



NEWS ROUNDUP

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BUSINESS MIRROR

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By: Norman Harsono & Eko Listiyorini

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ECO BUSINESS

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By: Robin Hicks

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: John Eric Mendoza

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Pot Chavez

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House pushes for disaster food banks for quick relief delivery

By: Jose Cielito Reganit

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

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By: Norman Harsono & Eko Listiyorini

Indonesia has pushed back the launch of a much-anticipated investment plan underpinning a landmark \$20 billion climate financing deal struck with US President Joe Biden last year.

Efforts to hammer out the specifics of the Just Energy Transition Partnership, or JETP—which is intended to provide affordable financing to clean up the Southeast Asian nation's coal-dependent power grid—have been hampered by disagreements over the cost of funds, and by legal and policy tangles.

Half of the \$20 billion intended to be mobilized was supposed to come from wealthy nations and the other half via large financial institutions like HSBC Holdings Plc and Citigroup Inc., under the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

A draft investment plan has been submitted to Indonesia's government and JETP partner, but the comprehensive strategy will now not be launched until later this year, as unspecified "additional data" needs to be included, Indonesia's JETP secretariat said in a statement on Wednesday.

The new timeline will also allow for more public feedback, the secretariat said.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Biden made headlines last November when they agreed on the historic package that's also intended to promote renewable energy, invest in infrastructure and support local populations through the transition.

The setback is a potential embarrassment for an Indonesian president who has made economic diplomacy and this green deal a key part of his legacy, hoping to produce a model for others.

It's also an indication of just how hard it is to work through the pioneering financing deals the world needs to avoid disastrous climate outcomes. Emerging economies do not want to take on the cost of transition alone and wealthy nations and financial heavyweights have struggled to step up. Domestic concerns intervene, as they did in South Africa.

"The delay in the Indonesia JETP investment plan, while unfortunate, is not unexpected," said Ali Izadi-Najafabadi, BloombergNEF's head of Asia-Pacific. "There

have been fundamental differences among the stakeholders with regards to areas to prioritize for investment as well as the financing structure.”

For months, Indonesian officials have expressed concern over just how much JETP funding would be made up of grants, as opposed to loans, and where cheaper funding would be allocated. Banks and financial institutions have wrestled with internal and other constraints.

Indonesia said it remains committed to the energy transition, adding that JETP aims to accelerate this process for the global good.

“Given Indonesia’s current state of economic development, this effort can only be achieved with international support,” said Rachmat Kaimuddin, the country’s deputy coordinating minister for maritime affairs and investment. “Therefore it’s essential that the ambition and support are aligned on all aspects” laid out in the investment plan, he said.

Indonesia has a long way to go to provide clean energy for its growing economy. Reaching net zero by 2050 could cost \$3.5 trillion, according to BloombergNEF.

“While it’s encouraging that a draft plan is under consideration by the Indonesian government, it’s not clear if a few months delay will be sufficient to resolve the differences,” Izadi-Najafabadi said.

CNN

[A quarter of humanity faces extreme water stress – and it’s poised to get worse, new report finds](#)

By: Hafsa Khalil

The world is facing an “unprecedented water crisis” driven by soaring demand and the accelerating climate crisis, according to a new report.

A quarter of the world’s population currently faces “extremely high water stress” each year, with an additional 1 billion people expected to be affected by 2050, according to the World Resources Institute’s Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas published Wednesday.

Extremely high water stress means countries are using almost all the water they have – at least 80% of their renewable supply, according to the report, which is published every four years.

The report found that 25 countries, representing 25% of the global population, experience extremely high water stress each year, with Bahrain, Cyprus, Kuwait, Lebanon and Oman the five most affected. Even a short-term drought could put these places at risk of running out of water.

“Water is arguably our most important resource on the planet and yet we’re not managing it in a way that reflects that,” said Samantha Kuzma, Aqueduct data lead from WRI’s water program and a report author.

“I’ve been working in water for close to 10 years, and unfortunately, the story has been the same almost the entire 10 years,” Kuzma told CNN.

A worsening crisis

Globally, demand for water has more than doubled since 1960, and the report projects that it will rise by a further 20 to 25% by 2050.

Increased water demand stems from a range of factors, including growing populations and the demands of industries such as agriculture, along with unsustainable water use policies and a lack of investment in infrastructure.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the world’s most water-stressed regions, the entire population will live with extremely high water stress by mid-century, the report predicts, affecting drinking water supplies, damaging industries and potentially fueling political conflict.

The biggest change in water demand will occur in sub-Saharan Africa according to the report, which projects a 163% increase in water demand by 2050.

“One look at sub-Saharan Africa, we see demand for water skyrocketing,” Kuzma said, mainly for domestic water use and crop irrigation.

In North America and Europe, water demand has plateaued, helped by investment in water use efficiency measures. But that doesn’t mean parts of these regions aren’t affected.

In the US, six states experience extremely high water stress, according to the report. Six of the seven states in the Colorado River Basin, including Arizona and New Mexico, are in the top 10 most water-stressed states in the US.

What are the solutions?

Water stress costs lives, threatens food security and causes energy outages.

The report suggests various measures to prevent water stress spilling into a water crisis. These include nature-based measures, such as preserving and restoring wetlands and forests, farmers adopting more efficient watering techniques such as drip irrigation, and policymakers focusing on energy sources that don’t rely so heavily on water, such as solar and wind.

Places like Las Vegas and Singapore have shown it’s possible to manage very scarce water resources through policies such as wastewater treatment and reuse and removing water-thirsty plants, the report authors wrote.

But globally, action is lagging, according to the report.

Dieter Gerten, research group leader at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, who was not involved in the report, told CNN that the findings bring home the scale of the challenge the world faces and the need to urgently implement measures to tackle it.

“This report once more reminds us that the sheer sum of acute and chronic water stress symptoms – which now affect large parts of the Earth and the life of billions of people – leads us to the brink of a global water crisis.”

Flood control budget in hot water: Bigger than agriculture, defense, DSWD

By: Eimor Santos

Senators on Wednesday flagged the large amount of funding proposed for flood control projects next year, pointing out that it is even bigger than the allocation for priority sectors such as agriculture, defense, and social welfare.

On Day 2 of economic managers' briefing in the Senate on the proposed ₱5.768 trillion national spending plan for 2024, Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero questioned why only ₱181 billion was earmarked for the entire agriculture sector while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) sought ₱215 billion for flood control projects.

"If agriculture is important, may I ask why is it that the budget for flood control is bigger than the Department of Agriculture or the agriculture sector as a whole?" Escudero asked. "It's bigger than the budget of the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development), it's bigger than the budget of the DND (Department of National Defense)."

Senator Grace Poe also pointed out that this is "six times larger than entire outlays for school buildings, 16 times larger than outlay for hospitals, and eight times larger than the calamity funds." She demanded details of the projects in the pipeline.

No DPWH representative was present during the hearing, since it is not part of the Development Budget Coordination Committee. However, Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman explained that the DPWH considers flood control a major program. She said the agency has an "internal formula" in determining the amount needed for each item.

"All of the projects of the NG (national government) are equally important, it's just that we have limited fiscal space. On flood control, I guess it's timely to have that big amount of budget now with what's happening," she added.

Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, meanwhile, expressed his frustration over the absence of the Central Luzon Floodway Project in the 2024 budget.

The senator from Bulacan recalled that DPWH Secretary Manny Bonoan had touted the project as the solution to the flooding in his province and other areas.

In response, Pangandaman said the project still has to undergo a feasibility study. She said it's part of the ₱115 million allocation for various feasibility studies under the proposed DPWH budget.

ECO BUSINESS

'A 1.1°C warmer world is already a matter of life and death for the Global South': Climate scientist Winston Chow

By: Robin Hicks

The era of “global boiling” has arrived, declared United Nations secretary general António Guterres after July broke temperature records and claimed lives in India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, while Chinese cities were prompted to open air raid shelters to offer its people respite from the searing heat.

The heat wave is the latest test of the preparedness of the Global South to withstand climactic extremes, which as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – UN’s top climate body – observes are becoming more intense and more frequent. It is the responsibility of climate scientist Winston Chow to assess just how vulnerable developing countries are to climate change in his new role as co-chair of the IPCC’s working group on climate impacts and adaptation measures.

Chow, who is associate professor of urban climate at Singapore Management University’s College of Integrative Studies, told the Eco-Business Podcast that while policymakers at the COP28 climate talks in December will lock horns over how to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, the current state of global warming – 1.1°C – is already a “matter of life and death” for millions of people living on the frontline of climate change.

Climate adaptation or how the world should adjust to climate change has not enjoyed the same level of attention as its “sexier” sibling mitigation, but Chow says that there will be enormous rewards to be gained from “protecting things of value” that are under threat from climate change right now.

There are also reasons to be optimistic that the world has finally woken up to the need to respond to the climate crisis, Chow says. “If you’d have asked me in 2009, after the Copenhagen COP, I would have said we are screwed. But in the years since the Paris Agreement in 2015, two things have given me hope.”

First, the business community, which has realised that there is money to be made from climate action. Secondly, alignment between the world’s most powerful countries. China and the United States may disagree over many issues, but they see eye-to-eye on the need to tackle climate change, says Chow.

Tune in as we talk about:

- What does climate adaptation really mean?
- How well prepared is the Global South for cascading climate risks?
- Climate adaptation “success stories” in Asia
- How can we get better at telling the climate story?
- What businesses ask climate scientists
- Dealing with climate deniers
- Will the world achieve net-zero 2050?

The edited podcast conversation:

Tell us about your role as co-chair of the IPCC’s working group on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.

The role focuses on assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. There are two co-chairs. My partner in crime is Bart van den Hurk [scientific director at the knowledge institute Deltares in the Netherlands], who represents developed countries, and I represent developing countries. Our job is to deliver an assessment report on the state of climate adaptation, vulnerability and impacts in different economic and natural sectors in different regions of the world over the next five to seven years.

My job is also to be an effective communicator to make sure as many people know about the importance of climate adaptation, what works and what doesn’t work, and how it can be financed and enabled.

Climate adaptation has been an overlooked issue until COP27. Talk us through what climate adaptation means and the task ahead for climate-vulnerable countries in Asia. Adaptation is essentially protecting things of value from the adverse consequences of climate change. It’s the twin sibling of mitigation, which tackles the root causes of climate change.

Extreme climate events such as heat waves, and the recent tropical cyclones that affected Okinawa and Beijing, are not going to get any less intense or less frequent, and we need to protect aspects of society, cities and ecosystems from these impacts.

I will mildly disagree with you and say that adaptation has been on the agenda at previous COP climate talks and bilateral discussions. But you’re right, adaptation hasn’t been perceived to be as sexy a topic as mitigation. Nonetheless, it is important because climate impacts are happening now. It makes prudent financial and political sense to take action to protect what is valuable to us now.

There is going to be a wealth of important adaptation-related research looking into risk and impact reduction which we have to get a handle on and distill in more 'palatable' and policy-relevant language for policymakers.

We have to find a way to make sure that the assessment reports are accessible to a broad range of people, including the business community. For example, even before they look at transition risk, they need to figure out the level of physical risk they are facing in an age of climate extremes.

UN secretary general Antonio Guterrez said we're now in the age of global boiling. What's your take on this statement?

Antonio Guterrez has a good point in the sense that we are already at 1.1°C above the pre-industrial warming. The world needs to keep to the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal. The issue is that for many people in most of the developing world, 1.1°C is already a matter of life and death. Livelihoods are being affected, crops are failing chronically, traditional fishing grounds are no longer plentiful because the oceans are too warm or too acidic.

So if that is what is happening at 1.1°C, then for people living in these regions who don't have the resources to adapt or the capacity to reduce the climate risks that are in the pipeline, the "global boiling" statement is extremely valid for 1.5°C. This has to be kept in mind, especially with the discussions that will take place in Dubai, this coming December for COP28.

What scares me the most about climate change are positive feedback loops – a domino effect of climate events. How well prepared is the Global South for such events?

The scientific term that we use is "cascading risks". One event leads to another, and the impacts are felt a long way down the chain – it doesn't end at a set point. Across a variety of metrics, Asia is not well prepared to manage these risks.

For example, if a flood event occurs in a coastal port where goods are traded, it knocks out the port facilities for a couple of weeks and prices of goods shipping out of the port would increase, due to the lack of available transport options. Consumers elsewhere would then have to bear the brunt of this event. Maritime workers might not be able to bounce back if the floods become more frequent and severe too. The odds are these communities will leave and the final cascading impact is that the revenue base where you get your taxes shrinks. Policymakers will feel the impact.

I would say that not many regions are adequately prepared. Not many are aware of the domino effect – they are only focused on the short-term direct impacts of climate change. The concern my fellow climate scientists who do these sort of assessments

have is that these events will add to physical risks, as well as add to the challenge of transitioning to a more green economy.

Tell us some climate adaptation success stories in Asia.

There are a few that we include in the case studies section in IPCC's sixth assessment report. One is Semarang in Indonesia. Another is Xi'an in China. I wouldn't call them success stories, rather they are stories of positive change.

In Semarang, the key focus was on reducing issues associated with sea-level rise and flooding. It wasn't just a top-down decision to adapt by maintaining coastal vegetation, different stakeholders like those with local knowledge and lived in the city for a long time were included in decision-making. There was inclusivity in the social sense.

In Xi'an, it's a case of water-sensitive urban design along the rivers that used to flood quite often and caused a lot of damage to infrastructure. Flooding was reduced as a result of what happened there. But what was interesting to me was how the applied research was funded, through a public-private partnership. Businesses and local government realised that investing in nature-based solutions was in their mutual interest to address the flooding problem. It will pay off in the long run.

How do we get better at telling the climate story?

You need good storytellers who know the basics of science, who can connect with different people from different cultures and communities.

In the last assessment cycle of the IPCC, we highlighted the concept of climate-resilient development, where climate adaptation is combined with climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation, because we know ecology is critical [to fight climate change]. Telling a good story to the right people gets everybody on the same page and is essential for climate-resilient development. It gets people motivated to understand that collective action is going to make things easier.

But people are motivated for different reasons. Finance people might be motivated by profit or by reducing financial losses or capital expenditure as much as possible. I'm motivated by wanting my kids and their friends to have a liveable world to live in in the future.

To tell the climate story, you need to find the thread that links these things together and conveys it in a genuine way that makes people understand what is at stake and motivates them to act.

What sort of questions do businesses ask you as a climate scientist?

It depends on the audience. In some cases, companies are just starting out on their own net-zero journey and want to know the basics of climate science; why they should reduce their Scope 1 or Scope 2 emissions, let alone why Scope 3 emissions matters in the grand scheme of things.

A reinsurance company would be fascinated to hear from climate scientists about the changing probability of severe storms, and there is an increasing number of lawyers who realise that climate justice is important, and they want to know how to hold companies to account for environmental damage, for instance.

Interest from businesses is increasing a lot – and this is good news for climate scientists who have been shouting about climate change for more than 30 years. Better late than never.

As an academic, I'm usually comfortable talking with my peers and writing boring papers that only 10 people read! It's a challenge to reframe the complex information we deal with so that it appeals directly to a company's interests.

How do you deal with climate deniers?

I did my PhD in Phoenix, Arizona, where I met my fair share of climate contrarians.

I don't like engaging with climate contrarians on social media, because it's difficult to convince a faceless person without seeing them eye to eye. People behave differently in real life than they do online.

When I do meet people face-to-face who argue that greenhouse gases do not cause climate change or that it's too expensive to do anything or they just don't care, I have to remember that they are people too, with their own interests and ideals. The challenge is finding out what makes them tick and what their values are.

The scary thing about climate change is that it is so all-encompassing and pervasive that it affects all aspects of life. I wouldn't say I've convinced climate contrarians to change their minds, but perhaps made a few pause to reflect on their own assumptions on whether climate change is natural versus human-made.

One example is [climate deniers who enjoy] champagne. Climate change is going to cause champagne not to be champagne anymore, because that region of France [Champagne] is going to be too warm to cultivate that varietal. This usually prompts people to pause and say, okay, maybe climate change is serious enough that it will affect my enjoyment of my beverage of choice.

That's all I ask of people who question the science behind climate change or have their own version of what causes climate change: Are you willing to have a discussion in good faith? Usually, telling them that climate change will cause a change to their personal lives gives them cause to reflect and reconsider their mistaken assumptions about climate change.

How hopeful are you that we're going to meet the climate-critical 2050 net-zero target? Hope lies on a spectrum. If you'd have asked me this question in 2009, after the Copenhagen COP, I would have said we're screwed. But after 2015 [the signing of Paris climate accord], I see two important signs: One is the business community. Even the dirtiest sectors can't ignore climate change. There are some progressive sectors that realise that something needs to be done urgently. And more importantly, there's money to be made from this.

Secondly, there is high-level alignment between powerful countries on climate change that are not aligned on much otherwise – China and United States. I think climate is the only thing that they see eye-to-eye on these days. That's actually a positive sign, and I am quietly hopeful and optimistic – much more so than between 2010 and 2015.

Much needed action is taking place that will hopefully get us as close to net-zero by the middle of this century, if not sooner.

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH, Peru eye stronger ties in post-pandemic era](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines and Peru have agreed to boost their partnership to address different challenges as the world recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic.

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said this as he welcomed Ambassador Cecilia Zunilda Galarreta Bazán, Peru's non-resident ambassador to the Philippines, to Malacañang on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

In accepting the credentials of the Peruvian envoy, Marcos said it was important that the two countries collaborate further, especially in the post-pandemic era.

"It is imperative that we all work together. No matter how big or rich or strong a country is, I don't think there is a single country that can manage this by themselves," he said.

"Simply because of the way we operate, the way we work, the way we live. We are dependent on many things outside of our own country. So, we should really... I think that's one of the lessons that Covid taught us," he added.

The President particularly pointed out how the crisis led countries to look for new ways of doing business following the disruption of the food supply chain as well as other essential commodities.

"We can continue to do what we did before but we still have to find new ways," Marcos said.

"I know that these partnerships that we build with our friends around the world will always [be] mutually beneficial to our countries. And I hope that's what we can do now," he added.

Bazán agreed with Marcos, saying that, in an interconnected world, nations need to work together to be more effective in tackling global challenges.

She also stressed how the Philippines continues to be an important trade partner for Peru, especially in 2022, when Philippine exports to Peru reached \$36.3 million while its imports were recorded at \$2.9 million. Its main exports to the South American country include electronic products, tuna, other manufactures, non-metallic mineral manufactures, and chemicals.

"We are really looking forward to deepening that relationship," Bazán said.

"You're a model for us in the sense that you are already exporting added value products that is something that... We are mostly exporting raw materials," she added.

The Peruvian ambassador also noted that Peru and the Philippines face common issues like sustainable and inclusive development, technology, innovation, climate change, and education. Both countries likewise share similarities in religion, traditions, culture, values, and cuisine, given that both are former Spanish colonies.

According to the Presidential Communications Office, the Philippines and Peru have regularly supported each other in various multilateral fora such as the United Nations (UN), the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), or the APEC-Pacific Alliance and ASEAN-Pacific Alliance dialogues.

Peru is hosting the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in 2024.

Bazan's appointment as new envoy to the Philippines came as both nations mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations next year.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Pagasa: No weather disturbance until weekend

By: John Eric Mendoza

No tropical cyclones are expected in and around the Philippine area of responsibility until the weekend, the state weather bureau said on Wednesday.

“We have not monitored a low pressure area or tropical cyclone that could affect the country in the next three to five days,” according to Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Ana Clauren.

Two to three tropical cyclones, however, are expected to form or enter the country this month, according to Pagasa.

Clauren said overcast skies and rain showers are expected on Thursday in the Visayas, Mimaropa, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Caraga region and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao due to the southwest monsoon or “habagat”.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country are expected to have fair weather with partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Pagasa did not raise a gale warning over any of the country’s seaboards.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Environmental group calls for greater focus on renewable energy

By: Pot Chavez

The group Protect Verde Island Passage (Protect VIP) on Tuesday urged the government to reevaluate fossil gas development plans in Batangas Bay and accelerate the country's shift to renewable energy sources in order to protect the ecological hotspots and fishing grounds of the country.

Fr. Edwin Gariguez, lead convenor of Protect VIP, told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) that the country has immense untapped renewable energy potential.

“With 5.5 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy in progress thanks to the Green Energy Auction Program of the DOE, the potential for further growth exists if the government would prioritize its transition to renewable energy,” he said.

He emphasized that there is currently an opportunity to replace fossil fuels as the primary means to produce electricity.

“We all want stable, cleaner, and more affordable energy for our consumers. Instead of looking into destructive and ecologically harmful fossil gas, we implore authorities to accelerate our shift to renewable energy sources,” he added.

Gariguez emphasized that the shift is possible “if the government prioritizes renewable energy and leaves gas behind.”

In this regard, the Protect VIP also appealed for government support to the efforts to stop the ongoing land reclamation project for the construction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and power plants in Batangas Bay that is covered by the VIP.

According to the priest, “suspending the reclamation project in Manila Bay is a significant move because of the damages that these reclamation projects can inflict to our marine ecosystem.”

“The suspension should also open the conversation in suspending reclamation projects at the Batangas Bay due to the construction of fossil gas terminals at its shores,” he noted.

Gariguez said “although there are a lot of factors that can contribute to this massive decline of fish production, the gas terminals in its vicinity have a significant impact

because it contributes to the destruction of marine habitats that act as fish breeding grounds and introduce toxic pollutants to its waters.

Dubbed as the “Amazon of the Ocean,” the VIP is the center of marine shore fish biodiversity in the world and the source of livelihood to millions of Filipinos.

Gariguez noted that the Batangas coast “is the 16th top fish producer in the country as of 2021... but it also recorded the third biggest drop from 2019 to 2021 across the country.”

Meanwhile, in a message to PNA, Batangas Governor Hermilando Mandanas expressed his “full support” to the appeal of Gargiuez and his group.

House pushes for disaster food banks for quick relief delivery

By: Jose Cielito Reganit

With 274 affirmative votes, the House of Representatives on Wednesday approved on third and final reading a bill providing for the establishment of disaster food banks and stockpiles throughout the country to speed up the delivery of relief goods and other supplies during calamities.

House Bill (HB) 8463 calls for the setting up and construction of a Disaster Food Bank and Stockpile in every province and highly urbanized city in the country, providing for their maintenance and appropriating funds for their operation.

HB 8463 is a consolidation of three related measures authored by Representatives Michael Morden of API Party-list, Ivan Howard Guinto of PINUNO Party-list and Alan Ecleo of Dinagat Islands.

Under the bill, the disaster food bank and stockpile shall serve as the central repository of food, water, medicines, vaccines, antidotes, and other critical medical products, medical kits, portable power and light source, clothing, tents, and communication devices.

The shelf life of these items should be at least two years.

The establishment of the stockpile will be an inter-agency effort, to be led by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and with the participation of the departments of public works and highways, trade, agriculture, science and technology, and interior and local government.

The NDRRMC will determine the locations of the stockpiles, taking into consideration equitable distribution among regions, accessibility, safety and security from natural and human-induced disasters, and immediate release of the supply reserves in case of a calamity or an emergency. The locations shall be kept secret.

The bill mandates the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to build calamity-proof warehouses where the food and supply stockpiles would be stored.

The NDRRMC, DSWD, and other concerned agencies will make sure that the reserves are regularly monitored and replenished.

In the event of a calamity, the NDRRMC and DSWD will initiate the use and deployment of the stockpiles.

In case a calamity can be reasonably predicted, the NDRRMC shall preposition supplies in the areas to be affected.

The NDRRMC, in consultation with concerned agencies, will issue implementing rules and regulations.

Funds necessary for the establishment of the envisioned stockpiles will be charged against the budgets of these agencies.

In a statement, House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said the proposal stemmed from the fact that the country is visited every year by more than 20 typhoons, which have become stronger due to climate change.

“This reality requires us to prepare for the eventuality of storms and similar calamities displacing residents of affected areas. We have to have a faster, a more efficient and a more effective system of responding to disasters and helping our people,” he said.

Romualdez said such response could be institutionalized through the establishment of strategic food banks and stockpiles all over the country.

“A single life we can save through the timely delivery of medicine, food and critical items in the event of a calamity is worth more than the effort and money that will go into setting up these food and supply reserves,” he said.

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