



## SMPC boosts Semirara Island COVID-19 vaccination program

Caluya Mayor Rigil Kent Lim takes his COVID-19 jab at Barangay Semirara Gym to kickstart the vaccination rollout in Semirara Island. As of July 31, 2021, over 2,300 island residents and employees or 47% of the island's eligible population have been fully inoculated, according to Caluya Municipal Health Office.



By Rachel Ann N. Lauricio

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) is working closely with the Municipality of Caluya and Province of Antique to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination rollout in Semirara Island.

Aside from providing free air

transportation and storage of the vaccines in Semirara Island, SMPC is extending free accommodations to the Antique Provincial Health Office (PHO) and Municipal Health Office (MHO) medical teams who will be administering the jabs.

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Mapalad tayo sapagkat dumating na ang suplay ng bakuna sa ating isla. Salamat kay Cong. Loren Legarda, Gov. Rhodora Cadiao, Caluya Mayor Rigil Kent Lim, Kap. Catherine “Kikai” Lim, Provincial Health Office, Municipal Health Office at sa mga kawani ng Department of Health at iba pang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno.

“Ano’ng vaccine ang mainam? Pfizer, AstraZenica, Sinovac, etc?,” tugon ni Fr. Edwin Rubido, kura-paroko ng Our Lady of Guadalupe, Semirara Island.” “Ang pinaka-epektibong bakuna ay kung ano ang mayroon. Wag na tayong maghanap ng wala. *Let’s take advantage of what we have.*”

Isa ang bakuna sa mga pinaka-epektibong solusyon upang maprotektahan ang iyong kalusugan at mapigilan ang sakit. Ang mga bakuna ay nakikipagtulungan sa natural na depensa ng katawan upang ang iyong resistensya ay maging handa para labanan ang *virus*.

Napatunayan ng mga pag-aaral na ang bakuna kontra COVID-19 ay epektibong panangga laban sa malubhang dulot ng *virus*. Hindi totoo ang mga bakunang ito ay makapagdudulot sa iyo ng mismong sakit. Ang mga bakunang ito ay ligtas. Dumaan ang lahat ng ito sa parehong mga pagsusuring pangkaligtasan at naabot ang parehong mga pamantayan gaya ng sa iba pang mga bakunang nagawa sa maraming taon.

Huwag matakot, tara na at magpabakuna upang marating natin ang *75% immunity herd* nang ang lahat ng mamamayan ng Semirara ay ligtas na!

**Vicente Cesar V. Malig**

Editor in Chief/Administrative Division Manager

Resilient leadership is our ability to make tough choices, adapt to critical situations, and build a culture of readiness.

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to emphasize to our employees, especially to our leaders, that the goal now is to change our mindsets to reinforce a culture of preparedness. We need to be the backbone to help communities, local governments, and stakeholders anticipate the impacts not only of this pandemic, but also of natural calamities and man-induced disasters and prepare to recover even before disaster happens.

We also need to integrate the identification of risks on a micro level so that private entities can contribute to disaster risk mitigation. I ask that one day at a time, each one of you shall practice resilient leadership in each of your own departments. Preparedness is as crucial as much as the response.



**Engr. Ruben P. Lozada**

Vice President for Mining Operations at Resident Manager



Ang **CONVEYOR** ang opisyal na pahayagang pampamayanan ng isla ng Semirara na tatluhan-buwan na inililimbag ng Semirara Mining and Power Corporation sa pakikipagtulungan sa Department of Energy. Ang punong tanggapan ng SMPC ay sa 2F DMCI Plaza, 2281 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Philippines 1231

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By Rachelle Ann N. Lauricio

## SMPC donates rapid antigen kits to Antique province government

The rising cases of COVID-19 being treated in Antique hospitals have taken its toll on their resources, prompting SMPC to respond to the needs of fellow Antiqueños.

About 3,000 rapid antigen test kits worth P825,000 were donated to the Provincial Government of Antique.

Caluya Mayor Rigil Kent Lim and Dan Rhoel Sabug, Supervising Administrative Officer from the Office of the Governor received the donations on April 30.

Antique Governor Rhodora Cadiao expressed her “deepest gratitude” to SMPC for its invaluable support to sustain the province’s effort to fight against COVID-19.

“The Provincial Government and the IATF are motivated and grateful to the significant support of [SMPC] as we continue to implement rigid measure to further contain and prevent the contamination of the said virus in the

province,” Cadiao said.

SMPC also donated medical personal protective equipment (PPEs) worth P400,000 to local frontliners in Semirara Island and Caluya town, including the Justice Calixto Zaldivar Memorial Hospital in Pandan, Antique.

Last year, SMPC employees launched

a medical PPE drive and module project that generated over P100,000 worth of PPE and bond papers donated to local frontliners and schools in Semirara Island.

SMPC initially donated rapid antigen test kits and medical PPEs to Antique hospitals last year worth P7 million.



Barangay Semirara has added sea ambulance and sea patrol vessels to its emergency and disaster response fleet to better facilitate transporting of patients to healthcare facilities within and outside of the island.

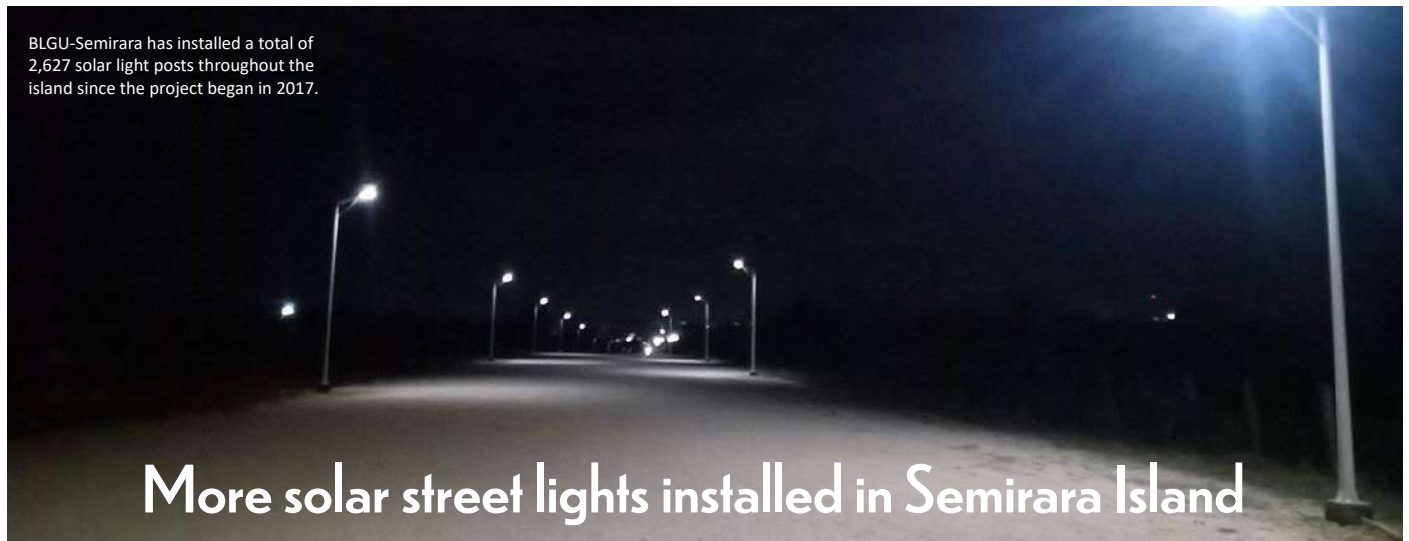
During the unveiling of the new assets on January 25, 2021, Barangay Semirara Chair Catherine Lim said the vessels will be on service 24/7 to respond quickly in case of emergency, and will be manned by responders who are trained to provide emergency care on site or while transporting the patient to the hospital.

“The sea ambulance will serve not only the residents of our barangay but the whole Semirara Island so we can quickly and comfortably transport our patients especially the seriously-ill from their home to the infirmary or pier and vice versa,” Lim said.

SMPC employees, their dependents and island residents in need of medical attention normally go to the company’s Semirara Infirmary, the only Department of Health (DOH)-licensed health facility in the island. In 2020, the infirmary served 16,985 patients.



BLGU-Semirara has installed a total of 2,627 solar light posts throughout the island since the project began in 2017.



## More solar street lights installed in Semirara Island



By Joler Mameng

Barangay Semirara installed additional solar street lights to ensure the safety and security of residents especially at night while being energy efficient.

Led by Barangay Chair Catherine Lim, BLGU-Semirara installed 395 solar light posts on the island’s biggest and most populous barangay, in addition to the 2,232 solar lights installed since the project began in 2017.

At the adjacent Barangay Alegria,

326 solar light posts were donated as part of lighting up the roads connecting the entire island, Lim said.

“Nagdagdag tayo ng solar street lights sa Alegria at Pinagpala dahil hangarin natin na maging maliwanag ang isla ng Semirara kahit na walang kuryente. Mas mababawasan ang mga aksidente dahil may ilaw kahit gabi. Salamat din sa SMPC dahil sa 20% electrification fund galing ang pondo na ito,” said Lim.

Isang bagong *evacuation gym* ang ini-handog ng SMPC at ng Department of Energy (DOE) sa Sitio Villaresis sa Barangay Semirara noong Pebrero 18, 2021.

Sa isang *turnover ceremony* na dinaluhan ng ilang opisyal ng SMPC at ng BLGU-Semirara, pinasalamat ni Punong Barangay Catherine Lim ang SMPC at DOE sa nasabing proyekto na nagsisilbing testimonya ng matibay na ugnayan ng Kompanya at ng komunidad tungo sa progresibong pamayanan.

“Napakaswerte nating mga residente ng Barangay Semirara katulong ng *barangay officials* dahil [ang SMPC] ay may malaking puso para sa atin upang tayo ay tulungan, proteksyunan at ipinakita sa atin ang larangan ng buhay sa pamamagitan ng lideratong pantay at para sa lahat”.

Ang Sitio Villaresis ay isa sa mga *coastal communities* sa isla ng Semirara at may pinakamalaking populasyon. Karamihan sa mga residente ay pawang pangangisda ang pangunahing hanap-buhay.



Ni Bernard M. Cadigal

## Bagong evacuation shed handog ng SMPC at DOE sa Sitio Villaresis



By Lorena Domingo

## DPWH road construction starts at Sitio Upper Bolo in Tinogboc

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has started construction of the road connecting Sitio Upper Bolo to Barangay Tinogboc proper.

This project will provide economic opportunities for over 60 families from the sitio as it will connect to the road entering Barangay Alegria.

The formerly paved road leading from the public plaza of Sitio Upper Bolo

is a barangay project agreed upon by the council to be taken from the 20 percent development fund of the annual budget.

“*Importante ang maayos na mga kalsada para hindi mahirapan ang mga tao na ibyahe ang kanilang mga produkto. Isa itong patunay na may pag-unlad sa isang lugar kaya talagang nag-pursige ang council na matuloy ang proyekto na ito,*” said Punong Barangay Romeo Malixi.





By Catherine G. Lim  
and Regie M. Tablate

## Solar-powered water pumping system reaches Sitio Pinagpala, Villaresis, and Relocation

Barangay Semirara installed its first solar-powered water pumping system at Sitio Pinagpala to address the troubling difficulty of waterworks in the area such as insufficient water pressure and inadequate capacity of distribution pipes.

Sitio Pinagpala is home to approximately a hundred households that rely on spring water, deep well, hand pump, and electric motor pump in generating their water supply.

“Water is one of our basic needs and we aim to provide sufficient water supply and adequate capacity distribution line to our people. We used solar power because it’s economically preferred technology and also healthy to our people and in our environment,” said Barangay Semirara Chair Catherine Lim.

Solar water pumping is based on

photovoltaic (PV) technology that converts sunlight into electricity to pump water. This technology was developed to address the challenges of water shortage especially in remote areas where clean and accessible water is scarce.

Unlike electric water pumps that use diesel to fuel its operation, solar water pumping is low-cost, efficient, and environmentally sustainable.

The basic model of this technology consists of a water pump (classified depending on the water it draws from), solar panels, and tubes.

Utilizing the well in Barangay Semirara using submersible pump would generate 150 gallons per minute which would greatly save its residents the time for queueing that they experience in hand pumps.

On average, a typical domestic

pump approximately consumes 220 watts, while a solar pump comes with 20-100 watts depending on the wattage of water pumps. Hypothetically, using 1 hour a day of domestic pump costs ₱1.26 whereas in solar pumps, it will only cost ₱.097, making it an economically attractive alternative for the residents.

Aside from being a user-friendly technology, solar water pumping system has low maintenance as it can function for up to 20-25 years which proves its sustainability.

This BLGU project was done in partnership with top-performing local solar energy company Equator Energy Corporation (EEC) headed by Engr. Bernardo Fabula. With this revolutionary undertaking, a better water system is finally within reach for residents.

Pinangunahan ng SMPC ang paglulunsad ng kabuhayan sa paggawa ng *concrete hollow blocks* (CHB) na potensyal na mapagkakakitaan ng mga mahihirap na pamilya sa isla ng Semirara.

Libreng ibinibigay ng kompanya ang *coal bottom ash* na pangunahing sangkap sa paggawa ng CHB sa halip na buhangin. Walang mapagkukunan ng buhangin sa isla para sa konstruksyon kaya inaangkat pa ito sa ibang lugar tulad ng Mindoro at mainland Antique, dahilan upang maging mataas ang presyo ng CHB sa isla.

Sinimulan ang nasabing programa noong Mayo ng isang grupo ng mga residente sa Sitio Villaresis sa Barangay Semirara. Mula sa kanilang kapatiran sa pananampalataya, nag-organisa sila ng isang asosasyon na tinawag nilang Villaresis Foursquare Concrete Hollow Blocks Fabrication Association. Pinamumunuan ito ni Pastor Jesus Francisco, residente at pastor ng Villaresis Foursquare Church.

Mula sa manwal na paggawa ng CHB, pinagkalooan ng SMPC ang grupo ng mga equipment at materyales upang mapabilis ang paggawa at matiyak ang



By Bernard M. Cadigal

## Kabuhayan sa paggawa ng hollow blocks sinimulan ng SMPC

tamang kita ng mga manggagawa kada araw.

Kabilang na dito ang dalawang electric-driven CHB fabrication machines, dalawang concrete 1-bagger mixer, at 1,736 piraso ng paleta. Dagdag pa rito ang mga construction materials tulad ng yero, mga bakal na tubo, drums na imbakan ng tubig, at iba pang kailangan sa programa.

Sa kasalukuyan, 10 CHB fabricators

ang regular nang kumikita mula sa programa. Sa buong buwan ng Mayo, umabot na sa mahigit 25,000 piraso ng CHB ang nagawa ng proyekto. Bawat piraso ng CHB ay may katumbas na P3 kita para sa mga fabricators, at ang bawat piraso ng CHB ay ibinibenta ng asosasyon sa halagang Php15 lamang—mas mababa sa kasalukuyang umiiral na presyong P20-P25 kada piraso sa merkado.



## Kababaihan ng Tinogboc nagsanay sa paggawa ng sabon at hand sanitizer

Patuloy ang paghahatid ng programang pangkabuhayan ng SMPC at DOE para sa mga mamamayan sa isla sa kabila ng pandemya ng COVID-19. Ito ay upang magkaroon sila ng alternatibo o dagdag na kita at makatulong din sa paglaban sa kasalukuyang suliraning pangkalusugan.

Idinaos ang webinar sa paggawa

ng sabon (*bar soap*), *liquid soap* at *hand sanitizer* noong Mayo 26-28 na nilahukan ng 17 miyembro ng Tinogboc Women's Association. Pinangunahan ito ng mga eksperto mula sa Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI).

Bagama't isang pagsubok ang pagtuturo ng ganitong teknikal

na pagsasanay sa pamamagitan ng webinar, matagumpay naman na naibahagi sa mga kalahok ang teknolohiya sa paggawa ng sabon.

Naging katuwang din sa webinar ang Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Antique sa pamumuno ni Provincial Director Mercedes Young, at ang kinatawan ng ahensya sa Caluya na si Emichael Felipe.



By Francis Louie M. Carandang

## Employees, contractors graduated from multiskills training program

To enhance the skills level of both existing personnel and contractors, SMPC conducted an annual Multiskill Training Program from October to December 2020, during which trainees learned skills in plumbing, masonry, carpentry, painting, and electrical.

Twenty-three personnel from the Civil Works Department, Support Services Group and contractors graduated from the three-month program on Feb. 13.

*"Itong ginawa ng SMPC, hindi lang para sa empleyado, kundi para sa contractors, pansarili niyo itong kaalaman. Pwede na kayo sa kahit anong trabaho dahil magiging in demand pa kayo,"* said Engr. Mark Munar, Deputy Manager of Administrative Division.

The graduates were all given Certificates of Completion and those who excelled were gifted carpentry

tools.

*"Ang maganda sa training na ito ay kahit sino pwede. Malaking tulong ito sa amin dahil mas napagaan ang trabaho dahil nalaman namin ang mga tamang paraan ng pagre-repair. Happy kami dahil ang kaunting kalaman namin ay nadagdagan. Salamat sa SMPC!"* said Glenn Brabonga, maintenance personnel of Admin and General Services.



By Marshan Tahum

## SMPC conducts fire drills in observance of Fire Prevention Month

Employees of HR and Safety departments simulated a fire emergency and evacuation procedure on March 22, 2021.

"Fire safety drills are important to employees because we already know what to do and where to evacuate in case of fire incidents," said Keven Cailing, HR timekeeper and fire

extinguisher inspector.

SMPC regularly conducts fire drills in compliance with RA 9514 or the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008.

"This is to train and equip our employees with the right information on what to do in case of fire with the end objective of saving lives and property," said Emergency

Preparedness and Response Trainer Marshan Tahum.

By virtue of the Presidential Proclamation No. 115-A, the month of March was declared the Fire Prevention Month because of the numerous fire incidences happening across the country during this particular month.



# Alamin ang **Fact** from **Fake** ng **COVID-19 vaccine!**

Ito ang mga tamang impormasyon  
na kailangan mo:

✗ Hindi natin kailangan ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

✗ Hindi ligtas ang bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

✗ Ang mga bakuna laban sa COVID-19 ay magpapahina ng aking resistensya.

✗ Hindi ko na kailangan magpabakuna dahil maaari pa rin akong magkasakit kahit nabakunahan na.

✗ Maaari na akong hindi magsuot ng face mask at face shield kapag nabakunahan na.

✗ Hindi ko na kailangan ng bakuna dahil ako ay malusog at nasa kabataan pa.

✗ May mga gamot akong pwedeng inumin upang maiwasan ang COVID-19. Walang silbi ang bakuna.

✗ Sapat na ang unang turok (dose) ng bakuna. Hindi ko na kailangan ang pangalawa.

✗ Ang mga taong naturukan ng COVID-19 vaccine ay mamamatay pagkalipas ng dalawang taon.

✗ Hindi epektibo ang bakuna dahil ito ay ginawa sa maikling panahon lamang.

✗ Ang bakuna ay magiging sanhi muli ng COVID-19 para sa mga taong gumaling na mula rito.

✗ Ang bakuna ay magdudulot ng pagka-baog.

## ✓ KAILANGAN NATIN ANG BAKUNA!

Pinapakita ng kasalukuyang datos sa buong mundo na epektibo ang bakuna para maprotektahan tayo mula sa simptomatikong kaso ng COVID-19 at maiwasan ang pagka-ospital o pagkamatay.

## ✓ LIGTAS ANG MGA BAKUNA!

Dumaan sa mga pag-aaral (clinical trial) at sertipikasyon (Philippine FDA approval) ang mga bakuna upang matiyak na ligtas ang mga ito.

## ✓ PALALAKASIN NITO ANG ATING RESISTENSYA

Pinalalakas ng mga bakuna laban sa COVID-19 ang ating resistensya (immune system) laban sa virus.

## ✓ MAGBIBIGAY NG DAGDAG NA PROTEKSYON ANG BAKUNA

Kahit meron mang pagkakataon na mahawa ang isang tao, mas mababa na ang tsansa na ma-ospital o mamatay dahil sa karagdagang proteksyon mula sa bakuna.

## ✓ PATULUY NA SUMUNOD SA HEALTH PROTOCOLS!

Kinakailangan pa din magsuot ng mask at face shield upang magbigay ng dagdag proteksyon laban sa virus/bagong variants o di naman hanggang nabakunahan na ang karamihan sa atin.

## ✓ DAGDAG PROTEKSYON ITO PATI SA MGA MALUSOG.

Ang sakit na COVID-19 ay hindi namimili ng biktima. May mga naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 sa mga nakababata, pawang malusog, at aktibong mga tao.

## ✓ MAGPABAKUNA HABANG MAAGA!

Wala pang napatunayang gamot upang maiwasan ang COVID-19. Ngunit napatunayan na epektibo ang mga bakuna upang maprotektahan ang tao laban sa malubhang karamdaman o kamatayan.

## ✓ ITULOY ANG PANGALAWANG TUROK NG BAKUNA!

Hindi sapat ang 1 turok (para sa mga bakuna na kinakailangan ng 2 turok) upang mabigyan ng pinakamataas na antas ng proteksyon. Kinakailangan ng makumpleto ang 2 turok para dito.

## ✓ HINDI VACCINE ANG SANHI NG KAMATAYAN!

Pinalalakas ng bakuna ang ating resistensya. Ang mga nabakunahan ay hindi mamamatay pagkalipas ng dalawang taon pagkatapos ng bakuna.

## ✓ ANG MGA BAKUNA AY EPEKTIBO LABAN COVID-19!

Dumaan sa masusing pag-aaral at parehong protokol sa paglikha ng bakuna upang maging epektibo ito. Isinigurado ang kalidad ng bakuna kahit ang produksyon nito ay minadali.

## ✓ MAGPABAKUNA NA NGAYON!

Palalakasin ng bakuna iyong resistensya at ilalayo ka sa pagka-ospital o pagkamatay.

## ✓ HINDI ITO MAGSASANHI NG PAGKA-BAOG.

Ang bakuna ay dumaan sa masusi at ligtas na pag-aaral.







## SMPC boosts Semirara Island COVID-19 vaccination program

### FROM PAGE 1

As of July 31, over 2,300 island residents and SMPC employees—roughly 47% of the island’s eligible population—have been fully inoculated with doses of CoronaVac (Sinovac), Oxford-AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccines, according to the Caluya MHO.

“Our partnership with SMPC is critical to reaching our vaccination target. Having them as our logistics partner gives us confidence that we can attain population protection soon,” said Caluya Mayor Rigil Kent Lim.

SMPC has volunteered free use of its 2,900-square meter food court for the LGU’s vaccination drive in the island. The property can accommodate up to 200 vaccinees per day with proper physical distancing protocols.

Unused vials are temporarily stored in the SMPC Infirmary pharmacy refrigerator to avoid wastage and

reduction of vaccine potency.

SMPC is also donating 3,000 vials of AstraZeneca vaccines to the Caluya LGU to further expand its inoculation program. The vaccines are expected to arrive by fourth quarter this year.

As the island’s largest employer with over 3,000 resident workers and indirect workers employed, SMPC operates and maintains the only DOH-accredited private infirmary which provides basic COVID-19 medical care, as needed by the community.

To enhance the island’s COVID-19 containment measures, SMPC also repurposed its sports complex and gym into a 352-bed quarantine facility for employees and residents.

SMPC is the only power producer in the country that owns and mines its own fuel source, allowing it to generate affordable and reliable baseload power for the Luzon and Visayas grids.



Director Jose Roberto Nuñez of the Office of Civil Defense-Region VI commends the unity and cooperation of SMPC and the LGUs of Caluya, Semirara, Tinogboc and Alegria for the COVID-19 vaccination rollout in the municipality beginning April 2021.



# PAGGAMOT SA MILD O MODERATE SYMPTOMS HABANG NASA BAHAY:

## KUNG IKAW AY MAY LAGNAT, MAAARING GAWIN ANG MGA SUMUSUNOD:

- Bantayan ang temperatura kada apat na oras; maaaring uminom ng Paracetamol kung ang temperatura ay lumagpas sa 37.5 degrees Celsius, kada apat na oras.
- Maligo araw-araw kung kaya at posible
- Siguraduhing may magandang daloy ng hangin sa kwarto
- Huwag magdamit o magkumot nang labis-labis
- Uminom ng maraming tubig, fresh fruit juices at mild na tsa

## KUNG IKAW AY MAY UBO AT SORE THROAT, MAAARING GAWIN ANG MGA SUMUSUNOD:

- Siguraduhin ang pag-inom ng niresetang gamot
- Uminom ng maraming tubig
- Umiwas sa mga bagay na maaaring magpalala sa iyong sintomas tulad ng alikabok, pollen, pabango at balahibo ng hayop



## MAAARI RIN GAWIN ANG MGA SUMUSUNOD PARA MAPAWI ANG IYONG SINTOMAS:

Uminom ng Salabat o iba pang tsa upang mabawasan ang kati o hapdi ng lalamunan

Magmumog ng maligamgam na tubig na may kaunting asin

Kumain ng espesyal na kendi para sa lalamunan (diffam or strepsils)

**KUNG MAY IBA PANG NARARANASANG MGA SINTOMAS NA NAKABABAHALA, AGAD NA TUMAWAG SA INYONG BHERT (BARANGAY HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM)**



## MGA MALALANG SINTOMAS NG COVID-19 NA KAILANGANG BANTAYAN:

- Hirap sa paghinga kahit naka-upo
- Ubo, lagnat at humihirap sa paghinga
- Lumulubhang pag-ubo
- Pagkalito o biglaang pagbabago ng kalagayan ng pag-iisip
- Pagsakit ng dibdib
- Mababang level ng Oxygen
- Matinding pagka-antok o hindi magising; at
- Kulay bughaw o pangingitim ng mukha o labi



**SEMIRARA  
MINING & POWER  
CORPORATION**



By Bernard M. Cadigal

## Higit 6,000 mag-aaral nasuportahan ng SMPC at DOE sa module project

Dahil sa patuloy na banta sa kaligtasan ng COVID-19, naapektuhan din nito ang sistema ng edukasyon sa bansa. Nabago nito ang normal na buhay-eskwela mula sa pisikal na pagpasok sa mga paaralan tungo sa tinatawag na *blended learning* o di kaya'y *remote/online learning*.

Bukod sa agam-agam kung paano maipapadaloy ang edukasyon ng epektibo sa mga estudyante, ang kakulangan ng sapat na *budget* para sa paggawa ng *module* tulad ng *bond papers*, *printers* at *ink* ay isa rin sa mabigat na naging pasanin ng mga guro at pamunuan ng mga paaralan.

Bilang tugon, ang SMPC at Department of Energy ay nagpamahagi ng 3,000 *reams* ng *bond papers* sa mga paaralan hindi lamang sa Isla ng Semirara, kundi maging sa ilang paaralan sa karatig-islang nasasakupan ng Caluya.

May kabuuang 6,158 estudyante ang nakinabang sa nasabing proyekto.

Sinimulan noong Mayo ang pamamahagi ng mga donasyong *bond papers* sa mga paaralan. Labing-anim na paaralan ang natulungan ng proyekto kabilang ang Semirara Elementary School, Semirara Adventist Academy, Semirara National High School, Villaresis Elementary School, Alegria Elementary School, Bunlao Elementary School, Sabang (Pocan) Extension Class, Lim Elementary School (Liwagao Island), Sibolo Elementary School (Sibolo Island) at Sibato Elementary School (Sibato Island). Inihahanda na rin ang mga *bond papers* para sa Tinogboc Elementary School, Tinogboc National High School, Panagatan Elementary School, Sibay Elementary School, Harigue Elementary School at Dionela Elementary School.





One of our compliance activities is the quarterly air quality monitoring to assess, reduce and regulate the level of pollution.



By Jane Tubongbanua

## SMPC assures compliance with air quality standards monitoring

SMPC continues to adhere to its mission of nurturing and upholding environmental stewardship. One of our compliance activities is the quarterly air quality monitoring to assess, reduce and regulate the level of pollution, in relation to air quality standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SMPC's safety and health risks and environmental aspects are identified and properly assessed before doing the air sampling activity. Moreover, all SMPC monitored parameters are within their respective DENR standards limit.

For Ambient Air Quality

Monitoring, 5 stations identified in the Environmental Monitoring Plan are sampled monthly for Total Suspended Particles (TSP), Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and quarterly sampled for Particulate Matter-10 micrometer (PM-10), and metals such as Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), and Lead (Pb).

For Stack Emissions Monitoring, we conduct daily monitoring of Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) for 1x15 MW Coal-Fired Power Plant and TESTO 350 Flue Gas Analyzer for 2x 7.5 MW Coal-Fired Power Plant. We also arrange external tests conducted

by a DENR-accredited external service provider to ensure an unbiased result.

Sampling and measurement methods used are in compliance with DAO 2008-81 or the IRR of the RA 8749 or Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999. Sampling equipment are calibrated annually to provide reliable results. The samples are then submitted to a 3rd-party DENR-accredited laboratory for analysis.

The values for gaseous pollutants are aligned with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Source Specific Air Pollutants from industrial Sources/ Operation, Section 1, Rule XXVI, Part VII of the IRR Philippine Clean Air Act.



*Remarks:*  
External source sampling test conducted last March 2021 shows that emissions from the operation are within standard and generally below average readings in previous records.

*Highest reading for TSP at DMCI and Molave Phase 1 were recorded for the Month of March, mainly due to severe windy condition.*

Noon pa man ay adbokasiya na ni Gng. Merza Raya ang pagpapagawa ng *ecobricks* sa Villaresis Elementary School (VES).

“Ang *ecobricks* ay kapaki-pakinabang sa atin dahil ito ay puwedeng gamitin sa paggawa ng kahon para sa mga halaman at bakod ng aming paaralan. Sa pag-ipon ng plastik na di na pwedeng gamitin muli at paglagay nito sa mga plastik na bote ay tumutulong tayo sa pagbawas ng kalat na plastik sa ating kapaligiran,” ani Raya, punong-guro ng VES.

Ito ang naging inspirasyon ng SMPC upang maglunsad ng *ecobricks movement* sa mga *housing associations* ng mga empleyado nito noong Hulyo 2020. Nakalikom ng halos 5,000 piraso ng *ecobricks* o katumbas ng higit 3 toneladang plastik ang nasabing proyekto; 2,000 piraso ay ibinigay sa VES upang gawing *flower boxes*.

“Kami ay nagpapasalamat sa SMPC sa binigay nilang mga pangangailangan namin sa paggawa ng aming *flower boxes*. Sa ating lahat, gawin nating bahagi ng buhay ang paggawa ng *ecobricks* upang mapanatili nating malinis at *plastic-free* ang ating kapaligiran,” ani Gng. Raya.

Patuloy pa rin sa paggawa ng *ecobricks* ang mga *housing associations*, at ilan sa mga naipagawa ay mga tanod *outposts*.

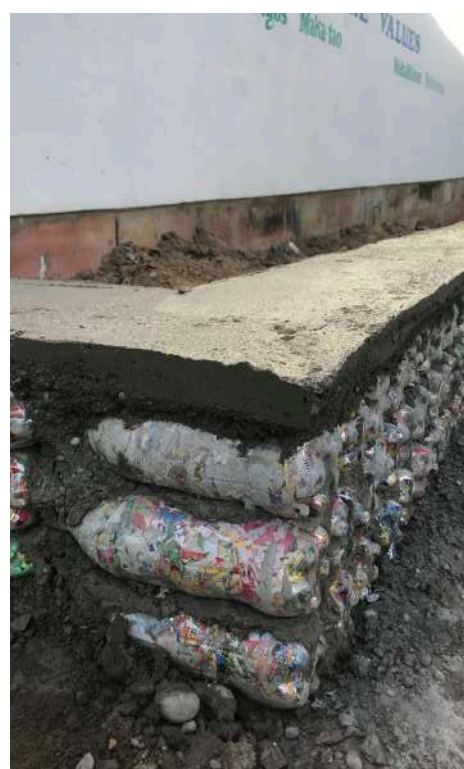


Nina Merza Raya  
at Rachel Ann N. Lauricio

## SMPC naghandog ng *ecobricks* sa Villaresis Elementary School



Ang mga naipong *ecobricks* ay pinanggawa ng tanod *outposts* at plant boxes bilang alternatibo sa concrete hollow blocks.





Ni Hazel Malibiran

## Agresibong paghahalaman sa mga pabahay ng SMPC tungo sa malusog at maka-kalikasang pamayanan

Inilunsad ang Backyard Gardening Program sa mga housing communities ng SMPC nitong Hunyo 15, 2021, kasunod ang matagumpay na pagsasagawa ng Plantito/Plantita of the Year at Organic Farm Area contests noong nakaraang taon.

“Ginawa ang programang ito upang maging kapaki-pakinabang at produktibo ang panirahan ng bawat empleyado at mga *dependents* nito sa pabahay ng Kompanya at masigurong may sapat na pagkain ang bawat pamilya anuman ang sitwasyon,” ani Germa Ningas, officer-in-charge ng Administration and General Services Department at punong-abala ng nasabing programa.

Nagsagawa ng *composting orientation* sa mga residente bilang unang yugto ng programa, katuwang ang Rehabilitation and Reforestation Department sa pangunguna ni Resident

Forester Gil Yandug.

Inaasahan na bawat isa sa 1,594 *housing units* ay magkakaroon ng sariling *backyard garden* na mapagtataniman ng gulay at prutas gamit ang *compost* mula sa *biodegradable materials* na magsisilbing pataba sa lupa.

Ayon naman kay Engr. Mark Munar, Deputy Administrative Division Manager, layunin din ng programa na mapagkunan ito ng mapagkakakitaan ng mga pamilya at makatulong sa pagpapanatili ng kapaligiran.

“Dahil sa *backyard gardening*, makababawas sa gastusin sa pagkain ang bawat pamilya at maari rin nilang ibenta sa merkado ang kanilang aning gulay at prutas pandagdag sa kanilang kita,” ani Munar.

Aniya, nakatutulong din ang paghahalaman sa paglilinis ng hangin at mabawasan ang *carbon dioxide* at

iba pang *pollutants* na nagiging sanhi ng *global warming*. Mababawasan din ang basurang nabubulok dahil sa pag-*compost* nito upang gamiting natural na pataba sa lupa.

“Mainam din na *bonding* o *quality time* ang paghahalaman sa bawat miyembro ng pamilya, habang isinasabuhay ang pagtataguyod ng malusog at maka-kalikasan na komunidad,” ani Munar.

Ang mga residente ng Area 4 na sumasakop sa Phase 5 at 6 ng Sitio Bunlao sa Barangay Alegria ang nanalo sa Organic Farm Area Contest na nagkamit ng premyong *gardening materials* na nagkakahalaga ng P10,000.

Samantala, ang 15 indibidwal na itinanghal na Plantito/Plantita of the Year sa bawat area ay bibigyan ng *clay pots* bilang suporta sa kanilang paghahalaman.







**A**t SMPC, we value both the people we work with and the people we work for. In our value chain, we ensure that our employees and workers contribute within an environment that promotes their growth and development without compromising their safety and dignity.

Our people are protected by non-discrimination policies across all positions.

SMPC has been distinguished as among the only three Filipino companies cited in the 2021 Bloomberg Gender Equality Index which includes 380 companies across 50 industries headquartered in 44 countries and regions. We uphold the fair treatment of employees regardless of gender or orientation.



## Promoting gender equality in the workplace

Compiled by Rachelle Ann N. Lauricio



**Isidro A. Consunji**  
Chairman and CEO

"We recognize the value and contributions of women across our group of companies. They occupy key positions in our Board, management, and workforce. With our companies' inclusion in the GEI, we hope to provide more women with the opportunities and the support they need to reach their full potential."



**Girlie P. Bitarra**  
Senior Geologist

"We are women, and we matter. Being a woman is not a weakness. When challenges, difficulties, and self-doubt get in the way, I assure myself that these are all part of the learning process and that I must face them head on. Even in this male-dominated field, there are a lot of opportunities for women. Here, we are given the avenue to realize our potentials to the fullest."



**Jessa Mae T. Gonzales**  
Nursing Staff,  
Semirara Infirmary

"As a nurse and mother of two, I need to establish where my priorities are to help me decide what's important or not in the moment. I also manage my time well so that my personal and my professional life do not interfere with each other. Lastly, practicing self-care is very important to me—it helps me become a better caregiver to my family and my patients."



**Ailyn Tupas**

Welder,  
Mobile Department  
"As a welder, I can't help but feel that I always have to prove myself to my mostly male colleagues. But I'm proud to say that I can work with the best of them when it comes to welding. If they can do it, so can I!"



**Germa C. Ningas**  
OIC, Administrative  
and General Services

"I'm glad to be a part of an organization that promotes an equal opportunity between men and women in the workforce. The real challenge now, for me, is living up to the trust and confidence given to me and meeting people's expectations."

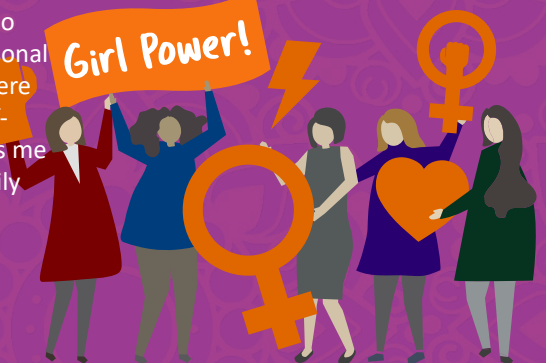


**Iryne Ysug**  
Civil Engineer,  
Administration  
and General Services

"As a woman working in a male dominant field is never easy. But working with men is never a hindrance but a challenging task. With that, I always set a clear and achievable goal within the team and acknowledge everyone's strengths and weaknesses. We work together as we do it for the glory of God. Believe and apply 'Babae ka, hindi babae lang.' We can do beyond, we can think beyond."



**Girl Power!**





SMPC subsidiaries Sem-Calaca Power Corporation and Southwest Luzon Power Generation Corporation in Calaca, Batangas



By DOE

## Sec. Cusi directs oil and power bureaus to ensure unimpeded energy services

TAGUIG CITY – Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi has directed its Oil Industry Management Bureau (OIMB) and the Electric Power Industry Management Bureau (EPIMB) to ensure unimpeded delivery of energy services, as the National Capital Region (NCR) and other nearby provinces were placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) with additional restrictions from March 22 until April 4 2021.

The Energy chief also designated DOE's Task Force Energy Resiliency (TFER) Chairperson, Undersecretary Alexander S. Lopez, as the Department's OIC-alternate representative for the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

*"Kami po sa DOE ay sisiguraduhin ang tuluy-tuloy na serbisyong enerhiya hindi lamang sa mga GCQ areas, kundi sa buong Pilipinas. Patuloy natin titiyakin*

*na may sapat na supply ng kuryente at langis, upang sa ganun, patuloy din ang pag-usad ng ating ekonomiya laban sa hamon ng COVID-19"* Secretary Cusi emphasized.

Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the country, President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday (March 21) approved the recommendation of the IATF to place NCR and the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal under GCQ with additional measures.

Under the two-week period, among the additional measures introduced by the IATF is the concept of the "NCR Plus" bubble, where going in and out of Metro Manila and the four provinces will be limited to essential travels only. The delivery of basic goods and services, however, should not be affected.

Secretary Cusi's directive to the OIMB and the EPIMB was contained in a memorandum dated 23 March 2021.

**"Kami po sa DOE ay sisiguraduhin ang tuluy-tuloy na serbisyong enerhiya hindi lamang sa mga GCQ areas, kundi sa buong Pilipinas. Patuloy natin titiyakin na may sapat na supply ng kuryente at langis, upang sa ganun, patuloy din ang pag-usad ng ating ekonomiya laban sa hamon ng COVID-19."**

*Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi  
Department of Energy*



Photo taken before the pandemic lockdown in March 2020

## SMPC promotes animal biodiversity conservation

SMPC established the Semirara Biodiversity Conservation Center (SBCC) in 2018 in line with the company's commitment to environmental stewardship.

SBCC was established to ensure mindful consideration and study of a population's breeding habits, diet, and ethological needs for a holistic approach to biodiversity.

It is a joint project between SMPC and the Department of Energy, with a conservation program mainly focused on the avian species due to their dominance among other fauna on the island.

SBCC serves as a wildlife rescue center by taking in eggs, juvenile birds, and adults that are found after natural disasters or prior to the clearing of vegetation for mine sites. We will then nurse the animals until they become candidates for species recovery or deemed ready for reintroduction to suitable natural habitat. Mammals,

reptiles, and amphibians are occasionally cared for as well.

SBCC also promotes and engages the local community through conservation, awareness and education. This is to enhance local knowledge so as to avoid further negative human impacts from activities such as *kaingin* (slash-and-burn) and poaching. This complements our efforts of reintroducing the animals to a suitable environment.

SBCC conducts a walk-through aviary exhibit, educational tours and lectures for the students, locals and visitors of Semirara Island.

