



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### ABS CBN

#### [Marcos says Philippines eyeing food stamp program with ADB](#)

By: Raffy Cabristante

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday said his administration is eyeing to establish a nationwide food stamp program in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [PHL, ADB eye food stamp program, other measures vs climate change](#)

By: Samuel P. Medenilla

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said the country would be weathering the worst effects of climate change by ramping up government spending for mitigation and adaptation initiatives with help from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Marcos vows to make gov't infrastructure projects climate-proof](#)**

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

THE PHILIPPINES would ensure that all phases of its ambitious “Build, Better, More” infrastructure program are sustainable, climate resilient and disaster-proof, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. told the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday.

### **[Transport connectivity, cheap ICT access touted as climate-resiliency tools](#)**

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

GREATER TRANSPORT connectivity and access to information and communications technology (ICT) have roles to play in mitigating climate risk in the Asia-Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Climate resilience embedded in social agenda, infra projects --- PBBM](#)**

By: Betheena Unite

Emphasizing that the Philippines is one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said the country will incorporate climate resilience and disaster proofing in all societal and infrastructural projects.

### **[Marcos hopes ADB sustains support for big projects in PH](#)**

By: Betheena Unite

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. expressed hopes that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would continue to support the Philippines in realizing its high-impact projects.

## **PANAY NEWS**

### **[Climate change worsened Asia's heatwave – study](#)**

Climate change raised temperatures by at least 2C in many parts of Asia last month as it suffered a crippling heatwave, a new study says.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **Marcos on climate change: We must adapt or we suffer**

By: Kristina Maralit

The country has to take steps to address climate change or suffer the consequences, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. warned on Monday.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **Marcos: ADB may assist in DSWD plan to introduce 'food stamps'**

By: Kaycee Valmonte

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has said the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s proposal to introduce “food stamps” to aid Filipinos may be financed by the Asian Development Bank.

### **Government urged to make Philippines’ power infra ‘climate-proof’**

The government should invest more in the country’s energy sector by making power infrastructure “climate-proof” and exploring alternative sources to tackle the nation’s energy woes, according to new studies by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**Marcos says Philippines eyeing food stamp program with ADB**

By: Raffy Cabristante

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday said his administration is eyeing to establish a nationwide food stamp program in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Marcos said the program, which was first proposed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, is among a string of projects the government has in the pipeline together with the regional bank.

"One of the things that is in the pipeline, that is being developed, that is going to be of great assistance to our people is a proposal by the DSWD for a food stamp program, which I'm surprised that we have never had, but it is something that we can see that has been effective in other countries," he told reporters.

DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian floated the idea earlier this year, in response to a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey which showed that 3 million Filipino families were experiencing hunger.

On Monday morning, Marcos visited the ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong City, where he met with the bank's president Masatsugu Asakawa to discuss present and future projects geared towards the Philippines' post-pandemic recovery and climate change resilience.

While ADB has always been a partner in infrastructure projects, the President said the government and ADB are also discussing programs on agriculture, reskilling and retraining, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

With COVID-19 no longer a public health emergency, Marcos said his administration can now "refocus priorities on the development of our economy and the betterment of the lives of ordinary Filipinos."

"I highlighted the need for our country to safely navigate through the waters of the post-pandemic world, and in that way firmly anchor our economy not just on a new normal, but on a better normal," he said in his speech following his meeting with ADB officials.

Marcos said steps to address climate change have been integrated into the country's development agenda, with elements of sustainability, climate resilience, and disaster proofing being included in infrastructure projects.

"Climate change will be the lodestar for our integral national policies and investment decisions," he added.

"As the climate bank of Asia and the Pacific, the ADB has proven its reliability in extending strategic financing and technical assistance for climate-responsive projects," Marcos also said.

Patterned after the World Bank, the ADB was established in December 1966 to serve the development needs of countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

The ADB was the Philippines' top source of active Official Development Assistance (ODA), Malacañang said.

With \$10.74 billion extended to 31 loans and 28 grants, ADB accounted for 31 percent of the country's total active ODA worth \$31.95 billion.

From 2010 to 2022, ADB's annual loan financing for the Philippines averaged at US\$1.4 billion, the Palace said.

During the first 9 months of the Marcos Jr. administration, three loans amounting to \$1.10 billion were also signed with the regional bank.

ADB has also extended funds to several Philippine government projects, which are expected to be completed between 2023 and 2025. These include the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project (US\$1.07 billion), Malolos-Clark Railway Project Tranche 2 (US\$1 billion), and South Commuter Railway Project Tranche 2 (US\$1.75 billion).

ADB currently has 68 member states, with Japan and the United States holding the largest amount of the bank's shares.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **Marcos vows to make gov't infrastructure projects climate-proof**

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

THE PHILIPPINES would ensure that all phases of its ambitious “Build, Better, More” infrastructure program are sustainable, climate resilient and disaster-proof, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. told the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday.

“As we ramp up annual public infrastructure spending to 6% of GDP (gross domestic product) consistent with the ‘Build, Better, More’ program, we will incorporate the elements of sustainability, climate resilience and disaster proofing in all phases of societal and infrastructural planning, design, construction up to operation and maintenance,” he said in a speech during his visit to the ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

Mr. Marcos said this would be implemented in projects involving water supply, sanitation, energy, transportation, agriculture and other essential areas.

The Marcos administration aims to sustain infrastructure annual spending at 5-6% of GDP through 2028. In 2022, infrastructure spending was equivalent to 5.8% of GDP.

Mr. Marcos said climate change continues to pose a threat to the Philippines, along with the El Niño phenomenon and a possible major earthquake.

The Philippines had the highest disaster risk, followed by India and Indonesia, according to the World Risk Index 2022.

“If we don’t act, climate change can, will and already is unleashing nature’s fury upon our communities and our people... Climate change will be the lodestar for our integral national policies and investment decisions,” the president said.

Mr. Marcos said that in his nine-month tenure so far, there have been three strategic programs signed with the ADB, with more in the pipeline.

The government signed three ADB loans worth \$1.1 billion in the first nine months of the Marcos administration.

He said the Philippine government is awaiting the release of ADB’s Country Partnership Strategy for 2024-2029, which will spell out the regional bank’s recommended medium-term development agenda for the Philippines.

The strategy's theme, "Investing in Climate, Filipinos and the Future," is in line with the Philippine Development Plan, Mr. Marcos said.

He said the government is looking at the ADB as a key partner in rolling out climate-related projects.

The Philippine Development Plan identified 3,770 infrastructure priority programs and projects with an indicative total investment requirement of P17.3 trillion through 2028.

Meanwhile, Mr. Marcos said the government has sought ADB funding assistance for the proposed food stamp program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

"One of the things that is in the pipeline, that is being developed, that is going to be of great assistance to our people is the proposal by the DSWD for a food stamp program, which I'm surprised that we have never had, but it is something that we can see that has been effective in other countries," Mr. Marcos told reporters when asked about his meeting with ADB President President Masatsugu Asakawa and other senior officials.

In February, Social Welfare Secretary Rexlon T. Gatchalian said his leadership is considering reviving the food stamp program.

Mr. Marcos said he also discussed possible partnerships on digitalization between the ADB and government agencies such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the Civil Service Commission.

"Now the scope of the ODA (official development assistance) that we get through ADB has now increased and we are now talking about agriculture, re-skilling and retraining, and climate change and its mitigation and adaptation," he said.

In 2022, the ADB was the Philippines' top source of active ODA among 20 development partners. Its annual loan financing for the Philippines averaged at \$1.4 billion from 2010 to 2022.

## Transport connectivity, cheap ICT access touted as climate-resiliency tools

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

GREATER TRANSPORT connectivity and access to information and communications technology (ICT) have roles to play in mitigating climate risk in the Asia-Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said.

In a recent report, ESCAP said: “Improved multimodal transport connectivity, for example, can reduce trade costs, enhance efficiency and competitiveness of doing business, and allow for the use of more environmentally friendly modes of transport.”

The report said affordable access to the internet and ICT infrastructures is also “essential to shaping an inclusive digital future and achieving sustainable development goals.”

ESCAP said Low Earth Orbital satellites, such as those operated by Starlink, a product of SpaceX Corp., could be one path to affordable access.

“The government of the Philippines believes that Starlink can provide reliable access to the internet, especially in rural areas susceptible to natural disasters, by mid-2023,” ESCAP said.

The report also noted the importance of mobilizing more investment in regional cross-border infrastructure and national grids.

“In the Asia-Pacific region, Australia, India and the Philippines, among others, have successfully managed private-sector investment in electric power networks. The investments in these countries are based on financial models that quantify the expected return and associated risk,” it added.

It added that power system connectivity can improve access to energy and mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the deployment and integration of renewable energy resources.

ESCAP also noted the proposed regional power grid in Southeast Asia, which would “fully integrate the power systems of all member countries and accordingly take advantage of the region’s diverse allocation of energy resources.”

“The interconnections would reduce the costs of power systems through economies of scale and shared investments,” it said.



## MANILA BULLETIN

### Climate resilience embedded in social agenda, infra projects --- PBBM

By: Betheena Unite

Emphasizing that the Philippines is one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said the country will incorporate climate resilience and disaster proofing in all societal and infrastructural projects.

During a reception for him hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday, May 22, Marcos once again brought up climate change and its impacts to the country. "Climate change will be the lodestar for our integral national policies and investment decisions," Marcos said.

"[W]e will incorporate the elements of sustainability, climate resilience and disaster proofing in all phases of societal and infrastructural planning, design, construction up to operation and maintenance," Marcos added.

The President said this will be implemented in the country's water supply, sanitation, energy and transportation systems, including agriculture and food production, and many other essential areas.

'Our options are limited'

The President said climate change will continue to pose a threat to the Philippines based on the 2022 World Bank Report as it also recently topped the World Risk Index 2022.

This means, he added, the country has been found to have the highest disaster risk among the 193 countries in the planet.

"In spite of this, certain things have remained constant such as the geographical fact that the Philippines still lies along the typhoon belt and the ring of fire in the Pacific. But set against the backdrop of all these worries from realities and statistics, the whole point is the climate change agenda is compelling, not only for the Philippines but for that matter the rest of the world," Marcos said.

"Our options are limited, we must mitigate, we must adapt, and if we don't do that we must suffer," he added.

The chief executive stressed that "if we don't act, climate change can, will and already is unleashing nature's fury upon our communities and our people."

He vowed that the government will continue to strategically integrate climate agenda into the country's development plan.

## **Marcos hopes ADB sustains support for big projects in PH**

By: Betheena Unite

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. expressed hopes that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would continue to support the Philippines in realizing its high-impact projects.

Speaking at the reception given to him by the ADB on Monday, May 22, Marcos said the country will ramp up annual public infrastructure spending to 6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) consistent with the build better more program.

"In keeping with our solid partnerships that we have had for decades, we will look to the ADB for crucial developmental intervention in these critical areas," he said.

"As the climate bank of the Asia and the Pacific, the ADB has proven its reliability in extending strategic financing and technical assistance for climate responsive projects. The Philippines stands to greatly benefit from these mutually beneficial relationship with the ADB," he added.

The President assured the ADB that the plans and projects financed by the ADB will be timely executed.

"We will ensure that the plans and projects are stringently (followed) and are timely executed. We will also ensure judicious utilization of the loans and other technical assistances that are provided to the country," he said.

According to Marcos, the country will also benefit from ADB through funding non-infrastructure projects such as development projects in agriculture, reskilling, and climate change-related initiatives.

The chief executive said one of the things that is in the pipeline and is currently being developed is the proposal of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for a food stamp program.

He also mentioned about the partnership between the ADB and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) with the Civil Service on digitalization.

"So the ADB has given us so many opportunities, not only in these projects that we are discussing but we are given more so in what has been done since ADB was brought here to Manila and they have been an essential part of all our development plans and

they have been a robust and strong and reliable partner in the Development of the Philippines," Marcos said.

President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. and Asian Development Bank President Masatsugu Asakawa (Noel B. Pabalate)

Marcos was welcome by ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa during a reception at ADB's headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

According to the ADB 2022 Annual Report, the Philippines received a total of US\$2.99 billion in financial assistance last year, the fifth largest amount among its member countries.

Established in 1966, the ADB is a regional development bank created to promote economic and social progress in Asia and the Pacific region by providing loans, technical assistance, grants and policy advice to its member countries. It currently has 68 member countries, including 49 from the Asia-Pacific region and 19 from outside the region.

Since joining the ADB in 1966, the Philippines has become one of the largest recipients of ADB assistance, receiving more than US\$20 billion in loans, grants and technical assistance from the bank.

The bank's assistance to the Philippines has supported a wide range of development initiatives including infrastructure development, poverty reduction, education, health and disaster risk management, among others.

## PANAY NEWS

### [Climate change worsened Asia's heatwave – study](#)

Climate change raised temperatures by at least 2C in many parts of Asia last month as it suffered a crippling heatwave, a new study says.

The research also found that climate change had made the heatwave 30 times likelier.

India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Laos all saw record temperatures of up to 45C in April.

The soaring temperatures caused deaths in some countries, melted roads, and left many people in hospital.

Other countries in Asia that are currently tracking unusually high temperatures include China, Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines.

Thailand's record heat was exacerbated by high humidity, as well as a large number of forest fires occurring at the same time, said the study by World Weather Attribution, an independent research institute.

Temperatures in the Philippines also hit 37C five days later, leading to heat stroke cases in around 150 schoolchildren.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### Marcos on climate change: We must adapt or we suffer

By: Kristina Maralit

The country has to take steps to address climate change or suffer the consequences, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. warned on Monday.

He said that the government will ramp up cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to effectively implement the Philippine Development Plan (Plan) 2023-2028 with emphasis "on climate and its intimate relation to the people."

"Our options are limited, we must mitigate, we must adapt, and if we don't do that we must suffer," he said during the reception hosted by the ADB in his honor at its headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

"Our country recently topped the World Risk Index 2022 which means that we have been found to have the highest disaster risk among the 193 countries on the planet. A highly undesirable distinction that we somehow have come into," he added.

Citing data from the 2022 World Bank report, Marcos said that "climate change will continue to pose a threat to the Philippines," pointing to the El Niño phenomenon and the dreaded big quake.

The Chief Executive added that the Philippines "lies along the typhoon belt and the ring of fire in the Pacific."

"Set against the backdrop of all these worries from realities and statistics, the whole point is the climate change agenda is compelling, not only for the Philippines but for the rest of the world," he said.

Addressing the impact of climate change is one of Marcos' top priorities, having repeatedly issued reminders to various government agencies to intensify climate change planning and programming.

The inclusion of the climate agenda in the PDP was one compelling sign of the government's ramped up efforts to combat global warming.

The initiative is anchored on three main strategies — increasing climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions; enhancing ecosystem resilience; and enabling transition to a low-carbon economy.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Marcos: ADB may assist in DSWD plan to introduce 'food stamps'](#)

By: Kaycee Valmonte

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has said the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s proposal to introduce “food stamps” to aid Filipinos may be financed by the Asian Development Bank.

Following a meeting with ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa on Monday, Marcos said the “food stamps” program, which DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said would help bring relief to hungry Filipinos, may be funded by the ADB’s official development assistance to the Philippines.

“One of the things in the pipeline that is being developed that is going to be of great assistance to our people is a proposal by the DSWD for a food stamp program, which I was surprised we have never had but it is something that we can look at as it has been effective in other countries,” Marcos said at the sidelines of the event.

A Social Weather Stations survey conducted from March 26 to 29 found that 9.8% of Filipino families or around 2.7 million experienced being hungry and not having anything to eat in the first three months of the year. This is down from the 11.3% logged in the fourth quarter of 2022 but still higher than the 8.8% record-low in December 2019

The DSWD has proposed to make the food stamps digital to allow recipients to buy food and other provisions in supermarkets.

In September last year, the ADB was planning to tap its \$14-billion fund allocated for Asia and the Pacific's food crisis to help set up a food security program in the Philippines.

The ADB’s assistance to the Philippines has expanded to agriculture and climate change courses, among others. As of April 2023, the ADB has provided \$31.12 billion worth of assistance via 736 projects that span from public sector management, transportation, energy, education, to health projects.

“We are very grateful to ADB and the other multilateral development banks for all the assistance and we discussed what it is that we can anticipate in the next few years in terms of large-scale programs,” Marcos Jr. said.

## Government urged to make Philippines' power infra 'climate-proof'

The government should invest more in the country's energy sector by making power infrastructure "climate-proof" and exploring alternative sources to tackle the nation's energy woes, according to new studies by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

The PIDS studies stressed that huge investments are required to fix the causes of power interruptions, which the think tank said costs the local economy P556 million per five-hour outage.

PIDS reported that the causes of electricity supply interruptions are broadly classified into environmental, supply, technical, and other issues, with environmental issues being "the most critical cause" among the four.

The state think tank then recommended prioritizing the climate-proofing of power infrastructure, a significant investment that, PIDS said, can be incorporated into the government's medium- to long-term plans.

"When electricity supply is not continuously given to businesses, this affects their income. When business incomes are affected, it cascades down to their employees," said Kris Francisco, a research fellow at PIDS and author of the study "Electricity Supply Interruptions in the Philippines: Characteristics, Trends, Causes".

Her research analyzed the monthly interruption reports of electric cooperatives submitted to the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

Francisco also stressed the need to provide assistance to and develop policies for electric cooperatives to increase their capacity and access to power supply, given their essential role in the energy sector.

Nuclear energy as alternative source

Meanwhile, Senior Research Fellow Adoracion Navarro, author of the study "The Implications of Developing a Philippine Nuclear Energy Program", highlighted the significance of other energy sources, specifically nuclear energy, in addressing power supply problems.

She mentioned that despite some setbacks, the government sees nuclear energy as a promising option, and talks about reviving the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant have started.



However, Navarro cautioned that "should the Philippines commit to a nuclear energy program, it must be prepared for a period of 100 years from construction to decommissioning."

She recommended conducting a comprehensive assessment of a nuclear power plant's disaster risks and establishing clear protocols for its construction, decommissioning, and waste disposal or storage, consistent with the International Atomic Energy Agency's Milestones Approach.

Aside from the huge costs a nuclear energy program requires, Navarro explained that updating current laws and ratifying international legal instruments remain the biggest hurdle to nuclear energy.

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