

18 November 2022, Friday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

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MINERAL PRODUCTION SEEN TO GO UP

# SHIFT TO GREEN TECHNOLOGY NEEDS PH MINES, EXPERTS SAY

By Vincent Cabreza  
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—The country's mining companies should expect a shift in "mineral commodity demand" as industries pour more resources into green technology to address climate change, experts said on Thursday during the third day of a mine safety conference being held here.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, who was the keynote speaker at a symposium during the annual Mine Safety and Environment Conference, said minerals like "nickel and copper would be required for the world to transition into clean energy to mitigate the impact of climate change and move toward a low-carbon future."

She urged mining companies "to be a critical force, as it should be, for social, environmental and economic change," by reinvesting their profits in climate protection projects as well as "disaster prevention be-

fore hazards happen."

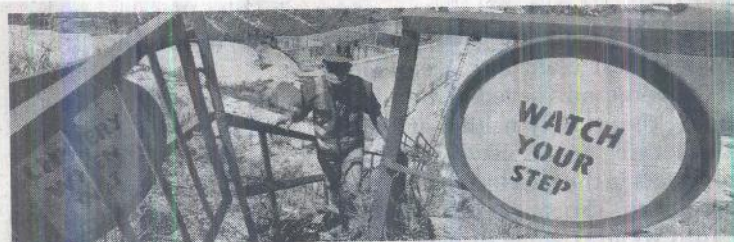
Most mines should review their company portfolios given the growing need for specific metals in the push for green lifestyles, said mine engineer Debbie Ruth Vassay, who presented the paper, "Climate, ESG and the mining sector," which discussed the impact of new commodity demands on mines, during the four-day summit.

For instance, coal miners are confronting "societal pressures that affect these companies' ability to secure financing," said Vassay, who wrote the paper with two other authors.

### Clean energy

"Lenders have been distancing themselves from financing coal mining and coal-fired power plants," she said, although "work to develop clean coal technologies may ameliorate the risks."

"Coal mining and coal combustion technologies will likely face increasing pressure from the public," Vassay said.



**RESPONSIBLE MINING** Philex Mining Co., one of the country's oldest mines operating in Benguet province, is among the companies that the government allowed to continue operating despite the pandemic. Most mines are now shifting to automation and renewable energy to help curb global warming. —EV ESPIRITU

According to another study by the World Bank, production of minerals like graphite, lithium and cobalt may grow by as much as 500 percent by 2050 "just to meet the growing demand for clean energy technologies," she said.

Vassay added: "Over 3 million tons of minerals and metals will need to be deployed to wind, solar and geothermal [projects], plus storage."

One of the biggest industries that will require the help

of mining firms is transportation because of the push to replace gasoline-fueled cars with electricity-powered vehicles.

Due to backlash against perceived environmentally destructive enterprises, the climate crisis has been the primary driver for the growth of ethical businesses known as ESG (environmental, social and governance) investments, according to Vassay.

ESG investors prefer renewable energy projects, she stressed.





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Mining firms themselves are “decarbonizing” and will also need the metals they extract. Decarbonizing means replacing processes and equipment that still use fossil fuels, with technology that mitigates carbon emissions.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a greenhouse gas that has been trapping heat and making the planet warmer.

**Future**

Norlito Adsuaara, an engineer at the mining firm Helix Resources and Development Corp., said full automation of operations and a gradual transition from internal combustion engines to electric cars could potentially reduce his company’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2.75 metric tons.

Adsuaara said minimizing Helix’s dependence on traditional electricity and developing or buying “off-grid” renewable energy to power up its crushers, mills, concentrators, cement plants and auxiliary operations represents a “CO<sub>2</sub>

avoidance” of 6.6 metric tons.

But Loyzaga said the government’s main task moving forward is “to define what responsible mining truly is” by determining “whether our laws and policies respond to current and emerging science, technology and practice.”

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), she said, is considering a data banking project that would find out the “levels of environment and social protection, community improvement and economic gains in order for mining to be considered truly responsible.”

The DENR wants to measure the span of mine areas that overlap with critical ecosystems and “quantify” reforestation conducted within Mineral Production Sharing Agreement sites.

“Responsible mining goes beyond the number of trees they plant or the number of people they employ,” Loyzaga said. “What is not measured cannot be managed, nor can it be valued, nor can it be treasured.” INQ



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## Tulfo to DENR chief: Clean up the dep't

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Raffy Tulfo has recommended to the leadership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to conduct a lifestyle check on all its officers and employees.

Tulfo said there is evidence that will implicate some DENR officials who are in connivance with illegal miners.

"There are many undersecretaries there who have been in their posts since the 'dinosaur times.' Can you please investigate them?" Tulfo said.

He noted that since they "have developed dementia, these undersecretaries have already forgotten to do their jobs," he added.

"Maybe it's about time you (DENR) assess who are these undersecretaries who have long been occupying their positions," Tulfo stressed.

In response, DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said they are looking into this issue, adding that the DENR will create a team to inquire into this report.

"Many of your people are in cahoot with illegal miners. Do you not know it? Don't tell me na hindi nyo po alam? Don't tell me this kind of information has not reached you," he said.





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## DENR urged: Resolve Masungi, Kaliwa Dam woes

Senator Raffy Tulfo has ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to immediately resolve the ongoing security issues over the Masungi Georeserve and the Kaliwa Dam project.

Tulfo has been questioning the alleged failure of the DENR to address the security and control issues over the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province.

"There's a lot of corruption happening in Masungi but the DENR is keeping a blind eye and a turning deaf ear over the issues," Tulfo said as he recalled the death of two forest rangers 24 July last year.

**With this amount, you can tap a network of intelligence to identify who are the groups causing trouble inside Masungi.**

Tulfo cited more than 20 armed men roaming around the area after "the DENR chose to suspend and not cancel" the Mineral Production Sharing Agreements granted to the Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc.

The lawmaker insisted that the government is expected to act swiftly "when there is a crime involved."

"In this case, DENR is expected to spearhead actions taken in the protected area," he said.

Meanwhile, Tulfo said the P13.9-million intelligence funds

lodged under DENR's proposed the 2023 budget "could be utilized" in resolving the alarming issues on the Masungi Georeserve.

"With this amount, you can tap a network of intelligence to identify who are the groups causing trouble inside Masungi. *Kailangan po nating mapalayas ang mga armed groups diyan kasi even as we speak, nandoon pa rin po ang mga armed groups, pagala-gala* (We have to get rid of those armed groups there because as we speak, they are still roaming around the area)," he added.

Tulfo said he has been receiving reports that the armed groups operating in the vicinities of Msungi are carrying high-powered M16 and M23 firearms. While Masungi's forest rangers merely had 9mm guns — making it hard for them to defeat armed groups illegally staying at the reserve.

Further, the lawmaker urged DENR Secretary Antonio Yulo Loyzaga to address the plight of Indigenous peoples in Rizal and Quezon provinces who might be displaced after being allegedly forced to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the Kaliwa Dam project deal.

Tulfo said the DENR should be aware of the alleged intimidation of the private armed groups of the IPs.

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## NATIONWIDE ROUNDUP

### Scientists call out senators for cracking jokes on reclamation

THE ADVOCATES of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM), a group of Filipino scientists, has admonished senators for making jokes during a discussion on reclamation projects, which it said pose very serious threats to the country's marine ecosystems.

"Reclamation is one of the biggest threats to our seas," AGHAM Public Information Officer and Resident Marine Scientist Jerwin G. Baure said in a statement on Thursday. "Currently, there are at least 187 reclamation projects at different stages of development nationwide."

Several senators, during the deliberations on the proposed 2023 budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday, made light of possible impacts of reclamation such as adding even more islands to the country's more than 7,000 and blocking the Manila sunset view.

"These projects threaten the integrity of important coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests," Mr. Baure said.

He called it "frustrating" that the government has not taken serious steps against reclamation despite urgent calls from environmentalists, fisherfolk and coastal residents.

"Climate crisis is happening now, and we can't wait for years before the government takes action," he said, adding that the AGHAM would like lawmakers to investigate all reclamation projects in the country. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**





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# SMC withdraws power project in Negros Occ.

**MGB says firm drops environment compliance process for LNG plant; environmentalists claim victory in fight to push clean energy in province**

By **Carla Gomez**  
@carlagomezINQ

**BACOLOD CITY**—Environmentalists and religious organizations in Negros Occidental welcomed the decision of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) to withdraw its application for an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for its proposed 300-megawatt liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant in the province's San Carlos City.

"This is a victory for [Negrenses] who have made their voice clear that they preferred renewable energy to LNG in sourcing their power for the island," said Avril de Torres, deputy executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED).

"Although LNG is considered a 'transition fuel' by some, it is clearly unnecessary for Negros which boasts of extensive renewable energy facilities," she said.

De Torres was informed about the SMC's decision through a letter sent by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on Nov. 14.

"The proponent (SMC) decided to no longer pursue its ECC application for the proposed 300-MW LNG Combined Cycle Power Plant Project. As such, this office has withdrawn from the list of ECC applications the proposed project of REDI (Reliance Energy Development Inc.)," the letter read.

The Inquirer had reached out to an SMC representative in the province on Wednesday but the company had yet to issue a state-



**ADVOCACY** Environment advocates reiterate their support for clean sources of energy during a protest staged outside the Negros Occidental provincial capitol in Bacolod City during the celebration of Earth Day in April this year. —PHOTO COURTESY OF **YOUTH FOR CLIMATE HOPE**

ment as of Thursday afternoon.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, a US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group, natural gas, in any form, contributes to climate change because burning gas for energy releases carbon into the atmosphere, which fuels global warming.

LNG is an "especially problematic form of natural gas" for the climate because it uses a lot of energy to chill the gas to liquid form, hold it, transport it and warm back the gas, it said.

### Opposition

"When you add all of that up, LNG is responsible for about twice as much greenhouse gas as ordinary natural gas," according to the NRDC.

The plant, which would be developed by REDI, an SMC subsidiary, faced opposition from Negrenses led by Bishop Gerardo

Alminaza of the Diocese of San Carlos.

"I am grateful for the help of the Almighty in ensuring that the voice of the people of Negros are heard and that the natural beauty of our island can be preserved through the minimal use of fossil fuels," the prelate said.

Alminaza is hoping that other provinces will follow Negros Occidental's lead in rejecting fossil fuels and accelerating the adoption of the more affordable and sustainable renewable energy sources.

"We also hope that the [Negros Occidental] Sangguniang Panlalawigan will finally listen and pull out the resolution of nonobjection it prematurely issued to the project," Alminaza said.

According to the bishop, the proposed LNG power plant was supposed to be built at the San Carlos Ecozone facing Tañon Strait, a body of water separat-

ing Negros and Cebu islands and where marine life thrives. The strait is home to dolphins and whales and is a rich fishing ground for small and commercial fisherfolk.

Alminaza said they feared that had the project pushed through, it would have destroyed marine habitats, mangroves and wetlands along the shoreline; generated pollution; and exposed local communities to various hazards.

### Protect Tañon Strait

"The LNG power plant will drain life from the Tañon Strait, and take away the livelihood of fisherfolk," he said.

He stressed the need to protect Tañon Strait in order to promote healthy and sustainable fishing communities, and maintain San Carlos City as fossil fuel-free.

The bishop reiterated his call for SMC and other companies as well as for the government to hasten the shift to renewable energy, and for financial institutions to stop supporting projects involving fossil fuels.

Krishna Ariola, founding convener of Youth for Climate Hope, shared Alminaza's sentiments.

"We, the youth, have been left out of the equation in determining the energy policy of this country. The continued use of fossil fuels will affect us economically in the form of high electricity prices, and environmentally in the form of severe climate change," she said.

—WITH INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ





## **P58-B ang inilaan sa DENR...**

# **BILYUN-BILYONG PUNO NA PROTEKSYON SANA KAPAG MAY SAKUNA, NAWAWALA?!**



NASAAN na kasi ang mga puno? Kung naitanim sana ng maayos ang pinagbuhusan ng napakalaking pondo sa loob nang isang dekada, hindi sana nangyayari na rumaragasa ang putik at baha pababa ng kabundukan sa panahon ng malalakas na bagyo.

Nitong nakaraang linggo ay napakaraming lugar na biktima ng Bagyong Paeng ang ating personal na pinuntahan para dalhan ng tulong at bilang Chairperson ng Committee on Public Works ay isa-isa nating ininspeksyon ang mga nawasak na pampublikong imprastruktura.

Makailang ulit nating inikot ang iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa, partikular ang kabundukan na dapat siyang magsisilbing panangga natin sa kalamidad, ngunit dahil marami na ang kalbong bahagi ay may mga bundok pang unti-unti na ring ipinapatag.

Hindi pa kasali ang mga lugar na may mga tanim ngang puno, ngunit parang palito ng posporo na mga nakatumba na dahil sa pananalasa ng Bagyo Paeng at kitang-kita ko ito sa isinagawa naming aerial inspection.

Marahil ay napapansin nating tuwing huling quarter ng taon ay nakararanas ng matinding bagyo ang ating bansa at palaki nang palaki ang pinsala dahil kulang o halos wala nang punong magsisilbing panangga.

Nang sumabak ako sa relief operations at site inspection sa bahagi ng Mindanao ay iisa lang ang paulit-ulit na sinasabi ng ating mga kababayan—na halos kalbo na ang kagubatan at napakadalang na ng puno sa kabundukan.

Walang puwedeng tumutol sa pahayag ng mga naging biktima ng bagyo dahil karamihan ay nawalan ng tahanan at mahal sa buhay na ang iba ay hindi pa nakikita hanggang sa kasalukuyan.

Kitang-kita ang labis na epekto ng pagkaubos ng mga puno sa kabundukan dahil napakaraming pampublikong imprastruktura ang hindi na talaga mapapakinabangan pa dahil sa labis na pagkawasak.

Kaya ngayon ay nais kong pagtuunan ng pansin ang pamunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung paano nila

tinutugunan ang napakatagal ng problemang ito na hindi lang kabuhayan ang winawasak kung hindi nalalagay pa sa balag ng alanganin ang buhay ng ating mga kababayan.

Kaya nagsumite ako ng resolusyon kamakilan na naglalayong atasan ang nararapat na komite sa Senado na magsagawa ng inquiry, in aid of legislation hinggil sa pagkadamay ng maraming bagay at hindi mapigilang pag-usbong ng mga negatibong epekto ng climate change.

Ito ay upang matiyak lamang ang kaligtasan at kapakanan ng mga Pilipino hinggil sa delikadong banta na dulot ng pagtaas ng frequency at intensity ng natural na sakuna at kalamidad na sa huli ay masiguro na magkaroon ng sistema at polisiya na mapaninindigan ang kaligtasan at katatagan.

Panahon na para pagtuunan ng pansin ang pag-aaral at seryosong paghimay sa mga detalye ng climate change at malaki ang maitutulong ng DENR kung seryoso nilang pagtutuunan ng pansin ang ilan sa mga pangunahing solusyon, tulad ng walang dayang pagtatanim ng mga puno.

Kaya nang sumalang tayo sa plenaryo para sa isinagawang budget hearing noong Miyerkules ay napakaraming katanungang nilinaw natin sa pamunuan ng DENR na isa-isa naman nilang sinagot bilang patotoo na ginagawa nila ang kanilang trabaho.

Ngunit tanong ang medyo hindi naipaliwanag ng maayos ng DENR nang tanungin ko kung saan-saan ba sila nagtatanim ng puno kasabay ng paghiling kung maaari bang magsagawa ng site inspection sa mga sinasabi nilang lugar na kanila nang tinaniman.

Hindi naman sa hindi ako naniniwala sa pahayag ng DENR ngunit nais ko lamang matiyak na tunay ang kanilang sinasabi dahil nakataya dito ang kaligtasan ng ating mga kababayan lalo na 'yung mga nasa paanang bahagi ng kabundukan.

Umabot na sa P58 bilyon ang inilaan sa DENR para lamang sa mga punong dapat itinanim na simula pa noong 2012 at isang dekada na ang nakararaan pero hindi natin makita ang dapat 1.855 bilyong puno na inaasahang tumubo na sa kabundukan.

Ayon sa datos ng DENR, 78 porsyento sa mga itinanim na puno ay nabuhay naman at 22 porsyento lamang ang hindi nabuhay—kung ganun ay mayroon dapat tayong 1.45 bilyong puno sa kasalukuyan—kaso ang malaking tanong ay nasaan?

Dapat patunayan ng DENR kung nasaan ang 1.45 bilyong puno, dahil kung tutuusin ay wala na sanang kalbong kabundukan kung maayos itong naitanim ng DENR at hindi na sana malala ang

na aranasan nating pagbaha. Tulad niyan na sinasabi ng DENR na kalahati umano sa inilaang pondo





## Magaling din kayang guard ang misis ni Chito Loyzaga?

**BAKAS at  
ALINGAWNGAW**



Ni **KOKOY ALANO**

MASELAN ang gagampanang tungkulin ni DENR Sec. Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga dahil sa lawak nang nasasakupan ng kanyang tanggapan. Naging Technical Adviser ng Philippine Resilience Disaster Foundation si Loyzaga, kaya madali na niyang maisulong ang mga programang pangkalikasan. Misis siya ni Barangay Ginebra super guard Chito Loyzaga.

Nasa ilalim ng pangangasiwa ng DENR ang Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Forestry, Bureau of Lands, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at National Committee for Mineral Exploration. Kailangan lang guwardiyahan nang mahigpit ang mga maruming maglaro. Tama ba Coach Chito Loyzaga?

Maraming naging anomalya sa pagbibigay ng permiso sa Bureau of Mines at Bureau of Forestry na pinaniniwalaang dahilan nang malawakang pinsala sa pagkakalason ng mga ilog, sapa hanggang sa karagatan. Mga sakim na kapitalistang dayuhan na kakutsaba ng mga opisyaes din ng gobyerno ang walang pakialam sa-perwisyong dulot nila sa mamamayan.

Isang dahilan kung bakit hindi nakapasa sa Commission on Appointment noon ang namayapang DENR sec. Gina Lopez ay dahil sa adbokasiya nito na linangin ang kabundukan at karagatan upang mapanariwa ang kalikasan. Huwag lang magmamaniobra ang mga mambabatas na sangkot sa pagmimina at illegal logging, kayang ipagpatuloy ni Loyzaga ang ipinaglalaban ni Lopez.

Sagasaan ang dapat sagasaan alang-alang sa kalikasan. Bigyan lamang ng permiso ang mga mining firms na sumusunod sa alituntunin ng DENR ayon sa batas na umiiral. Alarmado na ang buong mundo dahil sa climate change at global warming. Malamang na kulangin tayo sa tubig na mainom sa hinaharap kung hindi maitataguyod ang mga proyektong pangkalikasan. Bayan at Kalikasan ay Sagipin. BAKAS na!





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### Dolphin napadpad sa dalampasigan, namatay

**CALAUAG, Quezon** - Isang sugatang Fraser's Dolphin ang napadpad sa baybayin ng Barangay Poblacion 3, Calauag, Quezon, kamakailan.

Namatay rin agad ang naturang dolphin na may habang pitong talampakan, ilang minuto matapos itong matagpuan sa dalampasigan.

Kumuha ng sample ng organ ng dolphin ang tanggapan ng Animal Health and Welfare Division ng Provincial Veterinarian Office upang ipasuri sa laboratoryo ng Institute of Environmental Science & Meteorology (IESM) sa University of the Philippines (UP) - Diliman at nang sa gayon ay matukoy ang naging

sanhi ng pagkamatay nito.

Nagpaalala ang departamento sa publiko na kung sakaling may mapadpad na mga endangered species sa baybay dagat ay huwag agad lapitan upang maiwasan ang stress na isa sa posibleng nagiging sanhi ng pagkamatay nito. (Tony Sandoval)





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### **Mga residente sa Mandaluyong, nabulabog sa sawa**

Nabulabog ang pagpapahinga na sana ng mga residente sa isang compound sa Mandaluyong City nang bigla na lang sumulpot ang isang sawa, kamakalawa ng gabi.

Nabatid na ang naturang sawa ay nalaglag lamang umano mula sa isang malaking puno ng balete sa loob ng Neptali Gonzales Compound sa naturang lungsod bago mag-alas-12:00 ng hatinggabi.

Kaagad namang ini-report ito ng mga residente sa mga barangay officials ang pangyayari at nagtulung-tulong sila upang mahuli ang sawa.

Inabot pa umano ng ilang minuto bago-tuluyang nahuli at nailagay ng mga residente sa sako ang nagpupumiglas na sawa.

Kaagad din nilang dinala ang sawa sa barangay hall at kinontak ang mga opisyal ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang iturn-over ito. (Mer Layson)





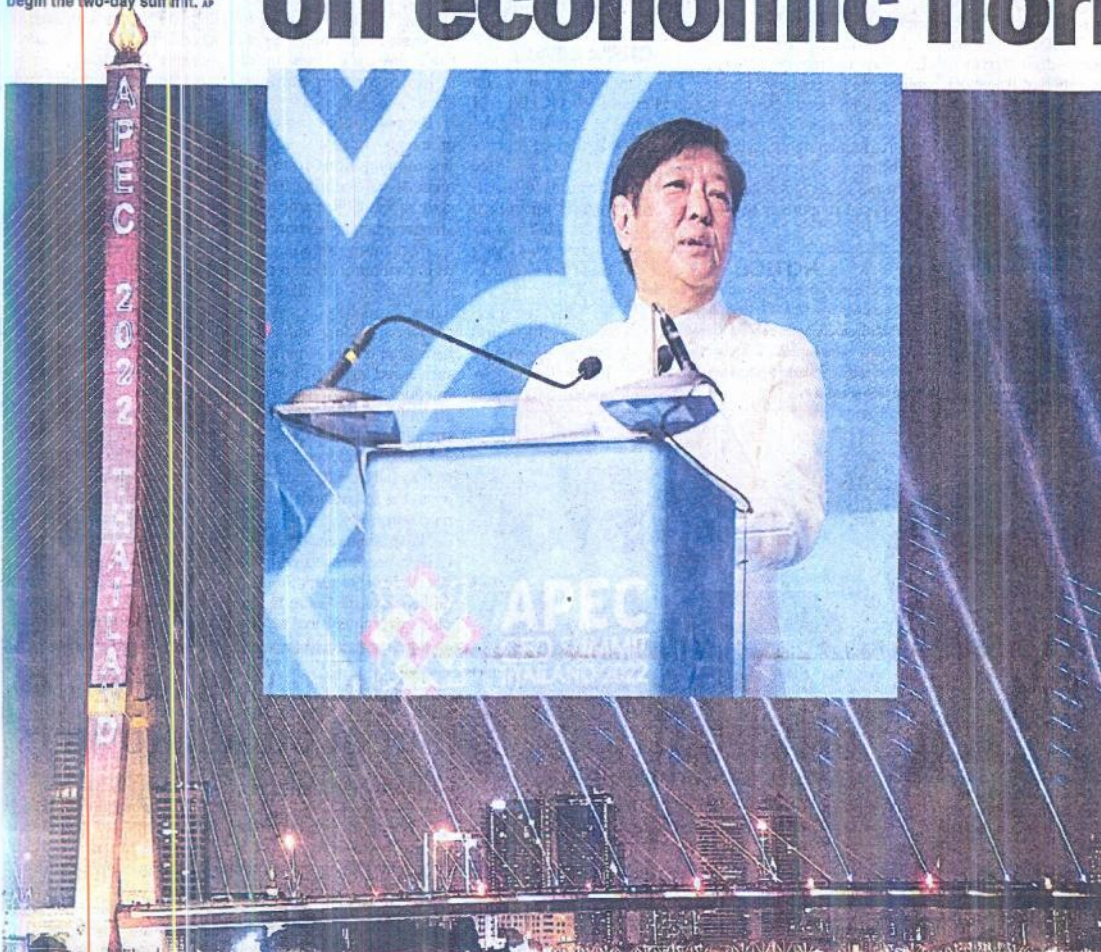
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President Marcos speaks during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. Lower photo shows of reographed lights displaying APEC 2022 on the Rama VIII bridge in Bangkok as leaders from the 21-member APEC forum begin the two-day summit. AP

# BBM: Dark clouds loom on economic horizon



By ALEXIS ROMERO

**BANGKOK** – “Dark clouds” are hanging over the horizon despite the easing of pandemic restrictions, President Marcos warned yesterday as he called on fellow leaders at a forum to work together to address problems that can hinder recovery.

At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit here, Marcos also noted significant growth in the region as well as “economic miracles” that are now being threatened by pandemic aftershocks.

“Dark clouds loom large if we are not to be prepared. They loom on the economic horizon and now more than ever, our governments and economies must work closer and better together as partners in order to find that break in the clouds where the light of hope and progress can shine through. These shocks to our system have had of course a deleterious effect on our efforts at fostering inclusive growth,” Marcos said.

“That growth was of course interrupted by the pandemic, and our recovery efforts this year have been challenged by soaring prices, supply chain bottlenecks and serious geopolitical conflict,” he said.

Marcos said the relaxing of COVID-19 protocols like the wearing of face masks is a sign of “better times,” and people are breathing easier literally as the world ushers in a period of moving forward with “guarded normalcy” and optimism.

He said three issues – food security, pandemic resilience and climate change – have to be addressed “to prevent a situation from becoming

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a prolonged and self-perpetuating problem.

“We need to immediately address structural and policy issues with the objective of enabling rapid economic recovery and growth in a manner that creates jobs, includes more people into the mainstream, and reduces poverty and inequality,” the President said.

### Big changes

Marcos, also the country’s agriculture secretary, called food security a “serious global problem,” noting that it is felt by everyone. He said ordinary Filipinos view the issues confronting the world through the lens of food security.

“Sleep declines in agricultural output and productivity from widespread damage to farms and to crops have been increasing and they are linked to climate change, which has made extreme weather events such as unpredictable typhoons and severe droughts more frequent and more deadly,” he said.

Marcos cited rising inflation as well as supply chain disruptions caused by Russia’s war on Ukraine, which resulted in scarcity of grains and fertilizers. Russia and Ukraine are two of the world’s largest agricultural producers.

“Food security must be a top priority for all governments and developing economies especially must have the policy flexibility needed to ensure an increased domestic food production and diversification and to improve the local agricultural supply and value chain,” he said.

Marcos said the Philippine government continues to provide aid to sectors most vulnerable to rising commodity prices through direct cash transfers.

“This is not something that we prefer to do. I don’t think that anyone is particularly enamored with direct cash transfer payments. But it is the only way that we can mitigate the situation that our people have. So that is something that we are hoping with the creation of jobs and with the growth of the economy to slowly begin to dial down,” he said.

“In the long term... the changes that need to be made are structural. They have to be done structurally because this is a different world. This is a different economy... We cannot be too married to the ideas that we were holding as truths before and we have to be willing to make big changes but with the recognition that from what is actually happening around the world,” he pointed out.

### Pandemic preparedness

Marcos also urged governments to continue reinforcing global health systems against new and emerging variants of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

“The global economy simply cannot afford another crippling series of lockdowns and travel bans that deflate... consumer confidence, dampen the recovery of tourism, and derail the stability of global markets,” he said.

“Governments must continue to invest in pandemic preparedness

and in ensuring the resilience of the global health system.”

Marcos said adopting the One-Health approach and strengthening health surveillance systems for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases can be part of the solution.

According to the World Health Organization, the One-Health approach is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to address threats.

“Our good work in this area must never slow down but rather feed into itself strengthening the foundations and architecture of global health systems and improving the governance of pandemic agility, resilience, and of response,” the President said.

As the world confronts the impact of the pandemic and other economic challenges, Marcos said the best way to earn trust is to perform.

“The best politics is perform. Because it’s something that cannot be taken away from you and it is something that actually makes a difference in people’s lives... Perform and you will get the trust back of the people,” he added.

Marcos also reiterated his call for countries to act on climate change, which he described as “the most pressing existential challenge of our time.” He said the Philippines is among the countries at great risk from this crisis, as it stands to lose up to more than six percent of its gross domestic product per year by 2100, based on Asian Development Bank estimates.

According to Marcos, global agreements that seek multilateral and multilateral solutions to the climate crisis

such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement are in force “but not enough progress has actually been made as emissions continue to rise.”

“The Conference of the Parties, the COP 27 is in full swing, but stronger action is required,” he said.

Marcos cited the need to diversify energy resources to include renewables as the energy demands of the modern global economy continue to expand rapidly. He said the Philippines has prioritized hydrothermal, geothermal, solar power, wind power and other low-emission energy sources by setting a target of 35 percent renewable energy in the power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

The Philippine government would work closely with the private sector to improve the resilience of people and businesses by leveraging the tools of sustainability, such as innovative supply chain systems and circular economy models for recycling and upcycling, including the bio-circular green economy model of Thailand, Marcos added.

### Partnerships

Towards the end of his speech, Marcos tackled the importance of working with the private sector, a feature that he said makes the APEC unique.

He said APEC economies must be ready to achieve the Putrajaya Vision, which aspires for an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040.

“We must leverage our region’s core strengths and values as the premier forum in the Asia-Pacific, as an incubator of cutting-edge ideas, as a pathfinder for collaborative solutions

to new and emerging trade issues, and as a laboratory for forward-looking and responsive economic and trade policies,” Marcos said.

“These partnerships with the private sector are a centerpiece of the transformation of the Philippine economy, APEC’s value and relevance as its ability to work with business.”

Marcos also lauded APEC economies for striking a balance between competition and cooperation.

“APEC should always remain cognizant of the *raison d’être* of international economic cooperation. And we in APEC, I believe have, found that very difficult balance to a very healthy competition and yet very healthy cooperation,” the President said.

“However the geopolitical currents that we must live with are some things that we still need to be concerned about. Because prosperity and progress is only possible in a world that is at peace, because we as nations of the world can never achieve our fullest potential unless we do it together,” he added.

Marcos was among the first batch of speakers during the APEC CEO Summit held at the Athenee Hotel here. Other speakers in the same panel discussion were Robert Moritz, global chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers and Klaus Schwab, founder and chairman of the World Economic Forum.

The 21 member-economies of APEC account for about 85 percent of the Philippines’ trade abroad and 82 percent of tourism flows into the country. More than half or 60 percent of Filipinos abroad are based in APEC economies and contribute 68 percent of the remittance sent to the Philippines.





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# APEC CEO Summit: Leaders turn spotlight on climate, technology

**W**ORLD leaders descended on Bangkok for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings, the last of the three major summits in the region that have seen discussions range from climate change to the war in Ukraine and food inflation.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha opened proceedings with a speech to the CEO Summit on Thursday morning, kicking off three days of talks focused on boosting economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. Chinese President Xi Jinping will give a speech and then continue with face-to-face meetings with several leaders including Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern.

There will be at least one notable absence from the Bangkok meetings. US President Joe Biden is heading back to the White House for his granddaughter's

wedding Saturday and will be represented by Vice President Kamala Harris at APEC.

### Key developments:

A SMALL crowd of protesters gathered in the Asok area, near the convention center where the APEC Leaders' Meeting is scheduled to take place. Some dressed up in dinosaur costumes, in a symbolic dig at what they view as Thailand's outdated and calcified government.

One protester told the gathering that they will march to the convention center, intending to show world leaders how the Thai government has failed to address

long-standing economic and social problems. The demonstrations are taking place under a large police presence, with the Bangkok Post reporting that more than 35,000 security personnel had been deployed for the summit.

### Vietnam president bats for green technology

THE world is changing in a "complex and unpredictable way" and technologies that target net-zero emissions will be the "strongest driver of FDI in the future," Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc said at the APEC CEO Summit at a trade and investment session.

Many Vietnamese factories have reduced production or even shut down as a result of supply chain problems from the pandemic and Ukraine war, Phuc said. The Covid-19 pandemic showed the "importance and indispensability of digital-based business and production," he said.

### Macron open to submarine cooperation with Australia

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said his government was still open to revisiting a submarine deal with Australia. The option for

Australia to build together or purchase French-made submarines remained "on the table," although there had been no indication yet from Canberra that it was looking to revisit the deal, he told a press conference in Bangkok.

Macron met with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali on Wednesday evening. While the French president acknowledged they had discussed the subject, the Australians "haven't decided to change strategy on that subject" yet.

### President Marcos urges greater climate action

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called for stronger action on climate change, which he described as the "most pressing existential" issue of all time. He told the APEC CEO Summit meeting that "not enough" progress has actually been made to lower emissions.

Macros also urged nations to prioritize food security and to invest in pandemic preparedness. He also said "the geopolitical currents that we must live with are something that we still need to be concerned about."

### Tourism as engine of Thai growth

TOURISM will be the "engine to drive" Thailand's economy in 2023 and beyond, Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, chairperson of Kasikornbank Pcl, the nation's second-biggest bank by assets, said in a Bloomberg TV interview on the sidelines of the APEC CEO Summit.

The bank expects hotel operators and other tourism-related business customers to recover strongly as Thailand's travel industry rebounds from the Covid-19 pandemic. Thailand, where tourism accounts for 12 percent of gross domestic product and a fifth of jobs, needs to diversify its foreign tourist market beyond China to maintain the industry's long-term growth, Kobkarn said.

### Environmental sustainability a key APEC agenda

THAI Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha said the world was facing unprecedented environmental challenges and sustainability would be the single most important agenda for the APEC leaders summit this week.

He also called upon the public

and private sectors to cooperate on supporting sustainability initiatives, adding "we must ensure that we leave no one behind on the path of development and growth."

Prayuth urged APEC leaders to sign a so-called Bangkok Goals declaration on the "bio-circular-green" economic model at the end of the summit. "No country can achieve its objectives alone," Prayuth said. "We inhabit the same earth."

### NZ PM to meet with China's Xi Jinping

NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Leaders' Summit in Thailand, Stuff reports without citing a source for the information.

Ardern had earlier said that if a meeting were to take place it would cover issues including trade, climate change and areas of differences, the media outlet reported.

*With assistance from Samy Adhithan, Puthom Sangwongwanich and John Boudreau/Bloomberg.*





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# Climate change causing 'economic devastation' to PH, says ranking solon

By ELLSON A. QUISMORIO

A House leader has highlighted the annual economic losses that the Philippines suffer from natural calamities, even as she called on government and stakeholders to immediately address the issue of climate change.

San Jose Del Monte City lone district Rep. Florida "Rida" Robes said in a privilege speech earlier this week that the country loses around \$3.5 billion yearly from natural calamities based on World Bank (WB) estimates.

"We can definitely feel the economic devastation of climate change. To illustrate, recently, [super typhoon] Karding alone destroyed at least P160 million worth of high-value crops," Robes said.

She said no less than 5,239 Bulakenos--1,571 families, including 1,447 children and 231 senior citizens - were displaced and forced to evacuate due to the floods, which also cost the lives of five Bulacan team rescuers.

"In the aftermath of super typhoon Karding, this representation would like to spark an honest dialogue to three inconvenient--yet vital--truths that affect our nation and humanity as a whole...The pressing and urgent need to strengthen our policies on environmental protection and adapting to climate change," noted Robes, who chairs the House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.

She said it is lamentable and alarming to know that the Philippines, in terms of global metrics, ranked second in the 2018 Climate Risk Index among countries heavily affected by extreme

weather events.

She said the Philippines is also 11th out of 180 nations in the 2020 Environmental Performance Index (EPI).

Robes reckoned that climate change is no longer imminent. "We are already in a state of climate emergency," she said.

"Our President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. addressed the UN (United Nations) General Assembly who declared that the country is the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change...This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now," she said.

Robes described the floods caused by Karding in her home province of Bulacan as "unparalleled and alarming". She said significant areas in San Miguel, San Ildefonso, and San Rafael--areas not typically prone to flooding--were engulfed in deep floodwaters due to heavy rains.

The ranking solon also gave honor to the five emergency responders who died while saving residents who were stranded in a flood.

Robes said the "Bulacan Five"--George Agustin, Troy Justin Agustin, Marby Bartolome, Narciso Calayag Jr. and Jerson Resurreccion died "in the line of duty and service to our country." She said they were ordinary men who displayed extraordinary acts of service.

Robes has already filed two measures empowering emergency volunteers with House Bill (HB) No. 5584, or the Emergency Volunteer Protection Act of 2022; and HB No. 5550 or Magna Carta for Public Disaster Risk and Emergency Responders.





## GOTCHA

JARIUS BONDOC

# South China Sea peace park: global signature drive on



A Filipino environment lawyer is leading a global petition to make the disputed South China Sea an Asia Marine Peace Park. The draft was submitted to the United Nations on Oct. 24, UN Day. A Peace Park can preserve the world's most biodiverse coasts from war among naval powers.

Antonio Oposa pleads for world leaders to cooperate for maritime peace. "While some governments like to fight, most ordinary people like us only want to be safe, healthy and happy," he told *Gotcha*.

Initial 150 signatories include prominent international earth advocates. Among them are Normandy, France Vice President Francois Priollaud, University of Sydney ecologist Ben Boer, Haub School environment law Prof. Nicholas Robinson, UN Special Rapporteur for Environment David Boyd and Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law Director Lye Lin Heng. Also Filipino musician Joey Ayala of Bagong Lumad, Palawan Rep. Edward Hagedorn and Sen. Cynthia Villar.

The Peace Park idea comes as tensions escalate between China versus Western and Asian powers over the South China Sea. China claims the entire SCS via a "nine-dash line" that trespasses the exclusive economic zones of neighbors Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam. The United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Japan and India defend the small countries from China's bullying.

Oposa filed the non-adversarial petition through Manila's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ariel Peñaranda. It was transmitted to Foreign Sec. Enrique Manalo for endorsement to UN members. Ordinary citizens will be asked to sign in Southeast Asia, China and worldwide.

China President Xi Jinping will be given a copy. As Chinese Communist Party chief, Xi declared last month to prioritize environment protection, promote green lifestyles and conserve nature as socialist objectives. Lower green gas output from slowed industrial pace grants China world prestige in heading a "new global green industrial revolution."

Galapagos EEZ due to illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing at the edge by thousands of Chinese trawlers escorted by coast guards. With 80 percent of that South American country's petroleum as payment, China in 2016 built a faulty hydro-electric plant beside active Reventador volcano.

With loans meant for pocketing by corrupt authoritarians, China extracts minerals by the million tons from Africa. West African countries complain against Chinese poaching in the Atlantic, 6,000 miles away.

China reclaimed seven Philippine reefs using ore extracted from Chinese-financed mines in Luzon and Mindanao. It also illegally extracts black sand from north Luzon beaches. Convening in Shanghai in 2013, Chinese oceanographers and maritime lawyers criticized the CCP's "nine-dash line" but were silenced.

Scientists describe as the world's most biodiverse in tropical marine life the archipelagic triangle comprising the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. An Asia Marine Peace Park can preserve that for world benefit.

Oposa's signature drive targets hundreds of millions of youths worldwide. "The SCS is not ours alone, but also for future generations," he said. "For peace on earth, we must have peace with earth."

Led by Oposa, Filipino youths got the Supreme Court to compel government to clean up Manila Bay.

The petition:

"People's Petition to the United Nations for nations to unite. 'We will have peace on Earth, when we have peace with the Earth.'

"Seas of Asia - There is a body of water west of the Pacific Ocean surrounded by some Asian countries. It is a crown jewel of the Earth's natural heritage. This sea is the breeding ground and nursery of tropical fish. Surrounding states claim ownership of the sea. One wants all.





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"An Asia Marine Peace Park can also be a moral, political initiative for President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.," Oposa quoted former chief justice Hilario Davide. "He can take it up with ASEAN leaders and President Xi as a show of friendship and good neighborliness."

Manila in 2016 won international arbitration at The Hague against China's occupation of eight reefs and poaching in the Philippine EEZ. Malaysia and Indonesia use that victory to assert their own EEZs; Vietnam contemplates similar arbitration against China under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

A Peace Park can demilitarize the SCS, akin to the zone between the two Koreas, Iraq and Kuwait, and outer space. Similar too, to the 1961 treaty forbidding military occupation, nuclear waste dumping and environment degradation in Antarctica, which is solely for scientific exploration and study. In the 1990s, China's first naval expedition to the ice continent machine-gunned thousands of penguins milling ashore.

Researches criticize China for environment ruin. Marine life has diminished 40 percent in Ecuador's

"How can we own something we did not create, that has been there long before we were born and will be there long after we are gone? This is causing serious tensions and dangers of violence.

"*Bonus Pater-Familia* – Nation-states are the good fathers of humankind. It is their duty to avoid tensions and violence for their people. As good fathers, states care for Mother Earth. They must cooperate to preserve this precious crown jewel of the Earth's marine life.

"Cooperating, not competing -- Rather than compete to take as much as we can from this sea, can we instead cooperate? Can we preserve this gem of Earth's natural treasures? Can we do this in the spirit of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation? It will be good for the whole world, for this generation and for generations yet unborn.

"We humbly plead for the concerned states to transform their exclusive economic zones to be enchanting ecosystem zones. We respectfully petition the good United Nations to turn the international waters into a cooperatively-protected area – the Asia Marine Peace Park."

Catch *Sapol* radio show, Saturdays, 8 to 10 a.m., *dwIZ* (882-AM). Follow me on Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/2p93cxm9>

★





## editorial

# Climate change threatens PHL's economic growth

**T**HAI Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha opened the CEO Summit in Bangkok on Thursday saying the world is currently facing unprecedented environmental challenges. Sustainability, he said, would be the most important agenda for the APEC leaders summit. "We must ensure that we leave no one behind on the path of development and growth. No country can achieve its objectives alone. We inhabit the same earth," he said.

In a speech at the same forum, President Marcos reiterated his call to address climate change, citing the need for stronger action in relation to the Paris Agreement. The President lamented the fact that not enough progress has actually been made to lower global emissions.

Climate change is a major risk to the Philippine economic development. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank said in a study that the Philippines faces some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world, and these are projected to intensify as the climate changes. The country is especially exposed to tropical cyclones, flooding, and landslides.

Super Typhoon Odette, which struck the Philippines on December 16 and 17, was the 15th storm to hit the country in 2021 and was the strongest storm last year. It swept through 11 of the country's 17 regions, leaving a swathe of destruction and forcing the government to declare a state of calamity in six regions. As of January 27, 2022, a total of 9.9 million people were affected across 11 regions in 9,500 barangays. Around 144,000 displaced people were reported in five regions, with 80,000 people staying in evacuation centers. A total of 1,700,000 houses have been damaged, out of which 415,000 are destroyed.

In April 2022, tropical depression Agaton visited the country. It was a weak but deadly tropical cyclone that led to the sinking of two ships. Major landslides pushed mud over villages in Leyte, burying around 210 houses. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has reported 214 deaths, 132 missing, and 8 people injured. Damage to agriculture was placed at P3.27 billion, and infrastructure damage was estimated at P1.45 billion.

Severe Tropical Storm Paeng hit the country in October. It was one of the most destructive tropical cyclones that pounded the Philippines this year. Paeng's devastation shocked the country, including President Marcos who questioned the 51 casualties in Maguindanao, saying it was "a little too high." Damage to agriculture and infrastructure was estimated at more than P11 billion.





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# BusinessMirror

Always look at today's business

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The NDRRMC placed Paeng's damage to agriculture at P6.19 billion in the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and the Cordillera regions. About 144,682 farmers and fisherfolk were affected by the tropical cyclone. Infrastructure damage was estimated at P5.05 billion in the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao region, Soccsksargen, BARMM, and Cordillera. Damaged houses were put at 53,906—47,988 were classified as "partially damaged" and 5,108 were categorized as "totally damaged". The total number of verified deaths from the tropical cyclone was 127, while the number of those injured reached 146.

These are just three tropical storms that recently visited the country, but they already set us back billions of pesos in damages to agriculture and infrastructure.

A welcome development at COP27: The Group of Seven leading economies launched a new insurance system on Monday to provide swift financial aid to countries hit by the devastating effects of climate change. The so-called Global Shield is backed by the V20 group of 58 climate-vulnerable nations and will initially receive more than 200 million euros in funding, mostly from Germany. Initial recipients include the Philippines, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan and Senegal.

Let's hope that rich nations, including the United States, will resolve at COP27 the issue of "loss and damage" being pressed by poor nations that are seeking financial aid for the damages brought about by typhoons, floods, and other devastating effects of global warming.





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## letters

### Blah blah blah

My cousin texted me, "*Hindi kayo nag-iisa* (you are not alone)" after the massive flooding and devastation of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng.

My cousin lives just outside of Sydney and they have been getting record rainfall since earlier this year that has caused widespread flooding, destroying homes, stranding residents on rooftops until rescuers came in helicopters to pluck them to safety and causing people to walk in waist-deep floodwaters.

In a skewed sense of nostalgia, she said such scenes reminded her of home, which was in Marikina before her family moved Down Under almost a decade ago. "*Akala ko* (I thought) I left all that behind *na* when we moved here, but I guess there's no escaping the devastation resulting from climate change."

It's no comfort that *hindi tayo nag-iisa* in suffering horrendous floods, and that developed countries like Australia, some in Europe and parts of the United States are also being inundated.

As the COP27 in Egypt ends today, can we ask how much has really, actually, practically been achieved in that two-

week conference/gabfest beyond alarms again being sounded, calls for action issued in oh-so-eloquent terms?

The big polluters, the giant greenhouse gas emitters have not and are still not owning up to their responsibility and certainly do not seem anywhere near willing to take concrete actions to stop the pollution and to help the poor developing nations made to suffer the climate effects of their actions.

This is the 27th edition of the UN Climate Conference; the first was held in Berlin in 1995, a year after the UN Framework on Climate Change entered into force. Oh yes, targets have been set, national commitments made -- all quite lofty, for sure -- but how much of these have been achieved? That much ballyhooed 1.5-degree Celsius target has all but evaporated, together with promises of moving away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and many other soundbite-worthy pledges.

Greta Thunberg is so right -- it's just blah blah blah, and unfortunately for all of us, blah blah blah won't solve the climate crisis.

- COCO STA. MARIA, Cavite





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## Stories of loss, resilience, and restoration delivered at COP27



### ELEVENTH HOUR

#### THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT PHILIPPINES

**C**reating spaces for culture and the arts in the decision-making arena for climate action, Poets for Climate opened two exhibits on the sidelines of the ongoing 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt.

Poets For Climate is a collaborative project between the Climate Reality Project branches in Africa, Canada, and the Philippines that aims to harness humanities and the arts in amplifying the vicious cycle of loss and damage experienced by vulnerable communities. It is a response to "When Is Now," a global poetry and art movement initiated by the Agam Agenda with 58 vulnerable countries of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

The Poets for Climate Digital Exhibit, which is hosted by the Government of Indonesia in its COP27 pavilion, was launched on Nov. 7 during the talkshow entitled "Narrating Endeavors to Tend the Earth."

"Both the Global North and the Global South are starting to see the limits to adaptation and how the climate crisis is compounding the risks for communities with limited resources and access to social safety nets. Poets and other artists, especially from the youth sector, play a crucial role in opening up the conversation on the realities of climate change on the ground and the urgency of real systemic changes needed." Nazrin Castro, Climate Reality Philippines Branch manager, said during the launch of the digital exhibit at the Indonesian Pavilion.

The second exhibit, hosted by the CVF and the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group of Ministers of Finance, was launched on Nov. 11 with the title "The Making and Unmaking of Places: Stories of Loss, Resilience, and Restoration Using Poetry and Art."

"Science and policymaking are essential to the climate change (movement). But science and policymaking are also insufficient. We need more of the humanities. We need more of the arts. What we're doing today is nothing less than



**Nakeeyat Dramani Sam, young poet from Ghana and CVF Global Young Peace Ambassador, graced the launch of the CVF-V20 exhibit to deliver a message from the youth to leaders and decision-makers.**

calling for a global poetry rebellion so that the public has more ways to contribute, to link arms, and to hold hands to drive world leaders to do what they have to do," Renato Redentor Constantino, CVF-V20 advisor and Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities executive director, said as he thanked the Climate Reality branches of Africa, Canada, and the Philippines for the support of Poets for Climate to the When Is Now campaign.

Launched in July this year, Poets for Climate has conducted five virtual Pebble Poem Workshops and has generated more than 100 poems for When Is Now from around 75 youth leaders,

Highlighting the impacts of climate change in vulnerable developing countries, Sam urged the leaders of developed world to step up. "When we talk about #WhenIsNow, the answer is the time is now. Please, let us come together as one people."

climate advocates, and poets from Cameroon, Canada, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Zambia. It has also unveiled murals in the cities of Johannesburg in South Africa, Montreal in Canada, and Iloilo and Isabela in the Philippines.

#### Bridging the gap between the Global North and the Global South

"In engaging in these (Pebble Poem) Workshops with the Philippines and Canada branches, it was a privilege and an experience of a lifetime bringing Climate Reality Leaders and activists together," Amy Giliam-Thorp, African Climate Reality Project Branch Manager, said.

"What we realize is that the power of the When Is Now campaign lies in its use of climartivism (climate, arts, and activism). That powerful combi-





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nation of arts, poetry, and activism enabled people to showcase and tell their stories, their lived experiences, as a way of creating meaningful spaces that bring more people into the conversation," she added.

The Poets for Climate roadshow at COP27 aims to create connections and solidarity between the Global North and Global South by integrating stories of loss, damage, and resilience into policymaking and decision-making spaces.

"Canada is an economy that relies so extensively on fossil fuels while also exploiting people around the planet, as well as indigenous people (in Canada). We have this history and we have the responsibility," said Andre-Yanne Parent, Climate Reality Canada Branch manager, during the CVF-V20 event.

"(Through Poets for Climate), we are able to give a space for Canadian Climate Reality Leaders to connect and build relationships so that they could come from a place of empathy, compassion, and understanding of other people's reality and also understand what they share in common," Parent added.

Noting that the COP27 roadshow is just the beginning, Parent announced during the CVF-V20 event that Poets For Climate will also be at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity happening in Canada in December. A series of light projections featuring Poets For Climate poems across Montreal and Canada are in the works to demand urgent action from world leaders and decision-makers.

**Youth's message to world leaders**  
Nakeeyat Dramani Sam, CVF Global Young Peace Ambassador, also graced the launch of the CVF-V20 exhibit to deliver a message from the youth to world leaders and decision-makers.

Highlighting the impacts of climate change in vulnerable developing countries, Sam urged the leaders of developed world to step up. "When we talk about #WhenIsNow, the answer is the time is now," she said. "Please, let us come together as one people."

Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, Marshall Islands Climate Envoy and CVF Ambassador for Culture, highlighted the need to provide spaces for the youth within climate movements.

"Highlighting unique youth perspective through art work has been a valuable part of the When Is Now initiative," Jetñil-Kijiner said.

Aside from messages from Sam and Jetñil-Kijiner, the CVF-V20 event featured poetry reading by Ewi Stephanie Lamma, Climate Reality Leader from Cameroon and recipient of the UN Agora Award for Climate Action; Jefferson Estela, Youth 4 Climate Strike Philippines co-founder; Nabaha Shahab, Climate Reality Leader from Indonesia and Harvest Moon contributor; Enoch Anyane, Climate Reality Leader from Ghana and Strategic Youth Network for Development Campaigns and Organizing coordinator; and Nilka Gerona, Climate Reality Leader from the Philippines and delegate to the UN Climate Change Conference of Youth 17.



From left: Phyllis Cuttino (president and CEO, The Climate Reality Project), Nazrin Castro (Climate Reality Philippine branch manager), Lia Zakiyyah (graduate research assistant at George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication), Alue Dohong (Indonesia vice minister of Environment and Forestry), Amanda Katili Niode (Climate Reality Indonesia branch manager), Silverius Oscar Unggul (vice chair for Environment and Forestry of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) during the talkshow, where the book 'Menjalin Ikhtiar Merawat Bumi' was also launched.





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Andre-Yanne Parent, Climate Reality Canada branch manager, during the Poets for Climate roadshow at the CVF-V20 pavilion, which brought together Climate Reality Leaders and youth climate activists from all over the world attending the conference. Left: The Indonesian Pavilion at COP27 is hosting a two-week digital exhibit featuring poems by Karla Auria S. Galeon (Philippines), SHERELEE ODAYIR (S. Africa), and Ir. Puji Rianti (Indonesia).





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## Regional Updates

### **No typhoon but several Davao, Soccsksargen towns suspend classes due to rain, flooding, landslides**

CLASSES for elementary and high school students were suspended on Thursday in several localities in the neighboring regions of Davao and Soccsksargen due to rains since Wednesday that caused flooding in some areas.

Segments of the national highway between Digos City in Davao del Sur and General Santos City and in Davao Occidental were impassable due to a landslide, local authorities reported.

Local governments that called off classes include: General Santos City; Malungon in Sarangani; Sulop, Magsaysay, and Hagonoy in Davao del Sur; and Jose Abad Santos and Sta. Maria in Davao Occidental.

The Koronadal City government, capital of South Cotabato, also suspended classes in all levels.

Weather bureau PAGASA warned on Thursday morning that the intertropical convergence zone and a low pressure area would bring moderate to heavy rains in several parts of the country, including southern portions of Mindanao where Davao and Soccsksargen are located.

"Under these conditions, flooding and rain-induced landslides are likely," PAGASA said in its Thursday weather advisory.

In Alabel, capital of Sarangani province, disaster management teams and vehicles were deployed to transport people at the boundary with General Santos City as the road was flooded.

More than 100 people living near the town's Buayan River were also evacuated.

The Alabel local government said members of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) continue to monitor the water level of rivers, streams, and creeks.

"Rescuers of the Alabel MDRRMO have been deployed to monitor the situation... people living near streams and creeks have been advised to stay safe and alert," the municipal information office said in a statement in Visayan.

Davao Region is composed of five provinces and the independent city of Davao. Soccsksargen covers the provinces of South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos City. — MSJ





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## Prime Infra works on more gas fields in Malampaya

PRIME INFRASTRUCTURE Capital, Inc. is looking at additional gas fields within its exploration service contract with the government to possibly supply the needs of power plants, its top official said.

Prime Infra President and Chief Executive Guillaume Lucci in a media briefing on Thursday that the company had taken over the Malampaya gas-to-power project on Nov. 1 and that it had submitted a work program to the Department of Energy for a license extension.

"The work program is consistent with the previous statements that we made, which is, we are going to do the necessary to extract as much gas as we can from Service Contract 38," he said.



BW FILE PHOTO

He said Malampaya's untapped potential is a combination of extracting within the same field as well as looking at additional fields within the service contract.

"There will be a number of wells drilled. We think two operational wells as well as one exploratory well, at least. So probably two to three wells," Mr. Lucci said.

Prime Infra, through its subsidiary, is the operator of SC 38 covering the Malampaya gas field, which supplies 20% of the country's power requirements and 27% of the Luzon grid. The gas

field's supply is expected to be depleted by 2027.

"Rest assured that we are focused on producing as much gas as we can to sustain the needs of the power plants," Mr. Lucci said.

Prime Infra earlier announced that it was seeking the extension of SC 38, which is set to expire by 2024. Mr. Lucci did not disclose details of the company's next action for its license extension.

"We are very confident that power plants will utilize indigenous gas before imported LNG (liquefied petroleum gas)," he said.

Mr. Lucci said that Prime Infra is also targeting to spend up to P55 billion on energy, water, waste management, and other

projects. He said that the firm is well-positioned to build projects that support the country's "urgent needs."

"We need about, give or take, P50 [billion] to P55 billion of equity to support our projects," Mr. Lucci said.

According to the Energy department, the Malampaya gas field off the coast of Palawan island is the biggest commercial gas discovery in the Philippines to date.

Prime Infra, a company led by businessman Enrique K. Razon, Jr., became the operator of the Malampaya project after it acquired the stake previously held by Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. — Ashley Erika O. Jose





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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CALACA

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office at Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than ~~Dec. 16, 2022~~ on ~~10:00 AM~~ for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	:	Brgy. Puting Bato, Calaca, Batangas
Description	:	Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-6
Area	:	9,831sqm.
Applied for by	:	Calaca Industrial Seaport Corp.

represented by Mr. Ramson E. Llanto

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 land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to 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 every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ISAGANI KAMATORIO  
CENRO Officer





TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

11-18-22

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CALACA

## NOTICE

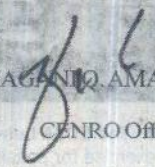
Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office at Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than Dec. 16, 2022 on 10:00 AM for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

- Location : Brgy. Puting Bato West, Calaca, Batangas
- Description : Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-6-A
- Area : 20,000 sqm.
- Applied for by : Calaca Industrial Seaport Corp.

represented by Mr. Chrissy Alfonsus V. Damuy

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 land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to 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 every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

  
ISAGANI Q. AMATORIO  
CENRO Officer