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By: Jiselle Anne C. Casucian

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New Zealand and the Philippines have made a joint declaration to develop a climate cooperation framework, signed on Nov. 19 by Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga in Quezon City, and New Zealand Minister of Climate Change Simon Watts in Baku, Azerbaijan, during his attendance at COP29.

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Developing nations slam 'paltry' \\$300 billion climate deal](#)

By: Nick Perry

The world approved a bitterly negotiated climate deal Sunday but poorer nations most at the mercy of worsening disasters dismissed a \$300 billion a year pledge from wealthy historic polluters as insultingly low.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Localized NAP empowers communities for resilience](#)

By: Secretary Robert E.A. Borje

As we conclude the 17th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week), we are again reminded of the importance of localizing our national policies, plans, and strategies, particularly the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), to empower communities and build climate resilience.

[CCC lauds approval of 2025 budget](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has lauded the Senate and the House of Representatives' approval of the agency's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 amounting to more than P170 million.

[Climate Change Consciousness Week 2024 concludes](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and national government agencies conclude the 17th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, running from 19 to 25 November 2024. With the theme "Aksyon at Adaptasyon ng Makabagong Henerasyon," this year's observance urges all Filipinos to embrace bold, adaptive strategies that prioritize community engagement, resilience and sustainability in addressing the climate crisis.

[Marcos urges unified climate action during CCC Week](#)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. called on Filipinos to unite in addressing climate change during the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week).

[Legarda hints of climate advocacy sabotage](#)

By: Kimberly Anne Ojeda and Jom Garner

Senator Loren Legarda on Monday recounted during the 2024 Philippine Resilience Awards the challenges she faced in advocating for climate action.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Be aware of initiatives to mitigate climate change](#)

The commemoration of the 17th Climate Change Consciousness Week from Nov. 19 to 25 comes at a time when the effects of climate change are very apparent around us.

[\[Opinion\] PH forges solidarity on climate change action](#)

At the recent Conference of Parties (COP) 29 ministerial dialogue in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Philippines called for “bold actions and sustained, increased financing once and for all for all countries that are perpetually on the frontlines of catastrophic typhoons.” A fortnight ago, the Philippines and its co-chairs of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) signed the Host Country Agreement, affirming their resolve to vigorously pursue the FRLD’s mandate that “includes a focus on addressing loss and damage to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

[Women are powerful agents vs climate change—Legarda](#)

By: Hannah L. Torregoza

Women are powerful agents in the ongoing battle against climate change as their knowledge, experience and leadership are critical to building resilience, Senator Loren Legarda said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Women are powerful agents of change amid climate woes – Sen. Legarda](#)

By: Maila Ager

Although they are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, women have shown that they are not victims but “powerful agents of change.”

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC celebrates resilience, recognizes women, youth climate leaders](#)

By: Marita Moaje

As a testament to the nation's commitment to combating the climate crisis, the Climate Change Commission on Monday recognized exceptional women and youth climate champions through its Philippine Resilience Awards (PRA) 2024.

[Legarda cites women's crucial role in fight vs. climate change](#)

By: Wilnard Bacelonia

Despite being disproportionately affected by climate change, Senator Loren Legarda acknowledged on Monday women as demonstrators of remarkable resilience and "powerful agents of change."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DA: Typhoons left P786 million damage to agriculture](#)

By: Rhodina Villanueva

The combined damage of Tropical Cyclones Pepito, Nika and Ofel to the agriculture sector in at least six regions has reached P786 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[Developing nations say \\$300bn COP29 deal not enough after agreement](#)

Negotiators at the United Nations climate talks agreed on a \$300bn target to help developing nations adapt to climate change, but many poorer nations have dismissed the agreement as insufficient.

The agreement came on Sunday, a day after the COP29 talks were supposed to end in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Richer nations agreed to pay at least \$300bn a year by 2035 to help poorer countries make their economies more environmentally-friendly, and prepare for natural disasters.

The number is an increase from a previous \$100bn pledge, but was still \$200bn less than the number called for by a group of 134 developing countries.

A larger target of \$1.3 trillion per year was also part of the deal, but most of that would come from private sources.

A delegate from India, Leena Nandan, called the agreement an “illusion”.

“The amount that is proposed to be mobilised is abysmally poor. It’s a paltry sum,” said Nandan. “This document is little more than an optical illusion. This, in our opinion, will not address the enormity of the challenge we all face.”

Hours earlier, delegations from small island states and the least developed nations walked out of negotiations on the funding package, saying their climate finance interests were being ignored.

“We’ve just walked out. We came here to this COP for a fair deal. We feel that we haven’t been heard,” said Cedric Schuster, the Samoan chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States, a coalition of nations threatened by rising seas.

“[The] current deal is unacceptable for us. We need to speak to other developing countries and decide what to do,” Evans Njewa, chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group, said.

When asked if the walkout was a protest, Colombia Environment Minister Susana Mohamed told The Associated Press news agency: “I would call this dissatisfaction, [we are] highly dissatisfied.”

With tensions high, climate activists also heckled United States climate envoy John Podesta as he left the meeting room.

They accused the US of not paying its fair share and having “a legacy of burning up the planet”.

“I know that none of us wants to leave Baku without a good outcome,” COP President Mukhtar Babayev told a late-night session on Saturday after the walk-out, urging all nations to “bridge the remaining divide”.

Later on Saturday, representatives from the European Union, the US and other wealthy countries met directly with those of developing nations in an attempt to work out an agreement.

Developing countries have accused the rich of trying to get their way – and a smaller financial aid package – via a war of attrition. And small island nations, particularly vulnerable to climate change’s worsening effects, accused the host country presidency of ignoring them throughout the talks.

Before the final deal was announced, Panama’s chief negotiator, Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez, said he had had enough.

“Every minute that passes, we are going to just keep getting weaker and weaker and weaker. They don’t have that issue. They have massive delegations,” Monterrey Gomez said.

“This is what they always do. They break us at the last minute. You know, they push it and push it and push it until our negotiators leave. Until we’re tired, until we’re delusional from not eating, from not sleeping.”

Developing nations had sought \$1.3 trillion to help adapt to droughts, floods, rising seas and extreme heat, pay for losses and damage caused by extreme weather, and transition their energy systems away from planet-warming fossil fuels and towards clean energy.

Wealthy nations are obligated to pay vulnerable countries under an agreement reached at COP talks in Paris in 2015.

Nazanine Moshiri, senior climate and environment analyst at the International Crisis Group, told Al Jazeera that rich countries were being restricted by economic conditions.

“Wealthy nations are constrained by tight domestic budgets, by the Gaza war, by Ukraine and also other conflicts, for example in Sudan, and [other] economic issues,” she said.

“This is at odds with what developing countries are grappling with: the mounting costs of storms, floods and droughts, which are being fuelled by climate change.”

GMA NEWS

[PH to host 41st ASSA meetings, climate change a main focus](#)

By: Jiselle Anne C. Casucian

The Philippines will chair the 41st ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) meetings, the first time the country will host the event in the last eight years.

In a press conference at Seda Bay Manila in Parañaque City on Monday, ASSA Chairperson Ahmad Zulqarnain Onin from Employer's Provident Fund Malaysia and ASSA Vice Chairperson Jose Arnulfo Veloso from the Government Service Insurance Philippines (GSIS) discussed investments, innovations, and target goals for the current year's ASSA Meetings.

"We've chosen this year's theme to be navigating the future of social security, integration, innovation and inclusion... It really captures the essence of what is quite a drastic and pressing challenge within our region. This includes a rapidly growing population, high informal settlers, increasing cross-border mobility within (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and most recently, the accelerating effect of climate change," said Onin.

ASSA is a regional cooperation platform for social security institutions with members in Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Onin noted that the current meeting intends to finalize a sustainability pledge between participating countries that would help in dealing with the effects of climate change.

"This represents quite a significant step towards enhancing climate resilience within our social protection frameworks, and this has been a working pledge that reflects our collective resolve to address the great challenges posed by climate change," Onin said

Veloso also stated that the \$1.3 trillion combined social security assets of the ASEAN reflect the financial strength and capacity of ASSA members as players within the global market.

"The rapid transformation of our economies presents both opportunities and challenges... The rise of the digital economy, evolving employment patterns, and emerging social needs of our diverse populations demand our immediate attention. This is why our conference today is particularly relevant," said Veloso.

“As the Philippines assumes the chairmanship from Malaysia, we will build upon the excellent work accomplished under Chairman Ahmad’s leadership,” he added.

The ASSA meetings for the year will feature 10 expert-led sessions on critical developments in social security administration from November 25 to 26, with the Philippines and Brunei assuming chairmanship and vice-chairmanship respectively.

“The success of this 41st meeting reaffirms GSIS’ capability to scale ASSA’s meaningful and lasting improvements for ASEAN. With the leadership demonstrated today by GSIS, I am optimistic that ASSA will continue to drive transformative change benefiting current and future generations,” Onin said.

MANILA BULLETIN

[New Zealand and the Philippines sign joint declaration on climate cooperation](#)

New Zealand and the Philippines have made a joint declaration to develop a climate cooperation framework, signed on Nov. 19 by Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga in Quezon City, and New Zealand Minister of Climate Change Simon Watts in Baku, Azerbaijan, during his attendance at COP29.

New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Catherine McIntosh witnessed the signing of the joint declaration in Quezon City.

“It was a pleasure to be present at this important next step in the cooperative relationship between New Zealand and the Philippines as our countries look forward to working together on a vital global issue,” Ambassador McIntosh said. “Both countries are committed to the Paris Agreement and share ambitions to build climate-resilient communities while accelerating the transition to a low-emissions economy. Greater cooperation will be an opportunity to learn from each other’s experiences as we address the shared challenge of climate change.”

The declaration sets an 18-month timetable to formalize the cooperation framework for enhancing the partnership on climate change, focusing on innovation, cooperation, and sustainable development. New Zealand and the Philippines will pursue this commitment by conducting information exchange, encouraging business-to-business contacts, fostering research, and developing and deploying renewable energy, zero emissions transport technologies, and sustainable agricultural practices.

MANILA STANDARD

[Typhoons hitting Philippines are fewer but stronger, says weather expert](#)

By: Rex Espiritu

The Philippines observed a “decline in the frequency” of tropical cyclones forming and entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), according to a weather expert.

Analiza Solis, chief of the Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), attributes this trend to global warming, which is a consequence of climate change affecting not only the Philippines but the entire planet.

Solis noted that these cyclones, however, are becoming increasingly intense.

She shared her insights on current trends in media forecasting during a seminar-workshop titled “Covering the Crisis: Media Workshop on Disaster Communications,” held on Saturday at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City. The event was organized by the Presidential Communications Office (PCO).

“During the past 10 years, we have been averaging 19 to 20 typhoons per year. Right now, we seldom reach the 19th or 20th mark. Based on our historical record of tropical cyclone occurrences and frequency from 1948 to 2023, there is a decreasing trend in the number of tropical cyclones forming but an increasing trend in the intensity of these typhoons,” Solis said.

Recently, the Philippines experienced an unusual event when six typhoons—Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine,” Super Typhoon “Leon,” Typhoon “Marce,” Severe Tropical Storm “Nika,” Super Typhoon “Ofel,” and Super Typhoon “Pepito”—struck the country within just one month, leaving widespread destruction. These storms posed severe threats of heavy rainfall, powerful winds, flooding, and life-threatening storm surges.

Solis attributes this new pattern primarily to global warming, a consequence of climate change.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), global warming refers to the long-term increase in the planet’s average temperature.

Climate change encompasses not only global warming but also a broader range of changes impacting the planet, such as rising sea levels and shrinking mountain glaciers.

“The warming of ocean temperatures contributes more significantly compared to land warming. We can observe its effects during El Niño. When La Niña occurs, there is only a slight drop in ocean temperature. This indicates that our ocean temperatures are getting hotter, which greatly contributes to global warming,” Solis noted.

Meanwhile, the workshop also highlighted the crucial role of the media in conveying key warnings from PAGASA to the public to prevent loss of lives and damage to property during calamities.

Manuel Mogato, a multi-awarded journalist, recalled his experience covering Super Typhoon “Yolanda” in Tacloban in 2013. This storm was one of the deadliest and most destructive typhoons to hit the country, claiming around 6,300 lives with 1,600 others missing.

“There are many lessons that can be learned from the Yolanda experience. First and foremost is that accurate, fair, and understandable information must be disseminated to the public to avert disaster. Journalists must avoid jargon and explain scientific terms in layman’s terms for the public to understand the dangers, risks, and threats to their lives,” he said.

“We can help save lives or worsen people’s situations and cause disasters if we don’t do our jobs,” added Mogato, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

NEWS5

[ADB approves \\$500 mln loan for Philippines' climate change efforts](#)

The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$500 million loan to support the Philippines' efforts to tackle climate change, it said on Tuesday.

The loan will help accelerate reforms in the Southeast Asian nation to put sectors like agriculture, natural resources, energy and transport on a climate-resilient and low-carbon path, it added.

The Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, faces the highest disaster risk globally. It topped the 2022 to 2024 World Risk Index which assesses populations most at risk from earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts and sea-level rise.

"The country's high vulnerability impacts its economic momentum and outlook," ADB Philippines Country Director Pavit Ramachandran said in a statement.

In 2021, the Philippines pledged a 75% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, up from a target of 70% set four years prior.

In December, the multilateral lender announced \$10 billion in climate finance for the Philippines between 2024 and 2029 to support low-carbon transport and climate resilience.

The ADB approved a new goal in September to devote 50% of its annual lending to climate finance by 2030.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Developing nations slam 'paltry' \\$300 billion climate deal](#)

By: Nick Perry

The world approved a bitterly negotiated climate deal Sunday but poorer nations most at the mercy of worsening disasters dismissed a \$300 billion a year pledge from wealthy historic polluters as insultingly low.

After two exhausting weeks of chaotic bargaining and sleepless nights, nearly 200 nations banged through the contentious finance pact in the early hours in a sports stadium in Azerbaijan.

But the applause had barely subsided when India delivered a full-throated rejection of the "abysmally poor" dollar-figure just agreed.

"It's a paltry sum," thundered India's delegate Chandni Raina.

"This document is little more than an optical illusion. This, in our opinion, will not address the enormity of the challenge we all face."

Sierra Leone's climate minister Jiwoh Abdulai, whose country is among the world's poorest, said it showed a "lack of goodwill" by developed nations, whose ranks include the United States, Japan and members of the European Union.

"We are extremely disappointed in the outcome," he said.

Tina Stege, climate envoy for the Marshall Islands, a small atoll nation threatened by rising seas, said she would return home with a "small portion" of what she fought for.

"It isn't nearly enough, but it's a start," she said.

The Alliance of Small Island States, the Least Developed Countries and the African Group of Negotiators -- all influential developing nation blocs -- expressed disappointment with the deal.

A number of countries had accused Azerbaijan, an oil and gas exporter, of lacking the experience and will to meet the moment, as the planet again sets temperature records and faces rising deadly disasters.

'Eleventh hour deal'

Nations had struggled to reconcile long-standing divisions over how much rich nations most accountable for historic climate change should provide to poorer countries least responsible but most impacted by Earth's rapid warming.

Many developing countries had pushed for at least \$500 billion, but developed nations under political and fiscal pressure had played down such expectations.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell acknowledged the deal was imperfect and said "no country got everything they wanted" in the Caspian Sea city of Baku.

"This is no time for victory laps," he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he had "hoped for a more ambitious outcome" and appealed to governments to see it as a base to build upon.

Developed countries only put the \$300 billion figure on the table on Saturday after a sleepless night of shuttle diplomacy to improve an earlier spurned offer.

Bleary-eyed diplomats, huddled in anxious groups, were still revising the final phrasing on the plenary floor in the final hours before the deal passed.

UK Energy Secretary Ed Miliband hailed "a critical eleventh hour deal at the eleventh hour for the climate".

At points, the talks appeared on the brink of collapse, with developing nations storming out of meetings and threatening to walk away should rich nations not cough up more cash.

In the end -- despite repeating that no deal is better than a bad deal -- they did not stand in the way of an agreement.

- 'Betrayal' -

EU climate envoy Wopke Hoekstra said COP29 would be remembered as "the start of a new era for climate finance".

The final deal commits developed nations to pay at least \$300 billion a year by 2035 to help developing countries green their economies and prepare for worse disasters.

That is up from \$100 billion under an existing pledge but was slammed as a mockery by developing nations that had demanded much more.

"This COP has been a disaster for the developing world," said Mohamed Adow, the Kenyan director of Power Shift Africa, a think tank.

"It's a betrayal of both people and planet, by wealthy countries who claim to take climate change seriously."

Experts commissioned by the United Nations concluded that developed countries should be providing at least \$390 billion by 2035 to meet the needs of developing countries excluding China.

The United States and EU have wanted newly wealthy emerging economies like China - - the world's largest emitter -- to chip in.

The final deal "encourages" developing countries to make contributions on a voluntary basis, reflecting no change for China which already provides climate finance on its own terms.

Wealthy nations said it was politically unrealistic to expect more in direct government funding.

Donald Trump, a sceptic of both climate change and foreign assistance, returns to the White House in January and a number of other Western countries have seen right-wing backlashes against the green agenda.

The deal posits a larger overall target of \$1.3 trillion per year to cope with rising temperatures and disasters, but most would come from private sources.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Localized NAP empowers communities for resilience](#)

By: Secretary Robert E.A. Borje

As we conclude the 17th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week), we are again reminded of the importance of localizing our national policies, plans, and strategies, particularly the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), to empower communities and build climate resilience.

This year's theme "Aksyon at Adaptasyon Para sa Makabagong Henerasyon" emphasized the need for concrete actions to reduce climate risks and adapt to the impacts of climate change. It called on Filipinos to adopt innovative and forward-thinking approaches for the benefit of the next generation.

The week-long activities included the Net Zero Challenge (NZC), a tree-growing activity with endemic species at the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed in Paete, Laguna. A program of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the NZC aims to offset carbon emissions that will help us achieve the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The CCC also co-hosted a high-level forum on the intersection of the law of the sea and international environmental law, with President Tomas Heidar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea as the keynote speaker.

Today, we culminate the week with the Philippine Resilience Awards — an initiative organized together with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda that recognizes youth and women leaders who promote community resilience and climate action. It will be followed by a Solidarity Night, a gathering of climate champions and advocates to reaffirm our collective commitment to localize climate action.

As one of the nation's most vulnerable to the global climate crisis, the Philippines faces the reality of more severe weather events. These climate-related disasters affect the very foundation of local communities, and threaten our lives, livelihoods, and future.

In response, the CCC, in coordination with various agencies and organizations, led the creation of the NAP to guide the country's efforts to build climate resilience. However, the true test and real measure of the NAP's effectiveness lies in how well the plan translates into action at the local level.

The NAP provides a strategic national framework for adaptation and outlines key initiatives to enhance the Philippines' capacity to cope with climate impacts. Yet, the success of these national strategies hinges on how they are localized — tailored to address the specific vulnerabilities of communities across the archipelago.

Adaptation measures that are designed at the national level must be flexible enough to meet the unique needs of provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays. This localization process ensures that the NAP's overarching goals are achieved, with communities at the forefront of implementation.

A core principle of the NAP is the involvement of local government units (LGUs) tasked to translate national strategies into localized solutions. While national decision-making bodies and technical working groups lead the planning, it is at the local level where adaptation must take root.

LGUs are best positioned to understand and identify the specific climate risks their communities face — whether it's managing coastal erosion, improving agricultural resilience, or reducing flood risks in urban areas. The NAP empowers LGUs to take ownership of adaptation measures, which allow them to customize responses based on local realities.

Proactive planning, grounded in accurate and localized climate data, is essential to build long-term resilience. Communities need access to precise and localized information on climate risks to make informed decisions. To support this, the NAP calls for a centralized climate data system with standardized, user-friendly, and accessible protocols. This system will provide LGUs with the necessary tools to assess vulnerabilities, map risks, and design appropriate adaptation actions.

Effective adaptation at the local level requires practical solutions that address immediate needs while building long-term resilience. Coastal communities, for instance, may focus on constructing protective barriers against storm surges, while inland areas prioritize water management and flood prevention. Agricultural regions might adopt drought-resistant crops or sustainable farming practices. Localized adaptation strategies ensure that these solutions are context-specific, and addresses the particular challenges faced by each region.

One of the significant risks in adaptation planning is maladaptation, where efforts in one sector inadvertently undermine progress in another. For example, infrastructure projects without environmental safeguards could lead to greater ecosystem degradation, which in turn exacerbates climate risks. The NAP calls for an integrated, cross-sectoral

approach to prevent such issues, ensuring harmony across sectors like infrastructure, agriculture and natural resource management.

For adaptation strategies to succeed, LGUs need more than plans — they need resources, technical expertise, and capacity-building support. The NAP outlines a clear path to strengthen the capacity of local governments through training programs, technical assistance, and research initiatives.

Financial resources are also a critical component. The NAP recognizes the need for accessible financing to support local adaptation projects. Initiatives such as the People’s Survival Fund provide LGUs with resources to implement projects that directly address the needs of their communities. Without adequate funding, adaptation efforts risk remaining theoretical, failing to translate into tangible action.

As climate risks evolve, so too must adaptation strategies. The NAP includes a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system to track the progress at both national and local levels. This system ensures actions are effective, aligned with broader goals, and responsive to emerging risks. By continuously evaluating the success of adaptation measures, LGUs can refine their strategies to remain relevant and impactful.

The MEAL system also fosters accountability, ensuring that adaptation efforts reduce vulnerabilities effectively. Through regular assessments, local governments can identify gaps, learn from best practices, and refine their approaches, creating a dynamic process that evolves alongside the challenges posed by climate change.

Vulnerable groups, including Indigenous peoples, women, youth, and those with disabilities, must be included in the adaptation process. Their perspectives and needs are critical to ensure that adaptation measures are inclusive and address the concerns of those most affected by climate change.

Engaging these diverse stakeholders ensures that adaptation efforts are not only top-down but also community-driven. Local knowledge, traditional practices, and innovative solutions contribute to building resilience. With the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups, we can ensure equity and broad participation in adaptation strategies.

The NAP is a living document — one that evolves with the changing climate risks and adaptation needs. Grounded in science and informed by the experiences of local communities, it provides a framework for building a safer, more resilient nation.

However, its success ultimately rests on the shoulders of local governments and communities. Their leadership, initiative, and commitment to action will drive the nation's climate resilience efforts forward.

CCC lauds approval of 2025 budget

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has lauded the Senate and the House of Representatives' approval of the agency's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 amounting to more than P170 million.

The budget will support the implementation of the CCC's key initiatives, such as the localization of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the updating of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), all geared toward enhancing climate resilience across the country.

The funding will also bolster the Commission's capacity-building programs as well as to facilitate inter-agency coordination and multi-sectoral collaboration in line with its mandate.

"This budget allows the Commission to advance its work on resilience-building, climate negotiations and the full implementation of the NAP and NDC. We are especially grateful for the continued support from Rep. Angelica Natasha Co, Senator Imee Marcos and Senator Loren Legarda, who have been instrumental in pushing forward these initiatives," CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert Borje said.

Marcos, the budget sponsor in the Senate, and Senate Minority Floor Leader Koko Pimentel, highlighted the importance of improving processes of the People's Survival Fund (PSF), which is crucial for supporting climate resilience projects at the local level.

As the member of the PSF Board, the CCC conducts technical reviews of proposals. Thirteen PSF project proposals amounting to P1.3 billion were approved by the PSF board.

"One best example of an LGU recipient of a grant under the People's Survival Fund, with completed projects, is represented by San Francisco in Camotes Island in Cebu, which is obviously a low-income municipality, but has managed to build an ecological based farming model, which is now being replicated elsewhere," Marcos said.

"That's why we really need to support this Commission, budget wise," Pimentel said.

Additionally, the Senators expressed support for the CCC's efforts in climate negotiations, reinforcing the importance of global cooperation as the Philippines navigates critical international climate talks.

The budget approval aligns with the priorities set by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., who has consistently called for accelerated climate action and resilience building. The CCC remains dedicated to lead national climate change initiatives and ensure the full implementation of the Republic Act 9729 or the Climate Change Act and related policies.

The CCC's 2025 budget marks a significant step forward in the country's commitment to climate action, and reinforces the Philippines' efforts to meet global climate goals and protect vulnerable sectors.

"We will strengthen efforts to safeguard our communities, protect livelihoods, and enhance our adaptive capacities. This is crucial as we continue to experience the devastating impacts of climate change, including stronger typhoons, rising sea levels, and prolonged droughts," Borje said.

Climate Change Consciousness Week 2024 concludes

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and national government agencies conclude the 17th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, running from 19 to 25 November 2024. With the theme “Aksyon at Adaptasyon ng Makabagong Henerasyon,” this year’s observance urges all Filipinos to embrace bold, adaptive strategies that prioritize community engagement, resilience and sustainability in addressing the climate crisis.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), through its Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA), opened the week with a photo exhibit showcasing inspiring stories from AMIA villages and CREATEs (Climate Resilient Agriculture Technologies) that adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices.

DA Undersecretary Roger V. Navarro underscored President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s emphasis on addressing climate change impacts, particularly in agriculture. He stressed DA’s commitment to regenerative agriculture, soil rejuvenation, and building a climate-resilient future. He urged all sectors to integrate climate action into their programs.

Meanwhile, the Department of Finance has been leading efforts to secure increased climate finance. At the ongoing 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan, the DoF has pushed for scaled-up climate finance flows of up to \$1.3 trillion per year for vulnerable nations, particularly in light of the successive typhoons that hit the country the past months.

The Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Economic and Development Authority joined the CCC in this year’s commemoration. Regional and provincial offices of the DENR led initiatives such as tree growing and item distribution for mangrove maintenance.

Marcos urges unified climate action during CCC Week

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. called on Filipinos to unite in addressing climate change during the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week).

Marcos, Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission, expressed confidence that unity and shared commitment can secure a sustainable future.

"We are continuously called to press on so that the next generations can still enjoy the lush and bountiful Philippines that we have inherited," he said, emphasizing the urgency of climate action.

Highlighting the importance of a collective vision, the President stated: "As we commit to building a Bagong Pilipinas, let our vision be vivid. We want the Philippines that is well taken care of. We want a nation that will remain unshaken no matter the situation. Most importantly, we want to have a people that truly appreciate the abundance of our lands and our seas."

Marcos urged all sectors — government, educational institutions, civil society, businesses, and local government units — to intensify efforts in localizing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and building a sustainable Philippines.

"Together with deeds both big and small, let us stay on our mission for a safer, greener, brighter future for all," he urged.

He also highlighted the Climate Change Commission's leadership in empowering communities to adapt and build resilience, paving the way for a sustainable future.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje reinforced the President's vision in his closing remarks, calling for unified climate action.

"This gathering is more than a recognition of partnerships, it is a rallying call for action. Climate action and adaptation is a whole-of-nation, a whole-of-society, and a whole-of-world endeavor, and there is much at stake," he said.

The Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, held from 19 to 25 November, raises awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation. This year's theme, "Aksyon at Adaptasyon ng Makabagong Henerasyon," emphasizes collaborative action in achieving climate goals and sustainability.

Legarda hints of climate advocacy sabotage

By: Kimberly Anne Ojeda and Jom Garner

Senator Loren Legarda on Monday recounted during the 2024 Philippine Resilience Awards the challenges she faced in advocating for climate action.

Legarda hinted at resistance to her efforts to institutionalize climate action in government policy. She suggested that funding mechanisms for climate initiatives were deliberately undermined by certain individuals, though she refrained from naming names.

“One day, I will tell you the story of the certain persons who took out the funding mechanisms for the climate,” the senator said.

Legarda recalled how some critics questioned her focus on climate issues, arguing that more immediate concerns, such as the struggles of Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, should take precedence.

She talked of an “inside story” regarding the resistance she faced, referencing the individuals involved. “Others have passed on to paradise, others are still around,” she said.

The senator also discussed the barriers she encountered while pushing for the creation of a dedicated Senate committee on climate change.

She said the committee faced resistance from leaders who believed the existing environment committee was sufficient to handle climate-related issues. “Some said there was no need for a committee on climate change because there was a committee on environment. The chair did not want it to be created because they did not believe that climate should be a stand-alone issue,” Legarda said.

While the committee on climate was once separate from the environment and natural resources committee, it eventually collapsed after Legarda’s third term in the Senate.

“I’m back in the Senate now, and I hope we can create the standing committee on climate because, as anyone in this room knows, climate change is not only the environment, it’s everything we do,” Legarda stressed.

Legarda on Monday also underscored the crucial role of women as powerful agents of change in the ongoing battle against climate change.

“Their knowledge, experience, and leadership are critical to build resilience,” Legarda said during her keynote speech at the Philippine Resilience Awards in Pasay City.

“This is why we must continue to amplify our voices, not only in the community but in decision-making processes at all levels of government,” she added. During the event, the four-term senator led in the launch of the Journey to Climate Resilience: The Philippine Story book and the Filipina Changemakers video documentary.

The Climate Change Commission, in partnership with the office of Senator Legarda, has spearheaded the production of a book that presents the country’s initiatives towards climate resilience on the legislative and executive fronts.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Be aware of initiatives to mitigate climate change](#)

The commemoration of the 17th Climate Change Consciousness Week from Nov. 19 to 25 comes at a time when the effects of climate change are very apparent around us.

We do not only read about massive floods, heavy rains and strong winds in Europe and the United States, we have experienced that many times in the recent past. Several cities and towns have experienced a month's rain being dumped in a day. Flood waters have stayed for days. And most recently, six strong cyclones came one after the other in a month, battering many parts of the country, claiming many lives, and causing huge amounts of damage to our food supply and infrastructure.

We have also read about many initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change. One of these is the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference, or Conference of the Parties, commonly known as COP 29, held in Azerbaijan, from Nov, 11 to 22, where the world united around climate action.

In the Philippines, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) is “mandated to ensure the mainstreaming of climate change in national, sectoral and local development plans and programs,” according to Republic Act No. 9729. Proclamation No 1667 signed in 2008, has designated “Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week” to raise awareness and develop solutions to the climate crisis.

This year's theme is “Aksyon at Adaptasyon ng Makabagong Henerasyon” (Action and adaptation of the new generation). The CCC activities focus on “action” to emphasize the importance of implementing concrete measures to mitigate climate risks; and “adaptation” to build resilience.

The activities will highlight the Commission's ongoing projects, among them the Net Zero Challenge, and a comprehensive climate discussion on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and on “Intersections between the Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law” in collaboration with the University of the Philippines.

“This year's observance urges all Filipinos to embrace bold, adaptive strategies that prioritize community engagement, resilience, and sustainability in addressing the climate crisis,” the CCC said.

Initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change need the collaboration of government and the private sector. This collaboration was shown during the opening ceremonies of the Climate Change Consciousness Week with representatives from government agencies and private organizations in attendance.

Sec. Robert Borje, CCC vice chairman and executive director, said: “The work ahead of us remains challenging, but together, multiple stakeholders can make a difference. This week will pave a path toward a stronger and transformative climate action and adaptation.”

At the local government level, the Commission’s work includes training local government units (LGUs) to fast-track the development and implementation of Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) to achieve the objectives of the National Adaptation Plan and the Nationally Determined Contributions Investment Plan (NDCIP). At a workshop conducted last month, about 800 participants were given guidance on how to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into local development plans, strengthening their capacity to respond to climate-related risks.

At the household level, it is the responsibility of heads of families to initiate and implement action to contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change. They should keep themselves and their families informed of how daily personal choices can contribute to these initiatives – like avoiding the use of single-use plastics, or leaving our cars home once a week, or proper disposal of solid waste. We must do our part now.

[Opinion] PH forges solidarity on climate change action

At the recent Conference of Parties (COP) 29 ministerial dialogue in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Philippines called for “bold actions and sustained, increased financing once and for all for all countries that are perpetually on the frontlines of catastrophic typhoons.” A fortnight ago, the Philippines and its co-chairs of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) signed the Host Country Agreement, affirming their resolve to vigorously pursue the FRLD’s mandate that “includes a focus on addressing loss and damage to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

In 2013, Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) left a destructive trail involving ₱95 billion in damage, compounding the loss of more than 7,000 lives, with some 30,000 missing. Until today, badges of its unprecedented trail of death and disaster remind the survivors of the constant imperative to maintain heightened preparedness and vigilance. According to Statista, “government expenditures on climate change reached its highest allocation in 2015 reaching about ₱445 billion.” Notably, however, greater weight has been placed on mitigation rather than prevention. Hence, Statista recommends the setting aside of a higher budget for disaster preparedness, incentivizing the private sector to opt for climate-friendly business decisions and foster greater public awareness.

Republic Act No. 9729 was enacted in 2009, “mainstreaming climate change into government policy formulation, establishing the framework strategy and program on climate change, (and) creating for this purpose the Climate Change Commission.” The President is chairperson, with three commissioners, one of whom is vice chairperson who serves with Cabinet rank. Congress also passed Republic Act No. 10121 in 2010, mandating the crafting of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan which provides the legal basis for policies, plans, and programs to deal with disasters.

Clearly, a comprehensive governance framework has been put in place. Effective executive action is imperative. This involves tapping all concerned agencies of the national government and mobilizing local government units that are at the forefront of safeguarding communities at the grassroots level. Yet, these are significantly affected by the dynamics of international negotiations.

At its conclusion, the COP29 official website made this announcement: “The Baku Finance Goal sets (a) new global target to channel \$1.3 trillion of climate finance to developing countries by 2035 in (a) significant uplift. This includes a new core finance goal of \$300 billion that triples the previous \$100 billion target.”

The Philippines and other countries least responsible for climate change but are bearing the brunt of its heaviest toll are demanding greater accountability from the countries that are responsible for the highest quantities of harmful carbon emissions. Addressing the delegates of the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at a dinner reception that he hosted recently in Malacañang, President Marcos emphasized the importance of working together to address and mitigate the impact of climate change, reduce disaster risks and losses, and protect lives and livelihoods. He declared that his administration's climate agenda are focused on "deeper innovation, closer coordination, and whole of nation approach."

Indeed, while the importance of financing losses and damage caused by an increasing wave of highly destructive typhoons is key to recovery, the will and resilience of a determined nation is still of paramount significance in responding to climate change.

Women are powerful agents vs climate change—Legarda

By: Hannah L. Torregoza

Women are powerful agents in the ongoing battle against climate change as their knowledge, experience and leadership are critical to building resilience, Senator Loren Legarda said.

Legarda highlighted anew women’s roles in climate change resilience during her keynote speech at the Philippine Resilience Awards 2024 in Pasay City, where she also led the launching of the book “Journey to Climate Resilience: The Philippine Story” and the “Filipina Changemakers” video documentaries.

“This is why we must continue to amplify their voices, not only in the community but in decision-making processes at all levels of government,” Legarda said.

in partnership with the office of the senator, the Climate Change Commission (CCC), spearheaded the production of the book that presents the country’s initiatives towards climate resilience on the legislative and executive fronts.

The book, “Journey to Climate Resilience: The Philippine Story,” primarily tackles the mandate of the CCC and its significant milestones in policy-making, advocacy, as well as environmental and climate change awareness from its creation up to 2022.

Meanwhile, “Filipina Changemakers” featured two women—Nida Collado and Mila Boñgalbal—who have made advanced transformative climate action in their respective communities in Palawan and Albay.

Collado, a 2023 awardee, is a farmer and a dedicated leader of the Macatumbalen Community-Based Forest and Coastal Management Association (MCBFM) in San Vicente, Palawan, while Boñgalbal is President of the Joroan Farmers Association in Tiwi, Albay.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Women are powerful agents of change amid climate woes – Sen. Legarda](#)

By: Maila Ager

Although they are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, women have shown that they are not victims but “powerful agents of change.”

Their crucial role in the battle against climate change was highlighted anew on Monday as Senator Loren Legarda led the launch of the book titled “Journey to Climate Resilience: The Philippine Story” and the “Filipina Changemakers” video documentaries.

Legarda noted that most of those displaced by climate change are women and girls.

“Yet, despite this vulnerability, women have shown that they are not victims—instead, they are powerful agents of change,” she pointed out in her keynote speech at the Philippine Resilience Awards 2024 in Pasay City.

“Their knowledge, experience, and leadership are critical to build resilience. This is why we must continue to amplify their voices, not only in the community but in decision-making processes at all levels of government,” Legarda added.

“Filipina Changemakers” features two women—Nida Collado and Mila Boñgalbal—who have made advanced transformative climate action in their respective communities.

A farmer and a dedicated leader of the Macatumbalen Community-Based Forest and Coastal Management Association in San Vicente, Palawan, Collado has mobilized community resources to strengthen efforts against illegal logging.

Boñgalbal, on the other hand, led 68 farmers as the president of Joroan Farmers Association in Tiwi, Albay.

She has mobilized her community to train and be equipped in resilient practices, especially on food security, through sustainable livelihoods such as abaca drying and livestock and vegetable farming.

Meanwhile, Legarda described the book as “a living testament to the collective efforts of all Filipinos to protect their homes, families, and futures against the climate crisis.”

It tackles the mandate of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and its significant milestones in policy-making, advocacy, as well as environmental and climate change awareness from its creation up to 2022, she said.

The book, Legarda said, “captures not just our national policies, but also the stories of communities that have embraced resilience, of local governments that have prioritized risk-informed planning, and of individuals who are champions of adaptation and mitigation.”

In partnership with Legarda’s office, the CCC has spearheaded the production of the book.

“Our journey towards resilience is far from over. Climate change will continue to test us, but I firmly believe that the Filipino people have the strength and the ingenuity to overcome these challenges,” Legarda said.

Still, she called on all stakeholders to unite in addressing the challenges brought about by climate change.

“We must ensure that resources reach the most vulnerable, that our policies are inclusive, and that we continue to innovate and find solutions that are both sustainable and scalable,” said the senator.

“Let us be reminded that resilience is not a destination but a continuous process. It requires commitment, collaboration, and, most of all, compassion for one another,” she stressed.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC celebrates resilience, recognizes women, youth climate leaders](#)

By: Marita Moaje

As a testament to the nation's commitment to combating the climate crisis, the Climate Change Commission on Monday recognized exceptional women and youth climate champions through its Philippine Resilience Awards (PRA) 2024.

In his opening remarks at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the vital role of women and local communities in the global fight against climate change.

“Today, we celebrate the stories of resilience and leadership: tales that inspire and further strengthen our collective efforts to address the climate crisis,” he said.

This year's PRA recognizes and supports the trailblazers who have demonstrated leadership and innovation in advancing climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience building within their communities.

The PRA, now in its second year, highlights the important role of women and youth in local climate action.

Awardees in the Women and Youth categories each received PHP150,000 to further scale up their climate resilience initiatives through their organizations.

Borje said climate change is the governance challenge of the present generation.

“It is global, historic, and systemic affecting every nation, economy, and community. The impacts of climate change expose vulnerabilities deeply embedded in our society, particularly those that affect women—such as limited access to resources, education, and opportunities,” he said.

However, Borje stressed that amid these challenges, women serve as the strength, being at the heart of homes and communities.

He said women offer unique perspectives and solutions in facing the climate crisis, while their knowledge of managing natural resources and their active roles in building community resilience are indispensable to shaping the country's climate strategies.

This year's PRA awardees are seven outstanding individuals whose efforts in disaster resilience and climate adaptation have made a significant impact on their communities.

For the Women Category, awardees include Bacnotan, La Union Mayor Divina Fontanilla who implemented a successful lifesaving program.

Through training, community engagement, and partnerships, the program has achieved zero drowning incidents since 2020 and boosted local tourism.

The municipality was also recognized for its disaster resilience efforts.

Another awardee, Cecilia Quipayo, Board of Directors Member, CVT Agri Resilient Farmers Organization Incorporated (CARFI) in Barangay Cagbunga, Pamplona, Camarines Sur, led efforts to make agriculture more resilient to climate change.

Through Quipayo, the community adopted strategies like rice-fish integration, planting stress-tolerant crops, diversifying crops, using climate information services, and crop insurance, creating a model for climate-resilient agriculture that helped improve local livelihood.

Bureau of Fire Protection Provincial Chief for Operations/Program and Training Head in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, SFO3 Daisy Cabauatan, meanwhile led initiatives like the Kalikasan Warriors Project and Project APOY to promote environmental conservation, fire safety, and disaster resilience.

She also empowers youth through the River Conservation Club, fostering community sustainability and preparedness.

Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer/Provincial Government Head of Agusan del Norte Erma Suyo helped empower women and youth through her Listong Kababayan-an initiative and "Listong DRRM" Family Course, which promotes disaster preparedness and community resilience.

Lastly, Ma. Thessa Ramos, Founder of the Eastern Visayas Society of Native Tree Conservation, Inc., and Youth for Resilience Network in Maasin, Leyte spearheaded reforestation efforts to combat environmental degradation and boost climate resilience through nurseries, school arboreta, and community partnerships with groups like the Badjao and Mamanwa, as she promotes native tree planting and biodiversity.

She was also recognized as a Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) Women Champion for Biodiversity for her work, which empowers communities and fosters sustainable environmental practices.

“These women’s lives resonate with the truth of Filipino resilience and innovation,” Borje said. “When women lead, communities prosper. Their leadership is essential in achieving the kind of climate action that can create lasting change.”

Meanwhile, two young people bagged the award under the youth category.

Edren Llanillo from Bugallon, Pangasinan, founder of Go Bike Project trained young volunteers in first aid, life support, and disaster response, which has eventually expanded to multiple barangays in Pangasinan, benefiting thousands of people.

These volunteers actively participate in community initiatives, such as health monitoring, literacy programs, and mental health support.

Christian John Evangelista, Chief of the Research and Planning Division of the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO), initiated the MANILA Project to improve disaster risk reduction in the capital city.

The project involves installing weather stations and flood sensors, integrating data into a web-based platform, and collaborating with stakeholders.

By using GIS technology and IoT devices, the project provides real-time monitoring and early warning systems, enabling targeted disaster response and recovery efforts, such as pre-disaster risk assessments and efficient distribution of relief aid.

Borje urged the public to take the stories and lessons of each of the awardees to heart toward the climate-resilient Philippines.

Legarda cites women's crucial role in fight vs. climate change

By: Wilnard Bacelonia

Despite being disproportionately affected by climate change, Senator Loren Legarda acknowledged on Monday women as demonstrators of remarkable resilience and "powerful agents of change."

In her keynote speech during the Philippine Resilience Awards held at SMX Manila here in Pasay City, Legarda said the knowledge, experience, and leadership of women are vital for building community resilience.

Collado was recognized for being able to mobilize community resources to strengthen forest protection against illegal logging.

Legarda said this emphasizes the importance of a thriving livelihood for the community and the leadership role of their women.

On the other hand, Boñgalbal mobilized her community to train and be equipped in resilient practices, especially on food security, through sustainable livelihoods such as abaca drying and livestock and vegetable farming.

"Climate change will continue to test us, but I firmly believe that the Filipino people have the strength and the ingenuity to overcome these challenges," the four-term senator said.

"We have seen this in the way local communities have come together to rebuild after disasters, in the way farmers have adopted sustainable practices, and in the way women have taken on leadership roles in resilience-building," she stressed.

"This is why we must continue to amplify their voices, not only in the community but in decision-making processes at all levels of government," Legarda urged, adding that women's role is crucial for effective climate action.

During the event, the "Journey to Climate Resilience: The Philippine Story" and "Filipina Changemakers" video documentaries were also launched showcasing inspiring stories of women leading transformative climate action in the Philippines.

These include Nida Collado and Mila Boñgalbal, whom Legarda cited as proof that when women are empowered, they carry with them the entire community.

Collado, a 2023 awardee, is a farmer-leader of the Macatumbalen Community-Based Forest and Coastal Management Association in San Vicente, Palawan who mobilized community resources to strengthen forest protection against illegal logging.

On the other hand, Boñgalbal, president of the Joroan Farmers Association in Tiwi, Albay, trained 68 farmer members to be equipped in resilient practices, especially on food security, through sustainable livelihoods such as abaca drying, and livestock and vegetable farming.

"At the heart of this resilience are our women – women who have led with courage, compassion, and determination. The 'Filipina Changemakers' video documentaries tell the inspiring stories of women from all walks of life who are driving transformative climate action," Legarda said.

The event, which was led by the Climate Change Commission, celebrated the Filipino spirit of overcoming adversity and showcased the remarkable achievements of women climate leaders.

Legarda called for continued collaboration and innovation to address climate change and ensure a resilient future for the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DA: Typhoons left P786 million damage to agriculture](#)

By: Rhodina Villanueva

The combined damage of Tropical Cyclones Pepito, Nika and Ofel to the agriculture sector in at least six regions has reached P786 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported.

According to the DA, the typhoons left 41,076 hectares of agricultural areas damaged and production losses of 30,366 metric tons (MT).

It said the typhoons affected 34,111 farmers and fisherfolk in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas.

The DA said 53 percent of the damage was recorded in rice production, totaling P414.14 million and affecting 32,289 hectares of land, with a total production loss of 19,130 MT.

Based on the data provided by the DA Operations Center, the damage from tropical cyclones Kristine and Leon to the agriculture sector totaled P9.81 billion, covering 183,877 hectares of land and production loss of 380,704 MT.

The DA said at least P1 billion in Quick Response Fund has been made available for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas.

Meanwhile, Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday said the impact of climate change has worsened, despite the implementations of laws.

“Our journey toward resilience is far from over. As Kristine would show, as Pepito would show, I am not certain if things have improved or have gotten worse. We see that legislation is there and funding is there, but action on the ground, impact on the ground had gotten worse because the climate has gotten worse... there is much more work to do,” Legarda said during the Philippine Resilience Awards 2024 in Pasay City.

Legarda cited Republic Act 9729, the Climate Change Act of 2009, and RA 10174, which created the People’s Survival Fund.

“We know climate change will continue to test us, but I firmly believe that the Filipino people have the strength and the ingenuity to overcome these challenges. We have seen this in the way the local communities have come together to rebuild after disasters,” Legarda said.

Robert Borje, Climate Change Commission vice chairperson, said the hazards brought by climate change are different from those seen two decades ago.

“Twenty years ago, the rainfall was only 200 millimeters. Now it’s 400 mm. So what she (Legarda) is trying to say is that in the face of climate change and worsening impacts, we have to quickly adjust to these new and intensified hazards that we have,” Borje said.

“Times have changed and the hazard of change is not just in nature but in the intensity. Developing countries like the Philippines have a lot more to work on. The capacity needs to be strengthened,” he added.

Borje said the Philippine Resilience Awards 2024 forms part of the country’s observance of the National Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week 2024, in an effort to raise public awareness of the urgent need for climate action and to promote community-based resilience efforts.

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