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MISMONG ang pamunuan na ng United Nations ang kumikilala na ang usapin sa tubig ay isang "governance problem" na dapat tutukan ng mga lider ng mga bansa katulad ng Pilipinas. Kaya naman sa kanyang unang State of the Nation Address (SONA), isa sa mga inilatag ni President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos, Jr. ang usapin sa water management ng bansa.

Bagama't sa metro cities ng bansa katulad ng Greater Manila Area ay hindi pa gaa-



REMA TE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

NWRB KULANG SA TAUHAN PERO MANDATO NAGAGAMPANAN PA RIN

nong nararamdaman ang problema sa tubig, may mga panig ng bansa na talagang salat sa mapagkukunan ng malinis na tubig, kaya sakripisyo at

ibayong hirap ang pag-iigib sa malalayong lugar.

Pangunahing mandato ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na pinamumunuan ni Dr. Seville David, Jr. bilang executive director ang ipatupad ang mga probisyon ng Presidential Decree No. 1067 na taong 1976 pa iniak-

da ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Sr.

Sa abot ng makakaya ay ginagampanan naman ng NWRB ang alokasyon at pangangalaga sa water resources ng bansa. Nahihirapan ito dahil mayroon lamang itong higit kumulang 120 tauhan na siyang namamahala sa 12 water regions na may 343 river basins, at may pangkalahat na P129.179 million nitong taong 2022. Hindi sapat sa pagpapatupad ng mga mahahalagang programa nito katulad ng Ground Water Management Plan for Highly Urbanized Water Constraint Areas katulad ng sa Angeles City, Bacolod City, Baguio City, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro City, Cavite, Iloilo, Metro Cebu, Metro Manila,

at Tagbilaran City.

Kaya kinakailangan ang karagdagang mga tauhan ng NWRB para maseguro ang pagkakaroon ng suplay ng tubig sa ating mga grupo. Alam naman natin, isang malaking problema kapag kulang ng mga tauhan, bumabagal ang implementasyon ng mga programa.

Kinakailangan pa naman ang Comprehensive Water Resources Assessment for major river basins lalo pa't ramdam na ramdam na natin ang epekto ng climate change sa bansa, at ang water registry database na mahalagang matapos kaagad para sa pagkakaroon ng mas maayos na water improvement and service.



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Tree-planting activity ng BoC, tugon sa panawagan ni PBBM

TINGNAN NATIN



Ni VIC REYES

HINDI lang mga matitinik na "tax collector" at "smuggler hunter" ang mga taga-Bureau of Customs (BOC) na pinamunuan ni Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz.

Kagaya ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr., Vice President Sara Z. Duterte at Senador Imee Marcos, sila ay mga "environmentalist" din.

Noon ngang nakaraang Nobyembre 26 ay nagsagawa ang mga opisyal at tauhan ni Commissioner Ruiz ng sabayang "tree-planting activity" sa 17 collection districts ng BoC.

Ang mga taga-Central Office, PoM, Port of Batangas, Ninoy Aquino International Airport at MICP ay isinagawa ang tree-planting activity sa isang barangay sa Batangas City.

Ang iba pang collection districts ay nagtanim ng tree seedlings sa kani-kanilang lugar.

May temang "Ikaw, Ako at ang BoC," ang aktibidad ay bilang pagsunod sa utos

ni Pangulong Marcos sa mga opisina ng gobyerno na gawing parte ng kanilang programa ang pagtatanim ng punong kahoy.

Ang pagtatanim ng punong kahoy ay makatutulong ng malaki para mapatibay ang "flood resiliency capability" ng bansa.

Ayon sa mga eksperto, kaya madalas na magkaroon ng landslide at pagbabaha sa bansa ay dahil sa pagkawala ng mga punong kahoy sa marami nating kabundukan.

Kaya gusto ni Pangulong Marcos na tamnan muli ng punong kahoy ang mga nakalibang kabundukan.

Ayon sa report, nagtanim ang mga opisyal at tauhan ni Commissioner Ruiz ng mahigit na 4,500 seedlings ng narra, molave, mahogany at mangrove noong Sabado.

"You plant a tree (not only) for yourself and your children (but) because you want to ensure the survivality of your lineage," sabi ni Commissioner Ruiz sa isang pahayag.

Tama ka diyen, Sir Yogi! Malaki ang magagawa nito para sa mga susunod na henerasyon!

Kagaya ng ibang ports of entry sa buong bansa, lalong pinaigting ng Port of Clark sa Pampanga ang kanilang kampanya laban sa iligal na droga.

Noong ngang italaga ni Pangulong Marcos si Sir Yogi Filemon Ruiz bilang hepe ng Bureau of Customs ay isa sa marching orders

niya sa huli ay patigilin niya ang drug smuggling.

Sa ngayon ay nanggagaling sa labas ng bansa ang bulo ng supply ng illegal drugs sa Pilipinas pagkatapos na ma-dismantle ang mga laboratoryo ng shabu sa bansa.

Kung saan-saan na idinadaan ang mga ipinagbabawal na gamot. Mabuti na lang at nasasakote ng mga taga-BoC ang mga droga na itinatago sa mga kargamento.

Noong Lunes ay ibinigay ng Port of Clark sa Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) ang mga kumpiskadong droga na nagkakahalaga ng mahigit P12.5 milyon.

Ang mga kontrabando, na nakapaloob sa 12 shipments, ay nakumpiska ng mga tauhan ng BoC-Port of Clark mula Marso hanggang Nobyembre 2022.

Nadiskubre ng mga tauhan ni Port of Clark District Collector John Simon ang mga droga, na kinabibilangan ng ecstasy tablets at kush marijuana, sa tulong ng mga x-ray machine.

Pinasalamatan ni Collector Simon ang partner government agencies sa napakalaking tulong nila sa kampanya ng ahensya laban sa pagpasok ng illegal drugs sa bansa.

Naniniwala tayo na mahihirapang makalusot ang mga ipinagbabawal na gamot sa mga port of entry dahil nandiyan ang mga highly-trained BoC personnel, x-ray machine at K-9.

Hindi ba, Commission-

er Yogi Filemon Ruiz?

Habang papalapit ang Pasko at Bagong Taon ay mukhang pataas ng pataas pa rin ang presyo ng maraming commodities, lalo na ang sibuyas, siling labuyo at iba pang gulay.

Mabuti pa ang asukal, bumababa na ang presyo nito sa iba-ibang parte ng bansa.

Kagaya ng inaasahan ng marami, turnas na rin ang presyo ng tinatawag na "noche buena items" tulad ng mga sangkap sa paggawa ng fruit salad ang "fruit cocktail."

Ang inagandang balita naman ay nakabibili ang mga kababayan natin ng murang produkto sa mga Kadiwa store. Ang problema lang, ilan pa lang ang mga Kadiwa store sa bansa.

Inuuna naman kasi ng gobyerno na lagyan ng Kadiwa stores ang mga lugar na kung saan marami talagang mamamayan ang nangangailangan ng tulong ng gobyerno.

Tama lang naman ito dahil talaga namang sayad ang kabayanan ng karamihan nating kababayan bunga pa rin ng epekto ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Salamat at gumagawa ng paraan ang gobyerno para maibsan ang kahirapan ng taumbayan.

(Para sa inyong komento at suhestiyon, tumawag o mag-text sa #0917-8624484 / emailingnatin6@gmail.com. Ilagay lang ang buong pangalan at tirahan.)



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EVERYMAN

Foundation urges planting of more trees

By Thor Cuatro

“PLANT a tree and gain immortality.”

This saying behooves everyone to take heed in the face of the existentialist threat posed by global warming and climate change.

As the country observes Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, the Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MTFI) has urged all stakeholders to support the priority programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to ensure an integrated approach to the problem of climate change.

In a statement, MTFI President and Executive Director Melandrew T. Velasco said mitigating the effects of climate change needs the cooperation of all stakeholders.

He cited that among the government priority programs, MTFI is committed to continue its support to the reforestation program and initiatives to ensure water security and resilience in high water-stressed areas.

“Our goal is to plant more trees and grow them. MTFI’s objective is really to grow trees in critical watersheds and continue the gains of the Annual Million Tree Challenge,” Velasco said.

“We make sure the tree species we plant are compatible with the type of soil,” he said,

adding, “this contributes to the success in reforestation.”

MTFI targets to plant 10 million more trees by 2030.

It has succeeded in planting 5.2 million trees in seven critical watersheds in Angat, Ipo, La Mesa, Umiray, Laguna Lake, Kadiwa and Upper Marikina that supply potable water to Metro Manila and its environs from 2017 to 2021 through the Annual Million Trees Challenge of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

According to Velasco, reforesting the watersheds contributes to water security.

For his part, MTFI Chairman Emeritus Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco said it is “our obligation to care for our environment.

“Trees capture carbon dioxide and intensifying tree-planting means more trees to absorb carbon emission.”

MTFI has partnered with various organizations and the business sector to pursue its reforestation program.

One of its partners is San Miguel Corporation, the country’s leading conglomerate.

Bolstering its climate action initiatives, SMC subsidiary SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. planted over five million new trees and mangroves from 2019 to date, under its multi-year, nationwide

Bolstering its climate action initiatives, SMC subsidiary SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. planted over five million new trees and mangroves from 2019 to date, under its multi-year, nationwide forestation and carbon capture program

forestation and carbon capture program.

The company said it is also expanding the scope of the project to reforest areas around its new Battery Energy Storage System facilities —the first and largest such network in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

SMC President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said as of October 2022, SMCGP’s “Project 747” initiative has yielded a total 5,010,116 upland and mangrove trees, across some 1,500 hectares of land.

The project’s goal is to plant seven million trees on some 4,000 hectares of land, in at least seven provinces.

Thus far, SMCGP has planted in eight: Albay, Bataan, Bulacan, Davao Occidental, Negros Occidental, Pangasinan, Quezon, and Zambales.

SMC Global Power Holdings has partnered with the Dumagats to plant white and red lauan, palosapis, apitong, yakal, guiyo, bignai and narra, among others in the first 16 out of 55

hectares of land identified for reforestation.

SMCGPH aims to plant seven million trees and mangroves on more than 4,000 hectares of land.

Meanwhile, in Angat, Bulacan a total 54,056 trees and mangroves have been planted including those planted by employees of the Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project on 14 hectares at the Angat Dam Watershed.

“The tree-planting activities of SMC contribute greatly to the government’s reforestation campaign. I hope other organizations will follow and do their share in protecting the environment,” Gen. Velasco said.

Last month, DENR gathered over 200 industry and sector leaders to a multi-sectoral forum to strengthen the country’s environmental resilience.

During the event, Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga reaffirmed DENR’s commitment to protect the country’s natural resources.

She cited the need for inclusive and multidisciplinary dialogue to make this possible.

The observance of Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week every November 19-25 is pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1667 issued by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on November 18, 2008.

The Proclamation enjoins all government offices including government-owned and controlled corporations to observe the event through the conduct of relevant activities “in coordination with private sector institutions and in liaison with the UN family of agencies and regional groups” in the country.

This year’s observance of Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week immediately comes after the holding of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Egypt last November 6-18, 2022.

Global warming and climate change have led to catastrophic impact of massive flooding and tsunamis in various parts of the planet and everyone must act now to counter this existentialist threat before it wipes out the entire humankind.

(The writer is a freelance journalist who writes about practically everything under the sun and trees with particular interest in the environment, cars, trade and industry, and farming.)



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Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR & WITHOUT FAVOR

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PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_bob

AN intimate moment between a father and his child is witnessed by the white sands of the Dolomite Beach along Roxas Boulevard.



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NAC gets environment awards

Two subsidiaries of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) were accorded the coveted Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) in the 68th Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) held recently in Baguio City.

NAC recently reported more than P21 billion in gross revenues. NAC's attributable net income reached P6.9 billion from January to September, up from last year's P6.17 billion.

Hinatuan Mining Corporation (HMC) and Taganito Mining Corporation (TMC), both subsidiaries of NAC, are recipients of the prestigious PMIEA this year, a back-to-back win for both.

In addition, the Best Mining Forest Award and the Most Improved Safety Performance under the Safest Mines Award were accorded also to TMC, with operations based in Claver, Surigao del Norte.

It is also a back-to-back win for HMC this year. HMC, with operations based in Tagana-an, also in Surigao del Norte, was the grand slam winner during the 67th ANMSEC last year, sweeping all major honors from the country's most prestigious award-giving body in the mining industry.

Two more NAC subsidiaries were honored - Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC), with operations in Dinagat Islands, a Platinum Achievement Awardee for Surface Mining Operation Category; and Rio Tuba Nickel (RTN) in Palawan, the two-time ASEAN Awardee for Best Mining, was a Platinum Awardee for its nickel operations and Titanium Awardee for its limestone project.



Nuclear plant proposal draws mixed reaction among senators

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

MAJORITY leader Joel Villanueva on Wednesday said he is open to discussions on the plan of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) and the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos to secure potential deals with South Korea, France, and the United States for the construction of nuclear power plants in the Philippines.

However, Villanueva said he has reservations about this idea.

"We are all aware that nuclear power plants contain radioactive material that is extremely harmful to humans and the

environment," he said.

"We also need to conduct a thorough evaluation of potential sites for the power plant and waste storage," he added.

"Can this technology be efficiently utilized in an archipelagic country such as the Philippines?" he inquired.

Pointing out that nuclear power plants would cost billions of dollars, he questioned how the Philippines can afford such projects.

Assuming that the project would be cost efficient, he asked how long it would take to get a return on investment.

On this note, Villanueva said he

is more open to exploring the use of modular types of nuclear plants for the country.

Using small modular reactors, he noted, could prove to be an affordable option and manageable in size and scale for the country.

"We have seen these in other countries but we wanted to study further."

Minority leader Aquilino Pimentel III said generation of electricity through nuclear technology must be authorized first by law.

He said the legal framework must first be approved. Then the regulatory body must be put up to approve the project

before even a square inch of construction is started.

"There must also be a law on how the nuclear waste is managed. In short, the decision to adopt nuclear power generation is not for the executive branch alone to decide. Congress must be involved in formulating this policy," Pimentel said.

"And then under the Local Government Code written by my father the late Senate President Nene Pimentel, the LGUs and their people should also now be consulted especially if their area is a chosen or potential site of the nuclear power plants," he added.



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BREAKTHROUGH

ELFREN S. CRUZ

Big emitters refuse to pay

The UN Climate Summit that ended last weekend left many critical issues unresolved. Many of the vital issues that were supposed to be addressed were not in the final communiqué. In fact, the biggest challenges to the climate crisis which were thoroughly discussed during the summit were not in the final agreement.



The majority of countries attending the summit, for example, refused to promise to stop burning fossil fuel. Instead, they simply repeated other pledges in other climate summits to "face down unabated coal" and to get rid of "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies." All these pledges were vague enough to allow the wealthy countries to arrive at different interpretations.

Cutting emissions, adapting to a warmer climate and paying for climate cost damage are all linked. In fact, it has been observed that faster decarbonization means a lower bill for adaptation and less spending on rebuilding after disasters. But this is a lesson that the majority of delegates at the climate summit could not seem to agree on how to do these three major tasks simultaneously.

Alok Sharma, who presided over last year's climate summit in Glasgow, said that more should have been done. He declared: "Emissions peaking before 2025... not in this text. Clear follow-through on the phase-down of coal... not in this text. A clear commitment to phase out all fossil fuels... not in this text."

The only minor success of the summit was an agreement to "loss and damage fund." The idea of this is that rich countries should pay the poorer countries to help them deal with climate-related disasters such as floods, rising sea levels and desertification. This concept of loss and damage was actually conceived in 1991 when a small island in the Pacific - Vanuatu - suggested an insurance scheme to pay for the consequences of rising sea level. The justification is that the industrial countries are the biggest emitters of greenhouse gas.

For 30 years, the Vanuatu proposal was rebuffed by major industrial countries who were wary of any suggestion for financial liability for climate change. The biggest emitter which is China and the second biggest emitter, the United States, both refused to cooperate. However, in this last summit, the poorer countries were finally able to convince the European governments to pledge an amount that would set up a climate fund under the auspices of the United Nations. The details of this fund were not agreed upon, but will be agreed upon in the next summit in November next year.

The amount pledged for the fund was \$262 million with the bulk coming from Germany. This is a tiny amount compared to the actual need for addressing the problem of climate disasters. For example, early this year, heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan caused more than \$30 billion of damage and financial losses. This is nearly 9 percent of Pakistan's GDP. While the cause of the floods was attributed to La Niña, the heavy rains were made heavier by the effects of greenhouse gases.

The climate summit in its final memorandum created a fund. The problem is that aside from the \$262 million in pledges, it is not clear how much more money will end up in the fund. Historically, industrialized nations, especially China, have refused to pay for their sins of emitting greenhouse gases. For example, in the 2009 climate summit in Copenhagen, there was a promise by industrialized countries to raise \$200 billion a year to help poor countries tackle climate change by building flood control infrastructure, renewable energy sources and other similar projects. Even if a "loss and damage" fund is set up, there will still be plenty of arguments about how much each industrialized country will pay.

Two of the largest emitters - China and Russia - have refused any participation in this or any similar funds.

There are proposals to estimate a country's historic emissions and the amount of global warming they have caused.

There is likely to be disagreements also on which countries should benefit from the fund. One radical idea that was proposed during the Egypt summit is that the world's various development funds like the IMF and World Bank should engage in riskier lending



'Doomism' as climate truth

CREDIT for inspiring today's train of thought must be given to environmental writer T.J. Brearton, who held forth on the topic of communicating climate science and action in a long (almost 3,000 words) essay published on Medium a few days ago. As I am rather possessive about the small space I have been graciously granted here, I will spare the reader from a copy-pasted rehash of Brearton's article; besides, I don't completely agree with him, though he makes a number of compelling points.

The basic assertion is this: Public understanding of climate change is handicapped — crippled, would be the word I might use — by faulty communication from the media, which is a consequence of the "news" component of the media business being regarded as a profit-generating activity that has to compete with a vast and mostly free online information ecosystem. Thus, news content is modified for marketability, that is, biased to appeal to a particular audience who will pay for it, either directly, or indirectly through the advertising it can attract. Therefore, because public perception and sentiment is a driver of policy, climate change policy is also compromised, and this results in ineffective or inadequate action to mitigate or adapt to climate change. Although Brearton doesn't bring it up, the disappointing results of the recent COP27 climate summit are a good example. The only sub-



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stantial outcome of the summit was an agreement in principle to create a fund that would be used to compensate at-risk countries for climate-related damage and losses, but all the important details — who would pay into the fund, how much should be contributed, and how it would be administered — were left out, to be sorted by an as-yet unformed working group that will supposedly present its recommendations at the next summit.

That much of Brearton's thesis I agree with; I also agree with his suggestion that "doomism" is the proper perspective from which to approach climate change, but he subsequently blows it by arguing that it should inspire a more rational optimism. He also dismisses the destructive impact of climate denialism and the manipulative false or misleading "news" that intentional choice to stupefy the public — which is, as explained above, driven by the fact that there is indeed a market of consumers who actually wish to be stupefied — has on the overall effort to communicate and manage climate change. It is not just a conflict between "center and left," as Brearton puts it — those who are more optimistic or pessimistic about our chances to survive climate change — but

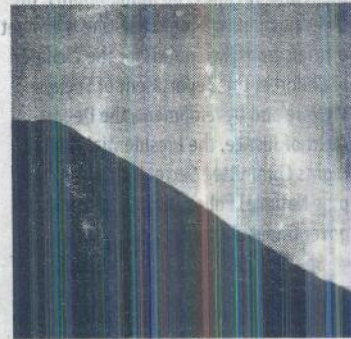


PHOTO BY BEN KRITZ

also a conflict between the self-indulgent, xenophobic, change-fearing "right" and everyone else. "Doomism" is a point of view that holds that we humans will not be able to stop or reverse the progressive damage we have done to Earth's environment, and that we will suffer profound changes to life as we know, perhaps even up to our own extinction. Efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts are still vital to easing the severity of our inevitable decline, but decline we will. The exhortations that "there is still time" to halt the deterioration of the climate at some arbitrary marker such as the "1.5 C" global warming limit are either naïve or a pretense.

Most climate activists despise this point of view as defeatism, and argue that unless there is some positive result to aspire to, no one will bother to put forth any effort to save the climate. To doomists like me, this is a mildly offensive judgment coming from a perspective that promises an unrealistic future, one in which the changes everyone will experience will be largely cosmetic — maybe you'll

drive an electric car instead of a gas-fueled one, be more conscientious about recycling, and become accustomed to eating more plant-based and engineered food.

Going back to how information relates to all this, Brearton implies that if climate change news was reported completely honestly, without marketing bias, then it would in fact be a story of doomism. That is probably correct, but as I said earlier, Brearton cannot seem to escape the trap of optimism. It requires a lot of faith in humanity to believe that "knowing the real score" on the climate will inspire people to come together in appreciation of the fragility of our remarkable existence, and demand the fundamental changes that are needed to save our world.

Brearton recognizes that those changes are not merely environmental factors such as reducing emissions and eliminating land and water pollution, but changes to our economic systems, and our core assumptions that populations and wealth can and will constantly expand. He believes that those changes are actually possible to make, and would be made if only people were pushed in the right direction by the news they are exposed to. That is a nice sentiment, but take a look at the people around you — your online neighborhood, your community, your nation, perhaps even your own family — and ask yourself if that's at all rational.

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How film and TV can help the climate change battle

PARIS, France (AFP) - films and TV have immense power to shift attitudes on political issues, yet they remain little-used in debates over climate change.

Analyzing a database of 37,453 film and TV scripts from 2016 to 2020, researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) found that just 1,046 — 2.8 percent — included any keywords related to climate, and only 0.6 percent mentioned "climate change" specifically.

A similar British study by Albert, a sustainability NGO, found that "cake" was mentioned 10 times more than "climate change" in TV subtitles in 2020.

"The vast majority of films and shows we watch exist in a different reality, where climate change does not exist. This allows viewers to live in a fantasy," said Anna Jane Joyner, founder of Good Energy, a consultancy that helps scriptwriters address the issue.

Scriptwriters have been keen to address climate change, Joyner said, but felt others would not be interested, or that they would be branded as hypocrites.

"Many writers feel guilty about their own lifestyle — that unless you're a perfect climate citizen, you can't authentically write about it," said Joyner. "But we need less shaming."

It helps that public concern is rising.

The number of Americans viewing climate change as a major threat jumped from 37 to 55 percent between 2017 and 2021, despite right-wing denials.

In Britain, it jumped from 37 to 65 percent.

Para-social relationships

TV has helped shift political attitudes over the years, especially around race and sexuality, from the first inter-racial kiss on "Star Trek" in the 1960s to the gay stars of 1990s sitcoms "Ellen" and "Will and Grace."

The latter was even cited by then vice-president Joe Biden in his

decision to support marriage equality in the United States in 2012.

"People tend to view entertainment as frivolous... and writers who care about climate change might think that audiences will not be receptive," said Erica Rosenthal of USC. "But that is false."

Her work has shown how viewers form "para-social relationships" with characters on-screen, exposing them to new ideas and people.

"Even if climate change only

Analyzing a database of 37,453 film and TV scripts from 2016 to 2020, researchers found that 1,046 — 2.8 percent — included any keywords related to climate, and only 0.6 percent mentioned 'climate change.'

comes up in passing in a show that we love, it subconsciously validates that this concern is normal," said Joyner.

"You need that sense of connection before you get to a place of agency."

However, some mentions are more useful than others, she added.

Two common tropes are the apocalypse — which is demoralizing — and characters that badger others about their SUV or plastic straws. "Nobody likes a scold," said Joyner.

Simple gestures can help —



HEAVIER RAINFALL has caused more — and deeper — floods in many parts of the world due to climate change. In photo, rescuers give stranded residents a ride out of the flooded area during Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020. (Manila Bulletin file photo)

characters expressing concern about the climate, using public transport or minimizing food waste.

"We see plenty of stories on extreme weather but they are rarely, if ever, linked to climate change... That would be easy," added Rosenthal.

Conquering nature

Hollywood has long explored humanity's relationship with nature, dating back to the grand vistas of early Westerns.

"Initially, Westerns were about conquering the land, but very quickly we see that domesticating nature should not mean destroying it," said Veronique Le Bris, who compiled "100 Great Films for the Planet" in France.

Horror over nuclear weapons spurred change after World War II, she added.

As early as 1958, celebrated director Nicholas Ray made "Wind Across the Everglades" about animal conservation.

There have been many examples since, from "Erin Brokovich" to "Wall-E" to "Don't Look Up."

But the current focus on global climate change is tricky for filmmakers, Le Bris said, perhaps because we are all complicit at some level.

"The LGBT debate was fairly neat. Either you're tolerant or not," she said. "But nobody is perfect when it comes to climate."



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Marcos expected to sign 2023 budget before Dec. 15

By HELEN FLORES

President Marcos is expected to sign into law the proposed P5.26-trillion national budget for 2023 before Dec. 15, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian said yesterday.

The bicameral conference committee – composed of representatives from the Senate and the House of Representatives – is eyeing to come up with a reconciled version of the national spending plan as it wraps up its deliberation on the 2023 General Appropriations Bill on Monday.

“The bicam will end by Dec. 5. The target date of signing by the President is before Dec. 15, hopefully. But I’m sure before New Year, this will be signed and we will have a new budget,” Gatchalian said on the sidelines of the commemoration of the 159th birth anniversary of

Andres Bonifacio in Caloocan City.

Gatchalian chairs the Senate committee on finance sub-committee E.

Think-tank Infrawatch PH earlier urged lawmakers to trim “a huge amount of fat” hidden within the proposed P5.26-trillion budget for 2023 in the form of confidential and intelligence funds (CIFs).

“What we are saying is that there is still such a great amount of fat that needs to be trimmed, particularly in the confidential and intelligence funds,” Infrawatch convenor and former Kabataan party-list congressman Terry Ridon said in a recent interview with “The Chiefs” aired on Cignal TV’s *One News*.

Opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel III and Risa Hontiveros have raised concern over the P9.3-billion CIFs for various agencies that have nothing to do with intelligence, information or data gather-

ing activities.

Marcos is proposing a P4.5-billion CIF for his office next year, while Vice President Sara Duterte is seeking a P500-million CIF under her office’s P2.3-billion proposed allocation.

The Senate realigned P152 million worth of CIFs to various agencies when it passed the proposed 2023 national budget on third and final reading last week.

Committee senior vice chair and Marikina Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo has expressed belief that the House and the Senate will find common ground, as they will be guided by Marcos’ eight-point socioeconomic agenda.

The proposed P5.26-trillion 2023 national budget is 4.9 percent higher than this year’s budget, according to the Department of Budget and Management.

– With Lawrence Agcaoili