



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- PH economic managers woo Canadian investors
- US envoy Kerry heads to China to restart climate talks
- Asia floods: Death toll climbs in severe monsoon season
- Another low pressure area looms, could bring more rains — PAGASA
- BSP chief wants lenders to disclose climate assets
- ICTSI starts to decarbonize, launches initiative to fight climate change
- Philippine banks to join global fight against climate change
- DA exec pushes for outcome-oriented approach in MRIDP
- PBBM promotes 'Bagong Pilipinas' brand of governance campaign
- Puerto Princesa launches massive environmental recovery program
- SE Asian countries urged to use parametric insurance

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Dela Cruz urges the public to conserve water
- Use bicycles to fight climate change, Pinoys urged

### ABS CBN

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#### [US envoy Kerry heads to China to restart climate talks](#)

By: Peter Catterall

US climate envoy John Kerry will head to China on Sunday to meet with his counterpart Xie Zhenhua and restart stalled talks between the world's two biggest emitters of planet-warming gases.

## **BBC**

### **[Asia floods: Death toll climbs in severe monsoon season](#)**

By: Kelly Ng

More than 100 people have died across Asia this month as the vast region experiences an intense monsoon season.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Another low pressure area looms, could bring more rains — PAGASA](#)**

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

CLUSTERS of clouds forming outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility could develop into another low pressure area and bring rains, the state weather bureau said on Sunday morning, hours after Tropical Depression Dodong left the country.

### **[BSP chief wants lenders to disclose climate assets](#)**

The Philippines' new central bank head is pushing for lenders' disclosure of climate-related assets, pledging that the Southeast Asian nation's banking system will join the global efforts to slow climate change.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[ICTSI starts to decarbonize, launches initiative to fight climate change](#)**

International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), the biggest port operator in the Philippines, is making significant progress towards a more sustainable future with the launch of its Climate Change Action Initiative. The undertaking underscores ICTSI's efforts to decarbonize and contribute to global efforts in addressing climate change.

### **[Philippine banks to join global fight against climate change](#)**

By: Julito G. Rada

The Philippine banking system is joining the global fight against climate change, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli Remolona Jr. said during the Philippine economic briefing held in Toronto, Canada on July 13, 2023.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[DA exec pushes for outcome-oriented approach in MRIDP](#)**

Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development Leocadio Sebastian urged participants of the recent 18th Annual Meeting and Scientific Convention of the Outstanding Young Scientists, Inc. to focus on societal outcomes rather than mere outputs.

### **[PBBM promotes 'Bagong Pilipinas' brand of governance campaign](#)**

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has ordered the adoption of the administration's brand of governance and leadership campaign, which calls for a deep and fundamental transformation in all sectors of society and government and fosters the government's commitment towards the attainment of comprehensive policy reforms and full economic recovery.

### **[Puerto Princesa launches massive environmental recovery program](#)**

By: Izza Reynoso

The city administration on Saturday kicked off a massive environmental recovery program aimed at preserving the aquatic ecosystem along this city's 416-kilometer-long coastline that is threatened by a growing population.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[SE Asian countries urged to use parametric insurance](#)**

By: Louella Desiderio

Southeast Asian countries are urged to consider using parametric insurance to enhance coastal resilience and mitigate the impact of climate change.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **MAHARLIKA TV**

#### **[Dela Cruz urges the public to conserve water](#)**

In light of the anticipated severe impact of El Niño in the tropical Pacific, which is expected to affect the National Capital Region (NCR) and several provinces in Luzon from the end of 2023 until January of the following year, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. has advised residents of Metro Manila to conserve water.

### **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

#### **[Use bicycles to fight climate change, Pinoys urged](#)**

By: Helen Flores

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Filipinos are encouraged to use bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation, an official of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **PH economic managers woo Canadian investors**

Philippine economic managers on Thursday encouraged Canadian investors to explore investments in the Philippines.

Economic managers in particular made a pitch for collaboration in the energy business, with the Philippines recently opening up the sector for full foreign ownership.

“Canada, a global leader in clean energy, may benefit from the recent liberalization of the Philippines’ renewable energy sector. Foreign enterprises may now participate in the country’s RE sector, particularly in solar, wind, hydro, and tidal energy,” Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said.

Around 68 percent of electricity generated in Canada came from hydro, wind, solar, and other renewable sources in 2020. In 2021, it was the third largest producer of hydroelectricity.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli Remolona noted that Philippine central bank plays a role in mitigating climate change by encouraging banks to disclose the environmental, social, and governance impacts of assets.

He also said that the BSP plans to work with scientists to examine whether bank assets are beneficial or harmful to the environment.

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, meanwhile, said their department has increased the budget for climate adaptation measures by 60 percent.

She also said they will also be pursuing the Green Public Procurement (GPP) Roadmap to integrate green choices in public procurement.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday vowed to “improve bureaucratic processes” to entice more investors in the renewable energy sector.

Under the Philippines’ renewable energy plan — a requirement under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 — the country targets to increase to 35 percent of the share of renewable energy in the power mix by 2030.

In 2008, the share of renewables in the Philippines’ power mix was about 34 percent, according to data from the Department of Energy.

It went down to 21 percent in 2021, data showed.

In his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), Marcos Jr. said his administration will prioritize the use of renewable energy sources to cushion the impacts of climate change in the Philippines.

The Canadian roadshow is the economic managers' last before Marcos' second SONA.

## US envoy Kerry heads to China to restart climate talks

By: Peter Catterall

US climate envoy John Kerry will head to China on Sunday to meet with his counterpart Xie Zhenhua and restart stalled talks between the world's two biggest emitters of planet-warming gases.

Kerry's trip to China -- his third as President Joe Biden's climate emissary -- follows weeks of record-setting summer heat that scientists say is being exacerbated by climate change.

Bilateral climate talks stalled last year after Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives, visited self-ruled Taiwan and infuriated Beijing, which considers the island its territory.

But Kerry, a former secretary of state, has enjoyed comparatively cordial and consistent relations with China despite Washington and Beijing locking horns over Taiwan and a number of other thorny issues, including advanced semiconductors.

His trip to Beijing also comes after two other high-profile visits by US officials -- first Secretary of State Antony Blinken, then Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen -- aimed at stabilizing US-China ties.

Kerry was scheduled to depart for China on Saturday, according to the US State Department.

The Biden administration has identified climate as an area for potential cooperation with Beijing, despite the tensions elsewhere.

The restart of US-China climate talks will come on the heels of the hottest week on record globally, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

June was already the hottest ever logged, according to US and European agencies.

Kerry will aim to use his time in Beijing to engage with Chinese officials "with respect to increasing implementation and ambition and promoting a successful COP28", the State Department said, referring to the UN climate talks in November.

Nearly 200 nations will gather in the United Arab Emirates for COP28 to thrash out ways to mitigate global warming and its impacts.

Energy constraints

As the leading producer of the greenhouse gases driving climate change, China has pledged to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve complete carbon neutrality by 2060.

President Xi Jinping has also said that the country will reduce its use of coal from 2026.

But in April, China approved a major surge in coal power -- a move Greenpeace said prioritized energy supply over the emissions reduction pledge -- fueling concerns that Beijing will struggle to meet its ambitious targets.

"There are a number of factors that constrain the hands of energy planners in Beijing at the moment," Byford Tsang, a senior policy adviser at the climate-focused think tank E3G, told AFP.

They include economic fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has led to major disruptions in the global gas market, and reduced hydropower capacity in China due to severe droughts in recent years, Tsang said.

Last summer, millions of people in southwest China faced rolling power cuts after crushing heatwaves led to an electricity supply crunch that forced factories to halt work, heightening domestic concerns over energy security.

"I think it would be politically challenging for China to take a step forward on coal policy at this stage," added Tsang.

During his visit, Kerry is also expected to bring up international climate finance efforts, following calls by Yellen during her Beijing trip for China to play a larger role.

Kerry's trip will be closely watched in Washington after Republican lawmakers characterized it as him flying a carbon-spewing private jet halfway across the world to discuss climate with a political adversary.



**BBC**

**[Asia floods: Death toll climbs in severe monsoon season](#)**

By: Kelly Ng

More than 100 people have died across Asia this month as the vast region experiences an intense monsoon season.

The past fortnight has seen extreme rain that has caused floods and landslides across several countries including India, China and Japan.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to evacuate as a result.

On Friday, South Korea was on high alert as a storm battered the capital Seoul, while in the Philippines officials warned of a tropical cyclone.

Earlier this week, Japan also reported record-breaking floods on the island of Kyushu in which at least eight people, including a local politician, died. Others are still missing.

"It's raining like never before," a spokesman for Japan's meteorological agency said, as cities around the country logged record amounts of rain.

Scientists warn that climate change has increased the risk of floods worldwide. Many countries are struggling to mitigate the dangers of the extreme weather.

The World Meteorological Organization's director of hydrology, water and cryosphere said developed countries such as Japan were "extremely alert, and they're also very well prepared when it comes to flood management measures."

"But many low-income countries have no warnings in place, hardly any flood defence structures and no integrated flood management," Stefan Uhlenbrook added in his statement on Thursday.

Japanese authorities had earlier in the week evacuated more than 420,000 residents from two prefectures in Kyushu island.

"Your life is in danger, you need to take action immediately," the orders read.

Meanwhile in Seoul, 135 people were evacuated early Friday as torrential rain hit the South Korean capital, causing power cuts across 4,000 households.

In an emergency meeting with government agencies, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said preventing deaths was the country's top priority.

"All public officials should remain alert and respond until the end of the monsoon," Mr Han told local media.

He also warned officials to "thoroughly prepare" for the possibility of North Korea releasing water from a dam near the inter-Korean border after the country also received heavy rain.

Such releases in the past have often occurred without notice and led to flooding and deaths in the South.

While many factors contribute to flooding, scientists say climate change due to global warming has increased the likelihood of heavy rain across the world, because a warmer atmosphere holds more water.

Last week, the World Meteorological Organization declared the onset of El Niño - a weather event where sea surface temperatures in the tropical eastern Pacific rise to at least 0.5C above the long-term average - for the first time in seven years.

This set the stage for a surge in global temperatures, as well as disruptive weather and climate patterns, the organisation said.

China and India have already seen weeks of heavy rain causing severe damage across different areas.

In northern India, authorities say almost 100 people died in the past fortnight due to landslides, flash floods and property collapses.

In the capital Delhi, sections of the subway system have been shut down, putting more pressure on flooded roads in the country's second-most populous city.

Pictures and footage online showed people stranded on flooded streets and wading waist-high through the waters.

Unusually heavy rains have also killed several people and damaged infrastructure across China. Dramatic footage from southwestern Chongqing last week showed a building collapsing into a river amid raging currents.

Meanwhile Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh was hit by flash floods last week, following what officials said was the "heaviest rainfall in three years". Around 14 districts across the city were affected.

Further south in the Philippines, heavy floods during the morning rush hour on Thursday caused a 17km (10 miles) traffic jam on a major highway leading to the capital Manila.

Some flights out of Manila airport were cancelled. Authorities expect the heavy rains to continue as a tropical cyclone lashes regions northeast of the capital.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **Another low pressure area looms, could bring more rains — PAGASA**

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

CLUSTERS of clouds forming outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility could develop into another low pressure area and bring rains, the state weather bureau said on Sunday morning, hours after Tropical Depression Dodong left the country.

“We are currently monitoring cloud clusters on the eastern side of the Mindanao area outside the Philippine area of responsibility,” Daniel James E. Villamil, a weather specialist at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), told a live broadcast.

“We are not discounting the possibility that these cloud clusters could develop into a low pressure area in the coming days,” he added.

Dodong (Talim), which made landfall on Thursday evening, has intensified into a tropical storm as it moved out of the Philippines on Saturday afternoon.

As of 3 a.m. on Sunday, the typhoon’s center was spotted 390 kilometers west of Laog City, Ilocos Norte. It had maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometers per hour (kph) and 105 kph gusts.

It was moving west-northwest at a speed of 20 kph, away from the Philippines.

“It no longer has a direct effect on any parts of our island but the southwest monsoon or hanging habagat is causing rainfall in large parts of our country,” Mr. Villamil said.

Talim was expected to continue bringing heavy rainfall in Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan and Occidental Mindoro in the next three days.

“Under these conditions, flooding and rain-induced landslides are possible, especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards,” PAGASA said.

A total of 1,638 people from 491 families have been affected by the combined effects of southwest monsoon, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Thirty-six evacuation centers were opened in the Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa and Western Visayas to house evacuees, it said in a report.

There were no reported damages to houses, infrastructure or agriculture.

The gale warning earlier issued by the state weather bureau remained in effect across several parts of the country.

“Due to the continuous existence of the southwest monsoon, a gale warning is raised in some seaboards within our island,” Mr. Villamil said.

Affected areas are Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Romblon, Marinduque, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, the western coast of Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Cagayancillo, Cuyo, Kalayaan Islands, the southern coast of Quezon, Antique, Iloilo, Guimaras and the northwestern coast of Aklan.

## **BSP chief wants lenders to disclose climate assets**

The Philippines' new central bank head is pushing for lenders' disclosure of climate-related assets, pledging that the Southeast Asian nation's banking system will join the global efforts to slow climate change.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli Remolona said the monetary authority is working with scientists to develop a metric for banks' climate-related assets, which will be used to score banks in terms of their role in fighting climate change.

"We look at each kind of loan or asset and what it's financing, and decide what it's doing for climate change: is it slowing down or accelerating climate change?" Remolona said in a live-streamed speech at an economic briefing in Canada, one of his first addresses before an international audience as new BSP chief.

The central bank will make the banks' scores public, and will ask lenders to also disclose their assets, Remolona said. "We hope that the disclosure alone will do the trick."

A number of Philippine banks are already taking steps to help combat climate change, with some, including Bank of the Philippine Islands and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., making time-bound commitments to zero out their outstanding coal energy loan portfolio, while looking to bolster renewable energy lending.

Central bank policymakers around the world have recently spotlighted climate change and energy transition amid volatile energy prices and more frequent extreme weather events. The Philippines, one of the most vulnerable nations to the impact of climate change, has set a goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by the end of the decade from 2020 levels.

In the same speech, Remolona also said the BSP is "determined" to bring inflation back to its 2 percent to 4 percent target range. Headline inflation will likely fall within that goal by the fourth quarter, and "will overshoot on the low side" early next year before settling back to the target range, he added.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [ICTSI starts to decarbonize, launches initiative to fight climate change](#)

International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), the biggest port operator in the Philippines, is making significant progress towards a more sustainable future with the launch of its Climate Change Action Initiative. The undertaking underscores ICTSI's efforts to decarbonize and contribute to global efforts in addressing climate change.

Recognizing the urgent need to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the initiative will develop a comprehensive roadmap for ICTSI to align its business strategy with the goals of the UN Climate Change Paris Agreement.

The roadmap will set decarbonization targets for the entire ICTSI Group to include all terminals, covering Scope 1—direct emissions and Scope 2—indirect emissions from generation of purchased electricity. ICTSI will announce a decarbonization target for Scope 1 and 2 by the end of 2023.

ICTSI is also working towards accounting for the full GHG emissions footprint of the entire value chain including Scope 3 emissions. An inventory is expected to be established by 2025, followed by a review of relevant targets.

“Through the launch of our Climate Change Action Initiative, we are demonstrating our commitment to a sustainable future. By decarbonizing our operations and addressing the challenges of climate change, ICTSI aims to contribute significantly in the global efforts towards a greener and more resilient world,” said ICTSI executive vice president, compliance officer and chief sustainability officer Christian R. “We believe that by embracing innovative solutions and fostering collaboration, we can create a positive impact on both the environment and our industry. Together, we can build a future that is both economically prosperous and environmentally responsible,” he added.

To ensure a credible decarbonization strategy, ICTSI has appointed an internal team led by Nathan Clarke, vice president and head of Global Engineering—Infrastructure and Project Delivery.

In addition, the services of Jacobs Solutions Inc., a leading international consulting firm, have been engaged to provide an accurate view of emissions across ICTSI terminals and develop a tangible roadmap for emission reductions. The collaboration will establish a GHG emissions baseline, develop plans for reducing GHG emissions, set targets and create a framework to monitor performance.

ICTSI is fully committed to operating its terminals in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. The company is actively implementing efforts to maximize energy and resource efficiency, reduce carbon intensity and lower emissions.

These efforts include aligning productivity and service-efficiency key performance indicators with climate change management, establishing progressive targets for continuous improvement, incorporating environmental factors in the procurement process, and exploring options for low-emission technology and increased usage of renewable energy sources.

ICTSI's commitment to sustainability is further exemplified by three of its terminals in the Americas—Contecon Guayaquil in Ecuador, Contecon Manzanillo in Mexico, and Rio Brasil Terminal in Brazil—receiving carbon neutral certifications. These achievements underscore ICTSI's proactive measures to minimize the impact of port operations on hinterland communities.

“As a responsible global industry leader, ICTSI is taking a holistic approach to combat climate change and proactively mitigate its environmental impact. The Climate Change Action Initiative serves as a catalyst for transformative action, enabling ICTSI to play a pivotal role in the transition to a low-carbon economy,” said Gonzalez



## [Philippine banks to join global fight against climate change](#)

By: Julito G. Rada

The Philippine banking system is joining the global fight against climate change, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli Remolona Jr. said during the Philippine economic briefing held in Toronto, Canada on July 13, 2023.

Remolona said in a presentation the BSP plays a vital role in slowing climate change and proposed 11 strategies, including encouraging banks to disclose the environmental, social and governance impacts of specific assets.

He said that under the Reporting Climate-Related Disclosure, banks would be asked to report specific assets that are “good, not so good, bad and very bad for climate.”

“The BSP will work with scientists to develop a taxonomy of bank assets and examine whether these are beneficial or harmful to the environment,” Remolona said.

The 11 sustainability strategies proposed by the BSP are vulnerability assessment, enhanced disclosure, climate stress testing, E&S risk in prudential policy, climate change in monetary policy, incentives for green lending, sustainability in BSP’s portfolio and risk management, task force for inclusive green finance, reporting climate-related disclosure, sustainability in BSP’s operations and capacity building.

Remolona attributed the Philippines’ outstanding recovery from the pandemic to the resiliency of the banking system that maintained around 16 percent capital adequacy ratio.

He said Philippine banks maintained an impressive 188-percent liquidity coverage ratio, exceeding the global standard of 100 percent.

The BSP reported that the domestic banking industry remained resilient in 2022, marked by the sustained growth momentum in assets, deposits and profit.

The banks’ asset growth, funded mainly by deposits, enabled the banking system to continue to support the economy’s recovery through improved credit activity, the BSP said.

Total assets of the banking system last year grew by 10.7 percent to P23.04 trillion, faster than the 7.0 percent recorded in 2021.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [DA exec pushes for outcome-oriented approach in MRIDP](#)

Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development Leocadio Sebastian urged participants of the recent 18th Annual Meeting and Scientific Convention of the Outstanding Young Scientists, Inc. to focus on societal outcomes rather than mere outputs.

Recognizing the challenges in achieving food security, Sebastian emphasized the importance of prioritizing outcomes and impacts related to raising rice farmers' income.

He challenged the conventional perception of scientists as confined to laboratories, citing their responsibilities to make tangible improvements in the lives of people, societies and the world.

Sebastian emphasized that effecting real change must not burden farmers and potential beneficiaries of research.

He enumerated the four core strategies of the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP) as MATatag (climate change adaptation or resiliency), SAMa-sama (clustering and consolidation of farms), GANado (motivated farmers in the rice value chain), and NApapanahon (digital transformation to improve farming practices and program implementation).

“Matatag aims to boost farmers' climate change resiliency by adjusting the planting calendar during the wet season, shifting main production to the dry season, and promoting crop diversification and crop-livestock-fisheries integration using balanced fertilization, proper irrigation, and other climate-smart practices,” he said.

Sama-sama, he said, seeks to create economies of scale by clustering farmers and consolidating farms at the barangay and municipal levels and converging interventions.

“They will be linked to millers and the NFA (National Food Authority), enabling cooperation between farmers, millers, and government institutions to achieve better prices, better quality rice, and appropriate seed distribution. This, too, is the essence of GANado, or the value chain approach,” he added.

NApapanahon, on the other hand, supports the first three approaches by providing timely and accurate information for decision-making, making interventions digitally-based, location-specific, and efficient.

"We analyze critical factors such as the timing of crop establishment, yield, soil fertility, and risks, utilizing satellite technology to ensure accurate information for targeted interventions. Soon, drone service providers will be employed for the application of inputs such as seeds, herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers, and farmers will be able to manage their farms through their mobile phones", Sebastian said.

While encouraging farmers to adopt these technologies, he acknowledged that many farmers perceive these as an added expense rather than a solution to their immediate concerns for higher prices for their crops and increased income.

He added that other countries not only improved production but also transformed their markets.

"Therefore, it is essential to incentivize farmers by consolidating them into clusters and connecting them to the market, ensuring they earn more. Ultimately, higher incomes and increased rice self-sufficiency will be the most beneficial outcomes of the MRIDP," he said.

Sebastian emphasized that achieving 95 to 97 percent rice self-sufficiency would not result in a halt in production but that motivated by profit, farmers would naturally strive to increase their production, paving the way for rice exportation.

He appealed to the scientists to refrain from blaming policies and regulations for limited scientific impact and instead, encouraged them to strive toward scaling their inventions and discoveries for greater societal impact, fulfilling their commitment to serve society.

Sebastian also challenged Outstanding Young Scientists to break free from the stereotypical image of scientists and think beyond their own careers.

He asked that their outputs must lead to tangible societal outcomes benefiting millions of Filipino farmers, fishers, stakeholders and consumers.

## PBBM promotes ‘Bagong Pilipinas’ brand of governance campaign

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has ordered the adoption of the administration’s brand of governance and leadership campaign, which calls for a deep and fundamental transformation in all sectors of society and government and fosters the government’s commitment towards the attainment of comprehensive policy reforms and full economic recovery.

In a three-page memorandum circular dated July 3, 2023 and signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, the President directed all national government agencies (NGAs) and instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and state universities and colleges (SUCs), to adopt the "Bagong Pilipinas" campaign in their programs, activities and projects.

The “Bagong Pilipinas” (New Philippines) logo was also approved.

“All NGAs and instrumentalities, including GOCCs and SUCs, shall adopt the ‘Bagong Pilipinas’ logo and incorporate the same in their letterheads, websites, official social media accounts, and other documents and instruments pertaining to flagship programs of the government,” the memorandum stated.

The “Bagong Pilipinas” campaign serves as the overarching theme of the administration of President Marcos, characterized by a principled, accountable and dependable government reinforced by unified institutions of society with the objective to realize the goals and aspirations of every Filipino.

## [Puerto Princesa launches massive environmental recovery program](#)

By: Izza Reynoso

The city administration on Saturday kicked off a massive environmental recovery program aimed at preserving the aquatic ecosystem along this city's 416-kilometer-long coastline that is threatened by a growing population.

Ceremonies marking the start of the "Save the Puerto Princesa Bays" program were held in Mandaragat, a coastal village that is currently hosting a large number of informal settlers.

During the event, Mayor Lucilo Bayron said the 5,500 coastal households are mostly responsible for the destruction of the ecosystem, and the time has come to relocate them.

He said the situation is further worsened by untreated wastewater pouring from 17 outfalls that dump directly into the sea.

An estimated 25,000 Puerto Princesa Bay residents release all sorts of household and livestock waste directly into the coastal waters, according to the mayor.

It was explained that human and animal refuse contain toxic substances that contaminate water.

The pollution depletes oxygen levels and upsets the delicate ecological equilibrium necessary for the bay's marine life to thrive.

During his address to the residents and barangay officials of Mandaragat, Bayron highlighted the importance of coastal residents refraining from polluting the city bay, which is the primary objective of the save the bays initiative, while they await relocation.

"What I see as a way to save the city bay -- the long-term solution, is to relocate the coastal dwellers. Why? Because they are living in a danger zone. It's not just a danger zone, it is an area that cannot truly belong to them because it is a salvage zone," he added.

He informed the audience that the city government has already acquired two land properties in the villages of Irawan and San Jose for their eventual move.

The sizeable land plots will see the construction of affordable and comfortable housing units with the assistance of the Pambansang Pabahay Program under the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

"We will ride on the national housing program of President Marcos, which will provide 1 million housing every year for the next six years," he said.

Barangay Irawan, covering an expansive area of 21 hectares, will be the site for apartment-type buildings that will house some 7,680 families currently living in informal settlements along the city's coast.

Additionally, a two-hectare property in Barangay San Jose, which will be developed simultaneously, is expected to house 2,496 families.

After the coastal area is vacated, it will be reclaimed to prevent informal settlers from squatting again, said Bayron.

"We need two solutions -- improving our settlement in the coastal area and properly managing the flow of wastewater towards our ocean," he said, acknowledging that this will be a lengthy process that cannot be accomplished within a timeframe of two to three years.

He stated that while Puerto Princesa Bay will be the initial focus of the coastal rejuvenation initiative, it will later expand to include Honda and Ulugan bays, as well as the smaller Oyster, Binunsalian, and Turtle bays.

Along with Vice Mayor Maria Nancy Socrates, Barangay Mandaragat captain Gerard Abad, members of the City Council, uniformed personnel, and other volunteers, Bayron led the ceremonial dispersal of mudballs at the inauguration of the bay conservation efforts.

Beneficial bacteria were included in the effective microorganisms (EM) contained in the mudballs. These microorganisms regulate the concentrations of ammonia and waterborne pollutants in the environment.

He said that by introducing EM-infused mudballs into the water, the microorganisms are released, assisting in the decomposition of pollutants and promoting a healthier ecological balance, according to him.

It will help improve water quality, mitigating the negative effects of ammonia and other pollutants on the aquatic ecosystem, he emphasized.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [SE Asian countries urged to use parametric insurance](#)

By: Louella Desiderio

Southeast Asian countries are urged to consider using parametric insurance to enhance coastal resilience and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Asian Development Bank senior environment specialist Francesco Ricciardi and National University of Singapore's Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions and Tropical Marine Science Institute science and communications outreach lead Audrey Tan said Southeast Asian countries have coastlines that are among the longest in the world, making them vulnerable to weather extremes and rising sea levels.

As such, there is a need to develop the resilience of their coastal communities to enable them to recover more quickly from disasters.

"Parametric insurance can help to expedite recovery and aid in disaster response. It should be considered by companies operating in areas vulnerable to coastal damage, or by governments interested in mitigating the financial risks of such occurrences," the experts said.

Parametric insurance is different from traditional schemes as the payout is based on natural parameters such as a storm's strength, instead of the physical financial damage.

The experts said a parametric insurance policy for typhoons, for example, may provide a certain payout whenever wind speeds exceed a certain level in a particular location.

"Since such parameters can be easily and quickly verified after the event, and such policies do not require assessments of actual damages incurred, parametric policies can pay out quickly and aid in disaster recovery," the experts said.

For communities that cannot afford insurance premiums, they said revenues generated from the sale of carbon credits from mangrove conservation can be used to pay for parametric insurance coverage.

They said conserving coastal ecosystems can also reduce the insurance premium as the risk becomes lower.

The experts also said coastal management policies should incorporate inland developments.

In addition, they said local communities need to be involved in efforts to build coastal resilience.

“Involving local communities in adaptation solutions is crucial to ensure their success,” the experts said.

They cited Palawan in the Philippines as an example where indigenous cultural beliefs have helped preserve the mangrove forest in the northern part of the island.

“Communities living in the area recognize how a healthy mangrove forest can contribute to crab catch and coastal protection from typhoons and thus actively take part in mangrove replanting and patrols,” they said.

The experts said involving local communities would not just help in withstanding the impact of a changing climate and safeguarding livelihoods, but also the balance of oceanic ecosystems.



## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### MAHARLIKA TV

#### [Dela Cruz urges the public to conserve water](#)

In light of the anticipated severe impact of El Niño in the tropical Pacific, which is expected to affect the National Capital Region (NCR) and several provinces in Luzon from the end of 2023 until January of the following year, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. has advised residents of Metro Manila to conserve water.

This recommendation comes as the water level at the Angat Dam continues to decline and an extended period of El Niño looms ahead.

With El Niño causing drier conditions, Dela Cruz emphasized the importance of water conservation to prevent significant water interruptions later this year. His advice echoes an advisory issued by the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Preliminary data from the United Nations World Meteorological Organization (UN-WMO) indicates that the first week of July recorded the highest temperatures ever observed, accompanied by unprecedented sea surface temperatures and a record-low extent of Antarctic sea ice. Experts from the WMO have noted that global sea surface temperatures reached record highs in May, June, and July, indicating the early stages of the warming El Niño weather pattern. They further emphasized that these record-breaking temperatures, both on land and in the ocean, could have devastating effects on ecosystems and the environment, highlighting the far-reaching changes occurring in Earth's system due to human-induced climate change.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has revealed that Metro Manila and 24 provinces will experience drought as El Niño intensifies towards the end of the year and the first quarter of 2024. PAGASA's Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section chief, Ana Liza Solis, pointed out that certain areas in Luzon, such as Tarlac and Isabela, have already begun to experience dry conditions since last month, while Apayao, Cagayan, and Kalinga have been grappling with dry spells caused by the phenomenon.

In response, Commissioner Dela Cruz urges citizens to reduce activities that consume significant amounts of water, such as watering lawns and washing vehicles. He also encourages the public to embrace rainwater collection for non-potable purposes and to reuse laundry and dishwashing wastewater for watering plants.

Dela Cruz stressed the importance of preparing for the impact of El Niño this year to mitigate its effects next year. He reassured that appropriate contingency measures can prevent significant damage to the economy as a result of El Niño.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Use bicycles to fight climate change, Pinoys urged](#)

By: Helen Flores

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Filipinos are encouraged to use bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation, an official of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

CCC Commissioner Albert dela Cruz noted that motorized transportation is a major factor in the aggravating impact of climate change.

Apart from bicycles, the official also backed the shift to electric vehicles to hasten the country's efforts toward decarbonization.

Dela Cruz said President Marcos during his term as senator filed Senate Bill 2924, or the proposed Bicycle Commuters Incentives Act of 2011, which seeks to grant incentives to promote the use of bicycles and other safe and viable non-motorized transport vehicles as a mode of daily commuting and travel.

"It must be noted that studies have consistently shown that bicycle use has wide-reaching benefits, from environmental and urban planning to public health," Dela Cruz noted.

"Furthermore, bicycle-users would also enjoy savings on transportation cost, in view of the lessened dependence on motorized transport system, which is admittedly more expensive due to the current fluctuations in the prices of gasoline and diesel fuel," he added.

Early this year, the Department of Transportation announced its plan to improve walkways and bicycle lanes across Metro Manila.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, for its part, had said it plans to build elevated bicycle lanes along EDSA to promote urban bike tourism in the National Capital Region.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts remain on top of the administration's priorities, according to Marcos.

"We are also very conscious of our situation in the Philippines wherein we are very sensitive to climate change," the President said in his speech in Agusan del Norte on July 12.

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