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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# Cimatu discusses issues related to Manila Bay rehab to SC Chief Justice, 5 other justices

Published October 14, 2020, 9:47 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu on Wednesday, Oct. 14, discussed the issues regarding the rehabilitation of Manila Bay with Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado M. Peralta and five other High Court justices.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chief coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response implementor in the Viayas (NTF AGAINST COVID-19 / MANILA BULLETIN)

During the meeting, Cimatu led the magistrates to a tour of the “white sand beach” and other developments along the Baywalk area, the focal point of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project. “This is pursuant to the 2008 writ of continuing mandamus issued by the high court directing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and 12 other agencies to restore Manila Bay’s water quality to a level fit for swimming and bathing,” the DENR statement noted.

Peralta cited the DENR and “other mandamus agencies for their diligence and “determination” to comply with the 12-year-old directive.”

Prior to the tour, Cimatu and the High Court justices held a meeting where the environment chief gave an update on the status of the Duterte administration’s cleanup efforts dubbed as “Battle for Manila Bay.”

“Today, we are pleased to be given the chance to present to you the fruits of our commitment and continuous collaboration with the mandamus agencies and other institutions,” Cimatu said.

“We are honored to be given the chance to showcase what we have done so far and to present what we have planned to do more for the bay,” he added.

Cimatu said the “long overdue” rehabilitation of Manila Bay gained momentum last year when no less than President Duterte “gave a tall order to clean up the historic water body as he formed the Manila Bay Task Force led by the DENR.”

As a strategy, Cimatu said the government is not just cleaning up the bay, but the sources of trash upstream.

“The cleanup is a continuing and sustained activity where the communities and local government units are made integral part of the efforts,” Cimatu noted.

The DENR chief said the cleanup comes with culture and behavior change communication interventions.



“This is because we firmly believe that reforming attitudes and behavior towards responsible environmental citizenship and institutionalizing cultural reforms are the key ingredients in making the rehabilitation successful,” Cimatu said.

Despite the limited movements and restrictions due to COVID-19, Cimatu said the government was still able to accomplish much to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

“In a nutshell, our accomplishments include, among others, employing geo-engineering solutions, beach nourishment project, dredging and desilting activities, and construction of sewage treatment plant (STP),” Cimatu stressed.

“In the days to come, we will see the completion of the construction of a circumferential sewage interceptor and communal septic tank specifically for the BASECO area,” he added.

Cimatu also assured the justices “that the DENR was not bothered at all by what critics say of the government’s rehabilitation efforts, particularly the beach nourishment project.”

The DENR chief stressed the agency has always been “transparent” about the undertaking, which he said enjoys support from the public.

“For now, we will continue our battle for Manila Bay. With collective efforts, tasks are done with relative ease,” he added.

Meanwhile, Peralta said he was impressed with the outcome of the government’s cleanup efforts, particularly with the low coliform level of wastewater coming out of the STP located along Roxas Boulevard.

Also joining Peralta from the Supreme Court were Associate Justices Rodil Zalameda, Mario Lopez, Ramon Paul Hernando, Edgardo de los Santos and Ricardo Rosario.

Also present at the meeting were Court Administrator Midas Marquez, SC spokesperson and Public Information Office Chief Brian Keith Osaka, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Robert R. Bernardo and Director Ador Canlas of the DPWH-National Capital Region.



# Chief Justice Peralta receives DENR Report on Manila Bay

By SC PIO Published on October 14, 2020

MANILA, Oct. 14 -- Chief Justice Diosdado M. Peralta, together with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, today led the visit and site inspection of the Manila Bay pursuant to the continuing mandamus of the Supreme Court.

Prior to the inspection, Chief Justice Peralta and Sec. Cimatu and contingents from the SC and DENR had a meeting at a nearby hotel in Manila where the Chief Justice was apprised of the status of the clean-up of Manila Bay dubbed as Battle for Manila Bay. The meeting was upon the initiative of the Chief Justice as Chairperson of the SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee. Chief Justice Peralta required DENR, which heads the 13 government agencies tasked in the clean-up, to submit a quarterly report on its progress.

After the meeting, the group proceeded to the Dolomite beach, the Solar-Powered Sewerage Treatment Plant along Roxas Boulevard, among others.

In its report, DENR discussed the clean-up activities currently being undertaken by the concerned agencies. These include the removal of garbage in the river systems, esteros (drainage canals) and water quality improvement, among others. It mentioned that DENR has also hired estero rangers who are specifically tasked to clean up esteros and disseminate information regarding solid waste management. DENR discussed Project Kubeta Ko, or the strategic putting up of clean public toilets in nearby areas.

DENR also mentioned the rehabilitation of Baywalk. Citing a press release of the Department of Health, DENR said that the use of dolomite is not hazardous to health, noting that "the dolomite in natural bulk state is not a known health hazard. Crushed dolomite material is 100 times bigger than dust, therefore does not get suspended in air." It added that dolomite has been used by several resorts in the country as well as abroad to add aesthetics to their surroundings. It can be recalled that the use of dolomite was heavily criticized by many netizens.

Being data-driven, the Chief Justice, for his part, asked the DENR to submit scientific studies and findings as to the effects of dolomite to people.

The Chief Justice is the only remaining justice of the SC which came out with the directive in 2008 for the 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve the Manila Bay and restore and maintain its water to class SB level, which means that water is suitable for recreational activities such as swimming and skin diving.

"Those who decided the Manila Bay (MMDA vs. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay), most of them have retired. It is only yours truly who is still with the SC. Under Internal Rules of the SC, whoever is still with the Court, and who had participated in that decision will become the ponente or the person in-charge of the case. I am now in charge of the case," said the Chief Justice.

The SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee is vice-chaired by SC Justice Rodil V. Zalameda, with SC Justice Edgardo L. Delos Santos and Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez as members.



Last January 26, Chief Justice Peralta keynoted the 1st Anniversary of the “Battle for Manila Bay.” The Chief Justice underscored that the right to a clean environment is one of the highest rights afforded to every Filipino and that every generation has the duty to protect the environment. He also committed that the Court will not relent in ensuring the clean-up of Manila Bay through the SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee. (SCPIO)



Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu inspect the Manila Bay beach in Manila yesterday.

Krizjohn Rosales

## Peralta satisfied with Manila Bay cleanup

[Evelyn Macairan](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 15, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta is satisfied with how the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and 12 other government agencies have been abiding by the Supreme Court's order to restore the water quality of Manila Bay, SC officials said yesterday.

Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez said Peralta was accompanied by SC Associate Justices Rodil Zalameda, Mario Lopez, Edgardo delos Santos and Ricardo Rosario in attending the presentation of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu on their compliance with the continuing mandamus issued by the SC in 2008.

SC spokesman Brian Keith Hosaka said that it was Peralta, as chairman of the SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee, who initiated the meeting with the DENR.

“He (Peralta) wanted the Manila Bay Task Force to report to him and give an update on the projects and initiatives undertaken to clean up Manila Bay pursuant to the continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court,” said Hosaka.

After the on-site inspection of Manila Bay, Peralta said he was informed by an engineer that fecal coliform levels in Manila Bay is 49 most probable number per 100 milliliters, lower than the required 200 mpn/100 ml.

“Even if you ask other people, this feat is impressive,” Peralta said.

“What I can say is that the Manila Bay is already clean. All the water that passes through the esteros (have been treated) before it reaches Manila Bay. In other words, the purpose of the continuing mandamus is to clean the water, and if you ask me if I am satisfied then I am satisfied because the water is clean,” he added.

### **Petition vs DENR**

Peralta also said the SC would deliberate on Nov. 3 on a petition to cite the DENR in contempt for allegedly failing to comply with the continuing mandamus. The petition was filed by the Akbayan Citizen's Action party after the DENR dumped crushed dolomite to create the Manila Bay “white sand” beach.





Peralta asked the DENR to submit scientific studies and findings on the effects of dolomite on humans.

Akbayan said the DENR's beach enhancement project, which reportedly costs P389 million, poses a danger to the environment and places the health of people at risk.

DENR Undersecretary and spokesman Benny Antiporda said that from 2009 up to 2016, government spending for the bay's rehabilitation was at P3 billion a year "though there were no clear accomplishments."

"Right now, we've only spent close to P2 billion for this year," he said.

As for reports that the crushed dolomite was washed away by heavy rains, Antiporda said "the amount of white sand... is still the same, it just got mixed up with the black sand coming from the sea."

He said that each time this happens, "a cleanup of the beachfront should be initiated." – **Rhodina Villanueva**



## CJ Peralta pleased by bay cleanup, mum on dolomite

By Joel R. San Juan

October 15, 2020



CHIEF Justice Diosdado Peralta said on Tuesday he was impressed with the results of the ongoing efforts by various government agencies to rehabilitate the waters of Manila Bay.

Peralta, who chairs the Manila Bay Advisory Committee (MBAC), made the observation after meeting with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and other agencies on the ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation project.



*Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta inspect the Manila Bay white-sand project and the solar-powered sewage treatment plant in Manila on Wednesday. The Chief Justice hailed the progress of the cleanup in compliance with the SC's continuing mandamus.*

The meeting, which was initiated by Peralta, was held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila and attended by MBAC members: SC Associate Justices Rodil Zalameda, Mario Lopez, Edgardo de los Santos and Ricardo Rosario, Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez and other government stakeholders.

Following the meeting, Peralta and the government officials inspected the bay area, including the part covered with dolomite sand.

Peralta said the meeting was part of the quarterly assessment being undertaken by the MBAC with regard to the bay rehabilitation project which is covered by a continuing mandamus issued by the Court in 2011.

"We came here to observe and determine how far they have gone with the observation, obedience to the continuing mandamus," Peralta said. Peralta told reporters that based on the report submitted to the MBAC and based on his observation, the water coming out from the wastewater treatment is now clean.

"But what we can say about Manila Bay, it's already clean. All the waters that go to the bay from the esteros are already clean. So in other words, the purpose of the continuing mandamus is having clean water; and if you will ask me if I am satisfied, I am satisfied because the waters are clean," Peralta said.





He added that he and his fellow justices were impressed with the DENR's presentation about their rehabilitation works in Manila Bay during their meeting.

In its report, DENR discussed the cleanup being undertaken by the relevant agencies.

## Dolomite issue

The DENR, meanwhile, defended the use of dolomite on Manila Bay, insisting that it is not hazardous to health. It said dolomite has been used by several resorts here and abroad to add aesthetics to their surroundings.

However, Peralta refused to answer queries about the environmental impact of the dumping of the controversial dolomite sand on a portion of Manila Bay.

He noted that a petition seeking to cite the DENR in contempt for dumping dolomite sand in Manila Bay is still pending before the SC, and he would be violating the rule on sub judice if he comments on the matter.

Peralta said he was also assigned as the justice-in-charge of the petition, which will be deliberated on November 3.

However, the chief magistrate asked the DENR to submit scientific studies and findings as to the effects of dolomite to people.

The petition was filed by Akbayan Citizens' Action Party, which sought to intervene in the mandamus case on the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

The petitioner wants to hold the DENR accountable for violating the Court's ruling when it dumped dolomite sand on Manila Bay, citing some claims such is hazardous to health and the environment.

Peralta earlier reconstituted MBAC which the Supreme Court created in 2008 to ensure compliance by involved parties to its decision mandating concerned government agencies to rehabilitate the waters of Manila Bay so that it would be fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of recreation.

The Chief Justice said the MBAC's main function is to maintain the mandate of the continuing mandamus and to enable the Court to verify the reports of the government agencies tasked to clean up the Manila Bay.

It can be recalled that in its 2011 resolution penned by then Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., the SC gave the DENR and several agencies until June 30 to come up with concrete and strategic steps to implement its December 2008 decision to rehabilitate the waters of Manila Bay.

It also gave the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) until December 31, 2015, to demolish illegal structures and dwellings along river banks and waterways connected to Manila Bay.

The SC gave the Department of Public Works and Highways and the local government units (LGUs) in Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, and Bataan not later than December 31, 2012, to remove illegal settlers near river banks.



To ensure compliance with its 2008 decision, the SC issued a continuing mandamus— an order that compels the agencies of the government to perform acts which the laws specifically require them to do or to comply as duties emanating from the nature and mandate of their offices.

Other government agencies enjoined to participate in the Manila Bay cleanup were MMDA, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, affected LGUs, the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

Earlier, President Duterte approved a seven-year plan to clean up Manila Bay, at a cost of about P47 billion.

Image credits: [Nonie Reyes](#)



CONCEPT NEWS CENTRAL

# SC Chief Justice Peralta tumangging magkomento sa Manila Bay white beach

Published 17 hours ago on October 14, 2020 03:13 PM

By [Alvin Murcia](#) @tribunephil\_alvi



Tumanggi si Chief Justice Diosdado M. Peralta na magbigay ng komento kaugnay ng kontrobersiyal sa dolomite sand na inilagay ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Manila Bay.

Ito'y matapos magsagawa si Peralta ng inspeksyon sa Manila Bay ngayong umaga.

Sinabi ni Peralta na nagtungo siya sa Manila Bay para magmasid.

Idinagdag ni Peralta na magiging mahirap para sa kanya na magkomento kaugnay ng Dolomite Beach dahil siya ang magsisilbing ponente sa inihaing petisyon laban sa proyekto.

Ani Peralta dapat antayin na lamang ang deliberasyon ng Korte Suprema sa petisyon na itinakda sa 3 Nobyembre.

Nauna nang naghain ng petisyon ang Akbayan at Akbayan Youth na humihiling sa Kataastaasang Hukumsn na i-contempt ang DENR kaugnay ng Dolomite sand.

Sa deliberasyon ng Senado kaugnay ng panukalang P25.55 bilyong budget ng DENR para sa 2021, sinabi ng mga opisyal ng DENR na hindi pa tapos ang paglalagay ng dolomite sand sa 500 metrong kahabaan ng Manila Bay.

Tiniyak ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na hindi mapanganib sa kalusugan at kalikasan ang dolomite sand.

“They asked us if it is hazardous, I say and we say: No, it is not hazardous,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/14/sc-chief-justice-peralta-tumangging-magkomento-sa-manila-bay-white-beach/>





## SC chief on Manila Bay rehab: 'It's already clean'

By: [Tetch Torres-Tupas](#) - Reporter / [@T2TupasINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:09 PM October 14, 2020

MANILA, Philippines – Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta said on Wednesday that he was pleased with the water he saw at Manila Bay, which he said was already clean.

"We came here to observe and determine how far they have gone with the observation, obedience to the continuing mandamus," Peralta said.

The Chief Justice, Chair of the Manila Bay Advisory Committee (MBAC), commented on the ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation project after meeting with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu and other agencies.

The meeting, which was initiated by Peralta, was attended by MBAC members namely SC associate justices Rodil Zalameda, Mario Lopez, Edgardo delos Santos, and Ricardo Rosario, Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez and other government stakeholders.

"What we can say about Manila Bay, it's already clean. All the waters that go to the bay from the esteros are already clean. So in other words, the purpose of the continuing mandamus is having clean water and if you will ask me if I am satisfied, I am satisfied because the waters are clean," he said.

Among the measures discussed during the meeting include the removal of garbage in the river systems, esteros (drainage canals), and water quality improvement, among others. It mentioned that DENR has also hired estero rangers who are specifically tasked to clean up esteros and disseminate information regarding solid waste management.

Also discussed during the meeting was the Project Kubeta Ko, or the strategic putting up of clean public toilets in nearby areas.

DENR mentioned the use of dolomite in its rehabilitation efforts, saying that many resorts in the country and abroad use it to add aesthetics to their surroundings.

When asked about the dolomite, Peralta refused to comment. He said a case for contempt against the DENR officials is pending before the high court and he is the justice-in-charge of the case.

He said the case would be deliberated on Nov. 3. [ac]



# CJ Peralta inspects gov't cleanup efforts in Manila Bay

Published October 14, 2020, 3:47 PM

by [Rey Panaligan](#)

Chief Justice Diosdado M. Peralta on Wednesday, Oct. 14, expressed his satisfaction on the efforts of the government to speed up the cleanup, restoration, and preservation of Manila Bay.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Among other observations, Peralta specifically cited the Solar-Powered Sewerage Treatment Plant.

“Nakita ko unang una sa wastewater treatment na ito, malinis na pala ang tubig na lumalabas dito (I first noticed in the wastewater treatment facility that water after treatment is already clear), he said.

But Peralta begged off from commenting on the now dolomite-covered portion of Manila since there is a pending Supreme Court (SC) petition asking the High Court to cite in contempt the officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR for dumping dolomite sand which is said to be hazardous to health and the environment.

Peralta was with DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and other officials on his tour of Manila Bay to personally see the implementation of the SC's 2008 decision.

Associate Justices Mario V. Lopez and Ricardo R. Rosario were with Peralta in the tour.

The landmark 2008 decision on environmental protection directed practically all government agencies, including those in law enforcement, to speed up the cleanup, restoration, and preservation of Manila Bay.

Written by retired Associate Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., now Marinduque governor, the SC said: “In the light of the ongoing environmental degradation, the court wishes to emphasize the extreme necessity for all concerned executive departments and agencies to immediately act and discharge their respective official duties and obligations.”

It pointed out that “time is of the essence..., and hence, there is a need to set timetables for the performance and completion of the tasks, some of them as defined for them by law and the nature of their respective offices and mandates,” it stressed.

Directed to undertake immediate action on the Manila Bay problem are the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), DENR, Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DoH), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Budget and Management ((DBM), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

Thereafter, the SC issued a continuing mandamus to compel the government agencies to perform their tasks.



It then created the Manila Bay Advisory Committee to monitor and evaluate the reports submitted by the agencies. The committee is now headed by Chief Justice Peralta with Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda as vice chairperson and Associate Justice Edgardo Delos Santos and Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez as members.

The ocular inspection of Manila Bay was initiated by Peralta after receiving the DENR's progress report based on its continuing mandamus.

The SC's public information office (PIO) said:

"In its report, the DENR discussed the clean-up activities currently being undertaken by the concerned agencies. These include the removal of garbage in the river systems, esteros (drainage canals) and water quality improvement, among others.

"It mentioned that DENR has also hired estero rangers who are specifically tasked to clean up esteros and disseminate information regarding solid waste management.

"It also discussed 'Project Kubeta Ko,' or the strategic putting up of clean public toilets in nearby areas.

"The DENR also mentioned the rehabilitation of Baywalk. Citing a press release of the Department of Health, DENR said that the use of dolomite is not hazardous to health, noting that 'the dolomite in natural bulk state is not a known health hazard.'

"The DENR also pointed out that 'crushed dolomite material is 100 times bigger than dust, therefore does not get suspended in air.' It added that dolomite has been used by several resorts in the country as well as abroad to add aesthetics to their surroundings."

Peralta asked the DENR to submit scientific studies and findings as to the effects of dolomite to the people.

Last January, Peralta spoke during the first anniversary of the "Battle for Manila Bay."

In his keynote address, the Chief Justice underscored that "the right to a clean environment is one of the highest rights afforded to every Filipino and that every generation has the duty to protect the environment."

Peralta vowed to ensure the implementation of the SC decision on the cleanup, restoration, and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.





## CJ Peralta inspects Manila Bay beach

Published 6 hours ago on October 15, 2020 12:40 AM

By [Alvin Murcia](#) @tribunephl\_alvi



Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta refused to give his personal opinion regarding the controversial dolomite sand that was laid down in Manila Bay by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Peralta yesterday inspected the said area in Manila Bay to make observations as part of a pending petition with the Supreme Court (SC) in connection with the project.

He said it was difficult for him to say something about the issue because he is the “ponente” on the matter.

Instead, he advised the public to wait for the deliberation on 3 November by the SC on the petition and await their decision.

The pending petition was filed by Akbayan and Akbayan Youth, asking the SC to cite for contempt the DENR because of the dolomite sand.

Meanwhile, the DENR yesterday reiterated the synthetic white sand dumped along the shores of Manila Bay as part of the beach nourishment project is not being washed away as critics claimed.

Benny Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, made the remark as he and other DENR officials led by Secretary Roy Cimatu joined Peralta in inspecting the bay area.

“With this inspection by the Chief Justice and Secretary Roy Cimatu, we can see that it is a lie that the white sand has been washed out. What happened is a wash-in. Black sand was washed in and covered the white dolomite sand,” Antiporda said over a television interview.

He said the area will have to be under frequent maintenance, as other manmade beaches around the world.

However, at the moment, no maintenance work is being done at the area, because this is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor in charge of the project.

On the other hand, Peralta said the inspection was done to determine if the national government is complying with the mandamus issued in 2008.



The SC order directed the government, led by the DENR, to report on the actual situation in Manila Bay due to numerous issues that need to be resolved.

The Chief Justice said the worksite looked good and the visit was to determine the latest in the said project.

He said as far as he is concerned, the DENR seemed to have complied with the mandamus as proven by the improved state of the water in Manila Bay.

Only recently, the DENR said it is keen to pursue its “white sand” beach project despite criticisms on its environmental impacts and sustainability.

During the Senate committee discussion on the DENR’s P25.55 billion proposed budget for 2021, officials said they will continue pouring crushed dolomite on the 500-meter stretch of Manila Bay once they are able to procure more from private suppliers.

with Francis Wakefield  
*@tribunephil\_ftw*



## Cimatu, CJ Peralta join other execs in inspecting 'dolomite beach'

Published October 14, 2020 4:10pm

Updated October 14, 2020 4:13pm

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and several other government officials on Wednesday inspected the dolomite sand in Manila Bay amid the rainy weather.

According to Isa Avendaño-Umali's report on GMA News TV's Balitanghali, Cimatu was joined by Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda and Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta.

Antiporda insisted that the [crushed dolomite sand that was dumped along the shores of Manila Bay were not washed out](#) despite the rainy weather.

He said the waves washed in darker sand and covered the synthetic white sand.

Antiporda added that this is natural because of the heavy rains and waves.

Meanwhile, Peralta said he cannot comment on the issues concerning the dolomite sand as it would still have to be resolved through deliberation. — Ma. Angelica Garcia/RSJ, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/759826/cimatu-cj-peralta-join-other-execs-in-inspecting-dolomite-beach/story/?utm\\_source=GMAnews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1asHGialKz9L8G4yW2kPvWoFbEGxnsN\\_e1CbrygyvBZ-em4BGNtGKbWpE](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/759826/cimatu-cj-peralta-join-other-execs-in-inspecting-dolomite-beach/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1asHGialKz9L8G4yW2kPvWoFbEGxnsN_e1CbrygyvBZ-em4BGNtGKbWpE)





## Environment chief Cimatu, CJ Peralta inspect Manila Bay beach rehab

October 14, 2020 | 1 min read

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu and Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta jointly inspect Thursday the extent of rehabilitation works in Manila Bay beach with crushed dolomite rocks. DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda told the working media to treat the rehab project with caution in reporting as work on the dolomite beach has not yet been fully turned-over by the contractor to the government. Antiporda also made it clear there is no truth to the report Tropical Depression washed out the dolomite beach rather, Manila Bay's original black sand was only washed in by strong waves courtesy of the inclement weather.

Jhun Mabanag / BENJAMIN CUARESMA



Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/14/environment-chief-cimatu-cj-peralta-inspect-manila-bay-beach-rehab/?fbclid=IwAR2oiSwKjaiPluY3AINGIY2pcgeoeGmtB2GusOf\\_c\\_jAJXoLoo-ZqodAYis](https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/14/environment-chief-cimatu-cj-peralta-inspect-manila-bay-beach-rehab/?fbclid=IwAR2oiSwKjaiPluY3AINGIY2pcgeoeGmtB2GusOf_c_jAJXoLoo-ZqodAYis)



Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta met with Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu and other officials to get updates on status of the clean-up of Manila Bay. Supreme Court Public Information Office/released

## Chief Justice Peralta wants DENR to submit studies, findings on dolomite effects on people

[Kristine Joy Patag](#) (Philstar.com) - October 14, 2020 - 5:47pm

MANILA, Philippines — Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta on Wednesday asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to submit a report on studies and findings on the effects of dolomite on people.

The Supreme Court Public Information Office said Peralta met with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, and other SC and DENR officials to discuss the status of the Manila Bay clean up, following the court-issued writ of continuing mandamus in 2008.

The SC PIO said that during the meeting, the DENR mentioned the rehabilitation of the Manila baywalk among its activities. The agency, citing a statement the health department, said that using dolomite is [not hazardous to health](#).

“The dolomite in natural bulk state is not a known health hazard. Crushed dolomite material is 100 times bigger than dust, therefore does not get suspended in air,” the DENR was quoted as saying in the statement.

The controversial “beach nourishment” of Manila Bay, classified as “enhancement” project — was part of the government’s Manila Bay rehabilitation program launched in January 2019. The project involved filing the stretch of the bay’s shore with crushed dolomite — which environmental groups have raised may pose risk to the marine ecosystem but also in communities around the area.

But Peralta opted to ask DENR to “submit scientific studies and findings as to the effects of dolomite [on] people.”

Progressive group Akbayan last month asked the SC to [cite DENR in contempt over the controversial “white sand” project](#), saying that the department “defied, disobeyed, resisted, disregarded, and violated the continuing mandamus.”

SC spokesperson Brian Hosaka said Peralta's request was given as chairperson, and on behalf of the SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee. "In fact, the Chief did not make any comment with regard to the dolomite beach because of the pending matter before the SC," he added.



## Writ of continuing mandamus

The SC PIO said that Peralta initiated the meeting as he sits as the chairperson of the SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee.

During the meeting, the DENR also discussed other activities it had undertaken to clean up Manila Bay including, removal of garbage in river systems, drainage canals and water quality improvement.

The environment department had also hired “estero rangers” to clean the drainage canals and disseminate information regarding solid waste management. It had also discussed Project Kubeta Ko, or the strategic putting up of public toilets in nearby areas.

Peralta ordered the environment department to submit a quarterly report on the progress of its clean-up project of the Manila Bay.

In 2008 landmark case, the SC ordered government agencies “clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level (Class B sea waters)... to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.”

DENR, in particular, is ordered to “fully implement its Operation Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy for the rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation of the Manila Bay at the earliest possible time.”

Peralta is the only remaining justice of the SC when the landmark ruling was released. “Under Internal Rules of the SC, whoever is still with the Court, and who had participated in that decision will become the ponente or the person in-charge of the case. I am now in charge of the case,” the chief justice said.

The SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee is vice-chaired by Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda. Its members, meanwhile, are Associate Justice Edgardo Delos Santos and Court Administrator Midas Marquez.

Source: [https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/10/14/2049571/chief-justice-peralta-wants-denr-submit-studies-findings-dolomite-effects-people?fbclid=IwAR0Jb83DfQNLufVQRn6SnQdeRVBOHdVzEtVxogykaTPmNBCElyLdFeK\\_7sY](https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/10/14/2049571/chief-justice-peralta-wants-denr-submit-studies-findings-dolomite-effects-people?fbclid=IwAR0Jb83DfQNLufVQRn6SnQdeRVBOHdVzEtVxogykaTPmNBCElyLdFeK_7sY)





## Chief Justice Peralta asks DENR to submit studies on effects of dolomite

Published October 14, 2020 5:32pm

By NICOLE-ANNE C. LAGRIMAS, GMA News

Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta has asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to submit scientific studies and findings on the effects of dolomite to people amid criticism of the agency's artificial white sand beach project at Manila Bay.

Peralta made the request even as he refused to comment on the so-called dolomite beach, citing the pendency of a motion wanting the DENR to be held in contempt for dumping crushed dolomite along the bay.

The chief justice chairs the Supreme Court's Manila Bay Advisory Committee and is the only remaining incumbent magistrate who was on the tribunal when it ordered government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay in 2008.

The court in 2008 also ordered government agencies to restore and maintain the quality of its water to a level that is suitable for recreational activities such as swimming and skin diving.

Complying with an order by Peralta, the DENR submitted a report on the clean-up, discussing activities like the removal of garbage in the rivers and esteros and water quality improvement.

The DENR also reported the rehabilitation of Baywalk. According to the SC Public Information Office, the [DENR cited a press release](#) from the Department of Health (DOH), "noting that 'the dolomite in natural bulk state is not a known health hazard.'"

The DOH initially said the inhalation of crushed dolomite may cause respiratory issues but later clarified that the material used for the Manila Bay project is 100 times bigger than dust.

"Dolomite in its bulk state is not a known health hazard and dolomite in dust form, like any other dust particle, can lead to symptoms such as chest discomfort, shortness of breath, and coughing for this is our body's normal reaction to irritants," the DOH said last month.





The beach nourishment project along Manila Bay costs P389 million, P28 million of which was allocated specifically for the crushed dolomite, according to the DENR.

Pursuant to the continuing mandamus of the SC, Peralta and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu met on Wednesday and [inspected the dolomite beach](#) and the solar-powered sewerage treatment plant along Roxas Boulevard, among others, the SC PIO said.—AOL, GMA News



# CJ Peralta, inatasan ang DENR na magsagawa ng pag-aaral sa epekto sa kalusugan ng dolomite sa Manila Bay

By **Bombo Jerald Ulep** -October 14, 2020 | 6:00 PM



Kasabay ng kanyang pagbisita sa kontrobersiyal at tinaguriang "dolomite beach" ipinagutos ngayon ni Supreme Court (SC) Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na magsumite ng scientific studies at findings kung ano nga ba ang epekto ng mga nadurog na dolomite sa kalusugan ng isang tao.

Ang punong mahistrado na lamang ang natitirang justice ng Korte Suprema na siyang nagbigay ng direktiba noong 2009 sa 13 government agencies na magsagawa ng clean up drive, rehabilitation at ipreserba ang Manila Bay.

Kasama rin sa utos ng kataas-taasang hukuman na ibalik at imintina ang tubig ng Manila Bay sa class SB level, ibig sabihin ang tubig ay puwede para sa recreational activities gaya ng swimming at skin diving.

Noong Enero 26, naging keynote speaker si Peralta sa 1st Anniversary ng "Battle for Manila Bay."

Ipinunto noon ng punong mahistrado na ang karapatan sa malinis na kapaligiran ay isa sa pinakamataas na karapatan ng bawat Pilipino at may responsibilidad ang susunod na henerasyon na pangalaagan ang kapaligiran.

Tiniyak din ng Peralta na katuwang ni Korte Suprema ang clean-up ng Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee.

"Those who decided the Manila Bay (MMDA vs. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay), most of them have retired. It is only yours truly who is still with the SC. Under Internal Rules of the SC, whoever is still with the Court, and who had participated in that decision will become the ponente or the person in-charge of the case. I am now in charge of the case," ani Peralta.



Kanina nga bago ang kanilang personal na pagbisita sa Manila Bay white sands para inspeksiyunin ang naturang proyekto ay nagkaroon muna ng pagpupulong si Chief Justice Peralta at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu para sa tuloy-tuloy na clean-up ng Manila Bay na binansagang Battle for Manila Bay.

Inatasan ni Peralta ang heads ng 13 government agencies na naatasang manguna sa clean-up na magsumite ng quarterly report kaugnay ng progress sa proyekto.

Nagsisilbing vice-chair ng SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee si SC Justice Rodil V. Zalameda at members naman sina SC Justice Edgardo L. Delos Santos at Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez.



# SC to tackle Manila Bay rehab case Nov. 3

By Benjamin Pulta **October 14, 2020, 3:43 pm**



INSPECTION. Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta (left) and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (right) inspect the Manila Bay seaside promenade on Wednesday (Oct. 14, 2020). The Supreme Court is set to deliberate on the progress of the implementation of a 2008 ruling which had ordered concerned agencies under the executive department to rehabilitate the area on Nov. 3. (Photo courtesy of SC Public Information Office)

MANILA – Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta and other Supreme Court officials inspected the Manila Bay on Wednesday morning to see the progress of its rehabilitation in connection with a case pending before the tribunal.

"The meeting was initiated by Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta as the chairperson of the SC Manila Bay Advisory Committee. He wanted the Manila Bay Task Force to report to him and give an update on the projects and initiatives undertaken to clean up Manila Bay pursuant to the continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court," SC spokesperson Brian Keith Hosaka told reporters.

Peralta said a deliberation by the high court is scheduled on Nov. 3 on the progress of the implementation of a 2008 ruling which had ordered concerned agencies under the executive department to rehabilitate the area.

Aside from Peralta, also present in the meeting with Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu were Associate Justices Rodil Zalameda, Mario Lopez, Edgardo delos Santos and Ricardo Rosario.

In September, the Akbayan party-list asked the high court to cite officials of the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) in contempt of the continuing mandamus of the tribunal over the controversial use of dolomite sand in a portion of the bay.

In 2008, the SC ordered the government including the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to implement measures to clean up Manila Bay.

Under the original order, all local government units (LGUs) in Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, and Bataan were directed to inspect all factories, commercial establishments, and private homes along the banks of major river systems and waterways that eventually discharge water to Manila Bay.

It also ordered concerned agencies to provide, install, operate and maintain the necessary adequate wastewater treatment facility in Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite, restore marine life; apprehend violators of existing laws designed to prevent marine pollution of Manila Bay; adopt measures to prevent dumping of solid and liquid wastes and other ship-generated wastes into Manila Bay's water from vessels; dismantle and remove all structures and constructions along the Pasig-Marikina-San Juan rivers, National Capital Region rivers, Navotas-Malabon-Tullahan-Tenejeros rivers, and other connecting waterways and esteros in Metro Manila. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1118499>





# Bay visit

By The Manila Times

October 15, 2020



*Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta inspect a portion of Manila Bay on Oct. 14, 2020. The chief magistrate wanted to know the status of the bay clean-up and rehabilitation as ordered by the Supreme Court. Photo by Rene H. Dilan*



Sa kasagsagan ng pag-ulan sa Maynila, nag-inspeksyon sa Manila Bay ang DENR upang tingnan ang sitwasyon ng dolomite beach. Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, "washed-in" at hindi "washed-out" ang nangyari sa dolomite nitong nakalipas na pag-ulan.



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ABS-CBN News

13h · 🌐



Nanindigan ang DENR na hindi inanod ang dolomite o artificial white sand sa Manila Bay sa kabila ng masamang panahon. Sa halip, ito umano ay natabunan lang ng itim na buhangin mula sa karagatan. #HeadlinePilipinas



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LIVE | Nag-inspeksyon ang mga opisyal ng DENR at mga mahistrado ng Korte Suprema sa Manila Bay white sand project kaugnay ng motion para ma-contempt of court ang mga opisyal ng DENR. | via Romel Lopez



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 ONE News  
12h · 🌐

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu and Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta, joined by justices of the Supreme Court and DENR officials, visit the ongoing beach nourishment project in Manila Baywalk.

🏢 DENR



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'THESE EXPERTS FROM UP HAVE NO RIGHT TO CRITICIZE THE MANILA BAY REHAB PROJECT'

## 'Bayaran kayo:' DENR exec berates UP experts over multi-million consultation fees

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:44 PM October 14, 2020



DENR spokesperson Undersecretary Benny Antiporda. (File photo from an INQUIRER.net video)

MANILA, Philippines — Experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) had “no right” to criticize the Manila Bay makeover project, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) spokesperson Benny Antiporda said on Wednesday as he berated them for allegedly receiving millions in consultation fees.

In a televised briefing, Antiporda even called for an audit of UP’s Marine Science Institute for the funds supposedly given to them by the DENR.

“Base po sa pag-aaral ng inyong likod, kalahating bilyon po ang binayaran namin sa kanila simula 2016 hanggang taong ito. Kalahating bilyon na puro lang po konsultasyon, wala pong infrastructure, walang lahat. Yan yung binayaran natin sa UP [experts] na yan,” Antiporda said.

(According to my studies, half a billion was paid to them from 2016 until this year. Half a billion for consultation, no infrastructure, no anything. That’s what we paid to UP [experts].) “We are now calling the attention of the Commission on Audit to conduct an audit against the UP. Especially UP Marine Science Institute,” he added.

Antiporda questioned why these UP experts, being working for the government themselves, are charging the government extra for their services, adding that they “do not have the right” to criticize DENR’s projects.

“Ang UP po sa buong pagkaalam natin ay libre dapat yan, ano po? Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno? Matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan, pagkatapos kayo maging scholar ng taumbayan, sisipsipin niyo ang dugo ng taumbayan sa dami ng kinuha niyong pondo?”

(From what we know, UP should be free right? Why are they [experts] charging the government? After your studies were paid for by the public, after you became scholars of the people, you will suck the blood out of the people with the funds you received?)

“Tapos ngayon, gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan magbayad kami sa inyo? Wag naman. Hindi niyo karapatan batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. Yun lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulitin ko, bayaran kayo,” he went on.



(Now that we are doing something good, we have to pay you? That's not right. You have no right to criticize this because you were paid. That's all I can say to UP. You were paid for.)

Antiporda was sought for comment on the UP Diliman Institute of Biology's [suggestion to invest in mangroves](#) instead the crushed dolomite laid over a portion of Manila Bay.

Tha DENR official rejected this, saying it "will destroy the landscape."

"You cannot put it in the middle of baywalk area where it will destroy the landscape, hindi po magandang tignan. And at the same time, hindi po mabubuhay sa lugar na ito yung mangrove," he said.

(You cannot put it in the middle of a baywalk area where it will destroy the landscape, it's not good to look at. At the same time, mangrove cannot live in this area.)

INQUIRER.net has sought for UP's comment on the matter, but has yet to receive a response, as of this writing.

JPV



In this September 18, 2020 photo, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda places crushed dolomite sand in an aquarium with fish to prove that the recent fishkill in Baseco is not connected to the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The STAR/Boy Santos, file

## ‘Bayaran kayo’: DENR slams UP scientists critical of Manila Bay dolomite project

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - October 14, 2020 - 1:44pm

MANILA, Philippines — The spokesperson of the environment department on Wednesday lashed out at experts from the University of the Philippines commenting on the “white sand” beach project along Manila Bay, calling them mercenaries and saying they have no right to air their criticism.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda claimed Wednesday that the government has paid UP scientists some P500 million since 2016.

“Kalahating bilyon na puro lang consultation, walang infrastructure... Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan, matapos kayong maging scholar ng taumbayan? Sisipsipin niyo ang dugo ng taumbayan sa dami niyong kinuhang pondo tapos ngayon gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan naming magbayad sa inyo?” Antiporda, who is also DENR’s spokesperson, said in a Laging Handa briefing.

(Half a billion for only consultation, no infrastructure. Why are you charging the government after your studies were shouldered by the public? You are sucking the blood of the people with the huge amount of money that you have collected. Now that we’re doing something good, we need to pay you?)

In a statement Tuesday, the UP Marine Science Institute addressed Antiporda’s accusation, saying that the scientific advice and technical inputs it provides are free of charge but laboratory tests and research are not.

"The costs of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities, to support for research assistants, should be, as they actually are shouldered by the clients," UP MSI said, explaining it is not a line agency of the government.

Dr. Laura David, UP MSI director, said the institution has had collaborations with DENR in the past and that it recognizes the agency's expertise in various fields.

### Limited funds

Antiporda even said that experts from the country’s premier state university have no right to criticize the government project because, according to him, they are “bayaran.” He even called on the Commission on Audit to conduct an audit on UP, particularly on UP MSI.





He also claimed, without presenting evidence, that there is an attempt to discredit government's efforts because of the next election, which is set for two years from now.

Antiporda earlier remarked that "every time we consult them, we pay them so much money and people don't know that."

UP MSI said that its internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses funds are limited to maintaining its laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory in Pangasinan.

"Recognizing the need and the limited funds available, the University was given General Appropriations Act funding for the first time in 46 years so that UP MSI could conduct necessary marine scientific research in Philippine waters," David said.

"Hence, for as long as the science inquiries of the national government agencies fall within planned marine scientific research, only minimal additional funding will be needed," she added.

### **DENR spox vs UP scientists**

Antiporda's ire at UP scientists, particularly those at the UP MSI, stemmed from its statement on September 30 that overlaying a small portion of Manila Bay's shoreline with crushed dolomite rocks is a "beautification effort that is costly and temporary."

The UP Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology also issued a statement that the beach nourishment project will be "environmentally damaging" in the long run.

The UP Institute of Biology, meanwhile, said last week that "science-based" programs such as planting of mangroves should be implemented as it offered its services to the DENR.

"UP MSI affirms its continued commitment to make available to the government the services of its researchers, scientists and experts, including the DENR, as needed to further the country's development," the UP MSI said.

### **Black sand**

Antiporda also said that the crushed dolomite rocks laid over a stretch of the Manila Bay baywalk was not washed out but was covered by black sand.

"What happened is 'wash in.' The black sand covered the white dolomite," he said in Filipino.

The DENR official added that the beach nourishment area needs to be maintained but this has yet to happen since the stretch of Manila Bay shoreline that is undergoing makeover is "still under the jurisdiction" of the contractor.



# Manila Bay rehab, binatikos... DENR sa UP experts: bayaran kayo

ni [Ronalyne Seminiano Reonico](#) | October 14, 2020



Sinopla ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Spokesperson Benny Antiporda nitong Miyerkules ang mga eksperto ng University of the Philippines (UP) na pumupuna sa Manila Bay beautification project.

Sa ginanap na televised briefing, nanawagan din si Antiporda sa Commission on Audit (COA) upang i-audit ang pondo na ibinibigay umano ng DENR sa UP Marine Science Institute.

Aniya, “Base po sa pag-aaral ng inyong lingkod, kalahating bilyon po ang binayaran namin sa kanila simula 2016 hanggang taong ito. Kalahating bilyon na puro lang po konsultasyon, wala pong infrastructure, walang lahat. ‘Yan ‘yung binayaran natin sa UP [experts] na ‘yan.

“We are now calling the attention of the Commission on Audit to conduct an audit against the UP, especially UP Marine Science Institute.”

Pahayag pa ni Antiporda, “Ang UP po sa buong pagkakaalam natin ay libre dapat ‘yan, ano po? Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno? Matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan, pagkatapos kayong maging scholar ng taumbayan, sisipsipin n’yo ang dugo ng taumbayan sa dami ng kinuha ninyong pondo?”

“Tapos ngayon, gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangang magbayad kami sa inyo? ‘Wag naman. Hindi n’yo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. ‘Yun lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulitin ko, bayaran kayo.”

Iminumungkahi rin umano ng UP Diliman Institute of Biology na imbes na crushed dolomite ang ilagay sa Manila Bay ay mga mangroves na lamang ngunit ni-reject ito ng DENR dahil makasisira umano ito sa “landscape” ng tourist spot.

Saad ni Antiporda, “You cannot put it in the middle of baywalk area where it will destroy the landscape, hindi po magandang tingnan. And at the same time, hindi po mabubuhay sa lugar na ito ‘yung mangrove.”

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/manila-bay-rehab-binatikos-denr-sa-up-experts-bayaran-kayo>



# 'BAYARAN KAYO' | Environment official lashes out at UP over mangrove offer in Manila Bay

October 14, 2020 , 02:47 PM

(October 14, 2020) – An environment department official on Wednesday resorted to name calling to criticize university experts after they proposed to plant mangrove trees along Manila Bay instead of importing a fake top soil to beautify the beachfront.

Benny Antiporda, a tabloid publisher and appointed undersecretary of the environment and natural resources department, ranted against experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) for supposedly charging for consultation.

"As long as it is for free, tatanggapin po namin tulong nila," Antiporda said during a Laging Handa briefing.

"Kalahating bilyon ang binayaran namin sa kanila simula 2016 hanggang taong ito. Puro lang po konsultasyon, wala pong infrastructure, wala lahat."

"Sa buong pagkaalam ho natin libre dapat yan. Bakit kayo naningil sa gobyerno matapos pagaralin ng taumbayan, matapos maging iskolar ng taumbayan, sisipsipin niyo ang dugo ng taumbayan sa dami ng kinuha nyong pondo? Tapos ngayong gumagawa kami ng maganda kailangan magbayad kami ng maganda sa inyo? Wag naman."

"Di niyo karapatan batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. Uulitin ko bayaran kayo!"



UP experts offered their assistance in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) had suggested planting mangroves in the area, as it was known to prevent erosion and further improve water quality.

"The lack of wastewater treatment plants surrounding the watershed of Manila Bay, and the loss of natural clean-up from wetland, mangrove, and seagrass ecosystem services, are not able to filter and remove pollutants that drain from urban and residential areas," it said last month.

But Antiporda said the department has cleaned up the wetlands such as Bataan, Cavite, and Baseco.

"You cannot put it in the middle of the Baywalk area. It will destroy the landscape, 'di maganda tignan. 'Di mabubuhay sa lugar na ito ang mangrove," he said.



"Baka ho pwede magtanong muna sa DENR bago sila magkomento."

On Wednesday, Antiporda accompanied Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta as they inspected Manila Bay, in recognition of its continuing court order to rehabilitate the polluted Manila Bay.

The area, where the crushed dolomite was dumped, was marred by black sand because of recent rains.

Antiporda said in a Laging Handa briefing that the white sand was not washed out as critics have claimed.

"Ang nangyari, pumasok ang itim na buhangin at pumatong sa puting dolomite," he said.

Antiporda further explained that they could not maintain the area yet as it was still under the jurisdiction of the contractor.

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/bayaran-kayo-environment-official-lashes-out-at-up-over-mangrove-offer-in-manila-bay?fbclid=IwAR1d-1chJuWX5FU-f4JoFDADe0O5FCRdawtXlfTud7mavY7HBKznUCIX4fY>





# DENR slams UP's offer to help Manila Bay rehab: Bayaran kayo

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#) Published Oct 14, 2020 4:27:07 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 14) — Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said on Wednesday that the government would accept the offer of help in rehabilitating Manila Bay from the University of the Philippines Diliman Institute of Biology only if this were free.

Antiporda revealed said services of the Institute were supposed to be free of charge, but the reality is that the government has paid P500 million to UP since 2016.

"Kalahating bilyon na puro lang konsultasyon, walang infrastructure. Wala lahat. Kalahating bilyon ang binyaran natin sa UP na 'yan," he said.

[Translation: Half a billion for consultations with no infrastructure, nothing. We have paid UP half a billion.]

In statement last Friday, UPIB said it was ["strongly against"](#) the use of crushed dolomite along the shore of Manila Bay, a project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and suggested that mangroves should be planted instead.

The Institute then expressed willingness to assist the DENR in a science-based rehabilitation program for Manila Bay that would allow the recovery of its biological functions and services as well as take into consideration the "interplay between natural processes and human activities."

"Rehabilitating mangroves (based on species-substrate matching and species zonation) is an example of nature-based solution that is cheaper and more cost-effective than the dolomite dumping project," UPIB pointed out.

But Antiporda slammed UPIB for criticizing the project, accusing the Institute of making money from its services.

"Ang UP po sa pagkakaalam natin ay libre 'yan. Bakit kayo naninigil sa gobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taong bayan. Matapos kayo maging iskolar ng taongbayan, sisipsipin ninyo ang dugo ng taongbayan sa dami ng kinuha niyong pondo? Tapos ngayon, may ginagawa kaming maganda kailangan magbayad kami sa inyo? Huwag naman. Hindi niyo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. Yun lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulit-ulitin ko, bayaran kayo," he said.

[Translation: From what I know UP is free. Why are you asking money from the government after the public paid for your education. After they made you scholars of the nation, you suck the blood from them after all the funds spent on you? And now that we do something good, we have to pay you? That should not happen. You have no right to criticize this because you are for sale. That is what I have to say about UP. I will say it over and over: you are for sale.]

Antiporda said mangrove projects are done in areas where there are wetlands and cannot be implemented in the baywalk area as the plant would not survive and would destroy the landscape.

"Hindi magandang tignan. And at the same time hindi mabubuhay sa lugar na ito yung mangrove," he said.  
[Translation: It isn't nice to look at. And at the same time, mangroves will not survive here.]



In a statement sent Wednesday evening, the UPIB responded to Antiporda saying that its suggestion for mangrove rehabilitation was meant for the whole of Manila Bay and not just the part where dolomite is being laid out.

It explained that mangroves have historically been an integral part of the bay, adding Manila City was named after a species nilad.

"While there are various rehabilitation methods that can be used for Manila Bay, some of these methods may be expensive and superficial, to say the least. In contrast, mangrove conservation and restoration has been advocated by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as one of the most cost-effective NBS (nature-based solution) in addressing issues on recovering ecosystem services as well as for climate change adaptation and mitigation," it pointed out.

Antiporda also called on the Commission on Audit to look into UP's books, particularly the Marine Science Institute.

"We are now calling the attention of the COA to conduct an audit against UP, especially the UP Marine Science Institute sa lahat po ng pondong ginastos namin sa kanila," he said.

[Translation: We are now calling the attention of the COA to conduct an audit against UP, especially the UP Marine Science Institute for all the funds we spent on them.]

Earlier this month, the UP Marine Science Institute [said](#) the overlaying of sand with crushed dolomite boulders along a portion of Manila Bay will not help solve the environmental problems and issues hounding the area.

In a statement, it noted that the use of dolomite may pose health risks and threats to the marine environment.

In a [separate statement](#), UP MSI said it "has been providing various forms of community and public service as well as scholarly and technical assistance to the government, the private sector and civil society."

UP MSI responded to Antiporda's allegations, explaining that scientific advice and technical inputs from its experts are free in accordance with UP's mandate as a national university, but the research work comes at a cost.

"The costs of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities to support for research assistants, should be, as they actually are shouldered by the clients, as the UPMSI is not a line agency in the government's executive branch," they said.

## No wash out

Antiporda further defended the overlaying project, saying allegations that the "white sand" were getting washed out were nothing but lies.

"Puro kasinungalingan po yung lumabas na nagwash out yung white sand. Ang nangyari talaga ay wash in. Pumasok yung itim na buhangin at pumatong sa white dolomite," he pointed out.

[Translation: It's all a lie that the white sand was washed out. What happened was a wash in. The black sand came in and covered the dolomite.]

Antiporda explained that the country's beachfronts are maintained for cleanliness and order, but this is not yet happening in the Manila Bay area which is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor.

He also denied allegations that the company that provided the dolomite was established solely for the Manila Bay project.

"The company has been operating for 39 years, and yet...bakit hindi alam ng mga politicians nila diyan... This project only started last year, bakit nila sa atin sinisisi yun?," he demanded.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/10/14/enr-benny-antiporda-up-bayaran.html>



## DENR ginagawang gatasan ng UP – Antiporda



October 14, 2020 @ 5:18 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inakusahan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang University of the Philippines na pinagkakaperahan o ginagatasan lang nito ang DENR.

Diin ni Antiporda, nakapagbigay ang DENR sa UP ng halagang nasa kalahating bilyon simula noong 2016 hanggang sa taong ito ngunit puro para lang sa konsultasyon at wala ni anomang imprastraktura na ginawa ang unibersidad.

“Kalahating bilyon ang binayaran sa kanila simula 2016 hanggang taong ito. Kalahating bilyon na puro lang konsultasyon, walang infrastructure. Kalahating bilyon ang binayaran natin sa UP na ‘yan,” ani Antiporda.

Dagdag pa nito, “Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno? Matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan, matapos kayong maging iskolar ng taumbayan, sisipsipin niyo ang dugo ng ating kababayan sa rami ng kinuha niyong pondo!”

Ginawa ni Antiporda ang akusasyon makarang kunin ang reaksyon nito sa alok ng UP Diliman Institute of Biology na tumulong sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Naunang sinabi ng mga taga-UPDIB na dapat mangrove o punongkahoy na pantubig ang inilagay sa lugar na tinatabunan ng dolomite ngayon dahil mura lang ito.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, “Tapos ngayon, gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan magbayad kami sa inyo. Huwag naman.

“Hindi niyo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. ‘Yun lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulit-ulitin ko: bayaran kayo,” he said.

Sa huli, hiniling ni Antiporda sa Commission on Audit na busisiin ang ibinayad ng DENR sa UP. RNT



Maintenance personnel collect garbage washed ashore onto the "white sand" beach in Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard, Manila on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. DANNY PATA

## DENR official accuses UP of milking public funds amid Manila Bay rehab criticism

Published October 14, 2020 3:09pm Updated October 14, 2020 5:48pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Wednesday slammed the University of the Philippines for allegedly milking public funds since 2016.

In a public briefing, Antiporda made the statement when asked about the offer of UP Diliman Institute of Biology to help in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"Kalahating bilyon ang binayaran sa kanila simula 2016 hanggang taong ito. Kalahating bilyon na puro lang konsultasyon, walang infrastructure. Kalahating bilyon ang binayaran natin sa UP na 'yan," he said.

"Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno? Matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan, matapos kayong maging iskolar ng taumbayan, sisipsipin niyo ang dugo ng ating kababayan sa dami ng kinuha niyong pondo," he added.

Earlier, UP biologists advised the government to [use mangroves](#) instead of covering Manila Bay's shoreline with crushed dolomite because this project is cheaper and more cost-effective.

Antiporda said DENR will accept the help if it is for free.

He also slammed UP for criticizing DENR's project which aims to cover some parts of the shoreline of the Manila Bay with crushed dolomite to achieve the aesthetic of a white sand beach.

"Tapos ngayon, gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan magbayad kami sa inyo. Huwag naman," Antiporda said.

"Hindi niyo karapatan batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. 'Yun lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulit-ulitin ko: Bayaran kayo," he said.

Antiporda called on the Commission on Audit to look into the payments of the government to the university.





UP Vice President for Public Affairs Elena Pernia told GMA News Online that the experts from the university did not mean to criticize the DENR and noted that they only put out their studies.

"Hindi naman 'yun criticism. It is the job of the University. It is the job of scientists to put out their studies. We're not criticizing," she said.

"Wala kaming kini-criticize. Parehas kaming gobyerno. Tumutulong kami," she added.

Pernia pointed out that UP also published reports about different topics not only those related to the field of the DENR.

She also explained it is common to make investments when conducting research.

However, she noted that the amount already given by the DENR to the Marine Science Institute (MSI) is less than P500 million, contrary to the allegation of Antiporda.

"Hindi ka naman makakagawa ng saliksik kung wala kang gamit. 'Yung gastos ng pagsasaliksik, doon ang investment," Pernia said.

"I believe the exact amount is less than half a billion," she added.

Fishers group PAMALAKAYA national chairperson Fernando Hicap, who disapproved of the white sand project from the start, slammed Antiporda for his allegations against the university system.

"He deserves a strong condemnation over his tirade against U.P. experts who proposed planting of mangroves instead of beach nourishment," Hicap said in a statement.

He pointed out that the funding intended for research and development was the reason why the experts came out with a suggestion that mangroves are way better than any synthetic sand.

"Ultimately, those funds, including the P389 million that the DENR has wasted for useless beach nourishment, were taxpayers," he said.

"The audacity of Antiporda to lash out at our competent and productive scientists when it is himself who has no credibility in becoming an environmental official because he is neither an environmentalist nor an expert," he added.—KG/AOL, GMA News

**Source:** [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/759807/denr-official-accuses-up-of-milking-public-funds-amid-manila-bay-rehab-criticism/story/?utm\\_source=GMAnews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2GJPI6\\_zkeTXoZSLp9AJeIUU-RhvTb5zCtI/TcRCcOZdLO07ZuUbSEGnR4](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/759807/denr-official-accuses-up-of-milking-public-funds-amid-manila-bay-rehab-criticism/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2GJPI6_zkeTXoZSLp9AJeIUU-RhvTb5zCtI/TcRCcOZdLO07ZuUbSEGnR4)

# Free Ride: Antiporda attacks UP scientists, insists they should not ask payment

Coconuts Manila 15 hrs ago



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on the site of Manila bay white sand dumping *Photo: Benny Antiporda / FB*

A visibly mad Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda today attacked the University of the Philippines (UP) Institute of Biology, saying that [they do not have the right to criticize](#) the government's Manila Bay white sand project.

In today's *Laging Handa* ("Always Ready") press briefing, a fuming Antiporda said without offering proof that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has already paid the Institute of Biology PHP500 million (US\$10.86 million) in consultancy fees and that because of this, he expects them to work for free.

"To those commenting [about this project], they should talk to the DENR first before they comment. About their offer that they are ready to help us, as long as it's for free, we will accept their help. Because based on what I have studied we have paid them half a billion since 2016 up to this year only for consultation. There's no infrastructure, nothing. We paid half a billion to that UP. From what I know, UP should offer their services for free," Antiporda said in English and Filipino.

Antiporda also called out UP scientists for saying that dumping crushed dolomite on Manila Bay was "not the best way" to spend taxpayers' money because it was detrimental to the area's biodiversity. The scientists have told the DENR that [they should have planted mangroves](#) on the shore instead.

The Environment official said that this was not possible because the mangroves "will destroy the landscape. And at the same time, mangroves will not survive in this area."

Continuing with his diatribe, Antiporda accused the scientists of being "*bayaran*" ("accepting payments"), a slur that Duterte supporters often hurl at government critics whom they allege are accepting bribes.



"Why are you asking for payment from the government after you were educated by taxpayer's money? After you became a scholar of the people? You sucked the blood of the people from all the money that you have taken? Now that we're doing something good [and you criticize us] we have to pay you? No way. You do not have the right to criticize us because you are accepting payments. That's the only thing I will say about UP. I will keep repeating it, you are accepting money," Antiporda said.

Critics have said that the taxes used to fund the Manila Bay white sand project, estimated at PHP397 million (US\$8 million), should have been used for the Philippines' coronavirus response instead. However, government officials have said that the rehabilitation of the polluted area has been planned months before the pandemic hit, and the money cannot be used for other projects.

Meanwhile, Antiporda also called out critics for saying that rains have already washed out the dolomite sand, and said that it was just underneath the black sand that waves have brought to the shore. There were about two to three inches of black sand on top of the crushed dolomite, he added.

"Those are all lies [being spread] about the white sand being washed out. What happened was that the black sand was washed in[to the shore] and it went on top of the white dolomite," he said.

*This article, [Free Ride: Antiporda attacks UP scientists, insists they should not ask payment](#), originally appeared on [Coconuts](#), Asia's leading alternative media company.*



## ‘UP has no right to criticize Bay’

posted October 14, 2020 at 11:50 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#) and [Rey E. Requejo](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday said experts from the University of the Philippines-Diliman have “no right” to criticize the use of synthetic white sand for a beautification project at the Manila Bay.

The UP Marine Science Institute earlier took the DENR to task for using synthetic white sand and instead said it was willing to help the DENR in a “science-based rehabilitation program for Manila Bay,” where mangroves may be planted.

DENR Undersecretary and spokesperson Benny Antiporda, however, said the mangroves would “destroy the landscape.”

“Hindi ho magandang tingnan and at the same time, hindi ho mabubuhay salugar na ito iyong mangrove,” he said during the Laging Handa public briefing.



*BLACK AND WHITE. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta, and other officials inspect the Manila Bay dolomite white sand overlay in Manila on Wednesday. Environment officials said geotubes had been placed to ensure retention of the white sand on the beach and lessen the impact of waves and currents, which appeared to turn the beach black amid recent rainstorms (inset). Norman Cruz*

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the implementation by concerned government agencies of various projects to rehabilitate the waters of Manila Bay.

Peralta, who chairs the Manila Bay Advisory Committee, issued the statement after meeting with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and other agencies regarding their compliance of the continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court to implement measures to rehabilitate the body of water.

According to the Chief Justice, the meeting was part of the quarterly assessment being undertaken by the MBAC with regard to the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, which is covered by a continuing mandamus issued by the high court in 2011.

“We came here to observe and determine how far they have gone with the observation, obedience to the continuing mandamus.” Peralta told reporters.

Antiporda also defended the project from yet another claim that the crushed dolomites used in the Manila Bay are being washed away by the rains.

Antiporda said the dolomites are not being washed out, but the black sands are being “washed in.”

“As of now, wala pong nawa-wash out. Wash in po ang nangyayari. Pumapasok po ang buhangin na itim. Hindi po lumalabas ang buhangin na puti,” he said.

Antiporda said the DENR has paid about P500 million to UP experts since 2016 for consultations.





“Ang UP po sa pagkaalam natin, dapat libre iyan. Bakit kayo naniningil sagobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taong-bayan... sipsipin n’yo ang dugo ng taumbayan sa dami ng kinuha n’yong pondo. Tapos ngayon gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan magbayad kami sa inyo?” he asked.

“Hindi n’yo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. Iyon lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulit-ulitin ko: bayaran kayo.”

But Dr. Laura David of the UP-MSI said the state university has a mandate to teach, research and render public service.

She said experts have received P364 million from the government in the past 10 years for “10 projects in collaboration with DENR and co-sponsorship support for a symposium.”

“However, some questions and problems cannot be addressed without conducting research in the field or laboratory experiments so as to come up with science-based answers or to develop local capabilities,” David added.

The UPMSI also clarified that their services were for free, but their “clients” must foot the bill for other research expenses.

David said the UPMSI is not a line agency in the government’s executive branch, and its internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) “are limited to maintaining the laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory.”

“The cost of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities, to support for research assistants, should be, as they actually are shouldered by the clients, as the UPMSI is not a line agency in the government’s executive branch,” it said.

“Moreover, all of the UPMSI’s research and development activities are project-based, with very specific fund disbursement guidelines and limitations. The internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses funds of UPMSI are limited to maintaining the laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory,” it added.

Fishers group PAMALAKAYA national chairperson Fernando Hicap, who disapproved of the project from the start, urged Antiporda to “stop making a fool of himself” by defending the controversial project.

“Wash out or wash in, it doesn’t matter. What’s certain is that the dolomite white sand would fade away somehow,” Hicap said.

The fishers group demanded that Antiporda address the environmental concerns being raised “fair and square.” “Otherwise, he is just exposing himself as a complete ignorant to environmental science, and only good in being a mouthpiece,” Hicap said.

According to Antiporda, the contractor for the project can only be questioned when the project is already completed.

“We can wait for them to finish the project. In the first place, hindi pa rin po naman bayad ‘yan ng buo dahil hindi pa po tapos ang proyekto,” he said.

“Kapag natapos po ang proyekto, that’s the time po bago natin tanungin sila kung ano ang nangyari,” he added. Peralta presided over the meeting held at Diamond Hotel in Manila and attended by MBAC members namely SC Associate Justices Rodil Zalameda, Mario Lopez, Edgardo delos Santos and Ricardo Rosario, Court Administrator Jose Midas Marquez and other government stakeholders.

After the meeting, Peralta along with other government officials inspected the bay area including the part covered with dolomite sand.

The chief magistrate noted that based on the report submitted to the MBAC and based on his observation the water coming out from the waste water treatment is now clean.

“But what we can say about Manila Bay, it’s already clean. All the waters that go to the bay from the esteros are already clean. So in other words, the purpose of the continuing mandamus is having clean water and if you will ask me if I am satisfied, I am satisfied because the waters are clean,” Peralta said.



The top magistrate admitted that he and his fellow justices were impressed with the DENR's presentation about their rehabilitation works in Manila Bay during the meeting.

In its report, DENR discussed the clean-up activities currently being undertaken by concerned agencies. These include the removal of garbage in the river systems, esteros (drainage canals) and water quality improvement, among others. The DENR said it has also hired estero rangers who are specifically tasked to clean up esteros and disseminate information regarding solid waste management.

The DENR also implemented the so-called Project Kubeta Ko, or the strategic putting up of clean public toilets in nearby areas.

When asked about the environmental impact of the dumping of the controversial dolomite sand on a portion of Manila Bay, Peralta declined to comment due to the pending petition seeking to cite the DENR in contempt for dumping dolomite sand in Manila Bay is still pending before the SC, and he would be violating the rule on sub judice.

Peralta said he was also assigned as the justice-in-charge of the petition, which would be deliberated on November 3.

But the chief magistrate asked the DENR to submit scientific studies and findings as to the effects of dolomite to people.



# DENR exec says UP experts 'have no right' to criticize Manila Bay makeover

Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 14 2020 01:10 PM | Updated as of Oct 14 2020 04:39 PM



A view of the "white sand" project in Manila Bay as it temporarily opens to the public on September 19, 2020. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

**MANILA (2nd UPDATE)** — An environment official on Wednesday said experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman had "no right" to criticize the use of synthetic white sand for a beautification project at the Manila Bay.

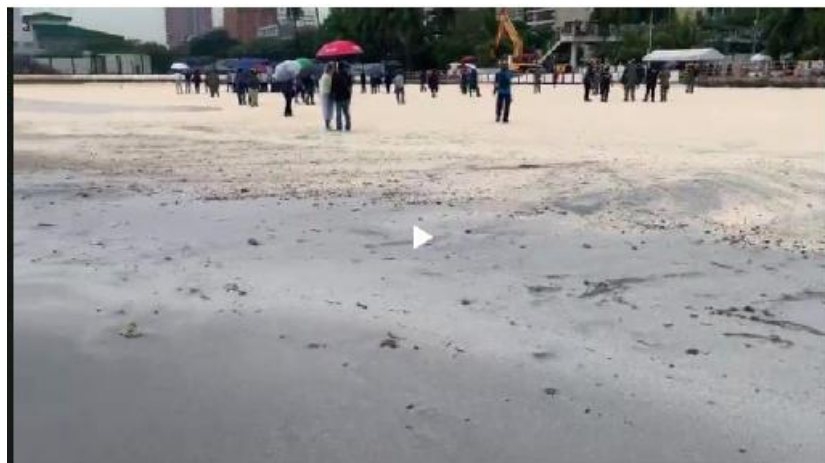
The UP Institute of Biology recently said it was willing to assist the environment department in a "science-based rehabilitation program for Manila Bay," where they said mangroves should be planted.

Mangroves will "destroy the landscape," said Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

"Hindi ho magandang tingnan and at the same time, hindi ho mabubuhay sa lugar na ito iyong mangrove," he said in a Laging Handa public briefing.

(It will not be pleasant to look at and at the same time, it will not thrive there.)

He said his agency would accept help from experts "as long as it is for free."



*Zhanador Gayayayay, ABS-CBN News*

Antiporda then said his agency has paid about P500 million to UP experts since 2016 for consultations.

"Ang UP po sa pagkaalam natin, dapat libre iyan. Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taong-bayan... sipsipin n'yo ang dugo ng taongbayan sa dami ng kinuha n'yong pondo. Tapos ngayon gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan magbayad kami sa inyo?" he said.



(From what I know of UP, that should be free. Why will you charge the government a fee after the public paid for your education. Now you want to suction off the blood of the people with the funds you got. We are doing something good, yet we have to pay you?)

"Hindi n'yo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. Iyon lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulit-ulitin ko: bayaran kayo," he said.

(It is not your right to criticize this because you are paid for. That's all I can say to UP. I will repeat it: you were paid.)

### **UP INSTITUTE ON PUBLIC SERVICE**

UP Marine Science Institute (MSI) Director Dr. Laura David said the state university has a mandate to teach, research and render public service.

"Kalakip lang sa mga ito ang magbigay na opinyon ayon sa aming iba't ibang kaalaman," she told ABS-CBN News.

(These include giving our opinion, based on various disciplines.)

UP experts received some P364 million from the government in the last decade for "10 projects in collaboration with DENR and co-sponsorship support for a symposium," she said.

"Welcome din po ang audit sa amin. Just like any government office, kahit kailan naman po puwede talaga i-audit," David said.

(An audit is welcome to us. Just like any government agency, an audit is allowed anytime.)

UP marine scientists earlier said their services were for free, but other research expenses should be shouldered by "clients."

"The funds supported the costs of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities, to support for research assistants. These are the typical costs typically shouldered by the clients. The funds also supported capacity building of NGA and HEI personnel," said David.

The UPMSI is not a line agency in the government's executive branch, and its internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) "are limited to maintaining the laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory," she said.

"Wala po kaming access sa funds para matugunan ang mga katanungan na kailangan pa ng karagdagang saliksik," David said.

(We don't have access to funds to address questions that need further research.)

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/14/20/denr-exec-says-up-experts-have-no-right-to-criticize-manila-bay-makeover?fbclid=IwAR3DkKQtFBriAR7mKXP9OZc4gqC9GOREl\\_vfkMaNduok7pbqutmE2du19lo](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/14/20/denr-exec-says-up-experts-have-no-right-to-criticize-manila-bay-makeover?fbclid=IwAR3DkKQtFBriAR7mKXP9OZc4gqC9GOREl_vfkMaNduok7pbqutmE2du19lo)





# DENR official blasts UP experts critical of Manila Bay 'white sand' project

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 14 2020 10:27 PM



State university researchers critical of the Manila Bay white sand project received a tongue-lashing from an environment undersecretary who claims they have no right to voice their opinion on the project.

But the experts stand by their suggestions while explaining to the agency official why the government, as a client, had to shoulder the cost of its own scientific research. - **The World Tonight, ANC, October 14, 2020**

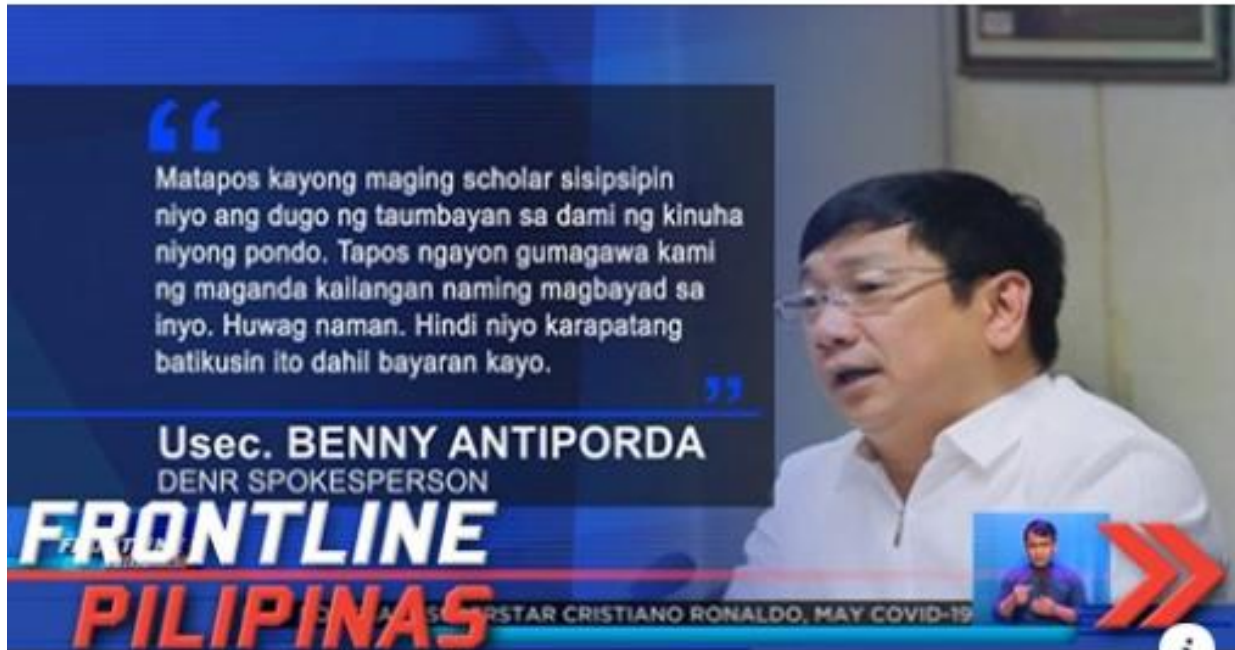
Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/10/14/20/denr-official-blasts-up-experts-critical-of-manila-bay-white-sand-project?fbclid=IwAR2FprMwqdCTbSXSnlz8bLQs3khWQ1YSVepedvLUDicjakCL-kdBeh1C37E>



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Binanatan ni Environment Usec, Benny Antiporda ang ilang UP experts dahil sa kanilang puna sa Manila Bay "white sand" project.



YOUTUBE.COM

Antiporda, itinangging inanod ang dolomite sand sa Manila Bay

#FrontlinePilipinas | Binanatan ni Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda ang ilang UP experts da...

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BAYARAN KAYO! Ito ang banat ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda sa mga eksperto mula University of the Philippines na aniya'y walang karapatang batikusin ang dolomite white sand na inilagay sa isang bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Hirit pa nito, simula 2016 ay umabot na sa P500 milyon ang ibinayad ng DENR para sa mga konsultasyon sa mga eksperto mula UP.

BASAHIN DITO ang buong ulat: <https://bit.ly/33WZbjS>

**“**

Ang UP po, sa pagkaalam natin, dapat libre iyan. Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taong-bayan?... Sipsipin n'yo ang dugo ng taongbayan sa dami ng kinuha n'yong pondo... **Hindi n'yo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. Iyon lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulit-ulitin ko: Bayaran kayo.**

ENVIRONMENT UNDERSECRETARY  
**BENNY ANTIPORDA**  
on criticisms over the use of crushed dolomite for the Manila Bay beautification project  
| October 14, 2020

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Naglabas ng sama ng loob si Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda matapos matanong kaugnay sa panukala ng ilang UP experts na magtanim ng mangroves sa Manila Bay para ma-rehabilitate ang lugar, sa halip na maglagay ng synthetic white sand.

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**ANTIPORDA TO UP EXPERTS: BAYARAN KAYO!**

PTV

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Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda slams the proposal of UP experts to plant mangroves to help rehabilitate Manila Bay instead of dumping synthetic white sand.

Antiporda claims that mangroves will not survive in the area and would only ruin the view.

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/33Tlx4q>



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Ito ang maanghang na sagot ni Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda sa panukala ng ilang UP experts na magtanim ng mangroves sa Manila Bay para ma-rehabilitate ang lugar, sa halip na maglagay ng synthetic white sand.

Masisira kasi ang view kung ilalagay ang mangroves at hindi naman daw ito mabubuhay sa lugar, ayon kay Antiporda.

Dagdag pa niya, tatanggapin nila ang tulong ng UP kung libre ang serbisyo ng mga ito. Napag-alaman kasi niya na "half a billion" daw ang ibinigay ng ahensya sa UP mula 2016, kahit wala naman itong infrastructure na naitayo.

**“**

Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan [at] matapos kayong maging scholar ng taumbayan... Tapos ngayon, gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan magbayad kami sa inyo? 'Wag naman.

**Hindi niyo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo... Uulitin ko, bayaran kayo!**

**USEC. BENNY ANTIPORDA**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
OCTOBER 14, 2020

**”**

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GMA News ✓  
16h · 🌐

DENR spokesperson Benny Antiporda slams UP experts suggesting to plant mangroves: Wala po kayong karapatang magcriticize; bayaran kayo!

He also claims UP has been collecting billions of pesos for consultation. | via [Joseph Morong](#)

👤: Isa Avendaño Umali/DZBB



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# Manila Bay dolomite not washed out, only covered by 'black sand'

By Marita Moaje [October 14, 2020, 5:02 pm](#)



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda

MANILA – The dolomite "white sand" overlay was not washed out from the Manila Bay but was only covered by black sand caused by the recent rains in the metropolis, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Wednesday.

“Wala pong na wash out, hindi po nabawasan yung ating white dolomite ang nadagdagan tayo ng black sand galing sa ilalim ng dagat (Nothing was washed out, the black sand from the sea were instead washed in),” DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said during a Laging Handa public briefing aired over state-run PTV4.

Antiporda said the agency showed to the media during a visit in Manila Bay that about two to three inches of black sand were "washed in" due to the recent rains, and have settled on top of the dolomite white sand.

He added that beachfront, nourished areas or natural beaches should be regularly maintained and cleaned.

In the case of the Manila Bay, Antiporda explained that the project is still under the jurisdiction of its contractor and have not yet been fully paid.

He said the public should wait for the completion of the project.

That's the time, he said, to ask them in case the project was not done according to the contract.

### Mangroves not fit for beachfront

On comments of experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) that mangroves should be planted in Manila Bay instead of laying over "white sand" on a portion of the bay, Antiporda said all the projects at the bay area have their own place.

He said that mangroves are located in the Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) area including Bataan, Cavite and Baseco where the wetlands are located.

“You cannot put it in the middle of the baywalk area wherein it will destroy the landscape, hindi magandang tingnan and at the same time hindi mabubuhay dito sa lugar na to yung mangrove (it will not be pleasant to the eyes and at the same time the mangroves will not survive in the area),” Antiporda said.

He added that the DENR also has another project in Baseco where they will plant ‘Nilad’ where the name of ‘Maynila’ came from.





'Willing to coordinate'

Meanwhile, Antiporda said that they are willing to coordinate with UP as long as consultation is for free.

He said the DENR has spent so much for consultation fees to UP from 2016 to present.

"In their offer to help, as long as it's for free we will accept it, because based on my study, DENR paid UP almost half a billion only for consultation and without any infrastructure," Antiporda said.

He said UP does not have the right to take a swipe at the project because they were paid for their services.

With this, Antiporda called the attention of the Commission on Audit to check into UP's finances.

"We are now calling the attention of the Commission on Audit to conduct an audit against UP, especially UP Marine Science Institute on all the funds we paid them. One particular project was in 2016 where we paid them PHP220 million without any infrastructure. Where did that fund go? Please explain that to the public because they might think that your services are free," a fuming Antiporda said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Moreover, Antiporda invited all the critics of the project to personally visit and see the area before coming up with allegations not based on facts. (PNA)

Source:

[https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1118520?fbclid=IwAR0lAu6CKrE8jT8wwmD\\_2k0bE4bSt0B0cQDXKSacU-WaqLWxIWe42kJH4TI](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1118520?fbclid=IwAR0lAu6CKrE8jT8wwmD_2k0bE4bSt0B0cQDXKSacU-WaqLWxIWe42kJH4TI)



# Dolomite washed out? DENR says it was only covered by 'black sand'

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:34 PM October 14, 2020



Dolomite Beach along Roxas Boulevard, Manila on Friday, October 9, 2020. INQUIRER PHOTO / GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines — The crushed dolomite laid over a portion of the Manila Bay coastline was not washed out but was only covered by the thick black sand from the sea, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Wednesday.

In a televised briefing, DENR spokesperson Benny Antiporda said it is a “lie” to say that the crushed dolomite that was dumped on a portion of the bay’s coastline to simulate a “white sand” beach, washed out.



“Nakita po na puro kasinungalingan yung lumabas na nag-wash out yung white sand natin,” Antiporda said in a televised briefing.

(Our white sand supposedly washed out was only a lie.)

“Ang nangyari po talaga is wash in. Pumasok po yung itim na buhangin at pumatong sa white dolomite,” he explained.

(It was washed in. The black sand covered the white dolomite.)

Antiporda explained that the beachfront must be maintained, but this has yet to be done since the portion of Manila Bay that is under makeover remains under the jurisdiction of the contractor.



“Talaga pong mine-maintain ito. Kaya po hindi pa mine-maintain ngayon dahil it is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor,” he said.

(This should be maintained. It has not been done now because it is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor.)

Previously, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones assured that the crushed dolomite on that [portion of the Manila Bay coastline](#) near the United States Embassy will not totally wash out despite strong waves, saying there had been “engineering interventions” put in place.

/MUF



## DENR: Dolomite natabunan lang ng black sand



October 14, 2020 @ 2:28 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines — Inihayag ngayong Miyerkoles ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na ang dinurog na dolomite na inilatag sa bahagi ng Manila Bay coastline ay hindi na-washout kundi natabunan lang ng makapal na black sand mula sa dagat.

Sa briefing, sinabi ni DENR spokesperson Benny Antiporda na kasinungalingan na sabihing na-washout ang inilatag na dolomite sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay na naglalayong gayahin ang white sand beach.

“Nakita po na puro kasinungalingan ‘yung lumabas na na-washout ‘yung white sand natin,” ayon kay Antiporda.

“Ang nangyari po talaga is wash in. Pumasok po ‘yung itim na buhangin at pumatong sa white dolomite,” dagdag pa nito.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Antiporda na kailangang i-maintain ang beachfront subalit hindi pa ito magagagawa dahil ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na isinasaayos ay nasa hurisdiksyon pa ng kontraktor.

“Talaga pong mine-maintain ito. Kaya lang po hindi pa mine-maintain ngayon dahil it is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor,” aniya.

Nauna rito, tiniyak ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones na hindi matatangay ang dolomite na inilatag malapit sa United States Embassy sa kabila ng malakas na alon dahil may inilagay na “engineering interventions” sa naturang lugar. **RNT**





# Dolomite sand sa Manila Bay white sand beach 'di na-washout, natabunan lang ng black sand – DENR

On Oct 14, 2020



INIHAYAG nitong Miyerkules ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang dinurog na dolomite na inilatag sa bahagi ng Manila Bay coastline ay hindi na-washout kundi natabunan lang ng makapal na “black sand” mula sa dagat.

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Source: [https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/10/14/dolomite-sand-sa-manila-bay-white-sand-beach-di-na-washout-natabunan-lang-ng-black-sand-denr/?fbclid=IwAR21qQCLYREXwCafIOyb4H2Xe4uL6J2TIhy-hnnPM5z\\_Nt-EqViryi7XPgE](https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/10/14/dolomite-sand-sa-manila-bay-white-sand-beach-di-na-washout-natabunan-lang-ng-black-sand-denr/?fbclid=IwAR21qQCLYREXwCafIOyb4H2Xe4uL6J2TIhy-hnnPM5z_Nt-EqViryi7XPgE)



# Manila Bay 'white sands' not washed out but black sands 'washed in' -DENR exec

Published October 14, 2020 3:46pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Wednesday denied once again the critics' claim that the crushed dolomites used in the Manila Bay "white sand" project are being washed away by the rains.

What is actually happening, according to him during a public briefing, is that black sands are being "washed in."

"As of now, wala pong nawa-wash out. Wash in po ang nangyayari. Pumapasok po ang buhangin na itim. Hindi po lumalabas ang buhangin na puti," Antiporda said in the Laging Handa briefing.

As part of its Manila Bay rehabilitation program, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) placed 500 tons of crushed dolomites to beautify and rehabilitate a small stretch of Manila Bay's shoreline

The project received criticisms from various sectors, with some saying the crushed dolomites are likely to be washed away in the future.

Fishers group PAMALAKAYA national chairperson Fernando Hicap, who disapproved of the project from the start, urged Antiporda to "stop making a fool of himself" by defending the controversial project.

"Wash out or wash in, it doesn't matter. What's certain is that the dolomite white sand would fade away somehow," Hicap said.

"DENR Undersecretary Antiporda should stop making a fool of himself defending the widely-criticized dolomite project," he added.

The fishers group demands for Antiporda to address the environmental concerns being raised "fair and square."

"Otherwise, he is just exposing himself as a complete ignorant to environmental science, and only good in being a mouthpiece," Hicap said.

According to Antiporda, the contractor for the project can only be questioned when the project is already finished.

"We can wait for them to finish the project. In the first place, hindi pa rin po naman bayad 'yan ng buo dahil hindi pa po tapos ang proyekto," he said.

"Kapag natapos po ang proyekto, that's the time po bago natin tanungin sila kung ano ang nangyari," he added. —KBK, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/759820/manila-bay-white-sands-not-washed-out-but-black-sands-washed-in-denr-exec/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0IS2HJyyaBIEbyFhUjA4WeOhXuFI\\_Xsw9q\\_dt-xvfov352tYslOovGNm4](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/759820/manila-bay-white-sands-not-washed-out-but-black-sands-washed-in-denr-exec/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0IS2HJyyaBIEbyFhUjA4WeOhXuFI_Xsw9q_dt-xvfov352tYslOovGNm4)



# DENR: Manila Bay dolomite not washed out; darker sand washed in

Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 14 2020 12:51 PM | Updated as of Oct 14 2020 12:52 PM



The dolomite beach in Manila Bay after a downpour on Sunday night. *Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) denied Wednesday that recent rains had washed out the crushed dolomite dumped along Manila Bay, which some critics previously criticized as waste of public funds.

Waves washed in darker sand, creating a 2 to 3-inch layer on top of the artificial white sand beach, said DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

"Puro kasinungalingan po iyong lumabas na nag-washout po yung white sand natin. Ang nangyari po talaga wash in, pumasok po iyong itim na buhangin at pumatong po sa puting dolomite," he said during a Laging Handa public briefing.

(The reports that our white sand was washed out were all lies. What really happened was a wash in, the dark sand entered and lay on top of the white dolomite.)

Authorities will clean up the darker sand, he said.

"Kaya ho hindi pa talaga mini-maintain ngayon dahil this is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor," Antiporda said.

(We are not yet maintaining this because this is still under the jurisdiction of the contractor.)

He also rejected the suggestion of marine biologists from the University of the Philippines to [plant mangroves](#) in the area, instead of dumping artificial white sand there, because it would "destroy the landscape."

"Hindi ho magandang tingnan and at the same time, hindi ho mabubuhay sa lugar na ito iyong mangrove," he said.

(It will not be pleasant to look at and at the same time, it will not thrive here.)

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/14/20/denr-on-dolomite-white-sand-turns-black-manila-bay?fbclid=IwAR3JnrqW\\_X\\_Dbiu5h1VzXi\\_aXUlmwAK0Tg8zaH6Kx-olr3P1A3HWnlkoPQ](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/14/20/denr-on-dolomite-white-sand-turns-black-manila-bay?fbclid=IwAR3JnrqW_X_Dbiu5h1VzXi_aXUlmwAK0Tg8zaH6Kx-olr3P1A3HWnlkoPQ)



## Dolomite sand not 'washed out' – DENR

October 14, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) explained that the artificial white sand has been only covered by black sand and not washed out amid circulating images of Manila Bay's new look.

"Nakita po na puro kasinungalingan po ang lumabas na nag-wash out ang white sand natin. Ang nangyari po talaga ay wash in (The claims that it was washed out are all lies. What happened was a wash-in)," DENR USec. Benny Antiporda lambasted.

"Walang na-wash out. Hindi po nabawasan iyong ating white dolomite. Nadagdagan tayo ng black sand galing sa ilalim ng dagat (Nothing was washed out. The white dolomite was not lessened. Black sand was only added from under the sea)," Antiporda explained.

Antiporda said that the rehabilitation of bay is still far from over. The project's 500-meter target has yet to be completed. Only 120 meters has been filled with crushed dolomite so far.

The fecal coliform level on the waters of the bay has declined to 9,200 from 62,000 in 2018. The DENR is aiming to cut down fecal coliform level in Manila Bay to 200 by the end of 2020.



More than 10,000 metric tons of garbage have been collected in Manila Bay since the issuance of mandamus by the Supreme Court in 2008 for the rehabilitation of the area.

Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta who visited the area on Wednesday along with other DENR officials said the deliberations on the case filed by Anakbayan Party-list against the DENR are set on the first week of November.

Meanwhile, Antiporda is seeking an investigation to be conducted by the Commission on Audit (COA) on the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines for its alleged billing of funds to study the rehabilitation.

"Base sa pag-aaral ng inyong lingkod, kalahating bilyon ang binayaran namin sa kanila simula 2016 hanggang taong ito. Kalahating bilyon na puro lang konsultasyon (Based on my research, half a billion were paid to them from 2016 until now. Half billion for pure consultation)," Antiporda claimed.





"Ang UP, sa buong pagkakaalam natin ay libre dapat 'yan. Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan? Matapos kayong maging iskolar ng taumbayan, sisipsipin niyo ang dugo ng taumbayan sa dami ng kinuha niyong pondo? (From what we know, [the services of] UP should be free. Why would you charge the government after you were sent to school by the people? After being scholars of the people, why would you suck the blood out of the public with all the funds you acquired?)" Antiporda questioned. – Report from Louisa Erispe



# Manila Bay dolomite not washed out, only covered by ‘black sand’

October 14, 2020 4 min read

**DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda**

MANILA – The dolomite “white sand” overlay was not washed out from the Manila Bay but was only covered by black sand caused by the recent rains in the metropolis, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Wednesday.

“Wala pong na wash out, hindi po nabawasan yung ating white dolomite ang nadagdagan tayo ng black sand galing sa ilalim ng dagat (Nothing was washed out, the black sand from the sea were instead washed in),” DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said during a Laging Handa public briefing aired over state-run PTV4.

Antiporda said the agency showed to the media during a visit in Manila Bay that about two to three inches of black sand were “washed in” due to the recent rains, and have settled on top of the dolomite white sand.

He added that beachfront, nourished areas or natural beaches should be regularly maintained and cleaned.

In the case of the Manila Bay, Antiporda explained that the project is still under the jurisdiction of its contractor and have not yet been fully paid.

He said the public should wait for the completion of the project.

That’s the time, he said, to ask them in case the project was not done according to the contract.

Mangroves not fit for beachfront

On comments of experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) that mangroves should be planted in Manila Bay instead of laying over “white sand” on a portion of the bay, Antiporda said all the projects at the bay area have their own place.

He said that mangroves are located in the Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) area including Bataan, Cavite and Baseco where the wetlands are located.

“You cannot put it in the middle of the baywalk area wherein it will destroy the landscape, hindi magandang tingnan and at the same time hindi mabubuhay dito sa lugar na to yung mangrove (it will not be pleasant to the eyes and at the same time the mangroves will not survive in the area),” Antiporda said.



He added that the DENR also has another project in Baseco where they will plant 'Nilad' where the name of 'Maynila' came from.

'Willing to coordinate'

Meanwhile, Antiporda said that they are willing to coordinate with UP as long as consultation is for free.

He said the DENR has spent so much for consultation fees to UP from 2016 to present.

"In their offer to help, as long as it's for free we will accept it, because based on my study, DENR paid UP almost half a billion only for consultation and without any infrastructure," Antiporda said.

He said UP does not have the right to take a swipe at the project because they were paid for their services.

With this, Antiporda called the attention of the Commission on Audit to check into UP's finances.

"We are now calling the attention of the Commission on Audit to conduct an audit against UP, especially UP Marine Science Institute on all the funds we paid them. One particular project was in 2016 where we paid them PHP220 million without any infrastructure. Where did that fund go? Please explain that to the public because they might think that your services are free," a fuming Antiporda said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Moreover, Antiporda invited all the critics of the project to personally visit and see the area before coming up with allegations not based on facts. (MTV News)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/14/manila-bay-dolomite-not-washed-out-only-covered-by-black-sand/?fbclid=IwAR25i-dV40T3xBXj6tGKU3Z0kRjNgFPhCDP961vT6042BNtmYZDUMAcZhUs>



## 'White sand' sa Manila Bay nagtago kay CJ Peralta

By Abante News Online — Last updated Oct 14, 2020

FEATURED NEWS



HALOS hindi makita ni Supreme Court (SC) Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta ang kontrobersiyal na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay nang mag-inspeksyon kahapon dahil natabunan na ito ng itim na buhangin.

Nauna rito ay may mga ulat na tinangay na umano ng malalakas na ulan ang itinambak na dolomite.

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Oct 14, 2020 0

Depensa naman ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda hindi tinangay kundi natabunan lamang ang dolomite sand sa Manila Bay.

“Sa kasama natin sa media, hindi pa ito naiti-turnover sa gobyerno ng contractor, hindi pa ito tapos,” ayon kay Antiporda.

Matatandaang naghain ng mosyon sa SC ang Akbayan para i-contempt ang DENR dahil sa pagtatambak ng dolomite sand at hiniling na i-convene ang Manila Bay Advisory Committee na

pinamumunuan ni Peralta para alamin ang epekto ng dolomite sand na sinasabing mapanganib sa kalusugan. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)






GMA News 9h · 🌐

...

Hindi raw natatanggal ang dolomite "white sand" sa Manila Bay dahil sa malakas na pag-ulan ngayon, ayon kay DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda. Aniya, natatabunan lamang ito ng itim na buhangin.

Ayon sa mga government-funded marine scientists na tinawag ni Antiporda na "bayaran" dahil sa pagsasagawa nila ng research, mas mainam sana kung mga mangrove na lang ang nilagay sa lugar.

BASA HIN: <https://bit.ly/2H1q4tO>




”

As of now, wala pong nawa-wash out. Wash in po ang nangyayari. Pumapasok po ang buhangin na itim. Hindi po lumalabas ang buhangin na puti.


---

DENR USEC. BENNY ANTIPORDA

dismissed allegations that the crushed dolomite in Manila Bay was washed out.



@GMANEWS



👍❤️👍 Dexter Arboladora, Elisha Jho Sonio and 20K others

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**ABS-CBN News** 12h · 🌐

NATABUNAN LANG? Kapansin-pansing tila naglaho ang 'white sand' sa dolomite beach ng Manila Bay kasunod ng malakas na pag-ulan ngunit giit ng DENR, natakpan lang ito ng itim na buhangin.  
 BASAHIN: [bit.ly/374yueQ](https://bit.ly/374yueQ)



“

**Puro kasinungalingan po iyong lumabas na nag-washout po yung white sand natin.**

**Ang nangyari po talaga wash in, pumasok po iyong itim na buhangin at pumatong po sa puting dolomite.**

**DENR UNDERSECRETARY**  
**BENNY ANTIPORDA**  
 on new photos that showed changes in the criticized Manila Bay dolomite beach | October 14, 2020




👍👎🗨️ 67K 17K Comments 12K Shares



Itinanggi ni Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda na nagkaroon ng washout sa synthetic white sand sa Manila Bay, lalo't maulan ngayon. Ito naman ang banat sa kanya ni former Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño.



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- Headline
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GMA News

17h · 🌐



In a press briefing, DENR spokesperson Benny Antiporda said that Dolomite sand is not washed off, but black sand is "washed in" on the beach, and 2-3 inches of black sand is covering the dolomite beach in Manila Bay. | via [Joseph Morong](#)

👤: Isa Avendaño Umali/DZBB



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UNTV News and Rescue

10h · 🌐



Mariing itinanggi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR na inaanod na ang dolomite na itinambak sa Manila Bay na bahagi ng rehabilitation project nito. Giit ng DENR, humalo ang itim na buhangin sa artificial white sand sa baybayin ng Manila Bay.



YOUTUBE.COM


**Black sand na mula sa tubig sa Manila Bay, humalo sa artificial white sand - DENR**

Mariing itinanggi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR na inaanod n...

👍👎❤️ 1K


495 Comments 103 Shares





 ONE News  
12h · 🌐

LOOK | Workers clean the artificial white sand along Manila Bay on a rainy Wednesday. Earlier, Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda denied claims that the crushed dolomite along the area had washed out due to heavy rain. (via Philippine Star)

👤 Edd Gumban



 PHILIPPINE STAR  
EDD GUMBAN



👍 🥰 ❤️ 266

176 Comments 34 Shares



A8 | METRO



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil bob

WORKERS clear Manila Bay beach of debris, including water hyacinths and garbage, that was washed ashore following days of inclement weather.





# PEOPLE'S *Monitor*

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## PONDO NG PINOY

"Ano Mang Magaling Kahit Maliit  
Basta't Malimit Ay Patungong Langit".

### GOOD NEWS:

For we live  
by faith, not  
by sight.

— 1 Corinthians 5:7

## OPOSA, DENR, RENDER "Manila Bay-ani" AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF PARTNERS IN THE MANILA BAY REHABILITATION



DAVE Louie Ang (2nd from left) and Vernon Timbas (3rd from left) receive in GREENducation PH behalf, the certificate of recognition vested by the Manila Bay-ani Awards, organized by environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa, Jr. (inset) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Manila Bay Coordinating Office. GREENducation's exemplary contributions to the Manila Bay rehabilitation program of the government include conducting proper solid waste management lectures to the youth, organizing waterbody clean-up activities for the youth, and conceptualizing environmental workshops for the youth. Other awardees are Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Public Service of Manila, Save the Earth from A to Z - We Are One (ASEZ WAO), Planet CORA (Communities Organized for Resource Allocation), Laguna Lake Development Authority, Manila Bay Sunset Partnership Program Inc., Esther Garcia of Dynamic Art Group, and San Miguel Corporation. The Awarding is being witnessed by DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, MMDA Chair Danilo Lim, and Commission on Higher Education Chair Prospero de Vera III. Also in photo are Commodore Roberto Lin Joseph (left), retired Associate Justice Hon. Lucenita Tagle (2nd from right), and Mr. Rodney Galicia (right). (From DENR SCIS thru Precy F. Lazaro)





## Baseco Linear Park unveiled

posted October 14, 2020 at 07:00 pm

by [Willie Casas](#)

Manila City Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso led on Tuesday the launching of Linear Park along Baseco Baywalk, including its lighting and landscaping works.

Domagoso said that the launching of the Linear Park, as well as the installation of lamp posts and brick paving works done is a “simple offering” of the local government to the Baseco community.

While the city government gives dignity to the lower class through the said project, Domagoso said that maintaining the beauty of the rehabilitated portion of Baseco needs the public’s cooperation.

“Ngayong gabi na ito ay ipinakita lamang sa inyo ng pamahalaang lungsod ang pagbabalik o pagbibigay ng dignidad na kahit tayo ay mahirap, kahit tayo ay iskwater, may dignidad sa pagiging mahirap. Hindi pwedeng passing lang kung sabihin,” the Mayor said.

“Ipapakita natin na may gobyerno, na may pamamahala, at ang pamamahala ay may pagmamalasakit pero may kaakibat na disiplina sa atin. Kapag tayo ay nililingon na ng pamahalaan, ang pakikipagtulungan natin sa pamahalaan ay pakikiisa sa pagsasaayos,” Domagoso added.

Domagoso said that despite being tagged as one of the most challenging communities in the nation’s capital, the Baseco community must prove that they have discipline within themselves.

“Tayo ang nagdadala ng karakter ng ating komunidad, nasa kamay natin. Ipapakita natin sa kanila na ‘Oo, iskwater kami. Oo, mahirap kami, pero kami ay disiplinado at may pangarap sa buhay na makaangat sa aming kinalalagan.’,” Domagoso said.

“Huwag niyong dumihan ang inyong paligid kasi yan reflection ng pagkatao natin. Ayokong tayo ay mamaliitin dahil tayo ay mahirap. Gusto ko may dignidad sa pagiging mahirap dahil tayo ay tao rin,” he added.

The Mayor also warned criminals to stop their wrongdoings as the government will continue to search for them for the benefit of the general public.

Domagoso was joined by Manila City Vice Mayor Maria Sheilah ‘Honey’ Lacuna-Pangan, City Engineer Armand Andres, City Electrician Randy Sandac, and other local officials of the city.



# Manila Bay is regaining its lost glory

When I was in the elementary grades, I learned about how the Americans seized control of the Philippines from Spain after 377 years of her rule. This happened in 1898 after a U.S. Navy fleet commanded by Commodore George Dewey entered the Manila Bay and engaged the Spanish Armada of Admiral Patricio Montojo in a fierce naval battle that virtually brought Spain to her knees resulting thus to the Treaty of Paris that was inked in December, 1898 wherein Spain ceded her control over Guam, Cuba and the Philippines to the United States.

After my graduation from the elementary grades, my parents sent me to Manila for my high school education, but I only studied there for 1 and a half years after which I returned to the province to finish my high school in my hometown. I recall that out of historical curiosity, I must have visited the famous Manila Bay about 4 times during my one and a half years of stay in Manila. It was elegantly clean; a picturesque, serene refuge for people to transcend their worries and absorb the beauty of nature in the early mornings and at sunset. I had to wonder how the Bay looked like after that fierce naval battle: ships and bodies strewn at sea and onshore, a morbid episode that fiercely violated the beauty and innocence of a splendid bay.

Fast forward to college: my college buddies and I used to go to the Bay just for kicks because of its famousness. It was a perfect place also to take your girlfriend for some romantic moments at sunset, and in all those years the Bay was clean and fresh with no noticeable trash present--because back then, people were more disciplined and circumspect, especially during the martial law.

1986 came and President Marcos was deposed by a military coup and installed Corazon Aquino as the President. The discipline and circumspection that society had nursed over the years abruptly disappeared. Permissiveness and government apathy ruled all over the place. Crime and corruption flourished; communist ter-

## Introspection

ALFREDO C.  
GARVIDA JR.



rorists were set free and people were led to understand that the "freedom" purportedly given by Edsa was unqualified. Slowly but surely, the beautiful Manila Bay was losing its lush--and life. People were free to dump their trash on the baywalk, on the esteros (creeks) whose waters lead directly to the Bay. Sadly, no President after Marcos put up any serious challenge to this baneful disposition of irresponsible people until President Duterte came in.

The Manila Bay became thus an open dumpsite and a grand toilet for illegal settlers in the surrounding creeks. They had killed the beautiful Bay with garbage and human wastes. Its coliform count rose to an unbearable level of 1.3 billion. No one gave a damn but the Supreme Court of the Philippines which issued on December 18, 2008 a writ of mandamus to 13 government agencies to clean up the Bay. Benigno Aquino III of the Liberal Party became president in 2010 and never in his term did he lift a finger to enforce the mandamus; worst, despite the Bay's penetrating stink and filth, no politico from Aquino's party and beyond, ever raised a voice to question its deplorable state during his presidency.

President Duterte took over. He ordered a "cesspool" Boracay to be restored to its lost glory, with Manila Bay to come along at a later time. The DENR officially started the Bay's cleanup on January 27, 2019 where Secretary Roy A. Cimatu declared, "this one battle that will be won not with force or arms, but with the firm resolve to bring Manila Bay back life." He added that "with the commitment and determination of every Filipino to do his share in this rehabilitation effort, we have already won the battle for Manila Bay."

Benny Antiporda, an articulative lawyer-journalist, who

is the DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and who is the official spokesman of the Department, said that the coliform level of the Bay was 1.3 billion when the

project started. It has now been reduced to only 1,000 and they expect to bring it further down to 200 by year-end for the water to become swimmable.

A fund was earmarked in 2019 for the Bay's restoration, long before Covid19 intervened. Included in the fund was a makeover provision to transform the place into something economically benefiting as in a resorts-like ambience, even only in a teeny-weeny semblance of beaches in capital cities like Singapore and Abu Dhabi. The Manila Bay Sunset was a poetic sight until its inglorious trashing, deepened by government apathy and neglect, stepped in. We have to redeem its lost glory and wipe away this ignominy from memory with a complete restoration, which includes an extra arrangement to beautify it.

It is so sad that when the Bay was full of garbage and all kinds of filth, no one was protesting. Now that it is clean and about to become a splendid sight to adore and a magnificent destination for tourists to go, people are coming out to protest. They are protesting the conversion of the seashore into a white-sand baywalk. But all these protesters are just a handful of people carrying a badge self-interest, particularly political, if you will. Oceana and Greenpeace have been left far behind in the limelight and just to get back in the mainstream they are saying that the project is harmful to the environment. Stupid! In what way? Then there is this fishermen group who asserts that the project will be harmful to the livelihood of fishermen. Stupid! In what way? There are no fishermen doing fishing near the project area, so what fishermen are they talking about? Besides, is a sea full of coliform and all kinds of toxic garbage at its bottom, which have been taken out by the DENR by the way, safer than what it is now?





## AGHAM Diliman pumalag kay Antiporda

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Oct 14, 2020

NEWS



Kinondena ng Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) sa University of the Philippines-Diliman ang pagbansag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na “bayaran” sa mga UP expert.

Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Matapos ilahad ng ilang UP biologist na handa silang tulungan ang DENR sa “science-based rehabilitation program” para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, sinabi ni Antiporda na, “Hindi niyo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo.”

Dagdag niya, masisira ang view kung mga bakawan ang ilalagay. Hindi rin naman aniya ito mabubuhay sa lugar.

Sinagot si Antiporda ng AGHAM Diliman.

“AGHAM Diliman condemns this attack on scientists. What’s the point of funding and conducting research if this won’t be translated to policy?” tweet ng grupo.

“We demand @DENROfficial USec Antiporda to immediately issue an apology!” sabi pa nila. (SDC)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/agham-diliman-pumalag-kay-antiporda/>



# DENR, binuweltahan... Dolomite sand sa Manila Bay, sablay! — UP-MSI

ni [Ronalyn Seminiano Reonico](#) | October 14, 2020



Nagsalita na ang head ng University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) sa naging pahayag ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Spokesperson Benny Antiporda nitong Miyerkules sa kalahating bilyong binayaran umano ng ahensiya sa kanila simula 2016.

Matatandaang sinabi ni Antiporda na ang kalahating bilyong pisong ibinayad umano ng DENR sa UP-MSI mula noong 2016 ay puro sa konsultasyon lamang daw napunta at wala pang infrastructure.

Saad naman ni Dr. Laura David, director ng UP-MSI, "Malamang po, hindi familiar si Usec. sa contract service ng UP. Sa tingin niya, consultancy ito. Ang katotohanan ay service contract po.

"Ibig sabihin noon, karamihan ng pera na naipadala ng DENR ay para sa pananaliksik, field work, laboratory work na kinailangan naming gawin para matugunan ang mga katanungan ng DENR."

Depensa pa ni David, "Kahit na anong ginagawang paglalagay ng lupa sa tabing-dagat, dapat maagap ang pananaliksik dahil puwedeng may maling puwesto, puwedeng maling materyal na ginagamit. Ang nangyayari, kapag ganoon, nagiging magastos ang pag-a-upkeep ng isang lugar."

Inayunan din nito na hindi akma ang dolomite sand sa Manila Bay.

Saad ni David, "Ang puwesto na pinili na paglagyan ng dolomite o extension ng beach, isa po itong lugar kung saan nagsasalpukan ang dalawang current o dalawang daloy ng tubig sa Manila Bay. "Pag ganito pong lugar, mas madali siyang masira... 'Pag pumunta kayo sa bawat beach, mari-realize n'yo na iba't ibang klaseng sand ang nakalagay.

Kagaya ng Boracay sand, pino; Batanes beach, mabato. Kasi po, bawat isang lugar, iba ang lakas ng alon na humahampas. Kapag mali ang sand na inilagay, madali siyang mae-erode. Sayang lang ang investment kapag ganoon."

Dagdag pa niya, "Magastos po iyang location pong iyan... Typically po na ang ganito pong type ng projects, matagal na po ang limang taon bago ma-wash out. Kung minsan, isang bagyo lang bago siya ma-wash out."

Pahayag din ni David, "Ayaw po naming masira ang aming relationship na matagal na sa DENR. We really think it's just a misunderstanding on his part... Hindi lang niya alam 'yung mga kontrata, and I think we can clear this out."

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/denr-binuweltahan-dolomite-sand-sa-manila-bay-sablay-up-msi>





# UP-MSI head says Antiporda might have misunderstood their services for DENR

Dennis Gasgonia, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 14 2020 08:20 PM | Updated as of Oct 15 2020 05:37 AM

MANILA (UPDATE) - The head of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) believes Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda may have misunderstood the service the institute has been rendering for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"Malamang po, hindi familiar si Usec. sa contract service ng UP. Sa tingin, niya consultancy ito. Ang katotohanan ay service contract po," said Dr. Laura David, director of the UP-MSI, in an interview on TeleRadyo Wednesday afternoon.

(Most likely, Usec. Antiporda is not familiar with the contract service of UP. He thinks this is consultancy. But it is in fact a contract service.)

"Ibig sabihin noon, karamihan ng pera na naipadala ng DENR ay para sa pananaliksik, field work, laboratory work na kinailangan naming gawin para matugunan ang mga katanungan ng DENR."

(It means, the fund provided by DENR is for research, field work, and laboratory work that we need to do to be able to respond to the questions of DENR.)

Antiporda told UP scientists earlier in the day that they have "no right" to criticize the use of crushed dolomite in the Manila Bay beautification project.

The UP-MSI had said a few weeks ago that the use of crushed dolomite will not help solve the environmental problems in Manila Bay.

The UP Institute of Biology also said recently it was willing to assist the DENR in a "science-based rehabilitation program for Manila Bay," where they said mangroves should be planted.

Rejecting the suggestion, Antiporda said during Wednesday's Laging Handa briefing, "'Hindi ho magandang tingnan and at the same time, hindi ho mabubuhay sa lugar na ito iyong mangrove."

(It will not be pleasant to look at and at the same time, it will not thrive there.)

Saying that the DENR has paid about P500 million to UP experts since 2016 for consultation, Antiporda said the agency will accept help from experts "as long as it is for free."

According to David, for the last 10 years, UP-MSI was paid P364 million as part of "10 contract services." But it did not cover the beautification project in Manila Bay.

She maintained that scientific research is very important in such projects for safety and efficient spending.

"Kahit na anong ginagawang paglalagay ng lupa sa tabing-dagat, dapat maagap ang pananaliksik dahil puwedeng may maling puwesto, puwedeng maling materyal na ginagamit. Ang nangyayari, kapag ganoon, nagiging magastos ang pag-a-upkeep ng isang lugar," she said.

(In any reclamation activity in shorelines, there should be proper research because there may be wrong placement, or wrong use of materials. If these happen, maintaining the area can be costly.)

In the case of the Manila Bay beautification project, David said she understands the agency's effort to landscape the area.

Still, the kind of artificial sand used does not fit there, she said.

"Ang puwesto na pinili na paglagyan ng dolomite o extension ng beach, isa po itong lugar na kung saan nagsasalpuhan ang dalawang current o dalawang daloy ng tubig sa Manila Bay," explained David.

(The place where they chose to put dolomite is one where two different currents merge.)



"Pag ganito pong lugar, mas madali siyang masira... 'Pag pumunta kayo sa bawat beach, mare-realize n'yo na iba't ibang klaseng sand ang nakalagay. Kagaya ng Boracay sand, pino; Batanes beach, mabato. Kasi po, bawat isang lugar, iba ang lakas ng alon na humahampas. Kapag mali ang sand na inilagay, madali siyang ma-e-erode. Sayang lang ang investment kapag ganoon."

(In that kind of place, any project can be easily destroyed... If you go to every beach, you will realize that the sand differs. In Boracay, it's fine. In Batanes, it's rocky. It is because each place has different sea current. So, if you put the wrong kind of sand, that may just be eroded. You wasted your investment.)

David said the upkeep for the Manila Bay artificial sand will be high since the shores are typically hit by strong waves.

"Magastos po iyang location pong iyan... Typically po na ang ganito pong type ng projects, matagal na po ang limang taon bago ma-wash out. Kung minsan, isang bagyo lang bago siya ma-wash out," she warned.

(That's a costly location... With this type of project, 5 years is too long before a washout could happen. Sometimes, even with just one typhoon, it may already be washed out.)

But David said the institute wants to maintain good relations with DENR.

"Ayaw po naming masira ang aming relationship na matagal na sa DENR. We really think it's just a misunderstanding on his part... Hindi lang niya alam yung mga kontrata, and I think we can clear this out," she said.

(We don't want to destroy our relationship with DENR, which has been established for a long time already... He may just not be familiar with the contracts.)--**With a report from Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/14/20/up-msi-head-says-antiporda-might-have-misunderstood-their-services-for-denr?fbclid=IwAR3NAwomoqfpIaRMci88ZMzvbeCbDOHv3cv7EHtVQDIZ-qMJvcAplhLPpzM>



# Environment advocates slam DENR undersecretary for demeaning UP scientists

Published October 14, 2020, 9:53 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Kalikasan People's Network for Environment (Kalikasan PNE) described Wednesday as “uncalled for” the comments of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda against the scientists of the University of the Philippines (UP) Institute of Biology and Marine Sciences during the inspection at the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

“As a government environmental official, he should always be open to the sound and scientific suggestions of our scientists and marine experts,” said Gia Glarino, research coordinator of Kalikasan PNE.

The group noted that Antiporda “lashed out with a demeaning comment that scientists from UP Institute of Biology have no right to criticize the dolomite project and called them “bayaran (paid).”

Antiporda's tirade came after the UP Institute of Biology and Marine Science Institute, both highly respected in their own areas of discipline, offered science-based services and advice to the DENR in rehabilitating Manila Bay.

“We back the suggestion of the UP scientists to the government. They must instead restore mangrove forests and prioritize the improvement of Manila Bay's water quality. It is sound and appropriate for DENR to center its rehabilitation efforts towards reviving the ecological health of Manila Bay instead of mere beautification,” Glarino noted.

Since September, Kalikasan PNE has asserted that the DENR's dolomite beautification project poses negative impacts on the bay's still thriving fisheries and to ecological and public health.

“The onion-skinned and blubbing DENR Undersecretary could serve the nation better if he will resign from his post and spare us from his cheap shots,” Glarino said.

During the inspection, Antiporda noted that the mangrove have their own places located in “Cavite, Bataan and Baseco area” and cannot be put in the middle of the baywalk since ‘it will destroy the landscape’ and they will not thrive in the area.

He claimed that UP objected to the overlaying of dolomite and instead wanted mangroves to be planted in the baywalk area of Manila Bay.

With the offer of the UP Institute of Biology and Marine Sciences of help, Antiporda said the DENR will gladly accept this “if it is for free.”

Antiporda claimed to have done his own research showing the DENR paid half a billion pesos from 2016 to 2020 purely for consultation purposes only with no single infrastructure built.

He asserted that the institute should refrain from making criticism since they are paid by the government.

A peeved Antiporda declared this after the UP institute had asked for an audit on the Manila Bay White Sand Project which is a pet project of the DENR.

Turning the tables around, Antiporda asked the Commission on Audit (COA) to investigate where the half a million pesos consultation fee paid by the agency from 2016 to 2020 went.

With the “election fever” nearing, Antiporda noted that critics are merely out to discredit the government for the Manila Bay White Beach Project.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/14/environment-advocates-slam-denr-undersecretary-for-demeaning-up-scientists/>



# Advice is free, science orgs stress after DENR's remark vs UP scientists

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#) - October 14, 2020 - 6:45 PM



In this Oct. 9, 2020 photo, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda inspects the bay's shoreline in Manila, covered with artificial white sand. (The STAR/Edd Gumban)

Science groups on Wednesday condemned the remarks of the spokesperson of the environment department, accusing experts from the University of the Philippines of collecting millions of money from the government.

At a press briefing on October 14, Benny Antiporda, spokesperson and undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, claimed that scientists from the UP-Marine Science Institute have been collecting P500 million from the national government since 2016 and called them "bayaran" or bribed.

"Kalahating bilyon na puro lang consultation, walang infrastructure... Bakit kayo naniningil sa gobyerno matapos kayong pag-aralin ng taumbayan, matapos kayong maging scholar ng taumbayan?" Antiporda [said](#).

"Sisipsipin niyo ang dugo ng taumbayan sa dami niyong kinuhang pondo tapos ngayon gumagawa kami ng maganda, kailangan naming magbayad sa inyo?" he added.

Antiporda continued to lash out and stated that the UP-MSI has no right to criticize the government and dared to have them audited.

"Hindi niyo karapatan batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. 'Yun lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulitin ko, bayaran kayo," he said.

Antiporda was referring to the scientists' criticism to the artificial white sand beach made up of crushed dolomite rocks overlaying a small portion of Manila Bay's shoreline as a "costly and temporary" beautification effort.

Their statement echoed the same concerns raised by environmentalists and other critics back when the environment agency started the project.

The DENR official later responded and noted that the agency will only accept "[free](#)" advice from them.

The institution then responded that the consultation or the "scientific advice and technical inputs" is free, citing the UP's mandate as a national university.





However, the lab work and research require financial support.

"The costs of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities, to support for research assistants, should be, as they actually are shouldered by the clients, as the UPMSI is not a line agency in the government's executive branch," it [said](#).

## How science groups reacted

AGHAM Diliman, an organization for Diliman-based scientists and advocates, demanded an apology from Antiporda.

"AGHAM Diliman condemns this attack on scientists. What's the point of funding and conducting research if this won't be translated to policy? We demand @DENROfficial USec Antiporda to immediately issue an apology!" the group [said](#).

Ariel Rojas, a weather forecaster at the state weather bureau, likewise perceived such remark as an "attack" on Filipino scientists. He said it's one of the main reasons why the country is behind scientific endeavors.

"Napag-iwanan na nga ang siyensya sa Pilipinas dahil sa kapabayaang ng gobyerno sa mga nakalipas na dekada tapos may latang walang laman ang nag-iingay," Rojas [said](#).

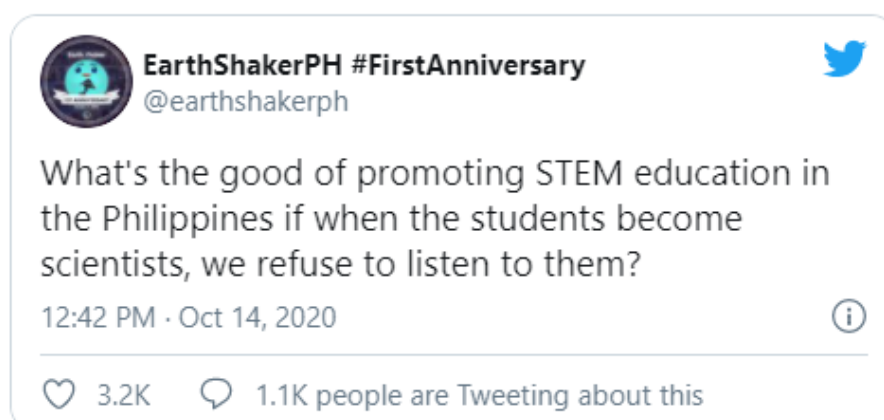
Fisherfolk rights group Pamalakaya Pilipinas also stressed that the "funds" Antiporda was talking about came from taxpayers, money he claimed the agency "wasted" for the dolomite beach project.

"The funding, intended for research and development, is the reason why UP experts came out with a proposal to plant mangroves, instead of a synthetic white sand. Ultimately, those funds, including the one that you've wasted for useless beach nourishment project, were taxpayers'," they [said](#).

Meanwhile, Earth Shaker Philippines, a science organization known for its science-based trivia and updates, questioned the purpose of encouraging students to become scientists if the government doesn't listen to them.

"What's the good of promoting STEM education in the Philippines if when the students become scientists, we refuse to listen to them?" its tweet read.

"Manila Bay would have been much better if we crush, not the dolomite, but the selfish interests of those with power over it," it added.





Dr. Peter Julian Cayton, associate professor of UP School of Statistics, and member of the UP Pandemic Response Team also added: " And you wonder why Philippine-born scientists leave the country."



## Auditing is welcome

Professor Laura David, director of UP-MSI, welcomed the initiative of conducting an audit to their projects even if it is not a government agency.

David further noted that their collaborations with the DENR for the past decade is worth P364,073,909.40.

" Welcome naman po ang audit sa amin. Just like any other government office, kahit kalian naman po puwede talaga i-audit," she [said](#).

UP professor Theodore Te, former Supreme Court spokesperson, attested to the transparency of UP-MSI.

" In my book, The UP MSI is a world-class institution and I'm sure its books and records are open/subject to audit for its projects over the last few years. Would the accuser's books and records in relation to this one project also be open?" Te [said](#).



# Casiño asks Antiporda: Would you separate dolomite and black sand just like soiled clothes?

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:04 PM October 14, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — After a government official claimed that the washed appearance at Manila Bay’s dolomite sands was merely due to black sand washing in, a former lawmaker sarcastically asked whether the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would separate it.

In a tweet on Wednesday, former Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño asked DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda whether they would segregate the white dolomite sand from the black sand — just like the sorting of dirty clothes.

“OK. So paghihiwalayin nila yung puting buhangin sa itim na buhangin? Ano yan, labada?” Casiño said.

(OK. So would they now separate the white sand from the black sands? Is that like sorting soiled clothes?)

Casiño was reacting to Antiporda’s earlier statements, in which he shut down claims that the crushed dolomite was being washed away.

After nearly continuous rains brought by Tropical Storm Nika and now Tropical Depression Ofel, the white sands seemed to have a black gradient over it, prompting people to doubt whether beautifying Manila Bay was simply a waste of public funds.

But Antiporda said those insinuations are a mere lie.

“Nakita po na puro kasinungalingan yung lumabas na nag-wash out yung white sand natin,” Antiporda said in a televised briefing.

(Our white sand supposedly washed out was only a lie.)

“Ang nangyari po talaga is wash in. Pumasok po yung itim na buhangin at pumatong sa white dolomite,” he explained.

(It was washed in. The black sand covered the white dolomite.)

The dolomite project, costing around P349 million, has led to [widespread](#) government criticism for unnecessary spending. Officials like [Vice President Leni Robredo](#) and Senator [Joel Villanueva](#) said that the funds could have been used for other pressing needs.

While [Ofel](#) is not expected to hit Metro Manila directly, its track is expected to move over the inland seas of Southern Luzon — which lies near Manila Bay. [ac]

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1347919/casino-asks-antiporda-would-you-separate-dolomite-and-black-sand-just-like-soiled-clothes>



News5  
13h · 🌐

Walang karapatan si Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda na manatili sa kanyang puwesto kung hindi nito kayang tumanggap ng puna sa isang "ill-conceived" project, ayon sa PAMALAKAYA. Sinabi ito ng fisherfolk group kasunod ng mga naging pahayag ng opisyal tungkol sa Manila Bay white sand project kanina.

FULL STORY: [bit.ly/2H0CJx6](https://bit.ly/2H0CJx6)

**NEWS 5**

**PAMALAKAYA  
PILIPINAS**

“ Wash out or wash in, it doesn't matter. What's certain is that the dolomite white sand would fade away somehow.

We demand Mr. Antiporda to address the environmental concerns being raised fair and square, and refrain from resorting to ad hominem. **Otherwise, he is just exposing himself as a complete ignorant to environmental science, and only good in being a mouthpiece.** ”

**FERNANDO HICAP**  
NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON  
PAMALAKAYA  
OCTOBER 14, 2020

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News5  14h · 

Binatanan ni Akbayan chair emeritus Etta Rosales ang pahayag ni Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda na walang ginawa ang grupo para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

**NEWS 5**

**“Konting aral naman sa batas, Mr. Antiporda. Huwag kasi puro dolomite ang inaatupag. Anong walang ginawa ang advocates? Kaya nga naglabas ang Supreme Court ng continuing Mandamus kasi nilaban ng mga mamamayan at advocate ang tamang paglilinis at rehabilitation ng Manila Bay. Wala sa Mandamus ang fake sand dumping ninyo.”**

**ETTA ROSALES**  
CHAIR EMERITUS, AKBAYAN  
OCTOBER 13, 2020

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GMA News  
14h · 🌐

Sitwasyon sa Manila Bay na tinambakan ng mga dinurog na dolomite. Kuha kaninang 11:30 a.m. |  
via Isa Avendaño-Umali/Super Radyo DZBB 594khz



👍👎👏 Edith NC, EJ Munsayac and 76K others

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"White sand" sa Manila Bay na- washed out matapos ang 2 araw na ulan.



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ABS-CBN News

12h · 🌐



Sangkaterbang water hyacinths ang tumambad sa baybayin ng Baseco sa Tondo, Maynila na siyang dulong bahagi ng Pasig River at siya namang papasok sa Manila Bay.

Sa Facebook page ng MMDA Pasig River Ferry Service, inanunsiyo na suspendido muna ang operasyon ngayong Miyerkoles dahil hirap makaraan ang mga ferry sa kapal ng water hyacinths sa lugar. | via George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

Para sa iba pang balita, magtungo lang sa [news.abs-cbn.com](https://news.abs-cbn.com).



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# Possession of endangered wild plants is punishable by up to 12 yrs, P1M fine — DENR

Marje Pelayo • October 14, 2020 •



MANILA, Philippines — Many Filipinos are turning to gardening to relieve the stress, anxiety and the boredom of being locked down for months since the start of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak early this year.

The craze created so-called “plant parents,” “plantitos” and “plantitas” who prefer plants, instead of animals, as their home pets.

The pandemic has introduced to this generation some of the rarest and the most exotic plants found in the Philippines.

But authorities are reminding the public to be aware of the plant species they have at home.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), around 1,000 species of plants are currently in the agency’s list of endangered plants.

Taking these plant species from their natural habitat is against the law as they play important roles in maintaining ecological balance in the environment they live in.

DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau Director and Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon in an interview with UNTV said wild plants provide shelter or food to wild animals and insects which also contribute to the balance in the forest and control the spread of certain viruses.

The official warned of grave consequences if these natural habitats of wild animals are destroyed.

*‘Lahat ng mga zoonotic diseases, because ang mga habitat ng mga hayop na ito ay nagalaw o na-disrupt, ang tendency ay lumabas sila sa kanilang natural habitat (Zoonotic diseases [could emerge], because when habitats of wild animals are destroyed or disrupted, they tend to move out of their natural habitats), Calderon explained.*

*“Nagkakaroon sila ng interaction sa mga domestic animals so nata-transfer ang mga virus na ito (It brings them into contact with domestic animals and and transfers the virus to the latter),” he added.*

DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau has tightened its security in the country’s ports to combat smuggling of plant wildlife and critically endangered plant species.

This pandemic has seen a large variety of plants surfacing on the market.

Calderon said they understand that plants can be a source of additional income in this time of crisis but the public should be aware of certain responsibilities.



“We support this kind of hobby or small business as long as it is compliant, as far as existing laws are concerned,” the official said.

The DENR encourages the public to report poachers of endangered plant wildlife.

The list can be viewed in DENR’s official Facebook Page.

Recently, some owners of endangered plant wildlife in Zamboanga City voluntarily handed over their plants to the DENR.

Possession, collection, or poaching of these critically endangered fauna is punishable by 12 years imprisonment and a fine of up to P1-million pesos in violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, the DENR said. ***MNP (with reports from Rey Pelayo)***



## Collecting plants from Mt. Mantalingahan prohibited

Oct 13, 2020 Ruil Alabi

*Reynato Gonzaga, protected area superintendent (PASu) of the MMPL, said Monday that they are closely monitoring activities of plant collectors because it is prohibited in the protected area.*



*Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape. // Image by CI/Jeanne Tabangay*

The management of the Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) is warning plantitos and plantitas that collecting any kind of flora from the mountain range is prohibited.

Reynato Gonzaga, protected area superintendent (PASu) of the MMPL, said Monday that they are closely monitoring activities of plant collectors because it is prohibited in the protected area.

"Alam natin na puno ng iba't-ibang halaman ang Mt. Mantalingahan kaya until now patuloy ang monitoring ng ating mga rangers sa limang munisipyo para masigurado nating walang pumapasok at kumukuha ng flora o halaman at ibenta naman ito sa labas", said Gonzaga.

"Lalo na kapag ang mga na-collect nila ay identified na mga endangered plant species talaga," he added.

Gonzaga said anyone who will be caught collecting Mantalingahan plants whether from Narra, Quezon, Rizal, Sofronio Española, Brooke's Point and Bataraza can be sued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

He said they are reiterating the warning so that the public may know that Mantalingahan is a protected area and wild plant collection from any of its parts will be illegal.

"We are reminding the public that protected areas are not only for animals but also for plants. And the law protects both plants and animals," he added.

Mt. Mantalingahan, the highest peak in Palawan, serves as home to the indigenous peoples (IP) Pala'wan.

Conservation International (CI), an international environmental NGO, has valued the protected area's "ecosystem services" presently providing the communities around it at US\$5.5 billion.

"They also play an important role in absorbing and storing carbon — an essential component in the solution to climate change. It is a key biodiversity area, where new species are still being discovered, and recognized for this value as it is one of only 10 sites of the Alliance for Zero Extinction in the Philippines and one of 11 important bird areas in Palawan," according to CI.

Source: [https://palawan-news.com/collecting-plants-from-mt-mantalingahan-prohibited/?fbclid=IwAR17vUT\\_pegXuh4PptBgYTT3IJ8hI3T8qXYgXyaY4yV1MZinDuSU1LKeBJ8](https://palawan-news.com/collecting-plants-from-mt-mantalingahan-prohibited/?fbclid=IwAR17vUT_pegXuh4PptBgYTT3IJ8hI3T8qXYgXyaY4yV1MZinDuSU1LKeBJ8)



# San Fernando steps up greening program to improve air quality

By Zorayda Tecson **October 14, 2020, 3:50 pm**



**URBAN GREENING PROGRAM.** Different shrubs and bushes are planted along Jose Abad Santos Avenue (JASA) in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga on Tuesday (Oct. 13, 2020). As part of the intensified urban greening program, a total of 23,000 plants will be planted on the 1.5-kilometer stretch of the middle island of the road. *(Photo from city government of San Fernando)*

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga** – A major thoroughfare in this city is getting a facelift as the city government intensifies its urban greening program.

The City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) started on Tuesday the planting of 23,000 different kinds of plants along the Jose Abad Santos Avenue (JASA) here that could help improve air quality in the city.

Juliuzar Pasion, City Environmental Management Specialist II, said that a 1.5-kilometer stretch of the middle island along JASA will be planted with different shrubs and bushes.

“Ang pinaka-goal ng ating aktibidad ay mabawasan yung epekto ng climate change sa siyudad at ma-improve yung air quality. Alam naman natin na yung papel ng mga halaman sa ating kapaligiran ay mag-absorb ng mga toxic gases (The main goal of our activity is to reduce the impact of climate change in the city and improve air quality. We know that the role of plants in our environment is to absorb toxic gases),” Pasion said in a statement.

He said that local plant shop, Wilson’s Instant Tree Bank, was once again tapped to spearhead the project.

Wilson’s has been a partner of the city government in its other urban greening programs for the past years.

Following the completion of the planting activity, Wilson’s will also lead in the regular maintenance of the plants.

The urban greening program is part of the environment agenda of Mayor Edwin Santiago.

“Ang pagtatanim kasi ay isang paraan upang ma-balanse natin ang kalagayan ng ating kalikasan. Habang nagtatayo tayo ng mga modernong imprastruktura, habang inaangat natin ang ating ekonomiya, at habang dumadami ang bilang ng mga sasakyan, kailangan hindi nakakalimutan ang kalikasan (Planting is a way to balance the condition of our nature. As we build modern infrastructures, as we raise our economy, and as the number of vehicles increases, nature must not be forgotten). Planting trees is a way of protecting the environment, and protecting the environment is a way of prolonging one’s life,” Santiago said.

Apart from the project along JASA, the city government also has existing greening projects along Aquino By-Way Tourism Road in Sindalan, Civic Center in San Isidro, and Central Materials Recovery Facility in Lara. **(PNA)**





# DENR donates bamboo saplings to Manila to boost ‘green spaces’

October 14, 2020 2 min read

(Photo courtesy of the DENR-NCR)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) has donated bamboo saplings to Manila to help boost the city’s green spaces.

DENR-NCR regional executive director Jacqueline Caancan turned over the plants to Manila Mayor Francisco ‘Isko Moreno’ Domagoso and Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan on Monday.

In a post on Tuesday, the agency said the donated bamboo saplings consisted of 55 Iron Bamboo or Ferrocalamus and 50 Thailand Bamboo or Bambusa dolichomerithalla.

“The plants would help the city enhance its ‘green spaces’ and provide the people with cleaner air and water, and reduce flooding among others,” the DENR NCR’s post reads.

Meanwhile, Caancan said they were assisted by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the DENR and the DENR Calabarzon in sourcing the appropriate bamboo saplings that may be planted in the city.

Domagoso thanked DENR-NCR for being the city’s partner for the environment.

“Ilalagay po natin ito sa may Liwasang Bonifacio para lalo nating paramihin ang mga ‘green spaces’ sa ating lungsod (we will put these at the Liwasang Bonifacio so we could propagate more green spaces in the city),” Domagoso said. (PNA)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/14/denr-donates-bamboo-saplings-to-manila-to-boost-green-spaces/?fbclid=IwAR2RPARKPY1SH3X-q9c68rTeSoQbKKiymjMTbEtEaJsEF7kh9VkQN2ZFLk>



ABS-CBN News

9h · 🌐



GLOW UP. Noong dekada '90, nasira ang limestone formations at kagubatan ng Masungi Georeserve sa Rizal dahil sa talamak na pamumutol ng puno at land speculation.

Sa pagtutulungan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Blue Star, na parent company ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation, nagsimulang maprotektahan ang lugar.

Yumabong na rito ang isang secondary forest, dahilan para bumalik ang maraming buhay-ilang. Sa katunayan, ilang bagong species nga ng halaman at susò ang natagpuan na rito.

Nitong 2020 lang, kinansela na ang quarrying permits sa lugar upang mas maprotektahan pa ito lalo't maraming isinasagawang pag-aaral dito ukol sa wildlife. (📍: Masungi Georeserve)

BASA HIN: <https://bit.ly/374GJI0>

1996

HOW IT STARTED



2016

HOW IT'S GOING



Leonell Batongbakal and 6.5K others

473 Comments 432 Shares



# CCC urges more action to protect, preserve rainforests

By Catherine Teves [October 14, 2020, 3:06 pm](#)



**MANILA** – Climate Change Commission (CCC) is urging action for protecting and preserving rainforests, warning further decrease in these ecosystems will worsen biodiversity loss and global warming.

One of these actions is the "strict" implementation of Republic Act 11038 (Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018) and provision of measures to ensure the safety of forest protection officers nationwide, noted CCC Executive Director Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman.

"Together, let us protect and restore our forests to reduce our vulnerability to climate and disaster risks, prevent spread of infectious diseases and ensure a safer, healthier and sustainable future for generations to come," he said in his message for this year's World Rainforest Week (WRW) from Oct. 12 to 18.

WRW promotes awareness about rainforests which are dense jungles with tall trees and much rainfall.

According to CCC, rainforests cover about 6 percent of Earth's surface.

"Home to over half of the world's plant and animal species, our world's rainforests absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and provide the air we breathe while also helping curb global warming," CCC said in its Oct. 13 press release.

"Despite its critical importance for survival of life on Earth, rainforests are among the most vulnerable ecosystems in the world. They continue to be endangered by unsustainable logging practices and rampant development and expansion of agri-business and other industries," he added.

CO<sub>2</sub> is among greenhouse gases that accumulate in the atmosphere and trap heat so global temperature rises, changing climate.

De Guzman warned that deforestation and forest degradation are already global problems persisting at "alarming" rates.

"According to Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the area of primary forest worldwide has decreased by over 80 million hectares since 1990," he said.

Primary forest is naturally regenerated forest of native tree species where there are no clearly viable indications of human activities and ecological processes are not significantly disturbed, noted FAO.

"In the Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) estimates that the current national forest cover amounts to 7.014 million hectares, way below the 1934 forest cover of 17.8 million hectares," de Guzman continued.





He said CCC, therefore, supports the global call for "decisive, urgent and stronger action to stop illegal logging, poaching, unsustainable development and expansion of agribusiness and other extractive activities" that will further harm forests.

According to DENR, species living in forests will be displaced and may eventually become extinct if these areas are cleared to accommodate other land uses.

Loss of forests is also a bane to efforts aimed at addressing global warming, DENR said further.

CCC agrees, saying cutting down forest trees "releases carbon into the atmosphere and causes 15 percent of all human-induced carbon emissions."

The public must be vigilant about and be more active in protecting and preserving forests, the CCC official noted.

Such public involvement is essential "to prevent effects of climate change from worsening, avoid emergence or reemergence of pandemics and support the health of our ecosystems and organisms therein," said CCC.

In 2011, DENR launched the National Greening Program (NGP) to reforest unproductive, denuded and degraded forest land in the country.

Through reforestation, DENR seeks to help promote Philippine self-sufficiency in wood and wood products, poverty alleviation, food and economic security as well as environmental stability.

Official DENR data as of September 2020 shows NGP already greened some 2.06 million hectares nationwide.  
**(PNA)**





# Silliman U, EDC to rescue, preserve endangered PH trees

Published October 14, 2020, 12:51 PM

by [Minerva Newman](#)

DUMAGUETE CITY – Silliman University (SU) and the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) forged a partnership on October 9 to rescue and preserve endangered Philippine tree species by establishing an arboretum inside the Center for Tropical Conservation Studies (CENTROP), SU's field laboratory grounds, in Palinpinon, Valencia, Negros Oriental.



(Photo courtesy of SU/OIP/ MANILA BULLETIN)

The virtual signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) was aimed at establishing the arboretum, a garden where various tree species are grown and preserved for scientific and educational purposes, which will be a haven for the long-term survival of endangered trees.

SU President Dr. Betty Cernol-McCann said during the virtual MOA signing ceremony that the partnership with EDC's BINHI Program will help widen CENTROP's impact by promoting forest conservation and the preservation and propagation of threatened native tree species.

“By establishing an arboretum at our Palinpinon facility, Silliman and EDC will create a refuge for Philippine native trees that are critically endangered or at the brink of extinction due to deforestation,” McCann added.

McCann said it was SU's fervent hope that the arboretum will serve not only as a tree refuge and source of viable seeds for reforestation, but also as a venue for student and community learning to enhance and nurture conservation and environmental awareness.

McCann bared that CENTROP has played a significant role in the monitoring and protection of key biodiversity areas in Negros and other critical habitats within the Visayas.

Established under the SU Biology Department, CENTROP is known globally for its captive breeding program for the following threatened and endemic Philippine wildlife species: the Philippine spotted deer, Visayan warty pig, and Negros bleeding heart, McCann said.

According to SU Biology Department Head Dr. Nadia Palomar-Abesamis, the partnership was a testament to both organizations' steadfast commitment to preserve Philippine biodiversity and the environment, and their shared belief that “great and meaningful endeavors will only succeed if we do it collectively with others.”



EDC Corporate Social Responsibility Head for Negros Norreen Bautista said that the partnership to establish the arboretum was just one of EDC's several joint projects with SU in its shared commitment to preserving the environment.

According to Bautista, the arboretum will be a collection of threatened Philippine-tree species under BINHI, EDC's flagship environment program to strengthen its niche programs on forest biodiversity, biotechnology, and conservation biology for instruction, research and extension.

She added that it will provide SU with the native tree seedlings from its priority species under BINHI, as well as technical assistance, in monitoring and maintaining the tree species.

EDC is a Filipino renewable energy company under the Lopez Group. It has its second-biggest geothermal facility in Valencia, Negros Oriental, Bautista said that BINHI is a nationwide program for forest restoration and the country's largest private sector-led greening initiative that aims to restore denuded forests, preserve and propagate threatened native tree species, and protect biodiversity.

Bautista bared that through BINHI, EDC has planted a total of about 6.44 million seedlings since the program began in 2008, and has reforested 3,394 hectares in the Negros Island.



# BoC-NAIA, binigyan ng komendasyon ng USFWS

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 Vic Reyes15

MABUTI na lang alerto ang mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Kung hindi ay baka kung anu-anong bawal na produkto na ang nakapapasok sa bansa.

Kamakailan lang ay nabuko ng mga taga-BoC-NAIA ang tangkang pagpupuslit ng liquid marijuana na galing ng Estados Unidos.

Ang liquid marijuana ay nakapaloob sa 21 vape cartridges na nakalagay sa dalawang pakete.

Ang mga pakete ay dumating sa Central Mail Exchange Center sa Pasay City.

Ang unang pakete ay ipinadala ng isang "Tan" ng California, USA.

Ito'y idineklarang naglalaman ng "cosmetic beauty cream."

Ang pangalawang pakete naman ay galing sa isang "Travis Arvin" ng Oregon, USA.

Ito naman ay idineklarang naglalaman ng "video."

Ang importasyon ng marijuana at ang kanyang compounds, components at derivatives ay mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ng Republic Act (RA) No. 9165 o Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Ang anti-drugs campaign sa pangunahing paliparan ay joint project ng BoC-NAIA, na pinamumunuan ni District Collector Mimel S. Manahan-Talusan, PDEA at NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group.

Ang kontrabando ay isinalin na sa pangangalaga ng PDEA "for further profiling and case build-up against the importers."

Determinado ang mga taga-BoC-NAIA na sundin ang utos ni Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero na pigilan ang pagpasok sa bansa ng mga bawal na produkto.

\*\*\*

Pinapurihan ng United States Fish and Wildlife Service ang Bureau of Customs.

Nagalak ang Estados Unidos dahil napigilan ng BoC-NAIA ang eksportasyon ng buhay na sawa papuntang New York.

Ang reticulated python ay nakita sa warehouse ng isang german courier firm.

Natuklasan ng isang customs examiner ang buhay na sawa na nakatago sa isang rattan basket.

Ang komendasyon ng USFWS ay nakapaloob sa sulat ni Alfred Colby sa BoC.

Sinabi ni Colby, Senior Special Agent ng USFWS, na ang importasyon ng sawa ay "strictly regulated" sa Amerika.

Ang kinumpiskang sawa ay kaagad na ibinigay ng BoC-NAIA sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



\*\*\*

Unti-unti ng niluluwagan ng gobyerno ang mga quarantine restrictions.

Kailangang gawin ito dahil hindi makaarangkada ang ekonomiya.

Walang trabaho ang marami dahil sa kakulangan ng masasakyang pampublikong behikulo at marami pa rin ang mga saradong kumpanya.

Ang kailangan lang ay ipatupad ng mahigpit ang mga health protocol.

Kailangan ring paigtingin pa ang information dissemination campaign ukol sa kahalagahan ng pagsusuot ng face mask, face shield, hand washing, at social distancing.

Hindi puwedeng bumagsak ang ekonomiya.

Baka hindi tayo sa COVID-19 mamatay kundi sa gutom!

(Para sa inyong komento at suhestiyon, tumawag o mag-text sa #0921-4765430/email:vicreyesjr08@yahoo.com. Ilagay lang ang buong pangalan at tirahan.)





## BOC-NAIA commended left and right

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 Itchie G. Cabayan35

ONLY recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service commended the Bureau of Customs, particularly its Port of NAIA, for the interception of a reticulated python and expressed appreciation for its efforts to counter attempts on wildlife smuggling.

This, along with previous apprehensions of the BOC-NAIA under NAIA District Collector Carmelita 'Mimel' Talusan involving the smuggling of wildlife animals and species were also commended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and international bodies including the Traffic South East Asia, a leading international NGO working exclusively on wildlife trade.

In a letter addressed to the BOC, Alfred Colby, Senior Special Agent/Regional Attache for SE Asia, US Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote: "In the US, the python is listed as Injurious on the Lacey Act and importation is strictly regulated. Another current issue is the potential risk of spreading zoonotic diseases which we are all suffering due to COVID-19."

The commendations came after a live reticulated python was recently intercepted by the Bureau of Customs- NAIA from an outbound parcel at the DHL warehouse.

The package was misdeclared as "wood curtains, lanterns and rattan baskets." It was shipped by a certain "Janrei Fernandez" from Sampaloc, Manila and was supposedly bound for New York, United States.

However, during the 100 percent physical examination conducted by the Customs Examiner who was on duty at that time, a python was found hidden inside a rattan basket.

Talusan immediately ordered that the seized live reticulated python be immediately turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for proper handling and care.

It is because of this latest seizure that Talusan is reminding the public once again, that the importation, exportation and trade of wildlife animals without the necessary permit are crimes penalized under Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) in relation to Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act).

Violators of the said laws may face imprisonment of one year and one day to two years and a fine of P2,000 to P200,000, depending on the discretion of the court handling the case.

Talusan said the BOC-NAIA operatives are always in full support of the anti-smuggling drive of Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Also pursuant to this, Talusan said the BoC-NAIA has been very active and vigilant in protecting the country's borders against illegal importation and exportation of wildlife animals and species.

This, of course, is aside from the constantly watchful eyes that are trained against the entry of dangerous drugs and other contrabands that pose as threats to our country's national security, public health, ecology and environment.

Indeed, the BOC-NAIA had proven that the pandemic is no reason to let their guards down or be lax in any manner.

Their countless operations that have resulted in the confiscation of illegal items, specially drugs, show that they are always on their toes, enough to dissuade those who may attempt at sneaking into the country anything that is prohibited under our laws.



The commendations are therefore well-deserved, to say the least.

\*\*\*

Beauty tip— Massage the scalp and hair with coconut milk or Aloe Vera gel. Leave it for half an hour, and then rinse with warm water. Repeat this three times a week. (Source: Dr Rosary May Canay-Diaz of Californian Bloom Aesthetic Institute and Medical Spa /168 Branch-09773726628/87010887/ Valezuela-09560895596/87010890/E. Rodriguez-09560895598/87010899/ Website: www.californianbloom.com.ph/ Facebook:CALIFORNIAN BLOOM)

\*\*\*

Jokjok (from Sheila Domingo of Sampaloc, Manila)— WIFE: Lab, may taning na ang buhay ko. Huling gabi ko na 'to, let's make love/HUSBAND: Heh! Tumigil ka nga diyan! Maaga pa akong gigising bukas, buti ikaw, hindi na!! \*\*\*

Direct Hit entertains comments, suggestions or complaints. Please have them emailed to itchiecabayan@yahoo.com or text 0917-3132168.



# Stop road project that will cross Negros natural park, bishop urges DPWH, DENR

By: [Carla Gomez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 05:15 PM October 14, 2020

BACOLOD CITY -- San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza is asking officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways and Department (DPWH) and Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to immediately stop a road project that will traverse through the Northern Negros Natural Park (NNNP).

In a letter to Western Visayas DENR Regional Director Francisco Milla Jr. and DPWH Regional Director Lea Delfinado, Alminaza said it has come to his attention that the Silay-Patag-Cadiz-Calatrava Road Development Project would pass through forested areas that constitute the Strict Protection Zone of the NNNP.

"We are afraid that your project will entail forest clearing, landscape alteration, dislocation of wildlife species, and deterioration of ecological services and benefits, among others," he said.

"It will create fragmentation in the largest remaining lowland forest of Negros Island and undermine the integrity of the delicate ecosystems. The remaining forests of the NNNP, including those areas covered by the project, serve as important habitats of numerous endemic species, many of which are already classified as threatened," the bishop added.

The NNNP serves as a critical watershed in the province, making the protection of the remaining forest in the protected area of paramount importance for the sustainable development of Negros Occidental.

Alminaza said he recognizes the importance of development projects, including opening roads to facilitate economic development, particularly in the hinterland barangays.

However, Alminaza said the implementation of the projects must conform with applicable rules and regulations, especially because NNNP is a declared protected area under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act.

"Any development project should not be at the expense of our natural environment such as the old forest that is getting limited in Negros Occidental. Protected areas are our legacy to the generations to come and to humanity," he said.

"The road project in question is considered an Environmentally Critical Project that requires the conduct of an Environment Impact Assessment, including public consultations among stakeholders," he added.

Alminaza said he is open to a dialog with the DPWH and DENR.

An online signature campaign created by the Negros Environmental Watch has also been launched calling on President Duterte, the DPWH, DENR, Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson, and the Protected Area Management Board to stop the road construction through the NNNP.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1347848/stop-road-project-that-will-cross-negros-natural-park-bishop-urges-dpwh-denr>



# 4,000 barangays threatened by flashfloods, landslides

Published October 14, 2020, 3:36 PM

by [Noreen Jazul](#)

More than 4,000 barangays are threatened by flashfloods and landslides as tropical depression “Ofel” barreled through Calabarzon (Region 4-A), Mimaropa (Region 4-B), and the Visayas Wednesday, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.



(UNSPASH / MANILA BULLETIN)

OCD spokesperson Mark Timbal said concerned local government units (LGUs) and government agencies in the affected areas were told to prepare their residents about the possible dangers of the tropical cyclone.

“All LGUs and relevant government agencies had been forewarned previously of the LPA (low-pressure area) possibly turning into a storm. Per DENR-MGB (Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau), more than 4,000 barangays in the possible track of Ofel are susceptible to flood and landslide,” Timbal said.

In Calabarzon, Timbal said only cargoes travelling to and from the port of northern Quezon were allowed as the local government banned sea transport to ensure the safety of passengers.

All trips in the ports of Batangas and Lucena City and Atimonan in Quezon were also cancelled due to inclement weather.

In the Bicol region (Region 5), at least 500 individuals were reportedly stranded in ports of Albay and Sorsogon due to the cancellation of trips.





## DPS collects 140 tons of garbage since Oct. 13 flood

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital|October 14,2020 - 08:59 PM



The Mahiga Creek is filled with garbage after the heavy rains on Tuesday night. | Photo Courtesy of CCENRO  
CEBU CITY, Philippines — The Cebu City Department of Public Services (DPS) collected 140 tons of garbage in their continuous clearing operations since the flashfloods on Tuesday night.

Lawyer John Jigo Dacua, head of the DPS, said they were still continuously hauling garbage from the city's waterways as a preventive measure for expected heavy rains that might cause floods in the city.

Mayor Edgardo Labella has ordered the cleaning of the waterways after two people died and a minor went missing during the flood on October 13, 2020.

The mayor told reporters in a phone conference on October 14, 2020, that the garbage was the main reason that General Maxilom Avenue or Mango Avenue was in waist-deep flood.

Even as the rains are pouring this evening, the DPS continues to collect garbage all over the city.

The DPS will provide a more detailed report on the garbage situation on Thursday, October 15, after they will finish the clearing operations.

Councilor Joel Garganera, the City Council's chairperson for the committee on environment, said that the garbage in the waterways had been a major factor in the flooding.

"In order to solve the flooding in the city, we have to clean our waterways. There is no other way," said the councilor.

Councilor Jerry Guardo, council's chairperson for the committee on infrastructure, said that as much as the drainage and rivers would need to be widened, the garbage accumulated in the already compromised waterways would cause the unprecedented flooding in the uptown area.

The short term solution would be to regularly maintain the waterways and remove the garbage as often as the city can.

However, the long term solution would be to dredge, deepen, and widen the major rivers in the city.  
/dbs

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/345701/dps-collects-140-tons-of-garbage-since-oct-13-flood?fbclid=IwAR2N-PcxsFCOtTGRrRkvwT88G6RjG4fVpoLMQbyg7MZbIhySWmPvBP3VNLc#ixzz6aqm10TtO>



# EDITORIAL - Heavy rains, hard lessons

(The Freeman) - October 15, 2020 - 12:00am



Heavy rains caused flooding in many areas of Metro Cebu the other day. Streets became rivers and some neighborhoods literally turned into lakes.

Photos and videos showed what happened in places like General Maxilom Avenue where vehicles were literally swept away by high waters. Homeowners in different barangays also had to deal with water entering their homes. This time it was not just the ankle-deep water they have become used to, but waist-deep and even shoulder-deep water in some areas.

The floods the other day were no doubt caused in part by the heavy rains brought about by tropical depression Ofel. However, we can also attribute the floods to another thing; trash in our drainage systems.

Cebu City residents have long blamed flooding on an ineffective drainage system. However, the cause of flooding has long ceased to be just an issue with the drainage system, it's more of what goes into the drainage system and stops it from functioning as it should.

That's right, trash.

The cleanup yesterday following the floods revealed the obvious. In several areas our city's drainage system was not able to absorb the floodwaters because of the volume of garbage clogging it.

Despite this, we still haven't learned that the trash we carelessly throw into the street will end up clogging the drains. We still haven't learned that drainage systems are not the same as trash receptacles.

Flood control is no longer just the government's problem; it is now largely the public's responsibility. The issue is no longer just about building a better drainage system. It has also become an issue of keeping trash off our streets and, in effect, out of our drainage systems.



Making sure our drainage systems function as they should is one way to minimize the potential damage nature can do. This is something all of us should be mindful of because we are facing more than just the usual this year.

The flooding problem is something we deal with yearly with the coming of the rainy season. But what exacerbates the problem this year is that we are facing an extended La Niña phenomenon on top of the rainy season. Also, we still have a pandemic going on, just in case anyone has forgotten.

As if that weren't enough, more typhoons are expected as a normal occurrence as the year draws to a close, so we can expect even more than the usual rains to fall from the heavens.



## PCG turns 119, unveils new chopper

It is a celebration of selfless public service and genuine sacrifices to uphold public health and safety amid the battle against the COVID-19.

Published 6 hours ago on October 15, 2020 12:40 AM

By [Raffy Ayeng](#) @tribunephil\_raf



PHILIPPINE Coast Guard's H145 light twin engine helicopter from Germany will be used for search and rescue and marine environmental protection initiatives, as well as in the transport of medical supplies amid the COVID-19 pandemic. / PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PCG

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) officially commissioned its newest helicopter during the celebration of its 119th founding anniversary on Wednesday.

Despite heavy downpour brought about by tropical depression Ofel and amid the ongoing pandemic, the PCG pushed through with the commissioning of the Airbus H145 chopper and its simple anniversary rites led by its commandant, Admiral George V. Ursabia Jr., and German Ambassador to the Philippines Anke Reiffenstuel.

PCG's second Airbus light twin-engine helicopter from Germany is a four-tonne-class, twin-engine equipped with high frequency radios, emergency flotation gear, fast-roping, cargo sling, search light and electro-optical systems to perform critical missions including search and rescue, medical evacuation, maritime security operations and maritime law enforcement.

The CGH-145 will join the active aerial assets of the Coast Guard Aviation Force in assisting nationwide initiatives to address the threat of the coronavirus and in performing its mandated functions.

The first H145 light twin-engine helicopter from Germany was commissioned into the PCG on 18 June 2020. It has been deployed in various maritime search and rescue and marine environmental protection initiatives and transported personal protective equipment sets, medical supplies and medicines to far-flung communities.

This year's anniversary celebration was anchored on the transformation of its men and women amidst the challenging times.

"It is a celebration of their selfless public service and genuine sacrifices to uphold public health and safety amid the battle against the COVID-19. The PCG offers this day to the brave and committed Coast Guard frontline personnel who serve thousands of repatriated overseas Filipinos, locally stranded individuals, fellow frontline workers, maritime stakeholders and the rest of the nation with humility and compassion," Ursabia said.

He said 2020 is a time "when the men and women of the Coast Guard demonstrated their willingness and ability to perform beyond their mandated functions by continuously holding the line and proving that they will do whatever it takes to render service, even if it entails the ultimate sacrifice, with words no longer uttered as a matter of formality, but a heartfelt display of commitment to the nation."





Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade failed to grace the celebration as he attended the agency's budget deliberation at the House of Representatives. The keynote speaker was Rev. Oscar Jaime Florencio, bishop of the Military Ordinariate of the Philippines.



# Treasure hunter nalibing ng buhay sa paghuhukay ng kayamanan

On Oct 14, 2020



NALIBING ng buhay ang 54-anyos na lalaki nang gumuho ang lupang hinuhukay nila sa Barangay Sto. Cristo, Hermosa, Bataan, Lunes ng hapon.

Kinilala ang biktima na si Marcos Nolasco, taga-San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Ayon sa ulat, 2:30 ng hapon nang gumuho ang lupa sa gilid mula sa 20 talampakang lalim na hukay na pinagtatrabahuhan ng biktima.

Pagmamay-ari ang lugar ng isang Lucile Basi Enriquez.

Kaagad humingi ng tulong sa Hermosa Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) ang mga kasamahan ni Nolasco. Bandang 6:00 na ng gabi nang ihinto muna ang paghuhukay at hindi parin na-retrieve ang katawan ng biktima.

Kilala ang Bataan na maraming nakabaong mga ginto sa iba't ibang lugar na bahagi umano ng pamosong Yamashita treasures na pinaniniwalaang ibinaon noong kasagsagan ng World War 2. (James de Jesus)

Source: [https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/10/14/treasure-hunter-nalibing-ng-buhay-sa-paghuhukay-ng-kayamanan/?fbclid=IwAR343Iez9894yCgKH3TT5Dq7RbIbKLCQShff1RMMvh\\_gEI\\_D6xvE\\_OEKFCUQ](https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/10/14/treasure-hunter-nalibing-ng-buhay-sa-paghuhukay-ng-kayamanan/?fbclid=IwAR343Iez9894yCgKH3TT5Dq7RbIbKLCQShff1RMMvh_gEI_D6xvE_OEKFCUQ)



# BREAKING: Mga nagpositibo sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 346,536 na

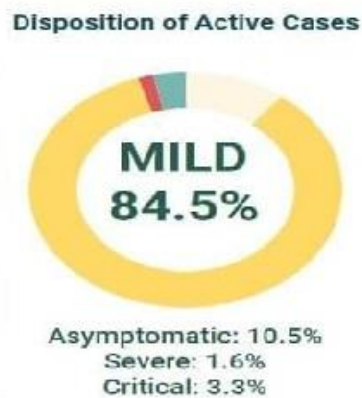
By Angellic Jordan October 14, 2020 - 04:15 PM

**DOH COVID-19**  
CASE BULLETIN # 214 | October 14, 2020



**Top Provinces by newly-announced cases**

NCR	624
CAVITE	219
BATANGAS	104
RIZAL	91
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	63



Note: 11 labs were not able to submit data to the COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) on October 13, 2020.

[f OfficialDOHgov](#) [@DOHgovph](#) [doh.gov.ph](#) [\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](#)

Halos 2,000 muli ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Miyerkules (October 14), umabot na sa 346,536 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 46,227 ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,910 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

84.5 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 10.5 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.6 porsyento ang severe habang 3.3 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 78 ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 6,449 ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

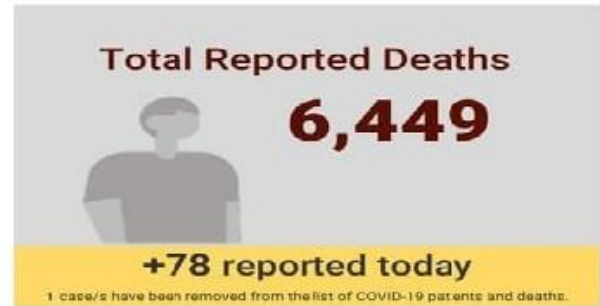
Ayon pa sa DOH, 579 naman ang gumaling pa sa bansa.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 293,860 ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



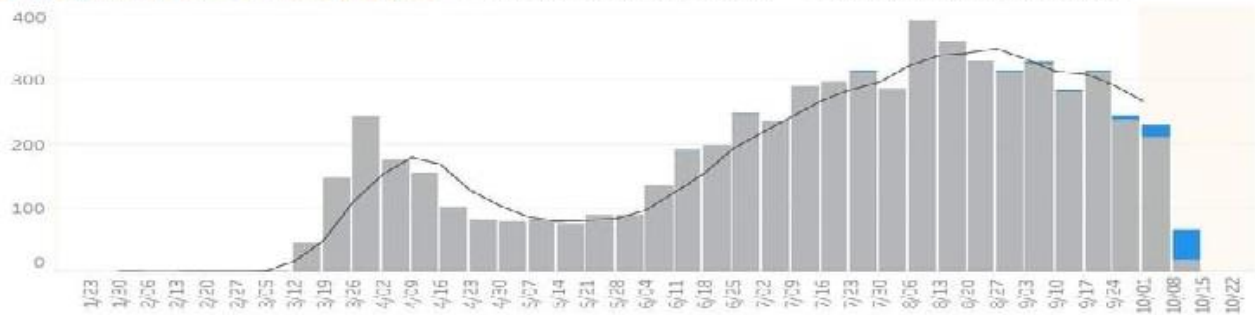
# DOH COVID-19

CASE BULLETIN # 214 | October 14, 2020



### Confirmed Deaths by Week of Death (Nationwide)

■ Reported on October 14, 2020 ■ Previously Reported - 4-week Moving Average



\* 17 cases were previously tagged as recoveries but upon further validation have been removed from the list of recoveries.

f OfficialDOHgov    @DOHgovph    doh.gov.ph    (02) 894-COVID / 1555





## 2021 national budget deliberation resumes

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 Jester P. Manalastas17

THE House of Representatives, under newly-installed Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, has resumed the deliberation on the proposed 2021 national budget.

Amid the Speakership row between Velasco and then Speaker Peter Alan Cyetano President Rodrigo Duterte called a special session to finish the budget which faced delay because of the squabble.

The appropriations measure, House Bill 7727, was also certified as urgent and therefore can be easily approved on second and third reading.

The majority of solons are not in favor of terminating the deliberation on the budget because the budgets of major agencies should be scrutinized.

The 2021 national budget is pegged at P4.5 trillion or 9.9 percent higher than this year's allocation.

The new leadership had to void or annul the surprise decision of former Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano to pass the measure on second reading and suspend session until Nov 16.

The chamber decided to go back to plenary debates following the failure of Cayetano's leadership to deliberate on the budget of crucial agencies like the DPWH, where Negros Oriental Rep. Arnie Teves detected and questioned hefty allocations for Cayetano and his loyal allies.

The entities that remain unchecked are the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR); Department of Transportation (DoTr); Department of Education (DepEd); Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT); Department of Tourism (DoT); Department of Health; (DoH); Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO); Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA); Department of Budget and Management (DBM); Department of Energy (DoE); Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Also pending for deliberations are the proposed budgets of the constitutional offices like the Commission on Elections, Commission on Audit and the Civil Service Commission, together with the Commission on Human Rights.

Even the proposed appropriations for all the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) have not been tackled, including other executive offices like the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); the Climate Change Commission and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, and many others.

The special session is expected to end on October 16.



## TRAIIDOR ANG COVID-19 KAYA DAPAT BANTAYAN



October 14, 2020 @ 12:24 PM 18 hours ago

LUMAGPAS na sa walong milyon ang biktima ng coronavirus disease-19 sa Amerika.

Depende sa sitwasyon, maaaring sa loob naman ng isang Linggo, aabot na rin sa walong milyon ang biktima sa India.

Halos pareho ang Amerika at India sa rami ng nagkakasakit araw-araw na naglalaro sa 30,000-40,000.

Ang Brazil na pangatlo sa pagkakaroon ng mahigit 5.1M at Russia na may mahigit sa 1.3M ang kabilang sa apat na milyonaryo pagdating sa rami ng may COVID-19.

Maaaring sa susunod na 10 araw, kung magpapatuloy ang Spain sa pagkakaroon ng nasa 25,000 na impeksyon araw-araw, maaaring susunod ding milyonaryo sa pandemya.

Kandidato rin sa pagkamilyonaryo ang mga bansang Columbia at Argentina sa pagkakaroon ng mga ito ng mahigit nang 900,000 sa rami ng may impeksyon.

### SA PINAS?

Tayo sa Pinas, mahigit namang 344,000 ang biktima at sumusunod sa atin ang Indonesia na dating nangunguna sa Southeast Asia.

Kung may konswelo man tayo, nanatiling kalahati lang ang nasasawi sa atin kumpara sa nasasawi sa Indonesia.

Isa pa, noong nasa pwestong pang 27 ang Pinas sa may pinakamaraming impeksyon, number 27 din ito sa rami ng patay.

Pero ngayon, kahit pang-18 tayo, pang-25 lang naman tayo sa rami ng nasasawi.

Mayroon lang nakapagtataka, nitong nakalipas na 24 oras lang nagkaroon yata ng kamatayan na naglalaro lamang sa 200-300 at hindi katulad ng nagaganap sa nakaraang mga araw na may 800-1,000 patay araw-araw, lalo na sa tatlong nangungunang bansa – ang Amerika, India at Brazil.

Kung magpapatuloy ito, mga Bro, sana naman maging hudyat ito ng paghupa ng pandemya.

At sana nga magpatuloy ito hanggang sa tuluyang bumaba nang bumaba ang bilang ng mga namamatay kahit pa hindi maiiwasang may magkasakit.



## TRAYDOR ANG COVID-19

Pero traydor ang COVID-19.

Ang Spain na nakitaan ng paghupa, ngayon ay sumisipa ulit sa rami ng may impeksyon sa bilang na 27,856 sa nakalipas na 24 oras.

Ang ganitong sitwasyon ang dapat na bantayan nating lahat, mga Bro.

Magbantay tayo dahil ang kalakhang bahagi ng mahal kong Pinas ay inilagay sa modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) at iilan lang ang pinanatili sa general community quarantine (GCQ).

Isa pa, ang mga asymptomatic o hindi nakikitaan ng sintomas, ang dami pala at nanghahawa sila ng COVID-19 nang 'di natin namamalayan.

Kasi naman, kahalubilo natin ang mga ito lagi at huli na ang lahat kung naospital o namatay tayo.

At ang masakit, kung gaano kaseryoso o kakritikal ang mga nahahawaan ng mga may mild, severe at kritikal na COVID19, gayundin ang hatid ng mga asymptomatic.

## MASS TESTING

Maganda ang ginagawa ng ilang local government unit na pagsasagawa ng mga mass testing kung may COVID-19 ka o wala.

Kahit panimula lang ngunit epektibong test.

Sa panimula kasi, makikilala ang mga may sakit, kahit ang mga asymptomatic.

Matapos na madiskubre ang mga asymptomatic, kasunod na nito ang swab testing upang makumpirma kung tinamaan nga ito ng COVID-19 o hindi.

Kung kumpirmado na positibo, kasunod na nito ang paghihiwalay ng biktima sa kanyang pamilya at komunidad dahil ilalagay siya sa isolation facility ng mga LGU.

Ang sistemang mass testing at isolation ang pangontra sa pagkatraidor ng pandemya.

## SALAMAT SA MGA MAYOR

Salamat sa lahat ng awtoridad, mula kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte hanggang sa mga kapitan at kasamahan nila sa barangay na walang humpay sa pakikipaggyera sa pandemya.

Ngunit bigyan natin ng pansin ang ginawa ni Mayor Isko Moreno na pagbili ng tatlong serology testing machines.

Siya ang kauna-unahang mayor na bumili ng uri ng makinang ito 99.9 porsyentong ang katiyakan sa kung anong uri ang sakit mo at 100 porsyentong pagiging sensitibo.

Magkagayunman, kinakailangan pa rin ang kumpirmasyon sa swab test o iba pang uri ng pagsusuri sa nakita ng makina.

Sinasabi natin ito dahil hindi lang pang-COVID-19 ang sinusuri ng makina kundi iba pa gaya ng cancer, hepatitis, sakit sa lalamunan at iba pang nakahahawang sakit.



Dito kinukuhanan ka ng dugo nang hanggang mapuno ang heringilya saka isinasalang sa nasabing makina at mabilis malaman ang resulta.

Kayang mang-testing ang makina ng 16,800 maysakit sa loob ng isang Linggo.

At ang maganda, libre ito kahit na binili pa ng pamahalaang Maynila ng halagang P6 milyon.

Salamat, Mayor Isko, sa pagdamay mo sa maraming mediaman na nagpasuri nang libre sa COVID-19, kahit hindi Manilenyo.

Nariryan din ang mga libreng testing sa mga lungsod ng Quezon ni Mayor Joy Belmonte, Pasig City ni Mayor Vico Sotto, Taguig City ni Mayor Lino Cayetano.

Gayundin na may mga libreng testing sa Navotas ni Mayor Toby Tiangco, sa Malabon ni Mayor Antolin "Lenlen" Oreta, sa Parañaque ni Mayor Edwin Olivarez at Las Piñas ni Mayor Imelda Aguilar.

Meron pang ibang mga LGU na nagbibigay ng libreng test at maraming salamat din sa kanila.

Nagpapasalamat tayo sa kanila dahil napakabigat ang tests sa mga pribadong ospital at doktor – nasa P6,000 pataas kada biktima.





## #OfelPH: 12 lugar itinaas sa Signal No. 1



October 14, 2020 @ 5:26 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Umakyat na sa 12 lugar ang isinailalim sa Signal No. 1 habang napapanatili ng Tropical Depression Ofel ang kanyang lakas at kumikilos patungo sa Marinduque at Romblon, batay sa PAGASA.

Narito ang mga lugar na nasa TCWS No. 1:

- Batangas
- southern portion ng Laguna (Luisiana, Majayjay, Liliw, Nagcarlan, Rizal, San Pablo City, Calauan, Alaminos, Los Baños, Bay, Magdalena)
- central at southern portions ng Quezon (Guinayangan, Tagkawayan, Buenavista, San Narciso, San Andres, Mulanay, San Francisco, Catanauan, Lopez, Calauag, Quezon, Alabat, Perez, Atimonan, Tayabas City, Mauban, Sampaloc, Lucban, Gumaca, General Luna, Macalelon, Pitogo, Unisan, Plaridel, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Pagbilao, Lucena City, Sariaya, Candelaria, Dolores, Tiaong, San Antonio)
- Calamian Islands
- Occidental Mindoro
- Oriental Mindoro
- Marinduque
- Romblon
- Camarines Norte
- Camarines Sur
- Albay
- Masbate (kasama ang Ticao ay Burias Islands)

Namataan ang bagyong Ofel sa layong 125 kilometrong kanluran ng Juban, Sorsogon o 70 kilometro ng east northeast ng Romblon, Romblon nitong 4 p.m.

Kumikilos ito pakanluran taglay ang 15 kph at may bilis na 45 kph at may pagbugsong 55 kph. RNT/FGDC

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/ofelph-12-lugar-itinaas-sa-signal-no-1/>