



## NEWS ROUNDUP

08 AUGUST 2023 [ 08:00 am]

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### ABS CBN

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By: Raffy Cabristante

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### BUSINESS MIRROR

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## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

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## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Marcos eyes long-term solutions to Luzon floods](#)**

By: Ramon Efren Lazaro and Alexis Romero

The construction of a water impounding facility in Pampanga as well as the creation of a water resources management agency are among long-term measures being considered by President Marcos to address massive flooding in Luzon.

### **[No typhoon seen this week](#)**

By: Bella Cariaso

State meteorologists are not expecting any typhoon to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) this week despite the cloud clusters in Mindanao.

## THE STAR

### [Bongbong Marcos after typhoon Khanun and Doksuri: Let's get ready for climate change](#)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr (pic) on Monday (Aug 7) told government agencies that they should prepare for climate change.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**Marcos tells Philippines to brace for climate change after Luzon floods**

By: Raffy Cabristante

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday called on his government and the public to prepare for the effects of climate change as he visited areas in Luzon that were hit by massive flooding from monsoon rains and recent typhoons.

"Kailangan nating paghandaan talaga itong ating tinatawag na climate change. Nagbabago po ang panahon. Hindi sumusunod sa dati," Marcos told hundreds of residents in San Fernando City, Pampanga, which was recently swamped with floods.

(We need to prepare for climate change. The weather is changing, and is not like what it used to be.)

In a briefing with the province's officials, Marcos said that the government had no other choice but to face the challenges posed by climate change to the country.

He urged officials to understand climate change better and create solutions that were "more attuned" to the present situation.

"Lahat ng karanasan natin tungkol sa panahon, wala na iyan. The weather is changing. Hindi na tayo babalik sa dati. Ganito na ang climate change," he said.

(Everything we know about the weather is no longer applicable. The weather is changing. We are not going back to what we used to be. This is the reality of climate change.)

"I'm sorry. It's really bad news and we all don't want to deal with it, but we have to," he added.

Marcos also noted that his home province Ilocos Norte experienced the worst flooding in 20 years when Typhoon Egay (Doksuri) pummeled parts of northern Luzon late July.

Pampanga 4th District Rep. Anna York Bondoc described the recent massive flooding in her province as the "worst flood since 1972," with more than 198,000 families affected there.

She also said it was the first time she saw flooding on the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), which resulted in a traffic jam that snarled hundreds of motorists.

"I have never seen sandbagging sa NLEX," she told Marcos.

Before meeting with local officials, Marcos led the distribution of food packs and P10,000 cash aid to 1,000 flood survivors in Pampanga through the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) also doled out P2.3 million worth of aid to 500 residents who lost their jobs to the massive floods and recent cyclones.

Marcos then headed to Malolos, Bulacan to give out aid to residents there and discuss with local officials the extent of the damage brought by recent weather events to the province.

Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando told the President that all 24 cities and towns of his province were affected by the flooding, which also left 6 people dead.

In Calumpit and Hagonoy, floods reached up to 6 feet deep, Fernando said, adding that Bulacan's total damage was pegged at P768 million.

He also noted that the Bustos Dam releasing water at the height of Typhoons Egay and Falcon was seen as a major contributing factor to the massive floods that hit the province.

The Philippines has been ranked among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, which experts said would make tropical cyclones more intense and destructive.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **Villar sees EPR a 'big leap forward' to eliminate plastic waste**

By embracing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022 and the circular economy, Sen. Cynthia Villar said “we are ready to pave the way for a more sustainable future.”

“The EPR law is not a burden but a call to partnership and cooperation, recognizing that we all have a role to play,” stressed Villar as she said that the time to act is now.

Villar was the Guest Speaker during the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 Campaign Launch at Conrad Hotel, Pasay City, last Aug. 4.

Villar said the theme of the event organized by the DENR and UNDP was “LOOPFORWARD: Linking Opportunities and Partnerships Towards Circular through EPR.”

Under the inspiring banner of LOOPFORWARD, Villar exhorted everyone to unite in supporting the EPR Act and in advancing a circular economy.

“This law offers a better approach to plastic waste management than merely expecting citizens to segregate and manage it, or leaving the local government units across our more than seven thousand islands to handle overwhelming plastic waste,” said Villar, principal author and sponsor of EPR or Republic Act No. 11898.

Without an EPR system, she considered as “messy and costly” collecting packaging waste in an archipelago like the Philippines.

EPR places the responsibility for products squarely on the manufacturers- from creation to disposal.

“Experiences around the world have shown that EPRs have shifted the financial burden of waste management to producers, thereby resulting in reduced public costs for hauling and disposal, decreased waste volumes, and a thriving recycling industry,” related Villar.

The chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, further stated that obliged enterprises may also set up or contract with a Producer

Responsibility Organization (PRO) to handle the resource recovery of such wastes on their behalf.

The law further provides incentives under the National Internal Revenue Code for obliged enterprises practicing EPR.

Meanwhile, Villar thanked the DENR led by Sec. Toni Loyzaga for coming up with the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the EPR law since last January, and for initiating this campaign to foster greater compliance with the law.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **How climate change will affect your pet – and how to help them cope**

Earth has just experienced its hottest month since records began and Australia is now gearing up for an El Niño-fuelled summer. Extreme heat isn't just challenging for humans – it brings suffering to our beloved pets, too.

Research I was involved in examined how climate change affects the welfare of animals, including pets. My colleagues and I used a concept for assessing animal welfare known as the “five-domains model”. It's a science-based structure for examining an animal's:

- nutrition
- environment
- physical health
- behavior
- mental state.

The model evaluates the complete physiological and behavioral responses of animals to environmental stressors. While the effects of climate change on animals have been studied before, ours is the first study to apply the model to animal welfare specifically.

We examined the academic literature and found climate change will harm animals across all five welfare domains. This applies to both wild and domesticated animals, including pets. So let's take a look at how various types of pets will fare in a warming world – and how we can help them.

Fish are “ectotherms” – that is, they use external sources of heat to regulate their body temperature. So pet fish are vulnerable to changes in the water temperature of your home aquarium, which may occur during a heatwave.

Extreme water temperatures can cause physical harm to fish. For example, it can increase a fish's metabolic rate – meaning it needs more oxygen to breathe . It can also cause changes such as slowed growth and reduced feeding.

According to official advice, water in an indoor aquarium should generally be kept at between 20°C and 25°C (unless you are keeping tropical fish).

Depending on your budget and aquarium size, you could opt to use a device to control the water temperature. Either way, it's important to monitor the water temperature regularly.



Also make sure the aquarium isn't located near a window where it's exposed to direct sunlight.

Leaving your aquarium unattended for days or weeks in summer can be dangerous, due to the risk of heatwaves. If you're going on a summer holiday, consider organizing a fish sitter to check on the animal regularly.

Heat stress can change the physiology of birds. For example, research into a wild population of small Australian robins showed during a heatwave, the birds lost body mass and abandoned their nests, and some died.

repeatedly pecks at the feathers of another.

In hot weather, regularly check your bird's cage to make sure it's clean and stocked with food and water. If the bird is in an outdoor cage or aviary, ensure it is shaded. And a shallow bird bath will help your feathered friend cool off.

Dogs and cats can suffer on hot days. That's especially true if they are:

- older or overweight
- have thick coats
- have short snouts/flat faces (which restricts air flow and makes it harder for them to cool down).

Heat stress can cause canine hyperthermia, which means the dog's body temperature becomes dangerously hot.

Watch for early warning signs of heat stress such as excessive panting and erratic movements. These symptoms can quickly escalate, leading to heat stroke and possible death.

More than 80% of dog owners report exercising their dogs less vigorously, or for shorter periods, during hot weather. That can help avoid heat-related illness. But don't reduce your dog's activity levels too much, as that may lead to other health problems. Just time the walks to avoid the heat of the day.

Refrain from leaving dogs unattended in vehicles, because they can easily overheat. In fact, it's better to leave your dog inside home on a hot day, as long as they have a cool

place to rest and plenty of water – perhaps even with ice cubes in it. And dogs love to cool off in a kiddie pool or under a sprinkler.

If you take your dog out on a hot day, carry a container of fresh, cool water for them. And don't forget to slip-slop-slap: apply a sparing amount of pet sunscreen to your dogs' exposed pink skin such as ear tips and nose.

Like other animals, cats can overheat in hot weather. Symptoms include panting heavily, drooling and a rapid pulse. Like with other animals, if you suspect your cat is suffering from heatstroke, call a vet immediately.

Climate change and associated heat and floods is likely to aid the spread of parasites and illness including tick-borne diseases, flea infestations and heartworm. This puts both cats and dogs at risk.

In hot weather, the advice for cat owners is similar to that of dog owners: ensure your cat has plenty of shade and water, and put pet sunscreen on their ear tips and noses, especially if the cat is white.

If possible, keep the cat inside during the hottest part of the day. Ensure at least one room is cool and ventilated. And in a heatwave, play with your cat either in the early morning or evening, when the temperature has cooled.

While humans have the capacity to understand and prepare for climate change, pets will need our help to cope. This includes not just the pets listed above, but others too, including reptiles, guinea pigs and rabbits.

As heatwaves and other extreme weather events become more common, the onus is on us to keep our pets safe.

## CNN

### [Senate to probe PH flooding problem on Aug. 9](#)

The Senate public works committee is set to probe the country's flooding problem on Aug. 9 to improve the urban drainage system and to ensure a comprehensive and cost-efficient solution.

Senators are expected to question officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the agency's failure to control flooding in the country despite having a ₱182-billion budget for flood control projects, said Senate majority leader Joel Villanueva.

Senators Villanueva, Ramon Revilla, and Imee Marcos have filed resolutions calling for investigation in aid of legislation. Revilla, chairperson of the public works panel, will preside over the hearing.

In his resolution, Villanueva said the Senate should conduct an inquiry on the plans and programs of the government to improve the urban drainage system and flood protection of Metro Manila and other vulnerable areas of the country.

"Flooding continues to be a perennial problem, not only in highly urbanized areas but in rural areas as well," he added.

Revilla said the inquiry has "the end in view of ensuring a comprehensive and cost-efficient solution to the flooding problems."

Marcos said there is a need to probe the adequacy and effectiveness of the government's existing flood control system and flood control interventions.

In a hearing in the House of Representatives last July 31, Bulacan Gov. Daniel Fernando pushed for a comprehensive flood management master plan to permanently address flooding.

Typhoons Egay and Falcon and the southwest monsoon brought heavy rains and flooded several areas in Luzon for two weeks.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that 592 areas, most of which are in Central Luzon and Ilocos region, are still flooded as of Sunday morning.

A total of 232 areas are still under a state of calamity. Damage to agriculture has reached ₱2.7 billion while damage to infrastructure has ballooned to ₱3.6 billion, the agency said.

The combined effects of Egay, Falcon, and the habagat have affected 3 million Filipinos. At least 50,000 residents are still in evacuation centers as of Sunday, the NDRRMC added.

The Department of Budget and Management said it has allocated ₱216 billion for the DPWH's flagship flood management program in the proposed 2024 budget.

## ECO BUSINESS

### [\[Opinion\] Cut the climate doom – exponential green change is possible](#)

By: Nigel Topping

Change happens gradually at first – then faster than you ever thought possible. When it comes to climate change, we find ourselves sandwiched between an escalating threat and an exponential opportunity.

In July alone, record temperatures were set and broken daily across the world, making it almost certain to become the hottest month on record. This extreme heat is coming on top of escalating droughts, fires and floods, all reinforcing what the science is screaming at us: climate destruction is becoming more prevalent and extreme.

We always knew transformational change was going to be needed when the world adopted the Paris Agreement at COP21. Since those historic climate talks in 2015, so much has changed – and yet so little at the same time.

Now, as we hurtle towards the 28th annual United Nations climate talks, COP28, and as the world still reels from a global pandemic, economic downturn and energy crisis, the first Global Stocktake – the UN's assessment of progress against the Paris climate commitments – is set to conclude.

We already know that the conclusion will say we're not on track to deliver those hard-fought global goals. Yet the risk of just assessing lack of progress to date is that we miss the innovation and momentum already happening today.

#### Explosion of green growth

The reality is that exponential change is becoming the new normal, revolutionising our economy. From solar and wind, to electric cars and batteries, exponential growth is happening faster than we thought possible – a fact that shouldn't be a surprise given history shows us technological transitions have always happened this way.

The power sector is a shining example. New analysis from think-tank RMI shows surging solar, wind and battery technology capacity are now outpacing even the most ambitious International Energy Agency scenarios for net zero emissions – and means the electricity system is ahead of the curve to reach net zero.

This is system transformation in motion. These forecasts show that solar and wind will supply over a third of all power by 2030 – up from around 12 per cent currently – while

the major cost declines seen over the past 10 years will continue, with solar and wind roughly halving in price again by 2030.

Crucially, fossil fuel demand for electricity will be in steep decline, down by 24 per cent from the 2022 peak. No surprise, as the cost of building new solar and wind is already 40 per cent less on average than coal or gas. This is further proof that, despite wishful thinking from some in the fossil fuel sector, the decline of fossil fuels is now inevitable.

Eight countries in particular – from across Africa to South America – are already outperforming and seizing transformational benefits.

New research from Systems Change Lab shows that Denmark, Uruguay, Lithuania, Namibia, the Netherlands, Palestine, Jordan, and Chile have already scaled up solar and wind at rates faster than what's needed globally to limit warming to 1.5°C based on IEA scenarios – unlocking widespread societal, financial and health benefits from clean air, new jobs and energy security. These are diverse countries too, with different electricity needs, populations and GDP, showing that a rapid transition is possible in many different contexts.

Increasingly we are seeing emerging markets lead the way, being the most ambitious and creating the energy systems of tomorrow. For example, in Kenya, a growing renewable hotspot in Africa, renewable energy sources already account for roughly 90 per cent of its power needs with the aim of 100 per cent by 2030 – a plan that is attracting new investment for the country.

Electric transport is another example and one that is surging in all markets. In 2022, electric car sales exceeded 10 million globally. Last year 14 per cent of all new cars sold were electric, up from 9 per cent in 2021 and less than 5 per cent in 2020, surpassing all predictions on how long it would take the industry to reach such a market share. China continues to lead electric vehicle sales, but it's countries like India, this year's G20 host, that are seeing record sales with a 174 per cent increase in 2022.

Businesses competing to seize this rapidly growing market are driving innovation and new breakthroughs in battery technology. Tesla, Rivian and BYD have all surprised markets with their sales growth.

#### G20 commitment needed

To reach and pass cost parity tipping points in other key sectors across heavy industries – like cement, steel, shipping and others – we need to rapidly create strong future

demand signals, put in place supportive government policy and remove investment barriers.

G20 countries have a critical role to play, and after recent lackluster ministerial meetings, the G20 Leaders' Summit next month in New Delhi must be a moment when countries commit to investment and scaling up of renewable energy – something the UAE COP28 Presidency is also calling for – and seize the benefits of this exponential growth.

The economic case is clear. Our ability to innovate is remarkable. Exponential change happens because we commit. We have done it before, and we are already starting to do it again.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Taiwan biz group tours Luzon for 'green projects'

By: Leilanie Adriano

A group of businessmen from Taiwan arrived in the province of La Union on Monday to start a week-long search for prospective public and private partnerships, particularly on environment-friendly projects.

The group consisted of Taiwanese business owners, manufacturers, suppliers and producers of green building materials who flew in from Taipei to assist public and private initiatives on climate change and renewable energy.

They represented at least 10 companies providing biomass systems, solar streetlights, eco-friendly adhesives, construction materials and energy-saving installations.

The group will be conducting site visits and investment matching sessions with key government officials and private enterprises in the municipality of Bacnotan as well as in San Fernando City, La Union until Aug. 8.

They have also set business meetings in Pangasinan, Sorsogon and some areas in Metro Manila until Friday, Aug. 11.

While in La Union, several "green" projects will also be discussed as the group visits several hotels and commercial establishments in the La Union surfing strip in Urbiztondo, San Juan.

San Fernando City and the municipality of Bacnotan have also expressed interest to adopt environment-friendly technologies from Taiwan.

Through the efforts of Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), which builds partnerships in the country through the Engage in Green Business Opportunity Promotion Project, the solar panels' system recently installed at the Municipality of Pilar in Sorsogon will be formally turned over during the week-long visit.

"With the support of ITRI and the local government unit (LGU), we were able to successfully install a solar panel system with inverters and energy storage for Pilar's local police station," said Earl Tongol, a green productivity advocate and management consultant leading the Engage in Green Business Opportunity Promotion with the participation this time of the Taiwanese group, in an interview.



Meanwhile, the Lupon ng mga Indibidwal na Nangangalaga sa Kalikasan Inc. (Link, Inc.) based in La Union is eyeing the implementation of environmental conservation projects with the Taiwanese group.

Celso Jucutan, co-founder of Link, Inc. and the current environmental management coordinator of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University said that green initiative projects will also be introduced in the municipalities of Bayambang and the city of San Carlos in Pangasinan particularly on bamboo processing or the making of wood panels and bamboo furniture.

The delegation will also converge in Metro Manila to meet with major hotel chains, contractors, and real estate developers based in Pasay, Quezon City, and Manila.

Potential investments with Taiwanese companies -- Alliance, Ecolohas, Dian Zhuan Shuan, Zirco, Everlight, PFTA, Heat Insulation Building Materials, Nagaoka Machinery, First Metal Products and Wu Ji Shan Hu Zhai -- are expected to help the Philippines achieve its commitment on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and avoidance by 75 percent from 2020 to 2030.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Marcos eyes long-term solutions to Luzon floods

By: Ramon Efren Lazaro and Alexis Romero

The construction of a water impounding facility in Pampanga as well as the creation of a water resources management agency are among long-term measures being considered by President Marcos to address massive flooding in Luzon.

Citing the need to prevent floods and to prepare for the effects of climate change and El Niño, Marcos yesterday said the water resources management department would handle matters related to flood control, irrigation, fresh water supply and distribution.

While waiting for the enactment of a law establishing the agency, the President has created a water management office in the executive branch.

The department, he said, would also handle water impounding projects in accordance with the government's master plan.

The President previously announced plans to build water impounding facilities in areas outside of Metro Manila to mitigate floods and collect water for agriculture and other purposes.

Last April, Marcos signed Executive Order 22 establishing the Water Resources Management Office, a body tasked to integrate all government efforts to ensure the sustainable management of the country's water resources.

The President was briefed yesterday by Bulacan Gov. Daniel Fernando on the province's flood situation at the Hiyas ng Bulacan Convention Center in Malolos.

Fernando presented to the President the causes and possible solutions to the flooding due to the rains dumped by Typhoons Egay and Falcon, enhanced by the southwest monsoon.

Meanwhile, the government is looking to build a water impounding facility in Candaba, Pampanga to address perennial flooding in the province.

Marcos stressed that the location of the water impounding facility is "not a political decision, but it is a decision made for us by nature."

Former public works secretary Rogelio Singson made the proposal during a situation briefing presided over by the Chief Executive in San Fernando City.

Based on Singson's recommendation, the government will secure or buy around 200 hectares or 10 percent of the 2,000-hectare swamp land in Candaba to build a water impounding area to prevent flooding in low-lying areas.

Pampanga 4th District Rep. Anna York Bondoc, who attended the briefing, rejected Singson's proposal and threatened to walk out, saying the plan could displace farmers in the area.

Marcos allayed fears of some local officials who are opposing the planned construction amid fears on its impact on people's livelihood, particularly palay farmers. Candaba is a major rice producer in the region.

#### Aid for flood victims

The President yesterday led the distribution of aid for flood victims in Pampanga, which has been placed under a state of calamity since July 31.

The President handed P12.8 million worth of assistance to 1,600 flood victims who gathered at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center in San Fernando.

Of that amount, the President handed P10,000 and food packs to 1,000 people for a total of P10 million under the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation.

The Chief Executive also distributed P2.3 million or P4,600 each to 500 people under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)'s TUPAD (Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers).

A total of 100 people received P5,000 each from the Department of Agriculture (DA)'s Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program.

"Your government is here and always ready to help all who are in need," the President assured his audience of 1,600 people.

In a meeting with Pampanga Gov. Dennis Pineda, Vice Gov. Lilia Pineda, Reps. Gloria Mapacagal-Arroyo and Anna York Bondoc and town mayors, Marcos handed checks worth P15 million to the provincial government and P37 million to local governments, or a total of P64.8 million.

## No typhoon seen this week

By: Bella Cariaso

State meteorologists are not expecting any typhoon to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) this week despite the cloud clusters in Mindanao.

Obet Badrina, weather specialist at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said no weather disturbance is expected in the next seven days.

“The southwest monsoon is still being enhanced by Typhoon Falcon, which is now in southern Japan, but its effect is still felt in the western part of Luzon,” Badrina said.

He said the possibility of the cloud clusters in Mindanao developing into a typhoon is slim.

“A majority of areas in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao will experience generally humid weather,” Badrina said, noting that rainshowers and thunderstorms will occur in the afternoon and night.

## THE STAR

### Bongbong Marcos after typhoon Khanun and Doksuri: Let's get ready for climate change

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr (pic) on Monday (Aug 7) told government agencies that they should prepare for climate change.

His statement follows the severe weather conditions brought by Supertyphoon Egay (international name: Doksuri), typhoon Falcon (international name: Khanun) and the enhanced southwest monsoon.

During the distribution of government assistance in Pampanga, Marcos addressed the victims of the disasters.

The president noted the large volumes of rainfall caused by bad weather.

“We need to be ready for what we call climate change. The seasons are changing. It does not follow the pattern before,” the Chief Executive said.

“If you look at our secretaries, their brows are furrowed because they are thinking of how to get ready,” Marcos he said in jest.

“Because we cannot do anything about the weather, but preparing for those who will be victims of floods brought by typhoons, we are preparing for it well. All of the help for our countrymen are there,” Marcos told the calamity victims.

Egay, Falcon and the southwest monsoon caused widespread flooding in different parts of the country in July, affecting around 3 million people

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