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[Texas drought reveals 113 million-year-old dinosaur footprints](#)

By Deutsche Welle

A drought in the US state of Texas has unveiled the path of an ancient dinosaur. Footprints from the Acrocanthosaurus, a dinosaur that lived 113 million years ago, were revealed in a dried riverbed last week.

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By: Rori Visco

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CNN

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Pakistan is racing to prevent further loss of life as it reels from one of its worst climate disasters with floodwater threatening to cover up to a third of the country of 220 million people by the end of the monsoon season.

GMA NEWS

[Water-related disasters could cost global economy \\$5.6 trillion by 2050 —report](#)

By: Gloria Dickie

London — Worsening droughts, storms and torrential rain in some of the world's largest economies could cause \$5.6 trillion in losses to the global economy by 2050, according to a report released on Monday.

MANILA BULLETIN

[BSP sets Q4 release of incentives rules on 'green' financing](#)

By: Lee Chipongian

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will soon release the guidelines outlining the package of incentives to be granted to banks that will shift to green financing and mobilize capital to expand sustainable finance in the country.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Gov't working 'double time' to boost salt industry](#)

By: Jerome Aning and Jordeene B. Lagare

Manila, Philippines – The government is working “double time” to ramp up support for the local salt industry following reports of rising prices due to thinning supply in various parts of the country, Press Secretary Trixie Cruz Angeles said on Monday.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Climate and pandemic alarmists engage in manipulation of fear](#)

By: Yen Makabenta

First word

LEST the Congress and the Marcos administration blindly adopt costly and goofy programs to control climate change and prevent epidemics, I want to call attention to a

new concern voiced by international media about how these issues are being fanned today through the overt manipulation of public fear and the hype of the alleged dangers, in order to promote radical reform and secure financing.

[Most Filipinos remain worried about climate change](#)

By: Ludwig Federigan

A new report titled 'International Public Opinion on Climate Change, 2022' revealed that 85 percent of Filipinos were 'somewhat worried' to 'very worried' about climate change. Eighty-eight percent, meanwhile, believed that climate change was currently happening and 87 percent felt that it represented a 'somewhat a serious threat' to a 'very serious threat' in the next 20 years.

[Palace: Marcos focused on climate change issues](#)

By: Kristina Maralit

Malacanang said climate change and its effects are major issues President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. will address throughout his administration.

[Plenty of roadblocks for automakers seeking EV success](#)

By: Agence France Presse

New York City: The world's top automobile makers, motivated either by governmental regulations or pure profit, have made a sharp turn away from fossil fuel vehicles. But there are plenty of obstacles on the road to a future full of environment-friendly cars.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Beyond business, are alt-proteins better for the planet and people?](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico and Kaycee Valmonte

Manila, Philippines — For yoga teacher Nancy Siy, having alternative proteins in the Philippines means vegans like her have a variety of options and makes it easier for people who want to embrace a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

[Economic managers brief House on P5.268 trillion national budget](#)

By: Delon Porcalla

Manila, Philippines — President Marcos' economic managers briefed leaders of the House of Representatives yesterday on the proposed P5.268-trillion budget for 2023, presenting it as a springboard for economic recovery in post-pandemic times.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[P453-B allotted for climate-related expenditure for 2023](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila— The proposed National Expenditure Program (NEP) for 2023 will include PHP453 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs and projects.

RMN NEWS

[Inilalaang pondo sa Climate Related Expenditure, tumaas ng mahigit 21% simula 2015 hanggang 2023 ayon sa DBM](#)

Record high para sa Department of Budget ang Management (DBM) ang ₱453.11-billion na pondo para sa climate change adaptation and mitigation na inilaan para sa susunod na taon.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Recto questions P588B unprogrammed funds](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The House of Representatives Deputy Speaker and Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto questioned the P588 billion unprogrammed funds submitted by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), saying the proposed 2023 national budget is actually P5.856 trillion and not P5.268 trillion.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Government seeks P453 billion budget to address climate change](#)

By: Louise Maureen Simeon

Manila, Philippines — The government plans to allocate a record P453 billion out of its proposed P5.27 trillion budget proposal for next year for projects that will address the worsening impacts of climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS-CBN NEWS

[Texas drought reveals 113 million-year-old dinosaur footprints](#)

By Deutsche Welle

A drought in the US state of Texas has unveiled the path of an ancient dinosaur. Footprints from the Acrocanthosaurus, a dinosaur that lived 113 million years ago, were revealed in a dried riverbed last week.

At that time, the region was located on the edge of a sea, meaning the dinosaur could have been going to wash its feet.

Like the Tyrannosaurus Rex, the Acrocanthosaurus was an apex predator, weighing approximately four metric tons. However, the Acrocanthosaurus lived in the early Cretaceous period, 50 million years before its famous relative.

Video footage shows the huge footprints imprinted into the bottom of the Paluxy River with three toes splaying out from the heel. The toes have sharp claws on the ends, specialized for gaining running traction and pinning prey animals to the ground.

Dinosaur footprints

Dinosaur footprints have been recorded for over 100 years in the area where the footprints were found in Dinosaur Valley State Park.

Now 480 km (300 miles) from the Gulf of Mexico, the state park is a hotspot for tracking dinosaurs because of its coastal history. Calcium carbonate deposits from the shells of crustaceans that lived in the sea lands millions of years ago formed mud with the perfect consistency to preserve the tracks.

Other dinosaur species with 100-million-year-old calcium carbonate footprints in the region include the Sauroposeidon proteles, giant herbivores that traveled in herds and left elephant-like tracks.

Droughts revealing more ancient relics

The tracks have been revealed because of extreme drought conditions in Texas. Far from being a dry spell, the conditions have been ongoing for 20 years, earning the classification "megadrought".

A recent study found the region is experiencing its driest period in over 1,200 years.

The climate crisis has been unearthing many ancient findings in recent years. Extreme drought in Iraq last year revealed the Bronze Age city of Zachiku, giving archaeologists a brief window to examine the site before it was flooded again.

Low water levels have also revealed gold rush relics in California, a sunken village in Germany and a ghost village in Spain.

While the findings do connect us with lost relics of the past, experts warn that the increasing frequency and intensity of droughts is having a catastrophic effect on ecosystems around the world.

With over a million species currently at risk of extinction due to human-related activity and climate change, the worry is that many species alive today will only be remembered by their footprints.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[An existential threat to life \(Climate change and health: what's the connection?\)](#)

By: Rori Visco

There is definitely a continuing destabilization in the world's climate system in the past several years as the world has witnessed extreme weather events that are unpredictable and have become more intense and frequent.

But it's no longer just the weather anymore. Forest fires, drought, melting of the ice caps, changes in the behavior of animals and insects and a range of disastrous situations are becoming more and more frequent.

Dr. Carlos Gundran: "It's probably best to prepare how the country will effectively and efficiently respond to these [extreme climate] events. I believe this is where we should put more focus on."

Forty years ago, the World Health Organization (WHO) published "Our Planet, Our Earth," a report by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The report called on nations to "address poverty, food and agriculture, water, energy, industry, human settlements, urbanization and basic services, transboundary and international issues—if the population of the world was to be healthier."

Today, WHO describes climate change as "the single biggest health threat facing humanity—and health professionals worldwide are already responding to the health harms caused by this unfolding crisis."

A brief look at climate change

THE United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change describes climate change as "a change of climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods."

Dr. Carlos Gundran, who chairs both the Disaster Risk Management Subcommittee and the Department of Health Policy and Administration at UP Manila's College of Public Health, said climate change happens when burning fuel increases the level of carbon dioxide (CO₂). This, in turn, creates the "greenhouse effect," where heat from the sunlight is trapped instead of it being reflected outside the planet. "The extra trapped heat disrupts many of the interconnected systems in our environment, and this is what we feel, as we know, as climate change," Dr. Gundran said in his talk at the recent "Stop Covid Deaths" webinar "Climate Change and Health: Bakit Natin Kailangan Alamin," organized by the University of the Philippines and UP Manila NIH National Telehealth Center in cooperation with UP Philippine General Hospital.

Effects of climate change

SOME of the known effects of climate change, according to Dr. Gundran, include extreme temperatures, where increased levels of temperature in the atmosphere and oceans related to climate change can cause changes in wind direction, moisture content in the air, and heat circulation patterns in the air, including underwater in the oceans.

“These changes cause shifts in extreme weather events, including extreme heat events such as droughts. There are also deep-freeze situations so it’s not just very hot but also very cold temperature,” he said.

There are also extreme events such as natural disasters that have an even bigger impact and damage caused on the environment, like more frequent and intense rains (remember Ondoy, which dumped an unusual amount of rain for a short period of time), more intense hurricane rainfall, plus rising of sea level where extreme weather events increase chances of storm surges.

“Extreme events also alter global rainfall patterns due to changes in wind directions. Example is the Mindanao area, which is also experiencing typhoons, unlike before,” Gundran pointed out.

Climate change also affects air quality, where air is becoming less healthy to breathe due to harmful emissions in the air, where higher temperatures lead to increase in pathogens and other harmful air pollutants. Also, the high- and low-temperature extremes and rain patterns can also affect the distribution, seasonality and prevalence of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, or leptospirosis and can affect disease outbreaks where pathogens can be carried to humans.

More water-borne diseases are also expected due to climate change that can affect marine and freshwater food sources and increase people’s exposure to water-borne contaminants. Climate change is also very likely to affect global, regional and local food security—temperatures and increased rains can increase pathogen load, rising CO₂ can affect foods’ nutritional content, and warmer temperatures equate to more food spoilage, and can even disrupt distribution.

Finally, climate change can affect mental health, where extreme weather events, climate-induced illnesses, injury and deaths, damage to home and livelihood can cause mental stress. “Exposure to these can affect mental stability.”

Climate change’s effects on health

GUNDRAN cited a variety of effects, such as increased hospital and/or emergency room visits due to heat-related illnesses, especially among the elderly and the young, people working outdoors, and the economically disadvantaged during extreme temperatures.

Extreme natural disasters can cause death, injury or illness such as during earthquakes, worsen underlying medical conditions (when hospitals are inaccessible), affect mental health, and access to healthcare and emergency services is disrupted. “Most likely,

even the responders like ambulances or emergency medical teams themselves were affected,” he said.

The effects of climate change on air quality can also be dangerous for those who suffer from respiratory disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), those with lung cancer or cardiovascular diseases, those with acute symptoms and high allergic sensitivity, even loss in school or work days. Climate change can increase water-borne diseases like increase in the level of toxins that create harmful algae, cholera, diarrhea and intestinal diseases, wound, eye and ear infections, etc.

“As regards mental health, climate change can cause serious mental health consequences such as anxiety, depression [from] the deaths that occur during disasters, chronic psychological dysfunction, while people with mental illness are at a higher risk for poor physical and mental health due to extreme heat,” Dr. Gundran pointed out.

So, what should the Philippines be preparing for? According to Gundran, since the country experiences severe typhoons and more intense rain levels and flooding, this is what the country should prepare for. “It’s probably best to prepare how the country will effectively and efficiently respond to these events. I believe this is where we should put more focus on.”

CNN

[Pakistan pleads for international help as parts of country 'resemble a small ocean'](#)

By: Sophia Saifi and Kathleen Magramo

Pakistan is racing to prevent further loss of life as it reels from one of its worst climate disasters with floodwater threatening to cover up to a third of the country of 220 million people by the end of the monsoon season.

Climate change minister Sherry Rehman said Sunday the unprecedented rain had created a "climate catastrophe" with floodwaters submerging homes, destroying farmland and displacing millions of people.

"We've had to deploy the navy for the first time to operate in Indo-Pakistan, because much of it resembles a small ocean," she told German broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

On Monday, the death toll reached 1,061 since mid-June, according to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), as the unrelenting rain raised fears of more fatalities to come.

"By the time this is over, we could well have one quarter or one third of Pakistan under water," Rehman told Turkish news outlet TRT World on Thursday.

On Monday, new satellite images from Maxar Technologies showed the scale of the disaster — homes and fields completely submerged along the Indus River, as well as the cities of Rajanpur and Rojhan in Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province.

Video released by the Pakistan Army showed troops staging treacherous rescues by helicopter of people stranded in floodwaters — including one boy trapped on rocks in the middle of a raging river in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Rapid flash floods have destroyed more than 3,000 kilometers (1,864 miles) of road, 130 bridges and 495,000 homes have been damaged, according to NDMA's latest situation report, making access to flooded areas even more difficult.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Butto-Zardari said Sunday this year's monsoon season had been "absolutely devastating."

"I haven't seen any destruction or devastation of this scale," said Butto-Zardari. "I find it very difficult to put into words the phraseologies that we are used to, whether it's monsoon rains or flooding, doesn't quite seem to encapsulate the ongoing devastation and disaster that we are still witnessing."

A national calamity

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif joined in relief efforts over the weekend, dropping off supplies from a helicopter in areas difficult to reach by boat or land, according to videos from his office.

"Visiting flood affected areas and meeting people. The magnitude of the calamity is bigger than estimated," Sharif said in a tweet on Saturday. "Times demand that we come together as one nation in support of our people facing this calamity. Let us rise above our differences and stand by our people who need us today."

After meeting with ambassadors and diplomats in Islamabad on Friday, he called for help from the international community.

On Monday, Peter Ophoff, the IFRC head delegate in Pakistan said the aid network had appealed for more than \$25 million to provide urgent relief for an estimated 324,000 people in the country.

"Looking at the incredible damage the floods have caused, it slowly becoming clear to us that relief efforts are going to take a very long time. It is going to be a long-waterlogged road ahead when the people of Pakistan began their journey back to what is remaining of their homes," Ophoff said. More than 3.1 million people had been displaced by the "sea-like" flood waters that have damaged more than half a million homes in multiple districts across the country, according to a statement Saturday from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Abrar ul Haq, chairman of the aid network in Pakistan, said Friday that water wasn't the only challenge for humanitarian workers in the region.

"These torrential floods have severely restricted transportation and mobility. The threat of Covid-19 and damage to vehicles, infrastructure and connectivity are further making our emergency relief works almost impossible. Most of those affected are also immobile or marooned making us hard to reach them," he said.

'Monster monsoon of the decade'

Pakistan is already battling through its eighth cycle of monsoon rains, Rehman said Thursday, an anomaly in a country that typically sees three or four such rainy periods per year.

"Pakistan is living through one of the most serious climate catastrophes of the world," Rehman said in a video statement.

"We are at this point ground zero of the front line of extreme weather events, which we have seen from early this year from an unrelenting cascade of heat waves, forest fires, flash floods, multiple glacier lake outburst events and now the monster monsoon of the decade."

In his comments Sunday, Butto-Zardari said Pakistan was bearing the brunt of climate change as other countries with bigger carbon footprints do little to reduce their emissions.

"Pakistan contributes negligible amounts to the overall carbon footprint, but we are devastated by climate disasters such as these time and time again, and we have to adapt within our limited resources," he said.

GMA NEWS

[Water-related disasters could cost global economy \\$5.6 trillion by 2050 —report](#)

By: Gloria Dickie

London — Worsening droughts, storms and torrential rain in some of the world's largest economies could cause \$5.6 trillion in losses to the global economy by 2050, according to a report released on Monday.

This year heavy rains have triggered floods that inundated cities in China and South Korea and disrupted water and electricity supply in India, while drought has put farmers' harvests at risk across Europe.

Such disasters are costing economies hundreds of billions of dollars. Last year's extreme droughts, floods and storms led to global losses of more than \$224 billion, according to the Emergency Events Database maintained by the Brussels-based Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters.

But as climate change fuels more intense rainfall, flooding and drought in coming decades, these costs are set to soar, warns the report by engineering and environmental consultancy firm GHD.

Water—when there's too much or too little—can "be the most destructive force that a community can experience," said Don Holland, who leads GHD's Canadian water market program. GHD assessed the water risks in seven countries representing varied economic and climatic conditions: the United States, China, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates and Australia. Using global insurance data and scientific studies on how extreme events can affect different sectors, the team estimated the amount of losses countries face in terms of immediate costs as well as to the overall economy.

The study said that while potential loss varied by country, the Philippines' water risk is on the higher end, projected to experience an average economic decline of between 0.5% and 0.7% in annual GDP in the years up to 2050—or US\$124 billion in the years from 2022 to 2050.

In the United States, the world's biggest economy, losses could total \$3.7 trillion by 2050, with US gross domestic product shrinking by about 0.5% each year up until then. China, the world's No. 2 economy, faces cumulative losses of around \$1.1 trillion by mid-century.

Of the five business sectors most vital to the global economy, manufacturing and distribution would be hit hardest by disasters costing \$4.2 trillion as water scarcity disrupts production while storms and floods destroy infrastructure and inventory.

The agricultural sector, vulnerable to both drought and extreme rainfall, could see \$332 billion in losses by 2050. Other sectors facing major challenges are retail, banking and energy.

At this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a global group of experts launched a new commission to research the economics of water that aims to advise policymakers on water management.

We must "transform how we govern water and the climate together," said commission co-chair Tharman Shanmugaratnam. "The costs of doing so are not trivial, but they are dwarfed by the costs of letting extreme weather wreak havoc."

MANILA BULLETIN

[BSP sets Q4 release of incentives rules on 'green' financing](#)

By: Lee Chipongian

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will soon release the guidelines outlining the package of incentives to be granted to banks that will shift to green financing and mobilize capital to expand sustainable finance in the country.

“We’re looking at the fourth quarter for the (new circular) release,” BSP Deputy Governor Chuchi G. Fonacier said in a text message to Manila Bulletin. Fonacier is referring to the third phase of BSP sustainable finance regulations. The first circular under the third phase was approved last Aug. 23 as Circular No. 1149 or the “Guidelines on the Integration of Sustainability Principles in Investment Activities of Banks”.

“The recently released circular did not yet include the incentives. It will be covered in a separate circular,” she said.

Some of the incentives or perks to encourage banks to shift to sustainable financing includes preferential rediscount rates and provision of higher loan values.

The central bank is hoping these perks will increase the share of green financing in banks’ loan portfolios. Since 2017, local banks have issued some \$1.3 billion worth of sustainable bonds and P152.9 billion in peso-denominated bonds.

The third phase of sustainable finance regulation involved the wider adoption of sustainability principles in the domestic financial system.

The first phase was released last April 2020 which is the BSP’s Sustainable Finance Framework. The second phase or the Environmental and Social Risk Management Framework was issued October last year.

The first and second phases of regulations set out the expectations on the integration of sustainability principles in banks’ core strategies, governance, and risk management frameworks, especially in the areas of credit and operational risks. These rules also embed the principle of proportionality, which takes into consideration a bank’s size, risk profile, and complexity of operations.

The BSP is collaborating with the World Bank for its sustainable finance policy map to strengthen surveillance and risk measurement models. The World Bank helps the BSP in conducting stress testing exercises to assess the potential impact of climate transition risk to local banks.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Aug. 19 released an initial study on the potential impact of climate change and stress testing of physical risks to determine macro scenarios especially for a country such as the Philippines that face typhoon risks.

The IMF stress testing exercise, first mentioned in June and in another report this month, is experimental in examining the physical risks of global climate change on the country's macro scenarios.

The IMF said the impact of “extremely rare typhoons” on the economy “could already be systemic and worsen substantially with climate change.” But, the IMF assured that “bank capital declines only modestly unless the event is compounded with other disasters, partly thanks to the strength of Philippines’ banks and economy before the COVID crisis. However, more work is needed before drawing strong conclusions about the relevance of climate risk, as the model focused only on typhoons’ physical capital destructions and their macroeconomic-level transmissions to banks.”

Meantime, the BSP said it will enhance its data collection tools to facilitate the assessment of climate and other environment-related financial impact. It will also supplement existing regulations on stress testing with guidelines that integrate climate stress testing design.

The BSP, with the Department of Finance, co-chairs the Green Force which is responsible for the sustainable finance roadmap.

The Philippines committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 75 percent by 2030 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

BSP Governor Felipe M. Medalla said that Circular No. 1149 recognizes the potential contribution of banks’ investment activities in the pursuit of a sustainable and resilient growth for the country.

These guidelines covered what BSP expects banks to do in the “prudent” conduct of investment activities and the minimum practices for the management and control of the potential risks. It includes banks’ investments in the trading and banking books. But the rules do not apply to the following: investments that grant control over an enterprise and are accounted for using the equity method; transactions in derivatives involving stand-alone contracts; and receivables arising from repurchase agreements.

Under the BSP’s risk management framework, banks’ policies and procedures, including limits, should adopt a combination of integration, screening and thematic approach.

The recently issued circular is specific on how a bank may adopt other approaches and appropriate global best practices depending on its investment policy and sustainability objectives and goals, the nature of its investments, volume of transactions, and existing risk management system and resources. However, all banks should make sure that the related sustainability risk factors, including anti-money laundering/counter-terrorism financing risk that arise from environmental and social or E&S issues, are sufficiently captured, said the BSP.

The circular also noted the misleading practice called “greenwashing” which is a “deceptive marketing” to persuade the public that an organization’s products, aims, and policies are environmentally friendly. Greenwashing by BSP definition also covers the dissemination of misleading information, whether intentional or not, regarding a company’s environmental strategies, goals, motivations, and actions that can induce false positive perception of a company’s E&S performance.

The BSP said banks should adopt measures to ensure that investments are channeled to companies that comply with sustainability-related standards, laws and regulations as well as companies that do not engage in greenwashing.

MANILA METRO

[Extreme weather in China highlights climate change impacts and need for early warnings: WMO](#)

By ANI

Beijing [China], August 27 (ANI): Extreme weather - record-breaking heatwaves, severe drought, and deadly rainfall - have battered China since June.

The summer of extremes - in China as in Europe - has underlined the importance of the WMO community's commitment to Early Warning and Early Action and reinforced the need for the ongoing campaign to provide Early Warnings for All in the next five years.

The high socio-economic and environmental cost of the extreme weather has also highlighted the vulnerability of the world's most populous nation to climate change impacts and the need for urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"The weather and climate situation in China is severe and complex. Extreme temperature and drought in the South and high precipitation in the North. The superimposed situation of drought and flood has brought challenges to disaster prevention, mitigation and relief work," said WMO Assistant Secretary-General Dr Wenjian Zhang. "We are clearly witnessing the impacts of climate change." Heatwave
In terms of the intensity, impacts, scale, and duration, the regional heatwave in southern China which started 13 June was the strongest since complete meteorological observation records started in 1961, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

By 15 August, the heatwave broke the 2013 record of 62 days. National Meteorological Center (NMC) of China has issued 30 Red high temperature red warnings. Official climate forecasters predict the current heatwave will only begin to subside on August 26.

More than 200 national observatories broke through the historical extreme value of the highest temperature.

Some 1 680 meteorological observatories have had of above 35 - covering an area of 4.5 million square kilometers in China or almost half of the country's total land area. The incidence of temperatures of above 40 has been the largest on record.

A total of 914 national meteorological observatories (accounting for 37.7 percent of the total number of national meteorological observatories in China) have reached the standard for extreme heat wave events, and 262 of them in Hebei, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong, Qinghai and other places equaled or exceeded the historical maximum temperature records.

Drought
Since 1 July, most of the provinces and cities along the Yangtze River have experienced low precipitation and long-lasting high temperatures. In some places,

precipitation is more than 80% lower than normal, reaching moderate to severe meteorological drought and a high risk of forest fires.

Poyang Lake, the largest fresh water lake of China, has entered the dry season ahead of schedule due to hot weather, as shown in this photo from Jiangxi Provincial Meteorological Service.

According to data released by China's Ministry of Emergency Management, the drought disaster alone in July affected 5.527 million people and caused a direct economic loss of 2.73 billion Chinese yuan.

The Ministry of Water Resources of China has launched an emergency response to drought prevention, implemented the "Special Action for Joint Operation of Reservoir Groups in the Yangtze River Basin to Fight Drought and Ensure Water Supply" and increase the outflow of reservoirs to replenish water downstream.

The National Meteorological Centre and Beijing Climate Centre released an orange warning of meteorological drought on 22 August and CMA activated level four emergency responses on 23 August.

Under this emergency state, relevant meteorological departments and provincial meteorological departments like Jiangsu, Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guizhou, Chongqing, and Sichuan have to implement timely and precise forecast and refined services for the government, related sector and the public.

Forest Fires On 22 August, three government departments (the Ministry of Emergency Management, the State Forestry and Grassland Administration, and the China Meteorological Administration) jointly issued the first red color warning of high forest fire danger this year.

It is expected that from August 23 to 25, the forest fire danger level in parts of central and southern Chongqing and eastern Sichuan will reach an extremely dangerous level. Strict precautions should be taken, and fire source management should be strengthened to ensure the safety of forest areas.

Experts suggest that local governments should strengthen the management and control of fire sources in forest areas, strictly prohibit the use of fire in forest areas, issue early warning information in a timely manner, strengthen fire prevention popularization, and raise public awareness of fire prevention.

Rainfall and Floods In contrast with southern China, large parts of the North have witnessed unusually heavy rainfall. In July, there were six regional heavy rain events in China, four of which occurred in the North (1.4 more than the same period of the previous year). The daily precipitation of 30 national weather stations exceeded the extreme value in July.

In July, flood disasters occurred in North China (mostly in Heilongjiang and Liaoning Provinces) and West China (mostly in Sichuan and Gansu Provinces). On 18 August, a

mountain torrent in Datong Hui and Tu Autonomous County, Xining City, Qinghai Province, caused many casualties.

Early warning, early action On 19 August the China Meteorological Administration convened a special meeting to discuss the provision of meteorological services for flood control, disaster relief and drought management.

Zhuang Guotai, the administrator of the China Meteorological Administration, emphasized the importance of the principle of people first and life first in flood control and drought relief meteorological services.

The meeting outlined three key priorities like enhancing meteorological monitoring, forecasting and early warning in a timely manner in order to prevent sudden and local meteorological disasters, and to provide drought-relief meteorological services to local governments.

It called for strengthening the early action by mobilizing responsible government departments and emergency response officers and providing impact-based decision-making support for disaster prevention and mitigation.

Extreme weather events have strengthened public awareness of climate change and support for government measures and strategies to address climate change.

In June 2022, the Chinese government released a new policy document to improve its response to climate change, which it said was not only creating long-term challenges but also made the country more vulnerable to "sudden and extreme" events.

"Climate change has already brought serious adverse impacts to China's natural ecological system, and has continued to spread into economy and society," the government said in its national climate change adaptation strategy.

The new policy document updates China's National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation, published in November 2013.

China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment approved the National Strategy on Climate Adaptation 2035 in February 2022. A separate implementation plan is expected to complement the strategy. All sectors and localities are encouraged to formulate their own adaptation plans.

China's economy and society are at increasing risk from climate change and the country needs to improve adaptation mechanisms and monitoring capabilities at every level of government, according to a new policy document.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Gov't working 'double time' to boost salt industry

By: Jerome Aning and Jordeene B. Lagare

Manila, Philippines – The government is working “double time” to ramp up support for the local salt industry following reports of rising prices due to thinning supply in various parts of the country, Press Secretary Trixie Cruz Angeles said on Monday.

In a statement, Angeles said different national government agencies would work closely to enhance the development of the local salt industry, describing as “an unfortunate incident” the fact that the country imports 93 percent of its salt requirements despite having 36,000 kilometers of shoreline.

Angeles said the Department of Agriculture (DA), currently headed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as concurrent secretary, would be implementing initiatives and measures to boost production and supply the requirements of both commercial and industry users.

Agriculture Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban said the government would have to earmark about P500 million to revitalize the salt industry.

The DA, through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), would lead various research and development activities and provide technical assistance to marginal and artisanal salt makers, according to Angeles.

She recalled that last year, the BFAR had set in motion a P100-million Development of the Salt Industry Project (DSIP) under the Special Budget Request of the Congressional-Introduced Initiative Project.

Covering Regions 1 (Ilocos), 6 (Western Visayas), and 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula), the DSIP aims to increase salt production and produce excellent quality of salt through the enhancement and improvement of the different methods and practices in production as well as compliance with food safety standards.

The project is jointly undertaken by the BFAR central and regional offices and the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute.

Angeles said that DA would also look into the expansion of production areas and the development of technologies, including evaporation systems and the use of modern machinery, to accelerate the production of salt.

Failure to adapt

Facilities for processing, packaging and value-adding would also be provided to marginal salt makers under a cosharing agreement, she added.

The DA would also collaborate with national agencies, including the departments of environment and natural resources, and of trade and industry to further enhance the local salt industry, Angeles said.

Angeles said a number of factors contributed to the decline in the production of salt, including low quality control and stunted product improvement for many years.

She said limited development, including the lack of innovation and interventions, as well as low enterprise and investment opportunities, also led to the decrease in salt output.

She added that the sector failed to adapt to the challenges caused by global climate change, food safety standards and quality requirements, and tariff reduction, and meet the mandatory requirements of Republic Act No. 8172, or the Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (Asin law).

The law requires the addition of iodine to all salt intended for animal and human consumption as part of government efforts to eliminate micronutrient malnutrition in the country.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other government agencies are required under the Asin law to identify areas suitable for use as salt farms and to protect such locations from environmental risks to ensure the sustainability of iodized salt production.

The law also mandates the Department of Trade and Industry to assist and support local salt producers and manufacturers in upgrading their production technologies to include iodization by helping them obtain low-interest loans and financial assistance for the procurement of the needed machines, packaging equipment and technology, and fortificant, and by ensuring a systematic distribution of iodized salt in the market.

Gradual decline

In 1990, salt production in the Philippines was a thriving industry in Bulacan, Pangasinan, Occidental Mindoro, Las Piñas City (Metro Manila), and Cavite, and could meet nearly 85 percent of the country's annual salt requirements.

However, large salt farms in Cavite, Las Piñas, and Bulacan were forced to close down due to seasonal pattern changes caused by climate change, salt producers' reliance and use of old production methods, and land developments such as bay area reclamation and coastal road construction. Other large salt producers also converted their areas into fishponds and residential and commercial properties in order to create profit avenues.

Occidental Mindoro, once one of the country's biggest salt-producing provinces, produced and supplied 18 percent or about 60,000 metric tons (MT) of the country's total yearly requirement of 338,000 MT in 1990.

In 2017, the province contributed only 12 percent or 75,000 MT to the national salt requirement.

THE MANILA TIMES

Climate and pandemic alarmists engage in manipulation of fear

By: Yen Makabenta

First word

LEST the Congress and the Marcos administration blindly adopt costly and goofy programs to control climate change and prevent epidemics, I want to call attention to a new concern voiced by international media about how these issues are being fanned today through the overt manipulation of public fear and the hype of the alleged dangers, in order to promote radical reform and secure financing.

Fearmongering is on the march, and people are being scared silly by what various media are witlessly spreading.

Public panic is a very bad guide for policymaking, and governments are wisely warned about the danger from this to national well-being.

Fearmongering

Fearmongering, or scaremongering, is a form of manipulation that causes fear by using exaggerated rumors of impending danger (Wikipedia).

According to evolutionary psychology, humans have a strong impulse to pay attention to danger because awareness of dangers has been important for survival throughout our evolutionary history. The effect is amplified by cultural evolution when the news media cater to people's appetite for news about dangers.

Fearmongering can have strong psychological effects, which may be intended or unintended. One hypothesized effect is mean world syndrome in which people perceive the world as more dangerous than it really is. Fearmongering can make people fear the wrong things, and use too many resources to avoid rare and unlikely dangers while more probable dangers are ignored.

Manipulation in the record On January 7 this year, the Issues and Insights (I&I) website published a hard-hitting commentary entitled "What climate scare and pandemic fearmongering have in common."

"Climate alarmists have said it's necessary to ratchet up the fear about global warming to get the public's attention. It's the same story with the coronavirus outbreak. Authorities wanted to strike fear in the people, so they exaggerated the lethality of a virus that is deadly to only a narrow demographic segment," it said.

I&I made a thorough review of how the scare campaign has been propagated in the media, and asked readers to compare what is in the record:

Global warming, 1988. "We have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of any doubts we might have," about global warming, said Stanford climatologist Stephen Schneider.

Pandemic, 2020. Britain's Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Behavior warned "that ministers needed to increase 'the perceived level of personal threat' from Covid-19 because 'a substantial number of people still do not feel sufficiently personally threatened'," the London Telegraph reported last year in its coverage of "A state of fear: How the UK government weaponized fear during the Covid-19 pandemic," by Laura Dodsworth.

Global warming, 2014. The academics who wrote a paper published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics said their article "provides a rationale for" the tendency of "news media and some pro-environmental organizations" to accentuate or even exaggerate "the damage caused by climate change."

"We find," they wrote, "that the information manipulation has an instrumental value."

Pandemic, 2020. The Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Behavior recommends the perception of fear regarding the coronavirus needed to "be increased among those who are complacent, using hard-hitting emotional messaging."

Global warming, circa 2001. University of Alabama in Huntsville climatologist John Christy, lead author on the 2001 United Nations' climate report, had lunch with three European colleagues who talked about "how they were trying to make the report so dramatic that the United States would just have to sign the Kyoto Protocol."

Pandemic, 2021. The New York Times' "overblown" warnings "must be viewed in context of the Gray Lady's wider lock-down-the-world agenda," says the New York Post's Steve Cuzzo. "The paper rarely reports unqualified hopeful news about taming the virus."

Global warming, 2004. NASA scientist James Hansen, who is the godfather of climate alarmists, wrote in Scientific American that an "emphasis on extreme scenarios may have been appropriate at one time, when the public and decision-makers were relatively unaware of the global warming issue." In the next sentence, he added that, "now, however, the need is for demonstrably objective climate-forcing scenarios consistent with what is realistic under current conditions."

Pandemic, 2021. "I did a simple Google search of 'recent coronavirus news reports'," says psychologist Ilisa Kaufman in Psychology Today. "The first random five headlines had the words, 'death toll rising,' 'new infections,' and 'thousands of Covid cases, hundreds of deaths.' Those were the first five. Also, it is May 2021, a full 14 months since the beginning of the pandemic. Absolutely nothing reassuring, hopeful, or non-alarming." She goes on to suggest "some ways to help correct or prevent mental health consequences from the 'fear porn' industry."

We're not fully convinced the lockdowns were conspiratorial dry runs to accustom the world to future restrictions handed down under the guise of "fighting" global warming. But as we said when the lockdowns were still relatively new, "observant and cunning politicians have gone to school" and were thinking over the possibility they could "use the pretext of a climate emergency to control Americans and break the back of capitalism."

The chilling fact here to be afraid of — is not of a falling sky or a virus that we hope is on the wane, but of those eager to stir up dread and anxiety so they can exercise the raw power they covet."

Covid-19 and lockdownsThis month on August 26, I&I made an acute warning about lockdowns:

"For over about two-and-one-half years, Covid-19 has killed a little more than 1 million Americans and another 5.5 million in the rest of the world. It's a grim toll. At least its deadly effects will decrease as it becomes endemic.

The same can't be said for the lockdowns. Their poison will be killing victims for years.

A recent article from the London Telegraph posted in Yahoo News tells the story of 'experts' believing 'decisions taken by the government in the earliest stages of the pandemic may now be coming back to bite.'

'Policies that kept people indoors, scared them away from hospitals and deprived them of treatment and primary care are finally taking their toll,' said the Telegraph.

For more than three months, excess deaths in England and Wales have averaged around 1,000 a week, and none are due to Covid.

It's not as if the decision-makers weren't warned. Robert Dingwall, a Nottingham Trent University professor and a government adviser during the pandemic, told the Telegraph that 'the picture seems very consistent with what some of us were suggesting from the beginning.'

On our side of the Atlantic, 'from April 2020 through at least the end of 2021, Americans died from non-Covid causes at an average annual rate 97,000 in excess of previous trends, says a National Bureau of Economic Research paper.

It further contends that 'excess mortality continues into calendar year 2022,' though it's safe to say they will persist well past that date.

The lockdowns have not only been deadly, they brought economic catastrophe (which has its own lethality — economists even have a multiplier they use to calculate deaths due to unemployment); an agonizing mental health crisis; delayed child development; and possibly irreversible educational losses."

Wreck of global warming narrative

Last year, I&I called the global warming narrative a wreck. It said the climate alarmists' narrative "continues to crash into reality."

"To start with, how do they explain that three new studies show warming from 2001 to 2019 'was driven by increases in absorbed solar radiation, not human emissions'? Sure, the eco-activists will do what they always do: obfuscate, dodge, change the subject and call out the 'science deniers.'

They will do the same when confronted with the news that the last six months were the coldest on record in Antarctica. Just one of those places in a warming world, they say, where it happens to be more frigid than usual.

'As Antarctica holds about 90 percent of all the ice on the planet, what happens in Antarctica will have major effects on the rest of the world,' Discovering Antarctica, a partnership of organizations that includes the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said some years ago.

More recently, we were told that 'Antarctica is headed for a climate tipping point by 2060, with catastrophic melting if carbon emissions aren't cut quickly.'

Maybe the record-breaking winter in Antarctica is simply an anomaly on the way to that 'tipping point.' But Richard Lindzen, professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has noted that across the world 'temperatures at any given location' are 'almost as likely to be cooling as warming.' So while one region is warming (or cooling), another somewhere is cooling (or warming). It's useless to argue otherwise. Of course, if Antarctica had just gone through its warmest winter on record, the news would be filled with stories of how it's irrefutable evidence of impending doom.

The alarmist narrative has also been beaten back by the facts, as the hysteria about 'sea level, hurricanes and other weather extremes,' is 'based on the illegitimate cherry-picking of starting dates for the trends,' says Lindzen.

Furthermore, the widely accepted, often-used assertion that says 97 percent of scientists agree that the climate and our earthly environment are in trouble due to warming is a blatant case of misinformation. Lindzen calls it 'a bizarre fantasy' concocted through 'various shenanigans.'

The global warming scare is more than three decades old, yet the disaster that's been forecast on a nearly daily basis since the late 1980s has yet to arrive. That's the reality, that's the brick wall that the alarmists keep banging their heads into. That's the fact they refuse to acknowledge.

No wonder, the fearmongers have replaced the term 'global warming' with 'climate change.' And now they are testing a shift from 'climate change' to 'climate emergency'."

Most Filipinos remain worried about climate change

By: Ludwig Federigan

A new report titled 'International Public Opinion on Climate Change, 2022' revealed that 85 percent of Filipinos were 'somewhat worried' to 'very worried' about climate change. Eighty-eight percent, meanwhile, believed that climate change was currently happening and 87 percent felt that it represented a 'somewhat a serious threat' to a 'very serious threat' in the next 20 years.

Extreme weather events, a manifestation of climate change and considered a global risk, are clear and present dangers to Filipino lives and livelihoods. The World Economic Forum, in its 2022 Global Risks Report, ranked extreme weather events as the second most severe risk on the global scale over the next 10 years.

Eight of the top 10 costliest typhoons, 'Yolanda' (2013), 'Odette' (2021), 'Glenda' (2014), 'Pablo' (2012), Ompong (2018), 'Ulysses' (2020), 'Rolly' (2020) and 'Lando' (2015), happened in the last decade (2012-2021). The issue of climate change, defined as 'the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing over the past 150 years, will increase more in the future, and that the world's climate will change as a result,' has become personally important to Filipinos.

Eighty-two percent said the issue of climate change was personally either 'very important' to 'extremely important,' and the majority thought it would harm them personally. Seven out of 10 Filipinos thought climate change would harm them by either 'a moderate amount' or 'a great deal.'

Eight out of 10 Filipinos, meanwhile, thought that climate change would harm future generations by a 'a moderate amount' or 'a great deal.'

If the Filipinos' clamor to address climate change remains unanswered, 8 out of 10 Filipinos (79 percent) also said they 'definitely' or 'probably' would participate, or currently were participating, in a citizens' campaign to convince their leaders to take action to reduce climate change. The issue of climate change, defined as 'the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing over the past 150 years, will increase more in the future, and that the world's climate will change as a result,' has become personally important to Filipinos.

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If the Filipinos' clamor to address climate change remains unanswered, 8 out of 10 Filipinos (79 percent) also said they 'definitely' or 'probably' would participate, or currently were participating, in a citizens' campaign to convince their leaders to take action to reduce climate change. Nine out of 10 Filipinos said climate change was happening when asked the question. Only 3 percent replied otherwise. Overall, the great majority of respondents believed that climate change was happening.

Thirty-two percent of Filipinos said climate change was mostly caused by human activities, while 40 percent said that it was equally caused by human activities and natural changes.

But as only 3 out of 10 Filipinos (32 percent) said they were hearing about climate change at least once a week to once a month in their daily lives, i.e., from TV, newspapers, social media, or conversations with friends and family, this conveys a strong message that articulating climate change and its related issues must be a top priority. Media has a crucial role to play in bringing current realities down to the grassroots.

With climate change as an 'everything issue,' it should no longer be considered an environmental matter and thereby part of environmental education. It is an opportune time to consider and treat climate change education as separate from environmental education. With a multitude of crises on the horizon, we must continue to build a nation of climate-literate Filipinos. Without a strong understanding of climate change — its science, impacts and solutions — we will fall short of efforts to respond.

The international public opinion report also revealed that the majority of Filipinos (95 percent) believed that climate change should be a government priority. Amid the backdrop of global emergencies that has disrupted and destroyed millions of lives and livelihoods, 64 percent also believed that actions reducing climate change would improve economic growth and provide new jobs.

As we all know, in December 2015, top leaders from every country in the world met in Paris at the United Nations Climate Change Conference and negotiated and adopted a global agreement to limit global warming. The Philippine delegation was led by then-President Benigno Aquino 3rd.

In April 2017, the Instrument of Accession that ratified the Paris Agreement, signed by Aquino's successor, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, was submitted to the United Nations. Four years later, the Philippines submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conveying an ambitious 75-percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

The International Public Opinion on Climate Change, an international survey initiated by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, in partnership with Data for Good at Meta, investigated public climate change knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, policy preferences, and behavior among Facebook users in more than 192 countries and territories. Of the 108,946 Facebook monthly active users that participated in the study, 1,246 respondents were from the Philippines. The Yale research team was supported by the MacArthur Foundation and the 11th Hour Project.

Palace: Marcos focused on climate change issues

By: Kristina Maralit

Malacanang said climate change and its effects are major issues President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. will address throughout his administration.

Proof of this is the allocation of P453 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs in the 2023 National Expenditure Program.

In his letter to the House of Representatives before it started deliberations on the proposed 2023 national budget, the President said the country needed to "increase capacity building for natural disaster resiliency" and "disaster-proof planning of our communities."

Press Secretary Rose Beatrix "Trixie" Cruz-Angeles, in a statement released over the weekend, said the President was following-up on his pledge in his first State of the Nation Address that the government would step up its response to cushion the impact of global warming.

"This is in line with the mission of the Marcos administration in addressing climate change, as the Philippines is a country vulnerable to the effects of climate change," Cruz-Angeles said. She also cited the agreement between the Philippines and Qatar to bolster their partnership for climate change mitigation.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary-General Ahmed Hassen Al Hammadi "recognized the devastating effects of climate change and agreed to focus cooperation on knowledge and technology sharing to minimize the consequences" of the global environmental issue, Cruz-Angeles said.

Plenty of roadblocks for automakers seeking EV success

By: Agence France Presse

New York City: The world's top automobile makers, motivated either by governmental regulations or pure profit, have made a sharp turn away from fossil fuel vehicles. But there are plenty of obstacles on the road to a future full of environment-friendly cars.

Would there be enough lithium and other vital raw materials to make electric car batteries? Would there be sufficient charging stations? How would carmakers ensure that their offerings are affordable for the average driver?

Following the success of Elon Musk's Tesla, built solely on electric vehicles (EVs), most of the biggest names in the sector are planning to invest tens of billions of dollars to reorient their businesses toward clean energy.

Stellantis, the world's fifth-largest automaker, plans to sell only EVs in Europe by 2030. Toyota expects to release about 30 electric models in that same timeframe. General Motors (GM) hopes to stop making cars with combustion engines by 2035.

These corporate ambitions have dovetailed with efforts by national and local governments to go green.

Last Thursday, California announced that from 2035, all new cars sold in the Golden State — the most populous in America — must be emission-free.

The European Union has also taken steps to ban the sale of gasoline- or diesel-fueled cars — and even hybrids — by 2035, while China wants at least half of all new cars to be electric, plug-in hybrid or hydrogen-powered by that time.

Built-in demand

Automakers are on notice that "they are going to have to figure out how to put cars on the market," said Jessica Caldwell, executive director of insights for the automotive research firm Edmunds. "We used to say that the challenges for EVs would be consumer acceptance and price," she added.

With car buyers increasingly attuned to the environment and the woes of climate change, selling the concept of EVs is no longer an issue.

In the United States, GM says it has more than 150,000 pre-orders for the electric version of its Silverado pickup truck, which will be available next year. The wait time for a Tesla these days is several months.

For Caldwell, the bigger issue now is whether automakers "can get the raw materials" they need to make the cars. Scarce raw materials

Karl Brauer, an executive analyst for used-car search engine seecars.com, agrees, saying that no matter what government incentives are offered for would-be EV buyers, the rare elements needed may simply be unavailable.

"Right now, we have a lack of palladium, and nickel and lithium. Everything you need to build an electric car is harder to get than it was six or 12 months ago," he told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

The supply issue is linked partly to Russia's invasion of Ukraine six months ago.

But Brauer said "nobody, a year ago, would have predicted the kind of price escalation for those raw materials, and the difficulty of getting them."

The situation "can change drastically" at any given moment, he added.

Automakers are determined to leave as little as possible to chance.

They are building their own factories to produce car batteries, setting up joint ventures with specialized-parts makers and sealing partnerships with mining firms.

German car manufacturers Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz last Monday signed memorandums of understanding with the Canadian government to ensure their access to rare metals such as lithium, nickel and cobalt.

But, as with oil, the market for these raw materials is a global one, and the normal rules of economics apply, according to Brauer.

"If there is a certain amount of global demand for raw materials, if there is a certain amount of global supply for them, someone will always pay the price," he said.

For Brauer, shifting production lines to accommodate electric vehicle components is, by comparison, quite easy, as the automakers "have control over that."

Help, but with conditions

Local regulations could make things more complicated for automakers.

In the United States, new legislation championed by the administration of President Joe Biden allots up to \$7,500 in tax credits to every American who buys an EV. But there are conditions: for example, final assembly of those cars must take place within American borders.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a US lobbying group, estimates that about 70 percent of the 72 electric, plug-in hybrid or hydrogen-powered cars now on the market would not qualify for the tax credit.

For Garrett Nelson, an analyst for the Center for Financial Research and Analysis, the new law will clearly give Tesla, GM and Ford an advantage in America over their European and Asian rivals.

Following California's announcement, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation said it would be "extremely challenging" to meet the sales requirements due to external factors such as inflation, supply chains and charging infrastructure.

The ongoing semiconductor shortage will also play a role, it said in a statement.

"These are complex, intertwined and global issues well beyond the control of authorities in California or the auto industry," it warned.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Beyond business, are alt-proteins better for the planet and people?](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico and Kaycee Valmonte

Manila, Philippines — For yoga teacher Nancy Siy, having alternative proteins in the Philippines means vegans like her have a variety of options and makes it easier for people who want to embrace a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

"I think of plant-based meats or alternatives that are coming out now as a good option for us in terms of variety, in terms of choice, in terms of convenience," she said.

But the limited alternative protein options in groceries or convenience stores did not stop Siy from going vegan more than a decade ago. She has been a vegan and animal rights activist since 2009.

In 2014, she founded Manila Vegans, which now has over 50,000 members on Facebook. According to Siy, the group has evolved from focusing on what meals to prepare to understanding the commitment to animal liberation.

So while she viewed the availability of alternative proteins as a welcome development, Siy stressed that faux meat products are not the solution to speciesism, or the prejudice based on species, especially discrimination against animals. Vegans like Siy do not consume meat or buy animal products for ethical and moral reasons.

"Veganism comes from the rights approach. It's tied to justice. It's tied to equality. It's tied to respecting animals. But eating plant-based [food] could just be about health, or even the environment, or even if someone doesn't care about animals per se," Siy said.

But makers of alternative proteins—either plant-based or fermented or cultivated directly from cells—are not primarily targeting vegetarians or vegans like Siy.

"We cannot expect anyone to immediately shift. So we were trying to encourage, you know, flexitarians, consumers who are swapping their meat-based products, or whatever animal-derived products with plant-based because this is an investment in their health. This could be for environmental sustainability or animal welfare reasons," said Nikki Dizon, general manager of Century Pacific Food, Inc. (CNPF).

Quorn Philippines marketing director Irish Tanchua said it is the mission of the alt-protein brand to make it easier for consumers to "choose good" although, of course, it is up to consumers to decide for themselves what "good" is.

Shift to alt-meat

Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, director of the country's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), said that shifting to alternative proteins can be challenging because animal meat has a "strong cultural and gastronomic significance" in the Philippines.

“Meat is considered an important part of the meal, culturally and as a source of nutrients. Now, shifting to alternative meats like plant proteins needs consumer education. And there should be a strong favorable message in order for them to accept [alternative proteins] across population groups,” she said.

According to the 2018 to 2019 Expanded National Nutrition Survey of the FNRI, fish, meat, and poultry were consumed in the Philippines in the second largest quantity at 665 grams per day, contributing to almost a fourth of the total mean consumption of households.

Cereals and cereal products such as rice were consumed in the largest quantity, contributing to 40.2% of the total mean household food intake in a day. Meanwhile, vegetables had the third highest consumption at 468 grams per day, or 15.5% of the total food intake.

Plant-based proteins are a source of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Plant-based products can also be beneficial for weight management, and may help prevent cardiovascular disease and hypertension.

However, some plant-based proteins contain added sodium. "The biggest problem in consuming plant-based products is the sensory property. They cannot mimic or copy the flavor, color and texture," said Casiana Blanca Villarino, a professor at the Department of Food Science and Nutrition of the University of the Philippines Diliman who studies alternative proteins.

People in the Asia Pacific have been eating plant-based proteins for thousands of years and have learned to flavor foods such as tofu and Indonesian tempeh, which are both made from soybeans.

But the newer "plant-based products tend to contain more additives and flavorants to mask the undesirable sensory properties. So there's more salt," Villarino added.

Better for the planet

Under the tagline "Helping the planet one bite at a time," Quorn claimed the carbon footprint of its mycoprotein is 40 times lower than beef and six times lower than chicken. Its carbon footprint figures are certified by third party Carbon Trust.

According to the company's footprinting results, the carbon emission of its products in the Philippines such as the 300-gram mince and pieces was measured at 0.32 kgCO₂e (kg of carbon dioxide equivalent). The figure considered emissions right up until the end of the product's life, including storage, cooking, and disposal of packaging.

Quorn also claimed in its comparison report that the water footprint of its product is 30 times lower than beef, and six times lower than chicken.

CNPF, meanwhile, does not have data on the amount of emissions across all of their operations, supply chains or consumer waste. The base of its unMEAT products—non-GMO soy—is sourced overseas, primarily from China.

Soy—the base of many alternative proteins—is among the plants often monocropped. While monocropping provides a more profitable way to farm, the technique leaves the soil weakened and often pollutes groundwater supplies.

Dizon said the company is trying to source ingredients from local farmers to reduce its carbon footprint further. She, however, stressed that "it is still a challenge" because not all ingredients are available locally and if they are available, the prices are not competitive.

Nevertheless, experts said that widespread adoption of alternative proteins can play a vital role in tackling climate change.

"The ambitious climate targets that are needed to avert environmental catastrophe are not achievable without completely reimagining the way we produce steak, pork, and chicken," said Mirte Gosker, acting managing director of alternative protein think tank Good Food Institute Asia Pacific.

In a report released in April, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that emerging food technologies such as cellular fermentation, cultured meat, and plant-based alternatives to animal-based products as well as controlled environment agriculture can bring "substantial reduction" in direct greenhouse gas emissions from food production.

"These technologies have lower land, water, nutrient footprints, and address concerns over animal welfare," the United Nations climate change panel added.

Plant-based for fewer pesos

Gosker said that accessibility and cost are key hurdles for consumers who want to incorporate more alternative proteins into their diet. She stressed that allocating resources aimed at accelerating technological advancements can drive down production costs and help alternative proteins achieve price parity with their conventional meat counterparts.

But vegans and those embracing plant-based diets do not have to spend hundreds of pesos for a meat substitute that will suit their lifestyle. Veganism does not have to be expensive, according to Siy, who said that adobong kangkong or fried tofu are readily available.

Because meat has always been expensive, lower-income Filipinos usually have diets with less protein. They have also long learned to make filling meals with less meat even before alternative proteins—which are not as accessible and affordable for them—became available.

According to the FNRI survey, rural households generally have a higher intake of rice, starchy roots and tubers, sugar and syrups, vegetables, and fruits compared to urban households. Meanwhile, families in urban areas generally have a higher intake of meat, fish, poultry, eggs, milk, and fats and oils.

Poor households also consumed more carbohydrate-rich foods, while wealthier families had higher consumption of protein-rich foods.

In Lupang Ramos, a farming community in Dasmariñas in Cavite, residents get by through the crops they grow in the backyards.

Nobody went hungry in the community even during the pandemic that restricted the movement of people, residents said, sharing they even had enough to share with other villages affected by the lockdowns.

One Saturday afternoon in June, residents of Lupang Ramos gathered to showcase and eat the nutritious dishes that helped them survive the pandemic: laing (taro leaves cooked in coconut milk), corn and malunggay (horseradish) soup, ginisang munggo (sauteed mung beans), fried eggplant, ensaladang talong (eggplant salad), and patties made from puso ng saging (banana flowers).

"If you have banana, cassava, gabi (taro), camote tops, you can overcome hunger," said 47-year-old mother Nanette Melendrez.

Growing crops as a community is also a form of empowerment and an assertion of their right to cultivate the land. The 372-hectare Lupang Ramos, sandwiched between commercial and industrial estates, has been a subject of decades-long agrarian disputes.

In 2017, residents who are part of the Katipunan ng mga Lehitimong Magsasaka at Mamamayan sa Lupang Ramos (KASAMA-LR) reclaimed patches of land in a bungkalan activity, or the collective tilling of land.

Through dialogues and lobbying, the community managed to convince the Department of Agriculture to send a tractor for members of KASAMA-LR to use in their community planting areas.

"We are continuing this struggle for the next generation... The local government should see the importance of preserving Lupang Ramos and other agricultural lands in Dasmariñas to achieve food security," KASAMA-LR spokesperson Miriam Villanueva said.

Potential solutions

There is no doubt that alternative proteins, despite their benefits, cannot be a silver bullet for environment challenges, climate change, and even food security.

The world's population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050 and could peak at nearly 11 billion around 2100.

For the Food and Agriculture Organization, alternative proteins are potential solutions to problems confronting the planet and its people.

GFI Asia Pacific's Gosker also said that plant-based proteins provide a "clear alternative that is dramatically more efficient to produce and scalable to meet our growing population."

"Across rising economies in Asia, warning lights are flashing bright red for the future of industrial animal agriculture. Conventional meat production is ill-equipped to handle the escalating regional pressures of skyrocketing protein demand, increased climate disruption, land and water scarcity, and threats of viral outbreaks," Gosker said.

"Business as usual clearly cannot continue, which is why forward-thinking stakeholders from both public and private sectors have begun to rally around more sustainable protein alternatives, including plant-based and cultivated meat," she added.

Economic managers brief House on P5.268 trillion national budget

By: Delon Porcalla

Manila, Philippines — President Marcos' economic managers briefed leaders of the House of Representatives yesterday on the proposed P5.268-trillion budget for 2023, presenting it as a springboard for economic recovery in post-pandemic times.

Members of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), among them Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Felipe Medalla, National Economic and Development Authority Director General Arsenio Balisacan, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno and Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, took turns in reassuring lawmakers of a "robust economy." Speaker Martin Romualdez – joined by Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co and Marikina City Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo, House committee on appropriations chairman and vice-chair, respectively – vowed to scrutinize the National Expenditure Program (NEP).

"We will make sure that each bit of spending will contribute to our goal of reigniting the fires of our economic forges and at least propel the country to reach economic growth at pre-pandemic levels," said Romualdez, who represents the 1st District of Leyte.

The budget season has officially started and the President's economic team is making sure that as the House begins deliberating on the NEP, it is properly briefed on macroeconomic and growth assumptions; the government's fiscal and revenue collection performance and how the budget will be financed in 2023 and over the medium-term.

Pangandaman, who chairs the DBCC, stressed that the 2023 NEP embodies the country's "agenda for prosperity."

This is aimed at attaining the headline goals of bringing down the budget deficit and debt ratio as a percentage to the national economy, as well as reducing the poverty rate.

"Our agenda for prosperity is one that ensures inclusivity, that no Filipino would be left behind; and sustainability, that our economic progress is mindful of climate change and sustainable development goals," Pangandaman said.

"The budget is consistent with the priorities outlined by the President during his first State of the Nation Address. This budget is a springboard for the economy's full-speed recovery and meaningful structural reform," she said.

Diokno, for his part, maintained that the economic team's proposed 2023 budget will bolster the country's bid for a strong recovery and accelerated growth.

As the economic team gave assurance that the government's fiscal policies stand on solid ground, Balisacan said he is looking forward to a "prosperous, inclusive and resilient economy."

The 2023 budget was crafted based on and in support of the administration's eight-point socioeconomic agenda and on pillars that address the immediate and pressing concerns of all Filipinos in the near and medium-term.

It is anchored on strengthening the purchasing power of Filipinos, reducing vulnerability and mitigating scarring from the pandemic, enhancing bureaucratic efficiency through digitalization, supporting local governments through full devolution, among other programs. On the part of Congress, Co said they will work "double time" to ensure that President Marcos' first full-year budget would be passed into law before the Christmas break.

"The ball is now in the hands of the committee, whatever disposition we shall take. We must act and work together to scrutinize every aspect of this budget to ensure that it is consistent with the socio-economic agenda of the President," he said in his opening remarks.

"We shall guarantee that every peso authorized in this budget is directed to address food security and inflation, reduce poverty and provide the necessary stimulus for economic transformation," Co said.

Quimbo also promised to help expedite budget deliberations and pass it the soonest. She maintained that it is critical for lawmakers to approve a well-targeted budget that will be instrumental in paving the country's path moving forward. The proposed 2023 budget is 4.9 percent higher than the 2022 appropriation of P5.02 trillion. It is also equivalent to 22.2 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Budget hearings

The House has set the budget hearings, starting with two of the government's revenue-generating agencies – Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. – on Aug. 30.

The Departments of Tourism and of Foreign Affairs present their spending plan the next day (Aug. 31), followed by the judiciary, led by Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo for the Supreme Court down to the lowest courts, on Sept. 1.

The Departments of Energy and of the Interior and Local Government as well as the Energy Regulatory Commission get their proposed budgets scrutinized also on Sept. 1.

On Sept. 2, Executive Secretary Vic Rodriguez will defend the 2023 budget of the Office of the President, where officials of the Departments of Agrarian Reform and Environment and Natural Resources will also appear before the Co-led committee.

It will be the turn of the Department of Agriculture and the National Irrigation Administration on Sept. 5, followed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development the next day.

The Departments of Justice and of Science and Technology will present their spending plans on Sept. 7, while the last agency to defend their budget will be the Department of Public Works and Highways on Sept. 16.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[P453-B allotted for climate-related expenditure for 2023](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

Manila– The proposed National Expenditure Program (NEP) for 2023 will include PHP453 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs and projects.

In a press statement, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said the climate-related expenditure for next year is 56.4 percent higher than the PHP289.73 billion this year.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said her office documented an average of 21.3 percent increase in climate-related expenditures from 2015 to 2023.

“With the continuous help of implementing agencies and of every Filipino, we can work towards climate resiliency to safeguard a sustainable future for our country,” Pangandaman stated.

The DBM, along with the Climate Change Commission, institutionalized the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) process through Joint Memorandum Circular 2015-01.

The joint memorandum aims to track, monitor, and report programs that help address and alleviate problems posed by climate change.

The CCET process measures the progress in the implementation of climate change initiatives.

Citing CCET results, the DBM said P264.89 billion will be earmarked for Water Sufficiency projects which will be given priority by the current administration; PHP131.51 billion for Sustainable Energy; and PHP40.78 billion for Food Security.

The Department of Public Works and Highways will also receive a budget allocation of PHP168.9 billion for its Flood Management Program.

“This will cover the construction and rehabilitation of flood-mitigation structures and drainage systems nationwide,” the Budget department added.

The National Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will get PHP2.49 billion for the planting of 6.18 million seedlings in 11,631 hectares of land resources, Protected Areas Development and Management Program, and Management of Coastal and Marine Areas.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is focused on addressing climate change as he acknowledged that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of extreme climate disasters.

RMN NEWS

Inilalaang pondo sa Climate Related Expenditure, tumaas ng mahigit 21% simula 2015 hanggang 2023 ayon sa DBM

Record high para sa Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ang ₱453.11-billion na pondo para sa climate change adaptation and mitigation na inilaan para sa susunod na taon.

Ayon kay DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, ngayong taon kasi mayroon lamang ₱289.73-billion ang inilaan para dito ng nakaraang administrasyon.

Aabot aniya sa 56.4% ang itinaas na pondong inilaan dito sa Fiscal Year 2023 National Expenditure Program.

Lumalabas sa Climate Change Expenditure Tagging na prayoridad ng gobyerno ang water sufficiency projects, sustainable energy and food security.

Maging ang pagpopondo sa mga major programs gaya ng Flood Management Program ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), pagpapagawa at rehabilitation ng flood-mitigation structures at drainage systems nationwide.

Sinabi ni Secretary Pangandaman na sa pamamagitan ng patuloy na pagtulong ng mga implementing agencies at mga Pilipino ay makakamit ng bansa ang mas ligtas at sustainable na hinaharap.

THE MANILA TIMES

Recto questions P588B unprogrammed funds

By: Bella Cariaso

The House of Representatives Deputy Speaker and Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto questioned the P588 billion unprogrammed funds submitted by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), saying the proposed 2023 national budget is actually P5.856 trillion and not P5.268 trillion.

"The spending amount being asked by the Palace is actually half-a-trillion pesos more," Recto said.

Recto said the P588 billion represents the Unprogrammed Appropriations portion of the National Expenditure Plan (NEP).

"It is more than double the current year's P251.7 billion unprogrammed fund," Recto added.

The House on Friday started deliberations on the P5.268 proposed national appropriations for the next fiscal year. He said topping the list of "unclear and undefined" 2023 Unprogrammed Appropriations is the "Support to Foreign Assisted Projects" with proposed funding of P380.6 billion.

Also included in the unprogrammed funds is the P149.7 billion for "Support for Infrastructure Projects and Social Programs."

"The funding footprint is big, but the appropriations language contains [a] one-liner description. It is a blank check request," Recto added.

According to Recto, the Unprogrammed Fund is one of the biggest "lump sums" in the draft three-volume national budget Malacañang had sent to Congress. "While it is part of the NEP, the unprogrammed fund is not included in the total amount. The result is, every popular budget literature nowadays quotes a smaller budget level," Recto said.

Recto explained that while the Unprogrammed Appropriations can only be released if several "funding triggers" are met, the authority to spend it comes with the passage of the national budget.

"Thus P5.856 trillion is the ceiling of the proposed 2023 budget. Once the latter becomes law, it confers standby authority to the executive to spend it, provided conditions are met," Recto said.

According to Recto, as in previous general appropriations acts, the proposed budget for 2023 states that the unprogrammed fund can only be spent if revenue targets are exceeded or once loans have been perfected. "But the problem is, there seems to be lax compliance on this. In 2020, for example, when revenue collections were down

because of the pandemic, every centavo of the P122 billion in unprogrammed appropriations was released," Recto said.

"Same with this year. The P251.6 billion unprogrammed funds were also used," he added.

Recto said the DBM should begin posting details of releases from the said fund on its website. On the other hand, Recto said he supports a few items included in the Unprogrammed Appropriations, including the allocation of P18.9 billion in public health emergency benefits for frontliners and P14.6 million in local government units arrears.

"The P5 billion in AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) modernization, in principle, is good, but in the interest of transparency, must be itemized. The P2 billion in arrears to the IT provider of the Land Transportation Office must also be scrutinized," Recto added.

P2.49B for DENR green program

Meanwhile, the DBM has proposed at least a P2.49 billion fund for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' National Greening Program.

According to the DBM, the amount is intended for the planting of 6.18 million seedlings in 11,631 hectares of land resources.

The DBM said the funding will boost the campaign on Protected Areas Development and Management Program, and Management of Coastal and Marine Areas.

"We have documented an average of 21.3 percent increase in climate-related expenditures from 2015 to 2023. With the continuous help of implementing agencies and of every Filipino, we can work toward climate resiliency to safeguard a sustainable future for our country," DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said.

The P2.49 billion funding is included in the P453 billion proposed budget for climate change adaptation and mitigation for 2023.

The proposed climate-related expenditure for 2023 is 56.4 percent higher than this year's P289.73 billion budget.

According to the DBM, P264.89 billion will be used for water sufficiency projects, P131.51 billion for sustainable energy, and P40.78 billion for food security.

"Climate change expenditures shall continuously prioritize funding for major programs such as the Flood Management Program of the Department of Public Works and Highways with a budget allocation of P168.9 billion. This will cover the construction and rehabilitation of flood-mitigation structures and drainage systems nationwide," the DBM added.

The climate-related expenditures were part of a joint memorandum circular issued by the DBM and the Climate Change Commission.

The memorandum is aimed to track, monitor and report programs that help address and alleviate problems posed by climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Government seeks P453 billion budget to address climate change

By: Louise Maureen Simeon

Manila, Philippines — The government plans to allocate a record P453 billion out of its proposed P5.27 trillion budget proposal for next year for projects that will address the worsening impacts of climate change.

Under the National Expenditure Program (NEP), the government's budget for climate change adaptation and mitigation for 2023 is 56.4 percent higher than this year's allocation of P289.73 billion.

Of the P453 billion, bulk or P265 billion will go to water sufficiency projects.

Another P132 billion is earmarked for sustainable energy and P41 billion for food security.

According to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), climate change expenditures will continuously prioritize funding for major projects such as the flood management program of the Department of Public Works and Highways with an allocation of P169 billion.

The amount will cover the construction and rehabilitation of flood-mitigation structures and drainage systems nationwide.

Around P2.49 billion will be spent for the national greening program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The allocation will be used to plant 6.18 million seedlings in 11,631 hectares of land resources.

Budget chief Amenah Pangandama said a 21.3 percent increase in climate-related expenditures has been observed since 2015.

The directive for Climate Change Expenditure Tagging is based on the joint memorandum circular of the DBM and the Climate Change Commission. It targets to track, monitor, and report programs that help address and alleviate problems posed by climate change.

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