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By: Yusra Asif

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POLICE FILES TONITE

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Kasunod ng ulat mula sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ukol sa under-utilization ng development funds ng karamihan ng local government units (LGU), nanawagan si Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz sa local chief executives na magsagawa ng inisyatibo para sa pagpapatupad ng climate action sa pamamagitan ng paglalaan ng pondo na susuporta sa mga proyektong tutugon sa banta at epekto ng climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

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By: Yusra Asif

Several companies in the UAE and international companies with offices in the emirates, such as Tetrapak and Emirates NBD Bank, on Wednesday pledged to reduce their carbon emissions, just four months before the country is set to host this year's COP28 climate talks.

A total of 15 companies, including Emirates Driving Company, Henkel and Maisaloon Group made the promise during a climate event in Abu Dhabi, official Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported on Wednesday.

During the event, ministers and private companies looked at how the country can make transport more environmentally friendly and help the UAE achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

"The UAE realizes the importance of this (transport) sector, which is one of the targeted sectors to achieve a 40 percent reduction in emissions by 2030," said Mariam bint Mohammed al-Mheiri, UAE's Minister of Climate Change and the Environment.

The commitment made by the companies to reduce carbon emissions "is an important step to highlight the sector's seriousness and the country's concrete steps towards achieving climate neutrality," WAM cited al-Mheiri as saying.

Other businesses that signed the pledge are Yes Full Circle recycling firm, Kuality AI, Al Fareeda International Group for Facility Management Services, Daikin and Sustainable Square Consultancy specializing in environmental, social and corporate governance practices.

The total number of companies that signed the UAE pledge to reduce carbon emissions is 105.

Al-Mheiri was one of more than 120 attendees at the event which included representatives from private sector companies, as well as Mohammad Saeed Al Nuaimi, acting under-secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Khaled al-Shamili, CEO of Emirates Driving Company.

During the event Emirates Driving Company signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with CarbonSifr's — a UAE climate-based startup that helps identify and

monetize carbon emissions — to solidify the driving school’s commitment to carbon neutrality, WAM said.

The two companies plan to introduce an initiative called “Green driving license packages,” however details on the program are not immediately available.

In November, the UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) at Expo City Dubai to mobilize action around climate change and accelerate emissions reductions while ensuring energy security.

During the summit, countries will also look at how much progress they have made towards achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent by 2030 and limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

BBC

World will miss 1.5C warming limit - top UK expert

By: Esme Stallard & Justin Rowlatt

A leading British climate scientist has told the BBC he believes the target to limit global warming to 1.5C will be missed.

Professor Sir Bob Watson, former head of the UN climate body, told the BBC's Today programme he was "pessimistic".

His warning comes amidst a summer of extreme heat for Europe, China and the US.

The UN says passing the limit will expose millions more people to potentially devastating climate events.

The world agreed to try to limit the temperature increase due to climate change to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels at a UN conference in Paris in 2015. That target has become the centrepiece of global efforts to tackle climate change.

Climate scientists have been warning governments for years that they are not cutting their countries' emissions quickly enough to keep within this target.

But it is surprising for someone as senior and well respected as the former head of the UN climate science body the IPCC to be so frank that he believes it will be missed.

Professor Sir Bob Watson is currently Emeritus Professor of the UK's Tyndall Centre for Climate Research - having previously worked at the UN, Nasa, UK's Department of Environment and the US White House - and is perhaps one of the foremost climate scientists in the world.

In the interview aired on Thursday he said: "I think most people fear that if we give up on the 1.5 [Celsius limit] which I do not believe we will achieve, in fact I'm very pessimistic about achieving even 2C, that if we allow the target to become looser and looser, higher and higher, governments will do even less in the future."

His comments although candid were supported by Lord Stern, Chairman of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, later on Thursday during an interview with BBC's WATO programme.

He said: "I think 1.5 is probably out of reach even if we accelerate quickly now, but we could bring it back if we start to bring down the cost of negative emissions and get

better at negative emissions. Negative emissions means direct air capture of carbon dioxide."

Based on current government commitments to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, Climate Action Tracker predicts that global temperatures will rise to 2.7C.

The figure is not a direct measure of the world's temperature but an indicator of how much or how little the Earth has warmed or cooled compared to the long-term global average - and even slight changes can have significant impacts.

The UN climate body, the IPCC, has said keeping temperature rises below 1.5C, rather than 2C, would mean:

- 10 million fewer people would lose their homes to rising sea levels
- a 50% reduction in the number of people experiencing water insecurity
- a reduction in coral reef loss from 99% to 70%

Prof Sir Bob Watson said that the world was struggling to prevent temperature rises as we are not reducing emissions fast enough.

"The big issue is we need to reduce greenhouse gases now to even be on the pathway to be close to 1.5C or 2C. We need to reduce current emissions by at least 50% by 2030. The trouble is the emissions are still going up, they are not going down," he said.

He told the Today programme that setting targets was not enough and countries needed to back these up with action: "We need to try and hold governments to start to act sensibly now and reduce emissions, but even governments with a really good target like the United Kingdom don't have the policies in place, don't have the financing in place to reach those goals."

In March the UK's watchdog on climate change, the UKCCC, said the UK had lost its leadership on climate issues. It said the government's backing of new oil and coal projects, airport expansion plans and slow progress on heat pumps showed a lack of urgency.

In response to comments from Lord Stern and Professor Sir Bob Watson, a government spokesperson said: "The UK is a world-leader on net zero, cutting emissions faster than any other G7 country and has attracted billions of investment into renewables, which now account for 40% of our electricity."

But Lord Deben, who until last month was chair of the UKCCC, said the government was "entirely wrong". Talking to BBC's WATO programme he said that other countries

like the US and China were moving much faster, and that the UK was setting "the worst possible example to the rest of the world".

NPR

[The U.S. could slash climate pollution, but it might not be enough, a new report says](#)

By: Michael Copley

The United States is poised to make much deeper cuts to the pollution that's fueling global warming than it was even a couple years ago. That's largely because of the billions of dollars the country is spending on green technologies through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which Congressional Democrats passed last summer, according to a new report from Rhodium Group.

The research firm says that by 2030, the U.S. could lower its greenhouse gas emissions by 29% to 42%, compared to 2005 pollution levels. At the start of the Biden administration, Rhodium Group analysts said it looked like the country would only be able to cut its emissions by about a quarter, at most. The changed outlook reflects expectations that huge investments by the federal government will make things like renewable energy and electric vehicles a lot more affordable.

But big barriers still stand in the way. Companies that build wind and solar plants often struggle to get projects permitted by local governments because of public opposition. And there are long waiting lines to plug in power plants and batteries to the country's electric grids. To make the kinds of emissions cuts that the Rhodium Group says are possible, the U.S. will have to at least match its best-ever year for wind and solar development, and it will have to do it year after year.

And even if everything goes right, it still won't be enough to deliver on a pledge the U.S. made under the 2015 Paris Agreement to cut its emissions in half by the end of this decade. Meeting that target will require even more aggressive actions by states and the federal government, Rhodium Group says.

"You're gonna need to figure out how to build out a whole bunch of wind and solar, get a bunch of electric vehicles on the road and that kind of thing," says Ben King, an associate director in the firm's energy and climate practice.

"The IRA is the push, the economic push that you need, and you just gotta clear the way for it and not let it encounter so many headwinds," King adds.

A recent report from the United Nations warned that the world is running out of time to keep temperatures from rising to levels that could be catastrophic for many places. The Earth is already nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it was in the late 1800s, and it's on track to exceed 5 degrees Fahrenheit of warming by the end of the century,

according to the U.N. Beyond about 2.8 degrees Fahrenheit of warming, storms, heat waves and other climate impacts become far more destructive.

Limiting the rise in global temperatures will require an international response. But as the largest historical contributor to climate change, the U.S. "needs to lead that effort," says Aiguo Dai, a professor of atmospheric and environmental science at the University of Albany.

"If the U.S. can start cutting down the emissions, steadily year over year, decade over decade, then we are on the right path to limit global warming," Dai says.

However, scientists say time is of the essence. At the slow current pace countries are cutting emissions, warming is on track to trigger runaway impacts that could lead to permanent changes in the Earth's ecosystems.

"If we cut it too [slowly], it could be difficult to avoid catastrophic warming in the near future," Dai says.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Pagasa predicts wet weekend due to LPA

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Thursday predicted a wet weekend in the Bicol and Eastern Visayas regions due to a low pressure area (LPA) east of Eastern Samar.

The LPA was last spotted 720 kilometers east of Borongan, Eastern Samar, and may intensify into a storm in the next 48 hours, the weather bureau said in its 4 p.m. report.

If it does develop into a tropical cyclone it will be given the name Egay, said Pagasa weather specialist Rhea Torres.

As for the rest of the country, it will continue to experience the usual weather at this time of year, with generally fair and humid mornings, but with possible rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Nearly 50 dead, thousands displaced due to rains, floods in SoKor

Nearly 50 people were killed and thousands were displaced as week-long heavy rains and floods caused massive damage to properties across South Korea, authorities said.

According to details released by the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters on Thursday, some 2,278 public and private properties were damaged across the nation during the ongoing rains and floods that hit the country last week, Seoul-based Yonhap News reported.

So far, 33,000 hectares (81,545 acres) of farmland had been flooded while 797,000 livestock had been killed.

The torrential rains and floods also left 46 people dead while four people are missing in different parts of the country, including a Marine who lost his life on Wednesday after being swept away by flood during search and rescue operations in Yecheon County, 161 kilometers (100 miles) southeast of Seoul.

Over 3,100 people displaced across the country are still living in shelter camps, according to the report.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo on Thursday visited the North Chungcheong Province where at least 14 people lost their lives in the central city of Cheongju when a nearby river overflowed after an embankment was brought down by rising water levels.

"I feel heavy responsibility for the regrettable deaths," the agency quoted Han as saying.

The government has also deployed some 10,000 troops across the country for search and rescue operations to help the local administration where rains caused floods and landslides.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Government urged to continue push for renewable energy

Over 100 million Filipinos can expect affordable, available power if the administration remains committed to current energy policies that seek to promote the development and growth of renewable energy (RE) in the country.

This is according to former Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Atty. Jay Layug, who in a speech at the Philippine Power Plant Energy Summit recently said that “with the assumption into office of the Marcos administration and the appointment of DOE Secretary Lotilla and ERC Commissioner Dimalanta, we have seen a dramatic shift in government policies towards renewables.”

According to Layug, a senior partner of Divina Law, the top energy law firm in the country, the administration, in only its first year, has fast-tracked RE programs via decisive steps intended to spur the development of the RE sector.

This includes amendments to the implementing rules and regulations of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 that would pave the way for the liberalization of foreign ownership in RE investments; the preferential dispatch of registered generating units utilizing RE sources in the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM); and the implementation of the Energy Virtual One-stop Shop (EVOSS) Act, which allows prospective energy companies to apply, monitor, receive the permits they need, and pay required charges through the EVOSS’ online platform.

The DOE also recently concluded the second Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP), which seeks to source at least 11GW of new capacities from RE resources, said Layug.

Large-scale hydropower and geothermal, both renewable energy resources, comprise the second biggest contributor in the energy mix of the country. As of 2020, 29% of the installed generating capacity of the Philippines is RE.

Layug also shared the findings of a study by the World Bank Group that stated that the Philippines is ranked fourth among eight emerging OSW markets, with a total technical potential to produce 178GW via OSW resources.

The energy expert likewise highlighted out the potential of OSW resources in the country following the publication in April 2022 of the Philippine OSW Roadmap developed by the DOE together with the World Bank. The study identified six development zones and projected that in a high growth scenario, OSW could provide 14% of the nation’s energy needs by 2040.

Increasing the RE capacity of the country will also be beneficial to its population, the lawyer pointed out, given the volatility of the prices of fossil fuel energy sources such as coal and oil.

“The DOE is in full gear to implement the NREP (National Renewable Energy Program),” said Layug, adding this could translate to next generations of Filipinos with a “bottomless abundance in energy supply.”

“Let us think of renewable energy not just as a means to increase our energy capacities, but more importantly, to serve the legitimate ends of development,” he stressed.

Organized by Mykar Events, the Philippine Power Plant Energy Summit brought together government representatives, energy players, experts, investment companies, contractors and selected solution providers to address the country’s growing energy needs.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MAHARLIKATV

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In response to the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) report on the under-utilization of development funds by several local government units (LGUs), the Commission on Climate Change Commissioner Albert delaCruz has called on local executives to step up their climate action efforts.

In particular, the Commissioner is urging them to allocate a portion of their budgets to initiate projects aimed at addressing the threats and impacts of climate change.

Before the climate official's appeal, DILG provincial director Farah Gentuya had urged regional and local government units in Negros Oriental to maximize their respective development funds.

It was discovered that a significant portion of the LGUs' development funds for 2022 remained under-utilized, reaching only 20 percent.

These development funds will support various initiatives, including disaster response and climate action programs that promote climate change mitigation and adaptation to its impacts and global warming.

In light of the concerning data, Commissioner Dela Cruz emphasizes the crucial role of LGUs in combating environmental degradation caused by human activities, such as mismanagement of waste disposal, deforestation, water pollution, and ignorance of the adverse effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

The climate official is now traveling to northern Luzon to meet with local officials, environmental advocates, and stakeholders from both the private and public sectors.

The purpose is to discuss the acceleration of their Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) and collaboration with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in addressing challenges posed by extreme weather conditions linked to increasing global temperatures and rising sea levels.

Dela Cruz stresses that it is imperative for LGUs and executives to take the global climate crisis seriously before its impacts on people's lives become irreversible.

He warns that our planet is facing a dire situation, and it is essential to acknowledge our responsibility for causing this impending disaster through the abuse of Earth's resources.

Dela Cruz believes that many individuals seem indifferent to climate change, continuing with a "business as usual" approach.

Additionally, the commissioner highlights the significance of water in climate mitigation. He emphasizes the need to adopt comprehensive water ecosystems strategies, such as those employed for lakes and the construction of rainwater catchments, to address imminent water shortages resulting from weather phenomena like El Niño.

[Islands in the Visayas may disappear by 2050 due to rising sea levels — Dela Cruz](#)

Filipinos should be very, very concerned about global warming, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. has warned amidst rising sea levels that have posed a risk to coastal villages in the Philippines, particularly in the Visayas region.

Commissioner Dela Cruz issued the warning following a report from the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), which disclosed that the archipelago is the country at most risk from climate change.

Based on the Climate Central study, it is projected that roughly 150 million people currently live in areas set to be submerged by 2050 and about 70 percent of them are in Southeast Asia and the Philippines is at the top spot.

“Geographically, we are prone to typhoons because we are located in the Pacific typhoon belt and we are hit by them at an average of 20 annually. In the past years, we have witnessed the intensity of these storms increasing. Some of these deadly typhoons include Reming, Frank, Winnie, Pablo, and Yolanda, all of which happened during the new millennium. These accounted for more or less 12,600 fatalities,” Dela Cruz described the actual situation.

The climate official added that the worrisome trend can be attributed to rising sea temperatures.

“However, while this means typhoons are less frequent, it also entails that they are likely to be more powerful. Add the fact that a lot of Filipinos live on the coast and future typhoons may produce even more fatalities in the long run,” he appraised.

The commissioner cited a report by Climate Science Advisor of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities meteorologist Lourdes Tibig who revealed that a coastal island in the Visayas may be fully submerged by the year 2050.

Tibig claimed that an island in the region is experiencing a sea level rise faster than the global average.

“The global average is 3.7 millimeters per year. In Visayas islands, in that particular study site, they found out that the sea level rise is happening four times 3.7 millimeters per year. 3.7 millimeters times four. That’s more than one centimeter every year,” she expressed.

Despite the alarming statistics, Dela Cruz said that there is still time to address the growing concern even as he added that at the very least, Filipinos are now becoming more aware of the impending crisis.

“According to a 2022 Statista survey, 73.8 percent of respondents in the Philippines believed that climate change is a serious and immediate threat. All we need to do now is to fast track our national climate change action through a whole-of-country and -community approach in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and global warming,” he concluded.

POLICE FILES TONITE

Dela Cruz nanawagan sa LGUs maglaan ng pondo para sa climate action

Kasunod ng ulat mula sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ukol sa under-utilization ng development funds ng karamihan ng local government units (LGU), nanawagan si Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz sa local chief executives na magsagawa ng inisyatibo para sa pagpapatupad ng climate action sa pamamagitan ng paglalaan ng pondo na susuporta sa mga proyektong tutugon sa banta at epekto ng climate change.

Una rito, hiniling ni DILG provincial director Farah Gentuya sa mga provincial at local government unit sa Negros Oriental na palawigin ang paggamit ng kani-kanilang development funds makaraang mapag-alaman na 'under-utilized' ang 20% ng nasabing pondo ng nakaraang taon.

Kabilang sa mga inisyatibong dapat sana'y napondohan ay disaster response at mga programa may kinalaman sa climate action na magsusulong ng mitigation at adaptation sa mga epekto ng nagbabagong klima at global warming.

Bilang reaksiyon sa nabanggit na datos, binigyang diin ni Dela Cruz ang kahalagahan ng pakikiisa ng mga LGU sa laban ng pamahalaan kontra environmental degradation na nag-uugat mula sa mga human activity tulad ng mismanagement ng waste disposal, deforestation, walang tigil na polusyon ng ating mga water system at pagbalewala sa epekto ng greenhouse gas (GHG) emission.

Aniya, napapanahon na para seryosohin ng LGUs at ng kanilang mga ehektibo ang pandaigdigang krisis bago maging huli ang lahat.

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