

13 February 2023, Monday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



02-13-23

OFF:

PAGE

DATE

DENR official named one of 2023 Ocean Leaders

BY JING VILLAMENTE

A senior ecosystem specialist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is among the eight ocean professionals named by the 2023 Ocean Leaders named by Edinburgh Ocean Leaders.

DENR's Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist Jhorace Tupas— who also heads the Biodiversity Management Bureau — will be joining the 2023 Ocean Leaders who will be working on vital solutions for the ocean and society.

Launched in 2020, Edinburgh Ocean Leaders is the only executive leadership programme specifically designed for mid-career professionals working on positive solutions for the ocean. Through a global nomination process, the 2023 Ocean Leaders were selected based on their exceptional promise and capacity to become ocean change-makers.

While maintaining their existing professional roles, the Ocean Leaders will come together for an initial year-long program of online leadership training, mentoring and networking support with international in-person meetings and field-based experiences.

After this initial year, they continue as Ocean Leader Fellows, contributing to the global network and working together to drive bold actions. The program is free for the Ocean Leaders, ensuring they are selected on their potential leadership rather than their ability to pay.

The seven others chosen are from Portugal, South Africa, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Kenya, USA and Indonesia.



02-13-23

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

Regional Updates

DENR partners with private sector, academe for reforestation carbon credit program

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is developing a carbon credit program through reforestation in partnership with private companies and a university, starting in Negros Occidental province.

DENR signed on Friday a memorandum of understanding in Tokyo, Japan with Marubeni Corp., DMCI Holdings unit Dacon Corp., and the University of the Philippines - Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR) for the project.

The signing ceremony was part of President Ferdinand R. Marcos' official visit to Japan.

"In this project, the government, private sector, and academic sector are working together to enhance the public good by contributing to environmental conservation and global warming countermeasures (as stated by the Philippines government), and to create economic value," said Marubeni in a statement.

Carbon credits are tradable certificates or permits allowing the holder to emit specified amounts of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gasses in a specified period.

According to Marubeni, the Philippines' forest cover has declined to just over 20% of total land

area in 2020 from 70% in the 20th century mainly due to "excessive logging" and "conversion to agricultural land."

"The project aims to restore biodiversity, create employment in local communities, and establish a carbon credit program through carbon absorption and sequestration by forests," the Japanese trading company said.

In December last year, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga proposed to craft legislation for carbon credit systems in the Philippines and to review the Climate Change Act of 2009 or Republic Act 9729. -- **Sheldeem Joy Talavera**



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

EDITORIAL

Big push for sustainable mining

Sidelined during the previous administration, the mining industry is getting a much-needed boost under the Marcos Jr. regime. The Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, according to Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon of the National Economic and Development Authority, prioritizes the revitalization of the Philippine mining sector. Such focus on mining is understandable. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has earlier identified about nine million hectares nationwide as potential mineral-rich areas, but less than 3 percent of these are covered by mining contracts.

A month after President Marcos Jr. assumed office in July last year, his chief economic official had already noted that the mining industry “holds the greatest potential to be a key driver in our economic recovery and long-term growth.” Gracing the listing of Philex Mining Corp.’s shares at the Philippine Stock Exchange, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the mining industry could help ensure a sustainable recovery of the economy from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic as this activity requires sizable investments that generate jobs, while demand for mine output is high, resulting in the current high metal prices.

But the government’s renewed interest in supporting mining comes with a caveat. The mining industry must strictly adhere to responsible and sustainable mining practices, and the sector must strike a balance between protecting the environment, uplifting local communities, and supporting the government’s socioeconomic agenda. There should be no repeating the mining disasters of the past, notably the likes of Marcopper’s ruining the ecosystem, and the livelihood, of its host community in Marinduque. In Diokno’s words: “This is a nonnegotiable condition, so we can guarantee the sustainability of the industry and the strong economic growth of its host communities.”

Evidence of such stricter governance on the industry can be seen in the recent case of Altai Philippines Mining Co., which was ordered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cease and desist mining operations on Sibuyan Island after vigorous opposition from the affected communities even led to a violent dispersal by police. The DENR specifically ordered the company to “cease and desist from the construction and operation of its causeway,” suspended its ore transport permit, and denied its application for a miscellaneous lease agreement. The order likewise urged the Romblon Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Office to conduct an investigation of “the potentially damaged seagrass and other marine resources,” thus exposing the mining firm to potential legal actions. What is sad is that the DENR acted only after several days of protests against the company, when it should have known the compliance of mining firms during its periodic audits.

Another laudable thrust of the Marcos Jr. administration on the mineral sector is the urgent need to rehabilitate a number of mined-out areas. In doing so, the administration should look into correcting the wrong mining practices wherein companies abandon their mining sites after years of mineral extraction without being required to rehabilitate the areas, leaving the burden of fixing the mined-out areas on the government. Since such efforts now will likely be stalled by the government’s lack of funds, it can revisit the proposal of private stakeholders in 2014. The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) is basically pushing for a public-private partnership approach to the rehabilitation of abandoned mines, expressing its members’ readiness to foot the bill if regulators give them the opportunity.

The government need not shoulder funding for these projects. As COMP pointed out, the private sector is more than willing to take on the challenge of rehabilitating abandoned mines, and the government just needs to allow it to be a viable business proposition. At that time, data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau showed that of the 31 large-scale mines that have shut down since the 1960s, 16 were under initial assessment for rehabilitation. Of these mines, however, only the Bagacay mine in Samar was being restored. Indeed, work on rehabilitating abandoned mines has been terribly slow. The solution is for the Marcos Jr. administration to immediately cancel all prior rights or contracts of these mines and have these made available for mining application.

In the end, however, there is nothing that will convince those who view all mining activities as bad for the environment and are pushing for a total ban. But what is true here and elsewhere in the world is that governments have to balance the interests of the economy and the environment. For the Philippines, the rehabilitation of mined-out areas, with the help of the private sector, is a very sensible start. Moving forward, the government can learn lessons from Australia and Canada, touted as the leading countries when it comes to sustainable mining.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

Editorial

Quarrying sa Marikina Watershed, tinuldukan

SA wakas, nagbunga rin ang kampanya ng mga tumutol sa quarrying sa Marikina watershed. Narinig din ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang matagal nang hinaing na ipahinto ang quarrying activities ng tatlong kompanya sa watershed protected areas. Tatlong taon nang nananawagan ang Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition sa DENR na kanselahin ang kasunduan sa mga kompanya na nagku-quarry. Pero walang aksyon ang DENR sa ilalim ng nakaraang administrasyong Duterte.

Hanggang kumilos ang kasalukuyang kalihim ng DENR at kinansela ang kasunduan sa mga kompanyang lumalabag sa pagku-quarry at pagmimina. Ang mga kompanyang kinansela ang MPSAs ay ang Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quarry Rock Group, Inc. at Quimson Limestone, Inc.

Ayon sa DENR, kinansela ang MPSAs ng mga kompanya dahil sa marami nilang paglabag.

Nararapat ang ginawa ng DENR sapagkat hindi isina-saalang-alang ng mga kompanya ang magiging masamang epekto ng kanilang walang patumunggang pagku-quarry na naglalagay sa tiyak na panganib nang maraming tao. Kapag ipinagpatuloy ang walang habas na pagku-quarry at pagmimina, masisira ang kabundukan, guguhong lupa, at babaha ng putik at bato. Malilibing ang mga nakapaligid na barangay at maraming tao ang mamamatay. Ang mga bayan sa Rizal na apektado sa isina-sagawang quarrying sa Upper Marikina watershed ay ang Baras at Tanay.

Ang order sa pagkansela ng MPSAs ng mga kompanyang nabanggit ay nilagdaan ni Environment Undersecretary Juan Miguel T. Cuna noong Dis. 19, 2022.

Nakahinga nang maluwa ang mga residente ng mga nasabing barangay sa aksiyon ng DENR. Hindi lamang ang kanilang kaligtasan ang naisalba kundi ang marami pang mamamayan sa Metro Manila na maaaring maapektuhan ng baha kung hindi naipatigil ang talamak na quarrying.

Halos ganito rin naman ang nararamdamang kasiyahan ng mga taga-Sibuyan, Romblon makaraang ipatigil ng DENR ang pagmimina sa kanilang lugar noong nakaraang linggo. Ayon sa DENR, ipinatigil ang operasyon ng ALTAI Philippines Mining Corp. dahil sa maraming paglabag ng mining company. Kabilang sa nilalabag ay ang paggawa ng causeway na walang environmental clearance. Marami rin umamang pinutol na kahoy ang kompanya.

Harinawang marami pang aaksiyunan ang DENR na mga ginagawag paglabag ng quarrying at mining companies na sumisira sa kapaligiran at banta sa buhay ng mamamayan.





NATIONWIDE ROUNDUP

German companies keen to enter PHL mining industry

GERMAN companies are interested in joining the Philippines' mining industry, according to the European country's top diplomat in Manila. German Ambassador to the Philippines Anke Reiffenstuel said, in an email interview with *BusinessWorld*, cited "investment opportunities in the area of rare earths and metals like copper and nickel."

"We want to increase the production of goods, as well as the offering of services," she said, noting that there have been German companies that worked in production sites in the Philippines.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau estimated the value of metallic mineral output in the first nine months of 2022 at P175.61 billion, up 29.21%.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has said he wants the mining industry to be a key economic contributor. A four-year ban on open pit mining was lifted in Dec. 2021, six months before the previous administration stepped down.

At the same time, the embassy also plans to put more focus on environmental issues, human rights and international law as it strengthens ties with the Philippine government.

"We are planning to intensify our cooperation in fields like climate and environment, human rights and rule of law, as well as our joint engagement for the international rules-based order in the region," Ms. Reiffenstuel said.

The Philippines and Germany's business cooperation mostly involves renewable energy and energy networks, electronics, industry, business process outsourcing, education, health, construction and farming. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

PROTECTING ANCESTRAL LAND

QUEZON-MANILA PROTEST MARCH SET VS KALIWA DAM IN SIERRA MADRE

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@dtmallarijrINQ

LUCENA CITY—Indigenous peoples groups in the Sierra Madre and representatives of different organizations supporting them will stage a nine-day 148-kilometer protest march from General Nakar town in Quezon province to Metro Manila starting on Feb. 15 in a bid to stop the construction of the controversial Kaliwa Dam.

As of Sunday, the march, dubbed "Alay Lakad Laban sa Kaliwa Dam," would be participated in by more than 300 tribesmen, church leaders and workers, environmentalists, farmers, and residents from northern Quezon, according to the "Stop Kaliwa Dam" group, a network of local and international organizations, institutions, and multisectoral groups that are opposing the project.

In 2009, tribesmen, farmers, and religious and environmentalist groups staged the General Nakar to Malacañang protest march to dramatize their opposition to the Laiban Dam project in the Sierra Madre. The government was forced to abandon the project the next year.

Dumagat leader Marcelino Tena, in a social media post on Sunday, appealed to police and military officials to help en-

sure the safety of the marchers along the route, stressing that their activity is planned to be done peacefully.

"We do not intend to start trouble," stressed Tena.

Other ways

Ramcy Astoveza, tribal chieftain of the Agta tribe that has ancestral land claim in the Sierra Madre, said in a phone interview on Sunday that the government has many alternatives to solve the water crisis in Metro Manila without "sacrificing our lives and security in our ancestral domain."

Early this month, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) announced that the P12.2-billion, Chinese-funded Kaliwa Dam could now be completed by 2026 and start operation the following year.

The MWSS added the controversial project would "no longer be derailed" after spending eight years just to secure permits for its construction.

The construction of the dam, which intends to solve the looming water crisis in Metro Manila, was awarded to the Chinese company, China Energy, under an official development assistance agreement between Manila and Beijing.

The project, however, will

submerge parts of the Sierra Madre in Tanay town, Rizal province, and General Nakar and Infanta towns in Quezon province.

The dam construction is expected to flood around 9,700 hectares of watershed area and affect 1,465 families, according to studies by the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance.

The project will also include the Upper Marikina Watershed and the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, a conservation site in the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor, a protected area under Presidential Proclamation No. 1636.

'Slow death'

Astoveza said stakeholders, particularly the indigenous peoples' communities in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges, were racing against time to stop the dam project.

"The MWSS is now starting the construction. It signals the slow death of the Sierra Madre and all who depend on the sacred mountain," he said.

The MWSS and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said they had obtained the free, prior and informed consent of the 46 tribal communities to be affected by the project.

Both Astoveza and Tena refuted the claim of the MWSS and NCIP. INQ



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

PH Environment Summit to tackle climate solutions

CLIMATE issues require solutions – and concerted efforts among all sectors could help address these.

The 4th Philippine Environment Summit, with the theme “Caring for Earth: Scaling up Solutions to the Climate Emergency,” will be held February 21-23 at Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City and seeks to deliver this.

According to Sr. Elizabeth Corranza, newly elected President of Green Convergence, the conference targets to make known breakthroughs and innovations in the areas of food safety, environment and natural resources protection and sustainable economy.

“This summit aims to highlight and formulate recommendations in the arena of climate issues,” explained Corranza.

Dr. Angelina P. Galang, Green Convergence Program Committee Head, emphasized that solutions to environmental problems likewise address climate change and vice-versa.

“Transitioning to renewable clean energy avoids emitting greenhouse gases as well as health hazards,” Galang shared.

Rex Arcadio San Diego II (*See full story online at manilastandard.net*)



REIMATE OPINION

DALA KO EGCO

NI JOEL M. SY EGCO

BURAK SA PASIG RIVER BAWAS NA

SUMISIGLA nang muli ang Pasig River. Salamat sa adhikain at pagkilos ng San Miguel Corporation na pinangunahan ang pagtatanggal sa mahigit isang milyong toneladang burak at iba pang kalat sa ilog na ito.

Gumastos lang naman ng dalawang bil-yong piso ang kompanyang ito upang makayanan ang anomang baha pang darating.

Mula sa dating dalawa o tatlong metrong kapasidad nitong ilog na saluhin ang tubig-baha, anim na metro na ito, simula ngayong buwan ng Pebrero.

Pagyayabang ng napakasimpleng pinuno ng kompanya na si Ramon S. Ang, president at chief executive officer ng SMC, target na mahukay at matanggal ang isang milyong tonelada sa kahabaan ng ilog

Pasig ngayong Pebrero ay mapapagtagumpayan na, matapos nila itong sinimulan noon pang buwan ng Hulyo, 2021.

Siyempre 'picture' o kasama nila diyan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources at local government units na dinaanan ng Ilog Pasig. Di nga lang natin masiguro kung naglabas sila ng pondo. O, baka naman talagang suporta lang ang ibinigay?

Anyway, by the way, highway, napakagandang adhikain ang mga ganitong postura ng isa sa pinakamalaking kompanya sa bansa. Hindi matatawaran, ika nga, ang kanilang 'social responsibility' at 'commitment' para makatulong sa bayan at pamahalaan.

Bakit ka n'yo? Bukod kasi sa kaya nang ilog Pasig na saluhin ang

anim na metrong taas ng tubig-baha, napaganda pa nito ang ligtas na paglalayag ng ating mga ferry, gaya ng ibinibiyaheng Department of Transportation at iba pang mga sasakyang pantubig.

Ang paglilinis ng Pasig River ay napakabilis pa ngang nagawa, siguro dahil 'private' ang gumawa.

Pero wala akong pinapasaringan dito ha? Buti nang malinaw ang ating usapan.

Sabi nga ni Mr. Ang, ang ginawa nila sa Pasig River ay mas mabilis kaysa sa paglilinis ng Tullahan River. Ito marahil ay sa dami ng pondo, tao at kagamitan ang kanilang ginugol sa pagtatanggal ng burak sa ilog Pasig.

P1-bilyon ang gastos ng SMC sa paglilinis ng Tullahan River kung saan 1.12 milyong tonelada ng burak at basura ang kanilang natanggal noong 2022 matapos ang dalawang taon na paghuhukay at paglilinis.

Sa madaling sabi, iisa lang ang positibong resulta nito - walang ibang makikinabang dito kundi ang mga taga-Metro Manila at iyong mga naninirahan sa Rizal, hanggang Laguna de Bay.

Ang iba naman diyan sa tabi-tabi at nagpapanggap na mga 'environmentalis' ay sinasabi na ang mga nahukay ng SMC ay ipananambak lamang sa mga reclamation site o project ng kompanya at ng pamahalaan.

Magsitigil nga kayo! Karamihan sa nahukay ay galing sa dumi ng tao na gaya n'yo. Paanong itatambak o gagamitin ito bilang panambak sa mga reclamation project kung ito ay mga ebak n'yo?

Assalamu Alaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!



02-13-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

How much plastic are we ingesting?

Plastic waste is increasingly engulfing everything on the planet, from ecosystems to people, but we don't have adequate knowledge of its full ill effects. We do not know exactly how many microplastics humans are ingesting daily and what the possible consequences are.

To date, only a few studies have been launched to address these basic questions of human health. This study estimates that globally, on average, humans may take in 0.1-5 grams (g) of microplastics weekly through various pathways.

Commonly, these are through food and drink, inhalation, and even dermally, through our skin. These minute particles, less than 5 millimeters (mm), then travel through the human digestive, respiratory, and circulatory systems.

Microplastics are often referred to as a "cocktail of contaminants" due to their presence in chemical additives, heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and other environmental pollutants. They could pose a significant risk to human health in the long run as the contaminants within them have been linked to several human illnesses and diseases, including endocrine disorders, cardiovascular and reproductive problems, plus obesity, diabetes, and cancer.

It is, therefore, pressing that researchers determine the quantity of microplastics being taken in by the human system and its potential impacts.

A definitive global average rate of microplastic ingestion is needed to assist in human health risk assessments and to formulate effective management and policy options.

This preliminary study shows that microplastic particles are potentially ingested through the consumption of water, shellfish, fish, salt, beer, honey, and sugar.

Globally, humans potentially ingest between 11,845 and 193,200 microplastics per person per year, ranging between 7.7 g and 287 g per person per year with the largest source being drinking water (both tap water and bottled water).

This estimation of the average rate of microplastic ingestion can form the basis of a human health risk evaluation.

Apart from food and drink, studies that probed the inhalation of microplastics via aerosols and household dust showed a high risk to

COMMENTARY

THAVA PALANISAMI

humans with lungs potentially exposed to an additional 26-130 microplastic particles every day.

Generally, higher counts of microplastics were reported in bottled water, and this is likely due to its packaging and processing. Raw or untreated water is not included in studies as it is more challenging to identify and quantify the finer plastic particles. Curiously, the amount of microplastics found in raw water samples to date was the same as those obtained for bottled water.

Identifying and quantifying fine microplastics (less than 1 mm) is a key challenge facing researchers and the field is still new. Currently, Raman spectroscopy and Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy are used, but they are not perfect.

For instance, the intensity of the laser in these instruments could damage the microplastics being studied and measured.

Contaminants in microplastics have been linked to serious health outcomes.

Interestingly, an experimental study revealed that the size of a microplastic particle influenced its ingestion rate more than its shape, which suggests research focusing more on size is needed.

Who is at more risk of consuming microplastics? An individual's vulnerability to ingestion of microplastics will influence their level of exposure.

For example, those with significant consumption of shellfish and bottled water and with a high-calorie intake will be more likely to have increased exposure compared to those who consume less. Individuals who often consume plastic-packaged food and drink, meanwhile, will have higher exposure as microplastics in consumables is a direct result of plastic packaging.

It is also possible that people from regions with low dependence on plastic products, better waste management facilities, quality water sources and good policies, with respect to food health and safety, will be at less risk

to microplastic exposure compared to those from places still developing in these areas.

Further research is necessary to confirm this. Nonetheless, there is enough evidence to indicate these variables influence people's exposure and the global average rate of microplastic ingestion.

There are a number of hurdles for scientists when measuring the average rate of microplastic ingestion due to insufficient data, differences in identification techniques, analytical challenges, disparate reporting metrics and uncertainties, as well as varied experimental conditions.

The uncertainty level goes up with every assumption and extrapolation. This situation can only be reduced with more research.

Recommendations for future directions include standardizing analytical methods and parameters for microplastics collected during studies (e.g., size, shape, polymer, number of particles, mass of particles).

To determine the negative health impacts, studies on the influence of variables on the global average rate of microplastic ingestion must also be done.

More detailed data from other food groups consumed daily—oils, meat, pasta, bread, corn, wheat, rice, milk, etc.—need to be collated.

Also, to be further probed is the toxicity of microplastics ingested in terms of size, mass, polymer, and shape, and determining the extent microplastics travel from cooking and eating utensils (especially among children) and food packaging into food.

The worldwide presence and pervasiveness of microplastics are accepted facts. However, the amounts of microplastics humans ingest are yet to be fully defined. Still, early data indicate that a cautionary approach should be embraced now to avoid a future crisis. *The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network*

Thava Palanisami is associate professor at the School of Engineering of the University of Newcastle, Australia. This article is republished under a Creative Commons license.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer is a member of the Asia News Network, an alliance of 22 media titles in the region.

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

BusinessMirror

The Lakeland Mirror

AS
PAGE
COVER
DUP
COVER
PAGE
STORY
PAGE
STORY
EDITORIAL
EMERALD
CARTOON

02-13-23

DATE

Development agency sought for Lake Lanao management

BY MANUEL T. CAYON

@awimailbox

Mindanao Bureau Chief

DAVAO CITY—An agency responsible for the development and preservation of Lake Lanao will be established once the Bangsamoro Parliament approves BTA Bill 111, a group of Bangsamoro lawmakers said.

Authors and sponsors said their bill to establish the Ranaw Development Authority (RDA) would be the primary government agency “that is responsible for coordination, planning, management and implementation of development programs and resource utilization of inland waters covered by the Lanao region.”

The RDA would be a quasi-judicial regulatory body “that will oversee the use, exploration, development, protection, restoration and maintenance of Lake Lanao and the area’s natural resources.”

It would be attached to the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (Menre).

The Ranaw Region, as defined in the bill, includes all inland waters

identified as Ranaw and all other lakes within Lanao del Sur, as well as all towns and municipalities. The Ranaw Development Authority would be composed of a board of directors led by Lanao del Sur’s Meme provincial director.

The agency would craft a comprehensive master plan in coordination with the local government units around the lake.

Former Member of the Parliament Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph filed the bill in the first Parliament during the 2019 to 2022 transition of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority. It was reintroduced in the second parliament by MPs Diamila Ramos, Lanang Ali Jr., Ali Solaiman, Marjanie Macasalang, Abdullah Macapaar, Basit Abbas, Said Shiek, Ali Montaha Babao, Khalid Hadji Abdullah, Abdulaziz Amenodin, Nabila Margarita Pangandaman, Amroussi Macatanong, Eddie Alih, Amilbahar Mawallil and Rasol Mitmug Jr.

Largest lake

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Lake Lanao is the largest lake in Min-

danao and the second largest in the Philippines. It is also considered one of the 15 ancient lakes in the world.

The lake has five watersheds with rivers and major tributaries totaling 431 kilometers. The waters from these rivers and tributaries drain into the lake and goes out through only one outlet, the Agus River in Lanao del Norte that flows southwest into Iligan Bay via two channels, the Maria Cristina Falls, the largest water fall in the country and Linamon Falls.

The total area of its inland water is 336 hectares, with a surface area of about 36,300 hectares. It was proclaimed a watershed reserve under Proclamation 871 issued on February 26, 1992. It was also included in the initial components of the National Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

The DENR said there are several issues and concerns in this river basin. Some of these are related to changes in climatological conditions. There’s also land degradation attributed to slope and terrain of watershed and the dislocation of timberlands in flatlands. Of course, there is also deforestation.



Nat-gas steals the energy spotlight

We're failing by winning too slowly. Renewables are booming and cheaper than ever. But Covid stimulus plans and the war in Ukraine have disrupted global energy markets and led some countries (to) revert to coal and other fuels. This can't continue in a safe climate. — Stanford University climate scientist and chair of the independent Global Carbon Project Rob Jackson

IS the country in the midst of the Golden Age of Natural Gas?

Nat-gas now accounts for about a quarter of global electricity generation. While in the medium term it is seen playing a major role supporting a transition to net zero energy systems, its longer-term use is uncertain in a world dominated by non-emitting renewable energies, according to the International Energy Agency.

But just the same, Manila is going full-speed ahead with its embrace of the relatively cheaper, cleaner, and locally available nat-gas as a transition fuel.

A local natural gas-extracting consortium has recently announced a production hike even as Japanese energy giants committed massive investments, bulk purchases, and the transfer of new technology.

Earlier, Prime Infrastructure Capital Inc. president and chief executive officer Guillaume Lucci said the consortium remains committed to ensure nat-gas supply from the depleting Malampaya gas field.

"We're here to stay, we're here to invest, we're here to increase dramatically the gas production with the extended term of the service contract and resources available and, more importantly, we are trying to make sure we produce (at) the least cost to consumers," Lucci said at a recent business forum.

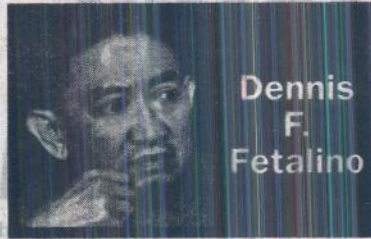
Japan's Energy for a New Era Co. Inc. president Satoshi Onda has assured President Marcos that JERA and the Aboitiz group led by Sabin Aboitiz, who also serves as the lead convenor of the Philippines' Private Sector Advisory Council, support the growing Philippine economy by helping the administration's efforts to generate a stable supply of liquefied natural gas.

"In order to support the Philippines... (whose) economy is growing at a rapid pace, in order to secure a stable supply, we are working with Aboitiz and Sabin-san's team on many fronts," Satoshi informed the President.

"We are procuring more than 30 million tons of LNG per year. Therefore, we will be able to contribute to the

PED XING

deftwrit@gmail.com



Dennis
F.
Fetalino

Philippines in the supply of LNG as transition fuel," he added.

JERA is considered as one of the largest power producers in the world.

According to its website, it continuously seeks to actively develop integrated gas-to-power projects that cover fuel procurement through power generation, as well as large-scale RE projects to meet the needs of different countries and regions.

Marcos, on the third day of his working visit to Japan, also expressed his delight over the investment pledge made by Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd. to boost the Philippines' energy requirement following his meeting with top executives of Tokyo Gas, led by its president and chief executive officer Takashi Uchida.

"And so, we are encouraged that in view of Tokyo Gas that it is worth the investment then we feel that we are going down the right path for our country's energy mix, and we are grateful for that vote of confidence that you have shown by your investment in the future of the Philippine economy, the future especially of our energy supply from liquefied natural gas," he said.

The Malampaya gas field is operated through Service Contract 38 granted to the consortium of Prime Energy Resources Development B.V.—a subsidiary of Razon-led Prime Infra—UC38 LLC and state firm Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp.

"The SC (service contract) 38 has generated and remitted to the Philippine government some \$13 billion since its inception," Lucci said.

The SC38 consortium is seeking to extend the license to accelerate investments on the Malampaya gas field and improve the output of existing wells and develop nearby gas fields.

"Our drop-dead day to produce new gas or new wells is (the) first quarter of 2026, and we hope we can actually accelerate that as much as possible while doing it safely and reliably," the Prime Infra chief said.

"The objective really is to produce gas, and ensure we have the least cost of gas in the country. We have a deep motivation to ensure that," he added.

The Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project is economically significant as it reduces the country's reliance on imported fuel and helps drive economic productivity and industrial growth.

The project is one of the country's most important power assets, as it produces nat-gas for power plants in Batangas City that account for around 20 percent of the country's total electricity requirements. It began operations in 2001, with the consortium's license for the project set to expire in 2024.

Prime Infra's investment in the expansion of Malampaya operations would also be critical in providing the necessary infrastructure that would support the development of nat-gas in the area, one of the key points defined in the administration's energy agenda.

The President earlier expressed openness to exploring new technologies that would help augment the power supply in the country.

His optimism soared after meeting with Onda.

Marcos said the Philippines needs cutting-edge technology to develop new fuels to ensure adequate national energy supply.

"Of course, the investment is important, but the transfer of technology is also extremely important, and that will give the Philippines a self-sufficiency, which we have been missing."

He said the JERA is working with the Aboitiz group to train their engineers on the development of "very important" technologies beneficial to both parties.

The use of RE is among the top priorities of the administration which has been implementing policy reforms aimed at helping the country increase the share of RE in the energy mix to 35 percent by 2030 and to 50 percent by 2040.

Manila and Tokyo sealed around 35 investment agreements on a broad spectrum of cooperation on the third day of the President's official visit to Japan.

The business arrangements cover various sectors, among them manufacturing, infrastructure development, energy, transportation, health care, renewable energy, and business expansion.

Behold God's glory and seek His mercy.

Pause, ponder, pray, and proceed, people.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

AP
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02-13-23

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



TAX TAP This Friday, February 10, 2023, photo shows officials from the Bureau of Internal Revenue RDO 218-South Pampanga led by District Officer Arnel R. Cosinas (right) along with other officials from the Local Government Unit inspecting a quarrying site in Bacolor, Pampanga. Sand quarrying in the said province has provided a remarkable increase in terms of tax contribution to the coffers of the local government, according to Cosinas. **NONOY LACZA**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

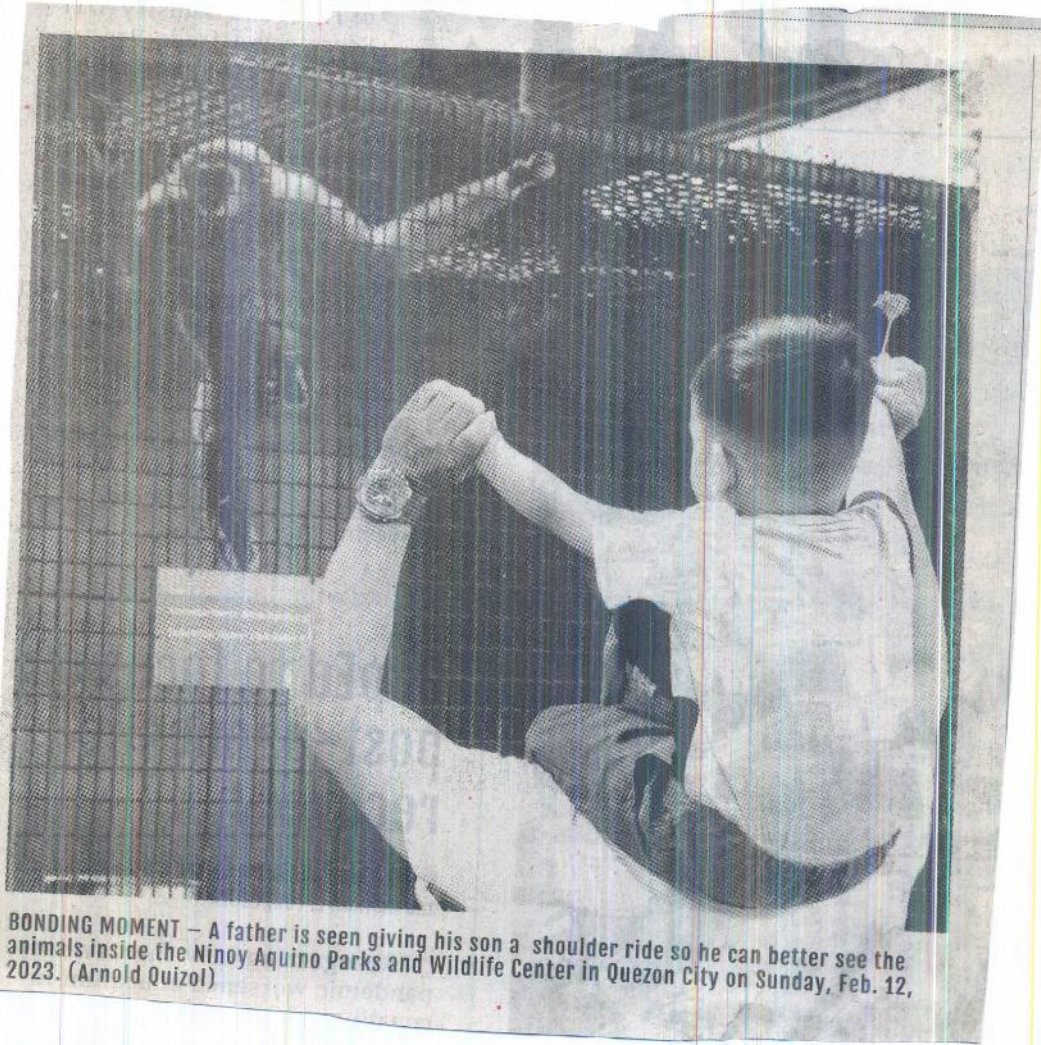
CARTOON

02-13-23

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE



BONDING MOMENT – A father is seen giving his son a shoulder ride so he can better see the animals inside the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023. (Arnold Quizol)



SUPPLEMENT
A COMMITMENT TO
SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESS
GROWTH

BusinessMirror

The Global World Today



FACE 1



FACE 2



FACE 3



FACE 4



FACE 5



FACE 6

02-13-23



NATURE'S FRIENDS Susan Santos de Cardenas, vice chairman of the Asian Ecotourism Network and president of the Society of Sustainable Tourism; Masaru Takuyama, president of the Asean Tourism Network; and Dr. Mina T. Gabor, chairman and president of the Silang, Cavite-based International School of Sustainable Tourism, hold hands around a century-old Peruvian Parasol tree during an ocular visit of the place. With an eye to pushing initiatives in favor of nature, participants from a total of 22 countries are converging from March 29 to April 2, 2023, in Silang, Cavite, for the first International Ecotourism Travel Mart, the world's first green travel mart. **NONIE REYES**