

11 May 2023 Thursday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



05-11-23

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

DENR's 'big brother, small brother' strategy for miners raises eyebrows

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

ANTI-MINING groups are skeptical of the plan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to integrate a "big brother-small brother" strategy for miners in the implementation of social development and management programs (SDMP).

According to the Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), a network of mining-affected communities, "while the intent is laudable, we anticipate problematic policy and implementation implications."

ATM was reacting to a recent pronouncement made by the DENR Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga stating that it is high time for big mining firms to help small-scale miners meet their social development projects by setting aside a portion of their social development fund for the purpose.

"There must be a way to negotiate the resilience of communities where mining is happening, the social development needs to happen," Loyzaga said in a recent interview. "This way, inclusivity in terms of the progress of the community as a whole can really be institutionalized," the DENR chief was quoted in a news release.

Yulo-Loyzaga described the big brother-small brother strategy as one that would include capacitating small miners and enhancing the resilience of mining communities.

Moreover, the DENR chief said there is a need to revisit the social development funding of large mining companies.

"In this government, you cannot move forward with your for-profit agenda without a national dividend that redounds to a local community. And that's the bottom line," she said.

DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, or the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, requires mining contractors and permit holders to establish an SDMP, which aims for the sustained improvement in the living standards of host and neighboring communities.

The SDMP has a timeline of five years, and is funded by the companies themselves by allocating 1.5 percent of their annual expenses.

Out of this allocation, 75 percent goes to community development, while 10 percent goes to the development of mining technology and geosciences, and the remaining 15 percent is used for an information, education, and communication campaign.

Loyzaga said that under the Marcos administration, the mining industry is open for responsible miners who consider not only the environmental aspects of mining but also promote social development.

But ATM is totally against the DENR chief's big brother-small brother plan.

"First, the SDMP was designed to benefit the communities hosting and affected by mining operations. If the SDMP were to be used to benefit small-scale miners, this in effect takes away financial resources that were originally intended for affected communities and local governments. Identifying and prioritizing a specific

sector, e.g. the small-scale miners, works only to benefit a few and is a form of favoritism, while the broader whole community collectively feels the impacts of the mining project," the group pointed out.

Because small-scale mining is not allowed within the tenement of large-scale mining operations, it would be safe to assume that the strategy will be implemented with a large-scale miner putting its SDMP funds to support a small-scale mining project that is outside of its mining tenement, the group concluded.

"So we ask, why should SDMP funds be used for the benefit of a group that are living or working outside of the affected or impacted areas of the large-scale mining project?"

ATM also reminded the DENR that it has yet to complete the registration of all small-scale mining activities throughout the country.

"Will this strategy be limited to areas officially declared and categorized as Minahang Bayan? There are many illegal and unmonitored small-scale mining activities that are not officially Minahang Bayans, will they be covered as well?" the group asked.

According to ATM, this situation may mean the "universe" of small-scale mining workers that can be reached by this strategy is a small set, since DENR can't reliably identify where all these miners are.

"It also means that DENR will have to immensely improve the information about small-scale miners who can be targeted to engage. So, the important elements of who are the small-scale mining workers, where are they, and what they need remain unanswered," the group added.



3 nabbed for storing hazardous substance in Laguna

AT least three individuals were nabbed for illegally maintaining a facility for hazardous substances in Calamba City in Laguna, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The NBI identified the suspects as Mariano Vilanueva Jr., Hemedez Nomer Estrella and Manny

Ferrer Macalintal.

They were arrested by the Bureau's Environmental Crime Division (ENCD) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Calabarzon personnel.

The arrest stemmed

from a tip about the illegal activities of a company called Cam Connectivity (Phils.) Inc. located in Calamba City.

A probe revealed the suspects' failed to secure clearances from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for storing the

substances.

Also, the hazardous waste generated from its daily operation was not properly managed in accordance with DENR rules and regulations.

It was also found that the company is not included in the updated list of registered Treatment,

Storage and Disposal Facilities in the city.

The bureau stressed the company did not secure documents such as Environmental Compliance Certificate, Certificate of Non-Coverage, Permit to Operate, Hazardous Waste Registration identification or any other documents

relative to their business operation.

The suspects were charged with violating Section 13 (a) of Republic Act 6969, otherwise known as the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990."

CHRISTIAN CROW MAGHANOY



05-11-23

TIME:

PAGE

DATE

IMPACT OF SEA ACCIDENT OFF CORREGIDOR

BATAAN FISHERS SAY SUNKEN DREDGER THREATENS THEIR LIVELIHOOD

By Joanna Rose Aglibot
@joannaglibotINQ

Fishermen in Mariveles, Bataan, have been avoiding the coastal waters where a foreign dredger sank and spilled oil following a collision with a chemical-petrol tanker in the waters off Corregidor Island on April 29.

According to Allan Zelindro, a fisherman and officer of the fisherfolk group Pangisdaan Bataan, their source of livelihood in Barangay Sisiman is threatened by the oil sludge and the submerged vessel.

"We haven't set out to sail near the site of the sunken vessel to catch fish. Many of us use

fishing nets and are afraid that these will get entangled in the ship," Zelindro told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on Monday said the 140-meter Sierra Leone-flagged MV Hong Hai 189 dredger released between 30 and 50 liters of oil and other mixed liquid. It sank about 365 meters from the Sisiman lighthouse in Mariveles.

Reports from the PCG said a Chinese seaman and a Filipino safety officer of MV Hong Hai died in the collision, while another crew member, whose identity was not immediately



CONTAINMENT Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Station in Bataan place oil booms and absorbent bags in the waters around the sunken MV Hong Hai 189 dredger in this photo taken on Monday. —PHOTO COURTESY OF PCG

disclosed, died at a local hospital. Two others remained missing.

The dredger carried 16 Chinese and four Filipino crew

members when it collided with the 183-meter Marshall Island-flagged oil tanker MT Petite Soeur after leaving the port in Botolan town, Zambales

province. MT Petite Soeur was not damaged in the collision, the PCG said.

Crab pond destroyed

Zelindro said the dredger also wrecked a crab pond before sinking at 5:12 a.m. on May 5.

"The baits for the crabs were underneath the water for a long time, and here came the ship, destroying them just before it sank. The livelihood of our local fisherman was suddenly gone," said Zelindro.

He said they were still discussing ways to recoup their losses and prevent the long-term impact of the sunken dredger, including a looming

oil spill, on their main source of livelihood.

Veronica Cabe, organizer of Kilusan Bataan, said the livelihood of fishermen and the condition of marine life in the town were put at risk due to these incidents "without anyone taking responsibility."

On May 6, the PCG helped place oil booms and absorbent bags in the waters around the sunken dredger to prevent the oil from spreading.

Personnel of the PCG Station in Bataan and its local Marine Environmental Protection Unit found no additional traces of an oil spill in the nearby waters. INQ



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

US, South Korea to strengthen six PHL cities' climate resilience

TWO leading foreign development-aid agencies will bolster the capacities of Philippine cities in addressing the effects of climate-induced disruptions.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) recently signed a P111.5-million (\$2 million) grant partnership agreement to boost the capabilities of the cities of Batangas, Borongan, Cotabato, Iloilo, Legazpi and Zamboanga in adapting to, mitigating and managing the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Through the grant funding, Koica will support the implementation of the USAID's five-year, P836.5-million (\$15 million) "Climate Resilient Cities Project" that will benefit the above-mentioned partner-cities.

The former's technical assistance will enhance the capacities of the said local government units (LGUs) in developing guidelines for and using climate-adaptation technology. More than 180 Philippine officials and stakeholders will also be invited to participate in capacity-building programs organized in the Philippines and the Republic of Korea (ROK)/South Korea.

USAID and Koica will also aid the six LGUs and other stakeholders for more effective spreading of climate-related information to local communities; increased access to climate financing for economic

and social development; and promotion of natural climate solutions that strengthen cities' resilience to climate change.

In addition, the US and South Korean governments will soon launch a joint effort to prevent and reduce marine pollution in Manila Bay. The collaboration also seeks to enhance knowledge and influence social and behavioral changes for marine pollution reduction and prevention.

This latest agreement follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding in April 2021, when the two leading development agencies agreed to strategically collaborate on priority programs, which include climate change-related initiatives, to advance development in the Philippines.

"As the US and Korea are among the largest bilateral donors in the Philippines, this momentous partnership of USAID, Koica and the Philippine government will bring together our accumulated experiences and technical expertise to build climate change and disaster resilience in the country," Country Director Kim Eun-sub of Koica said.

"For 70 years the US and Korea have [united] to pursue mutual goals based on our core values of democ-



KOICA Phils. country director Kim Eun-sub (left) and USAID Phils. Mission Director Ryan Washburn US EMBASSY

racy and human rights," averred Mission Director Ryan Washburn of USAID Phils. "The US has pledged to [boost this alliance and broaden the focus to address issues of key importance to the region, and of] the world."

Washburn added that, particularly, they will deepen their linkage in tackling the climate crisis, reducing plastic waste, and promoting advanced technologies: "We will also enhance our economic cooperation and people-to-people ties."

The Philippines consistently places high global rankings on climate-change risk and vulnerability. With an average of 20 typhoons per year frequented by floods, landslides, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, the Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone nations.

According to the 2022 World Risk Index the country ranked first out of 193 countries with the highest

disaster risks. Between 2011 and 2021 it incurred more than P670-billion worth of damages and losses due to tropical cyclones alone. The negative impacts of climate change and disasters severely impede national economic development and worsen poverty.

Thus, a top priority for sustainable development is to reinforce climate-resilience systems. The USAID-Koica tie-up bolsters the Philippine government's 2023-2028 strategy framework goal of enhancing "adaptive capacity and resilience of communities and ecosystems to natural hazards and climate change."

The US-ROK alliance will turn 70 years in 2023. In their leader's statement in May 2022, President Joe Biden and President Yoon Suk-yeol agreed to strengthen the global comprehensive strategic alliance beyond the Korean Peninsula.



1/2

D5-11-23

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

'Intl law, trade must be Asean priorities'

UPHOLDING international law, promoting trade and investments, and addressing climate change must be the priorities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Wednesday.

"In order to harness the potential of our region, I believe that Asean must now double its efforts, especially in these following priority areas," Marcos said during the 42nd Asean Summit Plenary Session at the Meruorah Komodo Convention Center in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.

Marcos called on his fellow Asean leaders to uphold international law and the international-rules-based system to ensure "peace, security, stability and prosperity of our region."

He said the Philippines welcomes Indonesia's Asean chairmanship priority of strength-

ening regional cooperation to address cross-border crimes.

He lauded Indonesia's efforts to intensify the fight against trafficking in persons caused by the misuse of technology, as well as to mainstream the protection of migrant workers and their families in crises.

Promoting trade

Marcos also urged his fellow leaders to boost trade and economic cooperation in the region.

"Asean should demonstrate its commitment to the principle of free trade and to the multilateral

trading system," he said, noting that the Philippines has already deposited its instrument of ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

RCEP negotiations were formally launched by Asean and its six free trade agreement (FTA) partners — Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand — in Cambodia in November 2012 and signed in 2020.

The Philippine Senate ratified the deal in February 2023.

Marcos likewise asked his counterparts to forge a "vibrant digital economy," ensuring that the region is "equipped with the digital skills for the future so that no one is left behind in the midst of our world's digital transformation."

He also pushed for the strengthening of cross-border connectivity and the interoper-



TITLE:

Intl law . . .

PAGE

2/2

05-11-23

DATE

ability of digital frameworks.

Marcos stressed the need to ensure that food and energy systems in the region are "resilient," in the face of the supply and price fluctuations triggered by geopolitical instability and conflict, pandemic, climate change, logistic chain disruptions and fuel shortages.

The Philippines, he said, is stepping up its efforts to attain food security.

"The Philippines aims to strengthen food security and production efficiency via the use of new agricultural technologies, upgrading technical and vocational education and training, and adopting climate- and disaster-resilient technologies," Marcos said.

The President added that his administration will take "bold" steps to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies "in a secure and

sustainable manner."

"Recognizing that a cleaner energy future is anchored on the supply of critical minerals, Asean should now start enhancing regional cooperation towards boosting the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain," he said.

Addressing climate change

Marcos urged his fellow Asean leaders to take a united stand in urging developed countries to fulfill their long-standing commitments to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change.

He lamented that developing nations like the Philippines, which only account for less than 1 percent of global emissions, have to "bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change."

"Developed countries have a moral obligation to support adaptation and mitigation efforts for the most vulnerable countries through technology transfer, capacity-building and climate financing. This, to address loss and damage and to achieve the necessary breakthroughs for climate action at a global scale," Marcos said.

The Philippines also supports the Asean Center for Biodiversity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

"The Philippines recognizes that biodiversity can complement and synergize with Asean's initiatives in climate change, contributing to our efforts towards a more sustainable and resilient future," he said.

Aside from the Philippines and Indonesia, other Asean members are Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **PNA**



1/2

Marcos: ASEAN must act now

Climate change, elders' welfare, food security, other issues raised

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

LABUAN BAJO, Indonesia – To harness the potential of the region, President Marcos urged the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to double its efforts in priority areas, including addressing its aging population, climate action, food security, and expanding the bloc's reach.

Marcos made the call at the open-

ing ceremony of the 42nd ASEAN Summit at the Merourah Komodo here on Wednesday, May 10.

In his remarks, the President recognized an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report ▶ 4

Marcos: ASEAN must act now ◀

showing that one in every four people in the Asia-Pacific will be over the age of 60 by 2050, making the region's aging population a cause for concern.

"It is time that ASEAN starts discussing the concerns of an aging population, consistent with the Asian tradition of valuing our elders. We must view this both as an opportunity and a challenge, especially in terms of adequate social benefits and social empowerment," he said.

Climate change

Marcos called on his fellow ASEAN leaders to be united in urging developed countries to "fulfill their long-standing commitments to the Paris Agreement," saying the developing countries suffered the most.

"Developing countries like the Philippines only account for less than one percent of global emissions; our countries bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change," he said. "Developed countries have a moral obligation to support adaptation and mitigation efforts for the most vulnerable countries through technology transfer, capacity-building, and climate financing. This, to address loss and damage and to achieve the necessary breakthroughs for climate action at a global scale."

Recognizing that a clean energy

future is anchored on the supply of critical minerals, Marcos added that ASEAN should now start enhancing regional cooperation toward boosting the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain.

Timor Leste's membership

President Marcos likewise urged his counterparts to provide "whole-of-community support" to Timor Leste as it continues its journey toward full ASEAN membership.

"Its membership can only strengthen our ASEAN community as it expands the reach of ASEAN's united front to face the challenges of the 21st century," he said. "Let us renew our collective faith in the organization by consolidating our community-building efforts toward an ASEAN that truly matters."

Human trafficking

According to the President, ASEAN must uphold international law and the international rules-based system that has underpinned the region's peace, security, stability, and prosperity.

In particular, Marcos said the Philippines welcomes Indonesia's ASEAN chairmanship priority of strengthening regional cooperation to address cross-border crimes, particularly trafficking

in persons caused by the misuse of technology, and to mainstream the protection of migrant workers and their families in crisis situations.

Free trade

Marcos said ASEAN should demonstrate its commitment to free trade and the multilateral trading system. In line with this, the President said the Philippines had deposited its instrument of ratification to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement.

"We are optimistic that the RCEP will serve as an engine of growth that will help build more resilient supply chains and support the integration of our micro-, medium-, and small-scale establishments into the global economy," he said.

The RCEP is a free trade agreement (FTA) between the 10 member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its five FTA partners: Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.

Food security

President Marcos said ASEAN must ensure that food and security systems are resilient in the face of supply and price fluctuations triggered by geopolitical instability and conflicts, pandemics, climate change, logistic chain disruptions, and fuel shortages.

"The Philippines aims to strengthen food security and production efficiency



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 DIVISION OFFICE
 MANILA

PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

BARBER
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-11-23

MARCOs ---

PAGE

DATE

2/2

via the use of new agricultural technologies, upgrading technical and vocational education and training, and adopting climate- and disaster-resilient technologies," he said.

Digital economy

Meanwhile, Marcos highlighted the importance of capacitating people with digital skills so that everyone can be part of the digital transformation.

"We must forge a vibrant digital economy and ensure that our people are equipped with the digital skills for the future so that no one is left behind in the midst of our world's digital transformation," he said.

Geopolitical issues

Later during the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with the High-Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's post-2025 vision (HLTF-ACV), Marcos said the ASEAN must take decisive and responsive actions on geopolitical issues concerning the regional bloc, saying it must continue improving its efforts to advance its welfare.

In his intervention during the meeting, the President said the ASEAN of today must be better than what it was previously. For ASEAN to succeed, he said, it must be the master of its future.

"Today, ASEAN faces a complex geopolitical environment which includes rivalries amongst great powers, climate

change, and technological disruptions, among others. ASEAN itself is not immune to its own challenges as we continue to navigate our differences in the region toward a general consensus of action," he said. "The work of the High-Level Task Force requires sober deliberation of the potentials and the possibilities of the evolving regional and global architecture. It is imperative that we be decisive. It is imperative that we be responsive."

Marcos pointed out that ASEAN must show the world that it can respond effectively to geopolitical and geo-economic challenges "as a cohesive force" by strengthening our centrality, and actively reinforcing a global order anchored in international law.

The President said ASEAN must be agile as the regional bloc has to adapt to the diverse, meaningful interventions needed for the complex challenges of the times while stressing the need to balance agility with stability and inclusivity.

"Regionalism should mirror our collective interests, for our strength relies on our united voice," Marcos said.

As for the Philippines, the President said the country continues to underscore the need "to strengthen our institutions, enhance existing ASEAN mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit, and streamline processes for ASEAN to better translate our community-building efforts towards achieving concrete results."