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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



NBI arrests 9 behind toxic trash dumping

BY JOSHUA VERA CRUZ

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday announced the arrest of nine individuals caught in the act of dumping radioactive waste in Cabangan, Zambales.

The suspects were identified as Huiza Hua and Wang Aimin, both Chinese, and Danny Bañes, Clieford Calingacion, Alberto Rendon, Edgardo Aquino, Eddie Singuelo Sr., Benjamin Bautista and Jesse Romano Sunga, all Filipinos.

According to NBI Deputy Director Ferdinand Lavin, the main vessel *MV Dayang Century* was Liberian-registered and was transporting 53,000 tons of phosphogypsum, a radioactive by-product

of fertilizer production, from Gwangyang, South Korea.

"When this (phosphogypsum) is inhaled, this can cause serious sneezing, dizziness. When this is digested, this can cause upper-gastrointestinal disturbance. It can cause serious eye irritation and when the skin is exposed for a long time [to it], it can cause skin dehydration," Lavin said as he described the effects from exposure to the toxic waste.

During a surveillance on November 16, the NBI-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) saw a brown, mud-like substance being transferred from *MV Dayang Century*, anchored approximately 1.5 kilometers from the shoreline of Barangay Sto. Niño, Cabangan, to a landing craft tank.

NBI-EnCD chief Czar Eric Nuqui said the suspects had already dumped around 10 tons of toxic waste in Barangay Sto. Niño prior to the arrest.

"During the operation, we were able to establish the purpose of importation, it was purposely imported to the Philippines for dumping," Nuqui added.

While the cargo was being unloaded, personnel of the NBI-EnCD and the Philippine Coast

Guard (PCG) boarded the vessel, ordered a halt to the operation and arrested the suspects.

Indicated in a supposed permit to import was a white powder substance, supposedly the neutralized state of phosphogypsum that is environmentally safe.

The suspects were already presented for inquest proceedings before the Department of Justice for violation of Republic Act (RA) 6969, or the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1999," and RA 9003, or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

The *MV Dayang Century* and the toxic substance will be in the custody of the PCG in Zambales before the vessel is made to return to its point of origin.



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NBI ARRESTS 9 BEHIND TOXIC TRASH DUMPING



CAPTURED Officials of the National Bureau of Investigation present to media the men arrested for dumping toxic wastes in Zambales.
PHOTO BY JOHN JOSHUA VERA CRUZ



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9 ARRESTED FOR UNLOADING SOKOR TOXIC WASTE IN ZAMBALES

COMBINED operatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources arrested nine crewmembers of a Liberian-registered vessel for unloading tons of toxic substance at the Cabangan Wharf in Zambales.

The suspects were identified as Chinese Huixu Hua and Wang Aimin; and Filipinos Danny Banes, Clieford Calingacion, Alberto Rendon, Edgardo Aquino, Eddie Singuelo Sr., Benjamin Bautista, and Jessie Romano Sunga.

Seized from them were 53,000 metric tons of toxic substance that arrived Friday in Zambales from South Korea.

The vessel carried a shipment of phosphogypsum – a waste product from manufacturing fertilizer that contains radioactive elements harmful to human health and the environment. It is not included in the list of recyclable materials with hazardous substances that are allowed by the DENR.

The suspects were arrested while they were unloading the toxic shipment at Cabangan Wharf. The crewmen said the cargo was bound for San Mateo, Rizal, from Gwangyang Port, South Korea.

In August and September last year, the Coast Guard also seized in Subic Port shipments from South Korea carrying the same toxic substance. **Hector Lawas**



Toxic waste from Sokor seized

**By HECTOR
LAWAS**

COMBINED operatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources arrested nine crewmembers of a Liberian-registered vessel after they al-

legedly unloaded tons of toxic substance at the Cabangan Wharf in Zambales.

The suspects were identified as Chinese Huixu Hua and Wang Aimin; and Filipinos Danny Banes, Clieford Calingacion, Alberto Rendon, Edgardo Aquino, Eddie Singuelo Sr., Benjamin Bautista, and Jessie Ro-

mano Sunga.

Seized from them were 53,000 metric tons of toxic substance that arrived in Zambales from South Korea on Friday.

The vessel carried a shipment of phosphogypsum - a waste product from manufacturing fertilizer that contains radioactive elements harmful to human health and the envi-

ronment. It is not included in the list of recyclable materials with hazardous substances that are allowed by the DENR.

The suspects were arrested while they were unloading the toxic shipment at Cabangan Wharf. The crew said the cargo was bound for San Mateo, Rizal, from Gwangyang Port, South Korea.



9 arrested for dumping toxic wastes from SoKor

Two Chinese nationals and seven Filipinos have been arrested by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents in Zambales for their alleged involvement in the dumping of hazardous wastes from South Korea.

NBI Deputy Director Vicente De Guzman III said the Chinese nationals are the crew of the Liberian-registered vessel MV Dayang Century. They were identified as master of the vessel Huizu Hua and chief mate Wang Aimin.

Also arrested were Filipinos who were operating the landing craft tanks (LCT). They were identified as Danny Banes, Clieford Calingacion, Alberto Rendon, Edgardo Aquino, an Eddie Singuelo Sr.

Filipino brokers Benjamin Bautista and Jesse Sunga were

likewise apprehended.

De Guzman said the suspects were arrested by agents of the NBI's Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) last November 22 off Cabangan, Zambales.

The vessel was found by authorities carrying 53,000 metric tons of toxic wastes known as phosphogypsum, a radioactive byproduct of fertilizer production.

Following the operation, the suspects were brought to the Department of Justice (DoJ) last Monday for inquest on charges of violating Republic Act 6969, known as the Toxic Substances and Hazardous Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1999; and RA 9003, known as the Ecological Solid Wastes Management Act of 2000.

NBI-EnCD chief Cesar Eric Nuqui revealed the operation was conducted after his office received information that the vessel was carrying hazardous wastes.

During the operation, Nuqui said it was learned that the cargo came from Gwangyang, South Korea and that the suspects had no certification from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) to import phosphogypsum into the Philippines.

Nuqui said phosphogypsum is prohibited and not included in the allowed recyclable materials to be exported to the Philippines.

In the meantime, Nuqui said his office will also investigate the liability of Yori Yori Trading which is the consignee of the shipment. **(Jeffrey Damicog)**



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9 kulong sa pagtatapon ng basura ng SoKor

Arestado ng National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) ang siyam katao kabilang ang dalawang Chinese national at pitong Pinoy na sangkot sa pagtatapon umano ng hazardous waste mula sa South Korea sa karagatang sakop ng Cabangan, Zambales.

Kinilala ni NBI Deputy Director Vicente De Guzman III ang dalawang Chinese nationals bilang crew ng Liberian-registered vessel MV Dayang Century, na sina Huizu Hua, vessel master, at chief mate Wang Aimin.

Kabilang naman sa mga naares-

tong Filipino sina Danny Banes, Clifford Calingacion, Alberto Rendon, Edgardo Aquino, at Eddie Singuelo Sr., gayundin ang broker na sina Benjamin Bautista at Jesse Sunga.

Nabatid na ang mga suspek ay naaresto noong Nobyembre 22 sa karagatang ng Cabangan, Zambales, ng pinagsanib na tauhan ng NBI-EnCD at Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Nalaman na ang barko ay may lamang 53,000 metric tons ng toxic wastes na phosphogypsum, isang radioactive byproduct mula sa fertilizer production. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



Seized toxic wastes to be sent back to country of origin

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is eyeing the possibility of sending back to its point of origin the 53,000 metric tons (MT) of toxic substance that was supposed to be dumped in Zambales.

NBI's Deputy Director and Spokesman Atty. Ferdinand Lavin said they are conducting further investigation to confirm if the toxic wastes came from South Korea.

"We are conducting a deeper probe to determine the point of origin," Lavin said as he noted that initial findings showed that it originated from South Korea.

"But phosphogypsum largely came from mines in the US, Latin American countries and China," he said.

He added that the toxic wastes are being kept under tight security awaiting the result of the probe as well as for instructions from the courts.

Last Nov. 22, two Chinese nationals and seven Filipinos were arrested on board the Liberian-registered vessel MV Dayang Century.

The vessel was found by authorities to be carrying 53,000 metric tons of toxic wastes known as phosphogypsum.



Radioactive materials sa Zambales 'wag nang ilatag sa SoKor prexy--DENR

NILINAW ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na walang nakikitang dahilan ang ahensya para ilatag ni Pangulong Duterte sa Presidente ng South Korea ang tungkol sa nasabat na tone-toneladang radioactive materials sa Cabangan, Zambales.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda walang nakikitang dahilan para pag-usapan pa ang tungkol sa radioactive materials dahil ito umano ay isolated case lang.

Sa press conference sa QC, sinabi ni Antiporda na ang Pangulong Duterte ay nasa South Korea para sa nagna-

patuloy na Asean-South Korean commemorative summit.

Nabatid pa kay Antiporda na hindi pa naman masasabing itigal ang pagpesok ng umano'y toxic waste mula sa naturang bansa dahil isinasagawa pa lang ang imbestigasyon ng ahensya hinggil dito.

Idinagdag pa nilo na hindi ito kagaya ng kaso ng basura ng Canada noon at sobrang napa-ka-cooperative at nakikipagtulungan naman ang South Korea sa naturang usapin.

Nauna rito magugunitang nitong nakalipas na araw ay nasabat ng pinagsanib na pwersa ng NBI-Philippine Coast-guard at DENR ang umano'y

53,000 metric tons ng phosphogypsum substance habang idiniskarga sa baybayin ng bayan ng Cabangan, Zambales.

Aniya, isinasailaim na sa laboratory test mula sa DENR at Phil Nuclear Research Institute ang nasabat na toxic materials at oras na lumabas na negative naman sa banta ng panganib ang mga materyales ay maglalalatag ng regulated system ang DENR para hindi na maulit pa ang insidente.

Sinabi ni Antiporda na sa ngayon ay inaalam pa ng DENR kung sino ang importer at consignee ng nasabat na umano'y toxic waste sa Zambales. **SANTI CELARIO**



6 mining companies receive presidential awards on environment

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

Six big mining companies were given awards at the prestigious Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) for being able to prove that responsible mining exists through their best practices in safety and health management, environmental protection and community development.

The Presidential Awardees are the Agata Mining Ventures, Inc. (as operator of Agata Processing, Inc.) for Surface Mining Category; Cagdianao Mining Corporation (as operator of East Coast Mineral Resources Co., Inc.) for Surface Mining Category; Holcim Mining and Development Corp. – Davao for Quarry Operations Category; Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. – Bulacan for Quarry Operations Category; Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corp. for Mineral Processing Category; and Mt. Labo Exploration and Development Corp. for Mineral Exploration Category.

The PMIEA, pursuant to Executive Order No. 399, series of 1997, recognizes the exemplary practices and commitments of entities involved in underground and surface mining operation, quarry operation,

mineral exploration, and mineral processing which all contribute towards sustainable mineral development by promoting responsible management of the environment and natural resources.

The PMIEA Selection Committee (PMIEASC) administered the annual search and selection of the qualified recipients of the PMIEA for the period July to December 2018 to January to June 2019.

PMIEASC is co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the President of Chamber of Mines of the Philippines.

Its members include the respective secretaries of the following agencies: Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, and Department of Science and Technology. Other members of the said Committee are the Presidents of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association; and Philippine Mining and Exploration Association.

The awards were given weeks after DENR, through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), launched a massive nationwide information campaign on responsible mining in a bid to wipe out the negative perception on the controversial industry, a nearly impossible project in a nation that is highly skeptical of the extractive industries.

Such move, according to Environment Undersecretary for Mining Concerns Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, could eventually pave the way for the lifting of the ban on new mining projects.

“It will have contributory effects,” Teh said, referring to the efforts of the government to push for the lifting of Executive Order (EO) 79, which says that no new mineral agreements should be approved “until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect.”



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Use green technology, small-scale miners urged

GP-860 gold stripping technology aims to replace the traditional extraction process, which usually involves the use of the banned chemical mercury

By Maria Romero
@tribunephil_mbr

A mining company is lobbying for the rest of the sector to adopt the process it uses for its mining operations. The firm uses its own green and cyanide-free ore stripping technology, which it says is ideal for small-scale gold mining operations.

The mining company is Taiwanese; Xin Ye Precious Metal Technology Co. Ltd. It engages in mining operations in the country through its local subsidiary Philippine Xi Ye Industry Ltd. Inc. It's hoping to obtain an endorsement for its green solution from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"We are committed to the protection of our environment and natural resources by responsible mining," Xin Ye president Michael Yao said in a statement.

Yao said the firm's locally patented GP-860 solution, which uses a cyanide-free, mercury-free, and non-toxic gold stripping method, can potentially help small-scale miners to follow the government policies on responsible mining practices.

GP-860 gold stripping technology aims to replace the traditional extraction process, which usually involves the use of the banned chemical mercury. It still widely used by small-scale miners in the Philippines.

Compared to the traditional artisanal and small-scale gold mining extraction method,

which requires a two to eight-day dissolution period, Xin Ye's GP-860 can shorten the ore to gold process to just six to eight hours. Its rate of gold stripping is pegged at 98 percent and has a refined gold purity of 99.9 percent.

"Basically, our technology allows artisanal and small-scale gold mining to extract gold using an environment-friendly alternative to mercury," Yao said.

On Monday, Xin Ye officially launched its first gold processing facility in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte in partnership with Johnson Gold Mining Corp.

Xin Ye executive vice president Steven Liao said that the \$1-million plant can process 11.5 metric tons of concentrate per day with a potential gold yield of 50 grams per ton.

"That's 550 grams of gold on a daily basis," Liao pointed out.

Xin Ye is presently in talks with at least eight mining companies in Baguio and Bicol, which are acquiring the technology. They expect to close the deals early next year.

He added that they want to expand further south to Mindanao within the year. Negotiations with two other mining firms in CDO and Zamboanga are already being planned.

Liao said they want to collaborate with the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau in the promotion of the technology, particularly in the "Minahang Bayan" areas.

savvy professionals across all functions, to help ensure a successful, organization-wide transformation," he added.



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NEW gold stripping technology aims to replace the traditional extraction process, which usually involves the use of the banned chemical mercury.



Taiwanese technology offered to small miners

BY JED MACAPAGAL

TAIWANESE firm Xin Ye Precious Metal Technology Co. Ltd., through its local subsidiary Philippine Xi Ye Industry Ltd. Inc., is optimistic to secure endorsement by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for adoption of its modern ore stripping technology for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) operations in the country.

Michael Yao, Xin Ye president, said in a statement the company's locally patented GP-860 solution, which uses cyanide-free, mercury-free and non-toxic gold stripping method, can help small-scale miners abide by government policies on responsible mining practices.

The GP-860 technology aims to replace traditional extraction process which usually involves the use of the banned chemical mercury that remains popular and widely used by small-scale miners in the Philippines.

Compared to traditional and small-scale gold mining extraction method, which usually takes two to eight days dissolution period, Xin Ye's GP-860 can shorten the ore to gold process to 6 to 8 hours, with the rate of gold stripping at 98 percent and refined gold purity of 99.9 percent.

Last May, the DENR announced a five-year project aimed at eliminating the use of the highly toxic mercury in ASGM operations.

DENR said the project will be funded by the Global Environment Facility to promote legislation to legalize and support ASGM while encouraging miners to extract gold using environment friendly alternatives to mercury.

It will also involve a review of policies and legal frameworks; introduction of financing schemes allowing miners to invest in sustainable mercury-free technologies; dissemination of information to ensure replication; and monitoring and evaluation.

On Monday, Xin Ye also launched its first gold processing facility in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte in partnership with Johnson Gold Mining Corp.

Steven Liao, Xin Ye executive vice president, said the \$1-million plant can process 11.5 metric tons of concentrate per day, with potential gold yield of 50 grams per ton or a daily production of 550 grams of gold.

He said the company is in talks with at least eight mining companies in Baguio and Bicol Region, and expects to close the deal for the acquisition of the technology early next year.

Liao added the company wants to expand to Mindanao within the year as discussions with two mining firms in Cagayan De Oro and Zamboanga are being planned, apart from a possible collaboration with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to promote the technology.



ECC given to coal plant questioned

LUCENA CITY—A staunch opposition leader against coal-fired power plants vowed to continue challenging the legality of the proposed 1,200-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Atimonan town in Quezon province.

“We’re more on legal battle now,” Fr. Warren Puno, head of the Ministry of Ecology of the Diocese of Lucena, said in an online interview.

Puno strongly criticized the support of the local government unit to the ongoing construc-

tion of the coal-fired power plant in the coastal village of Villa Ibaba facing Lamon Bay.

Petition for ECC cancellation

On Tuesday, Puno joined the protest at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) main office in Quezon City to petition for the cancellation of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) granted to Atimonan One Energy (A1E), following the discovery of alleged breaches to

environmental and community education requisites.

A1E, the developer of the plant, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Meralco PowerGen Corp., the power generation arm of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), the country’s largest power distributor.

Specific requirements

In a statement, the protesters, composed of environmentalist groups, religious and other sectoral representatives,

claimed that the ECC issued to A1E in 2015 “clearly stated specific requirements.”

Citing certified true copies of permits issued by the DENR-Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Region 4 A, lawyer Avril de Torres, counsel of Power for People Coalition, noted that “the tree-cutting and earth-balling permits from FMB require A1E to put up placards in a conspicuous place to inform stakeholders that land clearing is

authorized by the DENR.”

The protesters charged that “at least 10 residents, including Church representatives and community leaders, have testified to not having seen any such signs since land clearing started.”

“Since there are no placards and the last permit from the PCA has already expired, residents are concerned that land clearing is being done illegally,” De Torres said. —DELFIN T. MAL-LARIJR. INQ



Green groups demand revocation of Atimonan coal plant ECC

ENVIRONMENTAL advocates and community representatives from Quezon stormed the DENR Main Office Monday to petition the cancellation of the Environmental Compliance Certificate granted to Atimonan One Energy (A1E), following the discovery of breaches to environmental and community education requisites.

A1E, a fully owned subsidiary of MERALCO power generation arm MGen, is the proponent of a highly controversial 1,200 MW coal-fired power plant project in Villá Ibaba, Atimonan in Quezon Province.

"The ECC issued to A1E in 2015 clearly stated specific requirements before they are able to clear land, and that an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) program should be conducted to ensure that all stakeholders, especially local residents, fully understand the risks posed by the project and what A1E's proposed mitigating measures are. We are concerned that they have not succeeded in following through with both," explained Atty. Avril De Torres, legal counsel of the Power for People Coalition (P4P).

Citing certified true copies of per-

mits issued by the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Region 4-A, De Torres noted that "the tree-cutting and earth-balling permits from FMB require A1E to put up placards in a conspicuous place to inform stakeholders that land clearing is authorized by DENR. But at least ten residents, including Church representatives and community leaders, have testified to not having seen any such signs since land clearing started."

From 2016-2017, A1E was allowed to cut nearly 3,500 coconut trees, in

addition to the thousands more trees of other species they were permitted to remove.

"Local residents of Atimonan have also noted an observable loss of coconut trees in the interval between August and November. Since there are no placards and the last permit from PCA has already expired, residents are concerned that land clearing is being done illegally," said De Torres, who is also the Research, Policy, and Law Program head of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED).

Furthermore, local residents are

grieving the lack of effort on the part of A1E to ensure public participation in addressing the project's possible environmental and social impacts. Since 2015, none of the Complainants have been part of any IEC program regarding the project. In the meantime, there has been land clearing in the project site.

"For so many years we have been full of worry for our health, our livelihoods, and our resources. We were enraged to find out that answering our questions was MGen's duty all along," said Reynaldo Upalda, lead convenor of Atimonan Power to the People.



Paglabag ng Meralco nabisto

Naghain ng petisyon ang mga environmental advocate at kinatawan ng komunidad ng lalawigan ng Quezon sa tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang hilingin ang kanselasyon ng Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) na ipinagkaloob sa Atimonan One Energy (A1E) makaraang madiskubre ang maraming paglabag nito sa 'environmental and community education requisites'.

Kasamang naghain ng petisyon kahapon sa DENR sina Monsignor Emmanuel Ma. L. Villareal, kinatawan ng Quezon for Environment; Father Warren Puno ng Ministry of Ecology, Diocese ng Lucena-Quezon; Reynaldo Upalda, representante ng Atimonan Power to the People; Gerard Arances ng Center for Energy, Environment and Development Inc. (CEED); Bibiano Rivera Jr., ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCI) Inc.; at Marie Marguerite Lopez ng SANLAKAS para suspindihin at kanselahin ang ipinagkaloob na ECC sa Atimonan One Energy, Inc's Coal-Fired Power Plant Project sa Barangay Villa, sa Atimonan, Quezon Province.

"The ECC issued to A1E in 2015 clearly stated specific requirements before they are able to clear land, and that an information, Education and Communication (IEC) program should be conducted to ensure that all stakeholders, especially local residents, fully understand the risks posed by the project and what A1E's proposed mitigating measures are. We are concerned that they have not succeeded in following through with both," paliwanag ni Bernardo Gregorio, legal counsel ng Power for People Coalition (P4P).

Sinabi naman ni Fr. Puno, may apat na planta na ng coal ang kanilang lalawigan na tinatawag nang 'coal capital' kaya hindi na nila hahayaan na tayuan pa ito ng isa pang Atimonan One, na pag-aari ng Meralco ng kanilang 'dirty source of energy'.

Aniya, maraming pinutol na puno at pinatag na ang kabundukan sa kanilang lalawigan para pagtayaran ng A1E nang walang ipinakikitang permit mula sa lokal na pamahalaan at mga kaukulang ahensiya ang Meralco.

"Humihingi kami ng permit sa lokal na pamahalaan pero walang maibigay, maging dito sa DENR. Ngayon nabuko namin na maraming paglabag ang Meralco Gen. sa kanilang Atimonan One kaya naghain kami ng petisyon sa DENR na kanselahin ang ibinigay sa kanilang ECC," ayon sa pari.



Meralco gen umiskor sa DENR

Tila naisahan umano ng Meralco ang pamunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos pagkalooban ang pag-aari nitong Atimonan One Energy o mas kilalang AIE ng Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) sa kabila nang maraming paglabag nito sa kalikasan.

Ayon kay Gerard Arances ng Center for Energy, Environment and Development Inc. (CEED), ang AIE, na umano'y 'fully owned subsidiary' ng Meralco power generation arm (MGen), ay 'propo-

nent' ng kontrobersyal na 1,200 MW coal-fired power plant project sa Villa Ibaba, Atimonan in Quezon Province.

"We ask the DENR to take up its role in pursuing a much cleaner energy sector wherein there is no space for environmentally destructive projects, and no tolerance for a project whose proponents are so intent on pursuing their interests that they will evade regulations and inhibit stakeholders' capacity to raise questions," saad nito. "How can one such project be environ-

mentally compliant?" giit

pa ni Arances. Nabatid naman kay Atty. Bernardo Gregorio, legal counsel ng P4P base aniya sa certified true copies ng mga permit na inisyu ng Forest Management Bureau (FMB) at Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Region 4-A, sa pagpuputol ng puno ay kinakailangang maglagay ng mga placard ang AIE.

"The tree-cutting and earth-balling permits from FMB require AIE to put up placards in a conspicuous place to inform stakeholders that land clearing is authorized by DENR."



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Meralco, nabuking sa panloloko

NAGHAIN ng petisyon ang environmental advocates at mga kinatawan ng komunidad ng lalawigan ng Quezon sa harap ng tanggapang ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang hilingin ang kanselasyon ng Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) na ipinagkaloob sa Atimonan One Energy (AIE), makaraang madiskubre ang maraming paglabag nito sa 'environmental and community education requisites.'

Kasamang naghain ng petisyon kahapon sa DENR sina Monsignor Emmanuel Ma. L. Villareal, kinatawan ng Quezon for Environment, Father Warren Puno, ng Ministry of Ecology, Diocese ng Lucena-Quezon, Reynaldo Upalda, representante ng Atimonan Power to the People, Gerard Arances ng Center for Energy, Environment and Development Inc. (CEED), Bibiano Rivera Jr., ng Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ) Inc., at Marie Marguerite Lopez ng SANLAKAS para suspendihin at kanselahin ang ipinagkaloob na ECC sa Atimonan One Energy, Inc's Coal-Fired Power Plant Project sa Brgy. Villa, sa Atimonan, Quezon Province.

"The ECC issued to AIE in 2015 clearly stated specific requirements before they are able to clear land, and that an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) program should be conducted to ensure that all stakeholders, especially local residents, fully understand the risks posed by the project and what AIE's proposed mitigating measures are. We are concerned that they have not succeeded in following through with both," paliwanag ni Bernardo Gregorio, legal counsel ng Power for People Coalition (P4P).

Sinabi naman ni Fr. Puno, may apat na planta na ng coal ang kanilang lalawigan na tinatawag nang 'coal capital' kaya hindi na nila hahayaan na tayuan pa ito ng isa pang Atimonan One, na pag-aari ng Meralco ng kanilang 'dirty source of energy.'

Aniya, maraming pinutol na puno at pinatag na ang kabundukan sa kanilang lalawigan para pagtayuan ng AIE nang walang ipinakitang permit mula sa lokal na pamahalaan at mga kaukulang ahensiya ang Meralco.

Iginiit ng Pr. Puno, na 25 taon ang kontrata ng Atimonan One kaya ngayon pa lamang ay puspusan ang kanilang pagharing dahil ang coal power plant na itatayo sa kanilang lalawigan ay hindi lamang ang kalikasan ang sisirain, kundi magiging malaki rin ang epekto nito sa 'climate change' sa ating planeta.

Nabatid na mula 2016-2017, ang AIE ay pinayagang makapagputol na ng halos 3,500 coconut trees, bukod pa sa ibang uri ng mga puno kapalit umaino ang pangakong milyun-milyong halagang kikitang buwis na ibabayad sa lokal na pamahalaan.

Sinabi naman ni P4P Coalition Convenor at CEED Executive Director Arances, ang pagkakatlo ng kabubutan at pagputol sa maraming mga puno ay isang malaking kawalan sa mga residente ng Atimonan.



Kanselasyon ng ECC ng Atimonan One Energy, hiling

Naghain ng petisyon ang environmental advocates at mga kinatawan ng komunidad ng lalawigan ng Quezon sa harap ng tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang hilingin ang kanselasyon ng Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) na ipinagkaloob sa Atimonan One Energy (AIE), dahil umano sa ilang paglabag nito sa 'environmental and community education requisites.'

Sinabi ni Father Warren Puno, ng Ministry of Ecology, Diocese ng Lucena-Quezon, may apat na planta na ng coal ang kanilang lalawigan na tinatawag nang 'coal capital' kaya hindi na nila hahayaan na tayuan pa ito ng isa pang Atimonan One.

Iginiit pa ni Fr. Puno, na 25 taon ang kontrata ng Atimonan One kaya ngayon pa lamang ay puspusan ang kanilang pagharang dahil ang coal power plant na itatayo sa kanilang lalawigan ay hindi lamang ang kalikasan ang sisirain, kundi magiging malaki rin ang epekto nito sa 'climate change' sa ating planeta.



Monsoon rains slightly elevate Angat Dam water level

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS – Rains spawned by the northeast monsoon since Saturday have elevated the water level of Angat Dam by more than half a meter.

Monitoring by the provincial disaster risk reduction management office of Bulacan showed that the water level in Angat Dam was at 187.19 meters on Saturday, 187.67 meters on Sunday, 187.75 meters on Monday and 187.80 meters yesterday.

The dam's water elevation yesterday was only 7.80 meters above its minimum operating level of 180 meters and 24.20 meters below the ideal end-of-the-year water level of 212 meters.

Earlier, National Water Resources Board (NWRB) executive director Seville David Jr. had earlier said cloud seeding operations over the

Angat Dam watershed, the major source of potable water for Metro Manila residents, are being prepared by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in consultation with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The NWRB has cut down the water allocation for Metro Manila's domestic consumption to 36 cubic meters per second when Angat Dam's water elevation went down to its critical level of 160 meters, which eventually led to the rotational water service interruptions for Metro Manila residents.

It slightly increased to 40 cubic meters per second in September when the dam's water elevation rose past

the 180-meter minimum operating level.

David added that the normal water allocation coming from Angat Dam for Metro Manila water needs is 46 cubic meters per second or 4,000 million liters per day (mld).

Its current allocation is 40 cubic meters per second or 3,450 mld.

Tail-end of cold front

As this developed, the tail-end of a cold front is affecting Southern Luzon, PAGASA said yesterday.

Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Quezon province will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms due to the tail-end of a cold front.

Meanwhile, the Cordillera Administrative Region and Cagayan Valley will have cloudy skies with light rains brought about by the northeast

monsoon.

"Metro Manila, Ilocos region and Central Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rains also due to the northeast monsoon," the PAGASA bulletin indicated.

PAGASA added that the rest of the country would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers because of localized thunderstorms.

The state weather bureau warned that flash floods or landslides may occur during severe thunderstorms.

The coastal water condition in the northern and western sections of Northern Luzon will be strong.

For the rest of Luzon, coastal waters will be moderate to strong; in the Visayas and Min-

danao, it will be slight to moderate.

– With Rhodina Villanueva



La Mesa Watershed tree-planting vs climate change

SHOWING its commitment to battling climate change within the member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, particularly the Philippines, Norway led a recent a tree-planting ceremony at the La Mesa Watershed in Quezon City.

The activity was attended by no less than Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Bjørn Jahnsen, together with the Norwegian Ambassador to the Asean orten Høglund.

"By planting 500 seedlings this year, we are offsetting roughly 74 tons of carbon footprint equivalent to the projected carbon footprint that the embassy is producing per annum," Jahnsen said.

At the event, the embassy committed to plant 500 indigenous seedlings in La Mesa Nature Reserve, covering one hectare of land in the watershed, in partnership with the Asean Center for Biodiversity and ABS-CBN Lingkod

Kapamilya Foundation.

La Mesa Watershed has been chosen as the project site as it serves as the carbon dioxide sink of Metro Manila. The watershed is also a major source of water for some 12 million residents of Metro Manila.

"With land conversion and degradation rapidly gobbling up forests and other vital ecosystems, any effort to conserve the last standing forests that we have deserves praise. I am glad that we are not alone in protecting and preserving the remaining biodiversity in the region," ACB executive director Mundita Lim said.

"The Royal Norwegian Embassy's commitment to support our fight against climate change, specifically the Embassy's pledge to plant an estimate of 500 trees, could not have come at a better time. This supports the Asean's latest undertaking the Asean Green Initiative, which was introduced during the 15th Asean Min-

isterial Meeting on the Environment in Siem Reap, Cambodia, last October," Lim added.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila continues to look for possibilities to reduce carbon footprint in the country and the tree planting is part of the said cause.

Since 2015, Norway was invited as a sectoral dialogue partner of Asean, promoting cooperation in many areas such as peace and reconciliation, energy, trade, and private sector development, and climate change and biodiversity.

For Høglund, the tree planting activity is a way to reaffirm Norway's commitments to strengthen cooperation in the conservation of biodiversity in the Asean region.

"We urge countries to act together to tackle the global challenge of climate change, and focus on the impact of these changing conditions in Asean and its international relations," he added.



COASTAL CLEAN-UP, TREE PLANTING IKINASA NG DOLE

MAYNILA - IKINAKASA ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) ang coastal clean-up at tree planting para isulong ang environmental awareness sa Sabado, sa Baseco, Tondo.

Ang mga inisyatibong ito na pro-environment ay kabilang sa mga panimulang aktibidad ng kagawaran kasunod ng pagdiri-

wang ng ika-86 na anibersaryo nito sa Disyembre 6, na may temang "Patuloy sa Mahusay, Mabilis at Malinis na Serbisyo".

Ayon kay Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III na layon ng hakbang ay bigyang pansin ang responsibilidad upang maipalaganap ang environment protection at conservation.

Ang Baseco ay isa sa mga napiling lugar sa Maynila na nangangailangan ng agarang paglilinis at tuloy-tuloy na rehabilitasyon.

Katuwang ng kagawaran sa aktibidad ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources at ang lokal na pamahalaang Lungsod ng Maynila.

Bahagi rin ito ng kampanya

ng DOLE para sa environmental advocacy na, "Green Our DOLE Program (GODP)".

Ang GODP ay ang kampanya ng DOLE na layong makiisa ang mga opisyal at empleyado, maging ang mga tripartite partner mula sa labor at management tungo sa pagiging "agents of green change" sa mundo ng trabaho sa bansa. **PAUL ROLDAN**



Over the years there has been an outpouring of indignation over the world's use and reliance on plastic. When we look at the visuals in the news and on social media — the floating “island” of plastic, marine life choking on plastic, etc. — the impact is undeniable.

After much has been said and hyped, it did not take long for governments, including our own, to propose legislation that would ban or regulate the use of plastic and move towards sustainable alternatives. Here in the Philippines — and largely as a reaction to the 2015 report on plastic pollution by the Ocean Conservancy and the McKinsey Center for Business and Environment that ranks the Philippines as the world's third largest contributor to ocean plastic — several lawmakers have filed bills seeking the total banning of single use plastic.

Such solution seems logical and sensible. Bans and tax measures may contribute to the reduction of plastics that potentially clog our waterways and sewage systems.

However, the adoption of drastic steps to control plastics does not come without economic repercussions and, ironically, environmental impacts as well.

Most consumers in the Philippines fall in the D and E economic segments. They are used to buying in *tingi* or in sachets. This “*tingi* economy” enables low-income consumers to afford necessities such as toiletries, pharmaceuticals, beverages, cosmetics, food items, and many others. This type of economic exchange has been

THINKING BEYOND POLITICS CARMELO BAYARCAL

sustaining the country's micro economy for decades and is even used as an economic indicator showing trends in product demand of many industries.

A typical example is our friendly neighborhood supermarket routinely wrapping fresh meats, fruits and vegetables using cling-wrap plastics. Should the proposal to ban single-use plastic prosper, all the packaging changes in the above-mentioned products will have a major economic impact in the country. It's not that easy, is it?

Furthermore, we seem to have forgotten what has driven the shift to plastics in the first place. Plastic, decades ago, was the revolutionary alternative to paper, tin, and glass. It became the more practical, cheaper, and more environmentally sound alternative over other materials available then.

And this holds true up to now. The production of plastic bags requires fewer resources (land, water, CO2 emissions, etc.) than that of paper or cotton bags. In a 2018 study published by The Danish Environmental Protection Agency, a paper bag must be used at least 43 times for its per-use environmental impacts to be equal to or less than that of a typical disposable plastic bag used one time, while an organic cotton bag must be reused 20,000

times to produce less of an environmental impact than a single-use plastic bag.

A plastic ban appears to be a stop-gap solution to solving the plastics problem. There is also not much discussion regarding systematic solutions, which is necessary in approaching such a multi-dimensional problem.

We should employ a holistic approach in tackling this issue, taking into consideration both the economic and environmental aspects. All stakeholders — big corporations, small businesses, government, and consumers — should be involved and must take action.

The sweeping vilification of plastic will not solve our current woes. Smart public policies can be made to address the change in paradigm for both the industry sector and the citizens' behavior with regards to sustainability. Simply banning single-use plastics without meaningful, significant, and complementary action from all stakeholders is like plugging a leak when the whole dam is about to break.

Fortunately, stakeholders are starting to embrace the value of sustainability. Coca-Cola, for instance, introduced its Plant-Bottle packaging technology — producing a fully recyclable PET plastic bottle made partially from plants. It is also investing in a P1-billion state-of-the-art recycling facility in the Philippines to collect, sort, clean, and wash post-consumer PET plastic bottles, turn them into new bottles, and bring them back into the value chain.

Unilever, on the other hand, has committed to help collect and process around 600,000 tons of plastic annually by 2025. Here in the Philippines, it has partnered with the City of Manila for its “*Kolek Kilo Kita para sa Walastik na Maynila Program*.” The extensive plastic waste collection program seeks to improve the city's plastic waste management while providing livelihood programs through incentivized waste segregation and collection.

As for the government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has become very active in coastal clean-up operations as part of rehabilitation of the Manila Bay. Partnerships are forged with the private sector through their Adopt-an-*Estero* program. Citizens are also tapped into DENR's efforts through the hiring of “*estero rangers*” to help address indiscriminate waste disposal and improve garbage collection. These efforts can be upscaled and replicated in different parts of the country.

While it is noticeable that the shift towards sustainability is now gaining momentum, the country's capacity to recycle should also be upgraded. Coupled with sensible policies anchored on environmental stewardship, we could effectively address plastic waste and other types of pollution. ■

CARMELO BAYARCAL is a Convenor of Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST), which is an environment project of the Stratbase ADR Institute.



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THINKING BEYOND POLITICS



**Sensible thinking
and environmental
stewardship**



UN: Cut down on fossil fuel emissions or disaster strikes

THE world will miss its chance to avert climate disaster without an immediate and all-but-impossible fall in fossil fuel emissions, the UN said Tuesday in its annual assessment on greenhouse gases.

The United Nations Environment Program said that global emissions need to fall by 7.6 percent, each year, every year until 2030 to limit global temperature rises to 1.5C.

The harsh reality is that emissions have risen on average 1.5 percent annually over the last decade, hitting a record 55.3 billion tonnes of CO2 or equivalent greenhouse gases in 2018—three years after 195 countries signed the Paris treaty on climate change.

The World Meteorological Organization said Monday that atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations hit an all-time record in 2018.

The Paris deal committed nations to limit temperature rises above pre-industrial levels to “well below” 2C, and to a safer 1.5-C if at all possible.

To do so they agreed on the need to reduce emissions and work towards a low-carbon world within decades.

Yet the UN found that even taking into account current Paris pledges, the world is on track for a 3.2C temperature rise, something scientists fear could tear at the fabric of society.

Even if every country made good on its promises, Earth’s “carbon budget” for a 1.5-C rise—the amount we can emit to stay below a certain temperature threshold—would be exhausted within a decade.

In its own words, the UN assessment is “bleak”.

While it insisted the 1.5-C goal is still attainable, it acknowledged that this would require an unprecedented, coordinated upheaval of a global economy that is still fuelled overwhelmingly by oil- and gas-fuelled growth.

“We are failing to curb greenhouse gas emissions,” UNEP’s executive director, Inger Andersen, told AFP.

“Unless we take urgent action now and make very significant cuts to global emissions we’re going to miss the target of 1.5C.” **AFP**



Greenhouse emissions hit new record, could bring 'destructive' effects – UN

GENEVA. – Greenhouse gas emissions surged to a record level last year and world temperatures could rise by more than twice the globally agreed warming limit if nothing is done, a UN report showed on Tuesday.

The "Emissions Gap Report" is one of several studies released ahead of U.N. climate talks in Madrid next week aimed at spurring world leaders to limit climate change.

It measures the amount of emissions cuts needed to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, as agreed in the key 2015 Paris Agreement. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change last year warned of huge global changes if that target is not met, such as the loss of nearly all coral reefs and most Arctic sea ice.

Under current national pledges to cut emissions, "temperatures can be expected to rise by 3.2C this century, bringing wide-ranging and destructive climate impacts," said a summary of the report by the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP).

"Being a grandfather - we don't want to leave that for our grandkids," the report's lead author John Christensen told a news conference.

The report said the safest temperature threshold set in Paris - of 1.5C - was still achievable, but

would require emissions cuts of 7.6% a year from 2020 to 2030, the report said. Limiting the rise to 2C it would mean annual cuts of 2.7%.

"We are talking about transformational change now - incremental change simply will not make it. We simply need to transform societies in the next 10 years," Christensen said.

"The longer you wait, the more difficult it becomes."

The report showed that emissions, including those from land-use change such as deforestation, had not yet peaked and rose to a record 55.3 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2018.

Christensen said some of those that had met their targets comfort-

ably, such as Turkey and Russia, should tighten them significantly.

The report named the United States as one of several large emitters alongside Brazil and Japan falling short of its own targets, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This month, the Trump administration filed paperwork to quit the Paris Agreement in the first step of a formal withdrawal process.

Countries face a 2020 deadline to set more ambitious emissions cut pledges.

"Had we done it 10 years ago, it would have been easier," said Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. "But the time is now and the opportunity is now." – *Reuters*



Epson, DENR-EMB call entries for the EcoVision Film tilt

EPSON Philippines, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), announced the launch of the 2nd EcoVision Short Film Competition for university students. This year, the EcoVision inter-school video-making contest aims to tap the creativity of university students in raising public understanding of environmental conservation through short documentaries. With the theme "Upcycling Heroes", entries must feature a Philippine-based organization or individual who champions or performs upcycling as a tool for environmental sustainability. To join, all qualified entrants must download, fill out, and submit the accomplished form along with attachments to epson.ecovision@gmail.com.



Roni Sanjaya
MANILA BULLETIN
NOVEMBER 27, 2019

The continuing conflict between nature, human abuse

Newspapers around the world published last week, on November 20, an unusual story about a French court in the southwest of France which allowed a group of ducks in a farm to keep quacking, after neighbors filed a complaint to abort the noise they made. The complainants sought damages in the amount of 150 euros (P8,250) for each day that the noise continued, as well as 3,500 euros (P192,500) in damages and 2,000 euros (P112,750) in legal costs. The court ordered an acoustic audit to test the actual noise levels, to be carried out next year.

Earlier, last September, there had been a case, also in rural France, where neighbors sued the owner of a rooster named Maurice for crowing so early in the morning, but the court upheld the rooster's right to crow in the morning to start its day.

The court cases have drawn national attention as a symbol of the battle between urban and rural France. More than this, however, they are seen by many quarters as a battle between the natural world of animals, trees, and other living things and the increasing encroachment and changes in the natural order inflicted by human activities.

Such human activities as widespread industrialization have caused such changes as rising world temperatures due to carbon emissions from

factories, in turn causing the polar glaciers to melt and ocean levels to rise, and somehow generating stronger typhoons and hurricanes.

Our own Philippine Constitution acknowledges this importance of nature, with Section 16 of Article II "Declaration of Principles and State Policies" providing: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature." Our Supreme Court in 1993 upheld the right of 44 children to sue for the cancellation of timber license agreements as part of their right to a healthy environment. And in 2008, the Supreme Court issued a mandamus, ordering 13 government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to carry out their obligations as mandated by the Philippine Environment Code to clean up the waters of Manila Bay.

The French courts' orders in the cases of Maurice the rooster and the quacking ducks are the latest development in the worldwide battle between the natural order of things and the efforts of people to curtail it to fit their own human needs. The battle continues to this day and we are firmly on the side of those seeking to hold back human efforts that are now causing climate change and its worst effects on our lives.



9 Korean firms eye investments

NINE Korean companies engaged in a wide range of industries from food to construction and property development expressed interest to set up operations or expand in the Philippines, according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The DTI in a statement said executives from Daesang Corp., Hyundai E&C, Developer City Co. Ltd. (DCC), JS Development, Korea Overseas Investment and Urban Development (KIND), LG CNS, Pan Co. Ltd., Dohwa and Dae Il Corp. (DIC) paid a courtesy call with President Duterte, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez and other Cabinet members last Monday in Busan to express their intention to invest in the country.

During the meeting, the President encouraged the company executives to invest in the Philippines soonest possible and assured them that his administration will do everything

to expedite their investments.

Daesang is one of the biggest food manufacturers in Korea and the world's top three fermentation exclusive company.

Hyundai E&C is engaged in the construction business specializing in infrastructure/environment, architecture/housing, plant/electricity and property development.

DCC is a property development company involved in the building of integrated townships, condominiums, commercial areas, and golf courses etc.

JS Development specializes in big scale dredging activities using state-of-the-art equipment and environment friendly procedures.

KIND provides comprehensive support for Korean companies to expand their overseas public-private partnership investment and development business activities.

LG CNS is part of the Ko-

rean conglomerate LG Group which has interests in transportation, manufacturing, banking and finance, government, telco and media, cross industries, etc.

Pan is a specialized company in development of recycle plant facilities and manufacture the system to exchange the wasted garbage to fuel.

Pan had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 2015.

Pan and DENR plans to sign a MOU for a feasibility study on solid refuse fuel steam supply and power plant in the Philippines.

Dohwa is the largest civil engineering firm in Korea in terms of manpower and have been ranked first, on an annual turnover basis, for 13 consecutive years.

DIC manufactures automobiles parts and heavy industry parts.



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GAANO ba kahalaga ang mga overseas Filipino worker sa buhay ng mga mamamayang Filipino?

At para maging mahalaga sila sa buong lipunan, gaano ba nila binubuno ang buhay?

Sa ibang salita, pano sila nagsasakripisyo para sa bayan at para na rin sa kani-kanilang mga pamilya na milyon-milyon ang bilang?

12 MILYONG OFW

May 12 milyong overseas Filipino worker na nakakalat sa buong mundo.

Pinakamarami ang matatagpuan sa Amerika na umaabot sa 4 milyon at sumunod sa Saudi Arabia sa bilang na nasa 1 milyon.

Sa kabuuan, mahigit 2 milyon ang nasa mga Arabong bansa, habang marami ang bilang sa mga bansang Canada, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Italy, China, Singapore, United Kingdom, Taiwan, France, Spain, South America, Israel, Hong Kong at iba pa.

P1.6 TRILYON REMITTANCE

Dahil sa kaniang pagsasakripisyo na mawalay sa kanilang mga pamilya upang magtrabaho sa bang bansa, tumatanggap ang Pilipinas ng halagang \$32 bilyon taon-taon.

Kung ipalit mo ang salaping dolyar na ito sa P50 na lamang, umaabot ang halaga sa P1.6 trilyon.

Sa taong 2020, mga Bro, may P4.1 trilyong gan ukalang hadyef ang pambansang panahalaan.

Kung ihahambing natin ang remittance nito sa magkasunod na taon na halos parang katulad na \$32B, napakalaki ang kontribusyon nito sa ekonomiya ng bansa.

HINDI PASAMIN

Kung pagsama-samahin ang 12 milyong OFW at isama ang kanilang mga pamilya sa kwentang 4 miyembro, may katutuhang 48 milyong indibidwal na pamilya-OFW.

Ganito kailali ang piwersa ng pamilya-OFW.

Halos kalahati ng buening populasyon natin na nasa 103M ngayong 2019.

Dahil sa kanilang mga pagsusunatikan at pagsasakripisyo, nakakayanan nila ng magkakaibang mga serbisyo at bahay, magpapal ng kanilang mga anak, magpundat ng sarili nilang negasyo, magpaospital ng kanilang may sakit at iba pa.

Hindi na sila nagiging pasanin ng pamahalaan, nakatutuhong pa-



ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

SALUDO SA MGA OFW SA HIRAP AT KAMATAYAN

sila nang todo sa pamahalaan at sa buong lipunan.

BINUBUHAY ANG PINAS

Kung malaki ang ginagampanan ng mga negosyante sa pag-unlad ng ekonomiya ng bansa, malaki rin ang papel ng mga OFW.

Ang pagbili nila ng mga OFW ng lupa na may itinatayong bahay-OFW ay nangangahulugan ng pagiging buhay ng mga pabrika ng semento, bakal, kahoy, salamin, yero at iba pa ng mga negosyante.

May mga subdivisyon pa ngayong eksklusibo para sa mga OFW gaya ng mga seafarer na empleyado ng mga shipping company.

At magsasabing walang subdivisyon na walang OFW, maging ang mga nakatayong condominium.

Ang pag-aaral ng mga anak ay nangangahulugan din ng buhay na buhay na pabrika, ng mga papel, bolpen, damit, sapatos, bag gamit sa siyensia, computer, cellphone at iba pa.

Maging ang mga ospital, doktor, nars, midwife, kompanya ng mga gamot at punerarya at buhay na buhay rin dahil ang mga OFW ang may kakayahang magbayad ng gamot at serbisyo ng para sa kanilang mga maysakit at namamatay.

RODOLFO PENGSON JR.

Isinusulat natin ang ukol sa kahalagahan ng mga OFW makaraang dumalig ang Remate sa isang palibing ng OFW na namatay isang araw pag-balik niya sa bansa mula sa Saudi Arabia.

Si Rodolfo Pengson Jr. na ipinanganak noong Nobyembre 18, 1968 ay namatay sa kanyang kaarawan, Nobyembre 18, 2019.

Kinapan siya ng sakit sa kidney sa takalipas na ilang taon hanggang sa lumala ito sa maraming araw ng kanyang buhay.

Sa dalawang dekada niya bilang OFW, naipundat ni Pengson ang isang bahay, isang sasakyan at mgá gamit ang kanyang pamilya.

Nagang tuloy-tuloy ang pag-aaral sa kolehiyo ng kanyang mga anak.

Sa nakalipas na iromang taon, dinapuan siya

ng sakit sa kidney ngunit hindi niya ininda ito para lang tuloy-tuloy ang kanyang pagtatrabaho.

Umaabot na ang lahat sa pakiusap niya sa company doctor na huwag siyang ideklarang may mabigat na sakit upang tuloy itong makapagtrabaho sa isang pabrika sa Saudi Arabia.

Layon nitong magpagtapos lahat ang kanyang mga anak sa kolehiyo.

Ngunit inabutan na siya ng mga huling sandali ng kanyang buhay, umuwi siya nang hindi sinasabi sa kanyang maybahay na malapit na siyang bumalik sa piling ng Dakilang Lumikha ng kanyang buhay.

REGALO

Umasa ang kanyang maybahay na tutuparin ni Rodolfo ang pangakong bibilihan siya ng bagong sasakyan at ito pa nga ang masamhit nito pagdating sa kanilang tananan sa Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Ngunit hindi na nga natupad ang pangako dahil sa pagtatapos ng kanyang buhay.

Mahalaga ang sasakyan dahil ito ang ginawang hanapbuhay ni Marilyn, ang kanyang maybahay.

Si Marilyn ang nagmamaneho sa unang sasakyan nito bilang ischod service at gainit sa munting negosyo na naipupundat nila.

Halal alang-alang sa kanilang apat na supling.

Sa mga OFW, katulad ni Pengson, saludo ang ULTIMATUM sa inyo.

AVP INIHANDA

Walang kaalam-alam ang asawa't mga anak ni Rodolfo na inihanda na nito ang audio-visual presentation para sa huling gabi ng kanyang lamay na kinapapaloohan ng kasaysayan ng kanilang pagmamahal at pagbuo ng isang masayang pamilya.

Binuo ang AVP habang nasa abroad ito at damang-dama na niya ang kanyang pamamalam.

oOo

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