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By: Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio

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By: Dexter Barro II

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THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Paul Angelo Juan

In the last decade, from 2011 to 2020, the world experienced the warmest global temperatures on record. As a result, countries face drastic changes in the climate, affecting the lives, livelihoods and futures of many people. Destructive storms have intensified and heat waves have become hotter and longer. These changes cause a plethora of socio-ecological issues such as sea level rise, biodiversity loss, water and food security and increased climate health risks.

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A strong grasp of climate science is crucial to formulate effective climate policies and strategies that will address the complex challenges posed by climate change.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Palace wants bigger calamity fund for 2025](#)

By: Reina C. Tolentino

Malacañang wants a bigger calamity fund for 2025 — P31 billion. Makati 2nd District Rep. Luis Campos Jr. said the proposal was contained in the National Expenditure Program for 2025 submitted by Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman to the House of Representatives last July 29.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

[Low-carbon economy bill hurdles House committee](#)

By: Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio

A House of Representatives committee last week approved a bill that will force companies to take part in the government's decarbonization plans, aligning the Philippines with a United Nations (UN) agreement limiting global temperatures from rising by more than 2°C this century.

The climate change committee approved an unnumbered substitute bill that seeks to limit companies' greenhouse gas emissions.

The measure creates a carbon pricing framework that requires companies exceeding government-set emission targets to spend or invest in environmental sustainability projects to offset their carbon footprint.

"It not only sets a clear policy direction for decarbonization but also provides businesses with the tools and flexibility to achieve these goals in a way that supports economic growth," Bohol Rep. Edgar M. Chatto said in a statement last week.

"The bill encourages investments in low-carbon technologies that can deliver cost efficiencies for businesses, while significantly reducing their environmental impact," he added.

The Philippines loses 3% of its economic output yearly due to climate change, according to a Swiss Re Group statement in February.

Under the House bill, companies can choose their decarbonization initiatives, including the ability to invest in their own low-carbon projects, jointly investing with other businesses to fund companies creating low-carbon technologies and equity investments in enterprises that specialize in environmental sustainability.

"The bill's flexibility is designed to empower businesses to choose the most effective and economically viable path to decarbonization, whether through direct investments in their operations or by supporting broader industry-wide initiatives," the House climate change committee said.

The measure seeks to encourage investments in sustainable technology companies, enabling economic growth and innovation, Bukidnon Rep. Jose Manuel F. Alba said in the same statement.

It also creates a domestic carbon market, allowing Philippine companies to sell, trade or buy carbon credits for their operations.

“The bill provides enabling measures to support investments... facilitating access to carbon markets and international climate finance, which can help de-risk investments and make them more profitable,” according to the statement.

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For the past couple of decades, Aireen Jaymalin made a living exploring volcanoes soon after they erupted, and traversing villages days after typhoons had blown through. As a breaking news TV reporter from the Philippines, she can recall a time when there were no standard safety procedures or off-limits danger zones.

“The motto was ‘shoot, shoot, shoot, send, send, send,’” said Jaymalin, who studied journalism in the late 1990s and focused on covering catastrophes around her country. She still suffers from a hand injury caused by strong typhoon winds that ripped off the door as she was holding onto its knob.

Now 51, she said she has gained a certain wisdom and that her efforts now go toward explaining environmental catastrophes to residents, and solutions that can help them after disasters.

A region at risk

Last month, she was one of dozens of journalists in the Philippines, Indonesia and Timor-Leste who, in the new DW Akademie training project “Let’s Talk Climate! Information & Communication on Climate Topics,” learned about covering climate change. In this part of the world, rising seas, greenhouse gas emissions, sensitive coastal ecosystems and more intense Pacific storms can not only worsen poverty but also threaten lives. The project is supported by Germany’s Foreign Office (AA).

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Climate experts also say that Indonesia is particularly susceptible to climate change impacts. The Asian Development Bank states that Timor-Leste is vulnerable to food insecurity and inequality unless systemic action is taken to mitigate climate change in the region.

“There’s increased interest because we see that climate change is not just one story but many,” said Ayu Purwaningsih, a DW Akademie trainer. She trained journalists on environmental reporting in Timor-Leste. “There are the human stories after a disaster strikes, but there are also the economic stories.”

Localizing, humanizing, fact-checking

Indonesia, she pointed out, sits on the world's largest nickel reserves but the ore concentration is very low. Refining it to battery quality, or even just to make stainless steel, is an energy-intensive process, which is powered by numerous coal power plants in the country, producing hundreds of jobs.

"This is just one of many unsolved problems," she said. "Another is disposing of used batteries."

Purwaningsih believes that reporting on advances in related technology – and helping reporters learn to understand and then explain this to audiences – is a constructive approach. The three-day workshop emphasizes professional standards for climate reporting, non-biased reporting and storytelling to draw in readers and viewers. It also looks at interviewing techniques and staying safe while reporting. Participants discuss the importance of localizing and humanizing stories, and including different perspectives, checking, rechecking, fact-checking and persistent research, as well as cooperating with citizen journalists.

In addition to hands-on training during the workshop, participants also share the common challenges in their trade, not the least of which is supporting themselves financially.

Wages versus workload

"It's about wages versus the workload and journalist safety," said Febrina Galuh, Executive Director of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AIJ) in Indonesia. "In our country, journalists are vulnerable, they are often expected to produce up to 10 articles per day, for less than \$1.00 per story." She added that this is common at even mainstream media companies, and that smaller, independent media outlets have even smaller budgets.

"It's very difficult now, such that investigative journalism, and journalism on complex subjects like climate change...there's too few resources for this," she said, noting, too, that the AIJ has allocated funds for journalists harassed while investigating stories, or who have sustained injuries while on the job.

Not unlike Aireen Jaymalin's experience with her hand injury. While training participants at the Let's Talk Climate workshops in the Philippines, she reflected on the country's official "Zero Casualty Target" when mudslides hit and volcanoes erupt, and how journalists working on site try to get accurate information and from the government when there are power outages.

"Permanent danger zones really should be permanent," she said. "But this is difficult when people who live there also have their livelihoods there. That's something we talk about because in fact, climate change makes no distinction between rich and poor."

MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Dexter Barro II

Makati City 2nd district Rep. Luis Campos Jr. said the Marcos administration has bumped up the country's Calamity Fund to P31 billion in preparation for the impending impact of climate change and extreme weather events.

"In the 2025 national budget, Malacañang is seeking the sum of P31 billion in new appropriations for the Calamity Fund, or 51 percent higher than this year's allocation of P20.5 billion," Campos said in a statement on Sunday, Aug. 11.

According to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Calamity Fund will cover aid, relief, and rehabilitation services to areas affected by man-made and natural calamities.

This also includes capital expenditures for pre-disaster operations, rehabilitation, and other related activities.

Of the P31 billion, Campos said about P14.7 billion would be utilized for capital outlays, specifically for the reconstruction of damaged permanent structures such as roads, bridges, and school buildings.

He noted that P7.7 billion would be for the Quick Response Fund (QRF) of agencies that immediately assist areas stricken by catastrophes and crises, such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Campos, a vice chairperson in the House Committee on Appropriations, also lauded the Calamity Fund's inclusion of P1 billion for the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

"The PSF is a special fund that provides subsidies to climate change adaptation and natural disaster resilience strategies, including, for example, the installation of practical rainwater collectors," he noted.

With this, the lawmaker is urging barangays and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to avail of PSF money so that they can implement functional rainwater harvesting systems in their communities.

"We all have to get used to stockpiling rainwater during the wet season so that everybody can have access to extra freshwater supplies during dry conditions," he added.

With the ongoing budget deliberations in the House of Representatives, Campos says he is ready to support such increases for the country's Calamity Fund.

“We are all for enlarging the fund to enable agencies to deliver highly improved emergency aid, relief and rehabilitation services to disaster victims,” he said.

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“In the 2025 national budget, Malacañang is seeking the sum of P31 billion in new appropriations for the calamity fund or 51 percent higher than this year’s allocation of P20.5 billion,” said Campos who is vice chairperson of House committee on appropriations.

“We are all for enlarging the fund to enable agencies to deliver highly improved emergency aid, relief and rehabilitation services to disaster victims,” he added.

Out of the P31-billion calamity fund, he said, P14.7 billion would go to capital outlays, mainly for the reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges and school buildings.

At least P7.7 billion would be for the quick response fund of eight frontline departments, Campos added.

He welcomed the calamity fund’s inclusion of P1 billion for the people’s survival fund.

“The PSF is a special fund that provides subsidies to climate change adaptation and natural disaster resilience strategies, including, for example, the installation of practical rainwater collectors,” explained Campos.

He called on barangays and nongovernment organizations to avail of the PSF money so that they could put up functional rainwater harvesting systems in their communities.

“We all have to get used to stockpiling rainwater during the wet season so that everybody can have access to extra freshwater supplies during dry conditions,” he said.

NEWS5

[Government urged to push for 'real change' amid worsening climate crisis](#)

By: Gabriel Kim Leal

Various youth organizations on Saturday gathered in Quezon City to call for urgent action against the worsening climate crisis, which they believe poses the greatest threat to the future of the Filipino youth.

Marking the International Youth Day, the youth groups pointed to recent natural disasters as a warning of the potential consequences if the government remains indifferent.

“The recent typhoons and monsoon rains that flooded our streets and homes are just a preview of what could happen in the future. If the youth do not act, and if corporations and governments are not held accountable, we will continue to sink deeper into poverty and disaster,” said Partido Manggagawa–Kabataan spokesperson Ferdinand Sanchez in a media release.

Last month, environmental advocates urged Pres. Bongbong Marcos Jr. to fulfill his promises on climate action, noting that the Philippines remains among the nations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

They called for the swift enactment of the Climate Accountability Bill, which seeks to hold fuel companies legally responsible for the “loss and damage” they have caused Filipinos.

This was echoed by the youth groups as they stressed their commitment to confront what they described as “severe crises” driven by “corporate greed” and inequality.

“Today’s youth are facing severe crises caused by the greed of the wealthy and corporations, which continue to worsen the state of our society,” added Sanchez.

Environmental groups have criticized Marcos for offering “lip service” rather than implementing concrete measures to combat the alarming climate crisis.

Plans on addressing the issue were absent from Marcos’ State of the Nation Address last July. He touted the government’s flood control projects worth billions of pesos, only to get slammed when Super Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon submerged Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

“The time has come to collectively push for real change—a society that prioritizes people over profit and advocates for a just and sustainable future for all,” said Sanchez.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Israeli execs plant trees to mark 67th anniversary ties with PH](#)

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

The Israel Embassy in the Philippines on Friday commemorated the 67th anniversary of its ties with the Philippines through a tree-planting activity, naming four after Filipinos killed during the Hamas attack in Israel last year.

Israel Ambassador to the Philippines Ilan Fluss told reporters on the sidelines of a tree-planting activity at San Francisco High School in Quezon City that in Jewish tradition, tree is a "strong symbol for hope, peace, prosperity because when you're planting a tree, you're actually planting for the future."

Four of the trees planted in a garden were named after the Filipinos who were killed during the Hamas attack in Israel in October 2023 -- Grace Cabrera, Loretta Alacre, Angelyn Aguirre and Paul Castelvi.

They were caregivers who did not to abandon their duties during the attack.

"Because we're still in the middle of a war and we have Filipino casualties who were murdered by Hamas in Gaza, I want us to remember those victims and to give a message to the families and to the Filipino people that we're standing here together as one and we'll not forget them," Fluss said.

The embassy planted 67 trees to signify the "strong and flourishing" years of friendship between the Israel and the Philippines.

"We have a park in Israel. We call them Park of Great Britain, Canada Park, US Park, parks where trees are planted to commemorate relationships between Israel and countries," Fluss said.

He noted that tree-planting is also an effective strategy to combat the global challenges posed by climate change.

"One of the easiest thing to do as individuals, which is not a big project, we simply go plant trees, we are saving the planet. It also provides sustainability," he added.

Under President Manuel Quezon's Open Door Policy, the Philippines welcomed 1,300 Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi persecution in 1938.

In 1947, the Philippines voted in favor of the establishment of the State of Israel as the homeland for the Jews.

The formal diplomatic relationship between the Israel and the Philippines was established in 1957, further solidifying bilateral ties.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Filipinos say they have already experienced climate change but are optimistic about the future](#)

NEW research from global professional services company Gutteridge Haskins & Davey (GHD) reveals 95 percent of surveyed Filipinos feel they have experienced the effects of climate change, compared to a 10-country average of 64 percent. Furthermore, 94 percent of Filipinos say the government should spend more to protect communities from water related climate change events such as storms, floods and rising sea levels.

GHD's Crossroads intergenerational equity research is based on a comprehensive survey, conducted across ten countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States.

Asked to look 30 years into the future and consider "whether the decisions being made by the current generation of leaders will leave your community in a better or worse state than it is today," all Filipino generations are more optimistic than their "Anglosphere" counterparts.

All generations in the Philippines nominated "developing green, nature based solutions to ensure supply of clean, safe drinking water that protects natural waterways/oceans" as the highest priority, with Generation Z respondents giving equal priority to "building a sustainable economy that reduces, reuses, repairs, recycles, recovers and disposes sustainably."

According to Daniele Coronacion, GHD Philippine's executive advisor, the findings reflect widespread support across all age groups for resilient infrastructure that can withstand climate related challenges.

Crossroads is a thought-provoking exploration of intergenerational equity through an infrastructure lens. By overlaying community sentiment with GHD's technical insights, the report is intended to spark an informed discussion of what can be done today to support the delivery of fair and fit for purpose infrastructure for tomorrow.

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Today, as we celebrate International Youth Day, we shine a spotlight on the contributions of young people to the fight against climate change.

Among these passionate young leaders is Bryan Bagunas, a champion inside and outside a volleyball court.

Known for his stellar performances in volleyball, Bagunas has gained widespread recognition in Philippine sports. His rise from a small town to international fame inspires many. But beyond his athletic achievements, Bagunas actively commits to sustainable causes and makes a difference off the court.

As a climate champion, Bagunas uses his digital platform to raise awareness about climate change and promote sustainable practices. With a significant social media following, he engages a wide audience, particularly athletes and youth. His collaboration with the Climate Change Commission has seen him participating in numerous campaigns and educational initiatives that empower young people to take action against climate change.

“Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing us today,” Bagunas said. “As a youth and athlete, it’s my responsibility to use my voice and influence to inspire others to act for the climate.”

Bagunas’ social media posts encourage young people to become active participants in ecological conservation. He promotes eco-friendly practices, such as minimizing plastic use and supporting reforestation efforts.

“The involvement of the youth in discussions is helpful in seeing the effect of what they do,” Bagunas explained. “Their simple action, no matter how small, has a contribution to a bigger goal.”

Bagunas’ digital advocacy efforts extend beyond awareness campaigns. He participates in forums to discuss climate issues and sustainable solutions. He engages in hands-on projects like tree planting activities which he documents and shares online. His efforts provide a platform for young people to learn, ask questions and contribute ideas to combat climate change.

Bryan Bagunas’ journey from a volleyball champion to a climate advocate exemplifies the impact young people can achieve by leveraging their talents and digital platforms for positive change.

Empowering youth for a greener future

By: Paul Angelo Juan

In the last decade, from 2011 to 2020, the world experienced the warmest global temperatures on record. As a result, countries face drastic changes in the climate, affecting the lives, livelihoods and futures of many people. Destructive storms have intensified and heat waves have become hotter and longer. These changes cause a plethora of socio-ecological issues such as sea level rise, biodiversity loss, water and food security and increased climate health risks.

As the impacts of climate change become increasingly apparent, the urgent need for cross-sectoral collaboration also arises. Amid these challenges, diverse and dynamic voices are crucial. Among the most important groups stepping up to this crisis are the youth.

Young people aged 15 to 24 years old make up about 16 percent of the world population. Their sheer number alone gives the youth a great chance at making an impact in the climate arena. However, their real treasure lies in their creative minds and instinctive talents, which could potentially offer innovative solutions to the ecological issues we face today. The rise of countless youth-led initiatives and solutions attests to their abilities and fresh approaches. These efforts not only show what young people can bring into the table but also underscores their critical role in shaping a sustainable tomorrow.

The Philippine National Adaptation Plan, developed under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., recognizes the crucial role that young people play in shaping and implementing the country's climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. This ensures that youth leadership and perspectives are integrated into national decision-making processes on climate change. It also facilitates their empowerment through resource allocation, education and capacity building, helping them channel their talents for the benefit of the planet.

"The youth play a critical role in addressing climate change. Beyond being victims, they are key assets who will one day serve as leaders in climate action. Empowering them is a must if we want a greener future," said Climate Change Commission vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

There are 29.8 million 15 to 24 years old Filipino youth as of 2024 according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Over the years, many of these youth have started to take an active stance to address climate change. They participate in Sangguniang Kabataan Programs, community projects, and school organization projects, with some initiatives starting as school requirements or personal agendas.

One example of a dynamic youth-led climate initiative is the UNESCO Club (UUC) of the University of Santo Tomas. UUC is dedicated to climate action and development, raising awareness and inspiring action not just within their university grounds but also in

their own homes. Through various projects and campaigns such as their Greenovation, they aim to actively educate fellow young people on the pressing issues that modern society addresses in the 17 UN SDGs, including climate change and ecosystem degradation.

Another endeavor that showcases the grit and capabilities of Filipino youth comes from the University of the Philippines Los Baños Environmental Science Society (UPLB-ESS), a student-based organization that aims to instill sustainable development through the conduct of hands-on training, public fora, information dissemination and stakeholder engagements on ecological and sustainable principles. Currently in its 14th year, this youth-led organization continues to produce a number of young climate leaders committed to drive positive change in the Philippines, inspiring many youths to participate in efforts to reduce carbon footprints and protect our ecosystems in their own ways.

These examples represent only a fraction of the leadership skills of young Filipinos to address climate change. They illustrate a powerful narrative: Filipino youth are not just participants in the country's climate agenda, they are leading it. From organizing climate campaigns to coming up with ingenious and practical solutions to climate issues, Filipino youth have shown their creativity, passion and determination to confront climate change challenges. Furthermore, these initiatives demonstrate that despite their young age, Filipino youth are already exercising leadership roles and building their skills for even greater responsibilities.

Beyond organized movements, young Filipino individuals can take a wide variety of small yet impactful actions in their daily lives. Through simple little things like waste segregation, avoidance of single-use plastics, reusing and repurposing of clothing, sharing climate information in their social media, saving water and electricity, and educating others, young people can contribute greatly to the betterment of the planet.

No matter how insignificant they may seem, these little steps exemplify the endless potential that the youth has for climate action beyond 'leading one.' By adopting these practices, they reduce their own carbon footprint and inspire their peers, family and communities to follow suit. They serve as a reminder that anyone has the capacity to do something for the good of the planet and that individuals can 'lead' in their own ways and phases. Moreover, they lead Filipino youth toward ecological stewardship.

"The youth are already making significant contributions. In recent years, there has been a notable rise in climate activism among young Filipinos. With the right knowledge, support, and training, their impact could grow even more exponentially," Borje said.

The CCC remains steadfast to its commitment to actively engage the youth sector, involving them every step of the way in the nation's climate agenda. By empowering them and providing them with financial, technical, and logistical support, the CCC aims to provide the youth opportunities and avenues where they can use their talents to contribute to climate action, particularly in populating sustainable practices, advocating

for ecological policies, and fostering a culture of eco-consciousness within their communities.

Science-based solutions address Mindanao River Basin issues

A strong grasp of climate science is crucial to formulate effective climate policies and strategies that will address the complex challenges posed by climate change.

At the recent Mindanao Development Forum held in Davao City, panelists in a discussion on “Planet: Enhancing Resilience and Sustainable Development of the Mindanao River Basin” underscored the importance of popularizing science among policymakers, local chief executives, and other stakeholders, particularly at the grassroots level. “Planet” is one of the five thematic sessions, along with “People,” “Prosperity,” “Partnerships” and “Peace,” during the forum organized by the Mindanao Development Authority.

Secretary Robert E. A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission, emphasized the need for a science-based, data-driven approach to better understand and address climate change issues. This includes the necessity for more granular projections and updated frameworks to align with the current climate situation.

“We can review historical records and data that we have, but we certainly need to work on a range of probabilities and projections to assess climate change risks and create strategies to manage and reduce the impacts of these risks,” he said.

Borje cited the formulation and implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan (NDCIP) as examples of a science-backed, evidence-based approach used to outline the country’s transformative climate action goals.

The NAP, developed under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., serves as a guide for adaptation strategies, which focuses on addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. The Philippines is the third ASEAN country and the 56th in the world to submit its NAP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The NDCIP, on the other hand, aims for a 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and outlines key actions across various sectors, including transport, energy, waste, industry and agriculture.

“Understanding the science behind initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience can lead to more effective climate actions and adaptation strategies. Scientific findings offer reliable insights to make informed decisions,” said Borje as he acknowledged that outside the scientific and academic community, there is a general sense of aversion towards science.

Another panelist, Dr. Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaoit, a professor at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology and an expert on marine biology, shared

insights on the need to support government efforts, particularly among local government units, by providing scientific knowledge for ecological protection, climate resilience, and disaster prevention.

THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Reina C. Tolentino

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"In the 2025 national budget, Malacañang is seeking the sum of P31 billion for the Calamity Fund, or 51 percent higher than this year's allocation of P20.5 billion," Campos, vice chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, said on Sunday.

"We are all for enlarging the fund to enable agencies to deliver highly improved emergency aid, relief and rehabilitation services to disaster victims," the lawmaker said.

Campos said that P14.7 billion of the P31 billion was for capital outlay, mainly for rebuilding damaged structures while P7.7 billion will be for the Quick Response Fund of eight frontline departments.

The P31 billion also included P1 billion for the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

"The PSF is a special fund that provides subsidy to climate change adaptation and natural disaster resilience strategies, including, for example, the installation of practical rainwater collectors," Campos said.

The PSF is administered by the People's Survival Fund Board composed of the heads of the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Economic and Development Authority, and the Philippine Commission on Women, along with the vice chairman of the Climate Change Commission, and one representative each from the scientific community, business sector, and nongovernment organizations.

The House started budget deliberations on August 5.

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