

10 October 2022, Monday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

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

B7  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

0-10-22

TITLE :

PAGE

1/2

DATE

# War: A humdrum issue nowadays



2022 DENR MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM  
DIAMOND HOTEL ROXAS BLVD MANILA

ECO WARRIORS President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (seated, middle) at the 2022 DENR Multistakeholder Forum at Diamond Hotel in Manila. With the President are (standing from left) Vista Land CEO Paolo Villar, Ayala Corporation's Marianna Zobel de Ayala, FPIC's Federico Lopez, SM Investments' Hans T. Sy, Mike Toledo of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, Cebu Pacific CEO Lance Gokongwei, San Miguel Corporation's Ramon Ang, (Seated from left) special assistant to the President Antonio Lagdameo Jr., Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma, House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyza, Presidential Management Staff Secretary Ma. Zenaida Angping, and Senator Cynthia Villar (Noel B. Pabalate)



**WALA LANG**  
DR. JAIME LAYA

Speaking about the Falkland Islands War, then British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that a real crisis was welcome relief from humdrum issues like the environment. That was 40 years ago in 1982 and now, even with Russia invading Ukraine and China building islands on our coral reefs, it is the environment that is the real crisis.

The environment is the concern of the newly appointed Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Ma. Antonia Yulo Loyzaga. The department's concerns are both long term and short term. In the long term, we need to have enough resources for future generations, which means protecting forests, coral reefs, biodiversity, clean air, running rivers. In the short term we need housing, motor vehicles, airplanes, farmland. We need to export minerals to finance import needs.

Balancing foes with Secretary Loyzaga's job. With her experience and advocacies in sustainability, resilience, and climate change, the secretary brings a strong element of science to DENR. She immediately identified the need for everyone's awareness and cooperation. Last Wednesday, she organized a multi-stakeholder conference to bring together leaders of government and the private sector to focus on the topic.

President Marcos pointed out that the Philippines is the world's fourth country most vulnerable to climate change, particularly rising sea levels that could displace the millions who live in low lying places that happen to be where some of our largest cities and towns are located.

Secretary Loyzaga underscored the need for everyone to do their bit, from national and local government units down to barangays, business establishments, and households.

Big business described what they are doing and planning to do to

safeguard the environment. Ramon Ang of San Miguel started the ball rolling by describing how San Miguel dredged Valenzuela's Tullahan River of some 4.5 million tons of muck and the Pasig River of 0.5 million tons as of now. Naturally the permanence of this achievement will depend on the piggeries and factories of Quezon City, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon, and Navotas. Similarly, Pasig River

cleanup will depend on the cooperation of the waste, chemicals, and plastics generating residents and establishments lining the Pasig, San Juan, and Marikina Rivers and all the esteros that feed into them.

Lance Gokongwei spoke of Cebu Pacific's efforts to find more efficient airline fuel and measures being taken in other companies of the Robinson group.

Hans Sy of SM talked about energy conservation measures possible in malls, particularly the calibration of air conditioning and ventilation depending on the number and concentration





Let us all hope that government, business, and the Filipino masses work together in the next years to safeguard the environment, no longer a humdrum issue but a real crisis.

of people within a mall and the use of solar panels the solar power that they have begun to use. Waste minimization and disposal have also been a concern.

Marianna Zobel de Ayala described the sustainability thrust of the Ayala companies and their aim of achieving a zero carbon footprint in the Ayala conglomerate. Ayala Land sets aside areas within its land bank as "carbon

Mining, said one, is needed and can be regulated. What is more harmful to the environment is road construction that provides easier access to old growth forests in public lands that then become easier to log. Furthermore, he added, trees are chopped down along the entire route for the temporary housing of road builders.

A water company president declared that Kaliwa Dam in the Sierra

sinks," namely forested areas that absorb pollution and help retain rainfall. Ayala Malls prioritize the limitation of waste and its proper disposal.

Senator Mark Villar spoke about measures adopted in the Villar property development projects to ensure efficient provision of utilities and waste disposal. He also talked about the need for disaster preparedness and relief to assist those affected by the strong typhoons, flooding, and other calamities caused by climate change.

Informal discussions generated other thoughts.

Madre has been on the drawing boards for some 50 years and that it needs to be built soon if a crisis is to be averted. Laguna de Bay, the present supplemental water source, is already highly polluted and will be even more so as population and industry grow along its perimeter. Something has to be done to safeguard the livelihood and homes of the indigenous communities affected, but the project is urgent for Metro Manila.

Plastic is a big problem because so much ends up in Manila Bay and the China Sea, consumed by fish and ultimately by people. Large dump sites

are close to the Manila Bay shore or to streams that end up in Laguna de Bay and ultimately also in Manila Bay and to humans via the food chain.

Land use has to be rationalized. Agriculture and forest land are needed for food and water supply. Housing development cannot be anywhere and everywhere. And what will happen to reclamation areas in a few decades with rising ocean levels?

Some measures may seem minor, like automatically serving a glass of water to restaurant patrons, with a plastic straw too. Water not drunk is wasted, as is the water needed to wash the glass later. People used to drink water without a straw, why do so now? These may not seem much but done by millions of people, they are.

The DENR multistakeholder conference took place on Oct. 5, PBBM's 97th day in office. There are 2,095 days to go before a new president takes over, fewer before someone moves into the office of Secretary Loyzaga. Let us all hope that government, business, and the Filipino masses work together in the next years to safeguard the environment, no longer a humdrum issue but a real crisis.

Comments are cordially invited, addressed to [walangwala888@gmail.com](mailto:walangwala888@gmail.com)





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Founded Since 1985

The Manila Times



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

00-10-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# DOLE, DENR MoA signing



■ President Ferdinand 'Bong-bong' Marcos Jr. (2nd from right, standing) witnesses the signing of the memorandum of agreement (MoA) between the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) and the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) on the implementation of DoLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers program in areas under the DENR's improved National Forest Protection program during the 2022 DENR Stakeholders Forum at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. DoLE Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma (rightmost) and DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga (leftmost, seated) sign the MoA that exemplifies DoLE and DENR collaboration and partnership in promoting gainful employment opportunities, and in ensuring the availability and sustainability of the country's natural resources for the welfare of present and future generations. House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romuladez (2nd from left, standing) joins the President during the ceremony. PHOTO BY ALEJANDRO ECHAVEZ/DOLE-INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION SERVICE



90-10-??

TITLE: MGA BERDENG PAG-IISIP

PAGE 4

DATE



## MGA BERDENG PAG-IISIP

IKINUWENTO ng isang bubwit sa akin na matagumpay na naidaos ang isang malakihang komperensya para sa kalikasan sa Diamond Hotel sa Maynila noong Oct. 5-7, 2022.

Kakaiba raw ito dahil ito lang ang unang beses na tinipon ng Kagawaran ng Kalikasan at Likas-Yaman o Department of Environment and Natural resources o DENR, ang mga kapitan ng industriya, ang mga kilalang environmental groups at mga akademiko.

Medyo naging matunog din daw ang komperensyang ito, dahil si Pangulong Bongbong Marcos, Jr. mismo ang nagbigay ng Key Note Address sa komperensya, na dinaluhan ng mahigit na 300 kalahok.

Mga totoong mga kapitan ng industriya ang dumalo – sina

Ramon Ang, Lance Gokongwei, Hans Sy, Federico Lopez, Enrique Razon, Mariana Zobel de Ayala at si Paolo Villar. Sila ay mga bigating negosyante na hindi maipagkakaila na napakalaki ng epekto ng mga proyekto nila sa ating kalikasan.

Nakakatuwa naman na pinangunahan ni Sec. Toni Yulo-Loyzaga ang pagtitipong ito.

Mabuti na lang at umaarangkada nang husto at sa tamang direksyon ang DENR ngayon.

Sa totoo lang, naging malamya at halos hindi nararamdaman ang DENR nitong mga nakaraang taon, pwera na lang sa usaping ng paglilinis ng Boracay at ang Dolomite beach sa Manila Bay.

Katatapos lang ng dagok ni Super Typhoon "Karding" sa

bansa, at namulat na naman tayo sa mapait na katotohanan nang nagbabagong klima o climate change.

Halos lahat daw nang nagsalita sa komperensya ng DENR ay inamin at nag-commit na tutugon sila sa hamon ng climate change. Anila, ang pangangalaga sa kalikasan ay mabuti para sa negosyo.

Hiling ko na maipagpatuloy ni Loyzada ang kanyang nasimulan sa DENR. Kailangan talaga ang isang DENR Secretary na matibay ang sandigan sa siyensya at ginagamit ang mga tamang ebidensya sa pagdedisyon tungkol sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan at wastong gamit ng likas-yaman.

Kailangan natin nang mas maraming mga opisyal na totoong maka-berde kung mag-isip.

Bago ko makalimutan, gustong magbigay-pugay sa lahat ng mga katutubo, sa pagdiriwang ng "Buwang ng Katutubo".

Mas mahabang kwentuhan tungkol dito, sa susunod kong kolum.





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

**MORE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL IMPACT TRANSPARENCY FROM BUSINESSES WANTED**

# WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF CLIMATE CHANGE BATTLE

By Miguel R. Camus  
@miguelrcamusINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) wants more comprehensive disclosure reports from businesses on their environmental and social impact, as it steps up the fight against the "climate emergency."

"We need to encourage the private sector to support voluntary and mandatory disclosure policies today," DENR Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga says during a recent forum organized by Women's Business Council Philippines.

"Financial disclosures, resilience, mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction need now to be reflected in our reporting systems," she says.

"There needs to be investments in reframing resilience to include not just the protection of business assets, but the conservation and enhancement of the social and ecolog-

ical systems wherein our businesses operate," Loyzaga adds.

This will also include investments to support small- and medium-sized enterprises through accessible finance, knowledge development and technical support.

For Loyzaga, prevention and mitigation measures are critical against the threat of climate change.

"Our main challenge here is to go beyond traditional roles as donors in relief and response when disasters occur, and investing ahead in prevention," she says. "Past and future disruptions to business are opportunities for us to invest in resilience of natural human and engineered systems, which in turn, could be vital to surviving and thriving amidst uncertainty."

The Environment Secretary was the keynote seeker during the Climate Action for Women by Women forum, which was supported by the

SM and Aboitiz Groups, Airspeed and AstraZeneca.

The event was also in recognition of the growing number of women leaders who are helping steer their organizations toward more sustainable practices.

Among the speakers were SM Investments vice president for sustainability Koleen Davila-Palaganas, who sought to empower women on their important roles in sustainability, and World Wildlife Fund executive director Catherine Custodio, who underscored the disproportionate harm that climate change inflicts on women.

"The climate crisis is not gender neutral," Custodio says, pointing to the wide body of data from the United Nations and other organizations that show up to 80 percent of those displaced by the climate crises were women.

"More women than men live in extreme poverty," she adds.

Custodio is calling for "gender-responsive" solutions, which can be achieved alongside mitigation efforts such as cutting harmful emissions and adopting greener energy solutions.

"Let us add inclusion, as a cross-cutting way of working in these two pillars of mitigation and adaptation," she explains.

Custodio came armed with solutions, highlighting a program called Corporates for a Better Planet Initiative, which provides "sustainability consulting done in the Philippine context."

Corporate social responsibility can be enhanced and reimagined into "corporate sustainability response" to emphasize the evolving nature of the climate change fight.

"Businesses are about creating value. Is that value if your businesses cause our environment to collapse or climate impacts to worsen for all

of us and cause more suffering for the vulnerable?" she says.

Custodio also calls attention to their Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina (Kalipi) whale shark ecotourism project in Donsol, which was launched in 2013.

The program combines livelihood opportunities through the sale of handwoven plushies and bags and the collection of plastic waste.

"It's a wonderful example of women's creativity and entrepreneurship that not only provides livelihood, but also helps solve the community's plastic pollution problem," Custodio said.

"If what's happening to our environment is a movie, we already know that the ending we face is a grim one," Custodio notes. "All our efforts are really about changing that ending."

SM Investments, one of the event sponsors, says it is stepping up mitigation efforts due to climate change.

"We take into account and the impact on the environment, including providing sustainable energy, renewable solar power, water treatment facilities and waste recycling," SM Investments president Frederic DyBuncio says in a prerecorded message that was shown during the forum.

"We also provide support in terms of education and training and health care, because at the end of the day, it's the sustainability of the community that continues to provide the core for our businesses," he adds.

Hans Sy, chair of the executive committee of SM Prime Holdings Inc., says business groups like SM are committed to fighting "climate change that is looming over our Mother Earth."

"If we can contribute, no matter how little, and if I can get everybody to be aware of it. I think we will make an impact. It's never too late," Sy says. INQ





10-10-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DENR: National mining laws supersede LGUs

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said national laws will still prevail over local ordinances amid several local government units (LGUs) issuing orders to prevent mining activities.

Jonas Leones, DENR undersecretary, on the sidelines of a multi-stakeholder forum in Manila last week, said the agency respects the autonomy of LGUs but they should also be consistent with the national law.

"Always remember, the national policy should be supreme over local policies. Local policies,

ordinances should not stop the implementation of national policies. All local laws should comply and be consistent with the national law," Leones explained.

Recently, Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando issued Executive Order (EO) No. 21 mandating the temporary suspension of all mining permits, quarrying, dredging, desilting and other types of mineral extractive operations within Bulacan.

Fernando said the issuance of the local law is meant to address the constant deterioration of roads caused by overloading of transport vehicles of land minerals or other commodities.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

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

4  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE: GOV'T SHOULD NOT INSIST IN MAKING MLA BAY LOOK WHITE PAGE 4

10-10-42  
DATE

## Gov't should not insist in making Manila Bay look white — Legarda

By JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

Government should not spend millions of pesos just to make Manila Bay a white sand beach by dumping dolomite sand, environmentalist Senator Loren Legarda said.

Instead, the budget allocated for dolomite should be used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for

capacity building of the country's ecological solid waste and protected areas, among others.

"We should not extract from Cebu and bring it to Metro Manila," Legarda said at an environment-related press conference at the residence of French Ambassador to the Philippines Michèle Bocoz on Oct. 6.

If she were a senator during the proposed launch of the Dolomite

Beach project, Legarda said she would not have allowed it.

In fact, she was never in favor of the project.

"I would not have allowed its funding," she said.

With the second phase of the Dolomite Beach project coming, Legarda said she would not vote to pass its budget in her capacity as the vice chair of the Senate Finance Committee.





Editorial

## *Ginastusan para sadlakan ng basura*

**A**RAW-ARAW, may nakukuhang basura sa Dolomite Beach. Kahit araw-araw linisin ang kontrobersiyal na beach, marami pa ring basurang plastic ang sumasadsad dito. Ang mga basura ay galing sa estero, ilog, sapa sa Maynila at mga bayan na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay. Ang Dolomite Beach ay kabilang sa Manila Bay beautification project ng nakaraang Duterte administration na ginastusan ng P389 milyon. Tinambakan ng puting buhangin na galing Cebu para magmistulang Boracay. Hinakot ng barges ang puting buhangin patungong Manila Bay.

Noong nakaraang taon, binuksan sa publiko ang Dolomite Beach sa kabila na may pandemya. Maraming nag-picture-picture. Dinagsa at pinagkaguluhan ng mga tao na nasabik makaraang makulong sa lockdown. Hanggang sa isarang muli dahil maraming luma-



labag sa health protocols. Ang iba ay walang face mask at dikit-dikit ang mga tao na para bang walang nanalasang virus.

Ngayon, sarado ang beach dahil marumi. Nang manalasa ang Bagyong Karding, toneladang basurang plastic ang inanod sa dalampasigan. Ang maputing buhangin ng beach ay nangitim dahil sa nakatambak na mga basura.

Mga basura na gaya ng single-use plastic, sachet ng shampoo, 3-in-1 coffee, cup ng noodles, plastic bottle ng softdrinks at iba pa. Ang mga basura ay iniluwa ng mga ilog, sapa at estero sa Manila Bay. Ginawang basurahan ang karagatan ng mga walang disiplinang mamamayan.

Pinagtutulungang linisin ng mga tauhan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang baybayin ng beach.

Nakadidismaya lang na pagkaraang gastusan ng milyon ang Dolomite Beach, magiging hantungan lang pala ng basurang plastic. Hindi rin mapakinabangan dahil kailangan munang linisin para gawing pasyalan.

Mas makabubuti at magiging kapaki-pakinabang kung tataniman ng mga bakawan ang paligid ng beach para magkaroon ng harang sa mga inaanod na basura. Bukod sa magandang tingnan at magiging luntian ang dalampasigan, mapuprotektahan pa sa pagkasira at mapapanatili ang kalinisan. Mayroon ding tirahan ang mga lamandagat.





TITLE:

PAGE

1/2

10-10-22

DATE

## GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY, RISING COSTS TOP MINING RISKS

**T**HE Philippine mining sector is "greatly impacted" by geopolitical uncertainty, among other top risks, according to the Mining and Minerals Industry Sector Leader of SGV.

"Among the top 10 risks and opportunities identified in the report, the mining sector in the Philippines is greatly impacted by geopolitical uncertainty, maintaining a license to operate due to anti-mining sentiments, and rising costs and productivity challenges," Eleanor A. Layug, SGV Mining and Minerals Industry Sector Leader said in a statement on Friday.

"On the other hand, the increasing focus on environmental, social and governance, the disruption brought about by digital transformation, and the advent of new business models provide mining players the opportunity to future-proof their businesses," Layug added.

For his part, Paul Mitchell, EY Global Mining & Metals Leader said, "Managing ESG risk is becoming more complex. Miners who get it right can get an edge on competitors in many ways—from accessing capital, to securing a license to operate,

attracting talent, and mitigating climate risk."

According to the report released by Ernst & Young Global Limited, on the Top-10 business risks and opportunities for mining and metals in 2023, geopolitics climbed two notches in 2022 to second rank from fourth, heading into an "uncertain" 2023.

The report noted that "The war in Ukraine has had an impact on the trade of minerals and metals, while increasing competition between China and the US, and newly elected governments in key mining markets, are affecting the long-term plans of miners."

Hence, the report recommended that as miners consider strategic decisions, "they should assess the implications of several geopolitical trends."

In fact, the EY business risks and opportunities survey 2023 showed that 72 percent of the respondents believe the current geopolitical uncertainty will result in a rise in resource nationalism (in the form of taxes and royalties; nationalization; mandated beneficiation) while 64 percent said the uncertainty will lead to rising operating costs.

CONTINUED ON A8





10-10-22

TITLE:

PAGE

2/2

DATE

## GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY, RISING COSTS TOP MINING RISKS

Continued from A12

Meanwhile, Environmental, social and Governance (ESG) remains the number one risk and opportunity in mining and metals, according to the survey respondents.

The survey shows that 76 percent of the respondents cited water management as their top ESG risk. This was followed by decarbonization, which 57 percent of the respondents agreed to.

"Access to clean water is a human right. We need to allow local communities access to clean water and make sure that we don't

contaminate the water sources around our operations," one mining leader noted, according to the report.

Another risk that impacts the country's mining sector is maintaining a license to operate (LTO), which dipped from third rank in 2022 to fourth, heading into 2023.

The report noted that obtaining and maintaining an LTO is an "increasingly complex" issue to navigate because miners face "new LTO expectations, including building livable communities and forging trusted relationships with Indigenous communities."

With this, Mitchell said, "It is critical for mining companies to go beyond doing what's merely required by law. It's time to commit [to] furthering truth and reconciliation. Ultimately, reframing LTO as a way of creating long-term value can have a positive impact on the company's brand."

Meanwhile, the report noted that costs and productivity have moved to fifth spot from 10th in 2022, "as inflation affects cost of mining operations and may potentially delay growth plans."

Under this category, the report stressed, "how governments deal

with high inflation will significantly impact the sector." This is among the impacts that will be felt by the Philippines, according to Layug.

The report also stressed that aside from energy costs, miners have been facing higher input costs, including those of tyres, explosives and sulphuric acid. Moreover, it noted that higher costs will reduce margins for metal producers and, in some cases, force capacity to be suspended. In fact, the report divulged that around 1,164kt of capacity is already suspended in Europe.

Andrea E. San Juan





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# BusinessWorld™



00-10-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

## Mining industry faces ESG, gov't tax pressures

MINERS are under increasing pressure from the challenges of meeting their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) mandates as governments all over the world set their sights on the industry to fill gaps in their tax revenue, according to an EY Global study cited by EY Philippine affiliate SGV & Co.

"Among the top risks and opportunities, the mining sector in the Philippines is greatly impacted by geopolitical uncertainty, maintaining a license to operate due to anti-mining sentiments, and rising costs and productivity challenges," SGV Mining and Minerals

Industry Sector Leader Eleanor A. Layug said in a statement.

"On the other hand, the increasing focus on ESG, the disruption brought about by digital transformation, and the advent of new business models provide mining players the opportunity to future-proof their businesses," she added.

"The sector needs to do more to improve health, safety and wellbeing. A balanced approach to managing both critical risks and foundational workplace safety and well-being can help companies build a holistic, robust approach," the study added.

According to the study, global conflict and ongoing disruption are also creating new urgency for miners to rethink traditional operating and business models.

"Geopolitics has risen to number two in the ranking and global volatility is likely to be ongoing, driven by changing governments in key markets, competition between key economies, and a growing tide of resource nationalism," according to the study.

"We see evidence that governments are trying to fill revenue gaps created through the COVID-19 pandemic with new or increased mining royalties. For

example, Chile plans to introduce copper royalties, and in Australia, the Queensland state government has already increased royalties on coal. For mining and metals companies, the ability to quickly assess the impact of these changes, as well as different alliances, trade flows and governments on business decisions will be critical," it added.

Meanwhile, the survey also found that ESG has become a priority for key stakeholders.

"Managing ESG risk is becoming more complex. Miners who get it right can get an edge on competitors in many ways — from accessing capital, to securing a

license to operate, attracting talent, and mitigating climate risk."

"Mining and metals companies have also become progressively better at managing climate risk, but there are still opportunities to improve.

"Not enough miners are taking action to minimize the physical risks of climate change, which may threaten operations," the study read.

"Many mining and metals companies have committed to highly ambitious decarbonization targets and a sharper focus on reporting emissions, but 2023 will reveal whether the sector is on the trajectory to net zero," it added.

Mining and metals executives surveyed say that data mining and automation, as well as the introduction of an ESG platform to track metrics and reporting, will be the focus of digital investment over the next one to two years.

"We still see some miners taking a siloed approach to implementing technology. An integrated, business-led approach to digital transformation can identify more opportunities to solve some of miners' biggest challenges, including ESG, climate risk, productivity and costs," the study also found. — Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson





TITLE:

PAGE

1/2

10-10-22

DATE

## Learn from lessons in Duterte infra program, experts urge Marcos

BY RIZAL RAOUL S. REYES  
@brownindio

**E**XPERTS from the academe and private sector have exhorted the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to learn from the lessons of the Duterte administration's Build, Build, Build program, and ensure a more consumer-friendly and transparent infrastructure program.

In his presentation, Professor Edwin Santiago, Stratbase ADRI Non-resident Fellow and De La Salle University Department of Political Science Assistant Professor, urged the Marcos Jr. administration to learn the lessons from China-funded infrastructure projects under the Duterte government and called on the new administration to ensure transparency and accountability in its infrastructure program.

Santiago discussed in his presentation the issues surrounding the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project and the Kaliwa Dam Project. These include environmental degradation, defective consultation process, questionable selection of contractors, disadvantageous interest rates, onerous contract provisions, and the lack of transparency.

"While infrastructure is important, it should not be infrastructure at all cost, or at any cost. We must hold our leaders accountable because we have seen so many times how a particular need is abused so many people can get away with a lot of things. If there is water shortage, does that mean that just to address the water shortage, we will allow the government to do whatever it wants even with certain unsavory parts of the deal? I don't think we should allow that," he explained in a recent virtual roundtable discussion organized by the Stratbase Albert del Rosario Institute (ADRI) in partnership with consumer advocacy group CitizenWatch Philippines. The forum tackled the experts' assessments on the Duterte administration's infrastructure program and their recommendations for the

current Marcos administration.

"It is very clear that the issues are the same and recurring in these projects. Most glaring is the trademark lack of transparency that strongly suggests irregularities. It has been argued that there is no need for confidentiality if everything is above board," Santiago argued.

He also underscored the importance of getting the consensus of stakeholders in the planning and development of the government's infrastructure program.

"There is geo-location bias in the Build, Build, Build from the on-set. Completed projects are located in the National Capital Region. Another adage comes into mind here: Those who have less in life should have more in law. In the case of the BBB, however, considering the poverty map in the country, those who have less in life, have also less in BBB budget and project allocation. Isn't that ironic?" he added.

In his presentation, University of the Philippines-Virata School of Business Professor Emeritus Dr. Epictetus Patalinghug listed the challenges the previous administration faced that led to the inefficient implementation of the Duterte administration's Build, Build, Build (BBB) program. He is also Stratbase ADRI Trustee and Program Convenor.

The Duterte administration's medium-term goal was to increase infrastructure spending from 5.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017 to 7.3 percent in 2022. However, in 2019, the government announced the shift to a hundred less ambitious and more doable projects. From 2017-2021, the government spent only about P4.98 trillion or about 5.5 percent of the country's GDP for infrastructure projects. As of October 31, 2021, only eight projects worth P94.64 billion were completed and 77 projects worth P3.5 trillion were ongoing. Of these, 30 were still in preconstruction activities.

CONTINUED ON A8



  
PAGE UPPER  
 LOWER  
PAGE 1  
STORY  
BANNER  
STORY  
EDITORIAL  
CARTOON

PAGE

2/2

DATE

10-22

TITLE:

## Learn from lessons in Duterte infra program, experts urge Marcos

CONTINUED FROM A12

"There was weak strategic guidance... There was poor project appraisal. I don't think the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Works and Highways have an internal capacity to do rapid appraisal. You always need World Bank money, ADB money to hire consultants. Then you have poor project selection and budgeting. As usual, completion delays and cost overruns. And very few interim and ex-post project evaluations are

done in our projects," Patalinghug explained.

Patalinghug, however, noted that the institutional problem of departments lacking absorptive capacity cannot be solved within the next six years of the Marcos administration.

"So, the best thing for President Marcos Jr. is just to look at the shovel-ready projects left by the Duterte government and implement them—the Metro Manila subway, the North-South Commuter Railway. This must transect shovel-ready projects like the Calamba, Tuban (railway), it is still lacking in

bidding acceptance from DOTr for the past two years," he explained.

Patalinghug also recommended prioritizing consumer-friendly projects and streamlining the approval process of major infrastructure projects.

"[One], make it super ready in less than two years, not spend three to four years for processing projects. Two, strengthen project management and monitoring. Three, simplify the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Procurement Reform Law. Four, improve the regulatory framework in the PPP program by focusing on

solicited proposals," he said.

"In Stratbase ADR Institute, we advocate for the government's adoption of a more investment-driven strategy for long-term growth and development. And we'll continue to champion how the private sector has demonstrated its capacity as a prime mover, not only in innovation in delivering goods and services, but in creating value in the lives of the statements of Philippine society. They create jobs, alleviate poverty, and now are champions in promoting sustainability," explained Stratbase ADR Institute President Victor Andres Manhit.





# PH backs climate initiative

BY KRISTINA MARALIT

**T**HE Philippines renewed its call for a stronger global initiative on climate change during a meeting of stakeholders ahead of the Conference of Parties (COP27) climate summit in Egypt next month.

In the PreCOP27 summit held in DR Congo last week, Robert Borje, vice chairman and executive director of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), stressed the importance of reaching an agreement and urgent collective action to address climate change and its impacts.

"PreCOP27 in Kinshasa pro-

vides parties and partners a vital opportunity to discuss at length what is important for all in order to make significant headway in addressing climate change and its impacts, particularly for developing at-risk and vulnerable states like the Philippines," he said, adding that developing nations suffer the most while contributing the

least to climate change.

On adaptation, Borje said the Philippines pushed for fast-tracking finance, technology and capacity development to build adaptive capacities, improve resilience and reduce vulnerabilities of developing countries, in accordance with the Global Goal on Adaptation.

On mitigation, the official stressed that emissions avoidance must be part of the mitigation action to accelerate just transition to low carbon development in developing nations.

Regarding climate finance, he pointed out that the New Collective Quantified Goal must include the key elements of transparency, responsiveness, and scale.

It emphasized that climate

finance must be accurately reported while being needs-based and commensurate to the needs of potential recipients.

From the \$100 billion climate finance commitment of developed countries under the Paris Agreement, the New Collective Quantified Goal must set a higher target for climate finance to help implement climate change-related strategies and measures.

With a view to realizing climate justice for vulnerable and at-risk developing nations, the Philippines underscored that access by least developed and developing countries to financial mechanisms must be streamlined and simplified.

On loss and damage, the Philippines raised concern that least

developed and developing countries can no longer absorb and afford the cost of further losses and damages due to climate change and its impacts.

Borje argued that there must be an agenda item on loss and damage, as well as dedicated space to discuss the operationalization of the Santiago Network.

Targeted to be fully operationalized by 2023, the Santiago Network is meant to catalyze technical support of organizations, bodies, networks and experts for developing countries to avert, minimize, and address climate change-related loss and damage.

Additionally, the Philippine government underlined that dedicated discussion space must

be provided for the financing for loss and damage, and the governance structure of the Warsaw International Mechanism as established to implement approaches to loss and damage — all in line with the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact, among other international frameworks and commitments.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, in partnership with the Arab Republic of Egypt as the incoming COP27 Presidency, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, convened 60 countries in Kinshasa for PreCOP27.

COP27 will be held on November 6 to 18 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.





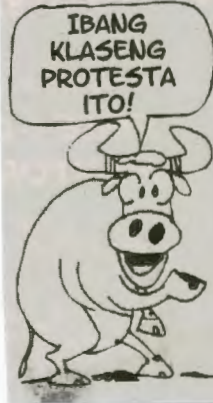
TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

**'CLIMATE CHAOS = WAR + FAMINE'**

## Climate activists glue hands to cover of Picasso painting



SYDNEY—Two climate activists glued their hands to the perspex covering of Picasso's anti-war painting "Massacre in Korea" in a Melbourne art gallery on Sunday, according to police, protesters and the gallery.

The painting emerged unscathed.

The black-clad activists were shown with their hands pressed against the Picasso in a room of the National Gallery of Victoria in images shared on social media by the Extinction Rebellion movement.

A man wearing a T-shirt with the Extinction Rebellion symbol—an hourglass in a **A2**

circle—stood alongside them. On the ground at their feet lay a black banner reading "Climate Chaos = War + Famine."

"It is believed three protesters entered the ground level of the gallery before a man and a woman glued themselves to a protective covering of a Picasso painting," said a Victoria Police

spokesperson.

The protesters—a 49-year-old woman from New South Wales and a 59-year-old man from Melbourne—were "removed from the painting" more than an hour after their action was believed to have started, police said.

### 'Horrors of war'

The pair, alongside a 49-year-old Melbourne man, "have been arrested and are as-

sisting police with their inquiries," they said.

The gallery said it had called the police and closed the exhibition to the public.

"The protesters' hands were safely removed from the perspex with no harm to the work," said a spokesperson for the National Gallery of Victoria.

The 1951 Picasso work "shows the horrors of war," Extinction Rebellion Victoria said on its Facebook page.

The painting was, in turn, inspired by another masterpiece from the 19th century, Francisco Goya's "The Third of May, 1808."

"Climate breakdown will mean an increase in conflict around the world. Now is the time for everyone and all institutions to stand up for action!" the group said.

The painting was being shown on the final day of the gallery's "The Picasso Century" exhibition. —AFP





10-10-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DAR vows to fast-track World Bank-backed project

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**T**HE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is stepping up the implementation of the World Bank-funded Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project.

The agency recently held a 3-day Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) review.

The event was held in compliance with the call of the World Bank (WB) for the DAR to address specific environmental and social risks and impacts in the massive parcelization of collective certificates of land ownership awards (CCLOAs) for the distribution of individual CCLOAs to the beneficiaries.

The WB made the observations during the Fifth Implementation and Support Mission on March 30. The workshop finalizes the Writeshop output of ESA and ESMF.

The ESA, as well as the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), provide the guidelines and the instruments to enable the stakeholders, the DAR, and the WB

to identify the legal, environmental, labor, social, and other challenges, and provide solutions during the SPLIT Project implementation.

DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III disclosed that the updating of the ESA instruments complies with the DAR's commitment to the loan agreement as provided in the ESCP.

Estrella said improving the security of tenure and strengthening the property rights of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) through the subdivision of Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs) are in line with the pronouncement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his first State of the Nation Address.

Atty. Luis Meinrado C. Pañgulayan, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Research, discussed the policy environment of the SPLIT Project on the second day of the workshop. Undersecretary Pañgulayan said the issuance of the individual title to the ARB will not result in economic empowerment "unless there is the stabilization of agrarian rights, enhancement of land tenure security, and attainment of agricultural productivity and profitability."

Pañgulayan also discussed the

implementing rules and regulations of the DAR with the Land Registration Authority (LRA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). These are agencies that issue their own titles. The LRA issues the regular titles, the DENR issues tenurial instruments in the form of free patents and the NCIP issues certificates of ancestral domain titles and certificates of ancestral land titles.

The DAR and the LRA have recently issued Joint Administrative Order (JAO) No. 2 Series of 2022 to ensure that the Order of Parcelization of the DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO) under the SPLIT Project is to be treated as part of an involuntary proceeding which will no longer require the surrender of the owner's duplicate copy.

DAR-DENR JAO No. 9, Series of 2021 ensures that areas of collective CLOAs with timberlands, national parks, mineral lands, and unclassified public forests shall not result in the nullification of the CCLOA and the eviction of the ARBs. If the title cannot be parcelized due to technical or legal issues. In that case, the

collective title will be retained, and the ARBs will be allowed to continuously possess the awarded land.

The DAR-NCIP Joint Administrative Order for the SPLIT Project is a work in progress.

"The experience of the agencies under the Joint National Committee (the NCIP, the DAR, the DENR, and the LRA) as per Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2012 is helpful in crafting the Joint Administrative Order. Issues on vested rights and the delays in the issuance of the certificate of no overlap must be resolved."

The discussion on the SPLIT policy environment was followed by the break-out sessions for the conduct of focus group discussions on environmental and social safeguards and on the grievance redress mechanisms. The ESS discussions were led by Assistant Secretary Marjorie P. Ayson. The GRM-focused group discussion was led by DARAB Executive Director Roland Manalaysay.

The SPLIT Project was formulated by the DAR in pursuance of the directive of the president to expedite and complete the parcelization of CCLOA and the issuance of individual titles to the ARBs.





10-10-22

TITLE:

PAGE 1

DATE

# Why bleeding PH firms won't go green

By Alden M. Monzon  
@AldenMonzonINQ

**S**till steeped in the mires of the COVID-19 pandemic, most businesses are setting aside going green to focus on recovery. Sustainability, after all, can not yet be sustained.

According to the 2022 edition of a joint survey published by the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Philippines and the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), only 30 percent of the chief executive officers (CEOs) surveyed have incorporated environmental, social and governance (ESG) into their business plans.

ESG offers a framework for businesses to manage risks and opportunities. It is a broad term that ranges from health and safety issues to pollution reduction and other philanthropic programs.

Of the 119 CEOs surveyed from mid-July to August, only 47 percent said climate and environmental damage were factors they consider in strategic risk management

It is a slight improvement from last year's 43 percent, but both figures showed that majority of top business leaders—whose decisions dictate and influence company policies and directions—are still not onboard with the idea.

In addition, only a fourth said they have made commitments to making their businesses carbon-neutral or adhering to a "net zero" emission principle.

## Survival

"Many MSMEs (micro, small and medium companies) are still of the mind that they need to be viable before they can be sustainable," PwC Philippines chair emeritus Alex Cabrera explains.

Mary Jade Roxas-Divina-gracia, a managing partner at the firm, is of the same mind, adding that priorities have been "distorted" since the COVID-19 outbreak, illustrating the deep cuts suffered by multiple industries.

"In the last two years, most

of the companies have been focused on merely surviving ... trying to be feasible and viable first before thinking of sustainability," she says.

In the same report, 35 percent stated their companies have yet to recover from the pandemic. Only 21 percent said they were back to prepandemic levels.

Still, 38 percent said they were significantly higher than where they were when the pandemic hit in 2020.

Cabrera says this scenario can be viewed with a 'glass half-full' point of view, noting that a third of the surveyed CEOs reflects just the beginning of an ongoing "journey" to incorporate ESG into business plans.

"The 30 percent to me is not such a bad start. I really believe that the 70 percent will soon catch up, not because of legal compulsion but because of necessity," he says.

But there is more to the

survey than meets the eye, according to Roxas-Divina-gracia.

## Not polluters?

"A significant part of those who said that they did not have (such policies) claim that they did not produce meaningful amounts of greenhouse gas emissions; that's why there's no need for them to do so," she says.

A third of the CEOs who said they do have any ESG commitment reasoned that their respective sectors do not have any established and well-defined decarbonization approach, she adds.

She says the other third mentioned they do not have the capabilities to measure their emissions, highlighting the need to consult sustainability specialists—but which can still prove costly to some.

"Even at the firm level, we've noticed the lack of experience and capable resources in

that area. So hopefully we are able to build that capacity as well," she says.

According to the same study, only 43 percent of surveyed CEOs said "yes" when asked if they are measuring and reporting the financial impact of their sustainable practices.

## Climate change laws

The Philippines has at least eight national laws related to mitigating climate change, each offering guidelines in varying degrees. Five of these are industry-specific, but could still be considered as broad enough.





00-10-22

TITLE: why bleeding PH firms want go PAGE 2

green

The most notable is Republic Act No. 9729, also known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009," which incorporates climate change strategies into government policy formulations.

Pursuant to the law, the commission is headed by the president of the country as well as three appointed commissioners.

Depending on who you ask, the broadness of the laws can either be good or bad, resting on the prevailing culture of the mainstream businesses in the country.

The more sector-specific laws include the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 (RA 8749), the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003), the Clean Water Act of 2004 (RA 9275), the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 (RA 9513), and the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 (RA 11898).

ATR Asset Management head of macro and sustainability research Jose Mari Lacson says the Philippines currently lacks a comprehensive data collection and measurement system that can gauge the effectiveness of local laws and track the progress of local businesses objectively.

"Data [gathering] is the first step toward building sustainability into business. Nobody really collects the data so it can be understood properly," Lacson says.

"The simplest one would

be on emissions, which is one of the primary indicators for greenhouse gas and climate change. If we want to effect change in the way we do things, then you need to understand how emissions are coming from the electric (sector) or from transport and logistics," he adds.

### Snapshot

The Philippine automotive market can offer a glimpse of the green movement in the country.

Rommel Gutierrez, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc., says the market for "cleaner" vehicles is expanding, albeit at a slow pace.

Data from the auto industry association shows that electric vehicles, including hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles are gaining a lot of ground in terms of sales.

"Over the past years, we have seen increasing numbers of buyers of hybrid vehicles. Some buy pure electric (vehicles). But right now, it's really more of the hybrid (vehicles) that are being sold on the market," Gutierrez tells the Inquirer.

Electric vehicles went from having a 0.02-percent (86 vehicle units) share to total sales in 2019 to a 0.31-percent (810 units) share in 2021.

Sales are projected to reach a 1.68-percent (2,246 units) share by the end of 2022, displaying the potentially exponential growth in patronage of more environment-friendly automobiles.

"There's a growing number of people who are more environmentally conscious. *Pero hindi pa lahat* (But it's not 100 percent yet)," Gutierrez said.

MAP conference committee vice chair Alma Jimenez says the market will be the "biggest push-pull factor" in the adoption of these sustainable practices, highlighting the driving power of ordinary consumers.

"Once the market is affected, surely, I think, businesses will react," she says. **INQ**



10-10-22

DATE

TITLE: Why bleeding PH firms won't go green PAGE 3

## THE ROAD TO NET-ZERO

### Question

Have you made a carbon-neutral or net-zero commitment?

25%  
Yes

75%  
No

## SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

### Question

Are climate change and environmental damage explicitly factored into your strategic risk management?

47% | Yes

43% | Yes

2022 PwC  
MAP CEO  
Survey

53% | No

57% | No

2021 PwC  
MAP CEO  
Survey

SOURCE: PWC MAP 2022 CEO SURVEY

**STILL WANTING** While their tribe is increasing, PH companies that embrace environment, social and governance standards form just the minority. —PWC MAP 2022 CEO SURVEY





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard



0-10-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Gatchalian sees rise in energy investments following DOJ opinion

**By Macon Ramos-Araneta**

SENATOR Win Gatchalian said he expects the number of renewable energy (RE) investments to rise substantially following a Department of Justice (DOJ) opinion that natural resources including solar, wind, hydro,

and ocean or tidal energies are not covered by the constitutional limitation on foreign ownership.

He said the flow of investments is hinged on amending the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008.

"The removal of the 40% foreign ownership cap is a game changer," he said, adding that "this puts the country on the right path of creating an investment climate that would enhance the establishment of more renewable energy facilities amid global efforts to address climate

change and ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine."

He emphasized that wider adoption of RE in the country could progressively bring down power rates for the benefit of consumers and create more jobs within the communities concerned.



## We must reject waste incineration



■ Members of the Korea Federation for Environmental Movements prepare vegetable pots with compost. PHOTO BY DOUN MOON/KFEM

LAST September 22, Cebu City Mayor Michael Lopez Rama, signed a joint venture agreement with a Chinese company, New Sky Energy, to construct and operate a waste-to-energy incinerator that will burn up to 800 tons of garbage daily. Cebu City "is now locked into a 40-year contract obliging it to supply some 600 to 800 tons of waste daily," fellow *Times* columnist Ben Kritz wrote in his Oct. 2, 2022 column titled "Waste-to-stupidity."

Cebu City officials insist — despite Sec. 8b of the joint venture agreement circulating the time of its approval by the city council stating otherwise — that there is no minimum volume. A guaranteed minimum volume, however, is what makes the private investor able to recover his investment. Will the facility, once fully operational by 2025, accept waste from other local government units?

Sure, many countries use incineration as a component of their waste management systems. Take the case of Seoul. According to a case study by Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), Seoul — with



### RESURGENCE

**MARIT  
STINUS-  
CABUGON**

a population of almost 10 million — has four incinerators. Combined, they burn 2,850 tons of waste daily, or 285 tons per every 1 million residents. This begs the question: Why would Cebu City with its 1 million residents want to burn 600 to 800 tons of garbage every day?

Seoul is a modern, bustling city. Indeed, the volume of waste generated per capita per day is 1.02 kg. But, says GAIA in its new report, "Zero waste to zero emissions: How reducing waste is a climate game changer," Seoul has a "robust separate collection and recycling system." While some garbage is landfilled, the 95 percent recovery of food waste means that methane emissions from such waste in landfills are negligible. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and as much as 20 percent of global methane emissions come from landfills. A total of 122 countries have already signed on to the Global Methane Pledge, a

campaign that was launched during last year's Conference of Parties. The cheapest and economically most feasible solution to deal with landfill methane emissions is to compost organic waste, use the compost as soil enhancer, and avoid the emissions altogether.

The successful diversion of Seoul's food waste is just one element of the city's waste management system.

Overall, the high recovery, recycling and reuse rates of metals and glass in particular, mean less need for production of new products. Less production means less extraction of minerals and other raw materials and less pollution from production processes. "Seventy percent of global greenhouse emissions come from the material economy, from extraction through disposal," the GAIA report states. We





need to look at the entire cycle of the things that we use, consume and dispose of, and the pollution and other environmental effects created during the entire life cycle of each item. It isn't simply about "proper disposal" of garbage. Gone are the days when limitless consumption was at the other end of the rainbow, the desired end-state for poorer nations. It's not simply about conserving finite natural resources but also about the pollution and the environmental effects emanating from this pollution that has caught up with our way of life. The New Sky Energy incinerator which is being projected as a modern solution to Cebu City's garbage woes is an expensive leftover from the past, where "buy and throw" was synonymous with progress. Even the promised "energy recovery" cannot make up for the energy used in the production process of the products and materials that will end up being incinerated. We can also "look forward" to less desirable byproducts from the incineration process such as dioxin and CO2 making Cebu City less livable. Furthermore, the world is set to adopt a Global Plastics Treaty by 2024. While Cebu City, aside from

having zero waste separation at source, is slow in getting rid of single use plastic, including plastic shopping bags, it must get ready for stricter regulations — outright bans and higher taxes — on plastic that can't be reused.

In this time of crisis — high inflation, more people losing their jobs, extreme weather events causing unprecedented destruction — we must take better care of what we have. And with zero waste comes lots of jobs and income opportunities. Yes, we have existing recycling industries. As the saying goes, "one man's trash is another man's treasure." Thousands of Filipinos are engaged in various types of repair, recycling and reuse work — *ukay ukay* being a case in point of reuse of what others have discarded. Waste pickers sort through garbage and likely recover a lot more than anyone would think. Collectively we can do better in terms of reducing the volume of garbage. In fact, we MUST do better in order to cut greenhouse emissions and save the planet for future generations. By investing in new, big waste-to-energy incinerators, we take a huge step backwards.





00-10-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

**TROUBLE BREWING IN CATTLE LAND**

**IN BAGUIO, 14 'SECURITY MEN' NABBED  
FOR BREAKING INTO GOV'T FARM**

BAGUIO CITY—Fourteen men claiming to be a security team employed by a land claimant were arrested by the police on Friday for breaking into and occupying parts of the government-run Baguio Dairy Farm, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Sunday.

The men allegedly occupied the Bureau of Plant Industry cottage on Oct. 4, after tearing through a fence surrounding the 94-hectare animal breeding reservation, which now serves as the DA's Baguio Animal Breeding and Research Center (BABRC).

The 14 men, who occupied the farm until their arrest on Friday, identified themselves as members of the 8 Dragons Elite Security Agency, a Quezon City-based company, authorities said.

On Saturday, a lawyer sued the Baguio City police for illegal detention on behalf of the men, said Cameron Odsey, DA Cordillera director.

**Trespassing**

According to the city information office, two of the arrested men surrendered their service weapons but could not provide documents that allowed them to carry firearms outside Metro Manila.

Odsey said the arrested men could be from the same group that was expelled from the dairy facility in June 2021.

All 14 men now face trespassing, forcibly entry and

possession of unlicensed firearms charges, said Odsey.

During a City Council session in July last year, BABRC Director Robert Domoguen said two separate groups of armed men had forcibly entered the dairy farm purportedly to survey private lands that overlapped with the reservation.

One of these groups was also a security team hired to protect a 10-ha lot encroaching into the dairy farm, said lawyer Jennilyn Dawayan, DA Cordillera assistant director for research and regulations, during that council session.

**Land speculators' target**

Formerly called the Baguio Stock Farm, the forested property was separated from the Baguio townsite in August 1940 by President Manuel Quezon through Proclamation No. 603.

The reservation has been the target of land speculators since the 1980s. It also sparked a policy conflict between the DA, the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources when informal settlers attempted to secure certificates of land ownership awards for gardens inside the DA reservation.

Retired and active soldiers once put up a "soldier's hill" inside the farm. To date, the Dairy Farm is still surrounded by households claiming ancestral land rights. —VINCENT

CABREZA INQ