

ADB expert says LGUs not tapping climate change funding

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Davao City – A climate change expert from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said there was a need for local and national government agencies to be proactive in seeking funding for climate-adaptive projects.

Ancha Srinivasan, ADB principal climate change specialist, said local government units (LGUs) in the country were not proactive enough in asking for funding for projects.

According to the ADB expert, there are at least \$6 billion in funds available for climate adaptation measures that are not being fully utilized due to the lack of requests from LGUs and even the national government.

Srinivasan noted that this was noted “in areas where there are floods, not only because of rain but because of the poor management of risks.”

The ADB official said communities were not aware they could tap resources even within the government’s purse, such as the People’s Survival Fund.

The Local Government Code and other national laws such as the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Law, meanwhile, allow for the building of infrastructure for climate change adaptation measures.

Donations to Philippine projects barely reached \$50 million, the official said.

By default, local governments are mandated to prepare their Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), and the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), among others.

The LCCAP, for one, requires the participation of all barangays as it is within the localities of the barangay officials.

Oftentimes, agencies such as Davao City’s Central 911 and the barangay’s local disaster committee are at odds, especially during disasters with decisions such as evacuations and rescue planning.