



NEWS ROUNDUP

24 FEBRUARY 2026 | 08:00 am

- Unheard Voices of Climate Action
- Climate change real, plans must adapt: Advisor
- CONVERSATIONS: Bridging Knowledge Divides: Learning from the Frontlines of Climate Action
- Supreme Court agrees to hear from oil and gas companies trying to block climate change lawsuits
- Supreme Court to take Exxon case on cities suing over climate change

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC, MMDA partner to boost climate resilience in Metro Manila
- CCC, MMDA to align climate resilience and low-carbon development programs

ATENEO DE MANILA

Unheard Voices of Climate Action

By: Joselito and Olivia Campos

In popular imagery, grassroots communities are often represented as silent, powerless, and helpless victims of the global climate crisis needing urgent help and expert intervention. Veiled from broader public discourse are the long-standing community knowledge and action in pushing the tide of climate impacts, as they disproportionately bear the devastating effects of climate change.

DAILY EXCELSIOR

Climate change real, plans must adapt: Advisor

By: Daily Excelsior

Srinagar, Feb 23: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani today said climate change is now a reality and planning for major sporting events must adapt accordingly.

“Climate change is a reality, and we must also change our plans,” he said, stressing the need to factor in unpredictable snowfall while organising winter events.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the Gulmarg leg of the Khelo India Winter Games–2026, the Advisor said hosting the event multiple times in Gulmarg reflects its growing stature as a premier winter sports destination.

MINDA NEWS

CONVERSATIONS: Bridging Knowledge Divides: Learning from the Frontlines of Climate Action

By: Jose Jowel Canuday

(Dr. Jowel Canuday delivered this piece during the “Unheard Voices of Climate Action Conversation” on 20 February 2026 at the Arete, Ateneo de Manila University. The forum was organized by ADMU’s Tagpuan Center for Dialogue, Research, and Collaboration, and MindaNews. MindaNews presented documentaries on climate action efforts of communities from the highlands of Upi in Maguindanao del Norte and Gumitan in Davao City, to the islands of Siargao in Surigao del Norte and Taganak in Tawi-Tawi).

Perhaps I should start by introducing Tagpuan Ateneo, one of the convening institutions of the conversation on Climate Action today. Tagpuan is the Center for Dialogue, Research, and Collaboration of the Ateneo de Manila University. It is a three-year old center tasked by the University Board of Trustees to think and work out ways of raising collective capacities in bridging sharp societal divisions through scholarship and practical work.

MOOSEJAW TODAY

Supreme Court agrees to hear from oil and gas companies trying to block climate change lawsuits

By: Lindsay Whitehurst

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Monday that it will hear from oil and gas companies trying to block lawsuits seeking to hold the industry liable for billions of dollars in damage linked to climate change.

The conservative-majority court agreed to take up a case from Boulder, Colorado, one of multiple lawsuits alleging the companies deceived the public about how fossil fuels contribute to climate change.

USA TODAY

Supreme Court to take Exxon case on cities suing over climate change

By: Maureen Groppe

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court will take up an effort by local governments to go after big oil and gas companies like Exxon Mobil and Suncor for harms caused by climate change, a question that has been debated in state courts across the country for years.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

CCC, MMDA to align climate resilience and low-carbon development programs

By: CCC

PASIG CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to discuss priority areas for convergence of climate actions and identify opportunities to align MMDA programs with the country's key climate policies and frameworks.

The exploratory meeting highlighted the critical role of the two agencies in managing metro-wide climate-sensitive urban systems in the National Capital Region (NCR), one of the country's most densely populated and climate-vulnerable areas.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CCC, MMDA partner to boost climate resilience in Metro Manila

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) have agreed to align Metro Manila's urban programs with the country's key climate policies and identify areas for coordinated action to boost the capital region's climate resilience.

In a news release on Monday, the CCC said it recognizes MMDA's central role in managing drainage systems, flood control facilities, transport networks, solid waste operations, and disaster response mechanisms that are increasingly affected by climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ATENEO DE MANILA

[Unheard Voices of Climate Action](#)

By: Joselito and Olivia Campos

In popular imagery, grassroots communities are often represented as silent, powerless, and helpless victims of the global climate crisis needing urgent help and expert intervention. Veiled from broader public discourse are the long-standing community knowledge and action in pushing the tide of climate impacts, as they disproportionately bear the devastating effects of climate change.

The Tagpuan Ateneo Center for Dialogue, Research, and Collaboration, the Arete, and the Arete Sandbox Programs have teamed up with MindaNews in bringing these underrepresented voices into wider multi-platform public conversation.

MindaNews, a digital news organization based in Mindanao, produced a series of multi-media production, including photographs and short documentaries of indigenous and fisherfolk climate actions from the highlands and uplands, often underrepresented in the climate discourse.

Through Unheard Voices of Climate Action, Tagpuan fosters multi-sectoral, transdisciplinary dialogue on climate action by centering indigenous knowledge and local practices in Mindanao, and bringing them into conversation with science, policy, technology, and creative practice to advance inclusive and collaborative climate solutions.

DAILY EXCELSIOR

[Climate change real, plans must adapt: Advisor](#)

By: Daily Excelsior

Srinagar, Feb 23: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani today said climate change is now a reality and planning for major sporting events must adapt accordingly.

“Climate change is a reality, and we must also change our plans,” he said, stressing the need to factor in unpredictable snowfall while organising winter events.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the Gulmarg leg of the Khelo India Winter Games–2026, the Advisor said hosting the event multiple times in Gulmarg reflects its growing stature as a premier winter sports destination.

“It is not a small thing to host this mega event repeatedly at one place. What is heartening is that Gulmarg is fast emerging as the winter games capital,” he said.

Referring to changing weather patterns, he noted that snowfall has become unpredictable.

“Snow has become uncertain. We must ensure facilities like snow-making machines so that events are not delayed,” he said.

He pointed out that there is little difference in weather conditions between Srinagar and Gulmarg now, underlining the urgency of revising planning strategies in view of shifting climatic trends.

The Advisor added that efforts are underway to upgrade tourism and sports infrastructure to position Gulmarg as a hub for national and international winter sporting events.

He said the Chief Minister is making sustained efforts to improve facilities in the area.

Highlighting recent developments, he said the gondola and the drag lift at Kangdori are being upgraded to benefit skiers.

“These facilities will help athletes, but they need further upgradation to make Gulmarg a major national attraction,” he said.

He also underlined the Government’s commitment to promoting sports across disciplines. A marathon scheduled for March, he said, is shaping up to be a national-level event with expected foreign participation.

Emphasising grassroots development, he called for strengthening district-level sports infrastructure to identify and nurture talent.

“We have to support every sport and ensure that talent at the district level is provided with adequate facilities,” he added.

MINDA NEWS

CONVERSATIONS: Bridging Knowledge Divides: Learning from the Frontlines of Climate Action

By: Jose Jowel Canuday

(Dr. Jowel Canuday delivered this piece during the “Unheard Voices of Climate Action Conversation” on 20 February 2026 at the Arete, Ateneo de Manila University. The forum was organized by ADMU’s Tagpuan Center for Dialogue, Research, and Collaboration, and MindaNews. MindaNews presented documentaries on climate action efforts of communities from the highlands of Upi in Maguindanao del Norte and Gumitan in Davao City, to the islands of Siargao in Surigao del Norte and Taganak in Tawi-Tawi).

Perhaps I should start by introducing Tagpuan Ateneo, one of the convening institutions of the conversation on Climate Action today. Tagpuan is the Center for Dialogue, Research, and Collaboration of the Ateneo de Manila University. It is a three-year old center tasked by the University Board of Trustees to think and work out ways of raising collective capacities in bridging sharp societal divisions through scholarship and practical work.

Our hope is to convene critically important conversations to find common ground and pursue shared solutions through common action. With dialogue and collaboration as cornerstone of action and framework of communication, Tagpuan Ateneo seeks to facilitate engagements with potential to general real-world impact on the most divisive and urgent challenges to the country and democracy. Tagpuan views dialogue and collaboration as a learning process, where we find opportunities to co-create with partners nuanced interventions to bridging societal and cultural divides.

In its early formation, Tagpuan collaborated with a civil society group called No Box Philippines in convening law enforcers, government, non-government, and international institutions to discuss in an interactive sight and sound setting the circumstances of people whose everyday life is touched by drugs.

A Tagpuan Fellowships program gathered fellows and partners in an action research that help facilitate open, brave, and discerning discussion and dialogue-based arts exhibits on the LGBTQIA situation within and among church workers, church volunteers, and the clergy in a Metro Manila parish in the spirit of synodality.

In 2025, Tagpuan helped convene a multi-sector policy reform conversation among senior officers of the ministries of education, social services, health, Indigenous Peoples, and civil society groups in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to help address deepening crisis in Early Childhood Care and Development. The exercise partly informed a policy reform paper, which Tagpuan produced with The Asia Foundation for the Second Congressional Council on Education of the Philippine Congress.

Two weeks ago, starting from this very room, Tagpuan Ateneo organized a bridging conversation among local government and BARMM ministries officers to address the governance gap and structural issues on early childhood care utilizing the power of arts and play.

Today, we are collaborating with MindaNews, the online news organization based in Davao City, a digital interactive discussion and exhibition about what we consider as a deep chasm in our society in cultural and political terms. This is the divide between indigenous and community knowledge in marginalized

regions of the country on one end and that of the centers of education and communication in political capitals such as Metro Manila on the other end.

The “Unheard Voices of Climate Action” project of MindaNews featured four journalistic and creative video documentaries of high-impact initiatives pursued by indigenous, coastal, and mountain dwelling communities in addressing climate change consequences. These are frontline actions of public interest but relatively less known not only to the wider community but also to academic and scholarly sectors.

At this point, I should disclose that while serving as director of Tagpuan Ateneo, I am also very much part of MindaNews serving as one of its leaders. I, working then as a journalist based in Davao City, helped found the institution 25 years ago with a group of then younger journalists (though several of them a tad bit senior than I am – but I’m just saying). With that position, I had the privilege of seeing through the MindaNews materials first hand as it was pieced together.

My early access to the materials, however, made me realize as an educator, an academic, and purveyor of dialogue, the value of the documentary to be brought into a wider and interactive arena of public conversation in a community such as the Ateneo and its partners.

Together with the colleagues at Tagpuan Ateneo and fellow faculty at the Ateneo de Manila, we viewed the lives and acts featured in the MindaNews films and photographs as a potential ground by which we can share thoughts on longstanding but less acknowledged grassroots climate actions. These arts-based reports of indigenous and local wisdom open areas of solidarity with underrepresented communities that have been pushing the tide of climate impacts even as they disproportionately bear the devastating effects of climate change.

Through Unheard Voices of Climate Action, Tagpuan with MindaNews and Arete foster multi-sectoral, transdisciplinary dialogue on climate action by centering indigenous knowledge and local practices in Mindanao. We bring these knowledge into conversation with science, educational, policy, technological, and creative practices to advance inclusive and collaborative climate solutions.

With hope, I look forward to a meaningful conversation around these issues not as a goal but perhaps as a starting point of continuing engagements.

MOOSEJAW TODAY

[Supreme Court agrees to hear from oil and gas companies trying to block climate change lawsuits](#)

By: Lindsay Whitehurst

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Monday that it will hear from oil and gas companies trying to block lawsuits seeking to hold the industry liable for billions of dollars in damage linked to climate change.

The conservative-majority court agreed to take up a case from Boulder, Colorado, one of multiple lawsuits alleging the companies deceived the public about how fossil fuels contribute to climate change.

Governments around the country have sought damages totaling billions of dollars, arguing it's necessary to help pay for rebuilding after wildfires, rising sea levels and severe storms worsened by climate change. The lawsuits come amid a wave of legal actions in states including California, Hawaii and New Jersey and worldwide seeking to leverage action through the courts.

The case out of Boulder County will likely have implications for those other lawsuits.

Suncor Energy and ExxonMobil appealed to the Supreme Court after Colorado's highest court let the Boulder case proceed. The companies argue emissions are a national issue that should be heard in federal court, where similar suits have been tossed out.

"The use of state law to address global climate change represents a serious threat to one of our Nation's most critical sectors," attorneys wrote.

President Donald Trump's administration weighed in to support the companies and urge the justices to reverse the Colorado Supreme Court decision, saying it would mean "every locality in the country could sue essentially anyone in the world for contributing to global climate change."

Trump, a Republican, criticized the lawsuits in an executive order, and the Justice Department has sought to head some off in court.

Attorneys for Boulder had argued that the litigation is still in early stages and should stay in state court. "There is no constitutional bar to states addressing in-state harms caused by out-of-state conduct, be it the negligent design of an automobile or sale of asbestos," they wrote.

City officials said the case was about dealing with problems people are facing in Colorado. "Our case is, fundamentally, about fairness. Boulder is already experiencing the effects of a rapidly warming climate, and the financial burden of adaptation should not fall solely on local taxpayers," said Jonathan Koehn, its climate initiatives director.

The Supreme Court also asked the two sides to present arguments on whether the case is truly ready to be heard by the justices. Arguments are expected in the fall.

USA TODAY

[Supreme Court to take Exxon case on cities suing over climate change](#)

By: Maureen Groppe

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court will take up an effort by local governments to go after big oil and gas companies like Exxon Mobil and Suncor for harms caused by climate change, a question that has been debated in state courts across the country for years.

The court said Feb. 23 that it would consider whether it has jurisdiction to hear the dispute and, if it does, whether federal law prevents such lawsuits, including one filed by officials in Boulder, Colorado.

In a challenge that began in 2018, the city and surrounding county claim the companies violated state law by misleading the public about the environmental effects of fossil fuels and should have to help cover costs incurred by the community from climate change.

“Local communities are living with the mounting costs of climate change,” Boulder Mayor Aaron Brockett said in a statement. “The Supreme Court should affirm Colorado’s right to hold these companies accountable for the harm they have caused in Colorado.”

The companies, which deny the allegations, argue local governments can’t use state laws to tackle a global environmental issue.

“As our filings make clear, climate policy shouldn’t be set through fragmented state-court actions, and we look forward to making that case before the court,” Curtis Smith, a spokesman for Exxon Mobil, said in a statement.

But attorneys for Boulder said the Constitution doesn’t prevent state and local governments from “addressing in-state harms caused by out-of-state conduct, be it the negligent design of an automobile or sale of asbestos.”

Numerous lawsuits filed across the country against major energy companies are modeled after the successful challenges to tobacco and opioid companies and rely on consumer protection statutes and public-nuisance claims.

The industry has tried to block them from going to trial, a move supported by the Trump administration.

The Justice Department told the Supreme Court that Boulder’s lawsuit is barred by both the Constitution and by the Clean Air Act, the federal law regulating air pollution.

The Colorado Supreme Court’s 5-2 decision to let the city’s lawsuit proceed was “manifestly wrong on a question of vast nationwide significance,” the Justice Department wrote in urging the high court to get involved.

That’s a different position from the one taken by the Biden administration. In a similar case from Hawaii, the Justice Department said in 2024 that the Supreme Court should not get involved before state courts have fully litigated the question.

The high court in 2025 rejected the fossil fuel industry's appeal of the Hawaii case and had declined to get involved in the Colorado dispute.

The case, Suncor Energy v. County Commissioners of Boulder County, is expected to be argued in the fall.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC, MMDA to align climate resilience and low-carbon development programs](#)

By: CCC

PASIG CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to discuss priority areas for convergence of climate actions and identify opportunities to align MMDA programs with the country's key climate policies and frameworks.

The exploratory meeting highlighted the critical role of the two agencies in managing metro-wide climate-sensitive urban systems in the National Capital Region (NCR), one of the country's most densely populated and climate-vulnerable areas.

Held at the MMDA Central Office, the meeting brought together the agencies' leaders to strengthen institutional coordination on climate resilience and low-carbon urban development. The CCC delegation was led by Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje and Deputy Executive Director Romell Antonio Cuenca, and MMDA with its Chairman Romando S. Artes, Undersecretary Frisco San Juan, and General Manager Nicolas Torre III.

The CCC underscored the importance of anchoring metropolitan programs on the country's two foundational climate policies, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023–2050 and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which guide climate action efforts across sectors.

Developed under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration, the NAP serves as the country's long-term blueprint for climate resilience. The CCC emphasized that Metro Manila, given its exposure to extreme rainfall, flooding, sea level rise, and urban heat, must adopt a systemic and climate risk-informed approach to planning and governance.

"We recognize MMDA's central role in managing drainage systems, flood control facilities, transport networks, solid waste operations, and disaster response mechanisms that are increasingly affected by climate change," Borje said. "Our goal is to institutionalize a climate lens across these metro-wide systems to ensure that investments today are resilient to future risks."

The CCC highlighted the importance of consolidating short-term, high-impact initiatives into a coherent, climate-smart metro framework that integrates adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable urban development.

Through strengthened coordination, the CCC and MMDA aim to advance a whole-of-metro approach that safeguards communities, protects critical infrastructure, and positions Metro Manila toward a more resilient and climate-smart future.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC, MMDA partner to boost climate resilience in Metro Manila](#)

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) have agreed to align Metro Manila’s urban programs with the country’s key climate policies and identify areas for coordinated action to boost the capital region’s climate resilience.

In a news release on Monday, the CCC said it recognizes MMDA’s central role in managing drainage systems, flood control facilities, transport networks, solid waste operations, and disaster response mechanisms that are increasingly affected by climate change.

“Our goal is to institutionalize a climate lens across these metro-wide systems to ensure that investments today are resilient to future risks,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

The CCC emphasized the importance of anchoring programs on the country’s key frameworks for climate resilience and low-carbon development under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023–2050, developed under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s administration as the long-term blueprint for climate resilience.

The CCC said Metro Manila, given its exposure to extreme rainfall, flooding, sea level rise and urban heat, must adopt a systemic and climate risk-informed approach to planning and governance.

The two agencies agreed to consolidate short-term initiatives into a coherent, climate-smart metro framework integrating adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development, resulting in a resilient and climate-ready Metro Manila. (PNA)

=END=