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DAILY TRIBUNE

Climate leadership requires Phl-grounded strategy, says ex-solon

A former lawmaker has urged the Philippines to confront the climate crisis with practical strategies focused on national benefit and survival rather than moral rhetoric, speaking over the weekend at the National Summit on Climate and Disaster Emergency.

ECO BUSINESS

[Opinion] Global inequality is as urgent as climate change: the world needs a panel of experts to steer solutions
By: Joseph E. Stiglitz, Imraan Valodia

Given the escalating scale of inequality in the world, shouldn't countries be banding together to set up an international panel on the issue, along the same lines as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body set up to assess the science related to climate change?

THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

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CCC, PCW team up to boost climate action for women

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) have formalized a joint work plan to strengthen gender-responsive and inclusive climate action, placing gender balance at the center of climate governance.

MANILA BULLETIN

Filipino children to endure 5 annual heatwaves by 2050 increasing heatstroke possibility—study
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Almost all children in the Philippines will experience around five annual heatwaves by 2050, increasing the possibility of heatstroke, dehydration, and preterm births, a study showed.

MANILA STANDARD

CCC: Circular economy pivotal in reinforcing climate resilience

Circular economy solutions play a critical role in strengthening climate resilience, ensuring business continuity and supporting sustainable economic growth.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PH among world's most water-stressed countries due to climate change
By: Gillian Villanueva

Natural disasters in the Philippines, such as typhoons, floods, and landslides, whose frequency and intensity are exacerbated by climate change, can disrupt access to water services and cause damage to sanitation infrastructure.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CCC seals new partnerships to strengthen climate action
By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has expanded its national climate network in a bid to further strengthen climate action, through a new set of multi-sectoral partnerships that place Indigenous Peoples, children, farmers, and youth at the center of the country's climate resilience efforts.

DENR, UNICEF study warns vs. growing climate risks to Filipino kids
By: Marita Moaje

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and UNICEF Philippines urged stronger child-focused climate action as a new climate landscape analysis showed that Filipino children are among the most climate-vulnerable in the world.

New CCC task force to help safeguard environment, enforce climate laws
By: Marita Moaje

The newly established Climate Change Task Force under the Climate Change Commission (CCC), led by retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Gerardo Zamudio, is tasked with strengthening environmental protection, enforcing climate policies, and enhancing community resilience across the Philippines.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

DAILY TRIBUNE

Climate leadership requires Phl-grounded strategy, says ex-solon

A former lawmaker has urged the Philippines to confront the climate crisis with practical strategies focused on national benefit and survival rather than moral rhetoric, speaking over the weekend at the National Summit on Climate and Disaster Emergency.

Former Albay Congressman Joey Salceda, who chairs the Institute for Risk and Strategic Studies Inc., argued that because the Philippines' volume of emissions is negligible, its climate action must prioritize measures that directly benefit Filipino families.

The country, which is highly vulnerable to climate change, "must act not out of illusion but out of necessity, strategy and survival," Salceda said.

"Moral arguments alone will not move the world's largest emitters, and costly self-funded mitigation efforts should not burden Filipino families unless they bring about concrete gains or are backed by climate finance," he added.

Salceda, who previously served as the first Asian co-chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund, explained that global emissions are ultimately determined by the domestic policies of a few major economies.

He suggested that instead of focusing on symbolic gestures, the Philippines should become a leader in areas where it can make a real global contribution.

He identified five strategic fields for the country to build world-class capability: typhoon engineering and resilient infrastructure, island energy systems and micro-grids, the blue economy and coastal resilience, disaster response technology and early warning systems, and climate smart food systems for the tropics.

ECO BUSINESS

[Opinion] Global inequality is as urgent as climate change: the world needs a panel of experts to steer solutions

By: Joseph E. Stiglitz, Imraan Valodia

Given the escalating scale of inequality in the world, shouldn't countries be banding together to set up an international panel on the issue, along the same lines as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body set up to assess the science related to climate change?

The idea of setting up an international panel on inequality has been recommended by the G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality.

The thinking behind the panel is set out in a report delivered to the G20 by the experts on the inequality committee. They argue that the proposed inequality panel would "support governments and multilateral agencies with authoritative assessments and analyses of inequality". It wouldn't make any recommendations for countries. Rather it would offer a menu of policies that could be used to address inequality. Panel leader and Nobel laureaute Joseph E. Stiglitz explains what's behind the idea.

What are the report's main findings on inequality?

Our report looked at the research on the state of inequality – and the conclusion should alarm us all. Wealth inequality is far worse than income inequality and has intensified in most countries over the last 40 years.

The global increase in income and wealth at the upper end of the scale is particularly worrying. The very richest people are amassing fortunes while ordinary people's lives stagnate. For every dollar of wealth created since the year 2000, 41 cents have gone to the richest 1% of people, while just one cent has gone to the bottom 50%.

This wealth brings huge influence over economies and politics, threatening economic performance and the very foundations of democracy.

What does the report recommend the G20 countries do to deal with inequality?

Inequality is a choice. There are policies that can reduce it. These include more progressive taxation, debt relief, rewriting global trade rules and curbing monopolies.

Our committee found that there has been significant progress in tracking inequality's scale, drivers and policy solutions. Nevertheless, policymakers still lack sufficient, dependable or accessible information on inequality.

There is a great institutional need for strong inequality analysis.

In 1988, governments set up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to assess the data and provide rigorous analyses to help governments tackle the climate emergency. Today, we are in an inequality emergency and need a similar global effort.

That is why our primary recommendation is to establish an International Panel on Inequality.

Drawing from the report, what do you recommend South Africa should do to reduce inequality?
South Africa has shown extraordinary leadership in focusing its G20 presidency on solidarity, equality and sustainability. This report is testament to that. We hope that South Africa will continue to champion our recommendations, particularly the establishment of an International Panel on Inequality.

Our committee chose not to comment on specific policies in specific countries. But our report contains a menu of policies which can tackle inequality. These include national measures like stronger competition laws, pro-worker regulation, investing in public services, and more progressive tax and expenditure policies.

Joseph E. Stiglitz is Professor, Columbia Business School, Columbia University. Imraan Valodia is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Climate, Sustainability and Inequality and Director, Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand

THE MANILA TIMES

Salceda says climate leadership requires strategy grounded on PH interests

Former Albay lawmaker Joey Salceda, chair of the Institute for Risk and Strategic Studies Inc., urged Filipinos and the country's leaders to confront the climate crisis with viable strategies rather than rhetorics.

The country "must act not out of illusion but out of necessity, strategy and survival," Salceda said.

Speaking at the National Summit on Climate and Disaster Emergency in the Philippines here over the weekend, Salceda said that while the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, its volume of emissions is too negligible to alter global outcomes.

Therefore, he said, climate action must be guided by what directly benefits Filipino families.

"Our strategies must prioritize what benefits Filipinos directly," he said.

"Moral arguments alone will not move the world's largest emitters and that costly self-funded mitigation should not fall on Filipino households unless such measures produce concrete gains or are supported by climate finance," he added.

He said moral appeals alone will not change the world's biggest emitters, and costly self-funded mitigation efforts should not burden Filipino families unless they bring about concrete gains or are backed by climate finance."

Salceda, who once served as the first Asian co-chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund, explained that global emissions are determined by the domestic policies of a few major economies.

"This is not to say that moral appeals hold no leverage value. They do in very well-defined cases, but as a fixed strategy, it does not produce lasting results," he said.

"Instead of symbolic gestures, the Philippines should take the lead in areas where it can make a real global contribution," he added.

Salceda identified five strategic fields where the Philippines can build world class capability: Typhoon engineering and resilient infrastructure, island energy systems and micro-grids, the blue economy and coastal resilience, disaster response technology and early warning systems, and climate smart food systems for the tropics.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Opinion] CCC Week 2025: From climate consciousness to action for a resilient Philippines

By: Secretary Robert EA Borje

The Philippines is on the front lines of a changing climate — a condition that disrupts our ecosystems, communities, and daily lives. Recent global assessments consistently rank our nation among the most at risk to extreme weather events. This is not a distant projection but a situation we experience year after year.

But these hazards, while real and escalating, do not determine our fate; they simply underscore that nothing is inevitable. The outcome can change, because we can act. We will not be victims of circumstance but victors who prepare, adapt, and shape our own future.

Yet the reality remains: tropical storms and typhoons regularly sweep through our country, inflicting long-lasting devastation. The usual 20 tropical cyclones that hit our islands annually place us in a fragile position. Yet this year, 22 have already struck, with five more weeks of 2025 still remaining.

Many cyclones bring floods and landslides that leave families having to rebuild their homes, farmers to cope with lost harvests, and neighborhoods to restore community life. When recovery takes longer than the interval between disasters, resilience becomes harder to sustain. But resilience should not be about how often we rebuild — it should be about how rarely we are destroyed. True resilience moves us from reaction to lasting reform, from temporary fixes to proactive, unified action.

Climate science is clear: a warming planet intensifies storms, worsens flooding, and heightens threats to lives and livelihoods. In this context, inaction is no longer neutral or an option; delay carries consequences, a cost too high to bear. Our response must rise to the scale and magnitude of the crisis.

This urgency gives deeper meaning to the annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, observed last 19 to 25 November. Now in its 18th year, the CCC Week — themed “Makabagong Kilusan para sa Klima at Kinabukasan” — provides a crucial opportunity for leaders, institutions, and communities to strengthen their commitments to climate action.

The CCC Week initiatives underscore a simple truth: confronting the climate crisis demands a whole-of-society approach. This momentum is no longer abstract; it is strengthened by the growing partnerships, shared commitments, and collective action emerging across all sectors, a clear proof that climate action is now a responsibility we carry together.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has highlighted the importance of this observance as a vehicle for building a climate-resilient and environmentally sound nation. “This event provides a vital platform for policymakers, scientists, private institutions, and communities to realign our national goals with global climate commitments and the broader agenda of sustainable development.”

However, climate action cannot be confined to a single week. It must be continuous, persistent, and collective. The Climate Change Commission and partner institutions have either pursued or supported efforts to integrate cleaner technologies, promote ecosystem-based adaptation, and expand collaboration among government, private organizations, and communities. These initiatives reflect a growing recognition that climate action demands participation across all sectors of society.

Still, the true measure of climate resilience lies in its impact on ordinary lives. Whether seen in farmers protecting their livelihoods, coastal families adapting to sea level rise, or youth groups restoring degraded watersheds, climate action is grounded in people and communities. Their stories remind us that resilience is lived, earned, and strengthened through dedication, cooperation, and preparedness.

To translate these efforts into lasting impact, the country must turn climate commitments into clear policies, sustained investments and strong local implementation. National strategies and policy frameworks — such as the National Adaptation Plan and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan — fulfill their true purpose when they translate into tangible support, protection, and empowerment for those most affected.

When such frameworks are backed by real investments, community-level support, capacity-building, and inclusive governance, they become lifelines for vulnerable populations that need the resources and information to face climate threats head-on.

This approach also requires a culture of collaboration with government, businesses, academic and research institutions, civil society and communities working side by side to ensure that climate solutions are inclusive, transparent, and rooted in genuine partnership.

As 2025 ends, the Philippines stands at a critical juncture. In the months and years ahead, storms will further test us, floods and landslides will continue to challenge us, but the direction we choose today determines the future that our children will inherit. Climate consciousness must rise to climate courage, awareness must turn into action, and policy must lead to implementation.

With science to guide us, policy as our anchor, and unity as our strength, the Philippines can stand firm in a warming world. The choice is clear: Face the future with fear, or shape it with resolve. We choose resolve.

DAILY GUARDIAN

CCC, PCW team up to boost climate action for women

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) have formalized a joint work plan to strengthen gender-responsive and inclusive climate action, placing gender balance at the center of climate governance.

The agreement was signed as part of the 18th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, underscoring both agencies' commitment to advancing climate resilience by ensuring women's leadership, perspectives, and capabilities shape national and local climate efforts.

Both the CCC and PCW emphasized the urgent need to close gender gaps in climate planning, implementation, and monitoring. They said inclusive and gender-balanced approaches are essential to enabling women to fully participate in decision-making processes and equitably benefit from climate programs.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje underscored the critical role of women in shaping effective climate policies and building resilient communities.

"Today, we recognize that truth—not by placing women on the margins of our frameworks, but by putting them at the center of our climate actions, policies, and investments," Borje said.

The joint work plan aims to strengthen institutional commitment to gender-responsive initiatives, improve climate policy and governance systems, and integrate gender-based tools across all climate programs.

Among the key deliverables are nationwide consultations with strong women's representation for the Gender Action Plan under the National Adaptation Plan and the Nationally Determined Contribution; the application of a gender lens in all climate initiatives from design to delivery; and institutionalizing the use of gender-responsive standards and tools across sectors.

Borje said the program's impact will be reflected in everyday improvements in Filipinos' lives.

"The true measure of this joint programme will be felt in the everyday lives of Filipinos—in safer communities, strengthened livelihoods, and more women empowered to shape climate action at the center of decision-making," he said.

PCW Chairperson Ermelita V. Valdeavilla, represented by Executive Director Nharleen Santos-Millar, echoed the importance of collaboration in achieving systemic impact.

“This partnership allows us to combine efforts, raise awareness, and inspire action more effectively than we could alone. Like twins, it reminds us that we are stronger and more effective when we move together toward a common goal,” Santos-Millar said.

Also present at the signing were CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera and PCW Deputy Executive Director for Management Services Macario Jusayan.

The CCC continues to work with national agencies and partners to promote inclusive, gender-responsive, and people-centered climate action that enhances resilience across all sectors.

MANILA BULLETIN

Filipino children to endure 5 annual heatwaves by 2050 increasing heatstroke possibility—study

By: Jel Santos

Almost all children in the Philippines will experience around five annual heatwaves by 2050, increasing the possibility of heatstroke, dehydration, and preterm births, a study showed.

In a joint study conducted by UNICEF Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), it was found that 99 percent of children in the country will experience at least five heat waves every year by 2050.

“By 2050, nearly all children in the Philippines will face at least five heat waves annually. Rainfall will become more erratic and intense,” UNICEF Philippines Representative Kyungsun Kim said in her speech during the launch of the Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) study in Quezon City on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

“Super typhoons, like the one that devastated families across the country two weeks ago, will become more frequent,” she went on.

The study also found that 80 percent of the Philippines’ water supply may be at risk by 2040.
“Typhoons and other disasters damage water infrastructure, raising risks of disease outbreaks,” UNICEF stated.

Due to climate hazards, it was also discovered that students lost 32 school days, or 18 percent, during the 2023 to 2024 school year.

Per the CLAC study, climate change increases risks of violence, exploitation, poverty, and overburdened social support systems.

It also identified areas in the Philippines that experience “frequent climate hazards and have weak infrastructure.”

These are Palawan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Quezon, Maguindanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, Sulu, and the Special Geographic Areas of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

What to scale up?

According to Kim, the Philippines must strengthen its investments in adaptation and in the response to loss and damage.

“And we have seen more children casualties in the recent typhoons. We must scale up investments in adaptation and in the response to loss and damage, particularly in the basic services children rely on to survive and thrive, namely health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and protection,” she said.

Meanwhile, she acknowledged that the Philippines is a “global leader on climate change.”

“The Philippines has strong national adaptation plan that prioritizes many social services for children, such as the ones that we listed, health, water resources, livelihood and social protection systems, and protection for those displaced or forced to migrate,” said Kim.

“Yet today, we see that a very small proportion of overseas development assistance and national government budget is dedicated, or better said, implemented, to adaptive measures in these sectors.”

For his part, Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje noted that the Philippines experiences at least 20 tropical cyclones annually.

“Of those 9.7 million child displacements, 8.3 million, approximately 85 percent were caused by storms and typhoons. And the science tells us this will not abate,” he said.

In the next 30 years, Borje said 2.5 million Filipino children will remain at risk of displacement from storm surges alone.

MANILA STANDARD

CCC: Circular economy pivotal in reinforcing climate resilience

Circular economy solutions play a critical role in strengthening climate resilience, ensuring business continuity and supporting sustainable economic growth.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje said building resilience requires moving away from "business as usual" and adopting a systemic approach that minimizes waste and loss and protects value across supply chains.
"We cannot do business as usual. Resilience is not how fast we rebuild, but how less we need to. That is where the circular economy matters," he said.

"It is not only a sustainability ideal; it is a cradle-to-cradle design choice that keeps value in use and risk in check," Borje said, stressing circularity as a practical and scalable strategy for resilience and competitiveness.

The CCC chief drove home the point during a recent forum on climate resilience and sustainable growth at Fairmont Makati hotel.

Borje said circularity must be driven by policy, partnerships and innovation.

He cited government frameworks that guide this transition, such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan—all aimed at aligning design with data and ambition with execution.

Borje said "our role at the Climate Change Commission is to help sustain that coherence: align science with policy, policy with implementation, and implementation with transparent reporting."

He added that credible data and consistent rules help lower risk and enable long-term investments.

Key leaders from government, the private sector, development partners, and civil society participated in the forum to advance discussions on policies, partnerships and innovations that support the country's transition toward a circular and climate-resilient economy.

The event was organized by the Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (SwissCham Philippines) during its Annual General Membership Meeting.CCC News

The CCC reaffirmed its commitment to work with industries, development partners and local governments to scale circular economy models that reduce emissions, strengthen balance sheets and jobs, and build climate-resilient communities.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PH among world's most water-stressed countries due to climate change

By: Gillian Villanueva

Natural disasters in the Philippines, such as typhoons, floods, and landslides, whose frequency and intensity are exacerbated by climate change, can disrupt access to water services and cause damage to sanitation infrastructure.

If unaddressed, a new report by Unicef Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) warns that 40 to 80 percent of the country's water supply could be depleted by 2040 due to climate-related impacts.

Launched on Tuesday, the "Climate Landscape Analysis for Children in the Philippines" report highlights how climate change threatens one of the most vulnerable sectors of the population — children.

It pointed out that extreme weather events, often experienced by the Philippines as one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, can disrupt classes, worsen malnutrition, contaminate water supply, and expose children to exploitation and displacement.

"Climate change is actively exacerbating health risks, creating a triple burden of disease, malnutrition, and heat stress," said Robert Borje, vice chair and executive director of the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Speaking during the launch of the study, Borje noted that "water insecurity remains a critical vulnerability" in the Philippines, with only 48 percent of the population having access to safely managed potable water.

"As global temperatures rise, this scarcity is expected to intensify," he said.

According to the report, most schools in the country lack access to water and sanitation infrastructure such as toilets and handwashing facilities, with 19 percent of students drinking from unimproved water sources or having no access to water at all.

Communities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), as well as in rural, indigenous and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas or GIDA are most vulnerable to this lack of clean water and sanitation infrastructure, the study said.

It noted that 17.8 percent of households in BARMM still practice open defecation, while another 20 percent rely on unimproved sanitation facilities.

Provinces such as Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi in particular face the “most severe water stress” given how these areas rely on rainfall and diesel-transported water imports because of its geographic location.

Moreover, areas in the Visayas, such as Cebu, Bohol and Panay Island, as well as Luzon, are also experiencing growing competition for water due to urbanization.

The lack of clean water and sanitation infrastructure also make children more prone to illnesses. On top of this, weather disturbances such as typhoons lead to outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, and malaria.

To improve the country’s water and sanitation sector, Unicef said the government should prioritize the pending act creating a Department of Water or expand the regulatory functions of the Water Resources Management Office under the DENR.

It also called for the development of a capacity support program for local government units (LGUs) and incentives for the clustering of utilities in water-stressed areas, noting that LGUs need support in building technical capacity to address the impacts of climate change.

“Our response must be anchored in intergenerational justice, for it is the moral responsibility of our generation to ensure a healthy and sustainable planet for future generations,” said Borje, adding that the CCC “is committed to advance national climate policy that protects and empowers our children and the youth.”

At the same time, he urged the youth and other stakeholders to “hold us accountable and to lead in your communities” when it comes to translating national plans into localized actions against climate change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CCC seals new partnerships to strengthen climate action
By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has expanded its national climate network in a bid to further strengthen climate action, through a new set of multi-sectoral partnerships that place Indigenous Peoples, children, farmers, and youth at the center of the country's climate resilience efforts.

At the signing ceremony in Manila on Tuesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje cited the importance of sealing partnerships as it reflects the shared vision to resolve climate crisis, which he described as "the greatest challenge of our time".

"The science is clear, and the evidence is all around us. Increasingly severe tropical cyclones, prolonged droughts, and rising sea levels, these are no longer distant threats. They are our present reality, affecting lives, livelihoods, and our very future," he said.

"In this critical decade, action cannot be delayed, and it cannot be shouldered by any one single institution. This is the powerful truth that brings us all together. Climate change demands a whole-of-society response," he added.

Among those who formalized the agreement with the CCC were the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on the full inclusion and empowerment of IP communities in climate action, the Save the Children Philippines for child-centered climate resilience and policy support, the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and -Controlled Organizations to help strengthen climate compliance and alignment of state corporations with national climate goals.

Agreements were also signed with the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños for climate research, education, and global resilience-building; the Philippine Information Agency for joint communication and public climate advocacy; volunteer organization Planoteerism for local climate action planning and capacity development; the Nueva Vizcaya State University for collaborative and inclusive research capacity building; the First Gen Corporation for global resilience initiatives support; and the United Nations-World Food Programme (UN-WFP) Philippines for strengthened disaster risk management, research, and technical cooperation.

Borje said the new partnerships are intended to "translate commitments into measurable results" and help build safer, more climate-resilient communities across the country.

He reiterated that long-term climate resilience hinges on broad cooperation across sectors and communities.

“Let the agreements we sign today be the starting point for deeper, more impactful collaboration. Let us translate this commitment into measurable results, stronger global climate action, smarter investments, and safer, more climate-resilient communities,” the CCC chief said.

DENR, UNICEF study warns vs. growing climate risks to Filipino kids

By: Marita Moaje

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and UNICEF Philippines urged stronger child-focused climate action as a new climate landscape analysis showed that Filipino children are among the most climate-vulnerable in the world.

During Tuesday's launch of the Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) in the Philippines in Quezon City, UNICEF highlighted that Filipino children face mounting threats to their health, nutrition, education, water, and safety.

“The CLAC is interesting in the sense that it identified the climate-related shocks and disaggregated that by the different regions in the Philippines, but also the vulnerabilities of children and overlaid those,” said Behzad Noubary, UNICEF Philippines Deputy Representative.

“You see exactly what is the climate risk to children there. I think this is the first time that we have that in the Philippines disaggregated by region, of solutions, and from our side, what we see is a need to invest in climate-smart social services,” he added.

In her speech, DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh said the report underscores how damaged ecosystems and worsening climate hazards directly endanger children’s well-being.

She emphasized the urgent need to integrate children’s rights into climate policies, specifically, into the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

She said the CLAC consolidates evidence on recent vulnerabilities faced by children, and highlights opportunities to strengthen climate-sensitive approaches within environmental management and climate adaptation, both at the national level and in local communities.

“The report can equip the policymakers, local governments, and development partners with the information they need to ensure that children's rights and needs are fully integrated into climate action by providing evidence-based insights,” she said.

Meanwhile, Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert EA Borje emphasized the importance of balancing mitigation and adaptation efforts, especially for developing countries like the Philippines.

He added the need for more climate finance to reach social sectors at the local level.

The CLAC shows that 31.4 percent of children live in multidimensional poverty, making them more exposed to the impacts of extreme weather, food insecurity, malnutrition, unsafe water, and disrupted schooling.

“By 2050, nearly all children will experience at least five annual heatwaves, raising the likelihood of heatstroke, dehydration, and preterm births. More typhoons and shifting rainfall will also increase outbreaks of diseases, such as dengue and malaria. Up to 98 per cent of agricultural losses from climate shocks have cut food supplies, leading families to rely on unhealthy, processed foods and increasing both hunger and malnutrition,” UNICEF Representative to the Philippines, Kyungsun Kim, said as she presented the report.

The DENR and the CCC are using these findings to localize the NAP and help local government units strengthen resilience planning and access climate finance.

Borje noted that only 2.4 percent of climate spending currently supports child-responsive projects, which, he said, must be urgently addressed.

Kim called the climate crisis “a child rights crisis,” urging greater investments in climate-resilient health, education, nutrition, and protection services.

She also stressed the need for better data, stronger inter-agency collaboration, and meaningful participation of children and youth in climate decisions.

New CCC task force to help safeguard environment, enforce climate laws

By: Marita Moaje

The newly established Climate Change Task Force under the Climate Change Commission (CCC), led by retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Gerardo Zamudio, is tasked with strengthening environmental protection, enforcing climate policies, and enhancing community resilience across the Philippines.

In an interview with Zamudio on Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon on state-run PTV4 Monday, he explained that the task force's primary mission is to safeguard natural resources, maintain ecological balance, reduce pollution and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

"The task force's number one purpose actually is to help safeguard environmental stability, meaning the protection and maintenance of natural systems, including water, land, and climate," Zamudio, the task force commandant, said in Filipino.

"There are many components to this, including the protection of natural resources, the maintenance of ecological balance, the reduction of pollution, the mitigation of climate change, the prevention of environmental degradation, and many others."

Zamudio also highlighted the task force's mandate to support community climate resilience, reduce vulnerability — as evidenced by the recent Typhoon Uwan — and strengthen policy enforcement to mitigate the impacts of both human-induced and natural climate disruptions.

He cited the casualties in Cebu and other provinces during recent super typhoons as examples of climate change effects.

Primarily composed of volunteers, the task force will coordinate with government agencies to enforce key environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Solid Waste Management Act, Climate Change Act and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

Volunteers, organized from national to provincial levels, will undergo training to gain knowledge of these laws.

Zamudio emphasized a whole-of-nation approach, engaging local governments, indigenous communities, civic organizations, and youth programs such as the National Service Training Program, Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Civic Welfare Training Service and Literacy Training Service. The task force aims to establish an organized network of volunteers to support the implementation of government laws and programs.

The task force, he added, also aims to leverage technology, reporting platforms and innovative solutions to enhance climate monitoring, early warning systems and adaptation strategies nationwide.

He urged the public to actively join the Climate Change Task Force, stressing that collective participation is essential to ensure climate policies and infrastructure projects effectively protect vulnerable communities.

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