



PRESS RELEASE

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Climate change poses greater security threat than insurgency – Teodoro

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro today cautioned that climate change presents a threat to national security – more serious even than the threat of insurgency.

“I do not believe that insurgency is the greatest threat to national security, but cultural and religious conflict because its wounds are deeper. But there is a greater (threat) that is global warming, climate change,” Secretary Teodoro said in his message during the Fun Biking and Tree Growing Activity at the La Mesa Nature Reserve wherein Secretary Teodoro inaugurated the newly-renovated Tower 11.

He said climate change has increasing impacts on water supplies, agricultural productivity, food supply, human health, among others, and it directly threatens people’s homes and livelihoods through increased storms, droughts and disease.

And if not immediately managed, Secretary Teodoro said, climate change, alongside the growing population and decreasing natural resource base, would cause severe problem in the future.

Thus, Secretary Teodoro lauded the fun biking and tree growing activity jointly conducted by ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. – Bantay Kalikasan, and the Philippine Army, as expression of their commitment to protecting and preserving the La Mesa Watershed.

“A project like this which probably is not a command guidance but a fruit of cooperation between and among us... It sets a wonderful and inspiring one for the future generations of the country to show them the right example that we protect our watersheds and our forest lands and that there is hope for them and that is a good example to follow,” Secretary Teodoro said.

The defense chief added that the project is a direct reminder to people in the urban areas that watersheds should be protected and informal settling cannot be allowed.

“You have to re-grow the forest cover in the watersheds. If not, water resources will suffer, you will be prone to flooding and potentially disastrous consequences of natural calamities,” Secretary Teodoro said.

Secretary Teodoro said that the same environmental protection projects will be replicated in military reservations as part of the Defense Planning Guidance in helping steward the environment.

He said that although environment protection is not their primary role, the defense and military establishment could do it alongside military operations because base development and land management are part of the primary role of AFP's major services, especially inside the military camps and military reservations.

"At walang talo ito. Magtanim, magguwardiya ng forests, walang talo dito, lahat panalo", Secretary Teodoro said.
