



NEWS ROUNDUP

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By: Benise Balaoing,

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By: Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON — The World Bank announced a plan Wednesday that aims to improve secure water access for a billion people within the next four years.

STAND.EARTH

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GLOBAL — As more than 45 countries prepare to gather in Santa Marta, Colombia for the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (April 28–29), Indigenous leaders and leading climate finance and policy experts convened today in an online press briefing to call on governments worldwide and the financial sector to establish Fossil-Free Zones (FFZs) — the most concrete solution yet to translate the global commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels into enforceable, place-based action. (See related op-ed also published today in Inside Climate News by Bolivian Senator Cecilia Requena from Parliamentarians for a Fossil Free Future and Juan Pablo Osornio, Engagement and Policy Director at Earth Insight.)

ESG TODAY

[Henkel Unveils New 2030 Climate, Circularity, Supply Chain Sustainability Targets](#)

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Global consumer brands and industrial products company Henkel announced a broad set of new sustainability targets, aimed at accelerating progress on climate action, circular economy, employee equity and supply chain standards through 2030.

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The Climate Change Commission has called for the localization of the National Adaptation Plan to help communities better respond to rising temperatures and extreme heat.

MANILA STANDARD

[‘Dangerous heat levels start’](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Friday called on the public to take extra precautions as heat index levels in several parts of the country have reached the “danger” category during the peak of the summer season.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC pushes NAP localization to protect communities from extreme heat](#)

Manila, Philippines — 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 combat intensifying heat indices during the Urban Heat and Drought Summit 2026 organized by the Quezon City Government and CityNet on April 14.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Moody's keeps 'Baa2 stable' investment rating for the Philippines

By: Benise Balaoing,

MANILA -- Moody's has kept its Baa2 stable investment-grade rating for the Philippines.

In its latest credit opinion, Moody's said the Philippines economy has high growth potential and robust access to domestic and international funding markets.

The debt watcher also noted that the Philippines has a stable banking system and ample foreign-currency reserves.

"Structural reforms implemented over the past several years, along with a pipeline of public and private sector investment projects, raise the prospect that growth accelerates more than we currently project," Moody's said.

"Personal remittances from overseas Filipinos — which were equivalent to 8.1 percent of GDP in 2025 and whose growth has been historically resilient to global shocks — support private consumption, liquidity in the banking system and the external payments position," Moody's noted.

However, Moody's said these strengths are balanced against several credit challenges, including:

- Low per capita income compared to other investment-grade peers.
- Constraints on the quality of institutions, such as "weak rule of law and control of corruption".
- High exposure to physical climate risks and natural disasters.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The ratings agency stated that an upgrade could be driven by a more rapid improvement in fiscal and government debt metrics, indicating a "sustained trend recovery from the deterioration caused by the pandemic shock".

Conversely, a downgrade could occur if fiscal and debt metrics deteriorate relative to peers, or if "slower-than-anticipated fiscal consolidation" leads to fiscal slippages. Regional geopolitical tensions and climate-related shocks were also identified as downside risks.

The Baa2 rating is one notch above the minimum investment grade, signifying that the sovereign has an adequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.

The Philippine economy grew at its slowest non-pandemic pace in 14 years in 2025, as it was swiped by a corruption scandal and climate change-fuelled weather woes.

The 4.4 percent expansion was well below a June projection of 5.5-6.5 percent.

Last week, S&P Global Ratings lowered its outlook for the Philippines, as it noted that higher energy prices will widen the Philippines' current account deficit this year.

Power grid yellow, red alert unlikely until June: NGCP

By: Alvin Elchico,

MANILA —The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines has assured there will be no alert, neither red nor yellow, for the duration of the summer season, as far as power supply is concerned, for the whole Philippines.

NGCP spokesperson Atty. Cynthia Alabanza said the power supply will remain normal as long as power plants follow the grid operating and maintenance program.

Alabanza said based on the projection, there will be no yellow or red alert seen until June, even if temperatures are expected to rise and peak in May.

NO IMPACT ON TRANSMISSION

Meanwhile, NGCP said the spikes in fuel prices have no direct effect on transmission rates.

While its facilities use diesel or gasoline for operation, the NGCP cannot immediately recover these amounts through the transmission charge it imposes every month.

Even the decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission to allow NGCP to recover billions of pesos through staggered means has not yet been threshed out, so consumers are still safe from any upward adjustment in the immediate future.

HIGHER TRANSMISSION RATE FOR APRIL

The transmission operator also announced a slight increase in transmission rates for April due to higher ancillary and transmission charges.

"The overall equivalent average transmission rate for the March 2026 billing period to be billed by distribution utilities and electric cooperatives this April increased by 4.26 percent to PP1.7526 per kWh, up from February's P1.6810/kWh," said NGCP in a statement.

Ancillary Service rates increased from P0.8275/kWh in February to P0.8516/kWh in March.

FUEL PRICES

For the second day of trading in the Mean of Platts Singapore, fuel prices remain lower than last week's.

Day 2

(April 13-14, 2026 trading)

Diesel P13.00/L (down)

Gasoline P2.20/L (down)

Kerosene P0.91/L (down)

Ride-hailing apps hit for not cutting commissions amid fuel crisis

By: Agatha Gregorio,

MANILA (UPDATED) — Ride-hailing apps were questioned at the House of Representatives for supposedly not fulfilling their commitment to lower commissions amid the fuel price crisis.

According to House Assistant Majority Leader Brian Poe, platforms such as JoyRide, Angkas, and Move It previously vowed to slash commissions deducted from riders by at least five percentage points.

As for apps for four-wheel vehicle rides, Grab's commitment to adjustment was to go down to 18 percent from 20 to 21 percent, while inDrive talked about maintaining 10 percent.

But information Poe obtained from customers showed commissions were at 20 percent or over for platforms such as JoyRide, Move It, Angkas, and Grab.

"We didn't mandate you to make these price cuts. You said on the floor under oath in your own initiative that you were making these price cuts para sa bayan," Poe told transport network vehicle service (TNVS) providers during a hearing at the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

Platforms such as Angkas, JoyRide, and Move It explained they have a tiered system for commissions, meaning the percentage deducted from riders would depend on the number of rides given.

According to JoyRide's Jerico Meneses, the commission is down to 15 percent for those who make 13 trips in a day in order to motivate them to work under "public service."

"Mayroon po kami for 13 trips every day, 15 percent... Para to make sure lang na talagang ginagawa nila yung public service na magserbisyo," Meneses told lawmakers.

But House Committee on Ways and Means Chairperson Miro Quimbo asked JoyRide to make the 15 percent commission applicable to all motorists.

"Ipu-push po namin 'yan and gagawin po namin 'yan if ever. I would just need to— hindi lang kasi ako lang ang may-ari ng Joyride. Pag-uwing pag-uwi po namin dito, aayusin po namin 'yan," Meneses replied.

Move It's Wayne Jacinto said they would like to decrease the percentage altogether, but they are also thinking about the welfare of riders as they provide insurance.

"Gusto naman po naming ibaba, kaya lang, siyempre, iniisip din po namin 'yung kapakanan ng mga riders namin dahil nagpo-provide po kami ng libreng insurance, accident insurance, libreng

life insurance kasi po naniniwala kami na ang buhay ng rider, kung ano man ang mangyari, hindi po magtutuloy ang buhay ng pamilya,” Jacinto said.

Atty. Carlo Castro of Angkas explained they give incentive to those who treat the platform as its primary source of income, meaning riders could end up with no deduction from fees at all if they do 25 rides.

“Sino ang dapat nating mas bigyan ng incentive? Dapat unahin natin ‘yung pangunahing hanapbuhay nila ay ‘yung plataporma,” Castro said.

Poe explained they are only asking to lower percentages for all riders temporarily, adding the crisis explains the need for some to look for additional income.

“Marami sa mga riders natin, siyempre, hindi ito ‘yung sole work nila. Additional income lang po ito– ‘yung mga iba, solo parent, they can only go out for what– three, four rides. Hindi sila makaka-avail ng lower percentages. Kaya in this time, we’re not naman asking that the percentages remain low forever,” Poe said.

COMMITMENT TO LOWER TO 18%

Angkas CEO George Royeca later committed to lowering commission to 18 percent from 20 percent.

“After discussing po with the Angkas team and in consultation with 1-Rider party-list Cong. Rodge Gutierrez and FPJ party-list Cong. Brian Llamanzares, we will lower po our commission para sa lahat ng aming bikers from 20 percent down to 18 percent while still maintaining the tiered commission scheme of 15 percent up to zero percent as added incentives of our bikers during the crisis,” Royeca told members of Congress.

“On top of this po, mayroon po tayong gas and food vouchers, as well as additional discounts with gas station partners,” Royeca added.

GMA NEWS

EXPLAINER: Why does the color of the sun appear red?

A bright red sun was recently observed in Baguio City, a phenomenon usually seen at dusk.

In Katrina Son's Wednesday report on "State of the Nation," Mark Tarroza Dizon shared that he took photos of the red sun since he was amazed by its appearance.

However, he was alarmed since he knew that this phenomenon was caused by pollution. He also noticed that there was a forest fire in the area.

But why does the color of the sun turn red?

An expert from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the public should not be alarmed since it is a natural phenomenon.

PAGASA weather specialist Chenel Dominguez explained that it is an indication of the amount of particles in the atmosphere, such as smoke, dust, and pollution, which affect how light is scattered.

"Ito po yung tinatawag po nating Rayleigh scattering. Ito po yung pag-disperse o yung pagkalat po ng liwanag sa hangin," Dominguez said.

(This is what we called Rayleigh scattering, where the light disperses or scatters in the air.)

"Hazy din po yung image po natin and then more on cloudy din po. So yung clouds po is nag-aact din as filter," she added.

(The image is also hazy and cloudy. The clouds act as a filter.)

Those who plan to observe the sun should be cautious. The public was advised to avoid looking directly at the sun for a long time to avoid damaging the eyes. — Mariel Celine Serquiña/BAP, GMA News

Face-to-face class suspensions on April 16, 2026

Some schools in Metro Manila have suspended face-to-face classes on Thursday, April 16, 2026 due to the three-day transport strike.

These are:

Adamson University:

Shift to synchronous/online mode. Midterm examinations for April 15 to 18, 2026 are hereby rescheduled to April 22 to 25, 2026. All offices will remain open on April 15 to 17, 2026, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University of the East (UE)-Caloocan:

Shift to asynchronous classes, except for students scheduled to take their periodical examinations, which shall be conducted face-to-face. Students who will take the examinations on campus are required to wear a face mask at all times.

University of Santo Tomas:

All levels will shift to enriched virtual mode of instruction.

Lyceum of the Philippines University Manila:

Shift to online modality until April 17, except for Kitchen Lab, F&B and Bar Management classes.

Polytechnic University of the Philippines:

Shift to online modality (synchronous or asynchronous), except for the College of Law.

FEU Diliman:

Classes for tertiary students will shift to online synchronous mode.

[Fire in residential area in Tondo, Manila reached 3rd alarm](#)

A fire broke out in a residential area in Tondo, Manila on Wednesday night.

According to a “State of the Nation” report, a video showed some explosions from where the fire was located in Barangay 121.

The blaze that rapidly spread reached the third alarm.

Residents helped in extinguishing the fire.

Authorities are still investigating the cause of the fire. —Mariel Celine Serquiña/LDF, GMA News

[PHIVOLCS: Minor strombolian activity on Day 100 of Mayon's effusive eruption](#)

State volcanologists on Wednesday morning observed minor Strombolian activity at the summit crater of the Mayon Volcano, which continued its effusive eruption for the 100th consecutive day.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) shared camera footage of the low-level activity on its social media accounts.

The volcanic activity was recorded at 5:47 a.m. to 5:48 a.m.

Minor Strombolian activity is defined as a low-level, intermittent explosion that launches lava fountains and magma fragments from the crater.

The day before, PHIVOLCS observed short-lived lava fountaining anew at the summit crater of the volcano.

Mayon Volcano's effusive eruption entered its 100th consecutive day, marked by incandescent lava flows, pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) or "uson," and frequent rockfalls.

PHIVOLCS reminded the public that Alert Level 3 is still in effect over Mayon Volcano and that entry into its six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) is prohibited. — JMA, GMA News

[World Bank announces water security plan covering one billion people](#)

By: Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON — The World Bank announced a plan Wednesday that aims to improve secure water access for a billion people within the next four years.

The "Water Forward" program will "expand reliable water services and strengthen systems against droughts and floods."

The Bank said its own funds and technical advice would help improve water supplies to about 400 million people by 2030, with the balance coming from partners.

Water "determines whether people are healthy enough to work, whether children have a childhood to learn and to explore, and whether businesses can operate and economies can grow," World Bank President Ajay Banga said.

The program will see countries identify areas of priority, then "development banks, governments, philanthropies, most importantly, the private sector as well, align behind that plan," he said.

The global lender did not specify how much funding it was committing to the initiative.

Other participating institutions include regional development banks, OPEC's development fund, and the BRICS-aligned New Development Bank.

Fourteen countries had already voluntarily committed to reforming and strengthening their water sectors under the new program, the Bank said.

Some four billion people—half the world's population—face water scarcity, due in part to "unclear policies, weak regulations, and financially unsustainable utilities that have slowed progress and deterred investment," the Bank said.

The focus on water governance issues—not simply physical infrastructure—is promising, said David Michel, senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"In many countries, the water sector fails to fully deploy the funds already allocated to it."

However, the Bank's initiative "faces a long and difficult road ahead," he warned, noting that countries with the greatest water insecurity often have the least capacity to reform.

The issue of access to safe drinking water has been highlighted during the war in the Middle East, with desalination plants in Iran and across the region damaged in bombardments.

Beyond conflicts and immediate drinking water needs, the World Bank said better water security is needed to grow the global economy.

"Strong water systems are foundational to healthy economies that can attract private investment and create jobs," the Bank said. — Agence France-Presse

[Maharlika Investment Corp. eyes large oil storage facility in PH](#)

By: Llanesca T. Panti

The Maharlika Investment Corporation (MIC) is seeking to establish an expanded oil storage facility in the country co-funded by the government and the private sector to shield the country from future oil price surges due to conflicts overseas.

Rafael Consing Jr., MIC president and chief executive officer, made the announcement during the 13-panel Legislative Energy Action and Development Joint Committee led by the House ways and means panel, chaired by Marikina 2nd District Representative Romero "Miro" Quimbo.

Consing said the oil storage facility will be built under a consortium model, with the state-run Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) contributing land or other assets. The MIC and the private investors, meanwhile, will shoulder the financial requirement and the private sector into tank farms, and for the private sector to handle the operation of the oil storage.

"That [consortium model] would expand storage capacity without forcing the MIC itself to take direct market risk on fuel inventory," Consing said in response to the queries of 4K party-list Representative Iris Marie Demesa Montes.

"That is an intermediate term plan. I envision that to be a solution that will come maybe about two to three years from the time we, in fact, start working," Consing added.

As it is, Consing said the price of the landed fuel or the refined fuel imported overseas has gone up by about 60% to 70%.

As such, Consing said retailers have to cash out 60% to 100% more in working capital just to be able to retain the old inventory.

"That, I think, is what we should look at as a nation. How can we help them? This idea of storage or a strategy regarding storage, I must admit, Ma'am, it is a reaction to the existing situation because we were not thinking, we were not anticipating this event. Now that we already have this and we've studied it... in fact, we are aiming for three levels of solutions," Consing said.

Local pump prices have soared exponentially since fighting between US-Israeli forces and Iran broke out on February 28. The Philippines sources almost all of its crude supply from the Middle East.

Access to Strait of Hormuz, a major passageway for oil supply worldwide, has been severely constricted by a blockade of Iranian forces, as well as another blockade of American ships.

As a result, fuel prices have already breached P100 per liter over the last two weeks, burdening sectors across the board, especially the public transport sector. — VDV, GMA News

STAND.EARTH

[Indigenous leaders and climate experts call for fossil-free zones ahead of landmark energy transition conference](#)

GLOBAL — As more than 45 countries prepare to gather in Santa Marta, Colombia for the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (April 28–29), Indigenous leaders and leading climate finance and policy experts convened today in an online press briefing to call on governments worldwide and the financial sector to establish Fossil-Free Zones (FFZs) — the most concrete solution yet to translate the global commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels into enforceable, place-based action. (See related op-ed also published today in Inside Climate News by Bolivian Senator Cecilia Requena from Parliamentarians for a Fossil Free Future and Juan Pablo Osornio, Engagement and Policy Director at Earth Insight.)

Today's briefing coincided with the release of new maps and analysis by Earth Insight showing that oil and gas blocks at various stages of development and production now overlap with 179 million hectares of intact tropical moist forests — roughly 21% of high-integrity tropical forests across the Amazon, Congo Region, and Southeast Asia. Fossil fuel expansion is also threatening coastlines and highly biodiverse marine regions, as recent analysis has shown that across 11 frontier areas, 19% of Marine Protected Areas are already overlapped by oil and gas blocks. Much of the looming fossil fuel expansion threats in the pan-tropics also overlap with Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' territories and customary lands. Recent research has shown, for example, that 12% of IP&LC lands in the Amazon are overlapped by oil and gas blocks and 38% of community forests in the Congo basin region are also overlapped by oil and gas blocks.

Fossil-Free Zones are geographically defined areas of ecological, biodiversity, or cultural significance where fossil fuel exploration, extraction, and related infrastructure development are permanently prohibited. They translate the global commitment to transition away from fossil fuels into specific, enforceable, place-based decisions that governments can adopt at the national or subnational level — including through existing tools such as protected area designations and the legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' territories. FFZs have also been recognized by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice as effective tools for complying with legal obligations on climate action.

Colombia — the host of the upcoming conference — made history in September 2025 by becoming the first country to declare a region-wide FFZ, banning fossil fuel and large-scale mining extraction across its entire Amazon. The decision was supported by research demonstrating that extracting untapped reserves would generate billions of dollars in stranded assets while threatening nearly 70% of territories recognized under Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' governance models. Other countries leading the way include Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Canada, and the Philippines.

Colombia is also a country-member of the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative, along with 17 other nations, committed to stopping fossil fuel expansion through the advancement of a new legally binding mechanism. Colombia's commitment to a fossil-free Amazon and its national "non-proliferation" commitment is illustrative of the interplay and synergy between fossil-free zones as areas of cultural and biodiversity significance in need of prioritization on the road to full country-level commitments and legally binding processes.

To date, over 500 sites and regions worldwide have declared themselves some form of Fossil-Free Zone, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) has identified 58 active restrictions on fossil fuel production across 25 countries and 27 subnational jurisdictions.

Over the past few years, the concept of exclusion zones has also been applied in the financial sector. Major banks have started shifting their financing away from high-polluting sectors like coal and fracking, and are increasingly doing the same with oil and gas expansion in the Amazon: eleven banks – including BNP Paribas, HSBC, and Citibank – have adopted various forms of exclusion policies to restrict financing for fossil fuel projects in the region.

2026 represents a rare moment of political alignment across three major international processes: the COP30 Presidency roadmap on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, the COP30 Presidency roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation, and the Global Biodiversity Framework review at CBD COP17 in Yerevan. FFZs sit at the intersection of all three — bridging the climate and biodiversity agendas at a moment when coordination across these frameworks is urgently needed.

Quotes from today's media briefing on Fossil-Free Zones

Ignacio Arróniz, Senior Associate, Earth Insight:

"Fossil Free Zones are one of the most concrete, actionable tools governments have to translate their commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels into real, enforceable decisions on the ground. The First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta is the moment for governments to add them to their national energy plans."

Juan Carlos Jintiach, Executive Secretary, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC):

"For Indigenous Peoples, stopping fossil fuel extraction is not only a climate imperative, but it is also essential to defending our territories, our governance systems, and our right to self-determination."

Alice McGown, Program Manager, Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO):

“Fossil Free Zones are real-life right-now examples demonstrating that a post-fossil fuel world isn’t just possible; it’s happening already. It’s time to recognise their leadership and include them in our phase-out at Santa Marta.”

Hannah Saggau, Senior Climate Finance Campaigner, Stand.earth:

“Fossil-free zones are already a reality in the finance sector, and have proven effective in protecting areas that are vital to the planet, such as the Amazon. Banks like BNP Paribas and HSBC have started to pull back from the most harmful oil and gas companies in the Amazon, showing that change is not only possible but underway. The next step is clear: make strong policies the norm for all banks, not the exception, so that the most sensitive regions on Earth are truly off-limits to fossil fuel expansion.”

Bruna Campos, Senior Campaigner, Offshore Oil and Gas, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL):

“Safeguarding our ocean is a cornerstone of climate action and a prerequisite for a successful fossil fuel phaseout. Transition plans must prioritize ending extraction in marine regions critical to ecological integrity, human rights, and climatic stability. By designating ‘fossil-free zones’ in vital habitats like coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass meadows, we accelerate the global shift away from fossil fuels.”

Andrés Gómez, Latin American Coordinator, Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative:

“Fossil Free Zones represent the vital first step toward protecting critical territories such as the Amazon, yet they require a binding legal instrument to function at scale: A Fossil Fuel Treaty. Indeed, this Treaty will be one of the central solutions debated at the Santa Marta Conference. In a context where fossil fuel imperialism threatens sovereignty and peace, Colombia and Latin America – through this historic gathering – are assuming global leadership to chart the path toward a just phase-out of production and to legally safeguard the protection of our most vulnerable and valuable peoples and ecosystems.”

ESG TODAY

[Henkel Unveils New 2030 Climate, Circularity, Supply Chain Sustainability Targets](#)

By: Kenny Fisher

Global consumer brands and industrial products company Henkel announced a broad set of new sustainability targets, aimed at accelerating progress on climate action, circular economy, employee equity and supply chain standards through 2030.

The company said the updated mid-term goals reflect a strategic push to scale impact across its operations and value chain.

Henkel CEO Carsten Knobel said:

“In today’s challenging and volatile environment, it is more important than ever to take a clear and consistent stance in shaping a sustainable future. In line with our purposeful growth agenda, we are now taking the next step with new and ambitious, yet tangible sustainability goals. We are focusing on three key priorities where we believe we can make a meaningful impact and further drive sustainable value.”

The new 2030 climate goals will support Henkel’s current SBTi-validated target to achieve net zero emissions by 2045. The new climate targets include goals to achieve a 42% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions and a 30% reduction in Scope 3 emissions by 2030. Henkel said that it aims to significantly reduce emissions across its value chain by improving energy efficiency and expanding the use of renewable energy and more sustainable fuels.

The company reported that it has reduced combined Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 29% as of 2025 compared to 2021 levels, while achieving carbon-neutral production at 37 sites globally. The company added that renewable electricity now accounts for 97% of its global energy use.

Alongside its climate efforts, Henkel said it is advancing circular economy initiatives, targeting at least 35% recycled content in consumer goods packaging by 2030, up from 28% currently, and aiming for 100% of packaging to be designed for recycling, with 88% achieved to date.

In the workplace, Henkel reaffirmed its commitment to equal opportunities, inclusion and fair pay. The company aims to achieve global gender balance in management by 2030, with each gender represented at more than 45% across all management levels. As of the end of 2025, the share of women in management exceeded 43%. Henkel also targets global pay equity by 2030, subject to compliance with local laws and requirements.

The company said that it is intensifying collaboration with suppliers to raise sustainability standards across its supply chain. Henkel systematically evaluates business partners’ performance in safety, health, environmental protection, social standards and fair business practices, with a target for 85% of suppliers to meet its sustainability criteria by 2030.

Sylvie Nicol, Executive Vice President Human Resources, Infrastructure and Sustainability at Henkel, said:

“The new targets reflect a strategic decision to accelerate impact across our entire value chain, providing a clear and actionable framework to embed sustainability into everyday decisions across the business. Creating a lasting and holistic impact takes courage and a shared commitment – across all teams, markets and sites worldwide.”

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC: Local action key as urban heat intensifies](#)

The Climate Change Commission has called for the localization of the National Adaptation Plan to help communities better respond to rising temperatures and extreme heat.

The push was highlighted during the Urban Heat and Drought Summit 2026 held in Quezon City, where government agencies and stakeholders gathered to address climate risks. Geographic Reference

CCC Vice Chairperson Robert E.A. Borje said translating the National Adaptation Plan 2023–2050 into local programs is critical to protecting communities and key sectors.

“This dry season, we continue to experience intense heat, which highlights the need for urgent and coordinated action,” Borje said.

Officials stressed that while the plan provides a national framework, its effectiveness depends on how it is implemented at the local level through concrete measures.

Data presented during the summit showed that heat index levels in Quezon City reached as high as 46°C in recent years, posing risks to public health and straining energy and water systems.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said climate impacts are increasingly felt at the community level, particularly among vulnerable sectors.

The summit brought together local governments, private sector partners and development groups to strengthen coordination and accelerate climate adaptation efforts.

The National Adaptation Plan serves as the country’s long-term roadmap to build climate resilience and support sustainable development through 2050.

MANILA STANDARD

'Dangerous heat levels start'

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Friday called on the public to take extra precautions as heat index levels in several parts of the country have reached the “danger” category during the peak of the summer season.

In a social media post, the CCC said data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) showed that heat index values between 33°C and 41°C fall under “extreme caution” which may cause heat cramps at heat exhaustion; 42°C -51°C under “danger level” and above 51°C as “extreme danger” which could lead to heat stroke.

Heat index is the temperature felt by the human body when relative humidity combines with actual air temperature.

For its heat index report on Friday, PAGASA recorded the highest observed heat index at 42°C in several locations, including Dumangas in Iloilo, Catarman, Northern Samar, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, and Cotabato City, Maguindanao.

In Luzon, Tuguegarao City in Cagayan; and Ambulong and Tanauan in Batangas recorded a heat index of 40 °C.

Aparri, Cagayan; Echague, Isabela; Baler, Aurora; San Ildefonso, Bulacan; Camiling, Tarlac; Coron, Palawan; and Legazpi City, Albay recorded 39°C.

Meanwhile, Pasay City recorded a heat index of 38°C, while Quezon City; Bacnotan, La Union; Clark Airport, Pampanga; Cavite City; and Alabat, Quezon are at 37°C.

In the Visayas, Iloilo City, Iloilo; Catbalogan, Western Samar; and Borongan, Eastern Samar also recorded a 40°C heat index.

Roxas City, Capiz; La Granja and La Carlota, Negros Occidental; and Tacloban City, Leyte recorded 39°C.

Meanwhile, Mambusao, Capiz; Siquijor and Maasin, Southern Leyte; and Panglao, Bohol recorded 37°C; while Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, and Mactan, Cebu are at 36°C.

In Mindanao, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte recorded a 41°C; Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte is at 40°C; General Santos City and Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, and Davao City are at 39°C; Surigao City, Surigao del Norte is at 38°C; and Malaybalay, Bukidnon is at 35°C.

Meanwhile, Itbayat and Basco, Batanes, as well as Tanay, Rizal, both recorded a heat index of 32 °C.

The CCC reminded the public to stay hydrated, avoid prolonged exposure to extreme heat, and limit strenuous outdoor activities, especially during midday hours.

It also urged the public to use protective measures to avoid direct sunlight, such as umbrellas, hats, and sunblock, when going outdoors.

The public is also advised to remain vigilant and monitor official advisories from the weather bureau PAGASA, the Department of Health (DOH), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC pushes NAP localization to protect communities from extreme heat](#)

Manila, Philippines — 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 combat intensifying heat indices during the Urban Heat and Drought Summit 2026 organized by the Quezon City Government and CityNet on April 14.

“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 Commission stressed that the NAP’s impact depends on strong localization, translating strategies into concrete, community-level action that allows LGUs to respond directly to climate risks.

Mr. Arnold Grant S. Belver of the CCC’s Policy Research and Development Division, who presented the NAP, emphasized the importance of stronger coordination between national and local governments to ensure effective implementation at the community level.

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

Extreme heat continues to escalate in urban areas. In Quezon City alone, heat index levels in 2024 and 2025 reached as high as 46°C, which raised risks to public health, disrupted daily life, and strained energy and water systems.

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

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

In Quezon City, the impacts of extreme heat are becoming more visible across communities, particularly among vulnerable sectors exposed to high temperatures.

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

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

The CCC remains committed to localizing the NAP as a key framework for strengthening climate action at the local level.

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