

FILIPINOS CAN'T BEAR THE INTENSIFYING EL NIÑO.

A CLIMATE EMERGENCY SHOULD BE A NATIONAL AGENDA NOW!

FILIPINOS are no stranger to hot weather. However, extreme heat index levels brought about by the ongoing El Niño have forced many to stay home. Those who commute or work outside have to endure the scorching sun, risking heat stroke and other health complications.

Since April, many areas in the Philippines have consistently recorded dangerous heat index levels, with some regions going as high as 52C—well beyond the 41C danger zone declared by PAG-ASA.

El Niño began in February 2024. Since then, the oppressive heat has had far-reaching consequences not only on health, but also on the environment and livelihood. Studies predicted that the global economy would lose around three trillion dollars, and that the Philippines would be one of the countries at the biggest risk.

As early as July 2023, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) issued the El Niño advisory. The Marcos administration had ample time to prepare.

As of this writing, drought has affected at least 31 provinces. Lack of rain combined with extreme heat damaged over 26,731 hectares of crops and affected around 30,000 farmers and fisherfolk, resulting in more than P1.2 billion worth of losses in the agricultural sector.

Both the livelihood of these farmers and the

nation's food supply are at stake. As heat levels rise, food prices will also go up as supply fails to meet demand.

Parts of Visayas and Mindanao also suffered from water shortage. Wells used by communities for their daily water supply are drying up. In Luzon, water service providers have be-

gun operating deep wells to increase water reserves, but these will not hold out long if the drought persists.

Due to the food and water crisis, 17 provinces (and counting) have declared a state of calamity. Despite this, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has yet to declare a state of calamity on the national level, and

has insisted that the problems be addressed locally.

Climate action groups and civil society organizations will mobilize this coming Earth Day to sound the alarm on El Niño. El Niño is a natural phenomenon, but we cannot deny that human-caused climate change has worsened its effects to the point

that we are incurring huge losses we cannot recover from.

We call on the national government to declare a national climate emergency. The Philippines is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and this is proven by the widespread devastation brought by the El Niño. A repeat of the 2016 Mindanao drought fiasco is unacceptable.

We urge the national government to acknowledge the grave impacts of El Niño and, through a climate declaration, prioritize the creation of a national survival plan that will address future impacts. The current approach of disaster response and mitigation planning is insufficient and outdated.

Now more than ever, we need to expedite the just and managed phase out of fossil fuels. This must go hand-in-hand with the just, rapid development of renewable energy.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has insistently emphasized the peak of fossil fuel use by 2025. Fossil fuels will only worsen climate change, resulting in even more devastating consequences on our environment, health, and economy.

We need long-term solutions to combat the effects of El Niño and climate change and this can be achieved if the government places climate change front and center in its governance. (PMCJ Communications)





TINGNAN: Sa isinagawang pagbabasbas ni Rev. Father Buhay Villaluna, pinangunahan ni Governor Bonz Dolor katuwang si Gloria Acting Mayor, Romeo Edward “Rambo” Alvarez ang ribbon cutting ng Parents, Teachers Association (PTA) Multi-purpose building ng Gloria Central School sa Barangay Maligaya, Gloria noong, Abril 20.

Ang proyektong ito ay ang katuparan ng pang-arap ng naturang paaralan na magkaroon ng maayos na pasilidad na magsisilbing venue ng mga pagpupulong at iba’t ibang gawain ng PTA, pahayag ni Public District Supervisor Lucena

Manalo. Malaki rin aniya, ang kanyang paniniwala na sa tulong ng proyektong ito, magkakaroon ng mas maigting na ugnayan ang mga magulang at mga guro sa pagsusulong ng mga programang mag-aangat sa kapakanan ng kanilang mga mag-aaral.

Masaya namang ibinalita ng Punong Lalawigan Gob. Bonz Dolor na magkakaroon din ito ng bleachers. Nakahanda aniya, ang kanyang tanggapan na maglaan muli ng panibagong pondo para sa pagpapagawa nito na siya namang ikinatuwa at ipinagpasalamat ni Gloria Central School Principal,

John J. Malacas.

Sa kanyang pananalita, binigyang diin ni Gov. Bonz ang kahalagahan ng isang pamilya sa paghubog ng kanilang mga anak tungo sa pagtamasa ng kaunlaran sa hinaharap na akma naman sa isinasagawa ring pagdiriwang ng Family Day ng naturang paaralan.

Naging bahagi rin ng naturang gawain ang mga dumalong sangguniang bayan ng Gloria, mga kagawad ng Barangay Maligaya, mga guro at magulang ng mga mag-aaral ng GCS. (PIO Oriental Mindro)

GROUPS HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS AMID INTENSE EL NIÑO TO URGE MARCOS TO DECLARE A NATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES — Groups marched to Mendiola despite the scorching sun to urge the Marcos administration to declare a national climate emergency in response to the worsening impacts of El Niño and climate change in the country.

The rally was led by the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ). Organizations in the contingent included the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Sanlakas, Oriang, SPARK, and members of the agricultural sector.

Erwin Puhawan, Luzon Coordinator of PMCJ, called out the national government for its inaction despite losses reported across the country. “Nearly 100 municipalities have declared a state of calamity because of the El Niño, but the Marcos administration has not yet acknowledged this emergency on a national level. We need that declaration to be the basis of our disaster re-

sponse.”

“We don’t need to wait to lose more crops and for more people to starve before we act,” he added.

Groups in areas suffering from the effects of El Niño and climate change also held demonstrations today. Zambales Lingap sa Kalikasan (ZALIKA) led the fluvial action in Zambales, where water quality and crop yields are greatly compromised by mining, on top of extreme weather events.

Losses have affected the farmers and fisherfolk in the area, as it has in other parts of the country.

In Atimonan, Quezon, youth from the Kabataan para sa Kalikasan ng Atimonan (KAPAKANAN) distributed pamphlets and organized a rally raising awareness on climate change and the threat of fossil fuels. The youth have taken it upon themselves to protest the construction of a liquefied natural gas power plant in their municipality, as it will adversely affect the health of the community around

the power plant while exacerbating climate change.

In the Bicol region, the provincial government units of Albay and Camarines Norte are also mobilizing towards 100% renewable energy. These efforts began as Albay declared climate emergency on the provincial level, while Camarines Norte declared it on the municipal (Labo) and barangay level (Cabusay).

“We are already in a climate emergency. This declaration is overdue even before we were struck by this El Niño,” said Ian Rivera, national coordinator of PMCJ. “Our national government needs to devise a comprehensive national disaster response, alongside a transition plan to 100% renewable energy. As a country vulnerable to climate change, we cannot afford to make it worse.”

The groups expect an official declaration from the Marcos administration as El Niño and its impacts continue to intensify this month.

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“WE’VE HAD ENOUGH!” HONTIVEROS CALLS ON DOE TO DELIVER LASTING SOLUTIONS AMID POWER WOES

SENATOR Risa Hontiveros is calling on the DOE to deliver a lasting solution to the recurring alert levels in the Luzon grid. The statement comes as the electricity demand heightened this summer season, forcing the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) to issue red and yellow alerts status when demand exceeded available supply.

“We’ve had enough. Paulit-ulit ang pagkukulang ng NGCP. Ang kuryente, pampagaan yan ng buhay, hindi pampabigat. Kailangan na natin ng isang totoo at sustainable na solusyon sa harap ng sabay-sabay na outages ng mahigit 20 planta,” the senator said.

The NGCP said a total of 2,325.8 megawatts (MW) of electricity is unavailable to the grid as of Saturday as 22 power plants are on forced outage while

another is operating on degraded capacity. The alerts are often attributed to malfunctioning power plants and dwindling reserves.

However, the senator demanded a better explanation from DOE as consumers continue to endure rotational brownouts and higher power bills, the same as the summers before.

“Paanong naging sabay-sabay yung mga outages ng mahigit 20 planta? At sasabihin lahat ng yun ay unplanned outages? Kung hindi nila yan maipaliwanag, hindi na rin nakakapagtaka na paikot-ikot at paulit-ulit ang problemang ito,” Hontiveros said.

The senator also urged the DOE to refrain from continuously shifting the burden of adjustment onto the public’s shoulders.

“Nakakainit ng ulo.

Sa halip na konsyumer ang sabihan ni Sec. Lotilla na magbawas ng konsumo kung kailan natin mas kailangan ng kuryente, mga energy officials muna ang maglabas ng matalinong plano. It’s time for action, not just empty promises,” Hontiveros said.

Hontiveros then reiterated the urgent need for proactive measures and intelligent planning from the DOE to address the persistent electricity challenges faced by the public.

“Tama na. It’s about time energy officials stopped dragging their feet. We deserve better than their endless excuses and half-baked explanations, and it’s time to hear innovative solutions to tackle these relentless power outages,” Hontiveros concluded. (PM CJ Communications)



Picture taken from Senator Risa Hontiveros Facebook page

GROUPS URGE MARCOS ADMINISTRATION TO DECLARE A NATIONAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY AMID INTENSIFYING EL NIÑO

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES — Multisectoral groups gathered on Earth Day to urge the Marcos administration to declare a national climate emergency in response to the worsening impacts of El Niño and climate change in the country. The press conference was held at Max’s in Scout Tuazon, Diliman, Quezon

City.

The organizations present were the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ), Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Sanlakas, Oriang, SPARK, Zambales Lingap sa Kalikasan (ZALIKA), and representatives from

farmers, fisherfolk, and other affected sectors.

Representatives presented thermometers and images of a feverish Earth, visualizing the excessive warming of the planet. The panel explained that this ongoing El Niño is the worst the Philippines has experienced, made worse by climate change.

Cases of heat stroke are on the rise, but the droughts have a much farther-reaching impact. “Climate change endangers our food security,” said Jinky Esguerra, PM CJ’s senior campaign officer for food, land, water, and climate. “Wells dried up all over the country, leaving many without access to clean water. Shortage of water and an inadequate agricultural supply ultimately led to food scarcity.”

“This is a national emergency because our basic necessities are under threat,” she emphasized.

PM CJ also showed a comprehensive map showing the extensive damage the prolonged dry spell has wrought, affecting 163,191 families all over the country. At least 26,731 hectares of crops were compromised, resulting in around 1.2 billion pesos in damages.

Elaria Modelo, Head of the Agriculture Committee of ZALIKA and member of Kilos Klima, explained, “Destructive min-

ing affects the watershed, poisoning crops and aquatic life, with impacts exacerbated even more by the El Niño. This disaster has gravely affected the livelihood of farmers and fisherfolk. Low food supply is also expected to raise market prices drastically, making life even harder on every Filipino.”

“We cannot deny the human-caused aspect of this El Niño,” said Ian Rivera, national coordinator of PM CJ. “Our continued use of fossil fuels exacerbated this weather phenomenon, and it will continue to worsen if we don’t phase out these fossil fuels. Time is running out, BBM should make the declaration now.”

“Alongside a national disaster response, we also need a plan to transition to renewables. That is disaster prevention,” he added.

The groups will continue raising awareness on the impacts of the El Niño, culminating in a mobilization on April 26. (PM CJ Communications)



Picture taken from Philstar Global



Gasolina at Krudo,
Sigurado at Garantisado

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SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS BASKETBALL CLINIC

SENATOR Imee R. Marcos at City Mayor Malou Flores-Morillo, parehong babaeng lingkod-bayan at may iisang layunin na makapagbigay ng Tama at nararapat na serbisyo sa tumbayan.

Isang programang alay sa kabataan ang inilunsad ng tanggapan ni Sen. Imee na ipinatutupad sa buong Pilipinas, ito ang Basketball Clinic na layunin ay simulan sa grassroots ang pagtuturo ng larong basketball, ginanap sa Sentrong Pangkabataan, Barangay Sta. Isabel, Calapan City, Abril 21, 2024.

Sa pagdating ni Senator Imee Marcos sa Lungsod ng Calapan ay malugod itong sinalubong ng mga Calapeño sa pangunguna ni Oriental Mindoro Governor Humerlito "Bonz" Dolor at City Mayor Malou Flores-Morillo.

Bitbit ng Senado-ra ang panibagong pag-asa para sa mga kabataan na mula sa lungsod ay uusbong at kikilalanin ang pinakamahuhusay na basketbolista tulad ni Rico Maierhofer, Nelson Asaytono at Rodel Vaygan.

Sa mensahe ni Governor Bonz ay binigayang

inspirasyon nito ang mga kabataang kalahok na seryosohin ang kanilang pagsasanay. Aniya pa, bilang patunay ng kanyang masidhing hangarin na mas mapaunlad pa ang kayanan ng mga kabataang Mindoreño sa isports ay sinikap niyang mabigyang katuparan ang matagal na niyang pangarap na makapagpatayo ng Sentrong Pangkabataan na ngayon ay pinakikinabangan na bilang lugar na pinagdadausan ng malalaking basketball tournament.

Buong-lugod namang pinasalamatan ni

City Mayor Morillo ang inisyatibang ito ni Senator Imee Marcos na sa pamamagitan ng larong basketball ay iginigiya ang mga kabataan sa tamang direksyon na siya rin aniyang pangarap niya para sa bawat isang kabataang Calapeño.

Kabilang sa mga paaralan na nakiisa sa Senator Imee Marcos Basketball Clinic 2024 ay ang Divine Word College of Calapan High School/Elementary, Holy Infant High School/Elementary, Oriental Mindoro National High School Boys/Girls, Adriatico Memorial School at Guino-

batan Elementary School.

Ginampanan naman nina Senator Marcos, Governor Bonz at City Mayor Malou ang Awarding Ceremonies para sa mga natatanging manlalaro. Best in Dribble si Melvin Quinto; Best Shooter, Red Romero; Best Defender si AJ Brucal. Nakuha naman ni Warren Rodio ang Sportsmanship Award at Merryl Cuasay ang Most Promising Player. Maliban sa libreng pagsasanay ay nakatanggap din ang mga kalahok ng tig-iisang bola at jersey mula pa rin kay Senator Imee Marcos (Junard Acapulco/CIO).

