



**Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman  
Climate Change Commission**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**5<sup>TH</sup> NPTE Forum:  
Renewable Energy and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation for  
Sustainable Development  
24 July 2018  
Ateneo de Davao University  
Davao City**

Commissioner Rachel Herrera; Rev. Fr. Daniel Joseph McNamara; honorable guests and delegates from various local government units and civil society groups; representatives of national and regional agencies; members of our National Panel of Technical Experts; students; ladies and gentlemen: Maayong hapon sa inyong tanan.

As we conclude the 5<sup>th</sup> National Panel of Technical Experts Forum here in Davao City, allow me to thank, first and foremost our partner and host, the Ateneo de Davao University, particularly its University President, Fr. Joel Tabora, SJ, my indefatigable mentor and professor, and Fr. McNamara.

I wish to thank also our esteemed scientists who have graced our Forum, Drs. Rosa Perez, Glenn Paraso, and Mr. Leandro Buendia, who have always been at the forefront of informing our constituents with their sterling talent that empowers our nation through informed citizenry. They prove, time and again, that science, to be meaningful, needs to be translated to public policy that engages people to participate in national development.

To all the participants, yours is an opportunity to optimize the lessons shared by our distinguished guests-scientists.

The Climate Change Commission, in this regard, is truly honored, to bring science closer to the people, with the end-goal of multiplying informed public servants, partners from the higher academic institutions, and civil society organizations, to help our country accelerate our climate action towards green growth and sustainable development.

Our Forum today focused on renewable energy, which is a crucial component of our pursuit of low-carbon development. Do we need to pursue it? Can we do it? Can we afford it? These are some questions asked about renewable energy.

In this regard, let me share with you the call on renewable energy by the author of the Climate Change Act and one of the authors of the Renewable Energy

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Act of the Philippines, Senator Loren Legarda, during the Convergence for 100% Renewable Energy Philippines organized by the People Power Coalition last July 18.

She renewed her call to scale up green initiatives and investments in renewable energy as part of a long-term solution to the growing power needs of the country and to mitigate the effects of environmental degradation and climate change.

She particularly asked our policy implementors to observe closely enough the examples of other countries such as Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, China, Brazil, India, among others, to begin to appreciate the rise of renewables in many countries around the world – not as symbolical gestures of support to climate action – but because it is what we need today, not just from a social and ecological standpoint, but also from an economic and sustainable policy development perspective.

While it is noted that the Philippines has already established a legal policy framework and mechanisms for the development of the country's renewable energy resources, there is still much to be done in terms of implementation. Succinctly put, it is not enough to have the laws hailed as among the best in the world. They need to be effectively implemented to set in place affordable, efficient, accessible and clean energy for all.

Senator Legarda also pointed out that ten years after the adoption of the RE Law, the country unfortunately continues to heavily depend on coal-fired power and imported coal. To this she postulated that we cannot claim energy independence for as long as we rely on imported fuel. Unless we are willing to embrace the reality that RE is a global phenomenon that is beginning to replace coal and fossil fuels as a cheaper fuel source, our energy policies will continue to waver, reflecting the lack of political commitment that will consequently drive investors away.

It was reported by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), that with the deceleration of the cost of renewables, all renewable energy technologies should be competitive on price with fossil fuels by 2020. The report cited that the cost of generating power from onshore wind has fallen by around 23% since 2010, while the cost of solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity has fallen by 73%. Other estimates even indicated that solar-powered electricity costs have declined by 90%, while the cost of wind-powered generation has fallen 50% since 2009.<sup>[1]</sup>

Given this, the RE system is a combination of technical, economic, social, and political factors, to put forward the appropriate national action that will not just allow us to meet our nationally determined contributions in terms of reduced carbon emission. This will also ensure that the energy infrastructures are sustainable and that it is able to service and benefit at the household level.

Given these imperatives, the Climate Change Commission, with our beloved President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as Chairperson, is pursuing strategic initiatives to pave the way for low-carbon economy.

Anchored on the Commission's mandate to update the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) as operational strategy to propel the thrust of Republic

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Act of 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended by RA 10174, we affirm that climate change is a development issue that demands the rethinking of paradigms and redefining of our approaches to sustainable development.

Along the same vein, in pursuit of our commitment to the Paris Agreement, and in ensuring a just transition to a low-carbon economy, we are currently finalizing our NDC which we intend to submit to the UNFCCC before the year ends.

Since the Commission issued CCC Resolution 2016-001, entitled “Development of a Clear Policy on Coal-Fired Power Plants in Pursuit of a Low Carbon Development Pathway for the Philippines”, we have commenced a series of activities including inter-agency consultations, sectoral dialogues, roundtable and focus group discussions (FGDs). And this we accomplish through strategic convergence with the DoE, NEDA, DENR, and other key stakeholders and relevant institutions.

For instance, our partnership with the National Economic and Development Authority allows us to align our climate change action with the PDP 2017-2020. With the DENR, the conduct of GHG emission inventory identification for all thermal power plants as part of the process of Environmental Impact Assessment is being undertaken. With the DOE, the transitioning to a more sustainable pathway for energy is pursued through the following projects: issuance of renewable portfolio standards for on-grid; public consultations on the green energy option and the renewable energy market; campaigns such as E-Power Mo, and advocacies with other agencies on the energy management program to push for vital legislations, among others.

The Policy Framework on Energy is now being drafted, for approval of the Commission, and will be transmitted to the Houses of Congress of the Philippines, the Office of the President, and the DOE, DENR, DOST and NEDA, among other agencies, for appropriate policy legislation/authority.

At this point, to make this Forum even more significant for Mindanaoans, the CCC commends the Mindanao Development Authority for pursuing RE in the whole region with a projected 40% share in Mindanao by 2030. This is a significant stride of national importance, which demonstrates the commitment and leadership of Mindanaoan leaders which are worth emulating in our national pursuit for clean energy for all.

In closing, allow me to reiterate the position of the Philippines in pursuit of the 1.5 °C Paris Agreement Goal, which we must all together work for.

The Philippines supports ambitious and aggressive ratcheting of commitments and actions of countries in their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

Our country, although an insignificant emitter with respect to global emissions, would be able to avoid nonetheless future carbon emissions by pursuing low carbon development pathways with climate change adaptation and resilience building actions. These climate actions constitute the country's NDC which aims to reduce

and avoid future carbon emissions by as much as 70% from business as usual level with the support of developed countries in adherence to climate justice.

Recent studies show that economic growth does not necessarily entail carbon emissions. Growth and emissions are now considered 'de-coupled.' In fact, pursuing low carbon development for a green economy offers greater socio-economic benefits and more decent jobs many times greater than keeping the failed and failing carbon-intensive and increasingly unreliable and expensive business-as-usual pathways. Humanity's future is safer, more secure and sustainable with low carbon development. For example, California's economy has grown while emissions have dropped. GDP increased by 26% as GHG emission decreased by 13% during the period from 2004 to 2016.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me assure you that the CCC is committed to work in convergence with other government agencies in transforming our energy sector with an increasing share of RE in the years to come. This is our commitment to bring about a cleaner, greener, healthier and more resilient future for the Filipino people.

To all stakeholders in this forum, I would like to say, please join us in fulfilling this commitment for our nation.

Daghang Salamat po. Mabuhay!