

20 February 2023, Monday



**DENR**

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# Marina probes Chinese dredgers in Manila Bay

**T**HE Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) is investigating the alleged suspicious activities of Chinese dredgers operating in Manila Bay that were raised by the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC), an interagency maritime surveillance and coordinated response facility.

"Based on the special report of NCWC, several foreign vessels were allegedly engaged in suspicious activities and were observed to be operating outside their approved areas of opera-

tion as against the issued special permit by Marina," the maritime authority said in a report.

The NCWC claimed the Chinese dredgers were operating without a clearance from the

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Environmental Compliance Certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB).

"The NCWC also asserted that the Chinese dredgers allegedly failed to secure a 'No Objection Clearance' from the Office of the National Security Adviser," Marina said.

The report was endorsed by Malacañang to Marina on Nov. 29, 2022.

The NCWC is led by the Phil-

ippine Coast Guard and is the operating arm of the National Coast Watch System.

The NCWS is run by the National Coast Watch Council and is composed of the Department of Transportation, DENR, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Justice, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Finance, and Department of the Interior and Local Government.

It is chaired by the executive secretary. **THE MANILA TIMES**



## MARINA investigates 'suspicious' activities of Chinese vessels in Manila Bay

By Darwin G. Amojelar

THE Maritime Industry Authority said over the weekend it is investigating the alleged "suspicious" activities of Chinese vessels operating in the Manila Bay, following the alarm raised by the National Coast Watch Center—an inter-agency maritime surveillance and coordinated response facility.

"Based on the special report of NCWC,

several foreign vessels were allegedly engaged on suspicious activities and were observed to be operating outside their approved areas of operation as against the issued special permit by MARINA," the agency said in a report.

The NCWC, which is led by the Philippine Coast Guard, earlier reported that the Chinese vessels were operating without a dredging clearance from the Department of Public Works and Highways and

no environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

NCWC also said the Chinese dredgers had no memorandum of agreement with the DENR and no accreditation from the MGB.

"The NCWC also asserted that the Chinese dredgers allegedly failed to secure a 'No Objection Clearance' from the Office

of the National Security Adviser," MARINA said.

Another issue flagged by the NCWC, based on the MARINA report, was that the Chinese dredgers had been operating with false Automatic Identification System which allows the authorities to properly monitor and record their exact movements inside Philippine territorial waters, and that they turned off their AIS during operation and while berthed.



## Coast Watch Center flags activities of Chinese dredgers in Manila Bay

By LORENZ S. MARASIGAN

[@lorenzmarasigan](#)

**T**HE National Coast Watch Center (NCWC) has flagged alleged "illegal" activities of Chinese dredgers in Manila Bay and rivers in Zambales.

In a report submitted to the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), the NCWC said Chinese vessels allegedly conducted dredging of reclamation sand and transport it to the reclamation areas in Manila Bay.

The report listed "suspicious activities of the Chinese dredgers that were found to be operating outside their approved areas of operation as against the issued Special Permit" from the Marina.

NCWC also noted that Chinese

dredgers were allegedly "operating without a dredging clearance" from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), "had no Environmental Compliance Certificate" from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), "had no memorandum of agreement" between the DENR and the dredging company, "had no accreditation" from the DENR-MGB, "had no ore transport permit" from the DENR-MGB, and "had no" Notice To Proceed for their operations.

The NCWC also asserted that the Chinese dredgers allegedly failed to secure a "No Objection Clearance" from the Office of the National Security Adviser. It also flagged the said dredgers of "op-

erating with false Automatic Identification System (AIS)," which essentially allows the authorities to properly monitor and record their exact movements inside Philippine territorial waters.

Allegedly, they turned off their AIS during operation and while berthed, according to the NCWC.

Following the report, Marina is now conducting an investigation and may revoke the special permits issued to the Chinese vessels and may also impose sanctions and penalties against them.

NCWC is an interagency maritime surveillance and coordinated unit led by the Philippine Coast Guard. It is attached under the Office of the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary.



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### MORE VOICES

Taking stock of the latest news about Manila Bay Reclamation, Masungi Georeserve, and Kaliwa Dam. A system that regards the natural environment and voices of the marginalized as inconsequential at worst and inconvenient at best is bound to implode, if it hasn't already.

**Dr. Pamela Cajilig, @anthropam**



## 'Suspicious' dredging in Manila Bay, Zambales being probed by MARINA

BY MYLA IGLESIAS

THE Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) is conducting an investigation into the alleged "suspicious" activities of Chinese dredgers operating in Manila Bay and rivers in Zambales as raised by the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC), an inter-agency maritime surveillance and coordinated response facility.

The MARINA probe is centered on the findings of an NCWC special report, which states, among others, that several foreign vessels have allegedly been engaged in suspicious activities and have been observed to be operating outside their approved areas of operation covered under special permits issued by the MARINA.

The special report likewise said Chinese dredgers were operating without a dredging clearance from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), have no Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Depart-

ment of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), have no memorandum of agreement with the DENR, have no accreditation from the DENR-MGB, have no ore transport permit from the DENR-MGB and, have no notice to proceed for their operations.

The Chinese dredgers also supposedly failed to secure a "No Objection Clearance" from the Office of the National Security Adviser.

Another violation flagged by the NCWC was that the Chinese dredgers had been operating with a fake Automatic Identification System (AIS), which allows authorities to properly monitor and record their exact movements inside Philippine territorial waters.

Such AIS, it also said, was turned off during operation and while the dredgers are berthed.

The NCWC special report was endorsed last November for MARINA's "appropriate action" by Malacañang, through Deputy

Executive Secretary for general administration Naealla Bainto Aguinaldo.

The NCWC is the premier inter-agency maritime surveillance and coordinated response center led by the Philippine Coast Guard and is attached under the Office of the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary.

The NCWC is the operating arm of the National Coast Watch System, which in turn is run by the National Coast Watch Council which acts as the central body that provides strategic direction and promulgates policy guidelines.

It is chaired by the Executive Secretary and is composed of government agencies, namely the Department of Transportation, the DENR, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Interior and Local Government.



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## Marina probing Manila Bay reclamation

BY MARIA ROMERO  
@tribunephil\_mbr

An inter-agency maritime surveillance unit under the Office of the Executive Secretary has flagged the "suspicious activities" of Chinese dredgers allegedly operating illegally in Manila Bay and rivers in Zambales.

The National Coast Watch Center or NCWC has said in a special report that the Chinese workers had been "operating outside their approved areas" in violation of the special permit granted them by the Maritime Industry Authority or Marina.

The Palace, through Deputy Executive Secretary for General Administration Naealla Bainto Aguinaldo, endorsed the NCWC report to Marina on 29 November 2022.

*Daily Tribune* has been reaching out to Marina to determine what actions it had taken, if any, regarding the report.

NCWC claimed the

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# Chinese dredging 'illegally'

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Chinese were operating without clearances and permits from, among other agencies, the public works and environment departments, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, and the Office of the National Security Adviser.

The Chinese dredgers have also been operating with a false automatic identification system, the NCWC report said, and at times turning them off so Philippine authorities could not track their movements and locations.

The dredgers were operating without the following according to NCWC: Clearance from the Department of Public Works and Highways; environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-MGB; memorandum of agreement with the DENR; accreditation from the DENR-MGB; ore transport permit and a notice to proceed from the DENR-MGB.

The NCWC also asserted that the Chinese dredgers failed to secure a "no objection

clearance" from the Office of the National Security Adviser.

Aside from the NCWC report which Marina is looking into, the agency in January said that it will investigate a group's complaint that Chinese dredgers and their crew members had been operating in Manila Bay illegally.

The complaint was lodged by the Samahan ng Nagkaka-Isang Marinong Pilipino with the Department of Labor and Employment, and the Department of Migrant Workers.

SNMP claimed the dredgers that were supposed to be bareboat charters should be temporarily under the Philippine flag. It cited a Marina resolution disallowing Chinese vessels and crew from doing business in local waters unless they secure a special permit from the agency.

One of the contractors in the Manila Bay reclamation project, China Harbor Engineering Corp., was also tagged as using a 3-in-1 dredger similar to the ones used in reclaiming outcrops in the West Philippine Sea, SNMP added.

China First Engineering Company, the main contractor of the Waterfront Reclamation Project, also has vessels that were reportedly the subject of an ongoing Philippine Coast Guard investigation for conducting alleged illegal activity in Manila Bay, the group said.

During Senate budget deliberations last November, the DENR said there were 19 reclamation projects in Manila Bay alone.

Senators at the time asked the DENR if it's true that there were a total of 187 reclamation projects all over the country.

At one point during the hearing, Senator Francis Tolentino joked that with the many reclamation projects and "several islets apparently being constructed near the shores of Manila Bay," the Philippines may eventually have 7,122 islands instead of 7,107.

"There's a possibility that we will no longer see the beautiful Manila Bay sunset?" Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri asked for his part.





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I HAVE yet to visit the Masungi Georeserve. But I have seen it several times on Youtube.

My 10-year-old granddaughter visited the place last year in a field trip organized by her school. She was raving about it, and has since become very interested in environmental conservation.

The family went after a few months to a campsite in Tanay, where my grandkids learned about life outside the urban sprawl where they grew up -- kindling a fire, sleeping in a tent without air-conditioning, fetching water from a nearby brook, and breathing fresh air.

Last year, we read Masungi was in the headlines because some armed men who must have been agents of a land developer or a quarry company, parked their unwanted selves inside, claiming part of the georeserve for their private destruction.

Now it is the controversy-laden Bureau of Corrections, devoid of a Bantag and now headed by a Catapang, which wants to build its headquarters and housing for personnel in some 270 hectares of the area.

*“What history once referred to as the Pearl of the Orient will forever be marred and defaced, all because there is no foresight, no urban planning, no pride of place, only monumental greed.”*

Twenty BuCor personnel went to Masungi upon orders of Catapang to conduct an inspection of their future “development” site.

Catapang has a newly minted original certificate of title dated September 22, 2022, based on Presidential Proclamation 1158 issued by then PGMA on September 8, 2006, for use as the new site of the New Bilibid Prison which now occupies about the same area of land in Muntinglupa.

Government, then and now, is looking at privatizing the present site of NBP to raise revenues. The area, once farmland, has become part of a metropolis that keeps crying out for land for people to dwell in.

## Save Masungi

What we used to call Munti has since become prime real estate in a rent economy, coveted by the rich and entitled.

DOJ Secretary Boying Remulla, who has announced a policy of regionalizing our prisons system, transferring the main jail in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, already a penal colony since yesteryears, now supports his BuCor director’s plan to hold office at Masungi, far from Sablayan.

Why in heaven’s name should supervisors be far from the supervised? Move both HQ and prison to Sablayan, for chrissakes.

The national penitentiary also has long-reserved sites in Iwahig, Puerto Princesa, in Davao del Norte, San Ramon in Zamboanga City, and Abuyog in Leyte.

There was a time when the huge army reservation in Laur, Nueva Ecija, on part of which stands Fort Magsaysay, was eyed as a transfer site for the Munti penitentiary.

One wonders why Catapang wants Masungi for office headquarters, including the award of residential plots to their officials and employees, so far away from the penitentiary?

Catapang has averred that the Masungi area will not be a penitentiary, and no prisoners will be housed therein, just offices and residences.

Wow! He wants to be like justices of the Supreme Court who have Baguio City offices and residences where they meet during the hot summer months?

Masungi is not as cool as Baguio, but it certainly is cooler than Munti.

Masungi should be a tad colder that the highlands of Tanay before retired generals got titles or tax declarations to government land and parked themselves, their fighting cocks, and now weekend resorts thereat.

What used to be beautiful scenery has now become a hodgepodge of commercial and residential areas, sooner than soon densely populated as well.

That is what will happen to the Masungi Georeserve, its flora and fauna now conserved well by a foundation under an agreement with the DENR in 2002. It is part of the wooded landscape that protects the Upper Marikina watershed.

There is so much more government property in Region 4 if the justice secretary wants to have a prison compound other than in Region 4-A whether in Batangas, Laguna, or even his native Cavite.

Not a beautifully preserved environment such as Masungi, please!

President Marcos Jr. must revoke a proclamation signed by his predecessor Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, in order to save Masungi for generations yet to come.

That would be key for the Land Registration Authority, which like the Bureau of Corrections is under the supervision of the DOJ, to revoke the OCT it issued last year.

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Steve Masangal

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Several Facebook and Instagram posts taken from the poolside area of Sofitel show the bay overtaken by gray sand, the result of reclamation granted willy-nilly by the Philippine Reclamation Authority and local government units with jurisdiction over their municipal waters.

It is a clear uglification of Manila Bay.

Through it all, the DENR, then under a retired general, now under a wealthy landowner steeped in the hallowed halls of academia, has been eerily silent.

Manila, or Metro Manila, is one of the most densely populated urban centers in the world. Uncontrolled migration into the metropolis has been going on since after the Second World War.

Open spaces and green patches have been taken over by informal settlers from west to east, north to south.

Now developers are rushing reclamation using sand from Zambales and other parts to fill up the sea in some 18 approved projects from Navotas in the north to Cavite in the southwest.

Some of these have been awarded to developers willy-nilly, that their metes and bounds overlap.

Once construction starts in the reclaimed areas, more workers will migrate to the metropolis, and will never return to the countryside, depleting our farms of manpower, and congesting NCR further, well beyond carrying capacity.

And then, construction work finished, they will re-populate our fetid slums.

And for what? For wealthy foreigners to buy condominium units facing our fabled sunset at the expense of the inner cities and the environment, while adding to the billions already owned by its developers?

What history once referred to as the Pearl of the Orient will forever be marred and defaced, all because there is no foresight, no urban planning, no pride of place, only monumental greed.

What a country!



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## EDITORIAL

### HUWAG WASAKIN ANG MGA LIKAS NA YAMAN

MAY mga tao na sobra-sobra na ang pagiging sakim sa kayamanan at kapangyarihan at hindi na kayang makuntento sa kung anong meron sila na dapat nilang ipagpasalamat.

Kaya naman maging ang Inang Kalikasan ay sobra-sobra kung pagsamantalahan at hindi na inisip kung ano ang magiging bunga ng kanilang gagawing pagwasak sa likas na yaman ng ating bansa.

May ilang nag-iinteres sa Sierra Madre. Nais na sirain ito para sa kanilang kapakinabangan.

Alam ba nilang ang kahabaan ng Bundok Sierra Madre, mula sa lalawigan ng Cagayan hanggang sa lalawigan ng Quezon, ang dahilan kung bakit hindi masyadong napipinsala ang Metro Manila at mga kalapit na lalawigan sa buong Luzon sa paghagupit ng malalakas na bagyong dumaraan at tumatama sa Pilipinas.

Kaya nga ang Sierra Madre ay tinaguriang "Backbone of Luzon."

Ngayon naman ang pinag-iinteresan ay ang Masungi Georeserve na dati nang napagsamantalahan at natayuan na ng ilang pribadong bahagi na ginawang negosyo sa tulong ng ilang tiwali sa local government unit at Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ang Masungi Georeserve ay lugar kung saan nakatago ang mga likas na yaman tulad ng pinanggalingan ng tubig, mga malalaki at matatandang bato na nasa kagubatan ang mismong mga hayop na namamahay rito sa liblib na lalawigan ng Rizal.

Kung plano ng Bureau of Corrections na ilipat dito o kaya naman ay gawing extension ng New Bilibid Prison, aba'y huwag naman sana dahil masasalanta na naman ang kagubatan at mga yamang bato nito at kabundukan na dapat ay masilayan pa ng mga susunod na henerasyon.



## Paglipat ng BuCor sa Masungi hinarang

Tutol ang Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. (MGFI), caretaker sa geopark mula pa noong 2017 sa balak na ilipat ang Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) headquarters sa bahagi ng 270 ektaryang Masungi Georeserve.

Ayon kay MGFI trustee Ann Dumaliang, ang site ay hindi umano akma na lagyan ng mga gusali, opisina o housing facilities.

Kaya nanawagan ito kina Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. at Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyza na pakialaman ang planong ito ng Department of Justice (DOJ) at BuCor.

Samantala, idinepensa naman ni Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla ang desisyon ng BuCor na ilipat ang kanilang headquarters sa nabanggit na lugar dahil mandato umano ng ahensiya na i-improve ang penal management system ng bansa para ma-decongest ang New Bilibid Prison (NBP) sa Muntinlupa City.

"We're looking at the options available to the BuCor for the next 15 to 20 years. There has to be a long-term plan for BuCor," ayon kay Remulla sa kanyang radio program.

Ipinaliwanag ni Remulla na ikinunsidera nila ang Masungi area partikular na bahaging sakop ng Tanay, Rizal dahil ito naman ay ini-award sa BuCor noong 2006 sa pamamagitan ng proklamasyon ni dating Pangulo Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



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***Sa 9-araw na krusada patungong Malacañang  
Alay-Lakad kontra Kaliwa Dam nasa Laguna na***

Nasa lalawigan na ng Laguna ang mga grupong nagsasagawa ng alay lakad kontra Kaliwa dam bilang bahagi ng kanilang 9 na araw na krusada patungo sa Malacañang.

Bago tumulak kahapon ang Alay-Lakad, nagkaroon ng kolektibong pag-alala sa mga namatay sa Flash Flood sa Real, Quezon noong Nobyembre 2004.

Ayon kay Nay Conching ng General Nakar, Quezon, kasinungalingan ang sinasabi na 15 pamilyang katutubo lang ang apektado ng dam, gayong kasama nila sa ngayon ang kumakatawan sa humigit-kumulang 200 pamilya.

Pagdating sa Famy, Laguna kahapon ay nagdaos sila ng maikling programa.

Sinalubong ang Alay-Lakad ng iba't ibang environmental groups mula sa Laguna at mga youth group na nagpaabot ng iba't ibang donasyong pagkain at mga tubig inumin. (Tony Sandoval)



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# A new hope for mining

By **Jordeene B. Lagare**  
@jordeenelagare

**E**xtracting minerals from the ground can either be a blessing or curse to the people and the environment. Metals are widely used in our daily lives—from buildings, cell phones, jewelry to transportation. From the macroeconomic perspective, mining can play a vital role in spurring Philippine socioeconomic development as it can generate more employment and boost government coffers.

On the other hand, exploring, operating and maintaining mine sites can adversely impact our environment. Mining can affect not only local communities but also pose health risks to the general public if such an activity is undertaken in an irresponsible way.

The government is counting on the mining industry to help shore up the Philippine economy from the deep recesses of the pandemic. Precious metals are lustrous and the Marcos administration is hoping that the huge potential of this sector will illuminate the path toward the country's economic recovery and long-term growth. The Philippines, after all, is one of the world's richly endowed countries in terms of mineral resources with considerable deposits of gold, copper and nickel. Metal prices in the global market are on the uptrend, even reaching record price highs in the previous year.

The Philippines is estimated to have about \$1 trillion worth of untapped copper, gold, nickel, zinc and silver reserves, only 5 percent of which have been exploited.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has yet to release the projected metal production for 2022. In the three quarters ending September, the value of metal production expanded by 29.21 percent to P175.61 billion. The MGB says the sector has been able to sustain its growth trajectory due to bullish prices of nickel ore and gold along with the higher output of gold, silver, chromite and iron.

To ramp up the development of the industry, the gov-



OPEN PIT Nickel Asia Corp.'s Cagdianao nickel mine site in Dinagat Islands —CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ernment vowed to clear the road blocks—the moratorium on open-pit mining and new mining projects, to name a few (which were lifted at the tail end of the previous Duterte administration)—that had stymied its growth in the past. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has started a comprehensive review of the laws and policies governing the mining sector and is hoping to complete the process in six months or so, in the hopes of building technical capacity to support this particular direction.

"We have already acknowledged this as a priority and therefore, we are going to be undertaking not just a review of the existing policies and laws, which are somewhat dated; some of them were [enacted] in the '90s, [like] the People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991, the Philippine Mining Act of 1995," says Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

The agency also wants to ensure the social and physical advances in science and technology as well as the Philippines' development context are taken into account.

Mining companies have

**We have already acknowledged this as a priority and therefore, we are going to be undertaking not just a review of the existing policies and laws, which are somewhat dated**

**Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga**  
Environment Secretary

lauded the government's pronouncement on the revitalization of the industry.

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), an association of the largest mining, quarrying and mineral processing companies in the country, says it is ready and willing to contribute to the country's postpandemic recovery efforts, provided the industry will be allowed to grow and flourish, and policymakers will enable them to achieve the sector's full potential responsibly and sustainably.

"However, to truly revitalize our industry—which includes attracting the right investments in mining and encouraging the building of enormously expen-

sive mineral processing facilities and manufacturing plants for electric vehicles and for renewable power projects—the industry needs: full government support in terms of stable mining and investment policies that do not change mid-stream, lower power costs, infrastructure, harmonized local and national laws, a fiscal regime that considers the Philippines' competitiveness vis-à-vis other mining jurisdictions, and incentives," says COMP chair Michael Toledo in an email interview with the Inquirer.

"One area that would provide a big boost to our industry and our country is the enactment of a responsive mining fiscal regime that would allow

mining to provide a consistent revenue stream for our nation's coffers, a fair return for investments, as well as continued benefits for host communities in both good times and bad," adds Toledo.

**More optimistic**

The group hopes that the government will address their concerns and provide support to the sector, allowing them to help meet the critical materials requirements of energy transition.

Toledo says they share the administration's optimism about mining prospects given the global thrust to decarbonize, leading to the introduction of new technologies that push demand for raw materials needed to produce electric vehicles and undertake renewable energy projects.

Although commodity prices are projected to slide in the near term, Toledo says experts predict commodity prices to increase in the medium-term compared with prepandemic levels.

Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA), a nonstock nonprofit association organized to promote and develop the domestic nickel mining industry, says the Philippines will gain from the steady global demand for pure nickel as manufactur-

ing sectors shift their production to support the boom in the electric vehicle industry.

"The Philippines is poised to benefit from the thrust in production of manufacturing sectors; however, before we can even concretize plans on putting up the infrastructure needed for proposed value-adding processing plants, there is a need to involve the government in terms of fiscal incentives for investors as well as enticing mining policies and regulations," PNIA president Dante Bravo tells the Inquirer in an email.

"In spite of this steady demand, we believe it will take a while before the exports return to prepandemic levels as there are considerations out of our control that may affect our nickel production as well as overall demand, such as current global inflation, high interest rates, rising electricity and fuel costs exacerbated by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, unfavorable weather, rising freight charges, and supply chain disruptions," Bravo adds.

Hoping to capitalize on these prospects, one of the PNIA's key priorities this year is discussing the feasibility of building a processing plant with government stakeholders and economists.

"We must first ascertain the country's nickel reserve before we undergo such an undertaking of putting up processing plants, particularly in ensuring quality and quantity of output, and future-proofing the gargantuan venture," says Bravo.

On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meetings in Davos last month, Glen-core, one of the largest and globally diversified natural resource companies in the world, announced plans to invest in mineral processing operations in the Philippines.

"They see the Philippines as a potential partner to process nickel and copper resources responsibly and sustainably for use in electric vehicle batteries and energy storage units, among others," says Communications Secretary Cheloy Velcaria-Garafil. [nc](http://nc)



TVI Resource Development Inc.'s Canatuan mine in Zamboanga del Norte



Nickel Asia's Hinatuan Nickel Mine in Surigao del Norte



Mining at Canatuan mine has been concluded and the area has undergone rehabilitation.

  
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## PBBM vows to protect environment, enforce mining law

President Marcos said his administration would do a "meticulous balancing" to protect the environment and enforce the country's law on responsible mining.

Marcos said this in response to a question about his policy on protecting the environment in the Cordillera, especially regarding mining.

According to the President, protecting the environment has always been essential to his administration's policies.

"In terms of protecting the environment, it's very clear what the position of this government has always been... It has been an important part of all our policies," he said.

"We are environ- ▶ 7

## PBBM vows to protect environment, enforce mining law ◀ 1

mentally conscious, moving the economy towards green technologies, moving our production of power towards renewables," he added.

President Marcos noted that mineral exploration and extraction are essential to his administration's economic plan.

However, he said the government wants to avoid unfortunate incidents like what happened in the past few years.

"So, it is really a question of enforcing the law in terms of responsible mining, and that is what we will continue to do," Marcos said.

"We will always make sure that the mining companies who come in, once they are finished mining, that they leave the site in the same condition as it was when they found it," he added.

Meanwhile, Marcos said the country can now monetize its

forest cover — giving it a peso or dollar value and taking advantage of being more active in promoting, monitoring, regulating, and encouraging the care of its forests.

"All our forest cover is important and must remain — that is giving the Philippines, we fall into the category of a carbon sink country because of our forest cover, and so that is a very valuable asset for the Philippines," he said. (Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)



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## **PBBM TUTOL WASAKIN NG MINING ANG KAGUBATAN**

**IGINIIT** ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. ang kahalagahan ng tamang implementasyon ng mining laws sa bansa.

Kasabay nito, nangako ang Pangulo na ibabalanse ang environmental protection at ekonomiya pagdating sa pagpapalakas sa sektor.

Sa panayam sa Pangulo sa alumni homecoming ng Philippine Military Aca-

demy (PMA) sa Baguio City, sinabi ng Chief Executive na ang kanyang administrasyon ay "environment conscious."

"It has been an important part of all our policies... we are moving the economy towards green technologies, we are moving our production of power towards renewables so in that regard, all our forest cover is important and must

remain," sabi ng Pangulo.

Dahil ang forest cover ay "valuable asset," binanggit ng Pangulo ang ideya na gawin itong monetized nang walang kaakibat na paliwanag.

"We can take advantage of being more active in promoting and monitoring, regulating, and encouraging the care of our forest cover, of all our environmental assets, it's very, very important," sabi pa ng Pangulo.

Nakasaad sa data mula sa environment department na "as of 2020," ang Pilipinas ay may kabuuang 4,693,821 ektarya ng open forest formations o iyong saklaw ang tinatawag na high ground proportions.

"Closed forest formations, where a tree crown exceeds 10 percent of the ground, is pegged at 2,221,173 hectares," ayon sa ulat.

Ang pagmimina, ayon kay Pangulong Marcos ay mahalagang bahagi ng ekonomiya subalit "we do not want some of the incidents that we saw in the past few years to happen again."

Ito ang dahilan kung bakit ang pagpapatupad ng batas sa responsableng pagmimina ay "is what we will continue to do."

"We will always make sure that the mining companies who come in, once they are finished mining that they leave the site in the same condition as it was when they found it," diin ng Pangulo.





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## Responsableng pagmimina iginiit ni PBBM

MULING inulit ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. ang kahalagahan ng tamang implementasyon ng batas sa pagmimina sa bansa.

Kasabay nito, nangako ang Pangulo na ibabalanse ang environmental protection at ekonomiya pagdating sa pagpapalakas sa sektor.

Sa panayam sa Pangulo sa alumni homecoming ng Philippine Military Academy sa Baguio City, sinabi nitong "en-

vironment conscious" ang kanyang administrasyon.

Kaya naman patungo umano sa makakalikasang paraan ang pagpupundar maging ng kuryente kasabay ng pangangalaga sa mga kagubatan.

Nakasaad sa datos mula sa environment department na nitong 2020, may kabuuang 4,693,821 ektarya ng open forest formations o iyong saklaw ang tinatawag na high ground proportions ang Pilipi-

nas. "Closed forest formations, where a tree crown "exceeds 10 percent" of the ground, is pegged at 2,221,173 hectares," ayon sa ulat.

Ang pagmimina, ayon kay Pangulong Marcos ay nananatiling mahalagang bahagi ng ekonomiya subalit hindi umano dapat maulit ang mga hindi magandang pangyayari sa nakaraang mga taon.

Kaya naman, dapat umangonong pairalin lagi ang responsableng pagmimina.

Dapat umangonong ibalik ng mga mining company sa dating anyo ang iwanan nilang mga lugar. KRIS JOSE



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**NA-INSPIRE** o nagkaroon ng tapang ang local government unit ng Brooke's Point, Palawan sa ginawa ng mga Sibuyanon sa pagpatigil sa higitang mining corporation na sumisira sa kanilang kalikasan.

Oo! Nitong nakaraang linggo, nagbarikada ang mga residente ng Brooke's Point sa erya na ilang taon nang winawakwak ng Ipilan Nickel Corporation (INC) nang mabatid nila ang kapangyarihan ng LGU para pigilan ang pagwasak sa kanilang kabundukan.

Pero hindi katulad ng sa San Fernando, Sibuyan island, Romblon na tila ang mayor ang naging spokesman ng Altai Philippines Mining Corporation, sa Brooke's Point ang mismong mayor, vice mayor at mga konsehal pati barangay

## Taga-Brooke's Point, Palawan na-inspire sa Sibuyanon sa pag-alma kontra mining

ang nanguna sa pagbarikada sa minahan ng INC.

Mismong sina Mayor Cesario Benedito, Jr. at kanyang Vice Mayor na si Jean Feliciano ang nanguna sa pagsigaw laban sa INC na itigil ang pagwasak sa ilang ektarya nilang kabundukan dahil walang permiso rito ang LGU.

Sabi ng national coordinator ng Alyansa Tigil Mina na si Jaybee Garganera, ang pagmimina ng INC sa Brooke's Point ay katulad din ng sa Sibuyan na ang mining company (Altai) ay walang permiso ng LGU para kumatay ng mga puno at walang pahintulot ng PPA (Philippine Port Authority) para gumawa ng port at causeway.

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Noong 2022, nang si Jean Feliciano ang mayor sa 1st class municipality ng Brooke's Point, pinatigil niya ang pagmimina ng Ipilan Nickel Corporation nang matuklasang nasa 7,000 malalaking puno ang itinumba ng mga tao ng INC sa 20 ektaryang mining site.

Binalikan ng INC si Feliciano. Kinasuhan siya sa Ombudsman. Pinaboran ng korte ang INC. Nasuspinde ng halos isang taon ng walang suweldo ang palabang babaeng alkalde.

Sa kanyang pagka-suspinde, ang umupong acting mayor ay

nag-isyu ng permit, pinayagan ang INC katayin ang mga higitang puno. Na ayon sa ulat, nagreklamo ang mga residente kay Feliciano na ilang buwan silang hindi makatulog ng maayos dahil sa ingay ng chainsaw at pagbagsak ng matataas na puno sa kabundukan. Kabundukan na napapaligiran ng 33 water-sheds.

Nang dahil sa ilang taon nang pagmimina, simula 2017?, tuwing bubuhos ang malakas na ulan ngayon ay lumulubog na sa bahang may putik ang kapatagan ng Brooke's Point.

Nang pumutok nga ang isyu ng mining sa Sibuyan, nabatid ang kapangyarihan ng LGU para protektahan ang kanilang kalikasan laban sa mapangwaksak na pagmimina, nagkalakas-loob ang taga-Brooke's Point, nagbarika kasama ang mga opisyal ng LGU, nanawagan sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na pigilan na ang INC sa kanilang pagmimina dahil wala itong permiso mula sa kasalukuyang mayor (Cesario Benedito).

Ang istayl pala nitong INC kapag may kalamidad tulad ng pagbaha, nagbibigay ng kapinggot na tulong sa mga mamamayan, siguro para hindi sila masisi sa nangyayaring malawakang pagbaha sa Brooke's Point. Animal!