NEWS ROUNDUP
20 OCTOBER 2026 | 08:00 am

- Carbon markets and the tax agenda
- Typhoon Champi may enter PAR as a super typhoon, will be called Rosal
- Texas Continued Permitting Data Centers After Abbott's Pause, Report Finds
- Beyond the 'balde': Other things we must do to prepare for Super El Niño
- DENR turns to bamboo, soil conservation to help farms withstand El Niño
- Manila Bay: Progress at what cost?
- QC school opens OASIS Schoolyard to boost climate resilience
- Typhoon Champi maintains strength ahead of expected entry in PAR
- DOST-CAR deploys weather stations in Kalinga to support climate-resilient agriculture
- Pangasinan households urged to conserve water as El Niño reduces rainfall
- Melting Ron DeSantis statue unveiled to call out his inaction on climate crisis

BUSINESS MIRROR

Carbon markets and the tax agenda
By: Joel L. Tan-Torres

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The proposed 118-hectare Manila Waterfront City reclamation project raises a fundamental question for public officials: Can urban development be considered progress if its environmental costs and social consequences undermine the welfare of the people it is supposed to serve?

MANILA STANDARD

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Champi, which is monitored outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), maintained its strength on Monday morning ahead of its expected entry into the country, according to the state weather bureau.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

DOST-CAR deploys weather stations in Kalinga to support climate-resilient agriculture
By: Rod Asurin

BAGUIO CITY (PIA) — The Department of Science and Technology-Cordillera (DOST-CAR) has deployed automatic weather stations (AWS) in Kalinga and Mountain Province to provide weather data that will help farmers plan agricultural activities and prepare for changing weather conditions especially with the El Nino.

Pangasinan households urged to conserve water as El Niño reduces rainfall
By Jenrie C. Del Rosario

STA. BARBARA, Pangasinan (PIA) — Households in Pangasinan are urged to conserve water as El Niño is expected to bring below-normal rainfall through March 2027, making responsible water use and early preparation important in managing available supplies during the drier months.

THE GUARDIAN

Melting Ron DeSantis statue unveiled to call out his inaction on climate crisis
By: Oliver Milman

Florida governor has consistently opposed any legislation to curb planet-heating emissions, calling it a 'radical climate agenda'

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

Carbon markets and the tax agenda

By: Joel L. Tan-Torres

Tax policy has an expanding role in addressing climate change and encouraging sustainable business practices. For the Philippines, the development of carbon markets raises important questions about how taxation, investment, and environmental protection should work together. Executive Order No. 127 brings these concerns into sharper focus.

Executive Order (EO) No. 127, signed on October 13, 2026, provides an opportunity to pursue this discussion. It directs the formulation of the Philippine Carbon Market Policy Framework, creates an Inter-Agency Committee on Carbon Markets, and designates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the national authority for carbon markets. Several of these developments are long delayed when compared to developments and initiatives of other countries in the global arena

The issuance deserves the attention of tax administrators, accountants, businesses, and researchers. Decisions on carbon markets will have consequences for financial reporting, taxation, government revenues, profits of commercial businesses, and the communities where projects operate.

Carbon markets allow the trading of credits representing verified reductions or removals of greenhouse gas emissions. Their credibility depends on the quality of the underlying projects and the controls governing the issuance and use of credits.

Section 1 of the EO covers Philippine participation in cooperative approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and in voluntary carbon markets. It requires the framework to address eligibility, authorization, integrity principles, benefit sharing, and reporting.

For those interested in environmental taxation, Section 1(e) warrants particular attention. Policies relating to fiscal and revenue generation, carbon pricing, or the possible transition from a voluntary to a compliance carbon market require the concurrence of the Department of Finance (DOF).

This provision gives fiscal policy a central place in carbon market development. Section 6 reinforces this responsibility by assigning the DOF matters concerning fiscal policy, investment promotion, climate finance, and the fiscal implications of carbon market transactions.

The EO itself does not impose a carbon tax or prescribe the tax treatment of carbon credits. These matters require further examination under applicable laws and subsequent policies. To date, there are several bills pending in Congress imposing a carbon tax on businesses. There are practical questions to resolve. How should income from carbon credit sales be recognized and taxed? What value-added tax and withholding obligations apply? How should project

development and verification costs be treated? What documentation should support transactions involving foreign buyers?

Clear guidance will help investors assess projects and enable taxpayers to comply. My experience in government and private practice has shown how uncertainty in tax rules can delay decisions and generate disputes.

The DOF and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) should participate early in these discussions. Although it is not separately listed among the committee members, the EO allows other agencies and stakeholders to be invited. The DOF can bring the Bureau's administrative experience into the formulation of workable policies.

Another significant provision is Section 5(c), which requires a Philippine National Carbon Registry. This digital database will track the issuance, authorization, transfer, cancellation, and retirement of carbon credits and internationally transferred mitigation outcomes.

For tax administration, reliable transaction records can support verification and risk analysis. Any exchange of registry information with the BIR should have a clear legal basis and appropriate confidentiality safeguards. Environmental tracking and tax reporting should be coordinated from the beginning.

Sustainability also requires attention to who benefits. Section 1 requires benefit-sharing mechanisms for both Article 6 and voluntary market activities. The implementing framework should explain how participating communities receive their shares and how these payments are documented and accounted for.

The EO also provides for administrative fees and cost recovery. These should be reasonable and transparent, with a clear distinction between charges for regulatory services and taxes intended to raise revenue or influence behavior.

These developments connect with my doctoral research on the Philippines' ascent to global tax leadership. Environmental fiscal policy brings together international cooperation, digital systems, institutional competence, transparent disclosures, and integrity. Progress will depend on our ability to translate these connections into effective administration.

The DENR, DOF, BIR, professional organizations, academe, and affected communities have useful contributions to make. Accountants can help establish credible reporting and controls. Tax practitioners can identify uncertainties before these become disputes. Researchers can assess whether the policies deliver their intended benefits. It is paramount that these stakeholders share their many varied insights and perspectives as they proceed with formulating the implementing rules and regulations that will be required for these carbon markets.

EO No. 127 opens an important policy discussion. We should use this opportunity to develop carbon market rules that encourage investment and business, ensure fair compliance, and produce measurable environmental benefits.

GMA NEWS

Typhoon Champi may enter PAR as a super typhoon, will be called Rosal

Typhoon Champi is still outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Monday morning, but it may become a super typhoon before its entry into PAR on Tuesday. It will then be given the local name Rosal, state weather bureau PAGASA said.

"Inaasahan na natin ang pagpasok nito sa loob ng PAR bukas ng umaga at hapon at papangalanan natin 'yan na Bagyong Rosal," PAGASA weather specialist Charmagne Varilla said in an interview on Unang Balita.

(We are expecting its entry into PAR tomorrow morning until afternoon and we will call it Super Typhoon Rosal.)

Champi became a super typhoon early Sunday, then weakened slightly and became a typhoon Sunday night.

"Pero pagpasok nito sa PAR, posibleng bumalik at maging super typhoon muli," Varilla said.

(But upon entering PAR, it may be a super typhoon again.)

Champi or Rosal may possibly make landfall over Extreme Northern Luzon or Cagayan Valley, she added.

"We are still also not ruling out pagla-landfall nito dahil pasok ang cone of probability dito sa bahagi ng Extreme Northern Luzon so posible yan as far as Cagayan Valley," Varilla said.

(We are still also not ruling out its landfall because the cone of probability includes portions of Extreme Northern Luzon up to Cagayan Valley.)

As of 3 a.m. Monday, Champi was located at 1,720 km east of Southeastern Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 175 km/h near the center and gustiness of up to 215 km/h.

Champi is moving west northwestward at 25 km/h.

Champi still has no effect yet on the country on Monday. The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) will bring cloudy skies with scattered rains over Palawan and the western section of Mindanao while the easterlies will affect Visayas and the rest of Luzon, PAGASA reported.

Northern Luzon and Bicol

Varilla said Champi's track shows it will possibly affect Northern Luzon and the Bicol Region.

"Since 'yung track nito ay papunta ng Extreme Northern Luzon, so definitely dito sa may malaking bahagi ng Northern Luzon ay kailangan nang maghanda," she said.

(Since its track is toward Extreme Northern Luzon, so definitely, the larger portion of Northern Luzon needs to prepare.)

"Posible na tayong magtaas ng wind signal as early as mamayang gabi o bukas ng madaling araw dito sa portions ng Northern Luzon and also 'yung gusty winds na maaaring dalhin ng bagyo ay maaaring umabot sa portions ng
Bicol Region," Varilla said.

(We may possibly raise wind signals as early as tonight or tomorrow early morning over portions of Northern Luzon. The gusty winds which the super typhoon may bring may reach portions of the Bicol Region.)

"Ito ang mga rehiyon sa Pilipinas na kailangang maghanda," she added.

(These are the regions in the Philippines which need to be ready.)

"As early as tomorrow, posibleng makaranas ng epekto ni Champi sa bahagi ng Bicol Region. Maghanda sa paglakas ng mga hangin at posibleng pag-ulan na maaaring dalhin nito," the weather specialist said.

(As early as tomorrow, the Bicol Region may possibly feel the effects of Champi. Be ready for strong winds and possible rains.)

The super typhoon's closest approach to landmass will be in Northern Luzon.

"For succeeding days na kung saan ang closest approach ng Champi pagsapit ng Miyerkoles ng gabi hanggang Thursday ng umaga sa Northern Luzon, posibleng magtaas ng wind signal, at gale warning posible na 'yan bukas," Varilla said.

(For succeeding days wherein the closest approach to Champi on Wednesday night until Thursday morning in Northern Luzon, wind signals and gale warnings may possibly be raised tomorrow.)

Fishermen and mariners are advised to monitor PAGASA bulletins as the gale warning may be raised by Tuesday, she said.

"Tumutok sa pagtataas ng wind signal, lalong lalo na sa Northern Luzon and eastern portion of Luzon," Varilla said.

(Monitor the wind signals that may be raised, especially over Northern Luzon and the eastern portion of Luzon.)

Champi is expected to exit PAR by weekend, she added. —KG, GMA News

INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

Texas Continued Permitting Data Centers After Abbott's Pause, Report Finds

By: Dylan Baddour

FracTracker and Public Citizen identified 35 permitting actions taken by regulators in Texas in the weeks after Gov. Greg Abbott ordered a moratorium.

Regulators in Texas did not stop processing permits for data center projects when Gov. Greg Abbott ordered a pause last month, according to an analysis of public records released Monday by the oil and gas watchdog group FracTracker.

Amid an upswell of public opposition to the booming buildout of digital infrastructure in Texas, Abbott directed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in a Sept. 21 letter "to halt all permits sought by data centers."

But FracTracker, in collaboration with Public Citizen, identified 35 permitting actions taken by the TCEQ for data center projects in subsequent weeks.

"TCEQ has continued reviewing applications and issuing approvals that allow data center development to proceed," the groups said in a press release Monday. "These actions do not signal an agency trying to pause."

Abbott's office and the TCEQ did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Abbott has described his moratorium on data center projects as an opportunity for state agencies to evaluate the facilities' impact on water resources and grid stability.

"No other state agency shall move forward with regulatory approvals related to data centers until this information is acquired," Abbott wrote in his Sept. 21 letter to TCEQ executive director Kelly Keel.

Since that letter, the TCEQ has fast-tracked or assigned engineers to 14 permits, approved stormwater coverage for 11, certified emissions estimates for seven and issued public notice for three, according to permitting documents collected by FracTracker and Public Citizen.

The permits regard construction of gas power generation facilities for energy-hungry facilities. All of the largest gas power projects currently proposed in Texas are specifically intended to serve data centers, which are primarily planned to run artificial intelligence.

The projects would release tens of thousands of tons of regulated pollutants, according to permitting documents, as well as more than 100 million tons per year of greenhouse gases—an enormous amount roughly equal to the annual emissions of a mid-sized industrialized country.

The day after Abbott's pause on data center permits, on Sept. 22, FracTracker and Public Citizen found that TCEQ mailed notices of preliminary approval to three major projects: NRG Prairie Energy Center, VoltaGrid's ABI-1 power plant and Nexus's self-powered data center in Hubbard.

The agency opened public comment periods on two of those projects in following days.

FracTracker and Public Citizen found approvals of stormwater management permits for data center construction issued after Sept. 21, including for Caldwell Valley Technology Park in Caldwell County, Crusoe's Abilene campus and EdgeConneX's Cedar Creek campus.

The report identified numerous other projects that continue to advance through permitting. For example, records show the TCEQ received a permit application for generators at Edged Energy in Dallas on Oct. 6, and an engineer completed an initial review on Oct. 9.

"Our research uncovered glaring inconsistencies between regulatory actions and Governor Abbott's directives," said Sam Law, manager of communications at FracTracker Alliance and author of the report. "We need an actual pause to study the threats posed to the land, water and livelihoods of Texans."

MANILA BULLETIN

Beyond the 'balde': Other things we must do to prepare for Super El Niño

By: John Tria

While much has been said in reaction to suggestions to buy pails to prepare for the Super El Niño, and yes, storing water is necessary for households to deal with droughts, I believe the more important questions need to be asked:

How much food do we have for the next year? Can we or the most vulnerable in society afford to buy the food that will be available? That said, preparing for the super El Niño goes beyond buying pails to store water. It will require concerted action at the regional level.

What a yearlong recovery horizon after Super El Niño means

While it makes sense for households to have rainwater harvesting capabilities, the climate reality for entrepreneurs will mean managing potentially higher costs of food. This means securing the necessary supplies from nearby farms for the next one or to two years even after Super El Niños effects may have abated.

Given the expectations of climatologists, the direct effects of Super El Niño may last until the middle of next year, but the effects on agricultural productivity may linger for a longer period after the weather event. To illustrate this point, experience in coconut farms shows that it takes about a year for coconut trees to regain their productive level after a drought period. This may go for other crops upon which we base our food. Since this weather phenomenon is global, it may also affect the capability of the countries we import food from. Extreme heat and floods may also raise the mortality of our livestock and poultry, as they may die of heat or be swept away by floods, especially in backyard farms that may not have the necessary mitigating measures to manage such threats.

The regional level is where we need to assess food sufficiency and ensure affordability

First, we will need to look at each region from the lens of agricultural productivity. At the regional level, we will need to assess the food sufficiency statistics, and the projections over the next two years. The research capabilities of the Department of Agriculture Field Units, local government agriculturist offices and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) offices will need to work as a team to focus on developing the data and helping provide the solutions. These agencies are the cornerstone of knowledge upon which their private sector partners, in this case the farmers and agrarian reform beneficiaries will draw the skills, technologies and inputs upon which higher productivity can be achieved.

In this case, each regional development council will need to convene a food sufficiency task force composed of these and other related agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In this light, partnership programs between agricultural cooperatives representing farmer groups and groups of restaurants will be needed. The regional food sufficiency task force can and should take stock of available potential supply of all commodities and assist producers of these potential find firm buyers over the long term.

With this, the technological solutions needed for climate smart agriculture can be implemented, and results on these monitored over time.

Addressing the food sufficiency challenges will not be just about technologies, but the will and capability to implement these technologies at the regional level. This builds the sufficiency levels we need to ensure that the poorest Filipinos can still afford to eat, and regional inflation levels can be kept at manageable levels to ensure space for growth.

DENR turns to bamboo, soil conservation to help farms withstand El Niño

Bamboo plantations that help the soil retain moisture, structures that keep topsoil from eroding, and water impounding systems that provide alternative supplies for farms are among the measures the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is advancing to help upland communities cope with El Niño.

During the October 5 Cabinet meeting on El Nino, the DENR reported its efforts to promote nature-based solutions that conserve soil moisture, protect agricultural lands, and sustain the natural resources on which farming communities depend. These initiatives complement President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directives to accelerate government preparations for El Niño, prepare for the worst-case scenario, and have the Department of Agriculture (DA) develop a work plan addressing the anticipated effects on farmers and fisherfolk and identifying the assistance they may need.

Environment Secretary Juan Miguel "Mitch" T. Cuna said nature-based solutions can help protect both agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of farming communities as prolonged dry spells put pressure on soil and water resources.

"Climate-resilient agriculture is essential to maintaining national food and water security during severe El Niño events," Secretary Cuna said. "Through innovative projects like the Capas Bamboo Ecopark in Tarlac, soil conservation structures in Zambales, and Small Water Impounding Systems in Catanduanes and SOCCSKSARGEN, the DENR is providing practical, nature-based tools to our upland farming communities. By conserving soil moisture and regulating local microclimates, we are ensuring that rural livelihoods remain viable even during extended dry spells."

The DENR's interventions complement the DA's efforts to sustain agricultural production through measures such as solar-powered irrigation systems, additional seeds and fertilizer, and cloud seeding where conditions permit. While these interventions help farmers maintain production and manage immediate water shortages, the DENR's soil conservation, bamboo growing, and water resource management initiatives help protect the land and natural systems that support farming over the longer term. Together, these efforts contribute to the government's broader preparations to cushion farmers and fisherfolk from El Niño's effects.

In Capas, Tarlac, the DENR's Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) is promoting water-efficient nursery operations, including drip irrigation and improved seedling propagation. It is also developing an ecotourism park with extensive bamboo plantations and specialized nursery facilities.

The Manila Bay Site Coordinating and Management Office (MBSCMO) has highlighted the Capas Bamboo Ecopark as a model for how bamboo can help retain soil moisture, support groundwater recharge, and control erosion. These functions can help keep landscapes healthier during extended periods of limited rainfall.

In Zambales, PENRO is applying soil and water conservation measures in National Greening Program (NGP) sites. Contour farming, stone bunds, and mulching help protect topsoil from drying out and reduce erosion, supporting the long-term productivity of agricultural lands.

Beyond protecting the soil, the DENR is working with water management agencies and local communities to promote responsible water use and make existing supplies go further.

In the Ilocos Region, DENR Region 1 has established coordination protocols with regional offices of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and local irrigators' associations to regulate surface water diversion and protect fragile water tables.

The region has also conducted information, education, and communication campaigns on Presidential Decree No. 1067, or the Water Code of the Philippines. The activities help farming communities understand legal limits on water extraction and learn sustainable irrigation practices. Communities reached include Currimao, Ilocos Norte; San Fabian and Lingayen, Pangasinan; Tagudin, Ilocos Sur; and Caba, La Union.

In Bicol, PENRO Catanduanes presented completed Small Water Impounding Systems (SWIS) to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council as alternative water sources for agricultural barangays vulnerable to drought.

In Region XII, or SOCCSKSARGEN, DENR field offices are maximizing existing SWIS facilities within the Mt. Matutum and Allah Valley Protected Landscapes to help sustain upland agroforestry farmers during dry periods.

The DENR plans to expand agroforestry demonstration sites in major river basins, incorporating drought-tolerant native tree species and bamboo to strengthen landscape resilience over the long term.

These efforts combine soil conservation, sustainable water use, and agroforestry to help farming communities better withstand dry spells while protecting the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend.

Manila Bay: Progress at what cost?

The proposed 118-hectare Manila Waterfront City reclamation project raises a fundamental question for public officials: Can urban development be considered progress if its environmental costs and social consequences undermine the welfare of the people it is supposed to serve?

Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso has described the project as a mixed-use district for business, tourism, lifestyle, and public recreation along Manila Bay. He has characterized the arrangement as land sharing, with 51 percent allocated to the government and 49 percent to its private partner. The prospect of additional economic activity, employment, and revenues for the city deserves serious consideration. But so do the risks associated with creating new land from the sea.

Reclamation is not simply a real estate venture. It alters coastal ecosystems, changes water circulation and sediment movement, and can affect marine habitats and the communities whose livelihoods depend on them. The environmental impact statement prepared for the Manila Waterfront City project itself identifies potential consequences for water quality, marine organisms, and fishing activities, alongside proposed mitigation measures. The critical question is whether these safeguards can adequately address the cumulative and long-term effects of reclamation.

The fisherfolk organization Pamalakaya has argued, drawing on the lived experiences of fishing communities, that reclamation is never beneficial to fisherfolk, coastal residents, and marine resources. Its position deserves a fair hearing, particularly because those who stand to lose access to fishing grounds and traditional sources of income are often not the primary beneficiaries of waterfront development.

The risks extend beyond individual livelihoods. Manila Bay is a vital ecological resource and a natural buffer for coastal communities. Changes to its shoreline and seabed warrant careful scrutiny for their possible effects on drainage, flooding, coastal erosion, and the movement of storm-driven waters. These consequences cannot be dismissed merely because a project promises new commercial districts and higher property values.

There is also an important policy contradiction to resolve. The government has an existing obligation, affirmed by the Supreme Court's 2008 mandamus, to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay and restore its water quality. Reclamation decisions must therefore be consistent with this continuing responsibility, rather than risk compromising it.

What must be done?
First, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources must ensure that the project's environmental assessment is comprehensive, scientifically defensible, and accessible to the public. This must include scrutiny of cumulative impacts alongside other reclamation projects in Manila Bay, including flooding risks, biodiversity loss, water quality, and climate change.

Independent experts and affected communities should be able to examine the findings before irreversible decisions are made.

Second, the city government must disclose the material terms of its agreement with the private partner. The public deserves to know how the 51-49 percent land-sharing arrangement was valued, how benefits and liabilities will be distributed, what environmental obligations are enforceable, and what protections exist if projected revenues fail to materialize or environmental damage exceeds expectations.

Third, fisherfolk and coastal residents must participate meaningfully in consultations—not merely be informed after decisions have been made. Their concerns must be documented, addressed, and reflected in enforceable commitments to protect livelihoods and provide appropriate compensation where losses cannot be avoided.

Finally, approval must never be treated as a foregone conclusion. If credible evidence establishes that the environmental and social costs cannot be adequately mitigated, the project should be redesigned, deferred, or rejected.

Manila needs investment, jobs, and new opportunities. But development must be measured not only by the land created, buildings constructed, or revenues collected. It must also be measured by the communities protected, livelihoods sustained, and natural resources preserved for future generations.

Manila Bay belongs to the Filipino people. Its future must not be determined by commercial calculations alone, but by transparent decisions grounded in science, accountability, and the common good.

MANILA STANDARD

QC school opens OASIS Schoolyard to boost climate resilience
By: Gabriel Oliva

The Quezon City local government unit (LGU) launched the OASIS (Openness, Adaptation, Sensitization, Innovation, and Social Ties) Schoolyard project at Placido Del Mundo Elementary School (PDMES) in Novaliches.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte led the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which marked the opening of one of the three OASIS Schoolyard pilot schools in the locality.

According to the LGU, students of PDMES will be able to utilize the additional space in support of their studies, as it is located in front of the school's library building.

The initiative was launched in partnership with the Resilient Cities Network and the Temasek Foundation.

Quezon City, in a previous statement, explained that the schoolyard aims to promote sustainable environmental practices and community awareness about the country's environmental situation.

"The OASIS Schoolyard features cozy central seating, comfortable shaded benches, and play and learning elements designed by students, teachers, and other stakeholders," the statement read.

"Through the OASIS project, students are protected from intense heat, flooding, and other effects of climate change," it added.

The three pilot schools for the project are all in Quezon City, namely Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School, Diosdado P. Macapagal Public Elementary School, and the recently opened PDMES schoolyard.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Typhoon Champi maintains strength ahead of expected entry in PAR

By: Dianne Sampang

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Champi, which is monitored outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), maintained its strength on Monday morning ahead of its expected entry into the country, according to the state weather bureau.

In its 11 a.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that Champi was last located 1,600 kilometers east of Southeastern Luzon as of 10 a.m.

Champi was still carrying a maximum wind speed of 175 kilometers per hour (kph), with gusts up to 215 kph. It slightly accelerated as it moved west-northwestward at 20 kph.

Pagasa said Champi is forecast to re-intensify starting Monday evening and may once again reach the super typhoon category. The tropical cyclone weakened into a typhoon on Sunday night.

Pagasa also said that Champi will continue moving west westward until it enters the PAR on Tuesday morning or early afternoon. It will be given a local name Rosal upon its entry.

The weather bureau added that tropical cyclone wind signals may already be raised over northern and eastern portions of northern Luzon and Bicol region as early as Monday evening or Tuesday morning “in anticipation of strong winds or higher associated with the upcoming TC [tropical cyclone].”

The tropical cyclone is expected to bring heavy rains over extreme northern Luzon while the northern and eastern seaboards of Luzon and eastern seaboards of Visayas and Mindanao may experience moderate to rough sea conditions by Tuesday. /jpv

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

DOST-CAR deploys weather stations in Kalinga to support climate-resilient agriculture
By: Rod Asurin

BAGUIO CITY (PIA) — The Department of Science and Technology-Cordillera (DOST-CAR) has deployed automatic weather stations (AWS) in Kalinga and Mountain Province to provide weather data that will help farmers plan agricultural activities and prepare for changing weather conditions especially with the El Nino.

Through Project SARAI Kordilyera, the stations were installed in Butigue, Paracelis, Mountain Province and Calaocan, Rizal, Kalinga, on Oct. 12, in collaboration with the SARAI Central Hub AWS team.

DOST CAR said the stations will monitor rainfall, temperature, humidity, wind speed, atmospheric pressure and solar radiation, providing data that local government units (LGUs) can use to issue timely weather advisories and give farmers science-based recommendations on farm planning and crop management.

To strengthen local capacity in using the technology, DOST-CAR conducted hands-on training in Tabuk City from Oct. 13 to 15 for personnel from municipal agriculture offices, agricultural extension workers, disaster risk reduction and management offices, planning and development offices, the Tabuk City Public Information Office, and faculty-researchers from Kalinga State University.

Participants learned AWS operation and maintenance and the use of other SARAI technologies including Banatech, Caphe and Spidtech, to support agricultural services, development planning and climate risk management.

Meanwhile, the project moved the planned AWS installation site in Tabuk City from Barangay Appas to Magsaysay on Oct. 15 to complete deployment across all SARAI Kordilyera Year 1 partner areas.

Through the project, DOST-CAR aims to strengthen the use of science-based information in agricultural decision-making and help local communities better prepare for climate-related risks such as the El Nino. (JDP/RGA-PIA CAR with reports from DOST-CAR) –Photo by DOST-CAR

Pangasinan households urged to conserve water as El Niño reduces rainfall

By Jenrie C. Del Rosario

STA. BARBARA, Pangasinan (PIA) — Households in Pangasinan are urged to conserve water as El Niño is expected to bring below-normal rainfall through March 2027, making responsible water use and early preparation important in managing available supplies during the drier months.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said its climate outlook indicates reduced rainfall in the province over the coming months, with drier conditions expected to persist into the first quarter of 2027.

Based on PAGASA's 1991–2020 climate normals, Pangasinan typically receives 215.9 millimeters (mm) of rain in October, 53.9 mm in November, 14.1 mm in December, 6.7 mm in January, 10.7 mm in February, and 22.2 mm in March.

The current forecast projects below-normal rainfall in October, way-below-normal rainfall in November, and continued rainfall deficits from December through March 2027.

With less rain expected to replenish water sources, PAGASA-Dagupan Chief Gener Quitlong urged residents to avoid waste and use only what they need for daily activities.

Families can help conserve water by repairing leaking faucets, limiting unnecessary water use when bathing and washing, reusing suitable household water for flushing toilets and cleaning outdoor areas, and reducing other water-intensive activities.

Quitlong also cited President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. 's call for households to prepare containers, such as buckets and drums, to store water in anticipation of prolonged dry conditions.

Stored water must be kept in clean, covered containers to prevent contamination, especially when intended for drinking and cooking.

Prepare vulnerable communities

Water conservation and early preparation are particularly important in communities with limited access to irrigation and other dependable water sources.

Quitlong noted that communities not directly served by the Agno River Basin could face greater challenges if rainfall declines, highlighting the need for early preparation and coordination among concerned agencies.

To help communities prepare, PAGASA continues to provide climate briefings to local government units and partner agencies, supporting informed decisions and appropriate preparedness measures.

Monitor climate updates

PAGASA urged residents to monitor official forecasts and advisories as rainfall conditions may change in the coming months, allowing households and communities to adjust their water conservation and preparation efforts.

According to PAGASA's climate outlook, the current El Niño is classified as strong and could intensify into a very strong event in the coming months.

"The northeast monsoon, or amihan, may bring cooler air to parts of the country but will not necessarily end the dry conditions associated with El Niño," Quitlong cautioned.

To reassess the evolving climate situation, PAGASA is scheduled to hold another climate forum on October 21.

Through responsible water use, proper storage, and regular monitoring of official advisories, households and communities can help manage available supplies and prepare for changing climate conditions.

The effort also underscores the importance of public awareness and coordinated action in addressing climate-related risks. (AMB/JCDR, PIA Pangasinan)

THE GUARDIAN

Melting Ron DeSantis statue unveiled to call out his inaction on climate crisis
By: Oliver Milman

Florida governor has consistently opposed any legislation to curb planet-heating emissions, calling it a 'radical climate agenda'

A life-sized statue of Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor, was unveiled and promptly began melting in front of an audience in Tallahassee in a symbolic protest at his rejection of action on the climate crisis.

The silvery statue, revealed to an audience of onlookers last week, melted away to show a skull under DeSantis's face. The structure was cast from solid gallium, a metal that melts at 85.6F (29.8C), which is below summertime high temperatures frequently reached in Tallahassee, Florida's capital.

The environmentalists behind the statue-based protest said it was a fitting monument to DeSantis's eight years as Florida governor, which comes to an end in January.

The Republican has frequently criticized what he has called a "radical climate agenda", blocking the ability of Florida municipalities to slash planet-heating pollution and even erased terms such as "climate change" and "greenhouse gas emissions" from Florida state law.

This law has hindered the ability of state agencies to even mention a climate crisis that poses an outsized threat to Florida. In classrooms, meanwhile, state education regulations are also ensuring the steady elimination of any reference to climate change.

"I am not a global warming person, I don't want that label on me," DeSantis, who unsuccessfully ran to become Republican nominee for US president in 2024, said in 2018.

Southern Florida is acutely threatened by sea level rise, while homes and businesses across the entire state have been increasingly lashed by powerful hurricanes, worsened by rising global temperatures. The increasing damage wrought by storms supercharged by ocean and atmospheric heat has proved so costly that several major insurers have exited Florida entirely.

The state's stance towards the climate crisis looks unlikely to change, however. Florida has become a Republican bastion in recent years and Byron Donalds, the GOP candidate, is heavily favored to win the governor's race in next month's midterm elections.

Donalds has said he wants to maintain Florida's environment but has said he doesn't accept the link between climate change and human actions, despite scientific consensus that the burning of fossil fuels is causing temperatures to rise.

“The climate crisis is one of the top issues facing our planet today. And yet, some candidates running for office still deny it’s happening, and deny the bold climate action that the people want.” said Candice Fortin, campaign manager at 350Action, the environmental group behind the DeSantis statue, along with advertising agency Uncommon.

“That’s why it’s more important than ever to deny them back at the ballot box,” Fortin added. “If everyone who cares about people and our planet makes their voices heard on election cay, we’ll be too loud to deny.”

DeSantis has defended his position on climate. “We’re restoring sanity in our approach to energy and rejecting the agenda of the radical green zealots,” DeSantis said in a post on the X social media platform when making climate a lower state priority in May 2024.

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