



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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By: Robert Streit, David Bellwood and Tiffany Morrison

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## **GMA NEWS**

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By: Sundy Locus

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## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Pimentel advocates for ‘character change’ to combat effects of climate change](#)**

By: Macon Ramos-Araneta

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III called for a shift in public behavior and accountability among politicians and government contractors to address the worsening issue of flooding in the Philippines.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Climate change in the Sona](#)**

By: Patria Gwen M.L. Borcena

Majority of Filipinos are aware of climate change as shown by findings from both the Social Weather Stations (SWS) and Pulse Asia. Although Pulse Asia revealed that majority of Filipinos admitted a lack or insufficient knowledge about climate change, the SWS 2022 survey found that majority are optimistic about solutions that people can do to reduce climate risks.

### **[On climate justice and human rights](#)**

By: Rufa Cagoco-Guiam

The United Nations Development Programme explains climate justice as “putting equity and human rights at the core of decision-making and action on climate change.” The concept has been used widely to highlight that “countries, industries, businesses, and people that have become wealthy from emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases have a responsibility to help those affected by climate change, particularly the most vulnerable countries and communities, who often are the ones that have contributed least to the crisis.”

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[MMDA: Carina floods show need to rehab outdated NCR drainage system](#)**

By: Darryl John Esguerra

The massive flooding experienced by different areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) due to Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat) highlighted the need to rehabilitate the already outdated drainage system of the metropolis, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said Tuesday.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Expect better weather in next few days – PAGASA](#)**

By: Romina Cabrera

After the recent onslaught of monsoon rains enhanced by Typhoon Carina, Filipinos should expect better weather conditions in the next few days, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Climate change, sustainable development get ₱1 trillion in 2025](#)**

By: Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

To address climate change and support sustainable development, the Marcos administration has allocated P1 trillion for climate-related initiatives in 2025.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **World's forests failed to curb 2023 climate emissions**

Forests and other land ecosystems failed to curb climate change in 2023 as intense drought in the Amazon rainforest and record wildfires in Canada hampered their natural ability to absorb carbon dioxide, according to a study presented recently.

This means that a record amount of carbon dioxide entered the Earth's atmosphere last year, further fueling global warming, the researchers said.

Plants help to slow climate change by absorbing huge amounts of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas driving global warming. On average, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems absorb nearly a third of annual emissions from fossil fuels, industry and other human sources.

Scientists at Tsinghua University in China, the University of Exeter in England and LSCE led the research into what caused the shift. Their study was presented at the International Carbon Dioxide Conference in Manaus, Brazil.

A key driver was record high global temperatures, which dried out vegetation in the Amazon and other rainforests, preventing them from absorbing more carbon, while also fuelling record fires in Canada, the study found.

"Imagine your plants at home: If you don't water them, they're not very productive, they don't grow, they don't take up carbon," said Stephen Sitch, a study co-author and carbon expert at the University of Exeter.

"Put that on a big scale like the Amazon forest," Sitch told Reuters on the sidelines of the conference

The study is still in the process of peer review with an academic journal, but three scientists who were not involved in the research told Reuters that its conclusions were sound.

They said dips in land carbon sinks tend to occur in years affected by the El Nino climate phenomenon, such as 2023. But the record-high temperatures caused by climate change made last year's dip particularly extreme.

Also, the consequences of the dip are more severe than in the past because humans are now causing the emission of more carbon dioxide than ever before.

## ECO BUSINESS

### [\[Opinion\] Coral restoration is a speculative, feel-good science that won't save our reefs](#)

By: Robert Streit, David Bellwood and Tiffany Morrison

Climate change has killed billions of corals and fundamentally changed coral reefs. The response, especially in Australia, has been to fix the symptoms, not address the cause – climate change for which humans are responsible.

Much money and research effort is expended in replacing, regrowing and supporting corals, in the hope reefs may survive a warmer world.

These technological and scientific “solutions” give hope that something can be done. But as we argue in Nature Climate Change today, there is little evidence these measures will create resilient or healthy reef ecosystems over the long term.

Humanity must take dramatic action on climate change. By focusing so much attention on treating the symptoms – such as replacing dead corals – we risk squandering money, time and public trust in science.

We believe coral restoration may be, at best, a feel-good measure that satisfies a human urge to do something about climate change – and at worst, a dangerous distraction from climate action. A fundamental rethink is needed.

What to do about our troubled reefs?

The world's coral reefs have suffered devastating damage due to climate change and resulting warmer seas. This includes the Great Barrier Reef, which last summer experienced yet another mass bleaching.

Clearly, something must be done.

In recent years, a popular solution has emerged in the form of direct scientific interventions. These include:

- growing baby corals in a nursery to later plant them on an ocean reef
- selective breeding, which involves identifying heat-tolerant corals, collecting their eggs and sperm, and breeding heat-tolerant offspring

- minimising stressors, for example, cloud-seeding or building structures to shade coral, pumping cooler water onto reefs or removing natural predators such as crown-of-thorns starfish.

Such interventions attract substantial research and philanthropic funding. But many scientists, including us, are concerned about their growing popularity.

There is little compelling evidence these interventions improve outcomes across coral reef ecosystems.

For example, a 2020 study synthesised current knowledge in coral reef restoration. It found 60 per cent of projects had monitored restored sites for less than 18 months. Most projects were small-scale, with a median restored area of 100 square metres.

It concluded coral restoration projects were poorly designed, lacked clear and achievable objectives, and improvements were needed in monitoring and reporting.

Another study last year found some forms of coral rehabilitation “may be feasible, affordable, and ethical”, but the benefits were small and the measures expensive.

The researchers said legislation and policy should concentrate on “bolstering ecosystem resilience by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other drivers of reef degradation”.

We don't always have to 'do something' on reefs

In some areas of science, such as human health, people have been shown to prefer solutions that involve active intervention: that is, adding something new, regardless of evidence for or against its efficacy. The same “intervention bias” may be influencing how we try to help coral reefs.

A vast literature on coral reefs calls for action in the form of scientific intervention.

However, resilience, recovery and change are an inherent feature of natural ecosystems. This was demonstrated by a review of 400 studies of disturbed ecosystems, which showed human restoration provided no consistent benefits over natural recovery.

Recent evidence from the northern Great Barrier Reef, following a major bleaching event, supports the idea that, in the short-term at least, nature can recover on its own. There, coral cover jumped from 10 per cent in 2016, the lowest ever recorded, to an ephemeral but record high of 36 per cent just six years later.

This is not to say the bounce-back will last. Heatwaves will continue to kill regrown corals, rendering this natural success temporary. That's why drastic emissions reduction is essential.

What is a healthy reef?

Intervention on coral reefs usually aims to increase live coral cover. This approach rests on the assumption that more coral leads to healthy reefs.

Corals are undoubtedly a foundational and iconic part of coral reefs. But corals and reefs are not the same. Corals are important, iconic organisms. Coral reefs are highly diverse, complex ecological systems composed of thousands of animal, plant and bacteria species.

The science is not clear on whether more corals will return reefs to a "healthy" state, especially given such scientific interventions are usually small in scale. There is also evidence suggesting reefs can grow, even when coral species decline.

More science is needed to determine what a "healthy" reef is. A pretty reef with plenty of coral? A usable reef with plenty of fish? Or a reef that is unspoiled by human activity?

And there's another important research question to answer: how can humanity come to terms with reefs transformed by climate change?

Towards transformative solutions

We do not seek to divide reef scientists into camps "for and against" coral restoration.

But we are not confident that specific, targeted coral interventions will have wider benefits. What's needed is broader, evidence-based investigation into transformation across reefs and human communities - to bring about real, large-scale solutions.

We realise our position may be considered controversial. But the stakes are high – and an evidence-based approach to caring for coral reefs is urgently needed.

## GMA NEWS

### [Koko lauds Marcos ban on POGOs; asks him not to use climate change as scapegoat](#)

By: Sundy Locus

While they do not “see eye-to-eye” on proposed solutions to the country’s current issues, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel on Monday commended President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. for his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA).

During his Kontra-SONA speech, Pimentel said he was “disarmed” over the President’s decision to ban Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), saying the President listened to the “overwhelming sentiment of the Filipino people”.

“I believe the President delivered his best SONA so far,” the lawmaker told the Plenary during Monday’s session.

“We may not be political allies, we may not see eye-to-eye in our proposed solutions to our country’s most pressing and serious problems, but that SONA delivered by the President convinced me of these things: that President Marcos loves his country and that he is trying his best,” he added.

Flood problem

Pimentel, in his speech, raised proposals to address the country’s pressing issues including the perennial flooding problem. He questioned the continued floods that inundated Metro Manila and other areas last week despite billions of funding allocated to flood control.

“Let us also not use ‘climate change’ as the scapegoat...What I instead propose is for us to look at the possibility of ‘character change’,” he said.

Under ‘character change’, Pimentel asked the public to observe proper trash disposal. He also urged politicians as well as contractors, suppliers and construction company owners to refrain from entering politics to avoid conflicts of interest.

“Yung investible funds ninyo ay pakilagay na lang sa manufacturing, because the history of the human race has proven that “manufacturing has the biggest impact on the direction of the economy because it is the main source of jobs, innovation, and increases in production,” he added.



The lawmaker also urged Marcos to direct the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and related agencies to “post online the names of the contractors of government flood control and management projects, as well as the location, amount, and status of these projects.”

“We therefore need to revisit our country’s flood control and infrastructure program...And we need to review too the entire budget process where these are provided for,” he added.

#### Health

Meanwhile, Pimentel called for the review of the charter of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) as he questioned proposals to transfer the dormant funds of the state insurer to social services and infrastructure projects.

“A review of PhilHealth’s charter is imperative, if not also a downright replacement of its leadership,” the lawmaker said.

He also called for dental health programs and projects covering more mental health-related conditions including neurological and developmental disorders.

“Essential medicines in the Philippines cost at least three times more than in other countries. Vaccine wastage exacerbates our problems by contributing to government financial losses and depleting other critical health resources,” he said.

“Mr. President, the inequities and challenges in our healthcare system demands immediate and focused action. The Senate Minority stands ready to help,” Pimentel added.

#### Other issues

Meanwhile, the legislator also mentioned issues that she said Marcos failed to address during the SONA such as problems on housing, traffic and the PUV Modernization Program, and the national debt.

“Ang utang natin ay dinadagdagan natin kada taon sa pamamagitan ng Budget Law kasi mas gusto natin gumastos ng mas malaking halaga kaysa sa kinikita natin,” said Pimentel.

(Our debt grows bigger every year thru the Budget Law because we prefer to spend larger amounts instead of based on how much we earn.)

With 110 million Filipinos, he said each person has at least P136,000 debt on a per head basis.

“Isa sa mga gastusing sumosobra na sa bigat/pasanin ay ang issue of military and uniformed personnel pension reform. Why was this not mentioned in the SONA?” said Pimentel.

“Is this administration following the kick-steps of previous administrations by kicking this particular can down the road for the future generations to decide?” he asked.

Pimentel added: “Sayang Mr. President as I believe that you still have the political capital to be able to swing this and actually solve it”.

The senator congratulated the administration for the peace in the Bangsamoro Region, the decrease in crime rate and independence of the judiciary, as well as the “vigilance and excellent handling of tensions and other challenges” in the West Philippine Sea.

He also said the Senate Minority is ready to coordinate for the passage of several priority legislations such as the proposed Maritime Zones Law, the Archipelagic Sea Lanes Law, and the Law Granting Legal Personality and Capacity to the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund.

“Ang Senate Minority ay handang magsakripisyo at gampanan ang kanilang trabaho para sa isang makatarungan, patas, at progresibong Republika ng Pilipinas,” the senator assured.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [Pimentel advocates for 'character change' to combat effects of climate change](#)

By: Macon Ramos-Araneta

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III called for a shift in public behavior and accountability among politicians and government contractors to address the worsening issue of flooding in the Philippines.

In a privilege speech delivered Monday evening, Pimentel emphasized the need for personal and systemic changes to effectively combat environmental challenges, rather than blaming climate change alone.

He suggested that severe flooding and other hazards often attributed to climate change should have been evident since the Industrial Revolution, if it were the only contributing factor. Instead, he urged citizens to adopt better waste disposal habits.

“Let us put logic and system in discarding our trash,” stated Pimentel, highlighting the importance of proper garbage management.

The senator also called on contractors and suppliers of government services, along with construction company owners, to steer clear of politics and avoid conflicts of interest. He appealed to wealthy politicians to refrain from engaging in government contracts and instead invest in manufacturing.

“Manufacturing has the biggest impact on the direction of the economy because it is the main source of jobs, innovation, and increases in productivity,” Pimentel pointed out.

The opposition leader urged President Marcos to mandate transparency from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and other involved agencies by publishing the details of government flood control and management projects.

“Let us pierce the veil of corporate identity by letting the people know who are the individuals behind these lucrative flood control projects,” said Pimentel.

The Senate is set to hold a hearing on Thursday to scrutinize the substantial flood control budget, which exceeds ₱1 billion per day. Pimentel warned that even a modest 10 percent profit margin means contractors could be earning at least ₱100 million daily at the expense of Filipino taxpayers.

Pimentel's call for character change comes after Senate President Francis Escudero and Senators Ramon Revilla, Jr. Alan Peter Cayetano, Grace Poe, Nancy Binay, and Joseph Victor Ejercito criticized the DPWH for failing to curb widespread flooding last week despite a massive budget.

Escudero has called for a thorough investigation into the flood control projects, noting that Metro Manila remains plagued by severe flooding more than a decade after 2009's catastrophic Typhoon 'Ondoy.'

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Climate change in the Sona

By: Patria Gwen M.L. Borcena

Majority of Filipinos are aware of climate change as shown by findings from both the Social Weather Stations (SWS) and Pulse Asia. Although Pulse Asia revealed that majority of Filipinos admitted a lack or insufficient knowledge about climate change, the SWS 2022 survey found that majority are optimistic about solutions that people can do to reduce climate risks.

The World Risk Report 2023 ranked the Philippines as the most disaster-prone country in the world for the 13th straight year. Based on the 2021 Global Climate Risk Report, the Philippines ranked 17th in terms of level of exposure and vulnerability to extreme events. Given the increase in the heat indices within the country during the last few months, the climate crisis has likely become a more disturbing reality for many Filipinos.

Amid these glaring realities, it is indeed timely and relevant that President Marcos mentioned climate change in all his three State of the Nation Addresses (Sonas). Mr. Marcos mentioned that the country has climate adaptation and mitigation solutions, but did not elaborate. He proudly stated that the Philippines is included in the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund and was chosen as its host country (this fund was operationalized at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties or COP held in December 2023). A few measures related to disaster risk reduction and mitigation were also cited.

Compared to his two previous Sonas, this year's speech had a toned-down discussion about the environment and natural resources, as well as climate change in terms of the length of time and the emphasis on concrete solutions. Various environmental groups and other civil society organizations (CSOs) have voiced their dismay over this. For instance, Greenpeace pointed to the absence of a climate justice agenda including plans for stopping fossil gas expansion. The Center for Environmental Concerns and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment assessed the Sona as the Marcos administration's further attempt to engage in greenwashing, stating that its economic agenda and climate-related goals are pushing for reclamation, mining, mega-dams, and other infrastructure projects which threaten the environment and violate the rights of the affected communities.

The Sona was also silent on a few controversial developments that pro-environment groups strongly oppose such as the Joint Declaration of Policy Reforms between the

Philippine Mining Industry and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources signed last month and the 123 Agreement, a nuclear cooperation between the Philippines and the United States signed in November 2023.

Unfortunately, the present administration has worsened the dominance of the flawed neo-liberal development paradigm which prioritizes corporate profit and interests of transnational corporations at the expense of the environment and marginalized sectors. False solutions influenced by this economic paradigm include attempts to promote “responsible mining” and even coming up with wrong arguments like the need for mineral resources to fuel green technologies.

If Mr. Marcos wants to be remembered as a president who champions effective solutions to climate change and poverty in his envisioned “new Philippines,” his administration has to veer away from this flawed development framework. The Marcos administration needs a sharpened analysis of the relationship between poverty and the environment (see Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’*: On Care for Our Common Home and Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines statements).

We reiterate the CSOs’ Urgent Call for a Pro-Filipino Climate and Environment Agenda (signed by 136 CSOs in 2022) about the need for our leaders to “take a stand and create opportunities to initiate a paradigm shift toward a model of sustainable development that is ecologically sound, equitable, socially just, and politically inclusive. We all must listen to the cries of the earth and the poor, respond and act together in responding to the climate crisis, and adapt to its extreme impacts and potential catastrophes.” After the onslaught of Supertyphoon “Carina,” which placed Metro Manila in a state of calamity, the Philippine government should consider declaring a “climate emergency.”

## On climate justice and human rights

By: Rufa Cagoco-Guiam

The United Nations Development Programme explains climate justice as “putting equity and human rights at the core of decision-making and action on climate change.” The concept has been used widely to highlight that “countries, industries, businesses, and people that have become wealthy from emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases have a responsibility to help those affected by climate change, particularly the most vulnerable countries and communities, who often are the ones that have contributed least to the crisis.”

The recent massive flooding in many parts of Metro Manila and some provinces in Northern and Southern Luzon in the wake of Supertyphoon “Carina” (international name: Gaemi) once again demonstrated how extreme weather events associated with climate change have brought devastation to people’s lives and properties. It once again surfaced our people’s preexisting vulnerabilities and our government’s debilities in being prepared for a climate change extreme event.

Metro Manila slum areas were among the most badly hit communities with houses made of light materials standing cheek-by-jowl with each other. According to a report, there are now 526 slum communities in the metro with an estimated 2.5 million people—all facing intense challenges of intergenerational poverty, lack of access to basic social services, and perennial environmental problems like air, water, and noise pollution.

Many people blame urban slum dwellers themselves for their pitiful situation—many of them have left relatively comfortable lives in rural areas in search of their dreams and the proverbial pot of gold in the big cities of Metro Manila.

Our unequal social structure has spawned pockets of both urban and rural impoverished communities that are most vulnerable to adverse consequences of extreme weather events. Such vulnerabilities are abetted by our government’s perennial disregard for its responsibility to ensure people’s safety and security and that this is an obligation entrusted by the public through their votes during elections.

Climate justice enjoins governments to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change extreme weather events to prevent their impacts on people’s human right to live decently, with all their rights and privileges being honored and granted. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has issued key messages about the responsibilities of states or governments to ensure that “appropriate

adaptation measures are taken to protect and fulfill the rights of all persons, particularly those most endangered by the negative impacts of climate change.” Among these are people living near rivers and waterways, low-lying coastal zones, and congested and heavily populated urban slum enclaves with poor and inadequate sanitation facilities.

Government officials are obliged to build adaptive capacities through continuous training in survival skills, first aid techniques and strategies, including the provision of basic needs already pre-positioned in vulnerable communities.

Climate justice also calls on governments to strictly enforce environmental policies and laws to limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are the main culprit in the current crisis created by climate change events. Those whose businesses and industries have contributed immensely to the amounts of greenhouse gas emissions must be held accountable and be obliged to contribute to efforts mitigating the effects of climate change especially on poor and vulnerable communities. These communities, after all, have the least contribution to the climate change crisis.

We are right in the typhoon belt and the ring of fire—both aggravating our safety and security when strong typhoons and earthquakes hit. The Philippines is also an archipelago, a situation that intensifies our preexisting vulnerabilities vis-à-vis extreme weather events and climate change upheavals.

Preventive and mitigating approaches to climate change are among the basic elements of promoting climate justice, and these are needed now. These should be well-thought-of and carefully planned to factor in possible repercussions on our people’s human rights to live in a safe, secure, and livable environment.



## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [MMDA: Carina floods show need to rehab outdated NCR drainage system](#)

By: Darryl John Esguerra

The massive flooding experienced by different areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) due to Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat) highlighted the need to rehabilitate the already outdated drainage system of the metropolis, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said Tuesday.

In a Palace press briefing, MMDA chairman Romando Artes said updating Metro Manila's "antiquated" drainage system is needed to mitigate the effects of climate change and the rising sea level.

"Iyan po ay nagawa pa noong panahon ng dating Pangulong Marcos, iyong drainage masterplan for Metro Manila so kailangan na po talagang i-update lalung-lalo na sa ngayon na mayroon tayong climate change, mas mataas na iyong tide ng tubig sa ating mga oceans at iyong ulan po na dala ng mga bagyo ay mas malalakas (That was done during the time of the former President Marcos Sr., the drainage masterplan for Metro Manila so it really needs to be updated especially now that we have climate change, the water level will be higher in our oceans and typhoons are stronger)," Artes said.

According to Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manny Bonoan, around 70 percent of the internal drainage system of Metro Manila is already silted with waste, adding that a holistic approach is also needed to address flooding in the metropolis.

"So these need to be rehabilitated and upgraded ... And, of course, marami pa iyong kuwan (there are more of), iyong(there are) other factors like—this is a social factor, like iyong(there are) mga informal settlers that are staying in the waterways, iyong mga ganoon (factors like those). And these are the most vulnerable that also that need to be addressed," Bonoan said.

The proposed 50-year drainage masterplan would be funded by the World Bank, Artes said.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday led a sectoral meeting on preparations for the La Niña phenomenon and ensure the effectiveness of flood mitigation measures after Typhoon Carina and the enhanced "habagat" battered parts of the country,

triggering massive flooding that brought back memories of Tropical Storm Ondoy in 2009.

#### Garbage problem

Indiscriminate garbage disposal also worsened the flooding in Metro Manila, particularly in low-lying areas and those near waterways, Bonoan noted.

The DPWH chief said addressing the problem of waste disposal would be a big help in mitigating floods in the capital region.

"I think ma-address lang muna kaagad iyong pagtatapon ng basura (I think we need to address immediately the problem of waste disposal) so that it will not clog the available waterways now," Bonoan said.

"I think it would help a lot sa tingin ko (I think) at this point in time 'no kasi (because) I can assure you that [the] engineering interventions or structures that we have actually already constructed along the Pasig-Marikina River would be enough to safeguard actually iyong hindi mag-overflow ang Pasig River ( for Pasig River not to overflow) towards the low-lying areas in Metro Manila," he added.

#### 5K more flood control projects

Bonoan also bared that over 5,000 flood control projects are set to be implemented across the country in the coming years.

These are on top of the 5,521 flood control projects completed between July 2022 and May 2024 that the President reported in his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) last week.

Bonoan added that the DPWH is also actively collaborating with concerned agencies to ensure that local drainage systems are aligned and integrated with national strategies, which aim to mitigate future flood risks effectively.

#### LGUs told: Review solid waste ordinances

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) urged local chief executives to review ordinances on waste management and impose tougher penalties on violators.

DILG-National Capital Region assistant regional director Analyn Baltazar-Cortez also cited the need for local government units (LGUs) to strictly enforce Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Actually, we are looking into whether there were apprehensions made by LGUs or enforcement of these measures. But we also have to revisit these ordinances, are the penalties still relevant or these are obsolete," she said at the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas forum.

The DILG official also hoped that LGUs would deputize more enforcers on the ground to ensure the strict enforcement of ordinances on solid waste management.

The MMDA earlier cleared over 387 tons of garbage from Manila Bay and other areas in the NCR in the aftermath of massive flooding due to bad weather.

The MMDA's Environmental Management Division – Metro Parkways Clearing Group, responsible for maintaining cleanliness in NCR, worked alongside local government units and collected a total of 1,099 cubic meters or 90 truckloads of garbage during their five-day cleanup operations which ran from July 24 to 28.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Expect better weather in next few days – PAGASA

By: Romina Cabrera

After the recent onslaught of monsoon rains enhanced by Typhoon Carina, Filipinos should expect better weather conditions in the next few days, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

No low-pressure area or tropical cyclone will form or enter the Philippine area of responsibility until the weekend, PAGASA said.

The southwest monsoon continues to affect the western sections of Northern and Central Luzon, bringing scattered rains over Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

Isolated rains are forecast over Metro Manila, Cordillera Administrative Region, La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga and Bulacan.

The rest of the country may see isolated rains due to localized thunderstorms.

PAGASA warned of possible flash floods or landslides due to moderate and heavy rains.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [Climate change, sustainable development get ₱1 trillion in 2025](#)

By: Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

To address climate change and support sustainable development, the Marcos administration has allocated P1 trillion for climate-related initiatives in 2025.

In the budget message he submitted to Congress on Monday, President Marcos emphasized that these allocations are crucial for integrating climate measures into national policies, enhancing resilience to climate hazards, and raising awareness about climate change.

At the same time, the leadership of the House of Representatives on Tuesday voiced strong support for a substantial increase in the defense budget, which has been raised by 50.8 percent from P278.1 billion in 2024 to P419.3 billion for 2025 to enhance the country's defense capabilities and ensure national security amid growing regional challenges.

During Tuesday's press briefing, Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales Jr. and House Majority Leader Manuel Jose M. Dalipe emphasized that the budget deliberations on the National Expenditure Program (NEP) will reflect Marcos's priorities as outlined in his recent State of the Nation Address (Sona).

"The policy is always being set by the President, and we take guidance from his Sona, and everyone in the House of Representatives] knows how the President gives importance to defending our national territory and integrity," said Dalipe.

"So, we in the House of Representatives take cue from the pronouncement of President Bongbong Marcos, and no doubt, I think each member of the majority bloc would be in full support of the President in giving more support to the Philippines Coast Guard and all other agencies that would help protect...especially our fisherfolk in the West Philippine Sea," he said. "We will support the President's pronouncement."

Gonzales echoed Dalipe's sentiments, stating that House members, led by Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, have consistently expressed their commitment to increasing the funding for the PCG and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Bfar).

“During budget deliberations, we will tackle this issue. I understand that Congressman Jay Khonghun raised this concern, particularly regarding his constituents in Zambales an the West Philippine Sea,” he said.

The allocation for climate change mitigation for 2025 represents a substantial increase of 122.9 percent from the previous year’s allocation of P457.4 billion.

Marcos said the Climate Change Commission (CCC) will receive P170 million to develop policies aimed at accelerating and localizing the National Adaptation Plan. This initiative will prioritize 18 provinces that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, helping them to implement tailored adaptation strategies.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been allocated P1.5 billion for the National Greening Program (NGP), which focuses on the rehabilitation, maintenance, and protection of forests. The NGP aims to plant 7.8 million seedlings across 15,398 hectares of forests and maintain an additional 44,751 hectares.

Additionally, P1.4 billion will be dedicated to the Protected Areas Development and Management Program to protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem resilience.

#### National security

TO strengthen the nation’s defense capabilities, the budget for the defense sector has been increased by 50.8 percent, from P278.1 billion in FY 2024 to P419.3 billion in FY 2025. The Department of National Defense (DND) has been allocated P258.2 billion, aimed at acquiring and developing advanced equipment and technologies, as well as deploying adequate manpower to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

The Armed Forces will receive P204.4 billion to support various defense programs. This includes the Land Defense Program with an allocation of P113.3 billion, the Air Forces Defense Program with P46.7 billion, and the Naval Forces Defense Program with P44.4 billion. These funds are crucial for maintaining and enhancing the country’s defense readiness and capabilities across land, air, and sea domains.

Additionally, the Revised Armed Forces Modernization Program will see a 25 percent boost in its budget, receiving an allocation of P50 billion—an increase of P10 billion from its 2024 FY General Appropriations Act (GAA) allocation. This budgetary enhancement aims to further develop the military’s capacity to uphold the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of the country, especially in light of recent developments in the West Philippine Sea.

The Coast Guard will also see a substantial increase in its budget, with an allocation of P31.3 billion.

This budget includes funding for several critical projects: the PCG Hospital, with an allocation of P386 million, to improve healthcare services for coast guard personnel; the establishment of the West and South Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) Project, with P452 million, to enhance maritime communication and navigational systems; and the Radar for the Cebu Vessel Traffic Management System, with P37 million, to ensure the efficient and safe management of vessel traffic in Cebu's waters.

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