



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- Now is the time for ambition in Canada-Philippines relations
- Climate change is making our oceans change color, new research finds
- UNEP, UN Climate Change provide fashion communicators with practical guide to contribute to sustainable change
- Wind and solar to produce over a third of global power by 2030 —report
- Floods force Indian capital to shut schools and offices
- Uncharted life of extreme heat
- LPA, monsoon to dump rain – Pagasa

### ABS CBN

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By: Kelly Macnamara

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### BUSINESS MIRROR

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By: Ambassador David Hartman

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## **CNN**

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By: Jack Guy

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## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **LPA, monsoon to dump rain – Pagasa**

By: Arlie O. Calalo, Franco Jose C. Baroña and Javier Joe Ismael

THE combined effect of the low pressure area (LPA) off Quezon and the southwest monsoon will bring rain in most parts of the country in the next 24 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Thursday.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## ABS CBN

### Oceans are changing color and climate change may be to blame

By: Kelly Macnamara

Over the past 20 years huge swathes of the world's oceans have changed color, displaying a subtle greening towards the tropics that researchers say points to the effect of climate change on life in the world's seas.

In the new research published on Wednesday, scientists said they had detected shifts in colors across more than half of the world's oceans -- an expanse bigger than Earth's total land area.

Authors of the study in Nature think that is down to changes in ecosystems, and particularly in tiny plankton, which are the centerpiece of the marine food web and play a crucial part in stabilizing our atmosphere.

"The reason we care about the color changes is because the color reflects the state of the ecosystem, so color changes mean ecosystem changes," lead author B.B. Cael, of Britain's National Oceanography Centre, told AFP.

The color of the seas when seen from space can paint a picture of what is going on in the upper layers of the water.

A deep blue would tell you that there is not much life, while if the water is greener it is likely to have more activity, specifically from the photosynthesizing phytoplankton, which like plants contain the green pigment chlorophyll.

These produce a significant amount of the oxygen we breathe, are a crucial part of the global carbon cycle and are a foundational part of the ocean food web.

## LIFE COLORS

Researchers are keen to develop ways of monitoring changes in ecosystems in order to track climate changes and enshrine protected areas.

But previous studies have suggested you would need three decades of ocean chlorophyll monitoring to detect a trend because of annual variations.

In the latest study, researchers broadened the color spectrum, looking at seven hues of ocean color monitored by the MODIS-Aqua satellite from 2002 to 2022.

These are too subtle for humans to see and would look largely blue to the naked eye.

The authors analyzed the observational data to detect a trend above the year-to-year variability and then compared it to computer models of what would be expected with climate change.

They found that the real-world observations tallied closely with the changes predicted.

While the researchers said more work would be needed to find out what exactly those color changes might mean, they said climate change was very likely to be the cause.

"I've been running simulations that have been telling me for years that these changes in ocean color are going to happen," said co-author Stephanie Dutkiewicz, of MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at the Center for Global Change Science.

"To actually see it happening for real is not surprising, but frightening. And these changes are consistent with man-induced changes to our climate."

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **Now is the time for ambition in Canada-Philippines relations**

By: Ambassador David Hartman

EARLIER this month, on July 1, Canadians gathered from coast-to-coast to celebrate Canada Day. Here in the Philippines, over the past two weeks, I have had the occasion to gather with our Filipino friends and partners to celebrate our National Day, and to reflect on the state of the Canada-Philippines bilateral relationship.

During her first visit to the Philippines in May, Canada's minister of Foreign Affairs—the Hon. Mélanie Joly—declared that now, more than ever, is the time for ambition in our bilateral relationship. I couldn't agree more.

In November 2022 Canada launched its Indo-Pacific Strategy: a 10-year commitment to enhanced engagement and presence in this vital and dynamic region, backed by an initial funding of more than CAN\$2.3 billion in new resources.

The Philippines, sitting at the heart of the Indo-Pacific, is central to Canada's strategy. Our countries share many interests and objectives: maintaining a rules-based international order, upholding and protecting democracy, free trade and inclusive economic growth, combating climate change and protecting biodiversity, safeguarding fundamental human rights; improving food and energy security, and building a more sustainable future.

The deep people-to-people ties that bind our societies together reinforce these shared priorities. The Philippines is the third-largest source of new migrants, and the second source of global students to Canada. Today there are more than 1 million persons of Filipino origin in Canada, and that number continues to grow. The Canadian-Filipino community is a vibrant part of our multicultural society, contributing tremendous creativity, culture and energy to the Canadian story.

The importance Canada ascribes to this historic, 74-year old relationship is reflected in the pace and level of engagement between our governments. Since August of last year four Canadian cabinet ministers have visited the Philippines, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has met President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. twice, on the margins of the Asean and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summits. In addition, numerous leaders from our provinces and cities have likewise visited, seeking to enhance cooperation at the subnational level.

The pace of engagement shows no sign of slowing, as leaders on both sides of the Pacific look to seize upon the potential in our bilateral ties. Unlocking that potential is my

core mandate. My government's decision last month to add the Philippines to our Electronic Travel Authorization program will help boost these vital ties by removing barriers to travel, exchange and business for many Filipinos.

This same desire motivated Canada's most recent decision to select Manila as the host for our new Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office. Staffed by experts from Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, this office will work with our partners in the Philippines and across Asean to strengthen linkages, expand technical cooperation, increase trade, and improve food security.

More on the horizon

IN the coming months we will be expanding our embassy team to seize upon the opportunities emerging in the bilateral relationship. Indeed, our embassy in Manila is now Canada's fourth-largest diplomatic mission in the world, and continuing to grow—a clear testament to the importance my country attributes to its partnership with the Philippines. This will include the arrival of new staff to manage our expanding bilateral cooperation, a growing aid envelope, to hasten visa processing, as well as a resident attaché to manage our rapidly expanding defense ties.

Trade and commerce are also growing. We are working hard to build connections between Canadian and Philippine businesses to seize upon opportunities across a wide range of key sectors from sustainable mining, renewable energy, nuclear cooperation, defense and security, education, and more.

Canada and the Philippines are both maritime nations. We have common interests in upholding international law and preserving our maritime environments, while ensuring responsible and sustainable use of maritime resources. Citing this shared interest, Canada is taking steps to share its maritime affairs' knowledge and capacity with Philippine partners—including new initiatives to enhance Philippine maritime-domain awareness that we hope to bring online before the end of the year.

We also look forward to welcoming additional visits to the Philippines by ships from the Royal Canadian Navy, and other Canadian Armed Forces assets and personnel. These goodwill visits—part of Canada's commitment to enhance our presence and deepen our defense relationships in the Indo-Pacific—provide new opportunities for collaboration, exchange of expertise and joint training.

Contending with climate change

OUR two countries rank among the most affected globally by climate change and unfortunately, we both have had to contend with the devastating effects of increasingly

frequent natural disasters. Canada is making new investments in disaster-risk reduction, in sound environmental management, and in climate-change adaptation and mitigation. We see great opportunities of working together to protect fragile ecosystems, preserve biodiversity, and ensure sustainable economic growth here in the Philippines.

In October Canada will host the next iteration of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation—our bilateral strategic dialogue. Our team is working with our Philippine partners to chart out a suitably ambitious program that will focus on collaboration to address our most pressing shared challenges—including protecting our democratic institutions, combating malign influence, enhancing cyber defense, confronting coercion, and upholding a rules-based international order.

With so much possibilities before us, the cause for ambition is clear. The momentum in the Canada-Philippines relationship is considerable, driven by our multiplicity of shared interests and our common readiness to cooperate to tackle shared challenges. The tone and trajectory we have set are auspicious as we look toward 2024, when Canada and the Philippines will celebrate 75 years of official diplomatic ties—a noteworthy milestone in a long-standing, mutually beneficial and storied relationship.

**CNN**

**[Climate change is making our oceans change color, new research finds](#)**

By: Jack Guy

The color of the ocean has changed significantly over the last 20 years and human-caused climate change is likely responsible, according to a new study.

More than 56% of the world's oceans have changed color to an extent that cannot be explained by natural variability, said a team of researchers, led by scientists from the National Oceanography Center in the UK and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US, in a statement.

Tropical oceans close to the equator in particular have become greener in the past two decades, reflecting changes in their ecosystems, according to the study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The color of the ocean is derived from the materials found in its upper layers. For example, a deep blue sea will have very little life in it, whereas a green color means there are ecosystems there, based on phytoplankton, plant-like microbes which contain chlorophyll. The phytoplankton form the basis of a food web which supports larger organisms such as krill, fish, seabirds and marine mammals.

It's not clear exactly how these ecosystems are changing, said study co-author Stephanie Dutkiewicz, senior research scientist in MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences and the Center for Global Change Science. While some areas are likely to have less phytoplankton, others will have more – and it's likely all parts of the ocean will see changes in the types of phytoplankton present.

Ocean ecosystems are finely balanced and any change in the phytoplankton will send ripples across the food chain. "All changes are causing an imbalance in the natural organization of ecosystems. Such imbalance will only get worse over time if our oceans keep heating," she told CNN.

It will also affect the ocean's ability to act as a store of carbon, Dutkiewicz said, as different plankton absorb different amounts of carbon.

While the researchers are still working to unpick exactly what the changes mean, what is clear, they said, is that the changes are being driven by human-induced climate change.

'Clear trend'

The researchers monitored changes in ocean color from space by tracking how much green or blue light is reflected from the surface of the sea.

They used data from the Aqua satellite which has been monitoring ocean color changes for more than two decades and is able to pick out differences that are not visible to the human eye.

They analyzed color variation data from 2002 to 2022 and then used climate change models to simulate what would happen to the oceans both with additional planet-heating pollution and without.

The color changes matched almost exactly what Dutkiewicz predicted would happen if greenhouse gases were added to the atmosphere – that around 50% of our oceans would change color.

Dutkiewicz, who has been running simulations that showed the oceans were going to change color for years, said she is not surprised at this finding.

“But still I found the results very sobering; yet another wake-up call that human induced climate change [has] significantly impacted the earth system,” she told CNN via email.

Dutkiewicz told CNN it was difficult to say whether color changes could become visible to humans if the process continues.

“If a big tipping point was reached in some places: maybe. Though you’d have to study the colors for a while to be able to pick up on the changes,” said Dutkiewicz.

Next up, Dutkiewicz will try to better understand the color changes in different ocean regions, as well as looking into what might be causing them, she said.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "Climate change is making our oceans change color, new research finds"

## ECO BUSINESS

### [UNEP, UN Climate Change provide fashion communicators with practical guide to contribute to sustainable change](#)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Climate-Change-convened Fashion Charter today launched the Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook, a guide for consumer-facing communicators in the global fashion industry to align efforts to sustainability targets, incorporating both environmental and social factors.

The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook highlights the importance of shifting fashion communication to enable a sustainable and circular fashion sector, drawing attention to the role of marketers, brand managers, imagemakers, storytellers, media, influencers and beyond.

Published jointly by UNEP and UN Climate Change, it shows communicators how to take action through 1) countering misinformation, 2) reducing messages perpetuating overconsumption, 3) redirecting aspiration to more sustainable lifestyles, and 4) empowering consumers to demand greater action from businesses and policymakers. Ultimately it intends to help communicators explore how to assist in decoupling value creation from resource extraction and volume growth, while improving wellbeing.

Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are contributing directly and significantly to the triple planetary crisis, not to mention social injustices worldwide. The fashion sector is considered responsible, for instance, for between 2 per cent and 8 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions as well as significant pollution, water extraction and biodiversity impacts, including 9 per cent of annual microplastic losses to oceans, while consuming 215 trillion litres of water per year.

While addressing production impacts is essential, shifting patterns of excess consumption in core markets is also a priority, which means confronting the dominant linear economic model and its accompanying narrative of newness, immediacy and disposability.

The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook acknowledges the power of fashion's marketing engine, and the significant role it plays in shaping desire, aspiration and levels of consumption. It presents the need to direct such efforts towards sustainable and circular solutions as a creative opportunity. It provides a much-needed framework when policies around how to communicate environmental claims increasingly come into force. By leveraging their skills, communicators can be a part of the solution rather than contributors to the problem, and, in doing so, help advance

towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

“The balance between the science of sustainability and reimagining the fashion narrative is where communicators can excel. There is so much power in the stories fashion tells. If the fashion sector is to meet its sustainability targets, we need its enormous marketing engine to redirect its efforts towards sustainable consumption. But there is a notable void for participation in this change from communication stakeholders. The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook provides the practical guide that is needed. Importantly, it highlights how there is scope for huge creativity to envision and realise the world we want to live in,” said Daniel Cooney, Director of Communication, UNEP.

Ina Parvanova, Director of Communications and Engagement, UN Climate Change, said “The fashion industry recognises the changes it needs to implement are systemic. Shifting consumer behaviours and confronting the role marketing and storytelling play within this are crucial. The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook was developed in consultation with fashion stakeholders looking to effect change at this level. It not only provides a framework for addressing the Fashion Charter’s commitment on communication, but in doing so gives practitioners around the world the means to support the industry’s wider sustainability goals across environmental and social issues.”

The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook provides practical guidance, including lists of dos and don’ts for consideration and case studies as examples of best practices.

**Lead with science:** Shows communicators why and how a dedication to scientific evidence and transparency is fundamental to communication change. This is presented as the Playbook’s foundation level for sustainable fashion communication, recognising the importance of translating technical, science-based information into credible and meaningful messaging.

**Change behaviours and practices:** Moves onto the need for a cultural shift, explaining why eradicating messages of overconsumption is crucial. It also encourages communicators to point consumers towards lower impact and circular solutions instead, such as repair and reuse, helping to normalise sustainable behaviours.

**Reimagine values:** Focuses on the necessity for role models to help portray alternative models of status and success, decoupling identity from newness and recalibrating what is deemed aspirational so as to social proof a sustainable future. It also emphasises

how communicators can explore, explain and celebrate the positive ecological, cultural and social values of the fashion sector, bringing in a focus on inclusivity.

Drive advocacy: Demonstrates how communicators can empower consumers into their role as citizens to demand greater action from businesses and policymakers alike, holding stakeholders throughout the sector to account.

In doing so, the Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook recognises that individual behaviour change alone will not suffice and systemic shifts are also required at the business, societal and policy levels. It explores the role of policy – from how communicators can support and encourage policymakers to lead with measures that enable wider industry sustainability, to the exact current and incoming policies that will impact communication work.

Fashion communicators are invited today to adopt and integrate the guidance provided by the Playbook into their practice. To help them do so, UNEP will convene stakeholders focused on sustainable fashion communication in late 2023, providing access in the first instance to a masterclass series launching across regions. Interested parties may apply to participate here.

#### About UNEP's textiles work

Through its Textile Flagship Initiative, UNEP provides strategic leadership and encourages sector-wide collaboration to accelerate a just transition towards a sustainable and circular textile value chain. It has outlined the imperative for the fashion sector, representing apparel and footwear, to become radically and rapidly transformed to become circular. To do so, it has identified three priority areas: shifting consumption patterns, improved practices and infrastructure investment.

The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook is its flagship piece of work to support the priority of shifting consumption patterns, focused on increasing the participation of consumer-facing actors and communicators within the sector's sustainability efforts. It recognises fashion communication and its supporting ecosystem as an under-addressed area and a key enabler in transforming the entire textile value chain. As a next step, UNEP will offer a masterclass series for fashion communicators to participate in to learn more about the Playbook principles and how to adopt and integrate them into their practice. Interested parties may apply to participate here.

#### About UN Climate Change's Fashion Charter

Under the auspices of UN Climate Change, fashion stakeholders worked during 2018 to identify ways in which the broader textile, clothing and fashion industry can move towards a holistic commitment to climate action. They created the Fashion Charter, with

the mission to drive the fashion industry to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050 in line with keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees. The Fashion Charter was launched at COP24 in December 2018 and renewed at COP26 in November 2021.

Fashion Charter signatories collectively represent a significant proportion of the fashion industry. There are currently 100 companies and 41 supporting organisations that have signed the Fashion Charter, including well-known brands such as adidas, LVMH, H&M Group, VF Corporation, Kering, Chanel, Nike, and PUMA as well as suppliers such as Crystal Group, TAL Apparel, AGI Denim and others.

## GMA NEWS

### [Wind and solar to produce over a third of global power by 2030 —report](#)

Wind and solar projects are on track to account for more than a third of the world's electricity by 2030, signaling that the energy sector can achieve the change needed to meet global climate goals, a report by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) said on Thursday.

Sultan al-Jaber, president of the next UN climate summit, COP28, earlier this year called for a tripling of renewable energy generation by 2030 to curb greenhouse gas emissions and help reach goals set under the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Exponential sector growth means wind and solar projects are predicted to generate at least 33% of global electricity, up from around 12% now, leading to a fall in fossil fuel-powered generation and cheaper power, the RMI report showed.

The RMI, a US-based non-profit organization focused on clean energy, carried out the research in partnership with the Bezos Earth Fund, a \$10 billion fund created by Amazon owner Jeff Bezos to help fund solutions to climate change.

The cost of solar power, which is already the cheapest form of electricity production, will fall as low as \$20 per megawatt hour (MWh) from around \$40 MWh currently, as more projects are deployed and economies of scale improve, the report said.

The benefit of rapid renewable deployment is greater energy security and independence, plus long-term energy price deflation because this is a manufactured technology—the more you install the cheaper it gets," said Kingsmill Bond, Senior Principal at RMI.

## NIKKEI ASIA

### Floods force Indian capital to shut schools and offices

Flooding in parts of New Delhi forced the city government to close all education institutions in India's capital on Thursday and advise people to work from home, while warning that there would be water rationing after the Yamuna river broke its banks.

Since the rainy monsoon season began on June 1, Delhi has recorded 113% above-average rainfall, the India Meteorological Department said, and the rains in the hilly states to the north have fed the river's floodwaters.

Video footage showed submerged roads in the downtown area, where government and private companies' offices are located, with water half-way up the sides of parked cars. Other images showed the road by the city's historical Red Fort under water.

"I appeal to all the people of Delhi to cooperate with each other in every possible way in this emergency," Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday, warning that water supplies would be badly affected.

"Due to closure of water treatment plants, the supply of water will be affected by up to 25%. That's why water rationing will be done," Kejriwal told reporters.

The city of 20 million people has ordered the closure of all schools, colleges and universities until Sunday and stopped non-essential government staff from coming to office, Kejriwal said, adding that private firms were also being advised "to implement work from home."

Kejriwal said the Yamuna's level would peak later on Thursday, having already reached its highest levels in 45 years as a result of the unusually heavy downpours north of the capital.

The states of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttarakhand have recorded 105%, 91% and 22% more rain than average, respectively, since the monsoon season began.

With pets on their shoulders and pots and pans in their hands, hundreds of people living on the banks of the river waded through flooded pathways on Wednesday to reach some of the 2,500 relief camps set up to provide temporary shelter.

Flooding at a trauma centre in the posh Civil Lines neighbourhood - where Kejriwal and many top officials live - forced the transfer of dozens of patients to another hospital, ANI news agency reported.

At least 88 people have died in Himachal Pradesh during the incessant rains since June 24, ANI reported. Flash floods in the state over the weekend brought down a bridge and washed away several clusters of hutments.

Roads have been washed away during heavy rains in the mountainous Uttarakhand state, its chief minister told reporters on Wednesday.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Uncharted life of extreme heat

By: Joel Ruiz Butuyan

For three days last week, the world registered temperatures that one scientist described as “almost certainly” the hottest that planet Earth has seen for the past 100,000 years. Another scientist went further by declaring that it is “certainly plausible” that the past week was “the warmest days globally in 120,000 years.” While other scientists were more restrained in their words, they nevertheless describe the exceptional heat with very disturbing words such as “extraordinary” and “terrifying.”

Unless we spend our days 24/7 inside air-conditioned surroundings, we know what these scientists are talking about. We have been experiencing an alarming level of extreme heat, not only in the past week, but for a couple of months now. The heat becomes unbearable at times, even when we’re inside our homes, and even with electric fans on.

I don’t recall any other period in my more than half a century on this planet when the level of heat has been this intense. Even at night, the heat lingers. I swam in an Ilocos Norte beach one afternoon last week, and the water felt uncomfortably hot. We, in the Philippines, are probably fortunate because the onset of the rainy season brings cloud cover and rain that cools our surroundings now and in the coming months, but when the sky is clear, searing heat returns.

The more fortunate ones among us have access to air conditioning. But imagine life in the slums, especially for babies, old folk, and sick residents who have no choice but to grin and bear with the unforgiving heat. Imagine small entrepreneurs in brownout prone provinces who risk losses because of the spoilage of their frozen supplies. Imagine school children who have to suffer through classes in oven-like classrooms. Imagine farmers and construction workers who toil under direct sunlight. Imagine poultry and piggery establishments that incur immense losses due to heat-related deaths and diseases. According to one meteorological expert, this period of astonishing heat “will have far-reaching repercussions for health, food security, water management, and the environment.”

Scientists say that these record-shattering heat temperatures are due to several factors. The continuing emissions of heat-trapping gases caused by the fuels that humans burn in huge quantities each day. The return of the El Niño weather phenomenon, which is a cyclical weather pattern that causes drought in entire continents. And the massive

deforestation that happens yearly worldwide. In a survey cited by the New York Times, the world lost 10.2 million acres of primary rainforest in 2022 alone.

Scientists are predicting that this period of high temperatures will continue up to the end of this year, and even until next year. In fact, weather experts forecast that it will even be hotter next year. Periods of extreme heat cause mankind to burn more fuel because of the greater need for air conditioners. It also increases incidents of wildfire that worsen deforestation and aggravate the volume of smoke and soot in our atmosphere. Extreme temperatures trigger actions and events that further cause temperatures to rise.

Climate change is a global problem that requires concerted action from all countries. But apart from campaigning for state and worldwide action, local governments must do what they can to alleviate high temperatures in their areas. One only needs to sit under a tree to notice the lowered temperature caused by an abundance of foliage, and experts attest to the ability of greenery to lower temperatures. Provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays should create pockets of forest within their communities, and embark on the planting of trees along their roads.

In the past couple of months, different parts of our country have experienced extreme heat beyond 40 degrees Celsius. With very hot days becoming threats to health and physical safety, our government should consider instituting heat signals that would trigger automatic suspension of classes and work, mandatory work-from-home protocols, or to serve as advisory to children and senior citizens to refrain from being under the sun. Just as we have typhoon signals, we should now have heat signal protocols because of our new climate reality.

The world is “walking into an uncharted territory,” one climate expert said in an interview with CNN. “We have never seen anything like this in our life.” Scientists have long been warning us that this day will come, if we don’t mend our ways. They have all the right to say, “We told you so.”

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [LPA, monsoon to dump rain – Pagasa](#)

By: Arlie O. Calalo, Franco Jose C. Baroña and Javier Joe Ismael

THE combined effect of the low pressure area (LPA) off Quezon and the southwest monsoon will bring rain in most parts of the country in the next 24 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Thursday.

Pagasa weather specialist Patrick del Mundo said the LPA was estimated at 295 kilometers east of Infanta, Quezon.

Del Mundo said the combined effect of the LPA and southwest monsoon is affecting Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Caraga Region and BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) where overcast skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms will be experienced.

"Flash floods or landslides are possible in these areas due to moderate, at times, heavy rains," del Mundo warned.

The weather bureau said Davao Region and Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City) will likely have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated downpours or thunderstorms due to "habagat."

#### Roadworks exacerbate flooding

The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD)-National Capital Region said flooding in certain areas was aggravated by the closure of drainage systems to facilitate road construction work.

On Thursday, continuous rain triggered floods that resulted in heavy traffic in cities along the South Luzon Expressway Alabang including Taguig, Pateros and Muntinlupa.

The OCD said the floods receded at around 10 a.m. However, localized flooding at the gutter level persisted in certain areas.

It reported no damage to properties and casualties.

The Skyway O&M Corp., in a statement, apologized to motorists affected by the heavy flooding at Skyway At-Grade Bicutan.

"We would like to express our sincerest apologies to motorists affected by the heavy flooding at the Skyway At-Grade (ground level) Bicutan in Parañaque City following continuing moderate to heavy rains since 6:00 PM of Wednesday, July 12 until today, Thursday, July 13, resulting in heavy traffic on both directions of the expressway," it said.

The company added that the mechanism that worsened the flooding is beyond its direct control.

"These incidents were primarily due to a drainage system problem outside of the Skyway system, which we traced in February this year, due to ongoing construction works in the area that are unrelated to our operations and outside our direct control," it said.

Skyway O&M Corp. said that it has been in constant coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other government and private sector stakeholders in the area to find a way to address the issue together.

Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works, called on the DPWH and the Metro Manila Development Authority to act on the persistent problem of flooding in Metro Manila.

"The people are looking at what DPWH was telling that a total of 13,224 flood control structures are readied for the whole country. This kind of problem should not be happening anymore. We should act the soonest possible time," Revilla said.

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