



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- Snow caps Japan's Mount Fuji to end record lapse
- CoCaNut Congress Tackles Climate Impact on Farming
- China unveils climate change action report, states position on COP29
- DPWH finishes P24-M road, flood control projects in Oriental Mindoro
- Dominicans launch climate change, human rights handbook
- [Opinion] The misdirection of climate finance
- New normal, new solutions

### ABS CBN

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### DAILY GUARDIAN

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By: Mariela Angella Oladive

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## **GLOBAL TIMES**

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China released an annual climate action report on Wednesday, outlining the country's new initiatives for tackling climate change, and stating China's position and proposals regarding the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE).

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[DPWH finishes P24-M road, flood control projects in Oriental Mindoro](#)**

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## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Dominicans launch climate change, human rights handbook](#)**

The Dominicans for Justice and Peace and the Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation-Philippines launched the handbook "Climate Change and Human Rights Education for Youth in the Philippines" at the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Manila.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[\[Opinion\] The misdirection of climate finance](#)**

A new study by the environment and development think tank The Breakthrough Institute has directed harsh criticism at the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) for "a major misallocation" of climate finance to low- and middle-income countries, finding that the greater part of the funding was directed to climate mitigation despite those countries contributing the least global emissions that are causing climate change. As the Philippines is currently experiencing its third typhoon in less than a month — part of a pattern of increasingly volatile weather events that have been clearly linked to global warming — the new findings are an unwelcome revelation.

## New normal, new solutions

By: Joe Zaldarriaga

Typhoon Marce (international name Yinxing) has entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility and is projected to follow a similar path as Typhoons Leon (Kong-Rey) and Kristine (Trami). The state weather bureau, PAGASA, advises residents along Marce's potential path to prepare in advance, as the typhoon's windfield may bring strong gusts and heavy rainfall.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **[More areas under Signal No. 3 as 'Marce' continues to threaten extreme northern Luzon](#)**

More areas were placed under Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 3 as typhoon Marce (international name: Yinxing) continues to threaten the northern Cagayan-Babuyan Islands area, the state weather bureau said.

In its 11 p.m. Wednesday weather bulletin, PAGASA said Marce was last located 240 kilometers east of Aparri, Cagayan, packing maximum sustained winds of 155 kilometers per hour near the center, with gusts of up to 190 kph.

Signal No. 3, where storm-force winds may be experienced within 18 hours, is currently raised over the northern and central portions of mainland Cagayan including Babuyan Islands and the eastern portion of Apayao.

Signal No. 2 remains hoisted over the following areas:

-- Batanes

-- Rest of mainland Cagayan

-- Northern and central portions of Isabela (San Pablo, Santa Maria, Divilacan, Tumauini, Maconacon, Cabagan, Santo Tomas, Quezon, Palanan, Ilagan City, Mallig, Delfin Albano, Quirino, San Mariano, Gamu, Roxas, Naguilian, Burgos, Reina Mercedes, Benito Soliven, Luna, Aurora, San Manuel)

-- Rest of Apayao

-- Abra

-- Kalinga

-- Eastern and central portions of Mountain Province (Paracelis, Natonin, Barlig, Sadanga)

-- Ilocos Norte

-- Northern portion of Ilocos Sur (Sinait, Cabugao, San Juan, Magsingal, Santo Domingo, Bantay, San Ildefonso, San Vicente, Santa Catalina, City of Vigan, Narvacan, Caoayan, Santa, Nagbukel, Santa Maria, San Esteban, Santiago, Burgos, Banayoyo, Lidlidda, San Emilio)

Signal No. 1 is also raised over the following areas:

-- Rest of Ilocos Sur

-- La Union

-- Northern portion of Pangasinan (Bani, Bolinao, Anda, City of Alaminos, Agno, Sual, Labrador, Burgos, Mabini, Lingayen, Binmaley, Dagupan City, Mangaldan, San Fabian, San Jacinto, Pozorrubio, Sison, San Manuel, San Nicolas, Natividad, San Quintin, Tayug, Santa Maria, Binalonan, Asingan, Laoac, Manaoag, Mapandan, Santa Barbara, Calasiao, City of Urdaneta)

-- Rest of Mountain Province

-- Ifugao

-- Benguet

-- Rest of Isabela

-- Quirino

-- Nueva Vizcaya

-- Northern portion and central portions of Aurora (Dilasag, Casiguran, Dinalungan, Dipaculao, Maria Aurora, Baler)

-- Northern portion of Nueva Ecija (Carranglan)

Currently moving west northwestward at 10 kph, PAGASA said Marce will continue moving in the same direction before gradually accelerating Thursday through Saturday over the Babuyan Channel.

It is forecast to make landfall and traverse Babuyan Islands and/or the northern portions of mainland Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, and Apayao, or pass very close to these areas, from Thursday afternoon to early Friday morning.

Marce may exit the Philippine area of responsibility by Friday evening.

Intense to torrential rains may persist in Cagayan, Apayao and Ilocos Norte until Thursday night, while Batanes and Abra may experience heavy to intense rains.

Moderate to heavy rains are also expected over Kalinga, Isabela, Ilocos Sur and Aurora.

## AL JAZEERA

### [Snow caps Japan's Mount Fuji to end record lapse](#)

The first snowfall has been recorded on Japan's Mount Fuji following a record-breaking delay.

The appearance of a snow cap on the iconic mountain came on Wednesday. It was the latest snowfall recorded since records began 130 years ago, following a particularly warm autumn.

Photographs taken from various spots around Mount Fuji captured the famous white cap on its peak. Fuji City Hall in Shizuoka shared images of the snow-dusted summit, and residents posted their own photos.

The Shizuoka branch of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said snowfall was seen on the southwestern side of the mountain, which is a UNESCO heritage site.

However, the arrival of the snows is not yet official. The JMA in Kofu, in charge of making the announcement since 1984, is on the other side of the mountain and had its view obscured by cloud.

#### Warm spell

Snow usually dusts the summit of Japan's tallest mountain by early October. This year's snowless slopes marked the latest snowfall since record-keeping began in 1894, surpassing the previous record of October 26 set in 1955 and 2016.

Average October temperatures at Mount Fuji's summit are typically about -2 degrees Celsius (28.4 degrees Fahrenheit), but this year, they rose to 1.6C (34.9F), the highest since 1932.

This warm spell followed Japan's hottest summer on record, influenced by global climate patterns, which has led to fewer early winter snowfalls across other parts of Japan.

The JMA has cited October's surprisingly summery weather as the reason for the delay, but an official said it is too early to link this year's late snowcap to global warming.

"I think we need to examine data for a longer period of time to make any conclusion," the official told the AP news agency.

A symbol of Japan, the mountain called "Fujisan" used to be a place of pilgrimage.

Today, it attracts hikers who climb to the summit to see the sunrise. But tonnes of rubbish left behind and overcrowding have triggered concern and calls for environmental protection and measures to control overtourism.

## DAILY GUARDIAN

### [CoCaNut Congress Tackles Climate Impact on Farming](#)

By: Mariela Angella Oladive

The 2nd National Coffee, Cacao, and Coconut (CoCaNut) Congress 2024 opened on November 6 at the Iloilo Convention Center, with a central focus on the effects of climate change on the coffee, cacao, and coconut industries.

Themed “Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture in Changing Climates,” the three-day event aimed to address climate resilience across these sectors, organized by the Panay Organic Producers Association (POPA) Agriculture Cooperative in partnership with the Iloilo City and provincial governments, the Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) VI, and other regional agencies.

Dr. Dexter Respicio Buted, administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority, emphasized the congress’s significance in tackling challenges posed by climate change.

“Our objective is to understand the current status, opportunities, and challenges facing coffee, cacao, and coconut production to bolster climate resilience,” Buted said.

He noted that agriculture’s vulnerability to climate shocks impacts crop yields, supply chains, and farmers’ livelihoods, making it essential to address these issues for sustainable production and export growth.

He added that the congress aims to unite stakeholders to strengthen these industries with the support of partner agencies.

Undersecretary for High-Value Crops at the Department of Agriculture Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero, representing Secretary Francisco “Kiko” P. Tiu Laurel Jr., acknowledged the pressing climate challenges for farmers.

Natividad-Caballero reaffirmed the department’s commitment to helping farmers adapt to these environmental changes.

“We hope this congress strengthens partnerships for collective success,” she said.

Supporting the initiative, Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. introduced the “Tanum Iloilo for MoRProGRes,” a provincial program linking sustainable agriculture, tourism, and disaster resilience.

“We aim to pursue tree growing and forest development,” Defensor said, explaining that the province plants indigenous species like narra, molave, and dapitong, alongside coffee, cacao, and coconut, which naturally thrive in rainforests.



Defensor also highlighted Iloilo's Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) program, which focuses on using resilient crops on sloped lands to prevent erosion and boost productivity.

Coffee and cacao, he said, play key roles in stabilizing soil within these efforts.

During the congress, participants will engage in plenary sessions, explore exhibits, and participate in farm tours showcasing best practices across the coffee, cacao, and coconut sectors.

Defensor encouraged attendees to view agriculture as a viable business.

"Agriculture is good business, and we aim to showcase that here in Iloilo, focusing on coffee, cacao, and coconut," he said.

## VULNERABILITIES

The coffee, cacao, and coconut industries in the Philippines, particularly in Western Visayas, are on the frontlines of climate change.

These crops, vital to the livelihoods of countless Filipino farmers, are grappling with shifting weather patterns, rising temperatures, and the increasing prevalence of pests and diseases—all consequences of a rapidly warming world.

Coffee, especially the delicate Arabica variety, requires a specific climate to flourish, with ideal temperatures between eighteen and twenty-two degrees Celsius.

However, global studies suggest that warming at a rate of 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade threatens to push traditional coffee-growing areas beyond this range, potentially rendering them unsuitable within a matter of decades.

Reports from the International Coffee Organization reveal that Brazil, the largest coffee producer globally, could lose as much as sixty percent of its suitable coffee-growing land by mid-century due to these temperature shifts.

In the Philippines, such changes spell disaster for coffee farmers, whose yields and quality are already declining. Research indicates that a mere one-degree rise can reduce coffee yields by approximately seven percent.

Additionally, warmer temperatures have encouraged the spread of pests like the coffee berry borer, which thrives in climates above twenty degrees.

In the past five years, infestations from this pest alone have surged by twenty percent globally, costing coffee growers around the world half a billion dollars each year.

Cacao, another crop intrinsic to tropical climates, is equally susceptible to climate variations, particularly rainfall and humidity.

Cacao plants rely on consistent, moderate rain, yet climate change is bringing both prolonged droughts and unpredictable rainstorms.

Research by the World Agroforestry Centre has found that droughts diminish pollinator activity, reducing yields by up to thirty percent. This is especially concerning for the Philippines, where cacao is still an emerging but promising industry.

Moreover, warm, wet conditions—common in an unstable climate—encourage diseases like black pod disease and attract pests like the cacao pod borer, which are devastating to cacao plantations.

Studies estimate that black pod disease alone affects one-fifth of the world's cacao production annually, while in the Philippines, these climate-sensitive pests and diseases are estimated to slash cacao yields by as much as forty percent.

The coconut industry, another pillar of Philippine agriculture, faces its own climate challenges. Coastal coconut farms are vulnerable to rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion, both of which threaten tree health and productivity.

Research from the University of the Philippines Los Baños has shown that as much as forty percent of coconut plantations in coastal areas of Visayas and Mindanao are now affected by salinization, resulting in up to a fifteen percent reduction in nut production.

Compounding this issue, typhoons have become more frequent and severe in regions like the Visayas.

Data from Pagasa, the national weather service, shows that the country now faces an average of twenty tropical cyclones a year, three to four of which escalate into typhoons.

In 2020, Typhoon Goni (Rolly) alone caused fifteen million dollars in damage to the coconut sector in Bicol and Eastern Visayas, highlighting the vulnerability of coconut trees to these powerful storms.

## GLOBAL TIMES

### [China unveils climate change action report, states position on COP29](#)

China released an annual climate action report on Wednesday, outlining the country's new initiatives for tackling climate change, and stating China's position and proposals regarding the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE).

The report of China's policies and actions for addressing climate change has been compiled each year since 2008. This year's report comprehensively showcases the progress and achievements in policies, measures and key initiatives across various sectors in response to climate change since 2023, demonstrating China's responsible attitude, Xia Yingxian, an official with the MEE, said at Wednesday's press briefing.

China called on all parties to implement the objectives, principles and arrangements outlined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, to promote positive outcomes at COP29, Xia said.

COP29 is scheduled to take place at the Baku Olympic Stadium from November 11 to 22, and is expected to be the largest event organized by Azerbaijan to date, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

China is promoting the adjustment of industrial and energy structures by implementing a series of measures, including energy conservation and efficiency improvement, according to the official.

China upholds multilateralism and the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, actively and constructively participating in the global governance process for addressing climate change, Xia said. China is deeply engaged in South-South cooperation on climate change, helping developing countries enhance their capacity to respond to climate change.

China has signed 53 memorandums of understanding on South-South climate cooperation with 42 developing countries. The cooperation includes building low-carbon demonstration zones and organizing exchange seminars, Xia added.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [DPWH finishes P24-M road, flood control projects in Oriental Mindoro](#)

By: Ferdinand Patinio

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has completed the construction of a flood mitigation structure and a concrete paved road worth more than PHP24 million in two areas in Oriental Mindoro province.

DPWH 4-B (Mimaropa) Director Gerald Pacanan, in a report to Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan on Wednesday, said the projects in the municipality of Naujan and Calapan City aimed to enhance community resilience and transportation access to boost their economic productivity.

“The completion of these essential projects by the DPWH Mindoro Oriental District Engineering Office is poised to bring positive change in Naujan and Calapan City, optimizing economic growth and developments in Oriental Mindoro,” he said.

The flood control structure along a portion of the Mag-Asawang Tubig River in Barangay Pinagsabangan II, Naujan was worth PHP19.79 million and designed to mitigate flood-related hazards affecting residents, agricultural lands, and essential infrastructure facilities.

Pacanan noted that the completed protection structure along the waterway is a preventive measure to minimize the adverse impact of flooding, safeguarding communities and improving their living conditions.

He also reported that a 271.29-lineal meter access road was constructed in Sitio Ibaba, Barangay Canubing II, Calapan City, amounting to PHP4.89 million and now serves as a vital transportation link to the nearby towns, significantly improving business activities and access to essential services.

The road concreting project also involved the construction of slope protection on the critical sections of the roadway, including the installation of a reinforced concrete pipe culvert.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Dominicans launch climate change, human rights handbook](#)

The Dominicans for Justice and Peace and the Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation-Philippines launched the handbook "Climate Change and Human Rights Education for Youth in the Philippines" at the Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Manila.

The event was held in collaboration with the UST Simbahayan Community Development Office and the Center for Continuing Professional Education and Development, in partnership with the Misesan Cara (Mission Support Ireland), Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Bataan, Diocese of Alaminos, Santo Domingo Convent in Manila, Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, National Collegiate Athletic Association, Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba, Siena College of Quezon City, and Belen Tangco.

Dominicans for Justice and Peace program coordinator Laurence Blattmer emphasized providing educators with sufficient resources and training.

"Educators can inspire and empower students to become proactive global citizens by understanding the deeply intertwined nature of climate change and human rights," she said.

The General Promoter of Justice and Peace and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, Fr. Aniedi Okure, emphasized the importance of humanity's future and the instigation of awareness and the call for immediate action against climate change and its impact on human rights.

He also highlighted caring for the environment and being stewards of God's creation.

"We who are alive now, we do not inherit land from our ancestors but borrow it from the future; if you are given land, you are obliged to take care of it," he said.

The launch featured insights from human rights advocates, climate change activists, policymakers, and academics, who all emphasized the role of educators as change agents in creating awareness of social issues such as climate change and human rights in the classroom.

Attendees were also engaged in a four-day workshop held at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Bataan in July.

With the assistance of the Simbahayan Community Development Office, as represented by its assistant director Asst. Prof. Christian Rey Rimando and the Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services coordinator Genalyn Aquino-Arcayera, the trainees were able to immerse themselves as they took a deep

dive into the nuances and needs that must be met to adhere to the conditions set by both the Matatag Curriculum and the published handbook.

Teachers exchanged ideas and consulted coordinators regarding the subject, creating workable strategies that apply the material of the handbook to their teaching during interactive classes.

The Dominicans for Justice and Peace enables educators to strengthen the next generation of leaders prepared to tackle these challenges head-on by fostering knowledge and innovation.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [\[Opinion\] The misdirection of climate finance](#)

A new study by the environment and development think tank The Breakthrough Institute has directed harsh criticism at the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) for "a major misallocation" of climate finance to low- and middle-income countries, finding that the greater part of the funding was directed to climate mitigation despite those countries contributing the least global emissions that are causing climate change. As the Philippines is currently experiencing its third typhoon in less than a month — part of a pattern of increasingly volatile weather events that have been clearly linked to global warming — the new findings are an unwelcome revelation.

The Breakthrough Institute's researchers focused primarily on the World Bank, the world's largest MDB, but did include broad data covering the climate finance spending of all MDBs — including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Investment Bank (EIB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), among others — for the year 2022 to highlight the general problem. In 2022, of \$60.9 billion spent on climate finance in low- and middle-income countries, 63 percent went toward mitigation projects, while just 37 percent was dedicated to adaptation.

Adaptation projects are those intended to protect populations, agriculture and infrastructure from the effects of climate change. Mitigation projects focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; one familiar example would be projects to replace coal-burning power plants with cleaner renewable energy. Both adaptation and mitigation are necessary, but the sensible point made by The Breakthrough Institute report is that they need to be balanced according to each country's vulnerability to climate impacts and contribution to GHG emissions.

Another concerning observation made by the report is that the majority of climate finance is in the form of loans. Many of these loans, particularly to low-income countries, are provided at low concessional rates, but they nevertheless add to the country's external debt. For some countries, this is pushing debt into levels they cannot manage; for countries in better financial shape, such as the Philippines, it means that, at a minimum, a certain amount of debt obligations represents misallocated resources.

"The current allocation of climate finance risks pushing low-income, low-emitting countries further into debt for projects that don't meet their most urgent needs," Vijaya Ramachandran, a lead researcher on the study, said in a press release. "More funds should be directed toward adaptation in low- and lower-middle income countries where it could strengthen infrastructure, improve economic stability, and protect lives in nations with low emissions already struggling with the impacts of climate change."

Granted, the Philippines is above lower-middle-income status, but not to such an extent that it would make the study's findings inapplicable. And certainly not when we consider the damage from just one weather calamity such as tropical storm Kristine — more than

160 dead and at least P14.2 billion in combined agricultural and infrastructure losses — against the country's minimal contribution of just 0.43 percent of global GHG emissions. We should indeed be investing far more into climate adaptation than mitigation, whether the investment comes from our own pockets or is an application of loaned or granted external resources.

Another way to think of it is that our climate adaptation needs are based on the impact the climate has on the Philippines, whereas our climate mitigation needs are based on the impact the Philippines has on the environment for everyone else on the planet. We certainly cannot ignore that responsibility, but the priorities must be balanced rationally.

The Breakthrough Institute report makes another sensible point that ought to be taken to heart by our policymakers and funding partners. Adaptation projects help countries become more resilient, and by being more resilient, they are able to create jobs, generate more economic activity, and increase productivity. Pursuing initiatives such as expanding energy access, transportation infrastructure, and housing may very well add to GHG emissions over the short to medium term, but in countries where emissions are comparatively low, to begin with, they will not contribute significantly to the global total. They pay dividends in the long run by building the capacity to shift to renewable energy and other clean technologies at scale while ensuring that losses from future climate impacts are eliminated or minimized.



## New normal, new solutions

By: Joe Zaldarriaga

Typhoon Marce (international name Yinxing) has entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility and is projected to follow a similar path as Typhoons Leon (Kong-Rey) and Kristine (Trami). The state weather bureau, PAGASA, advises residents along Marce's potential path to prepare in advance, as the typhoon's windfield may bring strong gusts and heavy rainfall.

Although the country is no stranger to typhoons, this increased frequency of severe weather events, such as storms bringing torrential rains and gusty winds, may well be the new normal, brought about by climate change. This reality serves as a stark reminder of the need to recalibrate disaster preparedness and response protocols to better withstand the new threats that come with it.

Data from the 2023 Disaster Risk Index of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) indicates that the Philippines is the most vulnerable to natural disasters – a position that highlights the pressing need to make communities more adaptive and resilient to the impact of climate change. According to estimates by the ADB, the Philippines can incur up to P177 billion in losses per year due to typhoons and earthquakes.

“The Philippines faces some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world, and these are projected to intensify as the climate changes,” the ADB states, noting that “without effective adaptation and disaster risk reduction, climate change is likely to exacerbate high existing levels of income and wealth inequality; poverty alleviation progress will be slowed.”

Even more concerning are secondary disasters that accompany typhoons, including severe flooding and landslides. These are becoming more and more common across the country, and not all communities are equipped with the necessary resources to properly respond to these challenges. This often results in an unending cycle of recovery and rebuilding for many Filipinos, which hampers economic growth on a larger scale.

These severe weather events expose gaps in our disaster response protocols, and only highlight the pressing need for an enhanced multi-sectoral approach to improve the resiliency and adaptability of our communities.

The impact of severe weather events is expected to intensify in the medium and/or long term, emphasizing the urgent need for concerted action to address climate change. The recent devastation caused by storms Kristine and Leon and the expected onslaught of Marce provide a preview of this and should serve as a wake-up call for all to act now.

In this context, I truly believe that the private sector has the capability and resources to significantly boost disaster preparedness and support climate action. Partnerships between the government and the private sector can facilitate the sharing of expertise

and resources to build the resiliency of local communities and make them more adaptive and resilient to climate change.

Efforts to reduce carbon footprints and promote green solutions play a significant role in the greater effort to promote sustainability and combat climate change.

Private corporations can help build the Philippines' resilience to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adopting sustainable practices, which in effect enhance corporate climate responsibility.

Such efforts include driving major investments toward green technology projects that help mitigate the impact of climate change and, at the same time, promote the well-being of local communities, especially the most vulnerable.

Moreover, the adoption of green solutions should be included in the corporate social responsibility programs of companies. For example, One Meralco Foundation's "One For Trees" environmental program aims to help preserve Philippine forests through reforestation efforts. By doing this, there is a sense of shared responsibility to protect the most vulnerable of our communities from the harmful impact of climate change.

Another route that the private sector can take is to drive investment in crucial projects for climate adaptability, including flood control in urban areas and irrigation systems in rural areas. These crucial and targeted investments have the potential to significantly reduce the impact of climate hazards on communities.

As Filipinos face this new normal of increasingly severe weather events, let us be reminded that addressing climate change is a shared responsibility. It is up to all of us to champion a sustainable future for the next generation of Filipinos.

**=END=**