

**Commissioner Rachel S. Herrera
Climate Change Commission**

CLOSING REMARKS

**Local Conference of the Youth
August 25, 2018 | Tacloban City**

A very pleasant afternoon to all of you here today. To Commissioner Paul Pangilinan and the National Youth Commission (NYC),

Plan International, represented by Reuel Maga,

Rodne Galicha, who is a constant inspiration in spreading the truth about climate change, not only the whys but the hows of facing its impacts,

Ms Maria Magnolia Danganan of DENR Youth Desk,

thank you for keeping us in the Climate Change Commission always involved in your efforts to empower the youth;

To YesPinoy Foundation, for being a reliable partner of our government to advocate for the rights of our youth;

To our resources speakers; our partners in the academe, private sector, civil society, and development sector; and of course, our students and the youth, who are all here today, good afternoon.

Maupay nga kulop. Maayong hapon.

The youth are the very reason we are here today.

I see that this conference had already been a productive exercise not only in deepening our knowledge on the new challenges our country faces in light of climate change, but also in identifying ways on how the youth could be truly involved in leading the efforts to address its impacts.

I wish to share a brief message as well, on behalf of the Climate Change Commission, and further contextualize the importance of the youth's perspective in our pursuit of climate resilience for our country.

As the national government agency tasked to review and recommend policies related to climate change, we in the CCC are able to effectively carry out this mandate by coordinating with stakeholders, especially on the ground. We intend to mainstream climate action in our local planning and development processes. And we do this by forging partnerships across all sectors as we provide technical assistance, enhance capacities, and produce policies and programs that truly aspire to address the climate impacts in our communities.

We envision the #NowPH Movement to be a platform for young leaders to scale-up climate action because we recognize that the

burning passion for nation-building inherent among our youth can help us, and inspire many more others, to advance our climate advocacy and agenda.

We cannot anymore deny the fact that climate change is the biggest threat to our humanity today. It has claimed too many lives and disrupted our economy and daily lives for far too long. And as we remain a country highly vulnerable to its impacts, we need to brace ourselves a little longer, while we continue advocating for resilience-building and carbon-reduction efforts among all nations.

Now more than ever, we need your active involvement. The challenge for our youth today is to call for effective government interventions and private sector initiatives, as well as to help sustain these efforts in order for us to achieve genuine and lasting climate resilience.

While we trust in our Filipino spirit and positive attitude to endure disasters and extreme weather events that come our way, we need actual climate-resilience efforts and effective systems in place in order to safeguard our resources, livelihoods, and loved ones. We cannot rely on our resilient spirit alone. We need to demand more for our youth because you are the future of humanity, and you all deserve nothing less.

I hope that this conference has further inspired you to act and contribute in any way that you can. May you continue reaching out to your national and local officials, to your family and friends, and to your schools and community, and raising their awareness on the importance of protecting our environment and adopting a climate-smart lifestyle.

Rest assured that we in the CCC will continue advocating for the rights of the youth in the context of climate change. Your discussions in this conference, such as the youth-led creative climate interventions, the revisiting of 15 ways to low-emission development strategies (LEDS), and your input to the upcoming international climate negotiations, will certainly help us in our work in the CCC.

As we hold this conference in Tacloban City, the ground zero where Super typhoon Yolanda wrought havoc in 2013, may we also reflect on our understanding on what resilience should really mean for our people and our country. I hope we all could count on each other to pursue and attain climate resilience for our country—the kind that is not only fueled by our Filipino spirit, but also fortified by institutionalized mechanisms in place.

Thank you very much.

