

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 09 DEC 2018

DAY : Friday

DENR
IN THE NEWS



09 DEC 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

B-8

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Gov't marks sites for seaweed farming

The government is boosting its efforts to bolster seaweed production in the country as it aims to create an alternative source of income and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it has started identifying suitable sites for seaweed farming nationwide including Batangas, Quezon, Cebu and Antique, among others.

Environment Secretary Gina Lopez noted the strong market potential of seaweed due to its fast-growing characteristics and high market price, making it an important economic

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON activity to alleviate poverty in the rural areas.

"The seaweed revenues should affect more than one person while developing an area. We can get the country out of poverty through this project," Lopez said.

She added the department would not only focus on seaweed propagation, but also in marketing its by-products.

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, seaweed is the top aquaculture commodity, followed by milkfish (bangus) and tilapia. Around 12,000 farmers are involved in seaweed farming.

The most common species of seaweed that thrive in the country are *Kappaphycus alvarezii* (P35-P45 per kilogram); *Kappaphycus striatum* (P35-P45 per kg); and *Eucheuma denticulatum* (P10-20 per kg).

Apart from its economic potential, seaweed is one of the natural and effective carbon sequestrators that can be found in the coastal area and some of its species can grow alongside mangroves.

Using seaweed for human production and consumption also helps the marine ecosystem as it reduces the organisms that are infesting other lives in the sea.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Remaining mine audits may take up to five months

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau, which is in charge of the environmental audit of the country's remaining metal mines, may reach a final decision on the fate of the 31 such facilities after about five months.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau's (MGB) Officer-in-charge Assistant Director Danilo U. Uykieng said that the process may take that long "if the whole process is done in accordance to schedule."

"I prepared an action plan: I need 25 people to make up five technical working groups to review one mine which will take four working days," Mr. Uykieng said in a phone interview on Thursday.

The validation process may take a further six weeks or so, while the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR) deliberations on the reports from the technical working group may take two more months. Any extra time will be devoted to drafting the groups' recommendations to the secretary.

"Tomorrow (Friday), we'll be meeting with the secretary to discuss personnel requirements so that we can start the review," Mr. Uykieng added.

However, he noted that the initial proposal for the time frame of the audit is not yet final as Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez wants the process expedited.

"I will not allow that because that will be unfair to the miners. I don't want to leave them hanging," Ms. Lopez said on Thursday when asked about the proposed timeline.

The responses of the 31 miner undergoing the validation will be

released to the public in batches, he added.

According to Environment Officer-in-Charge Undersecretary for Legal Maria Paz G. Luna, who was previously designated to take charge of the audit after the sacking of the first head of the audit teams, former MGB Director Leo L. Jasareno, the DENR issued a special order assigning Mr. Uykieng to steer the direction of the audit because the process of preparing the reports is "highly technical" by nature.

"There is a special order creating designating Mr. Uykieng in charge because the reports are highly technical minerals reports," Ms. Luna said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

"Some have already been assessed," she added, noting that the reports are "several binders long so the assessment process isn't to be taken lightly."

The order was issued Nov. 29. The MGB's Mr. Uykieng said that he received a copy on Nov. 29.

The nationwide crackdown against miners that employ substandard environmental practices was launched by Secretary Lopez and has left 20 mining firms facing possible suspension.

This brings to more than three-quarters of the country's total metal mines those that are either facing suspension or are under threat of such order as the government also suspended 10 mines prior the audit which started last July.

These mines, both suspended and identified for suspension, make up 55.5% of the industry's nickel output last year.

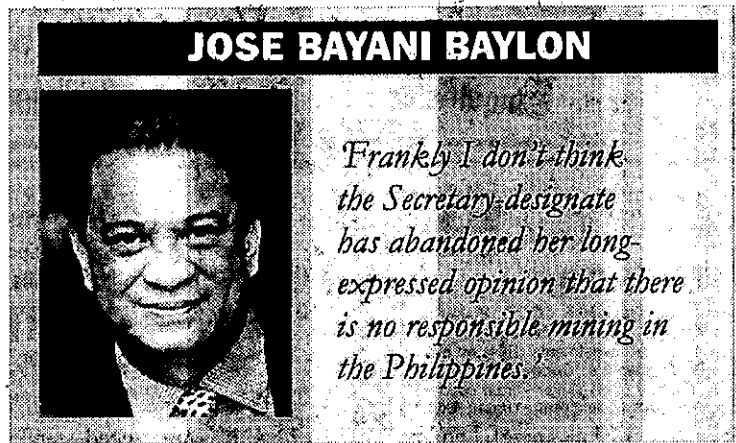
The audit, which began July 8, was originally supposed to be a one-month review to be concluded by August. — Janina C. Lim

I don't believe in miracles but...

So it came to pass that DENR secretary-designate Regina Lopez finally set foot in Rio Tuba last Wednesday, December 7. Rio Tuba is the barangay of Bataraza town in the southernmost tip of the main island of Palawan province that hosts a nickel mining operation of the same name. Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation is owned 60-40 by Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC) and Pacific Metals (PAMCO).

Since the early 2000s Rio Tuba has also been host to a nickel ore processing plant named Coral Bay, which in turn is 10% owned by NAC with Sumitomo Metal Mining (SMM) as the principal.

As some of those who read this space and/or who know me may know, I work for NAC as its corporate affairs person. But I did not have the "privilege" of being part of the welcoming committee for the Secretary-designate. Our CEO, who is an all-around nice guy, figured that my presence might be like a pebble inside an expensive shoe, given pieces that have appeared here that are not too positive about the guest. So I was sort of "banned" from the



event -- ok ok we can drop "sort of" -- and could only monitor developments from afar.

I kept texting folks in the area "Ano Balita?" but was not receiving any replies for quite some time. Which got me worried. You see, Rio Tuba River is home to large crocodiles and I was afraid that some pro-mining crocodiles might have attacked the visitors and all that...

Finally the updates came in droves as the sun was setting over Manila Bay. "Ok naman sir", one text said. "She loves everything native!"

"Mukhang impressed naman siya sa nakita niya", another text went. A third was a simple "So far so good".

Hmmmm.

Yesterday I was dumbfounded to receive a message over Viber from someone attending a briefing at the DENR. The message was a quote from the Secretary-designate who was said to have uttered these words:

"I love Rio Tuba! I love what they did there! Their CSR funds are much bigger than their SDMP funds. So far it's the best I've seen. But we're gonna help them

some more..."

Holy Smokes Batman! The world's turned on its head!!

Frankly I don't think the Secretary-designate has abandoned her long-expressed opinion that "there is no responsible mining in the Philippines" because that would be too much of a 180-degree turn for her that would cause her to break with many of her NGO allies. But maybe that statement has become something like "There might be aspects of responsible mining in the Philippines", which is a concession enough that previous generalizations may not be well-informed.

Still I couldn't help but feel like our visitor was like Pearl Harbor's visitors on Dec 7 many many moons ago!

But you really believe in miracles??

If the Secretary-designate gets confirmed, and if after confirmation she says "there IS responsible mining in the Philippines and it is practiced in places like Rio Tuba" then I in turn will enter the Jesuit novitiate in Novaliches.

Now I don't know which of the two will be the bigger miracle!

At 63rd ANMSEC

Philippine Mining's Best

THREE mining companies received the prestigious Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) for their exemplary efforts in achieving environmentally and socially responsible surface mining and mineral processing operations, during the celebration of the 63rd Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) held at CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center last November 8 in Baguio City.

Among the notable 2016 PMIEA awardees were OceanaGold (Phils.), Incorporated (Surface Mining Operation Category), SR Metals, Incorporated (Surface Mining Operation Category) and Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (Mineral Processing Category).

The PMIEA was established under Executive Order No. 339, Series of 1997, to recognize exemplary efforts of the mining groups and companies in achieving environmentally and socially responsible exploration, mining and mineral processing operations.

The following companies achieved a degree of superior performance in environment, safety and health and were conferred by PMIEA Selection Committee Achievement Awards:

Surface Mining Operation

PLATINUM— Cagdianao Mining Corporation, Greenstone Resources Corporation, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp.,

TITANIUM— Agata Mining Ventures, Inc., Hinatuan Mining Corp.-Tagana-an, Platinum Group Metals Corp., Taganito Mining Corp.

Mineral Exploration

PLATINUM— Mt. Labo Exploration and Development Corp., Silangan Mindanao Mining Company, Inc.,

TITANIUM— Tambuli Mining Company, Inc.

Quarry Operation

PLATINUM— Holcim Mining and Development Corp.-Bulacan Plant, Holcim Mining and Development - Davao Plant, Holcim Mining and Development Corp.- La Union Plant;

TITANIUM— Eagle Cement Corporation, LafargeHolcim Aggregates, Inc.

This year's over-all winners for Best Mining Forest Contest are Taganito Mining Corporation (Metallic Category), Holcim Resources and Development Corporation (Non-metallic Category), Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (Mineral Processing Category), Aglubang Mining Corporation (Exploration Category)

The Best Mining Forest Contest was established by virtue of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 22, Series of 1989.

Runners-up for 2016 Best Mining Forest Contest are the following:

Metallic Category

Philex Mining Corporation, 1st Runner-up, Carmen Copper Corporation, 2nd Runner-up; OceanaGold (Phils), Inc. 3rd Runner-up.

Non-metallic Category

Holcim Mining and Development Corporation, 1st Runner-up; Holcim Mining and Development corporation-Davao Plant; Holcim Mining and Development Corporation - La Union Plant, 2nd Runner-up; Solid Earth Development Corporation, 3rd Runner-up

Mineral Processing Category

Philippine Mining Service Corporation - Alcoy Plant, 1st Runner-up; Apo Cement Corporation 2nd Runner-up

Exploration Category

Silangan Mindanao Mining Co. Inc., 1st Runner-up

SAFEST MINES

Winners and runners-up for the 2016 Safest Mines Awards included

Safest Surface Mining Operation Award

OceanaGold, Winner; SR Metals, Inc. Runner-up

Safest Cement Operation Award

Northern Cement Corporation, Winner; Holcim Mining and Development Corp. - La Union, runner-up

Safest Quarry Operation Award

Solid Earth Development Corp., Winner; LafargeHolcim Aggregates, Inc. Runner-up

Safest Mineral Processing - Cement Plant Category

Taiheiyo Cement Philippines, Winner; Apo Cement Corporation, Runner-up

Safest Mineral Processing - Concentrator Category Award

OceanaGold (Phils.), Inc. - Winner

Safest Mineral Processing-Extraction Category Award

Coral Bay Nickel Corporation, Winner; Taganito HPAL Nickel Corporation, Runner-up

Safest Mineral Processing - Crushing Plant Category Award

Philippine Mining Service Corporation - Bohol Plant, Winner; Montalban Millex Aggregates Corporation, Runner-up

Safest Mineral Processing - Calcining Plant Category Award

Benguet Management Corporation - Timber and Lime Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Winner

Most Improved Safety Performance

Platinum Group Metals Corporation, Winner

Safest Mining Operation: Metallic Category

OceanaGold (Phils.), Incorporated, Winner

Safest Mining Operation: Non-metallic Category

Solid Earth Development Corporation - Winner; Taiheiyo Cement Philippines, Winner; Apo Cement Corporation, Runner-up

BEST MINES PERSONALITIES

Best Mines Personalities for 2016 were also recognized during the said event, including the following:

Safety Inspector

(Underground) Jerrel K Lagoyyo, Bengue Corp. - Acupan Project; (Surface) James M. Paje, Taganito Mining Corp.

Mine Supervisor

(Underground) Juan B. Napudo Benguet

Keynote speech 63rd Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association

THE officers and members of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association, our partners in the private sector, fellow workers in government, guests, ladies and gentlemen a pleasant evening to all!

On behalf of Undersecretary Mario Luis Jacinto, I was tasked to deliver the keynote speech of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. President Duterte extends his warmest greetings of congratulations and best wishes to the organizers of this 63rd Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference, and the dedicated men and women behind the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association.

Sixty-three years of responsible mining is a great achievement. I would like to commend you for your collective accomplishments as a group over the years. This is a testimony to your hard work and resilience in the face of challenges and adversities.

This year's Conference is proof of PMSEA's relevance in the mining industry. Its role as a champion of advocacies that promote occupational safety and health, sound environmental management and social responsibility in mining has helped change the lives of many people for the better, and developed communities in the local and regional levels, thereby contributing to the country's development and in nation building.

However, there is so much more that needs to be done. And I would like to pose a challenge not only to the PMSEA, but the mining sector in general, to step up and do your share in making sure that our industry will not only impact the economy in general, but the lives of the ordinary people affected by mining, in particular.

On the part of government, please know that we are serious in having all hands onboard so that all industries can productively contribute in the total effort of seeing the country march to meaningful progress and development.

With this as premise, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau shall pursue five (5) policy directions toward a long-term and stable policy environment that is essential to realize the true potential of our mineral deposits. Focus shall be on the following areas in the days to come.

• Policy 1: Minerals and metal-led industrialization initiatives

The following are among the major development agenda for our country: a) investment in human resource capital development especially from the science and technology sectors, b) revitalization of the manufacturing industries, and, c) the levelling up of annual public spending on infrastructure at 5% of GDP or even up to 6% of GDP.

The industrialization in a resource rich country like the Philippines invariably involves value-adding activities for downstream processing of metallic mineral resources. The strategies are:

1. Ensure continued availability and security of supply of materials and commodities, and thereby, minimize risks to the economic growth trajectory, by planning and establishing a robust mine-to-metal value chain.
2. Revisit regulatory and compliance policies as regards mining and processing of metallic minerals
3. Conduct an inventory and further exploration studies, if necessary of the various natural resources in the country especially the magnetite sand deposits, coal, limestone, nickel, chromite, etc.

• Policy 2: Streamlining of application procedures

Red tape is a disincentive to investors and presents opportunities for graft and corruption. In order to address red tape, I have instructed to simplify and rationalize applications procedures in terms of documentary requirements, systems and signatories, processing time and processing cost to strengthen the foundation of good governance which is essential in the building of competitive local economies. MGB has to be clearer in its policy issuances, make sure that things are "well understood" and the Bureau is able to cut down on the list of requirements and documents that have to be submitted to make the time of

• Policy 3: MGB-led inter-agency coordination of regulatory agencies in mining projects

MGB shall closely coordinate with other regulatory agencies in the approval of mining projects. These regulatory agencies, among others, include the Environmental Management Bureau for the Environmental Compliance Certificate and other environmental requirements; the Biodiversity Management Bureau for areas closed to mining such as protected areas, national parks; the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples for the required Certification Precondition pursuant to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act; the National Water Regulatory Board for the water rights; and of course, with the Local Government Units for the required endorsement from the Sanggunian. The management of the country's mineral resources will stress the sharing of authority among the government agencies.

• Policy 4: Strong Community relations programs

The government will work hand-in-hand with community relations practitioners in achieving the government's and the industry's common objectives on responsible mining and community development. The challenge is to squarely address legitimate concerns, provide proper information to have shared perspectives of development options, encourage cooperation in order to build trust and shared goals and values and ensure that host communities are deeply involved in the environmental protection and enhancement programs. The government will see to it that host communities are engaged in every step of the way towards responsible mining and adhere to the principle of subsidiarity, which recognizes that decisions should be decentralized and taken as close as possible to the people and communities most directly affected. On the side of the industry, we encourage you to work well with the communities and engage them from day one of the project. Only by engaging host communities and local government officials will give people in the communities a sense of ownership (over a mine) and understand that mining is important in development of a community. Providing vital information about the industry can be addressed by proper information that is verifiable. As for the unreasonable disinformation on mining that will come our way, we need to clarify the wrong perceptions and ideas and show that these are meant to discredit or try to put some doubt on what will be most beneficial for the people.

• Policy 5: Final land use options of mineral lands

We all know that mining is just a temporary land use. Hence, we will ensure that final land use options will be thoroughly discussed and consulted with the local government units, the communities and other stakeholders. Greater collaboration between LGUs, community, local civil society, and the industry will result in sound land use planning and management and determination of the most suitable and sustainable final land use.

Based on the Philippine Statistics Authority report, although mining contribution to GDP of the Philippines is a measly 0.6%, the mining and quarrying in the regional level such as in MIMAROPA contributes 20% of the GRDP while in CARAGA, it contributes 22% of the GRDP. This information on the mining contribution to GRDP in MIMAROPA and CARAGA is enlightening as we know for a fact that mining is concentrated only in certain areas of the country. Furthermore, if you look at the impact of mining in areas where it is occurring, then it could be 70% of total economic activity and 70% of all employment. Thus, the locality is practically totally dependent on the contribution of taxes and revenues that are generated by the mining operations. We only have 109 active mining areas for metallic and non-metallic mines within the country, so we are not present in all provinces of the Philippines. We may have a small contribution in the overall GDP statistics but in provinces and regions where mining exists a higher Gross Regional Domestic Product is evident which means more beneficial to communities/ provinces/ regions. The industry must grow for it to contribute more to development in areas with potential mineral deposits.

The task before us is daunting especially at this time when mining companies are projected as spoilers of the environment. But, with our collective effort, consistency of purpose and commitment to respon-



P.1

DATE
FB
PAGE

UPPER HALF
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Int'l trail markers put up in Mt. Kanlaon

Czech and Filipino organizations opened new tourist trails equipped with international marker systems in Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park, Negros Occidental.

Promoting the beauty of less known parts of the Philippines, three color-coded trails using the colors of the Philippine flag were opened from Guintubdan to Buslugan Falls in red, to Oro Falls in yellow and to Salas Park Nature Pavilion in blue.

The system originated in Czechia in 1886, but is now unified across a number of countries. The Markers System is entirely new to the Philippines.

The trails were marked by Mendel University students in cooperation with Rafael Salas Park and Nature Center. Mendel University has recently started a cooperation program with De La Salle University in Bacolod.

The trails were opened by Ladislav Havel, president of Mendel University, and Jan Vytopil, deputy head of the Czech embassy in Manila. Havel stressed that "the ease of marking as well as its low cost facilitates its use.

The markers are basically just three stripes painted on surfaces along the trail." In

Europe, where hiking is a popular pastime, the trails are usually marked by volunteers.

The increase in inbound international tourists from Europe to the Philippines created the need to have a simple, economical, nationwide and unified system of tourist markers.

According to the Czech Ambassador Jaroslav Olsa Jr. "The project aims to let both domestic and foreign tourists explore the other beautiful but lesser known parts of the Philippines." How to Do It

The trail usually starts at an easily reachable public place like a square or park entry where the initial guidepost is located with directions marked by colored arrows and distances.

Each basic marker is a 10 x 10 cm rectangle consisting of three stripes: white-color white. Four colors are used in between the two white stripes; red and blue to indicate longer and the most difficult trails, red for summit trails, yellow and green for the easier and interconnecting trails.

The color reference is used for ease of identification and forgoes any confusion with similar colors appearing re-

P.2



DATE	UPPER HALF
PAGE	LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Int'l trail markets put up in mt. Kanlaon



Hikers in Mt. Kanlaon are guided by trail markers (above). Mendel University's Ladislav Havel (right).

peatedly. The markers are recommended to be painted on fixed objects like trees or stones along the tourist paths. The Marker System installation project

would not have been possible without the support of Carmelita Salas, the longest serving Philippine ambassador to the Czech Republic, whose family roots are in Negros.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Wastewater treatment pressed

ILOILO CITY — An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging local governments in Western Visayas to toughen laws on the treatment of wastewater.

"It's only a matter of implementation," said Arjunn Calvo, chief for planning, programming and education division of the regional DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

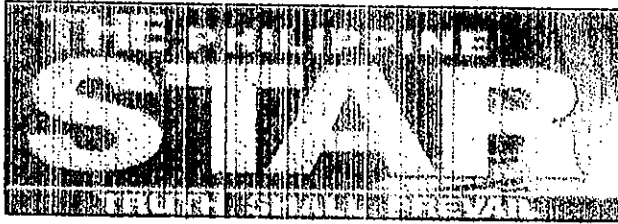
While the level of coliform bacteria in the Iloilo-Batiano River that runs through Iloilo City and Oton town has dropped, Calvo noted there are not enough septic tanks put up by bigger establishments to reduce the level of water pollution.

The EMB is pushing for a centralized sewage system that connects the sewage lines of subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels,

hospitals, and markets.

Calvo added septic tanks must be also regularly cleaned to keep them working properly.

Aside from Iloilo, the EMB also monitors bacteria levels in Roxas City in Capiz and Boracay in Aklan. (Tara Yap)



09 DEC 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

B-8

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



MANILA WATER ENERGIZES PHL LARGEST SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT: Department of Public Works and Highways Senior Undersecretary Rafael Yabut (6th from right), representing President Rodrigo Duterte, led the ceremonial energization of the Marikina North Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Balubad Resettlement, Barangay Nangka, Marikina City. He is joined by Environment Secretary Gina Lopez (4th from left), Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro (5th from left) and Manila Water chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala (3rd from left). Others in photo are (from left): Manila Water Operations COO Ferdinand Dela Cruz, Manila Water president and CEO Gerardo Abiaza, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System OIC-administrator Nathaniel Santos, MWSS-Regulatory Office chief regulator Joel Yu, Laguna Lake Development Authority general manager Neric Acosta, San Mateo, Rizal Vice Mayor Rafael Diaz and Manila Water Corporate Operations Group director Geodino Carpio.

P.1

The Manila Times

DATE

UPPER HALF

B-8

PAGE

LOWER HALF

ES SERVICE

Climate Reality Project initiates use of cleaner energy sources

AN international organization has launched the "Let's Talk Cleaner Energy" campaign in the Philippines, challenging Filipinos to consider cleaner alternative energy sources that can power the country.

Climate Reality Project, a global multi-sectoral alliance advocating grassroots participation in climate change issues, hosted discussions with the media to explore the vulnerabilities faced by coal-dependent countries, like the Philippines. "If there is one thing that we should talk about, shouldn't it be our future? The Philippines has had opinion leaders start conversations on climate change on the global platform, but we need to unify these voices back home and commit to change our nation's course. I believe that is what we are doing today," said Rodne Galicha, Climate Reality Project Philippines manager.

He noted that elsewhere in the world, the movement for renewable power has been rapidly advancing. India has brought down the cost of solar energy and successfully made it cheaper than coal-generated power. Galicha asserted that it can be done in the Philippines. "We have hydropower, geothermal energy, solar energy, wind power and biomass. These are already utilized in different parts of the Philippines. The climate reality project is

increasing rate of climate risk, the dependence on dwindling coal reserves and the indifference of population accustomed to climate change.

The discussions explored topics on falling air quality, resource contamination and their health impacts, disruption and catastrophe from changed climate patterns and viable alternatives to climate change-inducing coal.

These community and environment threats were illustrated through a video that featured Filipinos wearing masks that bore the names of the deadliest storms to hit the country in the recent decade. The video parted with the message: "You can do something. Let's talk cleaner energy."

Climate realities and forecasts were also presented with key visuals to encourage the guests to join in the conversation about the future of the planet.

In conclusion, Climate Reality Project Philippines representatives made the symbolic gesture to fight climate change and coal-driven degradation by pushing a "stop the emission" button. The environmental advocates then removed their face masks and called on the audience. "Let's

P-2

The Manila Times

09 DEC 2016

DATE

UPPER HAL

PAGE

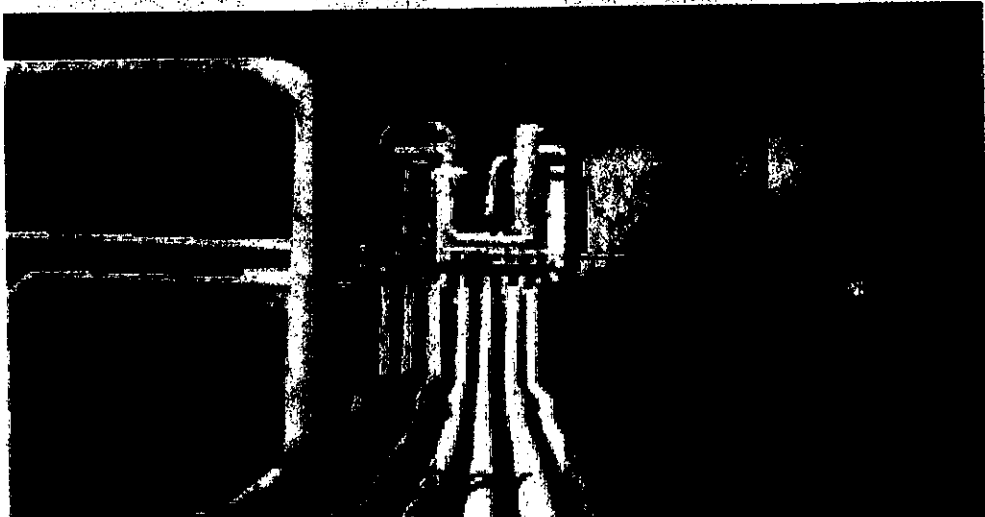
LOWER HAL

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate Reality Project initiates
use of cleaner energy sources



■ Bangui windmills



Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR

09 DEC 2010

DATE

Page 1 Story

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DSWD, DAR, DENR chiefs to face tough CA grilling



At least three Cabinet secretaries may have a hard time getting confirmation on their appointment, a member of the powerful Commission on Appointments (CA) yesterday revealed.

A Teachers partylist Rep. Juliet Cortuna, at a new forum, named Secretaries Judy Taguiwalo of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Rafael Mariano (Agrarian Reform) and Gina Lopez (Environment and Natural Resources) as those who will possibly face rough sailing before the CA.

Turn to page 3

From page 1

unless they could come up with satisfactory explanations in connection with various complaints protesting their appointments.

Cortuna, a member of the 12-man House contingent in the CA, admitted that Taguiwalo's alleged attempt to picture Congress as a corrupt body during a budget hearing in the House of Representatives did not sit well among congressmen.

She said Taguiwalo's statement on the now outlawed priority development assistance fund (PDAF) may have been "misconstrued" as a criticism of Congress.

The DSWD chief drew the ire of congressmen during her agency's budget hearing because she issued Memorandum Circular 9, which made congressmen's recommendations on the identities of indigents, who can benefit from the department's financial assistance.

become at the receiving end of their bid to introduce reforms in their respective departments, according to Cortuna.

The lawmaker, however, refused to elaborate on which groups were lobbying against Mariano and Lopez, except to say they are "interest groups."

Cortuna added political motives

could be one of the stronger reasons some members of the CA are against the confirmation of the Cabinet secretaries.

Lopez's tough stance in protecting the environment has apparently impressed President Rodrigo Duterte, who offered her the DENR portfolio.

Taguiwalo and Mariano, who were members of militant organizations associated with the Left before Duterte appointed them to his Cabinet, are very vocal against the burial of the late President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. at

never surfaced as a reason for the CA to slow down on their Cabinet appointments.

Mariano and Taguiwalo are known to have aired views against the burial of Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Vice President Leni Robredo apparently has been booted out of the Duterte Cabinet for expressing a similar stand against the Marcos burial controversy.

"While we also have to hear the voice of the people, we also give everybody a chance to explain including those up for confirmation," said Cortuna.

The influential body composed of congressmen and senators is expected to pass judgment before Congress adjourns for the Christmas break next week.

09 DEC 2016

DATE

UPPER HALF

16
PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

CENRO to 'tokhang' residents who don't segregate trash

The City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) will be cracking down on violators of the city's solid waste management ordinance, and will be pushing for a door-to-door implementation of the measure by January next year, the head of the agency said.

CENRO chief Elisa Madrazo said that the agency is scheduled to meet with barangay leaders on December 14 at the Grand Menseng Hotel.

The agency said that the New Carmen dumpsite is already handling 600 tons of garbage daily, despite the SWM ordinance mandating segregation beginning from the homes.

The SWM ordinance, at least in theory, requires hom-

owners to segregate garbage at their homes, leaving as few residual wastes such as shampoo sachets and other similar plastics, in the community garbage bin for the CENRO to collect.

The barangays, for their part, are required to operate materials recovery facilities to further reduce the collections.

However, a problem with the MRFs is the lack of areas in all of the city's 182 barangays.

Madrazo lamented that while the city is able to fund each barangay's MRF, the barangays either do not have space in their areas or have not identified the said areas where the MRF could be constructed. Each MRF costs around P450,000.