

DATE : 11-21-16

DAY : Thursday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# No cutting of trees unless as a last resort

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

**The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it would not allow the cutting of trees unless absolutely necessary for public safety.**

This was the statement made by DENR Undersecretary and chief of staff Rodolfo Garcia amid the controversy over the cutting of roadside trees in the cities of Naga and Carcar in Cebu province to pave the way for the ongoing road widening projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Garcia said that in the case of century-old trees, which are diseased and dying, these pose a high risk to public safety.

"The aim of development projects and protection of the environment are guided by practicality and making sure we conduct consultation with the people - consideration will be easing the lives of the people," the official said.

Garcia said the trees have to be removed because these already encroach the highway including carriageways and sidewalks, thus endangering the lives of motorists and nearby residents.

"If we have the diseased trees

there, standing where the expanded highway or street is, it will pose danger to vehicles and there will be accidents," he said.

He added that these trees also contribute to the already bad traffic condition in metro Cebu which has narrow roadways.

"We see the necessity of expanding the road networks in Cebu, basically to help ease the lives of the people by making their transport faster."

The DENR official also cited the recommendation of a pathologist, who had checked on the health condition of the trees, to cut them down because these are already dying and have become host to pests and diseases.

He emphasized that the govern-

ment protects century-old trees through the heritage tree project (HTP), but not those which are situated along highways and have become hazard to public safety.

Under the HTP, the DENR coordinates with communities and institutions to protect and save mature trees in highly urbanized areas by designating them as "heritage trees."

The DENR through its regional office in Central Visayas, conducted a consultation on Oct. 25 with the Cebu provincial government and DPWH-Region 7. During the consultation, DENR representatives discussed the agency's tree replacement program wherein it commits to plant 100 trees in exchange for each tree that will be cut down.



## Ban on wood preservatives with arsenic lauded

A group promoting zero waste and chemical safety welcomed the recent promulgation of a new Chemical Control Order (CCO) that will, among other things, ban wood preservatives containing arsenic, a highly toxic chemical.

The EcoWaste Coalition lauded the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after it promulgated on Nov. 8 Administrative Order 2019-17, which seeks to "reduce the risk of exposure to human health and the environment of arsenic and arsenic compounds used in industrial processes" through a CCO.

A CCO is a policy issuance by the DENR for chemicals that the agency has "determined to be regulated, phased out or banned due to the serious risks they pose to public health, workplace and the environment."

"We laud the DENR through the Environmental Management Bureau for completing the participatory processes that led to the adoption of the CCO on arsenic, which is among the top 10 chemicals of major public health concern as per the World Health Organization (WHO)," said Thony Dizon, the coalition's chemical safety campaigner.

"This CCO is the latest chemical policy directive by the department following the groundbreaking CCO banning lead in paint and other applications in 2013," he noted.

According to the WHO, the intake of the acutely toxic inorganic arsenic over a long period of time can lead to chronic arsenic poisoning or arsenicosis. "Effects, which can take years to develop depending on the level of exposure, include skin lesions, peripheral neuropathy, gastrointestinal symptoms, diabetes, renal system effects, cardiovascular disease and cancer," the WHO said.

- Rhodina Villanueva



**EDITORIAL**

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## Where are the trees?

**T**HE National Greening Program (NGP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has a budget this year of P2.6 billion. The Department has decided to request Congress for double that amount – P5.15 billion for year 2020.

It is good that the national appropriations bill passes the House of Representatives and the Senate. The budget deliberations at the Upper Chamber on the DENR allocation became an opportunity for Sen. Ralph Recto to ask: Where are the trees?

In year 2011, then President Benigno Aquino III issued Executive Order 26 which authorized the implementation of the National Greening Program. Its aims are to reduce poverty, ensure food security, conserve biodiversity, and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Under the program, 1.5 billion seedlings would be planted in 1.5 million hectares of public lands nationwide in six years, until 2016. In 2015, Aquino signed another Executive Order, No. 193, or the Enhanced National Greening Program, to rehabilitate all the remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forest lands estimated at 7.1 million hectares from 2016 to 2028.



EDITORIAL

WHERE ARE THE TREES?

**'Sen. Recto wants the DENR to show us the actual greenery, not just the forest of newsprint reports and vouchers of spending on the National Greening Program.'**

Sen. Recto surmised that with the P38.9 billion given to the National Greening Program from 2011 to 2019 or a period of nine years, the DENR should have planted more than 1.8 billion trees in 2.1 million hectares of land. But the records showed that from 2011 to 2018, the government has so far planted some 1.6 billion trees in 1.9 million hectares.

Another anomalous item in this NGP is the mortality rate of 62 percent for the trees planted. Why this high? Are our forestry experts in the DENR so inept and inefficient that they cannot take good care of the trees planted? Or is graft and corruption again present in this venture so that records are "doctored" to show that a certain number of trees were planted and another number survived? The senator said the department should also be able to report the reason for the low survival rate of the seedling.

Recto is adamant and unyielding. He wanted to see the trees before backing NGP's bid for a 100% increase in its budget. He said, "After counting the number of trees planted, it is time for the DENR to show us the forest. The carpet of green from sea to shining sea. Ilabas na ang NGP map. The proof of the planting is in the photos. Ipakita sa aerial maps, before and after photos, ang resulta ng isang P38.9 billion project."

Sen. Recto wants the DENR to show us the actual greenery, not just the forest of newsprint reports and vouchers of spending on the National Greening Program. He hit the nail on the head, using even brash language and irreverent in a most sarcastic way.

We need more Senator Rectos to do the task of congressional oversight of the projects of the Executive Department.



## **BUDGET PARA SA NATIONAL ID SYSTEM KUNIN SA PROGRAMA NG DENR**

**IMINUNGKAHI** ni Senador Panfilo Lacson na ang kakulangan sa budget sa pagpapatupad ng National ID system ay maaaring kunin sa National Greening Program ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay Lacson, P2.4 bilyon lang ang nakalaan na pondo para sa pagpapatupad ng National ID na ang dapat na kailangan ay mahigit sa P5-B para makober ang 14 milyong Filipino at resident aliens sa bansa.

Aniya, sa halagang P2.4 bilyon tanging makokober lamang dito ay 6.3 milyon Filipino.

Paliwanag ni Lacson, nasasayang lang ang pondo kada taon na P5 bilyon

para sa national greening program dahil hindi naman ito naipapatupad ng maayos ng DENR.

Ipinunto pa ni Lacson sa nakaraang pagding hinanap nito ang mga puno na naitatanim sa naturang proyekto dahil wala naman siyang nakikita sa kapaligiran na patunay na sayang lang ang P5 bilyong pondo kada taon.

Anang senador, maging si Budget and Management Secretary Wendel Avisado ay naniniwala na sayang lang ang pondo sa National Greening Program

Nakatakda nang simulan sa buwan ng Mayo sa susunod na taon ang implementasyon o ang pagpaparehistro para sa national ID.

**VICKY CERVALES**



## ECONSCIOUSNESS

# The right way? What Kaliwa Dam project means to those in the 'green' side

*Editor's note: The controversial Kaliwa Dam project has merited a fierce debate between opposite sides. In the spirit of fairness and transparency, this week's issue will show why this project is deemed an 'unnecessary' one by an environmental organization as, they say, it (the dam project) affects not only the environment, but the lives of those who live there, flora and fauna included.*

Amid ongoing contentions about the controversial Kaliwa Dam, environmental group Haribon Foundation reiterates that the solution to the water crisis is right in our midst – the restoration of Philippine forests.

Haribon emphasized that the water issue should be understood from the ridge-to-reef perspective that begins with where water comes from.

"Water comes from forests, not from dams. Forests absorb water through their roots, releases it from their leaves through transpiration, then turns into rainwater together with water evaporated from oceans and other water bodies," stated from the group's statement.

The foundation cited that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has also recognized the significant role of forests in the global carbon cycle as carbon sinks of the land ecosystem, absorbing carbon dioxide, and storing carbon in soils.

"Forests have an indispensable biodiversity value – not only does it supply goods for trade and subsistence, it also contributes to water cycle and groundwater withdrawal," said Haribon.

Based on the government reforestation costing – particularly the National Greening Program – restoring one hectare of forest costs ₱16,450 for three years. According to Haribon, this shows that only around ₱2.48 billion is needed to restore 150,000 hectares of forests in the country compared to the ₱12.2 billion loan from China.

Various fauna species in the EIS report identified 69 species of birds such as the Yellow Vented Bulbul, the Philippine Bulbul, Chestnut Munia, Luzon Tarictic and Rufous Hornbill.

There are 13 mammalian species including the short-nosed fruit bat, Musky fruit bat, Long-tongued nectar bat, Rousette Bats, Pygmy roundleaf bat, Polynesian Rat, etc.

A total of 15 herpeto-faunal species (nine reptiles and six amphibians) are recorded in the area including the Gecko, Skink, Cobra, Philippine Brown Rat Snake, Green Tree Skink, Cuming's Eared-skink, Water Monitor Lizard, Python, and Green Snake.

"Their presence in the watersheds of Sierra Madre is a good indicator of balance in the ecology, food chain cycle, and natural environmental process that humans benefit from daily," said Haribon.

According to the foundation, while the EIS report submitted by the MWSS on September 2019 highlights the abundance of biodiversity in the area, it fails to respond to how it will establish and implement mitigating measures to address the impacts of structural development to the affected wildlife species. The construction of the dam, said Haribon, will not only submerge their homes but will also impact our daily survival once they go extinct.



CONT. THE RIGHT WAY? WHAT KALIWA DAM PROJECT  
MEANS TO THOSE IN THE 'GABA' SIDE

**Good governance**

The group also cited the Commission on Audit's (COA) report on the Kaliwa Dam project as a "negotiated contract."

According to Haribon, the report is telling of the integrity of an institution, its potential impacts to the quality of infrastructure services, and the treatment toward social and environmental interventions.

Despite staunch opposition from various groups, the Kaliwa Dam project has recently received a green light from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Groups such as the STOP Kaliwa Dam Network, composed of environmental and indigenous peoples groups, criticizes the issuance of the environmental compliance certificate that was said to bypass proper permission procedures from affected indigenous peoples communities.

"We call on the government to strongly uphold the existing environmental laws that protect our biodiversity and cultural assets as well as the procurement policy that promote the ideals of good governance and transparency to all its branches," said the foundation.

**Threatened species**

Haribon also cited that the EIS reported that 67 species found in the watershed area and along the tunnel alignment are listed under the IUCN's Red List of Endangered Species, four of which are critically-endangered native tree species such as Yakal Saplungan, Bagtikan, White Lauan and Tanguile; endangered species such as narra; 13 vulnerable species including Kamagong, Hamindang, and Tanglin.





# Miners: House measure will kill the industry

All other companies that operate outside declared mineral reservations will no longer be exempted from royalty tax under the proposed measure

**By Alvin Murcia**  
@tribunephil\_alvi

BAGUIO CITY – While the members of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) have expressed optimism over a more competitive fiscal regime, they however, have reservations over a proposed measure that hurdled the House of Representatives' committee on ways and means.

They have asserted that the measure would 'kill' the industry.

On third and final reading the committee chaired by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda approved a new fiscal regime that will, among others, impose a 3 percent tax royalty on top of the 4 percent excise tax on mining companies that either operate inside or outside a mineral reservation area.

Salceda's committee exempts non-metallic mines from royalty tax which is part of the consolidated mining fiscal regime bills in the House of Representatives.

While the Salceda-sponsored bill imposes a lower royalty tax for companies that operate within a mineral reservation area, all other companies that operate outside declared mineral reservations will no longer be exempted from royalty tax under

the proposed measure.

The current fiscal regime imposes a 4 percent excise tax plus a 5 percent royalty on mining companies that operate within declared mineral reservation areas.

**If it is 3 percent royalty tax and all other taxes will be removed, then that is an excellent proposal.**

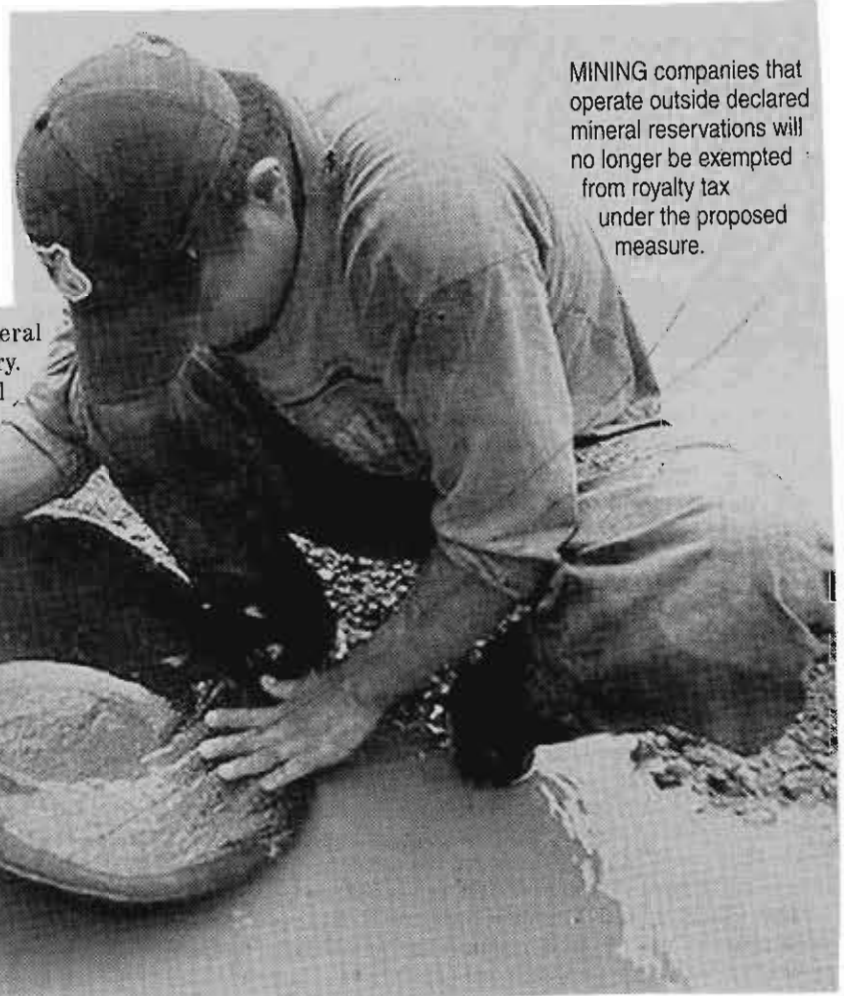
Though the non-metallic mining companies – which include stone, sand, rock or similar materials from natural deposits welcome the House committee-approved version, gold, copper, silver, and other metallic mineral companies have strongly opposed the proposed measure.

Said measure exempts small-scale mining from royalty, whether they operate in mineral reservation areas or not.

Speaking during a press conference at the kick-off ceremonies of the 66th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference in Baguio City on Tuesday, Walter Brown, chairman emeritus of Apex Mining Co. Inc. and president of PMSEA said the House committee-approved version is "unfair" and will kill



CONT: MINERS: HOUSE MEASUREMENT WILL KILL THE INDUSTRY.



MINING companies that operate outside declared mineral reservations will no longer be exempted from royalty tax under the proposed measure.

will listen to the general sentiment of the industry.

Ultimately, PMSEA will elevate the concern of the mining industry to the

the metallic minerals industry.

The new tax regime passage was announced by Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Wilfredo Moncano

during the kick-off ceremonies of the annual safety conference in Baguio City.

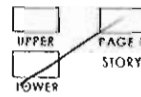
Moncano, himself expressed dismay, noting that while the committee on ways and means chaired by Salceda accepted the MGB's position on the proposed fiscal regime, he said it was not considered by the members of the committee.

Brown said PMSEA, a volunteer organization of mining companies which include quarry companies and mining-related industries, will communicate their concerns to the senate, with the hope that the senators

Office of the President, said Brown.

He added that companies earn small revenues from with low-grade ore, like Carmen Copper. Hence, a gross-income based tax will hurt the company's financial standing.

"If it is 3 percent royalty tax and all other taxes will be removed, then that is an excellent proposal. But a 3 percent royalty tax in addition to the excise tax, which is 4 percent, it will kill the producers. Because it depends on the grades of the ore. If the grade of the ore is low like (that of) Carmen Copper, then the net income is low," he pointed out.



## #MineResponsibility muling inilunsad

# MINING INDUSTRY PUMALAG SA HOUSE COMMITTEE-APPROVED TAX MEASURES

**BAGUIO CITY** – “UNFAIR and it will kill the metallic minerals industry...”

Ito ang mariing tugon ni Dr. Walter W. Brown, chairman emeritus ng Apex Mining Company, Inc. at presidente ng Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), nang hingan ng reaksiyon sa inaprubahan ng House committee on ways and means na ‘fiscal regime’ sa local mining industry.

Ayon kay Dr. Brown, sa pamamagitan ng PMSEA, isang volunteer organization na siyang namumuno rin sa idinadaos na 66th Annual National Mines Safety and Environment Conference dito, ay kakatawanin nila ang lahat ng mining-related firms upang dumulog sa Senado.

Ito’y upang maipaabot, aniya, nila ang kanilang sentimyento hinggil sa isinusulong sa Kamara na panibagong sistema ng pagbubuwis sa mga nagmimina sa bansa.

Hindi rin naman ini-

aalis ni Dr. Brown ang posibilidad na dumulog sila mismo kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte upang hilingin na mapigilan ang posibleng pagpapatupad ng anumang tax law na hindi makatuwiran at magiging dahilan lang para mapatay ang local mining sector.

Giit pa ng PMSEA president, ang mining firms na nasa ‘low-grade ore’ gaya ng Carmen Copper, na maliit lamang ang revenue, ay masasaktan kung ipapataw dito ang gross-income based tax.

“If it is 3 percent royalty tax and all other taxes will be removed, then that is an excellent proposal. But a 3 percent royalty tax in addition to the excise tax, which is 4 percent, it will kill the producers. Because it depends on the grades of the ore. If the grade of the ore is low like (that of) Carmen Copper, then the net income is low,” sabi ni Dr. Brown.

Samantala, sa ikalawang araw ng 66th

ANMSEC ay isinagawa ang relaunching ng #MineResponsibility, isang nationwide information campaign program ng DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau, kasabay ng 7th Community Relations (ComRel) Conference na idinaos sa CAP-John Hay Trade and Culture Center sa lungsod na ito kahapon.

Ayon kay DENR-MGB Director Atty. Wilfredo Moncano, ang #MineResponsibility ay idinisensyo upang magbigyan ng tamang impormasyon ang mga mamamayan hinggil sa responsableng pagmimina at sa nilalaman ng Mining Act of 1995.

“It is important that the public is informed and involved in the enforcement of mining policies and environmental protection, and that’s what this campaign is really about, especially now that mining requirements are more strict than twenty years ago,” sabi pa ni Moncano.

**ROMER R. BUTUYAN**



## #MINE RESPONSIBILITY MULING INILUNSA NG DENR

**BAGUIO CITY** — Muling inilunsad kahapon (November 20, 2019) ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang #Mine Responsibility.

Isang information campaign na naglalayong isulong ang responsableng pagmimina at ipaalam sa publiko ang tamang impormasyon ukol sa pagmimina.

Ang muling paglulunsad ng #Mine Responsibility ay kasabay sa 7th Community Relations Conference na dinaluhan ng daan daang kinatawan ng mga mining company sa bansa, bahagi ito ng 66th Annual National Mine Safety Conference (ANMSEC) na ginaganap sa naturang Lunsod.

Ang #MineResponsibility ay brainchild nina DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu at DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change and Mining Concerns Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh isang kampanya upang magbigay ng mas malinaw at makatotohanang imahe ng pagmimina sa bansa.

Ang kampanya ay binubuo ng mga educational videos, printed materials, at

isang social media campaign sa ilalim ng hashtag na #MineResponsibility.

Ayon Kay MGB Director Atty. Wilfredo G. Moncano ang information campaign ay idinisenyo upang mabigyan ng tamang impormasyon ang mga mamamayan hinggil sa responsableng pagmimina at sa nilalaman ng Mining Act of 1995.

"It is important that the public is informed and involved in the enforcement of mining policies and environmental protection, and that's what this campaign is really about, especially now that mining requirements are more strict than twenty years ago," ayon Kay Moncano.

Idinagdag pa ni Moncano na, kasama sa mga polisiyang ito ang pagtatag ng Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) na third party para mag-iimbestiga sa mga minahan lalo na sa mga large scale operation.



# Semirara suspended, fined over coal trading violation

By MYRNA M. VELASCO

**S**emirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) has been slapped with one-month suspension and was similarly fined by the Department of Energy (DOE) for its established coal trading violation.

The company disclosed that it was suspended for violating a Circular of the department "due to coal trading or transaction with Gold Anchorage," which has been known as an unaccredited coal trader.

At the same time, the Consunji-owned firm was imposed with a penalty of ₱1.735 million "due to unabated and continuous coal trading despite suspension of its accreditation."

SMPC nevertheless indicated that it shall be filing a motion for reconsideration of the DOE's ruling on its suspension and fines imposition – noting that this is a warranted legal recourse "considering that the said resolution is not yet final and executory."

And while exerting legal remedies to the case, SMPC noted that it will "continue its coal trading activities to serve its existing customers."

It was in June this year when SMPC was formally flagged with the alleged coal trading violation – relative to the mandate of DOE's Circular governing the accreditation of coal traders and registration of coal end-users.

The questioned coal trading activity happened on May 23, 2019 when SMPC reportedly supplied 4,768.73 metric tons (MT) of Semirara coal to buyer Gold Anchorage as a trial shipment.

SMPC claimed that the buyer-firm had given its assurances to it "that it has accordingly submitted and applied for a coal accreditation certificate with the DOE."

The Consunji firm further narrated that when it was already waved down for a policy breach of the DOE Circular, it "discontinued its supply and any trading with the said buyer."

SMPC was first served with cease and desist order (CDO) by the energy department in June, but it also sought motion for reconsideration on such – and the DOE eventually lifted the initial order stopping its coal trading activities.

That then allowed it to continually trade and sell to customers that it has been serving and to those whom it has been in contract with.

SMPC is supplying coal as a fuel for the electricity generation of several power plant-end users in the country; and is catering to customers overseas via its coal exports.



# Semirara mining operations suspended

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Department of Energy (DOE) has suspended the mining activities of Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) after a mudslide incident in its facility in Antique last month.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SMPC said it was directed by the DOE to suspend "any and all mining activities under Coal Operating Contract No. 5."

The order was issued in relation to a mudflow incident in Semirara Island, Antique Province last Oct. 2.

The DOE has laid down conditions SMPC needs to comply to have the suspension order lifted.

SMPC needs to address the existing and continuing apparent risk in the Casay Lake area near and adjacent to the operations of the Molave Pit.

The company is required to conduct geohazard assessment of the Casay Lake area and submit a specific plan to remove the hazard, which will be evaluated and approved by the DOE for implementation.

Meanwhile, the DOE also directed SMPC to also ensure safety for other areas under the development and production stage.

It was ordered to conduct geohazard assessment in all existing and proposed mining areas to identify and determine the risks and appropriate mitigating measures to these geohazards such as landslides, mudflows, flooding, storm surge, liquefaction, among others.

SMPC was also directed to conduct a comprehensive review of health and safety program.

It was also required to reorganize its safety department to address its deficiencies and

provide appropriate competencies to implement a DOE-approved health and safety program and allocate sufficient budget for the implementation of the said program.

SMPC said it has been in close coordination and full cooperation with the DOE on all its legal and regulatory compliance, particularly the safety aspect of its operations, since the incident took place.

"Our company is completing these requirements for submission to DOE the soonest and is confident that the conditions for resuming operations can be speedily met. Lastly, SMPC is committed to providing all the needed health and safety trainings and amendments to further enhance the safety and welfare of our employees," it said.

While the suspension of mining activities will dent the

company's coal production, SMPC said it has already met its output target for the year.

"The DOE orders of suspension will result to opportunity loss in production per day from 40,000-45,000 MT. The financial impact, however, shall depend on the prevailing price of coal," SMPC said.

To date, the company's total production is already at 14.5 million metric tons (MT), which is 12 percent higher than total 2018 production of 12.9 million MT.

Meanwhile, coal shipment already reached 14.6 million MT, a 26 percent rise from 11.5 million MT total shipment last year.

This is not the first time a landslide incident happened in SMPC's mine site. In 2013, a landslide in Semirara's Panian Pit also injured and killed some mining workers.



# Semirara stops coal mining to comply with DOE directive

By Alena Mae S. Flores

**S**EMIRARA Mining and Power Corp. said Wednesday it immediately stopped its coal mining operations after receiving an order from the Department of Energy to suspend all mining activities covered by coal operating contract no. 5 based on the results of the investigation on the mudflow incident in Semirara Island, Antique province last month.

This followed the DOE's issuance of a resolution imposing a one-month selective coal trading suspension and fines against SMPC for allegedly violating coal trading rules.

"The DOE orders of suspension will result in opportunity loss in production per day from 40,000 to 45,000 MT. The financial impact, however, shall depend on the

prevailing price of coal," SMPC said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

SMPC said it would submit all the requirements to the DOE soon, "and is confident that the conditions for resuming operations can be speedily met."

Semirara owns the country's largest coal mining operations which directly employ more than 3,300 people, making it the single biggest employer in Semirara Island and Caluya.

The company said that as of Nov. 20, total production reached 14.5 million metric tons, up by 12 percent from 12.9 million MT a year ago. Coal shipment reached 14.6 million MT, or 26 percent higher than 11.5 million MT in 2018.

"Late yesterday afternoon, we received a letter from the DOE dated Nov. 14, 2019 directing SMPC to suspend any and all mining activities under Coal Operating Contract No. 5," SMPC said.

The DOE directive was issued in relation to a mudflow incident in Semirara Island, Antique Province on Oct. 2, 2019. An employee of SMPC, the operator of PS27 machinery, was found dead after a

three-day search and rescue operation.

A mudslide occurred in Southwest Tun-gao, Semirara Island at 1:05 a.m. on Oct. 2, sweeping the equipment operator.

SMPC said that in compliance with the DOE directive, it suspended its mining operations effective immediately.

The DOE said the suspension would remain in effect until the company complied with several conditions such as addressing the existing and continuing apparent risk in the Casay Lake area near and adjacent to the operations of the Molave Pit.

It said SMPC should immediately implement a DOE-approved geo-hazard assessment of the Casay Lake area. It should include a specific plan to remove the hazard for evaluation and approval of the DOE.

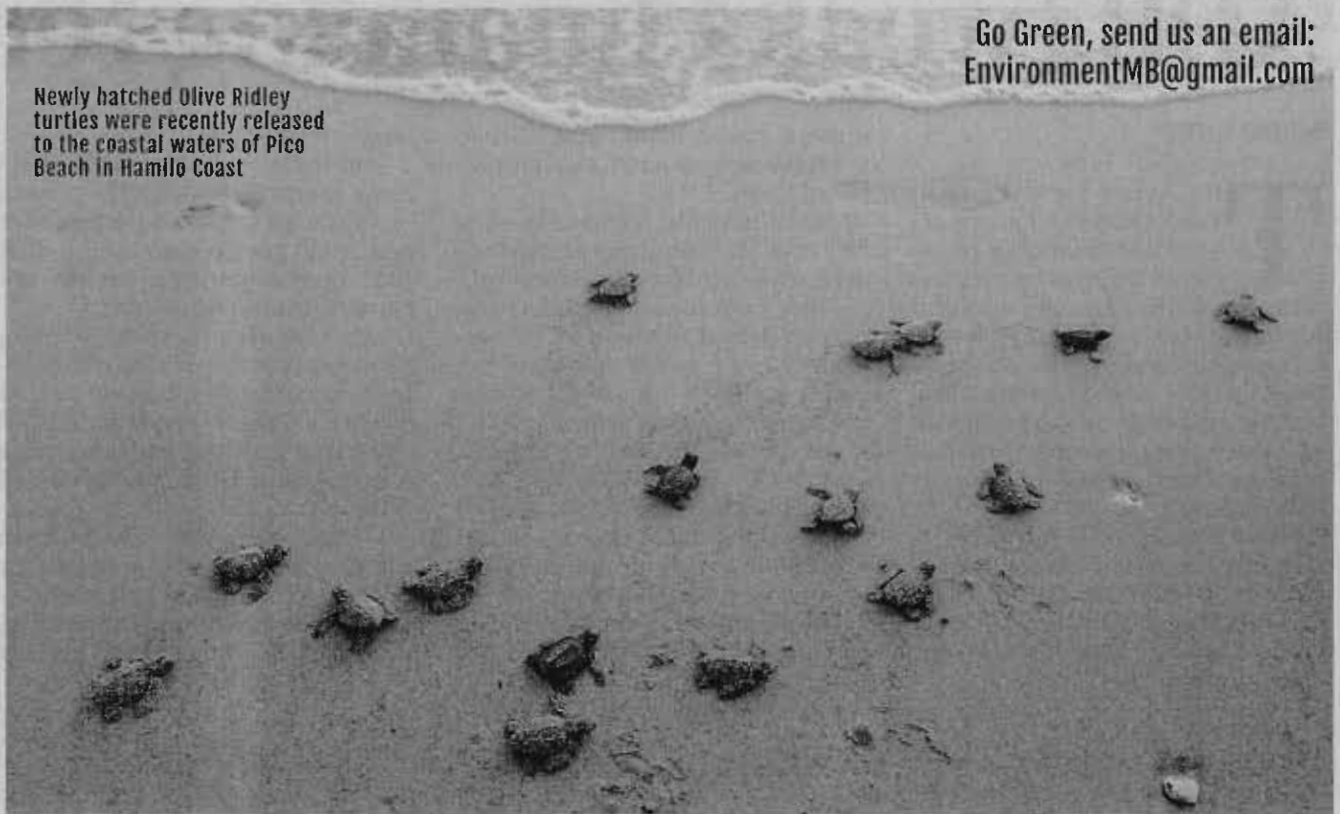
The agency said SMPC should conduct geo-hazard assessment in all existing and proposed mining areas to identify and determine the risks and appropriate mitigating measures to these geo-hazards such as landslides, mudflows, flooding, storm surge, liquefaction, among others, to be approved by the agency.



Section Editor: JOHANNES L. CHUA

Go Green, send us an email:  
EnvironmentMB@gmail.com

Newly hatched Olive Ridley turtles were recently released to the coastal waters of Pico Beach in Hamilo Coast



# Nurturing environment to save vulnerable animals

**A**pproximately 138 newly hatched Olive Ridley turtles were recently released to the coastal waters of Pico Beach in Hamilo Coast. These are always much-celebrated events as the Olive Ridley turtle is the most abundant yet the most vulnerable due to poaching and pollution. More turtle nests are expected to hatch by the yearend.

This was held at SM Prime's premier eco-tourism development, Hamilo Coast, as it continues to be a haven for sea turtles. Out of five marine turtle species residing in the Philippines, three can be found in the area – the Olive Ridley, Green, and Hawksbill.

Data from the Hamilo Coast Sustainability Team shows that an average of five nest sightings are recorded per year, particularly during the hatching season of August to December. Actual nests are indicated by tracks left by the mother turtle.

Unfortunately, these traces are easily washed away by rain and

waves, hence locating these nests can sometimes be difficult.

According to the team, "the coves of Hamilo Coast are nesting grounds

**'Sadly, only one in 1,000 hatchlings will survive to adulthood. Turtles mistake plastic for jellyfish, a mainstay in their normal diet. As a result, many turtles die due to suffocation and indigestion – truly another strong argument against throwing trash indiscriminately and using single-use plastics.'**

for these turtles to lay their eggs. We proactively monitor and protect these nests until the eggs hatch and the hatchlings are immediately released. Protecting the nests will help keep predators away, thereby increasing these gentle creatures' survivability rate and chances of growing to maturity."

Sadly, only one in 1,000 hatchlings will survive to adulthood. Turtles mistake plastic for jellyfish, a mainstay in their normal diet. As a result, many turtles die due to suffocation and indigestion – truly another strong argument against throwing trash indiscriminately and using single-use plastics.

Providing a safe haven for nesting turtles is but one of the many sustainability initiatives of Hamilo Coast. Other programs to sustain and conserve the marine environment include the declaration of select coves as Marine Protected Areas, marine mammal rescue training, and cultivation of true giant clams.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

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CONT. NURTURING ENVIRONMENT TO SAVE VULNERABLE  
ANIMALS





**NOT JUST FOR PETS**

# MAN-MADE NOISE 'GLOBAL POLLUTANT' AFFECTING MANY SPECIES

PARIS—It is well-known that human hubbub can have a negative impact on some animals, but a new study on Wednesday says the noise we make should be treated as a "major global pollutant."

"We found that noise affects many species of amphibians, arthropods, birds, fish, mammals, mollusks and reptilians," scientists at Queen's University Belfast said in the Royal Society's Biology Letters.

Human noise pervades the

environment, from vehicles and industry in dense urban centers, to planes flying overhead, to oceangoing vessels whose propeller is thought to interfere with whale sonar communications and may be implicated in mass beaching as the disorientated animals lose their sense of direction.

Reviewing a series of individual studies in what is known as a meta-analysis, Hansjoerg Kunc and Rouven Schmidt said the issue should be seen as the "majority of species responding

to noise rather than a few species being particularly sensitive to noise."

### Sonar interference

"The interesting finding is that the species included range from little insects to large marine mammals such as whales," he told Agence France-Presse.

"We did not expect to find a response to noise across all animal species."

The paper said an animal's response to the clatter of hu-

man activity was not necessarily straightforward, and could not be easily termed as positive or negative.

Man-made noise, for example, has been shown to interfere with the sonar detection systems that bats use to find their insect prey, making it more difficult for the flying mammals to catch insects.

### Benefit for bugs

But that may be good news for the bugs: "Potential prey may benefit directly from anthro-

pogenic noise," the paper said.

Kunc cautioned, however, that the big picture is still one of serious disruption across the natural environment.

"In the bat example, the predator might suffer because they cannot locate their prey ... but in species where potential prey rely on sound to detect predators, the prey might suffer because they might not be able to hear them early enough to escape," he said.

Human sound pollution and

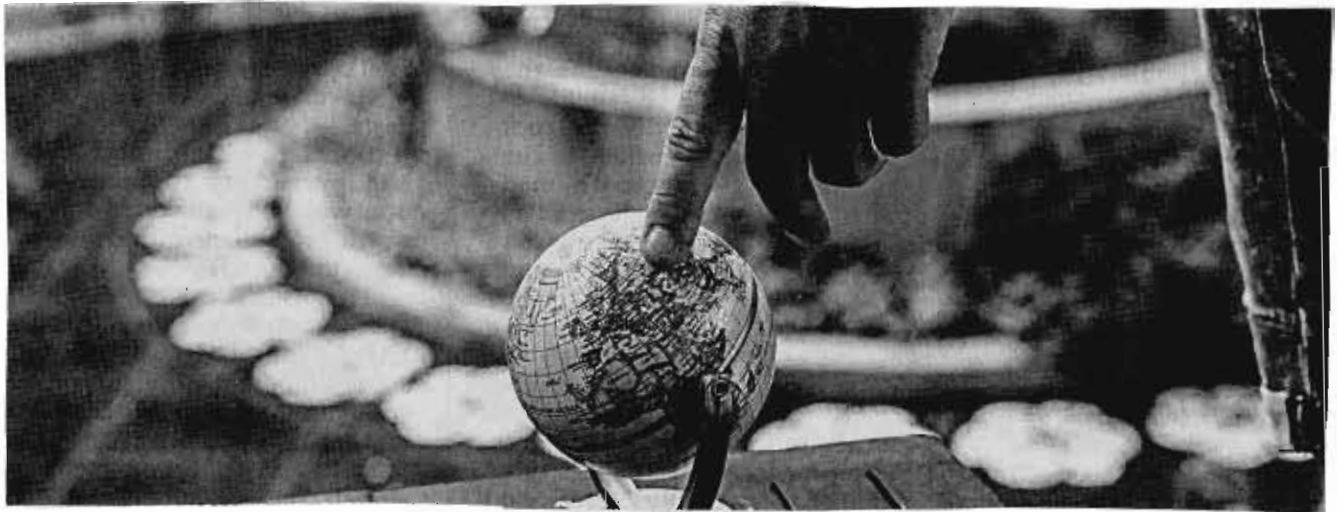
the animal response to it must be seen in the context of an ecosystem, especially when considering conservation efforts, the authors note.

"Noise must be considered a serious form of environmental change and pollution as it affects both aquatic and terrestrial species," they said.

"Our analyses provide the quantitative evidence necessary for legislative bodies to regulate this environmental stressor more effectively." —AFP



# 'Geoengineering': A solution to save the planet?



Dismissed a decade ago as far-fetched and dangerous, schemes to tame global warming by engineering the climate have migrated from the margins of policy debates towards centerstage.

"Plan A" remains tackling the problem at its source. But the UN's top climate science body has made it clear that slashing carbon pollution won't be enough to keep Earth from overheating.

That has opened the door to a host of geoengineering schemes, and an under-the-radar set of global industry guidelines, currently in review, which could help mainstream them.

Here is a menu of "Plan B" geoengineering solutions, and their potential drawbacks.

### Direct CO2 capture

Experiments have shown it is possible to suck planet-warming carbon dioxide directly from the air, converting it into fuel pellets or storing it underground.

A Canadian company backed by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates launched a pilot facility in Canada in 2015, and another company unveiled one in Iceland last year.

**DRAWBACK:** The technology is currently prohibitively expensive and may take decades to operate at scale.

### Afforestation

Extensive planting of trees could

significantly slow the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere, which currently stands at more than 410 parts per million, 40 percent more than 150 years ago.

**DRAWBACK:** Even if deforestation could be reversed – more than 100,000 square kilometers of tropical forests have disappeared each year since 2013 – the number of trees needed to put a dent in CO2 emissions would clash with food and biofuel crops.

### BECCS

Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) marries a natural process with a high-tech one. The first step is to plant rapeseed, sugarcane, corn or "second-generation" biofuel

crops such as switchgrass, which pull CO2 from the air while growing. The second step is while burning the harvested plants for energy to sequester the CO2 produced.

In theory, the result is less CO2 in the atmosphere than when the process started. Virtually all climate change models projecting a future consistent with the Paris Agreement's temperature targets assume a key role for BECCS.

**DRAWBACK:** Studies calculate that up to twice the area of India would need to be given over to biofuels, putting BECCS in conflict with food crops.

### Ocean fertilization

Microscopic ocean plants called



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CONT.

# 'GREEN ENGINEERING': A SOLUTION TO SAVE THE PLANET?

phytoplankton gobble up CO2 and drag it to the bottom of the ocean when they die. Their colony size is limited by a lack of natural iron, but experiments have shown that sowing the ocean with iron sulphate powder creates large blooms.

**DRAWBACKS:** Scientists worry about unintended impacts. Die-offs of plankton, for example, use up oxygen, which could create massive "dead zones" in the oceans, something already on the rise.

### Enhanced weathering

Natural weathering of rocks removes about one billion tons of CO2 from the atmosphere every year – about two percent of total man-made CO2 emissions.

Spreading a powdered form of a greenish iron silicate called olivine across certain landscapes can mimic that process, experiments have shown.

**DRAWBACKS:** It would be expensive to mine and mill enough olivine to make a difference.

### Biochar

Biochar is charcoal made by heating plant waste – rice straw, peanut shells, wood scraps – over long periods in low-oxygen conditions. It can store CO2 for long periods, and also enriches soil.

**DRAWBACK:** The scientific jury is still out on how quickly this method could be scaled up, and on the stability of biochar used as a fertilizer.

### Solar radiation management

Unlike other strategies, solar radiation management does not target CO2. The goal is simple: prevent some of the sun's rays from hitting the planet's surface, forcing them back up into space.

One idea is to inject or spray tiny reflective particles into the stratosphere – possibly with balloons, aircraft or through giant tubes.

**DRAWBACKS:** Even if it works as intended, solar radiation management would do nothing to reduce atmospheric CO2, which is making oceans too acidic. There is also the danger of knock-on consequences, including changes in rainfall patterns. (AFP)



## Climate reports of agencies lagging

By HELEN FLORES

The Philippines has yet to come up with new nationally determined contributions (NDC) as many agencies have not submitted their respective reports, Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said Tuesday.

The NDC states the Philippines' pledged in 2015 to reduce carbon emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

"So far, only the DOTr (Department of Transportation) has submitted. We're waiting for the submission of other agencies," De Guzman told reporters on the sidelines of the 12th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week in Pasay City.

He said the CCC has asked the help of Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles to request the agencies, including the departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Environment and Natural Resources, as well as the National Economic and Development Authority to submit their reports soon.

"We cannot come up with the new NDC without their submissions," De Guzman said.

The target completion is before the end of the year, he added.

According to Climate Action Tracker, the NDC submitted by the Philippines in 2015 was compatible with the 2009 Copenhagen two degrees Celsius goal, and is considered still too high to be consistent with the 2016 Paris Agreement at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

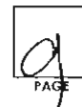
Meanwhile, the Philippines will send a small delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP25, to be held in Madrid, Spain next month.

De Guzman, however, said having a lean delegation would also limit the issues that could be raised by the Philippines.

The country also did not send a high-level delegation to the UN Climate Action Summit in New York last September.

In June this year, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said he would disallow all attendance at climate change talks abroad, although the country is not abandoning discussions on the matter.

He said the Philippines - recognized by experts as a leading voice on climate talks - would still make arguments and proposals through the internet.



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## Climate Change program ng 'Pinas pinandongan ng UN-GCF

Positibong tinanggap ni Albay Rep. Joey Salceda ang balitang aprub na ang \$10-million grant ng United Nation Green Climate Fund's (UN-GCF) sa Climate Change program ng Pilipinas at ang dagdag na \$58 milyon sa Pebrero sa susunod na taon.

Sabi sa report, pinagtibay ng GCF Board ang \$10 million grant sa ika-24 na pulong nito sa Songdo, South Korea noong nakaraang linggo.

Pondo ito para sa panukalang "multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and early warning system (MH-IBF-EWS)" sa Pilipinas kasama ang Legazpi City na bahagi ng ika-2 'congressional district' ni Salceda.

Ang GCF ay isang 'specialized UN financing mechanism' na itinatag para pondohan ang mga inisyatibong magbabawas sa ibinubugang 'carbon' sa kalawakan, at mga proyektong magpapalakas sa kakayanan ng mahihirap na bansa laban sa pananalasa ng masamang panahon na bunga ng climate change.

Si Salceda na House Ways and Means Committee chairman, ang kauna-unahang Asyano na naging co-chairman ng GCF, kung saan ibinoto siya at iniluklok ng 172 bansa, kasama ang India at China noong 2013-2014.

Dalawang mahahalagang hakbang ang naiposisyon noon ni Salceda at ng co-chairman nitong Aleman sa GCF.



# Climate Change is a financial crisis, too

By Gregg Gelzinis  
and Graham Steele

THE PEOPLE who oversee America's financial system seem to think that climate change isn't their problem. As one official quipped in recent congressional testimony, he's "not a meteorologist or a climate scientist."

They should think again. By failing to take action, regulators are leaving the country exposed to a devastating crisis.

Financial institutions, from banks to insurers to asset managers, face climate-related risks that go far beyond the issue of social responsibility. One way or another — be it through natural disasters and forced migration, or decisive moves to transform energy use — they could end up facing trillions of dollars in cumulative losses. These could come in the form of defaulted mortgages in flooded areas, soured investments in regions that become

uninhabitable, or nonperforming loans to shuttered coal-fired power plants.

Worse, the financial sector is compounding the problem by supplying capital to the industries driving climate change. Over the past three years alone, the six largest US banks provided more than \$700 billion in financing to the fossil-fuel industry. As of 2016, large insurers held \$528 billion in such investments, including coal, oil, gas, and related utilities. Even as some financial intermediaries have reduced their exposures to carbon-intensive sectors, the largest asset managers increased their holdings by 20% from 2016 to 2018, with the three biggest US asset managers among the leading holders of coal investments.

This willingness to finance carbon-intensive activities, without adequate regard for the longer-term consequences, jeopardizes the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. The world will never

close the production gap, the disparity between energy produced by fossil fuels and clean energy, without addressing the financing gap between those respective industries. By one estimate, some \$200 billion in capital must be reallocated in each of the next 40 years just to limit global warming to 2° Celsius — the scenario outlined in the Paris Agreement.

Some might take comfort in the idea that losses will be spread over many decades, providing ample time to adjust. Don't. Environmental changes and policy responses are inherently unpredictable, as is the market's propensity to suddenly re-evaluate the prospects of entire industries. Dislocations can happen globally and at a moment's notice — a scenario that Bank of England Governor Mark Carney has called a "climate Minsky moment." At the moment all we have are estimates, but the damage could exceed the scale and scope of the 2008 financial crisis.

Financial institutions need to prepare and change their behavior. To that end, they must accurately price the risks that they are assuming. This is where regulators come in. For example, they could include climate change in bank stress tests, and restrict payouts to shareholders if institutions lack the capital needed to survive losses. They could also directly increase capital requirements, requiring banks to have more skin in the game when making climate-intensive investments. Also, the Financial Stability Oversight Council — charged with monitoring and addressing systemic risks wherever they might appear — should be focused on mitigating climate-related risk outside the banking system.

Unfortunately, these and other powers are useless in the hands of watchdogs who lack the will to use them. The inertia of the current crop of US financial watchdogs stands in stark contrast to the International Monetary Fund and central banks in



CONT. CLIMATE CHANGE IS A FINANCIAL CRISIS, TOO

England, France, and Australia, which are all waking up to the risks. So far, though, even the most ambitious proposals have focused primarily on approaches such as greater disclosure and monitoring of climate risks — the shortcomings of which are evidenced by the fact that the dirtiest industries are already largely in compliance.

Officials must act more aggressively, lest the carbon bubble keep expanding until it pops. Financial losses can cascade through the real economy and threaten the retirement funds of regular folks, many of whom may not even know that their pensions are filled with risky investments. Effective regulation can ease the transition to a clean energy economy, and protect manufacturing jobs and vulnerable communities. Dithering will leave the world exposed to a threat much greater than the human error that precipitated the last crisis. Science is not a counterparty that can be negotiated with, the planet is not a contract that can be restructured, and there is no bailout for a climate catastrophe. ■

**BLOOMBERG OPINION**





# The environment is the key to the economy

SEVERAL years ago, I visited my relatives in the countryside of Trinidad and Tobago. My grandparents settled there in the 1930s when it was under British colonization. My grandmother, now 97, explained to me what life was like at a time when she had no money, no job, no food, no education and nobody to help.

As a teenager, she looked out on a desolate field and thought, "I don't ever want my (future) children to go hungry like how I'm hungry." She scrounged together some garbage scraps and planted anything from mango pits to sesame seeds. My grandmother has fed three generations of 20 family members over the past 80 years from this field. My uncles built several beautiful houses using the resources of that land. We collect rainwater to drink, my aunts make clothes and cook, and grandmother still tends to the field.



HARVARD  
VERITAS

**RIA PERSAD**

For thousands of years, people like my grandmother managed to survive without the help of government, "money" (fiat currency), corporate "jobs," electronics or fossil fuel. Yet they were fed, clothed, sheltered, had fewer diseases and lived longer. Their children had inheritances, and there was "day care" and "retirement insurance" in a place where everyone takes care of each other. Nobody felt that the government was responsible for their lives; they took responsibility for their own survival.

But what actually makes this possible? The answer is the environment. Clean water. Arable land. A climate where food can grow. Natural resources like

trees. And grandmother's foresight and common sense to keep planting new trees for her children's children. When people have access to a healthy environment, they have the resources to create value in society, becoming self-sufficient, creating their own jobs and a local economy.

One of my favorite places to visit is Alaska. I am always in awe of the majesty and purity of the environment. Most of the people I speak with who move to Alaska feel that they can be self-sufficient with their abilities, hard work and nature's resources. Indeed, strong, resilient, self-sufficient people can be found from the countryside of a Caribbean island to the Denali mountain range, equipped by nature and their own two hands.

Technology helps us cure disease, makes our work efficient and enriches us. But if industrialization destroys the environment, people

become dependent for their basic needs upon foreign sources, who could potentially control their lifeblood as they become more vulnerable to conflict and foreign politics, crippled in their abilities to self-govern and be self-sufficient. In times of crisis when inflation skyrockets and currencies are devalued, when a bubble bursts and the stock market crashes, and when there are trade wars preventing exports, all we have is our environment and our ability to survive. Without those basics, not even a digital economy can thrive.

Over the years, I've worked with governments around the globe on sustainable development and the problems seem to share a common theme. Where people are struggling to survive, their ability to tap into environmental resources has somehow been destroyed. This could be due to famine or natural disasters, exploitation and defores-

tation of land, political restriction on crops or dependence upon foreign resources. When people cannot access a healthy environment, it leads to poverty, unrest and even a country's economic ruin.

On the flip side, if people have access to a healthy environment, with clean water, healthy food, renewable building materials, fiber for clothing and other natural resources, then they can work and sustain themselves — just as my grandmother did 80 years ago. They won't easily fall prey to disease, starvation and scarcity. Instead, they create a thriving economy, which organically grows from within.

It is mission critical for governments to make it a top priority to invest efforts in restoring and cultivating a healthy environment for the people. It helps to feed not just one generation, but all generations to come. It also

provides a solid foundation from which the industrial and digital economies grow. The environment is a priceless treasure, which no short-term government assistance can ever rival in terms of its capacity to empower the people. The environment is the key to the economy, opening the door to self-sufficiency, advancement and long-term prosperity for a people who are ambitious and free.

*Ria Persad studied mathematics and physics at Harvard, Princeton and Cambridge. She was a space scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and advises the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on environmental intelligence. Persad is the founding chief executive officer/inventor of StatWeather, whose artificial intelligence system was ranked the No. 1 climate risk technology in the world.*



# House committee okays 'disaster resilience' entity

By Maricel V. Cruz

**T**HE House of Representatives' Committee on Reorganization on Wednesday passed the bill creating the Department of Disaster Resilience. The panel, chaired by Batangas Rep. Mario Vittorio Mariño, approved the bill that carries 'joint operational supervision' clause over four agencies vital to DDR, namely Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, PAGASA, Phivolcs, Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Environment department and Bureau of Fire Protection in lieu of attaching them.

Marked as an urgent bill by President Rodrigo Duterte himself, this was the second time the Lower House has passed the DDR proposal after it was overran by the 2018 national elections in the 17th

Congress. Public clamor for the measure ensued following a series of earthquake devastations in Mindanao, according to the bill's principal author, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

Salceda said the DDR is envisioned to be the primary government agency that is "responsible, accountable, and liable for leading, managing, and organizing national efforts to prevent and reduce disaster risks; prepare for and respond to disasters; and recover, rehabilitate, and build forward better after the destruction."

He said the DDR will be a full-blown department headed by a Secretary, supported by undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors with an initial budget of P10 billion.

The proposal initially required taking under DDR's wings, from their mother departments, the PHIVOLCS and the PAGASA, the Geo-Hazard Assessment and Engineering Geology Section of the MGB, and the BFP, said Salceda.

But the House-approved version has settled for a new provision that preferred the "joint supervision" of these vital government bureaus, which the DDR needed for unity of command during disasters.



## Pinatay na forest ranger, pinarangalan

PALAYAN CITY - Tumanggap ng 'Bayani ng Kalikasan' award ang naulilang pamilya ni forest ranger na si Ronald Corpuz na pinagbabaril ng mga hindi nakikilalang lalaki sa San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, nitong nakaraang buwan.

Ayon kay Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office chief Joselito Blanco, bukod sa ibinigay nilang parangal, binigyan din ng financial assistance ang pamilya ni Corpuz.

Si Corpuz, nakatalaga sa Department of Environment

and Natural Resources (DENR)-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office sa Science City of Muñoz ay pinagbabaril ng mga hindi nakikilalang suspek habang ito ay nagsasara ng kanilang gate sa Bgy. Villa Joson, nitong nakaraang Oktubre 25, dakong 7:40 ng gabi.

Kamakailan, inaresto na ng pulisya ang dalawang suspek na sina Eugene Cayabyab, taga-Bgy. Calaocan, Rizal at Arnold Andrade, alyas "Amber" ng Sityo Masiway, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

**Light A. Nolasco**



## Cavaliers, Warriors shoot for sixth win

Games today (San Juan City Gym)

2 p.m. - PhilHealth vs Malacañang-PSC/ 3:30 p.m. - DENR vs Agriculture/ 5 p.m. - AFP vs NHA

Defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources try to extend their winning streaks when they go up against separate rivals at the start of the crossover second round in the eighth UNTV Cup today at the San Juan City gym.

The AFP Cavaliers, who topped Group A elims with a 5-0 mark, collide with the National Housing Authority Builders at 5 p.m. while the DENR Warriors, who likewise completed a 5-0 sweep in Group B, take on the Department of Agriculture Food Masters at 3:30 p.m.

Clashing in the first game at 2 p.m. are Malacañang-

Philippine Sports Commission and PhilHealth with the latter needing a win to improve its 2-3 mark in the event organized for public servants by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

The chosen charity of the champion teams gets a tax free P4 million prize while the foundation selected by the runner-up shall receive P2 million.

Expected to lead the Cavaliers who are bidding to become the first back-to-back champions are former Letran star Boyet Bautista, Eugene Tan, Alvin Zuñiga and Jerry Lumungsod while the Builders of coach Benneth Palad will be led by Alvin Vitug, John Derrick Dizon and Waldemar Tibay.



### UNTV Cup: AFP, DENR out to pad win streaks

Defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources try to extend their winning streaks when they go up against separate rivals at the start of the crossover second round in the 8th UNTV Cup today at the San Juan City gym.

The AFP Cavaliers, who topped Group A elims with a 5-0 mark, collide with the National Housing Authority Builders at 5 p.m. while the DENR Warriors, who likewise completed a 5-0 sweep of Group B, take on the Department of Agriculture Food Masters at 3:30 p.m.

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Expected to lead the Cavaliers who are bidding to become the first back-to-back champions are former Letran star Boyet Bautista, Eugene Tan, Alvin Zuniga and Jerry Lumungsod while the Builders of coach Benneth Palad will be led by Alvin Vitug, John Derrick Dizon and Waldemar Tibay.

The Warriors, on the other hand, will once again draw strength from Paul Erwan Parreño, Ralph Lansang and Ed Rivera.



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## AFP Cavaliers, DENR Warriors try to extend streaks



Ian Mazo hopes to provide the firepower for PhilHealth when they battle the Malacañang-PSC Kamao today.

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Group A teams face Group B teams in a single round with the top two teams advancing outright to the semis while the bottom two will be eliminated.

The third to sixth finishers, meanwhile play another round with the best two placers marching into the semis.



# AFF, DENR fives seek to stay clean

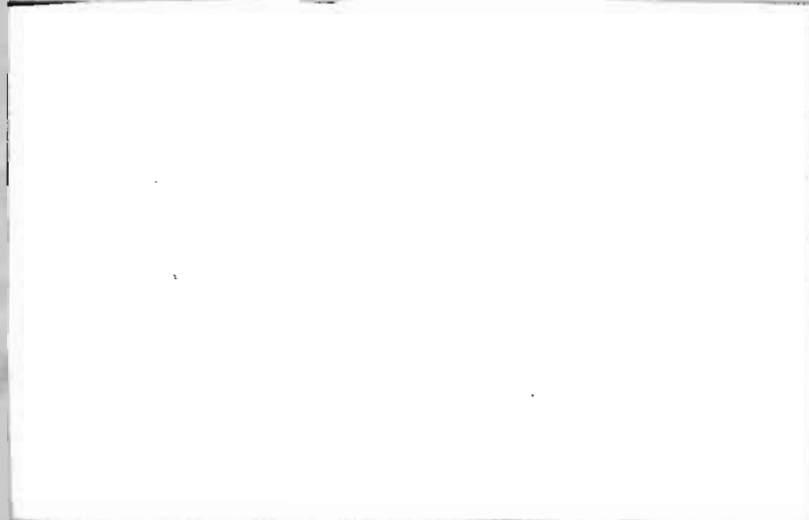
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(San Juan City Gym)  
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Agriculture  
5 p.m. - AFP vs NHA

**GROUP A**— AFP Cavaliers (5-0), Agriculture Food Masters (4-1), PITC Global Traders (3-2), PhilHealth Plus (2-3).

**GROUP B**— DENR Warriors (5-0), Malacañang-PSC (4-1), NHA Builders (3-2), Judiciary Magis (2-3).

**DEFENDING** champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources try to extend their winning streaks when they go up against separate rivals at the start of the crossover second round in the 8th UNTV Cup today at the San Juan City gym.

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# Cavaliers, Warriors out to sustain win runs in UNTV Cup

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UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

The chosen charity of the champion teams gets a tax free ₱4 million prize while the foundation selected by the runner-up shall receive ₱2 million.

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## Ben&Ben: 1st PH band to be #PlanetorPlastic Ambassadors for Asia



Ben&Ben

Indie-folk-pop band Ben&Ben was tapped by National Geographic Asia recently to become the first Filipino

band as #PlanetorPlastic Ambassadors for Asia.

The band announced the news

on Facebook and asked their fans and followers to support their cause.

"We're excited to be part of a bigger movement to save the earth," they wrote.

Well, their advocacy to help the environment has been happening even way before they accepted the role.

The award-winning folk-pop band released "Masyado Pang Maaga" early this month, which raises awareness and encourages fans to support the rehabilitation of Pasig River. Ben&Ben had a live jamming performance on a boat floating downstream. (Report by Stephanie Marie Bernardino)



## GT and MPL to provide state of the art waste management to LGUs

**I**GT (Integrated Green Technology) thru their founder & co-founder Michael Coronel-Jimenez & A. Leilani T. Cruz and CMPL (CNIM Martin Private Limited) based in Chennai India represented by Denis Bauer, CEO, hosted their first "Waste to Energy Summit 2019" on Nov. 15 at the Grand Ballroom of Seda Hotel Vertis North Quezon City. This is to showcase their expertise in Renewable Energy and explain their patented European technology which is manufactured in India to cater to the Asian market such as the Philippines. The Foreign technology CNIM is based in Paris France using a German Technology (Martin GmbH) and has a combined 50 years experience in Waste to Energy EPC and FGT (Flue Gas Treatment) who has the highest emission standard that is in compliance with our RA 8749 (Clean Air Act) of the Philippines.

The technology provider has built more than 170 WTE plants in 23 countries and soon the 24th country will be in the Philippines. With a combined cooperation of the LGU (Local Government Units), DENR (Department of Environment and

Natural Resources) and DOE (Department of Energy) IGT and CMPL believes this project investment of all stakeholders will come to reality. It is fully supported by all European funders and back up with debt insurance and bank guarantees which are all in place for the financial support for the first three projects ( 2 Provinces of Cebu and Province of Pangasinan) that has a total investment of \$230M USD for the

Philippines thru Allied Project Services Limited of London.

IGT and CMPL goal is to provide state of the art waste management, energy sustainability and environment protection per LGU's. Not to mention this will also reduce the rate of electricity to the host Cities and Municipalities and generate employment in the community. "A Clean and Green Country-Philippines".





MAGANDA ang pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na kanyang ipaaresto ang sinomang gagamit ng vape o e-cigarette sa publiko.

Gayundin ang sinomang mag-aangkat ng ganitong uri ng sigarilyo.

Rason ni Pang. Duterte, isang lason ang vape o e-cigarette at ang desisyon nito ay proteksyon ng mga mamamayan.

### 1 PATAY SA PINAS

Namatay na ang baang taga-Central Visayas na nakitaan ng sakit dahil sa vaping o e-cigarette smoking.

Itinakbo ito sa isang ospital dahil sa kakapusan ng hininga at iba pang sintomas ng sakit na galing sa vape.

Hindi nakayanan ng mga doktor na isalba ang kanyang buhay dahil nasira na ang baga nito dahil sa mga kemikal na palaman ng mga vape o e-cigarette.

Sa Estados Unidos, sa nakalipas lang na tatlong buwan, 42 na ang naitatalang patay dahil sa vape o e-cigarette.

Napatunayang nasira ang baga ng mga namatay at sa New Jersey Hospital Association lamang, inaasahang magkakaroon sila ng 16,000 na pasyente hanggang sa katapusan ng taon.

### MARIJUANA, VITAMIN E

Halos lahat ng namatay at nagkasakit ay may marijuana at Vitamin E Acetate sa baga.

Nakitang nakamatay ang marijuana ngunit naging mas mabagsik ang Vitamin E Acetate.

Galing kasi ang Vitamin E Acetate sa petrolyo.

Kaiba ang Vitamin E Acetate sa Vitamin E na nakukuha sa mga soybean at iba pa.

Pagpasok sa katawan ng tao ang Vitamin E Acetate na isang synthetic kung tawagin, iniluluwa ito ng katawan ng tao samantalang tanggap na tanggap nito ang natural Vitamin E.

Iniluluwa ng katawan ng tao ang synthetic vitamin dahil kontra ito sa katawan at kung gayong isang lason.

Isang lason ito na sumisira sa baga ng tao at higit na mabilis na napaminsala kaysa lason na galing sa sigarilyo na kanser naman



## MABILIS NA AKSYON

ang ibinubunga.

Ang malaki ring pagkakaiba ng dalawa, mabilis ang Vitamin E Acetate na sisira ng baga samantalang aabutin ang isang tao ng mga dekada bago magkakanser sa sigarilyo.

### HINDI BAWAL

Ginawang pantapat ang vape o e-cigarette sa sigarilyo noon.

Sabi ng mga gumagawa at naglalako nito, nasa 90 porsyento umanong higit na malinis ang vape o e-cigar kumpara sa sigarilyo.

Kaya naman, mabilis na tinangkilik ito ng isang milyong Pinoy na nagbe-vape at hindi na naninigarilyo.

Siyempre pa, walang nagbawal ng importasyon nito.

Kung may ginagawang mang patakaran sa vaping o paninigarilyo nito, kasama na ito sa mga bawal na hithitin sa mga eskwelahan at iba pang pampublikong lugar, opisina ng gobyerno at iba pa.

Kasama na rin ito sa mga may mataas na buwis gaya ng buwis sa sigarilyo at alak.

### UMAANGAL DUMARAMI

Sa ngayon, pinangunahari ng Department of Health ang pagkontra sa vaping o e-cigarette smoking.

Mayroon ding mga mambabatas ang nagsusulong ng pagkansela o suspensyon ng Food and Drugs Administration ng pag-aangkat at pagbenta ng vape o e-cigarette.

Ang iba, pinababayaan lang ang mga gumagamit nito na may mga babala.

Pero iba ang ginawang Pangulo.

Inilutos na nito ang pag-aresto sa mga gumagamit ng vape sa mga pampublikong lugar at kahit pa sa mga saradong lugar.

Kasabay nito ang pagpaparesto nito sa mga gumagawa ng importasyon at nagbebenta nito.

### HUWAG

### MAGPALUSOT

Hindi dapat na mag-

palusot ang mga gumagamit ng vape o nag-aangkat o nagtitinda nito.

Pinakamalaking palusot nila ang walang klarong batas na nag-sasabing dapat na maaresto ang mga gumagamit nito sa mga pampubliko at saradong lugar o mag-import at magbenta nito.

Maaaring palusot din ang sikretong pagbebenta o pagtafago lang sa mata ng mga inspector ang mga vape na ito.

Palusot din ang hindi pagpapagamit sa mga menor-de-edad at hindi pagtitinda sa mga ito.

Pero dapat na intindihin ng lahat na maaaresto ang mga gagamit ng vape sa mga pampublikong lugar at umaangkat at nagbebenta nito.

### MAGMATYAG LAHAT

Dapat na magmatyag at kumilos lahat laban sa vape o e-cigarette.

Isaisip ng lahat na sa oras na hindi makahinga ang gumagamit nito, malamang na marnamatay na ito sa mga susunod na araw dahil sa pagkasiira ng baga.

Walang kakayanan ang maraming nagbe-vape na gumastos ng malaki sa pagpapaspital at lalong walang kakayanan ang higit na nakararami na gumastos ng malaki para sa pagpapalit ng baga.

Hindi dapat na ipabalik sa pamahalaan ang mga suliraning ganito sa pamahalaan, lalo na kung tayo'y magkakasakit sa baga dahil sa vape at hindi pakikinig sa mga pahayag ng pamahalaan at pagtatabawal ng Pangulo ng bansa.

O sama-sama tayong maglunsad ng giyera laban sa vaping o e-cigarette smoking. NOW NA!

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.