

DATE : 11-04-19

DAY : Monday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



The Kaliwa Dam – an old controversy

The proposed Kaliwa Dam in Quezon and Rizal provinces has become the center of controversy in the wake of reports of an impending serious water shortage in Metro Manila unless new sources of water supply are developed.

Metro Manila gets its water from the Angat and Ipo Dams. This last summer, the Metro Manila Water District and private concessionaire, Manila Water had to ration the limited water supply for households in Eastern Metro Manila. The rainy season last June ended the rationing but a few days ago, rationing was again announced in view of the falling water level at Angat Dam.

This brought the Kaliwa Dam – a proposed project that dates back to the Marcos years – into the limelight. It was opposed by indigenous people of the Remontado and Dumagat tribes, whose lands and communities would go under water if the dam should be built, and they have now raised their voices anew against its construction.

President Duterte warned that he was ready to use his “extraordinary powers” to build the dam which China has already agreed to fund with an ₱18.7-billion loan. He said his concern is for the “greatest good for the greatest number.”

The Kaliwa Dam was first proposed by the national government under President Marcos in the 1970s as part of an integrated system that included another dam upstream, the Laiban Dam. It was decided to carry out the project in stages and only a smaller lower Kaliwa Dam was ap-

proved during the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III with Japanese financing. But the Aquino administration ended without the project getting started. When President Duterte won in 2016, he decided to seek Chinese loan aid for a full-sized Kaliwa Dam.

This is the big Kaliwa Dam that is at the center of today's controversy. The opposition of the indigenous tribes is only one of the issues. There is also an environmental issue – the dam would affect some 12,000 hectares of forest with 172 recorded plant species. The site is part of the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve protected as a wildlife sanctuary by Proclamation 573 in 1968. The dam would destroy the home of the endangered North Philippine eagle, brown deer, and other Philippine species of wildlife.

In the effort to provide sufficient water for Metro Manila, several other sources are now being developed, including wells, Laguna de Bay, the old Wawa dam, and private developers now required to save rain water. The time may soon come when we will start desalinating sea water, which is now being done by Israel.

But today, it is the Kaliwa Dam controversy that we need to resolve. When President Duterte said he is determined to use his extraordinary powers to see that Kaliwa Dam is built, he should also see how these powers of the presidency can also be used to meet the concerns of the indigenous people in Rizal and Quezon who stand to lose their homes and their lands with nowhere to go, without help from the government.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PRESS SINCE 1908
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

10
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

OTHER
STORY

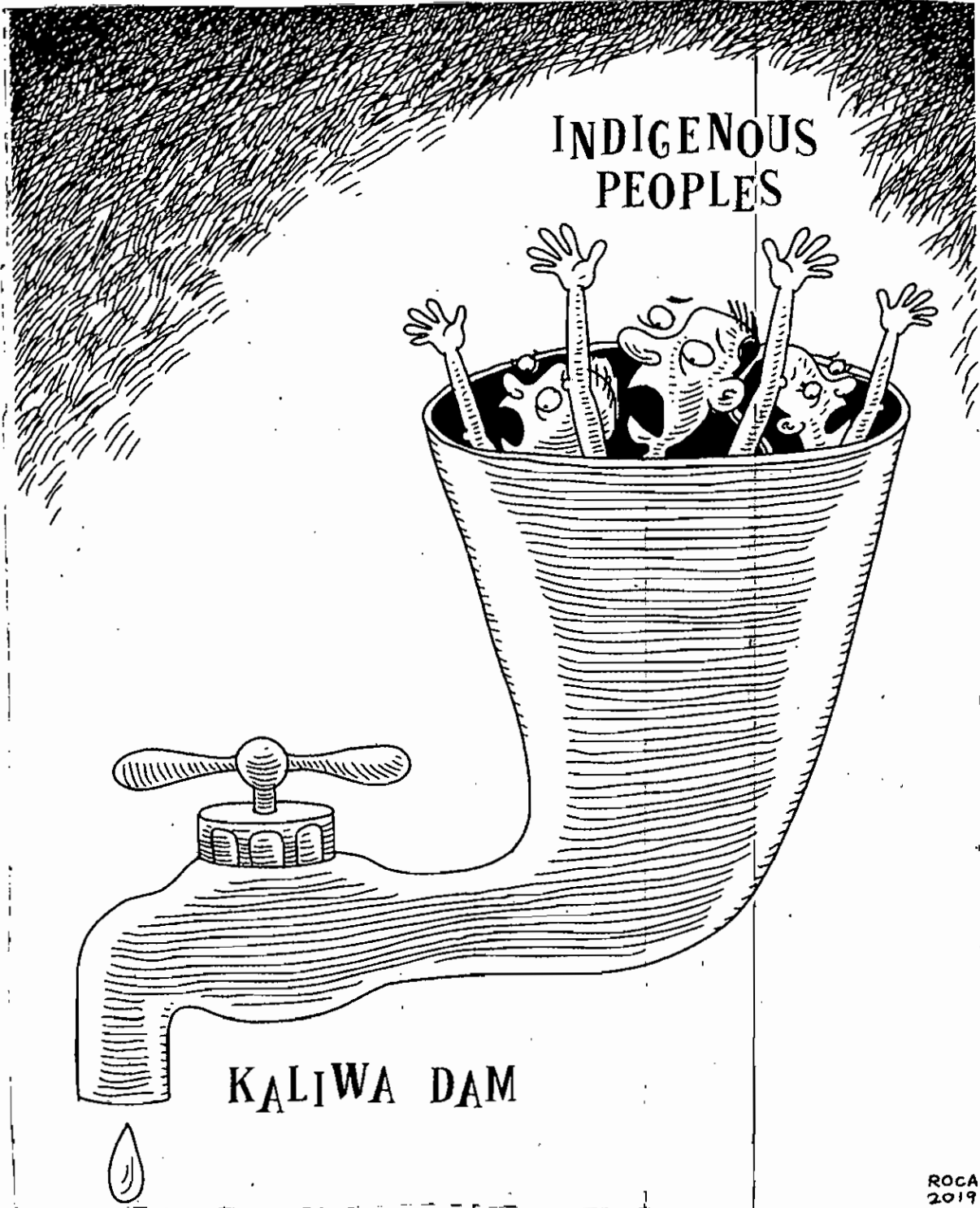
EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-04-19
DATE

TITLE: The Kaliwa Dam - an old controversy

PAGE 11 2/2





STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE REPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE PRESS
SINCE 1898
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

12
PAGE

UPPER
TOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

HEADER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-04-19

TIME:

PAGE 12

DATE

Water level at Angat Dam rises, but still too close to critical

By **FREDDIE C. VELEZ**

NORZAGARAY, Bulacan — The water level at Angat Dam has risen, but it was still near the critical level, as of 8 a.m. yesterday.

The water elevation was measured at 188.34 meters, or just 8.34 meters away before reaching to its critical level.

The spilling level of Angat Dam is at 210 meters and its low critical level is 180 meters.

A few days ago, the water level of Angat Dam was 186.66 meters.

Earlier, the Department of Agriculture (DA) ordered cloud-seeding operations over the watershed areas to increase the water supply at Angat which supplies 97 percent of the potable water needs of Metro Manila.

Cloud-seeding operations induce rains. However, there are times the man-made rains fall in the lowland areas and not at the Angat Dam reservoir where it is needed.

In the meantime, MWSS officials are urging residents in Metro Manila to conserve water, because the water elevation of the Angat Dam reservoir was fast drying up and nearing the critical level of 180 meters.

It could be recalled that on June 2010, the lowest water level of 157.57 meters was recorded at Angat.

Former governor and now Bulacan Vice Governor Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado has been battling for the conversion of the Bayabas river into a dam which snakes through the reservoir of Bustos Dam and usually releases water to the Angat river.

Alvarado said, by building a dam, the water flowing from the upstream Bayabas river will be kept, and there will be a stock supply of water for irrigation during dry season.

Meanwhile, Bro. Martin Francisco, chairperson of the Sagip Sierra Madre Environmental Society, Inc. (SSMESI), said illegal logging was the main reason why Angat Dam was drying up.

"Patuloy po ang illegal logging sa ating mga watersheds na pinagkukunan ng ating tubig inumin, sinamantala ng mga illegal loggers na nakabakasyon ang karamihang opisyal ng ating pamahalaan," he said.

Francisco said that logging of trees and kaingin system of farming which are done inside the watershed areas were too hazardous.



AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

Water crisis and what lies ahead

There is a water crisis today. But the crisis is not about having too little water to satisfy our needs. It is a crisis of managing water so badly that billions of people – and the environment – suffer badly – World Water Vision Report



When the water crisis hit Metro Manila in March, the President told MWSS officials and water concessionaires to “shape up or ship out.”

He threatened to terminate the concession agreements. Six months later, today, we are filling up our pails with water, following a rationing schedule and waiting until the last drop of water stops. If this isn't a problem, then what is it?

This has been the story of our nation. No progress. No developments. No governance or to be fair, wrong governance systems in place. Countries have overtaken us because our mindset, our values and our principles are backward.

Presidential Spokesman and Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said, *We will find ways so the water crisis won't worsen. If there is a problem, there is a solution. So, I think that people responsible for that will do their jobs. If you recall, it has been addressed before. Perhaps there is a new problem.*

What a laugh! How pathetic is his statement especially if it is coming from the nation's Legal Counsel to the President. Is he getting too old to remember that the water crisis last March (only six to seven months ago) hasn't been addressed?

Every Tom, Dick and Harry knows that the impending 'water crisis' is due to lack of new sources of water. It's as simple as that! Water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water have managed to cope with the increasing demand for water by working on the non-revenue water: the leaks and illegal connection that went as high as 60%. But there have been no new sources of water added in the past 20 years. The last one was tapping the Umiray River by gravity in General Nakar, Quezon via a 13.1 km tunnel with a diameter of 4.3 meters to Angat Dam. This is called the Umiray-Angat Transbasin project that added 25 percent more water to the supply of Metro Manila and environs. The total supply of the Umiray-Angat and Ipo river system is 4,100 MLD (million liters per day), which represents 95 percent of the total supply being delivered by water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad Water. The other water supply are just the new small sources tapping water from Laguna de Bay using the expensive reverse osmosis and other treatments.

The P20 billion rehabilitation of the old Wawa Dam is now being fast-tracked by Enrique K. Razon Jr.'s company, Prime Infra. It will be operational by 2022 with water supply of 500 MLD. Razon said that they will be able to deliver 80 MLD by 2021 or two years from now.

As a brief background, the Americans built Wawa Dam in Montalban (now Rodriguez) Rizal in 1909 to supply water for Metro Manila. It is located on a 360-hectare Montalban Gorge with an elevation of 1,100 feet. It was abandoned in 1968 after Angat Dam became operational in 1967. Then the Umiray Trans basin was added 20 years in the late 1990s.

The solution to the water problem will take at least three to five years. There is no magic wand! Aside from the rehabilitation of Wawa Dam that will take three years, the others will take five years and work has not even started yet. These are sources of water in the mountains of Quezon, Rizal and Bulacan.

“Find ways so the crisis won't worsen”, the Palace jester said. What a joke indeed! Why does the President allow his jester to talk to the public this way? Are we dumb? How can a crisis not happen if you are not confronting the real issue? Hopeless case! And yes, sadly this is how government thinks. This is how our government serves. This is how government treats tax-payers. And this is why we have never evolved since time immemorial. It surely takes private entities and private citizens movements to make a difference!

In the final analysis of all these, my friend Rick Ramos of Pilipinas Sandiwa Heritage Foundation said that the central issue remains with the incompetence of the MWSS as a regulator. The concessionaires cannot just develop new dams or reservoirs without MWSS giving them the green light. Obviously, Manila Water just got lucky to have their proposed Wawa Bulk Water Supply project approved which by the way is expected to add 500 million liters per day to their supply. Reports say that there are many other projects in the pipeline, but it seems that MWSS did not act on them right away to stop today's water shortages.

Ramos pointed out that even the MWSS Chief Regulator Patrick Ty admitted on television that it was their fault, “Yes, it's our fault. It's everyone's fault because we've been delaying all these projects.” By “everyone,” Ty meant to share the blame on indigenous peoples (IP) groups and environmental NGOs “blocking all these alternative water sources.”

The controversial Kaliwa Dam, while it promises to provide Metro Manila's water needs in the coming years, will definitely displace the Dumagat-Remontado people and permanently disrupt the area's ecosystem. But the president has put his foot down on this issue. He said that he will use his “extraordinary powers” (whatever that means) to see the project through. I hope he finds the right solution by properly addressing the issues on hand. Let's see how government will carefully plan and strategize the project for the good of every citizen, IP or not.

By the way, can the President appoint professional managers and/or engineers to the MWSS? Retired police general and MWSS Reynaldo V. Velasco was replaced but just kicked upstairs as Chairman of MWSS. So, no real change. And almost all the other board members appointed by President Duterte are lawyers except for one engineer whose outstanding qualification is being from Davao. Clearly, these men are not qualified, not skilled enough to lead the MWSS. Most of them belong to a different field of interest. MWSS will surely continue to suffer, go down the drain, kaput.

Creating a new Department of Water sounds good but it will be useless if unqualified, unskilled men lead it. We need to appoint qualified professionals, experts who are able, who are experienced and adept to work in the field or else it will fail just like the present state of MWSS, having retired police and military officers at its helm who clearly know nothing about the industry.

Anyway, it looks like we are in for a long haul! Water shortages will get worse as we await the completion of Kaliwa Dam in 2022. For now, the president's suggestion of letting the government take charge of water distribution must not happen or else we're doomed. We need to be vigilant until the government can get their act together. In the meantime, get your *tabos*, *timbas* and *baldes* ready. Christmas will be a colorful season in our bathrooms and kitchens this year.



EDITORIAL

The Kaliwa dam - an old controversy

THE proposed Kaliwa Dam in Quezon and Rizal provinces has become the center of controversy in the wake of reports of an impending serious water shortage in Metro Manila unless new sources of water supply are developed.

Metro Manila gets its water from the Angat and Ipo Dams. This last summer, the Metro Manila Water District and private concessionaire Manila Water had to ration the limited water supply for households in Eastern Metro Manila. The rainy season last June ended the rationing but a few days ago, rationing was again announced in view of the falling water level at Angat Dam.

This brought the Kaliwa Dam - a proposed project that dates back to the Marcos years - into the limelight. It was opposed by indigenous people of the Remontado and Dumagat tribes, whose lands and communities would go under water if the dam should be built, and they have now raised their voices anew against its construction.

President Duterte warned that he was ready to use his "extraordinary powers" to build the dam which China has already agreed to fund with an P18.7-billion loan. He said his concern is for the "greatest good for the greatest number."

The Kaliwa Dam was first proposed by the national government under President Marcos in the 1970s as part of an integrated system that included another dam upstream, the Laiban Dam. It was decided to carry out the project in stages and only a smaller lower Kaliwa Dam was approved during the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III with Japanese financing. But the Aquino administration ended without the project getting started. When President Duterte won in 2016, he decided to seek Chinese loan aid for a full-sized Kaliwa Dam.

This is the big Kaliwa Dam that is at the center of today's controversy. The opposition of the indigenous tribes is only one of the issues. There is also an environmental issue - the dam would affect some 12,000 hectares of forest with 172 recorded plant species. The site is part of the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve protected as a wildlife sanctuary by Proclamation 573 in 1968. The dam would destroy the home of the endangered North Philippine eagle, brown deer, and other Philippine species of wildlife.

In the effort to provide sufficient water for Metro Manila, several other sources are now being developed, including wells, Laguna de Bay, the old Wawa dam, and private developers now required to save rain water. The time may soon come when we will start desalinating sea water, which is now being done by Israel.

But today, it is the Kaliwa Dam controversy that we need to resolve. When President Duterte said he is determined to use his extraordinary powers to see that Kaliwa Dam is built, he should also see how these powers of the presidency can also be used to meet the concerns of the indigenous people in Rizal and Quezon who stand to lose their homes and their lands with nowhere to go, without help from the government.



11-04-19

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

EDITORIAL

Ang lumang kontrobersiya ng Kaliwa Dam

SENTRO ngayon ng kontrobersiya ang planong pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam sa probinsiya ng Quezon at Rizal, sa gitna ng mga balita hinggil sa napipintong matinding problema ng kakulangan sa tubig sa Metro Manila, maliban na lamang kung makapagtatayo ng bagong mapagkukunan.

Nanggagaling ang tubig ng Metro Manila sa Angat at Ipo Dam. Nitong nagdaang tag-init, kinailangan magpatupad ng Metro Manila Water District at ng private concessionaire na Manila Water, ng pagrarasyon ng tubig sa Eastern Metro Manila. Hanggang sa winaksan ng pagpasok ng pag-ulan nitong Hunyo ang pagrarasyon ng tubig, ngunit nitong mga nakaraang araw, muling inanunsiyo ang pagrarasyon sa gitna ng patuloy na pagbagsak ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Ito ang nagbigay-daan upang maihain ang Kaliwa Dam — isang mungkahing proyekto na nagmula pa noong panahon ni Marcos. Mahigpit itong tinututulan ng mga katutubo ng tribong Rejonado at Dumagat, na ang mga lupain at komunidad ay namemeligrong malubog sa tubig kung matutuloy ang pagtatayo ng dam, at ngayon muli silang nanawagan ng pagtutol hinggil sa konstruksiyon.

Nagbabala naman si Pangulong Duterte na handa siyang gamamit n "extraordinary powers" upang maitayo ang dam na sinang-ayunan na ng China na pondohan ng P18.7-bilyong utang. Aniya, ang kanyang pangamba ay para sa "greatest good for the greatest number."

Unang lumutang ang Kaliwa Dam, nang una itong iminungkahi ng pamahalaan nasa ilalim ng pamamahala ni Pangulong Marcos noong 1970 bilang bahagi ng isang 'integrated system' kung saan kabilang ang isa pang dam, ang Laiban Dam. Nagpagdesisyunang ipatupad ang proyekto ng unti-unti at mas maliit at mababang Kaliwa Dam, na inaprubahan sa ilalim ng administrasyong Benigno S. Aquino III na popondohan ng Japan. Gayunman, nagtapos ang administrayon Aquino nang hindi nasimulan ang naturang proyekto.

Nang magwagi si Pangulong Duterte noong 2016, nagdesisyon ito na pumasok sa Chinese loan upang maipatayo ang isang full-sized na Kaliwa Dam.

At ang malaking Kaliwa Dam na ito ang nahaharap ngayon sa sentro ng kontrobersiya. Ang pagkontra ng mga katutubo ay isa lamang sa maraming isyu. Nariyan din ang environmental issue — ang dam na inaasahang makaaapekto sa 12,000 ektaryang kagubatan kasama ng 172 na naitalang uri ng halaman. Ang lugar na ito ay bahagi ng Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve na pinoprotektahan bilang isang wildlife sanctuary sa ilalim ng Proclamation 573 noong 1968. Sisirain din ng dam ang tahanan ng endangered North Philippine eagle, brown deer, at ng iba pang uri ng wildlife species sa bansa.

Bilang pagsisikap na mailaan ang sapat na tubig para sa Metro Manila, ilang iba pang sources ang ngayong itinatayo, kabilang ang mga balon, Laguna de Bay, ang lumang Wawa dam, at ang mga pribadong developer na ngayon ay kinakailangang mag-imbak ng tubig ulan. Maaaring dumating din ang panahon kung saan sisimulan na natin ang desalinizing para sa tubig-dagat, na ngayo'y ginagawa ng Israel.

Ngunit ngayon, ang kontrobersiya sa Kaliwa Dam ang kailangan nating maresolba. Nang sabihin ng Pangulo na determinado siyang gamitin ang kanyang kapangyarihan upang matiyak ang pagtatayo ng Kaliwa Dam, dapat din niyang tukuyin kung ilan sa mga kapangyarihang ito ng pagkapangulo ang maaaring magamit upang matugunan ang pangamba ng mga katutubo ng Rizal at Quezon na nanganganib na mawalan ng tirahan at lupain, na walang ibang mapupuntahan, at walang tulong mula sa pamahalaan.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

A10
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-04-19

DATE

TITLE:

ECOLOGY TOILET

PAGE 1

BAGUIO TAPPING RECYCLED WATER FROM SEWAGE

BAGUIO CITY—The city government is tapping a Japanese technology that recycles water, including what households flush down their toilets, officials here said.

A Nepalese firm, IIRMA International Group, is pushing for an "ecology toilet" system developed and widely used in Japan, which uses anaerobic bacteria to break down all forms of solid from flushed toilet water.

Instead of discharging toilet water into the sewer, which is wasteful, it is treated in tanks and then channeled back to the toilet's water cabinet to be flushed by the next user.

City administrator, Bonifacio dela Peña, said the technology could be tapped to treat and reuse water that was discharged through drains, septic tanks and even Burnham Lake here.

Dwindling tap water

It will solve Baguio's issues with dwindling tap water and of polluting rivers of neighboring Benguet towns, Dela Peña said.

Baguio has the highest rainfall in the country but residents rely on aquifers and a rain basin on Mt. Sto. Tomas for potable water. They have adjusted to receiving their supply on certain days of the week since the late 1980s.

The Baguio Water District generates 47,000 cubic meters of water daily for a demand that has grown to 50,000 cu. m. As of 2015, the city population was almost 350,000 people.

In 2010, former Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson suggested building a reservoir for runoff rainwater, particularly at a natural basin at City Camp Lagoon, to augment water supply.

The lagoon frequently rises and submerges houses in the area, and the only engineering solution is opening and widening a tunnel leading to a river.

The ecology toilet was introduced to the city's management committee on Oct. 22 by IIRMA consultant, Arnel Hibo, who said flushed water would go through a fermentation tank that would break down any solid matter in the water.

The water then goes to a final filtering tank that will separate solid particles before the treated liquid is stored in a "clean tank."

The system's bacteria can consume every form of biodegradable materials, including soap and tissue paper, but won't be able to break down glass, metal or plastic, Hibo said.

IIRMA had intended to pilot the ecology toilet in Boracay, which underwent massive rehabilitation last year, but the company saw potential in making Baguio "the first city outside Japan" to use it, he said. —VINCENT CABREZA INQ

1 71A

FILE:

PAGE 17

DATE



STRATEGIC
INITIATIVES
COMMUNICATION
SERVICE

INFORMATION

PAGE
15/17

OFFER
LOWER

PAGE
STORY

RAITER
STORY

EDITORIAL
CARTON

CARTON



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE JOURNALS OF THE PHILIPPINE PRESS
1898
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

9-7
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-04-19
DATE

FILE:

PAGE 17

MGB okays 6 mine firms rehab programs

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has given its nod to six Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programs (EPEP) and Final Mine Rehabilitation and/or Decommissioning Plans (FMR/DP), two of the most important regulatory requirements for companies in the extractive industries.

The Contingent Liability and Rehabilitation Fund Steering Committee, chaired by MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano, recently approved the EPEP and FMR/DP of several contractors from July to September 2019.

The contractors whose EPEP and FMR/DP were approved are the Pangilinan-led Silangan Mindanao Mining Company, Inc., TMC-Tribal Mining Corporation, JLR Construction and Aggregates, Inc., and Atro Mining Vitali, Inc., according to a statement.

Republic Cement & Building Materials, Inc., too, got its EPEP and FMR/DP approved for its projects in Norzagaray, Bulacan and Teresa, Rizal.

Pursuant to Sections 169 and 187 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, mining and construction companies are required to submit an EPEP and FMR/DP.

The EPEP provides the description of the expected impacts of the mine and sets out the life-of-mine environmental protection and enhancement strategies based on best practice in environmental management in mining operation.

FMR/DP, on the other hand, is a plan for returning the mine sites and affected areas to viable and, whenever practicable, self-sustaining ecosystems that are compatible with a healthy environment and with human activities.

MGB noted, however, that the Certificate of Approval (COA) given to these companies provides certain conditions that need to be complied with.

One of the conditions of the COA is for the contractors to make an initial cash provision of its Final Mine Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Fund (FMRDF) within 60 days from the date of the FMR/DP's approval to ensure that the full cost of the approved plan is accrued before the end of the operating life of the mine.

The companies whose EPEP and FMR/DP have been approved were invited to sign the conforme portion of the COA.

Contractors were strictly reminded of the conditions of the COA, specifically, the establishment and deposition of the FMRDF in a Government depository bank.

As of September last year, data from MGB showed that mining companies have committed to spend ₱39.74 billion in total for their plans and programs related to sustainable development and environmental protection/rehabilitation.

The amount included the companies' budget for EPEP, FMR/DP, and Social Development and Management Program (SDMP).

The SDMP is a tool for the development and implementation of community programs, projects and activities for the host and neighboring communities of a mining project/area.

This is a five-year plan geared towards the development of responsible, self-reliant and resource-based communities capable of developing, implementing and managing development programs, projects and activities.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

FILE:

PAGE 17

DATE

EDC denies Mt. Apo plan caused earthquakes

By MALU CADELINA MANAR

KIDAPAWAN CITY — The Energy Development Corporation (EDC), the country's sole producer of geothermal energy, has dispelled claims their geothermal production in Mount Apo caused the recent earthquakes here, or could trigger volcanic eruption.

In a press statement issued to media on Sunday, Romy Kee, head of the EDC's Mount Apo Geothermal Project (MAGP) facility, has quoted studies made by scientists that no man-made activity can cause a volcanic eruption.

"Only a change in chemistry, pressure and temperature can cause a volcanic eruption," Kee explained.

Kee added that seismicity in each EDC geothermal site, including MAGP, is being monitored by seismic instruments that they have installed, in partnership with a network of monitoring instruments of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), since the country is prone to earthquakes.

"The recent movements in Mindanao all have epicenters south of Kidapawan City and none are within our project site. To date, we have not affected the seismicity of the area two decades since we have started

operating MAGP," he said.

Phivolcs director Renato Solidum has already confirmed in his media interviews that the series of tremors that hit the area, as well as other parts of Mindanao since October 16, was caused by the Cotabato fault system and were tectonic in origin.

Netizens posted on their Facebook accounts photos of sulfur coming out from landcracks, creeks, and streams.

A certain Marilyn, an FB user, showed photos of a crack in the soil in Barangay Kayaga, Kabacan, and another netizen reported on his wall sulfur coming out from a river in Barangay Luayon in Makilala.

Datu Tungko Saikol of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), said the sulfur was a mineral that usually comes out from the depth of the soil when there is an activity, like an earthquake.

Experts called the process as "liquefaction," he said.

"This is just a normal thing. There is no cause for alarm," he stressed.

Saikol said the EDC has not violated any environmental law or orders from the government since its operations that started, more than two decades ago.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

A12
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-04-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Forest memorials

On Nov. 1 every year, we make our pilgrimage to the cemeteries to honor our dead. But every day, plots of land become burial grounds for the unending line of our fellow human beings who depart for the afterlife. All of us, 100 million Filipinos now alive, will get our own burial plots when our respective time is up, and the same goes for the rest of the 7.7 billion human beings who currently populate our planet. Save, of course, for the small minority who opt for cremation.

What's sadly ironic is that those who cannot afford a plot of land for dwelling while alive will have an assured plot of ground for their remains when they leave this world.

Each plot of burial ground becomes perpetually withdrawn from human cultivation, habitation and any form of commerce. If this is not assured by law, it is secured by people's fear of disturbing the spirits of those whose mortal remains rest on burial grounds.

As older generations of humanity give way to younger ones, the number and breadth of our cemeteries continue to expand, multiplying the hectareage of our limited land resources that get retired from the functional use of those who are living. It doesn't have to be this way, and it shouldn't be the case.

In one of my nightly chats with my wife, I lamented the barren nature of cemeteries, and I thought aloud about the need to cultivate a culture of having a tree seedling planted on top of every burial plot in cemeteries. As the human remains inside break down, they provide nutrients to the tree sapling, which then becomes a living memorial representing a departed loved one. Because of



FLEA MARKET OF IDEAS

JOEL RUIZ BUTUYAN

what the tree represents, its care and survival become the guaranteed task of the family of the deceased.

If we successfully cultivate this cultural practice, our cemeteries no longer have to be desolate spaces, and they instead become sacred forests that provide much-needed greenery in our towns and cities—a modest but a sustainable contribution to humankind's dire need to reforest our lands. These forest memorials can additionally serve as park, picnic and exercise grounds for the living.

The idea excited my wife so much, and her excitement pushed me to read up and find out if there are existing practices of the same kind in other countries. In my research, I came across two private enterprises abroad that are already doing business under the same concept of planting a tree for each burial remains.

A company called Memory Forest has established partnerships with cemeteries

throughout the United States, and it advertises that it "plant(s) a memory tree with your loved ones' cremated remains" which will "grow (into) a beautiful, enduring living memorial that will be cared for and endure for generations to come." It publicizes a social purpose for its business, because it works to "replace tombstones with trees and cemeteries with forests."

An Italian company called Capsula Mundi sells egg-shaped pods made of biodegradable material where human remains are placed for burial. "Ashes will be held in small egg-shaped bio urns, while bodies will be laid down in a fetal position in larger pods (the latter still in its conceptual phase). The (pod) will then be buried as a seed in the earth. A tree, chosen in life by the deceased, will be planted on top of it and serve as a memorial for the departed, and as a legacy for posterity and the future of our planet. Family and friends will continue to care for the tree as it grows. Cemeteries will acquire a new look and, instead of the cold grey landscape we see today, they will grow into vibrant woodlands."

This concept of cultivating sacred groves, populated with trees that either represent or are nourished by the remains of our dearly departed, may yet provide thriving woodlands in the heart of our communities, immune from humans' propensity to deforest. Who would want to cut down these trees and risk living in constant fear of the spirits?

For every human being that has walked on earth, a tree as a living memorial. For humanity, a planet with sacred forests.

Comments to fleamarketofideas@gmail.com



TITLE:

ILLEGAL LOGS NASABAT SA AGUSAN DEL SUR

NASABAT ng-miyembro ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) sa Bunawan, Agusan del Sur at Bislig City, sa Surigao del Sur, kasama ang mga tauhan ng 1303rd Maneuver Company of the Philippine National Police (PNP) at ng 75th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army ang ilang illegally-cut logs sa isang isinagawang operasyon kamakailan sa Sitio Tanke, Barangay Tudela, Trento, Agusan del Sur.

Nasa kabuuan na 151 piraso o 25.69 cubic meters ng logs at lumber ang nakumpiska noong raid, ani Herzon Gallego, hepe ng information office ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Caraga region (DENR-13) sa isang pahayag kamakailan.

Pahayag ni Gallego na nag-order na ang

DENR Agusan del Sur provincial officer Jose Concha kay CENRO Jerome Albia ng Bunawan at CENRO Victor Saborido ng Bislig City para malaman kung sino ang mga tao na kasama sa ilegal na pagpuputol ng mga kahoy.

Ang order ay kalinya ng huling direktiba ng DENR-13 regional executive director Felix Alicer na hippitan ang monitoring at foot patrol ng teams sa lugar para mailigaw ang anumang balak na nakawin ang lumber at mga smuggler na ibiyahic ang mga ilegal na pinutol na kahoy.

Ang order ni Alicer ay base sa huling pagkumpiska ng illegally-cut lumber, furniture at endangered species ng mga hayop ng PNP sa Caraga region noong magkaroon ng checkpoint operations.

Kamakailan din, inaresto ng miyembro ng 2nd Company ng Surigao

del Sur Provincial Mobile Force ang mga suspek na kasama sa shipment ng endangered animal species sa isang checkpoint sa Barangay Buenavista, Tandag City.

Umaga ng Oktubre 30, nasabat ng miyembro ng 1302nd Maneuver Company ng Regional Mobile Force Battalion 13 of Police Regional Office sa Caraga region (PRO-13) ang kabuuang P3.154 milyong halaga ng lumber at furniture sa isang checkpoint operation sa National Highway sa Barangay Albay, bayan ng Carrascal sa Surigao del Sur.

"Let us not relax our guards at the forest moni-

toring checkpoints and be alert for passing trucks carrying illegally-cut lumbers, including endangered birds and animal species being transported clandestinely through the highways," sabi ni Alicer sa kanyang order.

Nais din ni Alicer ang river checkpoints ng DENR sa Agusan River na maging alerto sa mga galaw ng nakalutang na kahoy ng poachers at illegal loggers.

"This is a sacrifice we have to bear as public servants who are entrusted with the task to protect and preserve the environment," dagdag pa ni Alicer. **PNA**



SEIZED LOGS. NAKUMPISKA ng miyembro ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Caraga Region, Philippine National Police, at ng Philippine Army ang 151 piraso o 25.69 cubic meters ng logs at lumber sa isang raid kamakailan sa Sitio Tanke, Barangay Tudela, Trento, Agusan del Sur.

Photo courtesy of DENR-13 Information Office



AKSYON LADY



Kaye Dacer

TWITTER: @kayedacer

Dapat aksyunan ng mga kinauukulang ahensya ng gobyerno itong isyu ng agawan ng lupa sa Montalban na ngayoy Rodriguez, Rizal para magkaalaman na kung sino talaga ang ligal at kung

sino ang mang-aagaw. Matinding pangharass daw ang ginagawa ng isang may inisyal na MG at ng kanyang mga galamay sa caretaker at tunay na may-ari ng isang lupain sa Montalban. Pinapalayas daw ng grupo ni MG ang caretaker ng inaangking lupain gamit ang ilang pekeng Certificate of Land Ownership Awards.

Si MG ay isang balibayan pero malakas daw ito sa ilang mga opisyal ng gobyerno,

hindi lamang sa lokal kundi maging nasyunal.

Diumano pa, may mga kasapakat itong si MG sa Provincial Agrarian Reform Office at Municipal Agrarian Reform Office hanggang sa mga opisyal ng mga barangay ng Macabud at San Isidro.

At sa gitna ng agawang nangyayari, dedma lang daw ang Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Land Registration Authority (LRA), Department of

Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Land Management Bureau (LMB) at Registry of Deeds (RD).

Kung totoong nagsasawalang-kibo ang mga nabanggit na ahensya ng gobyerno na siyang dapat umaayos sa usapin, gusto nating malaman kung bakit. Anong puwersa meron itong si MG? Sino ang kanyang tunay na malaking backer? Bakit kahit mga peke ang mga papeles na hawak niya ay matigas ang kanyang posisyon na

angkinin ang lupa?

Kung sinuman ang tunay at lehitimong may karapatan sa lupain, dapat itong tukuyin ng mga nabanggit na ahensya ng gobyerno, once and for all. Ipakita nilang ginagawa nila ang kani-kanilang trabaho at wag hayaang manaig ang mga mang-aagaw. Dahil habang hindi sila kumikilos, iisipin nga nating meron silang pinoprotektahan at kung sino, kung bakit, kung paano, 'yan ang ating tututukan!

Panawagan sa DAR, LRA, DENR



Asean on track in terrestrial biodiversity conservation

PAKSE, Lao PDR—With the deadline set for the global biodiversity targets now 14 months away, the Asean region remains on track in meeting its target coverage for terrestrial areas while it continues to work on other priority areas.

Dr. Sheila Vergara, director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity's (ACB) Biodiversity Information Management Unit, shared how the Asean is faring in achieving the Aichi Target 11 in one of the sessions of the Sixth Asean Heritage Parks Conference, led by ACB and the Lao PDR's Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Aichi Target 11 is one of the 20 targets, which the world has committed to meet through the United Nations's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its strategic plan.

Target 11 calls for the conservation of "at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape."

She said based on the data gathered from Asean member-states, the region has placed 16 percent of its terrestrial areas and 3.54 percent of its marine areas under protection.

"With other effective area-based conservation measures

[OECMs] added, Asean would reach the target for terrestrial protected areas," Vergara said.

The CBD defines OECM as "a geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem services."

She added that Asean must direct efforts to increase the coverage and improve governance of marine protected areas.

Two of the nine recently declared Asean Heritage Parks (AHP) at the 15th Asean Ministerial Meeting on the Environment are marine protected areas.

Vergara said a recent initiative, the Asean Flyway Network will, likewise, contribute toward the effective management and connectivity of protected areas.

Composed of the 10 Asean member-states, the network was mobilized in March 2017 to protect migratory waterbirds and wetlands along the East-Asian Australasian Flyway.

Vergara also cited the need to better document and consider outcomes of conservation actions in Asean member-states' respective national reports and address gaps in communication capacity, policy



THE Asean ministers and officials at the Sixth Asean Heritage Parks Conference with ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim (sixth from left). ACB

support, and enforcement of wildlife policies in protected areas.

In a message for AHP6, Cristiana Paşca Palmer, executive secretary of the CBD, called for dedicated efforts and continued facilitation in the Asean to reverse or halt the decline of biodiversity with 14 months away before the set deadline of the Aichi targets.

"The achievement of Aichi Target 11 will generate multiple benefits for the well-being of the society...and make a major contribution toward facilitating sustainable development through poverty alleviation and enhanced economic prosperity, toward a life in harmony with nature at local, national and global levels, not only for the current but also for future generations," Palmer said in a message delivered by Dr. Sarat Babu Gida, senior program management officer of the CBD's secretariat.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said that apart from working together to achieve the Aichi targets, the region also has its sights trained on its long-term vision.

"We continue to work fruitfully toward Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 of increasing protected areas with equitable management and

also toward the vision of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework "Living in Harmony with Nature," Lim said.

State parties to the CBD are expected to adopt the new framework during the 15th Conference of the Parties scheduled for October 2020 in Kunming, China.

The four-day AHP6 was supported by the European Union, the German Development Cooperation through the KfW and GIZ, SwedBio, secretariat of the BD and the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

Capping off the regional event, the ACB and the Asean secretariat awarded the certificates of the newly declared AHPs.

With theme "Sustainability and Innovation for Parks and People—Celebrating 35 years of Asean Heritage Parks," AHP6 celebrated the 35th anniversary of the AHP Programme, one of the flagship initiatives of the Asean.

It aimed to build on the experiences and knowledge of protected area managers and international experts in the bid to improve the AHP network and strengthen camaraderie among AHP stakeholders and other dialogue and development partners under the AHP Programme.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

B4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

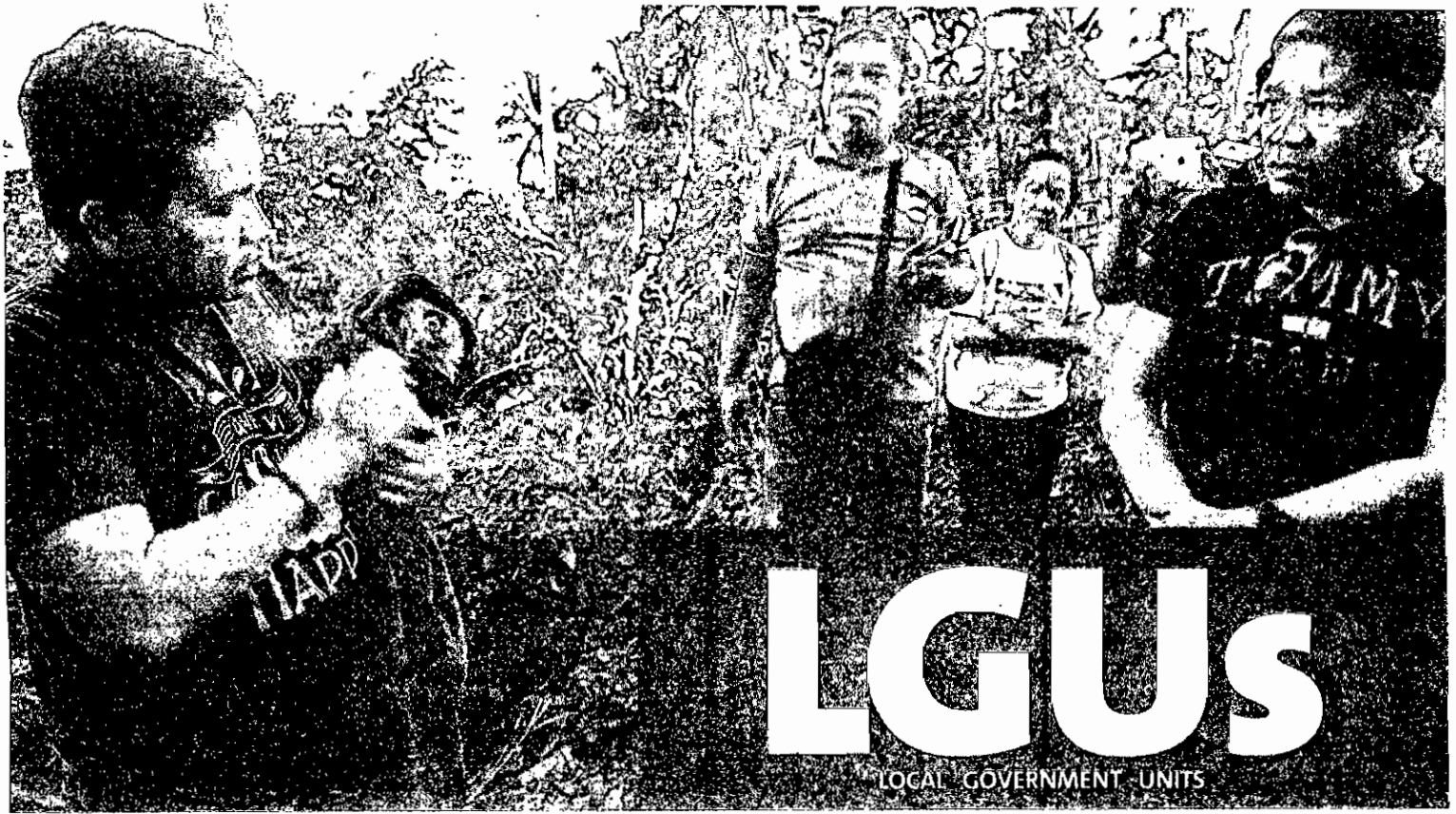
CARTOON

11-04-19

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE



LGUS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

'KOKO' CAN'T FLY. A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Calabarzon and its local government counterpart failed in its attempt to release a rare raptor in Mt. Banahaw on October 24. Pictured (from left) are Anthony Villar, DVM, holding the bird named 'Kiko'; Forester Ramil Gutierrez, Supervising Ecosystems Management Specialist, DENR-CENRO Tayabas; Forester Salud Pangan, Protected Area Superintendent, Mts. Banahaw-San Cristobal Protected Landscape; and Mayor Macario Boonggaling of Candelaria, Quezon.



ASEAN reminds industrialized countries of climate change targets

By GENALYN D. KABILING

NONTHABURI, Thailand - Expressing "grave concern" about the impact of climate change, the

Southeast Asian bloc appealed to industrialized countries to meet their pre-2020 mitigation targets and scale up climate finance. The 10-member Asso-

ciation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued the call to the developed nations to step up carbon-cutting efforts in a joint statement during the summit plenary last Saturday.

"We call upon developed country Parties to fulfill their existing mitigation commitments and enhance mitigation ambitions during the pre-2020 period," the regional leaders said.

The developed nations must also "fulfill their financial support commitment of \$100 billion per year by 2020" to support the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions by ASEAN member-states and other developing countries.

Developed nations were also called upon to support developing nations on technology development and transfer, scientific research, and capacity-building as stated in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris agreement on climate change.

The Southeast Asian leaders renewed their commitment to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, particularly on implementing measures to address climate change.

Among the ASEAN Initiatives are promoting sustainable management of the forests, enhancing biodiversity conservation and protection of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, launching a regional strategy on sustainable land transportation, and improving resilience to climate and disaster risks.

They also committed to achieve 21.9 percent reduction in energy intensity compared to 2005 levels, exceeding the 2020 target set by the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016 - 2025.

To the UNFCCC parties, the regional group called for improvement on their mitigation and adaptation actions, including implementing their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and moving towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

They should also adopt an inter-generational approach to climate action sensitive to gender considerations and vulnerable groups as well as promote and enhance the science on interlinkages between climate change, land and ocean.

On the Green Climate Fund, the developed countries were urged "to honor their commitments and to scale-up their contributions by providing adequate and predictable climate finance."

For his part President Duterte sought intensified regional cooperation in protecting the environment and fighting pollution in the ocean.

"ASEAN should not sacrifice the environment and the region's rich biodiversity, particularly in the maritime domain, in its quest for progress," a statement issued by Malacañang stated, quoting the President.

Duterte asked the regional group to enhance collaboration to prevent and reduce marine debris.

"We must work together to address the problem of marine debris. And we must build resilient and stronger communities to adapt to the effects of climate change," he said.

While protecting the environment, Duterte said the ASEAN must also support economic sectors of high productivity and follow sustainable business practices.

Back in June, the ASEAN member-states forged a declaration on combating marine debris in the region. At the first round of the ASEAN summit then, the leaders agreed to strengthen national laws and enhance cooperation to fight against plastic pollution in the ocean.

The regional bloc includes the Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand which were previously tagged by environmentalists as among the world's top plastic polluters in the ocean.

ASEAN also agreed to boost efforts, including legal frameworks and law enforcement, to protect children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse.

The regional leaders signed the declaration to keep children safe

amid the digital age following their plenary summit in Thailand.

"The rapid advances in and proliferation of Internet and evolving communications technologies have led to the emergence of unforeseen and unintended consequences that put children's safety at risk and will likely continue to do so," the leaders said in the declaration.

They have expressed concern with the global threats that make more children vulnerable to online sexual abuse material and other forms of online exploitation.

The ASEAN leaders have committed to promote, develop, and implement comprehensive national legal frameworks and work towards improving child protection standards and policies against online exploration and abuse.

They also pledged to enhance law enforcement, judicial and legal professional capabilities through regular, relevant and updated trainings and sharing and exchange of best practices in the protection of children.

A national specialized unit will also be established to lead, support and coordinate investigations on online abuse of children.

The regional leaders also committed to increase effectiveness of rights-based and gender-responsive child protection and support services, social welfare programs.

Data collection and monitoring, reporting and referral mechanisms, through hotlines to report suspected illegal online materials will also be strengthened.

The leaders have likewise agreed to promote a national education program and school curricula to raise awareness of sexual, and other forms of exploitation of children to empower children, young people, parents, guardians, caregivers, practitioners and community.

The private sector and other relevant stakeholders will also be mobilized to help in the "monitoring prevention and response measures through regulations, corporate social responsibility, and collaboration for the development of effective measures to detect, take down and report illegal content related to child sexual abuse and exploitation."



FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

By Paul M. Gutierrez

THE Philippines is again at the forefront of the environmental movement, this time in the global fight against climate change.

Young Filipinos, joined by other youth leaders from around the world, filed a letter-petition with the United Nations last September 24, to start legal proceedings in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) based on the question:

"In this climate crisis, what are the duties of States (governments) to future generations?"

The UN petitioners were led by Shannon Peters representing the Oceania region of Australia and Pacific Island States, Nicole Ponce for Asia, Miranda Steed for Europe and the Americas and Tarini Mehta for South Asia and Africa.

The group filed the first letter-petition before the global body through the Philippine Mission to the UN. The petition was graciously received by lawyer Tanya Ramiro of the Philippine Consulate in New York.

The ICJ (I am Climate Justice) movement is a global initiative of young people to call on the world's governments to take strong, serious, and sustained action to face the climate crisis.

The new global movement draws inspiration from a 1993 Philippine Supreme Court decision on the duties of States — and the right of children and future generations — for a safe, clean, and livable environment.

The youth leaders were joined in New York by two

world-renowned Filipino environmental advocates, namely:

Former Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Mayor Edward Hagedorn and lawyer Tony Oposa.

Hagedorn, known as the 'First Green Mayor of the World,' received the UN Global Roll of Honor in 1997. He was cited for being the first local government leader to put sustainable development as the cornerstone of his administration.

Oposa, also a recipient of the UN Global Roll of Honor and of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, was recently appointed the Normandy Chair for Peace.

Oposa was responsible for the 1993 'Children's Case' where the Philippine Supreme Court ruled that the government must assure a safe, clean and livable environment for future generations, as well as the SC's 2008 decision ordering a dozen government agencies to clean up Manila Bay.

Hagedorn, in a separate interview, said that aside from giving inspiration to the world's next generation, they also encouraged the petitioners to gather more volunteers for the campaign.

"There is no heart stronger than a volunteer," Hagedorn noted.

The youth leaders — made up of law students, young lawyers, and ordinary citizens — are also gathering 10 million signatures around the world to support the petition before the UN and the International Court of Justice.



Ituro ang pangangalaga ng kapaligiran sa loob at labas ng klasrum

ng yelo sa Antarctica, at marami pang iba.

Aminin natin, isa sa mga dahilan ng kawalan ng disiplina sa sarili at pagtutulungan upang labanan ang pagbabago ng klima ay ang kakulangan ng aksiyon kahit pa may mga ginagawang proyekto para magbigay ng karapat-dapat na impormasyon ang gobyerno maging ang mga non-government organization.

Sa madaling salita, walang patid na edukasyon ang dapat patuloy nating ginagawa upang mas maintindihan kung gaano kahalaga at kaseryoso ang usaping ito. Kung hindi natin papansinin ang realidad ngayon, hindi malayong mangyari na labis na maapektuhan ang mga susunod na henerasyon,

at sa mga susunod pa rito.

Sa Pilipinas, isa sa mga hakbang ay ang pag-observe at pagsunod sa Republic Act No. 9512 o ang National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008. Ito ang batas na ipinapalaganap ang edukasyon sa kapaligiran.

Mayroon din ang Department of Education na Memorandum Order No. 52 na nagpapatupad sa lahat ng pampubliko at pribadong paaralan na manguna sa pagsasagawa ng mga gawain ng mga mag-aaral na mag-alaga at magprotekta ng kapaligiran.

Kabilang na rito ang matindihang pagtuturo nito sa Science, kung saan inaatasan ang mga guro at opisyal ng paaralan na magsagawa

ng mga classroom drill, diskusyon, at aktibidad na may kaugnayan sa climate change alang-alang sa mga mag-aaral at kanilang pamilya.

Hinihikayat din ang mga guro na dumalo sa mga lecture-seminar, workshop at pagpupulong at pagtatayo ng mga organisasyon na tututok sa mga inisyatibong may kontribusyon sa pag-unlad ng kapaligiran, tulad na lamang ng pag-aalaga at pagtanim ng mga puno kabilang na ang 'A Million Tree Challenge'.

Ngunit, ilan lamang ito sa marami pang ibang pamamaraan na hindi lamang nakatutulong sa ating kapaligiran kundi ay humihikayat din ng positibong pananaw tulad ng pakikipagkapwa-

tao, pagmamahal sa iba at pagmamalasakit sa mundong ginagalawan.

Habang patuloy nating sinusupportahan ang mga proyekto ng gobyerno at mga komunidad na naglalayong makatulong sa paglutas ng sakit sa ating mundo, tayo po ay patuloy ring nakikipag-ugnayan sa mga kinaukulan upang mapag-aralan ang nararapat na polisiya upang maibsan ang pagbabago ng klima at mga na-kaalarmang epekto nito sa bawat bansa, siyudad at indibidwal.

Naniniwala tayo na ang maliit na kilos ay unang hakbang tungo sa malalaking solusyon. Kaya naman, gawin ang ating parte sa pangangalaga ng ating kapaligiran sa abot ng ating makakaya!



RESTRAINT URGED IN SEA ROW

DUTERTE: ASEAN SHOULDN'T TAKE SIDES IN US-CHINA TRADE WAR

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

NONTHABURI, THAILAND—President Duterte on Saturday called on Southeast Asian leaders not to take sides in the trade war between the United States and China to avoid getting caught in a “dangerous” geopolitical game.

Speaking at the opening session of the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit in Nonthaburi, near Bangkok, Mr. Duterte also called on leaders of the bloc to exercise restraint in the territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea. *(See related story on Page A4.)*

Mr. Duterte called for an environment conducive to negotiations and fair compromises, including talks for a code of conduct to manage the territorial disputes.

‘Self-restraint’

He said Asean must remain united and “use all the influence that we have, individually and collectively, to persuade parties to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation.”

The long-standing disputes, he stressed, must be solved in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

As the country coordinator for the Asean-China dialogue, he said, the Philippines will do its utmost part to conclude the negotiations for a code of conduct in the South China Sea.

China claims nearly the entire South China Sea, including waters within the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of four Asean members—Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

In a 2016 ruling on a chal-

lenge brought by the Philippines, the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague declared China’s claim invalid under international law and pronounced it in violation of the Philippines’ sovereign rights to fish and explore resources in the West Philippine Sea, waters within the country’s EEZ in the South China Sea.

China ignored the ruling and proceeded to build artificial islands on contested reefs with military outposts in the Spratly archipelago, drawing the United States and its Western allies to launch freedom of navigation operations to challenge its militarization of the region.

The maritime disputes are among the topics for discussion among the 10 members of the Asean, with talks expected to center on the code of conduct intended to prevent the rivalry for territory in the South China Sea from erupting into conflict.

‘Vicious cycle’

In his speech on Saturday, Mr. Duterte, according to a statement released by Malacañang, also urged Asean leaders not to take sides in the trade war between the United States and China.

Taking sides, Mr. Duterte said, would only drag nations into a “vicious cycle of power balancing and security dilemmas and undo hard-won gains of peace and development for their people[s].”

Under the Duterte administration, the Philippines seeks to enhance ties with “nontraditional partners”—China and Russia.

Since coming to office in 2016, Mr. Duterte has been wooing China and Russia for aid, loans and investments.

INQ



Asia must quit coal addiction – UN chief

BANGKOK: The United Nations (UN) chief has warned Asia to quit its "addiction" to coal, as climate change threatens hundreds of millions of people vulnerable to rising sea levels across the region.

The warning follows fresh research this week predicting that several Asian megacities, including Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Mumbai, are at risk of extreme flooding linked to global warming.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Asian countries needed to cut reliance on coal to tackle the climate crisis, which he called the "defining issue of our time."

"There is an addiction to coal that we need to overcome because it remains a major threat in relation to climate change," he told reporters ahead of a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Bangkok on Saturday.

Guterres noted that countries in the region need to be on "the front line" of the fight by introducing carbon pricing and reforming energy policies.

"We are lagging behind," he said, adding that the rollback of coal could help curb rising global temperatures.

Coal remains a major source of power across Southeast Asia, where breakneck economic development has spurred soaring energy demands — but at a cost to the environment.

About one-third of Vietnam's energy comes from coal power with a slew of new plants set to come on-line by 2050, while Thailand is investing in fossil fuels.

Coastal areas across Southeast Asia have already seen major floods and seawater incursion linked to climate change.

New research this week showed that at least 300 million people worldwide are living in places at risk of inundation by 2050, a much bleaker picture than previous data predicted.

Destructive storm surges fueled by increasingly powerful cyclones and rising seas will hit Asia hardest, according to the study in the journal *Nature Communications*.

AFP



11-04-19

DATE

FILE:

PAGE 1/

UN calls on Asian leaders to end coal addiction

THE United Nations chief warned Asia to quit its "addiction" to coal, as climate change threatens hundreds of millions of people vulnerable to rising sea levels across the region.

The warning follows fresh research this week predicting that several Asian megacities, including Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Mumbai, are at risk of extreme flooding linked to global warming.

Antonio Guterres said Asian countries need to cut reliance on coal to tackle the climate crisis, which he called the "defining issue of our time."

"There is an addiction to coal that we need to overcome because it remains a major threat in relation to climate change," he told reporters ahead of a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bangkok over the weekend.

He said countries in the region need to be on "the front line" of the fight by introducing carbon pricing and reforming energy policies.

"We are lagging behind," he said, adding that the rollback of coal could help curb rising global temperatures.

Coal remains a major source of power across Southeast Asia, where breakneck economic development has spurred soaring energy demands—but at a cost to the environment.

About one-third of Vietnam's energy comes from coal power with a slew of new plants set to come online by 2050, while Thailand is investing in fossil fuels.

Coastal areas across Southeast Asia have already seen major floods and seawater incursion linked to climate change.

New research this week showed that at least 300 million people worldwide are living in places at risk of inundation by 2050, a much bleaker picture than previous data predicted.

Destructive storm surges fueled by increasingly powerful cyclones and rising seas will hit Asia hardest, according to the study in the journal Nature Communications. **AFP**



Duterte pushes free trade system



UNITY PHOTO President Rodrigo Duterte (second from left) links hands with Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi (far left) and Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (third from left) during the group photo at the 16th Asean-India Summit held in Bangkok. Also with them are (from right) Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. AP PHOTO

BY GLEE JALEA

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has called for a deeper economic integration between member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to counter protectionism and trade-related tensions as Asean leaders vowed to transcend conflicts over trade policies and territorial disputes for the sake of stronger economies and regional stability.

Duterte, who attended the plenary of the 35th Asean Summit in Nonthaburi, Thailand, pushed for an "open and rules-based trading system" among Asean countries.

He expressed alarm over protectionism and global trade tensions that he said could undermine the progress of the Asean economies, including the Philippines.

"We need an open and rules-based trading system to sustain growth. Thus, we should ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the World Trade Organization," Duterte said.

"Asean must accelerate deeper economic integration through concrete programs and projects, such as RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)," he added.

The RCEP, a proposed free trade agreement between the 10 member-states and its six partners — China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand — is expected to be signed in 2020. It would be the world's biggest trade deal, covering 39 percent of the global domestic product and nearly half of the world's population.

Duterte previously noted that the Philippines also welcomes the Asean declarations and joint statements, which aim to protect the Asean population, especially the most vulnerable sectors.

He also batted for the expansion of Mutual Recognition Agreements and the empowerment of women, migrant workers and persons with disabilities.

Duterte called on Asean leaders to ensure environmental sustainability and protect biodiversity in the region's pursuit for development.

"We must work together to address the problem of marine debris. And we must build resilient and stronger communities to adapt to the effects of climate change," he said.

Delayed

The signing of the world's largest trade pact will likely be kicked back to 2020, according to a draft statement by Southeast Asian leaders, delaying a deal craved by China to offset a painful tariff war with the United States.

Objections by India have dashed hopes of

finalizing the pact at the Asean summit in Bangkok, where members of the 10-nation bloc have been joined by the premiers of India and China.

"Most market access negotiations have been completed and the few outstanding bilateral issues will be resolved by February 2020," said a draft agreement obtained by Agence France-Presse.

Negotiations have sputtered for several years, but the statement said the text of all 20 chapters was now complete "pending the resolution of one" member, believed to be India.

But it said all members were "committed to sign the RCEP" next year in Vietnam, which will take over the Asean chair.

New Delhi is worried its small businesses will be hard hit by any flood of cheap Chinese goods creating "unsustainable trade deficits," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in an interview published by the Bangkok Post.

Beijing sees RCEP as a central pillar of its trade strategy for its Asian neighborhood.

Concluding the deal has been made more pressing by the brutal tit-for-tat trade war with the US, which has chipped back at growth in China, the world's second-largest economy.

President Donald Trump skipped the Asean summit and instead sent his national security adviser Robert O'Brien. Last year, Trump sent Vice President Mike Pence. **AFP AND AP**



Japan Tourism Awards hails PDOT for Boracay rehabilitation

OSAKA, JAPAN: The Philippine Department of Tourism (PDoT) continues to reap accolades for its beefed up drive to promote sustainable tourism practices in its destinations.

Philippine Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat personally received the Excellent Partner Award from the prestigious Japan Tourism Awards (JTA) in recognition of the role of the PDOT in the temporary closure of Boracay Island in order to rehabilitate the island from overtourism. Puyat received the award during the opening ceremonies of the Tourism Japan Expo (JTE) held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Osaka.

The award giving body cited the socially advanced initiatives of PDoT by taking a high risk of closing and pursuing a cohesive effort to implement the physi-

cal, social, environmental and social recovery of the world-renowned resort island.

Puyat says she is elated with the recognition that came on the heels of the World Travel Awards' hailing of the Philippines Department of Tourism as Asia's Leading Tourism Board.

"We share this award with the DENR and DILG. Our combined efforts in the rehabilitation of Boracay is still a work in progress, but already we are seeing the rewards. Recently, Boracay was recognized as Asia's Top Reader's Choice Award by Conde Nast Traveler," enthused Puyat.

The preminent award-giving body recognizes the efforts of tourism organizations around the globe that contribute to the development and expansion of the industry also honoring exceptional efforts of groups towards sustain-



■ Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat personally received the Excellent Partner Award from the prestigious Japan Tourism Awards. (JTA) able tourism development.

The awarding took place on the sidelines of the 3rd Tourism Expo Japan (TEJ) Ministerial Round Table in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) where

the tourism chief was invited to be one of the panelists. Said event was attended by ministers of Tourism from all over the world, executives from international tourism organizations and governors of prefectures of Japan.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

A-5
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-04-19

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

AMBUSH

ILLEGAL LOGGERS MURDER AMAZON FOREST WARRIOR

BRASILIA—Illegal loggers in the Amazon ambushed an indigenous group that was formed to protect the forest and shot dead a young warrior and wounded another, leaders of the Guajajara tribe in northern Brazil said on Saturday.

Paulo Paulino Guajajara, or Lobo (which means "wolf" in Portuguese), was hunting on Friday inside the Arariboia reservation in Maranhao state when he was attacked and shot in the head. Another Guajajara, Laercio, was wounded but escaped, they said.

The clash comes amid an increase in invasions of reservations by illegal loggers and miners since right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro took office this year and vowed to open up protected indigenous lands to economic development.

"The Bolsonaro government has indigenous blood on its hands," Brazil's pan-indigenous organization APIB, which represents many of the country's 900,000 native people, said in a statement on Saturday.

APIB leader Sonia Guajajara said the government was dismantling environmental and indigenous agencies, and leaving tribes to defend themselves from invasion of their lands.

"It's time to say enough of this institutionalized genocide," she said in a Twitter post. —REUTERS



BABAENG FOREST RANGER NALUNOD

ISABELA – PALAISIPAN pa rin sa pamilya ng isang babang forest ranger kung paano ito nalunod sa ilog ng Cagayan sa CENRO Cabagan habang ginagampanan ang kanyang tungkulin bilang isang forest ranger.

Kinilala ng awtoridad ang biktima na si Gng. Cecilia Aggabao, 56-anyos, forest ranger ng CENRO Cabagan.

Sa pahayag ni Bb. Ramby Aggabao, anak ng biktima, na pinaniniwalaan ng kanilang pamilya na maaring aksidenteng nadulas sa hagdanan ng riverside madaling araw habang ginagampanan nito ang kanyang tungkulin at tuloy-tuloy na nahulog sa malalim na bahagi ng ilog ang kanilang ina.

Ayon pa sa anak ng biktima, umaga nang mapansin nila na wala sa kanilang pansamantalang tirahan ang ina kung kaya tungo nila ang bahaging gilid ng ilog kung saan ay nakita nila ang tsinelas at flashlights na gamit ng kanilang ina sa baba ng hagdanan ng riverside.

Ang hindi nila umano malaman kung bakit nasa river banks ang kanyang ina ng madaling araw.

Sa paghahanap ng mga rescue team ng Cabagan at Rescue 831 ng provincial government ng Isabela ay nakita ang bangkay ng kanyang ina sa Nassiping, Gattaran, Cagayan.

IRENE GONZALES



Officers of ICCP Group Foundation, Inc. (IGFI), the social development arm of the ICCP Group of Companies, joins its locators in the sites owned and operated by the Group's Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI), and Pueblo de Oro Development Corp. (PDO) in donating chairs made from recycled pallet wood to local kindergarten and elementary schools.



Recycling pallets into school chairs

THE ICCP Group Foundation, Inc. (IGFI), the social development arm of the ICCP Group of Companies, has turned to help locators in the sites owned and operated by the Group's Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI), and Pueblo de Oro Development Corporation (PDO).

In a creative effort to combat solid waste and to reduce the cutting of trees, IGFI organized the recycling of used wooden pallets. Pallets are disposable wood platforms discarded from deliveries of goods or equipment, which are usually made from yellow pine and oak.

Before IGFI started to recycle the used pallets, these were just being disposed or sold to scrap shops by the locators. But now under the program, locators are invited to convert their used pallets to school chairs for kindergarten

students and to distribute these to neighboring daycare centers.

The project started in 2013 in Cabuyao, Laguna in partnership with Procter & Gamble, a locator in SPPI's Light Industry & Science Park (LISP) I. This project has since been implemented in LISP III in Sto. Tomas, Batangas with Aruze Philippines Manufacturing, Inc. and in Cebu Light Industrial Park (CLIP) in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu with Teradyne Philippines Limited.

A total of 2,000 recycled chairs have been distributed through IGFI to various project beneficiaries and host communities of PDO and SPPI. In Laguna, 1,500 'paleta' chairs were donated to the daycare centers of Barangays Diezmo and Pulo in Cabuyao and Barangays Real and Lamesa in Calamba.



No 'pork' so far in House-approved budget – Lacson

By PAOLO ROMERO

Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday proposed that the Senate simply adopt the House of Representatives' version of the P4.1-trillion national budget for 2020 after he found no "pork" in the money measure.

Lacson made the suggestion as Congress resumes session tomorrow with the Senate focusing its attention on the proposed General Appropriations Bill (GAB) so that President Duterte could sign it before the end of the year.

The senator said he was sure the initial pass his staff made on the GAB that the House forwarded to the Senate last month indicated that only P9.5 billion worth of realignments have been made by the former, and all were institutional amendments or changes made by the chamber as a whole, and not by individual congressmen.

"In fairness to the present House of Representatives, we have the most behaved counterparts because when they announced they only moved

P9.5 billion, it was (as) they announced," Lacson told *dzBB*.

Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano had earlier listed the realignments that the House made to the National Expenditure Program – what the proposed budget is called when submitted by Malacañang – including P3.5 billion for the Department of Agriculture's palay procurement fund, increasing it to P10.5 billion; P1 billion each for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police; P800 million for the Department of Education; and P500 million each for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine General Hospital, National Electrification Administration, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Philippine Sports Commission.

Lacson, however, said he found some "unclear" provisions totaling P20 billion, some in the items for the Departments of Public Works and Highways, and the Interior and Local Government.

He expects the same to have acceptable clarifications or corrections from the two agencies.

The senator however, said it was still possible that unscrupulous lawmakers will make their pork insertions once the bicameral conference committee, composed of delegates from the Senate and the House – convened to reconcile conflicting provisions of their respective versions of the GAB.

While there is nothing wrong in making amendments to the GAB, he said congressmen should have already made the changes before the House approved the bill.

He said it would be better if House members would announce the possible amendments they would make before the bicameral conference committee convenes "in the spirit of transparency."

Better still, Lacson said, is if the Senate simply adopts the House version of the GAB thus obviating the need to convene the bicameral conference committee.

"If that (Senate adopting House version) happens, those holding their amendments for the bicameral conference committee will be open-mouthed... anyway we didn't see any pork there. I just have to convince my colleagues," Lacson said.