

DATE :

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DAY :

Wednesday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



'ESSENTIAL PART' OF MANILA BAY REHAB

# 60 BOATS REMOVED FROM BANGKULASI RIVER AS

# NAVOTAS CITY GOVERNMENT BEGINS CLEANUP

By Nikka G. Valenzuela  
@NikkaINQ

The Navotas City government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday removed boats that were illegally docked on the Bangkulasi River to give way to the rehabilitation of the polluted body of water.

Earlier this month, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered Navotas officials to clean up the river that was connected to Manila Bay before the end of the year.

According to Cimatu, the cleanup was an "essential part" of the bay's ongoing rehabilitation.

Removing the fishing vessels was the first step in reducing pollution levels in the river, according to Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco.

Over 60 boats were removed

from the stretch of the waterway from Lapu-Lapu Avenue to C3 Road in Barangay North Bay Boulevard South.

Tiangco said that some boats were moved to the Navotas Fish Port, while others were docked on Navotas River behind city hall.

### Fishermen's request

"We met with fishermen last Friday and some of them requested if they could dock on Navotas-Malabon River, so we agreed," he told the Inquirer.

According to the DENR, this particular stretch of the river should be prioritized because it had the highest concentration of fecal coliform, a type of bacteria found in human and animal waste.

The local government was tasked to remove the fishing vessels and other debris, including sunken boats and float-

ing houses.

Tiangco said that they had asked the environment department to provide equipment for the dredging which they "could not do on their own."

Floating houses on Bangkulasi River, which were initially identified as major sources of pollution, were moved to another part of the waterway which was no longer under the jurisdiction of the city.

The DENR earlier warned that it would issue cease-and-desist orders against establishments in Navotas that lacked proper sewerage treatment plants.

The city government, however, has yet to receive the list of these establishments although Tiangco said that he had already instructed the business licensing office to suspend these establishments' licenses once they get a copy. INQ



CLEARING OPERATIONS Fishing boats are removed from the stretch of Bangkulasi River between Lapu-Lapu Avenue and C3 Road. —PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVOTAS PIO



**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

**Bangkalasi  
river  
sinimulang  
linisin**

SINIMULAN ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Navotas, kasama ang mga kinatawan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at ibang pang ahensiya ng pamahalaan sa pangunguna ni Asec. Rico Salazar, ang paglilinis ng Bangkulasi River.

Napag-alaman, ang nasabing ilog ay may mataas na antas ng fecal coliform, isang uri ng bacteria na nagmumula sa dumi ng tao o hayop.

Nangako si Mayor Toby Tiangco na gagawin ng pamahalaang lungsod ang makakaya para malinis ang ilog at mapaunlad ang kalidad ng tubig nito.

"Noong nakaraang linggo, nagsagawa kami ng dialogo kasama ang mga mangingisdang ma-aapektohan ng clean-up drive. Ipinaliwanag namin kung bakit kailangan nilang ilipat ang kanilang mga bangka sa Navotas Fish Port," aniya.

Inatasan din ni Tiangco ang ilang mga tanggapan ng pamahalaang lungsod at mga barangay na siguruhing tuloy-tuloy ang paglilinis ng ilog at i-monitor ang tagumpay nito.

Kamakailan, sinabi ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na napakahalaga ng paglilinis ng Bangkulasi segment sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, at nagtakda siya ng palugit hanggang December para magkaroon ng malaking pagbabago ang nasabing ilog.

Kasama sa kick-off ang mga kinatawan mula sa Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, Philippine National Police-Navotas, at PNP-Maritime.

Kabilang din sa naroon ang mga opisyal ng Brgy. NBBS Kaunlaran, Dagat-dagatan, at Bangkulasi at mga kawani ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office, City Agriculture Office at City Engineering Office.

(JUN DAVID)



## Paglilinis sa Bangkulasi River, sinimulan

**SINIMULAN** na ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Navotas, kasama ang mga kinatawan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaang pambansa sa pangunguna ni DENR Asec. Rico Salazar, ang paglilinis ng Bangkulasi River.

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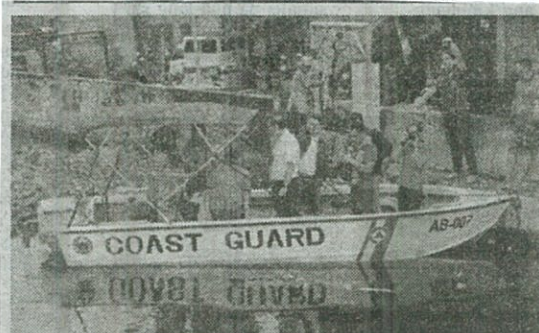
Noong nakaraang linggo, nagsagawa kami ng day-alogo kasama ang mga mangingisdang maaapektuhan ng clean-up drive. Ipinaliwanag namin kung bakit kailangan nilang ilipat ang kanilang mga bangka sa Navotas Fish Port," aniya.

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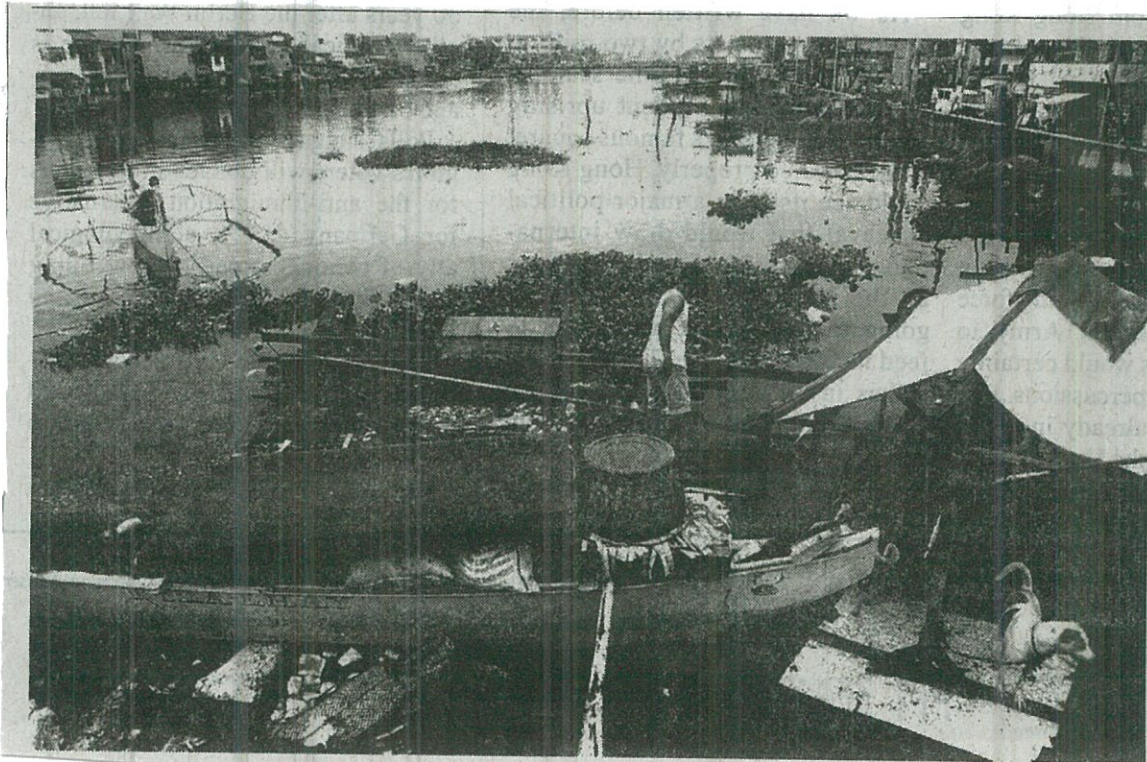
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Kabilang din sa naron ang mga opisyal ng Brgy. NBBS Kaunlaran, Dagat-dagatan, at Bangkulasi at mga kawani ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office, City Agriculture Office at City Engineering Office. (Beth Samson)



**SINIMULAN** ng lokal na pamahalaang Navotas ang paglilinis ng Bangkulasi River kung saan ipinangako ni Mayor Toby Tiangco na gagawin ng pamahalaang lungsod ang makakaya nito para malinis ang ilog at mapaunlad ang kalidad ng tubig nito. (Beth Samson)





### RIVER CLEANUP.

Representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the City Government of Navotas headed by Mayor Toby Tiangco led the removal of boats and floating houses from the Bangkulasi River in Navotas City. The purpose of the cleanup drive is to clean the river.

**Andrew Rabulan**



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**FLOATING HOUSE**—Maparaan talaga ang mga Pinoy basta may matirhan lang. Nakunan ng Remate ang isang floating house sa Bangkulasi River sa Navotas City na kabilang sa pinaalis ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at pamahalaang lungsod ng Navotas sa direktiba ni Mayor Toby Tiangco kaugnay ng isinasagawang clean-up drive sa nasabing ilog. JOJO RABULAN





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## Experts to explore bamboo potentials vs climate change

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE vast potentials of bamboo for environmental sustainability and economic resiliency will soon be further explored after environment officials, scientists, and researchers in Southeast Asia have agreed to establish a regional network for such endeavor.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the move aims to help address the adverse effects of climate change.

The establishment of the ASEAN Bamboo Network was the most prominent feature of the resolution adopted by participants to the first-ever ASEAN Bamboo Congress held in Iloilo City from Aug. 12 to 16.

The five-day event, which was organized by the DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) brought together government officials, scientists and researchers within the ASEAN region, as well as representatives from the World Bamboo Organization, Brazil, Qatar and Peru.

Cimatu described the resolution as a "decisive output" of the conference as it enabled formal commitment of the signatories towards "a sustainable and climate resilient future for the entire region."

"With this resolution, we are assuring that we will put our utmost endeavors in the continuous research

and development in bamboo production technologies, as well as stronger linkages within the ASEAN region," Cimatu pointed out.

Bamboo is widely recognized as a "versatile renewable resource" that protects the environment, improves the microclimate, controls soil erosion, protects riverbanks, reduces flash floods, serves as wind-break, and sequesters atmospheric carbon efficiently. It also has good properties comparable to most wood species and offers a variety of uses either in its unmanufactured form or as processed into engineered products, and as such, reduces the demand burden for wood-based products from the forests thereby arresting deforestation.

The attendees to the regional conference were convinced that engaging into bamboo production and the manufacturing of bamboo products provide job opportunities and steady income source among farmer groups, local communities, artisans and workers along the value chain.

However, they also recognized the fact that promoting bamboo for climate change adaptation and mitigation, economic stability and environmental sustainability entails innate challenges that need science-based decision-making, linking up with all possible stakeholders and dialogue partners.

This is exactly what the congress participants want to address to achieve enhanced technical collabo-



ration, efficient resource mobilization, inclusive development strategies, clear and effective regulations, broad public awareness and enhanced capacities.

The signatories to the resolution have resolved to enhance partnership to come up with science-based strategies in improving the conditions of bamboo forests and dependent industries in the region.

They also agreed to share best practices to increase the appreciation and acceptance of bamboo as a cost-effective green product as alternative to plastic, metal and wood materials.

At the same time, they approved of the plan to hold the Bamboo Congress every three years to sustain the efforts on expanding ASEAN bamboo concerns in the world map, re-examine the strategies that have been undertaken, and bring into active discussion the new and emerging challenges on bamboo that the region may have to engage in.





## Tougher penalty against wildlife trafficking sought

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

**A** PROPOSED amendment to Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, will impose a stiffer penalty for wildlife traffickers who seem to have brushing off penalties and fines under the law, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda, deputy spokesman of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, said the DENR will push stiffer penalty under the law and intensify anti-illegal wildlife trade operations through the DENR-led Task Force Pogi.

Although Antiporda maintained that the DENR is not remiss on its duties and has succeeded in putting wildlife criminals behind bars, the DENR official underscored the need to put more teeth to the law to protect and conserve the country's rich biodiversity.

"To stop illegal wildlife trade, we must impose stiffer penalty," Antiporda said.

He noted that some illegal wildlife trade are making a mockery of the law by pleading guilty and enter a plea-bargaining agreement with the court for reduced sentence.

A case in point is the recent plea-bargaining agreements entered into by the illegal wildlife traders with the prosecutors, which presiding judges have eventually approved. Last July 18, Presiding Judge Liezl Rosario Mendoza of Branch 1 of the Municipal Trial Court of Tagaytay City sentenced Simforoso Salazar, Jorlan Torrequimada and Victor Equisa up to three months in jail and ordered to pay a fine of P20,000 each, after pleading guilty to violating the provisions of RA 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.





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# Gov't wants mining firms to pay higher fees for mine wastes

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

**T**he Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) is planning to require all mining companies in the country to pay higher mine waste and tailing fees as part of the amendments in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Philippine Mining Act or the Republic Act (RA) 7942 the agency is now pushing for.

To be specific, MGB wants to set the basic fees that shall accrue to the Mine Wastes and Tailings (MWT) fees at ₱0.10 per metric ton (/MT) of mine wastes and ₱0.15/MT of tailings both generated from the mining, quarrying, mineral processing operations.

This is provided that the amount of MWT fees per semester shall have a minimum of ₱2,500.00 payable by all mining companies. There should also be a succeeding increase of ₱0.05/MT per year for five years for both MWT fees' reserve fund.

And then a review after five years shall be conducted to determine if further increase is needed.

In the existing law, basic fees that shall accrue to the MWT Reserve Fund is pegged set at ₱0.05/MT of mine waste produced and ₱0.10/MT of mill

tailings generated from the mining operations.

Another provision that is not in the existing law is that in lieu of the mine wastes fee, nickel mines shall now pay an amount of ₱1.00/MT of ore shipped or a minimum fee of ₱500,000.00 per annum, whichever is higher, to be known as Environmental Damaged Compensation Fee.

The amount of fee collected shall accrue to a MWT Reserve Fund and shall be deposited in the Bureau of the Treasury to be used for compensation for damages caused by nickel mining operations.

"The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Director, is authorized to increase the said fees when national interest and public welfare so require," MGB said.

As usual, the MWT fees shall be collected semi-annually from each operating mining company.

Rocky Dimaculangan, vice president for corporate communications at Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), an organization of some of the country's largest mining operations, said this proposed policy is now being reviewed by the mining sector and has yet to make any computation how much the fees will affect the miners.





## DMCI Mining ships 41% more nickel ore in H1

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The mining unit of Consunji-led DMCI Holdings Corp. continued to see a jump in nickel ore shipments in the first half of the year as total shipments grew 41 percent during the period.

DMCI Mining said total nickel ore shipment reached 681,000 wet metric tons(WMT) in the first half of the year, higher than the 483,000 WMT in the same period last year.

Total nickel ore shipments reached 343,000 WMT in the second quarter of the year.

The company said all shipments came from Berong Nickel Corp. following the resumption of its mining operations by virtue of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) resolution lifting its suspension order last November 2018.

It added that its other nickel asset, Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. (ZDMC), has complied with the conditions set by the DENR for the lifting of its November 2018 suspension order.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) reviewed the remedial actions taken by ZDMC last April 2019, and confirmed that all the specified conditions of DENR have been met," said DMCI Mining president Cesar Simbulan, Jr.

"MGB has also recommended the lifting of the suspension. Hopefully, the DENR central office will reach a decision before the end of this year," he added.

On a stand-alone basis, DMCI Mining recorded flat revenues of P985 million in the first half of 2019 as its shipment of mostly lower grade nickel fetched lower average selling price.

Average nickel grade during the period dropped eight percent from 1.73 percent to 1.60 percent. Consequently, average selling price fell 28 percent from \$39 to \$28.

In the first six months of the year, DMCI Mining saw its stand-alone net income decline 19 percent year-on-year from P316 million to P254 million.

Parent firm DMCI Holdings earlier reported a 22 percent drop in earnings in the first half of the year to P6.7 billion from P8.6 billion a year ago.

It attributed the decline to the weak contribution of a number of its business segments such as Semirara Mining and Power Corp., D.M. Consunji Inc. and DMCI Mining.





## DMCI Mining ramps up shipments

DMCI Mining Corporation boosted its shipments by 41 percent to 681,000 wet metric tons of nickel ore in the first half of 2019 from the 483,000 WMT sold in the same period last year.

In a statement, the firm said it shipped 343,000 WMT of nickel ore in the second quarter of the year alone. All of the shipments came from Berong Nickel Corporation (BNC).

DMCI Mining's other nickel asset, Zambales Diversified Metals Corporation (ZDMC), has complied with the conditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the lifting of its November 2018 suspension order.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau [MGB] reviewed the remedial actions taken by ZDMC last April 2019, and confirmed that all the specified conditions

of DENR have been met," said DMCI Mining President Cesar F. Simbulan, Jr.

He added that, "MGB has also recommended the lifting of the suspension. Hopefully, the DENR central office will reach a decision before the end of this year."

On a standalone basis, DMCI Mining recorded flat revenues of P985 million in the first half of 2019 as its shipment of mostly lower grade nickel commanded lower average selling price.

Average nickel grade during the period dropped 8 percent from 1.73 percent to 1.60 percent. Consequently, average selling price fell 28 percent from US\$39 to US\$28.

In the first six months of the year, DMCI Mining saw its standalone net income decline 19 percent year-on-year from P316 million to P254 million. (JAL)





## DMCI is confident of obtaining mining permit from DENR

By Jenniffer B. Austria

DMCI Mining Corp., the mining unit of the Consunji Group, is confident it will obtain the go-signal from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to resume mining operations in Zambales province before the end of the year.

DMCI Mining president Cesar Simbulan Jr. said the company's other nickel asset, Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., had already complied with the conditions set by the DENR for the lifting of the November 2018 suspension order.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau [MGB] reviewed the remedial actions taken by ZDMC last April 2019, and confirmed that all the specified conditions of DENR have been met," said Simbulan.

"MGB has also recommended the lifting of the suspension. Hopefully, the DENR central office will reach a decision before the end of this year," he added.

In December 2018, DMCI Mining's other mining asset under Berong Nickel Corp., which operates in Palawan, was the only company audited by DENR that passed the nearly two-year review.

Out of the 13 companies audited, three were ordered closed while nine remained suspended, including ZMDC, pending the implementation of certain DENR conditions.

DMCI Mining, meanwhile, shipped 343,000 wet metric tons of nickel ore in the second quarter of the year, raising its total shipment in the first semester to 681,000 WMT, up 41 percent from 483,000 WMT year-on-year. All shipments came from the Palawan mine.

DMCI Mining on a standalone basis recorded flat revenues of P985 million in the first half of 2019, as its shipment of mostly lower grade nickel fetched a lower average selling price.

The average nickel grade during the period dropped 8 percent from 1.73 percent to 1.60 percent. Consequently, average selling price fell 28 percent from \$39 to \$28.

DMCI Mining as a result posted a net income of P254 million in the first six months of 2019, down 19 percent from P316 million year-on-year.





## DMCI Mining income drops 19% in 1<sup>st</sup> half

DMCI Mining Corp. reported a 19% decline in its net income in the first half, due to the lower average selling prices of nickel despite a 41% rise in shipments.

In a disclosure on Tuesday, the mining unit of listed conglomerate DMCI Holdings, Inc. said it booked a net income of P254 million in the first six months of 2019 versus P316 million during the same period last year.

Revenues were flat at P985 million, "as its shipment of mostly lower grade nickel commanded lower average selling price."

Average nickel grade dropped 8% during the first half, while average selling price fell 28% to \$28 from \$39.

This is despite the company recording higher ore shipments to 681,000 wet metric tons (WMT) in the first half of 2019 from 483,000 WMT it shipped in the same period last year.

In the second quarter alone, the company shipped 343,000 WMT.

All shipments came from Berong Nickel Corp. (BNC), which has a nickel mining site in Barangay Berong, Palawan.

DMCI Mining said its other nickel site, Zambales Diversified Metal Corp. (ZDMC), has already complied with all conditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the lifting of its suspension order issued last November 2018.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau [MGB] reviewed the remedial actions taken by ZDMC last April 2019, and confirmed that all the specified conditions of DENR have been met," said DMCI Mining President Cesar F. Simbulan, Jr.

"MGB has also recommended the lifting of the suspension. Hopefully, the DENR central office will reach a decision before the end of this year," he added.

ZMDC was partially granted motion for reconsideration to resume its operations by reducing its closure order to an order suspending the operations, production, and shipment of the company.

Parent company DMCI Holdings reported 20% decrease in its net income to P3.8 billion in the second quarter of the year, flat revenues at P24 billion. This was due to lower coal prices and higher replacement power costs.

The diversified engineering conglomerate booked a 22% decrease in its net income in the first six months of the year, or P6.7 billion backed by P44-billion revenue.

The company incurred P2.3-billion replacement power costs in the first half of the year after the shutdown of Unit 1 of Sem-Calaca Power Corp. for its rehabilitation starting December 2018. Moreover, the 18% decline in average selling price of coal to P2,227 per metric ton also weighed on the company's earnings.

Shares in DMCI Holdings went down 3.69% or 0.34 centavos to close at P8.88 apiece at the stock exchange on Tuesday. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**





## DMCI Mining H1 net income down 19%

DMCI Mining Corp. saw its net income decline by 19 percent to P254 million in the first six months of the year from P316 million in the same period in 2018 due to lower nickel prices.

In a disclosure on Tuesday, parent company DMCI Holdings Inc., said its mining unit posted revenues of P985 million "as its shipment of mostly lower grade nickel commanded lower average selling price."

Average selling price in the first half dropped by 28 percent to \$28 from \$39, it added.

Shipments of nickel ore, which all came from Berong Nickel Corp., jumped by 41 percent to 681,000 wet metric tons (WMT) in the January-to-June period from 483,000 WMT a year ago.

Meanwhile, DMCI Mining also disclosed that its other nickel asset, Zambales Diversified Metals

Corp. (ZDMC), met the conditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the lifting of the suspension imposed in November 2018.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) reviewed the remedial actions taken by ZDMC last April 2019, and confirmed that all the specified conditions of DENR have been met," DMCI

Mining President Cesar F. Simbulan, Jr. was quoted as saying in the disclosure.

"MGB has also recommended the lifting of the suspension. Hopefully, the DENR central office will reach a decision before the end of this year," he added.

DMCI Holdings shares climbed by 9 centavos or .99 percent to close at P9.22 apiece on Tuesday.

**LISBET K. ESMAEL**





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LOWER prices of nickel ore shipments resulted with lower earnings for DMCI.

## DMCI Mining net income drops 19% in H1

DMCI Mining Corp. reported 19 percent lower net income in the first semester of the year, to P254 million from P316 million in 2018 as its nickel ore shipments fetched a lower selling price on average.

The Consunji-led listed firm jacked up shipments by 41 percent to 681,000 wet metric tons of nickel ore in the period, from 483,000 WMT last year.

All of the nickel ore came from the stockpile of its nickel asset Berong Nickel Corp. (BNC) in Palawan as the operations of its other asset Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. (ZDMC) remains suspended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Average nickel grade declined 8 percent to 1.60 percent from 1.73 percent. As most of the nickel ore shipments were lower grade, DMCI Mining's average selling price receded 28 percent to \$28 from \$39 in the first half of 2018.

This led to flat revenues of P985 million in the period.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) reviewed the remedial actions taken by ZDMC last April 2019, and confirmed that all the specified conditions of DENR have been met," DMCI Mining president Cesar Simbulan Jr. said.

"MGB has also recommended the lifting of the suspension. Hopefully, the DENR central office will reach a decision before the end of this year."

Meanwhile, BNC's stockpile has grown from 710,000 tons to two million tons, taking into account the lower grade nickel ore in its reserve which DMCI Mining said can be sold in the improving nickel market.

"The good thing is, the market improved, so the grades that we had treated as waste before can be sold in this market. The problem is, we're beyond the shipping season because of the weather," DMCI Holdings chairman and president Isidro Consunji said in a briefing earlier in August. **AJ Bajo**





## DMCI Mining nickel ore shipments up 41% in H1

**D**MCI Mining Corp., a unit of publicly listed DMCI Holdings Inc., on Tuesday said its shipment of nickel ore grew 41 percent during the first half of the year, even though the company has not been able to mine all of its sites.

The company said it shipped 343 thousand wet metric tons during the second quarter, raising its total shipment in the first semester to 681 thousand WMT, a 41-percent increase from the 483 thousand WMT it shipped during the same period last year.

All of the shipments came from Berong Nickel Corp.

DMCI Mining's other nickel asset, Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. (ZDMC), has complied with the conditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the lifting of its November 2018 suspension order.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau reviewed the remedial ac-

tions taken by ZDMC last April 2019, and confirmed that all the specified conditions of DENR have been met," DMCI Mining President Cesar F. Simbulan Jr., said.

"MGB has also recommended the lifting of the suspension. Hopefully, the DENR central office will reach a decision before the end of this year," he said.

On a stand-alone basis, DMCI Mining recorded flat revenues of P985 million in the first half of 2019 as its shipment of mostly lower-grade nickel commanded a lower average selling price.

Average nickel grade during the period dropped 8 percent from 1.73 percent to 1.6 percent. Average selling price fell 28 percent to \$28 from \$39.

In the first six months of the year, DMCI Mining saw its stand-alone net income decline 19 percent year-on-year from P316 million to P254 million. **VG Cabuag**





## **Water allocation sa MM at karatig lalawigan, itinaas na**

Itinaas na ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa 40 cubic meters per second mula sa dating 36 cms ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila at karatig lalawigan.

Ito ay bunsod na rin sa patuloy na pagtaas ng water level sa mga dam sa Luzon lalo na ang Angat dam sa Bulacan na nagsusuplay ng 90 percent ng tubig sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Sa ulat ng NWRB, nasa 40 cubic meters per seconds na ang water allocation nila sa bawat bahay sa Kalakhang Maynila at karatig lalawigan na sinusuplay ng dalawang water concessionaire na Manila

Water at Maynilad Water. Gayunman, nilinaw ng NWRB na sa darating na Setyembre pa sisimulan ang pagpapatupad ng taas ng water allocation.

Magugunitang ibinaba ng ahensiya sa 36 cms ang alokasyon ng tubig noong summer season dulot ng pagbaba ng water level sa mga dam kaya't naipatupad noon ang rotational supply ng tubig.

Binigyang diin ng NWRB na hindi pa tuluyang maibalik sa 48 cms ang normal water allocation dahil hindi pa tuluyang nakakarekober ang water supply ng mga dam sa bansa. (*Angie dela Cruz*)





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### Tubig sa Angat dam normal na

UMAKYAT na sa minimum operating level ang tubig sa Angat dam.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, kahapon ng umaga ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat ay 180.75 metro, tumaas ng 0.79 metro mula sa 179.96 metro noong Linggo ng umaga.

Tumaas din ang lebel ng tubig sa La Mesa dam na naitala sa 77.11 metro mula sa 76.88 metro kamakalawa.

Ang dalawang dam ang pangunahing pinanggalingan ng suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila. — *Leif-billy Begas*





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**DENR BINUBUHAY ANG SIERRA MADRE.** Sa layong pagyabungin muli ang bundok ng Sierra Madre, nagtanim ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng mga narra at mahogany seedlings sa bundok ng Sierra Madre sa Nueva Ecija noong Agosto 16. Katuwang ng mga empleyado ng DENR si DENR Muñoz City Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Jimmy Aberin (likod, ika-2 mula kanan), ang local government unit (LGU) ng General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Rotary Club, at mga stakeholders. Ang tree planting activity ay ginanap sa Upper Tabuating Reservoir Irrigation Project sa Bgy Nazareth, General Tinio, Nueva.





## #nationataglance

**SOCCKSARGEN:  
SARANGANI BAY PROTECTED SEASCAPE  
More frequent Sarangani Bay monitoring  
planned with over 200 marine mammals  
— and trash — spotted**

FIVE TYPES of marine mammals, numbering over 200, were spotted in Sarangani Bay during the recent quarterly monitoring activity led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 12 (DENR-12), but "patches of garbage" were also seen in the protected area. In a news release, DENR-12 said the team counted the following during their 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Monitoring last August 13-16: two Dwarf/Pygmy Sperm Whales in Malapatan, 40-60 Spinner Dolphins in Glan and Malapatan, 150-200 Fraser's Dolphins in General Santos City and Glan, 4 Pygmy Killer Whales in Malapatan, and six Risso's Dolphins in Glan. Joy C. Ologuin, Protected Area Superintendent of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS), recommended during a meeting of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) last Aug. 22 that local government units in the coastal areas strengthen the implementation of proper waste disposal to keep trash from entering into the bay. Ms. Ologuin also called for more regular patrolling to monitor the SBPS.



The monitoring team said the trash they saw at the bay included PET bottles, cellophane bags, plastic wrappers, and other non-biodegradable materials.

**MONTHLY MONITORING**

"All stakeholders must work together to conserve and protect the Sarangani Bay. DENR alone cannot protect the water body. We have to synergize our work and activities to help and preserve the bay," DENR-12 Regional Executive Director Sabdullah C. Abubacar, who also sits as chair of the PAMB-SBPS, said during the meeting. Sarangani Governor Steve C. Solon, the PAMB vice-chair, committed to provide additional provincial funds for the conduct of monthly monitoring at the bay.

"The implementation of the rules should be strict so that everyone will follow. We can have the economic development and preservation of the protected seascape at the same time," Mr. Solon said.

**A MEMBER of the inter-agency Sarangani Bay monitoring team positions at the boat's bow for documenting dolphins during the quarterly monitoring activity held Aug. 13-16.**





## PLASTIC BOTTLE SA KAMARA, BAWAL

NAIS ng isang kongresista na maipagbawal na ang paggamit ng plastic water bottle sa Kamara.

Sa House Resolution 261 ni OFW Family Rep. Alberto Pacquiao, tinukoy nito ang mga ulat na ang Pilipinas ang ikatlo sa malaking pinagmumulan ng plastic products na itinatapon sa karagatan.

Aabot umano ng 400 hanggang 1,000 taon bago ma-decompose o matunaw ang plastic water bottles.

Karaniwang ibinigay ang plastic water bottle sa mga kongresista, resource speakers at staff sa mga committee meeting at plenary session at napakarami umano nito kung maiipon at itatapon. Isinusulong ni Rep. Pacquiao na mapasimulan na ang pagbabawal sa plastic bottle na sa halip ay gumamit na lamang ng basong babasagin, stainless at iba pang biodegradable water bottle.

Sa ganitong paraan, hindi na aniya gagastos pa ng pondo ng taumbayan para sa boteng plastik na banta sa kalusugan at kapaligiran.

*(Jeff Tumbado)*





*Editorial* **EDITORIAL** *Editorial*

## Batas sa tuluyang pagbawal sa paggamit ng plastik, ipasa na!

**K** APAG ganitong tag-ulan, kasunod na ang pagbaha. Marami na namang lugar ang lubog at apektado ang pamumuhay.

Tulad ng inaasahan, kasabay na lulutang ang problema sa basura.

Mga kalat na itinapon ng mga walang disiplina.

Kaya napapanahon ang panukalang tuluyang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng "single-use plastic" containers. Ito 'yung mga disposable plastic, kabilang ang cellophane products na ginagamit bilang grocery bags, food packaging, water bottles, straws, stirrers, styros, cups, sachets, plastic cutlery at marami pang iba.

Bukod sa nagdudulot ng polusyon, ito rin ang mga bumabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig na ang resulta ay matinding pagbaha.

Sa ilalim ng Senate Bill No. 40 o Single-Use Plastic Regulation and Management Act of 2019, ang mga food establishment, convenience store, supermarket at retailer ay obligadong sumunod sa pagbawal sa paggamit ng single-use plastic.

Ang lalabag sa batas ay papatawan ng multa o business permit revocation habang ang mga susunod ay may incentives.

Batay pa sa pag-aaral, umaabot sa 164 million piraso ng sachets ang nagagamit araw-araw sa bansa. Ito ay mula sa mga produktong araw-araw din nating kailangan o ginagamit.

Kaugnay nito, hindi pa man tuluyang nagiging batas, aprub sa atin ang mga kumpanyang nagbabawas na ng plastic at naglulunsad ng mga refilling station.

At kung lahat ay makikiisa, masosolb din ang problema sa basura at baha.





# Pacquiao ayaw sa plastic bottle

INIHAİN ni OFW Family Rep. Bobby Pacquiao, kapatid ni Sen. Manny Pacquiao, ang resolusyon na magbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic bottle sa Kamara de Representantes.

Sinabi ng nakababatang Pacquiao na hindi dapat magbingbingihan ang mga mambabatas sa panawagan ng mga en-

vironmental group na bawasan ang paggamit ng plastik na nakakasira ng kalikasan.

Ayon kay Rep. Pacquiao, maghahain ang kanyang kapatid na si Sen. Pacquiao sa Senado ng kaparehong resolusyon bilang bahagi ng pagbibigay ng proteksyon sa karapatan ng publiko sa balanse at malusog na kapaligi-

ran.

“Whereas, campaigner Ban the Bottle reports that plastic water bottles can take between 400-1,000 years to decompose,” saad ng House Resolution 261 ni Pacquiao.

Nakababahalagado ang ulat na ang Pilipinas ang ikatlong pinanggagalingan ng plastic product sa mun-

do na napupunta sa karagatan.

“Whereas, given the customary use of plastic water bottles in the House of Representatives, there is a clear and urgent need to start reducing the use of the same in government body by prohibiting the use of disposable plastic water bottles in sessions halls, lounge, and

in all offices as well as during the committee hearings, technical working group meetings and other gathering held within House of Representatives premises.”

Umaasa si Rep. Pacquiao na mayroong ibang ahensya na susunod sa kanyang maliit na hakbang.—*Leifbilly Begas*





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## USOK NG JG SUMMIT

**NAPAKABAHO**, nakalalason na usok na ibinubuga mula sa JG Petrochemical Corporation ang idinadaing ng maraming residente ng Brgy. Simlong at ng mga kanugnog na barangay nito sa Batangas City, ngunit tila bulag, bingi at pipi naman ang lokal na opisyaes at maging ang mga barangay officials ng mga apektadong barangay ng naturang lungsod.

Kabaligtaran ito sa ipinangakong kaunlaran ng management ng JG Summit Holdings Inc., ang kompanyang pag-aari ng Gokongwei Group na siyang nagmamantine ng nasabing planta na ang operasyon ay pinangangambahang di maglalaon ay maaring makasakop na sa buong coastal area ng naturang lungsod.

Ang usok na ibinubuga ng coal-fired power plant ay siya ngayong nagdudulot ng iba't-ibang uri ng karamdaman na mistulang nakababangungot na panaginip sa mga residente ng naturang siyudad.

Kabalintuaan ito sa noon ay ipinangalandakang kaunlaran sa siyudad ng mga politikong nag-sponsor para mapagtibay ang ordinansa para makapagtayo ng nasabing planta sa dakong baybayin ng nasabing siyudad.

Bakit kanyo? Aba e noong nasa construction phase pa lamang ang nasabing planta ay minadali ng ilang interesadong lokal na opisyaes para maaprubahan ang konstruksyon nito sa Brgy. Simlong, Batangas City at di na napakinggan ang tinig ng mga mangingisda, magsasaka at iba pang sektor kapalit ng ipinapangakong kaunlaran na ihahatid kuno sa mga mamamayan ng nasabing planta.

Ngayon, ano naman ang nahita ng mga taga-siyudad ng Batangas, kundi sakit mula sa nakakalasong usok na ibinubuga ng tsiminiya ng nasabing planta?

Pananakit ng tiyan, pagkahilo, pagsusuka at grabeng pulmo-

nary diseases na hindi lamang sa matatanda dumadapo kundi maging sa kasisilang pa lamang na mga sanggol ang ngayon ay malaking suliranin ng mga residenteng naninirahan sa coastal barangay ng naturang lungsod.

Ayon sa mga text messages ng mga apektadong residente "sa tuwing dumudulog po kami sa aming mga barangay officials, lalalo na kay Pangulo ay sinasangkalan nito ang dating nanungkulang opisyaes ng aming lugar ang siyang nag-apruba para makapagtayo ng planta ang JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation, kaya wala na silang magagawang aksyon laban sa mapaminsalang operasyon ng nasaabing planta".

"Katwiran po ito ng mga gunggong" saad pa ng isang text na natanggap ng SIKRETA.

Kung tutuusin ay maaring tama ang suspetsa ng mga nagpahatid sa atin ng kanilang text messages na nagkaroon ng malaking suhulan kayat pikit-matang naging tagasunod na lamang ng management ng JG Summit ang maraning barangay officials at maging ang ilang kilalang politiko sa nasabing lungsod?

Apektado ng nakasusulasok na amoy na ibinubuga ng usok mula sa nabanggit na planta hindi lamang ang mga naninirahan sa Brgy. Simlong at Pinamukan Proper na siya ngayong kinatayuan ng JG Summit Petrochemical Plant kundi maging ang mga residente ng mga barangay ng Sta Clara, Wawa, Tabangao, Tabangao Dao, Mahabang Dahilig, Pagkilatan at iba pa.

Sa kabuuan, maging ang mga mangingisda sa kapaligiran ng Batangas City Bay hanggang sa Verde Island Passage ay nagdurusa rin dahil sa pagliit ng kinikita ng mga ito bunsod ng industrial pollutants na nakapipinsala rin sa likas-yamang dagat katulad din







## VILLAR SAPUL NG LAND CONVERSION BAN

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2



P.2

## VILLAR SAPUL NG LAND CONVERSION BAN

TAPOS na ang maliligayang araw ng mga real estate business sa bansa kapag lumusot ang panukalang batas na inihain sa Senado upang maipagbawal ang conversion ng mga lupang pang-agrikultura upang maging residential, commercial, industrial at iba pa.

Nakapaloob ito sa Senate Bill No. 256 o ang "Agricultural Land Conversion Ban Act" na inihain ni Senador Francis 'Kiko' Pangilinan.

Katuwiran ni Pangilinan, mula nang ipatupad ang agrarian reform noong 1988 hanggang nitong 2016, mahigit 100,000 agricultural land (kasinlaki ng pinagsamang Metro Manila at Cebu City), ang hindi nakukunan ng pagkain ng mga Pinoy.

"Kailangan natin ang mga magsasaka para kumain ang bayan. Kailangan ng mga magsasaka na may lupang sinasaka para pakainin ang bayan," giit ng senador.

Sabi ng senador, ang mabilis na urbanisasyon at pagdami ng populasyon ang nagdadagdag sa problema sa pagbagsak ng agri-

cultural land sa bansa.

"Pinapanukala nating protektahan ang mga lupang sakahan na ginastusan na ng gobyerno sa patubig," sabi ni Pangilinan sa kanyang inihain panukalala na naglalayong ipriserba ang mga irrigated land para sa food security ng bansa.

Pinakamalaking tinamaan ng massive land conversion ang Luzon kung saan 80.6% ang naaprubahan habang ang Visayas ay may 7.8% at Mindanao, 11.6%.

"Kritikal ito para matiyak ang food security ng ating bansa. Madalas, prime agricultural lands pa ang pinupuntirang i-convert," sabi ng senador.

Nais din ni Pangilinan na amiyendahan ang Section 20 ng Local Government Code, na nag-oobliga ng karagdagang approval mula sa Department of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, at Environment and Natural Resources, gayundin ang local government units bago ang land reclassification at conversion ng isang agricultural land.

"Itong karagdagang require-

ment bago makakuha ng conversion permit ay para matiyak kung nararapat nga ang conversion ng isang lupang pang-agrikultura. Napapanahon ang paghihigpit na ito dulot na rin ng labis na land conversion, ligal man o iligal," ani Pangilinan.

Nang tanungin ng **Abante** si Pangilinan kung puntirya ng kanyang panukala ang negosyo ng mga Villar, tumanggi naman itong magbigay ng pahayag.

Si dating Senate President Manny Villar ang pinakamayaman ngayon sa Pilipinas dahil na rin sa negosyo nito sa housing. Ang pamilya nito ang nagpapatakbo ng Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.

Karamihan sa mga housing project ng kompanya ng mga Villar at iba pang real estate company, ay dating mga sakahan.

Sinikap din ng **Abante** na hingan ng komento ang asawa ni Manny na si Senador Cynthia Villar, at maging ang tagapagsalita nito subalit hindi sila nagbigay ng komento. **(Dindo Matining)**





## Manila hosts Marine Environment Protection meet

THE second high-level international meeting on Marine Environment Protection of the Southeast Asian Seas (Mepseas) is happening now in Manila and sees the gathering of the maritime heads of the member states signatory to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member States.

In a statement by the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), staging of the Mepseas has started Tuesday August 27 to last until Thursday, August 29, 2019.

It said the IMO and the MEPSEAS International Consultants lead the session and provided updates regarding the MEPSEAS Project website and the

initial delivery of the training modules covering the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, Anti-Fouling System (AFS) Convention and MARPOL Annex V.

Delegates from the participating beneficiary countries were likewise expected to present the development and adoption of their respective National Action Plans (NAPs), including successes and challenges in completing the NAP activities related to the accession of the chosen IMO Conventions.

Moreover, the strategic partners is expected to present relevant activities and programs, which support the objectives of the Mepseas Project, and will also explore

possible areas of collaboration and modalities by which to pursue cooperation.

Participants of the second High-Level Regional Meeting include Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, as well as strategic partners from the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (Pemsea), Women in Maritime – Asia and Philippines, Tokyo MOU Regional Port State Control Organization, ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Chair's representative, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), and Maritime Technology Cooperation Center (MTCC) Asia.

As host country, the Philippine delegation was composed of representatives from different departments and agencies that were identified vital in giving full and complete effect to the Conventions.

The Mepseas Project is a four-year project (2018-2021) of the IMO in cooperation with the Norwegian Agency for the Development (NORAD) providing assistance to East Asian countries in ratifying and implementing IMO Instruments for the protection of the marine environment.

It aims to reduce the risks and impacts of environmental issues related to maritime transport in the ASEAN region.

**RAFFY AYENG**





# Baguio Day highlights environment

**By Aldwin Quitasol**

BAGUIO CITY – Environmental consciousness will be at the core of the city's Charter Anniversary celebration on 1 September with the chosen theme, "Baguio @ 110: Nurturing the Environment for Sustainable Development."

Tourism Operations Officer Aloysius Mapalo said that there will be a spread of activities, some of which will cater to the theme of caring for the environment, as the city's month-long celebration kicks off with

preliminary rites at the Baguio City Hall.

Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong leads the simple rites with Sen. Panfilo Lacson as guest of honor and speaker.

In keeping with the theme, Mapalo said they will do away with tarpaulins and will instead use eco-friendly alternative materials for the promotion of the event.

As part of the pre-event celebration, a banner painting contest will be conducted to be

sponsored by Globe Telecom and Davies Paint where the winning entries will be hung on posts along Session Road as promotional items in lieu of printed tarpaulins.

On 30 August, the city through the City Environment and Parks Management office under officer-in-charge Moises Lozano will conduct a bamboo-planting activity at 8:30 a.m. and will launch the Bambuseum at the Dominican Heritage Hill. On the same

day, the office will conduct a free smoke-emission testing along Harrison Road from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The celebration proper will have a small deviation from the usual practice in that the traditional parade will now precede the program early in the morning instead of the old practice of conducting the program before the parade to preclude postponement in case of a mid-morning downpour.







## Helping make the world a better place

OVER 50 employee-volunteers and 10 executives of Hino Motors Philippines recently joined the tree planting activity of Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) at the La Mesa Watershed in Quezon City.

They planted 1,000 Molave seedlings as part of their commitment to their mission to make the world a better place to live in by helping people and goods reach their destination economically and with environmental responsibility while focusing on



■ Photo shows one of the employee-volunteers actively participating in the tree planting activity.

sustainable development. This is the company's second time to join the reforestation initiative of PBSP.





**CTALK**  
**CITO BELTRAN**

**Freeze the build**

**H**ow so easily we forget. It was not so long ago when thousands of families in Metro Manila experienced a serious water shortage that led to water rationing that made us all realize that water is not an infinite source. In fact things got so bad that we all relearned those water conservation methods we picked up from school and the internet. I even found out from a friend that Manila Water suspended all new water connections because the water shortage revealed that they have more customers than they could supply.



But we easily forget and it was just a matter of time before people and the water companies start behaving like everything is back to normal because the rainy season has started to fill the dams. Last Sunday I immediately noticed that water pressure in our area in Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig was stronger than at any other time. In fact the strength was comparable to the times I had my water pump and pressure tank on. Under "normal circumstance" I would cheer but this is the very thing I was worried about; we have no control over the weather or how much rain pours onto our dams and for how long. The philosophy of conservation is to save in times of plenty and conserve in times of scarcity.

Another thing I worry about is the supply and demand problem of the two water concessionaires. Within a one kilometer radius of Barrio Kapitolyo so many condominium projects and townhouses have gone up in the last 12 months. I'm guessing that the current supply of condo and townhouse units will easily double or triple the current population of the area. That will place a serious demand or pressure on the available water resource, power as well as garbage collection and dump site. I admire and respect the decision of the water concessionaires to freeze all new connections during the drought, but what about now and in the months to come?

I have the impression that this crucial factors are not really going into the decision of local governments when they issue building permits etc. Just because projects have permits to construct and occupy, it does not follow that they will have the water, electricity, finances or land to dump garbage generated by hundreds and thousands of condominium unit owners. While condos may have their built-in parking slots, the same cannot be said for townhouses that often only have one car garage that is usually converted into a laundry area or

outside living space. Several speculators have been buying up private homes and building commercial buildings or townhouses around Barrio Kapitolyo but very few have sufficient parking space so these spill over into our streets.

I have no doubt that the lobbying abilities and clout of property developers are so strong that there will be a push back to proposals to FREEZE THE BUILD and chances are our legislators and the governments both national and local will avoid that possibility, so at the very least there should be a rule, law or system where no new construction or development will be allowed unless there are guarantees that the water, power and waste management can be supplied or serviced or that the developers have a DENR approved answer to the problem. If there is a proposed law called No Garage - No New Car, then we must have the guarantee that the scarce resource we now enjoy won't be further reduced because of unregulated residential developments.

\* \* \*





## Deeper study of water pollutants urged

Microplastics are defined as less than five millimeters long and the particles most commonly found in drinking-water are plastic bottle fragments

**By Elmer N. Manuel**

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently revealed that tiny plastic particles known as microplastics are "everywhere – including in our drinking-water," but they are not necessarily a risk to human health.

In its first summary of the latest research into the impact of the tiny plastic pollutants on humans, the WHO said that they have been found in marine settings, waste and fresh water, food, the air and drinking-water, both bottled and from a tap.

According to the agency, microplastics are defined as less than five millimeters long and its report notes that the particles most commonly found in drinking-water are plastic bottle fragments.

"Based on the limited information we have,

microplastics in drinking water don't appear to pose a health risk at current levels. But we need to find out more," said Dr. Maria Neira, WHO's Director, Department of Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health.

"We urgently need to know more about the health impact of microplastics because they are everywhere - including in our drinking-water," he added.

According to WHO's findings, microplastics larger than 150 micrometers (a micrometer is a millionth of a meter) are unlikely to be absorbed in the human body, while the uptake of smaller particles is likely to be limited.

Absorption of microplastic particles "including in the nano-size range may, however, be higher," the WHO report continues, before cautioning that available data in this "emerging area" is extremely limited.







BASE LOAD FACILITIES

# EDC BATS FOR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY OVER COAL

Energy Development Co. is pushing for the replacement of coal-fired power plants with geothermal plants as base load facilities or those that provide supply round the clock, amid efforts to address risk of climate change from electricity generation.

Miguel S. De Vera, head of strategic initiatives, legal and regulatory office at EDC, said in a statement the energy sector was the greatest contributor to climate change, with almost 61 percent of all carbon emissions worldwide coming from electricity production and industri-

al processes.

De Vera participated in the 2019 State of Nature Assessment or "Green Sona" organized by Green Convergence together with the Forest Foundation Philippines held recently in Palawan.

"Even if we take into account other sectors that emit carbon and other greenhouse gases, as much as 93 percent of total emissions can already be addressed with the singular act of moving toward renewable energy sources," he said.

The EDC official noted that, of the various sources of energy being used across the world, coal-

fired power plants are the single largest contributor to emissions.

De Vera said that, in the Philippines, coal continues to comprise more than half of the country's energy mix and is largely seen as the base load power of choice due to continued perceptions of cheaper costs.

"This is a wrong notion because the tradeoff with coal is permanent and irreversible damage to our environment and to our overall health and well-being, as well as to the future of our natural resources," he said.

"The Philippines should join the global pivot toward cleaner

energy sources and do our share in contributing to the fight against worldwide climate change," he added.

De Vera said geothermal energy—one of EDC's renewable energy platforms—remains the base load power of choice for energy experts because of its reliable and stable nature.

"Geothermal is a pioneering energy source that played a big role in saving our nation from economic and political turmoil in the 1970s," he said. "It is what will save us from the threats of climate change today and in the future."

RONNEL W. DOMINGO— INQ





## Energy sector reforms key to climate change mitigation

Renewable energy experts reiterate the importance of reviewing and revising the country's energy mix as one of the most impactful means of addressing climate change and to fortify the Philippines against climate risks.

**In 2018, it was estimated that coal emissions increased by around 280 megatons.**

This was a key message at a panel discussion on renewable energy at the 2019 State of Nature Assessment or "Green SoNA" organized by non-profit eco-coalition together with the Forest Foundation Philippines. This year's

conference was held in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, one of the largest and most important eco-tourism and ecological sites in the country.

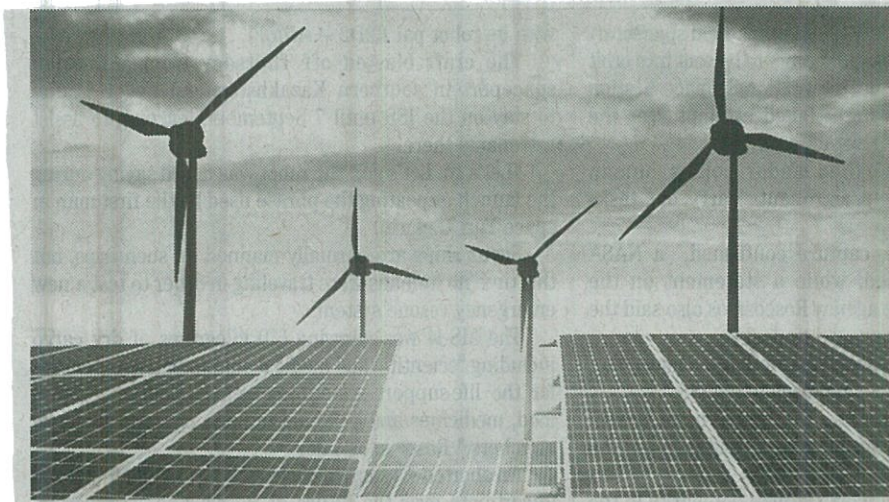
The energy sector is the greatest contributor to climate change, with almost 61 percent of all carbon emissions worldwide coming from electricity production and industrial processes, according to Miguel de Vera, head of strategic initiatives, legal and regulatory office of renewable energy firm Energy Development Cor. (EDC).

"Even if we take into account other sectors that emit carbon and other greenhouse gases, as much as 93 percent of total emissions can already be addressed with the singular act

of moving toward renewable energy sources," explained De Vera.

Of the various sources of energy being utilized across the globe today, coal-fired power plants are the single largest contributor to emissions. In 2018, it was estimated that coal emissions increased by around 280 megatons, comprising majority of the total 550 Mt increase from 2017 levels. Overall global carbon emissions reached a historic high of 33.1 gigatons last year.

In the Philippines, coal continues to comprise majority of the country's energy mix—more than half—and is largely seen as the baseload power of choice due to continued perception of cheaper costs.



AROUND 93 percent of emissions can be addressed with the act of moving toward renewable energy sources.





# PH airborne campaign targets weather, climate science

NASA's P-3B science aircraft soared into the skies over the Philippines on Sunday to begin a nearly two-month-long investigation on the impact that smoke from fires and pollution have on clouds, a key factor in improving weather and climate forecasts. The Cloud, Aerosol, and Monsoon Processes Philippines Experiment (CAMP2Ex) is the most comprehensive field campaign to date in Maritime Southeast Asia to study the relationship between aerosol particles as they interact with surrounding monsoon meteorology, cloud microphysics and the sun's radiation.

Led by NASA, the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) and the Manila Observatory in conjunction with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST), CAMP2Ex comprises an interdisciplinary, international team of field researchers, modelers and remote sensing developers.

The study seeks to tackle some of the most difficult weather and climate phenomena to understand, monitor and forecast.

The Maritime Continent—comprising Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sulawesi, the Philippines and numerous other islands and surrounding seas—has been long sought out as an area of scientific inquiry.

Agricultural and deforestation fires from the region along with air pollution from cities provide a ready supply of aerosol particles that influence major weather processes.

Besides the torrential monsoons over the Asian archipelago, the region also produces moisture that provides rainfall over the Pacific Ocean and can even influence weather in the continental United States.

"We know aerosol particles can affect clouds and precipitation, but we don't yet have a quantitative understanding of those processes," said Hal Maring, Radiation Sciences Program Manager at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "Our goal is to improve satellite products and numerical models to help scientists better predict weather and climate."

"Numerous studies have linked the presence of pollution and smoke from agricultural fires and fires from deforestation to changes in cloud and storm properties, but we lack the observations of the actual mechanisms taking place," said NRL research meteorologist Jeffrey Reid. "CAMP2Ex provides a much-needed crucial for satellite observing systems and model predictions to monitor and understand how atmospheric composition and weather interact."

Aerosol-cloud dynamics have a profound impact on weather and climate, yet there are large uncertainties in how those dynamics affect climate.

Aerosol particles include sea salt, dust, air pollutants and biomass-burning smoke particles, and nearly all can act as cloud condensation nuclei (also known as cloud seeds). Depending on the size and composition of these aerosol particles, water vapor can coalesce around them to form water droplets that may later become rain. But if there is a high concentration of aerosol particles, the clouds may be populated with a larger number of smaller droplets, which are less likely to coalesce into rain in smaller clouds. "Yet recent research shows that these smaller droplets may strengthen and increase the longevity of severe storms," Reid said. "It's an intricate science."

"Complex, non-linear feedbacks between those processes that form cloud droplets and rainfall and those that drive the upward and downward motions within storms are challenging to accurately represent in numerical models," said Colorado State University professor and P-3B flight scientist Susan van den Heever. "These feedbacks are important to determine storm severity and the formation of new storms. CAMP2Ex will provide us with unprecedented observations that will allow us to better represent these feedbacks in current research and weather forecasting models."

Smoke and pollution also affect how much incoming sunlight is reflected back into the atmo-

sphere. Particles that are darker in color, such as black carbon from wildfires, absorb sunlight and contribute to global warming.

Depending on the type and altitude of the cloud, black carbon may either support or suppress cloud formation; black carbon also affects how much sunlight clouds reflect back into the atmosphere. Quantifying these mechanisms is crucial for improving global climate forecast models.

Aerosol-cloud interactions are notoriously difficult to observe in the field, Maring said. "Some clouds have very short lifetimes while others have very long ones, and they're all located in radically different parts of the skies. Getting a quantitative look at these processes is always a tall order."

To be able to observe cloud and aerosol interactions, along with the associated weather systems, CAMP2Ex is leveraging instruments on multiple airborne and ground platforms to record wide-scale meteorology, composition, cloud microphysics, and solar and longwave radiation. NASA's P-3B science aircraft is fitted with remote-sensing instruments to measure a number of variables within and near clouds, including those related to precipitation and cloud droplets as well as aerosol size and composition.

To verify those data, a Stratton Park Engineering Company (SPEC) Inc. Learjet, fitted with in situ in-

strumentation, will fly in and around the same clouds at nearly the same time as the P-3B aircraft. The Learjet will also survey the atmospheric conditions above the clouds. Out in the Pacific Ocean, the research vessel Sally Ride, funded by the Office of Naval Research Propagation of InterSeasonal Tropical Oscillations (PISTON) project and operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, is providing nearly continuous radar and lidar observations as well as measurements of energy fluxes from the ocean surface and profiles of temperature, moisture and pressure from radiosondes. CAMP2Ex and PISTON are complementary in their goals. CAMP2Ex focuses on fundamental aerosol and cloud physics and remote sensing whereas PISTON focuses on air-sea interaction and the way in which weather develops on continental and intercontinental scales.

"The synergy between air and shipborne observations is key," said research scientist Derek Posselt from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "The ship's radars will tell us how clouds are evolving in time, while the aircraft will give us detailed measurements of the cloud interior and environment."

In addition to the intricate aerosol and cloud processes, the Southeast Asian monsoon environment hosts some of the most com-

plex atmospheric phenomena on the planet. The monsoon environment brings severe thunderstorms and organized convection storm systems, and it is also the birthplace of tropical cyclones in the western Pacific. The world's most intense super typhoons form just east of the Philippines and are an integral part of the regional weather and climate.

"CAMP2Ex is being conducted in the lion's den of tropical meteorology," Reid said, while noting that the Philippines is still recovering from Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, which reached a world record one minute of sustained 195 mile-per-hour (315 kilometer-per-hour) maximum wind speed before making landfall.

The region is of particular interest to weather and

climate researchers because many studies have shown it to be highly vulnerable to climate change. For Philippine collaborators, the data from CAMP2Ex will help to inform some of the biggest weather and climate questions in the Southeast Asia region.

"Rainfall is the most difficult variable to understand in our models, and it has an enormous impact on people here," said Gemma Narisma, climate scientist and executive director of the Manila Observatory, a nonprofit Jesuit research institution focused on atmospheric and Earth science in Southeast Asia. "Results from our Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment over South-

east Asia (CORDEX-SEA), for example, show that regional climate models do not do a good job simulating observed rainfall climatology."

Narisma, who is also an associate professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, noted that recent monsoonal activity in Metro Manila led to cancelled classes; before that, the region had been suffering from water shortage due to drought. "Our research is showing that more of these weather extremes, alternating dryness and heavy rainfall, are expected in the future," she said. "Improving our models for climate projections would allow us to better prepare for these swings in water availability and flooding."

Increased understanding of the mechanisms influencing those climatic changes is another important and hoped for offshoot of the campaign, said James Simpas, an atmospheric scientist and professor of physics at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"The Southeast Asia region is experiencing significant industrial growth," he said. "We're emitting more and more particulates into the atmosphere, which means that a lot of the aerosol interactions we're studying now will be most likely further enhanced in the region in the future. The wealth of data from CAMP2Ex will be analyzed for years to come and will shine more light on how our ways of life affect not only us but also the rest of the planet."





## Of Trees and Forest Senator Manny Villar

### Sea change

**D**URING a visit to the Philippines early this year, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo gave the assurance that "any armed attack on any Philippine forces, aircraft, or public vessels in the South China Sea will trigger mutual defense obligations under Article II of our Mutual Defense Treaty".

Secretary Pompeo was, of course, referring to the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) signed by the US and the Philippines on August 30, 1958. The MDT was one of the pillars of the long and historic friendship between our two countries. It says so in the preamble of MDT: "Recalling with mutual pride the historic relationship which brought their two peoples together in a common bond of sympathy and mutual ideals to

fight side-by-side against imperialist aggression during the last war."

We need to remember that the MDT was forged 5 years after the end of US colonial period in the Philippines. The "special" relationship was forged when the the Philippine Revolution against Spain got conflated with Spanish-American War resulting in the Philippine-American War from 1899-1902. The Second World War and the Japanese occupation would provide Filipinos and Americans with a platform to fight together.

A lot has changed during the 68 years that the MDT has been in operation. The political and economic positions of both countries have changed. More significantly, the global order has been radically transformed since the 1950's. This

is the reason why there have been calls for a review or strengthening of the treaty.

Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel "Babe" Romualdez has announced that the two countries are in talks, through the mutual defense board, to strengthen the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. His counterpart, outgoing US Ambassador Sung Y. Kim has said that the US welcomes the plan to review the MDT saying that "any document, especially an agreement that important and that complicated, always needs to be looked at very closely as the circumstances surrounding the agreement or the alliance evolves."

This sentiment was most eloquently propounded by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana who

urged a review the treaty with the United States because "the security environment in the region has become much more complex since the countries' Mutual Defense Treaty was drawn up 68 years ago. Indeed, a number of developments have resulted in a sea change in geopolitics and security.

The MDT was signed during the ascendancy of American political and economic might. Today, that power has become vulnerable with ascendant nations like China and Russia undermining its traditional dominance in the region.

The treaty was signed a couple of years after the founding of the United Nations (UN) in 1945 and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. Today, international politics experts have noted the decline of multilateralism and international partnerships as global frameworks for trade and finance give way to state-led regional initiatives

and bilateral deals. The inability of international organizations to reach consensus on the economy and climate change highlight this transformation.

And while the MDT covered "an armed attack in the Pacific Area on either of the Parties" it did not anticipate the changing nature of attacks due to the rapid development of new technologies. Cyber attacks on government and businesses, technology-centered attacks of political systems, privacy and big data issues are some of the technology-driven "aggressions" of the new world order.

So after 68 years, and with so many new developments in the global political and security dynamics, it is the right time to revisit the MDT and see how it can be more attuned to the times and oriented to the changing relationship between the Philippine and the United States.





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## Taiwan wants its future to be sustainable

TAIWAN used to be the garbage pit of North Asia. Today it is one of the cleanest, and greenest in the region.

It will be a good idea for developing countries should look at the playbook of a once-garbage-ridden island republic in Asia, which is now one of the world's leading recycling countries. For the most part, being green is easy. It is sustainability that has now become a top priority for countries aiming to balance bullish economic development with its inevitable environmental impact.

More than a couple of decades ago, Taiwan grappled with a widespread waste disposal problem. Inaction pushed the residents of Taipei to protest, thus enacting change through laws and other government measures. From then on, Taiwan has become a leader in many aspects, including green initiatives. Its success has been a result of effective public and private efforts.

To better arm itself in its bid for sustainable development, Taiwan has also adapted the Circular

Economy model, which focuses on maximizing the resources while minimizing waste.

According to President Tsai Ing-Wen, Taiwan's development and push for the Circular Economy demonstrate that economic growth can go hand in hand with environmental protection and sustainability. With the model used as a guiding principle, the green mindset has flourished in many other facets of Taiwanese life.

Aside from strict garbage disposal laws, the Taiwanese government has recently passed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, as well as amended its Air Pollution Control Act, with stronger measures to curtail air pollution and accelerate Taiwan's energy transition. Also, Taiwan has created the National Climate Change Action Guidelines, which set emission caps and promote green finance initiatives.

Even in architecture, environmental consciousness permeates. For one, there's the iconic Taipei

101, which is considered one of the world's most innovative green structures. Another architectural marvel is the EcoARK Pavilion, a three-story exhibition hall built with 1.5 million interlocked plastic bottles instead of conventional bricks.

Taiwanese corporations have also found innovative ways to harness renewable energy and promote environmentally-friendly products and policies.

Recently, Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) has lauded green efforts of several companies including Fuji Xerox Taiwan and Taiwan High Speed Rail.

Additionally, many products have been developed to help achieve Taiwan's green dream. To further promote recycling, Taipei residents are now using vending machines like iTrash booths to recycle cans and bottles in exchange for credit on their transportation smart cards.

Taiwan Excellence awardee Kymco Motors is also leading the electronic motorbike revolu-

tion. The company has developed all-electric scooters powered by swappable batteries, effectively improving air quality. Fellow awardee PaperShoot Camera offers a compact digital camera with a case made out of eco-friendly paper.

Meanwhile, Deya makes waves with its backpack line made from recycled materials including the Ocean Recycling Roll Function Backpack, whose fibers are spun from recycled ocean waste. There are 11,000 environmentally-conscious stores throughout Taiwan sold P74.88B (NT\$44.4B) worth of green products in 2017.

Sustainability has become a priority in Taiwan. It is already thinking years into the future and continues to develop and sharpen its green ambition. To witness the future of Taiwan's technologies, check out the following events: The Taiwan Excellence E-Sports Cup, October 4-6 in Metro Manila, and; the Taiwan Expo, November 8-9 at SMX Convention Center Davao.





## Rainforests and the Amazon: Economic development and the environment

The news of the week for environment watchers is the extensive Amazon fires. Burning forest lands in Brazil flashed across TV and has raised alarmed commentaries about global warming.

**Lungs of planet Earth.** The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest area, 60 percent of which is found in Brazil. The rainforest stretches from the high mountain ranges of neighboring countries and winds down into the meandering Amazon River valley across the geographic mass of that country.

### CROSSROADS Toward Philippine Economic and Social Progress



**GERARDO P. SICAT**

The rainforest is home to several million species of plants, animals and insects of great diversity. Such an eco-system is important in providing support to the cooling of the planet we live in. The forest plays an important role in cleaning the air that we all breathe and also in cooling the planet because of its impact on keeping the cloud cover and inducing more rainfall.

It is a "carbon sink" that helps to suck up the global emissions of carbon dioxide coming from industrial wastes

from factories, autos and all gas-emitting engines. By reducing these carbon wastes, it is crucial to the cooling of the global temperature. This carbon sink, therefore, plays the role of breathing machine in our environment. In this sense rainforests are like the lungs for planet Earth.

Hence, the protection of the Amazon rainforest is critically important in the fight against global warming. The preservation of the Amazon is a real challenge not only for Brazil, but also for the whole world because it is the largest such forest system in the world.

Across the few continents of the world and among countries where there used to be relatively large forest cover before, such eco-systems have been in retreat due to over-logging and extensive conversion to agriculture and careless management of the environment.

Growing awareness of environmental issues have, therefore, brought into the forefront concerns about the tricky relationship of economic activities of man and their effects on the overall eco-system of the whole planet.

Environmentalists stress that the diminution of the rainforest is reaching a very perilous level today.

**Economic development, industrialization, land clearing and population.** Throughout human history, man's economic activity has used the bountiful resources of nature in order to produce and consume.

When the world's population was very small relative to the size of the planet, the expansion of human activity hardly made a dent on the natural resources offered by nature. Nature in its primeval settings abounded.

The Industrial Revolution gradually changed all that. For centuries, man's progress did not seem to encroach heavily on nature's relatively abundant resources.

In some cases, man's progress led to the invention of tree plantations to expand the supply of a particular species directly useful to man's needs, hence making possible reforestation of barren lands. So, we have countries today that continue to thrive in the industry of regeneration through forest plantations.

Even then, plantations represent only an aspect of reforestation that has eliminated the diversity of nature. Monoculture of species has led to the extinction of species of fauna and flora that could not thrive in much-ordered re-invention of industrial forests.

Moreover, the general and more dominant drift of continued industrialization and development was ever-improving technology that relied on more intensified use of carbon fuels to energize production.

This had the consequence of building increasing amounts of gas emissions in the environment that changed that balance of the overall eco-system of the world.

Such reality is what scientists who have studied the world we live in from many different angles, and working independently, have discovered.

Part of the equation of industrialization's effects on the environment was the result of population growth, too. Growth in numbers overcame stable, low level populations because improvements in science and medicine made food and improved nutrition to families.

In turn, however, population growth created more pressure for the opening of land for food production as well as for other needs.

In 1804, the world's population was one billion people. It took around 127 years, around 1924, for the population to reach two billion. Today, the population of the globe is estimated at 7.7 billion.

The implication of such a population level on the requirement for food as well as for other supplies of needs can only be imagined. They are enormous, and they continue.

Technological progress, the engine of human progress, has kept the production of food supplies at pace with the growing population. The dire predictions of Thomas Malthus about the limits of population growth because of the fixity of resources might not seem threatening anymore.

But when we focus on the diminution of the world's rain forests and the changing environmental balance that appears to find expression in what we today depict as an effect of climate change – the experience we call global warming that everyone talks about – we might yet see a clear Malthusian outcome nearby.

**Back to Brazil's Amazon.** The demand for more agricultural land in Brazil has increasingly encroached on the Amazon especially since the 1960s. Brazil's international trade has relied heavily on exports of agricultural products.

The process has not stopped, but it had intense episodes in previous decades. During the 1990s, it is estimated that an area equal to the size of Spain had been clear-cut, primarily to make way for cattle, soybean, corn and other farming.

The current fires observed have been much more intense lately. Data released by Brazil's National Institute of Space research indicated that a total of 76,000 wild fires have been observed so far this year and that more than half of the fires were in the Amazon region.

Such information had not escaped the attention of the world, including world leaders. French President Emmanuel Macron had said that the G-7 meeting would take up the problem in its deliberations.

Observers of the intensity of forest fires this year appears to show a change in government policy, which has opened up more land for agriculture.

This is currently the state of play. Not only are farmers in need of more land if only to sustain the level of soil productivity, but there is a growing need to meet the ever increasing demand for agricultural food products.

My email is: [gpsicat@gmail.com](mailto:gpsicat@gmail.com). For archives of previous Crossroads essays, go to: <https://www.philstar.com/authors/1336383/gerardo-p-sicat>. Visit this site for more information, feedback and commentary: <http://econ.upd.edu.ph/gpsicat/>





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## Duterte pays last respects to Gina

Before embarking on a trip to China, President Duterte paid his last respects to the late Environment Secretary Gina Lopez regarded by the Palace as a warrior and an advocate.

The President went to the Lopez mausoleum Monday night and offered his sincere condolences to the family of the beloved environmentalist and philanthropist.

Lopez passed away last August 19. She was 65.

"President Duterte arrived at the Lopez Mausoleum at 9:21 p.m. and was received by ABS-CBN Chairman Mark Lopez and ABS-CBN President and CEO Carlo Lopez Katigbak," the Palace said in a press statement Tuesday.

"The President placed a lit candle in front of Lopez's gravestone and offered a prayer. He then had a brief talk with the members of the Lopez family before leaving the premises," it added.

The President is scheduled to visit China on August 28 to September 1, that include bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Malacañang has mourned the passing of Lopez, remembering her as one of the President's "most passionate" Cabinet members. Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Lopez fiercely fought the powerful interests in the mining sector as well as industries that harm the country's environment.

"The Palace deeply grieves the demise of one of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's most passionate Cabinet members whose environmental advocacy and legacy remains unparalleled to this day," he said.

"As we pay tribute and give honor to this warrior and advocate, we fervently pray for the Almighty to grant her eternal repose. May the perpetual light shine upon her," he added. **(Genalyn Kabiling)**





# Go aids victims of Tropical Storm Ineng in Ilocos Norte

LAOAG City – Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go headed to Brgy. Metro Gabu, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte on Monday afternoon after the National Heroes Day celebration in Taguig City in the morning to visit and provide relief assistance to individuals and families affected by Tropical Storm Ineng.

The senator reaffirmed his commitment to always be there for Filipinos in need wherever they are and whenever he can to extend help and hear their concerns firsthand.

“Kahit saang sulok ng bansa, pupuntahan ko hanggang samakayang aking oras at katawan. Basta may nangangailangan ng ating tulong, handa po ako para na rin personal kong marinig ang kanilang mga hinaing. Parte po ito ng trabaho ko bilang public servant,” Go said.

“This is a public office and what I am doing is public service. I will not limit myself to being a legislator only. Umilikot po ako sa bansa at bumababa sa mga komunidad para maramdaman ng tao ang serbisyong Tatak Duterte,” he added.

During the visit, Go joined in the Bangon Ilocos: Relief Operations and Seed Distribution at the Capitol Auditorium in the



**SENATOR Bong Go joyfully holds an infant during his visit to give assistance to victims of typhoon Ineng in Ilocos Norte.**

city.

Accompanying Go were officials from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other government agencies, also providing assistance to the victims, alongside the aid given by the office of the Senator and supporters who share the same advocacy of helping victims of calamities. Fellow Senator Imee Marcos and Ilocos Norte Gov-

ernor Matthew Manotoc also accompanied the national government officials to provide help to those affected.

“Dito po sa barangay, may dala po akong kaunting tulong. Iba naman po ‘yung dala ng gobyerno, dala po ni Pangulong Duterte, DA, DOH, DPWH, DSWD, National Food Authority (NFA), National Housing Authority (NHA) at iba’t ibang ahensya pa po ng gobyerno para po matugunan kaagad lahat ng pangangailangan nila,” Go said.

“May dala rin pong seedlings ang DA, pautang rin po na zero interest. Ang

DOH naman po, may dalang medical kits, samantalang ang DSWD, may dalang pagkain, grocery packs at iba pa. Ang iba’t ibang ahensya, tulung-tulong para may pantawid sa araw-araw ang mga biktima. Ako namangaya ng sinabi ko noon, handa po ako maging tulay ninyo kay Pangulong Duterte,” Go said.

Given the frequency of calamities and natural disasters that occur in the country, Go said that he is pushing for the establishment of a separate executive department focused on disaster resilience to serve as the lead agency for disaster response of the government.

“Kaya isinusulong ko na magkaroon tayong Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) para iisang ahensya na lang ang tugon sa mga pangangailangan ng mga biktima. Mas magiging mabilis at epektibo po ang pagresponde natin kapag streamlined ang proseso at holistic ang approach ng gobyerno,” Go said.

Last month, Go filed Senate Bill 205, known as “Disaster Resilience Act of 2019”, which seeks to establish “an empowered, highly-specialized, and responsive Department of Disaster Resilience with clear unity of command.”





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MAYROON ba tayong batas sa hanay ng mga indigenous people na nagbabawal na pakasalan ng isang lalaki ang hindi virgin?

Alalahaning nirespeto ng ating batas ang mga batas na pinairal ng ilang tribu natin sa Pilipinas at maging ang sa mga kapatid na Muslim.

Kung meron, aba, kumilos na ang mga kinauukulan upang mabago ang nasabing batas.

Sa pangkalahatan, hindi pinag-uusapan kung virgin o hindi ang isang babae na pina-kakasalan ng Pinoy.

### BATAS SA BANGLADESH

Ang kontrobersyal na batas ay pambansang batas sa bansang Bangladesh.

Isang Muslim na bansa ang Bangladesh at kakaunti lang ang hindi Muslim.

Makaraang umiral ang nasabing batas sa napakahabang panahon, ngayon lamang ito binago.

Nagsimulang pairalin ang pagbabawal ng kasal sa hindi virgin noong pang 1961 at ngayon lang dinesisyon ng Mataas na Hukuman sa Bangladesh makaraang kontrahin ito sa hukuman noong 2014.

Ayon sa nasabing lumang batas, tatlo lang ang pupwedeng pagpipilian ng lalaking gustong makasal: birhen, balo o diborsyado.

Sa utos ng hukuman, tatanggalin na ang "birhen" at papalitan ng "unmarried" o single sa atin sa mga rekisitos sa pag-aasawa.

Sa darating na Oktubre, dapat napalitan na ang lahat ng sertipiko sa pag-aasawa o certificate of marriage at license to marry at hindi na makikita ang salitang "birhen" kundi unmarried.

Ayon sa hukuman na sumang-ayon sa mga taga-human rights na lumaban sa lumang batas, "discriminatory" at "humiliating" sa kababaihan iyon.

### BATAS SA KONTRA-DISCRIMINATION

Naging malinaw na isyu sa diskriminasyon laban sa kababaihan ang nasabing batas sa Bangladesh.

Kaya naman, sa loob lang ng limang taon na laban sa korte, naka-



## DISKRIMINASYON: HINDI VIRGIN, BAWAL PAKASALAN

ban sa diskriminasyon.

Sa kabilang banda, itong panukalang SOGIE o Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression ay inaamag na sa Kongreso at muling ipinanukala sa Senado.

Nag-init ang SOGIE bill nang hindi umano pagamitin ng comfort room na pambabae si Gretchen Diez.

Paratang ni Diez, hinarang siya ng isang babang security guard.

At nang ipilit nito ang kanyang karapatan umano na gumamit ng CR ng babae, doon na siya umano ginamitan ng pwersa ng mga guwardiya palayo sa CR, dinala sa opis ng Farmers Mall at pinosasan pa ng mga pulis doon.

May kasong diskriminasyon umano at labag sa ordinansa ng Quezon City nakasasakop sa Farmers Mall.

### PASINGIT

Habang umuusok ang paratang, naisingit naman ni Senate President ang mag-imbetiga at nilinaw ng nakuha niyang kopya ng CCTV na may kasinungalingan sa salaysay ni Diez.

Nakipila nga si Diez sa CR ng mga babae ngunit magkasunod ang dalawang babae na nagreklamo na napasok ang CR nila ng lalaki.

At si Gretchen Diez nga iyon.

Kaya ang ginawa ng guwardiya, itinuro nito ang CR ng mga People With Disabilities ngunit hindi rin siya nakapasok dahil punuan din.

Dito na siya iniwan ng guwardiya at dito na rin nag-open ng live sa facebook si Diez at iniere ang diskriminasyon.

Dito na siya sinita ng guwardiya at sumunod na ang kaguluhang naganap.

Lumalabas na tiningnang lehitimo ng guwardiya ang reklamo ng mga babae at binigyan siya ng pagkakataong lumagay sa tamang lugar.

### DUDA KUNG PAPASA

Maraming duda kung papasa ang SOGIE bill.

Madaling naipasa sa Kamara pero hindi basta nakanasa sa Senado.

At hindi natin masisisi ang mga senador kung binubusisi nila nang husto ang panukala lalo't marami umano ang karapatan ang masasagasaan.

Kabilang sa mga masasagasaan ang mga relihiyon na nagsasabing tanging ang mga babae at lalaki lang ang pupwedeng magpakasal at naayon ito sa kautusan ng nasa itaas ng "humayo kayo at magpakarami."

Maliban dito, takot ang mga istrikto sa relihiyon na matatamaan sila ng kasaysayan ng Sodom at Gomorrah na sinunog ng Diyos dahil sa pagkalulong ng mga lalaki sa kapwa nila lalaki sa relasyon.

Sasagasaan din ng SOGIE bill ang pagbibigay ng sekswalidad sa bagong panganak na tao at ipagbabawal nitong tawaging lalaki o babae ang baby.

Aamyendahan din nito ang mga batas sa Pinas na Family Code at Civil Code na nagsasabing tanging babae at lalaki lang ang pupwedeng ikasal at hindi pupwede ang same sex marriage.

### PANGKALAHATAN

Sabi pa ng ilang senador, kung gagawa sila ng batas laban sa diskriminasyon, dapat hindi lang pabor sa mga lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer at iba.

Dapat na pangkalahatan umano ang batas at hindi para sa ilang uri lang ng mga mamamayan sa bansa.

Kung ano ang kahihinatnan ng SOGIE bill, hindi natin alam, mga Bro.

Pero pansamantala, dapat umayos muna ang mga LGBTQ sa umiiral na sistema na hindi basta mabago sa madaling panahon.

Ang problema naman sa CR ay madali lang naman na matugunan.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.