



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

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## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Kris Crismundo

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By: Marita Moaje

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## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[As Filipinos face climate challenges daily, groups urge action in May elections](#)**

By: Dominique Nicole Flores

As climate change becomes more visible in the routines of ordinary Filipinos, environmental watchdogs are calling on voters to reflect its urgency through their ballot in the May 12 elections.

## **UN NEWS**

### **[Climate crisis driving surge in gender-based violence, UN report finds](#)**

By: Laura Quinones

That is the warning from a new report by the UN Spotlight Initiative, which finds that climate change is intensifying the social and economic stresses that are fuelling increased levels of violence against women and girls.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **DAILY TRIBUNE**

#### **[CCC asks CHED to make climate literacy core in all college courses](#)**

Marking International Mother Earth Day, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) called on the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to weave climate education into all college programs, saying the next generation's understanding of the crisis lags behind its concern for the planet.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[FAO designates 100 sites in PHL to receive climate-change projects](#)**

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) nominated 100 sites in the Philippines on Tuesday to receive climate-change mitigation projects.

Beneficiaries of the Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA) Project include municipalities in the Luzon provinces of Apayao, Ifugao, Kalinga, Cagayan, Isabela, Camarines Norte, and Camarines Sur.

Municipalities in Bukidnon, Cotabato, Northern Mindanao, and Soccsksargen region are also on the list.

The priority sites were identified after vulnerability assessments and their readiness for climate resilient agriculture (CRA) interventions, the FAO said.

The seven-year initiative supported by \$26 million from the Green Climate Fund and an additional \$13 million co-financed by the DA and the weather service PAGASA is expected to directly support 205,000 farmers.

At least 45,000 farmers are expected to engage in agri-enterprise development and apply CRA interventions to priority crops.

The FAO said the working group for the APA Project recommended the validation of priority crops, “which will serve as key entry points for scaling up climate-resilient technologies.”

## **GMA NEWS**

### **PAGASA: 0 or 1 tropical cyclone expected in April 2025**

State weather bureau PAGASA on Thursday said zero or one tropical cyclone is expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) in April.

“Sa nakikita po natin, ngayong buwan ng Marso ay wala but we're not ruling out the possibility sa mga darating na buwan... Ngayong April, either wala or isa,” PAGASA assistant weather services chief Chris Perez told Unang Balita in an interview.

(In our outlook, we do not expect a tropical cyclone this March but we're not ruling out the possibility in the coming months...This April, either none or one.)

PAGASA's forecast comes a day after it declared the beginning of the dry season.

"The day-to-day weather across the country will gradually become warmer, though isolated thunderstorms are also likely to occur," PAGASA said.

Meanwhile, one to two tropical cyclones may enter the PAR each month.

For July, August, and September, two to three tropical cyclones are expected each month, according to PAGASA.

Perez also said that a low pressure area spotted 220 kilometers east of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur at 2 a.m. is “unlikely” to develop as a tropical cyclone in the next 24 hours.

“As of 2:00 AM today, 27 March 2025, the Low Pressure area being monitored inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and has an ‘UNLIKELY’ chance of development into a tropical depression within the next 24 hours,” PAGASA said in its 4 a.m. 24-hour tropical cyclone formation outlook.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### PH schools adapt to climate change: Early holiday, more fans

Kindergarten teacher Lolita Akim fires up five standing fans with three more at the ready as she fights to hold the attention of her pint-sized pupils in Manila's soaring heat.

Last year, heatwaves forced millions of children in the Philippines out of school. It was the first time that soaring temperatures had caused widespread class suspensions, prompting a series of changes.

This school year started two months earlier than usual, so the term ends before peak heat in May. Classes have been rearranged to keep children out of the midday heat, and schools are equipped with fans and water stations.

The moves are examples of how countries are adapting to the higher temperatures caused by climate change, often with limited resources.

As a teacher, Akim is on the frontlines of the battle to keep her young charges safe and engaged.

"In this weather, they get drenched in sweat; they become uneasy and stand up often. Getting them to pay attention is more difficult," she said of the five-year-olds in her care at the Senator Benigno S. Aquino Elementary School.

Some six million students lost up to two weeks' worth of classroom learning last year as temperatures hit a record 38.8 degrees Celsius (101.4 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the education department.

Schools reported cases of heat exhaustion, nose bleeds and hospitalizations as students struggled through lessons in classrooms without air conditioning.

Scientists say that extreme heat is a clear marker of climate change, caused largely by burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

Last year's heat was further exacerbated by the seasonal El Nino phenomenon.

But even this year, nearly half Manila's schools were forced to close for two days in March when the heat index — a measure of temperature and humidity — hit "danger" levels.

“We’ve been reporting (the heat index) since 2011, but it’s only been recently that it’s become exceptionally warm,” national weather service specialist Wilmer Agustin told AFP, attributing it to “El Nino and climate change”.

This year, conditions in most of the country will range between “extreme caution” and “danger” on the government’s heat alert system, he said, “especially in April and May”.

On April 11, scores of schools in Manila were shuttered as temperatures were expected to hit 34C, while the national weather service said the heat index for at least five provinces would hit the danger level.

‘Significant’ impact

During last year’s closures, alternative learning helped make up some of the gap.

But “the overall impact on students’ education was significant”, said Jocelyn Andaya, assistant education secretary for operations.

So this year, a series of measures have been instated to avoid further learning loss.

Classroom sessions have been shortened to four hours a day — avoiding the searing midday sun — and water stations were installed in each classroom as well as at least two oscillating wall fans.

Some newer schools have heat-reflective roofs, and bigger ones now employ nurses.

Just three percent of students affected by last year’s heatwaves were able to access online classes, so this year printed material was prepared for students if they must stay home.

Even so, Benigno Aquino school principal Noel Gelua cautioned that “there is no real alternative to face-to-face learning.”

But there are limits to what can be done, given the education department has a budget of just 10 billion pesos (\$174 million) for climate adaptation, infrastructure and disaster readiness.

The Philippines also has a perennial classroom shortage, with 18,000 more needed in the capital alone.

Manila's public schools do two shifts per day, with about 50 students in each 63 square-meter (678 square-foot) room, exacerbating the heat problem.

Fifth-grader Ella Azumi Araza, 11, can only attend four days a week due to the shortage.

On Fridays, she studies in her family's nine-square-meter cinderblock home on a bed she shares with her younger brother, who suffers from epilepsy.

Three electric fans are always on in the windowless, single-room structure.

As hot as it is at home, her mother Cindella Manabat still frets about conditions at school, saying that she comes home coughing.

"I make her carry a jug of water to prevent dehydration," she said.

'Difficult to teach'

Across the street from Benigno Aquino, eighth-graders at President Corazon C. Aquino High School aimed tiny, rechargeable fans at their bodies while taking an algebra quiz.

Two of the four ceiling fans in the room had given out and the remaining two were clearly not enough for the 40 students.

"It is very difficult to teach in the heat," their teacher Rizzadel Manzano said.

"Motivating them is really a challenge."

A school uniform requirement was ditched earlier this year, and students now wear sweatpants and T-shirts donated by the city, principal Reynora Laurenciano told AFP.

Both schools are located in a densely populated slum area called Baseco, where conditions at home can be even more dire, she added.

"If you ask them, they consider (school) a safer place," Laurenciano said.



## PHILIPINE NEWS AGENCY

### DOE optimistic to meet 50% clean energy share by 2040

By: Kris Crismundo

The Department of Energy (DOE) is optimistic the Philippines will hit its target to increase to 50 percent the share of clean energy in the power generation mix by 2040.

The share of renewable energy (RE) in the country's total power mix will exceed the 2040 target and even reach 56.9 percent, based on the DOE's simulation, Electric Power Industry Management Bureau (EPIMB) Supervising Science Research Specialist Mark Christian Marollano said Tuesday during the Power 101 media seminar organized by Aboitiz Power Corp., in coordination with the DOE.

Marollano said the country's generation capacity by 2040 is seen at about 279.19 terawatt-hours (TWh), a 150 percent increase from the 111.52 TWh capacity in 2022.

The Marcos administration eyes RE to contribute 35 percent to the energy mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

Marollano said the DOE has received 14,624.84 megawatts (MW) of committed power projects until mid-2028 or until the end of the term of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Of the total committed power capacity from 2025 to 2028, about 11,063.56 MW use RE technologies, he said.

Committed power projects have already secured firm financial closing, in the construction stage, or Green Energy Auction-awarded projects.

For 2025 alone, there are about 6,180.50 MW of committed power capacity, and about 4,339.76 MW is from RE, Marollano said.

On top of this, battery energy storage system projects have a committed capacity of about 480 MW across the country to date.

"The Department of Energy is responsible for checking the development of these projects to ensure that they will enter on time; they will not have delays. And if there is a delay, there is a time that the DOE will intervene and somehow provide measures to address the delay of these power projects to ensure that they will enter on time based on their scheduled time," he added.

## Take active role in climate action, DENR urges Filipinos

By: Marita Moaje

As the world celebrates Earth Day on Tuesday, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga called on all Filipinos to take an active role in shaping a cleaner and greener future.

In a statement on Tuesday, Loyzaga emphasized that environmental protection and climate action begin with collective responsibility.

“Earth Day offers a moment to reflect on the responsibilities we share - as Filipinos, and as stewards of a fragile planet,” she said.

“This year's theme, 'Our Planet, Our Power,' speaks to a profound truth: that we hold the power to shape a future anchored on clean, renewable energy,” she added.

Loyzaga noted that the Philippines is home to vast natural wealth, with over 30 million hectares of land, 220 million hectares of vibrant marine waters, and more than 56,000 species on land and sea.

However, she said Filipinos an immense duty to protect and use these natural resources wisely, especially as the country transitions to an inherent complex use of renewable energy.

“It is linked to the sustainable use of our natural resources: our waters for hydropower, heat from our earth for geothermal energy, the wind and sun for other sources of alternative clean energy, but the use of these energy resources are not without cost,” Loyzaga said.

She explained that the social and economic cost of clean energy must be accompanied by a just transition and the responsible and sustainable use of critical energy transition minerals.

A just transition focuses on ensuring that the shift to a low-carbon economy is fair and equitable, protecting workers and communities while creating green jobs and a sustainable future.

“As we celebrate Earth Day, we must be reminded that the journey to clean energy must be grounded on collective action. We must ensure that in this quest for resilient,

inclusive, and sustainable development, there must be no one and no ecosystem left behind,” Loyzaga said.

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about environmental protection and sustainability.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [As Filipinos face climate challenges daily, groups urge action in May elections](#)

By: Dominique Nicole Flores

As climate change becomes more visible in the routines of ordinary Filipinos, environmental watchdogs are calling on voters to reflect its urgency through their ballot in the May 12 elections.

In observance of Earth Day, Greenpeace Philippines said on Tuesday, April 22, that there is no better time for Filipinos to put “climate justice front and center on the policy agenda.”

It recalls how the past year was marked by climate extremes: blistering heat with temperatures soaring closer to 50°C and a train of cyclones tearing through the country in just a month.

Recent election surveys, however, show that Filipinos' top concerns are primarily economic — job opportunities, food security, healthcare and equal access to education.

While climate change was raised as a separate issue and remains a top concern for many voters, Greenpeace said these economic challenges are already deeply intertwined with the impacts of climate change.

“To secure all these and ensure Filipinos are able to live decent lives free from fear or want, means that climate needs to be the primary lens in government policy making and implementation,” the group said.

Class suspensions, storm-related deaths

The year 2024 not only marked the hottest on record but also saw global temperatures surpass the critical 1.5°C threshold, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

This threshold, established by 196 countries in the 2015 Paris Agreement, was set to limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as exceeding it could trigger irreversible consequences.

A report from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) revealed that 32 of 180 teaching days were lost between April and May 2024 due to dangerously high heat

indices. During the same period, nearly 50% of schools in the National Capital Region suspended classes because of the extreme heat.

Greenpeace said this led to Filipino children's reduced access to education, "deepening the country's education crisis."

Later in the year, between October and November 2024, six consecutive storms pummeled the Philippines, leaving little time for recovery between each, and pushing the death toll to 324, nearly four times that of 2023.

"Typhoons and floods increase the risk of death, diseases and health emergencies. Extreme heat exposes more vulnerable populations to heat stroke," Greenpeace said, mentioning how climate anxiety has emerged as a major source of mental and emotional distress among the youth.

How this affects Filipinos. On top of the lives lost, the storms severely impacted farmlands and fisheries, slightly disrupting the supply of staple crops like palay.

This, in turn, put food security at risk, drove up the cost of goods, and strained both consumer purchasing power and the incomes of the country's poorest workers — farmers and fisherfolk — according to Greenpeace.

Environmental groups warn that if these trends persist, the consequences could be far more severe.

"Climate change is already threatening our rights to food, water, health, and security," Greenpeace Philippines Country Director Lea Guerrero said in a statement. "Candidates must go beyond promises and deliver bold, people-centered solutions."

5-point agenda for candidates

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To help at least reduce the impact of the climate crisis, Greenpeace Philippines outlined a five-point agenda that it urges local and national candidates to adopt in shaping their policies. These include:

- Building climate-resilient communities
- Demanding accountability from climate polluters
- Supporting a just energy transition
- Promoting health-focused climate policies
- Making climate justice and action at the center

So, what would these look like in practice? According to Greenpeace, building a resilient community means “creating and opening spaces” for residents to actively participate in local policymaking.

This includes involvement in city planning, infrastructure projects, permits for large-scale industrial activities and policies on fisheries and agriculture.

Disaster response alone is not enough, the group added. “Coherent strategies beyond disaster response must be put in place, and these should also address long-term vulnerabilities, not just disasters.”

Climate change also costs the government billions of pesos each year — a burden ultimately shouldered by Filipino taxpayers, while major polluting firms continue to profit.

For policymakers, Greenpeace said addressing this means supporting measures like the proposed Climate Accountability Bill, which seeks to establish a framework for holding polluters accountable and securing reparations from those responsible.

Voters were also urged to support candidates who advocate for the eventual phaseout of fossil fuels and promote renewable energy policies that are “people-centered and rights-based” — solutions that avoid creating new environmental problems or serving merely as greenwashing.

“Mining, reclamation, and foreign-backed projects are dispossessing the poor, ravaging our ecosystems, and unleashing state terror on those who resist,” Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment spokesperson Jonila Castro said in a statement.

Indigenous rights group Katribu Youth also called for an end to mining projects that exploit the energy shift agenda to expand mining activities, which have put communities in the provinces at risk.

“Mining and so-called ‘green’ energy projects are trampling our ancestral domains, destroying our livelihoods, and unleashing militarization. Our right to consent is ignored, our communities are threatened. Climate action means nothing if it tramples on indigenous rights and feeds imperialist plunder,” Faye Monge said.

How would these benefit Filipinos?

Phasing out fossil fuels could result in cleaner air and fewer pollution-related illnesses and deaths, while limiting mining activities to essential operations would help reduce the risk of landslides, polluted water sources and floods.

Placing climate justice and action at the forefront means ensuring alignment with key plans and policies, such as the Philippine Development Plan, Philippine Energy Plan, the National Climate Change Action Plan and the National Adaptation Plan.

If the government is committed to such policies, Greenpeace stressed that it must stop backtracking and approving environmentally harmful infrastructure projects.

“[T]he crisis is not just about climate but also about societal issues that in turn magnify problems such as poverty and conflict,” the group said.

“Future policy- and decision-makers need to understand that the climate agenda is a development agenda, and ensure that climate is the primary lens for government policy and decision-making,” it added.

The midterm elections are set for May 12, with 68.6 million registered Filipino voters expected to elect senators, district and party-list representatives and local leaders.

## UN NEWS

### [Climate crisis driving surge in gender-based violence, UN report finds](#)

By: Laura Quinones

That is the warning from a new report by the UN Spotlight Initiative, which finds that climate change is intensifying the social and economic stresses that are fuelling increased levels of violence against women and girls.

The report finds that extreme weather, displacement, food insecurity, and economic instability are key factors increasing the prevalence and severity of gender-based violence.

These impacts hit hardest in fragile communities, where women already face entrenched inequalities and are more vulnerable to assault.

Every 1°C rise in global temperature is associated with a 4.7 per cent increase in intimate partner violence (IPV), the study finds. In a 2°C warming scenario, 40 million more women and girls are likely to experience IPV each year by 2090. In a 3.5°C scenario, that number more than doubles.

The Spotlight Initiative — a global partnership between the European Union and the United Nations — works to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Its latest findings emphasise that climate solutions must address rights, safety, and justice if they are to be effective or sustainable.

A 'shadow pandemic'

Gender-based violence is already a global epidemic, the report outlines. Over one billion women — at least one in three — have experienced physical, sexual, or psychological abuse in their lifetime. These figures are likely underestimated, as only around seven per cent of survivors file a formal report to police or medical services.

The Spotlight Initiative identifies a pattern of increased violence in the aftermath of climate disasters.

In 2023 alone, 93.1 million people were affected by weather-related disasters and earthquakes, while an estimated 423 million women experienced intimate partner violence. As climate shocks become more frequent and severe, the risk of violence is projected to rise dramatically.



For example, one study highlighted in the report found a 28 per cent increase in femicide during heatwaves.

Other consequences include higher rates of child marriage, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation, especially in the wake of displacement caused by floods, droughts, or desertification.

### Marginalized communities

The burden of this crisis is not evenly distributed. Women and girls living in poverty — including smallholder farmers and those in informal urban settlements — face heightened vulnerability.

Women who are Indigenous, disabled, elderly, or part of the LGBTQ+ community also experience overlapping risks, with limited access to services, shelters, or protections.

In sub-Saharan Africa, projections show that intimate partner violence could nearly triple from 48 million women in 2015 to 140 million by 2060 if temperatures rise by 4°C. However, under a scenario that limits warming to 1.5°C, the share of women affected could decrease from 24 percent in 2015 to 14 percent in 2060.

The report also draws attention to the growing threats against women environmental human rights defenders. Many face harassment, defamation, physical assault, or worse for speaking out against destructive land use or extractive industries.

In Guatemala, women who reported illegal logging were forcibly evicted and had their homes burned. In the Philippines, those opposing mining operations have faced abduction and deadly violence.

### An urgent call for gender-inclusive climate policy

Despite the urgency of this issue, only 0.04 per cent of climate-related development assistance focuses primarily on gender equality. The report argues that this gap represents a critical failure to recognize how gender-based violence – or GBV – determines climate resilience and justice.

The Spotlight Initiative calls for GBV prevention to be integrated into all levels of climate policy, from local strategies to international funding mechanisms.

Examples from countries like Haiti, Vanuatu, Liberia, and Mozambique have shown how programmes can be designed to simultaneously address violence and build climate resilience.

These include re-training midwives for jobs in the expanding climate-smart agricultural sector, ensuring that disaster response includes GBV services, and supporting mobile health clinics in disaster zones.

The report stresses that effective climate action must prioritize safety, equity, and the leadership of women and girls.

Ending violence against women and girls, the report concludes, is not only a human rights imperative — it is essential to achieving a just, sustainable, and climate-resilient future.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [CCC asks CHED to make climate literacy core in all college courses](#)

Marking International Mother Earth Day, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) called on the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to weave climate education into all college programs, saying the next generation's understanding of the crisis lags behind its concern for the planet.

"Many students and young people care deeply about the planet, yet they often lack a full understanding of climate change, its root causes, long-term impacts, and the urgency of action," CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E. A. Borje said during a forum held at CHED's main office.

Enrollment in higher- education institutions climbed from 4.1 million in 2022 to 5.1 million in 2024, CHED data show, while the Philippine Statistics Authority pegs literacy at 90 percent. Despite those figures, Borje warned that "the real challenge lies in fostering a deeper understanding of climate issues."

He urged CHED to champion sustainability research and integrate climate topics across all academic disciplines, adding that the agency "informs, inspires, and influences the next generation of leaders" who must become "stewards of our planet."

International Mother Earth Day — designated by the U.N. General Assembly in 2009 — served as the backdrop for the event. CHED Chair J. Prospero E. De Vera III and commissioners Ethel Agnes Pascua- Valenzuela, Shirley C. Agrupis, Marita A. Canapi, Dennis R. Apag III, and Atty. Cinderella Filipina S. Benitez- Jaro joined CCC officials to discuss how colleges can embed climate literacy in their curricula.

The CCC said it will continue working with CHED and other agencies to promote climate awareness nationwide. Details on upcoming programs are available at [climate.gov.ph](http://climate.gov.ph) and [facebook.com/CCCPhl](https://facebook.com/CCCPhl).

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