

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 04 DEC 2010

DAY : Sunday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## DENR fails to come up with list of suspended mining firms

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is now more than three months behind its target schedule as to when it intends to announce the list of mining firms that should be suspended.

Ever since DENR Secretary Gina Lopez officially took over the agency in July, she's been eager to shut down mining companies that she believes are not compliant with environmental standards.

In the same month, she called for a nationwide crackdown on mining firms, which has ended in August.

By September, instead of closing down mining firms as initially planned, the DENR just issued show-cause orders to 20 companies that were recommended for suspension by the agency's Mining Audit Team.

Mining operators were only given seven days to respond to DENR's concerns and now that all of them have already complied with this, the DENR has still yet to come up with the final audit result, which, according to Lopez last week, should already be out this week.

Industry sources now doubt the agency's capability to ever come up with a final and credible results this year amid all these delays.

Lopez told Business Bulletin last week that DENR is now on the process of finalizing the end results of the mining audit.

"We're finalizing it (the results) and the companies that have replied to our show



GINA LOPEZ

cause orders. Maybe next (this) week we can already give the names," Lopez said in a phone interview.

Lopez said that while going

through with the mining audit report, she found out that many companies didn't allocate enough budget for rehabilitation.

Many companies don't have enough funds for rehabilitation. That is a mortal sin," Lopez said.

Under the Philippine Mining Act, a Mine Rehabilitation Fund (MRF) shall be deposited as a trust fund in a government depository bank and shall be used for physical and social rehabilitation of areas and communities affected by mining activities and for research on the social, technical and preventive aspects of rehabilitation.

To recall, as much as 21 out of the country's 41 metallic mines have been recommended for suspension as the initial result of the government's nationwide audit on the mining in-

dustry. Companies that have been recommended for suspension includes Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company, Filiminera Resources Corp., Oceana Gold Philippines, Inc., Benguet Corp., Marcventures Mining and Development Corporation, Sinosteel Philippines H.Y. Mining Corp., Agata Mining Ventures, Inc., Hinatuan Mining Corporation, Libjo Mining Corporation, AAMPHEIL Natural Resources Exploration and Development Corp., Krominco, Inc., Carrascal Nickel Corp., Strongbuilt Mining Development Corp., Oriental Synergy Mining Corp., Wellex Mining Corp., Oriental Vision Mining Philippines Corp., CTP Construction and Mining Corp., and Adnama Mining Resources, Inc.; Century Peak Corp.; and SR Metals, Inc. Prior to the final results, there

are also other suspended mines namely Citinickel Mines and Development Corp. (CMD), EMIR Mineral Resources Corp., Mt. Sinai Mining Exploration Corp., Claver Mineral Development Corp., Ore Asia Mining and Development Corp., and Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., LNL Archipelago Minerals, Inc., and Berong Nickel.

A Reuters report showed on Friday that Manila's mining crackdown drove nickel to a then one-year high of \$11,030 a tonne in August. Last month the prices briefly pierced \$12,000 a tonne for the first time since July 2015 in a broad-based rally in industrial metals.

Nickel was trading at \$11,150 on Friday, but analysts say it could top \$12,000 again if the Philippines suspends more mines.

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### Consumer group warns vs hazardous toys

As consumers go on pre-Christmas toy shopping spree, a non-profit watch group for consumer and environmental health urged parents to pick up toys that will not expose young children to hazards lurking in some play things.

In the December 1 launching of its annual "Kid-Safe Toys for Zero Harm, Zero Waste," the EcoWaste Coalition, a network of non-government and public interest groups promoting ecological waste solutions, advised parents to insist on the right of their children to safe toys regardless of where the

toys are sold and bought.

"Regardless where you shop for toys, please be on the lookout for dangerous toys that can injure innocent children. As adults who control the purse strings, we can harness our purchasing power to ensure that our kids are provided with toys that promise good fun, entertainment and education, and are protected against physical and chemical harm. Our children deserve nothing less than non-hazardous toys," said Tony Dizon, Coordinator of the EcoWaste Coalition's Project Project.

Dangerous toys are those that

pose burn, chemical, choking, ingestion, laceration, strangulation and other hazards, including those that can injure the eyes and damage the ears, the EcoWaste Coalition said.

"We appeal to the toy industry, particularly to the toy manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers, to respect our children's right to safe toys and not to put toys in the market that have not undergone and passed the required physical and chemical safety tests and are not adequately labeled," Dizon added.

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### Pagwasak sa fish pens, illegal structures suportado

Suportado ni Buhay Partylist Rep. at Senior Deputy Minority Leader, Lito Atienza ang direktiba ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na sirain na ang mga fish pens at illegal structures sa Laguna de Bay.

We fully support President Duterte's order for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to immediately dismantle the fish pens in Laguna de Bay. In fact he gave a deadline for this that this should be done and the lake cleared of fish pens by the second week of December. He is the first president to have responded correctly to this issue and confronted it.

The Laguna lake has steadily deteriorated because of the proliferation of fish pens owned by big businessmen and even foreigners," pahayag ni Atienza, na matagal ding nagsilbibilang Environment Secretary.

Panahon na rin umano ng tutukan ang problema sa Laguna de Bay at umapela din ito kay Pangulong Duterte na atasan ang DENR at Laguna Lake Development Authority na ilatag sa kanya ang tunay na sitwasyon matapos na rin mapag-alaman nito na batay sa record ng ahensya ay 12,000 hectares lamang sa 99,000 hectares ng Laguna de Bay ang okupado ng fish pens, gayong ang katotohanan umano ay halos 60% na ang okupado. Kaya naman ang mga mangingisda ay limitado na lamang umano sa kanilang panghuhuli. (Tina Mendoza)



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**San Juan River eyed as QC water source**

**By Cory Martinez**

THE Quezon City council strongly supports the endorsement and re-designation of the San Juan River System as a water quality management area in a bid to restore and protect it from further degradation.

The city council has approved a resolution supporting the endorsement and is set to tap the San Juan River and its tributaries as potential water source for households, industries and commercial establishments.

The Cities of San Juan, Mandaluyong and Manila also share the river system.

The resolution principally authored by Councilor Elizabeth Delarmente, seeks the support of the three

other local government units and other stakeholders to enhance the water quality of the river system.

"The present state of the water quality of the San Juan River and its tributaries requires serious protection and management. Working together to ensure the sustainability of the river system is expected to generate maximum benefits and welfare for the affected communities and stakeholders," Delarmente said.

Under the Clean Water Act of 2004, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in coordination with the National Water Resources Board, is mandated to designate water quality management areas.

As of June 2016, the DENR has already designated 31 water quality management areas.

The Manila Water Company has presented to Mayor Herbert Bautista the Tayabasan River Water Supply Project in Antipolo City, which if developed, could also serve as an additional water source for Quezon City.

## CLIMATE REALITY UNIFIES VOICES FOR CLEANER, DEPENDABLE ENERGY

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 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 asserts 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, and still have great potential to expand in the coming years."

The Climate Reality Project Philippines manager likewise called on his audience to recognize the impact of shying away from the conversation on climate change. Galicha explained a three-fold threat to the nation that only grows as it is delayed: the increasing rate of climate risk, the dependence on dwindling coal reserves, and the indifference of population accustomed to climate change.

The afternoon's 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 envi-

ronment 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.

At the end of the program, 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 talk cleaner energy."

The "Let's Talk Cleaner Energy" event is the one of the many initiatives from the Climate Reality Project Philippines. To know more about their cause and how to save the future of the planet, follow them at [www.facebook.com/climatereality](http://www.facebook.com/climatereality).

# THE STANDARD

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## BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR COFFEE INDUSTRY IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS

By Dexter A. See

LOCAL coffee industry stakeholders have projected bright prospects of the country's coffee industry, once all appropriate interventions and strategies have been put in place, particularly by the private sector.

Citing specific and ideal industry directions, Dave Santos, chairman of the Commercial Crops Committee of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAFA), asserted the need to rehabilitate the existing total production area of 117,454 hectares to be able to add up to the volume of production by at least 3 percent or an additional 35,255 tons to the existing over 74,000 tons of coffee beans.

He added, both the government and the private sector must be able to expand the existing production areas by 50,924 hectares to be able to significantly increase the volume of coffee beans for the benefit of the growth of the industry.

Santos noted during the 2nd National Coffee Conference held in Baguio City that the expansion of production areas should be coupled with the improvement of the quality of planting materials as well as the availability of the said materials to encourage coffee farmers to embrace coffee production as the major source of their income.

The annual conference provided the venue for industry members and other stakeholders of the country's coffee production sector, which also seek to re-establish the industry's cost competitiveness that is aligned with global quality standards, reliable and environment-friendly, at the same time help provide sustainable benefits to farmers, processors, traders and exporters.

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## Oil exploration sa WPS pinabubuhay

Muling hinimok allow the resump-  
ng isang mambaba- tion of the stalled proj-  
tas ang Department of ects. We expect the DOE  
Energy (DOE) na bawi- to revoke the suspension  
in na ang ipinalabas na orders issued against the  
kautusan at simulan nang projects, while the Phil-  
muli ang oil at gas explo- ippine government pur-  
ration sa West Philippine sues strong and effective  
Sea na matatandaan ay diplomacy with China,"  
sinuspinde noong 2015 paliwanag ni Pimentel.  
upang bigyang daan ang  
kasong inihain ng Pilipi- Batay sa datos isa sa  
nas kaugnay sa territorial mga sinuspindeng gas  
dispute sa China sa Per- exploration activities ay  
manent Court of Arbitra- sa Northwest Palawan  
tion. partikular ang Service  
Contract 72 na tinutu-  
ring na 'most promising'

Ayon kay Surigao lalo at sumasakop ito-  
Rep. Johnny Pimentel, sa Reed Bank na sinasa-  
national interest na mai- turing na agad masimu-  
turing na agad masimu- bing mayroong 55.1 tril-  
lan muli ang gas explora- lion cubic feet ng gas at  
tion lalo na at inaasahan 5.4 billion bariles ng oil  
na maubos na sa susu- reserves batay na rin sa  
nod na mga dekada ang isinagawang pag-aaral ng  
natural gas deposits sa U.S. Energy Information  
Malampaya. Administration. (Tina  
"It's high time to Mendoza)



## ARMM LGUs pledge P4.2B fund for programs

**COTABATO CITY:** Local government units (LGUs) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) pledged a total of P4.196 billion to fund programs for their constituents in support of the ARMM Regional Development Framework 2016-2019.

Local officials from across the region drafted the programs, projects, services and activities (PPSA) during the 3rd ARMM Local Government Summit held from November 30 to December 1 in Davao City.

ARMM's Interior and Local Government Secretary Noor Hafizullah Abdullah said the development framework represents the aspirations of the ARMM constituents reflecting different concerns in every province and town.

The plans will be implemented in 2018 and 2019 and will be bankrolled by development

funds from each LGU addressing issues of poverty, socio-economic, security, disaster preparedness, and infrastructure.

The PPSA was aligned with the ARMM Regional Development Framework anchored on agri-fishery development under rural development; functional LGUs, improved regional government service delivery, and increased people's participation under good governance at all levels; anti-terrorism, illegal drugs, and crimes under public order and security; health and nutrition, education, livelihood, water and sanitation, and social welfare and protection under basic services for all; disaster preparedness, response and rehabilitation and environmental protection and management under climate change adaptation, and disaster resiliency; and infrastructure support for all components.

The framework is a key instrument for the LGUs to properly and equitably allocate development funds to ensure improvements of the welfare of communities," Abdullah said.

Most of the development funds, he added, were concentrated on alleviating poverty in the region, being the poorest in the country.

In the first quarter of 2015, ARMM's poverty incidence was tracked at 53.4 percent with Lanao del Sur and Sulu posting 70.2 percent and 61.8 percent poverty incidence, respectively.

During the past years, the bulk of the funds in the ARMM annual budget went to infrastructure with roughly P20 billion allocated in 2015.

ARMM Executive Secretary Laisa Alamia said the last three years were focused on infrastructures while the next three

years will be devoted mainly to anti-poverty programs.

By 2019, the region's poverty incidence is expected to be reduced by 30 percent through a convergence of government efforts.

For 2017, a total of P11.209 million development funds of LGUs across the region were allocated to four major sectors - general services, economic services, social services, and environmental concerns.

The bulk of the fund will be used for economic services, or 60.12 percent, equivalent to P67 million. General services was given the least at P7 million, comprising 6.36 percent of the total allocation.

President Rodrigo Duterte who was guest speaker during the summit closing last Thursday, attended by some 500 participants, reiterated his commitment to the development of the Bangsamoro.

**JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL**