



NEWS ROUNDUP

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By: Katrina Domingo

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DAILY TRIBUNE

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By: Fraye Cedrick Anona

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THE GURADIAN

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MONGABAY

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Dianne Sampang

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THE TIMES OF CENTRAL ASIA

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[Diesel seen to go down by P8 next week](#)

MANILA — For the first time this year, fuel prices are seen to roll back, with diesel estimated to go down by at least P8 per liter next week.

Based on the full-week trade monitoring, including the risk premium cost, the final estimated price adjustments for Tuesday next week are as follows:

Diesel – P8 to P9 per liter

Gasoline – Up to P1 per liter

Kerosene – P3 to P5 per liter

This, after the United States and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire, more than a month since the conflict sparked by US and Israeli attacks on February 28.

Meanwhile, the Department of Energy said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s decision on suspending or reducing the fuel excise tax may be expected next week. — Alvin Elchico, ABS-CBN News

Fresh LPG imports to stabilize supply to 50 days: DOE

By: Katrina Domingo

MANILA — The Philippines' supply of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) has returned to a comfortable 50-days worth of stockpile after fresh imports replenished the stock of cooking gas, the Department of Energy said on Tuesday.

The level of the Philippines' in-country LPG stood at 36 days worth of stock earlier this week, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin told Palace reporters.

Kerosene stock is good for 105 days, gasoline stands at 57 days, while diesel is at the 49-day level, according to data from the DOE.

"We have made an order, additional order yesterday morning (April 13) and I think we will reach about 50 days by today (April 14) also on average," Garin said.

"So, maganda pa naman iyong supply level natin but that will depend also on what will happen with the Strait of Hormuz, among availability ng oil sa ibang countries," she said.

The DOE is working on "long-term solutions like fast-tracking solar rooftop [systems] and net metering" to reduce the Philippines' dependence on oil, the Energy chief said.

[Crude oil demand to see biggest quarterly plunge since Covid: IEA](#)

By: Arthur Fuentes,

PARIS — Demand for crude oil will likely see the biggest slump in the second quarter since the Covid pandemic slammed the global economy in 2020, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

Surging prices caused by the war in the Middle East will force many countries and industries to curb oil use, and "demand destruction will spread as scarcity and higher prices persist", the agency said in its monthly report.

It noted that its forecasts assume a "base case" of oil shipments resuming in May through the Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran has effectively closed since the US and Israel began bombing Iran on February 28.

This would lead to a decline in demand of 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in the second quarter, "the sharpest since Covid-19 slashed fuel consumption", the IEA said.

Overall demand is forecast to have contracted by 800,000 bpd in March and is seen dropping by 2.3 million bpd in April.

But a "protracted case" if the strait remains closed could see oil demand plunge even further, the IEA said.

"In this case, energy markets and economies around the world need to brace for significant disruptions in the months to come," it warned.

It also noted that a major beneficiary of the Mideast disruptions has been Russia, which nearly doubled its earnings from oil exports in March after the United States eased sanctions on Russian crude to help offset soaring energy prices.

Russia earned \$19 billion last month as crude and oil product exports soared to 7.1 million barrels per day, an increase of 320,000 barrels a day from February, the IEA said.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Iloilo earns 5-star rating for energy efficiency compliance](#)

By: Fraye Cedrick Anona

ILOILO CITY — The Iloilo Provincial Capitol Complex has achieved a perfect 5-Star rating for its compliance with the Government Energy Management Program (GEMP), underscoring its strong commitment to energy efficiency and sustainable governance.

The recognition, anchored on Republic Act No. 11285 or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, followed a random spot check conducted on 13 April 2026, by the Department of Energy (DOE) Visayas Field Office. The inspection was led by Lourdes Arciaga of the Energy Resource Development and Utilization Division.

The assessment evaluated the provincial government's adherence to Memorandum Circular No. 114 and Executive Order No. 110, issued by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to address the national fuel crisis.

During the inspection, the DOE highlighted several best practices of the Iloilo provincial government in implementing the GEMP. These included the establishment of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Desk with designated focal persons and coordinators, regular driver trainings, and the adoption of a four-day workweek. The province also promotes carpooling, prioritizes essential travel, and has procured the Phase II 100-kilowatt Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System.

In support of national directives, Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. issued Executive Order No. 34, which enforces energy and fuel conservation protocols across the province. This was further strengthened by Executive Order No. 34-A, mandating energy efficiency in the residential, commercial, industrial, and transport sectors.

The spot check was facilitated by the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office–Energy Efficiency and Conservation Desk, headed by Atty. Cesar Emmanuelle Buyco Jr., who also serves as the Provincial Energy Efficiency and Conservation Officer. He was assisted by EEC Focal Person Rey Victor Garin, along with Ayesha Belle Patches, Michaella Rose Garcia, and Leiden Lyka Anonoy.

Supporting the initiative were personnel from the General Services Office, Provincial Engineer's Office, and designated EEC coordinators, who played key roles in gathering fuel consumption data and implementing austerity measures throughout the Capitol Complex.

The achievement highlights the Iloilo provincial government's proactive response to the energy crisis and its continuing efforts to promote responsible energy use and environmental sustainability.

THE GURADIAN

[Don't mention the climate: Trump creates 'beyond absurd' situation at global finance talks](#)

By: Fiona Harvey

Governments desperate for cash to protect their citizens from the growing impacts of the climate crisis are being put in a “beyond absurd” situation this week at global finance talks: they are being urged not to mention the climate, even as they address the current oil crisis.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) spring meetings take place this week amid a fragile ceasefire in Iran and upended geopolitics. One of the priorities was to forge a new “climate change action plan” (CCAP) for the world’s biggest provider of funds to developing countries, to replace the current strategy, which expires in June.

Now, it looks like the new plan may be shelved, along with substantive discussion of the climate crisis.

With the oil crunch still biting, the delegates from up to 189 countries at the conference in Washington DC might have been expected to discuss investments in renewable energy, which many see as crucial to energy security and an antidote to volatility. Climate finance is also a pressing issue for poor countries already paying billions each year to repair the damage from droughts, floods and storms.

If these discussions are instead largely confined to whispers in corridors, the reason is clear: the US president, Donald Trump. Insiders have told the Guardian the White House is forcing countries to choose between opening up a potentially unbridgeable rift or playing down the climate crisis and trying to squeeze in green priorities by the back door.

Last autumn, the US Treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, demanded the removal of some climate finance targets from the World Bank’s aims and insisted it must “finance all affordable and reliable sources of energy ... [with] an all-of-the-above approach to energy that includes financing for gas, oil and coal”. The US is the biggest shareholder in the World Bank, with about 17% of its capital.

Other countries, including large developed economies, have reacted with alarm. Senior staff of several international finance and development institutions have said the US has piled pressure on the World Bank, the IMF and other publicly funded institutions over the climate.

They said that, although the climate was still on the agenda, people at a senior level were “self-censoring” and removing the term from reports and projects. The Guardian understands some leading countries prefer not to push for a new CCAP.

That would be disastrous for the developing world, experts said. “It is beyond absurd that, in the middle of an escalating oil crisis, a World Bank meeting could sideline talk of climate change,” said Mohamed Adow, the director of the Power Shift Africa thinktank.

“Fossil fuels and the climate emergency are inextricably linked. This moment is a huge opportunity to accelerate the shift away from fossil-fuel dependence, with potentially historic benefits for the world. It will be a tragedy if politicians fail to do so.”

Catherine Abreu, the director of the International Climate Politics Hub, said: “The spring meetings will be a big test of these institutions. Will we see the World Bank and IMF unable to respond to the majority of their members, because they are swayed by these powerful minorities?”

Under its current CCAP, the World Bank Group aims to devote 35% of all its funding to climate-related activities, half of which should be for adaptation, and the group has also moved to end most finance to fossil fuels, though loopholes remain. The World Bank is the biggest single source of climate funding, and many donor countries channel their climate finance largely through the multilateral development banks.

At the Cop29 UN climate summit in Azerbaijan in 2024, countries agreed that at least \$1.3tn a year should flow to the developing world by 2035, to help countries cut greenhouse gas emissions and cope with the impacts of extreme weather. Developed countries committed \$300bn a year of that total, and reaching the target cannot happen without the World Bank.

In the World Bank Group’s last financial year, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 48% of financing qualified as having climate co-benefits under its methodology.

A spokesperson for the World Bank Group said: “The World Bank Group supports public and private clients in achieving their smart development goals. This includes building low-carbon, resilient infrastructure and energy systems that manage emissions responsibly so countries can create jobs and sustain growth.

“We will finance what works best for countries, using a least-cost, reliable mix to meet their needs, while managing emissions responsibly. It is not an either/or and we are continuing to see strong demand for support for adaptation and mitigation from our clients. Over the last decade, 215 million people have gained new or improved access to electricity through our current energy programmes, and we expect this number to grow to 575 million.”

Much could still be achieved without formally labelling projects as climate-related, Lord Stern, a former World Bank chief economist and now a professor at the London School of Economics, told the Guardian. “You don’t have to plant big climate flags on these things, it’s just a good investment,” he said.

“US pressure is coming on the World Bank, but they can continue to do agriculture, forests, water, energy, public transport. These things are highly relevant to tackling the climate crisis – without highlighting climate change,” he added.

He also pointed to mass transit systems, such as urban railways, in cities in the developing world. “Metro systems in cities are a big part of the climate story. Why would the US oppose metro systems in overcrowded cities? Building a metro is not a covert climate action; it’s just doing things better.”

There is still much work to be done on clarifying what should make up the \$300bn and \$1.3tn targets. Stern said: “The way climate finance is counted is something I hope will develop. Without jiggery-pokery, there are lots of things that we should be supporting that should be counted towards the global climate finance goal.”

MONGABAY

[Māori knowledge shows climate change domino effects on forest food chains](#)

By: Monica Evans

RAGLAN, Aotearoa New Zealand — Imagine a forest floor so thick with juicy, crunchy purple tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) fruit in summertime that you can't cross it without skidding and falling. Birds so fat with toromiro (*Pectinopitys ferruginea*) berries that they explode when you shoot them. Pigs that don't bother to dig in the ground because there's so much food on top of it for the taking.

For elder Māori of the Tūhoe Tuawhenua and Ngāti Whare iwi (tribal groups) in Aotearoa New Zealand's North Island, such phenomena used to be commonplace. But they're now a distant memory.

The fruits of the Te Urewera and Whirinaki forests used to set, ripen and drop with rhythmic regularity, and people who lived there were attuned to those beats and their impact across the food chain. In the past three decades, those patterns have started to falter.

Over a decades-long engagement process, an Indigenous-led team of researchers has drawn on mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) to document and understand changes in these forests across the last 75 years. Their new study tracks, for the first time, fruiting changes in line with shifting climatic patterns in the country.

Elders and scientists show how relatively subtle shifts like the timing of fruit ripening can cascade through such diverse issues as soil health, food systems and culture. Image by Jacqui Geux via iNaturalist (CC BY 4.0).

"The forest itself has signaled change, and people who have watched these landscapes for generations are noticing the rhythms of the seasons are shifting," said Puke Tīmoti, a co-author of the study who is Tūhoe and grew up in Te Urewera.

The research offers a striking account of climate change at an intimate scale, the co-authors say, demonstrating how relatively subtle shifts like the timing of fruit ripening can cascade through such diverse issues as soil health, food systems and culture.

'The trees no longer know if it is winter or summer'

To track these changes in fruit phenology (its various development phases), the research team ran five rounds of interviews and four knowledge verification workshops with 39 "forest practitioners" (people who had extensive experience in the forests) from 2004 to 2018. Given the erosion of forest interaction in recent decades, most of the participants, more than 70%, were over 60, they told Mongabay.

Many of the interviews were conducted in te reo (Māori language), and the interviewers tried to speak with people out in the forest wherever possible. At one point, Tīmoti rode a horse five hours from his base in the village of Ruatāhuna to interview someone in the remote mountaintop settlement of Maungapōhatu.

The practitioners noted gradual but significant climatic shifts since the 1990s: longer, hotter summers, fewer frosts and more frequent storms. These correspond to broader patterns of climate change across Aotearoa. This makes for a drier and more fragile forest, which is compounded by the large numbers of invasive deer and goats that now frequent the area.

“My elders are talking about how it’s a lot more windy in their forest nowadays,” said Tīmoti, who is also a researcher at the Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research Group. “You don’t have that understory slowing down the wind, so the ground gets drier, and the animals that are compacting the ground are affecting the belowground system, too.”

As a result, the forests’ trees no longer drop fruit with the abundance and regularity of the past. Their yield is lower, their fruits small and shriveled and their timing unpredictable. “Some of the trees in the forest no longer know ... if it is winter or summer, or which season of the year it is,” one practitioner said.

The forest’s fading pulse

The disappearance of those heavy summer fruit falls has wider impacts, elders and researchers noted. Without the massive pulses of nutrients and simple sugars that they used to provide for the forest floor — including nitrogen input that the researchers estimated at one to two orders of magnitude higher than typical fruit falls — the soil sees less microbial and earthworm activity, and slower decomposition processes. With poorer soil comes less vigorous plant life. And with fewer fruits, culturally significant food species like kererū (New Zealand pigeon, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) and feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) become skinnier and less abundant.

This ecological degradation is affecting local Māori culture and well-being across a number of spheres, including nutrition, relationships with nature and even language.

“Māori will often say, ‘I am the forest’,” Tīmoti said. “So then there’s a notion that we, too, are in decline: There is this massive shift within our environments, and our culture is reflecting that.”

The study includes a long list of te reo words that encapsulate different forest fruit phases and qualities. Papahoro describes the seasonal moment when “the ground cannot be seen because it is carpeted with fruit,” and kōuriuri to the time when kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) canopy glows “an intense orange-red” with the density of translucent berries.

Yet such terms are disappearing alongside the incidences they describe. With them, local Māori, and everyone else, are losing critical and evocative ecological reference points, Tīmoti said.

“Te reo names are direct insights into the natural, ecological and physical inter-relationships unique to our special place on Papatūānuku [Earth Mother],” said Māori science researcher and physicist Ocean Mercier, who is Ngāti Porou and was not involved in the research. “But Indigenous peoples, their languages and knowledges are being ever more deeply fragmented by coloniality — and climate change is a manifestation of that.”

Integrating traditional knowledge

Ecological decline is not the only aspect creating a sense of urgency in the research team’s work. Those with the richest relationships to the forest, forged before urbanization and land degradation fragmented families and ways of life, are in their 80s and beyond. The majority of people who were interviewed for this project, Tīmoti said, have now died.

“We are depleting our library — and we’re not regenerating that knowledge in the current generations,” he said. “That’s a massive concern.”

In the past, the depth of information the researchers collected from elders would only have been shared in more intimate family settings, but that seems to have changed in the face of widespread disconnection and knowledge loss.

“Traditionally, knowledge was handed down only from grandparent to grandchild,” Tīmoti said. “But my elders have realized that system is no longer functioning, and have been open about sharing their knowledge to anyone within the tribe.”

Going forward, he’d like to see mātauranga reinforced by landscape-based knowledge hubs and better integrated into national conservation management.

“There’s a very small group of people who designed the framework for monitoring our environments, and they all come from a particular worldview,” he said. “We’re trying to share that there’s a richness in Indigenous mātauranga, in knowledge systems, that represents probably the longest-standing longitudinal study in our country.”

Mercier echoed Tīmoti’s point on the value of taking Māori knowledge, and that of other Indigenous peoples across the globe, seriously.

“This paper provides yet more evidence (as if it were needed) that Indigenous peoples, languages and knowledges are vital to understanding the past and contemporary contexts of climate change,” she said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Pagasa assures: Super Typhoon Sinlaku has low chance of entering PAR](#)

By: Dianne Sampang

MANILA, Philippines — Super typhoon “Sinlaku” has a low chance of entering the Philippine area of responsibility despite its strength, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday.

In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, weather specialist Veronica Torres said that Sinlaku was spotted 2,455 kilometers east of Southeastern Luzon as of 3 a.m.

Pagasa’s 5 a.m. weather forecast on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. (Screenshot from Facebook live/Pagasa)

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MANILA, Philippines — Super typhoon “Sinlaku” has a low chance of entering the Philippine area of responsibility despite its strength, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday.

In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, weather specialist Veronica Torres said that Sinlaku was spotted 2,455 kilometers east of Southeastern Luzon as of 3 a.m.

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It was also packing a maximum wind speed of 205 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 250 kph. It was moving north-northwestward at 15 kph.

“Even if this super typhoon is strong, it will continue to have a low chance of making a landfall in any parts of the country and it has a low chance of entering the Philippine area of responsibility,” Torres said.

“We also don’t see super typhoon Sinlaku directly affecting any parts of the country in the next few days,” she added.

THE TIMES OF CENTRAL ASIA

Central Asia's Climate Risks Could Cost Up to 130% of GDP by 2080

By 2080, climate change is expected to have a profound impact on the economies of Central Asian countries, with potential losses ranging from 20% to 130% of GDP. The most severe effects are projected for mountainous nations. These estimates were presented at a CAREC technology forum by Iskandar Abdullaev, a senior research fellow at the International Water Management Institute in Uzbekistan.

According to Abdullaev, climate change is no longer solely an environmental issue but an increasingly significant economic factor. Key risks include droughts and water scarcity, floods, heatwaves, and glacier melt.

The projected economic impact varies across the region. Tajikistan could face losses of between 80% and 130% of GDP, Kyrgyzstan 70% to 120%, Kazakhstan 40% to 80%, Uzbekistan 30% to 45%, and Turkmenistan 20% to 60%.

Abdullaev emphasized that mountainous countries – Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan – are particularly vulnerable, as climate change directly affects water resources. Glacier melt reduces river flows, creating challenges for both energy production and water supply.

Droughts and extreme heat are already placing pressure on agriculture, with declining crop yields and reduced pasture productivity. Without adaptation measures, the region's long-term sustainability could be at risk.

Experts stress that mitigation and adaptation efforts are essential to reduce these risks. These include modernizing irrigation systems, adopting climate-resilient agricultural technologies, and expanding renewable energy capacity.

This is not the only warning. According to the World Bank, natural disasters are already causing significant economic damage in Central Asia. Losses from extreme events, including floods and earthquakes, can reach up to 6% of GDP, with earthquakes alone accounting for up to \$2 billion in damages.

At the same time, countries in the region face substantial financing gaps following major disasters. In Tajikistan, this gap could reach up to \$1.5 billion. Experts warn that climate change is likely to intensify these risks, further increasing the economic burden on the region.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY GUARDIAN

[CCC convenes multistakeholder consultation to drive NDC](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) convened stakeholders to refine the Philippines' updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 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.

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

Borje also said the updated NDC strengthens several elements needed for implementation.

“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.”

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. 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.”

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 emissions reduction and avoidance from 2020 to 2030.

The targets cover key sectors and their responsible agencies. Energy is led by the Department of Energy (DOE); transport by the Department of Transportation (DOTr); 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 (DA).

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

The event convened over 200 participants through a hybrid format, bringing together representatives from 14 national government agencies, 22 development partners, 35 civil society organizations and non-profit organizations, 5 academic institutions, 3 marginalized groups, and 26 private sector entities—reflecting a broad, whole-of-society consultation.

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.

The CCC remains committed to an inclusive and transparent process in finalizing the country's NDC, to ensure a credible and workable climate action pathway for the Philippines.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Heat risks rise, CCC pushes local action](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) underscored the urgency of localizing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 to local government units (LGUs) as a key strategy to address intensifying heat indices.

The call was made during the Urban Heat and Drought Summit 2026 organized by the Quezon City government and CityNet on 14 April.

“This dry season, we continue to experience intense heat, which highlights the need for urgent and coordinated action. Through NAP localization, we provide a science-based roadmap that will guide the country in addressing heat risks while protecting key sectors and human health,” said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

While national in scope, the CCC stressed that the effectiveness of the NAP depends on strong localization — translating strategies into concrete, community-level action that enables LGUs to respond directly to climate risks.

Arnold Grant S. Belver of the CCC’s Policy Research and Development Division emphasized the need for stronger coordination between national and local governments to ensure effective implementation.

“Strengthening the bond between the national government and local governments is essential to ensure that the NAP translates into concrete, inclusive, and climate-resilient actions for every Filipino community. The temperature is rising, but so is our resolve,” Belver said.

Extreme heat continues to intensify in urban areas. In Quezon City alone, heat index levels in 2024 and 2025 reached as high as 46°C, posing risks to public health, disrupting daily life, and straining energy and water systems.

“The NAP is a tailored-fit adaptation strategy for each locality, ensuring that interventions respond directly to unique climate risks and conditions,” Borje added.

Developed under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the NAP serves as the country’s long-term roadmap to strengthen climate resilience and adaptive capacity toward sustainable development by 2050.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte highlighted the localized impact of climate change, particularly on vulnerable communities.

“Climate change is not felt in global averages — it is experienced by people in specific places,” she said.

The summit gathered CityNet member cities, national and local government agencies, the academe, private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders to drive coordinated action, share solutions, and accelerate climate adaptation efforts against urban heat and drought.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC flags rising urban heat, pushes localized climate action plan](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has raised alarm over escalating urban heat risks, urging local government units (LGUs) to fast-track the localization of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023–2050 to better protect communities.

During the Urban Heat and Drought Summit 2026 organized by the Quezon City Government and CityNet on Tuesday, CCC officials stressed that extreme heat is no longer a future threat but a present danger, particularly in densely populated cities.

Based on records, in Quezon City alone, heat index levels reached as high as 46°C in 2024 and 2025, posing serious health risks, disrupting daily activities and straining power and water systems.

“This dry season, we continue to experience intense heat, which highlights the need for urgent and coordinated action. Through NAP localization, we provide a science-based roadmap that will guide the country in addressing heat risks while protecting key sectors and human health,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

He stressed that localizing the NAP provides a “science-based roadmap” that enables LGUs to directly address heat risks and safeguard vulnerable sectors.

“The NAP is a tailored-fit adaptation strategy for each locality, ensuring that interventions respond directly to their unique climate risks and conditions,” he said.

The CCC said the effectiveness of the national plan hinges on its implementation at the community level, where climate impacts are most acutely felt.

Arnold Grant Belver of the CCC’s Policy Research and Development Division underscored the need for stronger coordination between national and local governments to ensure that the NAP translates into concrete, inclusive and climate-resilient actions for every community.

QC Mayor Joy Belmonte, meanwhile, said climate change impacts are most visible at the local level, where communities directly experience rising temperatures.

“But climate change does not announce itself in global averages, it is felt by our people, most especially in specific places,” she said.

The NAP, developed under the leadership of Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., serves as the country’s long-term roadmap to boost climate resilience and adaptive capacity through 2050.

The summit brought together national agencies, academe, private sector, development partners and key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and accelerate solutions to combat urban heat and drought.

The CCC said it will continue pushing for localized climate action as rising temperatures increasingly threaten public health and urban systems. (PNA)

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