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By: Czarina Nicole Ong Ki

The Commission on Rights (CHR) cited the "significant role" the Philippines will take in the international climate change dialogue as lead country for the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) to which developed countries have already pledged \$700 million.

MANILA STANDARD

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Gov't urged to boost public-private ties to tackle climate issues

By: Dianne Sampang

The government should strengthen and utilize public and private partnerships to address climate issues and mitigate impacts following the series of calamities in the country, environmental experts said in a climate change forum on Monday.

Heritage structures losing resilience vs deeper floods, climate change

By: Kurt Dela Peña

A 17th-century church in Pampanga, the San Agustin Parish in Lubao, was first located in Barrio Santa Catalina in 1572 but was moved to its present site 30 years later because of what the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) described as “yearly floods.”

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

DPWH: Philippines has no integrated flood master plan

By: Marc Jayson Cayabyab

Public Works Secretary Manuel Badmittid yesterday before a Senate panel that although there are several flood control projects in the metropolis and all over the country, these are not integrated into a comprehensive master plan that could prevent flooding in 18 major river basins.

'Habagat' inducing rains, thunderstorms across Philippines

The southwest monsoon on Monday, August 5 is likely to trigger rains and thunderstorms in several parts of the country while a low-pressure area is within the Philippine area of responsibility.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY GUARDIAN

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The Philippines is set to play a pivotal role in international climate change dialogue as it has been selected to lead the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC, Ayala Corp. push for strengthened climate action partnership](#)

In a bid to strengthen partnerships among key stakeholders in addressing climate change, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Ayala Corporation pushed for the integration of corporate and public sector initiatives in the climate agenda. This effort builds on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) both parties signed earlier this year, which emphasized the importance of public-private collaboration for transformative climate action.

[Commission emphasizes private sector role in disaster resilience](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the crucial role of the private sector in adaptation and mitigation efforts during the Disaster Resilience Forum held recently at the San Miguel Corporation headquarters. The forum focused on transitioning to a green economy and enhancing climate resilience.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

[Funds for climate change programs not doing anybody any good](#)

By: Peter Tabingo

Out of 176 total proposals for climate change adaptation projects submitted between 2015 to 2022 for funding under the People's Survival Fund (PSF), 170 or 96.6 percent were rejected for being ineligible.

RAPPLER

Only 6 out of 176 LGU climate change adaptation projects approved since 2015

Only six out of the total 176 climate change adaptation projects proposed by local government units between 2015 and 2022 were approved for funding under the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

Information and Knowledge Management Division

MANILA BULLETIN

[CHR cites Philippines' lead role in handling Loss and Damage Fund on negative effects of climate change](#)

By: Czarina Nicole Ong Ki

The Commission on Rights (CHR) cited the "significant role" the Philippines will take in the international climate change dialogue as lead country for the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) to which developed countries have already pledged \$700 million.

In a statement, the CHR said "loss and damage" is a term initially introduced during international climate negotiations, and it refers to a range of negative consequences and extreme events brought upon by the climate crisis.

To combat loss and damage, the United Nations Climate Conference (COP 27) established in 2023 the LDF Board, which will provide financial assistance to nations who are heavily impacted by the effects of climate change.

Together with seven other contenders, the Philippines had expressed its intent to host the LDF Board. Since the Philippines was chosen, the CHR said that the country will hold a "formidable voice" in advancing climate action for its 26 country parties.

The funds that are contributed will be utilized as a new channel for multilateral financing to bolster global efforts towards responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the climate crisis, the CHR said.

"It must be noted that the Philippines has long made strides in promoting human rights in the context of international climate negotiations," it said.

"In 2015, the Philippines also served as the Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, an international partnership which focuses on South-South cooperation on climate change issues."

The CHR said that the country's pivotal role in the LDF Board is a positive development that will provide the Philippines better opportunities to engage with like-minded countries which also put the climate crisis at the top of their interests, especially those that also suffer from the same detrimental effects of environmental degradation.

"We hope that this will pave the way towards lobbying for stronger and more coordinated global initiatives which promote a human rights-based approach to enhancing environmental governance on the international level," the CHR said.

"We look forward to Congress' swift passage of a law related to this matter, in order to confer the legal personality and capacity to the LDF Board. We envision that this will supplement the Philippines' efforts towards climate adaptation and mitigation measures, while giving emphasis to the financial aid that this will provide for climate-related initiatives," it also said.

"As the Philippines takes the helm of the LDF Board, we welcome this landmark development and hope that this will prompt decisive and collective global efforts towards lobbying for the full enjoyment of the rights of all in the context of climate action," it added.

MANILA STANDARD

Public-private pacts to address climate impact

Environmental experts pushed for stronger public-private partnerships to address climate change impacts and mitigate other disaster risks several days after the onslaught of Super Typhoon “Carina.”

During a climate change forum organized by the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST) earlier this week.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change Annaliza Teh underscored the need for the government to strengthen its cooperation and partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations.

“Forging strong collaboration is crucial for advancing climate action and enhancing disaster resilience. The Philippines remains committed to adopting a whole-of-nation approach. This collective effort underscores our dedication to safeguarding vulnerable communities, promoting sustainable development, and securing a resilient future for all Filipinos amidst escalating climate challenges,” Teh said.

“Central to this approach is transparent governance, which ensures accountability and effective implementation of initiatives to mitigate climate impacts and build resilience across the nation,” she added.

Teh highlighted the dangerous impacts of climate change, citing that around 2.5 million Filipinos were displaced in 2023 primarily due to disasters.

Last week, Super Typhoon “Carina” enhanced “habagat” and caused intense rainfall and severe flooding in Luzon, leaving 34 dead and dozens more injured.

Teh said climate change is projected to impact 7.6 percent of the country’s gross domestic product by 2030, submerge 16.9 percent of national islands by 2100, and exacerbate water shortage by 2040.

PBEST lead convenor and Stratbase ADR Institute President Victor Andres Manhit noted how civil society groups can engage both the public and private sectors by aligning its advocacies with national objectives.

“We use PBEST as an effective, impactful driver and environmental arm, echoing not only the government’s initiatives but also bridging the gap between public and private

services geared towards the green transition [and] movement in our country,” Manhit said.

Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation President Rene Meily echoed Manhit’s sentiments, calling for further collaboration among sectors, especially in disaster risk response.

“Much of the Philippine economy is privatized. Whether it’s water, energy, [telecommunications], logistics—these are all private companies. Therefore, we need to work with the government. We try to use the core expertise of our companies in all these different phases: preparedness, response, and recovery,” said Meily.

To ensure effective implementation, La Salle Institute of Governance senior fellow Dr. Francisco Magno highlighted collaborative governance in the local government sector as a strategy toward more effective disaster mitigation.

“You need input from the local community because of the diversity of the challenges in the different local ecosystems. Because the challenges are different from the hazards. Because we are a diverse country,” said Magno.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Gov't urged to boost public-private ties to tackle climate issues

By: Dianne Sampang

The government should strengthen and utilize public and private partnerships to address climate issues and mitigate impacts following the series of calamities in the country, environmental experts said in a climate change forum on Monday.

According to Annaliza Teh, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change, a transparent government is crucial in strengthening partnerships and ensuring that climate measures are carried out.

“Forging strong collaboration is crucial for advancing climate action and enhancing disaster resilience. The Philippines remains committed to adopting a whole-of-nation approach.

“This collective effort underscores our dedication to safeguarding vulnerable communities, promoting sustainable development, and securing a resilient future for all Filipinos amidst escalating climate challenges,” said Teh.

Teh also noted that 2.5 million Filipinos were displaced in 2023 mainly due to disasters. This year, heavy floods and landslides brought by Typhoon Carina, the southwest monsoon or habagat, and Tropical Depression Butchoy caused major floods and landslides in different parts of the country, leaving casualties and damage to properties and livelihood.

Many areas were also declared under a state of calamity while some schools postponed their opening of classes to give way to rehabilitation of damaged classrooms and other school facilities.

Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST) Lead Convenor and Stratbase ADR Institute President Dindo Manhit said that private and civil society organizations are essential in addressing climate change.

He added that they use PBEST “as an effective, impactful driver and environmental arm, echoing not only the government’s initiatives but also bridging the gap between public and private services geared towards the green transition [and] movement in our country.”

Furthermore, according to La Salle Institute of Governance Senior Fellow Dr. Francisco Magno, initiatives and insights from local government units are important in determining what climate measures to strategize.

“You need input from local community because of the diversity of the challenges in the different local ecosystems. Because the challenges are different than the hazards. Because we are a diverse country,” said Magno.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in his 3rd State of the Nation Address highlighted the importance of climate change mitigation strategies, citing that “the economic agenda cannot and will not ever be incompatible with our climate change agenda.”

The President also underscored the importance of partnerships of government and private offices in achieving “sustainable and liveable communities.”

Young Environmental Forum Founder Ludwig Federigan also noted that resilience and accountability should go hand in hand in achieving the full effort of climate measures.

“While resilience is about the capacity to withstand and recover from extreme weather events, accountability ensures that the actions taken to achieve resilience are transparent, just, and effective. Both resilience and accountability are crucial in protecting our communities, efficiently using resources, learning from past experiences, and ensuring sustainable and reputable recovery,” said Federigan.

Heritage structures losing resilience vs deeper floods, climate change

By: Kurt Dela Peña

A 17th-century church in Pampanga, the San Agustin Parish in Lubao, was first located in Barrio Santa Catalina in 1572 but was moved to its present site 30 years later because of what the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) described as “yearly floods.”

But last week, as Super Typhoon Carina enhanced monsoon rains and triggered flooding in Metro Manila and some provinces in Luzon, including Pampanga, the church in Lubao, as well as other Important Cultural Properties (ICPs) and National Historical Landmarks (NHLs), were inundated.

- San Bartolome Parish, Malabon City

Declared as an ICP, especially for what the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) described as its “architectural wonders,” including eight imposing ionic columns, the 410-year-old church, which is the oldest in the Diocese of Kalookan, was established by the Augustinians in 1614, with the present structure “created and completed” in 1813.

- Barasoain Church, or Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Malolos City, Bulacan

With construction commencing in 1885 and completed in 1888, the Barasoain Church is a “remarkable representation of the period when Baroque architecture gained popularity in Spanish-built structures throughout the Philippines.”

The church was declared as a National Shrine by Presidential Decree No. 260.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DPWH: Philippines has no integrated flood master plan](#)

By: Marc Jayson Cayabyab

Public Works Secretary Manuel Badmittid yesterday before a Senate panel that although there are several flood control projects in the metropolis and all over the country, these are not integrated into a comprehensive master plan that could prevent flooding in 18 major river basins.

Bonoan confirmed that the 5,521 flood control projects, which were touted by President Marcos in his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) – are actually “immediate relief flood mitigation projects” in low-lying areas, and not part of any comprehensive master plan.

“When we came in, we found out that there were several master plans in 18 major river basins in various stages of preparations. Most of the master plans are being updated at this point in time, taking into account the climate change phenomenon and other factors that have to be incorporated into the master plan,” Bonoan said.

Senators criticized the lack of an integrated flood control master plan, which could have mitigated the difficulty experienced by people in Metro Manila during the onslaught of Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon last week.

The Senate committee on public works questioned officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) why their flood control projects failed to address the problem, which kept occurring every time the country is hit by typhoons and bad weather.

Bonoan’s admission confirmed the senators’ suspicions that the lack of a comprehensive master plan worsens flooding every typhoon season.

“So there is an admission that an integrated master plan does not exist, because these are separate, piecemeal projects not aligned with each other,” Sen. Imee Marcos said in Filipino.

Marcos bared a zero budget in the 2025 National Expenditure Program for foreign-assisted flood control projects, which instead were put under unprogrammed funds.

Sen. Joel Villanueva said the lack of planning also means that floodwaters in Metro Manila subside, but remain longer in nearby catch basin provinces like Bulacan.

The country spends P1.44 billion per day for flood control projects, which only go down the drain every rainy season, Villanueva said.

Bonoan said integrating all flood control masterplans would take time as there is a need to first conduct a feasibility study and a detailed engineering design, as well as secure a financing program with a lending institution.

“There is an engineering component, there is a social component, and there is an environmental component in the master plan,” Bonoan said.

MMDA chairman Romando Artes said indiscriminate garbage dumping clogs the waterways and slows down the flow of floodwater into the sea.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is conducting a “cumulative impact assessment” to determine if the Manila Bay reclamation project worsened the flooding in coastal areas.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said initial study indicated that reclamation projects impede the flow of water and changes the circulation and retention of pollutants and organic materials in the bay.

'Habagat' inducing rains, thunderstorms across Philippines

The southwest monsoon on Monday, August 5 is likely to trigger rains and thunderstorms in several parts of the country while a low-pressure area is within the Philippine area of responsibility.

In its 4 a.m. advisory, state weather bureau PAGASA said cloudy skies, scattered rains and thunderstorms are expected over Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Western Visayas, Negros Island Region and Central Visayas due to the monsoon, locally known as "habagat."

It is also causing partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms over Mindanao, Cavite, Batangas and the rest of MIMAROPA and Visayas.

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms.

These conditions, PAGASA warns, may also cause flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms.

Two low-pressure areas. A low-pressure area was spotted 1,155 km east northeast of extreme Northern Luzon as of 3:00 a.m. while another LPA is being monitored right outside the vicinity.

Winds. Winds will be light to moderate, coming from the northwest to southwest over Luzon and from the southwest over Visayas and Mindanao. Coastal waters will be slight to moderate, with wave heights ranging from 0.6 to 2.1 meters.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY GUARDIAN

[Philippines to host Loss and Damage Fund Board](#)

The Philippines is set to play a pivotal role in international climate change dialogue as it has been selected to lead the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) expressed optimism about this significant responsibility, citing the Philippines' dedication to advancing global climate action.

The LDF Board, established during the United Nations Climate Conference (COP 27) last year, aims to provide financial assistance to nations heavily impacted by the effects of climate change.

Loss and damage refer to the adverse consequences and extreme events resulting from the climate crisis.

CHR noted that the Philippines, alongside seven other state contenders, has expressed its intent to host the LDF Board, which will enable the country to hold a “formidable voice” in global climate action.

The LDF Board, comprising 26 country parties, is tasked with operationalizing the fund to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Developed countries have pledged \$700 million to the Fund, which will serve as a new channel for multilateral financing.

This will support global efforts to address economic and non-economic losses and damages associated with the climate crisis.

The Philippines has a history of promoting human rights within the context of international climate negotiations.

In 2015, it served as the Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, an international partnership focused on South-South cooperation on climate change issues.

CHR sees this development as an opportunity for the Philippines to engage with like-minded countries prioritizing the climate crisis.

The Commission hopes this will lead to stronger and more coordinated global initiatives promoting a human rights-based approach to environmental governance.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC, Ayala Corp. push for strengthened climate action partnership](#)

In a bid to strengthen partnerships among key stakeholders in addressing climate change, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Ayala Corporation pushed for the integration of corporate and public sector initiatives in the climate agenda. This effort builds on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) both parties signed earlier this year, which emphasized the importance of public-private collaboration for transformative climate action.

In a recent coordination meeting with company executives at Ayala Triangle Gardens in Makati City, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the CCC, highlighted the need to enhance climate resilience, particularly in the areas of planning and adaptation strategy implementation.

“Extreme weather events are hitting us harder, so it is important, as the President says, to be better prepared,” said Borje, referring to the pronouncement of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during his recent State of the Nation Address (SoNA), which highlighted that weather events worldwide are becoming more extreme and emphasized that our country’s geographical location makes us highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The CCC presented key components of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan (NDCIP), outlining their roles in the country’s climate strategy.

The NAP serves as a guide for adaptation strategies, focusing on addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. The NDCIP, on the other hand, aims for 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions covering sectors such as agriculture, waste, industry, transportation and energy.

“Under the guidance of the President, we emphasize the importance of localizing the NAP and NDCIP. We need partnerships that translate these plans into actions with deep impact. The private sector plays a crucial role in helping us move faster and better through pragmatic work programs,” Borje added.

Representatives from various Ayala business units, including Ayala Land, ACEN, Globe Telecom, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Ayala Foundation, shared their initiatives and commitment to sustainability.

“We are pleased to see our business units fully represented here today. The potential outcomes of this collaboration are crucial for our collective efforts in combating climate change,” said Jaime Z. Urquijo, chief sustainability officer of Ayala Corporation.

ACEN, Ayala’s renewable energy arm, shared updates on its renewable energy projects, targeting a 20-gigawatt renewable capacity by 2030. Key projects include the 500-megawatt Zambales solar plant and various wind farms in Ilocos Norte. ACEN also highlighted its partnerships with international entities like the Rockefeller Foundation and efforts to retire coal plants early through the Energy Transition Mechanism.

Ma. Victoria Tan, executive director of Ayala’s Group Sustainability and Risk Management, reiterated the conglomerate’s commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

“Ayala Land, ACEN and Globe have completed their roadmaps. BPI is still in the process due to different standards for financial institutions. We need an enabling environment and support from policy makers to reach our goals,” she said.

Anna Maria Gonzales, sustainability head of Ayala Land Inc., emphasized the need for updated data to improve Comprehensive Land Use Plans and LCCAPs.

“ALI is working with our supply chain to abate most of our emissions and has been nurturing seven private forest carbon projects covering more than 700 hectares all over the country to remove 10 percent. It’s important to start early and work with all sectors to achieve our 2050 Net Zero commitments,” she shared.

The CCC reaffirms its dedication to promote collaboration with various stakeholders, including the business sector, to implement effective projects that contribute to the Philippines’ climate resilience and sustainability goals.

Commission emphasizes private sector role in disaster resilience

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the crucial role of the private sector in adaptation and mitigation efforts during the Disaster Resilience Forum held recently at the San Miguel Corporation headquarters. The forum focused on transitioning to a green economy and enhancing climate resilience.

The CCC underscored the importance of transformative climate action in the private sector by adopting and promoting climate-smart practices and technologies. This includes utilizing renewable energy and developing products or services that reduce ecological impacts and carbon emissions.

Assistant Secretary Romell Antonio O. Cuenca, the deputy executive director of CCC, stated, “The complexities and challenges brought by climate change need to have a whole-of-society approach, which involves active participation and collaboration of government, the private sector, academe and communities.”

Recognizing that the global crisis requires collaborative efforts from all sectors, the CCC has established various coordination mechanisms, including the Communicating Opportunities to Network, Navigate and Explore Climate Transformation (CONNECT) to strengthen partnerships with the private sector.

Cuenca also said, “Attracting foreign investments is key to overcoming technological barriers and enhancing the country’s capacity for green innovation.”

He emphasized that prioritizing these aspects enables the private sector, particularly large corporations, to advance technology while reducing their carbon footprints.

With the recent flooding caused by super typhoon “Carina,” the CCC continues to pursue various initiatives to address climate change impacts and the need for holistic approaches and strategies for increasing resilience and adaptation capacities, as well as reducing the effects of climate change.

The Disaster Resilience Forum was attended by key employees from the San Miguel Group of Companies involved in business continuity, crisis management, emergency preparedness and safety. This event marked the culmination of the National Disaster Resilience Month commemoration.

The CCC remains committed to coordinate and collaborate with development partners, local government units, and civil society organizations to enhance disaster resilience and climate action efforts.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Funds for climate change programs not doing anybody any good

By: Peter Tabingo

Out of 176 total proposals for climate change adaptation projects submitted between 2015 to 2022 for funding under the People's Survival Fund (PSF), 170 or 96.6 percent were rejected for being ineligible.

This was revealed in a 119-page special report released on July 29 by the Commission on Audit on the performance review of the government's 17-year National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) which was launched in 2011 and supposed to be concluded by 2028.

"This audit comprehensively assesses the NCCAP, focusing on Human Security and Knowledge and Capacity Development. Despite NCCAP's near completion, challenges persist in translating national climate policies into tangible development plans at national and local levels," the COA said.

The key objectives of the NCCAP are to build the adaptive capacities in communities, increase resilience of vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize mitigation opportunities.

In addition to regular funding allocated through yearly appropriations, the People's Survival Fund (PSF) was created with a minimum annual budget of P1 billion to be made available to local government units (LGUs) belonging to second-class areas or lower as well as to local community organizations.

"Since the availability of PSF from 2015 to 2022, only six adaptation projects in the LGUs out of 176 proposals were approved for funding," the report said.

Of the six projects that managed to qualify with PSF, five were from Mindanao LGUs and one each from Luzon and the Visayas.

They were the Surigao Climate Field School for Farmers and Fisherfolks in Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte; Disaster Risk Reduction and Mechanism Response to Resiliency in Lanuza, Surigao del Sur; Promoting Resiliency and Climate-Informed Gerona in Gerona, Tarlac; Building Resilience Through Community-based Ecological Farming in San Francisco, Cebu; Saub Watershed Ecosystem Rehabilitation and Flood Risk Reduction for Increased Resilience in Sarangani; and Establishment and Sustainable Management of River Ecosystem in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte.

With too few climate change adaptation proposals making the cut, the PSF grants simply remain idle not doing anybody any good.

Auditors blamed the 96.5 percent rejection rate to three principal causes – stringent documentary requirements, proponents’ lack of technical capacities and awareness, and irregular calls for proposals.

The PSF Board chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Finance is supposed to issue two notices of calls for proposals each year — in January and July — subject to review and evaluation before shortlisting by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for endorsement to the PSF.

“However, only three calls for proposals were made before the current call, which was made in 2015, 2016, and 2017. In line with this, the CCC also acknowledged that they must conduct regular calls for proposals to increase uptake for the Fund,” auditors said.

The audit team added that discussions with local government officials showed the LGUS and local community organizations lacked awareness on procedures and requirements for the submission of climate change programs, projects and activities that would enable them to access PSF funding.

“Based on the results of the FGDs (focus group discussions) during field validations conducted by the audit team, only four out of the 53 CSOs/NGOs know the PSF,” the audit team said.

“The results of interviews with concerned LGU officials revealed that 56 percent or nine out of 16 LGUs with LCCAP submissions said that they have not tried to access the PSF due to stringent requirements,” it added.

Among project proposals submitted were those directed primarily at climate change mitigation, which the PSF does not support. These included the formulation of a master plan for carbon neutrality, installation of solar panels, and reforestation for carbon sequestration.

Also failing to qualify were proposals found “not responsive to the long-term adaptation intervention.” Examples of these activities are procuring ambulances, constructing materials recovery facilities, and conducting solid waste management campaigns.

The PSF informed the COA that its latest call for proposals in February 2023 resulted in the grant of funding to five additional projects in October last year with total grants amounting to P539.44 million.

RAPPLER

[Only 6 out of 176 LGU climate change adaptation projects approved since 2015](#)

Only six out of the total 176 climate change adaptation projects proposed by local government units between 2015 and 2022 were approved for funding under the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

In a report released on July 29, the Commission on Audit (COA) found that 170 or 96.6% of total proposals collected were found to be ineligible and were rejected. This discovery was made as state auditors review the performance of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), a 17-year project that runs from 2011 to 2028.

COA said that despite four years before the project's conclusion, "challenges persist in translating national climate policies into tangible development plans at national and local levels."

The projects were supposed to be funded under PSF, which allotted a minimum annual budget of P1 billion for LGUs and other local community organizations in a bid to help increase climate resilience and optimize mitigation opportunities, among others.

Four of the approved projects were from LGUs in Mindanao while one in Luzon and one in Visayas.

According to COA, the high rejection rate could be attributed to the strict documentary requirements, the inadequate technical capacities and awareness of proponents, and the irregular calls for proposals from LGUs.

State auditors found that instead of issuing two notices of calls for proposals each year, in January and July, the PSF Board only made three calls for proposals – in 2015, 2016, and 2017. The Climate Change Commission, according to COA, acknowledged the need for regular calls "to increase uptake for the fund."

COA also found out that there was also a lack of awareness among civil society regarding the PSF, nor the necessary requirements or projects that could be funded. For example, COA said that some proposals were found to be "not responsive to long-term adaptation intervention."

Addressing the concerns, PSF said that its latest call for proposals issued in February 2023 already led to the grant of five projects amounting to P539.44 million.

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