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THE House of Representatives has adopted a resolution supporting the creation of a multi-actor partnership to enhance climate and disaster risk financing in the Philippines, a country prone to loss and damage from natural disasters.

## **INTERAKSYON**

### [On Yolanda's 10th anniversary, Caritas PH calls for 'scaled-up' action vs climate crisis](#)

By CBCP News

As climate impacts intensify across the globe, Caritas Philippines has pressed the need for 'scaled-up' actions designed to help vulnerable communities adapt to the climate crisis.

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Caritas Philippines president and Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo has called for heightened plans and action against the worsening climate situation.

### [China, US hail progress in climate talks](#)

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BEIJING, China— China hailed climate talks with the United States as a success on Thursday, with the US climate envoy saying the two powers had reached common ground on a number of issues.

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MANILA, Philippines — Ten years after the catastrophic impact of Super Typhoon Yolanda in the Visayas, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. emphasized the significance of integrating climate change into formulating national policies and strengthening the country's disaster preparedness.

## **PHILIPPINE STAR**

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By Joe Zaldarriaga

In a time marked by a growing focus on sustainability, the task of addressing pollution, particularly in urban areas, stands as a formidable hurdle in our pursuit for a greener future.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[Climate-vulnerable PH fails to fully spend disaster preparedness funds – study](#)**

By Pia Ranada

MANILA, Philippines – Despite the Philippines being among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, it has consistently failed to use up government funds for disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response, according to a study by Oxfam Pilipinas.

## **SMNI NEWS CHANNEL**

### **[VP Sara Duterte commemorates unyielding spirit of Filipinos, calls for climate change mitigation](#)**

By Angie Muli

VICE President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte delivered a message on the 10th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda's devastating impact on the Philippines on November 8, 2013.

## **SUN STAR**

### **[IP youth in Maguindanao calls for climate change action](#)**

By Julie Navarette & Reemar Alonsagay

CLIMATE crisis poses an imminent threat to the environment and communities around the world. In the Philippines, this global climate crisis has not spared even the indigenous peoples of Upi, Maguindanao del Norte, who have a deep connection with the land and the environment.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[UN rep briefed on PH climate program](#)**

By Bernadette E. Tamayo

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Manalo has presented to the United Nations (UN) special rapporteur on human rights the Marcos administration's rights-based climate change mitigation programs.

## CCC IN THE NEWS

### GMA INTEGRATED NEWS

#### [UN Special Rapporteur to review PH's climate change policy](#)

By Sherylin Untalan/ VAL, GMA Integrated News

A UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change is currently in the country to review the Philippines' climate action policy.

### PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

#### [House pushes for collaboration on climate, disaster risk financing](#)

By Filane Mikee Cervantes

MANILA – The House of Representatives has adopted a resolution supporting the establishment of a multi-actor partnership (MAP) for the enhancement of climate and disaster risk financing and insurance (CDRFI) in the Philippines.

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#### [Climate Change Actions, Policies Based On Human Rights](#)

By Greeninc

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday said the national government ensures that its climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts are based on human rights.

## RADYO PILIPINAS

### [PANOORIN: CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje sa "Bangon Bayang Mahal."](#)

Panayam kay Vice Chairperson and Executive Robert Borje kaugnay sa pagbisita ni UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and Climate Change Dr. Ian Fry



Information and Knowledge Management Division

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[House backs climate and disaster risk financing partnership](#)**

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

THE House of Representatives has adopted a resolution supporting the creation of a multi-actor partnership to enhance climate and disaster risk financing in the Philippines, a country prone to loss and damage from natural disasters.

Under the resolution adopted on Wednesday, the multi-actor partnership on climate and disaster risk financing and insurance (CDRFI) mechanism will involve government agencies and other stakeholders to “initiate the necessary discussion and exchange of ideas on climate-related hazards.”

“CDRFI creates the space to minimize and respond to the impacts of disasters and to build back better by ensuring that necessary resources are available to respond and recover from potential losses,” read House Resolution No. 1264.

It also said that the mechanism also considers financial assistance to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) affected by crises or disasters.

Mami Mizutori, special representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, said last month that allocating \$1 (about P55.80) for prevention can actually save up to \$15 (P837) for response and recovery.

“When you think of policies about disasters, most people still think about response and recovery because that’s what we need to do when a disaster strikes. But what we know is that’s not good enough anymore,” Ms. Mizutori said in a news briefing.

The Philippine economy may lose up to \$124 billion (P6.9 trillion) until 2050 due to strong storms and water-related disasters like floods and droughts, research firm GHD said last year.

Climate change could cut the Philippines’ economic output by 13.6% by 2040, the World Bank said in a 2022 report.

## INTERAKSYON

### [On Yolanda's 10th anniversary, Caritas PH calls for 'scaled-up' action vs climate crisis](#)

By CBCP News

As climate impacts intensify across the globe, Caritas Philippines has pressed the need for 'scaled-up' actions designed to help vulnerable communities adapt to the climate crisis.

In a statement for the 10th anniversary of Typhoon Yolanda, the national Caritas lamented the "slow" global action to save the planet from multiple climate hazards.

"There is no question that solutions to the climate emergency must be urgently scaled up and improved in their implementation," it said.

The church agency particularly emphasized the need for increased funding and implementation of action to support the most vulnerable nations, including the Philippines, in dealing with the climate crisis.

But Caritas Philippines stressed that a funding facility alone is not enough to deal with the climate emergency.

Scientists have said that human emissions of greenhouse gases — primarily from burning fossil fuels — are the cause of global warming.

"Without directly dealing with the source of the problem..., other actions would only temporarily alleviate adverse effects," the national Caritas pointed out.

It also emphasized the need to fully implement previous agreements to keep global warming below 1.5 degree celsius.

"This can only be achieved through a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy," it added.

The church's social action arm then appealed to the Vatican to host a gathering of representatives from dioceses, parishes, faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders "as a consultative mechanism" to strengthen its climate positions.

"This interconnectedness exists within all of creation and gives inherent dignity and value to every being, which must be protected and upheld by all nations and individuals," it said.

Caritas Philippines officials led by its chairman, Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, on Wednesday joined the commemoration of Yolanda's 10th anniversary in Leyte province.

Yolanda made its first landfall in Eastern Visayas on Nov. 8, 2013, leaving a trail of tremendous loss and damage, including the death of more than 6,300 people.

Bagaforo said the typhoon was a “wake-up call” to the world about the dangers confronting humankind in the era of climate crisis.

He said the fact that the global Catholic Church, through Caritas Philippines, would need to allocate more than 3.2 billion pesos on total response “is a testament to the great destruction and need”.

“No longer was climate change viewed as just another environmental issue. The case of Yolanda was also a lesson about loss and damage,” Bagaforo said.

“It is a warning for all of us, especially our leaders in governance, to avoid implementing the same decisions and strategies that have led to the climate emergency and other manifestations of the current ecological crisis,” he added.



## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Caritas PH calls for heightened action to address climate crisis](#)

By Christina Hermoso

Caritas Philippines president and Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo has called for heightened plans and action against the worsening climate situation.

“There is no question that solutions to the climate emergency must be urgently scaled up and improved in their implementation,” said Bishop Bagaforo in a CBCP News post.

The Church leader issued the statement during the 10th year commemoration of the onslaught of super typhoon Yolanda in Leyte, Wednesday, Nov. 8.

“There is a need for increased funding and implementation of action to support the most vulnerable nations, including the Philippines, in dealing with the climate crisis,” he added.

Bishop Bagaforo stressed actions to address the climate crisis must focus on the root of the problem.

Scientists have said that human emissions of greenhouse gases — primarily from burning fossil fuels — are the cause of global warming.

“Without directly dealing with the source of the problem, other actions would only temporarily alleviate adverse effects,” the bishop said.

It also emphasized the need to fully implement previous agreements to keep global warming below 1.5 degree celsius.

“Keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius can only be achieved through a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy,” the prelate said.

Bishop Bagaforo appealed for the Vatican to host a gathering of representatives from dioceses, parishes, faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders “as a consultative mechanism to strengthen its climate positions. This interconnectedness exists within all of creation and gives inherent dignity and value to every being, which must be protected and upheld by all nations and individuals,” he said.

Caritas Philippines officials led by Bishop Bagaforo, on Wednesday, Nov. 8, attended the commemoration of Yolanda’s 10th anniversary in Leyte province. The super typhoon killed more than 6,000 people and injured thousands more.

Bishop Bagaforo said the typhoon was a wake-up call to the world about the dangers confronting humankind in the era of climate crisis.

“No longer was climate change viewed as just another environmental issue. The case of Yolanda was also a lesson about loss and damage. It is a warning for all of us, especially our leaders in governance, to avoid implementing the same decisions and strategies that have led to the climate emergency and other manifestations of the current ecological crisis,” the bishop stressed.

### [China, US hail progress in climate talks](#)

By Agence France-Presse

BEIJING, China— China hailed climate talks with the United States as a success on Thursday, with the US climate envoy saying the two powers had reached common ground on a number of issues.

The talks in California between top officials come ahead of a meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping next week, where the leaders are seeking to improve ties after years of frosty relations.

Beijing's Ministry of Ecology and Environment said that the meetings between US climate envoy John Kerry and his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua "ended successfully" on Wednesday.

The two sides "engaged in a comprehensive, in-depth exchange of views", it said, adding they "achieved positive results on developing bilateral climate change cooperation and action".

Kerry said that he had held "comprehensive and constructive discussions with the PRC over five days", referring to China by its official name.

"We reached common ground on a number of issues that we expect will prove productive in these critical weeks ahead of COP28," he said in a statement.

Countries will gather in the United Arab Emirates at the end of the month for the COP28 summit aimed at building consensus for limiting global warming.

Beijing and Washington have agreed to "jointly push for the success" of COP28, China's environment ministry said.

That success will hinge on agreement between the United States and China, the world's two largest greenhouse gas emitters.

Beijing and Washington are working to patch up relations that sank to some of their deepest lows in recent years over issues including trade, human rights and national security.

Washington sent top officials to Beijing this year in a bid to reestablish high-level dialogue.

And this week Chinese Vice President Han Zheng said his country was open to talks with the United States at "all levels".

Neither the United States nor China have officially confirmed the upcoming Biden-Xi talks.

But sources said Wednesday that the two sides had made arrangements to hold the meeting on November 15 on the sidelines of next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, which the United States is hosting.

Ahead of that summit, Kerry will visit Singapore from November 10 to 12 "to advance US objectives on climate and clean energy" and speak at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, the State Department said.

"Secretary Kerry will hold meetings with the Prime Minister and ministers to discuss efforts under the US-Singapore Climate Partnership," it said.

#### **- 'Not smooth' -**

Asked to confirm whether the Biden-Xi meeting would go ahead, China's foreign ministry warned Wednesday that the "road to San Francisco is not smooth, and we cannot be on autopilot".

"Both sides must... truly implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state, eliminate interference and overcome obstacles, enhance consensus and accumulate results," it said, alluding to a meeting between Xi and Biden in Indonesia last year -- the last time they met.

Biden and Xi both spoke positively about those talks, saying they were looking for ways to avoid conflict.

And the Chinese leader last month stressed that "we have 1,000 reasons to improve China-US relations, but not one reason to ruin them".

China has been outraged by growing US pressure to contain it globally across a range of sectors.

This includes US restrictions on high-tech chips, which Washington fears Beijing will put to military use.

Relations have also soured over Taiwan, the self-ruled democracy that Beijing claims and has not ruled out taking by force.

But climate has long been seen as an area where the two can find common ground.

Kerry visited Beijing in July after a long break in bilateral climate talks, insisting the United States was not seeking to dictate cooperation terms to China.

"There's no politics or ideology in what we're doing," he said.

The veteran politician and diplomat said instead there was "mutual alarm" between the US and Chinese sides at the current climate situation.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Marcos on Yolanda 10 yrs after: Climate change a must in nat'l policies](#)

By Zacarian Sarao

MANILA, Philippines — Ten years after the catastrophic impact of Super Typhoon Yolanda in the Visayas, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. emphasized the significance of integrating climate change into formulating national policies and strengthening the country's disaster preparedness.

During the 10th Year Yolanda Commemoration at the Convention Center in Tacloban City, Marcos acknowledged that Yolanda was the “onset of the worst effects of climate change.”

“It is crucial to be reminded that climate change will keep exacerbating the impact of natural disasters,” said Marcos.

“We must make climate change a vital component of our national policies and make sure that we apply our knowledge on climate change to every plan, to every decision and every initiative so that we can build stronger and more resilient communities,” he added.

Marcos said that the government continues to build disaster-resilient evacuation and emergency operations centers, as well as put into place centralized and efficient early warning systems and disaster response strategies to address similar tragedies in the future.

“The government is always striving to ensure that such tragedies of this magnitude [will] be avoided and will be adapted to,” he said.

“... I therefore call on our citizens to partner with us in bolstering our country's disaster preparedness recovery and resilience so that we can overcome whatever storms we will face,” he added.

Besides efforts to adapt to climate change, Marcos also stressed the need to expedite assistance distribution to those still awaiting aid.

He said the government has already engaged the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, as well as the National Housing Authority, to “accelerate the provision of housing units and land titles” to beneficiaries.

During the commemoration event alone, Marcos handed over award certificates to nine beneficiaries, representing 3,000 beneficiaries of the NHA's Yolanda Permanent Housing Sites.

## **Bayanihan**

Marcos, in the same event, also highlighted the “bayanihan” efforts of local government agencies, the public, the private sector and even other countries in assisting the Yolanda-ravaged areas.

“Who could ever forget the extraordinary outpouring of love and help and compassion that came from all over the country and all over the world? The volunteerism, the heroism, overflowed in the affected areas, specifically in the rehabilitation of Tacloban,” said Marcos.

“Indeed, what we saw back then was the spirit of bayanihan in its truest form,” he added.

The President also urged the public to keep the unaccounted missing Filipinos in their hearts, emphasizing the many individuals who have yet to be found.

“We must always keep a special place in our hearts for those who we lost who are uncounted, unrecorded ... we say 6,000 casualties, [but] we do not know that for sure [and] we are certain that there were more,” said Marcos.

“Even if that’s the case, let them not be unremembered, so when we grieve and when we mourn for our dead, keep a special place in your heart for those who have not been known to have gone, but we know the loss that we feel,” he added.

It was in November 2013 when Yolanda left unparalleled ruin in the provinces of Visayas, including Leyte, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Capiz, Cebu, Iloilo, and Aklan, and Palawan, being dubbed as “Storm of the Century.”

The super typhoon affected eight million individuals, displacing four million, with at least 30 thousand injured and 6,000 dead.

## PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Green mobility: Shaping Philippine transportation industry](#)

By Joe Zaldarriaga

In a time marked by a growing focus on sustainability, the task of addressing pollution, particularly in urban areas, stands as a formidable hurdle in our pursuit for a greener future.

Akin to many nations, the Philippines faces a substantial pollution challenge, wherein the transportation sector reigns as the biggest contributor to urban pollution. The World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report 2022 reveals that this sector accounts for a considerable 13 percent of our nation's economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

At the center of this pollution problem lies road-based transport that is largely reliant on oil-based fuels. This represents the primary driver responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions. A dire warning from the World Bank forecasts that if the current motorization trend continues, emissions from land transport could surge to more than quadruple by 2050 compared to 2020 levels.

This alarming trend underscores the immediate need for strategic action to address the imminent threat to our economic growth and overall well-being. It has been established that a successful transition to sustainable transportation requires a collaborative and complementary efforts involving both the government and the private sector.

Last year, the government made a significant stride on this front with the signing and enactment of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) which outlines the policy framework for accelerating the growth of the electric vehicle (EV) industry in the Philippines.

Consequently, many private sector stakeholders have ramped up their endeavors to promote sustainable modes of transportation. Meralco, in particular, has emerged as a trailblazer in spearheading the broader and faster adoption of EVs across the nation.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman and chief executive officer of Meralco, emphasized the pivotal role the company plays in the transition to EVs in a recent interview with One News. He highlighted the fact that Meralco is in the best position to install charging stations throughout the country, stating, "Meralco should be the thought leader and lead the charge in the migration to e-vehicles and charging stations."

This assertion by MVP holds true. Even before the introduction of EVIDA, Meralco had established itself as a pioneer in EV initiatives, from conducting independent tests of EVs and chargers in its Ortigas headquarters, to the strategic installation of charging stations within its franchise area. Meralco has years of presence in the EV space, and this comes as no surprise, given the company's extensive experience in the energy sector.

Meralco's commitment to EVs goes beyond promotion – it walks the talk and extends plans to action. Internally, it has implemented a Green Mobility program with the goal of electrifying at least a quarter of its fleet by 2030. During the Giga Summit held last October, Meralco revealed that it currently operates 156 EVs in its fleet, equivalent to a seven percent vehicle electrification rate. This actually exceeds the government-mandated five percent threshold.

Nevertheless, the transition to sustainable transportation goes beyond EVs and charging stations; it requires a comprehensive industry-wide approach. Meralco recognizes this, as evidenced by the launch of its subsidiary, Movem Electric, Inc., earlier this year. Movem is set to focus on electric transport solutions – an important component of the transition to EVs.

From a broader perspective, the Philippines has already embarked on a significant journey towards the goal of sustainable transportation, as seen by the growing sales of electric vehicles, particularly e-bikes and e-motorcycles.

But, while we can see these developments in our roads, we are also made aware that more work lies ahead.

The path toward cleaner and greener transportation transcends mere EV sales; it requires an industry-wide paradigm shift that puts into consideration the holistic and sustainable development of the EV ecosystem and with the government helping to enable the private sector.

Meralco leads the drive towards this with its comprehensive approach to sustainability, setting a precedent for other industry players to follow.



## RAPPLER

### [Climate-vulnerable PH fails to fully spend disaster preparedness funds – study](#)

By Pia Ranada

MANILA, Philippines – Despite the Philippines being among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, it has consistently failed to use up government funds for disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response, according to a study by Oxfam Pilipinas.

The study, published on Wednesday, November 8, found that a total of P118.4 billion of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) funds were unspent from 2016 to 2020.

This figure was obtained by adding the P80.02 billion of funds that were allotted but not spent and thus were carried over to succeeding years and the P38.42 billion that was appropriated (meaning set aside in the government budget to be spent on a specific program) but not allotted (meaning not yet covered by an allotment authorization from the budget department that would bring it a step closer to being spent).

This means that, over five years, 26% of the P150 billion in DRRM funds approved in national budgets was unreleased.

Most of the underspending happened at the local level when it came to the use of Local DRRM Funds. This was followed by underspending of the disaster funds of national government agencies and, lastly, the underspending of the national agencies' Quick Response Funds (QRF).

“It represents the magnitude of lackadaisical DRR spending in the Philippines; a missed opportunity to improve resilience in every year that it is supposed to be spent,” said Oxfam Pilipinas.

From 2017 to 2020, local governments failed to spend P124 billion or more than half (54%) of their Local DRRM Funds, which include the local Quick Response Fund.

#### Bigger disaster budgets amid slow use of funds

Audits of disaster funds showed that while they have grown every year, the rate by which the national and local governments spend them has not caught up.

This widening gap between the funds available and the funds that actually get spent on projects and programs means a waste in funds meant to help vulnerable Filipinos cope with typhoons, heat waves, drought, and other climate impacts.

In 2016, P5 billion was allotted for the National DRRM (NDRRM) Fund. Of this, around P2 billion or 40% was spent. Four years later, the NDRRM Fund grew 10 times to P51.5 billion, but only P11 billion or 21% of this was actually used.

How about the use of the QRF given to each national agency for response and recovery efforts?

The gap was smaller here, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 2016 to 2019, the gap between funds allotted and funds spent had been getting larger. But come 2020, or the year the pandemic kicked in, the gap shrunk because agencies used the QRF for pandemic-related programs.

In 2020, the unspent balance was actually slightly lower than the funds spent, a first since 2016. Even then, P9.8 billion in QRF was unspent that year – the first year of a global health crisis marked by thousands of deaths all over the country.

There also continues to be an allotment-spending gap, though getting smaller, when it comes to Local DRRM (LDRRM) Funds – funds set aside in the budgets of local governments to prepare and respond to disasters and emergencies.

In 2017 (no 2016 data was available), LDRRM Fund allotment was at P50.7 billion. Only 35% was spent. Fast-forward to 2020, the LDRRM fund allotment grew to P82 billion, but only 61% was used, leading to P31.8 billion in public funds that remained in government bank accounts.

### **Reasons for underspending**

Why are national government agencies and local governments consistently failing to fully utilize their disaster preparedness and response funds?

Oxfam Pilipinas echoed reasons stated in Commission on Audit (COA) audit observation memoranda, letters from COA addressed to agency heads or authorities explaining deficiencies in their accounting, transactions, and operations.

The reasons were as follows:

\*Confusion of some national government agencies on what can be charged against QRF

\*Lack of takers and difficulty of complying with documentary requirements

\*Lack of inventory, recording, or documents; or use of improper ones

\*Charging for non-disaster-related expenses

Unauthorized disbursement

\*Lack of DRRM plans

\*Failure to create policy guidelines on how to use the funds

\*Wastage of goods for distribution

\*Delay in late releases of the Special \*Allotment Release Order, the budget department authorization that allows for payments to be made to implement a project

\*Delay in conduct of detailed engineering design

\*Lack of construction materials in the market

\*Delay in cash assistance distribution and non-food items

\*Delay in the procurement process

\*Delay in the preparation and approval of annual investment plans

Aside from these, other systemic factors contribute to underspending. It could be the chronic lack and high turnover rate of local disaster staff. The study noted how in some small localities, the tourism officer would double as the local disaster response head.

Some local disaster offices would get little support from the mayor or governor. Their planning and implementation for disaster preparedness and mitigation would be delayed because of the late approval of their local government's budget.

### **'Reactive' spending, focus on infrastructure**

Comparing how localities used up their disaster funds also revealed an interesting pattern.

Local governments were more likely to underspend on mitigation than on response.

Oxfam found that, among the 41 local governments they sampled, the mean rate for underspending of mitigation funds was at 33%, compared to just 17% underspending of the Quick Response Fund.

"This means that the QRFs are mostly utilized by LGUs, reminiscent of the COA findings pointing to LGUs' spending pattern as 'reactive,'" read the Oxfam study.

So what if local governments aren't using up mitigation and preparedness funds as much as the quick response funds?

Mitigation funds refer to the 70% of the Local DRRM Funds that are reserved for projects meant to prepare for future calamities or emergencies. These are more preemptive projects, like setting up a crop insurance facility for farmers, flood-control projects, building evacuation centers, training personnel, or putting up rain-catchment systems to prepare for drought.

In other words, while quickly addressing needs of calamity victims in the aftermath of a disaster is important, so is early preparation to protect people from these impacts even before they are felt.

"It will be better if local governments proactively utilize their 70% mitigation/preparedness funds that do not require a declaration of state of calamity, instead of merely expending their 30% QRF when disaster strikes," said Oxfam Pilipinas.

In climate change parlance, preparedness is part of adaptation to climate change – changing the way communities live in a way that prepares them for calamities way before they hit.

Oxfam also noted how local governments seemed to have a limited understanding of projects that could be bankrolled by the mitigation and preparedness funds they were given.

Many tend to focus on infrastructure projects, which comprised the biggest bulk of mitigation projects at 30.16%.

These projects consisted of evacuation center construction, flood control projects, road rehabilitation, and reservoirs for farms.

It is a testament to the pandemic's impact on disaster spending that expenses related to it were the next biggest on the list, accounting for 28.34% of expenses.

In contrast, spending on assistance that would strengthen the long-term capacities of citizens and better prepare them, like insurance, assistance for returning residents, and animal disease prevention, accounted for only 4%.

The 70% mitigation and preparedness funds could also be used by local governments to provide more targeted and appropriate climate and disaster programs for vulnerable groups – women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Yet another finding of the Oxfam Pilipinas study was how many government programs don't meet the needs of these groups.

### **Good news**

While underspending of disaster funds remains a problem, the data showed the situation was improving.

In the past five years, there was a downward trend in the rate of underspending. Looking at the mitigation and prevention funds underutilization, for instance, showed that, while it peaked in 2017 with 41% of funds unspent, it decreased to just below 30% in 2021.

“This smooth flow indicates a slow progress in utilization,” said Oxfam Pilipinas.

As for QRF underspending, it was at 25% in 2017. Four years later, it went down to 10%.

That this decline in underspending was more dramatic in the QRF numbers was again proof that local governments tend to spend on disasters in a reactionary rather than a preparatory or preventive way.

To fight chronic underspending, Oxfam Pilipinas recommended the government be a stricter watchdog against the phenomenon.

They advised changing national policies that were “apparently lenient on underspending” and imposing a stricter threshold on underspending.

“Falling short of that critical level should be meted with some form of fiscal disincentives, if not legal prosecution against the accountable officers, e.g. inability to access loans, inability to obtain increases in the succeeding years’ budget, etc.,” read the study.

The group also recommended the government cut bureaucratic red tape, from the planning phase to procurement to implementation.

Another way to improve the disbursement of mitigation and preparedness funds, which comprised a bulk of local and national DRRM funds, was to allow them to cover assistance that will be distributed even before a hydrometeorological type of disaster hits.

Oxfam referred to these as “anticipatory actions” and included distribution of cash assistance even before the disaster or emergency situation arises, provided there were clear science-based parameters when this would be triggered.

The Philippines is likely to face rising sea levels, drought, heat waves, and more catastrophic storms in the coming years due to climate change, according to scientists.

An October survey by Pulse Asia found that 65% of Filipinos, a big majority, said they had felt the effects of a changing climate. Even more, 71%, believed the effects of a warmer planet were dangerous to themselves and their families.

To underscore the importance of proactive instead of reactive climate and disaster spending, Oxfam Pilipinas released their study on the 10th year anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), the deadliest storm to hit the Philippines in recent history.

The group’s executive director Erika Geronimo said: “We cannot afford another Haiyan devastating people’s lives. We learned the hard way that the best way to reduce the impacts of a climate crisis is by preparing early for an imminent disaster.”

## SUN STAR

### [IP youth in Maguindanao calls for climate change action](#)

By Julie Navarette & Reemar Alonsagay

CLIMATE crisis poses an imminent threat to the environment and communities around the world. In the Philippines, this global climate crisis has not spared even the indigenous peoples of Upi, Maguindanao del Norte, who have a deep connection with the land and the environment.

In response to this environmental crisis, the indigenous youth of Teduray Lambangian as part of the Human Security Collective (HSC) and Alyansa ng Kabataang Mindanao para sa Kapayapaan (AKMK) project initiative which is the Project Bungkas 1 (open) have taken matters into their own hands by organizing an Indigenous Solidarity Walk Climate Action, a powerful demonstration of their commitment to preserving their ancestral lands and fighting the climate crisis.

The Indigenous Solidarity Walk for Climate Action started at the Upi Municipal Plaza until Barangay Nangi, Upi Maguindanao del Norte, which was approximately a five-kilometer distance, on November 5, 2023.

According to Ms. Ricamae Ented, one of the organizers and youth leader, it is the last phase of Project Bungkas and the main goal of the Solidarity Walk for Climate Action is to amplify the voices of the IP youth and encourage everyone to join the campaign for the promotion and protection of non-Moro indigenous peoples rights in the Bangsamoro Region and using an Indigenous Knowledge, Systems and Practices (IKSP) in formulating and implementing local policies related to climate change mitigation and prevention.

She further continued saying, “The Solidarity Walk symbolizes the birth of a new life and will sustain the goal of the project and that is to preserve, protect, and promote the IKSP of Teduray and Lambangian as a tool in combating the imminent threats of climate crisis.”

This demonstrates that the indigenous youth have played a crucial role in this movement. They are well aware that despite the signed peace agreement to establish the Bangsamoro government, the Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples (NMIP) remain subjected to a cycle of violence and state atrocities, as well as being deprived of their ancestral territories to make way for development, which is often accompanied by massive environmental destruction.

The environmental consequence brought by large-scale development projects and agribusiness frameworks extracting natural resources, including ancestral domains oftentimes violate the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). This precarious situation is also exacerbated by ongoing militarization and land grabbing, harassment of tribal leaders, and the impending climate crisis, which has caused many people to become internally displaced persons (IDPs) on their own land.

The Indigenous cultural identity and practices are of deep concern. Especially, the majority of this generation's Indigenous youth blend in with the trend and technological evolution to adapt to change, making them practice their distinct identity and IKSP less to none.

The Indigenous Solidarity Walk for Climate Action symbolizes their determination to stand up for their rights and the preservation of their ancestral lands.

By organizing and participating in the walk, they are not only raising awareness but also actively engaging in climate action. It is a platform for individuals from various indigenous groups to come together, share their experiences, and collectively voice their concerns. This unity strengthens their resolve to protect their land, culture, and future.

This activity is not just a symbolic event but an imperative and long-term action. Participants in the solidarity walk while raising their banners and placards with phrases for climate justice aim to draw the attention of policymakers and the wider Filipino society to the urgent need for climate emergency action. They demand greater representation and participation in decisions that affect their ancestral domain and rights. Their campaign extends beyond their local community, aiming to influence national and international climate policies.

The solidarity walk in Upi, Maguindanao del Norte stands for the resilience and determination of indigenous youth to defend their lands, cultures, and future. This movement sends a powerful message to the rest of the world: local communities, particularly indigenous peoples, are at the forefront of the fight against climate change. Their struggle serves as a reminder that the impact of climate change is a deeply personal one, affecting identity, lives, and cultures that have been inextricably linked to the environment for centuries.

## SMNI NEWS CHANNEL

### [VP Sara Duterte commemorates unyielding spirit of Filipinos, calls for climate change mitigation](#)

By Angie Muli

VICE President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte delivered a message on the 10th anniversary of Super Typhoon Yolanda's devastating impact on the Philippines on November 8, 2013.

In her message, Vice President Duterte remembers the thousands of lives lost due to the striking force of one of the most destructive typhoons in the country's history.

"Typhoon Yolanda left an indelible mark on our hearts, but it also revealed the extraordinary resilience and strength of those who were affected. In the midst of unimaginable destruction, we witnessed the unwavering spirit of Filipinos, who rose above adversity and rebuilt their lives with determination and courage," according to President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte.

Vice President Duterte said that this commemoration should serve as a reminder of the importance of disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, and disaster preparedness.

"It is crucial that we learn from the lessons of the past and take proactive steps to prevent such catastrophic events from happening again," VP Duterte added.

VP Sara Duterte appealed to the public to support the "PagbaBAGo, A Million Trees" program of the Office of the Vice President, which aims to plant one million trees by 2028, she also emphasized the need to invest in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and education on disaster preparedness to protect communities and mitigate the impact of calamities.

She remembered and honored the lives lost during the devastation of Typhoon Yolanda, and recognized the dedication and efforts of first responders, volunteers, and organizations that assisted affected communities.

"Today, as we remember the lives lost, let us unite in solidarity and recommit ourselves to creating a safer, more resilient future defined by sustainable development. Together, we can build communities that are better prepared to face the challenges posed by natural disasters and climate change," Duterte stated.



## THE MANILA TIMES

### [UN rep briefed on PH climate program](#)

By Bernadette E. Tamayo

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Manalo has presented to the United Nations (UN) special rapporteur on human rights the Marcos administration's rights-based climate change mitigation programs.

Manalo and other government officials welcomed Dr. Ian Fry, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, as he embarked on a 10-day official visit, which will end on November 15.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Manalo "underscored the priority that the Philippines attaches to climate action under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr."

Manalo also cited the Philippine leadership in championing climate justice, disaster risk resilience and climate adaptation, including through its participation in the advisory opinion proceedings by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Court of Justice and the hosting of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference in 2024.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla expressed hope that Fry would be able to appreciate the Philippine government's achievements and best practices in promoting and protecting human rights in the context of climate change.

UN Special Rapporteurs are independent experts, the DFA said. They are appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to study and address various human rights issues, as well as provide advice and support to UN member states.

Fry's visit will take him across the country, including Manila, Valenzuela City, Leyte and Iloilo City, to hold dialogues with local government officials, the local community and civil society groups.

His work includes advocating for a new protocol to protect persons displaced as a result of climate change.

He is also involved in "reforming financing mechanisms to support mitigation and adaptation programs in countries least responsible for, but most vulnerable to the impact of climate change," the DFA said.

Fry was appointed as the first Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change in March 2022, and this is his third country visit after Bangladesh and Honduras.

Manalo cited the role of the Special Rapporteur in promoting informed global discussions and driving consensus on issues like climate finance, including loss-and-damage financing mechanism, which the Philippines has been pushing with other developing countries for some time now.

Fry and Manalo discussed the Philippine support for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, which was established by the Human Rights Council in 2021 following discussions on climate change and human rights in the Council that were shepherded by the Philippines, Vietnam and Bangladesh since 2009.

Prior to his meetings with the members of the Cabinet, Fry held dialogues with senior representatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Justice, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and Philippine Commission on Women, who led the discussions on loss and damage, climate change displacement, climate change litigation and intergenerational justice, climate change and the protection of environmental human rights defenders, and gender-response to climate change.

He also shared insights about varying challenges and responses across the world that need to be scaled up to match the devastation caused by extreme weather and sea level rise as a result of global warming.

Fry is an international environmental law and policy expert. His primary focus is on mitigation policies and loss and damage associated with the Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, and related instruments.

He worked for the Tuvalu government for over 21 years and was appointed as their ambassador for Climate Change and Environment from 2015 to 2019.

## CCC IN THE NEWS

### GMA INTEGRATED NEWS

#### [UN Special Rapporteur to review PH's climate change policy](#)

By Sherylin Untalan/ VAL, GMA Integrated News

A UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change is currently in the country to review the Philippines' climate action policy.

UN Special Rapporteur Ian Fry arrived in the Philippines on November 6, 2023 to conduct a review of the framework, policies, and implementation on climate action of the country until November 15.

The Climate Change Commission is hoping that Fry's review will help the Philippines get additional help in mitigating possible disasters.

"Kitang-kita naman, we're number one sa countries who are at risk. It's something because we're the least responsible but we suffer the most. Ibig sabihin, something is wrong... it's becoming really real for us at we need exact more commitment from other countries," said Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje at a public briefing on Wednesday.

(It's obvious, we're number one among the countries who are at risk. It's something because we're the least responsible, but we suffer the most. That means something is wrong... We need exactly more commitment from other countries.)

Fry will travel to Metro Manila, Leyte, and Iloilo to meet with communities affected by climate change and several government officials and representatives from civil society.

The special rapporteur will focus on loss and damage and the impacts of climate change on human rights; climate change legislation, litigation, and intergenerational justice; protection of environmental human rights defenders; and gender responses to climate change.

"On those five points, layunin ng ating pamahalaan na ipakita na there is a strong framework, policy and implementation pagdating sa areas na ito. Hindi naman natin sinasabi na tayo perpekto, but its part of the nation building na ginagawan natin ng paraan," Borje said.

(On those five points, our government aims to show a strong framework, policy, and implementation in these areas. We don't say that we are perfect, but it's part of the nation-building that we are resolving.)

Fry will hold a press conference in Manila on November 15 at the United Nations House in Mandaluyong City. He is set to present his report to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2024.

## **Disaster Response**

Borje, meanwhile, mentioned that the government aims to improve and institutionalize disaster response measures to provide safe communities to Filipinos.

"Tayo ay magkakaroon na ng National Adaptation Plan for the first time, ito ay mangyayare. Tayo din ay hard at work para sa implementation plan, ibig sabihin ito ay plano para mareduce ng Pllipinas by 75% ang ating greenhouse gas emissions," he said.

(We will have a National Adaptation Plan for the first time, this will happen. We are also working hard on the implementation plan, meaning it is a plan for the Philippines to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 75%.)

Among the programs are the National Climate Change Action Plan, Local Climate Change Action Plan, and National Framework Strategy for Climate Change.

"When you talk about climate change, ito ay buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan ng ating mamamayan. So importante na malaman ang impacts nito sa ating society," Borje reminded the public.

(When you talk about climate change, it is the life, livelihood, and future of our people. So it is important to know its impacts on our society.)

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [House pushes for collaboration on climate, disaster risk financing](#)

By Filane Mikee Cervantes

MANILA – The House of Representatives has adopted a resolution supporting the establishment of a multi-actor partnership (MAP) for the enhancement of climate and disaster risk financing and insurance (CDRFI) in the Philippines.

During a plenary session Wednesday night, the chamber passed House Resolution 1264, which promotes MAP on CDRFI that is aligned with the priorities of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 and the Philippines' Sustainable Finance Roadmap in promoting the development of insurance products covering climate and disaster risks.

Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto, author of the resolution, said CDRFI is an innovative and viable mechanism that a vulnerable country such as the Philippines can take to ensure that financial shocks due to loss and damage from the impacts of climate change are dealt with effectively.

"CDRFI creates the space to minimize and respond to the impacts of disasters and to build back better by ensuring that necessary resources are available to respond to and recover from potential losses, including providing financial assistance to micro, small, and medium enterprises to enhance their resilience to crises and disasters," Chatto said.

He said CDRFI would maintain and enhance socio-economic resilience and human development, strengthen national productivity, and reduce pressure on public spending post disaster to maintain fiscal and financial stability.

By introducing MAP on CDRFI, Chatto said this would create an enabling environment for the design of relevant and appropriate risk-sharing and risk transfer instruments in collaboration with other agencies and in partnership with the private sector.

He said the MAP would include representatives from the Executive and Legislative branches of the government, particularly the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Economic and Development Authority, Climate Change Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Department of Finance, the local government units, private sector, insurance providers, academe, non-government actors, and civil society.

## PAGEONE

### [Climate Change Actions, Policies Based On Human Rights](#)

By Greeninc

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Wednesday said the national government ensures that its climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts are based on human rights.

CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje said climate change and human rights are two different issues but are connected as emphasized in the Climate Change Act, the People Survival Fund, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan.

“When we talk about climate change, the human rights we’re protecting are very fundamental and that’s the fundamental right to live and live free from fear,” he said in a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing.

The actions, policies, and projects created by the commission are focused on protecting Filipino lives and their livelihood, he added.

UN Special Rapporteur visit

United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur Ian Fry is in the country to see the impacts of climate change on human rights and the protection of environmental defenders.

The Philippines, a country that contributes only 0.5 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, is at most risk for the impacts of climate change.

Borje said Fry would also look into the issue of loss and damage or the impact of climate change on the country’s development, displacement in the context of climate change, intergenerational justice, litigation and legislation, and programs on gender.

He said Fry has observed that the government is providing programs and avenues where the next generation could participate in policy-making and actions related to climate change.

“Climate change is a global, historic and systemic issue and problem, so we must all work on this, and not just now, at the present global ecosystem or structure, but also in the next generation,” he added.

Fry’s, whose 10-day visit will end on Nov. 10, is expected to submit a report of his trip to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2024.

Ways forward

The CCC is working with legislators to ensure the accounting of national resources so that they may be given appropriate value.

It is also working on the strengthening of the local government units' adaptive capacity to climate change challenges and impacts.

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, implementation of the government's efforts must include climate finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building from developed countries and carbon majors going to the Philippines.

To date, the Philippines has a National Climate Change Action Plan, Local Climate Change Action Plan and National Framework Strategy for Climate Change.

Under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., Borje said there would be a National Adaptation Plan and a Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan which aims to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent

"We have completed the greenhouse gas inventory for the years 2015 and 2020 which is pending for a long time," he said.

"We're finalizing the guidelines for the certification of green jobs for the private sector to have incentives to transition towards a low carbon economy." (PNA)

**- END -**