

# Arroyo: NLEX project to create 100,000 jobs

MANILA—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the construction of an alternate entry point to the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) via Mindanao Avenue would generate some 100,000 jobs.

The President led the groundbreaking of the NLEX Phase 2-Circumferential 5 project on Mindanao Avenue, near the Valenzuela City border last April 2.

“One hundred thousand jobs are available in the construction of this network,” Arroyo said in a chat with construction workers and truck drivers at the site.

She said the alternate entry point to the NLEX, Metro Manila’s gateway to Central and Northern Luzon, would reduce travel time.

Traffic is usually heavy in the Balinatawak Area, where the main entry point to the NLEX is located.

This is aggravated by the construction of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) extension from North Avenue in Quezon City to Monumento in Caloocan City. (Inquirer.net)

# NDFP: Gonzales ‘ignorant’ of court...

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“Sison may be free now from the suit against him in Dutch courts but not from the arm of our own justice system,” Gonzales had said.

Sison has been living in the Dutch town of Utrecht in self-imposed exile since 1987.

Jalandoni said he was not surprised that Gonzales was upset by the “failure of their scheme”.

“As head of the Inter-agency Legal Action Group (IALAG), the agency tasked to trump up charges against the legal opposition and leaders and members of progressive organizations, and to cover up the criminal acts of military and police personnel responsible for extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances, his efforts since January 2006, a period of three years and three months, have all been in vain,” said the NDFP official.

The NDFP congratulated Sison and his Dutch and Filipino lawyers for their legal victory with the dismissal of the criminal charges. “For more than nineteen months, from August 28, 2007 until March 31, 2009, the Dutch prosecutors, with the collusion of the Arroyo regime and the US,

tried in vain to pin down Prof. Sison with the false charge of involvement in the killing of two military assets of the regime,” Jalandoni said.

Jalandoni said that prior to the arrest of Sison in August 2007, the Dutch prosecutors with the collaboration of the Arroyo regime, especially General Eduardo Ermita and Gonzales, heard by the US embassy, the Dutch embassy and former US air base in Clark Field in the Philippines, as well as testimonies in The Netherlands, seeking to make the false charge against Sison stick.

Last March 31, the Public Prosecution Service of the Dutch government called off its investigation against Sison on charges of ordering the deaths of his former comrades in the Philippines, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara.

Kintanar, a former leader of the NPA, was murdered on Jan. 23, 2003, and Tabara, another top NPA official, was assassinated along with his son-in-law Stephen Ong on Sept. 26, 2004.

The CPP, through its official publication, claimed responsibility for both killings. ■

# Job crunch expected to ease up

## New hirings seen in mining

by RONNEL DOMINGO  
Inquirer.net

CLARK FREEPORT— The job crunch in the country is expected to ease up, with fewer workers losing their jobs and tens of thousands of new jobs anticipated with the continued growth of the business process outsourcing sector and new investments in mining, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Labor Undersecretary Rosalinda Baldoz told a forum of business journalists that worker displacements would continue in the second quarter “but on a slower pace and only in the export manufacturing sector.”

Baldoz was one of the resource persons in a seminar organized by the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines and San Miguel Corp., held last March 28 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in this air base-

turned-economic zone.

“There are good indications that [the country] will not be facing as serious and adverse a situation in employment as had been expected,” she said.

The labor official said that as of March 16, the number of retrenched workers have gone down by 40 to 397 daily, from the 437 laid off daily in the first week of the month.

DOLE data showed that since October 2008, the global financial crisis took its toll on a total of 109,429 workers.

Asked why job losses were slowing down, Baldoz said that the labor force was benefiting from the stimulus packages being implemented in other countries badly hit by the global slump.

“One reason is that the jobs created in their pump-priming efforts are not attractive for locals,” Baldoz said. “This means demand for overseas Filipino

workers remain strong.”

According to DOLE, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office monitored 106,800 new jobs for OFWs generated in the first quarter.

As for the local job market, she said there were fewer jobs being lost because orders for deliveries (from local firms) were coming back. Now, they are actually rehiring employees.

Regarding job opportunities, Baldoz said there were up to 120,000 placements anticipated this year in the business processing sector.

Jobs are also expected in the mining sector—for engineers, laborers and related workers—with the anticipated inflow of some \$15 billion in investments in the next five years.

“Considering this positive trend, hopefully we can say the worst is over before the first semester ends,” Baldoz said. ■

# New MPD director handpicked by Arroyo

MANILA—The new director of the Manila Police District (MPD) was the personal choice of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This information was relayed by a reliable police source following reports that the city council, members of the MPD and even Mayor Alfredo Lim were opposed to the appointment of Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay.

Magtibay, former deputy chief for administration of the Police Regional Office IV-A, will be des-

ignated as MPD officer in charge in a turnover ceremony to be held at the MPD headquarters last April 3.

Magtibay and his predecessor, Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales who took over as National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director, are both members of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 1978. Ms Arroyo is an honorary member of the class.

The source who asked for anonymity, saying he was not authorized to talk to media, said the

President personally talked to Lim and asked him to support her choice.

The source said that the President asked Lim, “Do you have any objections to my request?” to which the mayor responded in the negative.

At the same time, Lim assured the President that he would appoint anyone she wished to take over the helm of the MPD.

“Magtibay was her choice and who could refuse the President’s request?” the source said.

The turnover rites were supposed to be held Thursday, April 2 but it was moved to Friday, April 3 as Lim had a previous engagement.

Rosales, meanwhile, told the Inquirer that Magtibay would temporarily hold the post of MPD officer in charge.

“He will sit as OIC for 30 days after which he could be permanently installed as the MPD director,” he said, adding that it was up to Lim to make the appointment permanent. ■

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