

AT THE WARSAW, POLAND CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS...

By Observer Reporter
Warsaw, Poland

CLIMATE talks started on an emotional note at the Polish capital of Warsaw yesterday in light of 10 000 people from Philippines, who lost their lives owing to a violent storm that hit the country on Friday.

As Philippines head of delegation, Yeb Sano, highlighted the plight of his people, some delegates at the 19th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) could not hold back tears. "I'm having a fast in solidarity with the thousands of my people who have no access to food because of the storm," said Sano. He said the death toll was still increasing while 100 000 were displaced among them his

...delegates
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Philippine
typhoon

own brother. "We're still searching for some of my relatives," he said. Philippines was hit by what was termed the most violent Super Typhoon Hyan, only two days before the start of the fortnight negotiations on climate change held at Warsaw National Stadium.

Emissions

Sano made an emotional appeal to developed countries to own up to their commitments to reduce

TEARY START TO POLISH CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS

carbon emissions and also provide funding to poor countries to help them deal with the devastating impacts of climate change.

African countries, including Swaziland, are also among those that have experienced violent storms recently leaving many homeless and without food. As a result, the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) chaired by Swaziland through the director of meteorology, Emmanuel Dlamini, is intensifying its call for developing countries to avail funding to help countries from the continent adapt.

Expectations are high from the AGN at this conference themed the "Finance COP" with African countries calling upon developed nations to own up to their commitments made in the Danish capital of Copenhagen in 2009.

"The AGN will have concrete proposals and we're ready to engage at these negotiations," AGN spokesperson Seyni Nafo, told a side event hosted by the Third World Network.

In Copenhagen, developed countries promised to mobilise \$100 dollars by 2020 and apart from \$30 billion between 2010 and 2012. But all that were empty promises and there is no clarity on how this finance is delivered to the countries, complained Tosi



COMMITTED: AGN spokesperson Seyni Nafo and Philippines delegate Lidy Naipil at the conference.

countries have an alternative to fossil fuels that pollute the environment. But western countries are now shifting the goalposts, observed Bolivian head of delegation, Rene Orellana. Instead of funding the response to climate change through public money, western countries are now pushing the private sector so that developed countries pay back the finance.

Submissions

"In the pre-conference meeting held here in Warsaw, businesses spent two

finance."

Meantime, the newly elected COP 19 president Marcin Korolec, Poland's Environment Minister said in his opening address that climate change is a global problem that must be turned further into a global opportunity.

"It's a problem if we can't coordinate our actions," said Korolec, adding: "It becomes opportunity where we can act together."

UNFCCC executive secretary

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