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Headline: Duterte rallies Asean to fight climate change

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President Rodrigo Duterte has urged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to intensify its fight against climate change.

In his speech during the virtual 37th Asean Summit on Thursday, Duterte said the calamities the Philippines faced is “a stark reminder of the urgency of collective action to combat the effects of climate change.”

Super Typhoon “Rolly” battered Bicol and Southern Luzon on November 1, killing 24 people and leaving more than P17 billion in damage to infrastructure and agriculture, according to the latest report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Also on Thursday, massive flooding caused by Typhoon “Ulysses” displaced thousands in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces.

Duterte told the international body that although many lives were saved, the consecutive typhoons that hit the country left a trail of destruction that “represents a setback for our development agenda, particularly in the affected regions.”

He urged the Asean countries to further enhance cooperation on disaster risk reduction management and to reinforce capacities, both on the national and regional levels.

He also called on countries to amplify their voices to demand climate justice from those who are “most responsible for this existential challenge we face today.”

“Developed countries must lead in deep and drastic cuts in carbon emissions. They must act now, or it would be too late. Or if I may say addedly, it is too late,” he said.

“They must also deliver on their commitment to finance and invest in innovative adaptation solutions in the developing world. So we too can have a fair shot at progress and sustainable development,” Duterte added.