

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 21 OCT 2016

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR PLANS TO BOOST INCOMES, ECOLOGY IN POOR AREAS

By Jaymee T. Gamil
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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will transform 29 marginalized communities into "income-generating sites" through its area management program (AMP).

"The AMP will provide alternative sources of livelihood that would promote the preservation of the environment and natural resources," Environment Secretary Gina Lopez said in a statement yesterday.

The livelihood opportunities will be based on an area's available resources as well as its needs and requirements.

Lopez cited as models ecotourism zones like the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City and the community-run Ugong Rock in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan province.

Priority zones

Of the 29 priority areas, 13 are located in Luzon: Chico River and Mt. Pulag in the Cordillera Administrative Region; Zambales; Laur in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija; Sierra Madre in Cagayan; Sierra Madre in Nueva Ecija; Kaliwa Watershed in Marikina.

The six sites in the Visayas are the provinces of Guimaras, Antique, Samar, Bohol, Cebu, and the city of Iloilo.

The 10 sites in Mindanao are Sarangani, Caraga-Cantilan, South Upi, Marilog, Mt. Hamiguitan/Mati, Talainog in Davao del Norte, Rajah Buayan, Dinagat Island, Tawi-tawi and Lanao del Sur.

Livelihood activities

The DENR identified as possible livelihood activities hardwood and fruit tree planting, coffee processing and trading, bamboo propagation, soft broom production, woodcraft and furniture manufacturing from gmelina lumber, and bamboo or tiger grass farming.

In a press conference last week, Lopez said the DENR will also be establishing the area management program in communities with mining sites.

The AMP will "regulate" the required Social Development and Management Program funds of the mining companies.

Changing policies

"We have Social Development and Management Program funds, which is 1.5 percent of [mining companies'] operating costs ... What they do is they give this to the host community. I want to change that," Lopez said.

"We're going to change the policy. We will have public consultation ... That fund will be regulated by the area management program of the DENR in consultation with the local government unit and mining companies," Lopez said.

"I know if you use money

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DENR identifies 29 priority areas for community-development program

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has identified 29 priority areas for development, through the agency's Area Management Program (AMP), to boost government efforts in fighting hunger and poverty in the countryside.

Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez said the DENR aims to transform the areas into "income-generating sites" to improve the lives of the people in communities.

Lopez made known about the program during a news conference last week, where she highlighted her managerial skills in sustainable development, citing the experience of La Mesa Eco Park, which is now earning P40 million a year.

She also cited as an example the success in transforming Ugong Rock and Iwahig Firefly Watching in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, as models of AMP that is anchored on protecting the environment and conserving biological diversity.

Lopez stressed she wanted to

work with mining companies in promoting AMP, as well, adding that she also wants mining companies to spend their Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) funds wisely, with the help of AMP managers working hand in hand with various stakeholders.

Lopez added she is also mulling over the amendment of the implementing rules and regulation (IRR) of the SDMP so as to expand its coverage, going beyond host communities of mining companies for greater economic impact.

Under the SDMP, mining companies are mandated to spend 1.5 percent of their total operating cost to various programs and projects identified by host communities. In amending the IRR of the SDMP, Lopez said she wants the DENR, the local government units (LGUs), and community-based organizations to work with mining companies in crafting a plan that would make livelihood sustainable even after mining companies have left an area.

In a news statement, Lopez said the AMP will provide alternative



LOPEZ

sources of livelihood that promote the preservation of the environment and natural resources, the same way the La Mesa Eco Park was transformed into an income-generating park, which continue to attract local tourists.

According to Lopez, the 29 priority areas, 13 are in Luzon, six in the Visayas and 10 in Mindanao.

The AMP areas in Luzon are Chico River and Mount Pulag in the Cordillera Administrative Region; Zambales; Laur in Pantabangan,

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*DENR identifies 29 priority areas for
community - development program*

Nueva Ecija; Sierra Madre in Cagayan; Sierra Madre in Nueva Ecija; Kaliwa Watershed in Marikina and Sierra Madre; Batangas Coastline and Verde Passage; Laguna Lake; Palawan; Sibuyan Island; Romblon; Occidental and Oriental Mindoro; and Sorsogon.

The priority areas in the Visayas are the provinces of Guimaras, Antique, Samar, Bohol and Cebu, and the city of Iloilo.

Sarangani, Caraga-Cantilan, South Upi, Marilog, Mt. Hamiguitan/Mati, Talaingog in Davao del Norte, Rajah Buayan, Dinagat Island, Tawi-Tawi and Lanao del Sur make up the areas in Mindanao.

According to the DENR chief, the areas will be evaluated based on available resources, as well as needs and requirements, which will become the basis in determining possible livelihood opportunities similar to those in established ecotourism zones.

Following the convergence model, the civil society, academe, business sector, concerned government agencies and the community will be brought together to help build the model development areas.

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DENR to unveil eco-friendly livelihood program PH-wide

By ELLALYN B. DEVERA

At least 29 areas nationwide have been identified by the government for information, income-generating sites to improve the lives of marginalized communities.

Through the Area Management Program (AMP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Secretary Gina Lopez said the goal is to make the areas self-sustaining where people will be free from hunger and poverty.

The AMP will provide alternative sources of livelihood that promote the preservation of the environment and natural resources," Lopez pointed out.

Of the 29 priority areas, 13 are located in Luzon, six in Visayas, and 10 in Mindanao.

The AMP areas in Luzon are Chico River and Mt. Pulag in the Cordillera Administrative Region; Zambales; Laur in Pangasinan; Nueva Ecija; Sierra Madre in Cagayan; Sierra Madre in Nueva Ecija; Kaliwa Watershed in Marikina and Sierra Madre; Batangas Coastline and Verde Passage; Laguna Lake; Palawan; Sibuyan Island; Romblon; Occidental and Oriental Mindoro and Sorsogon.

The priority areas in Visayas are the provinces of Guimaras, Antique, Samar,

Bohol and Cebu, and the city of Iloilo.

Meanwhile, Sarangani, Caraga-Cantilan, South Upi, Marilog, Mt. Hamiguitan/Mati, Talaingog in Davao del Norte, Rajah Buayan, Dinagat Island, Tawi-Tawi, and Lanao del Sur will be the priority areas in Mindanao.

The areas will be evaluated based on available resources, as well as needs and requirements, which will become the basis in determining possible livelihood opportunities similar to those in established ecotourism zones like the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City, and Ugong Rock and Iwahig Firefly Watching in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Following the convergence model, the civil society, academe, business sector, concerned government agencies and the community will be brought together to help build the model development areas.



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29 areas to become 'income-generating sites' -- DENR

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has identified 29 priority areas for community development program that will make people in these places happy and free from hunger.

Secretary Gina Lopez said that through the Area Management Program (AMP), these areas will be transformed into "income-generating sites" to improve the lives of marginalized communities.

"The AMP will provide alternative sources of livelihood that promote the preservation of the environment and natural resources," Lopez said.

Of the 29 priority areas, 13 are located in Lu-

zon, six in the Visayas and ten in Mindanao.

The AMP areas in Luzon are: the Chico River and Mt. Pulag in the Cordillera Administrative Region; Zambales; Laur in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija; Sierra Madre in Cagayan; Sierra Madre in Nueva Ecija; Kaliwa Watershed in Marikina and Sierra Madre; Batangas Coastline and Verde Passage; Laguna Lake; Palawan; Sibuyan Island; Romblon; Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, and Sorsogon.

In Visayas are the provinces of Guimaras, Antique, Samar, Bohol and Cebu, and the city of Iloilo.

Sarangani, Caraga-Cantilan, South Upi, Marilog, Mt. Hamiguitan/Mati, Talaingog in Davao del Norte, Rajah Buayan, Dinagat Island,

Tawi-Tawi, and Lanao del Sur make up the areas in Mindanao.

The areas will be evaluated based on available resources as well as needs and requirements, which will become the basis in determining possible livelihood opportunities similar to those in established ecotourism zones like the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City and the Ugong Rock and Iwahig Firefly

Watching in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Among the possible livelihood activities to be implemented in these areas are massive tree planting, including hardwood and fruit trees, coffee processing and trading, bamboo propagation, manufacture of woodcraft from gemelina lumber and furniture from bamboo, tiger grass farming and soft broom production.

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1980

MANILA BULLETIN

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DESTRESSING MOMENT – Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez and Bhutan's Happiness Guru Saamdu Chetri share a peppermint oil destresser before the start of a lecture on sustainable area development and management at the University of San Carlos' Talamban Campus on Thursday. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Happiness hygiene



The C-Suite
Corner

**BENEL D.
LAGUA**

GINA LOPEZ, the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), recently welcomed Dr. Saamdu Chettri, the executive director of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH) center. Bhutan is a major advocate of using GNH as a measure of quality of life in more holistic terms than the standard and monetary-related gross domestic product (GDP), striking a balance between spiritual and material aspect of life.

The concept of measuring happiness appeals to those who believe in a human approach to development instead of the material approach. Happiness, of course, is a difficult metric. It has nonetheless evolved as an important subject of academic and corporate research in the organizational behavior field.

A well-known proponent of the subject is Harvard University's Shawn Achor who has done research on positive psychology and happiness. One of his rules is to create "happiness hygiene". Achor defines happiness as "the joy one feels striving for one's potential". Happiness is not the belief that everything is great, but that change is possible through small mental victories. He claims that a positive mindset results in 23 percent greater energy in the midst of stress, 31 percent higher productivity, 37 percent higher level of sales, 40 percent higher likelihood to be promoted, three times higher creativity, and improved longevity.

The following are the top three things

Create a two-minute daily habit of thinking of 3 new things you are grateful for each day, journaling about a positive experience for two minutes, meditating by watching your breath go in and out, or writing a positive 2 minute email.

Use success accelerants: Our brain accelerates the closer we perceive success. If you make a checklist of tasks for the day, include several things you have already accomplished. If you are starting a new positive habit, don't start at zero, include the day or two you have successfully avoided dessert or exercise. Some companies offer 150% commission for the first week of a new sales period to show progress right from the beginning.

Don't wait for happiness: If we raise your success rates, happiness remains the same. Raise happiness levels in the present, find

meaning at work, connect to the people around you, perceive stress as enhancing, and your success rates rise dramatically. Happiness at work fuels success.

I thought these are worth sharing to readers especially those who will not have access to the original source. Whether it works or not, there's no harm trying it out. Achor says that recent research on neuroplasticity—the ability of the brain to change even in adulthood—reveals that as you develop new habits, you rewire the brain.

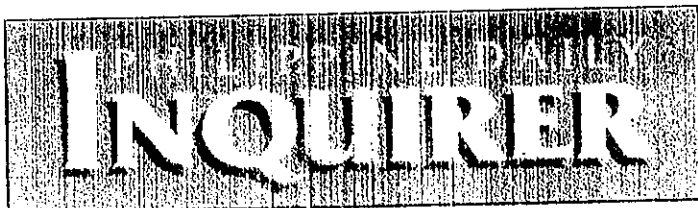
The concept is being adopted not just by private organizations, but by government as well.

mean better bottom-line results and improved productivity.

To complete the picture, it is worth noting that there are skeptics in the field. Schumpeter, writing in *The Economist*, argues that companies that try to turn happiness into a management tool are overstepping the mark. He says it is an unacceptable invasion of individual liberty. "Companies have a right to ask their employees to be polite when they deal with members of the public. They do not have a right to try to regulate their workers' psychological states and turn happiness into an instrument of corporate control." He even quotes Lord Percy of Newcastle, Britain's minister of education in 1924-29 who was not a fan of happy-clappy progressive education and who declared "a child ought to be brought up to expect unhappiness."

So are we going to pursue the "happiness advantage" or do we endorse those who are "against happiness"? Life's journey is ultimately a matter of choice. If the benefits outweigh the costs, my take is to pursue the happiness route.

Benel D. Lagua is the executive vice president at the Development Bank of the Philippines. He is an active FINEX member and a long time advocate of risk-based lending for SMEs. The views expressed herein are his own and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of his office as well as FINEX.



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MINING INDUSTRY

GOLD FIRM RAISES '16 PRODUCTION TARGET

By Ronnel W. Domingo
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The Masbate gold project raised its 2016 output goal as it upgraded its processing plant and despite the threat of closure arising from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' audit of mines.

B2Gold Corp. said in a report that the Philippines' biggest gold producer was expected to produce between 200,000 to 210,000 ounces of gold, up by as much as 20 percent from the previous goal of 175,000 to 185,000 ounces.

The Canadian firm's subsidiary, Philippine Gold Processing and Refining Corp.,

owns the mineral processing facility at the Masbate project.

"The upgrades are expected to improve gold recoveries and sustain throughput," it said.

In the third quarter quarter alone, the Masbate project saw an 18-percent year-on-year jump in third-quarter output at 47,676 ounces. The volume is also 4 percent higher than the quarter's target.

"Masbate's strong quarter was driven by better-than-expected grades from the Main Vein Stage 1 pit and higher recoveries from higher-than-budgeted oxide ore from the Colorado pit," according to B2Gold.

Also, Masbate produced more ores—two-thirds more than

planned at 13 million tons—and with higher grade—one-fourth better than planned 148 grams of gold per ton.

B2Gold said Masbate's mine plan was adjusted in August to optimize its development sequence and gold production through to 2017 and beyond.

Such adjustments included accelerated mining in the Main Vein Stage 1 pit, expanding the Colorado pit and starting site preparations for later Main Vein stages.

"The modified mine plan provides for continued strong gold production (upon its implementation," according to the company. INQ

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DENR serves show-cause letter to mining firms

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLORES

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) began sending out show-cause letter to mining companies facing suspension. These firms are also expected to respond next week and explain why their operation should not be suspended.

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) Vice President for Legal and Policy Ronald Recidoro said on Wednesday that several weeks

after the DENR announced the initial findings of the mining audit, the agency finally issued show-cause orders to some mining companies asking them to explain why their operation should not be suspended.

Recidoro said in a phone interview that the distribution of the letter should also be done this week.

According to the DENR letter, all these companies have the opportunity to address the findings and recommendations contained within the audit report within seven days of receipt.

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Mandatory mining audit bill proposed

By CHARISSA M. LUCI

Siquijor Rep. Ramon "Rav" Rocamora is pushing for the approval of a bill mandating mining, oil, gas and coal companies to undergo regular auditing and review in pursuit of transparency and accountability.

Under House Bill No. 4116 or the proposed Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI) Act, he explained that the public will be allowed to see the full picture on how mining resources are used and whether mining activities are benefitting the local communities, and its impact.

"The EITI already exists as a voluntary mechanism for mining firms to take part in. What we want to do is to make it mandatory to ensure that the public is informed of the effects of mining with accurate data," Rocamora said.

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Slay of anti-mining activists slammed

DAVAO CITY—Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez condemned the killings of two environment advocates in Davao Region last week.

Lopez was convinced that the killing of Joselito Pasaporte and Jimmy Saypan was related to their advocacy to stop the mining in their respective areas.

Pasaporte was killed on October 13 while Saypan was shot dead on October 10 in Compostela Valley Province.

Lopez added that the mining companies in Mindanao are not the responsible miners they claimed to be in a gathering here in the city.

Meanwhile, the 10th Infantry Division denied that they were behind the killing of Saypan and Pasaporte. **F. Pearl A. Gajunera**

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Law-abiding mining firms have nothing to fear — group

Investors who play by the rules, do not destroy the environment, and put the common good alongside their business interest have no reason to worry about investing in the Philippine mining industry, a broad coalition of environmentalist groups said yesterday.

Reacting to a claim by an official of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the strong regulatory stance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is "sending the wrong signals" to investors, the Green Thumb Coalition (GTC) said only mining companies who have no regard for the environment and people's welfare will not find it worth investing in a country that takes care of its ecological balance and its people.

"The implementation of regulations is not the problem in this issue; but rather these regulations have long been in place precisely in response to the destruction of our country's environment and the livelihood of the people," said Gerry Arances of the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED), one of the conveners of the GTC.

"A strong and strict execution of prevailing laws will only strike fear among those corporations which aim to cut costs by disregarding the welfare of affected communities and the country as a whole," he added.

"If investors make sure that the companies they fund follow the rules, they have nothing to be afraid of. Rather, they should be glad that the playing field is being changed for the benefit of better investment prospects which do not sacrifice sustainability and rights

for the sake of profit," he said.

The GTC said mining has not been a significant contributor to economic development and jobs generation, contributing less than one percent to employment — and mostly contractual, seasonal, non-permanent jobs.

On the other hand, the local mining industry basically exports raw ore to fuel the industrial needs of developed countries.

"There is little national economic benefit from investments in mining, yet the costs to environment, and the hazards they pose are tremendous," said Tina Pimentel of Bantay Kita, a member NGO of the Green Thumb Coalition.

The GTC said responsible businessmen and investors should, in fact, support the DENR in its effort to make mining companies obey the rules because, in the end, it is the image of the business community, and that of the good and responsible businessmen that are destroyed.

"Assuming without granting that the country's image to overseas investors is 'destroyed' as alleged by Jose Leviste, co-chairman of the PCCI committee on mining, we'd rather have our image than our environment destroyed by irresponsible mining investors. It would be far easier to repair our image than our environment. It is also less costly," GTC said.

"What is a good public image for if it leaves us with a destroyed environment that endangers the lives, health and food security of our people?" Leonora Lava of Greenpeace Philippines, a GTC member organization as well, added.

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Latest 'Rice Almanac' focuses on climate change, food security

By JOHNNY F. GOLOYUGO | Correspondent

ENGLISH philosopher Roger Bacon, the famous Doctor Mirabilis ("wonderful teacher") from England, must have first used the word "almanac" in the latter part of the 13th century. Although the origin of the word is obscure, early almanacs were actually calendars that dealt with detailed movements of the heavenly bodies, as well as agricultural and meteorological data.

There are other known almanacs available in the market, like astrological and fictional almanacs, including almanac calculators. All these conjure images of statistics, graphs, illustrations, diagrams, tables and, of late, digitized photographs.

But what is interesting is that despite the long history of agriculture almanacs as early as the 17th and 19th centuries, such as the *Wentworth's Farmer's Almanac* (1692-present), *Old Farmer's Almanac* (1828-present) and *Farmer's Almanac* (1818-present), it was only in 1993 that an Asian-focused *Rice Almanac*, published by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) based in Los Baños, Laguna, came about in response to the long-felt need to bring together general information about rice—its origin, its growth and production.

Until recently, the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRISP), a three-member consortium within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), led by IRRI and two others are Africa Rice Center and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, released the fourth edition of the *Rice Almanac*,

a "source book for one of the most important economic activities on Earth."

GRISP Director Bas Bauman said this 283-page edition is breaking a "new ground in its coverage of issues related to rice production, both environmental—including climate change—and importance of food security and the global economy."

The chapter on Rice and the Environment focuses on rice environments and cropping systems, soils, water use and water productivity, ecosystem services, managing pests in the rice ecosystem, environmental impacts and rice and health.

"Rice production mainly affects the environment by releasing or sequestering gases or compounds that are active in the atmosphere or troposphere and by changing the chemical composition of the water flowing through rice fields. Rice is, in turn, affected by environmental changes, such as global climate change," the almanac reveals.

"Climate change is expected to raise carbon-dioxide levels and temperatures and, possibly, increase the frequency of extreme climatic events in some areas, such as storms, droughts and heavy rainfall in monsoon climates, that will increase the incidence of flooding. Rising sea levels are expected to increase flood risk and salinity intrusion in rice-growing environments," the almanac says.

Global rice production and consumption, production and yield trends, international and domestic rice markets, domestic policy instruments and changes in demography and the rice economy are discussed in the Rice in

the Economy chapter.

Also highlighted are rice-production challenges, challenges for future cropping systems and response options.

Rice around the world highlights rice food security in Asia; rice in Latin America, the Caribbean, West Africa, East and South Africa, South America and Europe.

Also featured are 10 countries in Asia—Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Of special interest are rice-production opportunities in the Philippines. The *Rice Almanac* states that "to become self-sufficient in rice, it has to adopt existing technologies, such as improved varieties and know-how to achieve a yield increase by 1 to 3 ton per hectare. Better quality seed combined with good management including new postharvest technologies, is the best way to improve rice yields and the quality of production."

The almanac further says, "The [Philippine] government must implement a strategy to reduce population growth since the actual volume of rice produced in the country is not enough to match rice demand because of the high increase in population."

"If population growth will be higher than the growth in yield, the country will continue to import rice from other countries to meet domestic demand for rice in the coming years," the almanac concluded.

Also featured are Sub-Saharan Africa—Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania; and Latin America—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay.



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IMPLEMENTASYON NG WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY, HILING NG MGA LAW STUDENT

LUMIHAM ang mga law student mula sa isang lokal na paaralan para hilingin sa pamahalaan ng Cagayan de Oro City na ipatupad ang waste management at segregation policy, ayon sa isang city councilor noong Miyerkules.

Ayon kay City Councilor Lordan G. Suan, binasa niya ang liham ng mga estudyante ng Liceo University College of Law sa isang special report noong regular session ng city council dito sa Cagayan de Oro.

Hinahamon ng mga law student ang city government na maigting na ipatupad ang management at segregation ng mga basura sa lungsod at suriin kung epektibo ang mga polisiya na kasalukuyang ipinatutupad.

Sinabi ni Suan na sa mabilis na industriyalisasyon at pag-unlad ng Cagayan de Oro sa mga nagdaang taon, kinakailangan na ng proper sanitation, partikular na ang tamang pagtapon ng basura.

Aniya, hindi lang malusog na pangangatawan at proper sanitation ang kailangan ng mga tao, kundi protektahan din ang Konstitusyon.

Binanggit ni Suan ang Article 2 Section 16 ng 1987 constitution, na nagsasabing "The state shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balance and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Ayon kay Suan, binibigyang-kahulugan ng Republic Act 9003 o Solid Waste Management Act ang ecological solid waste management bilang systematic administration of activities na nagbibigay ng maayos na pamantayan, ibig sabihin, sa village level, ang segregated transportation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment at disposal of waste at lahat ng iba pang waste management activity na hindi nakasasama sa kapaligiran.

Hinimok ni Suan ang mga kinauukulan na mahigpit na ipatupad ang kasalukuyang Ordinance No. 8975-2003, na ipinag-uutos ang mandatory segregation ng mga basura at pagpataw ng mga parusa para sa mga lalabag dito.

Ipinaliwanag niya na kahit naka-segregate ang mga basura, wala pa ring saysay ito kung itatapon lang din ito sa dump site.

Sinabi rin ni Suan na nakatak dang mag-usap-usap ang city council tungkol sa liham ng mga Law student kaugnay sa waste management at segregation policy.

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BUSINESS

E-vehicle project gets Japan grant

By Amy R. Remo
@amyremoINQ

The Board of Investments (BOI) is hoping to give the electric vehicle (EV) industry the much needed boost with the rollout of a P550-million electric tricycle project in Manila on Thursday.

A project like this, funded through a grant from Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (Nedo) and in coordination with Japanese IT service provider SoftBank, promotes the widespread acceptance of EVs for public transport. The goal is to eventually make the Philippines a manufacturing hub in Southeast Asia, said Ma. Corazon Halili Dichosa, executive director at the BOI.

Dichosa said the more people get used to EVs, the higher the demand would be. This, in

turn, was expected to encourage more local operators to adopt the use of the vehicles and to increase domestic production.

A mere 10-percent of these kinds of vehicles plying the country's roads can already yield significant benefits for the economy, including 100,000 new jobs, over P1.6 billion in health benefits, and reduction in vehicle maintenance costs, among others.

The newly launched EV project, called the Mobility as a System (MaaS), saw the rollout of 50 e-trikes that would traverse a fixed route within Intramuros. Seventeen charging stations would also be put up within the area.

The project would run for two years beginning October until September 2018.

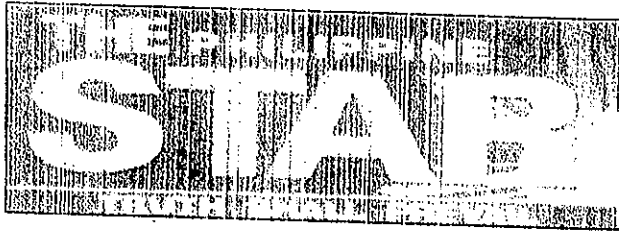
"This is still an emerging industry. We still have a small

number of players and units. We're still at the stage wherein we are still implementing the electric vehicle roadmap. We're still at that stage of figuring out how to make acquisition of EVs more affordable and reasonable," Dichosa said.

Only a few thousand units were currently being produced while only a few hundreds could be seen on the roads, she said.

She added the government was working with the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines to help potential operators tap manufacturers.

"But the actual use, however, will depend on the local manufacturers' tie-up with the local government units. Right now, in Manila, they have an ordinance encouraging some of the local transport operators to utilize EVs," she said. INQ



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Lawin leaves 12 dead in N. Luzon

At least 12 people were killed in the wake of ferocious winds and rains

brought by Super Typhoon Lawin in Northern Luzon overnight, officials said yesterday.

Two construction workers died when a landslide buried their shanty in La Trinidad town in Benguet, while two villagers perished in another landslide and another was swept away in a river and remains missing in Ifugao province.

A 70-year-old man died apparently of a heart attack in an emer-

gency shelter while another man died after being pinned by a fallen tree in Isabela province.

An 85-year-old woman identified only as Cariaga perished in Pasuquin town in Ilocos Norte.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) executive director Ricardo Jalad said landslides that hit two towns in Benguet claimed the lives of Jhon Carlos Hatop, a 19-day-old baby; Joshua Halle, 19, Jessie Hella, 28, all of Sagpat, Kibungan and 65-year-old Arsenio Lantaen of Abatan, Buguias.

Over in La Trinidad, 40-year-old Edgar Genese and Jonie Borja, 35, also died in a landslide that hit their village.

In Ifugao, a certain Ju-

nior Chawagan, 16, and Jeramel Alfaro, 17, perished in a landslide that hit residential areas in Hungduan town.

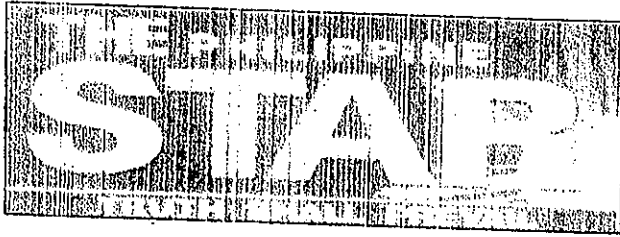
A certain Larry Duyapat, also from Hungduan, was reported missing.

Jalad said forced evacuations from high-risk communities helped prevent a larger number of casualties.

"Search, rescue and retrieval operations are ongoing," he said.

Jalad said they forced the evacuation of 18,157 families from villages in the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region, Bicol and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

- Jaime Laude, AP



21 OCT 2016

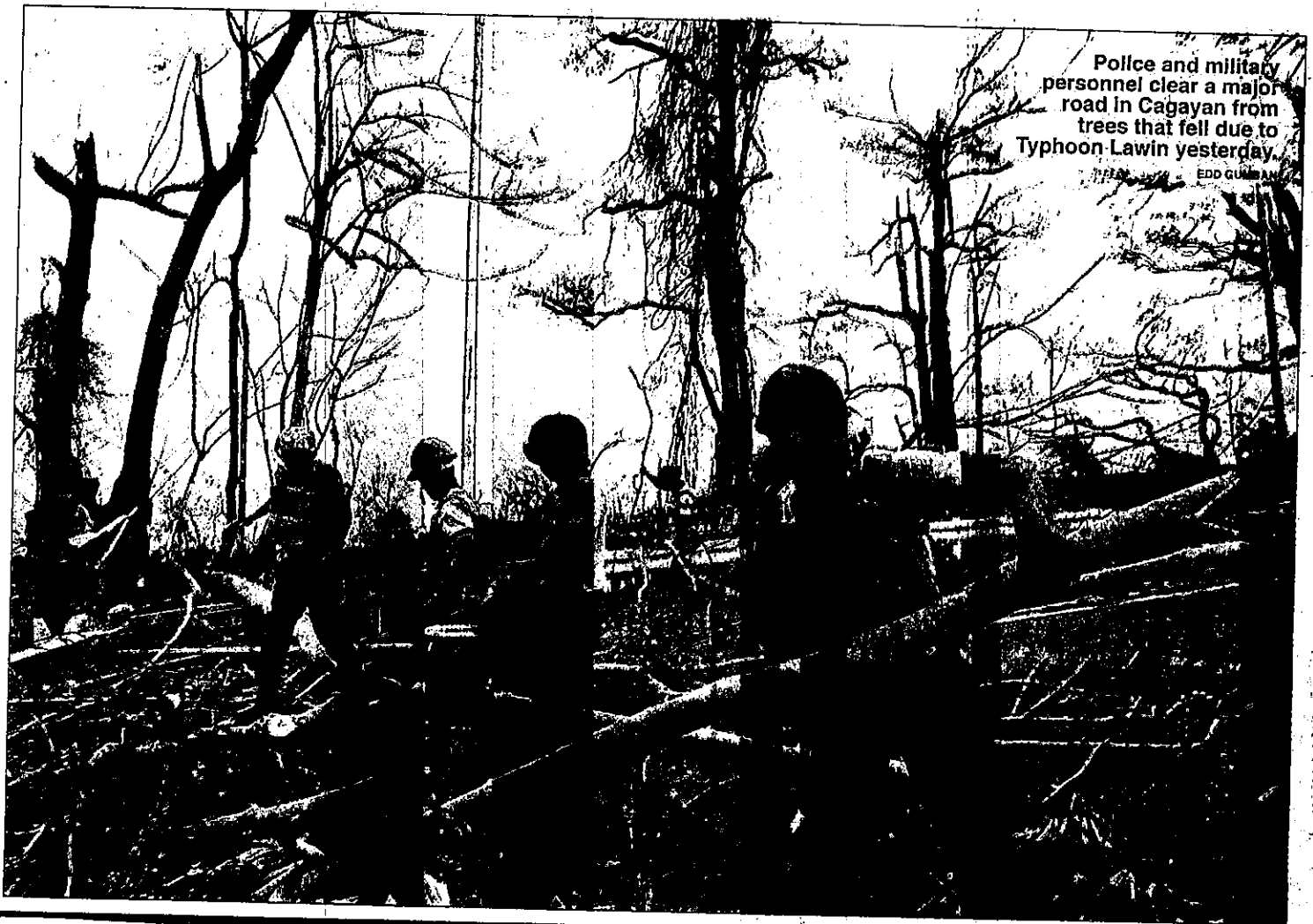
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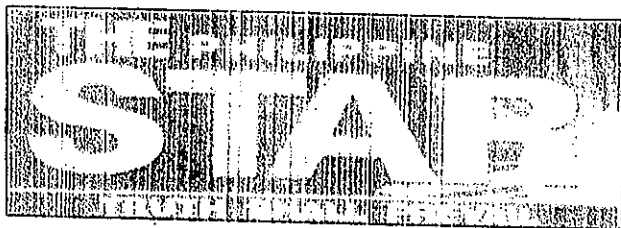
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Police and military personnel clear a major road in Cagayan from trees that fell due to Typhoon Lawin yesterday.
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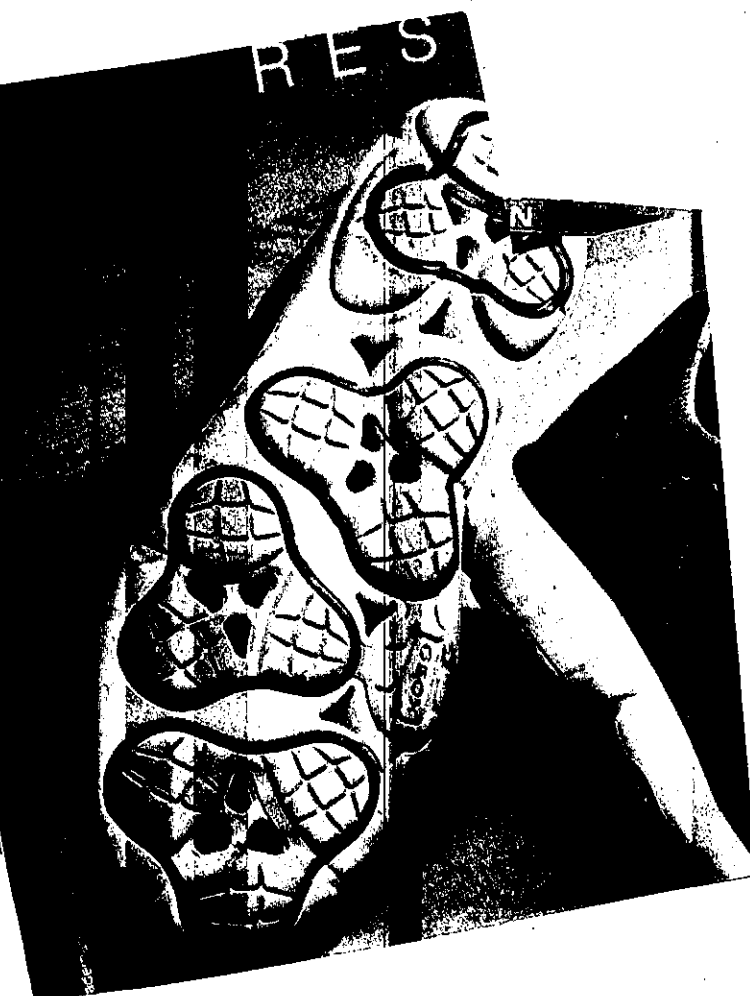
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Boys stand near the collapsed roof of a covered basketball court in Libag Norte, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan after Super Typhoon Lawin battered Northern Luzon with ferocious winds and torrential rain overnight.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Lawin kills 4; triggers floods, landslide in Ilocos, Cagayan; and shut down highways

SUPER TYPHOON Lawin (international code name Haima) battered Northern Luzon with strong rains and powerful winds over-

night on Wednesday, killing at least four people, triggering flooding and landslides, and shutting down major highways due to toppled trees, and

strewn debris. By daytime, residents of the Cagayan Valley and Ilocos regions could not figure out what hit them as the typhoon, which made landfall at

Penablanca, Cagayan, brought widespread destruction, including collapsed houses and downed power and telecommunication lines.

"As of the moment, our compatriots in the Cordillera region, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union were experiencing powerful winds and continued rains,"

NDRRMC Spokesman Romina Marasigan said, giving a general but initial picture of Lawin's destruction during a news conference on Thursday. *Rene Acosta*