



NEWS ROUNDUP

29 September 2022 [08:00 am]

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[Climate change at 'point of no return,' says primatologist Goodall](#)

By: Elias Lemecier

Los Angeles, United States — Earth's climate is changing so quickly that humanity is running out of chances to fix it, primatologist Jane Goodall has warned in an interview.

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BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

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CNBC

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By: Lee Ying Shan

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Myrna Velasco

The country would be able fetch P270.8 billion-worth of investments amid increasing renewable energy (RE) installations as power utilities comply with the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), according to the Department of Energy.

MANILA STANDARD

[Biden laying foundation for green energy investments: Yellen](#)

By: Julie Chabanas

US President Joe Biden's push for green energy tax credits will help boost a massive ramp up in private investment that will create jobs and lower energy costs for American families, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Tuesday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Kurt Dela Pena

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[Partial infra damage from 'Karding' tops P135M](#)

By: Ferdinand Patinio

Manila – The partial cost of damage to national roads, bridges, and flood-control structures by Typhoon Karding (Noru) has amounted to some PHP135.09 million, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) reported on Wednesday.

SUNSTAR

[Sipalay City, Cauayan town badly-hit by 'Karding'](#)

By: Adrian Nemes III

Sipalay City and Cauayan town in Negros Occidental were the most affected local government units (LGUs) by bad weather brought about by Super Typhoon Karding.

THE MANILA TIMES

[PH revises on-grid RE system](#)

By: Eireene Jairee Gomez

The Department of Energy has increased the percentage of the utilization of renewable energy (RE) for on-grid areas from 1 percent to 2.52 percent as part of the government's thrust on transitioning toward a sustainable and clean energy future.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Accelerating green energy and a circular economy](#)

By: Luc Veron

The world is warming faster than at any point in recorded history. With it, typhoons and droughts are becoming stronger and more frequent. Glaciers and ice caps are receding, rainfall patterns, oceans and winds are changing and sea levels are increasing.

UN NEWS

[Climate Change: Hurricanes and cyclones bring misery to millions, as Ian makes landfall in the US](#)

The two tropical cyclones came quick on the heels of Hurricane Fiona, which caused deadly flooding in the Caribbean and was the strongest storm on record to hit Canada. Typhoon Nanmadol, prompted the evacuation of nine million people in Japan.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABANTE

[SM Prime Holdings hold 2022 International Coastal Cleanup together with SM Cares, SM By the Bay](#)

SM Prime Holdings, together with SM Cares and SM By the Bay once again took part in the annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), bringing together thousands of volunteers into an event that underscored the importance of protecting the world's seas, oceans, and other bodies of water. The event was held last September 17 at the SM By the Bay Central Park, SM Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Climate change at 'point of no return,' says primatologist Goodall

By: Elias Lemecier

Los Angeles, United States — Earth's climate is changing so quickly that humanity is running out of chances to fix it, primatologist Jane Goodall has warned in an interview.

Goodall, a grandee of environmentalism whose activism has spanned decades, said time was rapidly shortening to halt the worst effects of human-caused global warming.

"We are literally approaching a point of no return," Goodall told AFP in Los Angeles.

"Look around the world at what's happening with climate change. It's terrifying.

"We are part of the natural world and we depend on healthy ecosystems."

Goodall is best known for her pioneering six-decade study of chimpanzees in Tanzania, which found "human-like" behavior among the animals, including a propensity to wage war, as well as an ability to display emotions.

Now 88 years old, the Briton is a prolific writer and the subject of a number of films. She has also been immortalized as both a Lego figure and a Barbie doll.

Goodall said her own environmental awakening came in the 1980s while working in Mongolia, where she realized that hillsides had been denuded of tree cover.

"The reason the people were cutting down the trees was to make more land, to grow food as their families grew, and also to make money from charcoal or timber," she said.

"So if we don't help these people find ways of making a living without destroying their environment, we can't save chimpanzees, forests, or anything else."

Goodall says she has seen some changes for the better over recent decades but urged quicker action.

"We know what we should be doing. I mean, we have the tools. But we come up against the short-term thinking of economic gain versus long-term protection of the environment for the future," she said.

"I don't pretend to be able to solve the problems that this creates because there are major problems. And yet, if we look at the alternative, which is continuing to destroy the environment, we're doomed."

Goodall was speaking Sunday on the sidelines of a celebration of her \$1.3 million Templeton Prize.

The prize is an annual award for an individual whose work harnesses science to explore the questions facing humanity.

The cash went to the Jane Goodall Institute, a global wildlife and environment conservation organization, which runs youth programs in 66 countries.

"The program's main message is that every single one of us makes an impact on the planet every day, and we get to choose what sort of impact we make," Goodall said.

"It's actually my greatest reason for hope."

Shelters empty as Pampanga residents return to flooded homes

Government shelters in Masantol, Pampanga are now empty just two days after the onslaught of Typhoon Karding as residents chose to go back to their flooded homes, the town mayor said Wednesday.

Mayor Jose Antonio Bustos said 23 barangays in Masantol remain flooded as of Wednesday. "Hindi po maiwan ng ating mga kababayan ang kanilang mga ari-arian, wala na pong naka-evacuate sa ating evacuation centers," he said, adding that floods rose to as high as 3 feet.

A total of 15,000 individuals were affected by the typhoon while agricultural damage in the area has been estimated at P8 million. Classes have been suspended in the town since Monday.

The mayor said a state of calamity had already been declared in Masantol since August due to floods.

BUSINESS WORLD

DoE sets minimum RE share at 2.52% in 2023 for on-grid power suppliers

By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

The Department of Energy (DoE) said on Wednesday that on-grid power suppliers must expand the share of renewable energy (RE) in their output to 2.52% by next year, from the current 1%, for them to remain compliant with the requirements of the renewable portfolio standards (RPS) program.

In a statement, the DoE said the order applies to power distribution utilities and electric cooperatives, which under the law must raise their RE sourcing by 1 percentage point a year between 2020 and 2030.

“The increase in the utilization of renewable energy in our power generation mix would encourage more investors and end-users to develop and utilize domestic energy sources,” Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said.

The RPS is a component of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 designed to encourage greater use of RE.

To date, the DoE said it has issued 998 renewable energy contracts with a combined installed capacity of 5,460.59 megawatts (MW) and potential capacity of 61,613.81 MW. The contracts have the potential to generate P270.78 billion worth of investment for awarded and prospective deals.

Solar accounted for P130.44 billion of prospective investment, with installed capacity of around 1,386.506 MW; wind P52.91 billion and 409.900 MW; hydropower P38.73 billion and 269.29 MW; biomass P38.16 billion and 634.91 MW and geothermal P10.54 billion and 82.50 MW.

“Private sector investment is central in achieving our renewable energy targets and vision. To date, the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix is 22%,” Mr. Lotilla said.

According to the DoE’s National Renewable Energy program, the department hopes to increase the share of renewables in the power mix to 35% by 2030 and to 50% by 2040.

“By increasing the annual percentage over time, renewable energy will drive us down a path towards energy sustainability,” Mr. Lotilla said.

CNBC

[As long as the world needs oil and gas, we'll give it, says UAE climate change minister](#)

By: Lee Ying Shan

The United Arab Emirates will continue to supply the world with energy for as long as it needs it, its Minister for Climate Change and Environment Mariam Almheiri said in an exclusive interview with CNBC.

“As long as the world needs oil and gas, we’re going to give it to them,” Almheiri told CNBC’s Hadley Gamble on the sidelines of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Scholz visited the Gulf region over the weekend, focusing on securing new fossil fuel supplies and cutting Germany’s reliance on Russian energy imports.

On Sunday, the UAE signed an agreement to deliver liquefied natural gas to Germany, with its first shipment due to arrive by the end of the year.

LNG isn’t a renewable source of energy, but it’s considered a cleaner alternative to oil and coal.

The UAE is among the world’s largest oil producers, producing an average of 3.2 million barrels of petroleum and liquids a day.

Investing in renewables

Nevertheless, Almheiri stressed the importance of investing in renewables.

“We need to be careful ... because conversations are happening and it’s all about energy, but it’s really important we don’t lose context of economic growth, [and] climate as well within that,” she said.

Referring to the UAE’s investments in renewable energy projects, she said, “It’s not just about the production ... you’ve got to look at the storage, you’ve got to look at the network, you’ve got to look at the distribution. It’s such a complex network.”

“It’s really important that economic growth, energy security and climate action must be worked at together.”

She cited the example of Germany, which last year announced its ambitions to phase out coal by 2030, but lawmakers announced earlier this month that the country would burn coal to get through the winter.

Food and water crises

The minister said the UAE is facing another great crisis: food.

“Food is actually just as important as energy because food systems are or contribute to a third of greenhouse gas emissions,” said Almheiri.

Water scarcity is another concern for the UAE, she added.

A report by the Orient Planet Research found that the Gulf region will need to boost its water supply by 77% to meet the requirements of its population within the next 30 years.

Almheiri stressed the importance of innovating to secure the supply of water, through renewable energy sources like solar power and humidity from the air.

MANILA BULLETIN

Hike in RE capacity to rake in P270-B investments – DOE

By: Myrna Velasco

The country would be able fetch P270.8 billion-worth of investments amid increasing renewable energy (RE) installations as power utilities comply with the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), according to the Department of Energy.

The department calculated that investments from the awarded RE service contracts already reached 5,460.59 megawatts, while the potential capacity yet to be developed could already hit 61,613.81MW.

Of the anticipated capital influx, DOE data showed that the lion's share will be coming from solar projects at P130.44 billion, followed by wind at P52.913 billion, and hydro could reach P38.726 billion.

Other technologies such as biomass power facilities could bring in investments of P38.159 billion, while geothermal ventures could inject capital by as much as P10.536 billion.

The energy department qualified that the current utilization of RE capacities as wheeled on-grid already reached 2.52-percent from previously at 1.0-percent.

According to Energy Secretary Raphael P. M. Lotilla, "the increase in the utilization of renewable energy in our power generation mix would encourage more investors and end-users to develop and utilize domestic energy sources."

The RPS, in particular, is a policy mechanism that requires the distribution utilities (DUs) to source prescribed percentage of their power supply from RE-generated capacities.

Owing to that mandate then, the RE sponsor-firms can be assured of alternative market for their generated electricity because the RE projects being qualified in the DOE-administered green energy auction program (GEAP) are being awarded with long term power supply agreements.

The award of RE contracts by the DOE, however, had so far been marred with criticisms because its GEAP process had not been transparent on the price offers of the bidders; and there was no consultation undertaken with relevant stakeholders also how the allocations per technology are being set.

However, the DOE is being cautioned on its partiality toward RE developments as anchored on the country's 'energy transition pathway' – that is on account of market realities that even major economies like the European countries are now suffering from energy crisis; and their RE leaning cannot even save them from such affliction.

Until today, the Philippine power sector is still grappling with Jurassic dilemma of deficient power supply – a problem that even the incursion of private sector players had not been able to solve after more than 20 years.

The long-term wish of consumers for cheaper power rates also lingers as a lofty ambition; as the two decades of power sector deregulation had just resulted in even more expensive electricity rates and had pushed the industry deeper into subsidy addiction, including those that are being extended to the RE developers.

Still, Lotilla emphasized that “private sector investments are central in achieving our renewable energy targets and vision,” with him stressing that from the current 22-percent share of RE in the power mix, the government is bent on increasing that to 35-percent by 2030; and 50-percent by 2040.

“By increasing the annual percentage overtime, renewable energy would drive us on a path toward energy sustainability,” the energy chief added.

MANILA STANDARD

[Biden laying foundation for green energy investments: Yellen](#)

By: Julie Chabanas

US President Joe Biden's push for green energy tax credits will help boost a massive ramp up in private investment that will create jobs and lower energy costs for American families, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Tuesday.

Yellen called the administration's plan "the most aggressive action that we've ever taken to address the climate crisis."

She traveled to North Carolina to tour a solar plant and tout policies included in the recently approved Inflation Reduction Act, which together with the Infrastructure Law includes more than \$430 billion in energy investments.

The legislation provides tax credits to households to make their homes more energy efficient or switch to cleaner sources, which will help lower costs, Yellen said.

But the administration's approach also "rests on harnessing the engagement of the private sector," the official said in her speech, delivered in front of an array of solar panels.

"Beyond the consumer tax credits, we expect a significant mobilization of private investment into the clean energy sector," she said. "These investments will accelerate the transition to our green energy future and lower energy costs for American households and businesses."

Economic stability

In addition, "They will secure our energy supply against global price shocks. And they will provide good-paying, high-quality jobs across America."

Yellen said the transition is critical to address climate change which has seen more costly storms arise across the globe.

"Climate change poses a grave risk to the productive capacity of our economy while also impacting its stability," she said.

But the transition to a clean energy economy also brings lower costs and "significant economic opportunities in high-growth industries, while building economic resilience and creating good-paying jobs across the country."

She said these new programs also will serve the "important goal" of boosting domestic capacity to produce solar panels, batteries for electric vehicles and even the minerals needed to make the batteries.

“I think the legislation will be effective. And we’re already hearing announcements about new activities starting up in the United States,” Yellen told reporters.

Global supply chain snarls have hit manufacturers which rely on imported components and have struggled to meet demand for goods and cars in the United States. Ford said recently it will have to store more than 40,000 partially built vehicles which are awaiting parts.

“We’re seeing a lot of supply chain issues that continue that’s limiting the production of electric vehicles and other cars,” Yellen said, adding that “I think that will resolve over time, and EVs will become quite affordable especially with the support from the Inflation Reduction Act.”

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sierra Madre stands up to Karding, but needs protection vs the humans it saves

By: Kurt Dela Pena

Manila, Philippines—No, Sierra Madre was not built by anyone. Like most mountain ranges, Sierra Madre had been formed tens of millions of years ago by geological activity.

The longest mountain range in the Philippines, Sierra Madre spans several provinces and regions, among them Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Calabarzon.

When Super Typhoon Karding (Noru) struck carrying violent winds of close to 200 kph, Sierra Madre proved itself to be “our strongest defense against typhoons,” being credited with facing Karding’s fury head on and weakening the strongest storm to make landfall in the Philippines this year.

But lost in the homage being paid by netizens, including the uninformed, to Sierra Madre for its role in saving Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon from Karding’s Category 5 winds was the assault on Sierra Madre by mainly human activity. In the last 12 years, the mountain range had already lost 161,240 hectares of forest.

Last Sunday (Sept. 25), as Karding barreled through Luzon, Sierra Madre stood her ground and was credited with saving thousands of lives simply by being there and cushioning the blows brought by 185 to 195 kph storm winds.

Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP), an environmental group monitoring the state of Sierra Madre and other Philippine ecological sites, said the mountain range’s elevation—1,266 meters above sea level—makes it an effective barrier against typhoons from the Pacific Ocean.

Sierra Madre—500 kilometers long—traverses the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, and Quezon.

Araceli Mercado, chair of the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance (SSMNA), said the mountain range is a “natural shield” as typhoons weaken as they pass through the corridor.

This was echoed by Sr. Elizabeth Carranza, TST, a member of the secretariat of the Laudato Si’ Movement Pilipinas, who said that the mountain range was indeed “our backbone” as it “takes the blows, protects us from the blows of typhoons.”

Vanessa Torres, a weather specialist, told the INQUIRER that Sierra Madre was one of the reasons for the weakening of Karding, explaining that the mountain range was a “rugged terrain so Karding naturally lost some strength.”

SSMNA said Karding was not the first typhoon that was “stifled” by Sierra Madre, pointing to other equally destructive storms—Ompong (Mangkhut), Lawin (Haima) and Karen (Sarika)—that met their match in Sierra Madre.

Rizal Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles, author of House Bill No. 1972, which seeks the creation of the Sierra Madre Development Authority, said back in 2018, Ompong’s winds fell from 220 kph to 160 kph when the storm passed Sierra Madre.

Two other storms—Lawin and Karen—also crossed Luzon in 2016 but were weakened from Category 5 to Category 3 when they slammed into Sierra Madre, SSMNA said.

But as Sierra Madre trended both on Facebook and Twitter, a nincompoop netizen, apparently a troll, tried to spread the brazen falsehood that President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. built the mountain range and thanked him for it.

The absurdly fantastic claim quickly drew disbelief on social media among other apparent trolls, who considered the claim that Marcos built Sierra Madre to be too unbelievable but nonetheless gave credit to the spirit of “Apo Lakay” for dwelling in the mountain range. Some netizens can only sigh in exasperation at the utter falsehoods.

‘Her life is our life’

Carranza, who also served as chair of SSMNA, told INQUIRER.net that Sierra Madre, which literally means “mother mountain,” carries life that should be protected since “her life is our life.”

She said that years back, her group initiated the “Paglalakbay ng Krus ng Sierra Madre” with the theme “Save Sierra Madre, Save Million Lives,” stressing the significance of the mountain range for millions of Filipinos.

This, as Sierra Madre is the source of water and electricity not only of the provinces that it traverses but also Metro Manila, which has a population of over 12 million. “The water of the Pasig River and Laguna lake also comes from Sierra Madre,” she said.

Mercado told INQUIRER.net that “the role of Sierra Madre is very vital in protecting the 10 provinces—from Cagayan to Quezon—especially because the Philippines is hit by an average of 20 typhoons every year.”

She said that typhoons are more dangerous now, explaining that winds and rain continue to intensify from Category 3 back then to Category 5 now. This, she said, can cause so much destruction to infrastructure, agriculture and also bring massive loss of lives.

Mercado asserted that since “we are now in the stage of a climate emergency or crisis, we cannot afford to lose Sierra Madre or else, the impact [of typhoons] could be catastrophic.”

Threats persist

Carranza said “Sierra Madre wants us to take care of her.” “This is not only for the government, but for all of us: We really need to protect Sierra Madre, which is now threatened,” she said.

Asked about the present threats that confront the mountain range, Mercado said “it is being threatened by activities, like mining, logging (illegal and legal), land conversion, and construction of roads and dams.”

She said the consequences that these activities leave behind are permanent and that if these threats will persist, “we can no longer bring back the natural state of Sierra Madre.”

Based on data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the mountain range had lost 161,240 hectares of its forest in only 12 years—from 1998 to 2010.

It also said that the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, which spans 359,486 hectares and is considered the largest protected area in the Philippines, loses an average of 1,400 hectares of forest every year.

The DENR said that this was because of continued assault on the mountain through illegal logging, slash and burn farming, fuel-wood collection, illegal hunting, and expansion of human settlements.

FFP said despite the clear benefits that Sierra Madre provides, “its resources are continuously exploited,” saying that mining and agriculture have started to negatively affect the corridor’s ecosystem.

“Resource exploitation, changes in land use, infrastructure development, and political neglect have far-reaching consequences for the inhabitants of Sierra Madre,” FFP said.

This, as the construction of the P12.2 billion China-financed New Centennial Water Source Kaliwa Dam Project, was seen to further worsen the environmental assault on Sierra Madre as it would permanently flood 300 hectares of forest.

The environmental group Haribon Foundation said the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve was declared as a forest reserve by Proclamation No. 573. A part of the watershed was also declared as a National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

IPs’ fight

The issue surrounding the dam, Carranza said, is not new. Together with indigenous peoples residing in Sierra Madre, her group SSMNA is also fighting the construction of a much bigger dam—Laiban.

In the last 10 years, the Dumagats had been protesting Laiban and Kaliwa dams especially as the ancestral domain clause of the Indigenous People’s Rights Act of 1997 was clear on the Sierra Madre corridor being placed in their care.

The Dumagats opposed—and successfully blocked—the Laiban Dam project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, but with the construction of the Kaliwa Dam being imminent, the success was shortlived.

The Kaliwa dam project, the government said, is intended to supply 600 million liters of water to Metro Manila, but the think tank Ibon Foundation said there are alternative sources of water.

Haribon Foundation, which said that the Kaliwa dam construction will destroy the corridor's biodiversity, stressed that Sierra Madre provides indispensable services vital for humans to survive, like water.

Based on a 1999 data from the DENR, 40 percent of the remaining 22 percent forest cover in the Philippines was within the mountain range, which the FFP said has rich biodiversity.

As a sanctuary to a rich ecosystem, the mountain range boasts of 68 protected areas, including national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves, landscapes, and seascapes.

“The biological importance of the Sierra Madre corridor is due to the intact forest in its central areas, as well as its high plant diversity—with more than 3,500 recorded species,” it said.

These represent roughly 45 percent of all species recorded in the Philippines, with at least 58 percent of them endemic to the corridor. Sierra Madre also contains the most species of birds in Luzon, accounting for at least 80 percent of resident breeding birds.

FFP also said that out of all the species within the mountain range, a 2001 study by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature listed 106 plant species and 28 animal species as threatened.

‘Something has to be done’

Mercado said these threats pose greater risk to Sierra Madre and those living in high and lowland areas, who can experience flooding and mudslides, loss of livelihoods, lives and infrastructure, and disruption of economic activities.

“If unchecked for long, these activities may threaten millions of lives. Indigenous people dwelling in the mountains will lose their ancestral domain and eventually, their identities,” FFP said.

“The dependence on Sierra Madre for irrigation means that agriculture would also be gravely affected. As more forests are cleared for industry, Sierra Madre would lose what makes it a sturdy wall, leading to flooding or drought in the provinces it touches.”

Mercado said the government and all sectors should “participate, plan and implement programs that will protect, conserve and preserve Sierra Madre as habitat of biodiverse flora and fauna [and] our communities who depend their livelihoods and culture [on the corridor].”

“In the context of the climate crisis, we need to have collaborative efforts to strictly implement environmental laws and create policies that will protect our remaining natural resources,” she said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Partial infra damage from 'Karding' tops P135M

By: Ferdinand Patinio

Manila – The partial cost of damage to national roads, bridges, and flood-control structures by Typhoon Karding (Noru) has amounted to some PHP135.09 million, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) reported on Wednesday.

In a statement, the DPWH said the damage assessment includes roads (PHP34.71 million); bridges (PHP22.39 million); and flood-control structures (PHP77.99 million), adding that these would be subject to field validation.

Central Luzon recorded the highest amount of damage at PHP91.38 million, followed by the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) with PHP19.6 million; Western Visayas, PHP12 million; Cagayan Valley, PHP9.11 million; and Mimaropa, PHP3 million.

Meanwhile, the DPWH also reported that five national road sections remain closed to traffic.

These are the Kennon Road in Benguet province, closed to non-residents for safety reasons; and the Cabagan-Sta. Maria Overflow Bridge in Isabela province, Nueva Ecija-Aurora Road, and the Danditeki River Detour Road due to flooding.

Also closed are the Baliwag Candaba - Sta.Ana Road in Barangay San Agustin, Candaba, Pampanga due to flooding and the Hamtic-Bia-an-Egaña- Sibalom Road, Egaña Bridge in Barangay Egaña -Buhang, Sibalom, Antique due to the collapsed steel bridge.

On the other hand, it noted that three national roads have limited access -- the Gapan Fort Magsaysay Road in Barangay Padolina, General Tinio town can only be used by light vehicles due to fallen electric post; Candaba-Sana Miguel Road in Pampanga province which is passable to heavy vehicles only due to flooding; and the Angeles-Porac-Floridablanca Dinalupihan Road, Mancantian Bridge in Pampanga province which is hardly-passable to light vehicles only due to flooding.

SUNSTAR

Sipalay City, Cauayan town badly-hit by 'Karding'

By: Adrian Nemes III

Sipalay City and Cauayan town in Negros Occidental were the most affected local government units (LGUs) by bad weather brought about by Super Typhoon Karding.

Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson said yesterday, September 27, that the initial reports he received showed that about 96 hectares of rice crops valued at P1.4 million were damaged.

"We are still fortunate that that's the only damage we had so far. I hope that the affected farmers are ensured," Lacson said.

The Office of the Provincial Agriculture (OPA) has yet to issue an updated damage report as of this writing.

Meanwhile, when asked for his reaction regarding the proposed construction of the evacuation centers in every LGU, Lacson said it would mean a "super structure."

"If you notice, during calamities like typhoons, the evacuation is not only happening in one barangay," he said.

But those that will be built should be spacious enough to accommodate all the evacuees, the governor added.

In Tayasan town, Negros Oriental, a woman drowned on Sunday night at the Panayawan River in Barangay Bago.

Her remains were only recovered the following day.

Investigation showed that Indayon Esteban, of Sitio Bulwang at Barangay Tiki in Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental, and her two children were crossing the river when strong water current submerged them.

Estaban's children survived the tragedy.

Following the onslaught of Typhoon Karding that ravaged the large portion of Luzon, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. conducted an aerial inspection of the affected areas on Monday.

Marcos went over the provinces of Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

"After our aerial inspection today, we found some areas that are still inundated with water. Nueva Ecija and Aurora are without power. We are sending gensets now," he said in a Facebook post.

"But generally, the damage to public and private infrastructure is minimal. Government services are almost at full function. Main road thoroughfares are passable, communication is up and running," he added.

Before the inspection, Marcos gathered his Cabinet secretaries who reported about the situation on the ground following the onslaught of "Karding."

The Department of the Interior and Local Government said nearly 20,000 families were preemptively evacuated due to the weather system.

Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Erwin Tulfo assured the continuous provision of relief goods to the affected population while assessment, whether they can already return to their homes, is being conducted.

THE MANILA TIMES

PH revises on-grid RE system

By: Eireene Jairee Gomez

The Department of Energy has increased the percentage of the utilization of renewable energy (RE) for on-grid areas from 1 percent to 2.52 percent as part of the government's thrust on transitioning toward a sustainable and clean energy future.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Energy department said the increase of 2.52 percent shall take effect in 2023 based on Department Circular 2022-09-0030, which prescribes the adjusted annual percentage increment for all participants of the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) for on-grid areas, signed by Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla on Sept. 23, 2022.

"The increase in the utilization of renewable energy in our power generation mix would encourage more investors and end-users to develop and utilize domestic energy sources," Lotilla said.

As of June 2022, the department has awarded a total of 998 renewable energy contracts with an aggregate installed capacity of 5,460.59 megawatts (MW) and potential capacity of 61,613.81 MW. This generated around P270.8-billion investments for the country.

The RPS is a policy mechanism under Republic Act 9513, or the "Renewable Energy Act of 2008," designed to increase the use of RE sources for electricity generation. This requires or encourages electricity suppliers, particularly the distribution utilities, to source or produce a specified fraction of their power supply from eligible RE resources. It is also a mechanism designed to provide a guaranteed market for renewable energy.

"Private sector investments are central in achieving our renewable energy targets and vision. To date, the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix is 22 percent. Our target share is 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040," said Lotilla.

The circular also mandates an annual review of percentage increment to monitor compliance and adjustments in case of constraints in the timely completion of eligible RE facilities.

"By increasing the annual percentage overtime, renewable energy would drive us on a path toward energy sustainability," the Energy chief added.

For many years, power plants in the Philippines have been heavily reliant on coal, which is considered to be the world's dirtiest fuel. This makes up almost half of the country's energy production.

In his first State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. committed to increase and further develop the country's RE sources in response to increasing energy demand and climate change.

In 2021, the Philippines total coal imports reached 31.238 million metric tons (MMT), as against the country's total coal consumption at 35.836 MMT. This translates to 87.2 percent dependence on coal importation.

The country's current energy mix is at 37.1 percent coal, 34.6 percent oil, 16.5 percent renewables, 5.5 percent natural gas, 4.5 percent hydropower and 1.8 percent geothermal.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Accelerating green energy and a circular economy](#)

By: Luc Veron

The world is warming faster than at any point in recorded history. With it, typhoons and droughts are becoming stronger and more frequent. Glaciers and ice caps are receding, rainfall patterns, oceans and winds are changing and sea levels are increasing.

World leaders – including European Council President Charles Michel and Philippine President Marcos – pointed at this dismal state of affairs at last week's UN General Assembly. From the halls of the UN in New York, an almost unanimous and alarming call to urgent and radical action emerged.

The European Union has adopted ambitious measures across multiple policy areas to implement its international commitments on climate change. EU countries have set binding emission targets for key sectors of the economy to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a climate-neutral EU by 2050.

President Michel said before the UNGA: "Energy and climate change are two sides of the same coin. Overcoming the energy crisis means mitigating the climate threat. Protecting our biodiversity and oceans is about safeguarding our future. Climate neutrality is the compass of the European Union. At COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh we will push unreservedly to implement the Paris pledges and go beyond. We want a just and fair transition. No one country can protect our planet on its own."

At my first meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. after his election, we concurred that addressing climate change and working on green economic recovery from the pandemic should be at the forefront of the EU-Philippines bilateral agenda. A few weeks ago, in agreement with the President's assessment, the Philippines' Department of Budget and Management announced a budget allocation of a record P453.11 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation in 2023, 56.4 percent higher than under the current General Appropriations Act.

The European Union is pleased with these developments and remains committed to supporting all the efforts of the Philippine Government in the area of climate change action.

As the EU marks its Climate Diplomacy Weeks until the end of next month, I want to underline the importance of energy savings, energy efficiency and the acceleration of renewables. Saving energy is the easiest way to address the current global energy crisis, aggravated by the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine. Scaling-up renewable energy and energy efficiency will boost the green transition and contribute reducing greenhouse emissions while improving energy security.

As part of these efforts, the flagship initiative of the EU and the Philippines' Department of Energy, Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (ASEP), aims to generate more

electricity from renewable energy, increase the efficiency of energy use and improve access by poor and remote communities to affordable disaster resilient energy systems. The EU has allocated P3.752 billion to this program in the Philippines.

One project under this program is the construction of the first hybrid power plant in Mindanao, launched yesterday with the Mindanao Development Authority, the Honorable Secretary Maria Belen Acosta and the Director-General of the United Nations Development Industrial Development Organization H.E. Gerd Müller.

The Sitangkai and Sibutu renewable energy hybrid power plant will be functional by the end of 2022. It will increase the availability of electricity for 5,000 households in Tawi-Tawi while boosting the livelihood of communities relying on seaweed production, which the hybrid power plant will also power. I am proud of this project as it will provide tangible results, especially in off-grid small remote and vulnerable communities such as Tawi-Tawi.

ASEP has brought electricity through solar panels to 16 off-grid public schools and around 50,000 remote households (most of them in Mindanao). Leveraging private sector funds and giving due consideration to gender aspects, this program provides renewable energy for livelihood activities in remote villages, significantly improving the quality of life of disadvantaged communities regarding economic benefits, gender equality and women empowerment.

One important lesson we have learned in this process is that it is essential to work in close partnership with all the key stakeholders: national, regional and local authorities, electric cooperatives and private sector, NGOs/civil society organizations and international organizations and vulnerable communities.

Moving forward for the period 2024 to 2027, the EU is bent on supporting the Philippines' efforts toward a green resilient economy through projects for altogether P3.408-billion grants, ultimately resulting in a measurable reduction of plastic waste and marine litter and in the creation of green jobs, an issue high on the agenda of the Philippine Government.

The EU is committed to continue to working with the Philippines on this transition to a green economy, and on fighting climate change. As acknowledged by the President, the transition to green is important for the Philippines; it is also crucial for all of us.

UN NEWS

[Climate Change: Hurricanes and cyclones bring misery to millions, as Ian makes landfall in the US](#)

The two tropical cyclones came quick on the heels of Hurricane Fiona, which caused deadly flooding in the Caribbean and was the strongest storm on record to hit Canada. Typhoon Nanmadol, prompted the evacuation of nine million people in Japan.

Fingerprints of climate change

The World Meteorological Organization has reminded that climate change is expected to increase the proportion of major tropical cyclones worldwide, and to increase the heavy rainfall associated with these events.

Meanwhile, sea level rise and coastal development are also worsening the impact of coastal flooding.

“The human and socio-economic impacts of these cyclones will be felt for years,” warned Cyrille Honoré, WMO Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Public Services branch.

Hurricane Ian

Hurricane Ian slammed into Cuba on 27 September as a Category 3 storm, with sustained winds of 205km/h and even stronger gusts leading to flash flooding and mudslides.

It is estimated that more than three million people have been affected, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office informed.

According to WMO, Cuban President Miguel Díaz Canel said that the damage caused by Ian will likely be significant, though only preliminary assessments have been carried out.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. But there was severe damage to infrastructure, housing, agriculture, and telecommunications, with power reportedly lost to the entire country. Pinar del Río, the hardest hit province, is home to 75 per cent of the country’s tobacco production – a key export for Cuba – and about 40 per cent of the nation’s bean production.

Florida on high alert

Ian is intensifying rapidly and is now a very strong category 4 hurricane (maximum sustained winds near 155 mph (250 km/h) with higher gusts). It is expected to maintain this intensity.

Ian is the first hurricane to make landfall in mainland United States this season.

The US national weather service warned of catastrophic wind damage near the core of Ian when it moves onshore and of life-threatening storm surge and catastrophic flooding.

The combination of storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline, according to expert forecasts. The water could reach up to 12 to 16 feet (3.5 to 4.8 meters) in the worst affected areas.

Heavy rainfall will spread across central and northern Florida through Thursday as it is forecasted to slow its forward motion. Ian is forecast to reach portions of the US Southeast later this week and this weekend (1-2 October).

Catastrophic flooding is expected across portions of central Florida with considerable flooding in, northern Florida, south-eastern Georgia and coastal South Carolina.

“Ian poses an exceptional threat because of its size, its strength and its landfall in a heavily populated, low-lying area”, WMO has warned.

Typhoon Noru

Meanwhile, in the eastern hemisphere, Typhoon Noru, known in the Philippines as Karding, hit the northeastern part of the Philippines on 25 September as a “super typhoon” with sustained winds of 195 km/h (121 mph) before tracking across the main island of Luzon on 25 September.

More than two million people live in the worst affected areas, according to a disaster analysis, and nearly 430,000 people were directly impacted. Despite the relatively short space of time for mobilization, thousands of people were successfully evacuated, limiting loss of life.

From 26-27 September, typhoon Noru made its way towards Viet Nam, and intensified once again.

The importance of early warnings

WMO underscored that accurate early warnings and coordinated early action are proving key to limiting casualties during extreme weather events such as Hurricane Ian, Fiona and Thyphoon Noru.

“It is more important than ever that we scale up action on early warning systems to build resilience to current and future climate risks in vulnerable communities,” said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

ABANTE

[SM Prime Holdings hold 2022 International Coastal Cleanup together with SM Cares, SM By the Bay](#)

SM Prime Holdings, together with SM Cares and SM By the Bay once again took part in the annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), bringing together thousands of volunteers into an event that underscored the importance of protecting the world's seas, oceans, and other bodies of water. The event was held last September 17 at the SM By the Bay Central Park, SM Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City.

A total of 2,438 volunteers joined this year's ICC, composed of students, professionals, and others from different private and public organizations. At the end of the activity, an estimated 12,158 kgs of trash, equivalent to a total of 1,613 trash bags filled, was successfully collected.

Among those who graced the event were Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson Sec. Robert Borje, Department of Environment and Natural Resources – National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caancan, DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director for Technical Services Engr. Ignacio R. Almira, DENR-NCR Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Group Head Chris Villarin, DENR-NCR Communication Development Officer II Ariz Abad, SM Investments President and CEO and 2GO Group President and CEO Frederic DyBuncio, SM Prime Holdings Inc. SVP Glenn Ang, SM Supermalls SAVP for Operations Perkin So, SM By the BAY Mall Manager Marie Charlene Claire K. Canoy-Narvasa and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Philippines' Markets and Assurance Executive Director Allan Cao.

The ICC is a yearly global event that encourages individuals to be part of the movement for cleaner seas and oceans. Every year, thousands of Filipino volunteers from various sectors and communities join the efforts to help ensure the cleanliness of the shorelines and waterways in the country.

“The International Coastal Clean Up is part of the overall SM Green Movement. As a proven responsible property developer and community partner, SM Prime's various Sustainability programs across its malls, residences, hotels and leisure properties promote resource conservation & environmental protection for an improved quality of life in the communities it serves,” said SM Supermalls SAVP for Operations Perkin So.

This year's event was made possible by SM Offices, 2GO, PwC, Maynilad, and International Coastal Clean Up Philippines. DENR-NCR, the Climate Change Commission, and the Philippine Coast Guard were also present to provide their support.

Aside from the annual observance of ICC, other sustainability projects of SM Cares include the Trash-To-Cash Recycling Market where individuals can drop off their

recyclable waste in exchange for cash; the Plastic Waste and Electronic Waste Collection Programs which promotes responsible plastic and electronic waste management affecting our seas, just to name a few.

SM Cares is the corporate social responsibility arm of SM Prime Holdings, responsible for initiatives that promote sustainability and the development of the community. SM Cares' advocacies include programs on Women and Breastfeeding Mothers, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, and Children and Youth, as well as the Bike-Friendly SM initiative, in addition to its Programs on Environment.

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