

14 November 2022, Monday



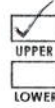
**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





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## CSC affirms DENR, K4 accord

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has issued a certificate of registration for the three-year Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) between the management of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Kalipunan ng mga Kawani sa Kagawaran ng Kalikasan (K4).

K4 is a duly recognized sole and exclusive negotiating representative of all DENR rank-and-file employees across 16 regions nationwide. It received the CNA registration certificate from the CSC on October 24 at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City.

Each of the 16 chapters of K4 was represented by the president of the DENR Employees' Union in the regional offices and bureaus.

The conferment of the registration certificate comes after the evaluation and review of the CNA pursuant to Executive Order No. 180 or the Amended Rules and Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Right of Government Employees to Organize.

In line with this, the DENR said it will continue to foster its relationship with the rank-and-file employees being the lifeblood of the organization.

The CNA which was signed in June will be binding until 2025.

Major agreements in the CNA include the representation of employees in various committees concerning their welfare and benefits, and the commitment of management to provide facilities, programs, and activities that will help respond to the needs of special groups, such as persons with disabilities, pregnant women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Other agreements include a housing program that employees will be able to access through various DENR offices nationwide; health and wellness programs and medical services; learning and development and scholarship programs to support the career advancement of the employees; and the CNA incentive that is granted every December. Joel dela Torre



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REMATE OPINION

## ANGINYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

### NWRB NAGPALIWANAG SA PAGTATAAS NG ALOKASYON NG TUBIG SA GREATER MANILA AREA

**SANHI** ng direktang pagdaan ni Typhoon Paeng (Nalgae) sa mga lalawigan ng Rizal at Bulacan kamakailan na nagbuhos ng malalakas na pag-ulan, umakyat ng 20.38 meters ang antas ng tubig sa Angat dam na umabot sa 200.38 meters, bagamat kapos pa ng 11.62 meters para maabot ang normal water level na 212 meters.

Pero kahit nasa "operational level" lang ang dam, nagpasya ang National Water Resources Board na itaas sa 48 cubic meters per second (cms) mula sa dating 46 cms



lamang ang alokasyon ng tubig para sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System na siyang nangangasiwa sa water concessionaires na Manila Water Company, Inc. at Maynilad Water Services, Inc., may mga kababayan tuloy tayong nagtaka sa hakbang na ito ng water regulatory agency.

Ika nga nila, wala pa nga sa normal level, mas maraming tubig pa ang ilalabas buhat sa nasabing dam.

Sa programang "Health & Travel @ Serbisyo Publiko" nitong November 10, 2022 ay sinagot ni NWRB Executive Director Dr. Sevillo David, Jr. ang katanungan ng mga kababayan natin.

Wala umanong dapat na ikabahala ang mga nasa Greater Manila Area (GMA) sa itinaas na buga ng tubig para sa dalawang water concessionaires dahil ito'y tugon ng ahensya sa kahilingan ng MWSS mismo para maging supisyente ang suplay ng tubig sa

mga pagawaan, kabahayan at mga sakahan.

Alam naman natin na tumataas ang gumagamit ng tubig kapag pumasok na ang "ber months" sa bansa lalo na sa GMA dahil na rin sa rami ng mga gumaganit at nangangailangan dahil sa mataas na demand ng mga produktong ibinebenta at sa paghahanda para sa Pasko, Bagong Taon, Christmas parties at reunions.

Pagtitiyak ni ED David ay tinitiyak naman ng pamunuan ng NWRB na hindi nito maaapektuhan ang suplay ng tubig sa panahon ng tag-init sa bansa kadalasang nagsisimula sa buwan ng Marso.

Bagamat sinasabi ng Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration na dalawang bagyo pa ang inaasahang mabubuo at papasok sa ating area of responsibility ngayong buwan at tatlo hanggang apat pa sa mismong buwan ng December 2022 ay hindi nagpapaka-kampante ang NWRB sa lagay ng tubig sa Angat dam.

Nasa hanggang 15 million katao ang umaasa sa malinis na tubig sa National Capital Region (NCR) at mga karatig lalawigan ng Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna at Rizal.





## 2022 Miss Earth candidates pledge

# support for biodiversity conservation

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

CANDIDATES for the Miss Earth 2022 competition are adding to the growing voice for the conservation of biological diversity.

Miss Earth Foundation Consultant Catherine Vital said Miss Earth will endeavor to use the platform to educate the public on the impacts of different issues affecting ecological balance, including habitat destruction and wildlife trafficking.

"To our delegates, may this event set the tone of your Miss Earth journey here in the Philippines," Vital said. "Let's join forces to become the voice of the voiceless and the hope of Miss Earth's fauna."

The contestants, all 89, were

welcomed with music and dance from "Banda Kawayan," a group which was originally formed in the 1970s and became popular as they play musical instruments made from bamboo.

The pre-pageant event was organized by the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) body that also implements the Asean Heritage Parks Program (AHP), which seeks to protect and conserve biodiversity through the Protected Area system.

The Philippines is host to AHPs, including Mount Makiling in the Province of Laguna, which is host to the ACB's headquarters in the Philippines.

Organizers of the event gave the contestants basic knowledge about

biodiversity, the global threats they are facing and the need to educate the world about their importance.

Being Asean's response to biodiversity loss, the ACB has been implementing communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities that aim to convey the importance of biodiversity.

In 2021, the ACB launched "#WeAreASEANBiodiversity: Our Home, Our Lives, Our Stories" as a regional campaign for biodiversity. The regional campaign aligns with Asean's vision of "2025: Forging Ahead Together," in encouraging key actors to take a more active role in the sustainable use of biological resources.

As the campaign aims to call for each and everyone's earnest participation in promoting the importance

of nature, the ACB collaborated with prominent media personalities and influencers from the region who have volunteered to share their voices to amplify the regional call for an integrated and whole-of-community approach in biodiversity protection among wider local, national and regional audiences.

Thus, the ACB is collaborating with Miss Earth Foundation to scale-up its efforts in promoting nature as an important part of the solution. As a premiere international pageant that aims to promote environmental awareness through public engagements, environmentally-sound activities, youth oriented learning sessions, fashion shows, tours and mass media promotions, it is envisioned that the partnership between Miss

Earth and the ACB will amplify the collective advocacy of promoting the values of biodiversity to a wide range of audience worldwide.

This year's Miss Earth theme is "ME loves fauna," highlighting the importance of conserving the world's animal species. Hence, this event will set the tone for other pre-pageant activities by raising awareness among the beauty queens on the values of biodiversity or the web of life and the need for immediate action for its conservation and sustainable management.

"To be able to safeguard and conserve our web of life, we need to scale up our efforts in encouraging more people to act for nature and to set things right," ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said through a video.





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# Open, connect, balance: PH's APEC ties revitalized in leaders' meeting

**F**rom the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summits in Cambodia, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. proceeds to participate in his first-ever Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on Nov. 16-19, 2022 with the upbeat theme: Open. Connect. Balance.

"Open to all opportunities" underlines the Covid recovery scenario. APEC is well-poised to provide propulsion in jump-starting the resumption of open trade and investment, enhancing the business environment, advancing regional economic integration, and advancing regional economic cooperation by leveraging on digital acceleration and technology-driven innovation.

"Connect" is the most urgent imperative. APEC's major challenge is to restore connectivity by resuming safe and seamless cross-border travel. This will reinvigorate the tourism and services sectors, facilitate business mobility and increase investments in health security.

"Balance" is the third focal point. The Asia-Pacific region has been "unbalanced" during the past two years. APEC's member-economies have become more vulnerable to shocks. The harmful effects of global inequality and continuing climate change have become even more glaring. Hence, inclusivity and sustainability have risen to the top of the APEC agenda.

Home to more than 2.9 billion people and making up 60 percent of global gross domestic product, APEC's significance in the global economy could not be overemphasized.

As President Marcos makes his debut on the APEC stage, he will propose forward pathways on tackling challenges on food security, energy, and climate change.

Since becoming president, he has highlighted the primacy of ensuring domestic food sufficiency in light of disruptions in the global supply chains. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Marcos will call for the need to "future proof" the region in responding to disruptions around the world.

Climate change is also at the forefront of his agenda, considering that the Philippines is one of the leading climate-vulnerable countries (CVCs) that bear the brunt of destructive typhoons and floods. While the APEC member-countries may have reaffirmed their commitment to COP 27, the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, it is hoped that climate change concerns will be given adequate consideration in Bangkok. Significantly, there seems to be forward movement on fulfilling the commitment to provide compensatory relief assistance to CVCs like the Philippines.

On the whole, APEC initiatives enable the Philippines to enhance the competitiveness of domestic producers and sectors. These opportunities could be optimized by upgrading domestic facilities and aligning domestic regulations to meet global standards. These include behind-the-border barriers that limit the flow of goods and services and expand the coverage of businesses to overseas markets. Trade agreements in APEC also help firms gain access to cheaper inputs and more advanced technologies, which foster competition and increased productivity and growth.

Finally, President Marcos will also be meeting with the Filipino community in Thailand, numbering less than 20,000, but composed mainly of professionals who are able to contribute to the strengthening of people-to-people ties between Thais and Filipinos.





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Roni SANTIAGO  
SKP  
MANILA BULLETIN  
NOVEMBER 14, 2022



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**Fruitful gab.** President Marcos Jr. and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau see deeper relations and more cooperation between the Philippines and Canada.  
PHOTO FROM OPS FB PAGE

# PH, Canada vow closer, stronger ties

## Trudeau welcomes new Marcos leadership

**BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR**

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau yesterday vowed to deepen bilateral relations and to work together in more areas of cooperation, such as economy and climate change.

Marcos and Trudeau met on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and Related Summits in Phnom Penh, Cambodia where leaders of the regional group and dialogue partners discussed regional and global issues that confront the world like climate change and

post-pandemic economic recovery, among others.

Trudeau foresees a “tremendous opportunity” for the Philippines and Canada to work together under the new leadership of Marcos and said he is looking forward to

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to exploring and doing just that.

“We have some very strong Philippine Canadian members of parliament and members of my team who are very happy that we’re able to launch a new area in our friendship and our partnership and I’m very much looking forward to it,” he said.

He said the Philippines and Canada can collaborate to strengthen economic cooperation, stand up for women’s opportunities, protect human rights, fight climate change and further deepen people-to-people ties.

Marcos acknowledged this, saying the integration of Filipinos in Canada serves as a strong foundation for Philippine-Canada relations.

“They all seem to have become part of the workforce, become part of society. They have found their place and they have been given that place by the Canadians, and for that, they are grateful, and we are grateful. And I think it is – it serves as a very good foundation for whatever else that we feel that we can do together,” he said.

There are over 900,000 Filipinos working and living in Canada.

Marcos thanked Canada and its people for the warmth and kindness they have shown the Filipino community.

During the Asean-Canada Commemorative Summit last Saturday, Maracos welcomed Canada’s continued support for Asean initiatives for the welfare of women such as the implementation of the Asean Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which aims to support the upskilling of women and empowering women





entrepreneurship, particularly through micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Marcos also welcomed Canada's support for the Triangle in Asean project, which promotes fair migration across the region and labor mobility across the region along with the improvement of working conditions and labor protection policies, particularly for low-paid migrant workers.

### **SOLVING CONFLICTS**

Earlier in the day, the President emphasized the importance of "finding resolutions rather than inciting conflicts" amid disagreements in different issues and parts of the world along with the urgency of acting "decisively and immediately" on pressing global issues such as climate change and food security.

The President raised these concerns during the different fora and related meetings over the weekend, including the East Asian Summit yesterday, a social media posts by the Office of the Press Secretary said.

"The Chief Executive highlights the moral and legal responsibility to work towards finding resolutions rather than inciting conflicts as requisite for peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation inscribed in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. He reiterates the need for food self-sufficiency in the Region to increase resilience in the face of threats to the global supply chain, and calls on the EAS Partners to support the Asean Centre for Biodiversity geared towards climate action," the OPS said on its Facebook page.

The President attended the 17th East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh yesterday morning. Other attendees include the leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's





Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Also present were United States President Joe Biden, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Kate Ardern, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, India Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol, Australia Prime Minister Anthony Norman Albanese and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

During the event, Marcos said the Russia-Ukraine conflict should stop and all stakeholders must resort to diplomacy, with the Asean doing its share to help in the diplomatic process.

"My comment about Ukraine is, the war should end and all stakeholders should talk as soon as possible. And Asean should do all it can to help," he said.

The President also raised the dispute in the South China Sea by insisting that all concerned parties should adhere to the rules-based order and follow international law.

In an interview with some reporters on the sidelines of the Summit, he emphasized the need to abide by internationally accepted laws such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"Because the trade that passes through the South China Sea is very important, not just for Asia but for the whole world. So, it is necessary, it is important that there should be no trouble in the region," he said.

Before the meeting, Marcos talked about the need for a new and binding code of conduct between Asean and China. Several Asean member countries





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have overlapping maritime territorial claims with China, which is claiming almost the entire South China Sea.

The Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), which has been implemented for the past 20 years, helps to maintain peace and stability in the disputed waters.

Marcos said the South China Sea should be turned into a "sea of peace, security, stability and prosperity" instead of an area of armed conflict or geopolitical discord.

"Let us be guided by the universal principles of peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation as laid out in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. As High Contracting Parties to the Treaty, we have a moral and legal obligation to work towards finding resolutions and not resort to inciting conflicts. That path leads us only to perdition," he said.

China, during the EAS, expressed readiness to work with Asean countries to uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea and keep the international shipping lanes open and unimpeded for the good and common development of all countries.

Marcos also urged his fellow leaders to continue engaging Myanmar stakeholders and to push for the urgent implementation of the Five-Point Consensus reached in Jakarta during the Asean Leaders' Meeting in April 2021.

He also emphasized the importance of sustaining the dialogue and engagements between concerned parties to attain lasting peace and stability in a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.





### FOOD, CLIMATE CHANGE

The President also urged world leaders to “act decisively and immediately” on pressing global issues such as climate change and food security.

“Our people look to their leaders, to us, to correctly navigate the uncertain waters of this new world. Our partnerships will make us strong. Our partnerships will give us wisdom. The future awaits,” Marcos said.

Marcos also emphasized the need to build on and improve existing strategies towards a holistic and green sustainable development to ensure environmentally-sound economic progress.

“It has become glaringly clear that there is a dire need to strengthen food security towards self-sufficiency in our region, to increase adaptability and resilience in the face of threats to the global supply chain. It is incumbent upon us, for our sake and that of future generations, to act decisively and immediately on climate change,” he said.

The President reiterated the Philippines support calls to sustain efforts to promote women’s economic empowerment, strengthen energy security, and promote volunteerism for sustainable development.

He also expressed support and said that he looks forward to working closely together with Indonesia, the incoming Asean chair for 2023, in continuing community-building efforts.

After the meeting, the leaders also attended the Asean and Dialogue Partners “Asean Global Dialogue” where the Philippines pushed for the development of the Declaration of the Digital Transformation of Education Systems in Asean to ensure that the youth and peoples of Asean will be equipped with the relevant skills, competencies and values in addressing the challenges of the changing and modern world.

The President also pushed for “re-skilling and upskilling of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in digital trade and technologies for wider trade opportunities.”

He also urged fellow leaders to

support the fast conclusion of the Global Goal on Adaptation work program in responding to climate change.

He likewise shared how the Philippines is handling the effects and impact of regional concerns such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the devastating effects of natural calamities with the help of his administration’s Medium-Term Fiscal Program and the upcoming Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028.





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# PBBM asks world leaders to act on food security, climate change

By **RYAN PONCE PACPACO**

**PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Sunday rallied world leaders to "act decisively and immediately" on pressing global issues, primarily climate change and food security.**

"Our people look to their leaders, to us, to correctly navigate the uncertain waters of this new world. Our partnerships will make us strong. Our partnerships will give us wisdom. The future awaits," President Marcos told leaders in his intervention during the 17th East Asia Summit.

The President made the

call in front of world leaders, which included Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, US President Joe Biden, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Kate Ardern, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, India Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, South Korea President Yoon Sukyeol and Australia Prime Minister Anthony

Norman Albanese.

Moving towards the post-pandemic economic recovery, the chief executive said stakeholders in ASEAN and East Asia must build on and improve existing strategies towards holistic and green, and sustainable development to ensure environmentally-sound economic progress.

"It has become glaringly clear that there is a dire need to strengthen food security towards self-sufficiency in our region, to increase adaptability and resilience in the face of threats to the global supply chain," the President pointed out.

"It is incumbent upon us, for our sake and that of

future generations, to act decisively and immediately on climate change," Marcos said.

The Philippines, Marcos said, expresses its support for EAS initiatives, especially on promoting women's economic empowerment, strengthening energy security, and promoting volunteerism for sustain-

able development — all consistent with the EAS objectives as a leader-led forum on strategic issues.

The Philippine leader also looked forward to working closely together with Indonesia, the incoming ASEAN Chair for the year 2023, in continuing community-building efforts.





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## Climate change

We have been hearing a lot about climate change being blamed for more killer typhoons and rising sea level. It seems, our planet Earth is becoming warmer and may eventually become too warm for humans to survive.

Much of the blame is on the use of fossil fuels, petroleum and coal, that powered the growth of the industrial economies. Global fossil fuel emissions will probably reach record highs this year and not show signs of declining.

Countries like ours are responsible for only a tiny bit of the global warming gasses spewed into the atmosphere, but suffer the consequences most.

### DEMAND AND SUPPLY



**BOO CHANCO**

An international conference is regularly held to talk about how to deal with global warming. The rich industrial economies have promised to help Third World countries cope with the impact of climate change. But it has been mostly talk since the first climate change agreement was signed in Paris.

The Paris agreement is supposed to be a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris on Dec. 12, 2015 and entered into force on Nov. 4, 2016.

The agreement was supposed to limit global warming to below two degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Countries must aim to limit greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050.

The talking continues. This time the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is ongoing in Sharm El Sheikh, a resort town in Egypt. Hopefully, something happens to help us cope.

We just had a few strong typhoons that destroyed agricultural produce, infrastructure, and killed a number of people. The Philippines is the third most vulnerable country to climate change, according to a 2017 world risk report. We suspected as much out of experience.

Climate change is making typhoons wetter, windier, and more intense. As the storms travel across warm oceans, they pull in more water vapor and heat. That means stronger wind, heavier rainfall, and more flooding when the storms hit land.

There is also evidence that climate change is causing storms to travel more slowly, meaning they can dump more water in one place. Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 and Typhoon Paeng last month, for example.

The impact of climate change in the Philippines are immense, including: annual losses in GDP, changes in rainfall patterns and distribution, droughts, threats to biodiversity and food security, sea level rise, public health risks, and endangerment of vulnerable groups.

No wonder Congress passed Republic Act 9729, which created a Climate Change Commission. It now has a database known as the National Integrated Climate Change Database Information and Exchange System (NICCDIES) that tells us how badly we are affected.

In the meantime, there is this assessment report that says climate change will create new poor people between now and 2100, as if we need to have more. Poverty breeds disaster vulnerability, after all.

There will be major changes in rainfall patterns and distribution. Extreme rainfall is expected to increase with global warming by about now.

We will also have more intense periods of droughts. Global warming exacerbates the effects of El Niño, the most recent of which was experienced in the country from 2015 to 2016.

There will also be threats to natural ecosystems. There will be loss of coral. The 2016 Low Carbon Monitor Report foresees that 98 percent of coral reefs in Southeast Asia will die by 2050, practically an extinction by the end of the century if current global warming trends continue.

By 2051 to 2060, the maximum fish catch potential of Philippine seas will decrease by as much as 50 percent compared to 2001-2010 levels. Just now, it was announced we are importing 25,000 metric tons of frozen fish, including *galunggong*.

The Department of Agriculture estimated that 413,456 farmers have been directly affected by El Niño-associated droughts and dry spells.

Our rice yields will decline. An analysis of temperature trends and irrigated field experiments at the International





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Rice Research Institute shows that grain yield decreased by at least 10 percent for each 1°C increase in growing-season minimum temperature in the dry season.

A decline in mango production by four percent was reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) this year.

Climate change also causes sea level to rise. Observed sea level rise is remarkably highest at 60 centimeters in the Philippines, about three times that of the global average of 19 centimeters.

This puts at risk 60 percent of LGUs covering 64 coastal provinces, 822 coastal municipalities, 25 major coastal cities, and an estimated 13.6 million Filipinos that will need relocation.

Water scarcity is already one of our major problems arising from rapid urbanization. Climate change is pushing it to crisis level. A study by the World Resources Institute predicts that the Philippines will experience a 'high' degree of water shortage by the year 2040.

The country ranked 57th as the most water stressed country in 2040 out of 167 countries. The sector that will bear the brunt of water shortage by that year is agriculture, a major component of the country's economy and which currently employs most of the country's workforce.

Of course, Metro Manila's 20 million plus population is very vulnerable to a water shortage. It is over 90 percent dependent on Angat Dam and previous droughts caused the dam's water to go near critical level.

Where do we go from here? Our DENR Secretary is a world class expert on climate change. If she is given proper political support, she should be able to do much to contain the abuses of our environment from politicians and other vested interests.

But a big problem is energy. We are now largely dependent on coal. We need a credible program that shifts our dependence from coal to renewable energy sources.

Problem is financing the transition to clean energy. The World Economic Forum observed that developing countries need assistance to fund technology transfer to enable rapid, wide-scale development and deployment of renewable energy infrastructure.

So far, it is still all talk... our poor grandchildren!

Boo Chanco's email address is [bchanco@gmail.com](mailto:bchanco@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter @boochanco

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# Demands of climate finance pushed in COP27 homestretch

By Imelda Abaño  
@iabano

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT—  
As leaders from 196 countries wrap up this week the United Nations global climate negotiations, many issues are still at stake over policies to deal with devastating floods, fiercer typhoons, widespread deforestation, rising temperatures, droughts and other catastrophic climate impacts.

The first week of the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change started with a flurry of promises and announcements from government leaders to step up efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and help poor countries adapt to climate crisis.

In the coming days, the Philippines and other climate-vulnerable countries will step up their demands for finance mechanism with the creation of a loss and damage finance facility that has been adopted in the conference agenda.

But so far, only these countries have pledged loss and damage finance—\$2.5 million from Belgium, \$50 million from Austria, \$12 million from New Zealand, \$18 million from Canada, and \$10 million from Ireland.

United States President Joe Biden also announced new funding initiatives, including

\$100 million for climate adaptation and \$150 million for disaster emergency response across Africa.

The United States is one of the largest greenhouse gas emitters, along with China, India and South Africa.

### Climate justice

Perhaps this year, more than ever, negotiators haggling over the deal in conference rooms at this small Egyptian resort city know their decision will be watched closely by civil society groups and climate activists.

Yeb Saño, Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director, told the Inquirer: "This is game on for agreeing [to] the loss and damage finance facility so urgently needed to support climate justice for developing countries, particularly the most impacted....The fight is far from over."

He added: "The blatant attempt of rich countries to push this item off the agenda of the COP27 table gives us a hint of some of the delay and diversion tactics that can be anticipated ahead."

Saño, a former Philippine climate commissioner and negotiator in the conference, said countries must insist on the formation of a dedicated loss and damage finance facility to collect and distribute compensation money to worst-hit nations coping with unavoidable





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**MAKE THEM PAY** Filipino environmental activists outside COP27 hold a protest rally against wealthy nations and other “fossil fuel polluters.” —**IMELDA ABAÑO**

impacts of the climate crisis.

“Countries like the Philippines now live in an era where the limits for adaptation have been realized, ...[which is why] wealthy countries must pay their fair share for a crisis they are most responsible for causing. The rich countries should act on these demands and make sure fossil fuel polluters are made to pay for damage they have caused,” he said.

As in previous climate talks, vulnerable poorer countries that contributed the least to warming temperatures have pushed for the \$100 billion target set in 2009 for climate action. The longstanding pledge to provide the money was

pushed back from 2020 to 2025.

**Dangerous warming levels**

Despite the legally binding Paris Climate Change Agreement among countries to prevent average temperatures rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the world is still on track for dangerous levels of warming, making every heat wave, sea level rise and glacier melting more intense and life-threatening, according to the provisional State of Global Climate Report of the World Meteorological Organization released at COP27.

This finding was echoed by a new report by the Climate

Vulnerable Forum (CVF) showing that major emitting countries need to strengthen their climate plans for 2030 to avert catastrophe.

“The Glasgow Climate Pact is broken because rich and big polluting countries did not act to save 1.5 degrees as we all agreed only a year ago at COP26 climate talks in Glasgow. These countries are far off from a fair-share effort to limit warming to within the crucial 1.5 degrees goal, which we consider as a survival threshold,” said Henry Kokofu, special envoy of the CVF presidency of Ghana.

The CVF is an organization of 58 nations, including the Philippines, that are most threatened by climate change representing some 1.5 million people worldwide.

The Philippines has committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030.

Young Filipino climate activists at the conference are also leading the call for the rapid phaseout of coal, oil and natural gas and helping poor countries make the transition to clean energy.

“We condemn the continued avoidance of developed countries to owe [up] to their historical responsibility. We demand that they scale up their commitments to reduce emissions that will limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We cannot imagine a warmer world be-

yond that,” said Gerry Arances, executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development.

**Left out**

Meanwhile, civil society groups and grassroots organizations were being “pushed to the sidelines” and “out of negotiation rooms” at the conference, said Ivan Enrile of Ibon Foundation International.

Speaking at a side event at COP27, Enrile pointed out that grassroots voices were being “marginalized” in many ways—from deprivation of access to resources, exclusion from policymaking, to “outright repression” and killing of environmental land and human rights defenders.

“Polluting companies continue to shape and define COP agenda, allowing them to plunder our lands, water and forests and pollute the air we breathe,” he said.

Dinda Yunda of Indonesia criticized how big forums like G-20 and COP kept bragging about energy transitions, yet in her country, investments and funds for energy initiatives have led to the destruction of people’s livelihoods and culture.

“The climate solution has to be community-oriented, where women have to be at the heart of the decisions and solution[s],” Yunda said. —**WITH A REPORT FROM JANE BAUTISTA INQ**





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## 'COP27 must take real action vs. climate change'

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

COP27 must take real action to stave off the worst effects of climate change, said Venkatachalan Anbumozhi, director of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) Research Strategy and Innovation.

He said this means going beyond COP21's Paris Agreement 2015 on national commitments to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and COP26's Glasgow agreement in 2021 to achieve a net zero economy by the middle of the century.

The core issues behind the ongoing climate negotiations are making bold commitments and agreeing on higher targets to reduce GHG emissions, he also noted.

Anbumozhi said these can be achieved by developing countries in times of economic uncertainty and extending massive financing that advanced economies have already committed in support of global climate actions.

The ERIA official said COP27 will be a success if substantial progress is made on both these issues.

But current climate negotiations and agreed action plans are woefully inadequate for reaching a carbon-neutral planet by 2050, which would keep global warming below 2°C as envisaged in the Paris agreement.

"Problematic actions are the heavy burning of fossil fuels by the top five carbon emitters: China, the United States, India, the Russian Federation, and Japan, as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union, taken together as economic blocs," Anbumozhi said.

He said one way would be for COP27 to name the countries or regional blocs that are most out of line with the Paris climate agreement and ask them to do more either individually or in cooperation with others.





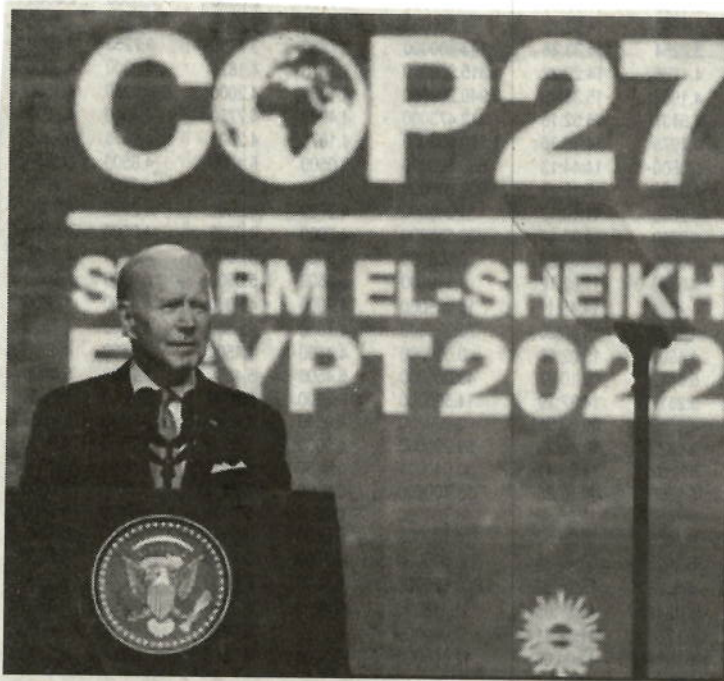
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## Biden says the climate crisis

## is about 'very life of the planet'



US President Joe Biden delivers a speech at COP27 climate summit, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. (Reuters Photo)

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt-US President Joe Biden told the COP27 climate conference in Egypt on Friday that global warming posed an existential threat to the planet and promised the United States would meet its targets for fighting it.

His speech was intended pump up global ambition to prevent the worst of climate change, even as a slew of other crises - from a land war in Europe to rampant inflation - distract international focus.

"The climate crisis is about human security, economic security, environmental security, national security, and the very life of the planet," Biden told a crowded room of delegates at the UN summit in the seaside resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"I can stand here as president of the United States of America and say with confidence, the United States of America will meet our

emissions targets by 2030," he said, outlining steps being taken by the world's second-biggest greenhouse gas emitter.

Prior to his arrival, Biden's administration unveiled a domestic plan to crack down on the US oil and gas industry's emissions of methane, one of the most powerful greenhouse gases. The move defied months of lobbying by drillers.

Washington and the EU also issued a joint declaration alongside Japan, Canada, Norway, Singapore and Britain pledging more action on oil industry methane. That declaration was meant to build on an international deal launched last year and since signed by around 130 nations to cut economy-wide emissions 30 percent this decade.

"Cutting methane by at least 30 percent by 2030 can be our best chance keep within reach 1.5 degrees Celsius," Biden said, referring to the central goal of the 2015

Paris Agreement to limit the global temperature rise.

Biden said global crises, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, were not an excuse to lower climate ambition.

"Against this backdrop, it's more urgent than ever that we double down on our climate commitments. Russia's war only enhances the urgency of the need to transition the world off its dependence on fossil fuels," he said.

The announcements come under a cloud of skepticism that world governments are doing enough to address the climate challenge.

A UN report released last week showed global emissions on track to rise 10.6 percent by 2030 from 2010 levels, even as devastating storms, droughts, wildfires and floods are already inflict billions of dollars in damage worldwide.

Scientists say emissions must in-

stead drop 43 percent by that time to limit global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial temperatures as targeted by the Paris Agreement of 2015. Above that threshold, climate change risks start spinning out of control.

Many countries, including the United States and members of the European Union, have also been calling for a near-term increase in the supply of fossil fuels to bring down consumer energy prices that spiked after Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Washington has repeatedly said its calls to boost oil and gas production do not conflict with its longer-term ambition to decarbonize the US economy.

During his speech, Biden also promised an increase in funding to help other countries embrace the energy transition and adapt and prepare for the impacts of a warmer world. - Reuters





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# Malaya Business Insight



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■ AQUINO FROM A1

## The mercantilization of the Earth's future

It cannot and should not be denied that, collectively, the world has taken serious steps in the direction of reducing carbon emissions, diminishing carbon footprint and addressing what meteorologists, environmental scientists and ecologists identify as sources of climate change. But all too often, what we have are jump-starts that no sooner peter out.

The malls in Tuguegarao City which, for some time, determined to do away with plastic bags paving the way for brown paper bags that used to be associated with grocery stores and fruit stalls to make a welcome comeback. But recently, the plastic bags are back. In fact, baggers at supermarkets assume that the customer prefer plastic bags to reusable tote or shopping bags.

But there is one pernicious belief that has been foisted by those who chant the lines of conservationists and environmentalists but are clearly not willing to talk the talk. This is the superstition that one can burn fossil fuel, fell trees, release pollutants into the air as long as there is some kind of a trade-off: usually planting so many hectares of trees or performing some form of "environmental penance."

this commercialization of environmental protection measures is that any industry, enterprise or establishment that has completely no concern for a balanced and sustainable ecology has only to look for sources of "carbon credits" or "carbon allowances" — and it can go on releasing into the air the pollutants that have gradually made breathing harmful to one's health.

Not too long ago, in Tuguegarao City, water from the tap was potable. Now "bottled water" — misleadingly called "mineral water" — is ubiquitous.

I dread to think of the day that we will all have to breathe through masks from tanks of purified air or oxygen concentrators — items that are now becoming more popular.

If we want industries and homes to turn from dependence on fossil fuel to renewable energy, then the technology for, say, the solar generation of electric power has to become more affordable.

## The mercantilization of the Earth's future

THE 27th Conference of Parties (COP)



FR. RANHILIO  
CALLANGAN  
AQUINO

on Climate Change has convened in Egypt.

Once more we will hear chilling reports about how dismal the outlook is and just how serious the problem has become.

Doomsday talk of having passed the point of no return is no longer idle prattle. Many are convinced that we have gone that far in making matters irreparable.

► AquinoA5





The belief rests on the mathematical truism that a negative integer and a positive integer cancel each other out. The speciousness that goes into this kind of thinking is not unlike the paradoxes of Zeno who sought to show the fallacy of the Pythagoreans — except that the paradoxes themselves mixed up mathematical indefiniteness with physical indefiniteness.

What is true of the abstractions of mathematics will not necessarily be true in the world of air, water, soil and lungs that breathe air in.

It is this confidence about the efficacy of trade-offs that has allowed many to remain uncaring about the real dangers of which climate change is the major symptom.

Even in this respect — the future of the planet and the well-being of future generations — considerations of safety and means of prevention and precaution have become items of trade. These take the form of “carbon credits” or “carbon allowances.” An establishment or an industry that emits less carbon than the limit set by regulatory agencies may sell carbon credits to those that overshoot the target.

Once more, it is the simplistic application of mathematical equivalences to the harsh realities of the environment. The result of

Government alone cannot achieve this. Manufacturers of these technologies in the private sector must contribute to the fruition of the transition to renewable energy. State universities too must contribute their research and their studies. Instead of the crazy and really pointless “correlation studies” — correlating profile and teaching efficiency, correlating salaries with evaluative examination results — it would serve our country and its regions well for our state universities to do hard research on the hard topics relating to the environment.

Tuguegarao City and its suburbs were recently inundated. The tropical storm did not make a land-fall in the Valley, but the incessant rains posed a threat to the integrity of Magat Dam that then opened all seven gate-valves, causing an enormous flood that displaced thousands, ruined crops and has left several Cagayanos mired in silt and debt.

I got the shock of my life when I was told that plans are afoot to construct more dams supposedly to control flooding. If stupidity consists in repeating the same process and expecting a different result, this is its instantiation!

Pope Francis’ justly lauded *Laudato Si* reminds us of a fundamental truth: Behind the environmental crisis that threatens us all and the ecological disaster waiting to happen is human selfishness and greed.

Commercialization feeds these failings of humanity!

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## PH deposits instruments bolstering pursuit of climate-resilient economy

By **CRISTINA LEE-PISCO**

**PERMANENT Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo deposited the instrument of ratification for the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the instrument of accession to**

**the Working Plan-29 1958 Agreement in a ceremony at the United Nations.**

The United Nations' Chief of Treaties David Nanopoulos received the instruments on behalf of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the depositary for the said multilateral agreements.

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is an international agreement to gradually reduce the con-

sumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). With the ratification, the Philippines can pursue the elimination of HFCs, which while currently used as replacements of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), are powerful greenhouse gases.

"The ratification of the Kigali Amendment bolsters the Philippine pursuit of a climate-resilient and sus-

tainable economy. By phasing down hydrofluorocarbons, it strengthens the Montreal Protocol as a powerful tool against global warming and climate change." Ambassador Lagdameo said on the occasion of the deposit.

The Philippines ratified the Montreal Protocol in 1991 and the Amendment was adopted at the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Kigali from 10 to 15 October 2016. The Philippines is the 144th Party to the Kigali Amendment which will enter into force for the Philippines on 1 February 2023.

Meanwhile, accession to the Working Plan-29 1958 Agreement is expected to be a boon to vehicle and vehicle component manufacturers, as it eliminates the need to receive approv-

al from multiple authorities and ensures that manufacturers comply with only a single interpretation of the applicable regulations.

"With Philippine accession to 1958 Agreement, we become part of a global framework aimed at harmonizing technical regulations for vehicles, improving vehicle safety, protecting the environment, and promoting energy efficiency," Ambassador Lagdameo said.

The 1958 Agreement is also known as the Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations.

"Treaties are an important source of international law. The deposit of these treaty instruments manifests our faith in international law which - as underscored by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. - underpins the rules-based international order," Ambassador Lagdameo emphasized.

The Philippines, through the Department of Foreign Affairs, also facilitates the registration and subsequent publication of existing and valid treaties with the United Nations. Along with the deposit of instruments, registration and publication promote transparency and better understanding of accepted norms in international law and foster compliance with obligations by States Parties under legally binding international agreements.

"There should also be an absolute ban on cross-ownership among sectors, and ensure that existing structures or dummy arrangements violative of such are disbanded and penalized. This we believe can decisively address the problem of regulatory capture, where energy officials and regulators are seen as mere puppets of power moguls," added the former Bayan Muna solon.

"Now, even as ERC and NGCP are bickering, another power rate hike is in the offing and it is the consumers who are suffering. It is high time that power companies and regulators should be real protectors of consumers and not those of business interests," ended Zarate.





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# CLIMATE ADVOCATES TO

PH AMONG 'THE MOST HIGHLY MINERALIZED' COUNTRIES

# GOV'T: STOP DESTRUCTIVE MINING,

# RECLAMATION PROJECTS

**By Jane Bautista**  
@janebautistaINQ

Environmental groups and science advocates have called on President Marcos to “walk the talk” on climate justice by declaring a moratorium on destructive mining, reclamation, power and infrastructure projects, and stopping the killings of environmental defenders.

“Empty rhetoric will not bring back the lives of those who were killed in climate-intensified disasters. Nor will it bring back the shattered livelihoods of many Filipinos,” Chuckie Calsado, chair of the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham), said during the National Action for Climate Justice protest march on Saturday.

The demonstration from Sitio San Roque in Diliman to Bantayog ng mga Bayani coincided with the Global Climate Strike as world leaders took part in the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Egypt.

“The President has the power to rescind the permits of destructive projects, including reclamation and big mining projects, both of which science shows to bring irreparable environmental damage that are hardly commensurate to any benefits trickling down to Filipino communities,” said Joshua Miranda, climate campaigns officer of the Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan).

He called out Mr. Marcos for condoning environmentally de-

structive practices and allowing these projects “disguised as development” to flourish.

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones recently said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the Marcos administration intended to strengthen the mining industry’s potential to help in the country’s development.

“Since we are among the most highly mineralized countries in the world, our priority is to build both a strategic and responsible industry,” Leones said at the 48th Philippine Business Conference and Expo on Oct. 19.

### DENR priorities

In a recent news release, he said the DENR’s Mines and

Geosciences Bureau (MGB) would push for the development of mineral processing and value-adding enterprises while also boosting the enforcement of environmental policies.

The bureau has identified an estimated 9 million hectares as potential mineral areas, but Leones said “it will not just be a business-as-usual scenario as it was in the premoratorium times but rather, it will be better business.”

He pointed out that out of these potential mineral areas, only less than 3 percent were awarded mining contracts.

Through the Mineral Investment Promotion Program, Leones said the department would deal with illegal mining, particularly small-scale mining operations, by evaluating and

declaring “Minahang Bayan” areas where they would be confined and regulated.

The DENR would also conduct geological surveys and mapping, and rehabilitate 11 abandoned mines “to address the persistent misinformation that has stigmatized the mining industry.”

Other policy directions of the DENR on the mining sector include identifying new mineral reserves, bidding out government-owned mining assets, constructing modular mineral processing plants for steel and nickel, and integrating the small-scale mining sector into the industry.

### Killings

But environmental groups urged President Marcos to de-

clare a moratorium on mining, protect environmental defenders and support their role in the climate crisis.

“Because of his responsibility to protect the citizens of this country, he must put a stop to the Red-tagging, criminalization, attacks, and the murder of these defenders who are the ones working to truly address climate change,” said Lia Mai Torres, executive director of the Center for Environmental Concerns.

The Philippines has retained its label as the deadliest country in Asia for land and environmental defenders, with 270 of them killed in the last decade, according to the latest report of international watchdog Global Witness.





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## CLIMATE ADVOCATES PUSH BAN ON DESTRUCTIVE MINING

### FROM A2

"Over 40 percent (114) of the defenders murdered were indigenous peoples campaigning to protect their land and the environment, with nearly 80 percent of attacks against indigenous defenders taking place [in] Mindanao," the nongovernmental organization said.

The report showed that more than 80 percent of the killings in the past decade were linked to protests by defenders against company operations, a third of them connected to the mining sector, followed by the agribusiness industry.

"If President Marcos is sin-

cere in his role as a champion for climate justice, he should support and protect environmental defenders," Torres said.

The groups further called on President Marcos to consider the climate change mitigation proposals of community-based environmentalists, scientists and other stakeholders, citing the People's Green New Deal filed in Congress by the Makabayan bloc.

"Th[ese] proposal[s] provide... sustainable solutions for various sectors to reduce the impacts of, and adapt to, climate change while providing for propeople economic recovery and growth," Miranda said.

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COMPETING VIEWS MAY 'JUSTIFY' MORE RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

# BAYAN SLAMS GOV'T REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO UN

**By Krixia Subingsubing**  
@krixiasINQ

The government has cited opposing views among civil society groups on what constitutes human rights in its report to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), causing concern in progressive group Bayan that this approach may be used to escape accountability for continued violations in the country.

In the 23-page advanced, unedited national report submitted by its Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat to the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) working group, the Philippine government noted an "emerging trend whereby conflicts arise in human rights discussions as a result of nongovernment and civil society organizations having opposing ... positions."

One of the "hotly contested issues," it said, was of human rights as a form of defense but only for "those who do not advocate or resort to violent extremism to reform society."

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes, who is in Geneva as part of a Philippine delegation taking part in the fifth UPR cycle, said the government might be citing the competing views to "justify the rights violations committed in the drug war and counter-insurgency drive [as] necessary to 'protect' the public from illegal drugs and terrorism or at least say that there is a gray area involving human rights."

"Does the PH government subscribe to the thinking that those accused of 'violent extremism' and 'terrorism' are not entitled to human rights? Is this why it engages in indis-

criminate bombings of communities suspected of supporting rebels? Is this why many revolutionaries have been summarily executed instead of being taken as prisoners of war and hors de combat?" he asked.

Reyes urged the public to remain vigilant and critical of the government's report, particularly on Nov. 14, the start of the fifth UPR cycle which reviews the rights record of UN member states every four and a half years.

### No specifics

The Philippines also told the UNHRC that it had already "fully implemented" at least 103 recommendations but "noted or rejected" 33 others made following the fourth UPR cycle in 2017.

The government, however, did not clearly indicate which

recommendations it had merely noted or rejected. Nevertheless it promised to continue implementing the UN Joint Programme (UNJP) and to "sustain its human rights advocacy in a democratic system of governance."

"Under the new administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, who won the May 2022 presidential elections by an overwhelming majority of 55.8 percent, or 31 million votes out of the 55.5 million who voted, inroads in socioeconomic development anchored on social justice are enriching the human rights environment in our country," the report said.

"In the same manner that the President won on a platform that called for a United Team, or Uniteam, so shall human rights in this new chapter

of Philippine history be pursued—a government working in unity with the people," it added.

### Subdued scale

According to the report, the government, under President Marcos, was already "pursuing a human rights-based approach to drug control" with the support of the UNJP providing technical support and capacity-building to the country.

Mr. Marcos earlier promised to continue the drug war albeit on a more subdued scale compared to his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte's take no prisoners approach, which led to the country being investigated by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.

The Philippines, in its re-

port, also stood by the passage of the antiterrorism law, despite a recent UN Human Rights Committee report asking the government to review its provisions for overbreadth.

The government maintained that the 2020 law was crafted "to ensure [the country's] adherence to and respect for human rights as found in the Philippine Constitution and international human rights standards, and that it shall not be subject to abuse or misinterpretation."

It also affirmed its commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change by, among others, reexamining current mining practices and reinforcing the implementation of air, water and waste management laws and policies. INQ





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## Presidente ang makakahinto sa quarrying, kaingin

BALIKTAD na ang mundo. Armado ng baril at itak ang mga namamasok sa environment protected areas tulad ng Masungi Georeserve sa Baras, Rizal. Lakas-loob lang ang pinanghahawakan ng park rangers na binabantaan nila. Pitong park rangers ang binugbog nu'ng Pebrero.

Nag-iisa ang Masungi Georeserve Foundation na nagtatanim ng puno sa Marikina watershed. Samantala, dalawa ang rock quarriers sa Baras at 15 sa Montalban, Rizal. Napipigilan ng pagbabalik ng gubat ang pagguho ng lupa. Ang pagkakalbo at pagpapatag ng bundok na ginagawa ng 17 quarries ay nagdudulot ng baha sa ibaba. Daan-daan ang namatay at libu-libong bahay at sasakyan ang nasira sa bumulwak na putik nu'ng storm Ondoy 2009 at typhoon Ulysses 2020.

Kung hindi pulitiko mismo, may protektor ang may ari ng quarries. 'Yun ang dahilan kaya nananatili sila maski bawal sila sa anumang watershed.

Si President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang makakahinto ng ilegal na gawain. Mauutusan niya ang Department

# Sapol

NI JARIUS BONDOC



of Environment and Natural Resources at Mines and Geosciences Bureau na bawiin ang ilegal na quarry permits. Maipadadakip niya sa pulis ang quarriers at mga kasapakat na kaingero. Maitutuwid niya ang sitwasyon sa Masungi at iba pang pook na winawasak ng quarriers.

Isang ecosystem ang hangin, bundok, ilog at dagat. Lahat ay dapat panatilihin malinis para sa kalusugan at kapakanan ng tao. Binanggit 'yan ni Marcos Jr. sa talumpati sa UN General Assembly nu'ng Setyembre. Mapapatunayan niya ang sinseridad para sa kalikasan kung ipagtatanggol niya ang Masungi Georeserve at Marikina watershed. Magpapasalamat sa kanya pati mga biktima ng quarries sa paligid ng Mayon Volcano, sa Zambales, at mga bundok ng Davao.

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Makinig sa *Sapol*, Sabado, 8-10 ng umaga, DWIZ (882-AM).





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**MORE ACTIVE ROLE**

# CHR URGED TO MONITOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

**By Krixia Subingsubing**  
@krixiasINQ

A coalition of environment groups has asked the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to take a more active role in protecting Filipinos' rights against hazardous substances, coinciding with global efforts to address the full and toxic life cycle of plastic.

In a letter initiated by EcoWaste Coalition and endorsed by over 35 organizations, the groups urged the CHR to review and update its 2014 Human Rights Advisory where it had called for a "health-based, human rights-based policies on chemicals in the Philippines."

The 8-year-old, 15-point agenda crafted by then CHR chair Loretta Rosales mandated the government to, among others, fully implement all related laws protecting against



**TOXIC TOYS** A member of EcoWaste Coalition shows toys tested for hazardous and toxic substances like lead. —FILE PHOTO

hazardous substances; strengthening existing institutions; as well as increasing research and risk awareness.

While the country has made significant strides in advancing Filipinos' right to chemical safety in the past eight years, "much more needs

to be done" to ensure people's rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Among others, the Philippines has yet to ratify the 2019 Basel Convention that seeks to control transboundary movement of plastic waste, or establish a mandatory and publicly accessible database or inventory of chemicals or pollutants released to air, water and soil.

It has also yet to adopt alternative agricultural practices using natural and organic materials and processes or Zero Waste resource management.

"For this reason, we [are] urging the CHR to review and update the 2014 Human Rights Advisory with the participation of rights-holders and duty-bearers and to have the revised document popularized among stakeholders," said EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero. INQ





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## 'Amid food and climate crises, investing in sustainable food cold chains crucial'

**A**S food insecurity and global warming rise, governments, international development partners and industry should invest in sustainable food cold chains to decrease hunger, provide livelihoods to communities, and adapt to climate change, the United Nations said.

Launched at the 27th Climate Change Conference last Saturday, the Sustainable Food Cold Chains report, from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), finds that food cold chains are critical to meeting the challenge of feeding an additional two billion people by 2050 and harnessing rural communities' resilience, while avoiding increased greenhouse gas emissions.

The report was developed in the framework of the UNEP-led Cool Coalition in partnership with FAO, the Ozone Secretariat, UNEP Ozone Action Programme, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

"At a time when the international community must act to address the climate and food crises, sustainable

food cold chains can make a massive difference," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. "They allow us to reduce food loss, improve food security, slow greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, reduce poverty and build resilience—all in one fell swoop."

### Food insecurity

THE number of people affected by hunger in the world rose to 828 million in 2021, a year-on-year rise of 46 million.

Almost 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020, up 112 million from 2019, as the economic impacts of the Covid pandemic drove up inflation. This year, meanwhile, the conflict in Ukraine has raised the prices of basic grains threatening food security.

All of this comes while an estimated 14 percent of all food produced for human consumption is lost before it reaches the consumer. The lack of an effective cold chain to maintain the quality, nutritional value and safety of food is one of the major contributors to food loss.





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## Farmers fight to save the 'skin of the Earth'

BY ROD NICKEL,  
AYENATMERSIE  
AND DAVID STANWAY

WINNIPEG/NAIROBI/  
SHANGHAI- In America's  
dusty Corn Belt this spring, the  
land was drowning. In China's  
Yangtze river basin, it's bone  
dry. Farmers in both are fighting  
a losing battle to save the soil  
that produces our food.

Carolyn Olson figures she  
did everything she could to  
protect her 1,100-acre farm  
near Cottonwood, Minnesota.  
She grows three-foot-high tall-  
grass buffer strips around her  
fields to protect the soil and in  
winter plants crops to provide  
ground cover.

But torrid rainstorms in May  
washed away so much soil dur-  
ing planting season that she  
expects the crop to suffer.

"When you get that much  
rain, almost four inches in  
about an hour, even your best  
practices fly out the window,"  
said the 55-year-old, whose  
farm has been in her husband's  
family since 1913.

nutrients such as carbon, nitro-  
gen and phosphorus from the  
complex ecosystem, according  
to specialists.

This leads to land degrada-  
tion - the decline of its ability  
to sustain plant life, and by ex-  
tension animal and human life.

One-third of the world's total  
land area is already degraded by  
erosion, nutrient depletion or  
in other ways, according to the  
United Nations.

Ronald Vargas, a soil scientist  
and secretary of the FAO's  
Global Soil Partnership, said  
extreme weather was acceler-  
ating soil degradation already  
set in train by deforestation,  
over-grazing by livestock and  
improper use of fertilizer.

"Land degradation is a vic-  
ious cycle. Once you have  
degraded soils, and you have  
these bad (weather) events, then  
you have very bad second con-  
sequences," Vargas said.

On the FAO's projected  
loss in global crop production,  
he added: "This 10 percent  
represents a real issue to food  
security."

By contrast, there's not  
enough water in the vast Yang-  
tze basin, which produces a  
third of China's crops. Sci-  
entists are resorting to firing  
rockets into clouds to "seed"  
them with rain artificially in  
the hope of replenishing soil  
drained of nutrients by sizzling  
temperatures.

It's no silver bullet, though.

From the United States and  
China to Kenya, human efforts  
to preserve soil are proving no  
match for increasingly extreme  
weather, which is damaging the  
living system and depleting its  
ability to produce food, accord-  
ing to Reuters interviews with  
dozens of farmers, scientists  
and other soil specialists.

Soil erosion could lead to a  
10 percent loss in global crop  
production by 2050, according  
to the UN's Food and Agricul-  
ture Organization (FAO). With  
the world's population forecast  
to rise by a fifth to nearly 10  
billion by then, malnutrition and  
famine is set to affect more and  
more people.

Few places are in deeper  
crisis than the pasturelands  
of northern Kenya, where  
ever-deepening drought has  
denuded the land of vegetation,  
exposing the soil to damage and  
confounding efforts to adapt  
farming methods.

"The soil left there is very  
vulnerable, like the skin of the  
Earth ... you're not wearing  
clothing when the sun's beating  
down," said Leigh Ann Winow-  
iecki, a Nairobi soil scientist  
at CIFOR-ICRAF, a research  
center on the benefits of trees  
for people and landscapes.

### Icing on cake

UN scientists say it can take  
up to 1,000 years for nature to  
produce 2-3 cm of soil, making  
preservation critical.

Plants grow by absorbing  
sunlight and carbon dioxide.  
They cycle the carbon into the  
soil, feeding microorganisms  
that in turn create the condi-  
tions for more plants to grow.

Extreme weather, some of it  
caused by climate change, not  
only damages crops but also  
erodes the soil and depletes

### Engineering the rain

The American Midwest,  
parched for rain this summer,  
is actually getting wetter over  
time.

Rainstorms over three days  
in mid-May washed away up  
to three tons of dirt per acre  
in two dozen Minnesota coun-  
ties, according to data from the  
Daily Erosion Project, an Iowa  
State University initiative to  
estimate soil loss.

Rachel Schattman, assist-  
ant professor of sustainable  
agriculture at the University of  
Maine, said the US Midwest  
and Northeast were especially  
vulnerable to land erosion be-  
cause they were receiving more  
extreme amounts of rain than  
normal, a trend expected to  
continue through the end of  
the century.

In the Yangtze river basin,  
wetter weather would be wel-  
come. Farming belts in the  
region, stretching from Sichuan  
in the southwest to Shanghai  
on the east coast, received 40  
percent less rainfall than normal  
over the summer and baked in  
record-high temperatures.

Liu Zhiyu, an official at the  
Chinese water ministry, said in  
August that a third of the soil in  
six key farming provinces along  
the upper and middle reaches  
of the Yangtze "was drier than  
is optimal as a result of the  
drought. In around a tenth  
of the rural counties in those  
provinces, soil was suffering  
from "severe water depletion".

China's cloud-seeding pro-  
gram offered some relief, with  
211 operations launched in  
August alone to induce rainfall  
over 1.45 million square km of  
parched farmland, but experts  
say it's no long-term solution.

"Artificial rainfall can only  
be the icing on the cake," Zhao  
Zhiqiang, vice-director of China's  
weather modification office, said  
at a media briefing in September.  
He did not say whether the opera-  
tions were successful.

Similarly, other measures  
such as digging thousands of  
new wells and encouraging  
farmers to switch crops to  
boost yields have limited im-  
pact. - Reuters





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**ENVIRONMENT ENTHUSIASTS** Bicycle enthusiasts join the Brigade of the Fireflies metro cycle tour on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022. The cyclists go around Metro Manila to promote sustainable modes of transportation and environmental awareness.  
PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA





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**BIKE DAY.** Cycling enthusiasts wear their favorite costumes as they participate in National Bicycle Day to promote the environmental benefits of using the bicycle. National Bicycle Day is celebrated every 4th Sunday of November based on Proclamation No. 1052, signed by then President Rodrigo Duterte. **Danny Pata**





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Republika ng Pilipinas  
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman  
**PAMBANSANG PUNONG REHIYON**  
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

**PAGBEBENTA NG PAMPUBLIKONG LUPA**

Ang pabatid na ito ay ipinagkakaloob bilang patunay na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources—National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, alinsunod sa Department Administrative Order No. 38, 19 April 1990, ay magkakaroon ng bilihan sa DENR-NCR, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, sa pamamagitan ng isang sealed bidding na makakapagbigay ng pinakamataas na halaga sa ika-10 ng umaga ng APR 11, 2023, ng lupang matatagpuan sa Brgy. Western Bicutan (Pinagsama) Taguig City na inilarawan ng mga sumusunod:

BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALANG NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUMWADRADO	HALAGANG LUPA SA METRO KUMWADRADO	KABUKANG HALAGANG LUPA	KABUKANG HALAGANG MGA ISTRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-2183	RALPH EDRIAN T. VIDA	Lot 6, Block 54 Pisd00-038894	84 sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP11,760.00	PHP180,000.00

Ang mga *bid* ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "*Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No. 007607-2183*". Ang mga *bid* sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, *money order*, *treasury warrant*, sertipikadong tseke, *cashier's check* o *manager's check* na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

(Sgd.)  
**ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO**  
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

NOV. 14, 21, 28 DEC. 5, 12, 19

Republika ng Pilipinas  
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman  
**PAMBANSANG PUNONG REHIYON**  
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

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BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALANG NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUMWADRADO	HALAGANG LUPA SA METRO KUMWADRADO	KABUKANG HALAGANG LUPA	KABUKANG HALAGANG MGA ISTRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-2184	EDWIN A. VIDA	Lot 34, Block 50 Pisd00-038894	84 sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP11,760.00	PHP800,000.00

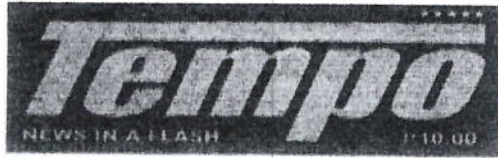
Ang mga *bid* ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "*Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No. 007607-2184*". Ang mga *bid* sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, *money order*, *treasury warrant*, sertipikadong tseke, *cashier's check* o *manager's check* na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

(Sgd.)  
**ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO**  
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division  
MSG/ICP/JBP

NOV. 14, 21, 28 DEC. 5, 12, 19





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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
RXI-4A, Capitol Compound, Matil, Digos City, Philippines  
Telephone No. (082)553-8756/Email: den.digos@gmail.com

### LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that DENR, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-4A, Capitol Compound, Matil, Digos City, will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00 o'clock a.m. on January 5, 2023 for the lease for commercial purposes of the tract of land herein below described.

Location	Darong, Sta Cruz, Davao del Sur
Description	Mic-11-001235-D
Area	76,746 sq.m
Appraisal (land)	Php 2,635.00 per sq. m. or Php 202,225,710.00 for the tract of land
Value of Proposed Improvements	Php 700,000,000.00
Applied for by	San Miguel Corporation Represented by Ferdinand K. Costantino

The successful bidder (if other than the applicant) must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land. The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed/existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be qualified public land applicant and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit everytime his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) month's rental, otherwise, such bid shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.  
Digos City, Davao del Sur, Philippines, October 20, 2022.

RUEL D. COLONG  
CENR Officer



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
RXI-4A, Capitol Compound, Matil, Digos City, Philippines  
Telephone No. (082)553-8756/Email: den.digos@gmail.com

### PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa media na ang DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-4A, Capitol Compound, Matil, Digos City ay tatanggap ng arawdo o nakasulat na alok sa aka alas 10:00 ng umaga sa aka 5 ng Enero taong 2023 para palapitan ang isang suklat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa datos nito:

Lugar	Darong, Sta Cruz, Davao del Sur
Deskripsyon	Mic-11-001235-D
Sukat	76,746 metro kwadrado
Tatanganan ng Lupa	Php 2,635.00 kada metro kwadrado o katubuang Php 202,225,710.00
Halaga ng nakalayang Proyekto	Php 700,000,000.00
Applikante	San Miguel Corporation Represented by Ferdinand K. Constantino

Ang karapatan ng upahan ng nasabing lupa ay ibigay sa tao o periodo na makapagbibigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong (3%) porsyento sa halaga ng lupa at isang (1%) porsyento sa halaga ng tatlayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa hanapawing subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-dapat na aplikante at kailangang bujo maglimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbang ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, mohay order, cashier's o manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sumali sa subasta na nagrepresenta ng isang tao ay makakasal lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibigay sa pamamagitan ng kakuilang pahintulot na itatagpuan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang isang suklat ay magkaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kanyang alok ay itinatasa para makumpleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggap o tanggapin ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay pataling nakalathala para sa pamahalaan.

Ang magnewagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakalalang tumubasan ang kabayaranang nagugoi sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito at sa pagpapasiikat ng lupa.  
Lungsod ng Digos, Latawigan ng Davao del Sur, Octubre 20, 2022.

RUEL D. COLONG  
CENR Officer