

25 May 2023 Thursday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



UNESCO DESIGNATES BOHOL ISLAND AS THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST GLOBAL GEOPARK



ISLAND GEOPARK. This photo posted by the Provincial Government of Bohol on its Facebook page shows the island province's unique attractions after it was named as the country's first UNESCO Global Geopark. **Bohol FB Page**

UN cultural body tags Bohol Island country's first-ever Global Geopark

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has recognized Bohol as the Philippines' first Global Geopark, the agency said on Wednesday.

According to UNESCO, Global Geoparks are "single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic

concept of protection, education, and sustainable development."

The island province thus joins 195 UNESCO-recognized geoparks in 48 countries.

"Two UNESCO Member States join the network: New Zealand and the Philippines," UNESCO said in a statement shared by one of the agency's

Next page

UN...
From A1

press officers, Clare O'Hagan.

Bohol Island's Global Geopark status was announced during the 216th session of UNESCO's executive board, which was held in Paris, France.

The Bohol Island Geopark will soon join 17 other new geoparks in the Global Geoparks Network, the cultural agency said in a Facebook post.

"The network provides a platform for international cooperation, allowing global geoparks and aspiring geoparks to share best practices and enhance the UNESCO Global Geopark brand," the group added.

In Bohol's nomination, UNESCO described the Philippine area as having "scenic and varied landforms and structural features."

"The Geopark features one of the six double barrier reefs in the world and the only barrier reef in Southeast Asia," it said.

"Bohol also boasts of highly diverse flora and fauna due to its dynamic geologic and tectonic history conserving endemic species through protected areas for the Dipterocarpacea family rain-forest trees and animal sanctuaries."

In 2013, a group of researchers from the University of the Philippines conducted fieldwork on potential geoparks in the Philippines, according to the provincial government of Bohol.



'Stairway' to Mt. Apo draws flak from netizens

By Williamor A. Magbanua
@InqNational

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Environmentalists have protested the city government's initiative of putting concrete blocks as pathways along a portion of Kidapawan trail to Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak.

Critics took to social media to deride the project as "Stairway to Mt. Apo." The pathway was built within the Mandarangan trail leading to Lake Venado, which is halfway to the peak.

Netizens raised concern about the destruction of the natural state of the trail due to the concrete slabs. However, a number of mountaineers credit the slabs for easing their climb amid the slippery trail.

"The purpose is commendable [because] the safety of climbers is a priority," said lawyer Ermelo Libre, former director of the Mount Apo Foundation Inc.

But Libre hoped that "the environmental and cultural architecture must be incorporated in project construction to reflect the spirit of the natural surrounding environment and as an expression of the cultural tradition and aspirations of the indigenous community that was there before us."

City information officer Psalmer Bernalte defended the project, saying there was a need to put up the pathway to prevent soil erosion along the trail.

Bernalte said trails leading to Lake Venado had been hit



SCENIC, SAFE CLIMB A mountaineer takes a break beside Lake Venado en route to Mt. Apo's peak. At right, the Kidapawan City government says the concrete pathways built along the Mandarangan trail leading to Apo's summit aim to prevent soil erosion and ensure the safety of climbers. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARLO DELUTE AND MELOY OREJET

by erosion following the increased influx of climbers.

"Since the trail was already not safe to use (due to soil erosion), trekkers look for another way [to the peak] that requires them to damage plants in the mountain," Bernalte said.

No law violated

He noted that the concrete rectangular pathways, which are less than 4 meters long, "is a big help in preserving the mountain's flora and fauna from any human activities while trekking to the peak."

Pathways will be established in all five areas of the

Mandarangan trail, an initiative that was unanimously approved by the Mt. Apo Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and the City Development Council, Bernalte said.

According to city tourism officer Gillan Lonzaga, the project costs at least P500,000 and is constructed by work teams from the City Engineering Office.

Bernalte said that while the city government welcomes constructive criticism, they will still push through with the project as it did not violate any environmental laws.

The 2,854-meter Mt. Apo

is a favorite destination of mountaineers, especially during summer. It can be reached through six trails starting from Kidapawan, Makilala and Magpet in Cotabato province, and Digos, Sta. Cruz and Bansalan in Davao del Sur province.

The PAMB had set a daily limit of 50 trekkers per trail in 2017 following a fire in 2016 that damaged some 300 hectares of forest and grasslands, an incident blamed on an unattended campfire.

Trekking and related activities help support the livelihood of hundreds of porters and tour guides in communities around Mt. Apo. Inq

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Track and Intensity Forecast of Typhoon MAWAR

8AM 29 May, 2023 (Mon.)
8AM 28 May, 2023 (Sun.)
8AM 27 May, 2023 (Sat.)
8PM 26 May, 2023 (Fri.)
8AM 25 May, 2023 (Thu.)
8PM 24 May, 2023 (Wed.)

Legend
 Super Typhoon
 Typhoon
 Severe Tropical Storm
 Tropical Storm
 Tropical Depression
 Low Pressure Area
 Area with 10m wind speed winds (33 kph, 48 kt or higher)
 Area with 20m wind speed winds (66 kph, 96 kt or higher)

'MAWAR' WEAKENS, BUT EVACS STILL READIED

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

- Typhoon MAWAR is forecast to track generally north northwestward in the next 12 hours and is expected to traverse over the Philippine Sea.
- It may enter the PAR region on Friday evening or Saturday morning.
- Forecast to remain as a typhoon in the next 12 hours before it re-intensifies into a Super Typhoon.
- May reach peak intensity of 205 km/h over the weekend.

'MAWAR' WATCH Pagasa senior weather specialist Chris Perez gives an update on Typhoon "Mawar" on Wednesday. It was downgraded from being a supertyphoon, but disaster responders and the general public were still advised to prepare. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

'MAWAR' WEAKENS, BUT EVACUATIONS READIED

IN CAGAYAN, BICOL REGIONS

By Frances Mangosing and Abby Boiser
@Team_Inquirer

The Office of Civil Defense said it is preparing for possible evacuations in the provinces of Cagayan and Batanes over the weekend in anticipation of Typhoon "Mawar."

The typhoon would be closest to the country by Monday or

early Tuesday based on current forecast, OCD spokesperson Assistant Secretary Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV told reporters on Wednesday.

"We expect areas in Region 2—particularly in Batanes and some parts of Cagayan, the coastal towns—to have the possibility of preemptive evacuation," he told reporters.

Alejandro said they were

monitoring the developments and have alerted local government units that could be affected by the typhoon, which will be given the local name "Betty" when it enters the Philippine area of responsibility.

"We have alerted Batanes, Cagayan in Region 2, as well as Bicol because it will affect coastal communities... the fisherfolk will be affected because we won't al-

low them to sail," he said. As Mawar steadily moves closer to the Philippines, national disaster agencies and rescue offices on Wednesday advised the public to prepare for its anticipated onslaught this weekend.

The OCD and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council urged local governments of cities near seaboard to gear up for

possible impacts. Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development said that "family food packs" will be distributed to affected regions, especially in the Ilocos and Cordillera regions.

In the seas, the Philippine Coast Guard imposed stricter inspection of boats and vessels to ensure safety of crew and passengers.

Mawar has been downgraded to typhoon from supertyphoon on Wednesday morning, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

However, the state weather bureau does not rule out the possibility of the weather disturbance intensifying before it hits the country. INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

05-25-23

PAGE

DATE

1/2

Mawar slightly weakens, but may reintensify

By **ROMINA CABRERA**

Tropical cyclone Mawar has slightly weakened into a typhoon, but is forecast to reintensify into a super typhoon before it enters the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) this weekend.

Mawar had been monitored 2,135 kilometers east of the Visayas as of 3 p.m. yesterday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

It was carrying maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 215 kph.

Mawar may enter the eastern boundaries of the PAR by Friday evening or Saturday morning, after which it will be given the local name Betty, according to weather forecasters.

Mawar weakened to typhoon category yesterday, but PAGASA said that it may re-intensify due to warm atmospheric conditions as it traverses the Philippine Sea.

PAGASA noted that Mawar has around 300 km radius and rainbands that could directly affect Northern Luzon by Sunday or Monday.

Rainbands could affect Cagayan Valley between Sunday and Tuesday, with a possibility of the hoisting of the tropical cyclone wind signal over

areas in the province.

Mawar could also enhance the monsoon rains over the western portions of Mimaropa (Mindoro provinces, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), the Visayas and Mindanao from Friday to Saturday.

The monsoon could also affect parts of Southern Luzon and the Visayas starting Sunday.

Still, PAGASA said there could be changes in the impact of the southwest monsoon as this depends on Mawar's track and intensity.

PAGASA added that almost similar cyclones were seen in the past years, most notably Typhoon Paeng last year and Typhoon Urduja in 2017, that originated from the same area as that of Mawar.

Today, the southwesterly windflow will bring scattered rainshowers over several parts of the country.

Cloudy skies are forecast over Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Soccsargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, General Santos), Zamboanga peninsula and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country may experience isolated rainshowers due to the southwesterly windflow and localized thunderstorms.

Alerted

As Mawar approaches the country, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) yesterday alerted coastal towns to brace themselves for the impact of the typhoon.

In a disaster media bulletin, NDRRMC and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) spokesman Assistant Secretary Raffy Alejandro IV said that in view of Mawar, the OCD and its regional offices will continuously monitor the situation and coordinate with concerned member agencies.

"We are alerting coastal communities as far as Bicol because this is a super typhoon. This will create large waves. Our fisherfolk will be affected. We will need to temporarily ban fishing trips," Alejandro said.

"(We) initially alerted LGUs (local government units) located in the eastern seaboard of the country as Mawar will be coming from the eastern side of the country. However, we are now also alerting LGUs on the western seaboard as the tropical cyclone will also intensify and pull the southwest monsoon that will cause strong winds and rains," he added.

Alejandro disclosed that the NDRRMC/OCD would conduct pre-disaster risk assessment with science agencies to determine LGUs that



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

05-25-23

Mawar ...

PAGE

DATE

2/2

are susceptible to the effects of the tropical cyclone and subsequently their prescribed alert levels and corresponding response protocols.

The OCD has also placed its rescue and response teams on alert and on standby as Mawar approaches the country.

Stockpiling and prepositioning of relief goods and other items are also being carried out with possible pre-emptive evacuation efforts in some towns in Cagayan and in coastal towns in Batanes.

Alejandro said LGUs in Northern Luzon are expected to conduct pre-emptive evacuation, especially for those in coastal towns and areas prone to floods and landslides.

Mawar is fast approaching Batanes and parts of Cagayan and the pre-emptive evacuation may likely be implemented over the weekend, according to the NDRRMC/OCD.

Farmers, fisherfolk

Meanwhile, an official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) yesterday urged farmers and fisherfolk to prepare ahead of the expected entry of Mawar into the PAR.

DA deputy spokesman Assistant Secretary Rex Estoperez said the agency is closely coordinating with PAGASA on latest developments.

Estoperez appealed to farmers and

fisherfolk to always tune in "to save us from the effects of the calamities."

The DA also encouraged farmers to implement early harvest to spare their crops from the devastation of the typhoon.

Airports prepare

In a related development, airports under the management of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) are actively implementing precautionary measures in anticipation of Mawar's strength.

CAAP spokesman Eric Apolonio yesterday said airports located in areas along the possible path of Mawar, such as Ilocos and Cagayan Valley, have conducted pre-typhoon coordination meetings, assessments and preparations to gear up for possible weather disturbance.

Apolonio added that Malasakit help kits, including food packs, are also in place to be distributed to affected travelers if the typhoon lands in those regions.

In anticipating Mawar's onslaught, the Media Affairs Division of the Manila International Airport Authority said that as of 2 p.m. yesterday, United Airlines had canceled its Guam-Manila-Guam flights - UA 183/184 - due to unfavorable weather condition caused by Mawar. - **With Jose Rodel Clapano, Michael Punongbayan, Rudy Santos**