

*STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE*

DATE : 16 OCT 2016

DAY : Sunday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

16 OCT 2016

# The Manila Times

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Quezon quarrying gets the whip

BY BELLY OTORDOZ

**S**ARIAYA, Quezon: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently closed down several quarrying operations in this town for violating environmental laws.

"You can put a church inside the hole they made," DENR Undersecretary Art Valdez told *The Manila Times* in an interview after the agency cancelled on Friday permits of several quarrying operations in this town.

The operation was carried out

by a special task force created by DENR central office composed of members of the police, military, coast guard and the National Bureau of Investigations (NBI). The team was led by Valdez.

Valdez said almost all the 27 firms holding quarrying permits in

Sariaya violated their Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs), leading to their cancellation.

*"Matagal ng ginagahasa ang slope ng Mount Banahaw. Kapag umulan ng malakas, sa bayan ang bagsak ng mga malalaking bato [It has been a long time that the slopes of Mount Banahaw is being ravaged. So when there is a heavy downpour, the big rocks cascade toward the town],"* Valdez said.

The composite team arrested 15 people and impounded nine dump trucks and a couple of backhoes. The confiscated equipment were impounded at the NBI

compound in Lucena City.

Valdez said quarrying entities whose ECCs were cancelled can still reapply but stressed there is a need to rehabilitate the slopes of Mount Banahaw.

The DENR's closing of quarrying operations in Sariaya followed the cancellation of the agency of the ECCs of housing company Century Communities Corporation and mining firm Austral-Asia Link Mining Corporation for non-compliance with environmental regulations.

"Laws are laws - we must follow these," Environment Secretary Gina Lopez said in a press confer-

ence in Metro Manila on Friday.

"ECC is a tool for social justice," Lopez said. "Social justice means all Filipinos can access and benefit from the country's natural resources."

Lopez said Century Communities failed to furnish DENR and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System clearances that the government requires for the company's proposed 58-hectare housing project within La Mesa watershed in Quezon City (Metro Manila).

Century Properties failed to comply with government's requirements for protecting groundwater there, she also said.

Austral-Asia's nickel mining operations lie between a bonsai forest and a bay classified as protected area, Lopez said.

"The way Austral-Asia mines is putting biodiversity there at risk," she noted, citing as an infraction the absence of a stockpiling area for this company's operations.

DENR will ask Austral-Asia to explain the matter.

Lopez reiterated DENR will review and evaluate some 800 other ECCs in the country and identify which of these have public impact so the agency can act accordingly.

WITH REPORT FROM PNA

16 OCT 2016

# Abante

UNA SA BALITA

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Quarrying sa Banahaw, isinara

Sinuyod ng mga tauhan ng National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Group (NAECTG) ng DENR ang mga quarry sites sa paanan ng bundok Banahaw sa Brgy. Sampaloc 2, Sariaya Quezon kamakalawa.

Katulong ang NBI, PNP, AFP, Coast Guard, DOTC, Religious group at NBI, pinigil ng mga ito ang mga dump trucks at backhoe na nag-ooperate rito.

Nagresulta ito sa pagkaaresto ng 14 na katao na naaktuhang nagsasagawa ng quarrying operations sa itinuturing na Mt. Banahaw-San Cristobal Protected landscape.

Siyam na dump trucks at limang backhoe rin ang kinumpiska ng task force.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, masyadong delikado na ang ginawang pagwasak sa kalikasan sa laylayan ng Banahaw.

Dahil sa mga nagdaang taon ay halos kinayod na ng mga operators ang buong laylayan ng bundok, posible aniyang lumubog sa tubig baha ang bayan ng Sariaya kung magkakaroon ng malalakas na pag-ulan.

(Ronilo Dagos)



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

16 OCT 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

### 14 dinampot sa quarrying

SARIAYA, Quezon - Labing-apat na katao ang naaresto habang siyam na dump truck naman ang kinumpiska ng mga operatiba ng National Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Quezon Police Provincial Office, Philippine Army at Philippine Coast Guard, dahil sa umano'y illegal quarrying operation ng mga ito sa paanan ng Mount Banahaw sa Barangay Sampaloc 2 sa bayang ito, nitong Biyernes ng hapon.

Kinilala ni DENR Undersecretary Arturo Valdez ang mga naaktuhan at inaresto na sina Reynaldo F. Policarpio, 49, driver, ng Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Gerry A. Cabuyao, 47, driver, ng Tayabas City; Jaymar A. Manalo, 21, backhoe operator, ng Sariaya; Dennis A. Gaa, 37, coordinator, ng Sariaya; Rogelio A. Lubay, 50, backhoe operator, ng Padre Burgos; Marvin C. Malarasta, 21, coordinator, ng Sariaya; Marvin Del Mundo De Chavez, 21, helper, ng Sariaya.

Dinakip din sina Marlon M. Javier, 28, driver, ng Sariaya; Manuel R. Faustino, 54, driver, ng Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Florante G. Gulinao, 39, driver, ng Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Angelito E. Politico, 34, driver, ng Sariaya; Marc Anthony Accad Gamboa, 25, driver, ng Isabela; Benjie Gamboa Daguro, 21, driver, ng Angadanan, Isabela; at Rufino Nepomoceno Bartolome, 53, driver, ng Bustos, Bulacan.

**Danny J. Estacio**

16 OCT 2016

# INQUIRER

DATE

UPPER HALF

A-18  
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

FACES OF THE FOWS



## Gina Lopez

Environment Secretary Regina Lopez recently got the rug pulled from under her when Malacañang replaced Leo Jasareno as director under her department. But Lopez has salvaged the situation by retaining as consultant the man who led the audit teams that put the mining industry in a bind. The apparent lack of teamwork with Lopez led civil society groups to seek Jasareno's removal for alleged corruption. She soldiers on, and is now reviewing some 800 DENR-issued environment clearance certificates.

16 OCT 2016

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1980

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# A longer-term view of mining



WHY NOT?  
DR. EMIL Q.  
JAVIER

*'There are those who  
look at things the way  
they are, and ask why...*

*I dream of things  
that never were,  
and ask why not?'*

*- Robert Kennedy*

**J**ust like agriculture, all's not been well with mining. From its peak in the 1970s when there were 45 operating large-scale mines and minerals accounted for as much as 21 percent of our country's total exports, mining had been in decline except for a brief boom in the late 1980s. For the period 2003-2012, minerals averaged only 3.94 percent of total

exports.

The "anti-mining" campaign with the high profile audit by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the compliance of existing mines particularly with environment laws and issuances has sent chills to the local mining industry and prospective foreign investors. The bluster of the President that the country can do without mining, if the industry does not behave, reinforces the low esteem of government and many communities and non-government organizations (NGOs) on the relevance to society of the mining industry.

The alleged supply of landfill by certain mine operations in Zambales for Chinese reclamation in Scarborough Shoal further added to the pariah image of mining.

Since 2012, mining has been deleted from the Investment Priorities Plan. All incentives have been removed except those in Republic Act (RA) 7942 or Mining Act of 1995 and the National International Revenue Code.

Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 79 signed in 2012 by President Benigno Aquino III which imposed a moratorium on new mining applica-

tions until new legislation is passed rationalizing revenue sharing, the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) issued a new map showing mining NO-GO areas. The new map excludes tourism development areas as well as prime agricultural lands and effectively closes off 65 percent of the total nine million hectares identified by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-DENR) as having high mineral potential.

The popular view is that government and the host communities are only getting a pittance from the revenues from mining but are saddled with the responsibility for looking after the immediate and long-term adverse consequences. Consequently, bills have been filed in Congress which propose that government share should be equivalent to 10 percent of gross revenue, or 55 percent of adjusted net mining revenue, whichever is higher, in lieu of all national and local taxes.

This proposal, by estimate of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, is tantamount to a punishing 79 percent take of any prospective mining project net cash flow averaged over its mine life.

There is a growing trend among lo-

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

16 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

*p. 7 A longer-term view of mining*

cal governments invoking their power under the Local Government Code to declare their jurisdictions "mining-free zones."

There are likewise pending bills in Congress for total ban of exports of unprocessed mineral ores. The objectives are to increase domestic revenue, encourage investments in mineral processing and create jobs much like what Indonesia has done to force its mining industry into nickel ore processing.

The Chamber of Mines, however, cautioned that there are vital prerequisites to building profitable and sustainable mineral processing plants. In the first place, mineral processing plants require vast amount of reliable, inexpensive power. They need accessible, high quantity coal to feed the blast furnaces which will process the ores, which natural resources Indonesia has plenty of and we don't!

If the investment prerequisites are missing and/or inadequate, a ban of ore exports will not lead to construction of mineral processing plants but to mine closures, job losses and economic dislocation in mining communities.

To date we have 37 abandoned

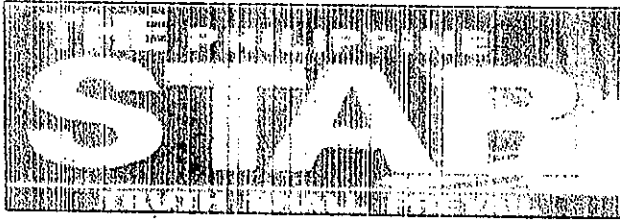
mined-out sites including the monumental Marinduque copper mine tailings dam disaster. They are painful reminders of what had gone wrong in the manner that we have managed mining. Not only are they ugly, they pose continuing risks to the health of people (exposure to heavy metals) and safety (floods and landslides) of the surrounding communities. And as long as these scars in the landscape remain unattended to, they are grim reminders of what has and can get wrong with mining.

Indeed with all the foregoing why should we bother with mining? Shouldn't we be better off closing all our mines and shift our attention and resources to more profitable, more healthful and environmentally benign endeavors?

*To be continued...*

\*\*\*

*Dr. Emil Q. Javier is a Member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and also Chair of the Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines (CAMP). For any feedback, email eqjavier@yahoo.com.*



16 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HAL

A-27

PAGE

LOWER HAL

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### DENR urged to save Mindoro's tamaraw

Mindoro Occidental Rep. Josephine Sato yesterday called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to save the Philippine tamaraw, known as Mindoro dwarf buffalo.

"The tamaraw is among the country's unique species threatened by extinction. Sadly, like the Philippine eagle, which is also at the brink of extinction, the Philippine tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) is a national symbol," Sato said.

"When you mention tamaraw, it reminds us of Mindoro, a small island-province in Luzon, where these unique species of mammal can only be found and nowhere else in the world. It is our pride," she said.

By JESS DIAZ

The lawmaker said the DENR should protect the tamaraw's natural habitat and strictly enforce laws intended to preserve threatened wildlife.

Congress should strengthen the law on protected areas, she said.

"If we lose them, we lose them forever. These unique species are our treasure and they should be protected to prevent extinction."

Sato called on the authorities and local government officials to intensify the campaign against environmental crimes that lead to biodiversity loss, particularly in declared protected areas.

She reminded them that there

are at least three laws that protect the tamaraw: Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992, RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act and Presidential Proclamation 273 of 2002.

PD 273 declares October of every year as a special month for the conservation and protection of the tamaraw in Mindoro.

Only a few hundreds of this dwarf buffalo remain in the wild and they are concentrated at the peaks of Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park (MIBNP) on Mindoro Island, Sato said.

Quoting the DENR, she said there were 413 tamaraws left in the wild as of April this year.



16 OCT 2016

# BusinessMirror

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Spiders, lizards and frogs can help prevent dengue, Zika outbreaks

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

**S**PIDERS, lizards and frogs have a few things in common. First, they eat bugs, including mosquitoes. Second, they are also food to other animals as part of the food chain.

So, instead of using chemical pesticides or releasing potentially harmful biological agents, like the so-called mosquito fish, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is better to keep the population of these natural predators of pesky bugs healthy at all times.

## Ecosystem functions

ENVIRONMENT officials said maintaining a healthy population of spiders, lizards and frogs would effectively prevent the spread of dengue, malaria and Zika.

Spiders weave webs, which serve as traps for insects, mosquitoes, included. On the other hand, lizards and frogs use their tongue to catch their prey. While they are predators to smaller bugs, the spiders, lizards and frogs are food to bigger animals in the wild, including birds, snakes, and other mammals.

Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim of the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) said that, without these spiders, lizards and frogs, the insect population would go up, increasing the chances of disease outbreaks.

In areas where there are reports of malaria, dengue or Zika, Lim said there is a big possibility that the population of these insect-eating species has gone down.

The absence of spiders, lizards and frogs could also affect the behavior of other species that prey on them, affecting ecological balance, Lim said.

## Threats

PEOPLE often harm the creepy spiders, lizards and frogs, as their sheer appearance cause people to feel nervous or afraid.

While habitat loss is the main reason for the declining population of spiders, lizards and frogs, activities that specifically target these species aggravate the situation.

Some people harvest spiders, lizards and frogs in the wild. In some areas, people traditionally harvest *palakangbukid*, or frogs found in rice fields, for food.

They are also sold in some rural

16 OCT 2016

# BusinessMirror

DATE

B2-1

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

g. v

### Lucrative business

ON the other hand, hobbyists catch certain species of spiders and lizards, trading them as aquarium pets.

Others catch certain species of spiders for spider fighting, or *sabong*. Spider derby is a popular past time for young boys. It is considered a blood sport involving aggressive spiders, wherein two spiders are pitted against each other, with owners and spectators placing small bets.

One spider costs around P200 up to P500, making hunting spiders a lucrative activity, even for young boys, who go out to catch them from their natural habitats—usually on trees or bushes.

In some areas in the Visayas, even adults resort to gambling in spider fights, just like cock-fights. Bets for spider fights by adults could range up to P20,000.

# P500

### The estimated maximum cost of each spider used in spider fights

Some local government units have issued ordinances against spider fights, such as Negros Occidental, which considers spider fighting "a threat to public morals."

In Bacolod City the police once issued an order warning residents against participating in spider fights, which is considered an illegal gambling.

Meanwhile, hobbyists consider certain species of lizards as aquarium pets, like *tuko* or gecko.

People later trade on geckos because of the belief that their internal organs have medicinal value and their meat are aphrodisiac.

Because of its popularity and the amount of money involved in trading geckos, the DENR had issued a public advisory against trading geckos.

Harvesting wildlife, whether they are classified as threatened or not, without permit from the DENR is illegal and punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

### Invasive alien species

THE DENR-BMB is set to issue a public advisory underscoring the importance of maintaining a healthy population of spiders, lizards and frogs and other insect-eating species in the wild, and advising local

According to Lim, unlike "exotic" wildlife or invasive alien species, native species of spiders, lizards and frogs do not pose a threat to the ecosystem or other species, cautioning the public, particularly LGUs and the private sector, against releasing biological control agents without the benefit of scientific research.

Lim said release of biological agents in an ecosystem may cause more harm than good in trying to control pests, like mosquitoes, noting that the population of invasive alien species may eventually become uncontrollable, causing other species to become extinct.

### Invasive fish species

JOSIE DE LEON, the head of BMB's Wildlife Division, said there are news reports that mosquito fish is being eyed anew as a biological control agent to prevent Zika virus from spreading. She was referring to reports that the Subic Bay Metropolitan

Authority (SBMA) is eyeing to unleash mosquito fish to control the population of disease-carrying mosquitoes in their offices.

The SBMA had already sought for 10,000 fingerlings of the mosquito fish, locally called *itar* or *kitaba*, from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

"Mosquito fish is an invasive alien species. Releasing them into the wild is prohibited by law, because it may adversely impact on the [local] ecological balance," de Leon said.

Mosquito fish was earlier used to fight the spread of dengue in certain areas. While there are no reports of its adverse impact, de Leon said there is also no proof of their positive impact in controlling

16 OCT 2016

# BusinessMirror

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

p. 3

### Mosquito-borne diseases

ACCORDING to DENR officials, scientific research or study on the potential impact of mosquito fish in a controlled environment should be made.

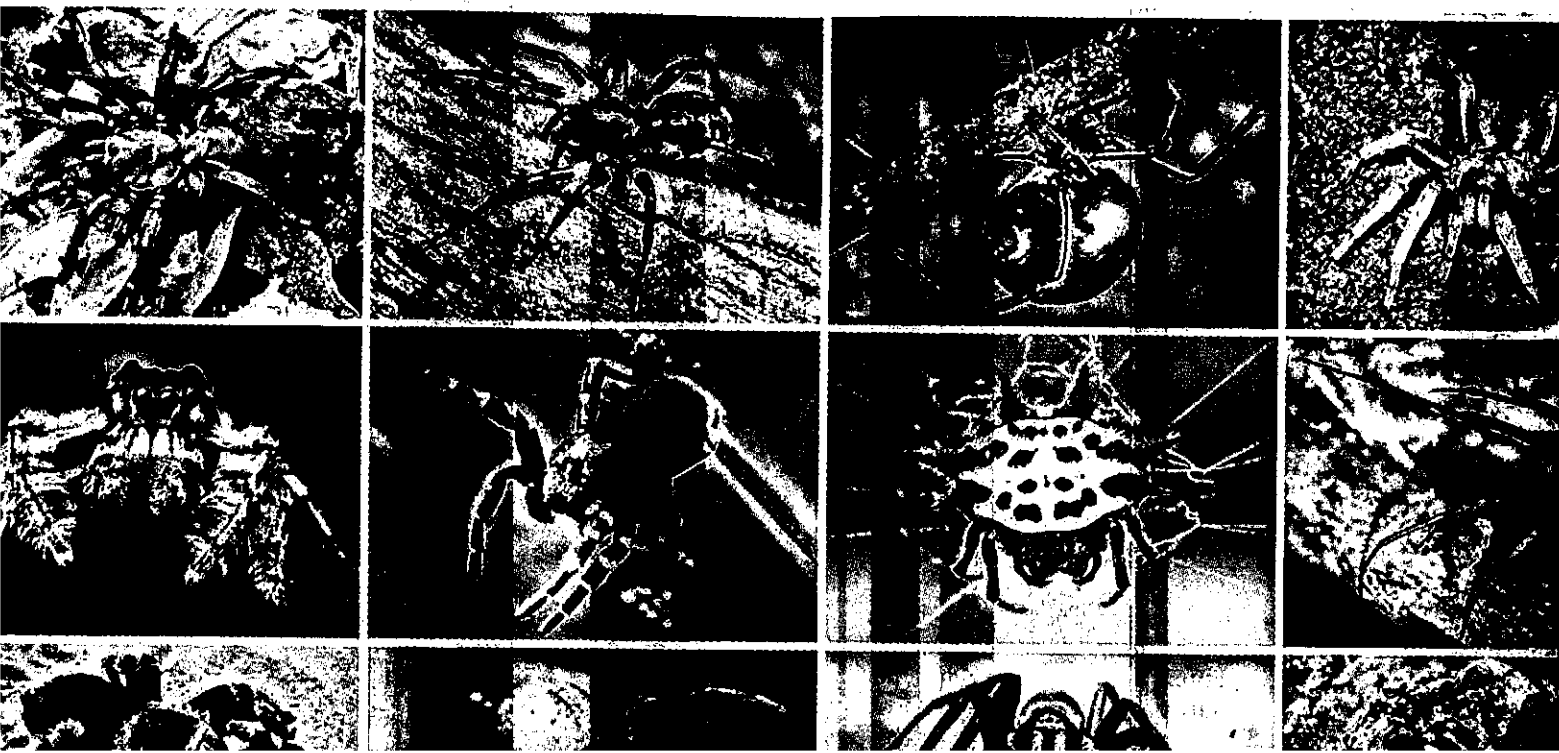
The Philippines is often besieged by reports of dengue and malaria outbreaks. Lately, the presence of Zika virus was reported in some areas. The United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had already issued a travel advisory, especially for pregnant women, to those going to several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, due to the Zika virus.

The CDC advised pregnant women who traveled to the Philippines or other Southeast

Asian countries to undergo Zika virus testing. Other countries identified in the travel advisory are Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Thailand, East Timor and Vietnam.

The Zika virus has been present in Southeast Asia for some years now, with several countries reporting occasional cases of the infection. The Philippines's Department of Health has said there were 12 confirmed reports of Zika virus cases this year.

According to Lim, with a healthy population of spiders, lizards and frogs, the Philippines could control mosquitoes that cause deadly and costly disease outbreak.



# PEOPLES JOURNALS

16 OCT 2016

DATE

5

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Nations agree on phase out of super greenhouse gasses

WORLD envoys reached an agreement Saturday on a timetable for the phase-out of potent greenhouse gasses used in refrigerators and air conditioners, a major step in curbing global warming.

The amendment to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on protecting the ozone layer was greeted by applause from exhausted envoys who had worked through the night in the Rwandan capital Kigali to put the final touches on the deal to phase out production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

"Last year in Paris, we promised to keep the world safe from the worst effects of climate change. Today, we are following through on that promise," said UN Environment Programme chief Erik Solheim.

The US Environmental Protection Agency said, "this day will unquestionably be remembered as one of the

most important in our effort to save the one planet we have".

Last year's Paris climate agreement aimed to keep global warming below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), compared with pre-industrial levels.

The elimination of HFCs could reduce global warming by 0.5 degrees by 2100, according to a 2015 study by the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development.

Tough negotiations at the talks — attended by representatives of nearly 200 countries including US Secretary of State John Kerry — had seen major developing nations such as India put up a fight over the timeline to phase out the use of HFCs and the financing of the transition.

### Could be costly

Under a timetable released on the website of the Montreal Protocol, the

### ENVIRO WATCH

rich will have to take action sooner than poorer nations.

HFCs were introduced in the 1990s to replace chemicals that had been found to erode the ozone layer, but turned out to be catastrophic for global warming.

However, swapping HFCs for alternatives such as ammonia, water or gasses called hydrofluoroolefins could prove costly for developing countries with sweltering summer temperatures, such as India.

"There are issues of cost, there are issues of technology, there are issues of finances," said Ajay Narayan Jha of India's environment and climate change ministry before the deal was announced.

"We would like to emphasise that any agreement will have to be flexible from all sides concerned. It can't be

flexible from one side and not from the other."

HFCs' predecessors, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), were discontinued under the Montreal Protocol when scientists realised they were destroying the ozone layer.

This blanket of gas in the upper stratosphere protects Earth from the Sun's dangerous ultraviolet rays.

But it emerged that HFCs, while safe for the now-healing ozone, are thousands of times worse for trapping heat than carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

### Legally-binding agreement

According to the Berkeley National Laboratory, air conditioning is the cause of the largest growth in HFCs — and the world is likely to have another

house gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — are not dealt with under the Paris Agreement but under the Montreal Protocol.

Under the legally binding Kigali deal, developed countries must slash their use of HFCs by 10 percent by 2019 from 2011-2013 levels, and then by 85 percent by 2036.

A second group of developing countries, including China and African nations, are committed to launching the transition in 2024. A reduction of 10 percent compared with 2020-2022 levels should be achieved by 2029, to be extended to 80 percent by 2045.

A third group of developing countries, which include India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Gulf nations, must begin the process in 2028 and reduce emissions by 10 percent by 2032 from

16 OCT 2016  
DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

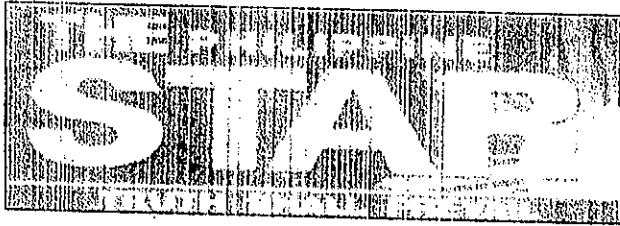
# Global deal reached to limit greenhouse gases

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) – More than 140 nations have reached a deal to limit the use of greenhouse gases far more powerful than carbon dioxide in a major effort to fight climate change.

The talks on hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, were called the first test of global will since the historic Paris Agreement to cut carbon emissions was reached last year. HFCs are described as the world's fastest-growing climate pollutant and are used in air conditioners and refrigerators.

The agreement announced Saturday morning, after all-night negotiations, caps and reduces the use of HFCs in a gradual process beginning in 2019 with action by developed countries including the United States, the world's second worst polluter. More than 100 developing countries, including China, the world's top carbon emitter, will start taking action by 2024.

A small group of countries including India, Pakistan and some Gulf states pushed for and secured a later start in 2028, saying their economies need more time to grow. That's three years earlier than India, the world's third worst polluter, had first proposed.



16 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HA

PAGE

LOWER HA

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-1

### EDITORIAL

# Food security and climate change

The international community has committed to the ambitious goal of achieving zero hunger by 2030. But with the global population expected to hit 9.6 billion by 2050, experts say that agricultural production must rise by about 60 percent. Among the biggest roadblocks to these objectives is climate change.

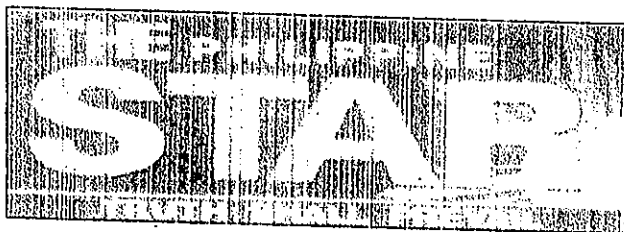
As World Food Day is marked today, governments and nations are reminded that food and agricultural production must adapt to climate change. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that, by 2050, catches of main fish species in the tropics including the Philippines are expected to be down by 40 percent. The FAO is helping to promote responsible fisheries and better management of oceans, rivers and lakes.

Efforts are also underway to improve management of livestock, which produce approximately 78 percent of agricultural methane emissions. Food wastage also contributes to global warming. About a third of food produced worldwide is lost or wasted, with

rotting food accounting for an estimated 1.3 billion tons of methane. The FAO says this is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Sound, sustainable soil and forestry management can promote the natural absorption of carbon dioxide.

Governments can't do it alone. In confronting global warming, everyone can play a role. The FAO suggests eating less meat and more nutritious pulses, becoming ethical consumers and supporting small farms that are conscientious about reducing their carbon footprint. If this is too much trouble, the mere effort to reduce food waste can help.

In the Philippines, which observed World Food Day last Friday, the FAO has warned that agricultural production is particularly vulnerable to climate change, threatening anti-poverty efforts. This gives urgency to climate change mitigation efforts and sustainable practices in food production. It also highlights the importance of individual contributions. In confronting climate change, every little gesture counts.



16 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HA

PAGE

LOWER HA

# STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

P-2



# The Manila Times

16 OCT 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Mr. Duterte's performance: Spectacular highs and horrific lows

OSLO provides an ideal environment for discussing peace, even one as long-drawn and bloody as the leftist insurgency in our country. It has a track record of encouraging all sorts of belligerent movements to talk peace with their respective governments. It has devoted resources to that effort. It has a political culture, that despite the changes in the leadership, never waivers from its commitment to host peace negotiations. A few days back, the impossible happened in Oslo. The government panel handpicked by Mr. Duterte and the NDF panel agreed on common drafts, which would form the basis for writing the final peace deal.

What were signed were called "common drafts for the framework of the substantive agenda on socioeconomic, political and constitutional reforms." Next move? They will hammer out a final peace deal that will cover everything, from the broad reforms to the details on amnesty, release of political prisoners and the like. Finally, Mr. Duterte is succeeding where all previous governments have failed.



SUNDAY  
STORIES

MARLEN V.  
RONQUILLO

The single-minded pursuit of peace with the Left by Mr. Duterte is enough to make him a president of real consequence. He has announced similar approaches to bring back the MNLF and the MILF into the fold so that his government can push through with his all-out war against the Islamist jihadists.

What vests extraordinary gravitas to the peace-seeking of Mr. Duterte is this. The Left is not a spent force. The fact that it opened up several more guerilla fronts under the government of Mr. Aquino dramatizes the singular appeal of the Left and the intensity of its recruitment efforts. The recruitment may have slackened in the areas within the media loop - the campuses of Metro Manila and the traditional hotbed of insurgency - Central Luzon.

But in the hellscapes of

poverty in the Visayas and Mindanao, and the Sierra Madre communities in East Luzon, the Left has active armies. In some remotest areas, it is the only functioning government.

I hate this word but I will use it. The mainstreaming of the Left will result in an economic surge, what with a battle-hardened workforce that will be injected into the thick of things. Returnees can be anything and everything - from university professors to poets and for those who still want lives in the mountains, dedicated forest guards. Gun-toting forest guards or guardians of protected areas are a must to stop the plunder of our patrimony and former guerillas who want to stay in the mountains can be tapped for that tough job that very few forestry graduates want.

The end of revolutionary taxation will increase the flow of revenue into the government. More businesses and enterprises will be encouraged to set up shop in the former NPA-held areas. The overused phrase - peace dividends - will become a reality.

Mr. Duterte's commitment to family planning and birth control is a fresh gust of policy wind, which no other president would undertake. The popularization of birth control tools will cut down birth rate dramatically. The passage of a two-child policy, which the Duterte administration apparently favors, will be another plus.

We can't be a small country that is tops in population surge. We can't afford a 2.2 percent yearly growth in population, even with our standing as a prodigious producer of OFWs. With a food production growth of one percent or so a year, it is expected to have as many as 10 million malnourished kids and as many as 10 million suffering from involuntary hunger on a regular basis. On birth control, Mr. Duterte has the right to shaft the bishops and say "go to hell" because it is the right thing to do.

These two alone, once put into reality by Mr. Duterte, are enough to make him a president of real consequence. Oh, I forgot the general relief of those

► RonquilloA5



# The Manila Times

11 6 OCT 2016

DATE

5

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

§. 2

getting drivers' licenses - it is one or two hours max today - and those registering their vehicles. Unfortunately, that is not yet the case with the PUVs.

Tender mercies, yes, but all-too important to the common man.

Extrajudicial killings, Mr. Duterte's most abject and unconscionable failure, do not top his horrific lows because these will soon be ridiculed in SNL skits, which would

be remembered forever. Or, because these get negative comments from Mr. Obama, the UN and the EU. They get a rating of horrific low because these are a violation of the Ten Commandments and they are a violation of our enshrined Bill of Rights. From our religious to our temporal tenets, killing is a no-no and Mr. Duterte's administration not only unleashed killings by the dozens

but by the thousands.

He even threatened a genocide-scale extermination of drug pushers and addicts. Mr. Duterte often acts like a dictator of a tin-pot country than a democratically-elected president.

The shaming of Senator de Lima by Mr. Duterte himself and his merry band of enablers is not done in a civilized society, Mr. Trump's similar acts notwithstanding. Why not let

to more than 3,000,000) so as to be able to verify the premise. Nonetheless, the voters in our recently concluded election seem to have largely agreed with him, so perhaps that's in itself enough evidence. There seems to be no issue with the President's intent here in the moral context.

The voters, moreover, implicitly endorsed the nature of the remedy President Duterte promised to apply to the prob-

override individual rights. That's the essence of a constitution that recognizes God-given rights; such individual rights are not given by the State and therefore cannot be taken away by the State. Indeed, the State is obligated to protect them, even from the majority of its citizens.

Even in a democracy, however, leaders must make life-and-death choices that are morally ambiguous. From Niccolo Machiavelli

leaders, all of whom should be subject to the uniform code of military justice (much stricter and more expedient than its civilian equivalent), may let one sleep well at night, sure of one's peace with God, but it leaves a nation weak and in disarray, as swift justice is an essential element of every strong state and proud nation. And justice unfortunately, cannot always be clinically and impersonally administered in a

16 OCT 2016

# The Manila Times

DATE

6

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Ifugao power project seeks DENR clearance

SN Aboitiz Power-Ifugao (SNAP-Ifugao) has sought an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) following the conduct of public hearings in connection with the proposed Alimit Hydroelectric Power Plant (Alimit HEPP) in Ifugao.

SNAP Chief Operating Officer Joseph Yu said the Alimit HEPP project is composed of the Alimit Dam, Reservoir and a 120-megawatt power plant; and the Olilicon HEPP composed of the Ibulap Weir, Pond, Diversion tunnel and a 20-MW power plant.

These power projects will be located in the municipalities of Aguineldo, Lagawe, Lamut, and Mayoyao in the province of Ifugao.

Yu said the hearings on the proposed Alimit HEPP is an important part of the requirements to secure an ECC from the DENR.

"The hearings were held for community members to learn more about the projects and raise concerns on social and environmental impacts which will be part of the basis for DENR's review or recommendations for improvements of the proponent's environmental study," Yu said.

He said concerns discussed during the hearings included irrigation sup-

ply, river health and biodiversity.

SNAP held the hearings in the four municipalities to be affected by the project. These are Lagawe on September 27, Lamut on September 28, Mayoyao on October 10 and Aguineldo on October 11.

The company said a total of 1,226 community members attended the proceedings facilitated by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau.

"We learned a lot from the local government units, communities and indigenous people groups over the course of these public hearings and we are thankful for their participation," Yu said.

He said that as a responsible developer, SNAP values the peoples' inputs.

"We will factor these [inputs] as we review the final design and mitigation plans for the project to minimize impact," Yu said.

Mandated by the Department of Energy and company shareholders, SNAP is completing its feasibility study requirements as part of the conditions of energy contracts granted in 2014.

The project is also undergoing the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, a separate permitting process required for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

**LEANDER C. DOMINGO**