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Information and Knowledge Management Division

MANILA BULLETIN

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A volunteer firefighter died battling a wildfire in northern Florida while more than 120 homes have been destroyed in southeast Georgia and thousands more remain threatened by two large blazes, one of which investigators suspect was sparked by a foil balloon touching power lines, officials said Friday.

An unusually large number of wildfires are burning this spring across the Southeast, where scientists say the threat of fire has been amplified by a combination of extreme drought, gusty winds, climate change and dead trees still littering some forests after being toppled by Hurricane Helene in 2024.

In northern Florida, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office said Friday that volunteer firefighter James "Kevin" Crews suffered an unspecified medical emergency while suppressing a brush fire. Crews was rushed to a hospital where he died Thursday evening, according to a news release posted to social media.

"Kevin was the epitome of courage and dedication," Hilliard Volunteer Fire Chief Jerry Johnson said in a statement. "His sacrifice will never be forgotten."

'No way to stop this fire' without soaking rain

After getting a firsthand look at firefighting efforts in southeast Georgia, Gov. Brian Kemp told reporters that state officials believe 87 homes burned in rural Brantley County this week are the most destroyed by a single wildfire in the state's history.

An additional 35 homes have been lost to a larger fire burning in sparsely populated Clinch and Echols counties near the Florida state line, Kemp said. That blaze has burned about 50 square miles (129 square kilometers), an area twice the size of Manhattan.

Kemp said officials suspect the Brantley County was sparked by a foil party balloon that touched live power lines, creating an electrical arc that ignited the ground. He said investigators suspect the larger fire started with a man welding a gate outside.

Spread across nearly 12 square miles (31 square kilometers) and still growing, the Brantley County blaze was 15% contained Friday, the Georgia Forestry Commission said. An estimated 4,000 homes in the county were under evacuation orders Friday, said commission spokesperson Seth Hawkins.

"There's no way to stop this fire," Kemp said. "They're having to contain the flanks and the back of it and then, hopefully, we get a change in the weather."

No fire deaths or injuries have been reported in Georgia.

Firefighters are battling more than 150 other wildfires in Georgia and Florida that have sent smoky haze into places far from the flames, triggering air quality warnings for some cities.

'We've lost everything, but I'm one of the lucky ones'

Michael Gibson was at his job Thursday at a chicken feed producer when his fiancée called urging him to come home. By the time he arrived, firefighters were already on the road where Gibson, his fiancée and their four children lived. He said he took his family to safety and tried to return to salvage belongings, but police stopped him.

Gibson said the fire consumed his mobile home and one beside it where his fiancée's brother lived. His family has been staying in a camper on a relative's property.

"We've lost everything, but I'm one of the lucky ones." Gibson said Friday. "We've been prepared to leave. And I'm truly blessed to have my family and to have somewhere to sleep. ... A lot of people in my county didn't make it out with the clothes on their backs."

Jennifer Murphy said she had little time to react when firefighters knocked at her door in the Brantley County community of Hortense.

She said she barely had a chance to gather her dog, Chip, and a single bag of belongings before firefighters urgently helped her walk down her wheelchair ramp and grab a rolling walker from her van outside.

"It was like, 'Get out now, right now. You've got to leave,'" Murphy said Friday at the local church where she had spent the night on a couch.

Firefighters are hosing down homes, trying to limit destruction

While crews with bulldozers work to clear fire breaks around the burning areas, firefighters from dozens of local agencies have focused on protecting nearby homes and other structures — clearing away dry brush and using hoses and sprinklers to keep houses and yards wet.

"We've definitely had the local fire guys out there literally hosing stuff down," said Hawkins of the forestry commission.

In Florida, firefighters were battling more than 120 wildfires Friday, mostly in the state's northern half. Fire crews in Georgia responded to 31 new and relatively small blazes Thursday, the state forestry commission said.

Officials say soaking rain is badly needed to snuff out the large fires, and that possible showers forecast this weekend won't bring enough rainfall. There's also a chance of thunderstorms, raising concerns that lightning could spark more fires.

"It is going to take 8 to 10 inches before we can walk away from these fires," said Johnny Sabo, director of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

He said long-range forecasts predict less than average rainfall until July.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Legarda: Filipinos must unite vs climate crisis this Earth Day](#)

By: Jan Escosio

Sen. Loren Legarda urged Filipinos on Wednesday to harness their individual and collective power to combat the climate crisis, marking Earth Day 2026 under the theme “Our Power, Our Planet.”

“In the face of a worsening climate crisis, we are called not only to observe, but to reflect and to act. This theme reminds us that you do not need to look in distant places to heal, protect, and sustain our only home, the power lies within each of us: in our choices, policies, businesses, and collective will,” Legarda said.

Legarda stressed that Earth Day demands action beyond a single date on the calendar.

“When our environment is damaged, Filipino families are the ones most severely affected. Every effort from national policies to everyday actions in our communities must bring us closer to a Philippines that thrives in balance with nature. The crisis we face today is not only a challenge, but also an opportunity to build a safer, more resilient, and more sustainable future,” Legarda added.

Throughout her public service, Legarda has championed major environmental laws that form the backbone of the country’s climate resilience and environmental protection strategy, including the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the Climate Change Act of 2009, People’s Survival Fund, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018, and the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121).

In celebration of Earth Day, the four-term senator invites the public to join Luntiang Pilipinas: An 8-Hour Earth Day Special with Sen. Loren Legarda on April 22, 2026, livestreaming from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on her official Facebook Page (facebook.com/iamlorenlegarda) and YouTube channel (@senatorloren).

The livestream will feature Legarda’s documentaries, speeches, and stories from communities and nature, designed to raise awareness, provide knowledge, and encourage steps toward a greener, more resilient future for Filipinos.

Earth Day, which began more than 50 years ago as a grassroots call for change, has since grown into a global movement. Legarda emphasized that such movements only succeed when they are translated into daily practice, across governments, businesses, schools, communities, and households.

“Let us use our power wisely. Let us share it generously. And let us renew our commitment today and every day to protect the only planet we call home,” Legarda concluded.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[E. Samar moves to shield local economy from fuel shocks, eyes shift to renewable energy](#)

By: Vee Tolentino-Gumban

Recognizing the province's vulnerability to global economic fluctuations and climate change, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Eastern Samar is advancing two landmark ordinances to strengthen economic resilience and to accelerate the shift to renewable energy.

Authored by Board Member Philip C. Evardone Jr., the proposed measures—the “Eastern Samar Economic Resilience and Fuel Shock Mitigation Ordinance of 2026” and the “Renewable Energy Promotion Ordinance” seek to establish a proactive framework to protect Estehanonans from the impact of rising fuel prices and unreliable power supply.

“Our goal is to protect our people from the ripple effects of global fuel price increases while preparing Eastern Samar for a more sustainable and energy-secure future,” Evardone said.

To ensure inclusivity, the provincial government engaged tricycle operators and drivers in the consultative process, recognizing their sector as among the most vulnerable to fuel price volatility.

Their inputs are expected to help refine the transport and livelihood stabilization mechanisms, ensuring that subsidies and support programs effectively reach those who rely on daily transport operations.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has expressed support for the proposed measures, particularly provisions on tax incentives and the streamlining of permit applications for renewable energy projects.

DTI Provincial Director Pedro Bimbo Tan underscored the importance of these initiatives for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which comprise about 97 percent of businesses in Eastern Samar.

“These measures will help reduce operational costs and improve the sustainability of small businesses, especially through access to affordable and reliable energy,” Tan said.

Under the Economic Resilience Ordinance, a proposed Provincial Economic Resilience Council (PERC) will serve as the province's “economic watchdog,” monitoring global trends and crafting contingency measures.

Key components include a digital price-monitoring system for fuel and essential commodities such as rice, fish, and fertilizers, as well as barangay-level food security initiatives, such as community gardens and local seed banks, to reduce dependence on external supply chains.

Meanwhile, the Renewable Energy Promotion Ordinance aims to harness the province's abundant solar, wind, and water resources to expand clean energy adoption.

A proposed Provincial Renewable Energy Council (PREC) will oversee the implementation of a "Green LGUs Program," targeting at least 30 percent renewable energy use in all provincial government facilities by 2030.

The measure also offers incentives such as up to 25 percent real property tax discounts for renewable energy-powered establishments, expedited permit processing, and support for solar or hybrid micro-grid installations in remote barangays and evacuation centers.

Evardone emphasized that institutionalizing these policies will enable Eastern Samar to shift from a reactive stance to a more proactive and resilient approach to development.

"Diri kita dapat maghulat la hin krisis antes kumilos. Kinahanglan mag-andam kita yana pinaagi hin mga polisiya nga magpapanalipod ha aton ekonomiya ngan makaturoy hin limpyo ngan barato nga enerhiya para ha aton katawhan," Evardone said.

(We should not wait for a crisis before we act. We must prepare now through policies that will protect our economy and ensure clean and affordable energy for our people.)

Once enacted, the proposed ordinances are expected to strengthen Eastern Samar's position as a leader in sustainable development and economic resilience in Eastern Visayas.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Hot, humid weather on Monday due to easterlies

Many parts of the country will continue to experience hot and humid weather due to easterlies, the weather bureau said Monday.

In its 5 a.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Sorsogon, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Southern Leyte, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao del Norte will have cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms caused by easterlies.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms, also due to easterlies.

A peak heat index of 45°C is forecast in Dumangas, Iloilo, and Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

The following areas are also expected to experience danger-level heat indices:

Sangley Point, Cavite - 44°C
Guiuan, Eastern Samar -- 43°C
Iloilo City, Iloilo - 43°C
La Granja, La Carlota, Negros Occidental - 43°C
Iba, Zambales - 42°C
San Ildefonso, Bulacan - 42°C
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro - 42°C
Puerto Princesa, Palawan - 42°C
Cuyo, Palawan - 42°C

The entire archipelago will experience light to moderate east to northeast winds, with slight to moderate seas.

RAPPLER

[EXPLAINER: How El Niño could impact the world's weather in 2026-2027](#)

Global weather forecasters predict a strong El Niño weather phenomenon will build during the second half of 2026, threatening hotter and drier weather across much of Asia, while boosting rain in parts of North and South America.

What forecasters predict

Japan's weather bureau says there is a 70% chance for an El Niño to emerge during the northern hemisphere summer, while Indian weather authorities warn the South Asian nation's monsoon season could be below average for the first time in three years.

Weather officials in China expect El Niño conditions to run through the end of the year after emerging in May.

The US Climate Prediction Center sees a 61% chance of an El Niño during the period from May to July.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology is predicting below long-term median rain in eastern cropping regions between May and August, the first half of the country's growing season.

Weather models indicate rain below, and temperatures above, normal across Australia, Southeast Asia, and India, said Chris Hyde, a meteorologist at weather intelligence firm Meteomatics with its headquarters in Switzerland.

"Overall, I think it's going to be ideal growing conditions across the US Midwest this year," he added. "We will have to watch the timing of El Niño, there could be some impacts to excessive moisture towards harvest."

What are the El Niño, La Niña weather events?

They are opposite phases of the same climate system in the tropical Pacific.

El Niño is a natural pattern of unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

It builds when shifts in atmospheric pressure weaken, or even reverse, normally steady easterly trade winds, allowing eastward movement of warm waters piled up in the western Pacific, for a redistribution of heat, altering global weather patterns.

A La Niña forms when trade winds strengthen, pushing more warm water toward the western Pacific and allowing colder water to upwell in the east, driving sea surface temperatures below normal.

La Niña often brings above-average rainfall to Australia and parts of Southeast Asia, but its impact on the Indian monsoon is variable, rather than uniformly strengthening.

In the Americas, La Niña tends to lead to wetter conditions in parts of northern South America and drier conditions in the southern United States. Overall, the Americas broadly turn drier.

An El Niño occurs every three to five years on average and a La Niña once every three to seven years, says Australia's Bureau of Meteorology.

What was the impact of previous El Niño events?

El Niño events vary in severity and impact.

A strong one in 2015 and 2016 caused severe drought across Australia and Southeast Asia, while weakening the Indian monsoon. It reduced output of grain, palm oil, and sugar.

At the same time, excessive rain in parts of South America disrupted soybean and corn harvests.

A moderate El Niño in 2009 and 2010 brought dry weather that reduced yields of staples rice and wheat in India and Southeast Asia.

The strongest El Niño on record was in 1997–1998. It caused drought in some parts of Asia that slashed rice production, although India received average rainfall. Flooding in the Americas damaged crops.

The most recent instance of a strong La Niña was from 2020 to 2023.

[Fossil fuel, renewable financing reached 'new heights' in 2025 – report](#)

By: Iya Gozum

Top Philippine domestic banks' funding for coal, gas, and renewables reached record levels in 2025, according to an annual report on fossil fuel divestment.

The report, released Tuesday, April 21, said the past year saw coal financing at its highest since 2019 and the 2020 moratorium. Funding for gas amounted to \$3.37 billion. These figures indicate “the need to close loopholes in policies and finally initiate gas financing restrictions.”

Total coal and gas financing from 2009 to 2025 sums to \$21.18 billion, which is “more than half of total energy financing,” the report said. Meanwhile, financing for renewables quadrupled from 2024 to \$5.79 billion, also its highest since 2009.

Environmental advocates called on domestic banks to “cushion, rather than enable” the Philippines' vulnerability to global price shocks.

“Banks that have not so far made any pronouncements on the coal exposure are lagging behind and must immediately come up with clear policies and timelines to divest,” Ivan Andres of policy think tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) said in a briefing on Tuesday.

CEED has released annual fossil fuel divestment reports since 2020 (with data starting from 2019) to track domestic banks' support for fossil fuels and funding for renewables.

The call to phaseout fossil fuel intensified the past month as countries grappled with the impact of the war in the Middle East.

The report comes as around 50 countries are set to gather in Colombia late April for the first-ever conference on fossil fuel phaseout. Advocates say this is the first step toward formal negotiations on a new international treaty.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[When heat becomes a national risk](#)

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

We no longer experience heat in the Philippines as a passing inconvenience. It lingers, intensifies and increasingly shapes how we live, work and plan our days.

This is not unique to us. The World Meteorological Organization has reported that the past decade has been the warmest on record globally, with recent years setting successive temperature highs. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change meantime has concluded that human-induced warming is driving more frequent and intense heat extremes.

These global trends are being felt with increasing force in the Philippines. Heat index levels have reached dangerous extremes, with some areas recording conditions classified by PAGASA as “Extreme Danger.” These are not isolated spikes. They reflect a broader shift in baseline conditions.

But while rising heat is a national condition, it does not land evenly.

In Metro Manila, heat is intensified by design and reinforced by demand. Concrete, asphalt and steel absorb and retain warmth long after the sun sets. Limited green space reduces natural cooling, while dense infrastructure restricts airflow. The result is a built environment that traps heat and amplifies exposure, particularly for those who have the least capacity to avoid it. Equally concerning is the fact that as temperatures rise, the city’s dependence on energy for cooling deepens, creating a feedback loop between heat, consumption and cost. Geographic Reference

Cebu presents a more complex picture. Rapid urban expansion, coastal exposure and upland degradation intersect with infrastructure and watershed pressures. Heat does not act alone here. It compounds existing stresses on water systems, land use and the overall livability of fast-growing communities. Risk in Cebu is cumulative, shaped by how multiple vulnerabilities converge in one place.

In agricultural provinces such as Nueva Ecija, heat affects crop yields, water availability, and labor conditions. It determines how much is harvested, how much is lost, and ultimately what reaches tables far beyond the province. What begins as a temperature increase becomes a question of food security.

These are different contexts, but they point to a shared reality: rising heat is not a uniform experience. It manifests through the systems we have built in our cities, growth patterns and production landscapes.

Heat is the hazard. But risk is determined by how exposed and unprepared we are.

The true measure of rising heat is not simply the temperature reading. It is what it takes away from us — our health, our learning and our productivity.

In our communities, the impacts are evident.

Heat places direct strain on the body. It increases the risks of cardiovascular stress, dehydration and heat-related illnesses, particularly among the elderly, children and those who work outdoors. For many families, staying cool comes at a cost, as electricity consumption rises and household budgets tighten. Public health systems, already under pressure, are forced to absorb these additional burdens.

In education, the effects are quieter but no less significant. Class suspensions due to extreme heat disrupt learning continuity. Even when schools remain open, high temperatures affect concentration and cognitive performance, particularly in classrooms without adequate ventilation or cooling. These disruptions accumulate, shaping the quality of learning over time.

In the workplace, heat is becoming a constraint. It slows down labor, reduces efficiency and increases fatigue. Outdoor and informal sector workers bear the brunt, but the effects ripple across the economy. Rising cooling costs affect businesses, while productivity losses begin to register at scale. Heat is no longer a background condition. It is an emerging drag on economic performance.

Heat is also driving a surge in overall energy demand. As temperatures rise, households and businesses rely more heavily on cooling, pushing electricity consumption upward and straining already tight supply conditions. In a context where global energy markets remain volatile, shaped in part by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, this exposes a deeper vulnerability.

Our dependence on imported fuels means that the cost of staying cool is no longer just a matter of weather. It is tied to forces beyond our control. What begins as a heat problem quickly becomes an energy security and affordability issue.

Taken together, these impacts point to something more fundamental. Heat is not just a climate and environmental issue. It is a development issue.

The Philippines does not lack the policy frameworks to respond.

Under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the National Adaptation Plan provides a science-based approach to managing climate risks, including rising temperatures.

The Philippine Development Plan embeds resilience into the country's growth strategy. The Philippine Energy Plan reinforces this direction by pursuing a more diversified energy mix and reducing dependence on imported fuels, even as demand for cooling continues to rise. The National Climate Risk Management Framework underscores the need to address multiple, interacting hazards.

At the local level, tools such as Comprehensive Land Use Plans, zoning ordinances, and Annual Investment Programs determine how these national priorities are translated into action.

The challenge is not the absence of direction. It is the consistency of execution.

If climate risk is not fully integrated into land use decisions, then development continues to expand into areas that are increasingly exposed. If infrastructure is designed without considering future heat conditions, then we lock in vulnerability. If natural systems are degraded, we lose some of the most effective buffers we have against rising temperatures.

This is where the responsibility becomes collective.

Local governments are at the frontlines of implementation. Their decisions on land use, infrastructure, and service delivery shape how communities experience heat. The private sector influences where and how investments are made, and whether these align with long-term resilience. Communities themselves play a critical role in managing local environments and sustaining the natural systems that provide cooling and protection.

What connects these actors is a shared stake in the outcome.

In a warming Philippines, the question is no longer whether temperatures will continue to rise. The science is clear on that.

The question is whether we continue to build in ways that intensify heat or begin to design systems that can withstand it.

The defining test of our resilience in this context is not how much heat we can endure. It is how well we prevent it from undermining the foundations of our health, our learning, and our productivity.

[Climate spending tops P1.1 trillion in 2025](#)

By: Mico Virata

Government spending on climate-related programs surged to more than double in 2025, with allocations heavily skewed toward projects aimed at helping the country adapt to worsening climate impacts rather than cutting emissions.

According to data from the Climate Change Commission cited in the Compendium of Philippine Environment Statistics, total climate change expenditures reached P1.16 trillion in 2025, up from P457.4 billion in 2024.

The sharp increase reflects expanded funding across multiple agencies for disaster resilience, infrastructure protection, and resource management, as climate risks continue to intensify across the country.

Of the total spending, 97.2 percent was directed toward adaptation measures such as flood control, water management, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Only 2.8 percent went to mitigation efforts, which focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The spending pattern shows a continued focus on immediate risk reduction rather than long-term emission cuts, a trend that has remained consistent in recent years.

Under the National Climate Change Action Plan, the largest share of funding went to sustainable energy initiatives, which received ₱P391.88 billion or 38.4 percent of total climate-related expenditures.

Water sufficiency followed with P313.45 billion or 30.7 percent, reflecting ongoing investments in supply systems and infrastructure to address both drought and flooding risks.

Climate-smart industries and services accounted for P228.77 billion or 22.4 percent, while food security programs received P62.37 billion or 6.1 percent. The remaining P23.24 billion, or 2.3 percent, was allocated to other priority areas.

The report also highlights efforts to strengthen environmental awareness through education programs and local initiatives aimed at reducing environmental harm and improving resilience at the community level.

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[Philippines Must Build A Unified Climate System As Risks Intensify](#)

As climate risks become increasingly complex and interconnected, the Philippines must shift from fragmented climate initiatives to a unified, systems-based approach, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

At the launch of the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Philippines project in Pasig City on Monday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the urgency of strengthening governance systems that can anticipate and manage climate risks, rather than respond to disasters after they strike.

“Everybody knows that our climate risks are no longer linear, cascading across sectors and then compounding over time,” he said.

Borje stressed that the country is now being tested to see whether its systems can anticipate risks and deliver timely, precise, and sustained responses to these challenges.

He said the CBIT Philippines project is designed to strengthen the country’s measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) framework by integrating data systems, institutional processes, and analytical tools into a single decision-making platform.

He underscored that the country’s focus now must shift from recovery to prevention, and from reacting to risk to managing it.

“What we are launching is not simply another project. It is part of a broader effort to build a system where climate information shapes decisions and where those decisions lead to real, measurable results, allowing us to situate where we are very clearly,” he said.

Borje said the initiative will align data architecture, clarify institutional roles, and improve analytical capacity so that climate information feeds directly into policy choices, investment planning, and performance tracking, emphasizing the need to move beyond compliance-driven reporting.

The effort builds on the Philippines’ first Biennial Transparency Report submitted in 2025 under the Paris Agreement’s Enhanced Transparency Framework, which demonstrated the country’s commitment to accountability but also revealed persistent capacity gaps.

“The challenge has never been willingness. It has always been capacity,” Borje said.

He also called for stronger coordination across government agencies and partners, warning that siloed approaches could undermine progress.

“We need to work very, very closely together. The work should not stay within silos. It has to function as one. A system where information moves with discipline, where decisions are based on evidence, and where results are tracked and improved over time,” he said.

He added that stronger transparency systems would not only improve policymaking and adaptation efforts but also help mobilize climate finance, noting that “transparency builds confidence.”

“Ultimately, transparency is not just about visibility. It is about being able to steer, to make decisions with confidence, and to adjust when things are not working. And then to do so before problems become more difficult or more costly,” he said.

The CBIT Philippines project is a multi-year initiative supported by partners including the Manila Observatory, Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Conservation International, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.

Borje noted that while systems are critical, their effectiveness ultimately depends on people and institutions working together.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC, stakeholders push for stronger alignment of climate plans to strengthen Cebu's resilience](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), along with other national government agencies, local officials, and faith-based leaders, pushed for stronger alignment between local planning and national climate policies to reinforce Cebu's resilience against intensifying climate risks during the Cebu Climate Action Summit 2026.

The CCC emphasized the role of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in guiding local government units (LGUs) to develop science-based, actionable strategies, including Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), Annual Investment Plans (AIPs), and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) plans.

Recognizing Cebu's high exposure to flooding, intense rainfall, sea level rise, and landslides, the CCC underscored the urgency of coordinated, forward-looking action. From 2021 to 2025 the province has incurred nearly ₱14 billion in damages from major typhoons, including Odette, Tino, and Uwan, placing lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure at risk.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje stressed the need to move beyond planning toward coherent and aligned implementation.

"We do not lack plans. We lack alignment. If conditions are changing, our path to development cannot remain the same. When systems align, risk is reduced before it becomes loss."

He emphasized that climate risks are becoming more complex and interconnected across sectors.

"We are no longer dealing with isolated hazards, but with risks that move across systems."

Cebu Governor Pamela S. Baricuatro acknowledged the province's increasing climate risks, citing the changing nature of weather patterns and their growing impacts on communities.

"The challenges are changing, the rain is no longer what it used to be. What used to be a simple downpour can now mean flooding, disruption, and danger," Baricuatro said.

The discussion featured sessions that deepened understanding of climate hazards and enabled the exchange of best practices across key sectors.

Ms. Corazon B. Clarin, Convenor of the Cebu Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction initiative, underscored the importance of social equity and accessibility, emphasizing that persons with disabilities must be fully included in climate action.

The Archbishop of Cebu, Most Rev. Alberto S. Uy, D.D., highlighted the moral urgency of climate action, calling for reflection that leads to concrete action.

“Today, those cries are becoming louder. The cry of the poor, the cry of the earth, and even the cry of future generations. These are not separate cries; they are one, and they are calling us not just to reflect but to act.”

The Province of Cebu remains highly vulnerable to compounding hazards, including flooding in low-lying and urban areas, rain-induced landslides in upland communities, and drought that threatens water security and agriculture. These overlapping risks underscore the need for integrated planning and sustained investment in resilience.

The Summit was organized by the Cebu Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, which brought together national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, the academe, faith-based institutions, and the private sector. It served as a platform to strengthen.

This supports the guidance and vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, ensuring that policies, plans, and investments work together to build a climate-resilient future.

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