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By: Kelly Macnamara

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By: Lois Calderon

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The Inquirer's editorial "Urgency of Land Use Act" (9/17/23), again highlights the necessity of a framework that clearly defines the parameters of how we use land and the processes for ensuring sustainable land use, especially in the face of climate change, food security, and continued population growth. As the editorial emphatically points out, the absence of a nationwide framework, such as the National Land Use Act (NLUA), is resulting in the irrational conversion of agricultural, forest, or protected lands into urban uses that impact environmental sustainability.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Albay declares state of 'climate emergency'](#)

By: Moises Cruz

Albay Gov. Edcel Greco Lagman announced a state of climate emergency in the province of Albay on Tuesday, October 24, coinciding with the stopover of climate activists from the province who were participating in the Climate Walk 2023 commemorating the 10th anniversary of Typhoon "Yolanda."

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By: Catherine S. Valente

Japanese businesses have expressed interest in strengthening their partnership with the Philippines for its "high-level" economic growth that makes it an attractive investment destination, Malacañang said Tuesday.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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By: Nathalie Alonso

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

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The People's Survival Fund (PSF) Board has approved over P500 million worth of climate adaptation projects for various local government units (LGUs), according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The People's Survival Fund (PSF) Board chaired by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno has approved PHP539 million worth of new climate adaptation projects.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

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Albay has declared a State of Climate Emergency and has committed to reducing the province's carbon emissions to help mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

In a stream of the signing of the declaration, Albay Gov. Edcel Greco "Grex" Lagman said "the urgency of addressing the ongoing climate crisis cannot be overstated and we must act quickly," saying also that this is the first declaration on a provincial level.

Environmentalist and church groups called on the previous Duterte administration and on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to declare a climate crisis on a national level.

In the absence of that declaration, local governments like those in Quezon City and Makati have made their own declarations.

The declarations — and accompanying commitments — are meant to help countries adhere to the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Albay's commitments

Among the commitments in the Albay declaration, according to a Philippine Movement for Climate Justice release on the declaration, are:

- Discouraging the use of liquified natural gas and other fossil fuels as primary energy sources
- Urging financial institutions to craft clear roadmaps to divest from fossil fuel projects
- Peaking fossil fuel use by 2025
- Initiating circular and sustainable development in all facets of work
- Advocating for policy reforms that address ecological challenges

Included in those policy reforms are coming up with and implementing a local climate action plan and facilitating a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Just transition means looking after the welfare of workers who may be displaced by the shift to a low-carbon economy.

Lagman said Albay will work towards the phaseout of fossil fuel as an energy source and will aim to get 100% of its primary energy mix from renewable sources by 2050.

He added that the declaration on the province level is meant to encourage legislative councils in Albay's three cities and 15 towns to make similar declarations and to craft their own climate action plans.

"Hindi tayo limitado sa climate change, may mga sangay-sangay na advocacies ito na ito ang angkla," the governor also said.

(We are not limited specifically to climate change. There are related advocacies that are anchored on this.)

Life on Earth under 'existential threat': climate scientists

By: Kelly Macnamara

Climate change poses an "existential threat" to life on Earth, prominent scientists warned Tuesday, in an assessment on this year's avalanche of heat records and weather extremes that they said are hitting more ferociously than expected.

With expectations that 2023 will be the hottest year on record, regions across the planet have been scorched by deadly heat waves.

Others have been hit by floods, or in some cases, have suffered both extremes in quick succession.

"The truth is that we are shocked by the ferocity of the extreme weather events in 2023. We are afraid of the uncharted territory that we have now entered," said an international coalition of authors in a new report published in the journal BioScience.

Their stark assessment: "Life on planet Earth is under siege".

They said humanity had made "minimal progress" in curbing its planet-heating emissions, with major greenhouse gases at record levels, and subsidies for fossil fuels soaring last year.

The damning assessment comes just a month ahead of UN COP28 climate negotiations to be held in oil-rich United Arab Emirates.

"We must shift our perspective on the climate emergency from being just an isolated environmental issue to a systemic, existential threat," the authors said.

The study on the state of the climate looked at recent data on 35 planetary "vital signs" and found 20 of these were at record extremes this year.

- 'Off the chart' -

Just roughly 1.2 degrees Celsius of temperature rise above pre-industrial levels has triggered a range of calamitous and costly consequences.

This year has also seen the beginning of a warming El Nino weather phenomenon.

The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service has said that the three months to September were the hottest period ever recorded, and likely the hottest in approximately 120,000 years.

Many climate-related records were broken by "enormous margins" in 2023, the report said, particularly temperatures in the oceans, which have absorbed almost all the excess heat caused by human carbon pollution.

Co-author Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said recorded sea surface temperatures "go completely off the chart" and scientists are not yet able to fully explain why.

The potentially serious impacts include threats to sea life and coral reefs and an increase in the intensity of large tropical storms, the report said.

People across the planet have faced heatwaves and droughts this year, while severe flooding has struck in the US, China and India and beyond.

In Canada, record wildfires partly related to climate change released more carbon dioxide than the country's total 2021 greenhouse gas emissions, the report said.

CNN

Japanese investors flag quality of PH pineapples and bananas as 'not desirable' due to climate change; raise issues about traffic

By: Lois Calderon

Japanese investors met with Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual to flag what they said was the less-than-desirable quality of Philippine pineapples and bananas amid climate change, coupled with Manila's traffic congestion that added to supply chain woes.

The dialogues were held on Monday as a delegation from the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry descended on Manila to sign a memorandum of understanding with their counterpart, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

That pact allows the two business chambers to exchange information on how to increase trade and expand investments.

PCCI President George Barcelon said the cooperation in the near term would be on big-ticket infrastructure and renewable projects, agriculture, and industrial estate.

But there are kinks that need ironing out.

Hiroshi Oshima, president of Japanese conglomerate Sembikiya Fruit Co., said company officials met with Pascual on Monday to flag climate change's impact on the supply of Philippine bananas and pineapple.

Due to climate change, Philippine bananas' and pineapples' "quality is not desirable," he said in Japanese as translated by an interpreter during the event on Tuesday at The Peninsula Manila in Makati City.

Sembikiya buys Philippine pineapples from Del Monte and Dole, Oshima said, as well as cavendish bananas.

Approximately 30% of the menu using pineapple at Sembikiya's fruit parlors are produced in the Philippines, according to Oshima's PowerPoint presentation.

The Japanese company buys Ecuadorian bananas to plug the gap.

It says it wants a "stable supply throughout the year" of pineapples and bananas from the Philippines, and expects the Philippine government to address both the climate change and logistics issues.

Trade Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo said the Board of Investments is finalizing a policy for the modernization of agricultural plantations including the introduction of new varieties resilient to climate change to boost local output and meet global standards.

The policy will be out as early as November, the trade official said.

"Very important yung modernization of our plantations for these crops, in particular, for bananas," Rodolfo said. "Also in preparation for the entry into force of the Philippine-South Korea FTA."

"Currently, most of the registrations that we are processing in the BOI are with respect to mere plantations," he added. "Specifically if you have a plot of land, you will register that for plantation. But we recognize the need that even for existing plantations, you need to modernize."

The new policy primes the agriculture sector for the implementation of the free trade agreement with South Korea.

"South Korea has already committed to eliminate tariffs for bananas to zero percent duty within a period of five years," Rodolfo said, adding it was crucial to consider supply development.

"We have this policy but very important are also projects to promote the supply-side development. Aanhin mo yung policy, aanhin mo yung market access kung wala kang isu-supply," he said.

[Translation:We have this policy but very important are also projects to promote supply-side development. What use is the policy and market access if there is no supply?]

Separately, the visiting Japanese businessmen raised concerns over Manila's clogged roads.

PCCI's Barcelon echoes their plea.

"As PCCI we are encouraging government agencies that are tasked to do the overall planning like NEDA, it's about time we do moving out of key sectors outside Metro Manila," he said.

"Other countries are doing it," Barcelon explained. "If you think of Indonesia, they are moving the central government outside of Jakarta. We cannot solve this congestion in any way no matter how innovative we are. The more Skyway we build, they are still landing on the same place. It doesn't help."

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] Climate solutions are already in our nature](#)

By: Astra Rushton-Allan and Dr Sali Jayne Bache

Fiji's coastal defence to the rising rate of cyclones is a natural seawall that combines mangroves, rocks and vetiver grass. The natural seawall brings the benefits of hard protection — a barrier separating sea and land — without the erosion that often comes with conventional seawalls.

It is a nature-based solution, one of many opportunities in the Pacific to draw on organic resources to address climate change, with benefits to mitigation and adaptation.

This form of 'green-grey infrastructure' is an attempt to merge soft engineering with the natural ecology of the region, basing adaptation efforts on solutions that reflect the place in which they are embedded.

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28 in Dubai in November, world leaders will have a chance to increase investment in nature-based solutions to back a climate agenda that integrates biodiversity goals, conservation of carbon sinks and local perspectives and interests.

As the world gets warmer and more greenhouse gases are released, nature's ability to perform important ecosystem functions — like sequestering carbon, regulating the earth's temperature and providing clean air and water — is jeopardised.

These functions are integral to limiting climate change and for building resilience to its impacts. This is particularly key for Asia Pacific islands, where the effects of climate change are most prominent and where nature remains a more foundational component of daily life than more-urban environments.

The International Panel on Climate Change recognises nature as a climate solution and a key to achieving the 1.5 degree target in the Paris Agreement that, if exceeded, poses significantly increased risks to human health, livelihoods and well-being.

Some experts estimate that 37 per cent of the greenhouse gas cuts required to meet the Paris Agreement's 2030 targets could be achieved through nature-based solutions.

Nature-based solutions are important for their capacity to provide carbon sinks in climate mitigation efforts, but also to assist with adaptation and resilience, especially in coastal areas.

Nature-based solutions limit the consequences of climate change. They reduce emissions by stopping — or at least minimising — the degradation and destruction of ecosystems.

These programmes help identify and extend new areas of high carbon storage and adaptation value for protection, reforestation and regeneration. Nature-based solutions also build resilience to climatic events and reduce disaster risk.

At their best, nature-based solutions combine adaptation and mitigation interventions, balancing the need for sustainable development with emissions-reduction strategies.

Fiji demonstrates this perfectly: mangroves naturally draw down carbon and their replanting provides coastal protection and support for a sustainable ecosystem.

Combined with rocks and vetiver — a non-invasive clumping grass — these efforts provide a nature-based solution that supports mitigation and helps boost the country's capacity to adapt to rising sea levels and more storm surges.

While focused primarily on climate outcomes, they also interact with the broader Sustainable Development Goals, placing a strong emphasis on the social dimensions of climate change. Nature-based solutions are closely linked to broader social, environmental and economic outcomes, including poverty reduction, livelihoods, equity and zero hunger.

While climate change causes ecosystem degradation, loss of habitats and biodiversity decline, nature-based solutions are intrinsically linked with positive biodiversity outcomes.

The world is starting to acknowledge this: in March 2023, nearly 200 countries signed a UN treaty that explicitly recognises “the need to address ... biological diversity loss and degradation of ecosystems of the ocean”, highlighting the “climate change impacts on marine ecosystems”.

There is hope that linkage will extend beyond the high seas treaty into broader action to protect nature's intrinsic value.

The capacity of vegetated coastal and marine ecosystems to capture and store carbon is referred to as blue carbon. Blue carbon ecosystems tend to be mangroves, seagrasses and saltmarshes.

Left unprotected, these ecosystems can be damaged or degraded and contribute to climate change, shifting from acting as carbon sinks to instead generating greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

COP28 host nation the United Arab Emirates intends to plant more than 100 million mangroves by 2030, capturing an estimated 43,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually.

This is part of the country's project to restore degraded mangroves and is significant for its carbon capture and because mangroves improve community resilience to storm surges and are hotspots for biodiversity.

Such actions demonstrate the climate-positive impacts and co-benefits for ecosystem health and human well-being from nature-based solutions.

The definition of nature-based solutions can also be extended beyond human interventions in nature to include infrastructure developments and using technology for climate mitigation, like renewable energy generated from wind, solar and ocean-based technologies.

The mitigation impact of these solutions is particularly meaningful for island states, which can leverage coastal and marine resources to create consistent, clean and sustainable power sources.

Indonesia's ocean-based climate mitigation potential is explored in a 2023 ClimateWorks Centre study. The Southeast Asia Framework for Ocean Action Mitigation assessed the combined impact of ocean-based climate action through offshore energy, shipping decarbonisation and blue carbon nature-based solutions.

It found ecosystem protection of mangroves and seagrass could have a massive impact on Indonesia's emissions profile by 2030 and investment in offshore wind and ocean energy could provide big long-term emissions benefits.

Combined with shipping decarbonisation, these ocean-based actions could by 2050 fill nearly half of the gap between current pledged action and what is needed for Indonesia to align with its net zero-by-2060 ambition.

This year's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Global Stocktake provides an opportunity to identify similar gaps and momentum in climate action.

It is a critical tool with which the climate community can engage with the integral element of nature-based solutions for successful adaptation and mitigation efforts.

This will in turn be key in facilitating raised country ambition in particular as reflected in revised Nationally Determined Contributions, due in two years time.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[\[Opinion\] Delay in adopting land use law is making things worse for the environment](#)

The Inquirer's editorial "Urgency of Land Use Act" (9/17/23), again highlights the necessity of a framework that clearly defines the parameters of how we use land and the processes for ensuring sustainable land use, especially in the face of climate change, food security, and continued population growth. As the editorial emphatically points out, the absence of a nationwide framework, such as the National Land Use Act (NLUA), is resulting in the irrational conversion of agricultural, forest, or protected lands into urban uses that impact environmental sustainability.

Land is one of the most important aspects of life. As the main input in agriculture, land is critical to the Philippines because land is the most wealth-generating asset for farmers and is also an essential factor for economic growth. However, the limited and unrenewable nature of land supply creates fierce land use competition, often between agriculture and nonagricultural sectors. This gives rise to agricultural land conversion, which significantly reduces the availability of agricultural land and threatens food security. Despite the laws and regulations controlling such conversion, there are inconsistencies in the system which result in questionable approvals. This is one of the major reasons why the NLUA is needed. Yet, the problem of irrational land conversion goes beyond agricultural areas; it also applies to forests and protected areas which are turned into farms or livestock-raising pastures. An alarming trend is the proliferation of settlements in protected areas, including watersheds, which serve as the source of water for our towns and cities. This practice is exacerbated by the government policy and practice of declaring public lands as alienable and disposable, and the granting of forestry leases whose conditions are often violated or simply not enforced.

Because land serves as the platform for almost all human activities, the competition for its use will intensify as population and economic growth continue. One of the major issues that the NLUA is expected to rationalize is the unintended consequences of the conflict between different government agencies' policies and programs. For example, the opening of tourism roads through national forests has generated revenues from tourism but has also resulted in the uncontrolled proliferation of resorts inside protected areas, often without proper building permits. Another example is the increased cost of housing caused by the restrictions imposed by the agrarian reform program on land use conversion, thus further aggravating the already massive backlog in affordable housing.

The NLUA is expected to resolve these conflicts by rationalizing the appropriate and sustainable use of land. The severe complexity of the issue may be the reason why it is taking a long time to adopt it. The major obstacle is institutional fragmentation, with

numerous agencies having their fingers in the pie. Local governments are responsible for land use planning and zoning, based on guidelines from the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development but the Department of Agrarian Reform decides on land use conversion. Then there's the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which ensures the conservation of forests and protected areas but also allows settlements to flourish in these areas through the issuance of forestry leases and other tenurial rights. The delay in the adoption of the NLUA may also be that of paralysis of analysis. The House of Representatives bill on the NLUA has been approved and submitted to the Senate. However, five Senate bills on the NLUA have been pending since 2013. Can Congress not just go ahead and adopt the latest version already and craft its implementing rules and regulations in such a way that adjustments can be made as the law is implemented? Our lawmakers need to understand that land use planning is and will always be a moving target. Not adopting the NLUA is making things worse as the recent disaster in Cebu showed.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Albay declares state of 'climate emergency'](#)

By: Moises Cruz

Albay Gov. Edcel Greco Lagman announced a state of climate emergency in the province of Albay on Tuesday, October 24, coinciding with the stopover of climate activists from the province who were participating in the Climate Walk 2023 commemorating the 10th anniversary of Typhoon "Yolanda."

The Albay government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating global warming in accordance with the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 C.

The local government intends to take five actions: encouraging renewable energy investment in Albay's energy sector; discouraging the use of liquefied natural gas and other fossil fuels as primary energy sources; urging financial institutions to create clear roadmaps to immediately discontinue support for fossil fuel projects; implementing circular and sustainable development in all aspects of work; and implementing an action plan for the local government that addresses ecological challenges.

With the climate emergency in effect, these actions to solve the climate crisis will be done collaboratively, with the local government in charge.

"I strongly remind our elected officials, especially those within Albay, of their duty to protect our people, our thriving province, and our natural heritage from the escalating climate crises," Lagman said.

"It is our responsibility to ensure a sustainable life for present and future generations," he added.

National Coordinator Ian Rivera of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) challenged other local government entities to follow suit.

"We urge the National Government under President Bongbong Marcos and all heads of other local governments to make the bold decision now to declare a state of climate emergency in your localities and the entire Philippines," Rivera said.

"We have no time to lose, especially since the country has been experiencing heightened climate impacts incomparable to what other countries experienced," he added.

Japanese businesses eye more investments in PH

By: Catherine S. Valente

Japanese businesses have expressed interest in strengthening their partnership with the Philippines for its "high-level" economic growth that makes it an attractive investment destination, Malacañang said Tuesday.

Presidential Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil said the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), in a courtesy call on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in Malacañang on Monday, recognized the government's efforts to transform the Philippines into an attractive investment destination.

JCCI Chairman Ken Kobayashi said that the country's stable and high-level economic growth in recent years have attracted Japanese investors to develop their operations in anticipation of increased workforce population as well as domestic demand.

Citing the importance of the Philippines in Asia, Kobayashi said they decided to visit the country first after resuming sending missions to foreign countries.

"In the Socioeconomic 8-Point Agenda that you have announced, Mr. President, prioritizes social security and the development of human capital. Also, it establishes the investment promotion, strengthening of digital infrastructure, the promotion of green economy, and so forth, through which you are aiming at expanding and creating jobs," Kobayashi told Marcos.

"And it is expected that in these fields that we can see the further promotion of the cooperation between our two countries," he added.

Acknowledging Japan's continuing assistance to the Philippines in terms of infrastructure development, Marcos cited ways to further develop both nations' economies and identified other areas for collaboration.

The President also emphasized his administration's focus on new technologies that form part of the digital movement towards transforming the global economy.

He said the government is also prioritizing agriculture and climate change adaptation, apart from infrastructure development, renewable energy, digitalization and telecommunications.

"There is the overbearing issue of climate change. This is something that we really did not have to deal with in the past. But it is something that is here and present and we feel

the effects of the climate change, especially here in the Philippines already," Marcos told the members of the JCCI.

"Also, we have put great priority on the development of our agricultural sector. And again, we had some very interesting discussions with our Japanese counterparts concerning the areas of agriculture. And that is something that I think that we can – we need to develop and to continue. Again, the subject of climate change becomes part of that discussion as agriculture is very much affected by the effects of climate change," he added.

The JCCI's visit to the Philippines is the first economic mission dispatched by the organization since the pandemic. Kobayashi said the Japanese mission is composed of some 70 strong members, representing the top management of the Japanese corporate world and illustrating the corporations' interest in the Philippines.

JCCI is the largest business organization in Japan, with 1.25 million companies as members.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[High fossil fuel use putting UN climate targets out of reach — IEA](#)

By: Nathalie Alonso

The International Energy Agency warned Tuesday that energy policies must evolve if global warming is to be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, saying fossil fuel use is still "far too high".

"As things stand, demand for fossil fuels is set to remain far too high to keep within reach the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the rise in average global temperatures to 1.5 degrees C," or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, the agency said.

"This risks not only worsening climate impacts after a year of record-breaking heat, but also undermining the security of the energy system, which was built for a cooler world with less extreme weather events," the IEA said in its annual report.

"Bending the emissions curve onto a path consistent with 1.5 degrees Celsius remains possible but very difficult," it said.

Without substantive policy changes worldwide, global average temperatures could rise by around 2.4 Celsius this century, it said.

The report comes just weeks from the COP28 summit beginning in November in Dubai, the latest of the global climate summits hosted by the United Nations since 1995 aimed at stabilising greenhouse-gas emissions and climate change.

'Unstoppable'

The IEA did point to some positive developments including "the phenomenal rise of clean energy technologies" such as solar and wind power, electric cars and heat pumps.

It estimated there would be around 10 times as many electric cars on the roads as now, and that solar power overall would generate more electricity than the entire US power system does today.

The global share of renewable energies could rise to around 50 percent from 30 percent currently, it added.

It also noted that investments into new offshore wind projects are three times higher than those for new coal- and gas-fired power plants.

"However, even stronger measures would still be needed to keep alive the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius," the IEA said, just days after OPEC said it expected oil demand growth to continue until 2045.

For the IEA, a "combination of growing momentum behind clean energy technologies and structural economic shifts around the world" could bring peaks in global demand for coal, oil and natural gas by the end of this decade.

That would take fossil fuels' share of the global energy supply from around 80 percent currently to 73 percent by 2030.

"The transition to clean energy is happening worldwide and it's unstoppable. It's not a question of 'if', it's just a matter of 'how soon' — and the sooner the better for all of us," the agency's executive director Fatih Birol said in the report.

He also criticised moves by some governments to expand development of oil, gas and coal projects in the pursuit of energy security, a key issue in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and the resulting impacts on supplies from Russia, a major producer.

"Taking into account the ongoing strains and volatility in traditional energy markets today, claims that oil and gas represent safe or secure choices for the world's energy and climate future look weaker than ever," Birol said.

The report proposed a tripling of global renewable capacity, and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements.

Birol also said international cooperation was paramount to accelerate clean energy transitions and help developing nations meet rising energy demand at a time of rising geopolitical tensions.

"Governments, companies and investors need to get behind clean energy transitions rather than hindering them," he said.

The IEA said investment in clean energy had jumped 40 percent since 2020 but "it can and should go faster still for us to meet our shared energy and climate goals".

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[PSF Board okays release of P500M for LGU climate adaptation projects](#)

By: Jasper Y. Arcalas

The People's Survival Fund (PSF) Board has approved over P500 million worth of climate adaptation projects for various local government units (LGUs), according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

The DOF said the PSF Board, chaired by Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, recently approved P539 million worth of new climate adaptation projects.

"The newly-approved projects will be implemented in the climate vulnerable areas of Mountain Province, City of Borongan, and Municipalities of Maramag, Cabagan, and Catanauan," the department said in a news release on Tuesday.

The projects that were approved by the PSF Board were P126.4-million drainage and early warning systems installation and agroforestry industry development in Maramag Bukidnon, P21.28-million solar-powered irrigation project in Cabagan, Isabela and P2.63-million mangrove rehabilitation project in Catanauan, Quezon.

The other projects approved by the board were the P118-million Lo-Om River flood control project in Borongan City, Eastern Samar and the construction of climate field school for farmers in Mountain Province worth P271.15 million, according to the DOF.

"I commend the Board and its members for its efforts to expedite the approval of the new projects, allowing us to fully utilize the disbursement of P1 billion allocated to the PSF," Diokno said.

"For our part, the DOF shall continue to address the delays in the current system by improving processing time and providing sufficient resources to assist our proponents," Diokno added.

The PSF was created under Republic Act No. 10174 to finance adaptation programs and projects of LGUs and accredited local and community organizations.

The PSF Board sets a criteria for the selection and approval of projects in consideration of the level of risk and vulnerability to climate change of affected communities.

The PSF has an initial capitalization of P1 billion. The DOF said about P887.63 million out of the fund's initial budget has been allocated to 11 projects and six project development grants, resulting in a fund balance of P110.36 million.

The PSF is managed by a multi-sectoral board chaired by the Finance Secretary. The members of the board are the vice chairperson of the Climate Change Commission, Budget Secretary, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary, Interior secretary, and the chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW).

Representatives from the academe and scientific community, the business sector, and the non-government organization sector are also members of the PSF board.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PSF Board OKs P539M worth of climate adaptation projects

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The People's Survival Fund (PSF) Board chaired by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno has approved PHP539 million worth of new climate adaptation projects.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Finance department said the newly approved projects will be implemented in Mountain Province, Borongan City in Eastern Samar and the municipalities of Maramag in Bukidnon, Cabagan in Isabela, and Catanauan in Quezon.

These projects include the installation of drainage and early warning systems and the development of the agroforestry industry in Maramag worth PHP126.40 million; irrigation project in Cabagan, which involved the construction of three solar-powered irrigation systems worth PHP21.28 million; and mangrove rehabilitation project in Catanauan worth PHP2.63 million.

Other projects include the installation of embankment infrastructure and reforestation for enhanced flood control of Lo-om River in Borongan City worth PHP118 million, and climate field school for farmers in Mountain Province worth PHP271.15 million.

The PSF was established under Republic Act 10174 to finance adaptation programs and projects of local government units (LGUs) and accredited local and community organizations.

The PSF has an initial capitalization of PHP1 billion to help LGUs and accredited local or community organizations in implementing climate change adaptation projects.

To date, PHP887.63 million of the PHP1 billion has been allocated to 11 projects and six project development grants, leaving only a balance of PHP110.36 million in the PSF.

"I commend the Board and its members for its efforts to expedite the approval of the new projects, allowing us to fully utilize the disbursement of one billion pesos allocated to the PSF," Diokno said.

"For our part, the DOF shall continue to address the delays in the current system by improving processing time and providing sufficient resources to assist our proponents," Diokno added.

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