



## NEWS ROUNDUP

23 August 2022 [as of 8:30 am]

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- China no closer to peak coal despite record renewable capacity additions
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- Study finds climate change, deadlier diseases go together
- Program to fight ocean plastic pollution launched in Parañaque
- Private firm interested to conduct thorough study on Cebu City's flood woes

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

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- Proposed P5.268-T budget for 2023 submitted to House
- Education, infra, health are 2023 budget priorities
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### MANILA BULLETIN

#### [Farm to government: individual and collective actions towards climate-ready agriculture](#)

By: Jerome Sagcal

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### PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Manila, Philippines—Over a few decades, various climatic hazards triggered by the continuing emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) have worsened more than 100 infectious and other diseases as well as weakened capacities to cope with these.

### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### [Program to fight ocean plastic pollution launched in Parañaque](#)

Manila – The United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program grantee Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA) Inc. has recently launched a plastic buying and exchange center to address ocean plastic pollution in Parañaque City.

### **SUNSTAR**

### [Private firm interested to conduct thorough study on Cebu City’s flood woes](#)

By: Ivan Rey Tan

A private firm has expressed its interest to help the Cebu City Government in coming up with a comprehensive study that will help solve the city’s perennial problem of flooding.

### **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **ABS-CBN NEWS**

### [Education, infrastructure top spending in proposed P5.2-trillion 2023 national budget](#)

By Raffy Cabristante and RG Cruz

Education and infrastructure are among the top priorities of the Marcos administration as it submitted its proposed 2023 national budget to the House of Representatives on Monday, the Department of Budget and Management said.

## **CNN**

### **[DBM turns over proposed ₱5.268-T budget for 2023 to House](#)**

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 22) – The Department of Budget and Management on Monday officially submitted the proposed ₱5.268-trillion spending plan for next year to the House of Representatives.

## **DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT**

### **[DBM submits 2023 Budget to Congress; Education, infrastructure, health, social protection, agriculture, top budget priorities](#)**

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman submitted to Congress today, 22 August 2022, the President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which according to her is "a proactive budget felt by the people with education, infrastructure, health, agriculture and social safety nets as priorities."

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Proposed P5.268-T budget for 2023 submitted to House](#)**

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Monday submitted to the House of Representatives the proposed P5.268 trillion national budget for 2023.

## **POLITIKO**

### **[Education, infra, health are 2023 budget priorities](#)**

By Prince Golez

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submitted to Congress on Monday the proposed P5.268-trillion national budget for 2023.

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By: Filane Mike Cervantes

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**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## MANILA BULLETIN

### Farm to government: individual and collective actions towards climate-ready agriculture

By: Jerome Sagcal

As the world adapts to the worsening effects of climate change, the agriculture sector is exposed as one of the most vulnerable sectors, if not the most.

According to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, damages incurred due to natural disasters totaled P463 billion from 2010 to 2019. The agriculture sector alone incurred a third of this loss, suffering damages amounting to P290 billion. Small-time farmers are one of those that suffer the most during these disasters. Damage to crops means damage to their livelihood. Whereas corporations can reel from the shock, having the resources to keep business as usual, small-time farmers might need to start anew every disaster. But there are already solutions being practiced by individual farmers, up to the institutional level. In an online event organized by the Good Food Community on August 19, 2022, several stakeholders discussed how the agriculture sector can prepare and mitigate climate-related risks in agriculture.

How small-time farmers adapt to unpredictable weather

Laurio Diego is a member of Duale Masipag Organic Farmers Association in Limay, Bataan. Due to this work pushing for organic agriculture, he was awarded the 2020 Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan award.

Diego shared several agricultural practices to reduce climate-related risks in farming. When they expect El Niño, a weather phenomenon that brings sustained dry weather in the Philippines, they use seeds known to have drought resistance capabilities. They can also use early maturing varieties so that farmers can harvest crops before the worst period of drought. If time is short before La Niña, they will grow vegetables that do not require too much water, like the monggo. Not only does this allow them to switch their crops, but it also restores the nutrients in the soil. In the opposite situation, they use flood-tolerant seeds if they expect La Niña, which brings sustained wet weather. They also assess which months would have the heaviest rain so they can adjust their planting season by sowing the seeds earlier. They also practice intercropping by planting corn or vegetables partnered with low-growing root crops such as peanuts, radish, and sweetpotato. Doing so would assure that farmers would have something to harvest even though their main crop gets damaged during heavy rain. Doing so would also help reduce the need for pesticides as some pests of one crop could negate the pests of another crop.

Government interventions to mitigate climate risks

Tublay is the smallest town in Benguet after La Trinidad, the provincial capital. It is often on the path of climate-related disasters, making the area prone to heavy rain and landslides.

Jeffrey Sotero, Tublay's municipal agriculturist, is at the forefront of this small agricultural town in climate-related risks. He is also an advocate for organic agriculture and was even

recognized as an outstanding municipal focal person on organic agriculture during the 2019 National Organic Agriculture Congress held by the Department of Agriculture. Tublay has been adopting mitigation measures involving the collaboration of stakeholders like farmers, government bodies, and non-government organizations. They have also been working with state universities to help them with their research as they usually cannot do it on their own. Involving consumers are also part of the solution, according to Sotero. Identifying what consumers need and want on their table is essential so farmers can choose the right crop for production.

Organic farming is at the top of their priority, which helps boost their productivity despite most farmers being micro-to-smallholders, owning only an average of 2,500 square meters. Organic agriculture is enhanced by a calendar system to determine which crops are best suited for certain months. This system derives from historical climate and traditional knowledge passed on from older farmers.

They also hold climate forums to study data for the previous six months and project what would happen next month. These forums help them determine the best course of action so they can advise farmers ahead of time. Should the worst come to worst, agricultural insurance can make a huge difference. The municipal agricultural office has been helping local farmers avail insurance through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

They recognize the limitations in current models of agricultural insurance. Sotero said that they are studying how a weather-based index crop-insurance system could be possible as PCIC only assists in areas where a calamity has been declared.

#### The role of civil society organizations

As wide-reaching government institutions are, there are plenty of gaps that civil society organizations work to fill in. Often they work as linkages between farmers and consumers like Good Food Community. They recognize this culture that farming should not be the sole burden of farmers but the entire community. They work with farmers to deliver organic produce to the market. They also help farmers to match their crops to what the market needs and assist them with zero-interest, zero-collateral loans to help them build polytunnels.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [China no closer to peak coal despite record renewable capacity additions](#)

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Shanghai – Though China is aiming to roll out record amounts of renewable capacity this year as decarbonization elsewhere stalls, economic challenges mean Beijing is unlikely to tackle rising coal consumption ahead of schedule – and may hit a more painful peak.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged last year to “strictly control” coal and start cutting its use starting in 2026 to bring its climate-warming carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions to a peak before 2030. China’s emissions are the highest in the world.

Although those targets are unlikely to change, environmental groups fear growing energy security concerns mean coal use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could peak at a much higher level than planned.

Chinese energy officials have been drawing attention to the “return to coal” in Europe amid oil and gas supply disruptions during the Ukraine conflict, noting China’s shift to clean energy will not waver. State media have accused Europe of hypocrisy when it comes to climate action.

“As global energy supplies tightened last year, and as many countries in Europe restart coal-fired power, the development of our country’s non-fossil fuel energy has continued unabated,” Zhang Jianhua, head of China’s energy bureau, said during a briefing last month.

Germany reconnected a mothballed coal plant to the grid this month and is expected to ramp up coal imports to keep power stations running as Russian gas supplies dwindle.

Imported coal is seen lifted by cranes

Imported coal is seen lifted by cranes from a coal cargo ship onto a truck at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, China. REUTERS/Stringer/File photo

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China expects its consumption to rise for another three years. Though renewables are expected to account for half of new capacity additions over 2021-2025, that would still allow more than 250 GW of new fossil fuel-fired power, forecasts issued by the China Electricity Council this year showed.

China also has boosted annual coal production by 490 million tonnes since last year, enough to meet demand from Germany and Russia combined, the coal mine safety bureau said this month, describing coal as “still our country’s most important source of power”.

The Chinese power grid is under tremendous strain in the face of a punishing heatwave.

The country has continued to develop new coal-fired plants, with construction on the second phase of the Zheneng Liheng coal-fired power station in eastern China’s Zhejiang province beginning at the start of this month. New coal-fired power construction was at its highest since 2016 last year.

#### China vs Europe

Europe led the way in lobbying China to make more ambitious fossil fuels cuts, but could not persuade Beijing to phase out rather than “phase down” coal use during climate talks in Glasgow last year.

China also canceled climate talks with the United States after Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan.

Sarah Brown, senior energy and climate analyst with Ember, said that European countries are committed to phasing out fossil fuels, but that their hand in climate diplomacy could weaken if a temporary return to coal turns out to be lasting.

“If there’s any evidence that they’re not implementing the renewables at the speed that they need to... that’s when I feel questions will be asked,” she said.

Zhang of the National Energy Administration told reporters that the share of non-fossil fuels in China’s total energy consumption will rise by one percentage point a year up to

2030. It is also aiming to bring wind and solar capacity up to 1,200 GW by 2030, nearly double the level of last year.

There are mixed signals about whether China was backtracking on its climate commitments over energy security concerns, said Jorrit Gosens, who researches China's energy policies at Australia National University.

Coal production rose 11 percent in the first half of 2022, he said, but there are no signs that consumption will rise; much of the production increase will offset declining imports.

"The energy crisis and perceived return to coal in Europe is giving some people in China a moment of schadenfreude," said Li Shuo, senior climate adviser with Greenpeace in Beijing. "If the situation in Europe is not fueling more coal consumption here yet, it is certainly reinforcing Beijing's pre-existing desire to ensure energy security by all means."

## Florita triggers flooding, suspension of classes in Cagayan Valley, Bicol

Legazpi City—Heavy rainfall spawned by Tropical Storm “Florita” on Monday triggered landslides and flooding, and prompted suspension of classes in several localities in Albay and Cagayan Valley provinces just as schools resumed in-person sessions after being shuttered by COVID-19 two years ago.

But in most parts of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, in-person classes proceeded amid the usual problems bugging the opening of the school year: traffic jams in routes leading to schools and the shortage of facilities like classrooms and chairs in many public schools.

In Albay, Gov. Noel Rosal has ordered a suspension of classes at all levels in both public and private schools.

Two elementary schools in Polangui town were also flooded following the torrential rains, forcing the class suspension, added Mayor Adrian Salceda.

Elsewhere in Albay, floods submerged the village of San Isidro in Libon town and portions of the villages of Ilawod, Tagaytay, Bariw and Libod in Camalig town.

In Cagayan province, classes at all levels were suspended in Tuguegarao City and the towns of Solana, Lal-lo, Enrile, Ballesteros and Aparri on Monday.

Gov. Manuel Mamba also imposed a liquor ban and a “no sailing, no fishing” policy, with Florita expected to hit the province by Tuesday.

Local authorities were also preparing for the possible rise in the level of several rivers in Cagayan, warning residents in low-lying areas to brace for flooding.

In Isabela province, classes were also suspended in the towns of Tumauni and Cabagan while Ilagan City only allowed classes in the college level.

In Ilocos Norte province, afternoon classes from preschool to elementary were suspended in the capital city of Laoag and in the towns of Solsona, San Nicolas, Paoay and Vintar.

### Storm signals

Florita was located 215 kilometers east of Casiguran town, Aurora province, as of 11 a.m. on Monday, packing a maximum sustained winds of 75 km per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

As of 11 a.m., Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 2 was hoisted over the eastern portion of Cagayan province, the eastern and central portions of Isabela province, the extreme northern portion of Aurora province and the northeastern portion of Quirino province.

The rest of Cagayan, Isabela and Quirino were placed under TCWS No. 1, along with the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Apayao, Abra, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Benguet, La Union, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, northern and central portions of Aurora, and northern portion of Polillo Island.

#### Safety ensured

In earthquake-ravaged Abra, schools welcomed back their students on Monday but some students had to temporarily spend the day in makeshift learning spaces because of their damaged classrooms.

In Abra's capital town of Bangued, makeshift classrooms that were separated by walls made of bamboo and tarpaulin sheets were set up at a covered court for the 92 students of Macarcarmay Elementary School.

According to the Office of Civil Defense, 233 Abra classrooms were destroyed by the quake last month.

In the northernmost town of Itbayat in Batanes province, 151 students from Itbayat Central School held their classes in makeshift classrooms at the Alternative Learning Systems building in the town's plaza. Their school is still undergoing repairs after it was hit by a magnitude 6 earthquake in 2019.

In Oriental Mindoro province, 178 students of Tugdaan Mangyan school at Naujan town began the school year with a planting ritual at the foot of Mt. Halcon.

In Calabarzon region, Department of Education (DepEd) officials welcomed 3,899,077 students during the school opening in public and private schools, with policemen deployed to schools to provide security and maintain peace and order, said DepEd Regional Director Alberto Escobarte.

#### Anti-dengue measures

Local health workers also installed "Olyset nets" in the school windows to protect the children from the bites of infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that spread dengue viruses.

Anti-dengue measures were also put in schools in Cebu City and Negros Occidental and misting machines were used prior to class opening to destroy breeding grounds of dengue mosquitoes.

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Anti-dengue measures were also put in schools in Cebu City and Negros Occidental and misting machines were used prior to class opening to destroy breeding grounds of dengue mosquitoes.

Dr. Jeffrey Ibones, head of the Cebu City Health Department (CCHD), said the city's dengue team would educate students on how to prevent dengue and other water-borne diseases. The CCHD has reported close to 2,000 dengue cases, including 19 deaths, in the city from January to August 2022.

For the rest of the Visayas, the opening day went smoothly despite the perennial problem of lack of classrooms and other facilities.

## [Study finds climate change, deadlier diseases go together](#)

By: Christina Eloisa

Manila, Philippines—Over a few decades, various climatic hazards triggered by the continuing emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) have worsened more than 100 infectious and other diseases as well as weakened capacities to cope with these.

In the study “Over half of known human pathogenic diseases can be aggravated by climate change,” Camilo Mora, a data scientist at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and his colleagues examined how climate change could affect various diseases.

“The combination of numerous climatic hazards by the numerous pathogens reveals the potentially large number of interactions in which climatic hazards could aggravate human pathogenic diseases,” the scientists said.

Mora and his colleagues examined over 77,000 research papers, reports, and books for records of infectious diseases connected to climatic hazards that had been made worse by GHGs. They discovered that over half of the infectious diseases known to have made people ill had been aggravated by climate change.

These climatic hazards included warming, precipitation, floods, drought, storms, fires, heat waves, sea level rise, and others.

The study also explained how certain climatic hazards could serve as a bridge to bring pathogens and people close together.

READ: Climate change impact: Deadlier diseases

In this article, INQUIRER.net will try to detail the rest of the findings from the research, which includes how climate change could influence the deadliness of pathogens and how it could weaken humanity’s coping capability. Climate change, however, is also helping some diseases grow weak.

Pathogens strengthened

The scientists discovered that various climatic hazards have direct impacts on some aspects of pathogens (bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms that cause diseases) aside from bringing diseases and people closer.

This can happen through a rise in reproduction and acceleration in life cycles of pathogens driven by climate change. It can also bring about longer seasons for pathogens to be active and have extended lives, while incubation periods—the time it takes for diseases to show symptoms—are cut short. Virulence, or the deadliness of pathogens, also increases.

“Warming, for instance, had positive effects on mosquito population development, survival, biting rates, and viral replication, increasing the transmission efficiency of West Nile virus,” the study said.

West Nile virus, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the United States. The virus is most commonly spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito.

“Storms, heavy rainfall, and floods created stagnant water, increasing breeding and growing grounds for mosquitoes and the array of pathogens that they transmit (for example, leishmaniasis, malaria, Rift Valley fever, yellow fever, St. Louis encephalitis, dengue, and West Nile fever),” the scientists said.

READ: Changing mosquito genes, spreading bacteria: Science sees success vs dengue

READ: Filipino scientists' work shows promise in fight against dengue

An example of a climate change-driven rise in pathogens' ability to cause severe illness or virulence, is heat waves, which the study said serve as “natural selective pressure towards ‘heat-resistant’ viruses.”

When this happens, viruses are able to win over the human body's main defense—fever—and become more virulent.

Weakening people's coping abilities

Mora and his colleagues also found that climatic hazards can debilitate a person's capacity to cope with pathogens by altering the body's condition through:

adding stress from exposure to hazardous conditions.

forcing people into unsafe conditions.

damaging infrastructure, forcing exposure to pathogens or reducing access to medical care.

For instance, the broad effects of climatic hazards on land and marine food supply, paired with the reduced concentration of nutrients in crops through high carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels, can directly cause malnutrition—weakening immune response to diseases.

This can lead to an increased risk of food-deprived populations to disease outbreaks, such as measles and cholera.

Climate change due to the emission of GHGs was also linked to reduced resistance to various diseases among humans.

“For instance, failure of the human immune system to adjust to large changes in temperature was suggested as a likely mechanism to explain outbreaks of influenza,” the scientists said.

“Likewise, stress, via changes in cortisol and down-regulation of inflammatory response, can reduce the body's capacity to cope with diseases,” they added.



## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### Program to fight ocean plastic pollution launched in Parañaque

Manila – The United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program grantee Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA) Inc. has recently launched a plastic buying and exchange center to address ocean plastic pollution in Parañaque City.

The Eco-Ikot Center serves as an inclusive and replicable waste collection and recycling system to help communities prevent solid waste from ending up in landfills.

It supports and strengthens local government systems and infrastructure while providing incentives for the community to adopt more sustainable behavior by trading in recyclables.

Local residents will be able to exchange their clean, dry, and segregated recyclables for points that can be redeemed for various incentives like digital currency, rice, fresh vegetables and other sustainable or reusable items.

The idea to establish an Eco-Ikot Center was spurred by the large volume of recyclable plastics that CORA volunteers regularly collect during cleanup drives along Manila Bay.

“This center will serve as a model for promoting ‘reduce, reuse, and recycle’ practices in local communities,” USAID Philippines Acting Environment Office Director Dr. John Piggott said in a statement on Sunday. “Through our work together, we can make measurable progress in stemming the tide of ocean plastic pollution.”

On the other hand, CORA Philippines founder and executive director Antoinette Taus said, “Partnerships, together with community-led actions, play a crucial part in achieving our global goals.”

“USAID’s CCBO program has provided CORA with the necessary tools to empower communities with sustainable waste management solutions that benefit women, local citizens, and our shared environment,” she added.

USAID’s CCBO program was launched in August 2019 as the Agency’s flagship program to respond to the ocean plastics pollution crisis.

The five-year, PHP2.7 billion (\$48 million) program works at the global level and in rapidly urbanizing countries like the Philippines to address ocean plastics directly at their source.

By strengthening waste management systems and building circular economies, the CCBO program builds sustainable solutions that reduce ocean plastics while empowering vulnerable populations and mitigating pollution that affects human health and the climate.

## SUNSTAR

### [Private firm interested to conduct thorough study on Cebu City's flood woes](#)

By: Ivan Rey Tan

A private firm has expressed its interest to help the Cebu City Government in coming up with a comprehensive study that will help solve the city's perennial problem of flooding.

This was what Cebu City Councilor Jerry Guardo said after the firm submitted its proposal to him for the possible study. Guardo, who chairs the committee on infrastructure, said he plans to raise the proposal through a resolution before the City Council during this week's regular session.

Guardo said the private firm, which handled the Lusaran Bulk Water Project conducted by the Metropolitan Cebu Water District, proposed a study that will determine the site for the construction of rainwater impounding facilities and improvement of the city's drainage system.

If the City Council approves the proposal, the private firm can start initiating the study. According to Guardo, a comprehensive study is necessary so that projects and programs that will be launched by the City Government will be backed up by scientific data.

The result of the study will determine the possible sites for the rainwater impounding facilities that are capable of storing a million liters of water, he added.

The impounding facility will temporarily hold the rainwater during downpours to prevent the city's drainage system from being overwhelmed.

Guardo further said the study will also provide the status of the city's culverts and how they can be upgraded to support a large volume of water.

Clearing, desilting still on In the meantime, Guardo said the City is ramping up its clearing operations along the city's major waterways to mitigate the effects of flooding during downpours.

Desilting of the city's drainage system, especially in areas that are known to be susceptible to flooding is also being continuously done by the City, he added.

During the heavy rainfall in the past few weeks, several barangays in the city experienced flooding due to the swelling of the main waterways.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### ABS-CBN NEWS

#### [Education, infrastructure top spending in proposed P5.2-trillion 2023 national budget](#)

By Raffy Cabristante and RG Cruz

Education and infrastructure are among the top priorities of the Marcos administration as it submitted its proposed 2023 national budget to the House of Representatives on Monday, the Department of Budget and Management said.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman personally turned over the proposed P5.268-trillion budget to House Speaker Martin Romualdez Monday morning, describing it as a “a proactive budget felt by the people with education, infrastructure, health, agriculture and social safety nets as priorities.”

Education and infrastructure programs have the biggest allotted amounts in next year's proposed budget, with the administration planning to spend more than P800 billion for education and P1.196 trillion for infrastructure development.

“Our budget for FY 2023 is proactive and resilient. It is designed to withstand future risks, challenges and shocks. Filipinos have bravely faced disasters and crises in recent years and notwithstanding the uncertainties, we have witnessed the strength of our economy and the resilience of our countrymen as seen by the country’s economic expansion,” she said.

### EDUCATION

As mandated by the Constitution, the education sector remains as the highest budgetary priority in 2023, with about P852.8 billion allocated for the Department of Education (DepEd), state universities and colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

From about P633.3 billion in 2022, DepEd's budget has been increased to P710.6 billion in 2023.

Meanwhile, the Marcos administration also plans to spend as much as P47.5 billion for free college tuition, and another P50 billion for technical and vocational training.

This, Pangandaman said, reflects the administration's thrust towards investing in education.

"This proves this administration's commitment to invest in human capital development and youth empowerment," she said.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

About P1.196 trillion will also be allotted to the country's infrastructure programs, as Marcos plans to continue to the "Build, Build, Build" program of his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will receive P718.4 billion, while the Department of Transportation (DOTr) will get P167.1 billion, a 120-percent increase from its P75-billion budget in 2022.

The increased amount, the DBM said, covers the augmented funding requirements for various foreign-assisted railway projects.

Major transportation infrastructure projects that will be implemented include the North-South Commuter Railway, the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, and the PNR South Long Haul.

## HEALTH

In anticipation for possible health emergencies, President Marcos has also proposed to increase the health sector's budget by 10.4 percent to P296.3 billion in 2023.

The budget aims to cover improved vaccination efforts and COVID-19 boosters, among others.

Pangandaman said P29 billion of the budget will be used to purchase drugs, medicines, and vaccines, while more than P19 billion will be allocated for the salary and benefits of healthcare workers.

Another P23 billion will also be allotted for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), which will fund the purchase of medical equipment as well as the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of barangay health stations, rural health units, government hospitals, and other health facilities in the country.

The health sector covers both the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture spending will also be increased by almost 40 percent in 2023.

"The Agriculture sector will receive a substantial increase of 39.2 percent year-on-year, with a total proposed budget of P184.1 billion for the strengthening of its banner food

programs and irrigation services to ensure food security and agricultural productivity." Pangandaman said.

"To achieve this, higher allocations are proposed for the National Rice Program (P30.5 billion) to help maintain the price of rice at affordable levels, and for the production of other vital agricultural commodities." she added.

Marcos, who also serves as the Agriculture secretary, had said that the sector will be given top priority to develop it into one of the main drivers for the country's economic growth and development.

## OTHER PRIORITIES

The Marcos administration has also allotted budget amounts to the following agencies:

- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - P197 billion
  - Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - P26.2 billion
  - Department of National Defense (DND) - P240.7 billion
  - National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) - P31 billion
- President Marcos has also proposed to allocate P453.1 billion for "climate change expenditures."

These expenditures will focus on food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, knowledge and capacity development and sustainable energy, the DBM said.

To monitor these expenses, the DBM said it will partner with the Climate Change Commission to develop the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) mechanism.

"Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency. I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability," Pangandaman said.

## UP, PGH GET BUDGET CUTS

Meanwhile, the budget department has proposed a P2.5 billion budget cut for the entire University of the Philippines system.

Based on a copy of the National Expenditure Program for 2023 posted on the DBM website, the UP system gets a P21.85 billion budget, down from P24.39 billion in 2022 but marginally higher than the P21.50 billion in 2021.

Of the 2023 figure, P10.86 billion will go to the higher education program, P1.3 billion is for the advanced education program, P747.45 million for the research program, P396.74 million for the technical advisory extension program and P5.93 billion for hospital services.

The UP system runs the Philippine General Hospital. The UP system's Hospital Services Program had a budget of P6.3 billion in 2022.

There is no budget allocation for capital outlay for hospital services next year. Capital outlay refers to expenses incurred for the construction or acquisition of new facilities.

## CNN

### [DBM turns over proposed ₱5.268-T budget for 2023 to House](#)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 22) – The Department of Budget and Management on Monday officially submitted the proposed ₱5.268-trillion spending plan for next year to the House of Representatives.

DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman turned over the 2023 National Expenditure Program and President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.’s accompanying message to Speaker Martin Romualdez in a ceremony also attended by other House leaders. The agency said the proposed budget, which is 4.9% higher than this year’s, prioritizes education, infrastructure, health, agriculture, social protection, and agriculture.

The education sector tops budgetary priorities as mandated by the Constitution at ₱852.8 billion, said the DBM. This covers the Department of Education, state universities and colleges, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The Department of Public Works and Highways is set to receive ₱718.4 billion, while the Department of Transportation will be provided ₱167.1 billion for infrastructure projects.

Some ₱296.3 billion has been set aside for the health sector, which includes the Department of Health (DOH) and Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth). The amount also covers funding for the purchase of drugs, medicine, and vaccines; salaries and benefits of health workers; and the Health Facilities Enhancement Program.

The Department of Agriculture, along with its attached agencies, and the Department of Agrarian Reform were assigned ₱184.1 billion for next year as the government aims to transform agriculture into one of the main drivers of Philippine growth and employment.

The DBM added the ₱197 billion has been allocated to the Department of Social Welfare for initiatives aiding marginalized and vulnerable sectors. The Department of Labor and Employment will also receive ₱26.2 billion for programs helping workers recover from the pandemic’s impact. Some ₱453.1 billion has been earmarked for green governance, particularly climate change expenditures. The DBM, in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, set up the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging to track such spending.

The Department of National Defense (DND) will likewise receive ₱240.7 billion while ₱31 billion will go to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF) in anticipation of typhoons and other natural calamities, said the DBM.

“Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency. I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability,” said Pangandaman.

The House appropriations panel will begin hearings on the NEP on Aug. 26 with a briefing by Marcos's economic team.

House leaders have vowed to finish committee and plenary deliberations before Oct. 1, when Congress takes its first recess until Nov. 6.

The national budget plays a crucial role in boosting economic growth through government spending on various key sectors. Economic managers expect growth to settle within 6.5% and 8% in 2023.

## DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (PR)

### [DBM submits 2023 Budget to Congress: Education, infrastructure, health, social protection, agriculture, top budget priorities](#)

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman submitted to Congress today, 22 August 2022, the President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which according to her is "a proactive budget felt by the people with education, infrastructure, health, agriculture and social safety nets as priorities."

"Our budget for FY 2023 is proactive and resilient. It is designed to withstand future risks, challenges and shocks. Filipinos have bravely faced disasters and crises in recent years and notwithstanding the uncertainties, we have witnessed the strength of our economy and the resilience of our countrymen as seen by the country's economic expansion," Budget Secretary Pangandaman said.

The administration's economic team earlier pointed out that the goal of the Marcos Administration is to achieve 6.5 to 8.0 percent real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth annually between 2023 to 2028 in order to attain a single-digit (9.0 percent) poverty rate by 2028.

Consistent with the 8-Point Socio-Economic Agenda of the Marcos Administration, Secretary Pangandaman underscored the need to support the identified priority sectors, and to sustain the country's growth momentum to make the economy inclusive and robust in 2023.

"We have identified the priority sectors in our 2023 National Expenditure Program, which stands at Php5.268-Trillion and 4.9 percent higher than this year's budget. These priority sectors include education, infrastructure development, health, agriculture and social safety nets," Sec. Pangandaman stressed.

#### Education

The education sector, which is composed of the Department of Education (DepEd), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will receive an 8.2 percent increase next year at Php852.8-Billion and will remain as being the highest budgetary priority as mandated by the Constitution.

The budget of DepEd shall increase from Php633.3-Billion in 2022 to Php710.6- Billion in 2023.

"As the President said during his first SONA, we should not hold back on investing in education, as education is the only legacy we can leave our children that will never go to

waste. This proves this administration's commitment to invest in human capital development and youth empowerment," Sec. Pangandaman said.

### Infrastructure Development

A total of Php1.196-Trillion has been allocated for the government's 2023 infrastructure programs.

The Department of Public Works and Highway will receive Php718.4-B budget in 2023, while the Department of Transportation will receive Php167.1B in 2023-- an increase by 120.4 percent from its Php75.8-Billion budget in 2022, which covers the augmented funding requirements for various foreign-assisted railway projects.

"President Marcos earlier said that this administration shall continue to implement infrastructure projects and refocus to Build, Better, More. These projects-- subway, regional airports, railways and farm-to-market roads-- will surely benefit the Filipino people," Sec. Pangandaman said.

Major transportation infrastructure projects that will be implemented include the North-South Commuter Railway, the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, and the PNR South Long Haul.

### Health

In a bid to ramp up vaccination efforts and the uptake of boosters for our vulnerable population while strengthening our health system through improvement of health facilities and services, the government's health sector shall receive a 10.4 percent budget increase at Php296.3-Billion in 2023, inclusive of the budgets of the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Sec. Pangandaman said, "Around Php29-B has been allocated to purchase drugs, medicine and vaccines while more than Php19-B has been allocated for the salary and benefits of healthcare workers."

Php23-Billion, meanwhile, has been allotted for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), which will fund the purchase of medical equipment as well as the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of barangay health stations, rural health units, polyclinics, LGU hospitals, DOH hospital, and other various health facilities nationwide.

### Agriculture

To improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA), its attached corporations, and the Department of Agrarian Reform will be Php184.1-B, a 39.2 percent increase from its 2022 allocation. The figure includes Php29.5-Billion for irrigation services.

This is in line with the President’s directive that top priority must be given to the agriculture sector so as to invigorate and transform this sector from being an economic laggard to one of the main drivers for growth and employment.

“In support of the mandate of our President, and in anticipation of a global food crisis and for the long-term goal of food self-sufficiency, we increased the budget of the DA by 43.9 percent, to cover the funding requirements for its programs and projects,” Sec Pangandaman said.

### Social Safety Nets

To address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society, the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be allocated with Php197- B budget in 2023. The government shall likewise continue to fully support the Pantawid Familyang Pilipino Program, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances, Sustainable Livelihood Program, and the Supplementary Feeding Program.

“Our budget provides for the implementation of the projects and programs of the DSWD. The President said it himself—we must not neglect the poorest of the poor,” Sec. Pangandaman said.

Meanwhile, Php18.4-B of the total Php26.2-B budget for the Department of Labor and Employment will be used to implement its Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, to help beneficiaries recover from the economic displacement caused by the pandemic. This includes the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program, among others.

### Green Governance

Green governance is central to sustainable development. The Marcos Administration has allocated Php453.1-B for climate change expenditures, where the DBM, in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, developed a mechanism, the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET), to track and report climate change expenditures focused on food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, knowledge and capacity development and sustainable energy.

In anticipation of destructive typhoons and other natural calamities, the budget of the Department of National Defense has been increased by 9 percent in 2023 at Php240.7-B. Meanwhile, Php31-B was allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

“Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency. I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability,” DBM Secretary Pangandaman ended.

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[Proposed P5.268-T budget for 2023 submitted to House](#)**

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Monday submitted to the House of Representatives the proposed P5.268 trillion national budget for 2023.

Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said the House is eyeing to finish the committee and plenary deliberations on the budget proposal on or before October 1.

“The House of the people will effectively respond to the needs of the people, especially in addressing the continued impact of the health crisis and to create more jobs and to ensure food security,” Romualdez said during the turnover.

“Every centavo of the national budget will be spent wisely to implement programs that will save lives, protect communities and make our economy strong,” he added.

Earlier, the Department of Budget and Management said it had been busy crafting a budget that’s “not only responsive to the needs of the time but aligned with the priorities of the Marcos administration.” According to Pangandaman, the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 is proactive and resilient.

“We will coordinate closely with the committee during the committee hearings and deliberations to ensure a transparent process of the passage of the General Appropriations bill,” Pangandaman said in her message during the submission of the budget.

“We expect the budget to be signed by December or the General Appropriations Act will be forwarded to Malacañang by first week or second week of December so we could all have a nice Christmas celebration,” she added.

She said the agency already identified the priority sectors in the proposed budget. This includes education, infrastructure development, health, agriculture, and social safety nets.

#### **Allocations**

The education sector, composed of the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and state universities and colleges, remains the highest budgetary priority as mandated by the Constitution. The DBM said the sector would receive an 8.2% increase at P852.8 billion.

The DBM said the budget of DepEd would increase from P633.3 billion in 2022 to P710.6 billion in 2023.

“As the President said during his first SONA, we should not hold back on investing in education, as education is the only legacy we can leave our children that will never go to waste. This proves this administration’s commitment to invest in human capital development and youth empowerment,” Pangandaman said.

With regards to infrastructure programs, a total of P1.196 trillion has been allotted.

The Department of Public Works and Highway will receive P718.4 billion budget in 2023, while the Department of Transportation will obtain P167.1 billion in 2023.

The DBM noted that this was an increase by 120.4% from its P75.8 billion budget in 2022, which covers the augmented funding requirements for various foreign-assisted railway projects.

“President Marcos earlier said that this administration shall continue to implement infrastructure projects and refocus to Build, Better, More. These projects-- subway, regional airports, railways and farm-to-market roads-- will surely benefit the Filipino people,” Pangandaman said.

According to the DBM, the transportation infrastructure projects which will be implemented include the North-South Commuter Railway, the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, and the PNR South Long Haul.

As regards to the health sector, the government vowed to ramp up vaccination efforts and the uptake of boosters for the vulnerable population.

The government would also strengthen the country’s health system through improvement of health facilities and services.

The DBM said the government’s health sector should receive a 10.4% budget increase at P296.3 billion in 2023, inclusive of the budgets of the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Pangandaman said: “Around P29 billion has been allocated to purchase drugs, medicine and vaccines while more than P19 billion has been allocated for the salary and benefits of healthcare workers.”

She added that P23 billion has been allotted for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), which will fund the purchase of medical equipment as well as the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of barangay health stations, rural health units, polyclinics, LGU hospitals, DOH hospital, and other various health facilities nationwide.

On the other hand, the Department of Agriculture, its attached agencies, and the Department of Agrarian Reform will be allotted P184.1 billion, a 39.2% increase from its 2022 allocation.

The figure includes P29.5 billion for irrigation services, according to the DBM, saying that this was in line with President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.’s order to prioritize the agriculture sector.

Marcos currently sits as the chief of the Agriculture Department.

“In support of the mandate of our President, and in anticipation of a global food crisis and for the long-term goal of food self-sufficiency, we increased the budget of the DA by 43.9%, to cover the funding requirements for its programs and projects,” Pangandaman said.

To address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society, the Department of Social Welfare and Development should be allocated with P197 billion budget in 2023.

The government would continue to fully support the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances, Sustainable Livelihood Program, and the Supplementary Feeding Program.

“Our budget provides for the implementation of the projects and programs of the DSWD. The President said it himself—we must not neglect the poorest of the poor, Pangandaman said.

Meanwhile, P18.4 billion of the total P26.2 billion budget for the Department of Labor and Employment would be utilized to implement its Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, to help beneficiaries recover from the economic displacement caused by the pandemic.

The DBM said this includes the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program, among others.

Further, the Marcos administration has allocated P453.1 billion for climate change expenditures, where the DBM, in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, developed a mechanism, the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET).

The DBM said this is “to track and report climate change expenditures focused on food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, knowledge and capacity development and sustainable energy.”

On the other hand, the budget of the Department of National Defense has been increased by 9% at P240.7 billion while P31 billion was allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

“Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency. I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability,” Pangandaman said.

## **POLITIKO**

### **Education, infra, health are 2023 budget priorities**

By Prince Golez

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) submitted to Congress on Monday the proposed P5.268-trillion national budget for 2023.

The proposed budget for next year, which is 4.9 percent higher than this year's budget, is "a proactive budget felt by the people with education, infrastructure, health, agriculture and social safety nets as priorities," Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said in a news release.

"It is designed to withstand future risks, challenges and shocks. Filipinos have bravely faced disasters and crises in recent years and notwithstanding the uncertainties, we have witnessed the strength of our economy and the resilience of our countrymen as seen by the country's economic expansion," added Pangandaman.

Economic managers of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the goal of this administration is to achieve 6.5 to 8.0 percent real Gross Domestic Product growth annually between 2023 to 2028 in order to attain a single-digit (9.0 percent) poverty rate by 2028.

Consistent with the 8-Point Socio-Economic Agenda of the Marcos administration, the DBM chief underscored the need to support the identified priority sectors, and to sustain the country's growth momentum to make the economy inclusive and robust in 2023.

She noted that the education sector, which is composed of the Department of Education, State Universities and Colleges, Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, will receive an 8.2 percent increase next year at P852.8 billion and will remain as being the highest budgetary priority as mandated by the Constitution.

"As the President said during his first (State of the Nation Address), we should not hold back on investing in education, as education is the only legacy we can leave our children that will never go to waste. This proves this administration's commitment to invest in human capital development and youth empowerment," according to her.

A total of P1.196 trillion has been aside for the government's infrastructure plans through 2023. The Department of Public Works and Highways will receive a P718.4-billion in funding, while the Department of Transportation will get P167.1 billion, an increase by 120.4 percent from its P75.8-Billion budget in 2022, to cover the augmented funding requirements for various foreign-assisted railway projects.

"President Marcos earlier said that this administration shall continue to implement infrastructure projects and refocus to Build, Better, More. These projects— subway,

regional airports, railways and farm-to-market roads– will surely benefit the Filipino people,” said Pangandaman.

The North-South Commuter Railway, the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, and the PNR South Long Haul are among the major transportation infrastructure projects that will be implemented, according to her.

Meanwhile, the health sector will receive a 10.4 percent budget increase, totaling P296.3 billion, in order to raise vaccination efforts and booster vaccine uptake for the vulnerable population, as well as reinforce the health system through improvements to health facilities and services.

“Around P29 billion has been allocated to purchase drugs, medicine and vaccines while more than P19 billion has been allocated for the salary and benefits of healthcare workers,” the secretary said.

A total of P23 billion has been allotted for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program, which will fund the purchase of medical equipment as well as the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of barangay health stations, rural health units, polyclinics, LGU hospitals, Department of Health hospitals, and other various health facilities nationwide.

To improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA), its attached corporations, and the Department of Agrarian Reform will be P184.1 billion, a 39.2 percent increase from its 2022 allocation. The figure includes P29.5 billion for irrigation services.

This is in line with the President’s directive that top priority must be given to the agriculture sector so as to invigorate and transform this sector from being an economic laggard to one of the main drivers for growth and employment, the DBM said.

“In support of the mandate of our President, and in anticipation of a global food crisis and for the long-term goal of food self-sufficiency, we increased the budget of the DA by 43.9 percent, to cover the funding requirements for its programs and projects,” its chief also said.

Moreover, the Department of Social Welfare and Development will be allocated with a P197-billion budget next year to address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of the society.

The government also promised to continue its full support to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances, Sustainable Livelihood Program, and the Supplementary Feeding Program.

Pangandaman said that P18.4 billion of the total P26.2-billion budget for the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will be used to implement its Livelihood and

Emergency Employment Program, to help beneficiaries recover from the economic displacement caused by the pandemic. This includes the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers, DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program, among others.

In addition, the administration has allocated P453.1 billion for climate change expenditures, with the DBM developing a mechanism, the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging, in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, to track and report climate change expenditures centered on food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, knowledge and capacity development, and sustainable energy.

The 2023 budget of the Department of National Defense has also been increased by nine percent at P240.7 billion, while P31 billion was allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

“Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency. I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability,” said Pangandaman.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [DBM submits 2023 Budget to Congress; Education, infrastructure, health, social protection, agriculture, top budget priorities](#)

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman submitted to Congress today, 22 August 2022, the President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which according to her is "a proactive budget felt by the people with education, infrastructure, health, agriculture and social safety nets as priorities."

"Our budget for FY 2023 is proactive and resilient. It is designed to withstand future risks, challenges and shocks. Filipinos have bravely faced disasters and crises in recent years and notwithstanding the uncertainties, we have witnessed the strength of our economy and the resilience of our countrymen as seen by the country's economic expansion," Budget Secretary Pangandaman said.

The administration's economic team earlier pointed out that the goal of the Marcos Administration is to achieve 6.5 to 8.0 percent real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth annually between 2023 to 2028 in order to attain a single-digit (9.0 percent) poverty rate by 2028.

Consistent with the 8-Point Socio-Economic Agenda of the Marcos Administration, Secretary Pangandaman underscored the need to support the identified priority sectors, and to sustain the country's growth momentum to make the economy inclusive and robust in 2023.

"We have identified the priority sectors in our 2023 National Expenditure Program, which stands at Php5.268-Trillion and 4.9 percent higher than this year's budget. These priority sectors include education, infrastructure development, health, agriculture and social safety nets," Sec. Pangandaman stressed.

#### Education

The education sector, which is composed of the Department of Education (DepEd), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will receive an 8.2 percent increase next year at Php852.8-Billion and will remain as being the highest budgetary priority as mandated by the Constitution.

The budget of DepEd shall increase from Php633.3-Billion in 2022 to Php710.6- Billion in 2023.

"As the President said during his first SONA, we should not hold back on investing in education, as education is the only legacy we can leave our children that will never go to waste. This proves this administration's commitment to invest in human capital development and youth empowerment," Sec. Pangandaman said.

## Infrastructure Development

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The Department of Public Works and Highway will receive Php718.4-B budget in 2023, while the Department of Transportation will receive Php167.1B in 2023-- an increase by 120.4 percent from its Php75.8-Billion budget in 2022, which covers the augmented funding requirements for various foreign-assisted railway projects.

"President Marcos earlier said that this administration shall continue to implement infrastructure projects and refocus to Build, Better, More. These projects-- subway, regional airports, railways and farm-to-market roads-- will surely benefit the Filipino people," Sec. Pangandaman said.

Major transportation infrastructure projects that will be implemented include the North-South Commuter Railway, the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, and the PNR South Long Haul.

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In a bid to ramp up vaccination efforts and the uptake of boosters for our vulnerable population while strengthening our health system through improvement of health facilities and services, the government's health sector shall receive a 10.4 percent budget increase at Php296.3-Billion in 2023, inclusive of the budgets of the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

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Php23-Billion, meanwhile, has been allotted for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), which will fund the purchase of medical equipment as well as the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of barangay health stations, rural health units, polyclinics, LGU hospitals, DOH hospital, and other various health facilities nationwide.

## Agriculture

To improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA), its attached corporations, and the Department of Agrarian Reform will be Php184.1-B, a 39.2 percent increase from its 2022 allocation. The figure includes Php29.5-Billion for irrigation services.

This is in line with the President's directive that top priority must be given to the agriculture sector so as to invigorate and transform this sector from being an economic laggard to one of the main drivers for growth and employment.

“In support of the mandate of our President, and in anticipation of a global food crisis and for the long-term goal of food self-sufficiency, we increased the budget of the DA by 43.9 percent, to cover the funding requirements for its programs and projects,” Sec Pangandaman said.

### Social Safety Nets

To address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society, the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be allocated with Php197- B budget in 2023. The government shall likewise continue to fully support the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances, Sustainable Livelihood Program, and the Supplementary Feeding Program.

“Our budget provides for the implementation of the projects and programs of the DSWD. The President said it himself—we must not neglect the poorest of the poor,” Sec. Pangandaman said.

Meanwhile, Php18.4-B of the total Php26.2-B budget for the Department of Labor and Employment will be used to implement its Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, to help beneficiaries recover from the economic displacement caused by the pandemic. This includes the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program, among others.

### Green Governance

Green governance is central to sustainable development. The Marcos Administration has allocated Php453.1-B for climate change expenditures, where the DBM, in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, developed a mechanism, the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET), to track and report climate change expenditures focused on food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, knowledge and capacity development and sustainable energy.

In anticipation of destructive typhoons and other natural calamities, the budget of the Department of National Defense has been increased by 9 percent in 2023 at Php240.7-B. Meanwhile, Php31-B was allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

“Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency. I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability,” DBM Secretary Pangandaman ended.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [DBM submits proposed P5.268-T 2023 budget to Congress](#)

By: Filane Mike Cervantes

Manila – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Monday submitted to Congress the proposed PHP5.268-trillion national budget for 2023.

Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Majority Leader Manuel Jose Dalipe, Minority Leader Marcelino Libanan, House Committee on Appropriations chairperson and Ako Bicol Party-list Representative Zaldy Co received the National Expenditure Program (NEP), which is the first full one-year outlay of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., from Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman at the social hall of the Speaker’s Office.

Romualdez welcomed the submission of the proposed 2023 budget, which he said would help accelerate the country's economic recovery.

He said the House is targeting to finish committee and plenary deliberations on the budget proposal before October 1, when Congress is scheduled to go on its first recess that will last up to Nov. 6.

"The House of the People will effectively respond to the needs of the people especially in addressing the continued impact of the health crisis, and to create more jobs, and to ensure food security," Romualdez said in his speech.

"Every centavo of the national budget will be spent wisely to implement the programs that would save lives, protect communities, and make our economy strong and more agile," he added.

He also noted that the proposed budget would be used to finance the government's infrastructure projects through the Build Back More program.

The chamber, he said, will perform its constitutional mandate to scrutinize next year's national budget and ensure its passage in a transparent and timely manner.

"As representatives of the people, we will go through this budget thoroughly judiciously but with dispatch. And I have committed to the Executive its swift passage for its signing into law before the end of the year," he added.

Pangandaman, for her part, said the DBM will coordinate closely with the House appropriations committee during the hearings and deliberations to ensure a transparent process of the passage of the General Appropriations Bill.

She said the DBM is expecting the spending bill to be forwarded to Malacañang for signing by first or second week of December.

The proposed budget for next year is more than PHP244 billion, or almost 5 percent more, than this year's PHP5.024-trillion outlay. It is the highest ever spending proposal of the government.

The House appropriations committee will begin hearings on the NEP on Aug. 26 with a briefing by the Marcos administration's economic managers on the macro-economic parameters used in putting the spending proposal together.

Quimbo, senior vice chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations, said the committee aims to finish its hearings by Sept. 16, to give the House two weeks for plenary deliberations and third and final reading approval before the Oct. 1 recess.

She said the committee chaired by Co is committed to the swift approval of the proposed "economic recovery budget."

"Rest assured that Congress shall work tirelessly to approve a budget that is responsive to the needs of the people and is able to bring inclusive and sustainable growth," Quimbo said.

Proactive and resilient

Pangandaman said the "proactive and resilient" 2023 national budget will be felt by the people with education, infrastructure, health, agriculture and social safety nets as priorities.

"Our budget for FY 2023 is proactive and resilient. It is designed to withstand future risks, challenges and shocks. Filipinos have bravely faced disasters and crises in recent years and notwithstanding the uncertainties, we have witnessed the strength of our economy and the resilience of our countrymen as seen by the country's economic expansion," she said.

The administration's economic team earlier pointed out that the goal of the Marcos administration is to achieve 6.5 to 8.0 percent real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth annually between 2023 to 2028 in order to attain a single-digit (9.0 percent) poverty rate by 2028.

Consistent with the 8-Point Socio-Economic Agenda of the Marcos administration, Pangandaman underscored the need to support the identified priority sectors, and to sustain the country's growth momentum to make the economy inclusive and robust in 2023.

"We have identified the priority sectors in our 2023 National Expenditure Program, which stands at PHP5.268-Trillion and 4.9 percent higher than this year's budget. These priority sectors include education, infrastructure development, health, agriculture and social safety nets," she said.

## Education

The education sector, which is composed of the Department of Education (DepEd), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will receive an 8.2 percent increase next year at PHP852.8 billion and will remain as being the highest budgetary priority as mandated by the Constitution.

The budget of DepEd shall increase from PHP633.3 billion in 2022 to PHP710.6 billion in 2023.

“As the President said during his first SONA, we should not hold back on investing in education, as education is the only legacy we can leave our children that will never go to waste. This proves this administration’s commitment to invest in human capital development and youth empowerment,” Pangandaman said.

## Infrastructure Development

A total of PHP1.196 trillion has been allocated for the government’s 2023 infrastructure programs.

The Department of Public Works and Highways will receive a PHP718.4 billion budget in 2023, while the Department of Transportation will receive PHP167.1 billion in 2023-- an increase by 120.4 percent from its PHP75.8 billion budget in 2022, which covers the augmented funding requirements for various foreign-assisted railway projects.

“President Marcos earlier said that this administration shall continue to implement infrastructure projects and refocus to Build, Better, More. These projects-- subway, regional airports, railways and farm-to-market roads-- will surely benefit the Filipino people,” Pangandaman said.

Major transportation infrastructure projects that will be implemented include the North-South Commuter Railway, the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, and the Philippine National Railway (PNR) South Long Haul.

## Health

In a bid to ramp up vaccination efforts and the uptake of boosters for our vulnerable population while strengthening the country’s health system through improvement of health facilities and services, the government’s health sector shall receive a 10.4 percent budget increase at PHP296.3-Billion in 2023, inclusive of the budgets of the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

“Around PHP29 billion has been allocated to purchase drugs, medicine and vaccines while more than PHP19 billion has been allocated for the salary and benefits of healthcare workers,” Pangandaman said.

A total of PHP23 billion, meanwhile, has been allotted for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), which will fund the purchase of medical equipment as well as the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of barangay health stations, rural health units, polyclinics, local government unit (LGU) hospitals, Department of Health (DOH) hospital, and other various health facilities nationwide.

## Agriculture

To improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA), its attached corporations, and the Department of Agrarian Reform will be PHP184.1 billion, a 39.2 percent increase from its 2022 allocation. The figure includes PHP29.5 billion for irrigation services.

This is in line with the President's directive that top priority must be given to the agriculture sector so as to invigorate and transform this sector from being an economic laggard to one of the main drivers for growth and employment.

"In support of the mandate of our President, and in anticipation of a global food crisis and for the long-term goal of food self-sufficiency, we increased the budget of the DA by 43.9 percent, to cover the funding requirements for its programs and projects," Pangandaman said.

## Social Safety Nets

To address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall be allocated with PHP197 billion budget in 2023. The government shall likewise continue to fully support the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances, Sustainable Livelihood Program, and the Supplementary Feeding Program.

"Our budget provides for the implementation of the projects and programs of the DSWD. The President said it himself—we must not neglect the poorest of the poor," Pangandaman said.

Meanwhile, PHP18.4 billion of the total PHP26.2 billion budget for the Department of Labor and Employment will be used to implement its Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, to help beneficiaries recover from the economic displacement caused by the pandemic. This includes the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program, among others.

## Green Governance

Green governance is central to sustainable development. The Marcos Administration has allocated PHP453.1 billion for climate change expenditures, where the DBM, in

collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, developed a mechanism, the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET), to track and report climate change expenditures focused on food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, knowledge and capacity development and sustainable energy.

In anticipation of destructive typhoons and other natural calamities, the budget of the Department of National Defense has been increased by 9 percent in 2023 at PHP240.7 billion. Meanwhile, PHP31 billion was allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund.

“Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency. I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability,” Pangandaman said.

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