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By: Ariel Rojas

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GMA

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By: Vince Angelo Ferreras

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PHILIPPINE STAR

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MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) convened over 200 stakeholders on March 26 to refine the Philippines’ updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate action ahead of its submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Ridge of high pressure area, Easterlies to bring hot weather this Semana Santa—PAGASA

By: Ariel Rojas

MANILA — Hot and dry conditions will prevail across most of the Philippines this Holy Week, March 30 to April 5, PAGASA said in a special outlook on Monday.

It says the ridge or extension of a high pressure area and the warm and humid Easterlies will affect the country.

Most of Northern Luzon will be sunny Monday through Wednesday, April 1.

In the same period, the rest of the country will also experience warm and humid conditions with likely isolated afternoon thunderstorms or brief rain showers.

However, afternoon thunderstorms will be more frequent across many areas in Mindanao and Eastern Visayas from Maundy Thursday, April 2, through Easter Sunday, April 5.

Metro Manila is also likely to be hot and dry throughout the Holy Week.

Healing baths and Via Crucis, group shows devotion on Good Friday

To avoid fatigue, heat cramps, and heat exhaustion, PAGASA advises the public to avoid physical outdoor activities between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The agency also recommended staying hydrated, taking heat breaks in shaded areas, wearing light-colored clothing, using sun protection such as umbrellas and hats, and avoiding alcohol and caffeine as much as possible.

GMA

[Heat index in 2 Visayas areas reaches danger level on April 5 — PAGASA](#)

By: Vince Angelo Ferreras

Two areas in the Visayas recorded a danger-level heat index on Sunday, April 5, the state weather bureau PAGASA said.

Based on PAGASA's five-day computed heat index, Dumangas in Iloilo registered 43°C, while Catarman, Northern Samar recorded 42°C.

The heat index reflects how hot it feels to the human body, combining air temperature and relative humidity. High humidity slows the evaporation of sweat, making it harder for the body to cool itself.

PAGASA's heat index classification defines heat index temperatures ranging from 42°C to 51°C as being in the "danger" level, where "heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely; heat stroke is probable with continued exposure."

Meanwhile, several areas were under the "extreme caution" category (33°C to 41°C), including:

Itbayat, Batanes — 31°C

Basco (Radar), Batanes — 32°C

Baguio City, Benguet — 27°C

BSU, La Trinidad, Benguet — 27°C

Tanay, Rizal — 32°C

PAGASA's forecast for Monday, April 6, showed that Dumangas, Iloilo and Catarman, Northern Samar may again experience danger-level heat index at 42°C. —MCG, GMA News

Localized thunderstorms to bring rain over Metro Manila, rest of PH — PAGASA

By: Vince Angelo Ferreras

Localized thunderstorms are expected to bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms over Metro Manila and the rest of the country on Monday, state weather bureau PAGASA said in its Sunday forecast.

PAGASA warned of possible flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms.

Light to moderate winds are expected over northern and central Luzon, blowing from the southeast to south.

Similar wind conditions may be experienced over the rest of Luzon, with winds coming from the east to southeast.

Meanwhile, light to moderate winds are also forecast over the Visayas and Mindanao, moving from the east to northeast.

Based on data from the PAGASA Weather Station in Science Garden, Diliman, Quezon City, the maximum temperature reached 35.0°C at 3 p.m., while the minimum dropped to 21.8°C at 5 a.m.—MCG, GMA News

PAGASA: Fair weather, isolated rains across PH on Easter Sunday

Most parts of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms, the state weather bureau said on Sunday.

In its 4 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said a ridge of a high-pressure area (HPA) is extending over Northern and Central Luzon, contributing to generally fair weather conditions across the archipelago.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country may still experience brief rain showers or thunderstorms, which could trigger flash floods or landslides during severe weather events.

PAGASA also recorded a maximum temperature of 33.3°C and a minimum of 22.0°C at its Science Garden station in Quezon City.

The weather bureau advised the public to remain cautious of sudden thunderstorms, particularly in the afternoon and evening, and to take necessary precautions against possible flooding in low-lying areas.

Sunrise is at 5:49 a.m. while sunset is expected at 6:09 p.m.—MCG, GMA News

[PAGASA: HPA to bring cloudy skies in parts of Luzon](#)

By: Jisselle Anne Casucian

The Ridge of a High Pressure Area is affecting parts of Northern and Central Luzon.

According to PAGASA's daily weather forecast on Saturday, partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms will be observed throughout the entire country due to localized thunderstorms.

Possible flash floods or landslides may be felt over some areas due to said weather condition.

As of 2 p.m., no low pressure areas are being monitored or observed for Tropical Cyclone formation near the country.

Meanwhile, light to moderate winds with slight to moderate coastal waters may be felt across the country.

Sunrise in Metro Manila will be at 5:49 a.m. on Sunday. —VAL, GMA News

Ridge of HPA affecting Northern, Central Luzon on Monday

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PHILIPPINE STAR

[DOH: No lockdown due to COVID variant](#)

By: Rhodina Villanueva

MANILA, Philippines — Reports about a supposed lockdown next week due to the alleged presence in the country of the “Cicada” variant of COVID-19 are fake, according to the Department of Health.

In an advisory, the DOH said there is no truth to reports made by “Pinoy Newswire,” “Malasakit News Update” and “Weather Patrol” that an emergency lockdown would be enforced by April 10 purportedly to contain the Cicada variant of COVID 19.

“These reports of an emergency lockdown in the country due to COVID-19 Cicada variant is not true,” the DOH said. “There is no reason to worry and to enforce a lockdown.”

The health department urged the public to avoid spreading fake news and to get the right information only from the official DOH Facebook page and other social media platforms.

Earlier, the DOH emphasized that there has not been any report of Cicada infections in the country.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Cicada strain (BA.3.2) comes from the Omicron lineage of the virus that causes COVID-19. It was first detected in South Africa in November WHO classified BA.3.2, which was detected in 23 countries, as a COVID variant under monitoring.

Pagasa: Tropical cyclone seen this month

By: Josiah Antonio

MANILA, Philippines — A tropical cyclone is expected to form this month, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has said.

Based on the latest climatological track for the month of April, PAGASA weather specialist Benison Estareja yesterday said a tropical cyclone may enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) and make landfall in the country.

If the entry point is low, for example in eastern Mindanao, it will make landfall in Caraga, Visayas or Mimaropa.

He said that some tropical cyclones in April in the east of Visayas or Bicol region will then hover near Luzon but will not make landfall and instead recurve to the outside of PAR till it downgrades to a low-pressure area.

If a tropical cyclone forms, this will be the third and it will be named Caloy.

As the dry season persists, people may expect increasing air temperature and heat index.

“During the dry season, the heat index is higher than 3 to 7 degrees Celsius especially when the weather is humid and we are having a hard time to cool down,” Estareja said.

Easterlies and the ridge of the high pressure area will be more frequent for the month.

MSN

[Dung beetles have a tough life. Climate change is making it worse](#)

By: Doyle Rice

Not exactly the poster child for cute animals, dung beetles now join the list of species affected by human-caused climate change.

Indeed, the long tentacles of climate change now extend all the way into the dreary lives of dung beetles in the Amazon rainforest, a new study suggests.

"With ongoing climate change, rising temperatures may push dung beetles beyond their physiological limits," said study lead author Kim Lea Holzmann of the University of Wurzburg in Germany, in an e-mail to USA TODAY.

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The study was conducted in the Amazon region of Peru in 2022 and 2023. In the study, German researchers discovered that temperature is the decisive factor in the beetles' tolerable living conditions, and is far more important than food supply or soil moisture, for example.

Scientists say the insight is important: "Insects, including dung beetles, are fundamental components of ecosystems and form the base of many food webs," Holzmann said. "A loss in diversity could have cascading consequences on other groups, such as animals feeding on them."

What did the study find?

"We studied the populations [of dung beetles] at altitudes of 250 to 3,500 metres above sea level," said Holzmann, in a statement. "Unexpectedly, the number of dung beetle species fell rapidly between 250 and 500 metres above sea level."

The reason for this: At an altitude of 500 metres, the temperatures are in a range that is ideal for the beetles, while the higher temperatures in the lowlands lead to heat stress.

In turn, diversity fell at the higher, colder altitudes.

In total, the research team collected almost 5,000 dung beetles in pitfall traps, which they loaded with dung, fruit and carrion as bait.

As a result of the temperature increases, "species may be forced to shift to higher elevations to escape heat. However, this upward movement reduces available habitat and can lead to biodiversity loss across large areas, with cascading effects on food webs and ecosystem functioning."

Why do scientists care about dung beetles?

In addition to their role in the food web, dung beetles also play a key role as recyclers by breaking down animal dung and returning nutrients to the soil, Holzmann said. "This process improves soil fertility, supports plant growth, and enhances overall ecosystem productivity.

"By removing dung, they also reduce breeding sites for parasites and disease-causing organisms, helping to limit the spread of diseases."

Why study dung beetles? Are they endangered?

Besides their important role in ecosystems, dung beetles are an excellent model group for ecological research because their biology and ecology are relatively well understood, Holzmann said. "This makes them a valuable study system. They can be sampled using standardized trapping methods worldwide, since they are easily attracted to dung and carrion, which allows for comparable data across different regions."

In addition, dung beetles are highly sensitive to environmental disturbances such as habitat loss, land-use change, and climate shifts. Because of this sensitivity, they serve as strong bioindicators, meaning changes in their communities can reflect broader ecosystem changes.

The "methodology used in the study and the findings are sound," according to University of Maryland tropical forest and biodiversity ecologist Juanita Choo, who was not part of the study. "Their findings that dung beetle diversity peaks at intermediate temperatures and falls off at extremes fits well with what we know about thermal limits of insects," Choo said.

She added that "critically, lowland beetles are already living near their upper heat tolerance limits, leaving little buffer for further warming."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC pushes science-based climate action in Metro Manila](#)

The Climate Change Commission is strengthening coordination with the Metro Manila Council and Regional Development Council to advance science-based climate action across the National Capital Region.

In a presentation in Pasig City, the commission outlined key climate policies, risk scenarios and priority areas for collaboration, urging local government units to adopt a systems-based approach in addressing climate risks affecting flood control, transport, solid waste and land use planning.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje emphasized the need for integrated planning, citing the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to address climate change through coordinated strategies. “We underscore that climate change does not arrive as a single-footed event,” he said.

The commission also highlighted findings from the National Adaptation Plan, noting that Metro Manila faces interconnected risks such as sea level rise, flooding, extreme heat and drought, requiring region-wide responses.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chairperson Romando Artes expressed support for the initiative and proposed the creation of a technical working group to strengthen collaboration among agencies and local governments.

The CCC said continued engagement with local officials is key to improving resilience, enhancing access to climate financing and aligning national policies with local implementation.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC calls for sustained climate action beyond Earth Hour](#)

PASIG CITY – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) joined the global observance of Earth Hour 2026 on March 28, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM, calling on Filipinos to go beyond the symbolic switching off of lights and embrace long-term, sustainable habits to combat the climate crisis.

Now in its 20th year, the annual Earth Hour movement serves as a platform to raise awareness on climate change and biodiversity conservation, mobilizing millions of people across the globe to take collective action. This year's theme, "Give an Hour for Earth," aimed to create the "Biggest Hour for Earth" by encouraging people to spend 60 minutes doing something positive for the planet.

The event was supported by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., where he urged the public to adopt energy-saving habits and promote environmental responsibility amid global challenges, including the ongoing energy crisis.

"This year's event provides a timely and relevant opportunity for us to reflect not only on the issue of climate change and environmental preservation, but also on the need to conserve energy and to limit fuel consumption amid the current global crisis."

"Earth Hour reminds us that how we use energy affects us all and shows not just our ways but also the kind of future that we choose to build for our nation and our planet," President Marcos added.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje stressed that while the one-hour lights-off initiative demonstrates unity and environmental awareness, meaningful climate action must extend beyond the hour and translate into everyday practices.

"Climate action is not just about one hour of darkness. It is about what we do after the lights come back on. This is not just about turning off the lights. This is about giving life to our hopes and dreams for our country," Borje said.

Anchored on this year's themed focus, "Switch On Habits for Earth," the CCC underscored the importance of integrating climate-conscious practices into daily life, such as conserving energy, reducing waste, avoiding single-use plastics, and planting and taking care of trees.

The Commission further highlighted that climate change is not only a lifestyle concern but a systems issue, requiring coordinated action from individuals, communities, government, and the private sector.

“This is why climate action today, particularly through the youth, should no longer be just an advocacy. It really should be a life that we are going to live,” Borje added.

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to advancing policies and programs that promote climate action and sustainable development, in line with national priorities and global climate targets.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[NDC is PH 'whole-of-gov't' approach to climate action – CCC](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) convened over 200 stakeholders on March 26 to refine the Philippines' updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate action ahead of its submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje underscored the importance of the consultation in ensuring coherence and readiness for implementation.

“This NDC reflects a one-country team approach: A whole-of-government alignment in policy and planning, a whole-of-economy approach to analysis and the mobilization of investment and systems, and a whole-of-society engagement that keeps our actions grounded and credible,” Borje said, as quoted in a news release Tuesday.

The draft NDC 2026 text — developed by national government agencies — was presented to stakeholders from civil society organizations, marginalized groups, academia, the private sector and development partners. The consultation aimed to validate its clarity and technical soundness and to identify remaining gaps ahead of submission.

“Importantly, this updated NDC integrates elements that enable delivery—just transition considerations, strengthened climate finance and other means of implementation, nature-based solutions, and more robust systems for transparency and monitoring,” Borje said.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said the consultation inputs would be reviewed and reflected in the final text.

“Today’s consultation makes clear that the direction we are taking is being tested against real conditions on the ground. The NDC is being shaped by the very people and institutions who will help carry it forward,” Herrera said.

John Leo Algo of Aksyon Klima, a civil society organization, said this year’s NDC consultations showed progress in transparency and inclusivity.

“More consultations were held by the CCC and other agencies nationwide, and we from civil society also conducted our own to ensure more voices are brought to the policymaking table. While improvements such as timelier communications and feedback on how stakeholder inputs are integrated into the document should be made, this was a step in the right direction towards a 'whole-of-society' approach to climate action,” he said.

The NDC serves as the country’s roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening climate action.

In its 2021 submission, the Philippines committed to a projected 75 percent reduction in emissions from 2020 to 2030.

The targets cover key sectors and their responsible agencies. Energy is led by the Department of Energy; transport by the Department of Transportation; industrial processes and product use, waste, and forest and other land use by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and agriculture by the Department of Agriculture.

The NDC 2026 is co-led by the CCC and DENR, in coordination with national government agencies and development partners.

The NDC advances the priorities of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines, supporting the country's transition toward low-carbon development, strengthened climate resilience, and inclusive economic growth. (PR)

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