

Development at the Cost of Everything

Pax Silica will not bring industrialization to the Philippines. Instead of relying on empty promises, the country can choose to develop a homegrown, technological strategy. The government, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), can allocate funds to specialized courses that can teach Filipino students how to create and develop our own microchips. Additionally, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) can push for the partnership with our fellow ASEAN countries — Malaysia and Singapore — rather than choosing to take sides between the United States and China. These steps will ensure that the Philippines can learn how to develop on its own without the dependance on other foreign countries.

One of the main arguments as to why some people agree to its implementation in our country is the belief that: "Pax Silica will provide jobs." However, they fail to understand the concept it runs on. Pax Silica is AI and artificial intelligence can learn how to automate itself, relinquishing the need for human labor. To agree to its integration is to sacrifice our country without anything in return.

First, Pax Silica will cause strains to our electricity grid. These AI hubs require up to 3,000 kilowatts of electricity, compared to local Filipino households that only uses up to 200kwh. It really makes you question: our country already faces frequent blackouts and power outages, why must they double the experience? It is unfair to those who are working hard to pay their bills only for the power to be diverted to mega-companies. Also, the electricity consumed will only end up as heat — not only affecting our households but also affecting our climate.

Second, Pax Silica will affect our waters. Since the electricity consumed by these data centers will only end up as heat, it will require a vast, uninterrupted source of water to cool down its systems. The cooling process can use up to 60 million gallons of water per day, accounting up to 600,000 households here in the Philippines. However, the process doesn't stop there. Once the water cools down the systems, the pure water will evaporate, leaving a residue that can only be called as "waste." Pax Silica's cooling process will cause water scarcity among households and agricultural lands and its "residual waste" will cause damage to our environment.

Lastly, Pax Silica will allow the Philippines to be used as a geopolitical tool. As of now, the US and China are still in war on who gets to dominate the technological field in terms of advancements. Pax Silica is a US-initiative strategy with the goal of gaining an edge against China. It is not a promise of industrialization; it is a strategy that allows the US to usurp our resources to achieve their goal.

PAXed Them Out

Humanity's greatest tragedy was never that we achieved tremendous heights in technology, but it was believing that every convenience it offered bore no grave consequences. With the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI), giant data centers are also being built across the globe to sustain tech innovations primarily AI. However, slowly and quietly, we begin to suffer its detrimental effects, the very thing that could have made us prosperous is rapidly pushing us to our downfall.

According to Data Center Watch, roughly 140 local groups pushed back 60 billion dollars worth of data center investments. This issue stems from the harsh environmental risks and high demand of electricity and water consumption.

Here in our country, such double edge sword also exist. And of course, it was introduced by the United States of America (USA), where they proposed to construct a data center, prominently known as Pat Silica, which aims to not entirely rely on China's tech hardware. Fortunately, Filipinos vehemently oppose its construction after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (BBM) agreed with the proposal. Filipinos fear that only foreign countries will benefit from our own natural resources with the high risk of exacerbating climate vulnerability of our country. Which is evident following the glacier collapse in Nepal that triggered deadly flashfloods and the forest fire in Compostella Davao region that burned hectares of forest land. This stark reality expose how 'Mother Earth' express her pain and we are the ones who will endure her wrath.

Some might argue that data centers will greatly contribute to our economy, especially that our national debt stands at 19.39 trillion peso during BBM's four year service. Indeed, but let us face reality people, this initiative will only place us in the middle of USA and China's geopolitical conflicts. We all know that this so called Pat Silica is President Donald Trump's way of inflicting damage to China's growth for he is envious and afraid that China will trample his legacy "Make America Great Again".

Diving deeper to the core, our government may have thought that by doing something big it will distract us from the bigger scandal of the billions worth of flood control projects well, they are gravely mistaken for it only fanned the flames to all the theatrics they performed that drowned us in floods but also in poverty. Leaving millions of Filipinos into the abyss of poverty, wasted potential and stressful headlines. Leaders, know your priorities!

Our politicians may have thought that Trump bearing gifts bore no hidden strings attached well, they are wrong. For our natural resources and national security will be put into risk. Dismantling this rot involves rejecting data centers to restore the nations tainted trust and to adopt United Nations Sustainable Development Goals no. 13 of climate Action to pave the way to a much resilient Philippines.

Taking everything into account, no Filipino must endure nature's wrath and the spiky leash of USA. We must never remain spectators to our own struggles. Through collective actions and lawful avenues, we must firmly demand our leaders to prioritize our common good and public good over performative leadership that overshadow cries of help. Because public office was never a privilege to be exploited, but a trust to be honored. That is why BBM, PAXed Them Out before you are hailed as the country's worst President ever together with your dictator father. (#30)

Weighing Resolvability

34

Advancement in technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) empowers various aspects of modern society, shaping people's daily interactions and livelihood. However, such tool cannot be established without "Data Centers", which requires extensive environmental involvement to maintain its operation. This underscores the need for further considerations regarding its underlying implications. Thus, this initiative must be critically analyzed before assessing full implementation within the nation's premises.

Moreover, data centers serves as a foundation that generally operates AI utilization across different aspects. Data centers also require servers, chips, cooling equipment, buildings, backup power systems, and grid infrastructure, all of which carry embodied environmental impacts from manufacturing, construction, and replacement. This emphasizes the complex involvement of external factors that basically shapes its very foundation in order for it to work and serve its purpose.

Furthermore, new AI-enabled tools might allow us to reconfigure our food, transport, building management, and energy systems for much greater efficiency and thus sustainability. AI also offers the potential to bring cutting-edge thinking and technologies to every corner of the globe at speed and scale. This signifies the limitless capability of what AI could offer by promoting an efficient and smoother day-to-day living.

SustAInable Evolution

Challenging the Negative Reputation of Data Centers to strive for a quality and advanced global evolution

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to influence the daily lives of humanity, most especially the youth. However data centers have been forced to delay construction with 140 groups blocking data center investments because of its imposed risks and negative effects on people's daily living. Technological advancement should thrive, but not at the expense of natural restoration and living conditions.

Data centers are what fuel AI that most citizens often used. Popular AI platforms such as Chatgpt or Gemini AI are powered by data centers. However, these data centers consume a large amount of electricity; this amount of power causes over-heating which requires a huge amount of water for cooling. Its massive required consumption competes with the people's daily living resources. This results in water shortages and insufficient power supply. This raises the question if whether technological development should be prioritized than the living and welfare of the people.

Urban heat is one of the disadvantages of data centers. According to an expert, Karen Seto, the over-heating of servers and equipment causes it to release excess heat in the environment. This raises the temperature, especially urban communities near the data centers. The increase in temperature causes heat strokes among individuals, dehydration, and a higher demand for electricity.

Moreover, increasing heat leads to an even larger consumption of power. Citizens would attempt to blast air conditioners or cooling systems to escape the risks of high temperatures. However, data centers use 3 GW or more of electricity. This leads citizens to experience consistent blackouts and energy strain, while also attempting to avoid the health risk of waste heat emitted by data centers.

Additionally, these unfortunate circumstances not only affect the people but also the environment. The wasted heat and excessive use of water will result into greenhouse gas emissions as well as air and water pollution if it is run by fossil fuels. Endangering the environment and health of humanity.

However, these environmental risks can be prevented. Artificial Intelligence itself can contribute to creating a sustainable community. According to Daniel Esty, AI allows communities to improve food production, transportation, building management, and energy systems to promote

Drained Reform

Expanding collaboration to digital access requires responsible and ethical governance, where power and authority is crucial in building a fostering environment. As a matter of fact, the United States is marked as the country with the largest technological market globally showcasing how advance and modern society is. However, this contrast to the escalating cyber issues they are facing. Thus, governing officials must be responsible in placing their authority under the ruling of Republic Act (R.A.) 6713 in establishing a progressive nation that would not undermine growth and development.

From the flashing news headlines, the Philippines is welcoming Pay Silica or AI data centers which consume heat, water, electricity and minerals. This initiative was driven as a directive from the US in not only securing ties and alliance for the progress of the country but also to target countries rich in natural resources as other European countries decline the offer, and hidden under a facade of lies bears a propaganda disguise as a competition against other countries. Hence, pursuing reform must be a priority but securing a brighter tomorrow is a national obligation.

Environmental care mostly stays on articles, than on reality underlying the bedrock of development. AI data centers take on a large amount of land where thousands of minerals sits which goes against the hope for a better future. Republic Act 3571 is also impacted due to the large consumption, amplifying the crisis, multiple communities with no land property are continuously taken from their home-land. Governing officials must strictly create long term sustainable plans.

True enough a nation with advancement will not flourish if their home is slowly draining. AI data center causes a shift in the growth of every individual, it creates more jobs with the 3.4 million unemployed filipinos and the poverty rate of 9.7 percent according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). However, unqualified individuals are left suffering, around 25 percent or one fourth are fisherfolk and farmers" stated by Robert C. J. Underscored, part of Climate Change Commission. If this scenario is to continue, government officials must take on more public initiatives in securing every filipino.

An effective healthcare system is essential to a nation's progress it creates hope for morality and improves systematic development. As the Philippines enters a state of collapse due to El Niño, our health is slowly decreasing where various countries now face crisis of health usually due to the heat coming from AI data centers which directly violates R.A. 11223, right to health. To break this cycle, governing officials must ensure that every individual is properly taken care of in terms of building a better future.

A decreasing nation eventually leads to the crisis of multiple citizens. AI may lead to the development of broader knowledge yet it can cause many escalating issues such as fake news and deep fakes which can destroy one's dignity and this violates house bill 9465. Responsible use of technology is crucial in safeguarding the protection of every individual.

A leader must serve and not create money, through Article XI, Section 1, this states that a public office must strictly remain as a public trust, ensuring every decision is credited with liability, is their public duty and the AI data center must be implemented with transparency and responsibility.

At its bottomline, creating a fasting nation must be tagged as a national priority as bold promises are often shown in bold speeches yet lack service and action. Every individual must be reminded of their moral duty in supporting public initiatives. When competence crisis spread, preparedness shatters, taking actions now is necessary before the drained reform corrupts. (#30)