



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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By: Karen De Guzman

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### BUSINESS MIRROR

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**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

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Kuwento ng residenteng si Dennis Nerbiol, naghahapunan sila nang biglang naramdaman ang pagyanig ng kanilang bahay.

“Pagkausog niya, inayos ng mga bayaw ko ‘yung ilalim sa tukod. Nilagyan ng brace, hindi na po kinaya kaya bumigay lahat,” sabi ni Nerbiol.

Nababad umano sa tubig ang pundasyon ng kanilang barong-barong na gawa sa mahihinang klase ng kahoy.

Hinampas ng naglalakihang alon dulot ng masamang panahon ang nasa 11 bahay kung kaya't nagiba ang mga ito, ayon kay Arnel Angeles ng Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

“Yung mga bahay po kasi ay nakatayo sa breakwater, kalahati ng bahay nila. ‘Yung sa likuran, yari sa mga kawayan, mga poste o haligi na ginamit nila at ito po ay dugtong-dugtong. Kaya dumami po ang bahay na napinsala,” ani Angeles.

Tanging ang mga uniporme sa paaralan ng mga anak ni Cielo Abella ang kanilang naisalba dahil nasa labas sila ng bahay nang mangyari ang insidente.

“Washed out na po lahat. Uniform lang po ng mga bata tapos ‘yung iba pong mga damit, hindi na po namin nakuha. Sobrang hirap po talaga. Hindi po namin alam paano mapapaayos ang bahay,” daing ni Abella.

Rumesponde ang mga tauhan ng MDRRMO at agad inilikas ang mga naapektuhang residente sa Delpa Evacuation Center.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[NAMRIA naming of Philippine Rise underwater features sans Senate imprimatur irks Tolentino](#)**

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

Senator Francis Tolentino on Wednesday scolded National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) Director Peter N. Tiangco for acting without legal basis in naming the underwater features of the Philippine Rise, formerly known as Benham Rise.

An apparently dismayed Tolentino said the NAMRIA headed by Tiangco abrogated upon itself the power of Congress in naming the underwater features, and even submitting the list of names to an intergovernmental organization without legal basis.

Tolentino was questioning NAMRIA during a Senate subcommittee on finance to hear the proposed P25 billion proposed budget for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for 2024.

“You named the underwater features without authority. This is transgression. Abrogating yourself the power of Congress,” Tolentino said.

“What is your basis?” Tolentino asked.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, chair of the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, which presided over the budget hearing directed NAMRIA to produce within the day the list of names of the underwater features of the Philippine Rise given by NAMRIA and explain in writing the legal basis for their actions, after learning that some of the names were already approved or accepted by an intergovernmental body of which NAMRIA, the country’s central mapping authority, is a member.

During the hearing, Tiangco bared that a total of 158 underwater features were named by an Ad Hoc committee created by NAMRIA, and the list of the names was submitted to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), an intergovernmental organization that works to ensure all the world’s seas, oceans, and navigable waters are surveyed and charted.

Tiang co cited Republic Act No. 9522 or an Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 3046 as amended by Republic Act No. 5446 to define the archipelagic baselines of the Philippines and for other purposes.

However, during interpolation, Tolentino said nothing in the law states NAMRIA could do so.

“There’s nothing in the law that states you can name the underwater features. You did it anyway, just like when you created a trust fund,” Tolentino said, referring to a special fund created by NAMRIA, which he said, has no legal basis.

Tolentino even cited a Commission on Audit (COA) recommendation that the trust fund should be abolished because NAMRIA’s creation of the trust fund is without legal basis.

Earlier, Tolentino also questioned NAMRIA’s failure to update their membership fee with various international organizations, including the IHO, even though Tiangco said the membership of NAMRIA is being religiously paid for by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

According to Tolentino, he has no intention of blocking the proposed P585 million budget being sought by the DENR for NAMRIA, adding that such budget is even small given the importance of the agency’s mandate.

The proposed budget for 2024 will be used to among others, complete the delineation of the country’s territory, including its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the disputed West Philippine Sea.

“I don’t want to block your budget. I even want to increase your budget to complete the delineation of our exclusive economic zone,” he said, adding that in doing so, NAMRIA should stop the practice of replacing their regular employees with job order employees and fast track the delineation of the country’s EEZ, by 2028 or earlier.

**CNN**

**[Pope Francis lambasts climate change skeptics and 'irresponsible' Western lifestyles](#)**

By: Barbie Latza Nadeau

Pope Francis has made his strongest statement yet on the accelerating climate crisis, pinning blame on big industries and world leaders as well as “irresponsible” Western lifestyles, in a blistering statement on Wednesday.

“Our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point,” the pontiff wrote in a 7,000 word encyclical called *Laudate Deum* (“Praise God”).

“Some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years, such as the increase in the global temperature of the oceans, their acidification and the decrease of oxygen,” he wrote.

The pope leveled heavy criticism at climate change deniers and delayers.

“Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident. No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest,” he wrote.

Climate change will likely only get worse and ignoring it will heighten “the probability of extreme phenomena that are increasingly frequent and intense,” he wrote.

The pope paid particular attention to the disproportionate responsibility of rich countries for climate change.

“If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact,” he wrote.

He also leveled blame at leaders and businesses which he said prioritize short-term profits and gains over climate action. “Regrettably, the climate crisis is not exactly a matter that interests the great economic powers, whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost and in the shortest amount of time.”

He even directed criticism at his own church, referring to “certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, even within the Catholic Church.”

The pope’s statement is a follow-up to his 2015 encyclical letter *Laudato Si* (“Praised Be To You”), which was the first ever pontifical writing completely dedicated to ecological issues, which have been a cornerstone of his papacy.

It comes ahead of the UN COP28 climate conference, which starts at the end of November in Dubai, where countries will undergo “global stocktake” to assess how quickly they are progressing towards climate goals.



## NIKKEI ASIA

### [EU carbon tax regime hammers Indian steelmakers](#)

By: Catherine DE Beaurepaire and Kiran Sharma

India's steel exporters are among the Asian companies expected to be hit hardest by the implementation of the first phase of Europe's carbon border tax regime this past Sunday

Under the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) -- the world's first -- importers of goods that are made in carbon-intensive processes such as steel and iron, cement, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity and hydrogen will need to buy certificates priced along the lines of the bloc's emissions trading permits from 2026. In the first phase, these importers are required to report the greenhouse gases emitted in the production of the goods or face fines if they fail to do so.

"CBAM imposes burdensome data reporting requirements and immediate financial penalties," said New Delhi-based Ajay Srivastava, co-founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative think tank. Indian steelmakers sold most of their finished steel to the EU in the year ended March 2023, based on information from energy and commodities data provider Argusmedia.

Srivastava, a former Indian Trade Service officer experienced in policymaking and trade negotiations, added, "Most Indian exporters are not adequately prepared for CBAM. Many had hoped for a last-minute agreement between the Indian government and the EU to allow business to continue as usual. Only a handful of firms have undergone emission audits for their facilities."

Comprehensive emissions data -- such as the quantity of goods, total embedded emissions, indirect emissions and the carbon price in the country of origin -- must be reported in the EU format quarterly from now on. Some analysts say that this is particularly tricky for smaller Indian exporters, as they will need to persuade the larger producers to provide them with the data required by the EU.

Europe wants to encourage greater adoption of green technologies and to level the playing field for its manufacturers as it strives to meet its own climate goal of cutting carbon dioxide emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and reaching neutrality by 2050, compared with preindustrial levels.

But Asian countries are up in arms over CBAM. China has already raised its worries with the World Trade Organization, claiming that the mechanism is a protectionist

measure that creates green barriers to trade. India also plans to challenge CBAM at the WTO.

Asia is responsible for around half of all greenhouse gas emissions, which are still rising at a faster rate than another other region, according to the International Energy Agency.

Yi Chen, senior program officer at The Asia Society Policy Institute, estimated that the cost of importing steel into the EU from India could rise by up to 49% in 2034 although the increase will be gradual until 2029.

"This could render 'dirty' steel imports uncompetitive for EU importers, potentially leading to a shift in imports from other companies providing cleaner products, such as those from [the U.S.]," she said. Indian companies, thus, "need to decarbonize their products or seek other trading partners to avoid such a levy."

India is introducing a series of measures to push its industries toward decarbonization and is considering its own carbon trading system to mitigate the CBAM impact.

Tata Steel, for example, commissioned in 2021 India's first carbon capture plants. Kalyani Steel inaugurated last December India's first green steel using solar power in its electric arc furnace. Also, Jindal Stainless appointed Kalyan Kumar Bhattacharjee in January this year as its first chief sustainability officer with the goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Likewise, Chinese companies are expected to face higher charges, although fewer would be affected, analysts said. Consultancy Deloitte estimated that the Chinese exports that would be hit amount to under 2% of its total to the EU, or 6.5 billion euros (\$6.85 billion), based on 2019 data.

Fan Tiejun, head of the state-linked China Metallurgical Industrial Planning and Research Institute Fan, said that CBAM would still increase total export costs for the mainland steel industry by 4% to 6%, with \$200 million to \$400 million in new carbon taxes.

Fan also said that more Chinese companies would fall in the net if the EU expands the number of products under the CBAM regime in the future, as expected. "With the gradual expansion of industry coverage by the CBAM ... China's steel products will need to bear higher costs and taxes when exported to Europe," he said.

Furthermore, other countries could be exploring a similar tax, with the U.S. thought to be mulling such a move. China, Japan and South Korea are also implementing their own carbon pricing systems.

Argusmedia Head of Steel Colin Richardson pointed to a short-term boost for Asian manufacturers, though. "You could say CBAM is an advantage for overseas producers at present -- EU mills have to pay a carbon cost that the rest of the world does not, so we could see a frontloading of import volume ahead of the time when the actual financial implication kicks in."

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PH, Guatemala eye expanded agri, climate action, people-to-people ties](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Philippines and Guatemala have expressed intent to strengthen their cooperation in agriculture, climate action, and people-to-people relations, Malacañang said on Wednesday.

This was after President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. accepted the credentials of Guatemala Non-Resident Ambassador Manuel Estuardo Roldán Barillas in a ceremony at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Tuesday, according to the Presidential Communications Office (PCO).

“The governments of the Philippines and Guatemala vowed on Tuesday for stronger bilateral ties between the two countries in terms of improving the agriculture sector, pursuing climate action, and enhancing its people-to-people relations,” PCO Secretary Cheloy Garafil said in a statement.

During the presentation of credentials, Marcos said the Philippines and Guatemala, given their similarities, should not limit their areas of cooperation in the agriculture sector.

The President added that while the two nations consider agriculture as the “first major area” they could explore, they could also work together to look for solutions to address climate change and strengthen their people-to-people link.

“With the Philippines, we have prioritized agriculture and all the other obvious things: infrastructure and power, and renewables and all. But in our case, we really have had to make a special effort and special focus on agriculture,” Marcos said. “And we have found that our Latin American friends, this is the most obvious area where we can share since many of the crops that we talked about are similar.”

The President said the Philippines and Guatemala should also help each other in mitigating climate change, which is affecting not only the two countries but also other parts of the world.

He expressed confidence that the Philippines could learn a good deal from Guatemala when it comes to addressing climate change.

“Climate change is becoming an incredibly important part of everything that we do because we certainly find that any discussion in terms of government and administration, we always, in the end, have to look at the subject of climate change,” he said.

Marcos also cited the administration’s efforts to protect the welfare of Filipino workers who bring “a great deal of benefits to the people, the country, and its economy.”

Barillas assured Marcos of his best efforts in advancing the bilateral partnership between Guatemala and the Philippines.

He acknowledged that the two nations share common values and goals in the international sphere, adding that they also strive to foster peace and prosperity, uphold the value of democracy, and abide by internationally accepted principles.

“I can see at the outset, that I want to express my admiration for your efforts concerning the service sector of your economy and how you take care of your workers outside the Philippines,” Barillas told Marcos.

The Philippines and Guatemala established diplomatic relations on June 21, 1972.

Total trade between the two nations amounted to USD 5,185,328 in 2022, with the Philippines’ total exports to Guatemala reaching USD 2,059,818, based on the data from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

## SUNSTAR

### 70 Cebu firms eyed to lead in responsible packaging

By: Katlene O. Cacho

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 7 targets to sign up at least 70 companies in Metro Cebu this month that would comply with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022, which holds companies responsible for managing the impact of their product packaging over their full life cycle.

DENR 7 Director Ma. Victoria Abrera said they will still collaborate with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) 7 to jointly identify businesses, particularly in Metro Cebu, that fall under the category of obligated enterprises mandated to comply with the EPR Law.

The EPR Act of 2022 mandates companies with more than P100 million in assets (excluding land) to develop a scheme to recover the same amount of plastics they produce or face a fine of at least P5 million.

Companies shall be responsible for allocating resources to support the collection, recovery, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of plastic packaging wastes in environmentally sound ways.

The EPR law sets incremental targets that should be fulfilled yearly until 2030. For 2023, obliged companies must recover 20 percent of their plastic footprint from the year before.

Producers, distributors and retailers implementing initiatives under the EPR laws will be eligible for tax incentives.

Nationwide the DENR and DTI have identified approximately 4,000 companies covered by the EPR Law. The DENR's goal is to sign up at least 1,000 registrants this year.

To help companies understand what EPR is and how they might undertake an EPR program, the DENR has been holding webinars and workshops with various industry associations to spread awareness about the EPR Law and its provisions, as well as the EPR registration process.

"We are here to assist. We have EPR clinics. We can help you with the procedures on how to register and we can guide you on the requirements of the EPR law. Together, if we can help each other, perhaps at the end of the day, we can comply with the

provisions of the law,” said DENR’s Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones.

The DENR, together with Nestle Philippines, held the second leg of the “Rethinking Plastics: EPR Paving the Way Towards Circularity” discussion on Sept. 22, 2023 in Mandaue City, Cebu with the aim of encouraging more obliged companies to register their EPR programs.

The first roadshow was conducted in Manila and the third one will be in Cagayan de Oro City on Oct. 6.

Leones said since the DENR’s EPR campaign launch in August, there has been an increase in EPR submissions from 667 to 709 as of mid-September.

DENR Undersecretary Annaliza Teh assured companies that they will be given a sufficient period to adjust to their EPR, duties and responsibilities and to improve their EPR performance.

“Together with the government, is to really design your EPR program in a way that considers your capacity and your vision. And for you to be able to do that, you have to have your heart and commitment to it, for it to become a viable program,” she said.

Leones said there is urgency in implementing the EPR Law, especially since the volume of plastic waste in communities is increasing every day.

According to the 2021 report of the World Bank Group, the Philippines generates a staggering 2.7 million tons of plastic waste annually, 20 percent of which winds up in the ocean, much of it in the form of unrecyclable, single-use sachets.

As an early advocate and adopter of EPR in the country, Jose Uy III, senior vice president and head of corporate affairs of Nestlé Philippines, said companies should look at the EPR Law as an investment, not a cost, with a good reward in the end.

As a voluntary form of EPR, Nestlé PH has been fully plastic-neutral for three years. It has recovered over 52 million kilos of plastic waste as of July 2022, equivalent to the volume of plastic packaging it put out in the market.

“We believe that we will be rewarded by discerning consumers, especially the youth. They are very idealistic when they want to belong to a company that has a purpose and that’s good for the environment and we recognize this. Also, we want to be the most sought-after company to work with... So it’s good that when you commit to sustainability, it opens up a lot of opportunities in terms of employee attraction,” said Uy, adding that

committing to programs that affect the environment affects a myriad of stakeholders, even confidence from shareholders.

Since the passage of the EPR Law, the Philippines has been included in a select group of states that promulgate EPR which includes the United States, Canada, Japan, Singapore, India, South Korea, Chile, Mexico, Columbia, Peru and Brazil.



## THE MANILA TIMES

### [\[Opinion\] Revisiting the EU carbon tariff](#)

There is an important update to a topic we first considered in December of last year, a "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism" (CBAM), or carbon import tax, then being considered by the European Parliament. That proposal has been passed into law in the EU and took effect on Sunday, October 1, and is thus worth another look.

Under the CBAM scheme, an importer will have to declare the emissions linked to the production process of the goods being imported, and if these exceed the European standard, acquire an "emission certificate" at the price of CO<sub>2</sub> in the EU or at the difference between the EU price and the price of the carbon market in the exporting country, if one exists.

The law will be implemented in several phases beginning this month. Initially, only the reporting is required, and it is limited to the sectors identified as the most polluting by the European Commission, namely, steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizers and electricity. Imposition of the actual import duties will begin in 2026, with the scheme gradually applied to more products in the years to follow, with the eventual goal of covering virtually everything.

Originally, the CBAM was proposed to apply only to EU-sourced products at first, with applicability to exports to the EU to be phased in later. That, however, has changed in the law as passed, and now all products in the designated categories are included.

To be clear, the EU carbon tariff will not have an impact on Philippine trade for at least several years, as it applies to goods the Philippines does not export to the EU and is not likely to in the foreseeable future. However, just as we noted in our commentary on the EU's new product labeling law in Wednesday's editorial, the Philippines would be well-advised to use the time afforded by the gradual phase-in of the law to, on the one hand, prepare for future compliance with it, and on the other, study it for possible application in this country.

In fact, the obligation to abide by the CBAM or something similar may come sooner than anticipated, although not from the EU. The US Congress, partly inspired by the EU's efforts, is currently considering two bills that would impose a similar carbon tax scheme. There are reportedly differences between Republicans and Democrats on certain details in the two proposals, but congressional leaders from the two usually uncooperative parties have said there is wide bipartisan support for the basic idea and that a measure is likely to be crafted within the near future.

While maintaining competitive access to major markets such as the EU and the US is obviously a vital concern for the Philippines, as we first noted last December, the new EU law is of more immediate interest as a model for a similar type of scheme that could be implemented here. Not only does it potentially provide a level of protection for domestic industries without running afoul of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, it helps to solve the expensive problem of effectively responding to the effects of climate change.

One of the biggest obstacles to our continuing efforts to manage climate change effects is the lack of promised, no-strings-attached funding from developed nations, something that was agreed in the 2015 Paris Agreement but has not yet materialized in any substantial way. Thus, the initiatives the Philippines is able to pursue in terms of emissions reductions, environmental sustainability, adaptation, and recovering losses from climate-related calamities are largely self-funded, either from the nation's own resources or through debt instruments.

On Wednesday, it was reported that the Philippines received \$30.2 billion in loans from ODA (official development assistance) partners in 2022, virtually all of which had some climate-response component, regardless of their intended application. Imposing a carbon tariff, from which climate response programs could be financed, could help offset our costs and prevent the country's debt burden from growing.

The government should carefully monitor developments in how the EU's CBAM is implemented, as well as any moves by other countries, such as the US, to create similar schemes. It will take some work to adapt these ideas for use in the Philippines, but we believe the effort will be worthwhile.

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### TV PATROL

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By: Raphael Lozano

Ayon sa Climate Change Commission malinaw na ang nangyari sa Isla Puting Bato ay epekto ng climate change na hindi na dapat ituring na konsepto lamang kung hindi isang reyalidad para sa maraming Pilipino.

CADC: Ang sabi nila by 2030 there will be famine, there will be food shortage at the same time the abnormalities and brought about by climate change like Yolanda, Odette, Ondoy will be a yearly occurrences for the vulnerable countries like the Philippines. Kailangan maipatupad na yung salvage zone ay huwag na talagang maging lugar for human sttlement. Aside from different infrastructures that we were doing like sewall etcetera kailangan magkaroon ng kasabayanag nature-based solution.

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