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03 AUGUST 2023 [08:00 am]

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

- DENR, DOE to update guidelines on offshore wind, floating solar

ABS CBN

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By: Zen Hernandez

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BUSINESS MIRROR

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By: Jasper Arcalas

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By: K.A.T. Atienza

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GMA NEWS

[LGUs to be part of Green Economy Program, says DENR chief](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

Some local government units will be part of the Green Economy Program, which aims to push for the Philippines' transition to a green economy, according to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga on Wednesday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Jean Mangaluz

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Kris Crismundo

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

France says open to work with Philippines on food security, climate change

By: Zen Hernandez

France is ready to work with the Philippines on a wide range of issues including food security and climate change, a French government official said Tuesday.

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships, met with several Philippine Cabinet officials to explore various areas of cooperation.

Zacharopoulou noted the existing defense cooperations between the Philippines and France, including the recent port visit of the French Navy destroyer Lorraine last June. France is also among the countries closely following developments in the South China Sea.

But while the two countries have "many things to do" on defense cooperations, Zacharopoulou said they could also work together on food security and energy security.

"Another field of cooperation, it is the question of sustainable development in the area of transport and the sustainable cities for example. And the third field, where we can see that we have the opportunities to work together, are the global issues. As I underlined before, the fight against climate change, the protection of the biodiversity and health," said Zacharopoulou, who visited Manila from July 30 to Aug. 1.

She also noted France's expertise on agriculture and its strong interest in food security as it allotted 200,000 euros (P12 million) to finance school meals in the Philippines through the World Food Programme.

She discussed sustainable development with Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, highlighting the interest of French companies engaged in green, low carbon, and renewable energy to invest in the Philippines.

Zacharopoulou also attended the launch of the Plastic Flamingo, a French social enterprise in Muntinlupa City, with Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

The Plastic Flamingo founders Francois and Charlotte Lesage said they hoped their plastic waste management and upcycling facility would help solve the plastic pollution problem in the Philippines, which is among the world's most ocean-polluting countries.

Zacharopoulou also met with Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual and Health Secretary Ted Herbosa.

Her visit to the Philippines is the first by a French minister since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before heading to the Philippines, she visited Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea with French President Emmanuel Macron.

In 2018, Macron proposed the Indo Pacific Strategy which was adopted by the European Union. According to Zacharopolou, the Indo-Pacific region is important to the EU and specifically France, which has territories in the Indian and Pacific oceans. Both regions also see shared struggles and common values.

France and the Philippines recently marked 75 years of diplomatic ties.

There are 3,000 French citizens in the Philippines and 27,000 Filipinos in France.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[NEP 2024 proposes 17-percent hike in climate-change spending to \[Php\] 540B](#)

By: Jasper Arcalas

The national government (NG) is hiking its climate change (CC) spending next year by 17 percent to over P540 billion as it plans to strengthen the country's mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Based on the 2024 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the national government is allocating about P543.445 billion for its CC expenditures next year, P78.946 billion higher than this year's P464.499-billion budget.

"With global temperatures reaching record highs, floods and droughts that displace millions, we have made future-proofing a top priority of this Administration to address climate change," President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said in his 2024 budget message that was part of the submitted NEP to the Congress on Wednesday.

The 2024 NEP showed that around 68 percent of the proposed CC budget next year or about P355.302 billion would be allocated for adaptation measures and programs while P165.396 billion would be earmarked for mitigation efforts.

The budget document indicated that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) would receive almost 60 percent of the CC allocation next year with a proposed total funding of P308.084 billion.

The DPWH's budget for CC is higher than the combined CC funding that over 25 other government agencies and units would get next year estimated at P212.614 billion.

Bulk of the DPWH's CC funding would go to its flood management program with an allotment of P215.6 billion for the construction of new and rehabilitation of existing flood mitigation structures along major and principal rivers, according to the budget documents.

The NEP showed that the Marcos administration is allocating P2.5 billion next year for the National Green Program that would rehabilitate about 31,992 hectares of forestlands, among others.

The administration is also bankrolling a P1-billion budget to protect the country's natural habitats and conserve biodiversity and another P2 billion for its Green, Green, Green program that seeks to improve and develop green open spaces, such as parks, and to construct bicycle lanes, racks, among others.

The Manila Bay Rehabilitation project would receive a P1.5 billion budget “to clean all esteros and waterways connected to it,” Marcos said.

The other projects and programs under the CC spending next year are: Clean Air Program (P181 million), Clean Water Program (P198 million), Solid Waste Management Program (P261 million), and Coastal and Marine Resources Management Program (P217 million).

“To climate-proof the Philippines, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund amounts to P31 billion to fund the reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, aid and relief services to communities or areas affected by both natural and man-made activities,” Marcos said.

Philippines to prioritize solid waste in EU's €60-million green program

By: K.A.T. Atienza

THE PHILIPPINE Environment department would prioritize solid waste management under a €60-million (P3.6 billion) green economy program of the European Union (EU).

The agency seeks to harness the potential of a 2022 law that requires big companies to recover their plastic waste, Environment Secretary Maria Yulo-Loyzaga told a news briefing on Wednesday.

“The mitigation aspect in terms of the green economy program in the Philippines really comes from the management of our solid waste,” she said. The government would revisit “solid waste ecological laws” and the Extended Producers’ Responsibility law “to see how we can make [them] relevant to our climate change mitigation purposes.”

The agency signed a joint declaration for the green economy program during the visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen earlier this week.

The Philippines generates about 61,000 metric tons of solid waste daily, 24% of which are plastic wastes, Ms. Lozaga said. “We consume and utilize over 160 million plastic sachet packets daily and, of course, over 40 million shopping bags and thin film bags.”

The Environment chief the solid waste management campaign would require a “whole-of-society approach.” “That means the private sector needs to be involved. Local government units will be on the frontline.”

Ms. Lozaga said they have identified 10 local government units that will be considered for the European grant that will cover the circular economy, solid waste management and climate change mitigation measures.

She said details of the proposed projects still have to be worked out and defended at the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) – Investment Coordinating Committee.

“We’re in the process of actually putting the necessary documentation together,” she said. “We are targeting to have all our submissions ready hopefully for assessment by the NEDA board by November.”

Highly urbanized local governments being considered include the cities of Baguio, Pasig, Quezon, Caloocan, Davao, Ormoc, Samal, Metro Iloilo and the islands of Palawan and Siargao.

Ms. Loyzaga said local governments are the frontliners in solid waste management efforts in the country, particularly in controlling methane releases from solid waste landfills.

CNN

[Manila Bay reclamation projects should factor in 'Big One' impact – DENR](#)

Reclamation projects in Manila Bay should factor in the impact of the so-called "Big One," or a possible destructive magnitude 7.2 earthquake from the movement of the West Valley Fault, a Cabinet official said on Wednesday.

While the projects may contribute to the economy, their ecological impact must be studied, Environment Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said in a Palace briefing.

"I think what's important is reclamation has a certain value, obviously, in terms of the economy," the secretary said. "However, we need to do the cost benefit analysis in terms of the impact to the ecology and the long-term impact in terms of possibly what could result from climate change."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been conducting a cumulative impact assessment on Manila Bay reclamation projects. The agency said local scientists will be involved in the review.

"On the geological hazards, so far, ang nakikita ko ngayon [what I see now] in terms of the studies that I have looked at for the reclamation projects is the reference to the 7.2 movement sa [of the] West Valley Fault," Loyzaga said.

"Mayroon po tayong tinatawag na Manila Trench, ito po ay nandiyan sa Manila Bay [We have the Manila Trench, which is in Manila Bay]. That is the geological event that we should be looking at in terms of a generation of a potential tsunami," she added.

According to a 2004 study by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake hitting Metro Manila could lead to the collapse of 40% of residential areas, and cause 34,000 deaths and 114,000 injuries.

The Philippine Reclamation Authority earlier said 22 applications for reclamation projects in Manila Bay have been processed so far. Some secured approval, or up for implementation and subject to compliance.

GMA NEWS

LGUs to be part of Green Economy Program, says DENR chief

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

Some local government units will be part of the Green Economy Program, which aims to push for the Philippines' transition to a green economy, according to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga on Wednesday.

The Philippine government and the European Union inked an agreement on the Green Economy Program, which includes a grant worth €60 million that aims to support the country in areas such as circular economy, renewable energy, and climate change mitigation.

"So, initially po, we have identified about 10 LGUs that could potentially be part of this program for improving their circular economy locally and of course climate change mitigation because of the control of the methane releases from the management of the solid waste landfills," Loyzaga said at a press briefing.

"So, those LGUs that were considered are the highly urbanized 'no, of course Baguio City, Pasig, Quezon City is already well on the way, Caloocan po, Davao, Ormoc, the Island Garden City of Samal dito sa Davao din, Metro Iloilo and the islands of Palawan and Siargao," she added.

Asked when the country will feel the effects of the EU grant, Loyzaga said, "We are targeting to have all our submissions ready hopefully for assessment by the NEDA Board by November of this year."

She said the government is now embarking on its own efforts to "green our economy."

The Green Economy Program aims to support the Philippines' transition towards a green economy, including initiatives on circular economy, reducing waste and plastic, as well as to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment to support climate change mitigation.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Jean Mangaluz

The proposed national budget for 2024 has allocated a total of P543.4 billion for climate change programs, representing a growth of nearly P100 billion compared to the P453.11 billion in the 2023 National Expenditure Program (NEP).

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary (DENR) Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said that the budget will be distributed among various government agencies to support the implementation of climate change programs.

“That involves the work of many different departments and their contributions to either adaptation or mitigation ‘no,” Loyzaga said during a press briefing in Malacañang.

She highlighted the involvement of different departments in either adaptation or mitigation efforts.

For instance, she said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) may invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) could focus on climate-friendly transportation design, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) may prepare for the impacts of typhoons.

The DENR itself will also receive a portion of this budget if it passes through Congress as is. Loyzaga expressed her hope that the budget would support the National Adaptation Plan, which outlines the country’s direction for climate change adaptation.

“The National Adaptation Plan has really evolved over the number of years, it never has been finalized but we are happy to say that this is now in the process of being completed. And that National Adaptation Plan will mention the different ways by which the investments in the NEP actually will realize positive values for us in terms of adaptation to climate change,” she said.

Apart from the adaptation plan, Loyzaga mentioned that the budget could also contribute to the energy roadmap with the Department of Energy (DOE), which aims to facilitate the country’s transition to renewable energy use.

“We have worked very closely with the DOE to update the guidelines for offshore wind and for a floating solar and those investments would be components of the next year’s NEP,” said Loyzaga.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[EU may extend submarine cable project to PH](#)

By: Kris Crismundo

Visiting European Commission (EC) President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday said the European Union (EU) is looking into extending its underwater cable project to the Philippines.

Von der Leyen shared this with the European and Filipino business community here during a high-level business event in Makati City.

“European Union is exploring a possible extension of a new fiber submarine cable that will connect the European Union (EU) via the Arctic to Japan, and now we’re looking into the possibility to extend it to the Philippines,” she said.

Von der Leyen said the project will create data connection between Europe and Asia, and is expected to open up new investments between the EU and the Philippines.

Aside from this connectivity project, she reaffirmed EU’s commitment to space cooperation with the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) following the launching of the PHP610-million Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines (CopPhil) last April.

Von der Leyen said the EU and PHILSA are working together to build the first observation system, which data will be made available for space services in the Philippines.

“In other words, the Copernicus data will be in real-time stored and shared in the Philippines through your space agency. This is of utmost importance for example for disaster risk management, or for early warning system against typhoon, a typical topic here for the Philippines. But (this is) also for climate change observation, for satellite navigation which is fundamental for aviation --for example for drones and autonomous driving,” she added.

Von der Leyen said these initiatives are part of a “larger digital economy package” that the EU and the Philippine government are finalizing.

She said these projects will help the Philippines to shape its digital and innovation landscape.

Von der Leyen is on a two-day visit to the Philippines until Aug. 1, and her only stop in Asia, making her the first EC President to officially visit the country.

[‘Urgent action’ vs. climate change after ‘hottest’ July sought](#)

The chief of the World Health Organization on Tuesday called for "urgent collective action" against climate change after the world left the "hottest" month behind.

"The hottest month just ended. We witnessed scorching heat, extreme weather events, wildfires and severe health consequences," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

"It's a stark reminder of the urgent need for collective action to address climate change. Let's use this alarming milestone to fuel our determination for bold climate action," he said.

Collaboratively, countries can increase their efforts towards sustainable solutions to create a cooler and more resilient world for future generations, he underscored.

July was likely the world's hottest month on record, according to climate scientists.

"We don't have to wait for the end of the month to know this. Short of a mini-Ice Age over the next few days, July 2023 will shatter records across the board," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last week.

He said "the era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived."

POLITIKO

Romualdez: It's high time to use clean energy to mitigate climate change

By: Billy Begas

The House of Representatives has approved the proposed Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry Development Act (House Bill 8456) with the objective of boosting the transition of the country's power generation from coal usage to the utilization of natural gas.

House Bill 8456 was approved with 215 affirmative votes and three negative votes.

"It's high time that we enforce, implement, and use clean energy to mitigate the effects of climate change. We have to start now to veer away from the conventional but hazardous method of generating power, for the benefit of our future generation," Romualdez said.

The proposal is among the priority measure of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) bill, which seeks to establish the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry (PDNGI) to promote the role of natural gas as a "safe, environment-friendly, efficient, and cost-effective source of energy."

The measure also provides regulatory policies and promotes the conversion of existing equipment and facilities from using fossil fuel to natural gas.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

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[DENR, DOE to update guidelines on offshore wind, floating solar](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday, August 2, said it has been collaborating with the Department of Energy (DOE) on updating the offshore wind and floating solar guidelines.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga emphasized the importance of the energy roadmap and the transitions needed to support renewable energy sources, the reason for the collaboration for the next year's National Expenditure Program (NEP).

"I think what's also very important is to take note of our energy roadmap because, for us, at this point, we would like to see the transitions, of course, that we all need to actually support in terms of the movement towards renewable energy sources," said Yulo-Loyzaga in response to the questions on the P500 billion-climate change expenditures as proposed under the 2024 NEP.

In terms of the DENR's own climate change agenda, Yulo-Loyzaga said the agency now represents the President in the Climate Change Commission (CCC), and will be presenting soon the National Adaptation Plan during the 2024 budget deliberations.

"The National Adaptation Plan has really evolved over the number of years. It never has been finalized but we are happy to say that this is now in the process of being completed," Yulo-Loyzaga said.

"The National Adaptation Plan will mention the different ways by which the investments in the NEP actually will realize positive values for us in terms of adaptation to climate change," she added. (Nicole Magmanlac)

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