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By: Josiah Antonio

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AL JAZEERA

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China has accused some European nations of a “backswing” in the implementation of urgent climate change goals as geopolitical turmoil grips the continent.

BUSINESS WORLD

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Washington — World Bank President David Malpass came under heavy criticism on Wednesday after he declined to say whether he accepts the scientific consensus on global warming, rekindling concerns about the bank’s lack of a deadline to stop funding fossil fuels.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

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Mandaue City, Philippines — The municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet wants to learn Mandaue City’s programs regarding climate change. On Wednesday, September 21, officials of the municipality including councilors and barangay captains visited Mandaue City to learn about the city’s climate change efforts and plans.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Marcos’ climate change speech must reflect in gov’t policies — envi group](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 22) — Environmental group Greenpeace Philippines called on President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos to direct his administration in reflecting his climate change demands to actual policies.

MANILA BULLETIN

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Pagasa boosts efforts in addressing hazards in 4 areas ‘vulnerable’ to climate change](#)

By: Lyka Farillon

Manila, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) is bolstering its efforts to address hazards in four areas in the country, which were identified as “vulnerable” to the impacts of climate change.

[PH sea level rising 3 times faster than world average, says expert](#)

Manila, Philippines — The sea level in the Philippines is rising three times faster than the global average, putting many of its coastal villages in peril, according to a climate scientist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Expert urges public to help stop climate change in own small way](#)

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

Manila -- The public can help mitigate the impact of climate change in their own simple way, an expert from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Thursday.

SUNSTAR

[\[Opinion\] Peña: Wind drought](#)

By: Rox Peña

We usually associate drought with extremely dry weather condition, or the lack of rain or precipitation. Recently, I found out that there is another weather condition called “wind drought”, the slowing down of wind speed. It’s now a reality, according to some experts.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[CREIT to raise P4.5 billion from ASEAN green bonds](#)

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — Citicore Energy REIT Corp. (CREIT), the country’s first energy REIT, is eyeing to raise up to P4.5 billion from the issuance of ASEAN green bonds.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[House budget schedule still on track after 2 urgent bills' OK](#)

By: Jovee Marie Dela Cruz

THE leadership of the House of Representatives on Thursday said it will give its full and undivided attention to the final approval of the P5.268-trillion General Appropriations Bill for 2023.

BUSINESS WORLD

[Groups seek concrete steps from Marcos on climate crisis, rights](#)

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

Philippines-based groups on Thursday said President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. failed to substantiate his climate change talk at the United Nations General Assembly, adding that he also fell short of discussing the country's human rights situation.

[Philippine government says it can't deal with climate change alone](#)

By: Diego Gabriel Robles

The Philippines needs to take a "whole of society" approach in tackling climate change because of the government's inability to shoulder the burden on its own, officials said, citing the need for full-scale efforts in mitigating disaster risk and transitioning to renewable energy.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Defining and understanding climate change is already half the battle](#)

By: Johannes Chua

We often read or hear about climate change. The topic, admittedly, is not "exciting" and would not even go viral online. A friend even told me that talking about climate change is too gloomy with all the negative forecasts and doomsday scenarios. I agree. But not talking about it now is just delaying the inevitability that we have to face the effects of climate change as a nation sooner than later.

[Former Climate Change Commission chair declared 'persona non grata' in 3 towns in Siargao](#)

BUTUAN CITY (PNA) – Three municipal councils in Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte have issued resolutions declaring former Climate Change Commission chair Mary Ann Lucille Sering as "persona non grata" or unwelcome in their towns.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC lauds PBBM's rallying call for climate justice](#)

By: Elaine Allanigue

Quezon City, (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has lauded President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.'s rallying call for climate justice and unlocking climate finance for vulnerable and at-risk nations, saying the President's speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77) sets the groundwork for principled global climate action.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[House to work 'full time' on 2023 budget till next week](#)

By: Zaldy De Layola

Manila – A ranking lawmaker on Thursday said the House of Representatives will give its full and undivided attention to the approval of the PHP5.268-trillion National Expenditure Program (NEP) for 2023, following the passage of two non-budget measures deemed as urgent by the chamber's leadership and the Marcos administration.

Information Knowledge and Management Division

ABS CBN

Greta Thunberg: 'No climate justice under Marcos'

By: Josiah Antonio

Manila — International climate activist Greta Thunberg said Wednesday that climate justice can not be achieved under a Marcos administration. Thunberg, together with fellow climate activists Alde Nilsson and Mitzi Tan, said "climate justice cannot be achieved under fascism."

"We cannot attain climate justice under fascist leaders," the Swedish activist said in a video message to progressive groups holding a cultural protest at University of the Philippines Diliman, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Martial Law declaration.

Nilsson added: "The fight for climate justice is a fight for democracy."

Tan, meanwhile, said "nothing has changed between Marcos the dictator from 50 years ago, and Marcos Jr. now."

Thunberg aired her support for Filipino activists in their efforts for democratic rights and climate justice.

"We stand in solidarity with the martial law victims seeking justice and the human rights defenders who seek the democratic rights of people and climate justice," she said.

"We stand in solidarity with environmental defenders in the Philippines," Nilsson added.

The Martial Law declaration marked the start of a dark chapter in Philippine history. This led to the arrest of political opposition figures, corruption, human rights violations, and government control over all forms of media.

Rights watchdog Amnesty International said that some 70,000 people were imprisoned, 34,000 tortured and over 3,200 killed during this era.

The August 1983 assassination of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. sparked movements that culminated in the ouster of Marcos Sr in February 1986 through the People Power Revolution.

AL JAZEERA

China tells Europe to not backslide on climate commitments

China has accused some European nations of a “backswing” in the implementation of urgent climate change goals as geopolitical turmoil grips the continent.

Xie Zhenhua, who leads China’s climate negotiations, told Germany’s Special Climate Envoy Jennifer Morgan that global climate governance was currently facing “multiple challenges and uncertainties”.

“The climate policies of some European countries have shown a backswing, and it is hoped that this is just a temporary stopgap,” he said, according to a summary of the meeting released by China’s environment ministry.

As Western countries raise coal consumption in order to offset gas supply disruptions brought about by the conflict in Ukraine, China’s foreign ministry said in a statement this month its own green and low-carbon development path remained firm – “in contrast with the European Union”.

Europe has insisted the rise in coal use is only a temporary measure that will have no long-term effect on the EU target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent from 1990 to 2030.

China, the world’s biggest carbon emitter, is expected to focus on the issue of financing at this year’s global UN climate talks, known as COP27, which takes place in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt in November.

Xie told Morgan that “implementation and action” should be the central theme of the meeting, and said he hoped industrialised countries would quickly meet their pledge under the Paris Agreement to transfer \$100bn a year in climate funds to developing nations.

After the visit of US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan in August, China cancelled bilateral talks on climate with the United States, raising concerns geopolitical tensions could undermine the battle against global warming.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi told UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday that all parties needed to build a “good political atmosphere” ahead of COP27 and “abandon unilateralism, geopolitical games and green barriers”, according to a statement on the foreign ministry website.

BUSINESS WORLD

World Bank's Malpass faces calls to resign after climate change doubts

Washington — World Bank President David Malpass came under heavy criticism on Wednesday after he declined to say whether he accepts the scientific consensus on global warming, rekindling concerns about the bank's lack of a deadline to stop funding fossil fuels.

Mr. Malpass appeared at an event hosted by the New York Times at Climate Week in New York City on Tuesday and was asked whether he believes that the “manmade burning of fossil fuels is rapidly and dangerously warming the planet.” Mr. Malpass tried at first to dodge the question but later said: “I don't even know. I'm not a scientist.”

The remarks, which circulated on social media, drew criticism from former climate diplomats and civil society groups who called on President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to replace Mr. Malpass as the president of the multilateral development bank.

The president of the United States, the largest World Bank shareholder, traditionally appoints World Bank presidents. Former president Donald Trump appointed Mr. Malpass to a five-year term in 2019.

The future of a second Trump development bank appointee, Inter-American Development Bank head Mauricio Claver-Carone, is also in doubt after an investigation into allegations of a relationship with a staffer.

“How is this possible in 2022? This apathy produces weak climate action when countries so badly need @WorldBank aid & finance,” Laurence Tubiana, a former French climate envoy and key architect of the 2015 Paris climate accord, said on Twitter.

“People & governments now need a WB leader who listens to science,” said Mr. Tubiana, now CEO of the non-profit European Climate Foundation.

A coalition of civil society groups on Wednesday called for the World Bank to fire Malpass.

The World Bank and White House declined to comment.

The US Treasury said it expected all partners to be committed to fighting climate change.

“We expect the World Bank Group to be a global leader of climate ambition and the mobilization of significantly more climate finance for developing countries,” a spokesperson said. “We have — and will continue — to make that expectation clear to World Bank leadership. The World Bank must be a full partner in delivering on this global agenda.”

Last year, over 70 non-governmental organizations had jointly called for Malpass to be replaced on the grounds that the Bank was falling short on climate action.

The World Bank reduced its new coal power investments in 2013 and stopped funding upstream oil and gas operations in 2019, but has so far resisted pressure from European board members and climate campaigners to phase out fossil fuel financing entirely.

In January 2021 the Bank's board approved a \$620 million investment in a multibillion-dollar liquified natural gas project in Mozambique.

"It is time for the White House and governments all over the world to think hard as to who they want at the helm of the World Bank," said Sonia Dunlop from think tank E3G. "You don't need to be a scientist to understand climate science."

Other experts said a strong grasp on climate science should be a pre-requisite for the job of World Bank president during a time in which climate-driven catastrophes are becoming more frequent and impacting many developing countries that receive financial support from the Bank.

"Climate change will impact the poorest in the world the most so to have the head of the World Bank not being clear and forceful on taking on climate change sends the wrong message," said Gilbert Metcalf, former deputy assistant Treasury secretary for environment and energy under the Obama administration.

Former US Vice President Al Gore earlier this week described Mr. Malpass as a climate denier.

Selwin Hart, special adviser to the UN secretary-general on climate action, had also criticized the World Bank at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow last year.

Large banks, especially the World Bank, "cannot continue to fiddle while the developing world burns," he said.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

La Trinidad wants to learn and adopt Mandaue's climate change programs

By: Mary Rose Sagarino

Mandaue City, Philippines — The municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet wants to learn Mandaue City's programs regarding climate change. On Wednesday, September 21, officials of the municipality including councilors and barangay captains visited Mandaue City to learn about the city's climate change efforts and plans.

Mandaue City officials then presented before the La Trinidad officials the city's climate change programs. The visit is in line with La Trinidad's educational tour and climate change adaptation, mitigation, and tourism.

Councilor Belmer Elnis said that they are looking forward to forging a sisterhood agreement with Mandaue City. "We have our intent as we have seen that Mandaue also has the best practices. We really wanted to adopt."

Charles Canuto, the president of the Association of Barangay Council (ABC) and the municipal councilor, admitted that their climate change plan was not approved by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Canuto did not elaborate on why they were denied by the DILG. Because of this, Canuto said they wanted to find a local government unit whose climate change plan was approved by the DILG.

Their DRRMO officer then recommended Mandaue City. Canuto said that based on the initial presentation shown by Mandaue City officials, the cooperation of the residents, stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations is very important to succeed with the planned programs.

"I am not saying it's not like in the municipality but maybe may pagkukulang siguro kami because when we conduct these types of activities, sad to say maraming mga NGOs somewhat hesitant to help, bahala na kayo diyan" said Canuto.

They also visited the city's command center and some of the city's heritage spots.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Marcos' climate change speech must reflect in gov't policies — envi group](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 22) — Environmental group Greenpeace Philippines called on President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos to direct his administration in reflecting his climate change demands to actual policies.

This, following the chief executive's speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

“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,” the group said.

“We are calling on Mr. Marcos Jr. to actualize the claims in his speech, and heed the calls of Filipino communities for concrete action on climate and rights,” Greenpeace added.

Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines, on the other hand, said the fight for climate justice goes with defending democracy and freedom.

“He claims to care about those who suffer the most and talks about historical injustices, yet erases the historical abuse his family has done to the environment and environmental defenders,” the group said in a Twitter thread.

In his speech during the UNGA on Sept. 20 (Sept. 21, Manila time), Marcos underscored that developing nations have suffered the most to climate change effects. He noted that “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,” the President said.

Government reaction

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) welcomed Marcos’ speech, saying that climate change is so important that it needs to be included in the planning process of the government.

“Actually, ito’y naumpisahan na in the last 10 years at dapat pag-ibayuhin natin na malagay at fully integrated in the planning process as a budgeting system para mapondohan at magawan ng programa na makakatulong sa ating mga mamamayan,”

PAGASA Climate Change Data Chief Rosalinda de Guzman said in a Laging Handa government briefing on Thursday.

[Translation: Actually, this has been started in the last 10 years and we must strive to put and fully integrate it into the planning process as a budgeting system so we can fund and create programs that would help Filipinos.]

Also, De Guzman said the state weather bureau participates in creating programs to build the country's resilience as a member of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction, mostly focusing on enhancing early warning system and radars.

In 2019, the country secured \$10 million from the UN Green Climate Fund intended for multi-hazard, impact-based forecasting projects in vulnerable locations to climate change, specifically Legazpi, New Bataan, Tuguegarao, and Palo, Leyte.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Watsons employees and supplier-partners hold clean-up drive in support of International Coastal Clean Up Day](#)

As a company that cares for the planet, leading health, wellness, and beauty retailer Watsons is always looking for opportunities to make a positive impact on its customers and the communities.

The environment is a big concern for everyone. In line with this, Watsons Philippines partnered with CORA (Communities Organized for Resource Allocation), a non-profit organization dedicated to creating sustainable programs to help solve global issues, including climate change and plastic pollution, for a coastal clean-up activity in the Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habit and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA).

The activity, which is in support of International Coastal Clean Up Day, brought together Watsons employees and suppliers to collaborate for ocean clean-up. It hoped to raise awareness and inspire the volunteers to make changes in their lifestyles. For instance, because some of the collected waste during the activity was plastic bottles, the volunteers noted how important it was to bring a reusable tumbler for drinking.

Mismanaged waste ends up in our oceans and shores, resulting in pollution and the endangerment of marine life. Ocean trash is not just dangerous for animals but also for humans. Plastics, for instance, never fully disappear; they just break down into smaller, and smaller pieces called microplastics. These microplastics can enter the human body through inhalation and absorption and accumulate in organs (source: UN Environment Programme). Because of the pandemic, there has also been a rise in waste coming from plastic bottles, face masks, plastic bags, Styrofoam, cutlery, and straws (source: UN Environment Programme).

The coastal clean-up activity was conducted in the Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habit and Ecotourism Area, a group of structures in Las Pinas that helps to communicate to the public the importance of conservation and wise use of the mangrove and other wetland areas in the 175 hectares that make up a protected area.

“The coastal clean-up activity is part of Watsons DO GOOD efforts for the ocean. As in all our sustainability programs, we learned that we cannot do this alone. That is why we have partnered with CORA and the local government and we involved our employees and supplier-partners. We need to help each other to DO GOOD,” said PR and Sustainability director at Watsons Viki Encarnacion.

The #CORAcleanUps Program helps remove plastic pollution from our Philippine seas and provides livelihood for the “Bakawan Warriors” waste workers that recover marine debris from Manila Bay and surrounding areas, as well as maintain the biodiversity of the LPPCHEA.

Celebrity and humanitarian Antonette Taus is the founder and executive director of CORA. Designated a Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations Environment Programme, she has dedicated her life to using her platform to advocate against hunger and poverty, climate change, mental health, plastic pollution, and other global issues.

“We are very happy to see a retailer like Watsons be a responsible citizen of the planet and work with us on this clean-up drive. Plastic pollution and mismanaged waste are serious environmental concerns,” says Antoinette.

Event participants included members of media, bloggers, and influencers, and Watsons employee-volunteers and trade suppliers. The participants took part in a dance fitness warm-up as part of Watsons’ Get Active program before finally getting down to the business of cleaning up. After that, the trash collected was weighed and awards were given to the participants.

“The activity is also Watsons’ way of encouraging our customers to take care of their health and the health of the planet as well. It’s really Doing Good for you and the planet,” ends Viki.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Pagasa boosts efforts in addressing hazards in 4 areas 'vulnerable' to climate change](#)

By: Lyka Farillon

Manila, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) is bolstering its efforts to address hazards in four areas in the country, which were identified as “vulnerable” to the impacts of climate change.

Citing data from the state weather bureau, Pagasa climate change data chief Rosalina De Guzman said that sea levels in the country have risen three times faster than the global average.

But she pointed out that the country received a project from the Green Climate Fund worth about US \$10 million (around P584.4 million), which aims to look into “multi-hazard impact-based forecasting.”

“We’ll address the different hazards like storm surges, severe winds, flooding, and tropical cyclones in four areas – Legazpi, New Bataan, Palo in Leyte, and Tuguegarao. These are the areas deemed vulnerable to climate change impacts,” she further explained in a mix of English and Filipino.

De Guzman reiterated that the country is currently experiencing the dire effects of climate change, which are manifested in rising temperatures and the increasing number of intense tropical cyclones in the past ten years.

So aside from the Green Climate Fund project, De Guzman said the agency is also working on improving early warning systems, and adding radars and other structures that can help develop its weather and flood forecasting abilities.

She then urged the government and the public to do their share in mitigating the effects of climate change.

She then urged the government and the public to do their share in mitigating the effects of climate change.

De Guzman said it could be as simple as conserving water or using mass transport, but on the part of the government, she sought for climate change to be among the issues considered in its planning and budgeting process.

She also recommended for the government to invest in more sources of renewable energy.

PH sea level rising 3 times faster than world average, says expert

Manila, Philippines — The sea level in the Philippines is rising three times faster than the global average, putting many of its coastal villages in peril, according to a climate scientist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

With 70 percent of the country's municipalities facing large bodies of water, including the Pacific Ocean, that could spell a "big impact" on those populations, Rosalina de Guzman, chief of the state weather bureau's climate data section, said on Thursday.

"Based on a report done by Pagasa, we saw that the sea-level rise of the Philippines is rising three times faster compared to the global average," De Guzman said during the Laging Handa briefing.

"So, this can cause inundation of low-lying areas, especially many of our countrymen who live on the beach," she said.

The Philippines has one of the world's longest coastlines, stretching more than 36,000 kilometers.

Warming temperatures

Scientists attribute sea level rise to warming temperatures, which melt the polar ice caps, causing oceans to expand.

In April, Pagasa climate scientist Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte said the sea level in the Philippine Sea had risen by about 12 centimeters, or about 5 inches, over the past two decades.

De Guzman did not explain what was causing the phenomenon.

But according to the World Bank's climate change portal, regional variations in the rise of sea levels exist "due to natural variability in regional winds and ocean currents, which can occur over periods of days to months or even decades."

Fewer, stronger typhoons

While typhoons hitting the country are becoming fewer, those that do make landfall are becoming stronger and a bit more frequent, De Guzman noted.

An average of 20 tropical cyclones enter the Philippine area of responsibility every year, with about eight or nine crossing the country.

"Based on our data, we have seen that the frequency of typhoons is decreasing a bit and we have seen that for those greater than 170 kilometers per hour, there is a slight change, there is a slight increase," De Guzman said.

Based on Pagasa projections, she said the country's temperature will rise by 4 degrees by the end of the 21st century while the intensity of typhoons hitting the country will continue to increase.

To help address this, she said climate change mitigation should be "fully integrated in the planning process" of the government, including earmarking funds to address the impact of climate change and build resilience among communities in low-lying coastal areas.

De Guzman also urged the public to "practice energy efficiency" and recycling, including conserving water and using mass transport.

The World Bank said rising sea levels "create not only stress on the physical coastline, but also on coastal ecosystems."

"Saltwater intrusions can be contaminating freshwater aquifers, many of which sustain municipal and agricultural water supplies and natural ecosystems. As global temperatures continue to warm, sea level will keep rising for a long time because there is a substantial lag to reaching an equilibrium," it said. "The magnitude of the rise will depend strongly on the rate of future carbon dioxide emissions and future global warming, and the speed might increasingly depend on the rate of glacier and ice sheet melting," it added.

'Greatest threat'

In April, then President Rodrigo Duterte called on industrialized nations to pay smaller countries like the Philippines reparations for the damage caused by climate change.

"We produce the least but we suffer the most. We are really the one paying for it the most. The pollution produced by other countries, we are the ones who catch it," he said.

Addressing world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, President Marcos amplified his predecessor's point, calling climate change the "greatest threat affecting our nations and peoples."

"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 on Wednesday (Manila time).

"There is no other 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 a historical injustice," Marcos said.

In response to calls from the leaders of developing nations, including the Philippines, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday it was time for "meaningful action" on the issue of compensation for damage wrought by the climate crisis.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Expert urges public to help stop climate change in own small way](#)

By: Ma. Cristina Arayata

Manila -- The public can help mitigate the impact of climate change in their own simple way, an expert from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Thursday.

"To our compatriots, we could help in our own little way to mitigate the effects of climate change. Among the ways is to conserve energy and practice energy efficiency," PAGASA Climate Change Data chief Rosalina de Guzman said in a public briefing.

They can do simple things such as conserving water and using mass transport, de Guzman added.

"As simple as not throwing the garbage around, and recycling, (they) are necessary," she said.

Based on the bureau's projections, the country's temperature would increase by 4°C at the end of the 21st century. Tropical cyclones' intensity is also forecast to increase.

"Based on our projection, the intensity of tropical cyclones would increase in the future. The sea level would also rise," de Guzman continued.

She said the public needs to actively participate in climate change programs in their communities.

De Guzman also urged local government units to invest in renewable energies.

She said PAGASA is enhancing its early warning system.

"We are adding radars to enhance the warning system and improve the weather forecast. We are building a total of one regional flood forecasting centers in different areas of the country," she said.

De Guzman said PAGASA has received USD10 million from the Green Climate Fund, which will be used for impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard impact-based forecasting in four project sites: Legazpi; New Bataan; Palo, Leyte; and Tuguegarao.

These areas are vulnerable to climate change impacts, she said.

SUNSTAR

[\[Opinion\] Peña: Wind drought](#)

By: Rox Peña

We usually associate drought with extremely dry weather condition, or the lack of rain or precipitation. Recently, I found out that there is another weather condition called “wind drought”, the slowing down of wind speed. It’s now a reality, according to some experts.

The blowing of the wind happens so naturally that we don’t notice changes in it, except probably for strong winds during typhoons. According to an article published in the Horizon, the European Commission Research and Innovation Magazine, the average terrestrial wind speed has decreased by 0.5 kilometers per hour (0.3 miles per hour) every decade, according to data starting in the 1960s. It is a phenomenon called “stilling”.

Here’s one particular case. Through summer and early autumn 2021, Europe experienced a long period of dry conditions and low wind speeds. And the consequence? Wind farms produced 18 percent of the United Kingdom’s (UK) power in September of 2020, but in September of 2021, that percentage plummeted to only 2 percent. To make up the energy gap, the U.K. was forced to restart two mothballed coal plants. According to the Global Wind Energy Council, there is now 743 GW of wind power capacity worldwide. A decrease in wind speed, even just a small one, will reduce the capacity of wind turbines to generate electricity. This will trigger a shift back to thermal power plants that use fossil fuel, which will result in more greenhouse gas emissions.

Wind drought has other consequences other than the drop in wind energy generation. Plants for instance, will be affected. Some seeds are dispersed by the wind, and others rely on the wind for pollination. So, the absence or slowing of wind speeds will affect plant population.

It might also affect their growth. The blowing of the wind on young plants helps make their stems strong. Air quality will be affected too. Wind helps drive away air pollutants. Note that after a storm the air is clean because all the pollutants like dust, smoke, emissions from vehicles and factories have been blown away.

Stagnant air will impact health, and might even contribute to heat waves. There are also serious implications of wind changes in areas like agriculture and hydrology, basically because of the influence of wind on evaporation.

So what’s the reason for this “wind drought”? Among the leading theories is that urbanization and changing land use is increasing the roughness of the land surface, slowing down winds. Another possible cause is climate change.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report suggests that average wind speeds over Europe will be reduced by 8%-10% as a result of climate change.

One of the strategies to address global warming is stop the use of fossil fuel and shift to renewable and environment-friendly energy sources like solar and wind. However with “wind drought”, wind energy may not be that reliable anymore. That’s bad news.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

CREIT to raise P4.5 billion from ASEAN green bonds

By: Richmond Mercurio

Manila, Philippines — Citicore Energy REIT Corp. (CREIT), the country's first energy REIT, is eyeing to raise up to P4.5 billion from the issuance of ASEAN green bonds.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, CREIT said its board of directors approved the issuance of up to P4.5 billion worth of unsecured fixed rate ASEAN green bonds, which will be comprised of a base offer of up to P3 billion with an oversubscription option of up to P1.5 billion.

CREIT said the proposed issuance would be subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp.

Proceeds of the green bond offering are intended for the acquisition of multiple operating solar rooftop systems and various real estate properties suitable for utility scale solar power plants.

ASEAN green bonds refer to bonds which comply with the ASEAN green bonds standards, where the proceeds will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance, in part or in full, new and/or existing eligible green projects.

Eligible green projects include those for renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and control, environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use, clean transportation, climate change adaptation and green buildings.

CREIT debuted in the Philippine Stock Exchange in February as the first energy-themed REIT in the country.

The company pioneered the agro-solar concept in the Philippines, which promotes the co-existence between solar power harvesting and vegetable farming.

Various root crops and vegetables are planted underneath the panels to augment income of community farmers living within the vicinity of CREIT's properties, with a long-term goal of transforming Filipino communities through positive energy and empowering investments through green sources of revenue.

The company saw its net income surge by more than five times to P601 million in the first half from P89 million in the same period last year.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[House budget schedule still on track after 2 urgent bills' OK](#)

By: Jovee Marie Dela Cruz

THE leadership of the House of Representatives on Thursday said it will give its full and undivided attention to the final approval of the P5.268-trillion General Appropriations Bill for 2023.

House Majority Leader Manuel Jose Dalipe made a statement following the passage of two non-budget measures deemed urgent by the House leadership and the Marcos administration.

Last Tuesday, the lower chamber approved on third reading House Bill 4673 which seeks to defer the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections for one year.

Last Monday, the House also passed House Bill 14 mandating the registration of all postpaid and prepaid mobile phone subscriber identity module (SIM) cards to lessen mobile phone-enabled criminal activities.

The House also passed on second reading House Bill 4125 or the proposed Ease of Paying Taxes Act, which seeks to simplify the process of tax payments.

“From now until next week, we can put our full and undivided attention to the approval of the NEP so that we can quickly move on to other equally urgent legislations. It is good that we have already passed the SIM card registration bill and the postponement of the barangay and SK elections,” Dalipe said.

Dalipe said the House is committed to finish the sponsorship and floor debates by Wednesday next week (September 28) and approve the budget on September 30.

Dalipe said the rate of progress in the approval of the budget proposals of each government department has been very satisfactory and is within the timeline set by the House Committee on Rules.

Without any hitches, Dalipe said the House is expected to terminate the floor debates and make way for the period of amendments on Wednesday, September 28.

“We can work until the wee hours if needed. We want to expedite the approval of the NEP so that we can also attend to the other equally important measures. We have other priority bills which we intend to pass during the 19th Congress,” Dalipe said.

Already terminated for plenary debates are the budget proposals for the following government agencies: Office of the Ombudsman; Mindanao Development Authority; Anti-Red Tape Authority; Commission on Elections; Commission on Human Rights,

including Human Rights Violation Victims' Memorial Commission; Department of Science and Technology, including Attached Agencies; Department of Justice, including Attached Agencies; Philippine Space Agency; Film Development Council of the Philippines; Optical Media Board; Philippine Racing Commission; Civil Service Commission, including Career Service Executive Board; Southern Philippines Development Authority; Development Academy of the Philippines; Cultural Center of the Philippines; Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority ; Cagayan Economic Zone Authority; Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority; Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan; Climate Change Commission; Philippine Center for Economic Development; Games and Amusements Board; Philippine Sports Commission; Bases Conversion and Development Authority; Commission on Filipinos Overseas; National Commission for Culture and the Arts; National Historical Commission of the Philippines; National Library of the Philippines; National Archives of the Philippines; Commission on the Filipino Language; Philippine Competition Commission; Commission on Higher Education; State Universities and Colleges (NCR, Regions I to CARAGA Region, CAR, BARMM) and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

Also, the plenary has terminated discussions on the budget of the Judiciary, which includes the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Lower Courts (SCLC), Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), the Sandiganbayan, Court of Appeals (CA) and the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA).

The plenary also terminated the budget discussions on the Office of the Vice President.

Meanwhile, Basilan Rep. Mujiv Hataman on Thursday questioned the inequitable infrastructure budget for 2023 in Mindanao as 4 of 5 poorest regions are in the Southern Philippines.

Hataman made this assertion as he continued to push for more infrastructure funds for Mindanao in the proposed 2023 national budget in the ongoing plenary discussion on the budget measure, citing the regional poverty incidences in the war-ravaged island.

Hataman then called on his colleagues in the House of Representatives, especially those from Mindanao, to unite and work for the restoration of the infrastructure budget of Mindanao back to its 2022 levels.

Mindanao suffered a huge slash in infrastructure outlay, from P84.69 billion in 2022 to only P30.49 billion in 2023, or a whopping reduction of P54.2 billion—almost a 64-percent decrease from last year. The lawmaker is asking if the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) considered poverty incidence in formulating the proposed national budget.

According to Hataman, four out of the Top 5 poorest regions in the country as indicated by their poverty incidence come from Mindanao: BARMM, 45.8 percent; Caraga, 38.3 percent; Region 9, 37.4; Region 8, 36 percent; and Region 12, 34.1 percent.

“The question here is, how did the DBCC use these data to craft the National Expenditure Program for 2023? Because I don’t know how we can help the mentioned regions,” Hataman told Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo, a sponsor of a part of the proposed national budget.

Quimbo responded by saying that agencies have regional offices that send feedback on regional needs, such as data on the 4Ps program and other social welfare programs.

Hataman agreed that the 4Ps program helps address poverty incidence, but infrastructure projects provide jobs and income, especially in impoverished areas in many parts of Mindanao.

“All regions contribute to GDP. But the GDP contribution also depends on which ones have allocations [for infra], so those regions can draw private investments. For example, if your region is a mess or infrastructure is weak, definitely that has a relation to the private investments,” the Basilan legislator said.

BUSINESS WORLD

[Groups seek concrete steps from Marcos on climate crisis, rights](#)

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

Philippines-based groups on Thursday said President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. failed to substantiate his climate change talk at the United Nations General Assembly, adding that he also fell short of discussing the country's human rights situation.

Jon Bonifacio, national director of Kalikasan People' Network, a coalition of green groups, said Mr. Marcos needs to lay down a clear platform to shield the Philippines from the worst impacts of global warming and protect environmental defenders.

"While millions of Filipinos suffer directly from the impacts of our ongoing economic and ecological crisis, all we are getting from Marcos Jr. so far are flowery statements," said Mr. Bonifacio, who participated in climate-related activities in New York in time for the UN event.

"While Marcos Jr. included climate change in his central message, this is mere posturing as he plans on expanding the fossil-based energy industry in the Philippines," he added.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles did not immediately reply to a Viber message seeking comment.

Mr. Bonifacio said Mr. Marcos has not yet tackled concerns about development projects that Kalikasan said pose threats to the environment and communities.

The Marcos government considers the mining industry as one of the major contributors to the Philippines' economic recovery.

Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines (CEC) Executive Director Lia Torres said this contradicts his "stated commitments on climate change."

"Marcos Jr.'s push for more large-scale mines in the Philippines will only worsen the rapid degradation of our forests, rivers and seas," she said. "Big mining is a major factor in the massive displacement of indigenous people and rural communities."

"This will augur more disaster for mineral-rich forestlands and the rural poor communities of mostly indigenous peoples," she said.

Kalikasan and CEC noted Mr. Marcos also needs to address the situation of climate and environmental defenders, citing that at least six incidents affecting 119 advocates had been recorded in June alone.

The two organizations are part of a consortium of Philippine-based organizations reporting on the human rights situation in the Philippines for the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of the Philippines.

The Philippines, an archipelago, is the third most vulnerable country to climate change, according to the Climate Change Commission.

Mr. Marcos, 65, talked about climate change and called for respect for human rights as well as international law in a speech at the UNGA that marked his debut on the global stage.

"Marcos Jr. used the world stage at the UN General Assembly to talk about lofty universal ideals and principles that he and his family refuse to live by," Cristina E. Palabay, secretary general of local rights group Karapatan, said in a statement.

"Marcos Jr. mentioned the UN Joint Program on Human Rights, and yet he continues to implement the policies of his predecessor Duterte that have resulted in extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced disappearance, illegal and arbitrary arrests and detention," she added.

Ms. Palabay reminded Mr. Marcos that the majority of killings and rights violations committed during former President Rodrigo R. Duterte's six-year term have yet to be rendered justice.

Mr. Marcos is the only son and namesake of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos who ruled under a Martial Law regime.

Maria Ela L. Atienza, who teaches political science at the University of the Philippines (UP), said ordinary Filipinos and members of civil society have the duty to educate the public about the Marcos dictatorship and demand the government to preserve the institutional memory about it.

A day before the Philippines commemorated the 50th anniversary of Mr. Marcos' Martial Law declaration, senators clashed over how the nation should commemorate the military rule, with some senators forcing Filipinos to "move on." Ms. Atienza reminded senators that the two Houses of Congress were among the first institutions to suffer "as a result of the Martial Law declaration."

"Congress was replaced by a rubber stamp Batasang Pambansa," she said. "These senators are making a mockery of themselves and their institution."

In his UN speech, Mr. Marcos said the UN human rights program is an "example of a constructive approach that puts our people, not our politics, at the center of this work."

Philippine government says it can't deal with climate change alone

By: Diego Gabriel Robles

The Philippines needs to take a “whole of society” approach in tackling climate change because of the government’s inability to shoulder the burden on its own, officials said, citing the need for full-scale efforts in mitigating disaster risk and transitioning to renewable energy.

“We need to invest in early warning systems, social protection, resilience building, R&D (research and development), and innovation and technology,” socioeconomic planning Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon said at the Disaster and Climate Emergency Policy Forum on Thursday.

“There are limits to government resources... Government itself is just responsible for 12-15% of GDP (gross domestic product); the rest is really private sector contribution,” she added.

Finance Assistant Secretary Neil Adrian S. Cabiles said at the same event that over the long term, typhoons and earthquakes can inflict P177 billion worth of annual losses to public and private assets in the Philippines.

“In the next 50 years, the country has a 40% chance of experiencing a loss exceeding P989 billion, and a 20% probability of experiencing a loss of as much as P1.5 trillion,” he said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Assistant Governor Lyn I. Javier said the resulting risks to the banking sector are substantial.

“With extreme weather episodes, there is a decline in the total deposits, total resources, (and) total loans, while there is an increase in the nonperforming loans of the banks. This would actually impede them, or make it challenging for them, to lend to households, consumers, and businesses,” she said.

“We expect banks to progressively increase their exposure to sustainable projects, and also assist their borrowers in terms of transitioning and being resilient to the impact of climate change and other environmental risks,” she added.

Ms. Edillon said that responsible consumption and production, or sustainable development goal (SDG) 12, is at the heart of all SDGs, prompting the creation of a Philippine Action Plan for that specific purpose.

“It’s about editing those choices, editing those menu(s), so that people will just choose from those sustainable consumption and production goods,” Ms. Edillon said, noting the importance of R&D, innovation, and technology.

“We need to provide them the options (and) alternatives to these unsustainable goods and services, and then, of course, the infrastructure is needed to be in place so that we encourage the sustainable behavior and discourage the unsustainable behavior.”

However, implementors face a lack of institutional capacity, both in terms of knowledge and funding.

“The estimated cost to implement climate change mitigation actions for the sectors of energy, forestry, industry, and transport alone is around \$4.12 billion from 2015 to 2030,” Mr. Cabiles said, noting how this does not yet include the costs the Philippines shoulders to fulfill its Nationally Determined Contribution commitment of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75%.

Robert E.A. Borje, vice-chairman of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said that the current funding access of the Philippines for climate change initiatives is low compared to other countries.

“The CCC identified only P74 billion worth of financial support committed for 15 climate change projects from 2022 onwards. Why do I say this with a little trepidation? Because the grants amount to only to P6.9 billion and the loans are P67.1 billion,” he said.

“The position of the Philippines is that while we want a mix or a blend of financing, as a developing country, we need better access to grants.”

Budget Assistant Secretary Romeo Matthew T. Balanquit said P338.2 billion was allocated for adaptation projects next year under the proposed budget, against P114.9 billion this year. He added that the government’s efforts are aimed at minimizing the negative effects of extreme weather events to help ensure the attainment of national development targets.

The government hopes to expand the economy by 6.5-7.5% this year, and by 6.5-8% next year until 2028.

Energy Undersecretary Felix William B. Fuentebella said that the department hopes to raise the share of renewable energy (RE) in the fuel mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

“We have seen that we have a lot of (fuel) imports, and what happens when the dollar goes up against the peso. So where’s the opportunity? We really have to pursue RE,” he said.

“Six years ago, it was difficult to push for RE because of the cost; now it’s easier (because costs have fallen).”

Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda said that RE can help solve the problem of high power rates that disincentivize investors from doing business in the Philippines.

“Rapid, inclusive growth requires cheap renewable energy, and cheap energy can come from a combination of dependable base load, a surplus of renewable, and setting aside legacy issues for a fresh start,” he said.

He said the main obstacles to expanding RE involve restrictions on foreign capital.

“RE is subject to (the) 60-40 rule,” he said, referring to the constitutional cap of 40% on foreign investment in some industries. “So, foreign investors can’t come in.”

“We need to liberalize renewable energy. If you really want this thing to be solved, you really need to push RE to a massive surplus. We need to regulate distribution, especially for renewables; allowing households to distribute to each other.”

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Defining and understanding climate change is already half the battle](#)

By: Johannes Chua

We often read or hear about climate change. The topic, admittedly, is not “exciting” and would not even go viral online. A friend even told me that talking about climate change is too gloomy with all the negative forecasts and doomsday scenarios. I agree. But not talking about it now is just delaying the inevitability that we have to face the effects of climate change as a nation sooner than later.

That friend asked me to explain climate change as if he was a child. Fair enough. As journalists, we have the responsibility to “talk” to a wide audience, especially to those who need to understand it most. Climate change, I said, is change in the usual climate of the planet caused by human activity. Because of this “unbalance,” the sustainability of the earth is threatened. Simple enough?

To dig deeper into climate change is to have a macro view of the definitions surrounding it. Part of addressing climate change is understanding what it truly is. For example, the United Nations (UN) defined climate change as “long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.” The UN noted that these shifts may be natural...but since the 1800s, “human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.”

The UN further added: “Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the earth, trapping the sun’s heat and raising temperatures. Examples of greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving a car or coal for heating a building, for example. Clearing land and forests can also release carbon dioxide. Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main emitters.”

Compare the UN definition from the one provided by the US’ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It said that climate change is a “broad range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gas to the earth’s atmosphere. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming, but also encompass changes such as sea-level rise; ice mass loss in Greenland, Antarctica, the Arctic and mountain glaciers worldwide; shifts in flower and plant blooming; and extreme weather events.”

See any difference? It sounds like they just copied from one another.

In our country, it is the Climate Change Commission (CCC) that is mandated by law (Republic Act 9729: The Climate Change Act of 2009) to serve as the “lead policy-making body tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate action plans of the government related to climate change.” For the CCC, climate change is caused by man’s lifestyle. “Our lifestyle has led to the accumulation of greenhouse gas in the

atmosphere. These gasses trap heat from the sun, making the earth warmer. Manifestations of a warmer world include rising mean temperatures, sea level rise, and increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like droughts and greater rainfall.”

Referring to these definitions, one could already sense a pattern. First, it is man’s activity in pursuit of progress that changed our climate. The UN warned that “greenhouse gas concentrations are their highest levels in two million years.” “Emissions continue to rise. As a result, the earth is now about 1.1-degree Celsius warmer than it was in the late 1800s. The last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record.”

“Because the Earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others,” said the UN. Consequences of climate change include catastrophic events such as intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, devastating storms, and declining biodiversity.

Now, climate change is part of President Marcos’ speech in front of the UN General Assembly. There is much to discuss there as he asked for nations who have the highest greenhouse gas emissions to help countries such as the Philippines, which is the “fourth most vulnerable country to climate change.”

This is an issue that I personally agree with the administration. I would even join the President in calling for “climate justice.” Whatever politics or ideologies we may have, we all agree that there is one — only one! — earth. And starting to clearly define climate change, and making the majority of the 110 million Filipinos truly understand what it truly means, is already winning half of the battle.

Former Climate Change Commission chair declared 'persona non grata' in 3 towns in Siargao

BUTUAN CITY (PNA) – Three municipal councils in Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte have issued resolutions declaring former Climate Change Commission chair Mary Ann Lucille Sering as “persona non grata” or unwelcome in their towns.

The local governments accused Sering of unfairly accusing them of being unprepared and of mismanaging the disaster response during the aftermath of typhoon “Odette” last year.

“The accusation of Atty. Sering does not only amount to an insult to the honor of town officials, but most of all, a mockery of the earnest efforts extended by the front-liners, who literally made possible the fast and immediate recovery of this municipality, and Siargao in general, from the devastation caused by typhoon ‘Odette,’” the General Luna municipal council resolution dated Sept. 12, 2022 said.

The town councils of Burgos and San Isidro separately passed resolutions on Aug. 22, copies of which were obtained by the Philippine News Agency on Thursday, Sept. 22.

Based on the resolutions, town officials said it was inappropriate and unacceptable for Sering to accuse them of bungling the disaster response, as they had done what they can under challenging circumstances.

For San Isidro, Sering’s criticism was tantamount to disrespecting “the concerted efforts of the local officials and the frontliners.” It said the local government managed to provide for the basic needs of the 2,299 affected families during the typhoon.

Officials of Burgos, meanwhile, underscored the town government’s response, noting that it was able to distribute food supplies to some 1,450 affected families.

Still, Sering, a native of Siargao and daughter of a former governor, stood her ground and said she was not affected by the persona non grata declaration.

“The declarations have no effect on me. I can still go to Siargao just like any person because I am a Filipino,” she said during an interview with the RPN-DXKS Surigao on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Likewise, Sering said her views on the supposed lackluster performance of local officials during typhoon Odette have not changed, noting that the residents themselves have aired their dissatisfaction over how the post-disaster response was handled.

Meanwhile, several sources said two more towns in Siargao Island are set to pass separate resolutions next week declaring Sering unwelcome in their municipalities.

Odette killed 15 Siargao islanders last December.

A report by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) estimated the damage at over P1.1 billion in Siargao alone.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC lauds PBBM's rallying call for climate justice](#)

By: Elaine Allanigue

Quezon City, (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has lauded President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.'s rallying call for climate justice and unlocking climate finance for vulnerable and at-risk nations, saying the President's speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77) sets the groundwork for principled global climate action.

In the UNGA77 High-Level General Debate, President Marcos underscored the need to address climate injustice with "those who need to do more must act now."

President Marcos called on industrialized countries to:

Cut greenhouse gas emissions;

Provide climate finance; and

Provide technology transfer for the most vulnerable and developing nations, including the Philippines.

CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director (VCED) Robert E.A. Borje highlighted the importance of President Marcos' clear articulation of the Philippine positions in UNGA77: attain climate justice, unlock climate finance, while being a responsible member of the international community.

"The Philippines has a strong and resonant voice for climate justice to make sure that the global community urgently responds to the needs of the times," Borje said.

With limited resources to implement mitigation and adaptation strategies, VCED Borje pointed out President Marcos' call to "unlock climate finance" for at-risk and vulnerable nations was crucial.

Borje added that the Philippines is working with other nations to ensure allocation for adaptation is doubled, and that climate change-related losses and damages are funded by developed nations based on commitments under the Paris Agreement.

These principled positions by the Philippines have also been articulated by the CCC in relevant fora in the lead up to the 27th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP27), including at the UN's Third Technical Expert Dialogue on Climate Finance in Manila, and the Informal Consultation on Loss and Damage in Cairo, Egypt.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[House to work 'full time' on 2023 budget till next week](#)

By: Zaldy De Layola

Manila – A ranking lawmaker on Thursday said the House of Representatives will give its full and undivided attention to the approval of the PHP5.268-trillion National Expenditure Program (NEP) for 2023, following the passage of two non-budget measures deemed as urgent by the chamber's leadership and the Marcos administration.

House Majority Leader Manuel Jose Dalipe made the statement following Tuesday's third reading approval of House Bill 4673 which seeks to defer the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections for one year.

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Dalipe said the House is committed to finishing the sponsorship and floor debates by Sept. 28 and approving the spending bill on Sept. 30.

Already terminated for plenary debates are the budget proposals for the following government agencies: Office of the Ombudsman; Mindanao Development Authority; Anti-Red Tape Authority; Commission on Elections; Commission on Human Rights, including Human Rights Violation Victims' Memorial Commission; Department of Science and Technology, including Attached Agencies; Department of Justice, including Attached Agencies; Philippine Space Agency; Film Development Council of the Philippines; Optical Media Board; Philippine Racing Commission;

Civil Service Commission, including Career Service Executive Board; Southern Philippines Development Authority; Development Academy of the Philippines; Cultural Center of the Philippines; Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority; Cagayan Economic Zone Authority; Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority; Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan; Climate Change Commission; Philippine Center for Economic Development; Games and Amusement Board; Philippine Sports Commission;

Bases Conversion and Development Authority; Commission on Filipinos Overseas; National Commission for Culture and the Arts; National Historical Commission of the Philippines; National Library of the Philippines; National Archives of the Philippines; Commission on the Filipino Language; Philippine Competition Commission; Commission on Higher Education; State Universities and Colleges (NCR, Regions I to CARAGA Region, CAR, BARMM); and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

"The rate of progress in the approval of the budget proposals of each government department has been very satisfactory and is within the timeline set by the House Committee on Rules and without any hitches," the Zamboanga City lawmaker said.

He added that the House is expected to terminate the floor debates and make way for the period of amendments on Sept. 28.

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