



STATEMENT ON THE RISING HEAT INDEX

Global warming is a global, historic and systemic issue that requires immediate attention. The rapid increase in greenhouse gas emissions has spurred climate change, causing irreversible damage to our ecosystems.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nation's weather agency, issued a red alert on the worsening effects of climate change.

The WMO released The State of the Global Climate 2023 report, warning about the escalating global warming trend, confirming 2023 as the hottest year on record and raising the global average near-surface temperature to 1.45 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has warned of heat indices reaching "danger" levels on April 20, particularly in 13 areas: Aborlan, Palawan (45°C); Puerto Princesa, Palawan (44°C); Roxas City, Capiz (44°C); Iloilo City, Iloilo (43°C); Dumagas, Iloilo (43°C); Iba, Zambales (42°C); Sangley Point, Cavite (42°C); Ambulong, Tanauan, Batangas (42°C); Coron, Palawan (42°C); San Jose, Occidental Mindoro (42°C); Catarman, Northern Samar (42°C); Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte (42°C); and Davao City (42°C).

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) urges everyone from the government, private sector, the academe and the youth to prepare for the impacts of global warming, including the heat waves and rising heat indices that we are currently experiencing.

The Philippines continues to experience some of its warmest days with the heat index, a measure indicating the level of discomfort humans perceive due to the combination of high temperature and humidity, almost reaching half the boiling point of water (100 degrees Celsius).

S U R V I V E # 1 0 5 C T H R I V E

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Last year, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) released a list of areas with the highest heat indexes: Butuan City, Agusan del Norte (48°C); Legazpi City, Albay (47°C); San Jose, Occidental Mindoro (47°C); Dagupan City, Pangasinan (46°C); and Aparri, Cagayan (46°C).

Under the guidance of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the CCC, together with other national government agencies, has developed the draft National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) – plans that need urgent implementation.

The NDCIP outlines key actions, phasing, costs, and implementation arrangements for delivering the Philippines' NDC under the identified policies and measures (PAMs) for transport, energy, waste, industry, and agriculture sectors. Meanwhile, the NAP aims to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities.

Climate change is harming our food systems and other vital ecosystems. Our collective action is crucial to curb food insecurity and population displacement.

Our heightened awareness and improved understanding of the nexus between climate change and health is critical to ensure Filipinos remain prepared and able to adapt.

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