



## NEWSROUNDUP

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### **Philippines not yet part of Just Energy Transition Partnership — DOE's Lotilla**

By: Ted Cordero

The Philippines is not yet part of the financing scheme which helps coal-dependent emerging economies shift to renewable energy, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said as he called on the World Bank to support the country's goal towards a clean energy transition.

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By: Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

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By: Ronnel W. Domingo

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### **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

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### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **PH vows to advocate sustainable tourism on World Ocean Day**

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Department of Tourism (DOT) on Thursday renewed its commitment to champion sustainable tourism on World Ocean Day.

### **RAPPLER**

### **Inflation, low-quality jobs threaten Philippines' growth – World Bank**

By: Lance Spencer Yu

The Philippines has already outpaced its Southeast Asian counterparts in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) growth. But to continue on its path to become an upper middle-income country, the country must also grapple with the highest inflation rate among its ASEAN peers, and the rise of unpaid and low-quality jobs domestically.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [World Bank suggests carbon tax as part of Philippines' decarbonization efforts](#)

By: Nyah Genelle De Leon

The World Bank has recommended that the Philippines adopt carbon pricing measures to accelerate its decarbonization efforts and transition to clean energy.

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### [CCC cites need for climate action responsive to vulnerable](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday emphasized the importance of implementing "concrete, relevant, and appropriate" climate action that is "responsive" to the needs of vulnerable developing nations like the Philippines.

## CCC NEWS:

### [At global Climate Change Conference: PH urges tangible measures vs. climate change](#)

The Philippines delivered a resolute call for immediate and concrete actions to tackle the worsening climate crisis, emphasizing the need to transform the decisions of COP27 into tangible outcomes responsive to the needs of vulnerable developing nations.

## **CCC: New COA guidelines vital in PH climate expenditure transparency**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) welcomes the new Commission on Audit (COA) regulatory guidelines aiming to strengthen the transparency of the Philippine government's climate expenditures.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## ASIA NEWS NETWORK

### Climate change is here and now, says Minister Desmond Lee; this is how S'pore is fighting back

By: Shabana Begum

The impact of climate change is here and now, with Singapore already experiencing the hottest day in 40 years on May 13 when the mercury hit 37 deg C, while 2022 was one of the wettest years since 1980.

While the science of climate change may still be evolving and people continue to learn about the full extent of its effects, we must take action now, said National Development Minister Desmond Lee on Wednesday, as he outlined what the country is doing to decarbonise as well as fortify its defences against climate change impacts.

He said more than 20 per cent of Singapore's carbon emissions come from buildings and some of the ways to cut emissions there is to harness electricity from green energy sources and build sustainable towns, districts and buildings.

"It is therefore absolutely critical for us to find innovative ways to flatten the emissions curve brought about by urbanisation," Mr Lee said, on the second day of the Ecosperity Week conference at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre.

He cited the Singapore Green Building Masterplan, which charts out the aim of greening 80 per cent of buildings by gross floor area and ensuring that 80 per cent of new buildings will be classified as super-low energy by 2030.

The third target is to allow for the best-in-class green buildings to have an 80 per cent improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, compared with the standards in 2005, with the help of research and innovation.

In mid-2022, the Green Mark Incentive Scheme was launched to help building owners tap grants to retrofit their buildings and make them more energy-efficient.

Despite the 2030 targets, a report released in April by Schneider Electric and the Singapore Green Building Council said three in five companies here are not familiar with the concept of green buildings.

Singapore aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a key driver of that will be greening energy sources by harnessing solar power, regional power grids and hydrogen fuel, said Mr Lee.

According to a report on South-east Asia's green economy released on Tuesday, there are significant challenges related to the higher capital costs of making green investments, especially in renewables, due to the concern about insufficient returns.

Mr Lee highlighted how new neighbourhoods such as Jurong Lake District are planned with sustainability as a priority.

Touted as Singapore's second central business district, Jurong Lake District will be car-lite and served by a centralised district cooling network that uses less energy for the same amount of cooling.

Recently, a Jurong Lake District innovation challenge was launched to get companies and research institutes to come up with solutions to address issues related to reducing emissions and energy usage, managing waste and realising the car-lite vision.

But these innovations cannot progress and scale up unless building developers, facilities managers, infrastructure agencies and customers buy in to the ideas and facilitate them, said Mr Lee, during a chat with planning and design firm Arup's cities business leader for South-east Asia, Mr Chintan Raveshia.

While much has been discussed about greening the urban environment, the minister added that the blue spaces – the marine environment and seas – must not be forgotten.

"Unlike land, a lot of blue spaces are global commons. They have the potential to sequester so much carbon. On the other hand, if you exploit them relentlessly, they will be emitters. They are a tremendous supply of food... A lot of solutions can be found by harnessing the energy of the high seas and oceans, if you do so sensitively," he said.

## GMA NEWS

### Philippines not yet part of Just Energy Transition Partnership — DOE's Lotilla

By: Ted Cordero

The Philippines is not yet part of the financing scheme which helps coal-dependent emerging economies shift to renewable energy, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said as he called on the World Bank to support the country's goal towards a clean energy transition.

In his remarks during the World Bank's Securing a Clean Energy Future forum on Thursday, Lotilla reiterated the government's goal to increase the share of renewable energy in the power mix to 50% by 2040.

The Philippines relies heavily on coal with the highest contribution to the power generation mix at nearly 60%, while renewable energy contributes only over 20% to the energy mix.

"My challenge to the World Bank and our other development partners... that the green transition or the climate transition or securing a clean energy future must be a just and fair transition," Lotilla said.

"And that means that transition financing or climate financing or call it by any other name, such financing should be available to the country... unfortunately, we are not part of any of the Just Energy Transition Partnerships that have already been put in place," the Energy chief said.

The JETP is a financing cooperation scheme that aims to help coal-dependent countries shift towards clean energy launched in November 2021 during the United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP26.

"In this energy transition, I want to emphasize a number of things. First, our focus remains on Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1), which is the reduction of poverty and increasing the access of our people to energy," Lotilla said.

"Right now, the electrification of the country stands at roughly 96% by the end of 2022. That therefore leaves almost a million households or at least five million without access to clean energy," he added.

World Bank senior economist Ralph Van Doorn said the Philippines' transition to low and zero carbon alternatives will help address energy demand and improve energy security to power long-term growth.



“Cleaner energy future has many benefits. It is expected to lead to affordable energy. It is expected to enhance the competitiveness of the economy. The shift will reduce air pollution, an important benefit to public health,” Doorn said.

In its report, the World Bank said the Philippines is “uniquely positioned” to transition toward a renewable energy-dominated power system seen to “not only improve energy security but also enhance affordability through primarily private financing.”

“The private sector, which has been driving developments and investments in the energy sector over the past decade, will need to take on more risks and hasten the pace of adoption of new technologies and innovations as the power system pivots to variable renewable energy sources,” according to the World Bank.

“The Philippines’ development partners will also be called upon to do more, especially in facilitating the flow of concessional climate investment funds and technology transfers,” it said.

## MANILA STANDARD

### Climate change challenge

The Philippines is once more at the front door of the rainy season, which puts into sharp focus yet again the challenge of climate change in this basically agricultural economy of 114 million people.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself has underlined that “Developed countries have a moral obligation to support adaptation and mitigation efforts of the most vulnerable countries through technology transfer, capacity building, and climate financing, this to address loss and damage, and to achieve necessary breakthroughs for climate action at a global scale.”

His statement was contained in his call last month for unity among 10 ASEAN member states at their 42nd Summit Plenary Session in urging developed countries to fulfill their longstanding commitments to the Paris Agreement.

Sans doubt, the climate crisis poses an existential threat to the world, especially to unguarded countries like the Philippines, and the President was on track in urging the commonality of ASEAN states in tackling these shared challenges.

“Although developing countries such as the Philippines only account for less than one percent of global emissions, our countries bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change,” President Marcos said.

Weather authorities have said there is a 60 percent chance for a transition from ENSO-neutral to El Niño during May-July 2023, and this will increase to about 70 percent in June-August and 80 percent between July and September.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation is a recurring climate pattern involving changes in the temperature of waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

The Geneva-based World Meteorological Organization has described the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere during the 20th century as resulting “from the growing use of energy and expansion of the global economy.

In 2009, the Philippine Congress passed the Climate Change Act which created the CCC to develop policies and coordinate government programs on climate change.

The CCC in turn developed the National Climate Change Action Plan that serves as a road map for all climate change programs in the Philippines.

In 2021, the Philippines committed to reduce 75 percent of its emissions by 2030 and quickly scale up efforts to adapt to a changing climate, setting itself one of the most ambitious targets among Southeast Asian countries.

Weather experts have underlined that changes due to the variability and intensity of rainfall in the country and increased temperatures will affect food security and the safety of the population.

Multiple indices rank the Philippines, where impacts of climate change are immense, as one of the countries most affected by extreme climate events.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Climate change, diet change

By: Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

World Environment Day (June 5) came and went with little fuss and frenzy hereabouts. People were monitoring two typhoons threatening to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility, a term one now hears—all 12 syllables of it—in street corners, homes, and hovels, and one begins to wonder when Filipinos began to be so meteorologically inclined.

Thanks to broadcast media that now allot more air time on weather concerns, we've become amateur weather forecasters ourselves, spewing out meteorological jargon both in Filipino and English—habagat, intertropical convergence zone, manaka-nakang pag-ulan, pagkulong, at pagkidlat, etc. Television's weathermen became celebrities in their own right, starting with the late Amado Pineda of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration and GMA 7, and later Nathaniel "Mang Tani" Cruz of the same network.

But we have yet to go beyond being weather watchers and storm chasers in this typhoon-battered archipelago. Bigger than the subject of weather (stormy, rainy, sunny, warm, etc.) is climate, which is "the average weather in a given area over a longer period of time." For the World Meteorological Organization, "the classical period used for describing a climate is 30 years."

The extreme and sudden weather changes now plaguing us have to do with climate change, the worrisome global phenomenon of our own making, unless you are a denialist who believe in an inexorable cosmic upheaval. Are we simply preparing for tomorrow's typhoon—with grab bag and all—but not for climate changes in the next decade? Is doing something to avert the doomsday scenarios beyond our capabilities?

Scientists of different persuasions have exposed the crimes committed in the name of progress against planet Earth and its atmosphere, as well as the personal sins of apathy, neglect, greed, and selfishness that have ruined the natural order of things and resulted in global warming and climate change. To each her/his own scientific expertise, but everything, when taken as a whole, can make the difference. We beat our breasts for being a throwaway society. We bring reusable bags and do small acts of love for Mother Nature.

But scientists, bless them, who now warn us about what we eat that cause harm to the environment, have yet to get our full attention. For how is our diet related to Earth's ruin? More bluntly, how does the food industry that brings food to our tables wreak havoc on our planet? There is a lot on the subject online. But a scientist among us, Dr. Teodoro C.

Mendoza of the Institute of Crop Science of the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, has written a paper for the International Journal of Agricultural Technology (2023). The title: “Transforming meat-based to plant-based diet is addressing food security and climate crisis in this millennium: A review” (<http://ijat-aatsea.com>).

It is a long, scientific read but the abstract can give you enough about where you are in the battle. Mendoza, a crop scientist, starts by saying that world leaders at the 2022 77th United Nations General Assembly considered climate change “as the most challenging concern of this century. It is the aim of this paper to present how 50 percent reduction in global greenhouse gas emission by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 can be achieved to avoid a 1.5 degree centigrade rise in global temperature and its twin effects of global food shortage and hunger.” In other words, it can be done.

“Transforming meat-based to plant-centric diet by reducing meat intake is the way forward. Meat is a very ‘resource use intensive’ food. It takes 75 times more energy to produce meat than corn, four to five times more water than rice, about eight to ten times more land for one person to be nourished.” Mendoza calls for drastic change. “The 3.5 billion pastures and meadows that are used for grazing ruminant animals can be freed, and 56 percent of the 1.2 billion grains produced annually and fed to animals ... and 90 percent of all soybeans fed to animals can be used directly as human food. This implies that we do not need to increase food production by 60 percent or more when the population in 2050 reaches about 9.1 billion or more.

“Animals are the main cause of deforestation [which is] the main cause of biodiversity loss, soil erosion/land degradation, loss of watershed led to disrupted hydrologic cycle, diminishing the supply of fresh/clean water in rural areas ... Protein-based meat production is very inefficient, resource-use wise. Meat production requires lots of land, water, nutrients, and energy ... About 350 million tons of meat is consumed yearly, which requires slaughtering of 80 billion animals per year,” Mendoza says in his paper.

The greenhouse gas emission from these animals is staggering, a huge problem in itself. Think about it.

## Growth forecast hiked as inflation risk lingers

By: Ronnel W. Domingo

The World Bank now expects better growth prospects for 2023 than it did six months ago, but noted that social protection for poor Filipinos needs to be more efficient as the Philippines remains in the grip of high inflation and other risks occurring here as well as abroad.

The multilateral lender said this even as it raised its growth forecast for the Philippine gross domestic product in 2023 to 6 percent from the 5.4-percent forecast in December.

In the latest edition of its Philippine Economic Update launched on Wednesday, the World Bank said the upward change in the forecast was driven by domestic consumption and investment.

World Bank senior economist Ralph Van Doorn said in a press briefing that addressing inflation required implementing measures such as reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, enhancing domestic supplies, and bolstering agriculture with extension services, seeds and fertilizers.

“In the face of escalating prices, a comprehensive strategy is needed to guarantee sufficient food for everyone,” Van Doorn said. ‘This entails a more productive agriculture and food system that is resilient to climate risks, serves all consumers, and competes effectively on both local and global markets.

He added that sustained investments in climate change initiatives, particularly in the agriculture sector, would be also beneficial. This could include measures such as extending water-saving drip irrigation systems to rain-fed areas, bolstering the resilience and productivity of agricultural lands, and enhancing water storage capacity for a consistent supply during prolonged dry periods.

Downside risks Meanwhile, Ndiame Diop, the World Bank’s country director for the Philippines, said that the economic outlook for the Philippines was tilted to the downside, meaning the actual results may be lower than their growth forecast.

Diop said this was so because of the possibility of rising global inflation, higher global interest rates, and an escalation of geopolitical tensions brought about by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

He added that, on the domestic front, high inflation remains a risk to the economic outlook due to several factors including natural disasters affecting food supply, the

threat of El Niño that could further constrain food production, logistics and supply chain challenges, and pressure from domestic demand.

“It is essential to sustain improvements in social protection to help families, especially the poor and vulnerable, cope with economic difficulties as the country navigates the global slowdown, budget constraints, high prices of basic commodities and climate-related risks,” Diop said.

The World Bank report stated that ensuring an efficient delivery of social protection programs would require speeding up current government reforms, including adoption of the national ID system for social protection delivery, updating the targeting system for identifying poor and vulnerable families, innovations in digital payment systems and strengthening financing mechanisms and readiness for disaster response.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### DBP offers credit assistance to expand water sources; address climate change effects

State-owned Development of the Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has offered to provide credit assistance to water districts, local government units and water utility firms to expand production capacity and explore additional water sources amidst the looming onset of El Niño phenomenon at the latter part of the year, a top official said.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Michael O. de Jesus said DBP funding assistance would be channeled under its pioneering Water for Every Resident (WATER) program, which was designed specifically to support projects that would provide affordable water supply at the community level.

“DBP’s broad experience in bankrolling water supply projects would be a boon to our collective efforts to find suitable and sustainable solutions to address the rising demand for an important natural resource such as water,” de Jesus said.

DBP is the eighth largest bank in the country in terms of assets and provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy – infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; the environment; and social services and community development.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has previously raised the El Niño Alert, which it expects to emerge by June and may persist until the first quarter of next year. The weather phenomena may cause below-normal rainfall condition and may entail dry spells and droughts in some of areas of the country.

De Jesus said DBP WATER has already contributed P20.3 billion to the required investment of the water supply subsector, which is estimated at P511 billion in a span of 10 years.

He said the Bank would continue to support the targets and objectives of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan amidst the challenges of urbanization, rapid population increase and dwindling fresh water sources.

“DBP is one with President Marcos’ call for unified action while ensuring a protocol-based and science-driven approach to address the possible impact of the El Niño



phenomena at the short-term and the demand for reliable and potable water supply in the long-term,” de Jesus said.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PH vows to advocate sustainable tourism on World Ocean Day](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Department of Tourism (DOT) on Thursday renewed its commitment to champion sustainable tourism on World Ocean Day.

The agency said it will promote Philippine destinations in a way that will encourage “regenerative tourism” while highlighting responsible resource management, environmental protection, and preservation of cultural heritage, among others.

“As we mark this global effort to manage the oceans for the benefit of mankind, the DOT is committed to its unique mandate in tourism, to both promote and preserve our destinations while ensuring a memorable and meaningful Philippine travel experience,” it said in a statement.

The Philippines is considered as a center of marine biodiversity and is home to the world’s leading beach and dive destinations.

This year's theme for World Ocean Day is "Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing" with the UN calling on decision-makers and stakeholders to “put the ocean first”.

In a separate statement, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said Manila is resolute in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 14 or conserving and advocating the sustainable use of ocean, seas and marine resources.

He acknowledged that climate change remains the “greatest threat” to the Philippines given the number of its low-lying coastal areas and communities vulnerable to sea-level rise and underscored Manila's commitment to addressing it and other pressures on the oceans.

Manalo said the Philippines also understands the fragile balance of marine ecosystems and the significant role they play and is exerting all efforts towards "finalizing an international legally binding agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)."

“Moreover, the Philippines reaffirms its dedication to the United Nations Ocean Decade — a global initiative that aims to catalyze transformative action for the sustainable use and conservation of the world's oceans,” he added.

## RAPPLER

### [Inflation, low-quality jobs threaten Philippines' growth – World Bank](#)

By: Lance Spencer Yu

The Philippines has already outpaced its Southeast Asian counterparts in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) growth. But to continue on its path to become an upper middle-income country, the country must also grapple with the highest inflation rate among its ASEAN peers, and the rise of unpaid and low-quality jobs domestically.

The Philippines posted a GDP growth of 6.4% in the first quarter of 2023, higher than the levels of growth in Malaysia (5.6%), Indonesia (6.0%), Vietnam (3.3%), and Thailand (2.7). This was attributed to the continued release of pent-up demand, improved employment, and steady remittances.

But the World Bank cautioned that these rosy numbers are expected to fall in the face of stubborn inflation, among other factors.

“That growth was highest among peers in the region. However, growth is expected to moderate in 2023,” said Ndiame Diop, World Bank country director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand in a media briefing on Wednesday, June 7.

“This is because elevated inflation and a tight policy environment will weigh on domestic demand while the slowdown in global growth will weigh on external demand. And those explain the moderation that we have predicted in 2023,” he added.

Inflation to fall, but risks remain

Although inflation had already peaked in early 2023, it remained “well above those in peer countries in the ASEAN region,” according to World Bank senior economist Ralph Van Doorn. May’s inflation rate of 6.1% – which marked the fourth consecutive month of deceleration – still remained far above the 2% to 4% target range of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The World Bank expects inflation to go down in the Philippines and around the world, but it highlighted the persistence of global risks, such as “unexpectedly sticky core inflation” that could be transmitted to the Philippine economy, rising geopolitical tensions, and the recent episodes of financial market instability in advanced economies.

Domestically, there’s also the threat of El Niño and supply chain bottlenecks that could again strain the country’s food supply and inflate prices.

Taking into account these risks, the World Bank estimated that the Philippine economy would grow at 6% in 2023, 5.9% in 2024, and 5.7% over the medium-term.

#### Low-quality jobs rise past pre-pandemic levels

While the country's growth has generated jobs and lifted people out of poverty, the World Bank has its eye on another trend that it caused: the rise of low-quality jobs.

"Higher labor force participation and net job creation mask the persistence of low-quality jobs," the World Bank's Philippines Economic Update report said. "Low-quality jobs are on a rise, even surpassing pre-pandemic levels."

The Philippine economy generated 998,000 jobs from September 2022 to March 2023, but a big chunk of this is what the World Bank labels as "low-quality jobs," which are characterized by low and irregular pay.

"While the economy has generated a significant number of jobs, particularly in agriculture and the service sector, the quality of these jobs remains a concern. There has been an increase in part-time workers, self-employed individuals, and unpaid workers, indicating a shift towards the informal labor market and low-productivity jobs," Doorn said during the media briefing.

Elementary occupations with low and irregular pay took up almost 30% of all employment in March 2023, higher than the 27% level in January 2020. The percentage of part-time workers, self-employed individuals, and unpaid workers also rose above pre-pandemic levels, showing a shift to low-productivity jobs.

Worryingly, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that around 41% of new jobs created in February were unpaid – that is, they were held by people who work in family businesses without compensation.

"Job creation in the Philippines since 2015 has actually lifted a lot of people out of poverty. And we've seen that in a very sharp decline in the poverty rate from 2015 until the pandemic. However, many of these jobs were not very productive, and are precarious, with low job certainty," Doorn said.

"The challenge going forward to be a middle- and upper-middle-income country is for the economy to create not only jobs, but high-quality jobs in the manufacturing and the high value-added-service sectors," he added.

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

## [World Bank suggests carbon tax as part of Philippines' decarbonization efforts](#)

By: Nyah Genelle De Leon

The World Bank has recommended that the Philippines adopt carbon pricing measures to accelerate its decarbonization efforts and transition to clean energy.

“Introducing carbon pricing, either through a carbon tax or an emissions trading system, could incentivize firms and individuals to adopt low-carbon technologies while raising revenues, which could be used to support the energy transition,” the World Bank said in its June 2023 Philippines Economic Update report.

Curbing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon pricing could also raise approximately \$7 billion dollars in revenue by 2030, according to an earlier report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Following through with this recommendation would also allow the country to keep up with other ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore on their carbon pricing initiatives.

Currently, there is no official legislative proposal for carbon pricing in the country and it is unlikely that there will be one within the year, as per the Department of Finance which is still studying its feasibility.

Former Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III proposed a fiscal consolidation and resource mobilization plan which included carbon tax measures. His successor, Benjamin Diokno, supports it.

In 2021, the Philippines revised its GHG emission reduction by 2030 to 75%, from 70% previously, under its commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The World Bank said an urgent transition to clean energy can help the country meet that commitment.

“A clean energy transition would substantially increase the use of indigenous and renewable energy (RE) resources while reducing the country’s reliance on imported fossil fuels, thereby enhancing energy security,” it said.

A negative outlook

Still, reports in 2022 by Fitch Solutions Country Risk & Industry Research, show that while the country’s power sector will ramp up its decarbonization efforts, coal will still

remain the primary energy source for a decade as it is still the cheapest source for country's developing economy.

According to the World Bank report, the Philippine economy's carbon footprint is projected to rapidly triple as the demand for energy—which the transport, industry, and agriculture sectors dominate—increases due to strong economic and population growth.

Fossil fuels as the primary energy supply also increased from 60% in 2010 to 67% in 2020 due to the sustained growth in coal and oil demand from the transport sector, the Bank's report added.

"This trend highlights the fast-growing carbon footprint of energy production and consumption, which is the largest contributor to GHG [Greenhouse Gas] emissions in the Philippines, accounting for 59 percent of total GHG emissions in the country in 2019, up from 50 percent in 2010," it said.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PANAY NEWS

#### [Home Opinion Protecting the vulnerable](#)

THE RECENT flooding in parts of Western Visayas due to heavy monsoon rains enhanced by Typhoon “Betty” certainly drove home the point that climate change and natural disasters can undermine the social protection programs of the government. With the Philippines’ vulnerability to disasters, the government should make social protection programs adaptive to climate change and disasters.

Without adequate social protection in place, households may adopt adverse coping mechanisms in the face of slow-onset climatic shifts, such as changing eating patterns that may result to poor nutrition, pulling children out of school, or engaging them into child labor.

At present, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) plays a big role in providing social protection programs to the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged, as well as protective services during crisis situations. But we should not stop there.

According to a study published by state think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies, there is a need to unify the country’s social protection, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction efforts. It urged the Climate Change Commission (CCC, in-charge of climate change adaptation), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC, in-charge of disaster risk reduction), and the Office of Civil Defense (implementing arm of the NDRRMC), to work together to “build the resilience of the poor and the vulnerable.”

To do this, the government should first review its existing social protection programs and identify those that can be integrated with climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. DSWD’s flagship antipoverty program, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, is a good starting point that can include environmental protection in its scope, such as reforestation, prevention of illegal logging, solid waste management, and soil conservation or backyard gardening. On the part of the CCC, it should ensure that proposals to be evaluated for the People’s Survival Fund (PSF) include social protection components.

The integration of social protection programs and instruments, such as cash for work incentives and food for work programs, in other environmental initiatives of the government like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ greenhouse

gases emission mitigation strategy may also be considered given that poverty alleviation is one of its visions.



## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### CCC cites need for climate action responsive to vulnerable

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday emphasized the importance of implementing "concrete, relevant, and appropriate" climate action that is "responsive" to the needs of vulnerable developing nations like the Philippines.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert Borje made the remark at the opening of the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

Citing the undelivered commitments, Borje called for the undertaking of immediate actions to address the worsening climate crisis and for the realization of the decisions made during the 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP27).

"As we build on the progress Parties made in Sharm El-Sheikh, we believe in the real possibility that we will be able to transform COP27 decisions into actions with outputs and outcomes that are concrete, relevant, and appropriate, responsive to the vulnerable, developing nations' needs and priorities, and based on best available science and evidence," Borje said.

"This is no longer the time to explore. Now is the time to ensure that we implement and deploy the most appropriate measures so that we no longer need to grieve, but survive and thrive with higher level of adaptive capacities and climate resilience," he added.

Borje also presented "alarming" statistics on the loss and damage incurred by the Philippines and nearby Southeast Asian countries over the past decade.

He lamented that the Philippines suffered loss and damage amounting to USD12 billion, equivalent to two times its national budget for crucial health services.

He noted that the Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand emerged as four of 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change and disasters, making nearly 50 percent of Southeast Asia's population exposed to climate change impacts.

He added that Southeast Asia endured economic and human losses of USD97.3 billion, nearly matching the global commitment of USD100 billion by Annex I or industrialized countries for 2009 to 2020 to support vulnerable developing nations.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Group of Finance Ministers also reported a staggering loss and damage figure of USD525 billion over the past two decades for the 58 vulnerable country members.

“These numbers manifest in no uncertain terms, that in the face of worsening climate change, it is our lives, our livelihood, and our collective future at stake,” Borje said.

Recognizing the magnitude of the climate crisis, Borje called for focused attention on key issues for the SB58 conference.

He said the critical points include the utilization of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest findings; emissions avoidance as a mitigation option; acceleration of work programs for concrete action; speedy operationalization of relevant funds and networks; streamlined access to climate finance; and the delivery of effective means of implementation.

Emphasizing the importance of inclusive participation, Borje sought the involvement of civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, women and girls, youth, differently abled, and other stakeholders in developing "holistic and multidimensional" climate solutions.

Borje stressed that with only seven critical years remaining until 2030 to mitigate global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, there is an urgent need to translate dialogues into actions with concrete, relevant, and appropriate outputs and outcomes.

“We have talked ourselves out these past years, and at times, we were driven to tears. It is time to act on our commitments and deliver what we said we will do – with the highest speed and in the largest scale possible,” he said.

He also enjoined the global community to work harder and “save lives, protect livelihoods, and secure a safe, resilient, and sustainable future for all.”

Borje noted that the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has prioritized climate change as a critical national concern and vowed to embed climate resilience and accelerated climate action into its development agenda, with the expectation of increased resource flow, including means of implementation.

The Philippines, he said, has allocated USD8.2 billion, or 9 percent of its total national budget, for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs this year.

SB58, held in Bonn, Germany from 5 to 15 June 2023, gathered representatives from various countries, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to discuss critical issues related to climate change.

It provides a crucial platform for dialogue and negotiation leading up to COP28 in Dubai, UAE in November.

## CCC NEWS:

### [At global Climate Change Conference: PH urges tangible measures vs. climate change](#)

The Philippines delivered a resolute call for immediate and concrete actions to tackle the worsening climate crisis, emphasizing the need to transform the decisions of COP27 into tangible outcomes responsive to the needs of vulnerable developing nations.

Delivering the Philippine Statement at the opening of the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB58) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje reminded about undelivered commitments.

“As we build on the progress Parties made in Sharm El-Sheikh, we believe in the real possibility that we will be able to transform COP27 decisions into actions with outputs and outcomes that are concrete, relevant, and appropriate, responsive to the vulnerable, developing nations’ needs and priorities, and based on best available science and evidence,” said Borje, Head of the Philippine Delegation.

Presenting alarming statistics on the loss and damage incurred by the Philippines and nearby ASEAN countries over the past decade, he lamented that the Philippines suffered loss and damage amounting to US\$12 billion, equivalent to two times its national budget for crucial health services.

Within the Southeast Asian region, the Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand emerged as four of 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change and disasters. This makes nearly 50 percent of the ASEAN population exposed to climate change impacts. Moreover, the ASEAN region endured economic and human losses of US\$97.3 billion, nearly matching the global commitment of US\$100 billion by Annex I or industrialized countries for the same period, 2009 to 2020, to support vulnerable developing nations.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Group of Finance Ministers reported a staggering loss and damage figure of US\$525 billion over the past two decades for the 58 vulnerable country members.

“These numbers manifest in no uncertain terms, that in the face of worsening climate change, it is our lives, our livelihood, and our collective future at stake. I would like to address my people: Sa nagbabagong klima, buhay, kabuhayan at kinabukasan nating lahat ang nakataya,” Borje stressed.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration, he added, has prioritized climate change as a critical national concern, and vowed to embed climate resilience and accelerated climate action into its development agenda, with the expectation of increased resource flow, including Means of Implementation.

The Philippines allocated US\$8.2 billion, or 9% of its total national budget, for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs this year.

Recognizing the magnitude of the climate crisis, Borje called for focused attention on key issues for the SB58 conference.

These critical points include utilizing the latest findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), considering emissions avoidance as a mitigation option, accelerating work programs for concrete action, expediting the operationalization of relevant funds and networks, ensuring streamlined access to climate finance, and delivering effective means of implementation.

Emphasizing the importance of inclusive participation, he urged the involvement of civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, women and girls, youth, differently abled, and other stakeholders in developing holistic and multidimensional climate solutions.

With only seven critical years remaining until 2030 to mitigate global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, Borje highlighted the urgent need to translate dialogues into actions with concrete, relevant, and appropriate outputs and outcomes.

“We have talked ourselves out these past years, and at times, we were driven to tears. It is time to act on our commitments and deliver what we said we will do – with the highest speed and in the largest scale possible,” Borje emphasized.

He added: “This is no longer the time to explore. Now is the time to ensure that we implement and deploy the most appropriate measures so that we no longer need to grieve, but survive and thrive with higher level of adaptive capacities and climate resilience.”

Borje rallied the global community to work harder and “save lives, protect livelihoods, and secure a safe, resilient, and sustainable future for all.”

SB58, held in Bonn, Germany from 5 to 15 June 2023, gathered representatives from various countries, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to

discuss critical issues related to climate change. It provides a crucial platform for dialogue and negotiation leading up to COP28 in Dubai, UAE in November. For updates on the Philippines' participation in SB58, visit [www.climate.gov.ph](http://www.climate.gov.ph) and Climate Change Commission PH.

## **CCC: New COA guidelines vital in PH climate expenditure transparency**

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) welcomes the new Commission on Audit (COA) regulatory guidelines aiming to strengthen the transparency of the Philippine government's climate expenditures.

The recently issued COA Circular No. 2023-01 provides guidelines to national government instrumentalities (NGIs) and COA auditors when auditing programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) part of the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) process, under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The Circular aims to validate that the budget utilization and implementation of PAPs with CCET is in accordance with the law. It also determines the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of climate change programs.

“The CCC welcomes this audit policy of COA to support the CCET process. The new guidelines ensure not only the efficiency and effectiveness of its implementation, but also the proper utilization of resources intended for climate action,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director (VCED) Robert E.A. Borje.

The COA Circular emphasizes that all climate-related PAPs in the GAA for fiscal years (FY) 2021 onwards are expected to be implemented and delivered.

The CCET budget has increased by 64.46% – from PHP 282.36 billion in FY 2021 to PHP 464.50 billion in FY 2023.

“This initiative will go a long way in encouraging transparency and accountability from the government in how climate expenditures are allocated. We will work closely with COA and extend the necessary technical assistance for the conduct of post-implementation assessment of climate-tagged programs in our annual appropriations,” VCED Borje assured.

The CCET is a tool used to track and monitor climate-tagged budgets in the annual appropriations.

Government programs aimed at building climate resilience and promoting a low-carbon future like the Enhanced National Greening Program, Flood Mitigation projects, and Early Warning Systems are tagged in the CCET.

For the CCC, the new COA regulatory guidelines shall serve as a tool to promote a low-carbon future and build resilience to climate-related risks and disasters.

For more information about the CCET, visit <https://climate.gov.ph/> and <https://niccdies.climate.gov.ph/climate-finance/ccet>.



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