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By: Firdaus Cahyadi

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GMA

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By: Anna Felicia Bajo

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PCO

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Luisa Cabato

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By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Health (DOH) have collaborated to address the challenges arising from impact of climate change on public health.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ECO BUSINESS

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By: Firdaus Cahyadi

"No one should teach Indonesia about climate change," said the country's likely next President, Prabowo Subianto, at the Mandiri Investment Forum 2024 last week. Environmental activists are worried about this statement. Prabowo's statement implies that the new government under Prabowo and his vice-president pick, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, will reject suggestions from various parties regarding handling the climate crisis.

As a matter of fact, the climate crisis is a concern for people around the world. Climate disasters have occurred throughout the world, including in Indonesia. People around the world, including Indonesians, have been victims of climate disasters. People around the world not only have the right but are also obliged to speak as loudly as possible to policy makers in countries around the world, including Indonesia, to deal more seriously with the climate crisis.

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia is relatively vulnerable to the climate crisis. However, as a coal exporter, Indonesia also has a responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the cause of the climate crisis. This is not a challenge Indonesia can overcome by itself. Collaboration with various parties, including foreign countries, international institutions and civil society organisations, is a necessity. Prabowo's statement at the Mandiri Investment Forum clearly sends a bad signal on Indonesia's climate policies in the next five years.

Beside his statement last week, there are also other signs that Indonesia's climate crisis policy is not on the right path. For instance, Prabowo has said he wishes to continue outgoing President Joko Widodo's (Jokowi) development model or Jokowism.

The Jokowism development model is based on the anthropocentrism paradigm, which places human interests at the centre of everything. As a consequence, nature is only seen as fulfilling unlimited human interests, which leads to the destruction of biodiversity.

One example of this in the Jokowism model is the destruction of forests for failed food estate projects. Prabowo and Gibran have stated that they would continue this project, which had targets of expanding farmlands by hundreds of thousands of hectares nationwide but has been criticised for abetting deforestation.

Jokowism will also give rise to false solutions to the climate crisis. One such false solution is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).

At the end of January, President Jokowi issued Presidential Regulation 14 of 2024 concerning the Implementation of Carbon Capture and Storage Activities. This presidential decree will become a legal umbrella for CCS activities in Indonesia. But the use of CCS technology will only extend the lifespan of fossil energy and make it more difficult to develop renewable energy.

Prabowo's track record in the energy sector also points to policies heading the wrong direction when it comes to the climate crisis in the next five years. According to the Mining Advocacy Network (JATAM), as written on its website, based on the company deed, Prabowo is the sole shareholder in PT Nusantara Energy. The coal company has a concession area of 4,793 hectares in Berau, East Kalimantan.

Prabowo Subianto, according to JATAM records, is also a shareholder of PT Nusantara Kaltim Coal, which was founded in 2005. PT Nusantara Kaltim Coal has a coal mining concession covering an area of 11,040 hectares in East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan.

In the previous presidential election in 2019, Prabowo also received support from capital owners in the fossil energy sector, including coal mining. Even the coal mining magnate, PT Adaro Energy Indonesia Tbk (ADRO) chief executive officer Garibaldi 'Boy' Thohir, confidently expressed his support for Prabowo Subianto – although a few days later, a company spokesperson said Garibaldi's statement at the Erick Thohir Alumni of the United States event was personal opinion, not representing the opinion of all ADRO employees.

The key question is whether in the next five years, the public can rely on Prabowo to seriously end Indonesia's dependence on dirty coal energy and switch to renewable energy, if he is part of the coal industry itself. Is it possible that Prabowo will be able to control the interests of himself and those close to him, who have businesses in the fossil energy industry? The answer: very difficult, but perhaps not impossible.

Prabowo and Gibran's wrong direction in handling the climate crisis is also evident in their vision and mission documents while campaigning in the past months. The Prabowo-Gibran pair stated that they would prioritise green energy originating from palm oil.

Palm oil-based green energy is very problematic, as it has the potential to accelerate the expansion of palm oil plantations into forests. Deforestation rates will certainly

increase. Not only will that worsen our biodiversity loss, but also make Indonesia the largest contributor of greenhouse gases from the forestry sector.

The wrong direction in Prabowo-Gibran's climate policies is clearly visible. If the Indonesian public is silent, our efforts to be involved in saving the earth will not only go stagnant but will also go backwards. As a result, the public, as taxpayers, will suffer the consequences of misdirected climate crisis policies. Climate disasters will increase. That means the public will be increasingly vulnerable to becoming victims.

GMA

Marcos tells German leaders of PH's bid to host loss and damage fund

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday told German leaders of the Philippines' wish to host the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund.

At a joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Marcos said climate change cooperation was a significant facet of the partnership between the Philippines and Germany.

"I thank Germany for its leadership and commitment in the field of Climate Finance and its strong support for the Loss and Damage Fund, created at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai last year," Marcos said.

"I conveyed the Philippines' bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund Board," he added.

Speaking before the Lowy Institute in Australia last week, Marcos noted that climate change poses a "deadly challenge" in the Pacific region and threatens the very survival of millions, especially those in the small island developing states in the Pacific.

The Philippine government in December last year secured a seat on the board of the Loss and Damage Fund, which seeks to help poor nations cope with costly climate disasters.

The country's Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the Philippines is "most qualified" to host the Loss and Damage Fund because it is a living testament to the effects of climate change.

Marcos to German bizmen: PH working on decarbonizing economy

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

As he tried to woo investors, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Tuesday told German business leaders that the Philippines has been working on “decarbonizing” its economy.

“We are also working on developing programs that will support and facilitate the efforts to decarbonize our economy. I have high hopes that we can welcome the opportunity for greater cooperation on climate change and energy transition,” Marcos said during the Philippine-German Business Forum.

“Aligned with our efforts on decarbonization, we are positioning ourselves as a regional hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing,” he added.

Marcos said the Philippine government is at the forefront of attracting “sustainability-driven strategic investments powered by renewable energy.”

“We also recognize that there are complementarities to be explored in critical minerals, and certainly we are open to having a dedicated dialogue with your companies on the sustainable processing of green metals,” he said.

Marcos said this would be supported by the strong adherence to high labor and environmental standards.

He also told possible German investors that the Philippines also takes pride in being an ideal destination for complementation, in both manufacturing and in services.

MANILA STANDARD

[Opinion] Simplifying climate change

By: Engr. Victor Caballero

Climate change is a phenomenon that most of us don't take seriously. It's regarded as a concern for first-world countries because most of the time we read or watch about it in the context of those places.

The attributions often used are greenhouse gases, melting glaciers, smoke emitted from highly industrialized complexes, and other images and phrases that we normally associate with countries far from us.

Majority of the case, realities like family economic status, also preoccupy us with matters that are more immediate.

There's a reality that all of us must once and for all accept.

We may not be among those countries said to contribute to climate change, but we are among those severely affected by its impact.

In recent years, we experienced severe typhoons and overly heated dry seasons.

These are forms of climate extremes, the way climate change is manifesting itself in our midst. These are real occurrences and are a clear picture of what climate change does.

Landslides, massive flooding, droughts, all wreak havoc to lives and livelihoods.

These are the more familiar attributions for us to fully understand climate change.

The scientific explanations and terminologies normally used to teach and advocate climate change concerns are alienating to the general public. Not to mention, the tendency to dilute the urgency of climate change.

We are always "rolling with the blows" and on "move on" modes in dealing with these climate change-induced events.

We suffer and endure the tragedies and simply build again.

Sadly, that's how it is for us when it comes to climate change matters. It's all about reacting to these realities.

Alarmingly, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration published some studies articulating that climate change triggers more landslides.

Cycles of extreme heat and water contribute to the weakening of soil integrity.

No wonder, we've seen landslides happening in slopes with enough trees.

Such imagery conflicts with the idea of what we were conditioned with—that more trees hold soil to avoid erosions and even landslides.

In the recent landslide in Barangay Masara, Maco, Davao de Oro, what I saw were pictures of the landslide plowed through lush trees.

That's something that we must not ignore.

Recent landslides in different parts of our country seem to manifest NASA's published report on study findings.

Roy J. Cabonegro of Makakalikasan Party said in a recent radio interview that in Mindanao, a region that has become vulnerable to torrential rains and landslides caused by the extreme changes in weather patterns, only Bukidnon province has an existing Local Climate Change Action Plan.

This is a primary requirement to determine the amount of resources needed to mitigate the impact of climate change and its climate extreme manifestations.

While El Niño has started to scorch our country's lands right now, and the likelihood of La Niña to follow, climate extremes of climate change are becoming more and more relevant in our own context.

And right about in time for an upcoming campaign season and election next year.

I strongly agree with Cabonegro's statement: "It is time for a GREEN GOVERNMENT in the country.

"No other socio-economic-political and ideological alternative is more logical and necessary in these times than the GREENS."

Lives and livelihoods are at stake.

Constituents need leadership and stewardship that will sincerely make "impact damage mitigation of the unstoppable new normal" an agenda.

PCO

PBBM: PH turns to Germany for its RE development projects as country positions itself as regional hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing

The Philippines is turning to Germany to further foster strong business partnerships and collaboration particularly in renewable energy being European Union's biggest economy both in GDP and population and a global force in technology and innovation, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday.

In his keynote message during the Philippine-German Business Forum in Berlin, Germany, President Marcos said the Philippines is grateful for the interest of German companies to support the country's commitment to sustainability and climate resiliency through the renewable energy investments it received in 2023.

"To further support these investments, we have put in place several energy transition policies including investment enablers designed to incentivize energy efficiency," he said during the forum.

"We are also working on developing programs that will support and facilitate the efforts to decarbonize our economy. I have high hopes that we can welcome the opportunity for greater cooperation on climate change and energy transition," he stated.

Aligned with the efforts on decarbonization, the Philippines, he said, is positioning itself as a regional hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing by attracting sustainability-driven strategic investments powered by renewable energy.

The country also recognizes that there are complementarities to be explored in critical minerals, and it is open to having a dedicated dialogue with German companies on the sustainable processing of green metals to be supported by strong adherence to high labor and environmental standards.

The Philippines also takes pride in being an ideal destination for complementation in both manufacturing and services, he said.

And with the recent global challenges, the President underscored the dangers of limited sourcing, or concentrating supplies in a single country, as he urged for the urgent need to diversify production locations and explore alternative materials to de-risk and minimize disruptions in supply chains.

"Moreover, the transition to a low-carbon or net-zero scenario has further propelled the de-risking trend," Marcos told the forum.

"The Philippines and Germany both have aspirations for de-risked and diversified production and market value chains, which future-proofs our economies from the geo-political vagaries of our times," he added.

Germany is the global leader in energy storage technology for renewables, which could aid the Philippines in the deployment of renewable energy (RE) projects.

The country has put a special focus on offshore wind (OSW) development, to meet the target of at least 35 percent RE in electricity generation by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Europe not prepared for rapidly growing climate risks - EU report

Climate risks have already reached critical levels and could become "catastrophic" for Europe without urgent action, according to the European Environment Agency.

In its first-ever European Climate Risk Assessment, the agency warned that Europe is the fastest-warming continent in the world, and climate risks are threatening its energy and food security, ecosystems, infrastructure, water resources, financial stability, and people's health.

Many of these risks have already reached critical levels and could become "catastrophic" without urgent and decisive action, said the report, released late Sunday.

"Extreme heat, drought, wildfires, and flooding, as experienced in recent years, will worsen in Europe even under optimistic global warming scenarios and affect living conditions throughout the continent," the agency noted.

Europe's policies and adaptation actions are not "keeping pace with the rapidly growing risks," according to the assessment.

"In many cases, incremental adaptation will not be sufficient and, as many measures to improve climate resilience require a long time, urgent action may be needed even on risks that are not yet critical," said the report.

Mentioning that some regions in the continent are hotspots for multiple climate risks, the study revealed that southern Europe is particularly at risk from wildfires and the impacts of heat and water scarcity on agricultural production, outdoor work, and human health.

Leena Yla-Mononen, the agency's executive director, said: "To ensure the resilience of our societies, European and national policymakers must act now to reduce climate risks both by rapid emission cuts and by strong adaptation policies and actions."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Youths having to grow up 'too quickly' amid climate fears — Thunberg

Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg said Monday that young people like her have had to grow up "too quickly" to resolve a climate crisis caused by previous generations.

Denouncing inaction by politicians on climate change, Thunberg made her remarks just days ahead of the fifth anniversary of a global youth climate protest that drew over a million participants.

On Monday, she sat on the steps of Sweden's parliament, blocking the main entrance in a protest with around 10 other youth activists, holding a banner reading "Climate Justice Now."

"We are way too many young people who have had to grow up in the climate movement and who have had to grow up way too quickly, to take the responsibility to try to clean up after the older generations," Thunberg told AFP.

"The Swedish government as well as all other governments in the world are not treating the climate crisis like a crisis at all."

"They are still letting short-term economic profits be prioritized over human lives and the planet," she said, adding that she and her fellow activists "feel a bit like broken records, we have been repeating the same message over and over again."

News agency TT reported that politicians were still able to enter parliament through side entrances.

When Thunberg started sitting outside the Swedish parliament in August 2018 with her "School Strike for the Climate" sign, she was an anonymous teenager in a world she saw as dying in silence.

Five years later, Thunberg's "Fridays for Future" movement and its subsequent global marches had had a global impact, political science researcher Joost de Moor told AFP in October.

"It has raised awareness for the issue," he said.

It has also "contributed to the increased legitimacy of pro-climate policy-making, which has in turn made it easier for willing politicians to act on the issue", he said, citing as an

example Frans Timmermans, the former EU climate commissioner responsible for the Green Deal currently being debated in the bloc.

Despite this, and "as Greta Thunberg has said herself many times... climate policy making continues to fall far behind what climate scientists say is necessary," de Moor said.

A report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) on Monday warned of "catastrophic" consequences if Europe failed to take urgent action to adapt to risks posed by climate change.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

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Climate Change Body Boosts Policy-Making Partnership With Academe

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is working on a collaboration project with research centers in the academe to help formulate policies to address environmental concerns.

In an interview, Secretary Robert Borje, the CCC's vice chairperson and executive director, said in a forum at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) on Friday that schools' resources can be effectively leveraged to advance efforts to mitigate climate change effects.

CCC is the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in development plans.

"We are inviting [the University of Santo Tomas Research Center for Social Sciences and Education (RCSSED)] to join consultations and with the brain power that you will be bringing, we will be in a much better place... this serves as a platform and brings academe closer to policy making," Borje told the Philippine News Agency.

He noted that his office is working to improve their planning that should be data-based and science-driven such that a shift from reaction to a proactive action is needed.

Borje attended the 2nd Policy Expo on Friday that was hosted by the UST-RCSSED which was also participated in by students, researchers, academicians, and volunteer groups, among others.

With the theme, "Towards Security Solutions: Creating Strategic Intersections for Scholars and Bureaucrats", the policy exposition seeks to locate how scholars and research institutions can help government institutions in the pursuit of total security.

Borje said the event seeks to address the socio-economic and educational issues by providing researchers with a platform to use their findings into actionable recommendations for policy formulations.

He said the forum will pave the way for the use of research studies in the policies and documents such as the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

The national climate change framework strategy has been translated into NCCAP, which prioritizes food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy, and knowledge and capacity development.

Meanwhile, in a separate interview, Dr. Frederick Rey, project head of the 2nd Policy Expo, said the presence of the CCC shows thorough commitment in the power of science to provide backbone in the policy decisions.

“Public administration, management, and governance, in general, should be understood from a holistic perspective; it is not the exclusive domain of policy makers. The academe should extend an effort to reach out to our policy and decision makers to let institutions work together,” he said.

Rey, who is also a political sociologist and a researcher, said there is an evolving trend in the policy making in the government wherein experts are becoming more familiar with the need for evidence.

He said the universities in the country are a rich asset and a fertile ground for collaboration that must be maximized by national government agencies (NGAs) to empower itself.

“We are still looking for more partner agencies, we expect that the UST-RCSSED will be constantly involved in shaping the policy narratives of the country such as climate change, food security, and technology.

We will be present to guide our policy makers in forging scientific and culturally rooted policies,” he added.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CCC, DOH team up to address climate change health woes

By: Luisa Cabato

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) said on Tuesday that it will strengthen its partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) to address public health concerns related to climate change.

In a statement, the CCC said increased risk of heat-related illnesses, vector-borne and waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and mental health issues are among the health concerns linked to climate change.

According to the CCC, its Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje and Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa have discussed measures that can be implemented against the adverse health effects of climate change.

Some of the key areas that the CCC and DOH are eyeing to work on are “developing and implementing climate-health-related policies and initiatives and promoting public awareness and community education.”

Borje also stressed the need for a “proactive and adaptive healthcare system” in the Philippines.

“The nexus between climate change and health is not just a choice; it’s an imperative,” Borje said.

“Our experiences have shown us that our well-being is intricately linked to the health of our planet. Recognizing this connection is key to building a resilient and sustainable future for all,” he added.

Herbosa, on the other hand, expressed DOH’s commitment to considering the climate situation when creating strategies for better healthcare.

“The DOH is taking significant steps towards a sustainable and resilient healthcare system,” he said.

“Our plans include constructing environmentally friendly hospitals, incorporating climate change adaptation into our disaster risk reduction initiatives. As the DOH is actively reforming to prioritize Universal Health Care and primary care, we believe this presents a prime opportunity to foster partnerships for a healthier and greener future,” Herbosa added.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CCC, DOH to boost collab vs. climate change impact on public health

By: Stephanie Sevillano

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) will strengthen its collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) to address the impact of climate change on public health.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje made this commitment in a meeting with Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa at the DOH main office in Manila on Tuesday.

These issues include heat-related illnesses, vector-borne and waterborne diseases, malnutrition and mental health issues, among others.

In a news release, Borje said it is imperative to have an adaptive and resilient healthcare system in the country, recalling the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

"Our experiences have shown us that our well-being is intricately linked to the health of our planet. Recognizing this connection is key to building a resilient and sustainable future for all," he said.

Meanwhile, Herbosa vowed to continue pushing for reforms aimed at establishing a more resilient healthcare system.

"Our plans include constructing environmentally friendly hospitals, incorporating climate change adaptation into our disaster risk reduction initiatives. As the DOH is actively reforming to prioritize Universal Health Care and primary care, we believe this presents a prime opportunity to foster partnerships for a healthier and greener future," he said.

Possible areas of collaboration, meanwhile, include formulation of climate-health policies and campaigns, as well as increase of public awareness activities.

To date, the CCC is working on its National Adaptation Plan (NAP), with health included among the focus sectors for climate resilience.

POLITIKO

CCC, DOH Collaborate On Climate Change, Health

By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Health (DOH) have collaborated to address the challenges arising from impact of climate change on public health.

In a news release on Tuesday, CCC Vice Chairperson Robert Borje stressed the urgency of integrating climate considerations into health policies and practices.

The lessons drawn from the Covid-19 pandemic have demonstrated the inseparable connection between climate change and health, said Borje.

"The nexus between climate change and health is not just a choice; it's an imperative. Our experiences have shown us that our well-being is intricately linked to the health of our planet. Recognizing this connection is key to building a resilient and sustainable future for all," he added.

For his part, Health Secretary Ted Herbosa committed to incorporating climate considerations into its strategies, as well as creating a more holistic approach to healthcare that addresses evolving challenges from a changing climate.

"The DOH is taking significant steps towards a sustainable and resilient healthcare system," said Herbosa.

"Our plans include constructing environmentally friendly hospitals, incorporating climate change adaptation into our disaster risk reduction initiatives. As the DOH is actively reforming to prioritize Universal Health Care and primary care, we believe this presents a prime opportunity to foster partnerships for a healthier and greener future," he furthered.

Other identified key partnership areas between the CCC and the DOH include the development and implementation of climate-health-related policies and initiatives, and the promotion of public awareness and community education.

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