

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 05 MAY 2016

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

05 MAY 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Clark Freeport Zone under tight watch for illegal wildlife trade



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has placed the Clark Freeport Zone under tight watch following the arrest of a Chinese national for allegedly trying to smuggle several Palawan cobras and pangolins.

Environment Regional Director for Central Luzon Francisco E. Milla Jr. has ordered wildlife law enforcers to coordinate with authorities at the Clark Freeport Zone to intensify the campaign in the former US military base in Pampanga, said Don Guevarra, chief of the DENR-3 Regional Public Affairs Office.

"Although it is an isolated case, Milla has ordered to place Clark under close watch," Guevarra told the BUSINESSMIRROR in an interview, adding that this is the first time that authorities arrested a foreigner engaged in illegal wildlife trade at Clark.

Last week with the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), authorities arrested a certain Peimin Zhang for possession of four pangolins and three cobras.

A case for alleged violation of Sections 27 and 28 of Republic Act (RA) 9147, also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation Act, has been filed against Zhang before the Angeles City Prosecutors' Office, Guevarra said.

The arrest was made on April 28 last month while Zhang was driving on his way out of the Clark Freeport Zone.

Zhang's car, a Mitsubishi Grandis with plate number ZHG-475 bound to Tarlac, yielded the pangolins and cobras, but only two of the cobras survived before being turned over to the DENR Central Luzon Office, Guevarra added.

Quoting a report from the NBI, the DENR Central Luzon issued a news statement stating Ricardo Diaz, regional director of NBI, received a tip from unidentified informant of the planned transport of wildlife. Acting on the tip, the NBI official immediately coordinated with security police.

05 MAY 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Illegal wildlife

The security personnel successfully intercepted the wildlife contraband at the Manuel A. Roxas Avenue-Yokohama intersection where they found a box containing a sack of cobras and pangolins.

Peimin failed to show legal documents that will justify the transport and ownership of the wildlife species.

A verification from the DENR regional office, however, showed that Peimin is not a holder of Certificate of Wildlife Registration, wildlife permit and/or Wildlife Collectors Permit or any other Wildlife Permit.

Wildlife experts from the DENR said pangolin is classified as vulnerable species under the list of terrestrial threatened species stipulated in the DENR Administrative Order 2004-15.

It has become one of the most illegally traded animals in Southeast Asia, with live pangolins fetching up to \$1,000 (P46,000) on the black market. Its meat is valued at \$300 (P13,800) per kilogram, while its scales are traded at a price of \$3,000 (P138,000) per kilogram, according to the DENR Central Luzon.

Citing a report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the DENR Central Luzon revealed that "China has a long history of consuming pangolin as meat and [use] in traditional medicine"

The report added, "Due to continual demand and the decreasing Chinese wild population, in the past few years, pangolin smuggling from Southeast Asia has resulted in great declines in these producing countries' wild populations, as well."

"Pangolins are not endemic to Central Luzon and neither are these cobras. It is possible that these animals may have been smuggled from Palawan, where both species are found natively," explained Fred Sادeste, wildlife enforcement chief of the DENR.

Under the law, collection of wildlife can carry a sentence of imprisonment of six months and one day to one year and a fine of P10,000 to P100,000, if inflicted or undertaken against vulnerable species.

05 MAY 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

7 endangered animals seized from Chinese 'wildlife smuggler'

By RIC SAPNU

SAN FERNANDO, Pam-panga – The regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) took custody of seven endangered animals recently seized from a suspected Chinese wildlife smuggler by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Officials said criminal charges are being filed against Zhang Peimin for violation of the Wildlife Resources Conservation Act.

NBI regional director Ricardo Diaz said Zhang was caught in possession of four pangolins and three Palawan cobras, which are both under the "Red List" of animals threatened with extinction.

Diaz said the NBI received a tip of the planned transport of wildlife by Zhang and they immediately coordinated with the Clark Development security police.

Diaz said the security personnel intercepted Zhang at the intersection of Manuel A. Roxas Avenue-Yokohama where they found a box containing a sack of cobras and pangolins inside his Mitsubishi Grandis van.

Zhang failed to show any documents authorizing him to

transport the wildlife species or any proof of ownership, Diaz said.

The DENR regional office said Zhang is not a holder of Certificate of Wildlife Registration, Wildlife Permit and/or Wildlife Collectors Permit or any other wildlife permit.

The DENR said pangolins are classified as a vulnerable species under the list of terrestrial threatened species.

It has become one of the most illegally traded animals in Southeast Asia, with live pangolins fetching up to \$1,000 in the black market. Its meat is valued at \$300 per kilogram, while its scales are traded at a price of \$3,000 per kilogram.

"Pangolins are not endemic to Central Luzon and neither are these cobras. It is possible that these animals may have been smuggled from Palawan, where both species are found natively," said Fred Sadueste, wildlife enforcement chief of DENR.

Officials said the confiscated cobras and pangolins would be transferred to a suitable wildlife rescue facility where they will be treated and cared for until they are fit to be released back into the wild.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

05 MAY 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Endangered animals seized

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pangasinana — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has taken custody of four pangolins and three Palawan cobras, which were seized during an operation in Clark Freeport Zone.

National Bureau of Investigation Regional Director Ricardo Diaz disclosed that a Chinese suspect, Peimin Zhang was caught in possession of these animals inside a Mitsubishi Grandis with plate number ZHG- 475 bound for Tarlac.

Pangolins and Palawan cobras are under the "Red List" of animals threatened with extinction by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Peimin failed to show legal documents that will justify the transport and ownership of the wildlife species.

"Upon verification from the DENR Regional Office, Peimin is not a holder of Certificate of Wildlife Registration, Wildlife Permit and/ or Wildlife Collectors Permit or any other Wildlife Permit," Diaz said. (Mar T. Supnad)

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

NGCP seeks DENR's blanket permit on tree trimming

Transmission firm National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) is reinforcing its bid for a blanket authority from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) so it can be allowed to carry out tree-cutting or trimming activities on those traversing and affecting its facilities.

The grid operator noted that the DENR-sanctioned permit shall specifically cover the "intentionally and maliciously planted trees along transmission line corridors."

The company stressed "the blanket authority, if issued, will support and help expedite NGCP's efforts in clearing deliberately planted trees underneath transmission lines which cause line outages and power interruptions."

There are already permits issued by the DENR, but NGCP indicated it needs a more comprehensive one to cover other similarly-scathed transmission facility domains.

"Permits are likewise needed for the 83 transmission lines in 79 municipalities throughout the country that remain vulnerable to transmission-related power interruptions," NGCP said. Until now, the company struggles when it comes to access to transmis-

sion facilities with "vegetation" and tree planting issues, primarily if there are "uncooperative landowners" involved.

Caught in such tumultuous situation, the transmission firm-concessionaire would often seek government help in resolving specific concerns, including right-of-way hurdles.

NGCP reiterated that "any and all forms of government support to address violations of line safety clearances, particularly maliciously planted trees, will facilitate the efficient delivery of power transmission services to our customers in Mindanao and the rest of the country."

In several instances, unwanted vegetation and tree planting activities beneath transmission facilities proved detrimental because they have been triggering lamentable power interruptions.

Such had been compounded by the bombing of transmission towers that peaked during the Christmas holidays in 2015.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has in fact indicated that the ROW and security threats to transmission facilities could be a dilemma for the power sector even beyond this year's May elections. (MMV)

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B-6

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Water quality in two rivers now better managed

Two river systems with important cultural heritage value were classified as water quality management areas (WQMAs), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said the designation of two rivers into WQMAs would secure the integrity of these bodies of water.

By virtue of two separate administrative orders signed by Paje on April 18, the Bued River System in Northern Luzon and the Naga River in Camarines Sur have been added to the list of WQMAs now numbering 23.

Paje said that being WQMAs, the sustainable supply of water for areas the two rivers traverse is ensured, and will also "boost local tourism in Baguio and Naga known for their rich cultural and historical heritage."

"Ensuring the water quality of Naga River will help enhance the city as a tourist destination, since it is home of the Peñafrancia fluvial procession," the environment chief said.

He also noted that the preservation of Bued River will safeguard the image of Kennon Road, one of the vital roads that link Baguio City with the towns of Tuba and Itogon in Benguet province, which are major tourist destinations in the north.

A major source of water for agriculture and aquaculture, Bued River runs through 25 barangays in Baguio and the municipalities of Itogon and Tuba before it drains toward Rosario town in

La Union, and the towns of Sison, San Fabian, San Jacinto and Mangaldan in Pangasinan through the historic 30-km Kennon Road.

• According to Paje, the designation of Naga River as WQMA will pave the way for the proposed Naga River Watershed, which covers some 7,686 hectares of drainage area spanning 25 barangays in Naga City and two others in Pili town.

Paje said the WQMA designation aims to beef up protection initiatives of the Naga River Development Council in support of the Naga River Revitalization Project.

Under the Clean Water Act, the DENR, in coordination with the National Water Resources Board, is mandated to designate certain areas as WQMAs using appropriate physiographic units such as watershed, river basins, or water resource regions to effectively enforce its provisions and improve the water quality of water bodies.

The law seeks to provide a decentralized management system for water quality protection and improvement of river systems.

Likewise, the DENR is tasked to create a governing board for each WQMA, which is chaired by a regional director of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau. The governing board serves as a planning, monitoring and coordinating body. It also reviews the WQMA action plan prepared by the EMB.

— Rhodina Villanueva

THE REPORT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1988

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B8

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Fishackathon: Leveraging technology to protect fisheries and marine resources

Over 10 percent of the world's population depends on fisheries and agriculture for their livelihood and for many people, fish is a major source of protein in their diet. Yet, these vital resources are continuously threatened by overfishing, illegal fishing, climate change, water pollution, and other dangers to marine life.

The situation prompted the US government to come out with Fishackathon in 2014 to tap the expertise of tech-savvy individuals through a two-day coding marathon aimed at developing apps that could benefit sustainable fisheries and the communities that they support.

From just a handful of US cities during its first year, Fishackathon 2016 has expanded to 42 cities in six continents, which include Manila given that the issue is very relevant to an island nation like the Philippines.

"The fish that the people rely on



Courtesy of fishackathon.com

for food, the coastal areas which are so vulnerable to typhoons and water surges, eco-tourism, climate change, effects of pollution to coral reefs – these are extremely important to the Philippines and that's why we want to use your talent to help address these con-

cerns. We know firsthand the efficiency and innovation that the tech sector can bring to the table in approaching one of the world's biggest problems," US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg told the participants during his opening remarks at Fishackathon

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B8

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Fishackthon: Leveraging technology to protect fisheries and marine resources

Manila hosted by Globe Telecom over the weekend.

On the other hand, Glenn Estrella, Globe Vice President for Digital Ventures, rallied everyone to make a difference both for the Philippines and the world even as he noted that Globe strongly supports the use of technology in saving and preserving the environment.

"Like any innovation, technology and marine protection are two different ideas that come together. Greater ideas are born from the joining of the minds. I witnessed how the telecommunications industry evolve and it is very exciting to see what we can do to improve everyone's lives. This hackathon is not about popularity or how many people will use the app but it is about solving a problem," said Estrella. "We would like to see more partnerships and events on other grassroots topics. We need more activities that

touch more people."

Globe is currently very active in its sustainability campaign to create a #WonderfulPH through positive societal impact with the use of modern technology.

It has ongoing eco-tourism partnerships with PUSOD on protection and enhancement of Taal Lake in Batangas ecosystem; Save Philippine Seas on protection of thresher sharks through engagement and education of community stakeholders in Malapascua, Cebu; Sangkalikasan Producers Cooperative on the establishment of an environment hotline center in Boracay, Malay, Aklan; and Casa San Miguel on livelihood opportunities for those living along the coastal barangays of San Antonio, Zambales.

Fishackathon 2016 Manila was a joint effort by the US Embassy Manila, US Agency for International Development, mobile content marketing firm Tone, and Globe Telecom. (PNA)

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

05 MAY 2016

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B6

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



This undated handout photo released last April 20 by XL Catlin Seaview Survey shows a turtle swimming over bleached coral at Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef. Australia's iconic Great Barrier Reef is suffering its worst coral bleaching ever recorded with 93 percent impacted, scientists said as they revealed the phenomenon was also hitting the other side of the country.

AFP

05 MAY 2016

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Malaya

DATE

B2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Northern Samar, Leyte LGUs told to close down 3 dumpsites

BY PETER J.G. TABINGO

THE Environmental Ombudsman has compelled local government executives in Northern Samar and Leyte provinces to close down three open dumpsites after issuing warnings about possible legal action for violations of RA 9003 or the National Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Use of the dumpsites in the municipalities of Hindang and Bato in Leyte and Catarman in Northern Samar was permanently stopped following a dialogue between the investigating team and town officials.

A team of investigators and prosecutors dispatched by the Office of the Ombudsman met with 40 LGU officials last week at the Leyte Normal University in

Tacloban City to remind them of prohibited acts under RA 9003.

The public hearing highlighted the weeklong activities of the Environmental Ombudsman Team in Eastern Visayas capped by the public forum to assess the compliance of local governments with the Solid Waste Management Act.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and civil society organizations joined the Ombudsman panel in the activity aimed at encouraging full compliance and cooperation by LGUs.

The team also participated in an experiential training for environmental action organized by Ramon Magsaysay Awardee and environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr. in Bantayan Island, Cebu.

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

05 MAY 2016

DATE

3
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

3 open dumpsites ordered closed

By Alvin Murcia

Three open dumpsites were closed in municipalities of Hindang and Bato, Leyte, and the municipality of Catarman for violation of environmental law.

The Ombudsman Environmental Team of Investigators and Prosecutors, in an open public hearing held at the Leyte Normal University in Tacloban City last week, successfully caused the closure of the said dumpsites.

Close to 40 officials from Leyte and Catarman attended the investigation for violation of the National Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003).

The public hearing highlighted the weeklong activities of the Environmental Ombudsman Team capped by the public forum to assess the compliance of local governments with the Solid Waste

Management law.

The event was spearheaded by the Office of the Ombudsman, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and civil society organizations.

The team also participated in an experiential training for environmental action organized by Ramon Magsaysay Awardee and world-renowned environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr. in Bantayan Island, Cebu.

Participants included officials from the Ombudsman, DENR, international environmental lawyers, NGO workers, green architects, environmental planners and student interns under the auspices of Sea and Earth Advocates of Culture, Arts and Music for the Planet (SEA CAMP) headed by Oposa.

Coinciding with the celebration of Earth Day, participants

witnessed the filing of a petition proposing to divide all roads in Sta. Fe town in Bantayan by half — one half for motor vehicles and the other half for walkways and bike lanes. Officials also assisted in installing “fish condominiums” made of used fish nets and cement into the sea to provide shelter for fish and other marine life and replace the corals that were damaged by cyanide fishing and explosives, aggravated by typhoon “Yolanda.”

Attendees also closed-off from all human entry a freshwater wetland dedicated as a strictly protected bird sanctuary.

The Environmental Ombudsman Team will monitor post-closure activities of the LGUs concerned and ensure that the provisions of Republic Act 9003 and other environmental laws are fully implemented.



05 MAY 2016

DATE

4/9

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Leyte, N. Samar dumps ordered closed

The Office of the Ombudsman's environmental team announced yesterday the closure of three open dumps in Leyte and Northern Samar.

The closure order on the dumps in Hindang and Bato

towns in Leyte and Cataraman in Northern Samar was issued after a public hearing held at the Leyte Normal University in Tacloban City last week.

Close to 40 provincial offi-

cials attended the hearing on alleged violations of Republic Act 9003 or the National Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

The ombudsman said the environmental ombudsman team would monitor post-

closure activities of the concerned local government units and ensure that the provisions of Republic Act 9003 and other environmental laws are enforced.

- Michael Punongbayan



05 MAY 2016

DATE

7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC CON

Aquino signs bill creating 'green jobs'

By Efren Montano

TIVES SERVICE

PRESIDENT Benigno S. Aquino III has signed into law the bill promoting the creation of "green jobs" or employment that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment, be it in the agriculture, industry or services sector.

The President signed last April 29 Republic Act No. 10771 or the "Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016", which shall apply to establishments engaged in the production, manufacturing, processing, repacking, assembly, or sale of goods and/or services, including service-oriented enterprises.

The law also grants incentives to encourage business enterprises to generate and sustain green jobs, as certified by the Climate Change Commission.

The Department of Finance shall administer the granting of incentives, such as "special deduction from the taxable income equivalent to 50 percent of the total expenses for skills training and research development expenses which is over and above the allowable ordinary and necessary business deductions for said expenses under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended; and tax and duty free importation of capital equipment, provided that the capital equipment is actually, directly and exclusively used in the promotion of green jobs of the business enterprise".

According to the Act, it is the declared policy of the State to affirm labor as a primary social economic force in promoting sustainable development; afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full and productive employment and equality of employment opportunities for all; and promote the rights of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Section 2 of the Act provides that the State shall identify needed skills, develop training programs, and train and certify workers for jobs in a range of industries that produce goods and render services for the benefit of the environment, conserve natural resources for the future generation, and ensure the sustainable development of the country and its transition into a green economy.

"In recognition of the participation of individuals and business enterprises in jobs creation, the State shall provide incentives therefor," the section reads.

Republic Act No. 10771 also mandates the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) to coordinate with other government agencies in formulating a National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan on the development, enhancement and utilization of the labor force, both in the private and public sectors.

The plan shall have the primary objective of enabling and sustaining the transition into a green economy and the generation of green jobs towards more employment and equal opportunities and the promotion of social justice and workers' welfare.

It shall include programs, projects, and activities pertaining to basic, higher and technical-vocational education and training, database that identifies and links green job opportunities with private and public entities, and information on knowledge and skill requirements of a green economy.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

05 MAY 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

B8
PI

STRAT

UN chief names choices for top UN environments posts

VER HALF

SERVICE

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – The newly-appointed head of the UN environment agency said Tuesday he wants to change the organization to relate more to the average person and plans to further engage the private sector to achieve global environmental goals.

Erik Solheim, Norway's former environment minister, said he will take over as executive director of the United Nations Environment Program, known as UNEP, succeeding Achim Steiner, "sometime in the summer."

"To be successful in the UN, I think we also need to change our ways," Solheim said in a telephone interview. "Far too often people are speaking in very bureaucratic language and using lots of acronyms that people in the streets of Helsinki or Shanghai cannot understand and relate to."

"Hopefully I can inspire people to relate more to the average man. Unless you can make the average Finn, Chinese or South African engage with the environment you get nowhere. So we need to change our language into a more emotional, more scientific and less bureaucratic mode," he said.

Solheim, 61, currently heads the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's committee on development assistance based in Paris, and serves as UNEP's special envoy for environment, conflict and disaster.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced Solheim's appointment Tuesday and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's intention to appoint Mexican ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano for the UN's top post to tackle climate change — as executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or UNFCCC.

The appointment of Espinosa, a career diplomat who has been Mexico's ambassador to Germany since 2012 and was foreign affairs secretary from 2006 to 2012, needs final approval from the convention's mem-

ber nations. She would replace Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica.

Solheim said Nairobi-based UNEP, which calls itself "the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda," has achieved "quite a lot," but that more can be done.

"We need much stronger protection of species and ecosystems ... all the way from the big iconic animals like elephants and polar bears and tigers down to the bees and butterflies," he told the AP. "It's a huge undertaking but I think with a can-do, optimistic attitude we can achieve a lot. In the end it's an issue of political will."

Solheim said the reason the world's nations reached a climate agreement in Paris in December "was because businesses came with the attitude that there's a lot of profits, money, to be made from climate agenda, renewable energies, and change in agriculture."

"Basically, no one can change the world alone. You can only do it with partnerships, with other parts of the private sector, with governments and the World Bank," he said, adding that he was encouraged by the interest displayed by the business sector at the Paris conference.

As for Espinosa, Dujarric said she has more than 30 years of experience at the highest levels in international relations, specializing in climate change, sustainable development, global governance and human rights.

She would head the secretariat that supports the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — the international treaty agreed upon at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro that set up negotiations for further treaties to try to control the rise of greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

The convention of nearly 200 countries produced the landmark Paris climate agreement last December that has been signed by 177 nations or parties.

05 MAY 2016

DATE

03

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Govt allocates P5.08B for El Niño mitigation

By MARY GRACE C. PADIN [@_enren](#)

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Wednesday it has set aside a total of P5.08 billion from 2015 up to the second half of 2016 to help farmers cope with the drought caused by El Niño.

Data from the DA showed that the agency used P2.78 billion to bankroll El Niño interventions last year. The DA has also set aside nearly P2.3 billion for El Niño mitigation from January to June.

About P3.86 billion of the DA's total expenses came from its regular funds, while P451.65 million was sourced from its quick-response fund.

The DA is seeking P769.8 million from the national government. The amount was endorsed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to the Office of the President on April 19.

The agency said the amount will be used to provide seeds and farm inputs to El Niño-affected farmers and to conduct cloud-seeding operations.

Data from the DA showed El Niño and pests destroyed a total of 565,752 metric tons (MT), valued at P8.02 billion in the first four months of the year.

P2.78B

The amount of El Niño fund used by the DA in 2015

From January 1 to April 15, data from the DA showed that El Niño alone damaged 516,099 MT of crops, valued at P6.35 billion. The DA said 183,201 farmers cultivating 194,494.48 hectares of land were affected by the prolonged dry spell.

The three regions that suffered the brunt of El Niño were Region 10 in Mindanao, which recorded losses amounting to P2.46 billion; Western Visayas or Region 6, P1.97 billion; and Region 12, P737.36 million.

Since February 2015, farmers have already incurred losses totaling P9.78 billion due to El Niño.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1908

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

05 MAY 2016

DATE

7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Cebu reports 7 heat stroke deaths amid lingering El Niño

CEBU CITY (PNA) – The Cebu Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) has reported seven heat-related deaths in the province as the El Niño weather phenomenon lingers.

Baltazar Tribunalo, Cebu PDRRMO head, bared this in a press conference on the ill effects of the El Niño in Cebu's crops and livestock.

Tribunalo said the El Niño already damaged ₱227.1 million worth of crops and livestock.

But the El Niño has also taken its toll on some residents, with at least seven deaths reported due to heat stroke.

Cebu PDRRMO training head Eric Lopez said the records of the Cebu Provincial Rapid Assessment Team

(CPRAT) showed that the fatalities are from Daanbantayan and San Remigio towns.

Daanbantayan Mayor Augusto Corro said he is still verifying the deaths in his town.

Cebu Provincial Health Office (PHO) head Cynthia Genosolango believes that these are heat stroke-related deaths.

Genosolango said her office is still checking on the persons who died as they have yet to receive reports from the 16 district and provincial hospitals.

She urged residents to drink plenty of liquids to prevent heat stroke.

She said the early signs of heat stroke are thirst, dizziness, seizures and general discomfort.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DATE

7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Boracay's clean and green drive gets private sector boost

By TARA YAP

BORACAY ISLAND – The campaign for responsible and sustainable tourism got an added boost here during the long Labor Day weekend.

During that period, volunteers trooped to the famed white sand beachfront to clear the areas of heaps, bits and pieces of trash that accumulated after the “LaBoracay” festivity, a series of parties in the island.

Global-Estate Resorts Inc., (GERI), a subsidiary of property developer Megaworld Corp., was one of the private sector groups that spearheaded a beach clean-up drive.

“We all need to do our fair share in taking care of this island to continue enjoying its beauty,” said Saki Mirabueno, marketing manager of Boracay Newcoast.

According to Regie Samar of the Boracay Solid Waste Action Team, there has been marked improvement in disposing the trash of the more than

1 million tourists flocking to Boracay annually.

Megaworld also donated 120 trash bins to the local government of Malay.

These trash cans are placed in front of business establishments along the stretch of Boracay's white beach.

Harold Geronimo, Megaworld's director for marketing and communications, noted how some tourists, especially foreigners, have often wondered where to throw their trash since there were no trash receptacles.

Anavic Malicse, a cashier in one of the restaurants in the island, said the trash cans donated by Megaworld can curb the problem of littering along the white sand beach.

The donated trash cans are two types — one for biodegradable and the other for non-biodegradable.

“We are also campaigning for proper waste segregation,” Geronimo added.

An estimated 50,000 foreign and domestic tourists flocked to Boracay Island during Labor Day weekend.

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B6

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

Aurora vulnerable to sea rise – climate change expert

BALER, Aurora – This coastal town located in a horseshoe-shaped valley overlooking the Pacific Ocean is susceptible to rising sea level due to climate change.

The warning was raised by Jonathan Moises Jadloc, chairman of the climate change committee of the Philippine College of Physicians Foundation (PCPF), who said that the province was hit by a tsunami that wiped out 500 families in 1735.

"Aurora is definitely vulnerable to a rise in sea level, particularly as it lies within the Pacific Ocean. We have seen it during Typhoons Lando and Sendong," Jadloc said, adding that a similar threat is faced by both Manila and Cebu.

He said a one-meter rise in sea level could engulf 112,000 hectares and sink Manila and half of Cebu.

Citing a study by the National Astronomical Service Agency (NASA), Jadloc said a 6.7-inch rise in sea level occurs every 100 years.

Jadloc and his colleagues from the PCPF led the planting of 1,500 mangrove saplings with local fisher folk, students and environmentalists along the coastline of the fish port in Sitio Cemento, Barangay Zabali recently to strengthen its shore and set up a barrier against tsunami and storm surges in the face of global warming.

Aside from serving as buffer against storm surge, mangrove forests are a spawning ground and habitat for marine animals and migratory birds.

The activity was part of the climate change caravan, held quarterly by the PCPF that also supports and pushes for laws that advocate environmental protection. The foundation was formed by the PCP, an umbrella organization of internists in the country founded in 1963.

From 20 pioneering members, it now has 5,000 affiliate members of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) with 22 regional chapters, eight of them in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Apart from climate change issues, the PCPF's advocacies include healthy lifestyle, exercise and anti-smoking.

Jadloc said global warming has been the primary cause of sea level rise abetted by melting ice and glaciers. He said that over the last century, sea level has risen twice as fast as in the previous 100 years.

Last March, Environment Secretary Ramon Paje revealed that sea levels at the country's shores have risen more than 14 millimeters per year, or five times more than the global average of only three millimeters per year.

Coastal communities are at risk of higher sea levels due to more frequent and destructive storm surges during the onslaught of typhoons.

"If Greenland's ice sheets were to melt completely, sea level all over the world will increase by 16 to 23 feet or by five to seven meters," Jadloc said.

Jadloc said the Pacific Ocean, whose weather system swarms over Aurora and this capital town, is where the Great Conveyor Belt runs through, referring to a current that brings warm water to the Atlantic Ocean.

This is believed to also warm Europe during winter to curb falling temperatures and the worsening cold.

"However, with more sea ice and glaciers melting, the salinity and acidity of the water change in this area. While it is being impressed that this might change the current, scientists are looking that somehow, this shouldn't cause deadly freezing temperatures in Europe," he said.

Jadloc told environmentalists here to help increase food production by returning moisture and nutrients to the soil and add moisture to the air, which can increase rainfall and help combat famine-producing drought.

He said that protecting nature would provide food, medicine, wood products among others, adding that clean air for the community will help prevent climate change and global warming.

Jadloc said since September 2015, the PCPF has been delivering lectures on climate to college students, medics, residents, consultants and church laity.

– Manny Galvez

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B-6

PAGE

✓
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PCCI questions gov't gas emission reduction goal

By Amy R. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) yesterday warned that the government's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent by 2030 may put undue pressure on local industries and strain the growth of the economy.

In a letter to Climate Change Commissioner Emmanuel de Guzman, PCCI president George T. Barcelon said that while the chamber supported the government's initiatives to cut carbon emissions and promote business resiliency and environmental sustainability, the group was concerned of the possible toll of this "high target" on local industries, consumers and the economy.

"We are very much concerned on how this 70 percent commitment

will impact on industries, especially those in the manufacturing sector and the small and medium enterprises (SMEs)," Barcelon said.

Barcelon said a 70 percent greenhouse gas emissions reduction within a 30-year period might be "counterproductive" for many companies. As it is, the 40-percent reduction supported by the private sector was deemed the threshold by which industries could reduce their carbon emission.

"If the interventions to reach a 70 percent reduction would be capital-intensive, enterprises and industries would be under pressure to incur higher operational costs and consumers would also be paying higher for goods and services. The target annual economic growth of 6.5 percent in the next few years would be compromised with the

implementation of capital-intensive interventions," the PCCI chief said in a statement issued yesterday.

With Philippine manufacturing only starting to revive, the measures that would be adopted must balance the need to sustain economic growth with the need to protect the environment, he said.

The Philippines' plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions formed part of its commitment under the international climate accord signed in New York last month. This agreement was adopted by 196 countries that participated in the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in France in December last year.

The country's emission reduction efforts were expected to come from several sectors including energy, transport, waste and forestry.

The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PCCI: PH climate pledge target will hurt economy

Goal to cut 70% of emissions by 2030 to drive up business costs, prices

BY KRISTYN NIKI M. LAZO
REPORTER

THE Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business group, said the Philippines' commitment to reduce its greenhouse gases by 70 percent by 2030 is "too high" to meet for industries, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as well as consumers.

In a letter to Climate Change Commissioner Emmanuel de Guzman, PCCI President George T. Barcelon wrote that the chamber supports the government initiatives to cut carbon emissions and sustain a clean business environment, but the plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent—with the year 2000 as baseline year—could affect the growth of the economy.

Barcelon said the Climate Change Commission should indicate holistic

and specific mitigation options to meet the 70 percent reduction target, aside from the 40 percent reduction threshold already supported by the private sector and used as the benchmark for industries' carbon reduction initiatives.

"We are very much concerned about how this 70 percent commitment will impact industries, especially those in the manufacturing sector and the small and medium enterprises [SMEs]," Barcelon said.

The PCCI president said capital-

intensive measures to meet the target would cause businesses to incur higher operational costs, which would be passed on to consumers through higher prices of goods and services.

The Philippines is targeting an average of 6 percent to 8 percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) yearly for the next several years, but this can be compromised, Barcelon said, if the goal to reduce gas emissions by 70 percent does require capital-intensive steps.

Barcelon said appropriate measures should be adopted to balance the need to sustain the economic growth and the need to protect the environment, especially in view of promising signs of the rise of the country's manufacturing sector.

In December last year, the Philippines committed to a 70-percent reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 as part of the Paris COP 21 Agreement on climate change mitigation.

05 MAY 2016

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

DATE

PAGE C-2

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

COOL CARS FOR A COOLER EARTH

BY EDGARDO S. TUGADE

The mitigation and slowing down of global warming caused by climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is a main purpose for the observance of Earth Hour and Earth Day. The Paris Agreement obliges nations to cut down their greenhouse emissions by 70 percent. According to studies, 80 percent of air pollution in the Philippines comes from transport vehicles, and only 20 percent comes from industries.

One kind of car does not only reduce smoke emissions but eliminates them altogether. It's one cool car that helps cool the earth.

When the Philippines again participated in the celebration of Earth Hour last March 19, lights as usual were switched off for one hour to promote the reduction of carbon emissions. World Wildlife Fund, the organizer of the event at the Quezon City Memorial Circle, intended the event to be a showcase of climate solutions, featuring renewable sources of energy.

As a partner company for Earth Hour, BEMAC Electric Transport Philippines presented its very own electric tricycles as one solution to climate change. BEMAC's eTrikes provided the participants free rides around the Circle to raise awareness of eTrikes as a cleaner alternative to conventional transport.

During the 5th Electric Vehicle Summit at the Meralco Multi-Purpose Hall

last April 14-15, a Toyota Vios and a Kia Picanto converted into EVs were displayed, demonstrating the wide possibilities for potential investors. Electronic Vehicle Association of the Philippines president Rommel Juan said the company that converted them was Le Guider International. In an interview with *The Standard*, Le Guider president Mariano Nocum Jr. said they really wanted to "mass produce [their] own brand of EVs for Filipinos and convert for volume." Nocum added that they "have not formally approached Toyota and Kia but are looking for a partner."

According to Juan, the Department of Energy and the Asian Development Bank have awarded the initial order of 3,000 eTrikes to BEMAC. "This is just for pilot testing a projected program quantity of 100,000 eTrikes over the next few years."

Juan further said that some eTrike manufacturers like BEMAC, Kea Industrial, Tojo Motors and PhUV have jacked up production outputs for 2016. EVs ply routes at the Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the Philippines campuses, Bacoar in Cavite, Filinvest Alabang (18 eJeeps), the local government of Muntinlupa, Ayala Alabang (32 eJeeps), the local government of Mandaluyong (500 eTrikes), the City of Manila, Quezon City

The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

05 MAY 2016

DATE

C-2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2

Cool cars for a cooler earth

and even in the island paradise of Boracay (150 eTrikes). The fares are controlled by local governments.

Aside from clean fuel, another advantage of EVs for public transport is their bigger capacity that translates to higher income for drivers and operators. eTrikes can be six-seaters while eJeeps can be 21-seaters.

"Green EV financing packages are available from the Development Bank of the Philippines, Landbank of the Philippines, Orix Metro, CARD, Negosyong Pinoy and Proximity Funding, among others. In fact, DBP has just granted a green loan to Tojo Motors. CTI-PFAN can also match EV companies with funding institutions, whether public or private. Our industry is in much need of funding to finance capital expenditures, operating expenses and retail financing," Juan explained.

To sell EVs for mass transport, the industry must offer a complete mass transport solution package. This would include battery charging and swapping stations, an experienced fleet transport operator, a financing or leasing company, a reliable after-sales service provider and maybe a corporate social responsibility advocacy arm to promote EV technology and its use nationwide.

Thus, the EVAP built the necessary infrastructure such as battery charging

and swapping stations. Meralco through MServ put up one at the Ateneo campus. Kea pilot tested an off-site eTrike charging station in Bacoor, Cavite. The group allied with battery suppliers such as Motolite and Trojan, with charger manufacturers such as Delta Q, and with controller (the "brain" of the EV) manufacturers such as Sevcon.

Juan said, "We wish government [would] formulate the standards for the electric vehicle, its parts and for testing. Then maybe they could start putting in place testing facilities and manpower training centers. We have tried our best to have an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incentive Bill passed into law. This could have provided all players in the local EV industry with fiscal and non-fiscal incentives."

Juan also disclosed that "the EVAP champion in the Upper House is Sen. Bam Aquino. With the Metro Express of the Villar Group going into EVs, Sen. Cynthia Villar became another partner. It is not just coincidental that our biggest comrade in Congress is her son, Rep. Mark Villar."

At the EV Summit, Diwa Partylist Rep. Emmeline Villar gave the keynote speech and mentioned other proposed perks to EV owners such as a special lane for them and exemption from the number coding scheme.

This cool solution should get a warm reception in the next Congress.



05 MAY 2016

DATE

8/6

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Indigenous stories help fill climate change data gaps

NEW YORK – Canadian scientists have collected stories from more than 90,000 people whose traditional ways of life rely on nature, in an effort to capture signs of climate change where weather stations are absent.

Their findings, published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, fill a knowledge gap in climate change science, which is dominated by data and computer models, said the six researchers from Simon Fraser University.

Western climate data tends to be absent from places like Central Africa, Central America and the Hi-

malayas, Dana Lepofsky, co-author of the paper, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "But we have some people data."

In all, the researchers gathered observations covering 137 countries that were contained in more than 1,000 published studies.

Their approach to studying climate change reflects an emerging trend among Western researchers to tap into climate knowledge recorded by people who have subsisted off the land and oceans, often for lifetimes or generations, noted Lepofsky.

"You can't look at indigenous

people, who are so in tune with their specific places, without hearing about changes in the environment today," said Lepofsky.

Among a trove of observations – whose origins ranged from Crow tribe hunters in Montana to farmers in Iran – the researchers found some 70 percent of those interviewed had witnessed changes in seasons, rainfall patterns and temperature.

In those places, farmers and others with close ties to the land and sea witnessed climatic changes because these had disrupted ancestral farming, food-gathering or cultural

practices.

Sweden's Sami herders, for instance, said they were abandoning traditional ways due to changes in ice formation and weather.

In Bangladesh, an upsurge of punishing windy and stormy days was forcing some fishermen to moor their boats rather than set out to sea, the study said.

And in Canada's remote Nunavut, an Inuit community suspected the grizzly habitat was changing when they noticed the bears roaming in areas where they had not been seen before.

The observations, mostly collected

from indigenous people, generally align with data and models developed to predict changes in the climate.

But the researchers hope they add layers of nuance that could guide policy on how to adjust to climate shifts going forward.

"It's not just observations of climate change but people's adaptations (to climate change) too that were compiled," Lepofsky said. "Ways that people are diversifying crops – all kinds of things people are doing that are working."

– Reuters

The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Editorial

Minding the ramparts of government amid election uncertainty

A MIDST the election uncertainty – Who will emerge victorious in Monday's balloting? And how extensively will the victor alter the *status quo* in the government bureaucracy? – we want to stress to those in the government service and the citizenry that it is vital that the daily business of government is effectively discharged.

As important, the vigil over the coffers of government offices must not relax.

Because of the elections, and the expected transition to a new administration, we find ourselves today at an awkward time when the normal processes of governance are in a state of suspended animation.

We find it necessary to issue this warning and reminder, because most of the department secretaries and agency chiefs have become partisans in these elections. They are bound with President Aquino's declared desire for continuity of his policies and programs in the next administration. He has his preferred candidates in the election. And he desires that his Cabinet members do their utmost to help his candidates win.

It is not lost on the public that Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, Jr. has emerged as the campaign manager or deputy campaign manager of Mar Roxas in this election. And he has plainly structured the budget and programmed the budget releases in such a way that favors the Roxas candidacy.

It is also well known that Edwin Lacierda is no longer speaking for President Aquino. He speaks and campaigns now for Roxas.

There are others in the administration who are carrying out their own partisan activities for their chosen candidates.

It is not illegal for the President and Cabinet members to support the candidates they like in the elections. What is prohibited by law and is outright against the law is electioneering by an active member of the government service – and the use of government assets and resources for electioneering purposes.

It is not a crime for members of the notorious Hyatt 10 to lobby for the retention of their choice posts. The incoming President must decide for himself or herself whether to go to bed with them.

Regardless of the exigencies and uncertainties of the moment, the business of the nation must move forward. Government cannot afford to stand still. Public services must be provided. The needs of citizens must be attended to. Law and order must be maintained. Standing rules and regulations must be enforced and observed.

The nation has permanent interests that must be served by both the incumbent and incoming administrations.

Government managers and their deputies cannot afford to be distracted from their duties and responsibilities. While many of them have prepared themselves for the possibility of departure, they must ensure that organizations are ship-shape for the delivery of public services and the transition to a new order. Only the leech-like will harbor hopes of hanging on to their positions.

It is the responsibility of department secretaries and agency chiefs to prepare their staffs and their organizations for the inevitable transition.

When the time comes, they should be in a position to brief their designated successors rationally and coherently on the state of the organization and the vital services that it provides and the policies that it is implementing.

Some people may have difficulty grasping this important point: The continuity of the government service is different from the continuity of a governing administration.

The government service ideally should be abiding, almost permanent, assuring the nation and the public uninterrupted service in the vital needs of national life.

A governing administration has a temporal life. Its life ends when the term of a sitting President ends.

05 MAY 2016

DATE

B3

PAGE

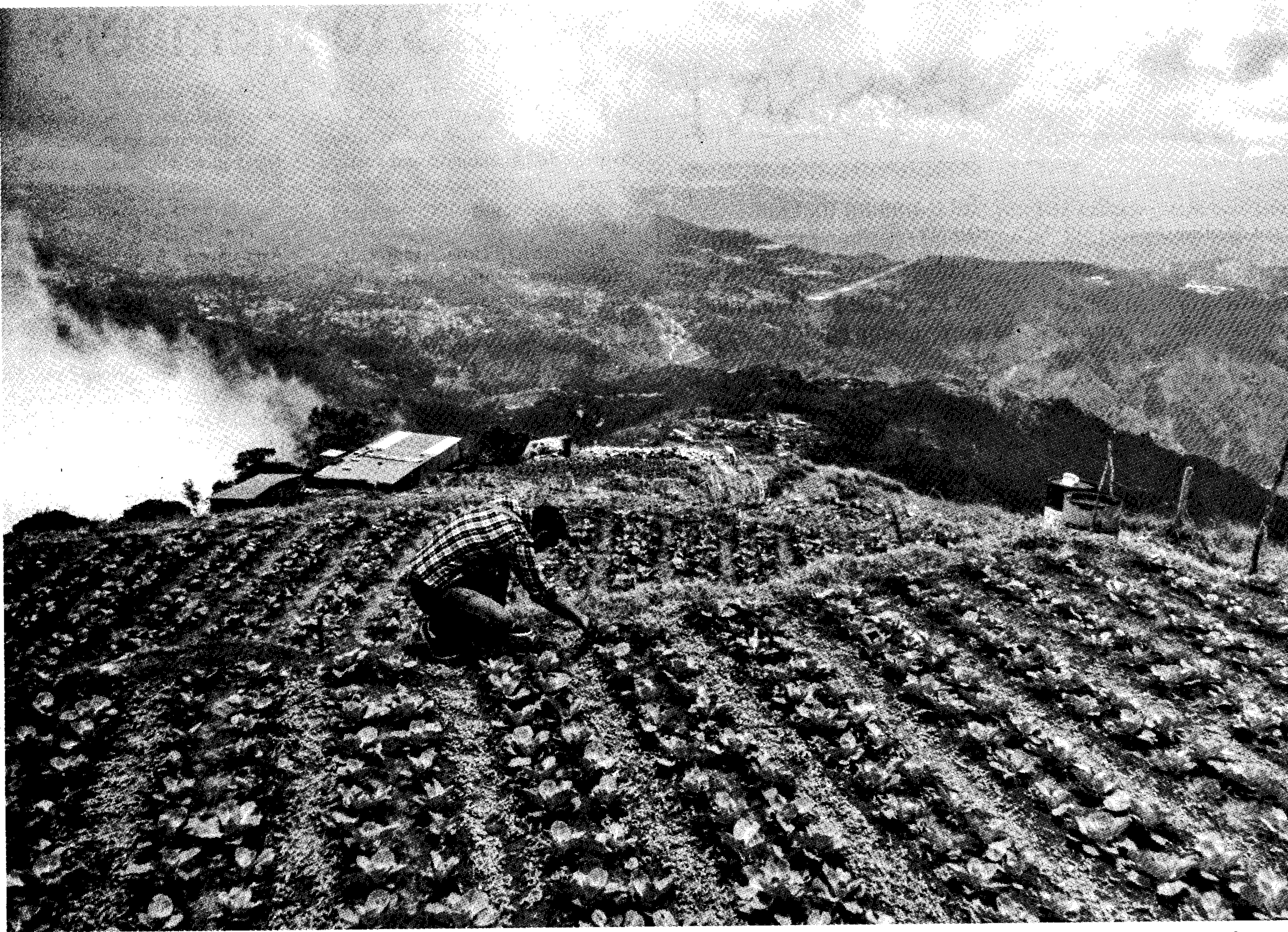
BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



ORGANIC FARM INSPECTOR Agriculturist and research specialist Maxwel Ogoy inspects the Mount Cabuyao Highland Vegetable Plantation to determine whether farmers use the right amount of organic fertilizer and pesticides. MAU VICTA