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A climate campaigner wants President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to push for clear energy and climate campaigns during his second State of the Nation Address on Monday.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Do we need to care about climate change?](#)

By: Maye Yao Co Say

We now hear the term “climate change” more than we did a decade ago. But do we really know what it means? According to the United Nations, “Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun’s activity or large volcanic eruptions.

[PBBM adds cyber attacks and climate change on list of ‘national security threats’](#)

By: Samuel P. Medenilla

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged the National Security Council (NSC) and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) on Friday to continue to protect the country against “national security threats,” which now include cyber attacks and climate change.

BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

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CNN

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By: Heather Chen

The world’s largest and most populous continent is reckoning with the deadly effects of extreme summer weather, as countries endure blistering heatwaves and record monsoon rainfall, with governments warning residents to prepare for more to come.

MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Betheena Unite

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Climate change approach to go well with economic agenda, Bongbong Marcos](#)

By: Charie Abarca

President Bongbong Marcos, in his second State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday, noted the importance of climate change mitigation strategies, noting that it could build "liveable and sustainable" communities.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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Tropical Depression (TD) Egay is expected to enhance the southwest monsoon or "habagat" and bring rain showers over a large part of the country, the weather bureau said Saturday.

RAPPLER

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By: Acor Arceo

Egay (Doksuri) strengthened from a tropical storm into a severe tropical storm on Sunday morning, July 23.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH investing in climate-resistant water infra](#)

By: Janine Alexis Miguel

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is investing in climate-resilient water infrastructure such as solar-powered irrigation systems to promote water conservation.

[UNHRC adopts PH climate resolution](#)

By: Bernadette E. Tamayo

THE United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) unanimously adopted a Philippine-led resolution calling for scaled-up action against climate change, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Climate solutions, green issues take a backseat in Marcos' 2nd SONA](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. briefly mentioned climate change and was silent about the country’s biggest environmental issues in his second State of the Nation Address, leaving green groups unsatisfied and seeking more concrete solutions.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN

['Race against time': Climate change and the environment a year into Marcos presidency](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

When Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was inaugurated as the 17th President of the Philippines, he immediately set an agenda to tackle climate change.

MAHARLIKA TV

[Dela Cruz Urges LGUs to Allocate Funds for Climate Action](#)

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.

[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.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

[Greenpeace campaigner wants clear energy policies in SONA 2023](#)

A climate campaigner wants President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to push for clear energy and climate campaigns during his second State of the Nation Address on Monday.

In an interview with ANC's Dateline Philippines on Saturday, Greenpeace Philippines Climate Campaigner Jefferson Chua believes that Marcos "double-speaks" on policies especially when it comes to pushing for energy sources.

"He wants the country to go to investments in oil and gas. We are seeing an increase in that and explorations into other sources of energy specifically in nuclear energy," Chua said.

In previous speeches, particularly in last years' State of the Nation Address, Marcos Jr. vowed to "improve bureaucratic processes" to encourage more investors in renewable energy.

However, in a May speech, Marcos said he was "open" to using nuclear power energy.

Chua believes that Marcos' plans on nuclear energy, on top of having oil and gasoline projects, takes the plans "two to three steps back."

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Do we need to care about climate change?](#)

By: Maye Yao Co Say

We now hear the term “climate change” more than we did a decade ago. But do we really know what it means? According to the United Nations, “Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun’s activity or large volcanic eruptions.

But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun’s heat and raising temperatures. The main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving a car, or using coal for heating a building, for example. Clearing land and cutting down forests can also release carbon dioxide. Agriculture, oil and gas operations are major sources of methane emissions.

Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main sectors causing greenhouse gases.” The UN report also says that climate scientists have proven that humans are responsible for global heating over the last 200 years, which has caused the average temperature of the Earth’s surface to now be 1.1°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s.

Today, global tech company HP Inc. announced new global research revealing the serious actions many parents are taking due to climate change, from everyday decisions to long-term family planning.

The global study found 91 percent of parents are concerned about the climate crisis, leading to changes that reshape their lives and purchasing habits. More than half (53 percent) say it has impacted their perspective on having more children. The research also found many parents favor companies that are taking action to address climate change and expect businesses to lead on the issue. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of parents prefer products that are sustainably sourced and 60 percent say sustainable company practices play a large part in their purchasing habits.

This willingness to seek out sustainable products and decisions comes despite the fact that the vast majority of respondents (84 percent) acknowledge the cost of living is rising and more than half (57 percent) believe engaging in environmentally friendly practices takes up a lot of time.

“We are seeing how climate change has transformed family life,” notes Christian Reyes, managing director, Philippines, HP Inc. “Parents now have a higher awareness of how decisions made within the home can impact their communities. HP wants to help Filipino families by creating opportunities that enable them to make more sustainable choices.”

While parents are taking personal action, most also believe key players in the corporate world must act too. Most parents surveyed globally (51 percent) believe that companies have “a lot” of responsibility in holding themselves accountable on climate action, as opposed to customers (36 percent).

The findings come as HP released its 22nd annual Sustainable Impact report, detailing the company’s progress toward comprehensive and bold environmental and social goals.

- HP has reduced its absolute carbon footprint by 18 percent since 2019. This brings the company closer to its goal to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040—end to end.
- Reduced single-use plastic packaging by 55 percent compared to 2018.
- Counteracted deforestation for 41 percent of all paper used in HP products and services toward the goal of 100 percent.
- Accelerated digital equity for more than 21 million people in path to 150 million by 2030.

In the Philippines, where access to learning opportunities continues to be a challenge for many young learners, HP works with organizations like Atayde Foundation and Teach for the Philippines (TFP) to help bridge the divide.

With the help of Atayde Foundation, HP provided 150 learning kits for kindergarten and Grade 1 learners in some of the most remote communities in the Philippines: Isabela City, Basilan; Northern Sagada, Mountain Province, and Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. In addition, HP supported 68 new and tenured teachers who have been deployed and are undergoing continuous professional development through TFP’s leadership development programs. HP also supports TFP’s Batang Bayani Life Skills Development Program (BBP), which aims to support parents in helping their children learn at home, and to equip students with life skills that help them transition to hybrid ways of learning in the new normal.

The tech giant aspires to be the most sustainable and just technology company. In 2021, HP set aggressive Sustainable Impact goals in three areas where the company believes it can make the most difference: Climate Action, Human Rights and Digital Equity.

The 2022 report details progress toward all three focus areas including a net zero carbon value chain, giving back more to forests than we take, creating a more circular economy, building a culture of equality and empowerment, and accelerating digital equity around the world to enable traditionally excluded communities to thrive in a digital economy.

PBBM adds cyber attacks and climate change on list of 'national security threats'

By: Samuel P. Medenilla

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged the National Security Council (NSC) and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) on Friday to continue to protect the country against “national security threats,” which now include cyber attacks and climate change.

During the joint anniversary celebration of the NSC and the NICA at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Marcos added cyber attacks and climate change to the list of threats the country faces, which includes issues on territorial integrity and sovereignty; terrorism and local communist insurgency.

Also worrisome, he said, are “global developments and shifts,” which can affect the country.

Left unchecked, these threats, the President said, cause public disorder and even chaos.

He urged NSC and NICA to continue addressing the said security concerns to ensure the country’s economic and social transformation.

“We know that you are the silent guardians who protect us against all manner of national threats, the steadfast vanguards who keep our enemies at bay, and the faithful watchers ensuring that we do not veer to disorder and to chaos,” Marcos said.

Established by virtue of Executive Order No. 330 on July 1, 1950, the NSC is the principal advisory body on the proper coordination and integration of plans and policies affecting national security.

Meanwhile, NICA, which was created on July 1, 1949, through Executive Order No. 235, is the central coordinating agency in charge of integrating government activities related to national intelligence.

BUSINESS WORLD

No net-zero target in Philippine Energy Plan

By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

THE Department of Energy's (DoE) upcoming edition of the Philippine Energy Plan will not commit to a net-zero emission target as yet, with the focus on exceeding the goals for deploying emerging clean technologies.

"We have no commitment and we are not going to commit in a net zero by 2050 because we are looking at several options. What we are going to do is to over-achieve our targets without necessarily having a commitment on net zero," Michael O. Sinocruz, director of the Energy Policy and Planning Bureau, said in a virtual forum last week.

The DoE is hoping to finish the Philippine Energy Plan within the year. It is expected to feature a higher target for the share of renewable energy in the power mix, Mr. Sinocruz said.

"We are targeting a higher share of renewables — more than 50%, and the entry of other emerging technologies," he said.

Net zero refers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to as close as zero as possible while offsetting any remaining greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Mr. Sinocruz said that the DoE is considering in its revised energy-mix targets the entry of offshore wind and other clean emerging technologies.

To date, the DoE has awarded 73 offshore wind service contracts with a combined capacity of about 58,531 megawatts (MW), he said.

"We are looking at the development of hydrogen for co-firing and eventually 100% hydrogen depending on the cost as well as its derivative, ammonia which we can use for co-firing coal," Mr. Sinocruz added.

Currently, the DoE hopes to increase the share of renewable energy to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

Aside from increasing the share of renewables, the new Philippine Energy Plan will also include a target for nuclear energy capacity of about 2,400 MW by 2035.

The DoE has said that its updated energy plan will discuss the policy direction for renewable energy, downstream oil, natural gas, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and the clean energy transition.

[Pope urges world leaders to do more to tackle climate change](#)

Pope Francis said on Sunday that recent heat waves across many parts of the world and flooding in countries such as South Korea showed that more urgent action was needed to tackle climate change.

“Please, I renew my appeal to world leaders to do something more concrete to limit polluting emissions,” the Pope said at the end of his Angelus message to crowds in St. Peter’s Square.

“It is an urgent challenge, it cannot be postponed, it concerns everyone. Let us protect our common home,” the pope added.

Francis has called on the world to rapidly ditch fossil fuels and made the protection of the environment a cornerstone of his pontificate. He noted in his landmark 2015 “Laudato Si” (Praised Be) encyclical that the planet was “beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth”.

On Sunday, the pope expressed solidarity with those who were suffering from the climate crisis and those helping them.

Parts of the southern United States have baked in a record-breaking heat wave, while extreme temperatures have also been recorded in China and southern Europe, including Italy and Greece.

A wildfire raging on the Greek island of Rhodes forced thousands of tourists and island residents to shelter in schools and indoor stadiums on Sunday after they were evacuated from coastal villages and resorts.

CNN

[Soaring temperatures to record rainfall: Asia reels as climate crisis takes hold](#)

By: Heather Chen

The world's largest and most populous continent is reckoning with the deadly effects of extreme summer weather, as countries endure blistering heatwaves and record monsoon rainfall, with governments warning residents to prepare for more to come.

This month torrential rains inundated parts of Japan, China, South Korea and India, upending the lives of millions and causing flash floods, landslides and power cuts. Record temperatures also led to a rise in heat-related illnesses, particularly among vulnerable communities such as the elderly.

On Saturday, at least 13 people in the central South Korean city of Cheongju died after waters from a burst riverbank flooded an underpass, trapping vehicles, including a public bus.

At least 41 people have died in South Korea in recent days and thousands more have been forced to evacuate their homes and seek temporary shelter, as heavy downpours hit central and southern parts of the country.

In response to the loss of life, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol called for an overhaul of the country's approach to extreme weather.

"This kind of extreme weather event will become commonplace — we must accept climate change is happening, and deal with it," Yoon said Monday.

In neighboring Japan, record rainfall in the southwest of the country resulted in devastating flooding that left at least six people dead, and many others still missing.

"It's raining like never before," a spokesman for Japan's Meteorological Agency said in a statement that called for maximum vigilance from residents in affected areas.

It is a pattern seen throughout the region — from parts of the Philippines and Cambodia in the south where widespread flooding has led to transport disruptions in major cities including the capitals Manila and Phnom Penh — to parts of India further north where record rainfall brought several states to a near standstill and claimed the lives of dozens, according to officials.

The capital Delhi on July 10 marked its wettest July day in more than 40 years, according to authorities. The heavy downpours forced school closures and left many vulnerable without shelter.

One extreme to another

While some regions are grappling with deadly downpours, others are facing searing heat.

On Monday, a weather station in northeastern China recorded a record high temperature of 52.2 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit), while Japan saw temperatures rise to 39.7 degrees Celsius (103 Fahrenheit).

In total, more than five weather stations in China exceeded highs of 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) Monday — among the hottest in history. This follows a record hot summer in the capital Beijing which saw temperatures in early July soar past 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) — prompting officials to issue heat red alerts for two weeks as the global climate crisis intensifies.

The heatwave hits amid the arrival of US Climate Envoy John Kerry in China on Sunday for talks between Beijing and Washington to resume cooperation on climate discussions.

China, one of the world's biggest polluters, has been seeing its share of extreme weather events — with torrential downpours and flooding battering other parts of the country particularly in the south.

Heatwaves have also struck parts of Japan. Temperatures as of Monday morning rose to highs of 39.7 degrees Celsius (103 Fahrenheit) in the city of Kiryu, located in Gunma Prefecture on Honshu island — Japan's largest and most populous which also houses Kyoto and Tokyo, and 39.6 degrees Celsius in Hatoyama a town located in Saitama Prefecture.

Cases of heat stroke have become increasingly common among Japan's elderly, who account for 28% of the population.

Temperatures in the capital Tokyo have soared to dangerous levels in recent years, leaving government officials to call for electricity rationing as the country struggles with growing power shortages.

A vulnerable region

Scientists have warned the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events will continue to increase as the human-caused climate crisis accelerates.

In its annual climate update, the World Meteorological Organization said the world is on track to breach a critical climate threshold in the next five years as global temperatures continue to climb above pre-industrial levels.

Asia, with an estimated total population of 4.4 billion people, is acutely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with recent bouts of extreme weather resulting in water shortages, crop failures and a slow down in the economy.

That vulnerability was thrown into sharp focus last year when catastrophic flooding hit Pakistan killing more than 1,700 people and leaving millions homeless.

The South Asian country is now dealing with its worst economic crisis in decades, worsened by inflation spiking because of the floods ruining last year's harvests.

"One thing is very clear: what happened in Pakistan will not stay in Pakistan," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in September last year, warning that climate change would not spare countries.

"The entire definition of national security has changed today. And unless the leaders of the world come together to act and act now on an agreed common agenda, there will be no earth to fight wars over. Nature will be fighting back. And for that, humanity is no match at all."

Neighboring India, the world's most populous nation, is among the countries expected to be worst affected by the climate crisis, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), potentially affecting 1.4 billion people nationwide.

After suffering recent blistering heat waves in the north and east, thousands were then forced to flee severe flooding in states like Himachal Pradesh last week after heavy rains battered villages and turned roads into rivers.

Every year, India is hit by severe flooding and landslides during the monsoon season, which drenches the country from June to September.

Assam, a state with a population of more than 31 million people, is among the worst hit.

More than 495,000 people spread across 22 districts were impacted by floodwaters and about 14,000 evacuated to relief camps when rain swept across the region. Disaster management officials and state authorities in late June reported at least 10 deaths since the rains began.

Video broadcast on local television showed villagers wading neck-deep through the muddy water with their cattle, and homes, shops and cars submerged in the floods.

Red alerts, indicating the highest threat level, were issued for several northern states including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana. Landslide warnings were also issued for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

The heavy downpours also forced school closures in a number of areas including Uttar Pradesh and the capital New Delhi.

The impact of such weather extremes is hard to miss and India's poor are among the most vulnerable.

Floods have posed a particular danger to the 35% of the population — roughly 472 million people — who live in urban slums, according to the World Bank.

“The irony of it is that the poor of the world are actually victims of climate change,” even if they aren't the ones who “created the problem,” Sunita Narain, director general of the Centre for Science and Environment and veteran Indian environmentalist told CNN last year.

“Floods, droughts and other devastating climate events are “all showing us very clearly what will the future be,” she added.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Marcos urges public to adopt circular economy vs climate change](#)

By: Betheena Unite

As the Philippines maintains its climate change commitments by reducing its carbon footprint, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. urged the public to adopt the concept of circular economy.

Marcos told the citizenry that "we can never lose sight of our responsibility to the future," stressing that the government's economic agenda "cannot and will not ever be incompatible" with its climate change agenda.

He pointed out that climate change is now an important criterion in the country's integral national policies, planning, decision-making, and up to the implementation of programs.

"The potential advantages of such enlightened policies extend to jobs and livelihood, with the unlocking of the development of the green and blue economies," he said in his 1-hour and 10-minute State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, July 24.

With this, he called for the public's strong participation in the adoption of the concept of circular economy to reduce the detrimental impacts of climate change in the country.

"We remain committed to global decarbonization goals, and the reduction of our carbon footprint. We preserve and protect the treasure that is our forests. Their value to the environment, to the ecology, and the economy is incalculable," the Chief Executive said.

"We have adopted the concept of the 'circular economy', using nature as our model. The aim is to keep raw materials in a closed loop. In our world with scarce resources, the circular economy allows us to fully use these resources, minimize waste and reduce the need for new resources—just as it is in nature," he added.

The President stressed that only a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach will enable the country to do all of these.

"Just like our climate change action, this new system requires the participation of all sectors of society, up to each individual citizen, for it to succeed," he said.

Marcos also said that the government is reorganizing its response teams to make them more adaptable, agile, and effective in times of calamities and crises, "with a clear unity of command."

Evacuation centers, he added, are being upgraded to withstand the "new normal" of extreme weather and other natural and man-made disasters.

New evacuation centers are also being built, of which 55 have already been completed, he noted.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Climate change approach to go well with economic agenda, Bongbong Marcos](#)

By: Charie Abarca

President Bongbong Marcos, in his second State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday, noted the importance of climate change mitigation strategies, noting that it could build “liveable and sustainable” communities.

“The building blocks of progressive, livable and sustainable communities will never be complete without appropriate and responsible action to mitigate and to adapt to the effects of climate change,” said Marcos in his speech on Monday.

“We can never lose sight of our responsibility to the future. The economic agenda cannot and will not ever be incompatible with our climate change agenda,” he stated.

According to the President, his administration now considers climate change as an essential factor prior to planning and implementing government programs.

“We have learned many painful lessons from past disasters but we continue to be alert and prepared in our disaster response. It has, in fact, been commented that sometimes we are over-prepared for such natural disasters. Well, to continue that, we are reorganizing our response teams to make them more adaptable, agile and effective in times of calamities and crises, with a clear unity of command,” Marcos added.

To further prove his point, the President noted that the Philippines remains committed to global decarbonization goals as well as the reduction of carbon footprint. He said this can be achieved through utilizing the concept of the so-called “circular economy” or utilizing materials in a “closed loop.”

“In our world with scarce resources, the circular economy allows us to fully use these resources, minimize waste and reduce the need for new resources—just as it is in nature. Just like our climate change action, this new system requires the participation of all sectors of society, up to each individual citizen, for it to succeed,” he explained.

But this, Marcos stressed, will not be achieved by one government agency alone, adding that collaboration between and among government and private offices remains the key to achieving “sustainable and liveable communities.

‘For the first time’

Meanwhile, Makati City Mayor Abby Binay, who labeled herself as a “climate change advocate,” said she was glad that the President took the time to underscore the importance of climate change mitigation.

“I am a climate change advocate. Nakakatuwa. For the first time — in all the Sonas I have attended since 2007, first time yata na nagkaroon ng presidente na [narecognize] that there is already a climate emergency. Hopefully, with all the progress that we are [making] with this renewable energy, hopefully, ay makatulong ito sa ating bansa,” Binay told reporters in an ambush interview following the Sona.

(I am a climate change advocate. I am glad about this. For the first time — in all the Sonas I have attended since 2007, I think it was the first time that a President has recognized that there is already a climate emergency. Hopefully, with all the progress that we are making with this renewable energy, hopefully, it will help our country.)

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[UAE vows to work with int'l community to address global woes](#)

Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, stated that the UAE's pledge to provide US\$100 million during the International Conference on Development and Migration, comes in line with its stature and vital role in addressing global challenges, especially humanitarian.

She said that the UAE believes in the importance of joint action, integration of efforts, and promotion of economic development for countries facing development challenges and affected by irregular migration, according to a framework of joint planning with various international partners.

Al Hashimy underscored the importance of addressing the main causes of migration by supporting development and prosperity, and adopting and supporting development plans to advance the capabilities of the least developed countries, especially in the African continent.

The Minister of State for International Cooperation stressed the impact of climate change on these challenges, which exacerbates development challenges in many countries affected by irregular migration, whether countries of origin, transit, or host countries, highlighting the importance of supporting international initiatives that aim to address climate change and find solutions to this global challenge.

The UAE, through its hosting and presidency of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28), is working to advance prompt action on a large scale to adopt a practical and realistic approach to climate solutions.

TD Egay, 'habagat' to bring rains over much of PH Saturday

By: Jose Cielito Reganit

Tropical Depression (TD) Egay is expected to enhance the southwest monsoon or "habagat" and bring rain showers over a large part of the country, the weather bureau said Saturday.

In its 4 a.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the center of Egay was last tracked at 825 km. east of southeastern Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 70 kph, moving north-northwestward at 10 kph.

It said the trough of Egay will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over the Caraga and Eastern Visayas regions.

Wind signals may be hoisted within the day or Sunday in some areas in the Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas, PAGASA said.

On the other hand, the enhanced southwest monsoon will bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Western Visayas, Palawan, and Occidental Mindoro.

Possible flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains may be experienced in these areas, PAGASA warned.

Metro Manila and the rest of the county will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon and localized thunderstorms.

RAPPLER

Egay now a severe tropical storm; heavy rain expected in Catanduanes

By: Acor Arceo

Egay (Doksuri) strengthened from a tropical storm into a severe tropical storm on Sunday morning, July 23.

Egay's maximum sustained winds are now at 95 kilometers per hour from the previous 85 km/h, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in its 11 am bulletin on Sunday.

The severe tropical storm's gustiness is now up to 115 km/h from 105 km/h.

PAGASA expects Egay to intensify further into a typhoon within 24 hours and into a super typhoon on Tuesday, July 25. The weather bureau said rapid intensification remains likely "due to favorable atmospheric and oceanic conditions."

On Sunday morning, Egay was spotted 610 kilometers east of Daet, Camarines Norte, moving west at a slightly faster 15 km/h from the previous 10 km/h.

PAGASA updated its rainfall forecast for Egay as of 11 am, warning that the province of Catanduanes may start seeing moderate to heavy rain on Sunday. More areas have also been told to brace for rain from the tropical cyclone, which may trigger floods and landslides.

Sunday, July 23

50-100 millimeters (mm): Catanduanes

Monday, July 24

100-200 mm: Catanduanes

50-100 mm: Cagayan, eastern part of Isabela, Polillo Islands, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay

Tuesday, July 25

Greater than 200 mm: Batanes, Babuyan Islands, northeastern part of mainland Cagayan, northern part of Ilocos Norte

100-200 mm: Apayao, Abra, rest of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, rest of Cagayan

50-100 mm: Pangasinan, Isabela, rest of Cordillera Administrative Region

Meanwhile, tropical cyclone wind signals could be initially raised for some areas in Bicol and Eastern Visayas on Sunday.

The highest wind signal that would be raised due to Egay is Signal No. 3 or 4, possibly in extreme Northern Luzon.

“However, should a southward shift in the track occur, higher wind signals may be hoisted,” added PAGASA.

Egay is projected to move slowly in the next 12 hours, before accelerating west northwest or west until Monday morning, July 24, then heading northwest until Thursday, July 27.

Egay is still expected to “remain offshore for most of the forecast period,” but the weather bureau is not ruling out “a close approach or landfall in the vicinity of extreme Northern Luzon.” The tropical cyclone will be closest to extreme Northern Luzon on Wednesday, July 26.

The ridge of a high pressure area north of Egay has also been influencing its movement. Because of this ridge, PAGASA said a westward shift in the track – more toward Philippine landmass – is a possibility.

The gale warning issued at 5 am on Sunday, covering certain coastal waters along the eastern seaboard of Southern Luzon, the Visayas, and northeastern Mindanao, is still in effect. Waters are rough to very rough, with waves 2.8 to 4.5 meters high, due to Egay:

- northern coast of Camarines Sur
- northern and eastern coasts of Catanduanes
- eastern coast of Albay
- eastern coast of Sorsogon
- northern and eastern coasts of Northern Samar
- Eastern Samar
- eastern coast of Surigao del Norte including Siargao and Bucas Grande islands
- Dinagat Islands

The weather bureau advised fishing boats and other small vessels not to sail, and larger vessels to watch out for big waves.

In coastal waters along the eastern seaboard of Luzon and the Visayas that are not covered by the gale warning, Egay might cause rough seas, with waves 2.8 to 3.5 meters high. Small vessels should take precautionary measures.

Egay is also seen to enhance the southwest monsoon or habagat, which will bring rain in the next three days. Floods and landslides are possible, too.

Sunday, July 23

50-100 mm: northern part of Palawan including Cuyo and Calamian islands, Antique, Negros Occidental

Monday, July 24

50-100 mm: Occidental Mindoro, northern part of Palawan including Cuyo and Calamian islands, Western Visayas, Negros Oriental

Tuesday, July 25

50-100 mm: Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, northern part of Palawan including Cuyo and Calamian islands, Western Visayas

Many areas might experience gusty conditions due to the enhanced southwest monsoon as well:

Sunday, July 23

Mimaropa, Visayas, and northern parts of Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Caraga

Monday, July 24

Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, and northern parts of Northern Mindanao and Caraga

Tuesday, July 25

Most of Luzon, most of Visayas, northern part of Zamboanga Peninsula, Dinagat Islands

PAGASA also said Egay could make landfall in Taiwan on Thursday morning. Taiwan is still within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Before Egay hits Taiwan, "a slight weakening trend" might begin on Wednesday.

“Interaction with the mountainous terrain of Taiwan will result in further weakening – a trend which will continue until the tropical cyclone makes another landfall in mainland China,” the weather bureau added.

Egay is the Philippines’ fifth tropical cyclone for 2023 and the second for July. PAGASA earlier estimated that two to four tropical cyclones would form inside or enter PAR during the month.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH investing in climate-resistant water infra](#)

By: Janine Alexis Miguel

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is investing in climate-resilient water infrastructure such as solar-powered irrigation systems to promote water conservation.

Agriculture Undersecretary Mercedita Sombilla also said that long-term mitigating measures are also in place to respond to water issues in the country.

"The Philippines is also now investing in climate-resilient water infrastructures such as solar-powered irrigation systems, promoting domestic water and recycling schemes at the household and community level to promote water conservation and advocating nature-based solutions," Sombilla said during the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference held early in July.

She also noted other solutions such as establishing state-of-the-art water-impounding facilities in highland areas to capture rainfall, upgrading irrigation facilities and dams to optimize water delivery and minimize wastage, and constructing flood control and sea wall structures in flood-prone areas are responses to the intensifying impact of climate change.

Sombilla also emphasized the importance of strengthening the capacity of nations through bilateral cooperation with member countries of the United Nations to achieve efficient and effective water resource management and infrastructure.

"By working together and supporting each other to achieve the needed integrated management and efficient use of our water resources, under the able guidance and leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization, is a major step toward our achieving the shared objective of a resilient agri-food system," she said.

The DA official also highlighted the creation of the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) via Executive Order 22 as one of the significant steps taken by the Philippines to ensure preparedness for the potential worsening impacts of El Niño.

The WRMO will act as a regulatory body to protect water resources, ensure their efficient use and guarantee their availability for all economic sectors.

Moreover, Sombilla also reiterated the support of the Philippines in the implementation of measures that will improve water resource management to achieve a prosperous

food and agriculture sector, and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN.

UNHRC adopts PH climate resolution

By: Bernadette E. Tamayo

THE United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) unanimously adopted a Philippine-led resolution calling for scaled-up action against climate change, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The UNHRC adopted "by consensus" on July 12 the resolution calling for the urgent creation of a new fund to assist developing countries in addressing climate change "loss and damage," the DFA said on Tuesday.

The resolution was in relation to the landmark decision adopted at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Egypt in November 2022.

DFA Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Carlos Sorreta introduced the resolution on human rights and climate change tabled by the Philippines, together with Bangladesh and Vietnam, prior to its adoption by the Human Rights Council in its 53rd session, held on July 12 in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The Philippines welcomes the Council's unanimous adoption of this resolution that mandates the UN Secretary-General to conduct a study on the human rights impacts of loss and damage, exploring equity-based approaches to addressing the same," Sorreta said.

"This is the first study on this important topic within the context of the HRC, and we look forward to its presentation during the fifty-seventh session of the Council next year," he added.

The resolution raised the need for all countries to adopt interventions that benefit the most vulnerable, facilitate safe and voluntary movement, minimize forced movement, and address human rights protection gaps to reduce the risk of trafficking and exploitation of people on the move, especially women and girls, the DFA said.

It also recognizes the role of women and the importance of safe and meaningful civil society participation in policy and decision-making processes on climate change and calls on States and businesses to uphold their corporate responsibility to respect human rights in the context of the environment and the climate system.

"No other global challenge adversely affects the enjoyment of human rights so profoundly and so disproportionately than climate change," Sorreta said prior to the adoption of the resolution.

"This resolution, since its launch in 2008, has consistently aimed to shed light on the complex nexus between human rights and climate change in order to contribute to global discussions on the development of just, humane, and equitable climate solutions," he said.

The DFA said the resolution called for deep and rapid cuts in greenhouse gas emissions as well as scaled-up adaptation measures to effectively address the adverse impacts of sudden and slow-onset climate events, including on livelihoods, that negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights, especially in developing countries.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Climate solutions, green issues take a backseat in Marcos' 2nd SONA

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. briefly mentioned climate change and was silent about the country’s biggest environmental issues in his second State of the Nation Address, leaving green groups unsatisfied and seeking more concrete solutions.

Marcos frequently mentioned the need to address climate change and protect the environment in his speeches at home and abroad during his first year as the president.

“The building blocks of progressive, livable and sustainable communities will never be complete without appropriate and responsible action to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change,” Marcos said Monday, adding his administration treats climate change as an “important criterion” in crafting national policies.

The chief executive mentioned the need to develop green and blue economies, and protect and preserve forests as well as the commitment of the country to meet the global decarbonization goals.

He also touched on the adoption of a “circular economy”—or maximizing resource efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions.

“Just like our climate change action, this new system requires the participation of all sectors of society, up to each individual citizen, for it to succeed,” the president said.

But Marcos did not mention any policy or program to achieve these.

Greenpeace said that Marcos’ SONA “did not accurately reflect the real state of the nation, painting a naively positive outlook for the country that fails to consider much needed action to address the serious and urgent challenges posed by the climate crisis that is now compounded by a severe El Niño.”

Disaster response

The Philippines is one of the countries most affected by extreme climate events, with poor and rural communities bearing the brunt of disasters.

Marcos said the government is reorganizing its response teams to make them “more adaptable, agile and effective” in times of calamities and crises. He added that evacuation centers are being upgraded to withstand extreme weather events.

“We have learned many painful lessons from past disasters. We continue to be alert and prepared in our disaster response. It has, in fact, been commented that sometimes we are over-prepared for such natural disasters,” he said.

Greenpeace campaigner Jefferson Chua said this pronouncement “shows a lack of awareness of the reality on the ground.”

“The climate crisis demands a genuine whole-of-society approach, one that ensures that historically marginalized and oppressed sectors are given their due,” he said.

Climate scientists backed by the United Nations earlier called on countries to strengthen measures that will help people cope in a warming world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also warned that “rapid and far-reaching transitions” across all sectors and systems are needed to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.

Silence on green issues

Marcos did not mention the first major environmental disaster of his administration: the oil spill in Oriental Mindoro.

Protect Verde Island Passage—a coalition of communities and environmentalists advocating for the protection of the marine corridor—stressed that the oil spill crisis is far from over.

“Marcos himself committed that he will resolve this crisis in under four months, and we take its absence in his speech as his admission of failing to meet his own deadline. Is the plight of more than 24,000 fisherfolk not worth mentioning or is the oil spill now a crisis forgotten?” Protect VIP said.

Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment national coordinator Jon Bonifacio also said that Marcos’ failure to highlight other environmental issues such as reclamation and mining “really throws into question whether this was really an honest report on the state of the nation or a sanitized ad reel for foreign investors.”

Bonifacio and Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center executive director E.M. Taqueban criticized Marcos’ continued silence on escalating attacks against environmental defenders and lack of recognition of indigenous peoples in his speech.

“Land distribution, infrastructure expansionism, and energy development are once again touted without addressing how these have aggravated conflicts with indigenous lands,” Taqueban said, adding that Marcos’ promotion of renewable energy failed to mention its link with the intensification of mining for so-called energy transition metals.

In its 2022 report, LRC found that 49% of Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs) have land or environmental conflicts. An area equivalent to more than 13% of the total land area of these indigenous lands in conflict are covered by infrastructure, energy, and land development projects.

What needs to be done

The Climate Reality Project Philippines and Greenpeace urged Marcos to do the following:

- Develop a comprehensive roadmap for implementing our Nationally Determined Contributions or climate plans
- Modernize power grid to harness distributed, cheaper, and more reliable power from renewable energy
- Ban single-use plastics
- Call on the world’s biggest polluters to take responsibility for climate impacts, and make them pay reparations for their contributions to the climate crisis
- Phase out coal

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN

['Race against time': Climate change and the environment a year into Marcos presidency](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

When Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was inaugurated as the 17th President of the Philippines, he immediately set an agenda to tackle climate change.

In one of his engagements abroad, Marcos described the fight against the climate crisis as a "race against time to conserve and prevent habitat and biodiversity loss."

A year into his presidency, has the administration made significant progress when it comes to green issues?

Of spills and gaps

One of the main environmental disasters during Marcos' first year was the massive oil spill in the waters of Oriental Mindoro on Feb. 28.

He wanted authorities to only take four months to complete the cleanup. On June 17, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) announced it has completed extracting oil from the MT Princess Empress.

The tanker was carrying around 900,000 liters of industrial fuel oil when it sank off Naujan. Its wreckage was found near Pola town.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has yet to determine the actual cost of damage to marine biodiversity. It earlier estimated the value at around ₱7 billion.

The oil spill reached Antique, Palawan, and the Verde Island Passage — considered the "center of marine shore fish biodiversity." It also halted the work of around 27,000 fishers, with disaster management officials reporting the country lost nearly ₱5 billion worth of fish production.

Advocates revealed that fishers in Calapan told them this week there is less catch even after the lifting of the fishing ban in their area, which they said was an experience observed in past oil spills.

Fishing bans have been lifted in all of Oriental Mindoro's towns, Governor Humerlito Dolor said on July 20.

But in a news conference a day earlier, Pola Mayor Jennifer Cruz said she is still not signing the PCG's declaration that her town's coast is "100% clean," as they still see traces of oil along the shoreline. Considered as "ground zero," Pola was hit the hardest by the oil spill.

Residents and groups are still calling for justice and the swift processing of claims, as they considered the effect of the oil spill worse than that of COVID-19.

For Tony La Viña, an environmental policy expert and former DENR undersecretary, the marine disaster response is a good example of the gaps within Marcos' environmental agenda.

La Viña told CNN Philippines that the country's response and rhetoric, along with the efforts of Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga, were "okay," but "there's nothing that has changed in the way we respond — mabagal [slow]."

"In the first place, bakit pinayagan, bakit nangyari [why was the ship allowed to sail, why did the disaster happen]?" he added.

Rhodora Azanza, professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI), also told CNN Philippines the country is still not ready for such calamity as the government remains "land-focused" in its disaster management program.

For Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Protect VIP Convenor, the completion of the oil spill cleanup was a "hollow victory." He said "no one is held accountable and the government remains quiet about what it plans to do to prevent similar incidents in the future."

Adjusting the footing

To set her agenda, the DENR chief followed Marcos' rhetoric in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on environmental preservation, environmental law implementation and compliance, and climate change mitigation.

Loyzaga deemed engaging with the private sector and introducing the National Natural Resources Geospatial Database Office (GDO) and the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) as some of her accomplishments in her first year.

Carlos David is leading these two offices as part of his tasks as undersecretary for integrated environmental science.

In a Palace briefing, Loyzaga said the GDO would establish a "physical baseline" of the country's natural resources to properly account for, value, and manage them, as well as a basis to identify priority areas for forestation, reforestation, and afforestation, for example.

She bared that data from the GDO showed out of the 15 million hectares of classified forestland, only 7 million hectares were actually forested.

"In the past, areas that were targeted for reforestation are actually not ideal areas...so this time, we made sure that these are areas that will have trees that can be sustained," David told CNN Philippines, stressing that the data can improve the department's programs to maximize its "small budget."

David said the current 10-member GDO will use its data to detect encroachment on public coastal areas, illegal mining activities, and industries without necessary permits.

It can also be used to pinpoint water systems that can be developed for hydropower and water supply — arguably helping another office under his belt, the WRMO, which stands as an umbrella office for all water-related functions of the government.

His office will be tested this year as the El Niño phenomenon threatens the country's water supply.

The path ahead

"Policy-wise, rhetoric-wise, generally okay...From the point of view of outcomes, the Marcos government has not yet produced good outcomes sa [in the] environment. And there's much to be done," La Viña said, admitting it may take three to four years for policy changes in the DENR to reflect on the ground.

David said the DENR's first year can be summed up as "trying to solve problems from before, at the same time trying to advance things as we see fit."

For Marcos, he may continue talks on nuclear energy this year, given that he already mentioned it during his first SONA.

The Philippine National Nuclear Energy Safety bill, which seeks to provide a comprehensive atomic regulatory framework, is up for interpellation in the House of Representatives after the approval of the newly formed special committee on nuclear energy.

But critics raised that nuclear power is a problematic, expensive, and dangerous energy source — urging the president to instead focus on renewables to truly address the climate crisis.

"If this bill becomes law, it will only serve the interests of private nuclear companies and investors waiting to suck us dry financially and use our country as a testing ground for their untested and dangerous technologies," Greenpeace Philippines said.

Another issue Marcos previously mentioned was the country's responsibility to "clean up," being the world's third biggest plastics polluter.

Just three months ago, the Commission of Audit (COA) found the country's Solid Waste Management Program did not achieve its goals.

COA reported that in 2020, the country produced 16.6 million of waste, which was 2 million higher than six years prior. It is seen to rise to 19 million metric tons by 2030, and around 24 million metric tons by 2045.

Loyzaga knows that this is a "great challenge."

"We are not winning the war definitely against single-use plastic," she told reporters.

The DENR said plastics account for 30% to 40% of the current daily waste generation.

In an earlier interview with CNN Philippines, Loyzaga shared the DENR is launching a "very concerted campaign" to encourage companies to register and comply with the Extended Producers Responsibility Act – requiring them to recover their plastic packaging waste.

For Robert Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), climate change action is a priority of the current administration as it reflects on increased budget allocation for climate change mitigation this year.

He said the CCC's priorities include the implementation of the National Climate Risk Management Framework, the integration into the national agenda of the country's self-defined national climate pledges to limit the increase of the global average temperature, and the development of the National Adaptation Plan.

La Viña, on the other hand, said the DENR should prioritize the issues of reclamation and illegal land-use conversion, which groups have also been raising.

Advocates from the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan) said they question the administration's intentions to expand the mining industry, despite long-standing issues with the existing mining framework. They claimed that one year of Marcos was an "ecological disaster" for Filipinos.

"The case of Sibuyan Island and the struggle against Altai Philippines Mining Corporation's operations — a company granted [with] permits under the Marcos Jr. administration — reveals the backward nature of mining policies Marcos Jr. [commits] himself to continuing at all costs," the group said.

In a television interview, Loyzaga acknowledged that there are gaps in the Mining Act of 1995, but said the mining industry under Marcos will be open to responsible miners who consider the environmental aspects of mining and promote social development.

But aside from policy change, the administration must also ensure that grassroots and civil society have "the democratic space to operate," and their initiatives recognized, to combat climate change locally, said Kalikasan national coordinator Jon Bonifacio.

"Until the crisis that environmental defenders face in the Philippines has been recognized by the DENR or the Marcos Jr. administration (as we are the worst country in Asia in terms of killings for a decade now), a big part of the problem has not been addressed," he told CNN Philippines.

Coming into Marcos' second year in office, La Viña reiterated that the government has the opportunity to catch up with the environmental issues — with Loyzaga, Energy chief Raphael Lotilla, and Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. sitting in the Cabinet.

For Marcos, he has his eyes set on attending this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference set for November in Dubai to show his commitment to the fight against climate change.

"There is no question that the preservation of the environment is the preservation of life," he said in his first SONA. "If we cannot mitigate climate change, all our plans for the economy, all our plans for our future, will be for naught."

MAHARLIKA TV

[Dela Cruz Urges LGUs to Allocate Funds for Climate Action](#)

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.

=END=