

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

10 DEC 2016

DATE : _____

DAY : **Saturday** _____

DENR
IN THE NEWS

10/12/16

The Manila Times

12/10/16

DATE

UPPER HALF

82

PAGE

LOWER HALF

P.1

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR eyes displaced mine workers for bamboo, mangrove expansion plan

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) wants to tap displaced workers of suspended mining firms for the planned expansion of bamboo and mangrove plantations to fight climate change and poverty.

During a recent dialogue with small-scale miners from Paracale town in Camarines Norte held at the DENR central office in Quezon City, Environment Secretary Gina Lopez said the miners should get involved in more sustainable livelihood such as bamboo planting, which does not only help the environment but also protect their families from the negative impacts of climate change.

"Help us by growing bamboo and mangrove seedlings. We will fund it, but your earnings will be your own," Lopez said.

The miners, who were accompanied by acting Camarines Norte Gov. Jonah Pimentel and some members of the provincial board, sought an audience with the DENR chief to ask assistance for mine workers who lost their jobs as a result of the environmental audit conducted on all metallic mining operations in the country.

Lopez told miners and local government officials that she could

not allow small-scale mining for the moment because it uses mercury that threatens the environment and public health.

"Small-scale mining is illegal, and you don't want to be caught or have the Ombudsman bar you from public service forever. I cannot help you if it is illegal," Lopez said.

In October, the DENR ordered a stop to all small-scale mining operations, effectively stopping 60 percent of gold production in the country.

Lopez said that all small-scale mining activities operating outside the so-called Minahang Bayan are illegal, saying that they should stop immediately or face the full force of the law.

Lopez was reacting to complaints by a big mining lobby, saying that the new DENR chief focuses more on large-scale mining and seemingly neglected the existence of illegal small-scale mining operations that is causing more harm to people and the environment.

To date, the DENR has yet to announce the number of small-scale mining operations that have been shut down.

All small-scale mining activities are illegal under the DENR's revised

implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 7076, or the Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991.

The revised IRR aims to institutionalize and implement reforms in the Philippine mining sector, providing policies and guidelines to ensure environmental protection and responsible mining in the utilization of mineral resources, including the declaration of a Minahang Bayan.

A Minahang Bayan centralizes processing of minerals within a zone where the government will be able to monitor gold production by small-scale miners better.

With the IRR, the DENR looks forward to transforming the small-scale mining operations in the country into a formal and responsible sector that is able to significantly contribute to the improvement of the quality of life in the countryside.

The major features of the revised IRR include the provisions on additional areas that may be declared as Minahang Bayan, and confinement of engineered mineral processing activities with tailings disposal system within mineral processing zones, and imposition of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Assessment

c covering each Minahang Bayan.

At present, there are only three existing Minahang Bayan nationwide with 10 new applications pending approval by the Mines and Geoscience Bureau.

There are about 300,000 to 400,000 small-scale miners operating in 40 mineral-rich provinces nationwide, majority of which operates outside the Minahang Bayan.

During a recent climate change conference in Morocco where she joined the Philippine delegation, Lopez said the country will embark on the massive expansion of mangrove and bamboo plantations to strengthen the ecological and economic resilience of local communities in the face of climate change and its devastating impact.

In 2010, an executive order was issued requiring the use of bamboo in at least 25 percent of the desk and furniture requirements of public schools, as well as its prioritization in furniture and other construction requirements of government facilities.

Considered as one of the fastest growing members of the grass family, bamboo is also known to sequester as much as 400 percent of carbon per unit area, while giving off 35 percent more oxygen than other trees.

While its resilience and flexibility have made it an important construction material for furniture

The Manila Times

12/10/16

DATE

UPPER HALF

B3

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

■ DISPLACED FROM B2

DENR eyes

and houses, its different parts are also a source of pulp and paper products, as well as fiber and food.

Mangroves, on the other hand, have been seen as natural barriers against storm surges while acting as habitats for various marine animals.

Both mangroves and bamboo can also stabilize embankments and prevent erosion brought about by sea level rise, which is one of the identified impacts of climate change.

Although Paracale is not one of the 29 areas the DENR has identified as a priority area for development, Lopez assured miners that the agency will provide them with livelihood assistance.

She also called on Governor Pimentel to help in the preparation of a work and financial plan that the DENR could use as basis for budgetary allocations and monitoring purposes.

"Plant bamboo. Plant mangroves. Identify marine sanctuaries. I want you to be the first to benefit from the resources that you can find in your area before others do. I will help you," Lopez said.

In Congress, Deputy Speaker Sharon Garin filed a bill before the Committee on Agriculture and Food, which aims to promote the rapid, steady, and continuous integrated development and the growth of the Philippine Bamboo industry.

The Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act of 2016 also known as House Bill 3357 aims to formulate a framework for development which will encompass site identification, scientific propagation and develop-

ment, production support, and quality assurance for health and proper trading.

It also mandates the Department of Education to use bamboo in at least 25 percent of its annual school desk and armchair requirements for public elementary and secondary schools nationwide. It also directs the Department of Labor and Employment to implement Bamboo Livelihood Programs.

The Philippines is the fifth highest bamboo exporter in the world next only to China, EU, Indonesia, and Vietnam. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, woodcrafts and furniture exports, which include bamboo products, amounted to \$254 million solely for the month of August.

The bamboo industry mostly contributes to the country's gross domestic product through value-added products integrated with wood, cane and rattan articles. Despite its versatility, economic potentials, and environmental contributions, bamboo remains to be one of the underdeveloped industries in the country.

To fully harness its immense potential, the constraints to the industry's growth and development need to be addressed, Garin said.

"We have to fully support bamboo farmers, producers, processors, and exporters with concrete policy actions and incentives to sustain the bamboo enterprises that they have started or to entice investors to go into the bamboo industry," Garin said.

The return on investment on bamboo is a lot faster since it can be frequently harvested, making it an attractive and sustainable community project even for small farmers.

JAMES KONSTANTIN GALVEZ

P.2

DENR eyes displaced
mine workers ...



PILIPINO MIRROR

12/10/16

DATE

4

PAGE



PPER HALF

OWER HALF

AMIN NG KATOTOHANAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

MINERONG NAWALAN NG TRABAHO AAYUDAHAN NG DENR

BIBIGYAN ng bagong hanapbuhay ang mga manggagawa na mawawalan ng trabaho sa sandaling suspendihin ang operasyon ng mga minahan sa bansa.

Ito ang tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bilang tugon sa pangamba ng libo-libong obbrero na maaapektuhan ng mga sususpendihin ng kagawaran.

Nauna nang sinuspendi ng DENR ang 10 minahan matapos mapatunayang lumabag sa itinatakda ng Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Sa kanyang pakikipag-usap sa small-scale miners mula sa bayan ng Paracale sa Camarines Norte, sinabi ni DENR Secretary Gina Lopez na maaaring magtrabaho

ang mga ito sa pinalawak na pagtatanim ng bamboo at mangrove, isang proyekto ng DENR para labanan ang climate change at kahirapan.

"Help us by growing bamboo and mangrove seedlings. We will fund it, but your earnings will be your own," wika ni Lopez.

Magugunitang humingi ng tulong sa DENR ang mga minerong nawalan ng trabaho matapos bumagsak sa isinagawang environmental audit sa mga metallic mining operation ang kanilang mga kompanya.

Hinimok pa ni Lopez ang mga minero na makiisa sa mga sustainable livelihood program na magbibigay ng proteksiyon sa kapaligiran at sa kanilang pamilya laban sa masamang epekto

ng climate change.

Binigyang-diin ng kalihim sa mga minero at sa mga lokal na opisyal na hindi papayagan ang small-scale mining operations dahil gumagamit ang mga ito ng mercury na may masamang epekto sa kapaligiran at sa kalusugan.

"Small-scale mining is illegal, and you don't want to be caught or have the Ombudsman bar you from public service forever. I cannot help you if it is illegal," dagdag pa ni Lopez.

Ang bayan ng Paracale ay isa sa 29 lugar na prayoridad sa pagpapaunlad kung kaya nakahanda ang DENR na magkalooob ng tulong pangkabuhayan sa mga minero at maging sa lokal na pamahalaan.

MONCHET LARAÑO

12/10/16

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

10

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mangrove nursery now supplies seeds

TACLOBAN CITY — The mangrove seedling nursery in a barangay in this city now supplies planting materials to areas devoted to mangrove and beach forest species.

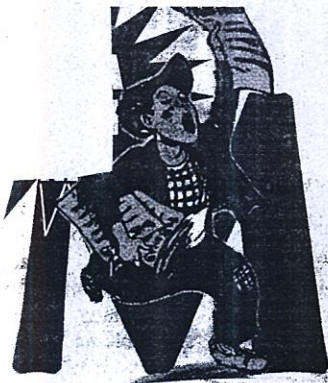
Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR) Eastern Visayas Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca said the seedling nursery within the mangrove plantation in Anibong district is being managed by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, based in Palo, Leyte, in collaboration with Barangay 69.

Sibbaluca said the nursery can turn out 40,000 seedlings in four to six months.

He said the mangrove seeds are potted and the seedlings are tended to before they are brought to plantation or reforestation areas in the city or nearby towns.

Producing seedlings in the nursery than when the government buys the seedlings from private suppliers, Sibbaluca said. (Restituto A. Cayubit)



PILIPINO MIRRO

12/10/16

DATE

PAGE

PPER HALF

OWER HALF

AMIN NG KATOTOHANAN •

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

MANGINGISDA NAKULONG DAHIL SA ITLOG NG PAWIKAN

ILOCOS NORTE - ISANG mangingisda ang inaresto matapos nahulihang nagbebenta ng itlog ng "pawikan" na isa sa mga endangered species sa isang commercial complex sa Laoag City noong Miyerkules ng hapon.

Kinilala ang suspek na si Jessie Pascual, 50, ng Barangay 33-B Lapaz, Laoag City.

Ayon sa police report, ang ilegal na gawain ni Pascual ay isinumbong ng mga concerned citizen.

Nakumpiska mula sa suspek ang 20 itlog ng pawikan na P10 ang isa.

Depensa ng suspek, na hindi nya alam na ang pagbebenta sa mga itlog ng pawikan ay labag sa batas na nakuha niya sa gilid ng dagat ng Barangay Lapaz.

"Hindi ko alam. Gusto ko lang sana magkapera dahil sa hirap ng buhay," ani Pascua.

Samantala, ayon kay Provincial Regulatory Officer (PRO) officer Arthur Valente, ang sinuman na mapatunayang lumabag sa pagkuha sa itlog ng endangered species ay maparusahan ng dalawa hanggang apat na taong pagkakabilanggo at magbabayad ng P30,000 hanggang P200,000 bilang danyos.

Ang mga nakumpiskang itlog ay dinala ng sa kanyang pinagkunan ng Barangay Lapaz ng mga miyembro ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO).

ALLAN BERGONIA

THE STANDARD

12/10/16

DATE

✓
UPPER HALF

C2

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Tañon Strait summit draws 120

CONCERNED government agencies, local government units, fishing industry stakeholders, and civil society organizations recently gathered in Cebu to review and strengthen an enforcement plan to protect Tañon Strait from commercial, illegal and destructive fishing operations.

The Tañon Strait Protected Seascape Enforcement Summit saw more than 120 participants who reviewed and identified gaps to strengthen the waterway's enforcement plan, and forge their respective commitments to implement the plan in the next several years.

"The participants represent key people in enforcement and respective agencies that are crucial in operationalizing the enforcement plan for Tañon Strait," said Daniel Ocampo, campaigns manager of Oceana Philippines, one of the summit organizers.

"It was inspiring to hear the different regional heads speak and gave their respective commitments to supporting the en-

forcement of fisheries laws in Tañon Strait," Ocampo said.

One of the country's major fishing grounds, Tañon Strait lies between Cebu and Negros. It was declared as a protected seascape in 1988, but despite its declaration, commercial, illegal and destructive fishing operations still abound, depriving small fishermen in Cebu and Negros of its bounty.

Tañon Strait is the largest marine protected area in the Philippines, with an area of 5,182 square kilometers—more than three times the area of the more famous Tubbataha National Park in Palawan. It is 160-km long, and 5-km to 27-km wide. It is home to dolphins, whales, sharks, manta rays, and many other ocean species.

Concerted efforts in recent years to protect Tañon Strait from commercial and illegal fishing operations have scored modest accomplishments.

"Tañon is slowly gaining reputation nationally and internationally on protection, management and enforcement," said

Dr. Al Orolfo, Negros Island regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in his message during the opening program on December 6 at Cebu Parklane Hotel.

Efforts to protect Tañon Strait should be sustained, added DENR Region 7 Director Emma Melana, as she emphasized the role of their agency in safeguarding the biodiversity of Tañon Strait.

Director Allan Poquita of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 7 said they will provide full support to the TSPS protected area office and the DENR to ensure that enforcement activities in Tañon Strait are sustained.

BFAR's support includes a donation of two patrol boats to the TSPS protected area office to help in the monitoring and apprehension of commercial and illegal fishing operators in Tañon Strait. In this regard, a ceremonial signing of a memorandum of agreement was held during the summit.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Pasonanca watershed soon to be declared protected area

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The House Committee on Environment has approved House Bill 124, declaring the Pasonanca watershed forest reserve here as a “protected area” under the category of natural park.

This was disclosed by Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat, who hailed the approval of the bill at the committee level and expressed confidence that it will breeze through the plenary in the House, as well as the Senate.

Lobregat said that once HB 124 is passed into law, the Pasonanca natural park will become a protected area and will be provided with the necessary funding by the national government for its preservation.

Coordinated management schemes among stakeholders and interest groups and necessary funding mechanism for sustainability if the park’s operations will

also be realized once the bill becomes a law.

The Pasonanca Natural Park and its buffer zones are situated in Zamboanga City with a total land area of 17,414 hectares.

It embraces Barangays Pasonanca, Lumayang, Tolosa, Bungiao, Dulian, Baluno, Salaan, Cacao, Lunzuran, La Paz, Lapakan, and Lamisahan. At least 90% of the primary growth dipterocarp forest is still presently intact.

Pasonanca Natural Park is also one of only three remaining watersheds in the country.

Lobregat said HB 124 encountered smooth sailing at the House committee level because it has already been approved in the 15th and 16 Congresses.

As such, there was not much deliberation on HB 124 in the current Congress. (Nonoy E. Lacson)



DATE _____ UPPER HALF
PAGE _____ LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte, Trump share concern on climate pact

After congratulating US president-elect Donald Trump in a one-on-one call, President Duterte said that he may have found an ally in Trump regarding his concerns about the Paris agreement on climate change.

In a speech at the groundbreaking for the Pulanai 10.6 MW hydroelectric power plant in Misamis Occidental yesterday, Duterte reiterated his opposition to the Paris climate agreement, which seeks to require countries to reduce their carbon emissions to mitigate global warming.

"Now, Trump decided to junk

a garbage, a lot of garbage about climate change and there's a treaty about controlling the carbon emissions here," Duterte said.

"I was reading the proposed treaty which we signed eventually. It is binding member-states, the signatories, and if it is binding, it binds all to obey it. Now the problem is, there is no sanction (to violators). There's absolutely none. Not a punitive or money or whatever and the world of affairs runs like this.

"They said if we suffer from a climate change in Southeast Asia, it's just the money. If you read the

treaty, it says it is incentive money to build gadgets, machines, whatever, to prevent climate change. It does not provide anything as a relief for damages incurred by any country. That money is to enhance, it does not say there that it should be paid to countries that suffer damages because of climate change," he added.

The Philippines ranked fifth among countries that suffered most from extreme weather events in the past decade, according to the latest climate index released by Berlin- and Bonn-based think tank GermanWatch.

The Global Climate Risk Index 2017, released by the organization last month, showed that the Philippines is among the 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events

such as typhoons, flooding and heat waves from 1996 to 2015.

The Philippines was belatedly followed by Honduras, Myanmar, Haiti and Nicaragua. Other countries in the list were Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, Guatemala and Thailand.

The countries were ranked based on the number of weather events experienced, the total amount of losses and its share on the country's gross domestic product.

Based on the index, the Philippines experienced 283 extreme weather events during the 20-year period, the highest among 10 countries that suffered the most from such events.

The Philippines has the seventh highest annual average death toll at 861.55, after Myanmar (7,145.85), India (3,589.75), Russia (2,945.5), China (1,354.9), France (1,121.6) and Italy (1,007.6).
Christina Mendez, Janvic M.

12/10/16
DATE

7
PAGE

✓
UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

DENR employee, estudyante kinatay ng hardinero

DAHIL SA TITIGAN

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - Nagmistulang si 'Kamatayan' ang isang langong hardinero nang kalawitan at katayin nito ang dalawa katao kabilang ang isang kawani ng De-

partment of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at isang criminology intern dahil sa masamang titig sa gitna ng

Ni RAYMUND CATINDIG

selebrasyon ng kapistahan sa Poblacion ng Sta. Maria, Isabela, kamakalawa Kinilala ni Senior Insp. Noel Patalittan, hepe ng Sta. Maria PNP ang mga napatay na biktima na sina Charlie Rodriguez, DENR employee sa Cagayan at ang estudyanteng si Arvie Telan.

Samantala, nadakip naman sa isinagawang follow up operation ang suspect na si Fernando Canceran

na taga-Brgy. Bangag na umuwi pa mula sa Cavite para lamang makipamiyesta.

Sinasabing nagkaroon ng pagtatalo nang maangasan ang mga biktima at suspek sa isat-isa dahil sa masamang titig nang makasalubong sa kalsada dakong alas-10:30 ng gabi. Ayon sa report iniwan ng suspek ang mga biktimang nakahandusay at tadtad ng saksak sa katawan gamit ang patalim nito na ginagamit sa paghahardin.

Vietnam suspected of dredging on disputed reef

HANOI: Vietnam has started dredging work on a reef in the South China Sea, fresh satellite images appear to show, a move that could provoke Beijing that claims most of the disputed waterway.

An image of the small Ladd Reef in the Spratly Islands, where Vietnam has a lighthouse, shows several vessels in a carved out embankment on the reef's edge.

Sediment can be seen leaking out into the ocean, according to the November 30 image provided to Agence France-Presse on Friday by US-based Planet Labs, a satellite imaging company.

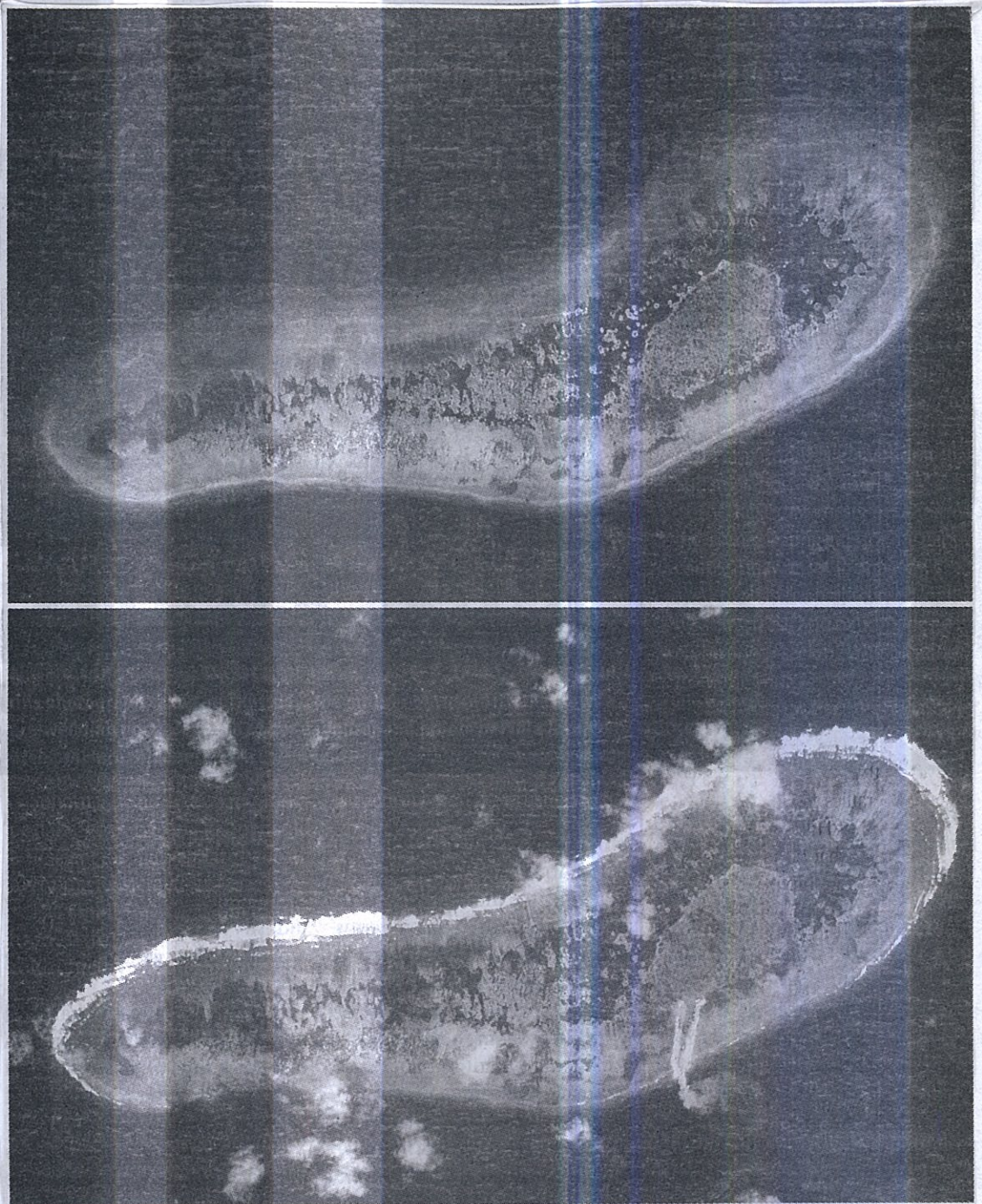
A July picture from Planet Labs shows no breach to the reef's embankment, suggesting the work began in recent months.

Vietnamese officials did not respond to a request for comment.

The images follow photos published last month from US-based Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative that showed Vietnam had extended a runway and was building hangars capable of hosting military equipment on a different island in the Spratlys also claimed by Beijing.

But Vietnam's latest moves remain small-scale compared to China's build-up in the waterway, where it has constructed several islands capable of supporting military facilities.

Though the intent of the work depicted in the photos cannot be confirmed, Vietnam expert Carl



SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY This combination of pictures created on Thursday shows (top) a satellite image taken on July 19, 2016 and released on December 9, 2016 by US-based Planet Labs that shows the small reef under Vietnamese control in the South China Sea before Vietnam starting dredging work on the reef and (bottom) a satellite image taken on November 30, 2016 and released on Thursday also by Planet Labs that shows dredging work on a small reef under Vietnamese control in the South China Sea. AFP PHOTO

THE STANDARD

DATE

UPPER HALF

C4

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Images show Vietnam dredging disputed reef

HANOI—Vietnam has started dredging work on a reef in the South China Sea, fresh satellite images appear to show, a move that could provoke Beijing which claims most of the disputed waterway.

An image of the small Ladd Reef in the Spratly Islands, where Vietnam has a lighthouse, shows several vessels in a carved out embankment on the reef's edge.

Sediment can be seen leaking out into the ocean, according to the November 30 image provided to AFP on Friday by US-based Planet Labs, a satellite imaging company.

A July picture from Planet Labs shows no breach to the reef's embankment, suggesting the work began in recent months.

Vietnamese officials did not respond to a request for comment.

The images follow photos published last month from US-based Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative that showed Vietnam had extended a runway and was building hangars capable of hosting military equipment on a different island in the Spratlys also claimed by Beijing.

But Vietnam's latest moves remain small-scale compared to China's build-up in the waterway, where it has constructed several islands capable of supporting military facilities.

Though the intent of the work depicted in the photos cannot be confirmed, Vietnam expert Carl Thayer told AFP that Hanoi might be trying to "stock up" ahead of a code of conduct agreement between various claimants in the South China Sea expected next year.

"Vietnam is moving beyond the status quo," said Thayer, a professor at the University of New South Wales.

"My speculation was that if we are moving toward some diplomatic end game at some point in the next year or two, then Vietnam looks like it's trying to get as much as it can before it's prohibited," he added.

Thayer said China can "make a meal out of" Vietnam's latest apparent dredging work, but said it does not appear to be for military purposes or explicitly threaten Beijing.

The two countries have long traded barbs over disputed territory in the sea. In 2014 China moved a controversial oil rig into contested waters, prompting riots in Vietnam.

Tensions have eased slightly in recent months but the issue remains incendiary on both sides.

The sea is also claimed by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan and is rich in energy reserves, fishery resources and is a busy shipping route. AFP