



NEWS ROUNDUP

22 September 2022 [as of 08:00 am]

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- Marcos tells world to act fast vs climate change

ABS CBN

[UN secretary-general nanawagan ng aksyon sa climate change, Ukraine](#)

Diretsahang sinabihan ng secretary-general ng United Nations ang mga lider ng iba-ibang bansa na kailangan nang umaksiyon ng lahat sa gitna ng sari-saring krisis at ng giyera sa Ukraine. Nagpa-Patrol, Willard Cheng. TV Patrol, Miyerkoles, 21 Setyembre 2022

AP NEWS

[Philippines leader: Rich countries have put poorest at risk](#)

By: Matt Sedensky

United Nations (AP) — The world's richest people have put its poorest at risk, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. charged Tuesday at the United Nations, pushing for action on inequality, nuclear weapons and climate change.

BENAR NEWS

[At UN, Marcos calls for 'united effort' to contain climate change](#)

By: Imran Vittachi

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., in his debut speech on the international stage at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, called for a "united effort" among the world's nations to confront climate change and other challenges such as inequality and Injustice.

BLOOMBERG

[Biden to Meet With Philippines' Marcos After UN Assembly Debut](#)

By Jennifer Jacobs and Andreo Calonzo

US President Joe Biden is planning to meet with his Philippine counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday, according to a person with knowledge of the plans, as both nations look to rebuild a longstanding alliance undermined in recent years.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[PHL trails Asian peers in Global Food Security Index](#)

By: Jasper Alcalas

THE Philippines ranked 67th in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) 2022, trailing behind half of its Asian peers as the country scored low in terms of food availability and adaptability to the impacts of climate change.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Marcos to meet Biden on sidelines of UNGA – Palace](#)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 21) — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and United States President Joe Biden are set to meet on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, Malacañang confirmed on Wednesday.

[Marcos, UN chief tackle climate action, global issues](#)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 21)— Philippine President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. met with United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres on Wednesday (Manila time) to discuss a range of global issues, including climate action.

EAGLE NEWS

[Pres. Marcos Jr., calls for stronger cooperation on climate change, agriculture, food security at UN Gen. Assembly](#)

(Eagle News) — Philippine President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. addressed the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in a historic speech that stressed how climate change has become the “greatest threat affecting our nations and our peoples” and food security as “the very basis of human security.”

MANILA BULLETIN

[US,PH to pursue power, mineral, infra investments — Pascual](#)

By: Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat

US and Philippine governments’ trade and commerce chiefs have agreed to pursue key investments in power generation, mineral processing and infrastructure in the Philippines.

[World leaders call for solidarity to tackle global challenges](#)

By: Xinhua

United Nations, United States — World leaders on Tuesday called for solidarity to tackle global challenges in their speeches to the General Debate of the UN General Assembly.

MANILA STANDARD

[PBBM seeks united front to address climate change, food security](#)

By: Vito Barcelo and Vince Lopez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday (Manila time) called for a united effort among nations to address climate change

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[IWA recognizes Manila Water as Climate Smart Utility during world congress](#)

By: Dennis Gutierrez - Contributor

MANILA, Philippines — The International Water Association (IWA) recognized Manila Water as a Climate Smart Utility in the first year of IWA's Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Program.

[\[OPINION\] The Marcosian past is present](#)

By: Raphael A. Pangalangan

There was something eerily familiar about President Marcos Jr.'s speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Angeles eyes waste-to-cement tech for collected plastics](#)

By: Zorayda Tecson

Angeles City, Pampanga – The city government here is exploring a waste-to-cement technology as part of its solid waste management efforts.

[DPWH completes P48-M flood control structure in Nueva Ecija](#)

By: Zorayda Tecson

City of San Fernando, Pampanga – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has completed the construction of a flood mitigation structure in Rizal, Nueva Ecija in time for this rainy season.

[PBBM 'on point' on climate change issues: solon](#)

By Jose Cielito Reganit

MANILA – House Committee on Disaster Resilience Chair Alan 1 Ecleo on Wednesday lauded President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. for prioritizing the issue of developing countries suffering the most from climate change during the latter's speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

[PBBM tells UNGA: 'United effort' will address climate change](#)

By Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday (Manila time) called for a “united effort” among nations to address climate change.

RAPPLER

[Al Gore sees the world at 'tipping point' for climate action](#)

London, United Kingdom – The world is at a “positive tipping point” in the fight against climate change as surging oil and gas costs spur governments to decarbonize faster, former US Vice President and co-founder of Generation Investment Management Al Gore told Reuters.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DoF mobilizing funds for water, green projects](#)

By: Ed Paolo Salting

The Department of Finance (DoF) is working to get capital or funds for the government's various green and water security programs.

[Maritime Week 2022 centers on caring for the marine environment](#)

This year's celebration of National Maritime Week is focused on environmental protection, particularly the push to ban the use of single-use plastics in domestic shipping and all ports.

[Marcos, Guterres meet on PH-UN cooperation](#)

By Catherine S. Valente

UNITED NATIONS: President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres met here on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) to discuss the cooperation between the Philippines and the UN and other global issues.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Marcos urges rich nations to fulfill climate obligations](#)

Manila, Philippines (Updated 5:05 p.m.) — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called on industrialized nations to immediately cut their greenhouse gas emissions and provide financial assistance to developing countries like the Philippines as the impacts of climate change grow.

[\[OPINION\] Right climate for a strategic partnership](#)

By HK Yu, PSM

Dear friends,

Two days ago, President Marcos delivered a powerful speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly High Level Week in New York: He spoke of increased strategic tensions and set out the Philippines' ongoing commitment to an open, inclusive and rules-based international order governed by international law. He spoke about the importance of tackling climate change and the role of emerging technologies on our lives. He stressed the importance of reinvigorating the world economy in the wake of the pandemic, and continuing investment in Philippine food security, public health, education and other social services. Australia has similar priorities and is working closely with the Philippines to promote our common objectives.

THE WASHINGTON POST

[Denmark becomes first U.N. member to pay for 'loss and damage' from climate change](#)

By: Sarah Kaplan

Denmark will direct about \$13 million to assist vulnerable countries that have suffered "loss and damage" from climate change — the first time in U.N. history a wealthy member state has pledged compensation for the consequences of emissions in the developing world.

UN ORG

[UN Climate Envoy launches new plans to boost access to renewables](#)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres' Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions Michael Bloomberg announced a new commitment to help accelerate the transition to renewable energy in 15 developing countries across the world - Botswana, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Mexico, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uganda.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

['Injustice must be corrected': Marcos urges big economies to help fight climate change](#)

By: Job Manahan

Manila (UPDATE)— President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday urged developed economies to help in the world's fight against climate change, saying smaller countries are more vulnerable to its impact but industrialized countries are not doing enough.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Eleventh hour: Where are we headed with the new EPR Law?](#)

“It is a good start.” This is what Sen. Cynthia Villar said about the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act, a law she shepherded in the Senate that lapsed into law in late July when both Presidents Duterte and Marcos didn’t act on it.

PTV NEWS

[Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., tiniyak na kasama ang climate change sa kanyang prayoridad](#)

Climate Change, isa sa pinaka seryosong problemang kinakaharap ng mundo.

RMN

[Plenary debates sa proposed 2023 budget ng mahigit 30 ahensya at tanggapan ng gobyerno, tinapos na ng Kamara](#)

Ngayon ang ikalawang araw ng plenary deliberations ng Kamara sa panukalang pambansang budget sa susunod na taon na nagkakahalaga ng 5.268 trillion pesos.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Marcos tells world to act fast vs climate change](#)

By: Catherine S. Valente and Franco Jose C. Baroña

United Nations: President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) called on all nations to launch a unified and immediate response against climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

UN secretary-general nanawagan ng aksiyon sa climate change, Ukraine

Diretsahang sinabihan ng secretary-general ng United Nations ang mga lider ng iba-ibang bansa na kailangan nang umaksiyon ng lahat sa gitna ng sari-saring krisis at ng giyera sa Ukraine.



AP NEWS

Philippines leader: Rich countries have put poorest at risk

By: Matt Sedensky

United Nations (AP) — The world's richest people have put its poorest at risk, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. charged Tuesday at the United Nations, pushing for action on inequality, nuclear weapons and climate change.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly for the first time since taking office in June, Marcos said "the time for talk about 'if' and 'when' has long since passed" on climate change, and he called on industrialized countries to fulfill obligations to cut greenhouse gases and aid developing countries.

"The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most," Marcos said. "This injustice must be corrected and those who need to do more must act now."

Marcos returned to the theme of the rich-poor divide at multiple points throughout his speech, noting ballooning debt burdens, lack of Internet access and lopsided impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Richer nations immediately received vaccines at the expense of the have-nots," he said. "Filipino health workers were at the front lines in many countries ... risking and oftentimes sacrificing their own lives to save those of others."

Marcos hinted at inequality in the very complex he stood in, pressing for a seat on the Security Council. He said very foundations of the U.N. were being ignored, but offered no elaboration.

"Our very charter is being violated around the world as we speak," he said.

Among other issues, Marcos called for a reduction in nuclear arms and the creation of regulations governing cyberspace and the weaponization of artificial intelligence.

Marcos was swept into office in a stunning election victory, 36 years after an army-backed "People Power" revolt booted his father, Ferdinand Marcos Sr., from office and into global infamy. The elder Marcos was known for tyrannical rule, though his son has rejected labeling him a dictator.

BENAR NEWS

[At UN, Marcos calls for 'united effort' to contain climate change](#)

By: Imran Vittachi

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., in his debut speech on the international stage at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, called for a “united effort” among the world’s nations to confront climate change and other challenges such as inequality and injustice.

In an address that lasted about 21 minutes, the new leader of the Philippines and son of a former Filipino president, touched on issues ranging from global warming to inequalities between rich and poor countries, as well as emerging technologies that are rapidly changing humanity.

“We are confronted by tectonic shifts that will inform the ebb and flow of the coming century,” Marcos said as he became the first Philippine leader in eight years to speak in person at the General Assembly Hall in New York.

“Climate change is the greatest threat affecting our nations and peoples. There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the United Nations,” he said.

He called on the members of the world body to come together to correct a historical injustice reflected in climate change, and for industrialized countries to cut carbon emissions and do their part in meeting their obligations under international agreements on climate change.

“Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines is a net carbon sink, absorbing more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the 4th most vulnerable country to climate change,” said Marcos, who wore a white embroidered traditional Filipino barong shirt buttoned up to the collar with a Philippine flag pinned to the lapel.

But the namesake son of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos (pictured), who in his time had addressed the same world body, said little about human rights. Given his family’s history, the issue has shadowed him since before he was elected president in a landslide in May.

“We need to reaffirm the wisdom of the founders of our United Nations. This means transcending our differences and committing to ending war, upholding justice, respecting human rights, and maintaining international peace and security,” he said.

When the younger Marcos gave his speech, it was Wednesday morning in Manila on the day that marked the 50th anniversary of when his father signed a presidential proclamation that imposed martial law nationwide. During 14 years of martial law, activists have documented thousands of cases of deaths and enforced disappearances.

Marcos also made no mention of the rule of law on the domestic front or efforts by the U.N.'s International Criminal Court to investigate alleged abuses and thousands of officer-involved killings committed by his immediate predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, in the Philippine war on drugs. Earlier this month, the Marcos administration said it was seeking to block an ICC investigation into Duterte.

However, Marcos alluded to his country's international legal battles with China over a territorial dispute in the South China Sea. At the same time, he implied that his administration would take no sides in a geopolitical rivalry between Beijing and Washington.

"Amidst challenging global tides, an important ballast stabilizes our common vessel," the Philippine president said. "That is, our open, inclusive, and rules-based international order that is governed by international law and informed by the principles of equity and justice. As I have underscored, the Philippines shall continue to be a friend to all, and enemy of none."

He had used the same catch phrase – "a friend to all, and enemy of none" – in his first State of the Nation speech to the Philippine Congress within a month of taking office.

In front of the United Nations on Tuesday, Marcos also talked about geopolitics but without naming China, the United States, or other powers.

"Widening geopolitical polarities and sharpening strategic competitions are transforming the international political landscape. A profound lack of trust is putting enormous strains on our multilateral system," he said.

"In Asia, our hard-won peace and stability is under threat by increasing strategic and ideological tensions."

Marcos, 65, was also making his first trip to the United States since he took office in late June.

During a speech at the New York Stock Exchange on Monday, he declared that ties between the Philippines and the United States would become stronger under his administration.

President Duterte, his predecessor, had pivoted Manila away from traditional ally Washington and closer to Beijing during his six years in office despite tensions over the South China Sea.

"It is very clear to me that I cannot see the Philippines in the future without having the United States as a partner," Marcos said at the stock exchange.

BLOOMBERG

Biden to Meet With Philippines' Marcos After UN Assembly Debut

By Jennifer Jacobs and Andreo Calonzo

- Philippines becoming vulnerable to effects of global warming
- Marcos also spoke on food security, seeks investment

US President Joe Biden is planning to meet with his Philippine counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday, according to a person with knowledge of the plans, as both nations look to rebuild a longstanding alliance undermined in recent years.

This would be the first meeting between the leaders of the two countries since former president Donald Trump met with Rodrigo Duterte in Manila in 2017.

Marcos, who's in New York for the UN General Assembly, has been on a charm offensive with his comments on keeping the US as a partner and seeking its support during a crisis. His remarks are a marked contrast to his predecessor, Duterte, who went to China in the early days of his presidency and announced a "separation" from the US.

The Philippines under Marcos has been ramping up protests against Beijing over a territorial dispute in the South China Sea. However, in an early sign of balancing interests shortly after winning the elections in May, Marcos called China the nation's "strongest partner" in pandemic recovery and said government is open to talks with Beijing on oil exploration in the disputed area.

The late dictator's son is facing a \$354 million fine for contempt of court in the US after he failed to comply with rulings on disbursing the family's assets. However, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in June said Marcos has diplomatic immunity as head of state and can enter America.

Historical Injustice

The new Philippine leader pushed for climate financing from developed nations in his first major speech before world leaders on Wednesday, urging that the "historical injustice" caused by global warming be rectified.

The Southeast Asian country is among the developing nations, responsible for just fraction of greenhouse gas emissions, who are pushing their case for more funds from industrialized countries that have prospered for more than a century.

In his address to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Marcos called on those countries to cut their carbon emissions and provide technology transfer for climate adaptation for the most vulnerable nations.

“The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice,” Marcos said. “This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now.”

Marcos said the Philippines is a net carbon sink, absorbing more than it emits but it is increasingly exposed to climate change. The Philippines is the fourth most vulnerable to floods and storms, according to Fitch Ratings’ climate change physical risk exposure heatmap rankings.

An average of 20 cyclones pass through the Philippines annually, incurring \$10 billion in losses from climate-related hazards over a decade.

The Philippine leader also called for investments to modernize agriculture and ensure food security. He added that he’s looking forward to partnering with the UN and other countries to boost agricultural productivity, which is among his campaign pledges.

Marcos’s new government is facing economic challenges including food shortages and above-target inflation, as the world reels from the impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the pandemic’s lingering effects. The late dictator’s son has made the rare move of helming the agriculture department, as he pushes for food security.

Marcos Jr.’s Big Promises to Philippines Face Economic Reality

Still, the Philippine economy is expected to grow above 6% this year, in line with its pre-pandemic level as businesses reopen from strict pandemic restrictions. Marcos’s economic team is aiming for economic growth of at least 6.5% annually through 2028.

BUSINESS MIRROR

PHL trails Asian peers in Global Food Security Index

By: Jasper Alcalas

THE Philippines ranked 67th in the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) 2022, trailing behind half of its Asian peers as the country scored low in terms of food availability and adaptability to the impacts of climate change.

The GFSI index showed that the Philippines, which had an overall food security score of 59.3, placed 67th out of 113 countries included in the index by Economist Impact and Corteva Science.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines ranked 13th out of 23 countries, behind Azerbaijan and Thailand. The GFSI index showed that the Philippines had a better food security score than India (58.9), which placed 14th, and three Southeast Asian neighbors—Myanmar (57.6), Cambodia (55.7) and Laos (53.1).

The GFSI index measures four aspects of a country's food security, namely, food affordability, availability, quality and safety, and sustainability and adaptation.

The Philippines scored 71.5 in terms of food affordability, 55.2 in terms of availability, 65.3 in terms of quality and safety and 41.8 in terms of sustainability and adaptation.

"The country performs best in Affordability, owing to steady consumer prices, a low proportion of the population under the poverty line, relative ease of agricultural trade and a good food safety-net programme," the GFSI report, which was published recently, said.

"The country's weakest performance is in the Sustainability and Adaptation category, with its 'weak' score of 41.8 due to exposure risks to the agricultural water supply, land deterioration and threats to marine biodiversity," it added.

The GFSI pointed out that the Philippines "needs" to strengthen its sustainability and adaptation policies "to protect the agricultural sector and natural resources from the negative impacts of climate change."

"The Philippines has implemented environmental-economic accounting measures and adopted disaster risk reduction strategies at the national and local level. However, despite these significant improvements, the overall category score is still considered 'weak,'" it said.

"The country must make greater efforts to improve scores on all indicators and sub-indicators in the Sustainability and Adaptation pillar, particularly those focused on protecting natural resources," it added.

The report indicated that the Philippines's strengths lie in ensuring farmers' access to agricultural inputs and in establishing a foundation of strong farm infrastructure. Furthermore, the country has "strong" nutritional standards that help consumers, according to the report.

The country's highest score was in food affordability as it had "good" to "very good" scores in change in average food scores, proportion of population under the global poverty line, agricultural and food safety-net programs. A score of 70 to 79.9 is considered good while a score of 80 to 100 is very good.

The Philippines scored 74 in change in average food costs, 82.7 in proportion of population under global poverty line, 49.8 in inequality-adjusted income index, 74.7 in agricultural trade, and 73.2 in food safety net programs.

"Price consistency on the consumer side and ease of trade enables food to remain affordable," the report said.

However, the report emphasized that the Philippines lags behind in terms of agricultural research and development. The report also pointed out that the country has "excessive dependency on food aid."

The Philippines ranked 81st globally in terms of agricultural research and development but still falls in the "very weak" score bracket or a score range of 0 to 39.9 owing to declining budget for research and development.

"This is because the country's public spending on research and development has steadily declined since the beginning of the reporting period. In addition, access to agricultural technology, education and resources is low," the report said.

CNN PHILIPPINES

Marcos to meet Biden on sidelines of UNGA – Palace

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 21) — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and United States President Joe Biden are set to meet on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, Malacañang confirmed on Wednesday.

The meeting will be the first in-person discussion between the two leaders, Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles noted in a statement.

“[This is] a momentous event for both countries as (it is) an opportunity to discuss 76 fruitful years of the Philippine-US alliance,” Cruz-Angeles said.

Topics expected to be tackled include mutual cooperation, trade, and direct investments, according to the Palace official.

Marcos, UN chief tackle climate action, global issues

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 21)— Philippine President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. met with United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres on Wednesday (Manila time) to discuss a range of global issues, including climate action.

"The Secretary-General and President Marcos discussed areas of United Nations cooperation and support," the UN said in a statement.

"They also exchanged views on the international situation as well as climate action initiatives," it added.

The Philippine leader's meeting with the top UN official took place on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The chief executive, during his address earlier in the day, likewise pushed for concrete steps to address climate change — which he described as the "greatest threat" to countries.

"There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the United Nations," Marcos stressed. "We accept our share of responsibility and will continue to do our part to avert this collective disaster."

EAGLE NEWS

[Pres. Marcos Jr., calls for stronger cooperation on climate change, agriculture, food security at UN Gen. Assembly](#)

(Eagle News) — Philippine President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. addressed the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in a historic speech that stressed how climate change has become the “greatest threat affecting our nations and our peoples” and food security as “the very basis of human security.”

The 65-year old Philippine leader also enumerated the various problems besetting the world today faced with “transcendental challenges” that should be solved by all nations.

Marcos Jr., the first Philippine president to address the UN General Assembly physically in eight years, said that climate change is “a problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the United Nations.”

“The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect an historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines, for example, is a net carbon sink, we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the 4th most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change,” he said at the opening of the 77th session of the UNGA on Tuesday afternoon, September 20 (early morning of Sept. 21 in Manila)

“This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now. We accept our share of responsibility and will continue to do our part to avert this collective disaster,” he said.

-Industrialized countries urged to fulfill obligations-

The Philippine president then called on the industrialized countries “to immediately fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries to lead by example.”

He said that the Philippines is also looking forward to the concrete outcomes at the Conference of Parties in Egypt later this year. The COP is the supreme decision-making body that assesses the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that brings together the 197 nations and territories – called Parties – that have signed on to the Framework Convention. The COP meets every year unless the Parties decide otherwise, according to UN.

Marcos Jr said that the crisis today is indeed critical, a “watershed moment” for humankind.

“When future generations look back, let them not ask why we did not take this opportunity to turn the tide, why did we continue in our profligate ways, until it was too

late? This threat knows no borders, no social class, nor any geopolitical consideration. How we address it will be the true test of our time,” he said addressing other world leaders attending the UNGA.

-Investing in food security-

Marcos said investing in food security at this time is very crucial amid the pandemic, climate change, and the ongoing conflicts in the world including the tensions in Ukraine that have affected not only food security but energy security as well.

Towards this end, the Philippine president said that all nations should take “concrete steps towards a modern and resilient agriculture.”

“For food is not just a trade commodity nor is it just a livelihood. It is an existential imperative, and a moral one. It is the very basis of human security,” he said.

Sustainability is also another important factor in looking for solutions to “preserve our planet.”

“These solutions must transcend our time and win the future for the succeeding generations. We crafted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a platform of unity where our societies can build a future that is resilient and that is inclusive, where our people can be healthy, happy and secure,” he said.

Marcos, who is also the incumbent secretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, said the country is looking forward to “forging cooperation with the UN and our partners to boost agricultural productivity and food security.”

He talked of how the Philippines’ efforts to attain food self-sufficiency and security.

“We are providing innovative solutions and financial support to farmers and fisher-folk to adapt new technologies and connect to national and global value supply chains,” he said.

-Protecting water resources and biodiversity-

Marcos also talked about the importance of protecting water resources as water not only “connects our world and sustains our existence,” but is also a “finite resource that requires our stewardship.”

He said it was also equally important to protect our biodiversity amidst the continuing challenges of climate change.

“We must enhance our cooperation in these areas,” he said.

“Our development agenda must also take into account the interest of all developing nations, including middle-income countries where the majority of the world’s poor live,” the Philippine president added.

MANILA BULLETIN

US,PH to pursue power, mineral, infra investments — Pascual

By: Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat

US and Philippine governments' trade and commerce chiefs have agreed to pursue key investments in power generation, mineral processing and infrastructure in the Philippines.

Trade and Industry Secretary Alfredo Pascual reported after meeting with and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. Pascual is in New York as part of the government official entourage of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who attended and delivered his speech at the UN General Assembly in New York.

In his meeting with Raimondo, the DTI chief shared his intention to attract more US investments in power generation, especially in the field of renewable energy such as geothermal, solar, and wind power for the Philippines. This is in line with the government's plan to address the energy supply and the rising cost of traditional power generation in the country through untapped resources.

Pascual said they also agreed to conduct an infrastructure business matching between the Philippines and the American businesses.

In addition, Pascual requested Raimondo's support for the reauthorization of the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) that will provide duty-free privileges to several Philippine-made products exported to the US.

Aside from scaling up the renewable energy sector, the Philippines also wants to explore investment opportunities in green metals in partnership with US firms. The Philippines has vast resources of nickel and cobalt which are key inputs for battery manufacturing, and copper, which is an important input for the production and manufacture of technology products.

"These investments are timely as we promote the e-vehicle industry and production of high technology products in the Philippines," said Pascual.

"The Philippines wants to add value by processing these mineral resources instead of simply exporting ores," Pascual told Raimondo.

Earlier, DTI said the US government will extend a grant for the Philippines' nickel ore processing for the manufacture of batteries through a partnership with an American firm.

The trade chief also highlighted the key policy reforms that enable, among others, 100 percent foreign ownership in key sectors such as telecommunications, shipping, air carriers, railway, and subways.

“Attracting foreign investments into our country is a top priority of the new Administration. We will build on recent policy reforms, particularly amendments to the Foreign Investments Act, Public Service Act, and Retail Trade Liberalization Act,” the Trade chief said.

With the country’s participation in the US led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), Pascual expressed the desire of the Philippines to further closely engage with the United States in promoting and generating investments while advocating labor rights, environment and good governance.

[World leaders call for solidarity to tackle global challenges](#)

By: Xinhua

United Nations, United States — World leaders on Tuesday called for solidarity to tackle global challenges in their speeches to the General Debate of the UN General Assembly.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said that threats to freedom and peace must be overcome through solidarity and fearless commitment to the framework of universal global norms consolidated over the years within the UN system.

The theme of this year's General Debate, "A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges," encapsulates the gravity of the global crisis, which underscores the solemn role of the United Nations, he said.

"The first step in our journey to seek answers that will help us through these turbulent times begins with solidarity and deference to the universally accepted global norms, as well as the UN system established over the past decades," said Yoon.

To tackle the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations must play a central role in bringing the community of nations together to decisively step up their support for countries with limited fiscal space and technical expertise.

In pursuit of the global agenda for decarbonization, countries with leading green technologies must work to share new and renewable energy technologies with other countries.

In the era of digital sophistication, one of the most urgent tasks for the global community and the United Nations is promoting global cooperation to narrow the digital divide which exacerbates polarization between nations.

"As we seek answers to the global crisis we are faced with, the viability of the UN system and the universal global norms architecture is under test," he warned. "Any attempt to turn away from the UN system and universal norms will divide the global community into blocs, further compounding the crisis and turmoil."

The international community must vigorously endeavor to share responsibility and join forces, whenever necessary, to resolve the challenges it faces, he said. "Once again, I call upon global citizens and leaders of the world for their resolute and enduring support for the UN system and universal global norms as we seek answers in this watershed moment."

Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos said climate change is the greatest threat affecting nations and peoples. There is no other problem so global in nature that requires a united effort led by the United Nations.

The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice: those who are least responsible suffer the most. This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now.

“We call on industrialized countries to immediately fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries, to lead by example,” he said.

Widening geopolitical polarities and sharpening strategic competition are transforming the international political landscape, said Marcos.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said one of the biggest lessons learned in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was the importance of international solidarity in solving global problems.

In the 21st century, when material and technological means have reached the highest level, it is impossible to explain why one-fifth of the world’s population is still suffering from hunger and poverty, he said.

The only way to shed a light of hope on this grim picture humanity is facing is to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity through a fair and just approach, he said.

Türkiye will continue to increase its efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine, he said. “We need a dignified way out of this crisis. And that can only be possible through a diplomatic solution, which is rational, fair and applicable.”

In his speech, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro called for an end to the Ukraine conflict through negotiation and dialogue.

“We advocate an immediate cease-fire, the protection of civilians and noncombatants, the preservation of critical infrastructure to assist the population and the maintenance of all channels of dialogue between the parties in conflict. These are the first steps toward achieving a solution that is long-lasting and sustainable,” he said.

Brazil supports all efforts to reduce the economic impacts of this crisis. But it does not believe that the best way is to adopt unilateral and selective sanctions that are inconsistent with international law. These measures have harmed economic recovery and threatened the human rights of vulnerable populations, including in European countries, he said.

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, said his country is fully aware of the complexities of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and its international and global dimensions. Yet his country calls for an immediate cease-fire, as the conflict will have to stop anyway.

Perpetuating the crisis will only increase the number of casualties, he warned.

Wavel Ramkalawan, president of Seychelles, said his country's stance on the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy is universally recognized.

Seychelles strongly supports the call of the chair of the African Union and the chairperson of the African Union Commission urging the parties concerned to establish an immediate cease-fire and to resume negotiations in order to preserve the world from the consequences of planetary conflict and to find a permanent and mutually acceptable solution to the Ukraine conflict, he said.

MANILA STANDARD

[PBBM seeks united front to address climate change, food security](#)

By: Vito Barcelo and Vince Lopez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday (Manila time) called for a united effort among nations to address climate change

In a speech at the 77th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Marcos said climate change is “the greatest threat affecting our nations and our peoples.”

“There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the United Nations,” he said in a speech that lasted over 20 minutes.

At the same time, Marcos—who met with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the session—underscored the need for nations to invest in food security, noting that the coronavirus pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict have resulted in difficulties in accessing food worldwide.

Climate Change

Despite being one of the smallest contributors to CO2 emissions, the Philippines remains among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, Marcos said.

“The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect an historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines, for example, is a net carbon sink, we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the 4th most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change,” he said.

Marcos emphasized the need for nations to correct injustices by accepting their share of responsibilities.

He also enjoined industrialized countries to fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to “cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable, and developing countries to lead by example.”

“We look forward to concrete outcomes at the Conference of Parties in Egypt later this year,” he said.

In June, Marcos said he was seriously considering his invitation to attend the UN Climate Change Conference’s 27th session of the Conference of the Parties in Egypt in November this year.

Marcos also vowed that the Philippine government would continue to do its part to avert what he described as a “collective disaster.”

“When future generations look back, let them not ask why we did not take this opportunity to turn the tide, why did we continue in our profligate ways, until it was too late? This threat knows no borders, no social class, nor any geopolitical consideration. How we address it will be the true test of our time,” he said.

In March 2017, the Philippines ratified the Paris climate pact — a worldwide effort to achieve a below 2-degrees Celsius increase in global temperatures.

The Philippines, which accounts for less than 1 percent of the world’s emissions, has committed to reducing its emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

In his first State of the Nation Address on July 25, Marcos also vowed to increase the Philippines’ use of renewable energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal, solar, and wind to help slow down the effects of climate change.

Food Security

In his speech, Marcos also emphasized the importance of food as “the very basis of human security.”

“We need to take concrete steps towards modern and resilient agriculture. For food is not just a trade commodity nor is it just a livelihood. It is an existential imperative, and a moral one. It is the very basis of human security,” he said.

Marcos, who concurrently heads the Department of Agriculture, discussed the Philippines’ efforts to address problems in the agriculture sector such as providing innovative solutions and financial support to farmers and fishers to adopt new technologies and connect to national and global value supply chains.

He also expressed a desire to forge cooperation with the UN and other partners to boost agricultural productivity and food security.

“As host to 17 UN agencies, programs and funds, the Philippines strongly supports reforms to ensure that the UN Development System delivers as one through its UN Country Team,” he said.

World powers met Tuesday at the United Nations on how to address rising food insecurity, with dire warnings of a devastating harvest next year due to the war in Ukraine.

The United States joined the European Union, African Union and Spain for a meeting at the ministerial level on food prices, seen as a key factor in conflicts and instability.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted the effects of rising prices in some of the world’s most vulnerable places, including Yemen, which has been devastated by eight years of war from which it is seeing a respite.

“As we’ve seen over the last years as a result of Covid, before that climate change and, more recently, conflict – notably Russia’s aggression against Ukraine – profound food insecurity touches well over 200 million people on this planet, including, of course, in Yemen,” Blinken said. (See full story online at manilastandard.net)

In a joint report in July, UN agencies, including UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization, said that between 702 million and 828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021, or 9.8 percent of the world population.

Biodiversity

Marcos added that biodiversity must also be protected as part of joint efforts to preserve the planet.

“Water connects our world and sustains our existence, but it is also a finite resource that requires our stewardship. Equally important, our biodiversity must be protected amidst the continuing challenge of climate change. We must enhance our cooperation in these areas,” he said.

He recognized the crafting of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a platform where societies can build a future that is “resilient” and “inclusive.”

However, he also reminded nations to ensure that their development agenda takes into account the interest of all developing nations, including middle-income countries where the majority of the world’s poor lives.

Marcos said sustainability also meant equipping people with the tools necessary to meet the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

“Investments in education are key, and my administration is prepared to make such investments. The Philippines notes with appreciation the Transforming Education Summit held earlier this week. At which these subjects were taken up,” he said.

He also stressed the creativity and innovation of the youth as a great renewable source.

“We understand the value of harnessing our people’s talents by creating a robust and creative economy. We will continue to work with partners in promoting this at the international level,” he added.

Marcos’ working visit to the US will be from Sept. 18 to 24.

On Monday, he met with the Filipino community in New Jersey, and attended the New York Stock Exchange Economic Forum on Tuesday.

Investments

Meanwhile, Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo agreed to pursue key investments in power generation, mineral processing, and infrastructure in the Philippines.

In his meeting with Raimondo, Pascual emphasized the Philippines' desire to attract more US investments in power generation, especially in the field of renewable energy such as geothermal, solar, and wind power for the Philippines.

This is in line with the government's plan to address the energy supply and the rising cost of traditional power generation in the country through untapped resources.

Pascual agreed to an infrastructure business matching between the Philippines and the US as he also called for Raimondo's support for the reauthorization of the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a preferential trade program that will allow duty-free privileges to Philippine-made products exported to the US.

Aside from scaling up the renewable energy sector, the Philippines also wants to explore investment opportunities in green metals in partnership with US firms.

"These investments are timely as we promote the e-vehicle industry and production of high technology products in the Philippines," said Pascual.

He underscored the Philippines' vast resources of nickel and cobalt which are key inputs for battery manufacturing, and copper, which is an important input for the production and manufacture of technology products.

Pascual highlighted key policy reforms that enable, among others, 100 percent foreign ownership in key sectors such as telecommunications, shipping, air carriers, railway, and subways.

"Attracting foreign investments into our country is a top priority of the new administration. We will build on recent policy reforms, particularly amendments to the Foreign Investments Act, Public Service Act, and Retail Trade Liberalization Act," he said.

With the country's participation in the US led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), Pascual said the Philippines is looking forward to further engaging the US in promoting and generating investments while advocating labor rights, environment and good governance.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[IWA recognizes Manila Water as Climate Smart Utility during world congress](#)

By: Dennis Gutierrez - Contributor

MANILA, Philippines — The International Water Association (IWA) recognized Manila Water as a Climate Smart Utility in the first year of IWA's Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Program.

With the latest acknowledgment, Manila Water is the first water utility company in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia to be recognized in this program that aims to inspire utilities and all their stakeholders to embrace climate resilience under three key pillars for action – climate adaptation, mitigation, and leadership.

Following a robust review, a total of 42 Climate Smart utilities across the world were honored during the IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition, held in Copenhagen, Denmark from September 11 to 15. Manila Water's Sustainability Head, Sarah Bergado, received the Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the company.

During the world congress, Bergado also shared the company's climate actions in a workshop session on exploring framework conditions for utilities to reduce GHG emissions.

Bergado presented Manila Water's climate-related challenges and the strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

"It is imperative for Manila Water to adapt first to climate change because it is here, and its impacts are already felt. Now that a certain level of stability is achieved, then it is time to double our efforts to contribute to mitigating climate change impact through energy efficiency, renewable energy transition, NRW reduction, watershed management and wastewater treatment expansion," Bergado emphasized.

As a testament to its commitment to climate action, Manila Water is among the first companies in the country to adopt a Climate Change Policy. The company's GHG emission reduction programs include its transition to renewable energy (RE) wherein a 4% reduction was realized in 2021 compared to 2020 through onsite solar power generation and RE purchase. For climate change adaptation, Manila Water addresses raw water quality risk through Nature-Based Solutions, with 2,459 hectares of watershed areas reforested with 1.2 million native trees planted since 2006.

These highlighted actions were also showcased in the exhibition through a poster pitch, explaining to other utility leader delegates how Manila Water is progressing in its climate ambition.

The Water Congress was attended by more than 10,000 professionals and leaders from around the world.

[OPINION] The Marcosian past is present

By: Raphael A. Pangalangan

There was something eerily familiar about President Marcos Jr.'s speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The last time a Marcos addressed the UNGA was exactly 30 years ago. On Sept. 22, 1982, then President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. took the stand at the 37th Session; declaring anew the country's support to the UNGA, announcing the potential adoption of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes of 1982, and highlighting the "disequilibrium" in the world economy. "In this state of affairs," he said, "it is the developing countries which are suffering the most."

Notably, the highlights of the father in 1982 were the talking points of the son 40 years thereafter. Marcos Jr. similarly invokes the Manila Declaration and the inequities of the world economy amidst COVID-19. In addition, he underscores the Philippines' contributions to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 and implores the name of the highly esteemed Carlos P. Romulo—former president of UNGA and, afterward, the Philippine secretary of foreign affairs (SFA) from 1973 to 1984.

I must admit: The presidential speechwriters have done their homework.

These choice remarks were not random. On the contrary, they were deliberately cited as if to remind the international community of the advances made under Marcos Sr.'s dictatorship. Indeed, this was no simple case of diplomatic rhetoric or political tallying.

It was so much more than just demagoguery. For Marcos Jr., it was offertory. Front and center of the hallowed Hall of the UNGA, Marcos Jr. paid homage to the author of a regime marred by grave human rights violations and corruption. A tribute to father from son, and yet another contribution to the Marcos revival project.

But, of course, there is one other striking similarity shared by the 1982 and 2022 speeches, and that is their utter failure to address the elephant in the room.

Both Marcos Sr. and Marcos Jr. remained absolutely mum on the dismal human rights record of the dictatorship. In fact, from 1972-1985, any mention of "martial law" by the Philippine delegate to the UNGA would be few and far in between. And on the rare occasions martial law was indeed discussed, it would only be in a positive light. For example, on Oct. 9, 1972—barely three weeks from the infamous Proclamation No. 1081 imposing the entirety of the country under martial law—SFA Romulo reported to the 27th Session of the UNGA that Marcos Sr. "proclaim[ed] martial law [...] to safeguard the Republic of the Philippines from violent overthrow by subversive groups" and "to eliminate the inequities in Philippine society by means of a thorough reform and restructuring of social, political and economic institutions[.]" It would be of little surprise to learn that this was followed by applause—as customary in these procedures. And to

think that, at that point time, Philippine mass media was on lockdown, and opposition leaders, legislators, and journalists numbering in the thousands had already been arrested.

For 14 years under Marcos Sr.'s tyrannical rule, the nation faced one of its darkest chapters in history; both in numbers and in agony. Not only in scale, but in severity. 70,000 Filipinos were political detainees. A reported 34,000 were victims of torture, and about 3,240 were victims of salvaging.

Unfortunately, some would much prefer that we leave the sins of the Marcosian past behind us. Online posts commemorating the victims of martial law are either coldly ignored or dismissed as the tune of broken records. A comment reads: "Sawang-sawa na ako sa 'Never Again to Martial Law!'" Well, if you're sick of hearing it, we're tired from screaming it. Though, to be honest, the optimist in me is somewhat relieved to know that our cries for justice are loud enough to annoy and have not simply fallen on deaf ears.

Alas, even government officials have gotten into the mix, with Senators Robin Padilla and Jinggoy Estrada urging Filipinos to simply "move on." And, of course, could we forget the 2016 case of Ocampo v. Enriquez? The Philippine Supreme Court not only failed to enjoin Marcos Sr.'s burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, but—adding insult to injury—similarly concluded that the Filipino people should "move on" and "let this issue rest."

But how could we, when justice for the Marcosian atrocities has not been rendered? And perhaps more importantly, I ask: Should we ever move on when so much injustice has already taken place?

I answer both questions in the negative. There is no moving on, for the Marcosian past is present. It continues to define us. Haunt us. May it continue to remind us of the thousands of lives lost, the sacrifices they made, and the empowering force of their dissent that eventually toppled a dictator. They cannot simply be forgotten. To forget is to forsake.

It is precisely when we are convinced that we can sever that painful history from the here and now that we know we are truly lost.

May that day never come.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Angeles eyes waste-to-cement tech for collected plastics

By: Zorayda Tecson

Angeles City, Pampanga – The city government here is exploring a waste-to-cement technology as part of its solid waste management efforts.

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. on Wednesday met with Republic Cement & Building Materials, (RCBM) Inc. managing director for ecoloop Angela Edralin-Valencia to discuss the proposed waste-to-cement conversion using the plastics that are collected in the city through its Walang Plastikan-Plastik Palit Bigas project.

The project, which was launched last January, aims to encourage residents to practice waste segregation in their own homes, as well as to reduce if not eliminate the use of plastics to achieve a cleaner and greener environment.

Through the project, the city government collects recyclable plastics from residents in exchange for rice.

One kilo of recyclable plastics is equivalent to one kilo of rice.

To date, the plastics collected are being made into brick pavers through the use of plastic shredder machines, the first of its kind in the city and in Pampanga.

RCBM, a company engaged in the manufacture of cement, can use alternative fuels such as polyethylene plastics, polystyrene packaging material, and other non-recyclable combustibles, for co-processing in its cement manufacturing operations.

So far, it has partnered with over 30 local government units for its local solid waste management initiatives.

DPWH completes P48-M flood control structure in Nueva Ecija

By: Zorayda Tecson

City of San Fernando, Pampanga – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has completed the construction of a flood mitigation structure in Rizal, Nueva Ecija in time for this rainy season.

Implemented by the DPWH-Nueva Ecija First District Engineering Office, the project with a total cost of PHP48 million has a length of 262 lineal meters from Barangay Poblacion East to Barangay Calaocan in Rizal town.

“As one of our priorities is the safety of our constituents, the District Engineering Office will continue to build flood control structures that will help reduce the adverse effects of flooding such as lower than expected agricultural production, or losses in livelihoods especially those living in floodplains,” District Engineer Armando Manabat said in a statement on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the construction of a 719.12-lineal meter flood control structure in Barangay Ariendo section of Digmala River in Bongabon town, also in Nueva Ecija is now in full swing.

Nueva Ecija 2nd District Engineer Elpidio Trinidad said the flood control structure is designed to shield residents of onion-producing barangays in Bongabon from flooding.

Trinidad said he recently inspected the PHP81-million project to observe the progress of construction activities.

“We are validating and monitoring the implementation of this PHP81-million project funded under the 2022 General Appropriations Act to ensure that its implementation is consistent with the approved plans and Program of Works,” he said.

PBBM 'on point' on climate change issues: solon

By Jose Cielito Reganit

MANILA – House Committee on Disaster Resilience Chair Alan Ecleo on Wednesday lauded President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. for prioritizing the issue of developing countries suffering the most from climate change during the latter’s speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

"Just like how we Filipinos show unity of action and purpose with each typhoon that devastates our country, we want the global community to also show unity in cutting emissions and developing the resilience of the most vulnerable. We are glad that PBBM echoed this in his speech before the United Nations," Ecleo said.

He made the statement after Marcos called on “industrialized countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries.”

Ecleo, whose province of Dinagat was leveled by Category 5 Typhoon Odette in December last year, pointed out that "the demands of adaptation to climate change, along with the rehabilitation from climate-related disasters, are mounting and we cannot continue to have developing countries like the Philippines be the ones to pay the price."

“Rich, industrialized countries who have profited much from centuries of emission-fueled development must pay their fair share to vulnerable countries by sharing the cost of adaptation, mitigation, and rehabilitation efforts,” Ecleo said.

Earlier, Ecleo filed House Resolution 289 calling on the Departments of Education (DepEd), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to come up with a master design for disaster resilient schools.

During the Disaster Resilience Committee hearing last Sept. 15, he also asked the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and other departments involved in disaster resilience and response to produce where rehabilitation funds for Odette went.

[PBBM tells UNGA: 'United effort' will address climate change](#)

By Azer Parrocha

MANILA – President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday (Manila time) called for a “united effort” among nations to address climate change.

In his debut speech at the 77th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Marcos said climate change is “the greatest threat affecting our nations and our peoples.”

“There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the United Nations,” he said in a speech that lasted over 20 minutes.

Despite the Philippines being one of the smallest contributors to CO2 emissions, Marcos said that the country remained to be among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

“The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect an historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines, for example, is a net carbon sink, we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the 4th most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change,” he said.

Marcos emphasized the need for nations to “correct” injustices by accepting their share of responsibilities.

He also enjoined industrialized countries to fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to “cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable, and developing countries to lead by example.”

“We look forward to concrete outcomes at the Conference of Parties in Egypt later this year,” he said.

Last June, Marcos said he was seriously considering his invitation to attend the UN Climate Change Conference’s 27th session of the Conference of the Parties in Egypt in November this year.

Marcos also vowed that the Philippine government would continue to do its part to avert what he described as a “collective disaster.”

“When future generations look back, let them not ask why we did not take this opportunity to turn the tide, why did we continue in our profligate ways, until it was too late? This threat knows no borders, no social class, nor any geopolitical consideration. How we address it will be the true test of our time,” he said.

In March 2017, the Philippines ratified the Paris climate pact -- a worldwide effort to achieve a below 2-degrees Celsius increase in global temperatures.

The Philippines, which accounts for less than 1 percent of the world's emissions, has committed to reducing its emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

Just a few days before departing for the US, Marcos spent his 65th birthday in a tree-planting activity in San Mateo, Rizal on Sept. 13 as part of efforts to raise awareness on environmental welfare and protection.

The tree-planting initiative is expected to contribute to the government's National Greening Program, the country's most ambitious reforestation program yet.

In his first State of the Nation Address on July 25, Marcos also vowed to increase the Philippines' use of renewable energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal, solar, and wind to help slow down the effects of climate change.

Marcos' working visit to the US is from Sept. 18 to 24.

Shortly after his arrival in the US on Monday (Manila time), Marcos met with the Filipino Community in New Jersey, and on Tuesday (Manila time) attended the New York Stock Exchange Economic Forum.

RAPPLER

[AI Gore sees the world at ‘tipping point’ for climate action](#)

London, United Kingdom – The world is at a “positive tipping point” in the fight against climate change as surging oil and gas costs spur governments to decarbonize faster, former US Vice President and co-founder of Generation Investment Management Al Gore told Reuters.

He pointed to the Inflation Reduction Act signed in August, a \$430-billion bill seen as the biggest climate package in US history, as well as a pledge by Australia earlier this month to cut carbon emissions by 43% by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.

Gore said he also expected Brazil to change its policy on climate after an impending election and China to re-establish a dialogue with US President Joe Biden at the November’s G20 summit in Indonesia.

He added that he was concerned, though, about the moves by some countries to increase fossil fuel output in the face of the war in Ukraine, which Russia calls a “special military operation,” that has sent oil and gas prices soaring.

“There is no such thing as a clean fossil fuel, just as there is no such thing as a healthy cigarette,” Gore stated. “We don’t want to see investments in fossil fuel infrastructure of the sort that A/ will not alleviate the short-term problem and B/ will guarantee higher emission levels for decades to come.”

“There are signs absolutely everywhere around the world” of the pace of change picking up, he noted, adding that the need to act was also being driven by worsening weather events.

“Mother Nature has joined the discussion about the climate crisis,” Gore said, citing heatwaves in China, floods in Pakistan and drought in Europe.

Gore, US vice president from 1993 to 2001, became known for climate change advocacy with his 2006 Oscar-winning documentary “An Inconvenient Truth”, and its 2017 sequel, arguing the climate change struggle is a moral fight.

Co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his climate campaigning, he is chairman of Generation Investment Management, a London-headquartered firm focused on sustainable investments across both public and private markets, and on research.

Among steps being taken to speed up the energy transition, some governments have chosen to replace existing fossil fuel plants with decades of remaining lifetime as renewable electricity becomes cheaper, he said, while others are looking to ban fossil fuel-powered cars and trucks.

“At a time when the technology (...) provides three times as many jobs per invested dollar as investments in fossil fuels, then all of that to me adds up to a very positive, palpable tipping point.”

In Generation’s latest annual sustainability trends report, published on Wednesday, September 21, the company said that annual investments in the clean economy were on track to exceed \$1 trillion over the next few years.

While that still falls short of the levels needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average, it added that it was rising “at a brisk clip”.

THE MANILA TIMES

DoF mobilizing funds for water, green projects

By: Ed Paolo Salting

The Department of Finance (DoF) is working to get capital or funds for the government's various green and water security programs.

During the "Sustainable Path to Water Security for the Philippines" forum on Tuesday, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno highlighted that the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PSWSSMP) is the government's blue print to achieve water security. The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Management Association of the Philippines, Water.org and Accralaw were behind the event.

"As the PSWSSMP will serve as the blueprint to achieve universal access to safe, affordable, and sustainable water supply and sanitation for the country, the total investment for this plan is over a P1 trillion to achieve universal access to water by 2030," he added.

The PSWSSMP was formally launched in September last year by the National Economic and Development Authority.

Diokno also said that through green finance DoF is pursuing, the water supply and sanitation masterplan can materialize.

The Finance department is also releasing proceeds of the first sustainability global bonds worth \$1 billion and sustainability Samurai bonds worth \$100 million, which will help green efforts in the country.

"Both of these transactions were met with strong demand despite the volatility in the global market. Moreover, our first-ever environmental and social governance bond issuance marks the first-ever sound-off of our efforts to develop the sustainable, market financing in the Philippines," Diokno emphasized.

"Allow me to assure you as chair[man] of the administration's economic team, the DoF stands ready to support all efforts toward our shared goal of achieving universal clean access to water and fighting climate change for sustainability," he added.

Furthermore, the DoF has managed to put together a policy package that supports the agenda of green finance called the Sustainable Finance Roadmap, which incorporates the "whole nation" approach in mobilizing finance to support the transition to a clean, sustainable and climate-resilient economy.

For its part, the Securities and Exchange Commission also formally launched the sustainability reform guidelines for publicly listed companies.

Maritime Week 2022 centers on caring for the marine environment

This year's celebration of National Maritime Week is focused on environmental protection, particularly the push to ban the use of single-use plastics in domestic shipping and all ports.

But according to Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesman Cdre. Armand Balilo, while the use of single-use plastic is currently banned for their personnel, they cannot impose it on passengers, as a law is needed for its total implementation.

"The PCG, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) are set to sign a Pledge of Commitment to implement to all personnel the use of single-use plastics. During the International Coastal Cleanup Day last week, most trash picked there were single-use plastics," Balilo said.

Balilo said PCG commandant Adm. Artemio Abu shall direct fellow Coast Guardians to comply with the order to lessen the negative impact of single-use plastic on the country's seas.

"We will impose penalties on our personnel who will disobey the directive. We are proposing this to be part of conversations with passengers, shipping companies and all maritime stakeholders. We want to inculcate in the public's mind the beauty of banning single-use plastic," the Coast Guard spokesman said.

The PCG, Marina and PPA shall come together to encourage cooperation and interagency-based regulation among waste contributors and generators through various waste reductions and management techniques, starting with banning single-use plastic within their respective offices.

The single-use plastic items that will be banned include, but are not limited to, plastic cups, drinking straws, plastic coffee stirrers, plastic utensils, sando bags and plastic wrappers.

The banning of single-use plastics, under House Bill 9147 authored by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Velasco, was already approved on final reading in July 2021 to better address pollution linked to these disposable items.

The measure seeks to regulate the production, importation, sale, distribution, provision, use, recovery, collection, recycling and disposal of single-use plastic products.

Blue economy

Meanwhile, the Department of Transportation's Maritime Sector chief, Undersecretary Elmer Sarmiento, said his administration will focus on the revitalization of the country's blue economy, noting that based on the report of the World Bank, the blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem."

"Key words here are 'sustainable' and 'preserved'. Whatever programs we undertake, let us include the wise use of our ocean resources. Let us always be conscious of the health of the ocean ecosystem. I ask you today to transmit this message to our frontliners in the seaports. Tell them to respect the seas. We are so focused on using the seas for livelihood and to hasten economic growth we forget to give back ... to protect that which sustains us," Sarmiento said.

He added that the country can aspire for economic progress and global competitiveness without destroying the oceans.

"To achieve the goal of a safe, integrated and modern maritime transport for the country, we should not abandon the concept of the 'blue economy'," said Sarmiento.

Part of the National Maritime Week celebration, to be led by the PPA, is for 25 port management offices of the PPA to hold tree planting, a sports festival, a photography contest, Zumba, a virtual maritime photo exhibition, an equipment and art exhibition, a basic port operations seminar, a feeding program, a karaoke challenge, a recycled art competition, and a Covid-19 vaccination drive.

The National Maritime Week is an annual celebration that began through Proclamation 866 series of 1996 signed by then President Fidel Ramos.

The 2022 National Maritime Week started on Monday, September 19, and will last until September 25, a Sunday.

Marcos, Guterres meet on PH-UN cooperation

By Catherine S. Valente

UNITED NATIONS: President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres met here on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) to discuss the cooperation between the Philippines and the UN and other global issues.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the first day of the High-Level General Debate of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) here.

"The Secretary-General met with H.E. Mr. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines. The Secretary-General and President Marcos discussed areas of United Nations cooperation and support," the UN said in a statement posted on its website.

"They also exchanged views on the international situation as well as climate action initiatives," it added.

The meeting between the two leaders developed after Marcos spoke at the UNGA on Tuesday.

In his speech, the President tackled climate change, peace and stability, and food security.

He likewise campaigned for the Philippines' quest to become a member of the UN security council a position the country has not held since 2005.

Marcos is the first leader from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations who delivered a statement at the high level general debate, which is significant because this is where heads of state could lay out the priorities of their respective administrations.

The President left Manila on Sunday for a working visit to the US and will be back in the Philippines on September 24.

He is scheduled to meet with US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and other world leaders.

He had met with the Filipino community in New Jersey, then presented his administration's plan to boost the country's economy during the New York Stock Exchange Forum.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Marcos urges rich nations to fulfill climate obligations](#)

Manila, Philippines (Updated 5:05 p.m.) — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called on industrialized nations to immediately cut their greenhouse gas emissions and provide financial assistance to developing countries like the Philippines as the impacts of climate change grow.

In a speech during the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday (Wednesday, Manila time), Marcos said that “climate change is the greatest threat affecting our nations and our peoples.”

But he stressed that its effects are uneven and reflect historical injustice, with the least responsible countries such as the Philippines bearing the brunt of climate change impacts.

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts such as strong cyclones, flooding, and sea level rise.

“This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now,” Marcos said.

He then urged developed nations to fulfill their climate obligations such as slashing their planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, and providing climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation to the most vulnerable and developing countries.

World leaders and non-government organizations will gather at the Egyptian resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh in November for the COP27 climate talks. COP27 will focus on the implementation of climate pledges.

The finance issue, a sticking point at climate talks, will likely dominate the conference in Egypt.

Marcos also said the country accepts its share of responsibility and will continue to do its part to “avert this collective disaster.”

“When future generations look back, let them not ask why we did not take this opportunity to turn the tide, why did we continue in our profligate ways, until it was too late?” the president said.

“This threat knows no borders, no social class, nor any geopolitical consideration. How we address it will be the true test of our time,” he added.

Concrete plans needed

Groups such as Greenpeace Philippines and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment called for clear plans for climate action and climate justice, as well as the protection of environmental and rights defenders.

"The President's calls for solidarity and sustainability at the UNGA need to go beyond platitudes and must be reflected in the actual policies of his administration," said Lea Guerrero, country director of Greenpeace Philippines.

"At present, we hear all this talk about climate justice, climate action, protecting biodiversity, ensuring food security, and upholding justice and human rights, but, in reality, most developments on the ground and the administration's policy direction are leading us away from these purported aspirations," she added.

Both groups criticized Marcos for calling for climate action at the UN general assembly while aggressively pursuing fossil gas expansion and nuclear energy development.

"All we are getting from Marcos Jr. so far are flowery statements while millions of Filipinos suffer directly from the impacts of our ongoing economic and ecological crisis," said Jon Bonifacio, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE.

[OPINION] Right climate for a strategic partnership

By HK Yu, PSM

Dear friends,

Two days ago, President Marcos delivered a powerful speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly High Level Week in New York: He spoke of increased strategic tensions and set out the Philippines' ongoing commitment to an open, inclusive and rules-based international order governed by international law. He spoke about the importance of tackling climate change and the role of emerging technologies on our lives. He stressed the importance of reinvigorating the world economy in the wake of the pandemic, and continuing investment in Philippine food security, public health, education and other social services. Australia has similar priorities and is working closely with the Philippines to promote our common objectives.

Australia's cooperation with the Philippines is broad and deep. It spans defence and security, development cooperation, trade and investment and people-to-people links. There are countless opportunities for us to work together towards our common objectives and, for this reason, I intend to develop our cooperation even further. To this end, I will be working to elevate our relationship from an already strong base to an even stronger Strategic Partnership.

Our defence relationship is underpinned by cooperation on counter-terrorism and maritime security. Australian and Filipino defence personnel have regular senior level dialogues and expert exchanges and cooperate on diverse training and education opportunities. Two Royal Australian Navy ships will visit Manila in October as part of Australia's annual Indo-Pacific Endeavor. As part of this visit, Australian and Philippine defence personnel will conduct joint exercises and exchanges on maritime security, maritime law, humanitarian and disaster response and gender, peace and security.

Our maritime cooperation has expanded to include a senior officials maritime dialogue, where we advance joint maritime security and marine environment projects. I was at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore in 2017 with former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, where in the wake of the 2016 South China Sea arbitral award he articulated Australia's support for the international rules-based order and expressed concern about tensions in the South China Sea.

Our support for the peaceful resolution of disputes and international law is unwavering. Indeed, it remains central to the Australian Labor Government's vision for a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific where sovereignty is respected.

Cyber security is an increasingly concerning problem for both our nations. This week, Australia's Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology, Dr. Tobias Feakin, is in Manila engaging with Philippine government officials and business leaders on how we can work together more effectively to take advantage of opportunities and address common challenges of cyber resilience and security.

Australia partners with the Philippines to counter violent extremism and support the peace process in conflict-affected Mindanao. We share a vision of a peaceful and prosperous Philippines. Next week, Australia's Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Roger Noble, will visit the Philippines to meet with senior officials in the Marcos administration to discuss ways in which we can work together in this mutually important area.

Australia's development program in the Philippines is one of our largest, totalling approximately P3 billion (AUD80 million) annually. Our support aims to improve economic governance, public infrastructure, health systems and COVID-19 responses. In fact, just last week, the Australian Government provided 2.28 million doses of paediatric Pfizer vaccines to the Philippines.

Our investments in education and skills development promote economic growth, and our work on the enabling environment for business and trade is focused on women's economic empowerment. We support disaster preparedness and response systems and foster social cohesion by strengthening governance and social protection.

Our trade and investment relationship is significant and growing. In 2021, the two-way goods trade between our countries was P183 billion, up by 40 percent on 2019 levels. There are over 300 Australian companies in the Philippines, and significant Philippine investments in Australia, including the AC Energy Corporate Solar Farm Project in New South Wales and International Container Terminal Services Incorporated's Victoria International Container Terminal in Melbourne.

Australia has contributed to infrastructure projects in the Philippines, including the interior design of the Clark Airport terminal and tunnelling for the New Clark City. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Philippine-Australian company PrimeBMD built nine health facilities and received a Gold Stevie Award at the Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for Most Valuable Corporate Response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our friendship is based on shared interests, values and strong people-to-people links. Filipinos are the fifth largest migrant community with over 400,000 residing in Australia. Training and education exchanges are expansive; Australia provides scholarships to Filipinos to study masters courses in priority areas including economic development, education and maritime. In 2021, around 13,000 Filipino students were studying in Australia.

On climate change, Australia recently increased its commitment, via legislation, to reduce carbon emissions by 43 percent by 2030 and to net zero by 2050. President Marcos said he would prioritize climate change action and environmental protection, including by reducing plastic and ocean pollution. Australia is working with the Philippines to protect its marine environment, through coral restoration, geospatial mapping of Philippine maritime features and resources and combatting illegal fishing.

As I wrote in my previous Letter from Australia, we are living in increasingly challenging times. It is precisely at times like these that friends come together to solve common problems and support one another, and that's exactly what Australia and the Philippines are doing, in the enduring spirit of mateship and bayanihan.

I will be building on a relationship that is already broad and deep, and will work continuously to achieve even more together on the issues of importance for both our governments.

Yours truly,

HK

THE WASHINGTON POST

[Denmark becomes first U.N. member to pay for ‘loss and damage’ from climate change](#)

By: Sarah Kaplan

Denmark will direct about \$13 million to assist vulnerable countries that have suffered “loss and damage” from climate change — the first time in U.N. history a wealthy member state has pledged compensation for the consequences of emissions in the developing world.

The landmark announcement came Tuesday as diplomats and world leaders gathered in New York for the United Nations General Assembly. Earlier in the day, U.N. Secretary General António Guterres called on nations to tax fossil fuel companies and use the revenue to help people struggling with climate change’s irreversible harms.

In a statement, Danish development minister Flemming Møller Mortensen said that a visit to flood-stricken areas of Bangladesh this spring helped inspire the pledge.

“It is grossly unfair that the world’s poorest should suffer the most from the consequences of climate change, to which they have contributed the least,” Mortensen said.

Loss and damage funding has long been a rallying cry for climate justice advocates and leaders from vulnerable countries. Wealthy nations, including the United States, have rebuffed those calls, worried that any kind of financial commitment would imply legal liability for climate change’s escalating toll.

But the issue has gained traction amid increasing devastation from climate disasters, such as the drought-fueled famine in East Africa and Pakistan’s recent deadly floods. Some 400 activist groups released a letter this month demanding that finance for loss and damage be added to the agenda for this November’s U.N. climate negotiations in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

At last year’s talks in Glasgow, Scotland became the first government contributor to a loss and damage fund. (As a constituent country of the United Kingdom, Scotland is not a U.N. member state.) Belgium’s Wallonia region pledged another million euros to the cause.

Denmark’s investment is the biggest yet — though it pales in comparison to the financial toll wrought by climate change each year, activists say. Recovery from the floods in Pakistan alone is estimated to cost upward of \$10 billion.

Climate change brings irreversible harm to poor countries. At COP26, rich ones face pressure to foot the bill.

According to an announcement from the Danish foreign ministry, the pledge includes 40 million Danish kroner — about \$5.4 million — to work with civil society groups on helping communities adapt to climate change and addressing loss and damage, especially in Africa’s Sahel region. It also sets aside millions for “strategic efforts” around loss and damage negotiations ahead of the upcoming talks in Egypt.

Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at the nonprofit Climate Action Network, called Denmark’s pledge “significant.” But he pointed out that about a third of the promised funding will go to the InsuResilience Global Partnership, a U.N.-organized program through which private companies provide disaster insurance to those most vulnerable from climate change.

This setup “will create business for European corporations in the developing countries, eventually making vulnerable people pay for the premium toward losses and damages from climate disasters,” Singh said.

The Danish embassy was not immediately available for comment.

UN ORG

[UN Climate Envoy launches new plans to boost access to renewables](#)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres' Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions Michael Bloomberg announced a new commitment to help accelerate the transition to renewable energy in 15 developing countries across the world - Botswana, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Mexico, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uganda.

“Today, we’re expanding our clean energy work to 15 new countries. We’ll work with our partners on the ground to accelerate their transition away from fossil fuels and improve the health of their citizens and economies,” said the Special Envoy who earlier this year announced efforts to turbocharge clean energy transition in 10 other countries - Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, and Vietnam.

The latest announcement, made at the UN Climate Action: Race to Zero and Resilience Forum which took place during the UN General Assembly high-level week in New York, comes as the Secretary-General held an Informal Leaders’ Roundtable on Climate Action with a group of diverse Heads of State and Government to urgently accelerate ambitions and actions as climate impacts continue to intensify across the world.

Recent months have seen historic floods in Pakistan, crippling heat waves throughout Asia and Europe, wildfires across the Americas, and droughts and food insecurity in the Horn of Africa region. Transition to renewable energy that will allow countries to end their addiction to fossil fuels - by far the largest contributor to climate change - remains one of the most critical solutions to the climate crisis.

According to the International Energy Agency, global renewable energy capacity broke a new record in 2021 with the addition of 295 gigawatts of power and is expected to reach 320 gigawatts in 2022 - an amount that is enough to meet Germany’s entire electricity demand, for example.

“Developing countries around the world need support to unlock their potential for clean, reliable energy generation,” said Damilola Ogunbiyi, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, referring to the abundant potential for solar, wind and other renewable energy capacity and a growing demand for sustainable power production in the 15 countries.

Shifting to renewables will not only reduce emissions, it will also create jobs, improve infrastructure, and provide accessible and affordable power. Latest estimates show that every dollar of investment in renewables creates three times more jobs than in the fossil fuel industry.

At the Race to Zero and Resilience Forum, the Special Envoy also launched the Bloomberg Countdown to COP27 - a 45-day long series of initiatives and commitments aimed at delivering on the Secretary-General's call for urgent climate action leading into the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.

“We need to ensure that COP27, in Sharm el-Sheikh, will truly be the place where important promises of the agreement are turned into concrete actions,” said Simon Stiell, the new Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. “Governments need to lead on cutting greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate change, but they cannot do this alone. We need all of the private sector and civil society for effective climate action.”

Learn more about the different types of renewable energy and how they can power a safer future.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABS CBN

['Injustice must be corrected': Marcos urges big economies to help fight climate change](#)

By: Job Manahan

Manila (UPDATE)— President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday urged developed economies to help in the world's fight against climate change, saying smaller countries are more vulnerable to its impact but industrialized countries are not doing enough.

Marcos, during his address at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said it was important to talk about climate action immediately for the "continued survival of the global community."

He described the climate crisis as a "collective disaster."

"The time for talk about if and when has long since passed. It is here, it is now. Climate change is the greatest threat affecting our nations and our peoples," he said at the beginning of his 20-minute speech.

"There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the UN. The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice."

He lamented inaction on climate change issues, since those "least responsible," such as the Philippines, "suffer the most." This "must be corrected," and "those who need to do more must act now."

Based on last year's World Risk Report, the Philippines is the 8th most vulnerable countries in terms of climate change impact. The country ranked just behind Guyana and before Papua New Guinea, according to the report.

Last year's Global Climate Risk Index, cited by the Climate Change Commission's website, meanwhile showed the Philippines is the 4th at-risk countries for long-term effects of climate change.

"The Philippines... is a net carbon sink. We absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit and yet we are the fourth most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change," he said.

While the Philippines will do its part to act on this crisis, he urged big economies to do their part too and lead by example.

Wealthy countries have previously promised billions of dollars to help poorer nations avert carbon emissions and build resilience against climate change.

"We call on industrialized countries to immediately fulfill their obligations under the UN framework convention on climate change and the Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing, and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries," said Marcos.

"This threat know no borders, no social class, nor any geopolitical consideration. How we address it will be the true test of our time."

Marcos said he is looking forward to COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This will take place at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh from November 6 to 18.

The Climate Change Commission had said natural disasters in the Philippines caused P506 billion in economic losses during the past decade alone.

A new study recently released by the United Nations' (UN) climate experts, warning about a catastrophic climate change by 2025 if carbon emission levels remain unchanged.

PAGASA's climate center, meanwhile, last month said the sea level in the Philippine Sea has already risen to about 12 centimeters or nearly 5 inches in the past 20 years as global temperatures increase.

MANILA BULLETIN

Eleventh hour: Where are we headed with the new EPR Law?

“It is a good start.” This is what Sen. Cynthia Villar said about the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act, a law she shepherded in the Senate that lapsed into law in late July when both Presidents Duterte and Marcos didn’t act on it.

It’s a welcome law that requires large enterprises or business entities with over P100 million in total assets to be environmentally responsible throughout the life cycle of their products, by reducing and preventing waste and pollution. Tighter mandates are imposed for plastic-producing companies that must recover or offset their plastic packaging footprint by 20 to 80 percent starting in 2023 up to 2028 and beyond.

Single or multi-layered materials (such as sachets, labels, and laminates), rigid products (such as containers, personal care, cosmetic, cutlery, straws, tarps, and signages), plastic bags, and polystyrene are covered by the law.

To say that this law would only set things moving, however, feels like a compromise.

Those who have been following the hearings in both chambers would also think that this is perhaps because of Sen. Villar’s decision, as chair of the Senate Committee on the Environment, to prioritize the EPR Act over another similar bill, which also mandated EPR schemes from companies but whose main component was to regulate and phaseout single-use plastics. This push for a national ban came from a good number of legislators and even from the Department of Finance (DOF) and Climate Change Commission (CCC), in consideration as well of the over 30 percent of local government units that have policies regulating plastics.

It’s a missed opportunity, considering the country’s massive addiction and negligence on plastics. We’re cited as the third highest plastic polluter in the world’s oceans (next to Indonesia and China), with our rivers among the world’s plastic-emitters. This could get worse as our plastic production and consumption would increase by 230 percent by 2040 and our unrecycled plastics would also increase to three million tons in 2030 and five million tons in 2040, according to a recent report from World Bank.

What’s also revealing in the study made by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) in 2019 is that more than 50 percent of all unrecyclable residual waste discarded in the country is branded waste, with only 10 companies responsible for 60 percent of branded waste.

Believing that the EPR Act as a good start is acceptable, but “to what end?” is the question — especially since there are certain contestable provisions of the law.

For one, the inclusion of “thermal treatment” facilities as part of the product waste recovery programs to be included in the national EPR framework could run counter to the law’s goals and principles because it could allow large-scale incineration activities

and could encourage more plastic production (because we could just burn them anyway).

There is also a clear absence of safeguards from the likelihood that enterprises would pass on the added costs to implement their EPR schemes to the consumers (just like how fossil fuel companies could pass on additional costs of oil and gas to us). The implementing rules and regulations must be drafted in such a way that ordinary Filipinos would feel incentivized to participate in the EPR schemes and help to reduce and prevent waste and pollution.

The law made mention once again of the issuance of the Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products (NEAP) list, which has been long overdue for more than 20 years, pursuant to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003). With the new law, it's still uncertain if the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) would have the political will to finally issue and promulgate the list.

And of course, there's the possibility that legislation banning single-use plastics, that's been clamored prior, would be delayed or not prosper in this new Congress — which is what's most worrying. The EPR Law should be a means toward the eventual ban on single-use plastics to turn off the plastic faucet and mitigate the risks and hazards to our health, environment, and climate due to the pollution and emissions produced throughout the whole life cycle of plastics. If this is the direction we're headed, then the EPR Act, even without a president's stamp on it, is one landmark legislation to be celebrated about.

PTV NEWS

Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., tiniyak na kasama ang climate change sa kanyang prayoridad

Salient point:

- Climate Change, isa sa pinaka seryosong problemang kinakaharap ng mundo.
- Pilipinas, isa sa lubhang naapektuhan ng climate change
- Climate Change, kasama sa mga prayoridad ni Pres. Marcos, Jr.
- Sec. Borje: Mahalaga na nabanggit ni Pres. Marcos Jr., ang climate change

"It's the Filipino people suffer. Hindi siya tama, walang hustisya dito, iyon ang punto ni President Marcos. At importanteng malaman ng buong mundo na if we want to make change happen. Things have to change. We cannot just say that we're committed to combat climate change. We have to act and we have to act now."

RMN

Plenary debates sa proposed 2023 budget ng mahigit 30 ahensya at tanggapan ng gobyerno, tinapos na ng Kamara

Ngayon ang ikalawang araw ng plenary deliberations ng Kamara sa panukalang pambansang budget sa susunod na taon na nagkakahalaga ng 5.268 trillion pesos.

Sa kasalukuyan ay nasa mahigit 30 ahensya at tanggapan ng gobyerno na ang nakaraos sa debate ng kanilang proposed 2023 budget.

Pangunahin dito ang
Office of the Ombudsman
COMELEC
Commission on Human Rights
Department of Science and Technology
Anti-Red Tape Authority
Civil Service Commission
Department of Justice
Mindanao Development Authority at
Southern Philippines Development Authority

Tapos na rin ang debate sa 2023 budget ng;
National Commission for Culture and the Arts
Cultural Center of the Philippines
Philippine Center for Economic Development
Development Academy of the Philippines
Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan
Cagayan Economic Zone Authority
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority

Kabilang din sa nakaraos na sa budget deliberations sa plenaryo ang;
Climate Change Commission
Commission on Filipinos Overseas
Games and Amusement Board
Philippine Space Agency
Philippine Sports Commission
Commission on the Filipino Language
Film Development Council of the Philippines
Optical Media Board
National Historical Commission of the Philippines
National Library of the Philippines
National Archives of the Philippines
Philippine Racing Commission

Philippine Competition Commission
National Historical Commission of the Philippines
National Library of the Philippines

Target ng Kamara na tapusin ang pagtalakay sa plenaryo ng 2023 budget sa September 28 upang maipasa na ito sa 2nd at 3rd reading bago mag-break ang kanilang session sa October 1.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Marcos tells world to act fast vs climate change](#)

By: Catherine S. Valente and Franco Jose C. Baroña

United Nations: President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) called on all nations to launch a unified and immediate response against climate change.

"Climate change is the greatest threat affecting our nations and peoples. There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the United Nations," Marcos said during his address at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly here.

Marcos lamented that further inaction would result in the extreme suffering of "least responsible" smaller nations such as the Philippines.

"The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect a historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most. The Philippines, for example, is a net carbon sink, we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. And yet, we are the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change," he said.

"This injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now. We accept our share of responsibility and will continue to do our part to avert this collective disaster," Marcos added.

Marcos urged big economies to lead by example.

"We call on industrialized countries to immediately fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, provide climate financing and technology transfer for adaptation for the most vulnerable and developing countries to lead by example," he said.

"When future generations look back, let them not ask why we did not take this opportunity to turn the tide, why did we continue in our profligate ways, until it was too late? This threat knows no borders, no social class, nor any geopolitical considerations. How we address it will be the true test of our time," Marcos added.

Marcos said he is looking forward to attending COP27, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on November 6 to 18.

The Climate Change Commission data said natural disasters in the Philippines caused P506 billion in economic losses during the past decade alone.

A new study recently released by UN climate experts warned of a catastrophic climate change by 2025 if carbon emission levels remain unchanged.

Effect on labor

In a related development, Department of Migrant Workers Secretary Susan Ople has called for more study on the impact of climate change on labor migration and on workers around the world.

"The Philippines is sadly very familiar with the effects of climate change and how it results in the displacement of people," Ople said during bilateral talks with International Organization on Migration Director-General Antonio Vitorino in New York City.

"We are also aware of the need to enhance multi-sectoral, multi-agency, and multi-country partnerships to mitigate the negative effects of climate change on migrant workers and communities," she added.

Ople was joined in the event by United Nations Permanent Representative Antonio Manuel Lagdameo Sr. and Department of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Carlos Sorreta.

=END=