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By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

THE Philippines and the United Kingdom are committed to elevate their relationship to the next level in wide-range of areas such as defense, security, maritime, climate change, trade, renewable energy, science and technology, as well as people-to-people ties.

BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

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CNN

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By: Rachel Ramirez

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ECO BUSINESS

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By: Harjeet Singh and Liane Schalatek

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MANILA STANDARD

[DOE hikes long-term renewable energy target](#)

By: Alena Mae Flores

The Department of Energy is now looking at a higher renewable energy share in the power mix by 2050 of up to 70 percent on growing interest in offshore wind, an official said Wednesday.

RAPPLER

[Mining industry's cooperation crucial in clean energy transition, says DENR chief](#)

By: Iya Gozum

Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga underscored the importance of the mining industry's cooperation with the government in the path towards clean energy transition.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Driving towards a greener future](#)

By: Joe Zaldarriaga

The Philippines is on the brink of a significant transformation as Filipinos accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), driven by both government initiatives and the pioneering efforts of innovative organizations. Fueled by the urgent need to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions, we see this shift extending its influence across diverse industries.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Local climate change action plans to make LGUs disaster-resilient](#)

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

Local climate change action plans are important in providing actions and measures tailored to address unique problems in disaster-vulnerable areas, Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

JOURNAL NEWS

[Dela Cruz urges transformation of LGUs into 'Green Cities'](#)

By: Marlon Purification

WITH the impact of climate change already being felt across the globe, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. enthused that beyond doing everything to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and slow the pace of global warming, Filipinos must learn how to adapt to climate consequences so we can protect ourselves and our communities.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Meralco taps into more renewable energy sources for power supply

Power distributor Meralco on Sunday said it has contracted 1,880 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy capacity from various suppliers in compliance with the government's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) policy.

Meralco said this is already above their original target of 1,500 MW of renewable energy.

The power supplier said it hopes renewable energy will account for 22 percent of its supply portfolio by 2030, allowing it to reduce its total carbon emissions by 15 percent based on its projections.

Under the RPS, electricity suppliers must source a portion of their requirements from renewable energy, in support of the government's push to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

Currently, the RPS requirement is set at +2.52 percent per annum.

Meralco First Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer Raymond B. Ravelo said they will continue to adopt clean technology and deep decarbonization efforts as they hope to be coal-free by 2050.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[PHL and UK foreign ministers vow to enhance partnership](#)

By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

THE Philippines and the United Kingdom are committed to elevate their relationship to the next level in wide-range of areas such as defense, security, maritime, climate change, trade, renewable energy, science and technology, as well as people-to-people ties.

UK Secretary of State for Foreign Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Spencer Cleverly and Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo signed a joint statement of their intention to negotiate for the so-called “Philippines-UK Enhanced Partnership.”

The statement was signed during the visit of Cleverly in Manila Tuesday. He is the first British foreign secretary to visit Manila since 2016.

The text of the joint statement is yet to be released to the media as of this writing.

But both ministers were remarkably sanguine about the future of the 77-year-old ties after their bilateral meeting at a hotel in Manila.

“This is an exciting time for our relationship,” Cleverly said in his speech after the signing of the joint statement. “Our relationship is founded on our shared values, and those are shared values that respects openness, that respects freedom and the rule of law.”

“The UK is an important long-standing partner of the Philippines, especially in this time of geographic upheavals, economic disruptions, and challenges to the rule of law...The Philippines and the UK are like-minded partners through our shared values of democracy and the rule of law, our unwavering commitment to the rules-based international order, and our pursuit of peace and stability,” Manalo said.

Manalo, who also served as Philippine ambassador to London from 2011 to 2016, said that during his bilateral meeting with Cleverly, they discussed “pressing and evolving regional and international issues of concern.”

Trade between the UK and the Philippines has reached its “highest level” at around £2.4 billion (P172 billion) per year in goods and services.

“Of course we aspire to increase that number even further and that was an issue that we discussed earlier today,” Cleverly said.

The British foreign minister also cited the strong people-to-people links between the two countries.

“We, the UK, is grateful to have the support of over 47,000 Filipino health-care workers currently employed in the NHS [National Health Service] and social care sector,” Cleverly said, citing that the first Covid-19 vaccine in the world was administered by Filipina nurse May Parsons.

The UK has also launched this year the British Investment Partnerships, which boosted investments in clean infrastructure and renewable energy.

“We’ve reached new highs in our bilateral trade and launched a new trading scheme to increase Filipino exports to the UK,” he added.

On maritime cooperation, the UK and Philippines shared knowledge on maritime law and promoted maritime domain awareness.

“This year, we supported the Philippines in adapting to the unavoidable consequences of climate change, particularly in coastal areas and oceans,” he added.

BUSINESS WORLD

Natural gas reliance seen hindering PHL transition to renewable energy

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

THE GOVERNMENT adoption of natural gas as a “transitional fuel” as it move towards cleaner forms of energy will hinder the rise of renewable energy (RE), a non-government organization said.

A natural gas policy “will undermine the ongoing transition to renewable energy. This has been a long process. We have already defeated the dependence on coal imports... ngayon naman ay nag-po-promote ng panibagong fossil fuel (now it is promoting another form of fossil fuel), LNG,” Gerry C. Arances, convenor of Power for People Coalition, said in a virtual briefing.

Mr. Arances said that the pushing for the utilization of liquefied natural gas exposes the Philippines to energy price volatility, which may make electricity more expensive.

He estimated the current level of coal dependence for power at “more than 60%,” he said.

The Malampaya gas field is the country’s only indigenous commercial source of natural gas. It is expected to be largely depleted of easily recovered gas using current extraction techniques by 2027.

“Even though we have Malampaya, which is depleting, we remember that even the price of domestic gas is pegged to world market prices,” Mr. Arances said.

“Hindi ibig sabihin na kapag domestic gas ay talagang mababa. (Domestic gas doesn’t mean low prices). Relatively it is lower than imported but because it is pegged to international prices, eventually if world gas prices rise, the (domestic gas price) will also increase,” he added.

Asked to comment, the Department of Energy (DoE) said it stands by its statement on the natural gas draft circular that it issued on Friday.

The DoE said the use of support technologies such as power storage systems and flexible power plants fueled by natural gas are crucial to achieving RE targets.

“Natural gas-fired power plants can serve as quick-starting reserves, which could complement the variability of RE technologies such as solar and wind,” it said.

At the end of 2022, RE accounted for about 22% of the energy mix, with coal-fired power plants accounting for nearly 60%.

The government hopes to increase the share of RE to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040. Last year, the DoE raised the Renewable Portfolio Standards requirement to 2.52% per annum starting 2023 from 1% previously.

The DoE also said that the proposed policy will also ensure the reliability of the power system.

According to the draft circular, distribution utilities on the Luzon grid are required to source a share of their power needs from natural gas-fired generation facilities.

Such sourcing will be conducted via auction, the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market, or a competitive selection process.

CNN

[Idalia is expected to rapidly intensify in the extremely warm Gulf of Mexico. Here's what that means](#)

By: Rachel Ramirez

The forecast for Idalia is alarming: a so-called rapid intensification as it tracks through the Gulf of Mexico, tapping into some of the warmest waters on the planet ahead of making landfall in Florida this week.

If it does so, it would join a growing list of devastating storms like Hurricane Ian — which leveled coastal Florida and left more than 100 dead — to rapidly intensify before landfall in recent years.

Idalia posed a “notable risk” of this phenomenon, the National Hurricane Center warned Monday, as it travels through the Gulf of Mexico. Water temperatures around southern Florida climbed to 100 degrees Fahrenheit in some areas this summer, and temperatures in the Gulf overall have been record-warm, with more than enough heat to support rapid strengthening.

Ocean temperatures are around “1 to 2 degrees Celsius (roughly 2 to 3.5 degrees Fahrenheit) above normal for this time of year, which is a lot when you consider this is already a super-hot time of year,” Brian McNoldy, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Miami, told CNN. “With that in mind, and with those extra warm waters ahead of it, it does make rapid intensification more likely to happen.”

Rapid intensification is now ‘more likely’

Rapid intensification is precisely what it sounds like — when a storm’s winds strengthen rapidly over a short amount of time. Scientists have defined it as a wind speed increase of at least 35 mph in 24 hours or less.

Concerningly, it has been happening more and more as storms are approaching landfall, making them harder to prepare for and more dangerous to the people who stayed behind expecting a weaker storm.

It’s just one of the ways experts say the climate crisis is making hurricanes more dangerous, as warmer waters allow for storms to strengthen quicker. More than 90% of warming around the globe over the past 50 years has taken place in the oceans, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Until recently, rapidly intensifying storms were less common. Tropical storms historically have taken several days to grow into powerful hurricanes, but with human-caused

climate change, rapid intensification is becoming a more common occurrence, said Allison Wing, an assistant professor of atmospheric science at Florida State University.

Hurricane Franklin in the Atlantic Ocean went through two bouts of rapid intensification, most recently from Sunday morning to Monday morning when it strengthened from a 90-mph Category 1 hurricane to a 145-mph Category 4.

“The frequency of cases of rapid intensification has increased in recent years,” Wing told CNN. “While each storm has a unique set of circumstances, climate change makes the occurrence of strong hurricanes that rapidly intensify more likely.”

McNoldy and Wing said two ingredients must come together for rapid intensification to occur: In addition to warm ocean water, the upper-level winds around the hurricane need to be weak. Strong winds can prevent a storm from intensifying or even tear a storm apart.

“There will be a bit of wind shear ahead of (the storm), which might keep it to just a bit of rapid intensification instead of a lot,” McNoldy said. “But there’s still that small component that it can rapidly intensify more than what the models are showing.”

More dangerous storms

Rapid intensification has been historically hard to predict, especially when it comes to capturing where the overall threats and impacts will be and how it can unfold. Andrew Kruczkiwicz, a senior researcher at the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University, warned that Idalia’s impacts could go beyond the point of landfall.

Storm surge, for instance, may happen in and around the area where the storm makes landfall, but heavy rainfall-related hazards can occur as far as 100 miles away, Kruczkiwicz said.

A 2020 study published in the journal *Nature* found storms are moving farther inland than they did five decades ago. Hurricanes, which typically weaken after moving over land, have been raging longer after landfall in recent years. The study concludes that warmer sea surface temperatures are leading to a “slower decay” by increasing moisture that a hurricane carries.

Kruczkiwicz said areas as far inland as Augusta, Georgia, or Columbia, South Carolina, may be at risk from Idalia.

“These are inland areas that people from the coastline might evacuate to, and think they’re safe, but there’s going to be very high chance of flash flooding in those areas,” Kruczkiewicz said.

Because of the storm’s far-reaching impacts, McNoldy warned not to focus on where the forecast cone is, but rather what’s being forecast in your location.

“Pay attention to your hurricane watches, your storm surge watches and warnings, and your evacuations if you’re told to evacuate,” McNoldy said. “Hopefully, we learned some lessons from last year.”

DW

Climate change exacerbating conflict and poverty — IMF

By: Alex Berry

Climate shocks are already disproportionately affecting war-torn countries, a report from the IMF has shown. Many also bear the least responsibility for climate change.

Fragile countries, and those impacted most by conflict, are already being unevenly hit by the effects of climate change, and are less able than other countries to mitigate those impacts, according to a report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday.

Fragile and conflict-affected states, referred to by the report as FCS, are those countries whose location and dependence on agriculture make them most vulnerable to extreme weather.

They are also some of the most prone to conflict, which in turn hinders their ability to recover from disruptive weather events that, according to the IMF, have happened on average once every four years in these countries since 1980.

This situation is only expected to get worse and temperatures continue to rise. By 2040, the so-called FCS will see around two months of temperatures over 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to just 15 days of high temperatures expected for other countries.

Conflict deaths to increase as climate worsens

"While climate shocks may not trigger the onset of new conflict," the report said, pointing to the complex factors that underly it, they do "exacerbate conflict intensity where it already exists."

The IMF predicts that if the world continues on its current high-emissions trajectory, then conflict deaths in the FCS could increase by between 8.5% and 14% by 2060.

As FCS also tend to be heavily reliant on rainfed agriculture — a sector that is massively vulnerable to changes in weather patterns — increasing drought is expected to lower food production, increase inflation and push an extra 50 million people into hunger by 2060.

Around one in five countries is classified as fragile and conflict-affected, encompassing a population of almost 1 billion people.

The majority of these states are in Africa and are some of the countries least responsible for man-made climate change, with their carbon emissions paling in comparison to those of European and North American countries, as well as those of more recent large-scale emitters such as China.

Climate adaptation needed along with international support

The IMF calls for these vulnerable states to introduce policies for climate adaptation, including "climate-smart agriculture," "scaling up social spending and climate-resilient infrastructure" and "strengthening social safety nets."

But it also calls on the international community to step up its own efforts to provide support "or else spillover effects associated with fragility and conflict could become even more disruptive, including more forced displacement and migration to other countries."

African countries have been calling on richer countries to help pay for climate adaptation and energy transition. Kenya is hosting the African Climate Summit next week where leaders will attempt to reach a united negotiating position ahead of November's COP28 summit in the UAE.

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] Loss and damage fund must deliver climate justice to affected communities](#)

By: Harjeet Singh and Liane Schalatek

Following nearly 30 years of advocating for financial support for loss and damage driven by climate change, at last year's UN climate summit in Egypt (COP27), delegates achieved a breakthrough: COP27 took a decision to establish a fund for addressing loss and damage.

Since March this year, a Transitional Committee on loss and damage has been working to come up with a set of recommendations, among other things, on how the new fund should operate. Several challenges remain - however, there is a real opportunity to design the fund in a way that responds to the needs of vulnerable countries and communities.

This is urgent because catastrophic climate impacts are hitting all over the world, but the poorest and most marginalised are the worst impacted. Countries and communities - disproportionately those in the developing world - are being ravaged by cyclones, floods and droughts, and suffering the consequences of steady sea-level rise. They are paying the price of the rich historical emitters who continue to expand their use of fossil fuels, further exacerbating the crisis.

The writing is on the wall: countries have gone past the point where adaptation alone can arrest the climate impacts. Losses and damages are happening with ever-growing economic and non-economic costs. And they are expected to worsen because collective efforts to limit global warming are falling short as rich countries in particular fail to live up to their responsibility and historic climate debt.

This means that any development gains in the Global South will be further eroded, and its people, who are not responsible for the crisis, will suffer displacement and loss of infrastructure, lives and livelihoods. Such countries and communities - as a matter of justice - need urgent financial support. And designing the new fund will go a long way to deliver it.

Many contentious issues

However, there are continued points of disagreement between developed and developing countries, including discussions around what role the new fund will play in a mosaic of existing institutions; who will pay, who is eligible to receive funding and how easily it can be accessed; what will be funded; and what will be the sources and

instruments of funding. Those issues are expected to dominate deliberations at the third meeting of the Transitional Committee in the Dominican Republic from August 29 to September 1.

Many of these issues are more political than technical - and can be resolved with political goodwill. More than half-way through the process of setting up the new fund, the meeting in Santo Domingo is critical in articulating a first draft charter or governing instrument detailing the fund's core modalities and functions. The Committee's final recommendations, expected in mid-October - which require consensus - must then be approved at the next climate summit in Dubai (COP28).

A set of civil society organisations representing the constituencies of environmental NGOs, and of women and gender groups of the UN's climate body, the UNFCCC, have come together with solutions on how the new Loss and Damage Fund should operate to support affected countries and communities, as detailed in our proposed Governing Instrument.

Who gets what kind of money - and from where?

We expect the Loss and Damage Fund to be the main fund in the loss and damage finance landscape. We believe its purpose is to make a significant and ambitious contribution to provide new, additional, predictable and adequate financial support to assist developing countries and communities in comprehensively addressing and providing remedy for economic and non-economic loss and damage.

We are calling on developed countries - who have a moral and ethical obligation owing to their historical responsibilities in causing the climate crisis - to finance the fund exclusively in the form of grants and financial instruments that do not create debt. We believe this to be an issue of justice, as much as acknowledging that developing countries are already reeling under heavy, unsustainable debt burdens and need fiscal space to deal with unavoidable climate-linked losses and damages in the short- and long-term. We are also calling for all developing countries to receive financial support from the fund to address loss and damage.

Putting affected communities in the driver's seat

The fund should be able to release funding in the aftermath of climate disasters and help to rebuild lives, livelihoods, wellbeing and infrastructure through rehabilitation and reconstruction measures. It must also provide funding for longer-term loss and damage - for permanent relocation, for instance, arising out of slow-onset events such as sea-level rise and melting of glaciers.

Accessing resources to tackle the climate crisis has traditionally been arduous for developing countries, and almost impossible for affected communities. In this regard, we are calling for a “community direct access window” that would provide small grants with no red tape for subnational and local actors - in particular affected communities, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, people living with disability, and civil society groups working directly with them. This will ensure that the new fund applies lessons learned and addresses some of the worst shortcomings in the way funding for climate action is currently provided. “Trickle down” in climate finance does not work. Affected communities and people must be empowered to make local funding decisions.

It is also imperative that actions supported by the fund must respect, promote and consider human rights, including Indigenous rights, gender equality and intergenerational justice. This requires the public participation of affected communities and civil society organisation in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the fund’s policies and activities.

Doing all this would set the new Loss and Damage Fund apart from existing climate funds.

The world can no longer afford to delay in assisting developing countries and communities. Nor can we allow the newly fund to remain an empty vessel. For true collective climate action to take root, developed nations must take immediate, meaningful steps. This is crucial for meeting the urgent and growing needs of people in developing countries, protecting their rights and livelihoods, and delivering climate justice, both in letter and in spirit.

MANILA STANDARD

[DOE hikes long-term renewable energy target](#)

By: Alena Mae Flores

The Department of Energy is now looking at a higher renewable energy share in the power mix by 2050 of up to 70 percent on growing interest in offshore wind, an official said Wednesday.

DOE director for energy policy and planning bureau Michael Sinocruz said during the public consultations of the proposed Philippine Energy Plan 2023 to 2050 the new computation was based on the anticipated entry of 50,000 megawatts or 50 gigawatts of OSW.

Sinocruz said the 50 GW OSW penetration rate emerged under the clean energy scenario 2, compared to 19 GW under the clean energy scenario 1.

“This will push the RE share to as much as 70 percent by 2050. With more offshore wind, there will be reduction in solar capacities and generation output. Generation output from wind will also displace coal, natural gas and even hydro given the 50-GW offshore wind alone will account by almost half of total generation by 2050 for clean energy,” Sinocruz said.

He said RE would capture at least 50 percent RE share for both CES 1 and CES 2 by 2040 from around 22 percent at present.

Sinocruz said DOE already issued 77 OSW contracts with a potential capacity of 60,000 MW compared to only 19,000 MW of OSW under the CES 1.

He said that while not all OSW projects may materialize, this would still increase the country’s RE targets.

“For instance, we are going to set a target of having 50 GW of offshore wind cap, what will be the impact? The impact will increase the RE share by as much as or more than 70 percent by 2050,” he said.

The DOE has been trying to entice more OSW developers to participate in the country’s RE industry by issuing investor-friendly policies.

The agency issued a circular in June to eliminate unnecessary delays in every stage of the offshore wind project development, specifically streamlining the permitting process of different agencies.

It promulgated Department Circular No. DC2023-06-0020 dated June 16 which provides the policy and administrative framework for the efficient and optimal development of offshore wind resources to all permitting agencies.

The circular aims to remove any duplications and overlapping permitting within and among the attached agencies, remove duplications and redundant documentary requirements, reduce signatories and review and rationalize fees for OSW.

RAPPLER

[Mining industry's cooperation crucial in clean energy transition, says DENR chief](#)

By: Iya Gozum

Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga underscored the importance of the mining industry's cooperation with the government in the path towards clean energy transition.

During the Philippine Nickel Industry Association business conference in Makati on Tuesday, August 29, Loyzaga said the technology needed for the Philippines to ride the wave of global transition to clean energy would require more minerals and other rare earth elements.

"These projects are highly mineral-intensive, and the accelerated adoption of such technologies will significantly increase the demand for critical minerals such as nickel," said Loyzaga.

A sustainable mining industry should help ramp up this development, Loyzaga added.

"By investing in our social and environmental protections, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, the mining industry can advance multiple development pathways," she said.

Rare earth elements are considered the building blocks of climate-smart mining. They are used, together with critical minerals like nickel, cobalt, and lithium, to create wind turbines, electric vehicles, solar photovoltaics, among other things that help advance clean energy.

China, Australia, and the United States currently have the biggest rare earth metals production and reserves, according to 2018 data from the US Geological Survey.

Minimizing harm

Despite the necessity of extraction and other mining activities to decarbonize energy, Loyzaga reiterated that the industry needs to follow the law.

"Trust is not built with companies trying to skirt or even break the law, nor would putting more stringent guidelines alone, work," she said.

In the Philippines, several mining companies have been cited for inflicting damage on ancestral lands and protected areas.

While the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hopes to avoid all possible negative environmental impacts of mining, minimizing harm and rehabilitating damaged areas are the next options, said Loyzaga.

Gov't efforts

The Philippine government needs to secure mineral supplies to be in sync with the rest of the world that are scaling their initiatives to create clean energy technologies.

In the same event, Loyzaga announced that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR would lead extensive government-led exploration of critical minerals.

Foreign partners such as the Australian government and the US Geological Survey are poised to support these efforts.

The environment secretary assured the mining industry that the DENR will “promote and enable” mineral processing, particularly of nickel, iron, cobalt, and rare earth elements.

“Both strategies aim to maximize the value of our mineral resources...and utilize these towards our own energy transition and economic development,” said Loyzaga.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Driving towards a greener future](#)

By: Joe Zaldarriaga

The Philippines is on the brink of a significant transformation as Filipinos accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), driven by both government initiatives and the pioneering efforts of innovative organizations. Fueled by the urgent need to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions, we see this shift extending its influence across diverse industries.

The ongoing transformation towards cleaner and more sustainable transportation solutions is evident on the global stage. Recent data from the International Energy Agency sheds light on this, highlighting a remarkable surge in EV sales. In 2021, the number of electric vehicles sold doubled compared to the previous year, reaching a record of 6.6 million units.

Nearly 10 percent of all global car sales were electric, marking a fourfold increase in market share since 2019. This surge has propelled the total count of electric cars on the world's roads to approximately 16.5 million, a threefold rise from the figures reported in 2018. In 2022, the momentum continued, with two million electric vehicles sold in the first quarter alone, reflecting a 75 percent increase over the same period in 2021.

While the appeal of EVs continues to grow among consumers worldwide, the rate of adoption varies significantly across countries. Deloitte's 2023 Global Automotive Consumer Study underscores this evolving landscape. Because of hyper-inflationary conditions, consumers are increasingly attracted to EVs as a solution to mitigate operational costs. Nevertheless, the journey towards universal EV adoption is not without difficulties.

Diverse challenges persist in different markets, with some of the more significant hurdles including affordability; the lingering fear of limited travel range (referred to as range anxiety); and concerns regarding battery safety. These underscore the need for a multi-faceted approach to address the concerns of potential electric vehicle adopters.

EV growth in the Philippines has been exhibiting a more moderate growth compared to neighboring countries in Asia. The good news, though, is that reports indicate that more car buyers in the Philippines are getting convinced to make the switch to electrified vehicles. Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP) cited data from the Land Transportation Office (LTO) showing that from 2014 to 2022, there are already 9,666 EVs registered.

EVAP projects that EVs by 2030 will reach more than six million units 83.12 percent of which are two-wheelers; 5.29 percent passenger cars; 4.53 percent three-wheelers; 4.53 percent are other utility vehicles; and the rest include public utility jeepneys, trucks and buses.

The Deloitte study showed that Filipino consumers are willing to make the switch due to 1) lower fuel costs; 2) better driving experience; 3) reduced maintenance; 4) concerns about personal health; and 5) the potential to use the vehicle as an alternate power source at home.

Government efforts stand as a pivotal force propelling the shift toward sustainable transportation. The Department of Energy (DOE) is at the forefront of this, executing essential programs that align with renewable energy laws. DOE is already crafting the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI) and is holding public consultations on both the Vehicle Fuel Economy Labeling Program (VFELP) and the Fuel Economy Performance Rating (FEPR).

But the true game-changer is the realization of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA), also known as Republic Act 11697. This legislation, passed into law in April 2022 and enacted in May of the same year, saw its implementing rules and regulations come into effect in September 2022. EVIDA heralds a profound paradigm shift by cultivating an environment that fosters nationwide electric vehicle adoption.

EVIDA's impact is far-reaching, creating a ripple effect of incentives that help drive the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. Key strategies include the dedicated allocation of parking slots in establishments, the designation of green routes across urban landscapes, and exemption of these vehicles from traffic coding schemes – advantages that encourage EV adoption.

However, the success of this transition hinges on the establishment of a robust EV charging infrastructure. In a recent statement, Manuel V. Pangilinan, the chairman and CEO of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco), underscored the pivotal role of a well-structured charging network. As the largest electricity distribution utility in the Philippines, Meralco is strategically poised to spearhead the deployment of comprehensive EV charging facilities across the nation. Nonetheless, Pangilinan points out that the acceleration of electric vehicle demand is needed to justify these investments.

The path towards sustainability requires collective efforts, with private sector initiatives complementing government policies.

As businesses strive to align their strategies with sustainability goals, they can play a crucial role in cultivating a robust market for EVs. This, in tandem with government policies that incentivize and promote EVs adoption, creates a synergy that can validate infrastructure investments and propel the nation toward a greener and more electrified future.

As EV adoption gathers momentum, the Philippines has the opportunity to reshape its transportation landscape, reduce its carbon footprint, and pave the way for a greener, more sustainable future.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Local climate change action plans to make LGUs disaster-resilient](#)

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

Local climate change action plans are important in providing actions and measures tailored to address unique problems in disaster-vulnerable areas, Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

In a news release on Wednesday, Borje said unified action is needed to address the widespread impacts of climate change especially among the 22 areas identified by the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) as most vulnerable to the phenomenon.

These include Metro Manila, Bulacan, Isabela, Davao del Sur, Leyte, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur, Eastern Samar, Zambales, Aurora, Northern Samar, Cagayan, Surigao del Sur, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Sulu, Leyte, Pampanga, Samar and Southern Leyte.

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to climate resilience through collaboration with local government units on local climate change action plans that aim to address the unique needs of vulnerable areas.

"These provinces face high poverty rates, critical watersheds, and susceptibility to climate hazards such as flooding, landslides, and droughts," Borje said.

"How can our LGUs, the real frontline warriors, amplify these climate actions? Our policies serve as roadmaps for LGUs, steering them towards resilience. To this end, the CCC and the Department of [the] Interior and Local Government actively champion the Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAP)."

The LCCAP provides actions and measures tailored to address the vulnerabilities of each locality.

The CCC supports LGUs in creating high-quality LCCAPs, which serve as crucial investment references for domestic financing mechanisms such as the People's Survival Fund.

It also fosters collaboration with LGUs through initiatives like ACT Local (Accelerating Climate Action and Transformation for Local Communities).

Borje said LGUs should have the tools, knowledge and financial resources to enhance climate adaptation and mitigate the risks.

He outlined three key strategies for LGUs to amplify climate actions that include capacity-building, access to climate finance and multi-sectoral collaboration.

"There is (a) need for robust planning based on the best available science, indigenous and local knowledge, and up-to-date methodologies to project future changes and impacts," he said.

"The Commission, with its partners in the government and non-state stakeholders, will be ready to extend the necessary technical support to LGUs towards achieving the desired level of climate resilience, from national to local, and across all sectors of our society."

JOURNAL NEWS

[Dela Cruz urges transformation of LGUs into 'Green Cities'](#)

By: Marlon Purification

WITH the impact of climate change already being felt across the globe, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. enthused that beyond doing everything to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and slow the pace of global warming, Filipinos must learn how to adapt to climate consequences so we can protect ourselves and our communities.

The Commissioner, however, added that the fallout varies depending on what part of the country an individual lives because in certain places one may experience fires or floods, droughts, hotter or colder days or increasing sea-level rise.

Still, the climate official warned that reducing carbon emissions is no longer enough to halt the impacts of climate change and we are now realizing that it's time to start adapting to rising global temperatures.

"This is why we need to provide technical support to local government units (LGUs) and help them build climate resilience through climate risks adaptation. There are many ways to adapt to what is happening and what will happen due to climate change. Individuals can take some simple measures, for example planting or preserving trees to keep temperatures cooler and clearing brush might reduce fire hazards as well," he pointed out.

For businesses or offices, Dela Cruz advised that people can start thinking about and planning around possible climate risks, such as hot days that prevent workers from doing outside tasks.

"Everyone should also be aware of the possibly greater potential for natural disasters where they work or live and what resources they have in case these happen," he noted even as he cited that many solutions to climate change lie in nature.

"For an example of so-called nature-based solutions, communities can stay safe by building flood walls and restoring mangrove forests, which protect against sea-level rise, provide food for people and offer a haven for plants and animals. Aside from mangrove regeneration, restoring vegetation around lakes and along rivers can protect shoreline communities while also helping in sustaining a recognized corridor for migrating birds," he explained.

The climate official also spelled out that while it might seem like nature-based solutions are mostly for the countryside, cities are also boosting resilience by turning to nature.

“Many of our urban centers, like Davao City and Metro Cebu can become so-called ‘Green Cities’ by restoring surrounding forests to limit landslides and floods, and improving drainage in ways that mimic natural streams and rivers,” he stressed.

In addition, Dela Cruz underscored the importance of LGUs initiating green transition from the utilization of sanitary landfills to the use of waste-to-energy (WtE) technologies in order to limit their GHG and carbon emissions and support proper garbage disposal by lessening the consumption of single-use plastics.

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