

19 November 2022, Saturday



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AND
INITIATIVES
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Phl pushes for urgent, bolder climate action

By DANESSA RIVERA

Environment Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga is pushing for urgent and bolder climate action through financing and technical assistance from richer countries at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27).

In a historical first, the Philippines contributed inputs on the institutional arrangements to operationalize the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage to provide technical assistance, knowledge and resources to developing countries.

The Philippine delegation, headed by Yulo-Loyzaga, pushed for the adoption of a precise definition of "loss and damage."

This should include impacts from extreme climate events and slow onset change, to cover economic and non-economic losses, and to establish a mechanism that will fund and deliver technical support to help countries manage loss and damage.

The country threw its full support behind an initiative to formulate a system of predictable financial support, including an insurance scheme to provide financial resources to affected countries.

The Philippines also agreed to operationalize and fund the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, which aims to provide developing countries with technical assistance.

Stressing that adaptation is an urgent priority for the Philippines, Loyzaga said the country's delegation called for timely and ambitious delivery of Annex I countries on the means of implementation of finance, technology, and capacity building.

She also reiterated the urgency and indispensability to fast-track negotiations on adaptation, including National Adaptation

Plans and Global Goal on Adaptation.

Yulo-Loyzaga also stressed the huge role of finance in a concrete climate action.

At COP27, the Philippines reported that earthquakes and typhoons cause an average \$3.5 billion per year, which is over one percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), in direct losses to public and private assets.

In the next 50 years, this is estimated to exceed to \$33 billion.

The Philippines insisted that climate finance should be complemented by viable and effective technology transfer and country-specific capacity building, which must be mobilized towards concrete projects, programs and initiatives.

The Philippines also asserted the need for developed parties to be transparent in reporting their approaches and strategies for scaling up climate finance.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the delegation proposed to advance positions in particular work streams of the global discussion that would significantly boost the country's specific needs and priorities, as well as the need for external support in the form of technology, transfer, capacity-building and financial support.

The work streams were divided into four categories: loss and damage; adaptation; climate finance; and the inclusion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions avoidance in

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The country advocated for the inclusion of GHG emission avoidance in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to operationalize claims of developing countries to the remaining safe carbon budget.

Yulo-Loyzaga said addressing these issues are crucial pillars of climate action and is a matter of upholding basic human rights to secure a safer future for everyone.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-19-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

PH lays out climate change strategies in UN meet

By
Joel
dela
Torre

THE Philippine delegation in the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt called for urgent and bolder climate change actions while unveiling its own needs and priorities.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said the Philippine team laid out strategic positions on the issue during the first week of the meet scheduled from November 6 to 18.

Loyzaga returned to Manila ahead of the PH delegation in time for the deliberation of the DENR budget before the Senate.

The DENR chief said the PH delegation explained the country's position on the global discussion that would significantly boost the specific needs and priorities as well as the need for external support in the form of technology, transfer, capacity-building and financial support.

Divided into four categories, the work streams are specifically on loss and damage; adaptation; climate

finance; and the inclusion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions avoidance in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The Philippines pushed for the adoption of a precise definition of "loss and damage" to include impacts from extreme climate events and slow onset change, to cover economic and non-economic losses, and to establish a mechanism that would fund and deliver technical support to help countries manage loss and damage.

The Philippine delegation at COP27 reported that earthquakes and typhoons cause an average US\$3.5 billion per year, which is over 1.0 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product, in direct losses to public and private assets. In the next 50 years, it could be estimated that this will exceed US\$33 billion.

The PH delegation insisted that climate finance should be complemented by viable and effective technology transfer and country-specific capacity building, which must be mobilized towards concrete projects, programs and initiatives.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

INQUIRER

PAGE 1

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE 112

DATE 11-19-22

Climate talks enter make-or-break stage

SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT—Talks at a UN climate conference enter their final day Friday, gridlocked by a make-or-break tussle between rich and developing nations over money for the most vulnerable countries. Representatives from nearly 200 countries have gathered here with the aim of driving forward action on climate change as the world faces a worsening onslaught of extreme floods, heat waves and droughts. —STORY BY AFP **A6**

SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT—Talks at a UN climate conference entered their final day Friday, gridlocked by a make-or-break tussle between rich and developing nations over money for countries affected by increasingly intense and costly impacts of global warming.

Representatives from nearly 200 countries have gathered at the COP27 in Egypt for two weeks seeking action on climate change as the world faces a worsening onslaught of extreme floods, heat waves and droughts.

The daunting list of urgent tasks includes finding agreement—and funds—for the emissions cuts needed to limit average warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

For many developing countries—and small island states most threatened by sea level rise—the defining issues at the conference is money for the “loss and damage” caused by climate change impacts.

The UN climate agency on Friday published a draft negoti-



KEY ISSUE Climate activists demanding reparation for damage caused by climate change demonstrate protest outside the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Center in Egypt during the COP27 climate conference on Thursday. —AFP

ating text of the deal but did not set out the proposed solution to the “loss and damage” financial arrangements.

Placeholder

Instead it contained placeholder text, indicating delegates were still seeking consensus on the matter.

The issue made it onto the formal summit agenda for the first time in what was seen as a breakthrough on a subject that has long divided developed and developing nations. Since then however, talks on what to do next have made little progress.

Late on Thursday, the Eu-



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER



PAGE

2/2



18-22

DATE

Climate talks gridlocked on 'loss, damage' funds

Rich polluters reluctant to agree to a financial machinery over fears of liability

European Union made a proposal aimed at resolving the impasse.

Negotiations have been gridlocked by the issue, with developing countries unifying behind a call for COP27 to create a specific loss and damage fund—an idea that has faced reluctance from richer polluters wary of liability.

"We are not where we need to be in order to close this conference with tangible and robust outcomes," said Sameh Shoukry, the COP27 president, late Thursday night as he urged delegates to act with "urgency."

In a proposal to delegates late Thursday, European Commission vice president Frans Timmermans said the European Union was open to the creation of a fund to help the most vulnerable countries, favoring a "mosaic" of options for providing money from a range of sources.

That would potentially include China and other nations that have become wealthier since they were listed as developing countries in 1992. —AFP



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

19-19-22

DATE

UN climate talks enter final day in deadlock

SHARM EL SHEIKH (AFP) – Talks at a UN climate conference entered their final day yesterday, gridlocked by a make-or-break tussle between rich and developing nations over money for countries in the crosshairs of increasingly intense and costly impacts of global warming.

Representatives from nearly 200 countries have gathered at the COP27 in Egypt for two weeks with the aim of driving forward action on climate change as the world faces a worsening onslaught of extreme floods, heat waves and droughts.

The daunting list of urgent tasks includes finding agreement – and funds – for the emissions cuts needed to limit average warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels, which scientists say is a safer guardrail to avoid the most dangerous impacts.

For many developing countries, the defining issues at the conference is money for the “loss and damage” caused by climate change impacts.

A cascade of climate-driven extremes in recent months – from floods in Pakistan and Nigeria to heat waves and droughts across the world – have shone a spotlight on the ferocious impacts of a warming world for developing nations that are also struggling with debts and surging inflation.

But negotiations have been gridlocked by the issue, with developing countries unifying behind a call for COP27 to create a specific loss and damage fund.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

1-13-22

DATE

UN climate talks enter final day
in deadlock

PAGE 2/2



Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri (right) listens as United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks at a press conference during the COP27 climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on Thursday. AFP

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COMMUNICATION
AND
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SERVICE

Marcos calls for 'green' post-pandemic recovery

By ALEXIS ROMERO

BANGKOK – President Marcos has urged regional leaders to push for measures promoting a green post-pandemic recovery, saying the response of governments to environmental problems is crucial in “determining the fate of the planet.”

Speaking during the retreat session of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders yesterday, Marcos la-

mented what he described as the insufficient support for a green transition and cited the need for quality jobs and inclusive growth.

“As the world emerges from the downturn caused by the pandemic, it is evident that recovery has been uneven – perhaps even I would go so far to say it has been inequitable and insufficiently supportive of a green transition,” Marcos said.

“Economies must leverage this opportunity to recalibrate policies to promote a green post-pandemic recovery,” he added.

Marcos said the Philippines welcomes and supports the adoption of the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG), describing it as a “concrete initiative” that would lead the Asia-Pacific region toward a sustainable future. According to the APEC website, the BCG model aims to apply science, innovation and technology to promote the efficient use of resources, maintain and restore ecosystems, and reduce waste to build



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Marcos calls for green post pandemic recovery

PAGE 2/2

a system where government and business can thrive. It also seeks to address economic shocks and ensure a well-distributed economic growth beneficial to every household.

Marcos said the model is in line with his administration's goal to generate green and quality jobs, ensure a level playing field for enterprises, and lessen vulnerabilities to COVID-19.

The Philippines has also adopted a sustainable finance roadmap, which adopts a whole-of-government approach to promote sustainable finance and green policies, he added.

"We actively support the adoption of innovative and sustainable supply chain systems and circular economy models that can systematically collect non-biodegradable packaging and agricultural and industrial waste for recycling and upcycling," the President said.

Marcos cited the Philippines' socioeconomic priorities related to the model, including implementing the Green Jobs Act, establishing green jobs certification system and incentive schemes, developing the green workforce, and issuing green bonds for its infrastructure program.

"We actively support the adoption of innovative and sustainable supply chain systems and circular economy models that can systematically collect non-biodegradable packaging and agricultural and industrial waste for recycling and upcycling," Marcos said.

Globalization impact

Marcos also urged his fellow leaders to act on environmental challenges caused by globalization.

"How economies respond is critical in determining the fate of the planet we live on and will pass on to our future generations," the President said.

Marcos said APEC economies should work together to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth as the world con-

fronts an apparent economic downturn and recession risks. Such a move is in line with the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, which seeks an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, he added.

Marcos, who has described climate change as "the most pressing existential challenge of our time," said the effects of globalization on the environment have become "more acute" requiring a strong, immediate and coordinated international action.

MSMEs and logistics sector

At the same event, Marcos reiterated his call for the narrowing of the digital divide to allow disadvantaged segments, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to take part in the digital economy.

"They continue to face systemic problems and structural challenges, heightened by the pandemic. MSMEs need opportunities and assistance to recover, to grow, and to progress in the post-pandemic and digital age," Marcos told economic leaders.

Marcos said MSMEs, the biggest providers of private sector jobs in the Philippines, need to adopt e-commerce to become more efficient in using digital solutions and approaches.

"This is in addition to facing complex challenges that going digital presents such as data privacy [and] cybersecurity issues, lack of digital infrastructure, digital fraud, online consumer protection concerns, digital inclusion and access to finance, and the persisting digital divide, among others," he said.

Marcos also called on APEC leaders to tackle the challenges confronting the region's shipping and logistics services.

"Shipping and logistics services are the backbone of global trade and investment and yet, we have not paid them ample attention," he said. - With Sheila Crisostomo, Helen Flores



EDITORIAL

'Stronger' climate action

IF we want to slow down climate change or global warming, we can't stick to one fuel source alone, especially one that is dirty and not renewable.

The whole world has to diversify into cleaner, renewable, and sustainable energy sources.

President Marcos has stressed the importance of diversifying energy sources to sustain global economic growth and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

In his opening remarks during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, the President lamented that the progress made to address the climate crisis is "not enough," despite the implementation of global climate pacts such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

Marcos said a "stronger" action is needed, considering that climate change is "the most pressing existential challenge of our time" that may cause adverse impact on the global economy.

"The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC is in full swing, but stronger climate action is required. As the energy demands of the modern global economy continue to expand rapidly, diversification into renewables and other sources is imperative," he said during the forum.

APEC member economies, he said, should step up efforts to address "structural and policy" issues to counter the effects of several global challenges, including the climate crisis.

The President made the call, as he noted that climate change is "interconnected" with high inflation and geopolitical crises, as part of a "delicate" global food ecosystem that affects the entire world.

He said the Philippine government is now focused on using renewable energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal power, solar and other low-emission energy sources.

He said his administration is particularly setting a target of a 35-percent share of renewable energy in the power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

He issued the statement, as he cited the findings of the Asian Development Bank's study which showed that the Philippines is one of the countries that are at "great risk" from the climate crisis, as it stands to lose over six percent of gross domestic product annually by 2100.

Marcos earlier approved the Department of Energy's plan to explore and develop the country's offshore wind potential as a source of clean and sustainable energy.

He is currently in Thailand for his first participation in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

The APEC is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.



19-23

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

SOLID BACKUP

**By Jester
Manalastas**

SPEAKER Martin Romualdez vowed to fully support President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on his agenda of addressing critical issues affecting the country.

During the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, Marcos has cited at least three critical issues – food insecurity, global health care system and climate change – that need immediate and long term solutions.

Marcos said economies in the Asia-Pacific must work together for structural and policy innovations to solve food insecurity, strengthen the global health system, and take stronger action on climate change.

He emphasized that addressing these three critical issues is key to enabling rapid economic recovery and growth in a manner that creates jobs, includes more people into the mainstream, and reduces poverty and inequality.

Speaker Romualdez said he totally agreed with the President's assessment that these issues present serious obstacles on our path to recovery.

"He can count on the

unwavering support of the House for the passage of measures addressing these issues of concern," Romualdez said.

It could be recalled that the House and the Senate had earlier committed during the first Legislative-Executive Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting the President convened last October 10 to adopt as part of their Common Legislative Agenda (CLA) the priority measures the Chief Executive mentioned in his State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Many of these priority measures, according to Romualdez, would contribute towards addressing the issues of concern the President raised during the APEC Summit.

Among others, Romualdez cited the Department of Water Resources Bill, Land Use Act, and the Condonation of Unpaid Amortization and Interests of Loans of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries bill, as measures that would help revitalize the country's agricultural sector and enhance productivity.

On the other hand, the Medical Reserve Corps bill, National Disease Prevention Management Authority bill, and the Virology Institute of the Philippines bill

would help strengthen the country's readiness and institutions against emerging infectious diseases.

Romualdez also said the increased share of green and renewable energy sources in the country's energy mix may be included in the discussions of the proposed Amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA).

Headed that the House would welcome any new measure the Marcos administration may want to include in its priority legislative agenda meant to enable our economy to fully recover from the effects of the pandemic and cushion external shocks.

Likewise, Romualdez said the House could help shape programs of concerned government agencies to make them more responsive in addressing those areas of concern through its power of the purse, particularly in relation to the approval of the 2023 budget.

"In the bicameral conference committee, after the Senate has approved its own version of the proposed 2023 budget, we can help fine-tune the funding of concerned agencies to build their capacities at addressing these pressing problems," Romualdez said.




TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

REIMATE OPINION



ULTIMATUM

NI SENNY ANTIPORDA

KURYENTE MULA SA HANGIN PASPASANG GAWIN

NAPAKAGANDA ang programa ng pamahalaang Marcos ukol sa paggamit ng kalikasan, partikular ang hangin, bilang tagalikha ng kuryente.

Kabilang sa mga programa ang pagtatayo ng mga wind mill o wind farm para lumikha ng kuryente at itinatayo sa medyo matagal-tagal nang wind-mill na itinayo sa Ilocos Norte na lalawigan mismo ni Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. noong 2005.

Sa ngayon, mga Bro, may pito nang wind mill na nakakalat sa iba't ibang lugar ng mahal kong Pinas.

Ang nasa mga bayan ng Bangui, Burgos at Carispisan na matatagpuan lahat sa Ilocos Norte, ang nasa Piliila, Rizal, ang San Lorenzo sa Guimaras, ang Puerto Galera sa Mindoro Oriental, ang nasa Nabas sa Aklan.

May itinatayo na ring iba pang wind farm sa Balaoi and Caunayan sa bayan ng Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte habang may itatayo ring Aklan 1 sa lalawigan naman ng Panay.

Pero tinatawag ang mga ito na onshore wind farm.

Yun bang higit na nakatayo sa mga lupa bagama't may mga bahagi na nasa mga karagatan o pampang.

OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Ngayon naman, bukod sa pagpapalaganap ng mga onshore wind farm na nabanggit na natin, magtatayo narin ang pamahalaang Marcos ng mga off-shore wind farm.

Offshore wind farm ang nakatayo sa karagatan dahil sa paniniwalang mas makalilikha ito ng kuryente kaysa onshore windfarm dahil sa pagkakaroon ng higit na suplay ng hangin sa dagat.

May 42 nang aprubadong proyekto rito na makalilikha ng 31 gigawatts.

Bahagi ang mga ito ng sinasabi ng World Bank na may potensyal na 178 gigawatts ang Pinas sa lawak ng mga karagatan nito.

Matatagpuan ang mga ito sa Aparri sa Cagayan; Frontera sa Cavite; dalawa sa Guimaras; at San Miguel sa Camarines Sur at maaaring may itatayo rin sa Mindoro na susundan sa iba't ibang bahagi pa ng bansa.

1BILYON WATT SA 1 GIGAWATT

Sa pamamagitan ng onshore at offshore na planta ng kuryente sa bisa ng mga wind farm o wind mill, ang hindi nasusuplayang mga isla ay magkakaroon na ng mga kuryente.

At madaragdagan din ng kuryente maging ang mga meron na nito at umaasa tayo ng pagmura ng kuryente sa pagdami ng suplay nito.

May 1 bilyong watt sa bawat gigawatt at imadyinin na lang ninyo kung gaano karami ang mailawan ng 31 gigawatts o 31 bilyong watt mula sa off shore na wind mill o farm.

Una, magkakaroon ng malinaw na pag-aaral ang mga bata maging sa gabi hanggang sa maging produktibong mamamayan ang mga ito sa pagiging propesyunal sa edukasyon at propesyon.

Makalilikha rin ng mga negosyo o hanapbuhay ang mga mamamayan dahil may kuryente na sa paggamit ng welding na importante sa paggawa ng mga makina, konstruksyon at iba pa.

Makagagamit na rin nang husto ang mga mamamayan ng mga kompyuter, cellphone, wifi at iba pa na kailangan sa pag-aaral, negosyo, paghanap ng trabaho, palitan ng salapi at marami pang iba.

Magbabago at uunlad ang bansa mula sa mga planta ng kuryenteng ito.

Anomang reklamo o puna, iparating lang sa www.remate.ph o i-text sa 09214303333.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

INQUIRER



TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/2

DATE 01-19-22

A climate emergency for indigenous peoples

At the height of Super typhoon “Karding” (international name: Noru), public gratitude for the Sierra Madre mountain range went viral across social media for keeping it at bay and protecting millions of residents in Metro Manila.

When more than a hundred died from flash floods and landslides with Severe Tropical Storm “Paeng” (Nalgae), 46 dead and four missing from the indigenous Teduray Lambangian communities in Maguindanao, President Marcos Jr. seemed to only just realize then that, in his own words: “*may climate change talaga* (there really is climate change),” prompting him to call for tree planting.

From the Sierra Madre range to the Daguma range of Maguindanao, indigenous communities are in these forest frontlines where the climate crisis hits. Cross-referencing government disaster situation reports with records of issued ancestral domain titles, we estimate at least 136 ancestral domains (ADs) with more than 689,000 indigenous people (IP) were affected by five successive typhoons since the end of September. Clearly, indigenous peoples lend a hand in nurturing these critical landscapes and are at the same time closest to the site of peril.

The recently launched State of Indigenous Peoples Address 2022 report revealed that almost half of all ADs are threatened by environmentally destructive projects such as big mines, logging plantations, fossil fuels, and infrastructure.

ADs and other indigenous territories harbor 75 percent of our country’s last remaining forest cover; protecting ancestral lands is crucial to protecting our carbon sinks and natural defenses against storms and floods. Ancestral lands are often the last

COMMENTARY

E.M. TAQUEBAN

line of defense forests against extractive, destructive projects.

Despite their role in safeguarding our watersheds, IPs have been chronically marginalized and are thus more vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis. In our report, we found that 73 percent of IPs belong to the 40 percent poorest in our population. IPs also face significant gaps in accessing social services such as water, electricity, and food security, among others.

Barely able to eke out enough to fund one planting season, one disaster, be it drought or storm, can wipe out a community’s months of toil. There is a reason such a season is called *tiempo muerte* or the dead season. It used to be that elders in the community could predict when it comes; with global warming, the *tiempo* comes more unpredictably, driving communities to greater precarity.

We should certainly do more than just tree planting.

Current government policies run the risk of exposing IPs to greater hazards. Among these, the national energy plan promotes renewable energy sources, and thermal coal, nuclear, and other dirty or destructive power sources despite pronouncements of going “green.” Both renewable and nonrenewable energy target ancestral domains as their site of operation.

There are no indications of curbing large-scale mining, agro-industrial plantations, and dams, which are often situated in



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A1
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

01-19-22

DATE

TITLE: A CLIMATE EMERGENCY FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PAGE 2/2

ancestral lands and operate without the consent of IPs. Not only are these sites of environmental degradation, but conflicts also often occur in consonant with these projects. It has led to a situation where violence is often not the result of but the state in which an extractive project is made possible.

Meanwhile, the return of public-private partnerships, especially for infrastructure, would once again open indigenous territories to corporate encroachment. In sum, the support for dirty energy and land grabbing does not complement the other pronouncements of the government to combat the climate crisis.

The recent landmark report by the Commission on Human Rights on climate change and human rights recommended the passage of a law seeking accountability from businesses for climate loss and damage. We call on our legislators to urgently act on this so that IPs may find concrete remedies and redress.

Indigenous peoples, who are stewards of Philippine forests and biodiversity, lie in the path of storms and are ill-equipped to bounce back from disasters because of their poverty. They rely on a concerted and comprehensive program that increases their resilience to the climate crisis. The respect and recognition of their rights is an overdue starting point for truly enhancing their, and our, ability to thrive amid upheaval.

E.M. Taqueban is an indigenous rights lawyer and executive director of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center, a legal, policy, and advocacy organization that supports indigenous peoples' access to justice and meaningful participation in policy reform and democratic governance.



DENR launches 'Gawad Taga Ilog' competition

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched the Gawad Taga Ilog, an annual search for the most improved estero (estuary) in Metro Manila.

DENR National Capital Region (NCR) Director Jacqueline Caanacan said the contest, now on its third year, aims to encourage the active participation of the 17 local government units (LGUs) in the NCR in the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay and its tributaries.

"The search aims to recognize the efforts of local governments in Metro Manila in keeping their waterways clean and trash-free as well as their active participation in the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay," Caanacan said.

She said the project was launched in 2020 at the height of

the Covid-19 pandemic in support to the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Caanacan said the participants will be evaluated based on aesthetic improvement, people's participation in the efforts made to keep the waterway clean and trash-free, and the positive impact on the community as a whole.

She said the search will run from November 2022 and the awards date is on March 24, 2023, in time with the celebration of World Water Day.

"All LGUs of Metro Manila are automatically qualified to join," Caanacan added.

The DENR said that from January to June 2022, at least total of 1,325 tons of garbage was collected at the Manila Baywalk area.

BELLA CARIASO



Kaso vs agri-smugglers sana 'di moro-moro



JOEY GALICIA-VENANCIO

Sumbong at Reaksyon...

Phone: 09193297810

Email: venanciojoey@gmail.com

TATLUMPO'T TATLONG (33) importers ng agricultural products ang sinampahan ng reklamo ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) last Thursday, Nobyembre 17.

Dalawampu't dalawa (22) sa mga ito ang sinampahan ng paglabag sa Republic Act. No.10845 (Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016), post ng BOC sa kanilang Facebook account.

Ang 11 customs brokers naman ay sinampahan ng "unlawful importation".

Hinahabol dito ng BoC ang kabuuang dutiable value na P251.61 million at duties, taxes at mga bayarin na nagkakahalaga ng P107.19 million!

Ito'y matapos bombahin ng mga mambabatas partikular ni Senador Imee Marcos, ang "Super Ate" ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos, Jr., ang BoC sa hindi parin nito pag-aksyon laban

sa smugglers ng agricultural products.

Subaybayan natin ang mga isinampang charges na ito ng BoC laban sa smugglers sa Agriculture. Dahil halos mga barkada rin ito ng mga taga-Customs eh. Baka mamaya niyan butas-butis ang mga ebidensiya at ma-dismiss lang dahil sa technicalities. You know!

Nagkasagutan sina Senador Raffy Tulfo at Senadora Cynthia Villar kaugnay ng pag-develop sa subdivision ng mga sakahan, dahilan para wala nang mataniman ang mga magsasaka at nagresulta ng kakapusan ng agricultural products sa Pilipinas.

Ang negosyo ng pamilya ni Sen. Villar ay developer, paggawa ng subdivisions, condominiums at malls.

Giit ni Cynthia, misis ng No. 1 billionaire sa Pilipinas na si dating Senate President Manny Villar at mommy ng baguhang senador na si Mark, naging DWPB Secretary sa panahon ni Duterte, saan patitirahin ang mga tao kung hindi sila gagawa ng subdivision? Hmmm...

Sagot ng palabang dating mamamahayag at bagitong Senador na Tulfo, kapatid ni DSWD Sec. Erwin at batikang kolumnista na si Ramon, maari namang gumawa ng subdivision na hindi sakahan eh. Mismo!

Sinabon ni Sen. Tulfo ang DENR Secretary, Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, tungkol sa mga tiwaling opisyal ng departamento na

panahon pa raw ng dinosaur ay nagpapasasa na sa puwesto. Dapat daw ay isailalim ang mga ito sa lifestyle check!

Partikular na tinumbok ni Tulfo ang mga undersecretary at assistant secretary na aniya'y nakikipagsabwatan sa mga miner sa pagwasak sa kalikasan!

Sabi ni Tulfo, sa tagal na sa puwesto ng mga Usec at Asec na ito ay tila nagkaroon na ng dementia, hindi na nagagawa ng tama ang mga trabaho nila. Aray ko!

"Maybe its about time na ma-assess nyo kung sino-sino 'yang mga Usec na yan na pagkatagal-fagal nang panahon nandyan parin! Siguro it's about time na i-reassess nyo po yung mga posisyon dyan sa DENR," giit ni Tulfo kay Sec. Loyzaga.

Sagot ni Loyzaga, ang DENR ay nagbuo ng team na may prehong vision, integrity at commitment.

Pero hindi kuntento si Tulfo sa sagot na ito ni Loyzaga.

"I don't think so, ma'am, sorry. You can't talk about the integrity of some of the people in your department. I have right now, I'm not gonna mention names, I have with me proof to show you na marami kang tiwaling tauhan dyan sa loob ng DENR," diin ng Senador.

Giit ni Tulfo, dapat magsagawa ng lifestyle check si Loyzaga sa kanyang mga Usec at Asec para malaman kung sino-sino sa mga ito ang tiwali at dapat kasuhan at tanggalin na sa puwesto ang mga animal!

Abangan!



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



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19-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Flood-hit Davao towns need help

State of calamity declared in two of the five affected municipalities in Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental provinces; displaced residents number around 27,000

By **Eldie S. Aguirre**
@InqNational

DIGOS CITY—The adjoining towns of Malalag in Davao del Sur and Sta. Maria in Davao Occidental provinces on Friday found themselves in dire need of help after most of their villages were inundated by massive flooding and landslides on Thursday caused by continuous heavy rains since Wednesday night.

The two towns were placed under a state of calamity by their respective municipal councils on Thursday afternoon, which would allow each town to access their quick response fund to address the effects of flooding at a scale they had not experienced before.

The damage to infrastructure, properties commercial establishments and agriculture was so widespread they would need help to recover, local di-

saster responders said.

Two other towns in Davao Occidental also experienced severe flooding caused by torrential rains that the state weather bureau said was spawned by a low pressure area and the inter-tropical convergence zone.

Death toll

The floods in Sta. Maria and Malalag and the nearby towns of Kiblawan and Sulop in Davao del Sur and Malita in Davao Occidental had left at least three people dead and affected at least 27,000 individuals, according to a report released on Friday by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the Davao region.

Sta. Maria councilors held a special session to approve the calamity declaration while those in Malalag pushed through with their scheduled regular session in order to en-



COLLAPSE A bridge leading to the town center of Malalag, Davao del Sur, collapses on Thursday due to the strong river current amid widespread flooding, in this photo taken on the same day.

act the measure.

The Malalag municipal council noted that of the town's 15 villages, 11 were hit by massive floods, namely Poblacion, Bulacan, Caputian, Ibo, Bolton, Tagansule, Pitu, Bagumbayan,

Baybay, New Baclayan and Kiblagon.

Malalag's town center was among the badly hit areas with the public market and public transport terminal submerged in meter-deep water on Thurs-

day, while a bridge has collapsed, according to the municipal disaster risk reduction management office.

Local authorities noted two fatalities due to the floods, one each from Barangay Ibo and Barangay Pitu.

Affected families

Davao del Sur Gov. Yvonne Roña Cagas visited Malalag on Thursday afternoon to oversee the provision of emergency relief assistance to affected families, some of whom evacuated to safer grounds while others opted to stay in their houses while waiting for the water to recede, the provincial information office said in a social media post.

As of Friday, the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center of the DSWD in the region counted some 6,754 families or about 27,855 individuals affected by the floods and landslides in the

five towns. However, only 479 families or 1,949 persons opted to stay in evacuation centers.

The agency also recorded three deaths and three injuries, 67 houses wrecked and 58 partially damaged.

Although validation of the affected families was still ongoing as of Friday, Sta. Maria town appeared to have the most number, so far, as the DSWD distributed some 5,000 family food packs there. The agency also distributed 1,000 relief packs in Malalag and 550 in Kiblawan. The displaced families from Sulop were staying in evacuation centers at the municipal center, the agency said.

On Friday, the bridge in Barangay Tanwalang of Sulop, which connected Padada and Kiblawan towns, was still impassable as its approach was destroyed by floodwaters, the Kiblawan municipal government said in a social media post. **INQ**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE 10-22

Aid to landslide victims vowed

THE national government is ready to provide relief assistance to families affected by flash floods and landslides in Davao del Sur and Davao Occidental provinces, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Thursday.

Marcos gave the assurance after bad weather caused rivers to overflow in Davao del Sur and Davao Occidental, submerging several towns in floods early Thursday. In a Twitter post, Marcos said concerned government agencies are monitoring the situation in the two provinces.

"We have received reports of flash floods and landslides in Davao Del Sur and Davao Occidental due to heavy rains brought by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone," Marcos said.

"Our concerned agencies have already taken the actions needed to secure the affected individuals," he added.

Marcos noted that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) are currently doing clearing operations.

PNA



First responder OVP brings disaster aid to Pagsanjan

By Jester Manalastas

THE Office of the Vice President-Disaster Operations Center has sent relief assistance to those affected by Typhoon Paeng in Pagsanjan Laguna.

Towns of Pagsanjan and Cabuyao each received 50 sacks of rice, 15 boxes of noodles, and 75 packs of biscuits from OVP-DOC.

The OVP-DOC had its two rounds of relief operations in the province, distributing items to the city of San Pedro on November 1 and the town of Paete and the cities of Biñan and Sta. Rosa, on November 9.

Pagsanjan Mayor Cesar Areza, who received the relief goods, said the OVP was the first to respond to their needs.

Areza also thanked the Vice President for sending the relief assistance which will be given to the affected families in riverside areas.

"Ang priority po ay itong mga tinamaan ng bagyong Paeng at ito po ang mga taong nasa riverside. Yung tulong po namin hindi sapat at kulang na kulang. Kayo lang po talaga ang tumulong una sa amin, wala pong ibang agency kaya po malaking bagay itong tulong na ito. Gagawin po namin kaagad na mapamigay ito para po sa aming mga kababayan na naapektohan ng bagyong Paeng," the mayor said.

Areza added that the town was easily flooded as there are seven river tributaries across Pagsanjan.

Cabuyao Vice Mayor Leif Opiña, on the other hand, said most of the affected families in his city live around Laguna Lake and had to evacuate the night the typhoon hit the city.

"Napakarami po naming inilikas na mga kababayan doon po sa mga barangays na mababa along Laguna Lake," he said.

"Ang challenge ngayon ay meron pa kaming mga areas, especially sa coastal barangays, na mataas pa rin ang tubig hanggang ngayon," Opiña added.

The Vice Mayor, who was with some barangay captains of the city, thanked Vice President for the assistance sent.

"Sa ating pinakamanahal na Bise Presidente Sara Duterte, maraming salamat po sa inyong tulong at suporta para sa ating mga kababayan dito sa Cabuyao, Laguna. Makakaasa po kayo na sa pamamagitan po ng ating tanggapan sa city government, pati po sa ating mga kasamahan dito sa barangay, ay maipaparingit po natin ang tulong sa lahat ng mga kababayang nangangailangan," the mayor said.

The OVP-DOC had also distributed relief assistance to the City of Bacoor in Cavite, Maguindanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, Cotabato City,

Hilongos and Bato in Southern Leyte, Zamboanga City, and the Province of Antique last November 4, and in the Province of Cagayan on November 9.



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

Kailan tayo matututo

NOONG nakaraang linggo, binayo tayo ng 'severe' Tropical Storm "Paeng", kung saan napinsala ang halos lahat ng parte ng bansa dahil sa hagupit at dala nitong malalakas na hangin at pag-ulan.

Kasunod agad nito ay ang sangkaterbang sisihan. Magmula sa mga taga-pagtaya ng panahon o ang weather bureau na PAGASA. Kasama sa nasisisi ay ang National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). At di rin nakaligtas ang mga namumuno sa mga local government units (LGUs).

Ang sa akin ay iisa lang ang dapat na sisihin. Ang pagpapakalat ng impormasyon. Iba ang pagpapakalat ng impormasyon sa pagbabalita ng nangyayari o maaari pang mangyari.

Matagal na nating ginagawa ang pagpapakalat ng impormasyon hinggil sa panahon ng mga delubyo o sakuna. Mapa-bagyo o **mapa-lindol man**, ay halos lahat tayo ay alam na ang mga dapat pinaggagawa.

Ngunit ang mas matagal nang naipakalat na impormasyon/ay ang sanhi ng mga pag-baha. Ano-ano ito?

Una, ang pagputol ng mga punongkahoy. Dekada sitenta hanggang sa ngayon ay ipinakakalat na natin ang impormasyong ito. Nanatili itong impormasyon at walang humadlang sa pamumutol ng mga punongkahoy magmula rin noon. Ang iba ay nagsi-yaman pa nga sa pamumutol ng mga punong-kahoy sa kanilang mga kagubatan at mga kabundukan, at naging mambabatas pa.

Kailan tayo matututo? Kailan natin ihihinto ang pamumutol ng puno? Para makaiwas tayo sa mga pag-baha at pagguho ng



HAGUPIT

Ni Egco

mga lupa.

Ang mga puno ang humihigop ng tubig-baha. Kung wala ang mga puno, patuloy tayong makakaranas ng pagguho ng mga kabundukan. Mayroon pa ba kayong alam na kabundukan na hitik sa mga punong-kahoy?

Mangilan-ngilan na lang siguro. Kung magtatanim naman tayo, gaya ng iba nating kababayan na ginagawa na ito, ang pinakamabilis na pagtubo ng isang punong-kahoy ay umaabot ng walong (8) taon, ang iba nga ay 25 taon pa.

Ibig sabihin nito, ganyan katagal pa tayong magtititiis na marinig na ang iba nating mga kababayan ay pumanaw at nilamon ng baha at pagguho ng lupa.

Ang kailangan natin ay pamahalaan na magpapapatupad ng mahigpitang parusa sa mga lalabag sa mga di lamang ipinakakalat nitong impormasyon, kung di pati sa mga batas na nag-aatas at bawal mamutol ng punongkahoy.

Kapag tama ang pagpapakalat ng impormasyon, pihadong gagawin ng lahat ang nararapat sa anumang delubyong haharapin.



Foundations expand tree planting program

RAMON Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) has partnered with ICTSI Foundation to expand its One to Tree program in Luzon.

The expansion aims to plant 45,000 trees in a 56-hectare area in Balayan, Batangas in the next three years.

"One development pillar of ICTSI Foundation is environmental protection, and we are happy to partner with RAFI, a known and credible foundation with its 20-year tree-growing advocacy," said Filipina Laurena, ICTSI Foundation executive director.

Laurena said people's organizations (POs) such as the Samahan ng mga Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries of Barangay Lucban, Balayan; Calan Farmers Association of Barangay Calan, Balayan; and Samahan ng mga Magsasaka at Kababaihan of Barangay Dao, Tuy, all in Batangas and the Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD) vowed to join the tree planting campaign.

She added over 50 farmer-members of the POs have committed to participate in seedling production, site preparation, planting, monitoring and maintenance activities for native tree growing.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the municipal governments of Balayanto formalize the collaboration, including the provision of capacity-building assistance for the farmer-members

of the POs.

Cacao, rambutan, avocado, coffee, guyabano, pomelo, lanzones and calamansi are some of the native trees to be planted and nurtured at the vacant, rolling and idle agricultural lands in sugarcane farms in the area.

"Over the last 20 years, our approach in RAFI has always been holistic. Aside from taking care of the environment, we make sure that the people who take care of the trees are also being taken care of," RAFI President and Chief Executive Officer Amaya Aboitiz said.

Aboitiz said the One to Tree program aims to increase the country's forest cover, enhance biodiversity and support bio-sequestration to help mitigate the impact of climate change in the Philippines.

Over the last two decades, at least 8.329 million native trees and 1.275 million of mangrove seedlings in 10,410 hectares of land were planted.

In 2021, RAFI planted a total of 641,311 native trees through its partners in the Visayas and Mindanao, Aboitiz said.

Samahan ng Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries President Mario Aplon said that assistance will be given to farmers.

"This is the reason why we readily accepted and grabbed this project opportunity from RAFI and ICTSI Foundation," Aplon said.

BELLA CARIASO