

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 22 OCT 2016

DAY : SATURDAY

DENR

IN THE NEWS

22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Happiness, not money, a better measure'

By Jaymee T. Gamil
@jaymeegamilINQ

Following Bhutan's lead, Environment Secretary Gina Lopez wants Philippine progress measured by a Gross National Happiness (GNH) index.

In a press conference at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) main office in Quezon City yesterday, Lopez bared her plans to use the Himalayan kingdom's GNH index as a performance indicator in 29 marginalized communities where the DENR's "area management program" will be implemented.

"I am convinced the way we can get our country out of poverty is by taking care of the environment to the benefit of the community. We will prove that at these 29 sites. And our number-one performance indicator, the umbrella of what we are gunning for is [not money] but happiness," Lopez said.

"In Bhutan, their goal is not GDP [Gross Domestic Product], their goal is GNH. And they have very little poverty. Zero crime, zero drugs. They have zero corruption. They take such good care of the environment. They sell hydropower to India. Their annual revenues are two billion. And they're not even one million people. They must be doing something good. We want to try out the model in our 29 convergence sites," Lopez said.

Lopez said she planned to set up a "National Happiness" desk at the DENR.

For this purpose, Lopez invited to the Philippines Dr.

Saamdu Chetri, the executive director of Bhutan's GNH Center, to explain the concept of GNH in a series of lectures in schools nationwide.

GNH, a term coined by Bhutan's fourth king Jigme Singye Wangchuck, has four "pillars": Sustainable and equitable socioeconomic development; conservation and promotion of a vibrant culture; environmental protection, and good governance.

These are further broken down into nine "domains": Liv-

ing standards; education; health; environment; community vitality; time-use; psychological well-being; good governance; and cultural resilience and promotion. The index currently measures 124 variables, from 33 indicators.

"Our GNH is based on human holistic development, not on what the country provides. It is based on human needs," Chetri explained. Of the 33 indicators, 16 belong to the individual and family, six are the responsibility of the community, while 11 are about governance. INQ

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PHL nickel supply to depend on govt mining policies

By CAI U. ORDINARIO [@cuo_bm](#)

THE Philippines's nickel supply in the next few years will depend on mining policies implemented in the country, the World Bank said.

In its latest *Commodity Markets Outlook*, the World Bank said the suspension of operations of several mining firms by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR) has already resulted in economic losses for the country.

Nickel prices, the World Bank added, surged 16 percent due to strong stainless-steel demand,

which the Philippines missed out on due to the suspensions.

"The nickel market had already moved into deficit with falling production output in the Philippines due to depletion, and declining NPI [nickel pig iron] production in China," the World Bank said.

The suspension of mining permits has effectively suspended 55 percent of the country's nickel production, equivalent to over 10 percent of global supply, the bank added.

The Washington-based lender said the Philippines's nickel pro-

duction is exported to China for its NPI production.

Apart from the country's mining policies, the World Bank said Indonesia's plan to revisit its January 2014 ore-export ban will also be a factor in increasing production.

The World Bank said the ban in Indonesia was designed to encourage value-added domestic processing in the country.

Revisiting the ban, the World Bank added, could allow companies to export ore that are in the process of constructing smelter/refining operations.

"Inventories remain high, but key drivers will be policy developments in the Philippines and Indonesia," it said.

The World Bank also raised its 2017 forecast for crude-oil prices as members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries prepare to limit production after a long period of unrestrained output.

The World Bank said oil prices could increase to \$55 per barrel from \$53 per barrel.

Energy prices, which include oil, natural gas and coal, are projected

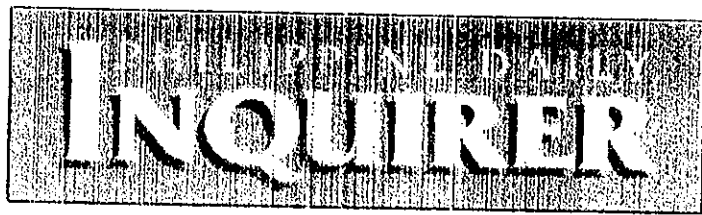
to jump almost 25 percent overall next year, a larger increase than anticipated in July.

However, oil prices are expected to average \$43 per barrel in 2016, unchanged from the July report.

The World Bank's *Commodity Markets Outlook* is published quarterly—in January, April, July and October. It provides detailed market analysis for major commodity groups, including energy, metals, agriculture, precious metals and fertilizers. Price forecasts to 2025 for 46 commodities are presented along with historical price data.

P.1

22 OCT 2016



DATE

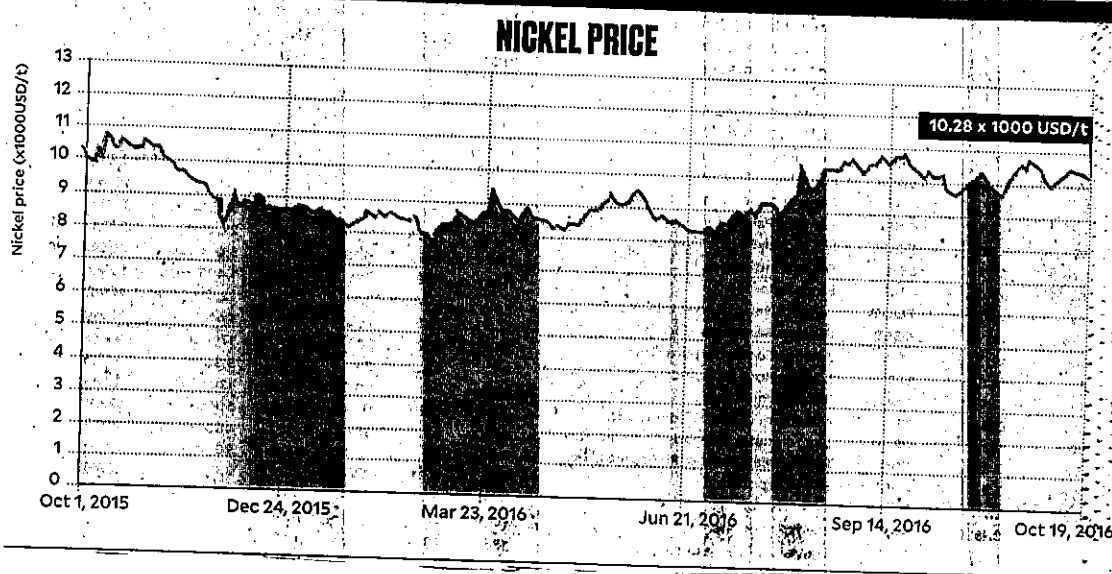
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PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

World nickel prices jumped in Q3



Market moving into deficit with falling production in PH

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@ronwdomingoINQ

Global prices of nickel jumped 16 percent amid strong demand for stainless steel as well as the anticipated tightening of output from the Philippines following an audit of mine operations, according to the World Bank.

In its latest quarterly report on the commodity markets outlook, the World bank said the nickel market had already moved into deficit with falling

production in the Philippines.

In the third quarter, nickel prices rose to an average of \$10,258 per metric ton from \$8,823 in the second quarter.

Third-quarter prices were the highest so far in 2016, which started at \$8,508 in the first quarter.

Further, prices in the quarter ending September was just 3 percent shy of the \$10,579 per ton recorded in the same period of 2015.

Citing data from the World Bureau of Metal Statistics, the

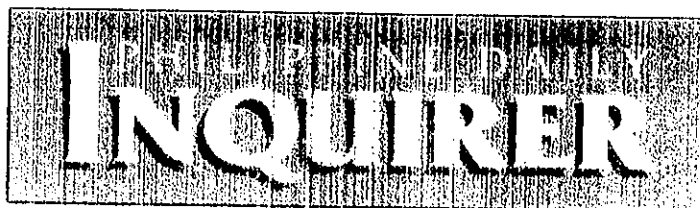
report shows that the Philippines produced 317,000 metric tons of unrefined nickel in 2015, accounting for 17 percent of global supply.

Last year's mine output from the Philippines meant a drop of 23 percent from 411,000 tons in 2014.

Also, the 2015 output was just about the same as that in 2013 (316,000 tons) and 2012 (318,000 tons).

In 2015, the Philippines was the top producer of un-

→ B2



22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

B1

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

WORLD NICKEL PRICES JUMPED IN Q3

FROM B1

refined nickel, with the Russian Federation at far second with 264,000 tons.

The Philippines was also top producer in 2014, accounting for 20 percent of world-wide supply.

The country gained the lead after Indonesia restricted the export of partially processed minerals including nickel.

The World Bank noted that last September, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources recommended the suspension of nickel mine operations that, together, represented 55 percent of domes-

tic output or more than 10 percent of global supply.

"Nearly all of Philippine exports are shipped to China to feed its nickel pig iron (NPI) production," the multilateral lender said.

The World Bank added that the nickel market had already moved into deficit with falling production output in the Philippines due to depletion and the declining NPI production in China.

"Meanwhile, Indonesia intends to revisit its January 2014 ore export ban, (which was) designed to encourage value-added domestic processing ca-

capacity, and may allow companies to export ore that are in the process of constructing smelter/refining operations," the bank said.

"Inventories remain high, but key drivers will be policy developments in the Philippines and Indonesia," it added.

Philippine Environment Secretary Regina Lopez earlier said the audit of mines would go on "unabated." She has also ordered the review of about 800 environmental compliance certificates that the DENR has issued, including those for mining ventures. INQ

22 OCT 2016

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

B5

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Saturday, October 22, 2016

B-5

FNI, Chinese firm plan \$700-M steel plant

By JAMES A. LOYOLA

Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with China state-owned enterprise Baiyin Nonferrous Group Co., Ltd. which will include studying the feasibility of a \$500 to \$700 million stainless steel plant.

The agreement was signed during President Rodrigo Duterte's state visit to China. FNI is the second largest nickel producer in the Philippines and the largest single lateritic mine exporter in the world while Baiyin is one of the largest producers of non-ferrous metals in China.

FNI and Baiyin signed the MoC "to promote closer industrial and commercial cooperation, as both companies recognize the economic benefits of a partnership arising from the availability of low-cost nickel ore in the Philippines."

Pursuant to the MoC, FNI and Baiyin intend to develop a long-term strategic partner-

ship and work closely together in evaluating the economic feasibility of various natural resources projects in the Philippines, including providing trade financing to the operations of FNI's Ipilan mine in Palawan.

Also, FNI and Baiyin will cooperate and evaluate investments in value-added downstream projects in the Philippines, including evaluating the feasibility of constructing an integrated 200-series stainless steel plant in the Philippines with an annual capacity of one million tons using lower grade nickel ore sourced in the Philippines (an estimated total investment of around \$500 to \$700 million).

"We see Baiyin as a strong partner who will play a vital role with us in creating greater value added in the nickel value chain in the Philippines," said FNI Chairman Joseph C. Sy.

In turn, Baiyin Chairman Liao Mingsaid Baiyin is looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership with FNI.

22 OCT 2016

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Visayas News

Saturday, October 22, 2016

9

Lopez orders Cebu landfill closed

By MARS W. MOSQUEDA JR.

CEBU CITY – Environment Secretary Gina Lopez has ordered the closure of the Inayawan Sanitary Landfill in Cebu City, saying it is too close to the sea.

Lopez, who was in Cebu recently, had said she supports the rehabilitation of the landfill but changed her mind after learning that the facility was near the sea.

"I did not know at first that the site was actually near the sea. If I had known earlier, I would really have it closed," she said.

Lopez said that with climate change causing ocean levels to rise, trash dumped along the coasts is swept to the sea and could

trigger an environmental hazard.

The Inayawan landfill came under close scrutiny after Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña ordered its reopening.

Councilor Joel Garganera has filed a petition for the landfill's closure. Garganera also urged Lopez to fire Environmental Management Board 7 director William Cuñado for keeping her misinformed about the real situation at the landfill.

Osmeña said he has not received an official order from the DENR, but is obligated to follow the law.

During the mayorship of Michael Rama, the city closed the dump and hauled the garbage to a private landfill in nearby Consolacion town.

When Osmeña took over City Hall, he reopened the facility saying the deal with the private landfill operator was not covered by a contract.

The Department of Health in Central Visayas earlier advised the City government to close the landfill because it is a health hazard.

"The disposal area is not anymore suitable as a sanitary landfill even if rehabilitated, considering its location within the city, the number of residents and the increasing population of the city, the neighboring cities and towns, and the expected increase in number of commercial centers, transportation and tourist concerns," the DOH-Central Visayas said in an inspection report.



TOO NEAR THE WATER – A mountain of trash at the Inayawan landfill looms over the coastal area. DENR Secretary Gina Lopez cited water pollution as the main reason for ordering the closure of the waste facility. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

22 OCT 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DENR wants Cebu landfill closed

CEBU CITY – Environment Secretary Gina Lopez has ordered the immediate closure of the Inayawan Sanitary Landfill in Cebu City due to its nearness to the sea.

Lopez, who was in Cebu for various activities, earlier said she supports the rehabilitation of the landfill but later changed her mind after learning that the dumpsite was near the sea.

"I did not know at first that the site was actually near the sea. If I would have known earlier, I would really have it closed. I'm not in favor of a dumpsite near the sea. With climate change causing the seas to rise, trash being dumped there and swept to the sea could cause an environmental hazard," Lopez said.

The issue on the Inayawan landfill came to light after Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña ordered its reopening after he was elected mayor.

Councilor Joel Garganera, however, filed a petition seeking the landfill's closure and urged Lopez to fire Environmental

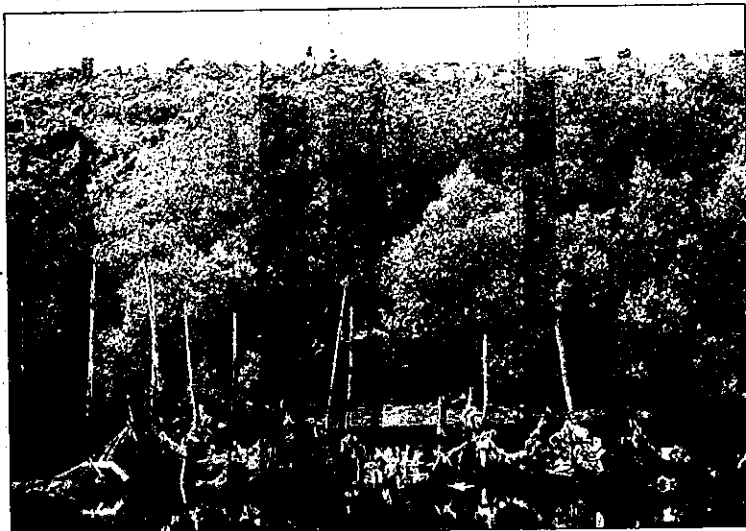
Management Board 7 director William Cuñado for allegedly misleading the DENR Secretary on the real situation at the landfill.

Osmeña said there is no official order yet but he is obligated to follow the law.

During the mayorship of

Michael Rama, the City closed the dumpsite and delivered the garbage to a private landfill in nearby Consolacion town.

Osmeña, however, stopped the practice saying the deal was not covered by a contract. He, instead, reopened the dumpsite. **(Mars W. Mosqueda, Jr.)**



DENR secretary Gina Lopez wants the Inayawan Landfill as it was situated just beside a coastal area in Cebu. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

9

✓

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Capiz river clean-up

ILOILO CITY — Riverbank settlers along Panay River in Capiz province must be relocated to give way to the river's rehabilitation.

The relocation of illegal settlers and the dismantling of illegal structures along the river were recommended by the Save Panay River Council and Task Force.

The clean-up of the river followed findings by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-Capiz) of high levels of coliform bacteria in its waters.

DENR-Capiz Director Valentin Talabero has blamed the pollution to massive dumping of garbage and untreated wastewater into the river.

The task force is led by Capiz Governor Antonio del Rosario.

Provincial legal consultant Ronnie T. Dadivas urged local governments to consider providing relocation sites for the riverbank settlers.

The Panay River runs through 16 towns in Capiz.

Dadivas said that if a local government cannot provide a relocation site, it must provide financial aid to the settlers. (Tara Yap)

22 OCT 2016

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

10

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PARIS A... PAGE 1/2

10

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Editorial

Saturday, October 22, 2016



22 OCT 2016
DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

10
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PAGE 2/2

Three agreements on climate change

AS typhoons and hurricanes battered lands around the world this month, nations reached various agreements aimed at minimizing the climate change believed responsible for the worsening natural disasters.

On October 5, the Paris Agreement, for which 196 nations submitted Nationally Determined Contributions to the goal of limiting the rise in global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius, was declared to have reached the threshold for entry into force. On this date, the threshold was reached with 81 countries ratifying the agreement. It formally enters into force on November 4.

On October 6, the United Nations reached accord on a global system aimed at reducing pollution from international aviation. It requires airlines to compensate for emissions growth after 2020 by funding environmental initiatives. At least 65 nations, including the United States, China, and Europe, which account for 83 percent of all international flights, agreed to join the agreement which is expected to remove pollution equivalent to that produced by 35 million cars each year.

Then on October 15, negotiators from over 170 countries meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, reached a legally binding accord to reduce the worldwide use

of chemical coolants called hydrofluorocarbons or HFCs used extensively in refrigerators and air-conditioners. HFCs are a greenhouse gas with 1,000 times the heat-trapping potency of carbon dioxide. As early as 2013, US President Obama and China President Xi Jinping had agreed to reduce their nations' use of HFCs.

"This will be the trifecta of international climate agreements," said Andrew Light who had been with the US negotiators. "It's just extraordinary."

The Philippines had a leading role in the approval of the Paris agreement in December, 2015, but President Duterte has expressed some reservations about it, saying that the Philippine commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by 70 percent by 2030 may set back its economic development. New Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Gina Lopez said she hopes to explain the benefits of the agreement and win President Duterte's approval.

With virtually all the nations of the world now moving as one on climate change, on so many levels and in so many fields from home refrigeration to international aviation, we must not be left behind in this worldwide movement for a cleaner, greener, and safer planet Earth.

22 OCT 2016

DATE

6
PAGE

✓
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

EDITORIAL

Three agreements on climate change

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 OCT 2016

DATE

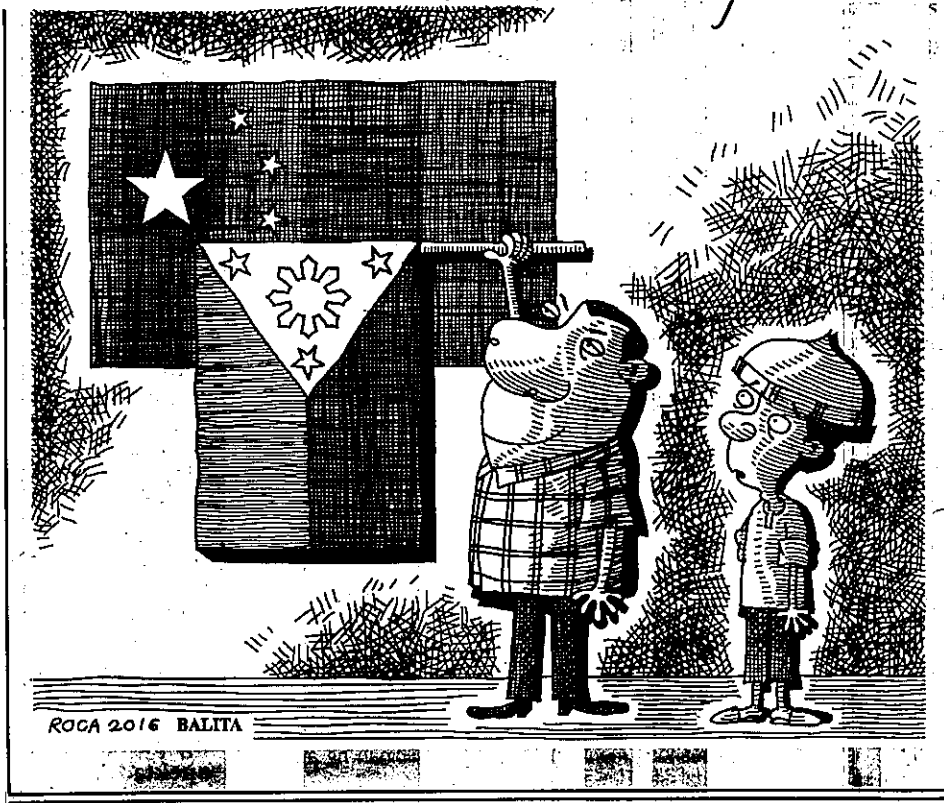
6

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

Editorial: Tatlong kasunduan laban sa
climate change





PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 OCT 2016

22 OCT 2016

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

EDITORIAL

TATLONG KASUNDUAN LABAN SA CLIMATE CHANGE

SA harap ng pananalasa ng mga bagyo at buhawi sa iba't ibang dako ng mundo ngayong buwan, nagkaisa naman ang mga bansa sa iba't ibang kasunduan na layuning maibsan ang epekto ng climate change na pinaniniwalaang responsable sa tumitinding kalamidad.

Oktubre 5 ngayong taon nang ang Paris Agreement, nang nagsumite ang 196 na bansa ng kani-kanilang Nationally Determined Contributions sa hangaring limitahan ang pagtaas ng pandaigdigang temperatura sa 2 degrees Celsius, ay ideklarang umabot na sa antas na maaari na itong maipatupad. Sa kasalukuyan, nasa 81 bansa na ang nagratipika sa kasunduan. Pormal na itong ipatutupad sa Nobyembre 4.

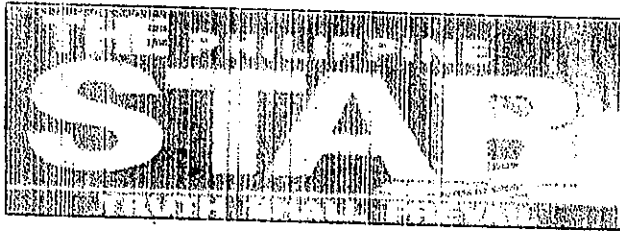
Noong Oktubre 6, nagkaroon na ng kasunduan ang United Nations para sa isang pandaigdigang sistema na layuning bawasan ang polusyon mula sa pandaigdigang biyahe sa himpapawid. Inoobliga nito ang mga kumpanya ng eroplano na magbayad ng kompensasyon sa pagdami ng emissions matapos ang 2020 sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaloob ng pondo sa mga inisyatibang makakalikasan. Nasa 65 bansa, kabilang ang United States, China, at Europe, na bumubuo sa 83 porsiyento ng lahat ng pandaigdigang biyahe sa himpapawid, ang nagkaisang makikibahagi sa kasunduan na inaasahang susugpo sa polusyon na katumbas ng nalilikha ng nasa 35 milyong sasakyan kada taon.

At nitong Oktubre 15, nagkasundo-sundo ang mga negosyador mula sa mahigit 170 bansang nagpulong sa Kigali, Rwanda, sa isang legal at nagbubuklod na unawaan na hangaring bawasan ang paggamit ng chemical coolants sa mundo na tinatawag na hydrofluorocarbons o HFCs, na kadalasang ginagamit sa mga refrigerator at air-conditioner. Ang HFCs ay greenhouse gas na 1,000 beses na mas matindi kaysa carbon dioxide. Noong 2013, nagkasundo sina US President Barack Obama at Chinese President Xi Jinping na babawasan ang paggamit ng kani-kanilang bansa ng HFCs.

"This will be the trifecta of international climate agreements," sinabi ni Andrew Light na kabilang sa mga negosyador mula sa Amerika. "It's just extraordinary."

Malaki ang naging papel ng Pilipinas upang maaprubahan ang kasunduan sa Paris noong Disyembre 2015, subalit nagpahayag si Pangulong Duterte ng pag-aalangan dito, sinabing maaaring magkaroon ng negatibong epekto sa ekonomiya ng bansa ang pangangako ng Pilipinas na babawasan ang carbon footprint nito ng 70 porsiyento pagsapit ng 2030. Sinabi naman ni Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Gina Lopez na umaasa siyang maipaliliwanag upang maaprubahan ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga pakinabang ng bansa sa nasabing kasunduan.

At ngayong nagkakaisang kumikilos ang mga bansa sa mundo laban sa climate change, sa napakaraming antas at napakaraming larangan, mula sa refrigerator sa bahay hanggang sa pandaigdigang biyahe sa himpapawid, marapat lamang na hindi tayo mapag-iwanan sa sama-samang pagkilos ng mundo para sa isang mas malinis at mas ligtas na planetang Earth.



22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HAL

14

PAGE

LOWER HAL

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Zambales, N. Ecija farmers get lands

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has awarded 357 hectares of forestlands to upland farmers in Zambales and Nueva Ecija.

Francisco Milla Jr., DENR-Central Luzon director, said people's organizations Palauig Green Planters Association Inc. in Zambales got 106 hectares while the Digmala Tree Planters Association Inc. in Nueva Ecija received 251 hectares.

The organizations signed a 25-year community-based forest management agreement with the DENR.

"It's a tenurial instrument in the form of agreement awarded to upland farmers as proof of their legitimate occupancy over the forestland," Milla said.

He said peoples' organizations assume the responsibility of

protecting the areas against illegal logging and forest destruction under the agreement. – Ding Cervantes, Ramon Efren Lazaro

22 OCT 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Upland farmers in CL and NE get tenure certificates under CBFMP

BY HENRY EMPEÑO

Correspondent

IBA, Zambales—Around 300 upland farmers from two people's organizations (POs) in Central Luzon became the latest beneficiaries of the revived Community Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP), a forest-governance tool for which the Philippines has been recognized as pioneer in the whole of Asia.

According to Dir. Francisco Milla Jr. of the Region 3 office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the agency recently awarded at least 357 hectares of forestlands to upland farmers in Central Luzon in a bid to reduce poverty in rural areas and promote social justice and equitable access to forest resources.

The latest beneficiary groups were the Palauig Green Planters Association Inc. in Palauig, Zambales, which received tenurial rights to 106 hectares of forest lands; and the Digmala Tree Planters Association Inc. in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, which was awarded with 251 hectares. The CBFMP certificate, in both cases, was good for 25 years.

"The CBFMP entitles the POs to rehabilitate the forestland they occupy and develop it through agroforestry scheme," Milla said in a news statement released on Friday.

He added that the beneficiaries of the program "can also develop in their area livelihood opportunities not dependent on forest products, and utilize the resources found therein, but subject to existing forestry and environmental laws, rules and regulations."

Milla, however, hastened to explain that the DENR is "not giving land titles [for] forestlands, [but] only for alienable and disposable lands [A and D] such as agricultural lands and residential areas."

"(The) tenurial instrument in the form of agreement is being awarded to upland farmers [only] as proof of their legitimate occupancy over the forestland," he added.

also actively involved in the National Greening Program of the government.

Under the CBFMP, the beneficiary group assumes the responsibility of protecting the entire forestlands within their area against illegal logging and other unauthorized extraction of forest products. They are also tasked to guard against *kaingin* or slash-and-burn agriculture, forest and grass fire, and other forest destruction.

The groups, whose members are deputized as environment and natural resources officers, are also required to assist the DENR in the prosecution of violators of forestry and environmental laws; observe all laws and regulations on forest management; prepare and implement a resource management plan; and formulate and implement benefit-sharing schemes among their members.

The DENR, on the other hand, would ensure that the beneficiary groups have the exclusive occupation and use of forestland covered in the CBFMP, as well as the forest products found in their area.

The agreement covering the CBFMP areas are renewable for another 25 years, subject to compliance by the people's organizations to the set requirements.

The CBFMP, hailed as a success in the Philippines in terms of ensuring sustainability of forest resources and equitable distribution of access and benefits to farmer-beneficiaries, has recently been revived by the government after a 12-year hibernation.

Milla said that under the leadership of Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez, the DENR is set for transformation from just a regulatory agency "into a development institution that will provide livelihood opportunities, brings social justice and empower upland communities, especially the poorest among the poor."

According to the DENR Region 3 office, there are now 116 CBFM agreements given out to farmers' groups in Central Luzon. These covered more than 16,000 hectares

357 ha of land distributed to CL upland farmers

By FRANCISCO MILLA

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon announced yesterday the awarding of a total of 357 hectares of forestlands to upland farmers in Zambales and Nueva Ecija under the Community Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP).

DENR Region 3 Director Francisco Milla, Jr. said the distribution of these parcels of land is part of the national government's bid to reduce poverty in rural areas and promote social justice and equitable access to forest resources.

Milla said said the People's Organizations (PO) of Palaug Green Planters Association Incorporated in the town of Palaug in Zambales with 106 ha of forestlands and the Digmala Tree Planters Association Incorporated in Gabaldon town in Nueva Ecija with 251 ha were awarded with a 25-year Community Based-Forest Management Agreement

(CBFMA) and considered as the latest beneficiaries of the program 12 years after a moratorium was implemented in the issuance of CBFMA.

"The DENR is not giving land titles in forestlands only those alienable and disposable lands (A and D) such as agricultural land and residential areas are awarded with titles. However, tenurial instrument in the form of agreement is being awarded to upland farmers as proof of their legitimate occupancy over the forestland," he explained.

He said that the new direction of DENR under the leadership of Secretary Regina Paz Lopez is to transform the department into more than a regulatory agency but also a development institution that will provide livelihood opportunities, brings social justice and empower upland communities especially the poorest among the poor.

He said at least 300 upland farmers from the two POs were expected to benefit from the program who are also actively involved in the National Greening Program (NGP) of the government.

22 OCT 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PEOPLES Tonight

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

US Embassy Go Green! initiative brings bamboo to Batac

THE American Corner in Batac, and Mariano Marcos State University organized a two-day event on the environmental benefits of bamboo planting for 100 students, faculty, and representatives from Barangay 16 Quiling Sur.

Participants learned about how bamboo helps the environment from Dr. Roseller Ayson, professor at the Mariano Marcos State University College of Agriculture. The group then planted 150 bamboo seedlings along the riverbanks of Quiling Sur in Batac Ilocos Norte to help counter erosion.

The US Embassy's Go Green! Initiative calls on all 14 American Corners throughout the Philippines to orga-



American Spaces staff, university officials, and Barangay 16, Quiling Sur community members pose with a planted bamboo.

nize year-long "green" activities and programs that raise Filipinos' environmental awareness and inspire action.

American Corners are US government-funded American-style resource centers hosted by partner institutions with programming and information on the policy, culture, and val-

ues of the United States, including English language learning and study in the United States. Access is free and open to the public. The American Spaces team at the US Embassy in the Philippines supports 14 university-based American Corners in key locations throughout the country.

P.2

INQUIRER

22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

05

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tubbataha - - - -

phenomenal 2015 dive season, when whale sharks, formerly rarities in the area, had shown up on almost every single dive.

If you're a Filipino scuba diver, it behooves you to make your own pilgrimage to this Holy Grail of Philippine diving before you even think of going elsewhere.

The trip is expensive, no doubt, but the reefs of Tubbataha are unparalleled in richness, diversity of marine life (read: sharks galore) and exciting currents.

And the topography! There are mind-boggling walls, wild coral gardens, picturesque sandy areas and

drop-offs that plummet down to untold depths. It's not an easy place to dive, but when you're ready and able, it's the adventure of a lifetime. No wonder Marissa and Tet are incurably hooked.

Even if you don't dive or will never make your way to Tubbataha, it is still good to know that a natural wonder of global importance and beauty exists right here in Philippine waters—a national treasure, indeed. Even vicarious enjoyment is possible as you gaze upon Tet's incredible shots of schooling bumpheads, burping whale sharks, a family of marble rays huddled together, and Bird Island, glorious! packed

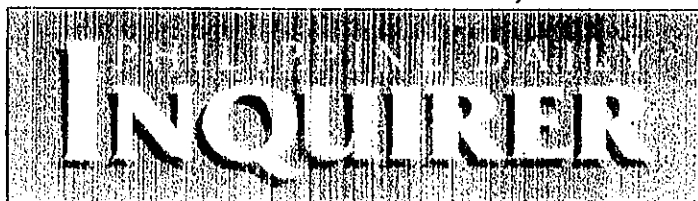
with terns and boobies.

"Many people do not have a chance to visit Tubbataha," notes Songco. "Marissa and Tet bring Tubbataha to them through this book. It shows how lucky we are as a nation to have been given this treasure, and how great is our responsibility to the world to care for it for the rest of humankind." INQ



Check out the Facebook page
of "Tubbataha: A National Treasure,"
or e-mail tubbahanationaltreasure@gmail.com





22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

C5
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Their love affair with Tubbataha

Finally, the first photo book ever on the country's most famous marine park is launched—a tribute from its biggest fans

By Alya B. Honasan

I don't remember sleeping that night while the boat rocked back and forth," writes Teresa "Tet" Lara, underwater photographer, of her unforgettable first visit in March 1996 to the Tubbataha Reefs, onboard what was then the Aquastar.

It was a rough start to what was to be a wonderful, 20-year love affair, as Tet and her dive buddy and friend, underwater cinematographer Marissa Florendo, would return almost every year to the iconic marine park, the Philippines' premier scuba-diving site and a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) World Heritage Site, the only purely marine heritage site in Southeast Asia.

Thus did Tet accumulate several years' worth of stunning photographs.

Last May, I received a call from Marissa: "I think it's about time we put together a book on Tubbataha, but we don't know how to write it. Will you help us?" Of course I would, I said—and of course I did.

"Tubbataha: A National Treasure," featuring photographs by Tet Lara, text by yours truly, design by Felix Mago Miguel, and essays by some of the country's leading scientists, will be launched on Nov. 9.

The hefty tome—268 pages, 231 pictures—published by the AOF Foundation, will contribute to the protection and preservation of the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park—easily one of the most beloved places on the planet for many scuba divers, including Filipinos who have been visiting it for years.

Very first photo book

Although it is primarily a pictorial journey—incredibly, the very first photo book to be published on Tubbataha—we were in immediate agreement that it should also contain substantial information on the place. Thus, we came up with an outline covering a range of perspectives, from historical mentions of the place in British nautical records of the 18th century, to its importance as a rich spawning ground, feeding fisheries well beyond its borders.

We recognize its importance as a unique and critical ecosystem and as a dive tourism destination, and chronicle the milestones in its protection from the 1970s to the present, under the stewardship of the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board (TPAMB) and the dynamic Tubbataha Management Office (TMO).

Tubbataha's maverick of a Protected Area superintendent, Angelique Songco, and her team of dedicated Marine Park Rangers get special mention. We relied heavily on information from the TMO, a case study on the reefs by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines and, most significantly, on the only book ever published on the reefs: the 1994 book "Tales from Tubbataha" by journalist Yasmin Arquiza and marine biologist Alan White.

Although I wrote the matrix of the text, we also decided that we needed to hear from experts in various fields, all of whom rose to the occasion and wrote splendid essays on the Tubbataha they know.

Renowned coral experts and marine biologists Al Licuanan and Perry

Ornithologist Arne Jensen discusses Tubbataha's topside value as an important seabird rookery, Arquiza recalls the early days of reporting on the reefs, and Songco, who also served as editorial consultant, contributes her piece on managing a national heritage.

'Living jewel'

Tet and Marissa were particularly thrilled to have a foreword written by arguably the greatest living underwater photographer on the planet, National Geographic's David Doubilet, whom the two met during their extensive travels, and who joined them on one memorable trip to Tubbataha.

"Tet Lara's imagery is a body of

work spanning two decades of devotion to this living jewel," he writes. "Her pictures are intimate, poetic, and powerful."

As for the reefs, he says succinctly, "I have seen nothing like it in five decades under the sea."

In her publisher's note, Marissa notes how we all share a passion for Tubbataha. Indeed, on my visit last May, I was genuinely thrilled to discover that the reefs, which had gone from gorgeous, to battered by destructive fishing and alien species infestation, are again very much alive and well, a true testament to nature's power.

Divers are still talking about the

INQUIRER

22 OCT 2016

DATE

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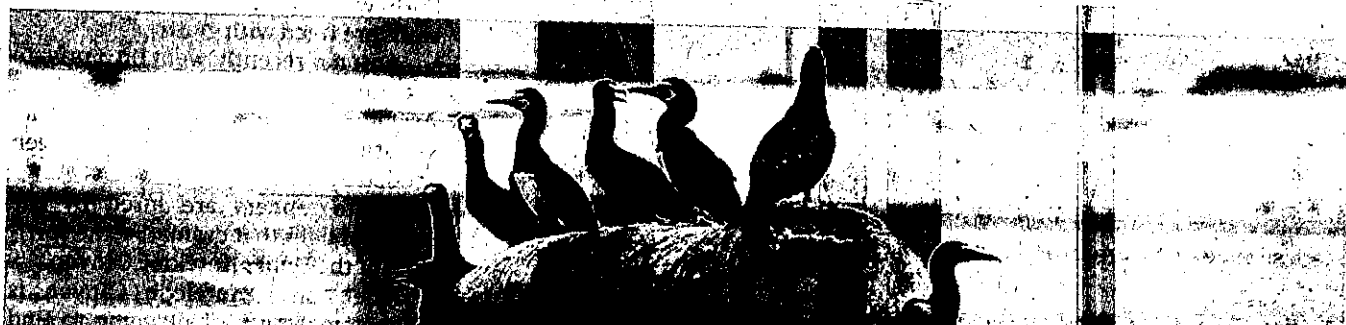
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tubbataha

Going to Tubbataha? Here's what you should know:

- You must be a certified diver or, at least, an avid snorkeler. There really aren't any quiet beaches for working on your tan.
- You should be a relatively experienced diver. Tubbataha is famous for ripping currents and deep dives. You should also be in relatively good shape, because multiple dives over multiple days demand stamina.
- You should book in advance. Some foreigners book a year before, because the Tubbataha dive season is short—only March to June of every year.
- You should research on the costs and facilities of the live-aboard boats that go to Tubbataha. Most of them are run by reputable operators, but do ask around; read testimonials, ask people who have been on the boats. Among the popular vessels are Discovery Palawan, Palausport, Oceana Maria and Azores (they're all online).
- You should make arrangements to fly in and out of Puerto Princesa, which is not included in the cost of the trip. Give yourself time on the return trip; your flight should be 24 hours after your last dive.
- You should save money. A trip to Tubbataha is not cheap—around \$2,000 per person. But if you're a serious scuba diver, it's worth it.



INQUIRER

P4

22 OCT 2016

DATE

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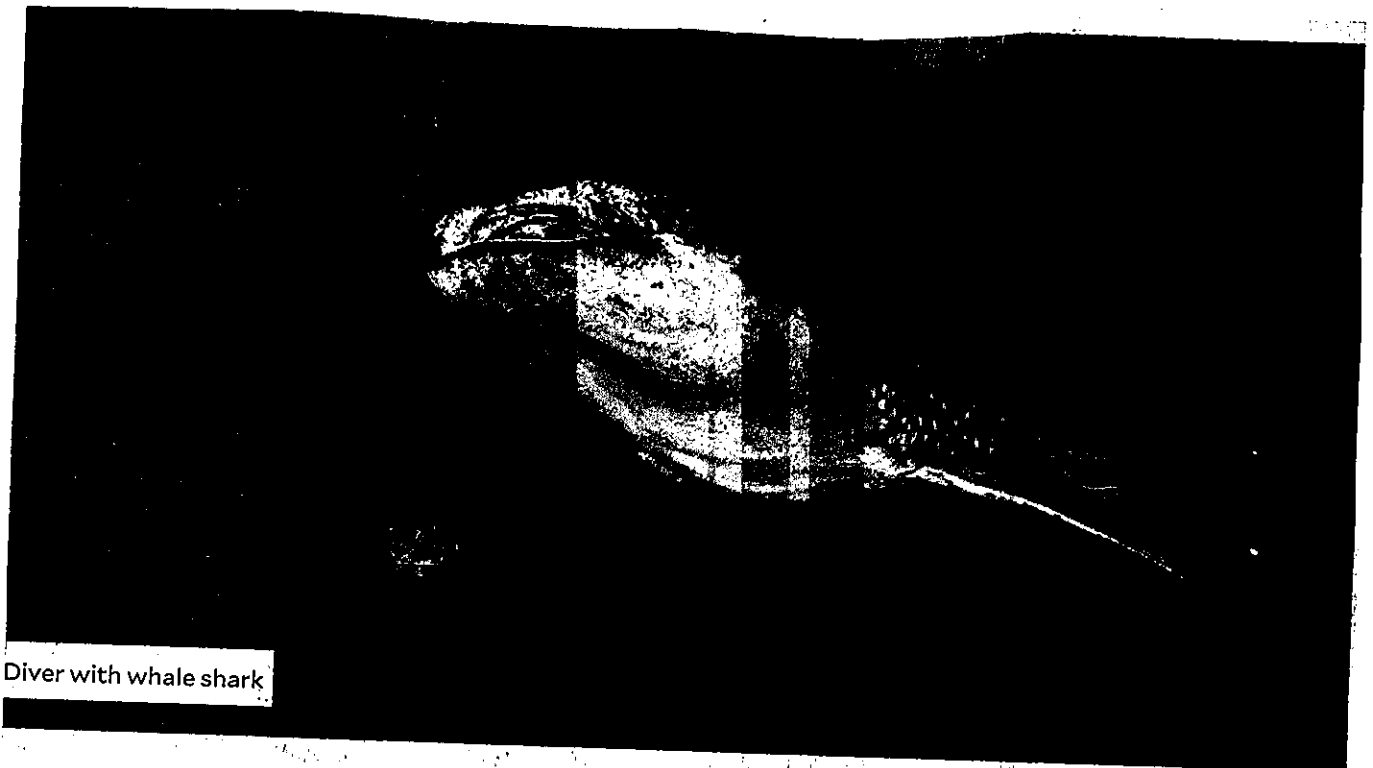
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tubbataha



Diver with whale shark



I have seen
nothing like it
in five decades
under the sea

National Geographic's
David Doubilet
on the reefs

Lara, Floirendo
and their dog
Skeet in
Tubbataha



PILIPINO MIRROR

22 OCT 2016

DATE

PAGE

PPER HALF

OWER HALF

AMIN NG KATOTOHANAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

REHAB PROGRAM PARA SA DRUG SURRENDEREES BUKAS NA

ORMAL nang binuk-
san kahapon ang isang
training program para
sa mga sumukong drug
users upang maging
produktibo ang kanilang
pagbabagong-buhay.

Pinanguhayan ni Sena-
dora Cynthia A. Villar ang
rehabilitation program na
may temang 'SAGIP BU-
KAS: A Drug Rehabilita-
tion Training Program for
a Better Life', sa pagkiki-
pagtulongan ng iba't ibang
ahensiya ng pamahalaan tu-
lad ng Philippine National
Police (PNP), Department
of Environment and Natu-
ral Resources (DENR), De-
partment of Health (DOH),
Department of Interior and
Local Government (DILG),
Department of Agriculture
(DA) at Office of the Presi-
dent (OP).

Magbibigay ang 'SA-
GIP BUKAS' ng 12 ling-
gong drug rehabilitation
training program kung saan
ay magkakaroon ng libreng
pagsasanay sa agri-farming
at health and wellness, at
lectures sa ethic legal as-
pects sa mga gumagamit ng
droga.

Bukod dito, magsa-
sagawa rin ang mga kala-
hok sa programa ng coastal
clean-up at mangrove plant-
ing. Magkakaroon din ng
physical training at tuturuan
silang mag-Zumba.

"We must help these

drug surrenderers in their
desires to live normal lives
again. Let us help them
find alternative sources of
livelihood, like agri-farm-
ing, so that their stigma of
being illegal drug users is
disabused," ani Villar.

Ang rehabilitation
training program ay alin-
sunod sa layunin ng pa-
mahalaan na tulungan ang
mga drug user na magbalik
sa normal na buhay at ma-
ging kapaki-pakinabang.

VICKY CERVALES

P.1



Destruction A farmer leads his carabaos next to his house and trees which were damaged by supertyphoon "Lawin" in Peña Blanca town, Cagayan province yesterday. "Supertyphoon Lawin, one of the most powerful typhoons to ever hit the Philippines, killed at least eight people on October 20 as ferocious gales and landslides destroyed tens of thousands of homes.

'Lawin' death toll rises to 12; typhoon survivors still waiting for aid

By Mario J. Mallari
and Angie M. Rosales

Authorities have raised the death toll from supertyphoon "Lawin" to 12 while more than 50,000 others were displaced after the storm battered northern Luzon last Thursday as

hungry typhoon survivors huddled in makeshift shelters and waited for aid yesterday, after losing nearly everything from one of the most powerful storms to hit the country. Lawin struck last Wednesday night with winds similar to those of catastrophic "Yolanda" in 2013, which

was then the strongest storm to hit the disaster-prone country and claimed more than 7,350 lives. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) confirmed seven fatalities and said it is validating five others if they are related to Lawin.

A survey team was dispatched by plane yesterday to assess the damage in the Cagayan Valley region, large parts of which the authorities said were flooded by the overflow of the Cagayan River. Motorcycle-riding officials were also sent to the area.

Turn to page

'Lawin' death toll rises to 12; typhoon survivors still waiting for aid

From page 1

also sent to remote areas, Romina Marasigan, spokesman for the NDRRMC told reporters.

In San Pablo, another Cagayan Valley town, four families spent Thursday night on a roadside after Lawin flattened their homes.

"No one has helped us. It is just us and other families, helping each other on the side of the road," Jovy Dalupan, a mother of two, told *Agence France Presse*.

"I cried when I saw my beans and squash plants that had been raked off by the winds. My mango trees were also toppled," farmer Leonardo Longan, 66, told *AFP* in the town of Peñablanca, close to where Lawin made landfall.

For Longan, just like many of his neighbors, home is now an improvised shelter with palm leaves for a roof, blankets for walls and a bed made from the collapsed wooden wall of his old home.

He and his wife sent their four school-age children to live with a relative, and have borrowed rice from a local trader.

But in Peñablanca, a farming town of about 42,000 people, Longan said aid had yet to arrive.

No dry clothes

Dalupan said her daughters, aged eight months and four years, had started coughing after being drenched during the storm and that their clothes were still wet.

"But we have nothing to change into," she said.

Marasigan, the disaster agency official, said a military plane-load of food aid was flown to the region to augment supplies already there.

But Cagayan Valley, a mostly farming region, was not as badly affected as the Cordillera highlands, she said.

"The damage in the Cordilleras was heavy," she said, with torrential rain unleashing landslides across the region.

"We have been saddened to learn that some people were hit by landslides as they fled their homes"

extent of the typhoon's fallout there could not yet be determined, Marasigan said.

As of Friday, a total of 60 barangays in the provinces of Pangasinan and Pampanga were still flooded while 42 road sections and four bridges in Northern and Central Luzon and in CAR are still not passable due to flooding and landslides.

"Power interruption is being experienced in 60 cities and municipalities in Region 1 and Calabarzon and the whole of CAR," the NDRRMC also said.

Telecommunication signal is also downed in the provinces of Kalinga, Apayao and Abra and in some areas of Ilocos Sur, La Union and Quezon.

In CAR, the typhoon has initially damaged some P26, 162, 377 worth of agriculture products and the NDRRMC expects the figure to further increase as soon as assessments were done in other affected provinces, especially Cagayan and Isabela.

Telcos in hot water

The country's telecommunications companies, meanwhile, may find themselves in hot water for failing to send mobile disaster alerts to subscribers on the impact of Lawin.

"Such failure goes against the objective of the law to ensure the immediate dissemination of useful, timely and relevant information in order to help our people prepare for natural disasters," said Sen. Grace Poe, chairman of public services committee in the upper chamber.

Poe, in moving for an inquiry through filing of Resolution 211, wants to find out why disaster agencies and telcos fell short of sending mobile disaster alerts which is already a law under Republic Act 10639, or the Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act.

Poe said she received information from residents in the areas affected by the typhoon that they were not able to receive alerts on their mobile phones before Lawin struck.

THE STANDARD

22 OCT 2016

DATE

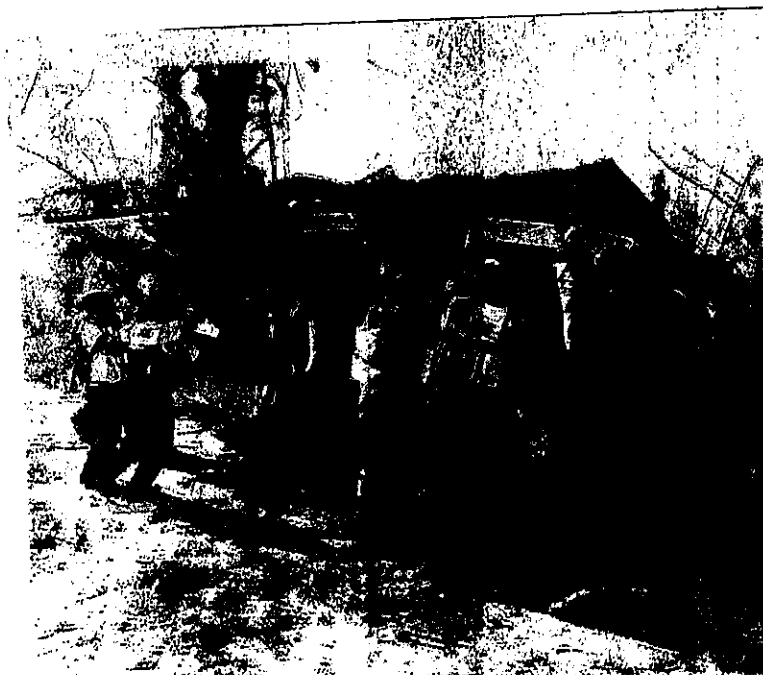
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Page 1 Story

PAGE

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



LAWIN'S SAVAGERY. Police remove Friday a roof, blown off its building by Super Typhoon 'Lawin' along a road in the tourist town of Peña Blanca in Cagayan, among the provinces devastated by the monstrous weather disturbance which has killed at least a dozen people in northern Philippines and destroyed infrastructure and agricultural products. AFP

Ilocos placed under state of calamity

ILOCOS Norte officials on Friday declared the province under a state of calamity after the strong winds and heavy rain accompanying Typhoon "Lawin" destroyed more than P673.49 million worth of crops, roads, bridges and dikes.

The provincial council of Cagayan was also set to declare the province under a state of calamity once the board is convened.

Disaster officials in Ilocos Norte said infrastructure, agriculture and livestock bore the brunt of the damage.

Officials said seven people were confirmed dead while five

Next page

Ilocos...

From A1

others were being validated, adding all the casualties were from the Cordillera Administrative Region.

At least 2,450 families or 8,757 individuals who evacuated to safer ground before Typhoon "Lawin" made landfall in Cagayan province are now back to their homes.

Some 8,940 families or 40,644 individuals in 195 villages in 28 towns in Cagayan were affected by the typhoon.

Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri called for the sustained release of food and farm inputs to the victims of Typhoons "Karen" and "Lawin."

He also called on the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. and the Science and Agriculture Departments to adopt weather-triggered insurance.

"The victims need food and non-food aid," he said.

"Many farmers can only plant

THE STANDARD

22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

A4
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

EDITORIAL

A reminder from 'Lawin'

AMID this country's woes on the domestic and international fronts, Typhoon "Lawin" ripped through Northern Luzon this week, leaving in its trail at least seven people dead, five missing, homes and livelihoods destroyed, and billions of pesos in damaged crops and infrastructure.

Even the offices of the Cagayan Valley Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council were not spared, and disaster officials were forced to conduct meetings, in the aftermath of the typhoon, in a hotel.

The typhoon, which made landfall Wednesday evening, had winds of 225 kilometers per

hour and gusts of up to 315 kph. As a result, several provincial councils have declared a state of calamity in their respective areas.

"Lawin," deemed a super typhoon, has been compared to Typhoon "Yolanda," which ravaged the central Philippines nearly three years ago. Yolanda taught us

a few things at that time, and it would be good to ask ourselves whether we had indeed learned these lessons—or if we just fell back on the same patterns that have rendered us perpetually surprised and scrambling when disaster strikes.

Out of the experience of Yolanda and succeeding typhoons, we determined that the flow of information between and among government units, local and national, was crucial especially in the first few hours. Clear protocols must be established to know who makes the decisions during emergency situations. Scientific terms have to be communicated clearly to the people.

And politics should not get in the way.

We learned that a disaster near

Metro Manila is not more important than a disaster in a far-flung community that does not have cellular service or internet connection.

Given the present government context we are also reminded that some issues are not any more important than others just because they are talked about in controversial—nay, scandalous—fashion. For example, we have seen how the congressional investigation into the alleged links of Senator Leila de Lima to the drug trade in the National Bilibid Prison amounted to nothing despite the so-called witnesses' explosive claims.

These days we tend to watch everything that comes out of President Rodrigo Duterte's mouth. Since the campaign, he has proven himself a fascinating charac-

ter, a rebel who seemed to have his heart in the right place. But it is now clear that the effort that went into decoding this maverick President's words is counterproductive and time consuming.

Would it not be a relief to have a leader who says exactly what he means instead of making impulsive, populist statements which his subordinates later have to put "in the proper context?"

And would it not be good for the people to be assured that the President knows just what to do in ensuring the resilience of communities instead of always fretting about the next disruptive, embarrassing, or potentially damaging thing he might say?

"Lawin" reminded us that we still have a lot to learn in getting our priorities in order.

BusinessMirror

22 OCT 2016

DATE

Page 1 Story

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



LAWIN AFTERMATH A resident uses a bamboo raft to bring to a dry area a duck, following the flooding brought about by Supertyphoon Lawin (international code name Haima), which lashed Vigan, Ilocos, on Thursday, October 20. Lawin slammed into the northeastern Philippine coast late Wednesday, with ferocious winds and rain that rekindled fears and memories from the catastrophe wrought by Supertyphoon Yolanda (international code name Haiyan) in 2013. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ



22 OCT 2016
DATE

14
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Residents wait for a boat to cross Penablanca in Cagayan yesterday after a bridge linking Barangays Cabu and Cabasan collapsed at the height of Typhoon Lawin.

EDD GUMBAN

22 OCT 2016

DATE

2

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF

Halloween costume masama sa health

NAGBABALA ang Eco-Waste Coalition sa publiko kaugnay sa mga Halloween costume na mayroon umanong toxic chemicals makakasama sa kalusugan.

"As the Halloween fades catches on in urban neighborhoods, party and event goers, especially young children, need to exercise precaution in choosing their costumes and toys as many of them have not passed through the required verification procedures by the health authorities," ani Thony Dizon, coordinator ng EcoWaste.

Sinabi ni Dizon na dapat ikuha ng permiso sa gobyerno ang mga costume at laruan bago ito ibenta subalit marami umano sa mga ito ang hindi dumaan sa pagsusuri.

Kaya, aniya, dapat maging mapagmatyag ang mga magulang sa mga laruan na kanilang binibili.

Mayroon umanong mga laruan at Halloween costume na ginamitan ng

pintura na may lead, may mga maliliit na bahagi na maaaring malunok, madaling kapitan ng apoy at mayroong mga matutulis na bahagi na maaaring makasakit.—Leifbilly Begas

THE STANDARD

22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

A3
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



SAFE HALLOWEEN. Ecowaste Coalition's volunteers draw consumer attention to chemical choking, fire and laceration hazards lurking in some Halloween toys. The group urges the public to be cautious when buying toys for Halloween. **Manny Palmero**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 OCT 2016

DATE

4

PAGE

UPPER-HALF

LOWER-HALF



LIGTAS NA HALLOWEN TOYS Ilang araw bago sumapit ang Halloween, pinaalalahanan ng EcoWaste Coalition na siguruhing ligtas ang bawat isa mula sa nakalalasong kemikal na nakukuha sa mga laruang patok ngayong nalalapit na Undas.

MARK BALMORES

PILIPINO MIRROR

22 OCT 2016

DATE
4

PAGE

PPER HALF

OWER HALF

AMIN NG KATOTOHANAN •

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS



MATIYAGANG namumulot ng basura ang mga lalaking ito sa tabing-dagat sa Roxas Blvd., Maynila sa kabila ng malakas na hampas ng alon.
Kuha ni **RUSTY ROMAN**

THE STANDARD

22 OCT 2016
DATE

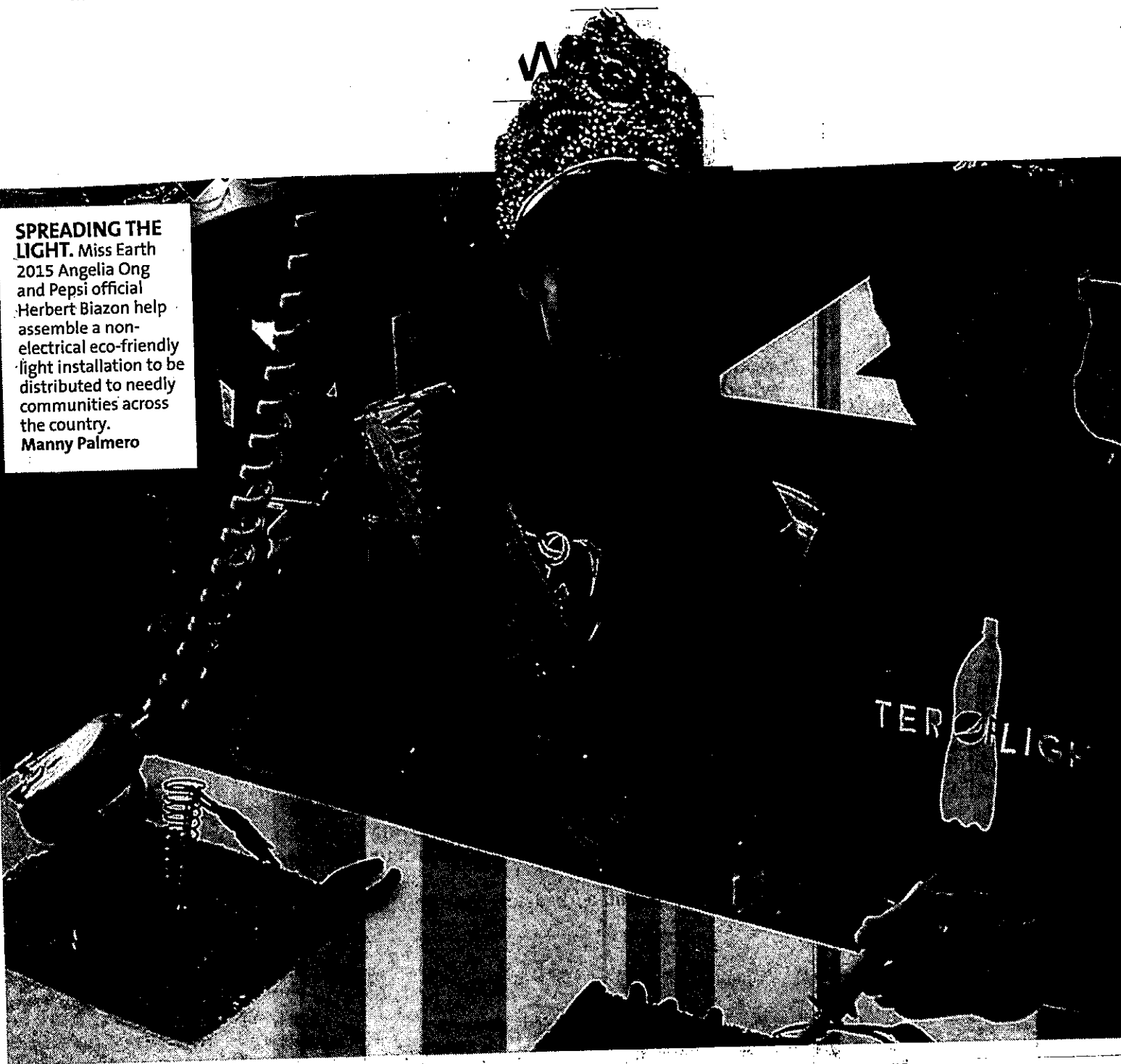
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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

SPREADING THE LIGHT. Miss Earth 2015 Angelia Ong and Pepsi official Herbert Biazon help assemble a non-electrical eco-friendly light installation to be distributed to needy communities across the country.
Manny Palmero



THE STANDARD

22 OCT 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
National Ecology Center Compound, East Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City Philippines.
Tel. Nos.: 373-3275 or 988-3367 loc. 3209
Website: www.denr.ncr.gov.ph

REGIONAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID FOR SALE OF CUT LOGS/TRUNKS "AS-IS WHERE-IS BASIS"

BID NUMBER : DENR-NCR 2016-001

DESCRIPTION : Assorted species of cut logs and trunks (Narra, Acacia, Mahogany, Sampaloc, Mango Etc.), with an estimated volume of Four Hundred Ten (410) cubic meters "Talaksan Method" at assessed price of PhP350.00 per cubic meter.

MINIMUM BID PRICE : One Hundred Sixty Thousand (PhP160,000.00) Pesos.

BID OPENING DATE : October 25, 2016

BID OPENING TIME : 10:00 o'clock in the morning

LOCATION : DENR-NCR Production Nursery, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

The DENR-NCR is seeking bids to sell the confiscated assorted species of cut logs and trunks as describe above. The bids should be addressed to:

DIR. SOFIO B. QUINTANA, Ph.D, CESO IV.
Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and
Chairman, Regional Bids and Awards Committee
Office of the Assistant Regional Director, Technical Services
DENR-NCR Building, National Ecology Center Compound,
East Avenue, Quezon City

The envelope should be clearly marked "BID DOCUMENTS FOR LOGS". Said bids will be opened in public in the 4th Floor, Conference Hall, DENR-NCR Building, National Ecology Center Compound, East Avenue, Quezon City at the time specified above.

Bids will not be accepted if received after the date and time noted above

10 October 2016.

DIR. SOFIO B. QUINTANA, Ph.D, CESO IV.
Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and
Chairman, Regional Bids and Awards Committee

(MS-OCT 24, 2016)