ang Toyota Hi-Ace 4 K engine na tumatakbo sa 100% green charcoal hydrogen fuel, ang pinakamalinis na fuel, na alternatibo sa petroleum na nakasasama sa kapaligiran.

Ang activated carbon ay amorphous carbon na subject sa thermal treatment, kasama ng pag-oxidize ng gas at vapors o mixture ng bath (steam) para mapataas ng adsorptive properties. Ito ay kinasasangkutan ng steam activation sa 900 °C. Ang programa ay tinaguriang "Modern Indigenous Proven Solutions" nakasaad sa position paper na iprinesenta sa DENR. Ito ay kinasasangkutan ng pag-recycle ng waterlilies mula sa Laguna Lake at putik mula sa Pasig river na magsisilbing model sa pagbuhay at paglilinis ng mga lawa sa pamamagitan ng organic vermicomposting gamit ang Green Charcoal technology alinsunod sa Article 1, Section 2C ng Republic Act 9003, ang Solid Waste Management Law.