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23 JULY 2024 [08:00 am]

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- Marcos urges Congress to pass enabling law for Loss and Damage Fund
- Carina intensifies into typhoon, leaves Philippines Thursday

GMA NEWS

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By: Hana Bordey

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Monday called on Congress to pass an enabling law that will confer Philippines' legal personality and capacity to be part of the board of the climate disaster fund called "Loss and Damage Fund."

MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

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MANILA STANDARD

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Charie Abarca

The Philippines, due to its location, is twice as vulnerable as neighboring countries to the effects of climate change, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said in his third State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Jose Cielito Reganit

Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez on Monday urged his colleagues to ride on the momentum of their significant achievements from the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 19th Congress to continue to build a brighter, more prosperous future for all Filipinos.

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By: Darryl John Esguerra

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. called on Congress to pass an enabling law that will accord legality to the Philippines' membership to the Loss and Damage Fund Board, the global finance mechanism to assist vulnerable states dealing with the effects of climate change.

SUNSTAR

[Marcos urges law for loss and damage fund board](#)

By: Third Anne Peralta-Malonzo

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has urged Congress to enact an enabling law to grant legal personality and capacity to the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Marcos urges Congress to pass enabling law for Loss and Damage Fund](#)

By: Jean Mangaluz

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the Congress needs to pass an enabling law for the Loss and Damage Fund, an international budget for countries affected by climate change.

[Carina intensifies into typhoon, leaves Philippines Thursday](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

Severe tropical storm Carina has intensified into a typhoon and is expected to maintain strength until it leaves the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Thursday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Information and Knowledge Management Division

GMA NEWS

[Marcos calls for passage of law for PH's membership to Loss and Damage Fund board](#)

By: Hana Bordey

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Monday called on Congress to pass an enabling law that will confer Philippines' legal personality and capacity to be part of the board of the climate disaster fund called "Loss and Damage Fund."

"Precisely because of our inherent vulnerability, we are proactive advocates for heightened climate responsibility and justice on the global stage. To this end, we have secured a seat on the board of the Loss and Damage Fund and further the Philippines has been selected as host country to that fund," Marcos said in his third State of the Nation Address (SONA).

"This will require an enabling law from Congress to confer the legal personality and capacity to the board. This welcome development shall complement all our other climate adaptation and mitigation measures and give us a strong voice to access the needed finance assistance for climate-related initiatives and impacts," he added.

The Philippine government in December last year secured a seat on the board of the Loss and Damage Fund, which seeks to help poor nations cope with costly climate disasters.

Earlier this month, Marcos said the Philippines has been elected host of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board. It was chosen out of seven other countries.

The country's Department of Environment and Natural Resources earlier said the Philippines is "most qualified" to host the Loss and Damage Fund because it is a living testament to the effects of climate change.

While he lamented the adverse effect of El Niño to the country, particularly to the agriculture sector, Marcos called for preparedness for the La Niña season.

"Ngayon, sa pagpihit ng panahon, ang hagupit ng La Niña at mga matinding pag-ulan naman ang ating binabantayan at pinaghahandaan," Marcos said.

(As the weather changes, we are monitoring and preparing for the adverse effects of La Niña.)

"Mahigit limang libo at limang daang flood control project ang natapos na, at marami pang iba ang kasalukuyang ginagawa sa buong bansa," he added.

(More than 5,500 flood control projects have been finished and many others are being constructed.)

The President reported the almost 200 evacuation centers that have been built within two years, as well as the start of operations of the country's Disaster Response Command Center in January, which he said, "shall serve as the central hub for the government's disaster response efforts."

MANILA BULLETIN

Marcos ensures: PH ready for La Niña

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

Noting how the Philippines is vulnerable to the effects of climate change, President Marcos has assured Filipinos that the government is preparing for the impact of the harsh rains brought about by the La Niña phenomenon.

Marcos said this as he delivered his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, July 22.

"Ngayon, sa pag-pihit ng panahon, ang hagupit ng La Niña at mga matinding pag-ulan naman ang ating binabantayan at pinaghahandaan (With climate change, we are monitoring and preparing for the effects of La Niña and the heavy rains it will bring)," he said in his speech.

In the past two years, the President said nearly 100 evacuation centers have already been built. Meanwhile, in January of this year, the government started the operations of the Disaster Response Command Center, which shall serve as the central hub for the government's disaster response efforts.

In addition, 5,500 flood control projects have already been completed while more are ongoing construction across the country.

On the other hand, Marcos said that the government has distributed cash insurance to protect the farmers whose crops were severely damaged by the extreme heat.

With the LAWA (Local Adaptation to Water Access) and BINHI (Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished) projects, the government has started constructing modern water reservoirs to prepare and protect farmers from the impact of drought.

These two projects aim to help poor and vulnerable families mitigate the impact of food insecurity and water scarcity brought about by El Niño.

MANILA STANDARD

[Climate risks to affect fish biomass around the world's ocean—FAO report](#)

New estimates highlight the potential climate risks to exploitable fish biomass for nearly all regions of the world's ocean, including top producer countries and those with high reliance on aquatic foods, according to a report released last week by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Global projections of exploitable fish biomass show declines of more than 10 percent, particularly under the high-emissions scenario, by mid-century for many regions of the world, said the report *Climate change risks to marine ecosystems and fisheries: Projections to 2100 from the Fisheries and Marine Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project*.

By the end of the century, under the high-emissions scenario, which projects global warming of 3–4.0 °C, declines worsen to 30 percent or greater in 48 countries and territories.

In contrast, under the low-emissions scenario, which projects global warming of 1.5–2 °C, changes stabilize between no change and a decrease of 10 percent or less across 178 countries and territories by the end of the century.

Notable declines include those for top fish producer nations, which worsen towards the end of the century under the high-emissions scenario, for example 37.3 percent for Peru's and 30.9 percent for China's Exclusive Economic Zones but stabilize under the low-emissions scenario.

The report was produced by the Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project (FishMIP), an international network of researchers working with FAO to understand the long-term impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and fisheries through a set of state-of-the-art numerical models. It was released during the Thirty-sixth session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI36) held between July 8 and 12 2024 at FAO headquarters in Rome.

The report comes on the heels of the latest edition of *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)*, which showed that world fisheries and aquaculture production hit a new high of 223.2 million tons in 2022.

“Understanding the potential impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and their fisheries, and their associated uncertainties, is crucial to design adaptation programs at

appropriate scales,” said Manuel Barange, FAO Assistant Director-General and Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division.

“Lower emissions significantly reduce end-of-century biomass losses for nearly all countries and territories compared to the high-emissions scenario. This highlights the benefits of climate change mitigation measures for fisheries and aquatic foods,” he added.

PH wins bid to host loss and damage fund board

The Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage selected the Philippines as its host country during the body's second meeting in Songdo, South Korea, last week.

The Philippines' bid won over seven other contenders. As the host of the Board of the Fund, the Philippines will continue to contribute to the fast and seamless operationalization of the L&D Fund.

The selection is a major milestone, as the Philippines as host will grant the board the legal personality needed, for example, to negotiate and enter into a hosting arrangement with the World Bank. The country will be the interim trustee of the fund, operationalize the financial intermediary fund and host the fund's secretariat.

The fund, which was operationalized at the COP 28 UN Climate Change Conference in December, was established to help vulnerable countries recover from climate impacts.

The board expressed its gratitude to the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahamas, Barbados, Eswatini, Kenya, Philippines and Togo, which submitted proposals to host the board.

The Philippines' bid was strongly supported and prioritized by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and crafted through a whole-of government approach led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Climate Change Commission, Department of Justice and the National Economic Development Authority.

President Marcos warmly welcomed the development.

"I am proud to announce that the Philippines has been elected to host the Loss and Damage Fund Board, out of seven other contenders. We are also honored to have a seat on the Board itself, ensuring that the Philippines will be a formidable voice in promoting and advancing global climate action—an issue of critical interest to the country," he said.

"Hosting the Loss and Damage Fund Board reinforces our dedication to inclusivity and our leadership role in ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change shape the future of international climate policies."

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga also welcomed the development saying the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

“The Loss and Damage Fund is a long-fought struggle to directly assist those who bear the greatest impact of climate-induced losses and damage to recover and build. We take on this responsibility in solidarity with all countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” she said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Marcos stresses PH vulnerability to climate change in 3rd Sona

By: Charie Abarca

The Philippines, due to its location, is twice as vulnerable as neighboring countries to the effects of climate change, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said in his third State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday.

“As we can see in all the world, weather events are — as have been predicted — getting more extreme such as torrential rains that instantly shift to scorching heat waves or vice versa,” Marcos said.

He said this is the reason the Philippines has become a “proactive advocate for heightened climate responsibility and justice on the global stage.”

“To this end, we have secured a seat on the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), and further, the Philippines has been selected as the host country for that fund,” Marcos said.

“This will require an enabling law from Congress to confer the legal personality and capacity to the board. This welcome development shall complement all our climate adaptation and mitigation measures and give us a voice to access the needed financial assistance for climate change initiatives and impacts,” he said.

The LDF Board is a financing facility created by the United Nations to help vulnerable countries cope with the increasingly costly and damaging impact of climate disasters.

Marcos also announced that the Philippines had been elected to host the LDF Board, beating out seven other contenders. Other countries considered to lead the LDF Board were Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Barbados, the Bahamas, Togo, Kenya, and Eswatini.

In May, rising temperatures forced the government to shut down tens of thousands of schools, while increased demand stressed the country’s already strained power supply.

The widespread El Niño drought that began early this year ruined at least P5.9 billion worth of farm produce.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[House to continue building brighter, more prosperous future for all](#)

By: Jose Cielito Reganit

Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez on Monday urged his colleagues to ride on the momentum of their significant achievements from the First and Second Regular Sessions of the 19th Congress to continue to build a brighter, more prosperous future for all Filipinos.

In his speech at the opening of the Third Regular Session, Romualdez noted with pride the legislative accomplishments of the House of Representatives, saying the positive impact of laws passed by the 19th Congress and signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is now being felt by Filipinos.

He pointed out that the House has approved all 17 priority measures mentioned by Marcos in his last SONA, five of which have been enacted into law: the LGU (local government unit) Income Classification (Republic Act 11964), the Ease of Paying Taxes Act (RA 11976), the Tatak Pinoy Law (RA 11981), the New Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 12009), and the Anti-Financial Accounts Scamming Act (RA 12010).

“Lahat ng kailangang batas na hiniling ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa nakaraang State-of-the Nation Address, pasado na po lahat dito sa (All the needed laws requested by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his last SONA have all been passed here in the) House of Representatives,” he told his colleagues.

“We have done our homework. We addressed concerns on food security, climate change, social protection, tourism, public health, public order and safety, among others. In fact, the fruits of our overarching development agenda initiatives for the past two years are now slowly being felt across the nation,” he said.

Romualdez said this was shown by the country’s economic performance in recent years.

From the third quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2024, the economy grew by an average of 6.1 percent. For the first quarter of 2024 alone, the Philippine economy outperformed Indonesia (5.1 percent), Malaysia (4.2 percent), Singapore (2.7 percent), and Thailand (1.5 percent), he said.

He noted that due to the Philippines’ continued economic expansion, respected credit rating firm Fitch Ratings affirmed last month the country’s investment-grade long-term foreign currency trading at “BBB” rating with a stable outlook.

Romualdez said the House leadership was also active in fostering diplomatic relations and strategic partnerships with other countries, the latest being the June meeting with Speaker Fukushiro Nukaga of Japan and other Japanese lawmakers to enhance the defense and security cooperation between the Philippines and Japan.

The House, he said, has also been actively exercising its oversight functions to address pressing issues like the high prices of agricultural products, illegal drugs and Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), among others.

“Undoubtedly, the successful outcome of all our initiatives would not have been possible without the exceptional synchronization between the workings of the leaders of the House and our counterparts in the Senate,” Romualdez said.

To ensure a seamless legislative flow, he said both Houses agree that their priorities must align with the efforts of the administration of President Marcos and his “Agenda for Prosperity” and the Bagong Pilipinas brand of governance.

“We, at the House of Representatives, stand united with the President in his desire to advance these legislative initiatives that will shape the nation’s path forward. This is a time for unity, and we fully support the President,” Romualdez stressed.

Romualdez emphasized that the House is committed to passing the remaining priority bills before the end of the Third Regular Session.

On June 25, the House and Senate leadership attended the Fifth Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting led by Marcos, where they committed to prioritize the passage of 28 bills under the common legislative agenda before the end of the 19th Congress.

Among the bills on the priority list are the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act, Philippine Self-Reliant Defense Posture Program Act; Philippine Maritime Zones Act; Amendments to the Right-of-Way Act; Amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform or Epira; Create More Act; VAT on Digital Transactions; and the House proposal on the reforms in the Philippine capital markets.

The LEDAC also agreed to include the Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act in the top priority list to strengthen the country’s sovereignty over its archipelagic waters and maritime resources.

Also included are the Amendments to the Foreign Investors’ Long-term Lease Act; Amendments to the Agrarian Reform Law; and Amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law.

“We are ready and equally determined to ensure that these critical measures are enacted to support our nation’s progress and development,” Romualdez said.

And while the third regular session may be the final stretch for some to offer and deliver what is most beneficial for their constituents, and signal another era for others to prove themselves worthy of another term, Romualdez said they are all gunning for the same outcome -- victory, for the Filipino people, the nation, and the generations to come.

“We continue to march toward that goal now. Rest not on our laurels, my dear colleagues. Our goal is to conclude the 19th Congress by upholding the principles of democracy, ushering in prosperity, and guiding a fair society. Let us give the Filipino people what they deserve, and they deserve more,” he said.

Ready for SONA

During the opening of the session, the House approved several resolutions that will pave the way for Marcos’ historic SONA to the people at 4 p.m.

The Sinirangan Chamber Singers led the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, while a doxology followed as performed by the I Love Tacloban Quartet Singers.

A total of 262 members of the House attended the opening of the 3rd session of the 19th Congress.

The first order of business involved the consideration and adoption of House Resolution (HR) 1799, which informs the Senate that a quorum was present at the House and that it has entered upon the exercise of its functions. This was followed by the adoption of HR 1800, informing President Marcos that the House has entered upon the exercise of its functions.

The Chamber also adopted the House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 27, which provided for the Senate and the House to hold a joint session to hear the message of the President in his SONA.

The House briefly suspended sessions to transmit to the Senate copies of the resolutions it just adopted and waited for its counterpart to adopt similar resolutions of its own.

After the Senate passed their resolutions, the House proceeded to consider and adopt Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 19, which creates a joint committee of both chambers to notify the President that the 19th Congress, now convened for its third regular session, was ready to hear SONA of the Chief Executive in joint session.

Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales Jr. and Deputy Speakers David “Jay-jay” Suarez, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Roberto Puno, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Camille Villar, Raymond Democrito Mendoza, Vincent Franco “Duke” Frasco, and Antonio “Tonypet” Albano were appointed members of the joint notification committee.

The chamber suspended sessions to give way for the notification committee to inform the President of Congress’ readiness to receive the Chief Executive for his SONA.

After hearing the report of the notification committee, the House again suspended sessions and will convene at 4 p.m. to formally hear the President’s address to the people.

PBBM seeks law for PH membership on LDF board

By: Darryl John Esguerra

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. called on Congress to pass an enabling law that will accord legality to the Philippines' membership to the Loss and Damage Fund Board, the global finance mechanism to assist vulnerable states dealing with the effects of climate change.

During his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, Marcos highlighted the country's vulnerability to climate change due to its geographical location.

"Precisely because of our inherent vulnerability, we are proactive advocates for heightened climate responsibility and justice on the global stage. To this end, we have secured a seat on the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund. And further, the Philippines has also been selected as (the) host country to that fund," the President said.

"This will require an enabling law from Congress to confer the legal personality and capacity to the Board," he added.

The Philippines was recently selected to host the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund.

Established through a decision of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Loss and Damage Fund aims to assist developing countries in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with climate change, including extreme weather and slow-onset events.

The Board, as a decision-making body, is responsible for setting the fund's strategic direction, operations, and work program.

Hosting the next board meeting, according to the President, will give the Philippines a "strong voice to access the needed financial assistance for climate-related initiatives and impacts."

SUNSTAR

[Marcos urges law for loss and damage fund board](#)

By: Third Anne Peralta-Malonzo

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has urged Congress to enact an enabling law to grant legal personality and capacity to the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund.

In his third State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday, July 22, 2024, Marcos said the Philippines’ position on the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund will complement all of the country’s climate adaptation and mitigation measures, as it will “give us a strong voice to access the needed financial assistance for climate-related initiatives and impacts.”

“As we can see in all the world, weather events are, as predicted, getting more extreme, such as torrential rains that instantly shift to scorching heat waves — or vice-versa. Our country’s geographical location makes us highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,” Marcos said.

“Precisely because of our inherent vulnerability, we are proactive advocates for heightened climate responsibility and justice on the global stage,” he added.

The Philippines has secured a seat in the inaugural Loss and Damage Fund Board at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai in December 2023.

The country will serve as a full member of the board in 2024 and 2026, while serving as an alternate member in 2025, representing the Asia Pacific Group along with the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan in a term-sharing agreement.

The loss and damage fund intends to provide financial assistance to support countries, such as the Philippines and other island states, struggling to cope with loss and damage caused by climate change beyond adaptation.

Developed countries have pledged over \$700 million as initial capital to address the negative consequences of climate change, including rising sea levels, prolonged heat waves, desertification, sea acidification, and extreme events such as bushfires, species extinction, and crop failures.

Marcos previously said that the Philippines is one of the countries least responsible for climate change but suffers the most due to its effects.

The chief executive also raised the importance of the country's resiliency and preparedness against any calamities and the destruction it can cause.

He noted that over the past two years, nearly a hundred evacuation centers have been built across the country, and the government activated the newly established Disaster Response Command Center in January to serve as the central hub for disaster response efforts.

In a bid to lessen the impact of heavy rains, over 5,500 flood control projects have been completed in flood-prone areas.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Marcos urges Congress to pass enabling law for Loss and Damage Fund

By: Jean Mangaluz

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the Congress needs to pass an enabling law for the Loss and Damage Fund, an international budget for countries affected by climate change.

During his third SONA, Marcos recounted that the Philippines was selected to host the Loss and Damage Fund. The Loss and Damage Fund, initiated by a United Nations Climate Conference, is an endowment that is meant to assist developing countries affected by climate change.

“This will require an enabling law from Congress to confer the legal personality and capacity to the Board,” Marcos said in his SONA.

Marcos said that the effects of climate change have become more severe, with the Philippines' geographical location making it more vulnerable, making the country a proactive advocate of climate change.

During the 43rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Jakarta, Indonesia, Marcos had urged world leaders to enact the Loss and Damage Fund.

“Countries with the smallest carbon footprints disproportionately bear the heaviest burden of climate change. We need to urgently realize the Loss and Damage Fund to catalyze assistance to address climate change,” Marcos said in September 2023.

In December 2023, the Philippines was able to secure a seat in the Loss and Damage Fund board seat. The Philippines was eventually selected to host the Fund, beating Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Barbados, Bahamas, Togo, Kenya and Eswatini.

Carina intensifies into typhoon, leaves Philippines Thursday

By: Bella Cariaso

Severe tropical storm Carina has intensified into a typhoon and is expected to maintain strength until it leaves the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Thursday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

In its 5 p.m. bulletin yesterday, PAGASA said the center of Typhoon Carina was located at 420 kilometers east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, with maximum sustained winds of 120 km per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, as it is slowly moving north-northeastward.

At a briefing, PAGASA senior weather specialist Benison Estareja added that heavy to intense rains are expected in many parts of the country as Typhoon Carina (international name Gaemi) continues to enhance the southwest monsoon.

“It is expected to further intensify in the next few days while it is in the northern Philippine Sea where the ocean is hot. Until it exits PAR early Thursday, it will maintain its typhoon category,” Estareja said.

Almost the entire Luzon was affected by rains on Monday.

“Rains were also experienced in portions of Western Visayas, Negros Island Region. Rains also affected Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga peninsula,” he said.

According to Estareja, Typhoon Carina is expected to be located 385 kilometers east of Calayan, Cagayan this morning, and by Wednesday morning it is expected to be around 360 kilometers southeast of Itbayat, Batanes.

There is a low possibility that Carina will make landfall.

He said the typhoon will bring strong winds in the eastern portion of Cagayan Valley, particularly eastern Isabela, eastern Cagayan, Babuyan Island and Batanes.

Tropical cyclone wind signal No. 1 was hoisted in Batanes, eastern portion of mainland Cagayan including the eastern portion of Babuyan Islands and the northeastern portion of Isabela.

“In terms of rains, the southwest monsoon is mainly the cause of strong rains in many areas in the country,” Estareja added.

He said orange or intense rains were experienced in Romblon yesterday while yellow or heavy rains were issued in Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Albay, Aklan, Antique and Capiz.

“We do not discount the possibility of heavy rainfall warnings in other parts of Luzon. In Romblon, we are alerting fellow citizens amid the threat of flood and high chance of flooding in low-lying areas with yellow rainfall warnings,” Estareja said.

He said by Wednesday, Typhoon Carina will continue to enhance the southwest monsoon, bringing heavy to intense rains in the western side of Luzon, including the Ilocos region, Abra, Benguet, Zambales, Bataan and Occidental Mindoro.

“We also expect rains in Batanes because of Typhoon Carina and here in Metro Manila, moderate to heavy rains are also expected, as well as in Apayao, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas and Calamian Island,” Estareja added.

At the same time, the weather specialist said that the strong winds will result in big waves up to 3.5 meters.

“We expect moderate to rough seas in Luzon and western portion of Visayas, up to 3.5 meters or equivalent to as high as a first story building. Affected areas also cover Cagayan Valley, Batanes, eastern side of Luzon and Bicol region,” Estareja said.

High alert

Two Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) districts in Luzon have been placed on high alert as they prepare for possible search and rescue (SAR) operations as Typhoon Carina continues to move over the Philippine Sea.

The PCG said in a statement that both Coast Guard District Northwestern Luzon, headed by Captain Ivan Roldan, and Coast Guard District Northeastern Luzon, led by Captain Ludovico Librilla Jr., have placed their personnel on high alert.

All personnel assigned in their stations and substations have been instructed to maintain readiness by activating their Deployable Response Groups and preparing their boats, vehicles and gear in case there is a need to conduct SAR operations.

“Essential first aid and rescue equipment, as well as radio communication devices, are fully operational in case of emergencies,” Roldan said.

Librilla reminded local fishermen and residents of flood-prone areas to take safety precautionary measures.

The PCG suspended all trips of all types of vessels, including small craft with 250 gross tonnage and below, plying the eastern seaboard of Northern Quezon, particularly in Patnanungan and Jomalig areas.

Yesterday, the PCG had recorded 70 people stranded in Southern Tagalog and Bicol because of Typhoon Carina.

By noon, the PCG said 22 people and three rolling cargoes were stranded at the Port of San Andres in Quezon province, which is under the jurisdiction of the PCG District Southern Tagalog.

The PCG District Bicol said that there are 48 passengers, drivers and helpers waiting, as well as four rolling cargoes, at the Port of Pasacao in Camarines Sur.

Red alert

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Cagayan Valley yesterday placed a red alert status in the provinces of Cagayan, Batanes and Isabela due to the possible effects of Typhoon Carina.

Leon Rafael, OCD regional director, reported that the eastern portion of mainland Cagayan, Santa Ana, Gattaran, Baggao, Peñablanca, Lal-lo, Gonzaga and the northeastern portion of Isabela such as Divilacan, Palanan and Maconacon were already under storm signal one.

Rafael, chairman of Cagayan Valley Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said that aside from Cagayan and Isabela, Batanes is also preparing for the possible effects of the typhoon.

People in the northern provinces are being cautioned that rivers may swell because of the rains Typhoon Carina is bringing. PAGASA has issued a flood advisory for the highland Cordillera Region.

Affected water courses are the rivers and tributaries in Upper Abra, Tineg and Ikmin, Abra; rivers and tributaries particularly in Upper Bauang near La Union; all rivers and tributaries in Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province.

Angat Dam

The water level of Angat Dam increased by 3.77 meters in just four days after it reached 176.97 meters amid rains brought by Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon.

As of 8 a.m. yesterday, the water elevation of Angat Dam had improved by 0.17 meters compared to its previous level of 176.80 meters.

It increased by 0.46 meters on Sunday, 1.34 meters on Saturday, and 1.34 meters on Friday.

The current water level of Angat Dam is still 3.03 meters below its minimum water level of 180 meters.

Meanwhile, Meralco has encouraged the public to keep communication lines open and fully charge their mobile phones, laptops, radios and other communication devices.

Customers within the franchise coverage of Meralco may report power outages and other concerns through its official social media pages, or text at 09209716211 or 09175516211; as well as contact the Meralco hotline at 16211 and 8631-1111.

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