



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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## BUSINESS MIRROR

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By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

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## ECO BUSINESS

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## **THE MANILA TIMES**

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## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### MANILA STANDARD

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By: Owen Cammayo

Those of us who grew up in the '80s—don't be shy, raise your hand, it was an awesome decade!—might remember a hit song back then whose lines went something like, 'I'm doin' all right, gettin' good grades, the future's so bright, I gotta wear shades!'. You can Spotify the song anytime, it's a pop relic amazingly well-preserved and still enjoyable.

### PAGEONE

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is launching the Month of the Ocean social media campaign "Dive Deep, Change the Tides" this May.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Greenpeace calls on PHL to support 'climate damage' tax on fossil fuels](#)**

By: Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

The Philippines needs to support a tax on fossil fuel producers to help fund the mitigation of climate change impacts in vulnerable countries, Greenpeace said on Tuesday.

“It is in the best interest for the country to advocate for and champion accountability mechanisms that make those most responsible pay for the losses and damages from climate impacts,” Greenpeace campaigner Jefferson Chua said at a briefing.

The tax would be imposed in countries hosting major fossil fuel producers, Mr. Chua said.

“We all know that OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and G7 (Group of Seven) countries are historically responsible for the acceleration of climate impacts around the world,” he said. “At the same time, countries like ours are lagging in terms of development (relative to) these other countries.”

According to a report by Greenpeace and several other organizations, a climate damages tax (CDT) “addresses the injustice of climate devastation impacting populations around the world who did not cause the climate change but are left to pay for it without the means to do so.”

“On the side of the Philippines, we really need enabling policies here that will facilitate that fund transfer,” Mr. Chua told reporters on the sidelines of the briefing.

A proposed CDT seeks to collect a fee for each ton of coal, barrel of oil or cubic liter of gas extracted by fossil fuel producers, based on a formula that determines the fuels’ carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

The report proposes an initial rate of \$5 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e, increasing each year.

A portion of the climate damages tax will go to the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), while the other half would be remitted as domestic dividends to fund the just transition systems in affected countries.

“We propose that the tax receipt does more than boost government income for allocation to the LDF, but also offers a domestic dividend that can be spent on climate

action nationally, helping to pay for workers to transition away from fossil fuels, towards green energy and transport,” according to the report.

Rosa T. Perez, independent climate change specialist fellow at the Manila Observatory and the National Resilience Council, said a climate damages tax could fund measures to address climate-related events like drought.

The tax would be imposed more on fossil fuel producers, compared to a carbon tax, which seeks a general pricing scheme on carbon emissions, she said.

The Loss and Damage Fund was operationalized under the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai last year.

The Philippines secured a seat on the Loss and Damage Fund Board for the 2024-2026 period.

However, only \$700 million has been committed to the Loss and Damage Fund, or 0.2% of the actual amount necessary to address climate damage globally, Mr. Chua said.

Despite this, the world’s biggest fossil fuel companies generated more than \$100 billion in profits last year, Greenpeace said.

“Like other taxes, this has advantages and disadvantages, so we need safeguards against its negative impacts... especially on vulnerable people,” Ms. Perez said.

If implemented this year, the CDT is expected to generate \$216.2 billion in global revenue, according to the report. OECD and G7 countries may contribute tax revenue of up to P55.8 billion and P41.9 billion, respectively.

“If President Marcos is sincere with his pronouncement in being a climate leader worldwide, he will need to heed the clamor of communities who are standing up to carbon makers,” Mr. Chua said.

## ECO BUSINESS

### Why are LGBTQ+ people more at risk from climate change?

A new study has highlighted the extent to which LGBTQ+ people can be uniquely affected by climate change, underlining the particular and underreported vulnerabilities of a community that also often suffers from poverty and discrimination.

The report by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law found that same-sex couples in the United States run a greater risk of being negatively affected by climate change than their heterosexual peers.

Same-sex couples are more likely to live in areas with poor infrastructure and less access to resources, the study said, noting that same-sex couples were also disproportionately located in coastal areas and cities.

The research builds on previous limited data and comes as LGBTQ+ activists around the world urge authorities to include the community in discussions around environmental policies.

Around 3.6 billion people live in areas susceptible to climate change, according to the World Health Organization.

Here's what you need to know about the specific vulnerabilities of the LGBTQ+ community.

Why are LGBTQ+ people more at risk from climate change?

Multiple studies have shown that climate change exacerbates existing societal inequalities and disproportionately affects marginalised communities, although specific research into the impact on LGBTQ+ lives is limited.

Globally, LGBTQ+ people, who already face legal and societal discrimination in some countries, are at greater risk of being homeless or in poverty, which can make them particularly vulnerable during natural disasters.

In the United States, former discriminatory housing and loan policies pushed LGBTQ+ communities into more under-resourced areas, which lack the infrastructure to deal with high temperatures or flooding, the Williams Institute report said.

It's a pattern repeated elsewhere.

In Jamaica, LGBTQ+ people face significant discrimination in the housing sector, and homeless LGBTQ+ youths have been known to make their homes in gullies, a report by Equality for All Foundation (EFAF) found in 2021.

LGBTQ+ people have also faced barriers in accessing disaster relief. Activists in the Pacific island of Tonga, which is facing more frequent cyclones, told how emergency shelters are mostly run by religious organisations, whose members might be hostile towards sexual and gender minorities.

In Haiti, after the 2010 earthquake, gay and bisexual men tried to adopt “a more masculine demeanour” to avoid harassment in displacement camps and were turned away from emergency housing and food programmes, said a report by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and Foundation and SEROvie, an HIV NGO.

When Hurricane Katrina hit southeastern United States in 2005 - before marriage equality was introduced in all states in 2015 - there were reports of LGBTQ+ couples being separated and struggling to apply for aid as relief efforts did not recognise same-sex households as families.

In some countries, trans communities also struggle to access aid relief as they often don't have legal documentation, due to leaving home at a young age.

Where are LGBTQ+ people most affected?

Countries in the global south are already experiencing some of the worst effects of the extreme weather caused by climate change – and many don't have a positive record on LGBTQ+ rights.

Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Chad, and Nigeria, all of which criminalise same-sex activity, are among the worst-hit nations.

Small Island Developing States, including nations in the Caribbean and the Pacific, are at risk from rising seas and have also seen an increase in extreme weather, like hurricanes.

Several Caribbean islands, including Dominica, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis, have moved to decriminalise same-sex relations, but they are still criminalised in five nations.

Climate disasters have also put LGBTQ+ people at an increased risk of abuse in countries including Israel, the United States, Malaysia and New Zealand, where religious leaders have sometimes blamed the community for events like earthquakes and hurricanes.

How can communities be protected?

Activists and organisations have called for LGBTQ+ people to be included in the drafting of climate policy and asked for more research into the impacts of natural disasters and further training to reduce stigma and discrimination in aid operations.

They also want sexual orientation and gender identity to be explicitly protected against discrimination in disaster risk management frameworks, while legal protections – such as marriage equality laws – will help families feel protected in the event of disaster.

“LGBTQ+ people are almost entirely absent in climate change policies,” Jason Ball from GiveOut, a global LGBTQ+ rights organisation with a climate-specific initiative, told Context.



## **GMA**

### **DENR exec: 40 million Pinoys have no access to water supply**

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

Around 40 million Filipinos do not have access to formal water supply, an official from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Tuesday.

At a Palace press briefing, DENR Undersecretary Carlos Primo David said most of these individuals reside in Mindanao, especially in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

"The directive of the President this morning was very clear – 40 million of our residents 'no, of Filipinos do not have access to a formal water supply. They still access water from springs, from creeks, some even rainwater 'no – they rely on rainwater for drinking water purposes," David said.

"And while we have big projects in line for large cities such as Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Tarlac City and so on, we have to focus on the 40 million underserved population and there are a few strategies that we have in mind in order for us to provide water to these communities," he added.

David also said those who do not have water supply could be found in island and upland barangays.

"We have a priority list of 65 island barangays that we want to start with – 65," the DENR official said.

David explained that this could be addressed through a desalination system, which is the conversion of sea water to fresh water.

"Alam po ng lahat iyong desalination mahal po iyan na proseso at saka kailangan ay may volume para medyo maibsan iyong cost noong imprastraktura," David said.

(Desalination process is expensive and volume is needed to ease the infrastructure cost.)

"But over the years the technology has improved tremendously and now we have what are called the modular desalination systems – sinlaki lang siya ng container van at it can provide water to up to around 500 families in each and every desalination plant," he added.

David said they are looking for suppliers from Israel, Netherlands, Singapore as regards the desalination process.

During the sectoral meeting, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. reiterated the importance of the integrated water resource masterplan and managing water resources in the time of El Niño phenomenon.

Marcos further discussed the mitigation of floods during La Niña.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Cloud cluster in southern part of PAR may become weather disturbance

By: Adrian Parungao

A cloud cluster sighted in the southeastern portion of the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) may develop into a weather disturbance, the state weather bureau said on Wednesday.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the weather disturbance may enter the PAR early next week.

“Hindi natin tinatangal ang posibilidad na may mamuong weather disturbance or low pressure area sa nabanggit na lugar later in the week at hindi rin natin tinatangal ‘yong tiyansa ng weather disturbance na posibleng mamuo at pumasok sa Philippine area of responsibility early next week,” Pagasa weather specialist Daniel Villamil said in the bureau’s weather update.

(We are not removing the possibility that a weather disturbance may develop in the area mentioned later in the week and we are also not removing the chance of the weather disturbance to enter the Philippine area of responsibility early next week.)

Meanwhile, Villamil said that the country will experience hot and humid weather throughout the day brought by easterly winds, but some areas including Metro Manila may experience thunderstorms from afternoon to evening.

“Makakaranas pa rin tayo ng mga tsansa ng pulo-pulong pag-ulan, pagkidlat, at pagkulong na dulot ng thunderstorms pagsapit ng hapon hanggang sa gabi, dito sa Metro Manila at sa malaking bahagi pa ng ating bansa,” Villamil added.

(We will still be experiencing chances of isolated rains and thunderstorms from afternoon to evening, including Metro Manila and the large part of our country.)

Here are the forecast temperature ranges by the Pagasa in some locations in the country:

- Laoag – 27 to 34 degrees Celsius
- Tuguegarao – 26 to 37 degrees Celsius
- Baguio – 18 to 26 degrees Celsius
- Metro Manila – 26 to 35 degrees Celsius
- Tagaytay – 24 to 32 degrees Celsius

- Legazpi – 26 to 33 degrees Celsius
- Kalayaan Islands – 27 to 34 degrees Celsius
- Puerto Princesa – 26 to 34 degrees Celsius
- Iloilo – 27 to 33 degrees Celsius
- Cebu – 28 to 33 degrees Celsius
- Tacloban – 26 to 31 degrees Celsius
- Davao – 26 to 33 degrees Celsius
- Cagayan de Oro – 26 to 32 degrees Celsius
- Zamboanga – 25 to 34 degrees Celsius

## Pagasa: Dry season temperature may have already peaked

By: Luisa Cabato

The country may have already logged the highest actual temperature for 2024, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Tuesday.

The state weather bureau recorded a sizzling 40.3 °C in Tarlac last April 27, and according to Pagasa climate monitoring and prediction section chief Ana Liza Solis, this is the hottest temperature recorded so far for the year.

But the public must not be complacent, as there is still a 50 percent probability that the country will log a higher temperature until the end of the first two weeks of May.

“Hopefully ay na-attain na natin ang pinaka-hottest, pinaka-mainit na temperatura for these dry and warm season months,” said Solis in a Radyo 630 interview on Monday.

(Hopefully, we have already reached the hottest, most intense temperature for the dry season.)

“Hopefully ito na ‘yung pinakamainit o maximum daytime temperature ngayong taon na ito,” she added.

(Hopefully, this is already the hottest or maximum daytime temperature for this year.)

Solis also said that the heat index, or the temperature that the human body feels, remains a concern during this season.

When asked when La Niña would start, the Pagasa official said that it might be in June until August.

“Sa ngayon po ay nakikita natin around 60 percent ‘yung chances na posible po na magsimula ang La Niña na June, July, August season kasi mabagal po ‘yung pag-init o paglamig ng temperatura kaya ‘yung three-month average po ‘yung tinitignan natin,” said Solis.

(At the moment, we’re seeing around a 60 percent chance that La Niña may start by June, July, August, because the warming or cooling of temperature is slow, so we’re looking at the three-month average.)

Localized thunderstorms may also be experienced in the last two weeks of May, but Solis clarified that rains do not signify the start of La Niña as there is still a transitory period between El Niño and La Niña.

## SUNSTAR

### [Negros Occidental calls for exhibitors in renewable energy expo](#)

The Negros Occidental provincial government on Monday announced the opening of participation for exhibitors in the Renewable Energy Week Expo on May 20 to 22.

The activity is part of the 1st Renewable Energy Week of the province set on May 20 to 24 at the Ayala Malls Capitol Central Activity Center here, under the SecuRE Negros campaign and in observance of Executive Order 04-09 issued by Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson.

“Booths will be provided free of charge while exhibitors will shoulder the cost of their own exhibit materials and assigned personnel,” the provincial government said in its announcement.

Interested parties may send a letter addressed to former governor Rafael Coscolluela, the provincial consultant on energy and environment concerns, through [pceenegocc@gmail.com](mailto:pceenegocc@gmail.com) by May 10. Details will be discussed with participants on May 13.

The SecuRE Negros campaign is the province-led commitment to energy security through the support for distributed energy systems or distributed energy resource models and the use of renewable energy sources.

It is adopting the #RRAAASEON2030 for Reliable, Renewable, Available, Accessible, Affordable, and Sustainable Energy for Occidental Negros, with 2030 as the target deadline.

During the campaign launch last February, Lacson acknowledged that ensuring energy security for the province is “not an easy, short-term endeavor,” adding that “it requires careful study, strategic planning and implementation, and continuous consultation.”

“In this, we have been proactive, strategic, and consultative,” he said.

On May 3, the Provincial Stakeholders’ Consultative Power Summit convened representatives from the energy industry stakeholder groups to craft the Provincial Energy Development Roadmap to 2030.

A key recommendation from the sectoral consultation workshops was to create a collaborative task force composed of government agencies, industry stakeholders and

community representatives that will oversee the implementation of the roadmap and ensure a seamless transition to renewable energy sources while maintaining power security and reliability in the province.

Lacson, in his keynote address during the summit, reiterated the province's dedication to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

He also highlighted the role of renewable energy in enhancing power security, reducing carbon emissions, mitigating climate change impacts, and fostering economic growth and job creation in Negros Occidental.



## THE MANILA TIMES

### [UN calls for increased support for climate resilience in PH](#)

The global community stands in solidarity with the Philippine government as it grapples with a severe drought triggered by El Niño. Concluding her visit to the Philippines, Reena Ghelani, the Climate Crisis Coordinator for El Niño/La Niña Response at United Nations (UN), together with Gustavo Gonzalez, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines, emphasized the urgent need for enhanced assistance to bolster the government's efforts in addressing the profound impact of the El Niño-induced drought.

The current El Niño episode, one of the strongest in history, is causing dry conditions and high temperatures across Southeast Asia. In the Philippines, 41 provinces are experiencing drought and nearly 31 others are facing dry spells or dry conditions. More than 1.4 million people have been affected and the upcoming harvest will likely be below average. The government, with support from partners, has put in place a national Task Force, headed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, to prepare for and mitigate the worst impacts of the crisis on water, food security, health and energy.

The UN and humanitarian and development partners have been actively preparing for and responding to El Niño in the Philippines in support of the Government's El Niño relief efforts. In 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Oxfam Pilipinas activated their Anticipatory Action programs in the north, Isabela, and the south of the country, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to provide immediate support to affected communities before the effects of drought are most felt.

Early last year, the World Food Program (WFP) worked with the government and communities to build ponds and small reservoirs to ensure water sufficiency and food security in pre-identified areas affected by El Niño. Likewise, private sector's collective action is being monitored by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). The majority of the sector's support is aligned with food and water security.

"The Philippines demonstrates the importance of acting early before a disaster strikes. With more frequent and severe climate shocks, it is crucial we strengthen our support to community resilience," said Reena Ghelani.

One of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippines is highly exposed and vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Recent estimates showed that climate

change could cost the Philippines over 7-percent of GDP by 2030. Disasters have already cost \$23 billion in damages to the country since 1990.

"Building resilience to address shocks like El Niño/La Niña is at the heart of the new UN Cooperation Framework signed with the Government last year. The UN Country Team is presently recalibrating such technical assistance as part of the Enhancing Resilient Communities flagship initiative. The visit of the UN Coordinator is very timely as climate-related investments are needed more than ever," underscored Gustavo Gonzalez.

During her week-long mission to the Philippines, Ghelani met with the government's National Task Force on El Niño, the Humanitarian Country Team, the Philippine Red Cross and other partners. She interacted with communities affected by El Niño and women's groups engaged in strengthening community resilience. She also visited a climate-resilience housing project and spoke with local authorities and civil society organizations.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### MANILA STANDARD

#### [Future of e-vehicles in PH is bright](#)

By: Owen Cammayo

Those of us who grew up in the '80s—don't be shy, raise your hand, it was an awesome decade!—might remember a hit song back then whose lines went something like, 'I'm doin' all right, gettin' good grades, the future's so bright, I gotta wear shades!'. You can Spotify the song anytime, it's a pop relic amazingly well-preserved and still enjoyable.

And yet as this sunshine-y song pops in my head as I ponder the bright prospects of electric vehicles in the Philippines, it's also tinged with legitimate concern that only serves to confirm my belief in the inevitability of the widespread use of EVs in the not-too-far future: we are experiencing a heat wave right now and it's gotten far too dangerous.

In the past couple of weeks, The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) had issued warnings that the heat index in some places in the country could reach danger levels—that means the possibility of heat cramps, heat exhaustion and even heat stroke with prolonged exposure.

Many areas all over the country, including Metro Manila, have registered a searing 42°C. It feels like a switch in the planet's internal oven has been set to high. I wish I was exaggerating, but I'm not.

The heat we're experiencing has gotten to such an extreme that on-site classes in many LGUs have had to be suspended. It used to be that classes would be canceled because of heavy rain; now we cancel classes because of extreme heat.

That is just not right.

The cause of all this should be obvious enough: Climate change. If anyone still thinks of climate change as an abstraction (believe me, many denialists still do), then it shouldn't be now—the effects are much too palpable.

According to global experts, a major contributor to climate change is CO2 emissions. Our country's Climate Change Commission says that 36 percent of our greenhouse gas

emissions come from transport—fumes coming out of our vehicles currently using non-renewable fossil fuel.

The Philippines is committed to the Paris Agreement, a UN-led global pact to tackle climate change and its negative impacts. One of the goals of the Agreement: to substantially reduce global gas emissions to hold global temperature increase.

Therefore, as we face the possibility of more heat waves in the future—which, in fact, will almost always be followed by a season of torrential (we pray not catastrophic) rains, as is the nature of the El Niño/La Niña phenomena—it only makes sense for us to pursue efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. In the transportation industry, that means embracing technologies where the net effect is zero emissions.

Enter the electric vehicle or simply EV.

These days we now know the difference between EVs and another transportation technology designed for sustainability: The hybrid. Simply put, the hybrid is a vehicle that runs on both electric and conventional fuel combustion engine; the EV runs on pure electricity. As you may correctly conclude, the former will still have CO2 emissions; the latter has zero.

I say the prospects are bright for EVs in the Philippines because the market says we are ready for them. You can already see e-scooters and e-trikes steadily filling up our streets, their general utility already present in the public's consciousness.

But more than that, the car market has gotten in on the action as well. It's a big boost that the government has led the adoption of EVs in the country by exempting EVs from paying excise taxes and the number coding scheme. Now new car manufacturers are selling a whole range of models that are smarter, more sustainable, and I should say exciting, too. One manufacturer even offers a cute car named after a frozen treat, priced just a little over half a million pesos. I've seen quite a few in the streets, and it only shows that electric cars are now within the budget and aspirations of every Pinoy.

Of course, there are practical considerations to owning an electric car. Here's one: say, you live on the higher floors of a condo. How do you plug your car to charge its batteries if there are no provisions for electrical outlets in your parking space? You can't possibly dangle an extension cord down from the window of your 15th floor unit, can you?

I recently joined the SM Group and am delighted that we have been synergizing and integrating sustainability into the very core of our businesses. An example is how we are

providing customers charging stations in 50 participating SM malls nationwide (as of this writing).

Range anxiety and where to charge the EV are exactly the kind of problems that customer face and worry about. And because the malls are the go-to places of the Pinoy family, we thought of providing a convenient solution.

We've placed them strategically that even a trip, say, to Baguio and back is possible because you can make stops at SM malls along the way to charge. As a bonus, various dining and shopping options are at the customer's disposal while charging their EVs.

If and when I get my own EV, I'll drive up to one of these stations, plug in, pop some music and wear my shades—because we're all doing our part to make the future bright.

## PAGEONE

### [CCC Launches Ocean Month Drive For Marine Ecosystem Sustainability](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is launching the Month of the Ocean social media campaign “Dive Deep, Change the Tides” this May.

“Climate change greatly affects our oceans, leading to rising sea levels, coral reef degradation, and an increase in severe weather events. These changes have profound impacts, not just on our ecosystems and biodiversity, but also to our communities,” the CCC said in a news release on Monday.

In response to these challenges, the CCC is committed to promoting nature-based solutions, enhancing climate finance, and working towards resilience.

Anchored in this year’s ocean month theme “Develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy,” the campaign aims to inform, educate, and inspire action among Filipinos and the global community to address ocean-related issues and to cultivate a deep appreciation for the ocean’s role in climate action.

Using carousel posts, infographics, and reels, the campaign will highlight the ocean’s contributions to climate regulation, oxygen production, carbon sequestration, biodiversity support, food security, and weather patterns.

It will also address the challenges of pollution, acidification, habitat and biodiversity loss, and overfishing. Real-life accounts from fisherfolk will show the tangible impacts of these issues, along with actionable tips for adopting ocean-friendly habits to promote sustainability.

“Oceans are the lifeblood of our planet, and also our frontline against climate change. Our actions today will determine the health of our oceans tomorrow. We all have a role to play in ensuring their protection and sustainability,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

Throughout the month, the CCC will engage audiences across multiple platforms – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram– with a variety of informative content.

This campaign aligns with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, which focuses on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine

resources for sustainable development, as well as SDG 13, which urges to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Through Presidential Proclamation No. 57, s.1999, May is designated as Month of the Ocean, emphasizing the responsibility of the Philippine government and the Filipino people to promote sustainable ocean practices and raise public awareness about the importance of our oceans.

“Stay tuned to our social media accounts for the upcoming contents and to join the conversation about ocean preservation and climate action,” the CCC said.

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