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Dolomite not washed out; black sand ‘washed in’ — DENR

Marje Pelayo • October 15, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu conducted a surprise inspection of the Manila Bay Beach Nourishment site on Wednesday (October 14).

Accompanied by Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta, Cimatu visited the site following reports that the artificial white sand in the area has been washed away after days of continuous rain.

Peralta himself requested for the visit as part of their mandate of ensuring that the said government project is properly progressing.

The DENR Chief stressed there was no washing off of the dolomite white sand in Manila Bay, contrary to reports circulating on social media.

The agency explained that the natural blank sand deposit in the area covered the white sand by one to three feet thick resulting in the sand turning black.

“Nakita po na puro kasinungalingan iyong lumabas na na-wash out po ang white sand natin (Reports that the white sand has been washed out are all lies),” DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.

“Ang nangyari talaga is wash in. Ang nangyari po is pumasok iyong itim na buhangin at pumatong sa white dolomite (What really happened was a “wash in”. The black sand washed ashore and covered the white dolomite),” he added.

In September, [President Rodrigo Duterte himself lauded the efforts of Cimatu in the full rehabilitation of Manila Bay.](#)

He expressed high confidence in Cimatu despite criticisms on the use of crushed dolomite boulders to cover the coastline of Manila Bay. *MNP (with reports from Joan Nano)*

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Palace: DENR tirades vs UP may be a 'misunderstanding'

Jamaine Punzalan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 15 2020 12:01 PM | Updated as of Oct 15 2020 12:17 PM



Citizens flock to the Manila Baywalk, even amid closing time on Sept. 20, 2020, as the dolomite-laden area of Manila Bay temporarily opens to the public over the weekend. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News/File*

MANILA - An Environment official's tirades against experts of the University of the Philippines who criticizes the Manila Bay's dolomite beach might be rooted in "a misunderstanding," Malacañang said Thursday.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said Wednesday UP experts had "no right" to criticize the project because they had received millions of pesos in government payment for consultations.

- [DENR wants to settle row over official's 'bayaran' statement vs UP experts](#)

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, who graduated from UP and taught there for 15 years, said the state university is mandated by law to partner with the government.

"Kaya nga po ang UP tinitingnan po natin talagang partner iyan at kung talaga namang makikipagtulungan ang UP, parang obligasyon pa nga nila sa batas na bumuo sa bagong Pamantasan ng Pilipinas, iyong bagong charter ng UP na makikipagtulungan sa gobyerno," he said in a television interview on GMA 7's Unang Hirit.

(This is why we view UP as a partner, and it appears that it is their obligation to cooperate with the government, according to the charter that established the University of the Philippines.)

"So sa akin po, siguro po hindi lang pagkakaintindihan iyan, hayaan po ninyo baka kinakailangang mag-mediate ang aking opisina, dahil nasa batas naman po iyan na talagang kaakbay ng gobyerno ang UP bilang the national university," he added.

(So for me, that is perhaps a misunderstanding. If needed, my office will mediate because the law states that the UP is a partner of the government.)

Antiporda earlier Thursday [refused to apologize](#) to the UP Marine Science Institute that he called "bayaran."

He later apologized to the institute, blaming his outburst for his heightened emotions.

"It is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP MSI that we're partners here," he told ANC's Headstart.

Vice President Leni Robredo and other critics earlier said funds for the dolomite beach could have been better used to contain the coronavirus pandemic. Malacañang said the project would improve the public's mental health.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/15/20/palace-denr-tirades-vs-up-may-be-a-misunderstanding>



Antiporda apologizes to UP over 'bayaran' remark

By Marita Moaje [October 15, 2020, 7:35 pm](#)



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda

MANILA – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda has apologized to the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) over his remark where he branded them "*bayaran* (paid hack)."

"First of all, let me start this statement with an apology to UP as a whole. I'm emotionally carried away yesterday and I don't think it's fair for the UP people who are really working hard for our countrymen and *marami pa rin naman nagtatrabaho jan na pro bono* (there are still many people there who are working pro bono)," Antiporda said during an interview over CNN Philippines on Thursday.

Antiporda said he was just affected by the issue with UP-MSI.

He said the DENR and the UP-MSI have been partners for a long time and that the agency has been paying the institute for their services like consultation, research, and capacity building.

Laura David, director of UP-MSI, accepted the apology.

"There's always been a good cooperative collaboration between the UP MSI and DENR. This was just a miscommunication and now that everything has been cleared there's no problem to work with them again," David said.

Antiporda said he feels that it would have been more appropriate if the UP-MSI called the DENR's attention regarding their observations and suggestions on the Manila Bay rehabilitation project instead of going straight to the media.

David, meanwhile, said they did not go straight to the press.

She said they published their observations on their own website where the media picked it up.

Antiporda said UP-MSI did not publish anything on their website during the time that they entered into a contract with the DENR and agreed to receive some PHP210-million payment for their services.

He said a good partner should be open to one another and directly communicate with each other.

"This is to send them a message telling them *na partners po tayo with MSI siguro naman nung kasalukuyang nagbabayad kami ng malaking halaga eh nagagawa nyo kaming tawagan at nagagawa nyong sulatan kami. Bakit ngayon eh direktso sa media* (We are partners with MSI and during the time that we are paying them a huge amount of money, they were able to call us or write us a letter, but why is it that they go directly to the media now?)," said Antiporda.



With regards to the suggestion of the UP-MSI on planting mangroves around the Manila Bay area, David said they were not referring to the Manila Bay beach but rather in areas around it.

“Mangroves act as a filter. *Merong sa kadulu-duluhan ng Pasig River there is a mangrove stand* (there is a mangrove stand at the far end part of the Pasig River) but most mangroves are either in Cavite and Bulacan,” David said.

Antiporda said the UP-MSI seem to have a lot of catching up to do with the developments accomplished by the DENR.

He said the agency built a sewage treatment plant (STP) in the bay walk area and is poised to build other STPs to help improve the water quality in the bay.

As regards to the mangroves, he said DENR-NCR has already built a mangrove area in Baseco area in Manila.

Antiporda also assured the UP-MSI that the DENR is doing its job. **(PNA)**



DENR USEC Antiporda, nagsori sa pagtawag na bayaran ang UP MSI

ni [Thea Janica Teh](#) | October 15, 2020



Humingi na ng tawad si DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ngayong Huwebes sa UP Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) matapos nitong sabihin na "bayaran" sa pagbatikos sa dolomite project sa Manila Bay.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni Antiporda na gusto niyang simulan ang kanyang statement sa paghingi ng paumanhin sa UP. Aniya, "*It is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP MSI that we're partners here.*"

Dagdag pa ni Antiporda, natangay lang umano ito ng emosyon dahil nasaktan siya. Tinanggap naman ni UP MSI Director Laura David ang paghingi ng tawad ni Antiporda at sinabing misunderstanding at miscommunication lamang ang nangyari.

"*Definitely, wala naman pong bad blood between DENR and UP. From the very start I knew this was just a misunderstanding and miscommunication,*" sabi ni David.

Wala rin umanong sama ng loob si David kay Antiporda sa pagsabi nitong bayaran sila. Dagdag niya, "*I'm a teacher at heart and a scientist to the core and it's part of science to actually be criticized so it's okay with us to be criticized. The important thing is for communication to continue and we've had decades of work with DENR and we'd love to continue the same for years to come.*"



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda

DENR's Antiporda apologizes to UP over 'bayaran' outburst

Published October 15, 2020 9:53am

Updated October 15, 2020 10:00am

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Thursday apologized to the University of the Philippines (UP) over his previous day's outburst where he labeled them "bayaran."

In an interview on ANC, Antiporda said he was carried away by his emotions as he was "hurt" by the criticisms on the DENR's "white sand" project in Manila Bay.

"I apologize because talagang natangay po ako ng emotions ko rin kahapon dahil masakit po eh," Antiporda said, addressing UP Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) director Dr. Laura David.

However, Antiporda said the UP institute could have communicated first with the DENR before presenting its study on Manila Bay to the media in honor of their partnership.

He also still said that the UP-MSI was trying to discredit the DENR with the series of press releases involving the agency's rehabilitation project in Manila Bay.

"Ang amin po is tuloy-tuloy po 'yung lumalabas na statement coming from UP-MSI na parang wala na hong tigil," Antiporda said.

"Mag-partner tayo eh. Nagbabayad kami sa inyo. Kliyente niyo kami. Bakit niyo ginagawa 'to?" he added.

In a public press briefing on Wednesday, Antiporda [slammed UP](#) 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.

On September, the UP-MSI also released a statement presenting a study on the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay and the crushed dolomites.

"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.

Antiporda also slammed UP experts 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 snapped.

In a statement, UP-MSI said the [DENR paid the institute](#) only around P363 million for the last 10 years, not P500 million as claimed by Antiporda.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, meanwhile, dismissed the row between Antiporda and UP as a "misunderstanding" and [offered to mediate](#).

"So sa akin po siguro hindi lang pagkakaintindihan 'yan. Hayaan niyo po baka kinakailangang mag-mediate ang aking opisina dahil nasa batas naman po iyan na talagang kaakbay ng gobyerno ang UP bilang the national university," he said. —KBK, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/759958/denr-s-antiporda-apologizes-to-up-over-bayaran-outburst/story/?fbclid=IwAR0wLTb_kZu8FY-MrGX-R4Zx47pnHVB9zOo6i4V7CMu2S9QIH_IIPIN5VFk



DENR official nag-sorry sa pagtawag na 'bayaran' ang UP experts

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 15 2020 06:15 PM | Updated as of Oct 15 2020 09:06 PM



Maaalalang noong Miyerkoles ay pinutakte ng batikos si Antiporda at kinuwestiyon ang kaniyang kredibilidad bilang DENR official matapos niyang insultuhin ang UP experts na bumabatikos sa dolomite project ng ahensiya. *Screengrab*

MAYNILA — Nag-sorry si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda sa buong University of the Philippines (UP) community nitong Huwebes dahil sa pahayag nitong "bayaran" ang ilang eksperto roon.

Sa panayam ng ABS-CBN News Channel, humingi ng paumanhin si Antiporda pati sa mga scientist ng UP.

Maaalalang noong Miyerkoles ay pinutakte ng batikos si Antiporda at kinuwestiyon ang kaniyang kredibilidad bilang DENR official matapos niyang insultuhin ang UP experts na bumabatikos sa dolomite project ng ahensiya.

"Hindi niyo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo. 'Yun lang po ang masasabi ko sa UP. Uulit-ulitin ko, bayaran kayo," sabi ni Antiporda noong Miyerkoles.

Pero makalipas ang isang araw ay nagbago ang pahayag ni Antiporda at sinabing nadala lamang siya ng emosyon.

"I would like to start my statement with an apology to the UP as a whole. It is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP MSI that we're partners here," sabi ni Antiporda.

Ang tinutukoy niya ay ang UP Marine Science Institute na naglabas ng findings tungkol sa dolomite project nila sa Manila Bay.

Tinanggap naman ng UP ang sorry ni Antiporda.

Sabi sa TeleRadyo ni UP Vice President for Public Affairs Elena Pernia, bukas sila sa anumang dayalogo sa DENR.

Pero nilinaw din ni Pernia na ang sinasabing bayad ni Antiporda sa UP-MSI ay hindi naman napupunta sa UP kundi pondo ito para sa gastos sa research sa mga proyekto, na pinakikinabangan ng buong bansa.

"Ang UP ay isang public service institution, apart from the teaching and research, 'yung research na 'yun ay binabahagi namin sa publiko. Itong public service function na ito ay importanteng mapalabas sa lahat. Ang UP ay pindopondohan ng bayan kaya ang responsibility din namin mapaalam sa bayan kung ano 'yung mga findings of research, particularly findings that are for the good of society," paliwanag ni Pernia.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/15/20/denr-official-nag-sorry-sa-pagtawag-na-bayaran-ang-up-experts>



DENR Spox. Antiporda apologizes over 'bayaran' remark on UPMSI

October 15, 2020

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Spokesperson Undersecretary Benny Antiporda has apologized to the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) and said that they will still collaborate with the institute.

DENR USec. Antiporda has called the UPMSI as "bayaran (paid)", reacting to the institute's criticism regarding the Manila Bay white sand.

"Hindi ninyo karapatang batikusin ito dahil bayaran kayo! (It is not your right to criticize this because you have been paid!)"

The UPMSI is one of the critical groups that questioned the spread of dolomite sand on the Manila Bay Beach. Cleaning the water and the continuously decreasing its coliform level must be prioritized instead.

Following his accusation, USec. Antiporda has issued his public apology stating that "there's no bad intention in that statement. Ang masakit lang po ay natangay po ng emosyon ang aking statement (what hurts is my statement got carried away by my emotion) so I do apologize for that. We will collaborate, [cooperate] when it comes to Manila Bay."

UPMSI Director Dr. Laura David has accepted Antiporda's apology and shared that the UP has "always worked well with DENR." She added that the incident was only "a misconception on his part and a miscommunication."

The DENR Spokesperson also disclosed earlier that the group has received a generous amount of funds from the DENR for consultations and other projects that shocked him. He made the claim when the institute released a study against the dolomite project in Manila Bay.

However, the UPMSI has clarified that "the correct amount is PhP364,073,909.40 total for the last decade, spanning ten collaborative projects between the UPMSI and the DENR as well as co-sponsorship support for a scientific symposium. This is hardly the half a billion the Undersecretary has been claiming. It is simply the cost of the collaborative projects for which the DENR had the need for the expertise of the UPMSI."

The UPMSI assured that it will continuously disclose results on its studies regarding marine biology in the country as part of their mandate.

Report from Naomi Tiburcio

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/denr-spox-antiporda-apologizes-over-bayaran-remark-on-upmsi/>



DENR USEC. ANTIPODA NAGSORRY SA UP

written by **Lyn Aurora Legarteja** October 16, 2020



Humingi na ng paumanhin si DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda sa buong University of the Philippines community (UP).

Ito ay matapos na paratangan ni Antiporda ang mga UP experts na bayaran dahil sa pagpuna ng mga ito sa dolomite project ng ahensya.

Paliwanag ni Antiporda, nadala lamang siya ng emosyon at hindi niya intensyon na sirain ang magandang pangalan ng unibersidad.

Samantala, agad namang tinanggap ng UP ang sorry ni Antiporda.

Sinabi pa ni UP Vice President for Public Affairs Elena Pernia sa isang pahayag na bukas sila sa anomang dayalogo sa DENR



“I was hurt” DENR Usec apologizes to UP scientists over ‘bayaran’ statement

October 15, 2020 5:54 PM by [Christhel Cuazon](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (Photo courtesy: PCOO/Twitter)

“I was hurt.”

This was the statement of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Thursday as he apologized to the University of the Philippines (UP) over his sudden outburst on the latter’s criticism of the DENR “white sand” project in Manila Bay.

“I would like to start my statement with an apology to the UP as a whole. It is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP MSI that we’re partners here,” Antiporda said in an interview on ANC.

“I apologize because talagang natangay po ako ng emotions ko rin kahapon dahil medyo masakit po eh,” he added.

However, Antiporda said UP Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), headed by director Dr. Laura David, should have consulted DENR first before releasing their study on dolomite in Manila Bay to the media in honor of their partnership.

He added how UP MSI continuously discredits the DENR through its series of press releases involving the rehabilitation project.

“Ang amin po is tuloy-tuloy po ‘yung lumalabas na statement coming from UP-MSI na parang wala na hong tigil.” Antiporda said.

“Mag-partner tayo eh. Nagbabayad kami sa inyo. Kliyente niyo kami. Bakit niyo ginagawa ‘to?’” he added.

David, who was in the same interview, accepted the apology of Antiporda saying there is no “bad blood” between the two institutions.

“Wala naman pong bad blood between DENR and UP,” she said

On Wednesday, Antiporda slammed UP for allegedly milking public funds since 2016 and said they have “no right” to criticize the Manila Bay beautification project and branded them as “bayaran” for receiving millions in consultation fees.

“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.

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/i-was-hurt-denr-usec-apologizes-to-up-scientists-over-bayaran-statement/>



UNTV News and Rescue ✓

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Humingi ng tawad sa mga scientist ng University of the Philippines si DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda matapos tawaging bayaran ang mga ito sa isyu ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.

Paliwanag ni Antiporda nadala lamang siya ng kanyang emosyon at iginiit na dapat magsilbing ka-partner ng DENR ang mga taga UP sa pagpapaganda ng lugar.



YOUTUBE.COM

DENR Usec. Antiporda, humingi ng 'sorry' sa UP scientists matapos sabihing bayaran ang mga ito

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MANILA BAY WHITE SAND BEACH ISSUE

DENR Usec apologizes to UP: 'We're partners here'

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:10 AM October 15, 2020



INQUIRER PHOTO / RICHARD A. REYES

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Thursday apologized to the University of the Philippines (UP) after receiving flak over his “bayaran ka” remark directed at the institution’s experts amid the controversy gripping the Manila Bay white sand beach project.

“I would like to start my statement with an apology to the UP as a whole. First, it is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself,” Antiporda said in an interview on ABS-CBN News Channel.

“This is just to send a message to the UP MSI [Marine Science Institute] that we’re partners here,” he went on.

[Antiporda earlier lashed out at the UP marine science experts](#) and said they have “no right” to criticize the Manila Bay beautification project and branded them as “bayaran” for receiving millions in consultation fees.

“I apologize because talagang natangay din po ako ng emotions ko kahapon dahil po medyo masakit po e,” Antiporda admitted. “Hindi po akong pulitikong tao kaya ganun.”

(I apologize because I was carried away by my emotions yesterday because I was hurt. I’m not a political person, that’s why.)

“We want something good for the people. When it comes to this project po kasi, dati basura ito, ngayon po buhangin,” he went on.

(We want something good for the people. When it comes to this project, before it used to be full of trash and now we have sand.)

UP MSI director Laura David, who was also in the interview, accepted Antiporda’s apology saying there is no “bad blood” between the two institutions.

“Wala naman pong bad blood between DENR and UP,” she said.

Meanwhile, Antiporda said UP experts should have flagged the environment department first before criticizing the Manila Bay project and broadcasting it through the media.



“But in this situation kung saan partners po kami, we could have been flagged kaagad as early as possible, saying mali kayo,” he said.

(But in this situation where we are partners, we could have been flagged as early as possible and informed of mistakes.)

gsg



'We're partners here' Antiporda, bumigay

Published 18 hours ago on October 15, 2020 11:51 AM

By **TDT** @tribunephil



Matapos ang kaniyang unang pahayag na hindi siya hihingi ng tawad sa mga eksperto ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (UP), tuluyan nang humingi ng paumanhin si Environment USec. Benny Antiporda sa UP Marine Science Institute (MSI) tungkol sa kaniyang akusasyon na 'bayaran' ang mga ito.

"I would like to start my statement with an apology to the UP as a whole," pahayag ng undersecretary ng Department of Environment and National Resources sa isang interview sa ABS-CBN.

"It is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP MSI that we're partners here," dagdag niya.

Nagngitngit sa galit sa Antiporda sa mga eksperto ng UP MSI Miyerkules ng hapon kung saan sinabi niyang 'walang karapatan' ang mga ito na batikusin ang Manila Bay 'white sand' project ng gobyerno dahil 'bayaran' ang mga ito.

"Again I apologize because talagang natangay po ako ng emotions ko kahapon dahil medyo masakit po, hindi po ako pulitikong tao kaya ganun," aniya.

Tinanggap naman ni UP MSI director Laura David, na nasa parehong interview, ang paghingi ng tawad ni Antiporda.

"Definitely, wala naman pong (there's no) bad blood between DENR and UP. From the very start I knew this was just a misunderstanding and miscommunication," sabi ni David.

Muling humirit pa si Antiporda at sinabing dapat sa kanila dumirekta ang UPMSI at hindi sa media kung sakaling mayroong mali sa kanilang ginagawa.

"But in this situation kung saan partners po kami, we could have been flagged kaagad as early as possible, saying mali kayo."



Akusasyong 'bayaran' nilinaw DENR AT UP-MSI MAG-PARTNER – ANTIPORDA

[7 hours ago](#) [jake](#)

Akusasyong 'bayaran' nilinaw **DENR AT UP-MSI MAG-PARTNER – ANTIPORDA**

MAG-PARTNER ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) sa pagsasaayos ng kapaligiran at kalikasan.

Idiniin ito ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda kasunod ng paghingi niya ng paumanhin sa UP hinggil sa naunang pahayag na “bayaran” ang mga eksperto sa nasabing Pamantasan.

Nilinaw ni Antiporda na ang kanyang paratang na “bayaran” ang mga taga-UP-MSI “[was] not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP-MSI that we’re partners here.”

Inakusahan ni Antiporda na bayaran ang mga tao sa UP-MSI makaraang lumabas sa media ang kritisismo nito sa proyektong dolomite ng DENR sa Bay Walk ng Manila Bay.

Ipinaliwanag ni Antiporda sa SAKSI Ngayon ang kahulugan ng pagiging magkatuwang ng DENR at UP-MSI sa ganitong pahayag: “Yes partners are just like brothers and sisters, if there is anything wrong with your brother, you don’t tell it to your neighbor or media, hindi ba dapat kinuha muna nila attention namin. And yet we are paying them hundreds of millions.”

Tinanggap naman ni UP-MSI Director Laura David ang paumanhin ni Antiporda.

Itinuring ni David na “misunderstanding and miscommunication” ang akusasyon ni Antiporda.

“Definitely, wala naman pong bad blood between DENR and UP from the very start I knew this was just a misunderstanding and miscommunication,” susog ni David.

Ipinaalala naman ni Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan) research coordinator Gia Glarino kay Antiporda na bilang opisyal ng pamahalaan ay dapat bukas ito sa rekomendasyon ng mga scientist at marine experts, lalo na’t kung nakabase naman ang kanilang pahayag sa siyensya.

Idiniin ni Glarino na todo ang suporta ng Kalikasan sa mungkahi ng UP scientists na magtanim ng bakawan, o mangrove forests, upang maibalik sa dati ang kalidad ng tubig ng Manila Bay.

Public apology

Pinagso-sorry hindi lamang si Antiporda kundi ang buong kagawaran sa pagtawag sa University of the Philippines (UP) Scientist na ‘bayaran’.



Sa deliberasyon sa pondo ng DENR sa mababang kapulungan ng Kongreso, naging malaking usapin ang pagtawag ni Antiporda sa UP Marine Science Institute na “bayaran” na hindi pinalagpas ni Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate.

“Hindi na sana ako nag-interpellate sa budget ng DENR but I’m disturb, to say the least, revolting nung mabasa ko itong balita na ang constructive proposal of scientific community was branded by the spokesperson ng DENR na si Undersecretary Antiporda na mga bayaran ang nagsabi nito,” ani Zarate.

Hindi umano matanggap ni Zarate na ayaw tumanggap ng kritisismo ni Antiporda dahil pondo ng bayan ang ginamit sa dolomite project sa Manila Bay na binabatikos ng mga scientist.

Ayon sa sponsor ng budget ng DENR na si Aklan Rep. Ted Haresco, nagpatawag umano ng pulong si Secretary Roy Cimatu para pag-usapan ang naging pahayag ni Antiporda sa mga scientist.

Tiniyak ni Cimatu sa pamamagitan ni Haresco na hindi nito palalagpasin ang pagtawag ni Antiporda bilang bayaran ang mga UP Scientist kung saan posibleng ma-reprimand umano ang opisyal.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Zarate na hindi sapat ang reprimand at sa katunayan ay maraming sektor ng lipunan ang nagde-demand na maglabas ng public apology ang buong DENR.

“Sinabi niyo kanina na sinabi ni Secretary Cimatu na nagkamali ang kanyang spokesperson, ang spokesperson ng kanyang kagawaran and not just a mere misunderstanding na kung ano ang pinagsasabi niya (Antiporda) sa media,” ani Zarate. (NELSON S. BADILLA/BERNARD TAGUINOD)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/akusasyong-bayaran-nilinaw-denr-at-up-msi-mag-partner-antiporda/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0dq3Yb22fDLs0YWmQIQa93hKH-wWZ6HkjIePRXxtWf3xykfMRsmXFNzxcg

Antiporda says only Duterte can tell him to step down as DENR exec

By: Krissy Aguilar - 11 mins ago



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

MANILA, Philippines — Amid calls for his resignation, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Thursday said he will leave his post if President Rodrigo Duterte says he should do so.

“Dito naman po, na you’re calling for my resignation, you can write to the President or you can make a complaint against me. If the President says na I should leave my post, then I will do it. Wala pong problema yan,” Antiporda said in an interview over CNN Philippines.

(On the calls for my resignation, you can write to the President or you can make a complaint against me. If the President says na I should leave my post, then I will do it. There’s no problem with that.)

The Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines (UP) is calling for Antiporda’s resignation considering his “ill-fitting background” for the job and for disregarding Filipino scientists’ opinion.

Antiporda received flak on social media after he called UP experts “bayaran” for getting multi-million funds for consultation fees.

On Thursday, he apologized to the entire UP as an institution saying he was carried away by his emotions.

“Mali yung salita ko na bayaran kayo, yun po, ireretract ko yun,” he said.

(It was wrong when I said you were paid. I retract that statement.)

Even so, Antiporda said UP experts should have communicated their criticisms directly to their agency instead of publicizing it in the media.

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1348159/antiporda-says-only-duterte-can-tell-him-to-step-down-as-denr-exec/amp#aoh=16027565277317&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&_tf=From%20%251%24s



Antiporda sa mga kritiko: Magreklamo kayo sa Pangulo



October 15, 2020 @ 4:40 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines-Pinayuhan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary at Spokesperson Benny Antiporda ang kanyang mga kritiko na nananawagan ng kanyang pagbibitiw na sumulat at magreklamo kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ayon kay Antiporda, walang problema sa kanya. Pwedeng sumulat ang mga ito sa Pangulo at ilahad ang kanilang mga reklamo laban sa kanya at kapag sinabi ng Pangulo na dapat na siyang magbitiw sa kanyang pwesto ay malugod niyang gagawin.

Ginawa ni Antiporda ang pahayag bilang tugon sa pahayag ng Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines na kailangan na siyang magbitiw dahil hindi sapat ang kanyang background para sa naturang trabaho at sa pagbalewala nito sa opinyon ng iba pang Filipino scientists.

Bunsod ito ng naging pagtawag niya sa University of the Philippines bilang "bayaran," dahil sa multi-milyong piso umano ang ibinayad dito ng gobyerno dahil sa consultation services nito.

Kaugnay nito, humingi na ng paumanhin si Antiporda sa UP bunsod ng kanyang naging pahayag laban dito.

Aniya, hindi niya hangad na siraan ang magandang pangalan ng UP.

Ayon kay Antiporda, magka-partner sila ng UP Marine Science Institute sa mahabang panahon kaya't kung may nakita mali ang mga ito sa kanilang proyekto, dapat sana'y tinawagan sila para sabihin kung ano ang pwede nilang gawin para malutas ang problema at hindi 'yung idinaan sa media para siraan ang DENR.

Aniya pa, dala lang ng bugso ng kanyang damdamin kaya't napagsabihin niya ang UP na wala silang karapatang batikusin ang "white sand" project ng gobyerno sa Manila Bay.



"Medyo masakit po. What we really want is something good for the people when it comes to this project kasi dati po basura 'to ginawa natin buhangin," ayon kay Antiporda.

"Nagbabayad po kami, 'yun po ang point. Just by mere using dolomite wherein ginagamit naman ito sa buong mundo and ginagamit kahit saan sa ating bansa, i-consult pa namin sa UP MSI at magbabayad pa kami, 'yun po ang sinasabi ko. If it's for free walang problem 'yan," aniya pa.

Malugod namang tinanggap ni Dr. Laura David, director ng UP MSI, ang paghingi ng paumanhin ni Antiporda.

Ayon kay David, nagkaroon lamang ng "miscommunication."



ONE News
16h · 🌐

DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda made a public apology for his emotional outburst, a day after describing UP experts as “bayaran” for criticizing the Manila Bay project. (via [News5](#))



“

I apologize because talagang natangay po ako ng emotions ko kahapon dahil medyo masakit po, hindi po ako pulitikong tao kaya ganoon.

It is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP MSI that we're partners here.

USEC. BENNY ANTIPORDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OCTOBER 15, 2020

file photo: The Philippine STAR/Edd Gumban

OneNews.ph OneNewsPH

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https://web.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/972174983188388/?app=fbl&_rdc=1&_rdr



Mangrove areas itinayo sa Manila Bay – DENR



October 15, 2020 @ 5:21 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines- Nagtayo ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources ng mangrove areas sa Manila Bay taliwas sa pahayag ng Marine Science Institute ng University of the Philippines.

Ito ang inihayag ngayong Huwebes ni Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

Ayon kay Antiporda, partikular na matatagpuan ang naturang mangrove areas sa Baseco at La Papachea.

Kinondena ni Antiporda ang MSI sa ginawang pahayag nila sa publiko na dapat magtanim ng mangrove ang DENR sa halip na gumawa ng artificial white sand beach mula sa dinurog na dolomite sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni Antiporda na pwede naman silang sumulat sa Pangulo o magreklamo laban sa kanya at kung sasabihin ng Pangulo na iwan na niya ang kanyang pwesto ay handa siyang magbitiw.

Humingi na rin ng paumanhin si Antiporda sa UP sa naging pahayag nito laban sa naturang institusyon.

"I was emotionally carried away and I don't think it was fair for the UP people who are working hard for our countrymen," aniya.

Gayunman, sinabi nito na pinaninindigan niya ang kanyang pahayag tungkol sa MSI.

Hindi umano ito mangyayari kung nakipag-communicate lang sila sa DENR nang maayos at hindi ito idinaan sa media.

Ipinaalala ni Antiporda na ang DENR at MSI ay magka-partner at binayaran pa ng DENR ang MSI ng P210M noong 2016 para sa research, consultations at capacity building.

"So with that, it is rightful for them to get our attention on their observation dito sa project namin sa Manila Bay rather than giving 'yung suggestion nila straight to the media, discrediting the government on what we are doing," pahayag pa ni Antiporda. RNT

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/mangrove-areas-itinayo-sa-manila-bay-denr/?fbclid=IwAR2M0qg0Jorc1uPkeoOMyahcqy6Beez2qJ4CKoEVD16PF9NB9NdlV2lCMj8>



Philippine News Info

9h · 🌐



DOLOMITE SAND, DI NA-WASH OUT, NA-WASH IN!

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.

***Wala pang
nawa-wash
out. Wash in
po ang
nangyayari.
Pumasok po
ang buhanin
na itim.***

**USEC.
BENNY ANTIPORDA**
ON WASHING OUT OF DOLOMITE



#AlwaysInformed

👍👎🗨️ 53

12 Comments 5 Shares

Source:

<https://web.facebook.com/2299912326753432/posts/3443344875743499/?app=fbl&rdc=1&rd>



`Baseco Baywalk' officially opens

Published 3 hours ago on October 16, 2020 03:20 AM

By [Pat C. Santos](#) [@tribunephil_pat](#)



City of Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso and Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna earlier this week officially inaugurated the new esplanade inside the Baseco Compound where residents can stroll, exercise, and simply relax.

They were joined in the simple opening ceremony of “Baseco Baywalk” by barangay and city officials who helped in the launching and completion of the project, among them city engineer Armand Andres, Department of Public Services chief Kenneth Amurao and city electrician Randy Sadac.

“A few weeks from now, we will show you what true love for the poor is all about. We will be doing something. It will be better, more organized, with dignity. We will be doing it little by little,” Domagoso hinted during his speech, adding that more developments for Baseco, including a residential area for informal settlers, are in the pipeline.

Apart from ridding the surrounding waters of floating garbage through continuous cleanup operations, a concrete walkway was also put in place on a stretch of the coastal area used to be covered by human waste and lined up with lamp posts to illuminate the surroundings at night.

Domagoso appealed to the residents to practice self-discipline and maintain the area’s cleanliness, reiterating that being poor does not mean that they also have to be dirty or smelly.

“We will show that the government is working for you, that there is a government who cares for your welfare but this must be coupled with discipline from all of us. We must have the right mindset. It doesn’t matter if we are poor, as long as we live with dignity,” he stated.

Baseco used to be a dockyard of the National Shipyards and Steel Corp. In the early 1960s, NASSCO was bought by the Romualdez family via the Bataan Shipping and Engineering Co. from where the name Baseco was derived. In the 1980s, Baseco became a barangay and informal settlers started sprouting in the vicinity until it became highly-populated, to the point that some residents have built shanties over mounds of garbage.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/16/baseco-baywalk-officially-opens/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=baseco-baywalk-officially-opens



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

Criticism, quit calls wash in after DENR exec's 'bayaran' rant vs UP scientists

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - October 15, 2020 - 11:59am

MANILA, Philippines — The Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines called on Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda to resign over his rant against scientists from the state university.

UP GeogSoc said Antiporda's "bayaran" remark is unacceptable for a government official, especially for someone who works in the environment department, which is mandated to make science-based decisions.

"Considering your ill-fitting background for the job as well as your disregard for the opinions of other Filipino scientists, we call on you to formally retract your statements against the [UP Marine Science Institute] and to resign from your position as undersecretary, as both a form of accountability and to give way for other, better qualified candidates to work in the department," UP GeogSoc, an organization of undergraduate students, said.

"The DENR needs a spokesperson who, instead of antagonizing homegrown scientists, articulately expresses and explains the department's goals and policies. Moreover, this country deserves a DENR undersecretary who is credible, responsive, and committed to protecting, conserving, and managing our environment and natural resources," it said.

Before being appointed to government, Antiporda was publisher of *Remate* and is a former president of the National Press Club.

Fishers group Pamalakaya said Antiporda should immediately tender a resignation "over incompetence and arrogance" if he is unable to stand criticism.

Anti-science sentiment

The DENR spokesperson accused UP MSI on Wednesday of charging the agency some "half a billion pesos" in consultation fees after it issued a statement that overlaying a small portion of Manila Bay's shoreline with crushed dolomite rocks will not help solve the bay's environmental problems.



He also called UP scientists "bayaran" who have no right to criticize the government.

"UP scientists work tirelessly for the benefit of Filipino society, despite being underfunded, yet you, Usec. Antiporda, have seen it fit to attack not only the MSI but the valuable contribution of the scientific work of the Filipino academe," UP GeogSoc said.

Dr. Laura David, UP MSI director, stressed in an interview on ANC Thursday that scientists stand by science and it is their mandate to "share what we know" to the public.

UP MSI, in a separate statement, the amount paid by DENR far from alleged "half a billion pesos" were used to fund 10 collaborative projects and co-sponsorship for a scientific symposium. The amount covered the use of laboratories, research equipment, field works and support to research assistants.

UP GeogSoc said Antiporda's anti-science sentiment is disappointing because statements from institutes are not attacks but an "effort to present the truth and alternatives for better policy-making decisions."

'Partners'

In an interview on ANC's "Headstart" Thursday, Antiporda apologized to UP.

But he insisted that UP marine scientists, being partners of the government, should have reached out to the department first to air their comments.

"We are partners. We pay you. We are your clients. Why did you do this?" Antiporda said.

But David said that they are "not consultants," adding that Antiporda's rant was likely the result of a misunderstanding.

Antiporda said he will leave his post if President Rodrigo Duterte tells him to resign.

"You can write to the president or you can make a complaint against me. If the president says that I should leave my post, then I will do it," he said in a separate interview on CNN Philippines.



DENR exec urged to resign

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 16, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Saying he is not fit for the job, a student organization at the University of the Philippines yesterday called on Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda to resign from his post.

“The DENR needs a spokesman who, instead of antagonizing homegrown scientists, articulately expresses and explains the department’s goals and policies,” the Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines said in an open letter to Antiporda.

“This country deserves a DENR undersecretary who is credible, responsive and committed to protecting, conserving and managing our environment and natural resources,” the group added.

The student organization issued the statement after Antiporda called the UP Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) “bayaran” or paid hacks after it offered recommendations on how to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

The group said Antiporda’s behavior was unacceptable for a government official.

Antiporda apologized yesterday to the UPMSI, saying it was just an “outburst of emotion.”

“I would like to apologize to the UP as a whole. It is not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself. But this is just to send the message to UPMSI that we are partners here,” Antiporda said in an interview on ANC.

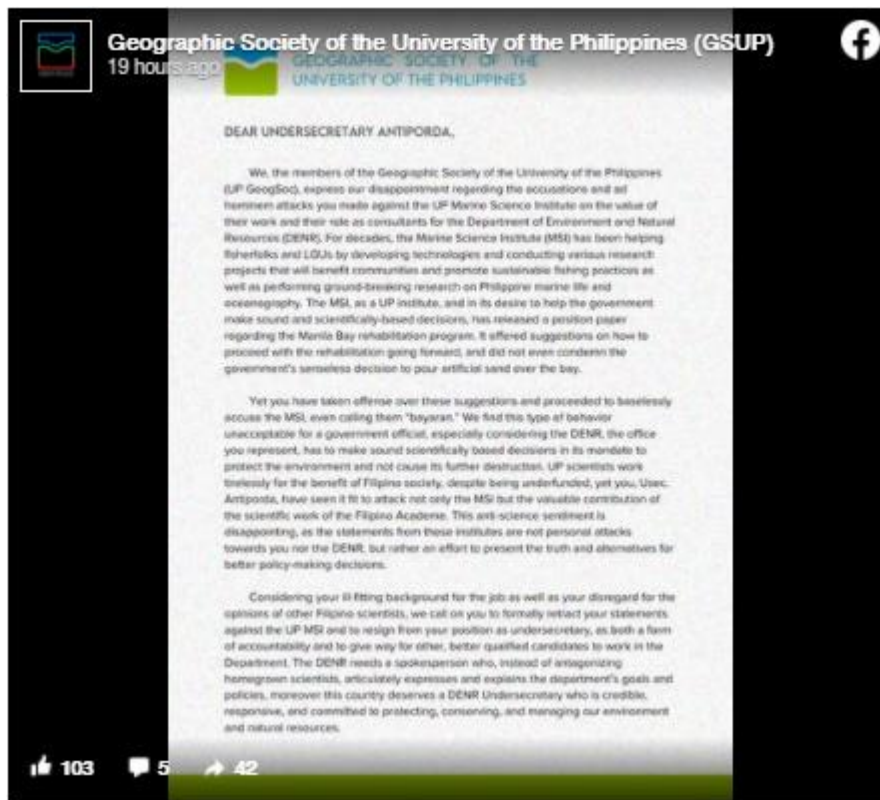
He said he got “carried away by emotions” after the UPMSI criticized the Manila Bay nourishment project, which involves overlaying of artificial white sand made of crushed dolomite rocks along Roxas Boulevard’s baywalk.

Antiporda said the UPMSI could have communicated first with the DENR before releasing its findings on the white sand project to the media.

Based on the UPMSI study posted on its website, UP scientists said the dolomite overlay project would not solve the environmental problems in Manila Bay and might pose health risks and threaten the marine ecosystem.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said he disagrees with Antiporda, adding that UP scientists are not paid hacks.

The fishers’ group Pamalakaya urged Antiporda to stop “making a fool of himself” by defending the project. – **Elizabeth Marcelo, Christina Mendez, Michelle Zoleta**



UP GeogSoc calls for Antiporda's resignation after 'bayaran' outburst

Published October 15, 2020 4:42pm

Updated October 15, 2020 6:09pm

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

The Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines (UP GeogSoc) has called for the resignation of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda as a form of accountability after he labeled UP experts as "bayaran."

According to the UP GeogSoc, this will also give way to better-qualified candidates to work in the department.

"Considering your ill-fitting background for the job as well as your disregard for the opinions of other Filipino scientists, we call on you to formally retract your statements against the UP MSI and to resign from your position as undersecretary," the society said in a statement.

"The DENR needs a spokesperson who, instead of antagonizing homegrown scientists, articulately expresses and explains the department's goals and policies, moreover this country deserves a DENR Undersecretary who is credible, responsive, and committed to protecting, conserving, and managing our environment and natural resources," it added.

Antiporda on Wednesday slammed UP Marine Science Institute for allegedly [milking public funds](#) since 2016. He made the statement when asked about the offer of UP biologists to [help in the rehabilitation](#) of Manila Bay.



The UP GeogSoc said this was “unacceptable” for a government official as the MSI released the paper due to its desire to help the Philippine government make sound and scientifically-based decisions.

“Yet you have taken offense over these suggestions and proceeded to baselessly accuse the MSI, even calling them “bayaran.” We find this type of behavior unacceptable for a government official,” it said.

It added that Antiporda’s department, the DENR, has to make “sound scientifically based decisions in its mandate to protect the environment and not cause its further destruction.”

“UP scientists work tirelessly for the benefit of Filipino society, despite being underfunded, yet you, Usec. Antiporda, have seen it fit to attack not only the MSI but the valuable contribution of the scientific work of the Filipino Academe,” it said.

“This anti-science sentiment is disappointing, as the statements from these institutes are not personal attacks towards you nor the DENR, but rather an effort to present the truth and alternatives for better policy-making decisions,” it added.

Earlier in the day, [Antiporda apologized](#) to UP over his outburst, saying he was carried away by his emotions as he was “hurt” by the criticisms on the DENR’s “white sand” project in Manila Bay.

Meanwhile, the UP-MSI has [defended its institution](#) from Antiporda’s allegations.

“The correct amount is P364,073,909.40 total for the last decade, spanning ten collaborative projects between the UPMSI and the DENR as well as co-sponsorship support for a scientific symposium,” it said.

“This is hardly the half a billion the Undersecretary has been claiming. It is simply the cost of the collaborative projects for which the DENR had the need for the expertise of the UPMSI,” it added.

GMA News Online has sought Antiporda’s comment on UP GeogSoc’s resignation call but he has yet to reply, as of posting time.

But in an interview on CNN-Philippines, Antiporda said only President Rodrigo Duterte can order him to leave his post.

“You can write to the President or you can, you know, make a complaint against me. Now if the President says I should leave my post, then I will do it. Wala pong problema ‘yun,” he said.—AOL/RSJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/760037/up-geogsoc-calls-for-antiporda-s-resignation-after-bayaran-outburst/story/>

DENR's Antiporda facing calls to resign despite apologizing to UP experts

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 15 2020 11:22 PM



The UP Marine Science Institute accepted the apology of Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, who earlier called the UP experts "hacks". Despite his apology, the official is still facing calls to resign. Karen Davila reports. - The World Tonight, ANC, Oct 15, 2020

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/10/15/20/denrs-antiporda-facing-calls-to-resign-despite-apologizing-to-up-experts>



Roque disagrees with Antiporda's remark vs. UP experts

By Azer Parrocha **October 15, 2020, 3:46 pm**



Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque (File photo)

MANILA – Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Thursday he disagrees with the remark made by Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda's that experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) have no right to criticize the Manila Bay white beach project.

Roque noted that although Antiporda has since apologized for his statement, assisting the government is part of the UP Charter or Republic Act (RA) 9500.

"UP has a new charter. It is really a partner of government and that is why I had to distance... In fact, I will go to the extent that I disagree with the statement of USec (Undersecretary) Antiporda but he has already apologized for it," he said in a Palace press briefing.

Under Section 3 of RA 9500, the UP shall "lead as a public service university by providing various forms of community, public, and volunteer service, as well as scholarly and technical assistance to the government, private sector, and civil society while maintaining its standards of excellence."

"*Nasa batas po yan na talagang partner natin ang UP bilang isang national university and, as a professor of 15 years in UP, ginawa din po namin ang katungkulan namin para tulungan ang gobyerno* (It is under the law that we are partners with UP as a national university and, as a professor of 15 years in UP, we also did our duty to help the government)," Roque said.

On Wednesday, Antiporda accused UP scientists of being "bayaran" or paid hacks for criticizing the Manila Bay beautification project.

He even called for an audit of the UP Marine Science Institute (MSI) for the funds supposedly given to them by the DENR.

Antiporda's ire against the UP-MSI stemmed from the latter's remark that overlaying a small portion of Manila Bay's shoreline with crushed dolomite rocks is a "beautification effort that is costly and temporary."

He eventually apologized to the UP scientists, saying he had no intention to "destroy the good name of UP" and was only "carried away by emotions."

Dr. Laura David, UP-MSI director, accepted the DENR official's apology.

The UP Geographic Society (UP GeogSoc), meanwhile, has called for Antiporda's resignation over his "bayaran kayo" remark, calling them "unacceptable for a government official."

However, Antiporda said he would leave his post if President Rodrigo Duterte says he should. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1118652>



METRO

UP experts not paid hacks — Roque

Published 3 hours ago on October 16, 2020 03:30 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) [@tribunephi_MJB](#)



Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Thursday said he disagreed with the remark of Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda that experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) have no right to criticize the P389-million Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

In a televised briefing, Roque noted that the university is a “partner of the government” as stated in the UP Charter or Republic Act 9500.

Section 3 of the Charter states that the institution shall “lead as a public service university by providing various forms of community, public, and volunteer service, as well as scholarly and technical assistance to the government, private sector, and civil society while maintaining its standards of excellence.”

“UP has a new charter. It is really a partner of the government. And that is why I had to distance — in fact, I will go to the extent of I disagree with the statement of Usec. Antiporda, but he has already apologized for it,” Roque said.

He said this after he was asked how Antiporda’s remark reflects the government’s handling of criticisms from experts.

Antiporda earlier said that the UP Marine Science Institute (MSI) should not criticize the government’s efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay since they are “bayaran” or paid hacks.

UP MSI has been critical of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) move to pour synthetic white sand along the shores of Manila Bay.

Antiporda’s remarks drew flak from the UP community and has since apologized to UP MSI, saying he had no intention to destroy the reputation of the university and was only “carried away by emotions.”

The DENR official issued his apology while he and Dr. Laura David, the director of the UP-MSI, were being interviewed over ABS-CBN News Channel.

Antiporda said he was forced to speak out following the numerous statements issued by UP-MSI criticizing the government and the DENR in particular for dumping synthetic white sand along the shores of Manila Bay as part of the beach nourishment project.

David accepted the Antiporda’s apology on behalf of the institution.



Meanwhile, the UP Geographic Society has called for Antiporda's resignation over his comments against the group, calling it "unacceptable for a government official."

Antiporda, for his part, said he would step down from his post if President Rodrigo Duterte tells him to do so.

with FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD



Roque kinontra si Antiporda matapos bansagang ‘bayaran’ ang UP experts

Published 12 hours ago on October 15, 2020 06:20 PM

By **TDT** @tribunephil



Kinontra ni Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque si Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda matapos na bansagang mga ‘bayaran’ ang mga eksperto mula sa University of the Philippines (UP) dahil sa pagpabatikos sa paglalagay ng dolomite sand sa Manila Bay .

“UP has a new charter. It is really a partner of the government. And that is why I had to distance—in fact, I will go to the extent of I disagree with the statement of Usec. Antiporda, but he has already apologized for it,” sabi ni Roque.

Nauna nang sinabihan ni Antiporda ang mga miyembro ng UP Marine Science Institute (MSI) bilang mga bayaran matapos kontrahin ang paglalagay ng dolomite sand sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay.

Binatikos si Antiporda sa kanyang naging pahayag laban sa UP. Humingi na siya ng paumanhin at sinabing nadala lamang siya ng kanyang emosyon. Tinanggap naman ni UP MSI director Dr. Laura David ang paghingi ng sorry ni Antiporda.

Isinulong naman ng UP Geographic Society ang pagbibitiw sa pwesto ni Antiporda, sa pagsasabing ito’y hindi katanggap-tanggap.

Sinabi naman ni Antiporda na nakahanda siyang bumaba sa pwesto sakaling atasan ni Pangulong Duterte.



Roque disagrees with Antiporda's criticism of UP experts

Published October 15, 2020 4:37pm

By VIRGIL LOPEZ, GMA News

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque Jr. on Thursday expressed his disagreement with the statements of Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda against the University of the Philippines experts who flagged the Manila Bay "white sand" project.

Antiporda on Wednesday slammed UP for allegedly milking public funds since 2016 after he was asked during a media briefing about the offer of the UP Diliman Institute of Biology to help in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

He has since apologized for his remarks.

Meanwhile, Roque, who earned his law degree from and used to teach at UP, defended UP's reputation as a national university. Antiporda reportedly is a product of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, also a state university.

"UP has a new charter. It is really a partner of [the] government. I disagree with the statement of Usec. Antiporda, but he has already apologized for it," Roque said in a televised briefing.

"Nasa batas po iyan na talagang partner natin ang UP bilang isang national university. And as a professor for 15 years in UP, ginawa po namin ang katungkulan din namin para tulungan ang gobyerno," he added.

Roque said UP lawyers acted as legal consultants to Congress.

Republic Act 9500 or the 2008 UP Charter states that the premier state university "shall lead as a public service university by providing various forms of community, public, and volunteer service, as well as scholarly and technical assistance to the government, private sector, and civil society."

Earlier, the UP Institute of Biology said the money allocated for the dumping of crushed dolomite on the shoreline of Manila Bay should have been directed to "more viable, scientifically sound projects" that can restore the bay to a "state that is fit for recreation" such as rehabilitating mangroves.

The UP Marine Science Institute also recently said the white sand project would not help solve the root of the environmental problems in the bay. -MDM, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/760036/roque-disagrees-with-antiporda-s-criticism-of-up-experts/story/>



Harry Roque says he disagrees with DENR exec's 'bayaran' tag vs UP experts

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 15 2020 03:57 PM

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque on Wednesday said he disagrees with an environment official's claim that experts from the University of the Philippines had "no right" to criticize the Manila Bay dolomite beach because they had received funding support from the government.

The state university is a "partner" of the government, Roque, a former UP law professor, told reporters.

Watch his remarks here.





This undated photo shows the overlaying of crushed dolomites on the shore of Manila Bay.
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

'We stand by science,' UP MSI stresses in parrying DENR exec's 'bayaran' rant

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - October 15, 2020 - 9:49am

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute said the amount paid by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—far from the alleged “half a billion pesos”—was used for collaborative projects in the past 10 years when the agency needed the institution's services.

Its director also stressed that informing the public, about scientists' views on government projects related to their field, is part of the university's mandates.

"Scientists stand by science. Whatever they learned, studied, they share it to the public. It is part of their job, their mandate as scientists and being part of the university. As part of the university, it is our mandate to share what we know," Dr. Laura David, UP MSI director, told ANC's "Headstart" Thursday.

UP MSI issued a statement early Thursday after DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda accused the institution of charging the department some P500 million in consultation fees and calling scientists from the state university “bayaran” who have no right to criticize the Manila Bay beach nourishment project.

"Specifically, the correct amount is P364,073,909.40 total for the last decade, spanning ten collaborative projects between the UPMSI and the DENR as well as co-sponsorship support for a scientific symposium," the institution said.

"This is hardly the half a billion the undersecretary has been claiming. It is simply the cost of the collaborative projects for which the DENR had the need for the expertise of the UPMSI," it added.

Antiporda: We pay you, why criticize in public?

Antiporda on Thursday apologized to UP.

"It's not intended to destroy the good name of the university itself but this is just to send the message to UP MSI that we're partners here," he said of his "bayaran" accusation.

But he insisted that UP marine scientists, being partners of the government, should have reached out to the department first to air their comments.

"Personally, we are partners. Along the way, you saw something that you said was wrong. What we're expecting is for you to call us, text us or write a letter to the secretary telling us what we need to do. But sad to say, that did not happen. It went straight to the media destroying the good name of DENR," Antiporda said.

UP MSI uploaded the statement on the use of dolomite grains on its website and posted on its social media accounts.

UP Marine Science Institute about 2 weeks ago

Official Statement of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) on the recent rehabilitation efforts in Manila Bay: Crushed Dolomite sand will not help solve the root of environmental problems in Manila Bay

Read the full statement here:

PRESS RELEASE
30 September 2020
Official Statement of the UP Marine Science Institute on the Dolomite Sand in Manila Bay

Crushed Dolomite sand will not help solve the root of environmental problems in Manila Bay

Manila Bay is strategically located in the heart of the most densely populated area in the Philippines. It has a long history of use for shipping, navigation, and port services going back to the 16th century. In addition to its cultural and historical significance, Manila Bay is important economically as site of industrial activities, human settlement, and source of fisheries.

Manila Bay is bounded by four provinces and Metro Manila and is drained by 17,000 km of watershed which is home to 30% of the entire population of the country, and 42% of agricultural areas. Both terrestrial and marine environments are intricately connected, such that the state of Manila Bay today is a testament of collective efforts and inaction.

Due to the myriad of uses of Manila Bay, pollution continues to be a major problem. To address the continued pollution in Manila Bay, a Supreme Court "Continuing Mandamus" was issued in 2008 ordering 13 government agencies headed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to "clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to Class SB level to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation".

Situationer

The Manila Bay Beach Nourishment project is part of DENR's plan to restore the Bay. Dolomite grains, which are 2 to 5 mm in diameter, are the tan-colored aesthetic topping of a reclaimed area along the Baywalk in Roxas Boulevard. Currently on the Phase 2 of the project, dolomite grains were laid as a topping of the 60 m-wide x 120m-long reclaimed beach bordered by a seawall. The intended thickness of the dolomite topping is 1 meter but could no longer be achieved due to the ban imposed by Cebu LGU on further extraction and transport. DENR's plan is to extend the reclamation further to the south for a total length of 500 m.

Environmental Problems in Manila Bay that need to be addressed

1. Poor water quality

Sewer coverage in the major cities surrounding Manila Bay is only 16% and less than 20% of the sewage is treated. Hence a big part of the Bay's environmental problems comes from poor waste management. The Bay receives high organic matter load (250,000t BOD [Biochemical oxygen demand]/yr), with a large contribution from Pasig River. Fecal coliform, which originates from human and animal wastes, is elevated reaching >200 million MPN/100 ml in waste outfalls as compared to the allowable maximum limit of 5000 MPN/100 ml for Class SC waters (current classification of Manila Bay). Due to the high organic load received by the Bay, low dissolved oxygen (DO) or hypoxic (<2 mg/L) conditions in bottom waters occur from organic matter decomposition processes. This DO level is below the allowable minimum level of 5 mg/L set by DENR. Hypoxic conditions in Manila Bay can be extensive especially during the southwest monsoon with low oxygen shoaling to ~5m thereby covering 80% of the water column in parts of the Bay as seen in August 2011 (Sotillo et al., 2014). There is consequent release of nutrients (e.g. phosphate, nitrates) from organic matter breakdown, in

751 25 2.2K

"We are partners. We pay you. We are your clients. Why did you do this?" he went on.

But, David, said in the same ANC interview that "we're not consultants."



"There is a contract of service that is written between DENR and the University of the Philippines," she said, adding that Antiporda's rant was likely the result of a misunderstanding.

"I think Undersecretary Antiporda is just not familiar with the service contract. I think once he knows that's the case, that we're not consultants and in fact all of this went back to the public, I think he'll understand that he was amiss at saying that UP is 'bayaran.'"

Funding paid for field work, studies

UP MSI on Wednesday, and earlier in the week explained that the amount was used to support projects tasked with nationwide standardized assessments of National Integrated Protected Areas Systems sites, enhance capacity for management and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems and strengthen the understanding of the country's waters from the West Philippine Sea to the Philippine Rise in the Pacific.

The funds covered the use of laboratories, research equipment and facilities, field works and support to research assistance, and supported the capacity building of national government agencies and higher education institutions personnel.

It reiterated that the costs of scientific research and investigation are typically shouldered by clients requesting UP MSI's service, explaining it is not a line agency of the government.

UP MSI also said it welcomes a potential audit by the Commission on Audit as Antiporda threatened on Wednesday.

"This is only appropriate for any government office or agency, given the understanding that any funding received by the Institute is ultimately channeled into scientific projects meant to protect the Philippines' marine ecology and to promote the development of the nation—as should be the case for any government office or agency," the institute said.

Scientists buck 'dolomite' beach project

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 institution also said this will not help solve the environmental problems in Manila Bay. 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.

David on Thursday stressed the cleaning the waters of Manila Bay should be the government's priority.

"The other beautification projects can follow."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/10/15/2049779/we-stand-science-msi-stresses-parrying-denr-execs-bayaran-rant>



UP expert rebuffs Antiporda on 'bayaran' tag

Published 19 hours ago on October 15, 2020 10:48 AM

By [Bella Cariaso](#)



USEC. Benny Antiporda and oceanography expert Dr. Laura David.

Dr. Laura T. David, Ph.D., the director of the University of the Philippines (UP) Marine Science Institute, today rebuffed Undersecretary Benny Antiporda for claiming UP experts cannot criticize the Manila Bay “white beach” project of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) because they are allegedly “*bayaran*” or paid hacks.

David, a University of South Carolina-educated expert on coastal oceanography, ecosystems and climate change adaptations, said the funds allocated by the DENR for UP are used to fund its research projects and not to pay for the services of the experts as consultants.

“*Hindi po. Ang scientists ng UP ay talagang nagsisilbi lang sa bayan* (No, the scientists of UP are truly serving the nation),” she said, adding that they are always ready to work with the DENR and other government agencies.

She said that Antiporda, a media man, may not be familiar with the contracted services between DENR and UP in his reaching the conclusion that UP scientists are benefitting financially as consultants.

“*(Kung) susuriin ito, makikita naman na hindi ito consultancy. Na (ang) karamihan ng kanilang ibinibigay na pera ay napupunta sa pagsasaliksik sa mga karagatan ng Pilipinas* (If this will be analyzed, it will be seen that this is not a consultancy. That most of the money go to research on the seas in the Philippines),” she said.

“*Ibinabayad po ito sa pagpunta sa laboratory, pagbayad sa mga sweldo ng research assistants, hindi po ito consultancy* (These are paid and go to laboratories, to pay for the salaries of research assistants. This is not a consultancy),” David stressed.

Laura pointed out that under the partnership, at least P364 million has been allocated by DENR for the different scientific researches of UP in the last 10 years and that the money did not end up in the pocket of any UP scientist.

She said that oceanographic researches need funding as a month-long expedition can cost as much as P6 million in one go.

According to David, UP was not consulted in the decision of DENR to put dolomite sand around Manila Bay and that the marching order really was to prioritize water sanitation, water treatment and fixing sewerage.

She said beautification, such as the use of dolomite to cover the black sand, was not in their list because there are more aspects that need funding to improve the state of Manila Bay.

The use of dolomite at the Manila Bay, which gives the appearance similar to famous white beaches, has been both criticized and hailed by the public. Portions of the beach previously covered with dolomite had already been covered with black sand.



David refused to comment on the claim of Antiporda, an undergraduate of a non-environment related course, that the dolomite were not washed out but that, instead, black sand washed in over the dolomite.

She, however, said that all over the world reclamation projects really need maintenance and that in Miami beach, millions of dollars are spent for materials.

Antiporda said he will not apologize for claiming UP scientists are “*bayaran*” but that he is opening the door for communication with the UP experts. He, however, changed his mind and said sorry to the UP community.

He said the scientists should have went to the DENR directly and not to media.

UP Vice President for public affairs Elena Pernia said that UP, as a public service institution funded by taxpayers’ money, is mandated to release its findings to the Filipino people.

p/jd



Bintang na 'bayaran' disenteng tinugon (UPMSI experts para sa bayan)

Posted by: [Rose Novenario](#) on October 15, 2020 in [News](#) [Leave a comment](#)

DISENTENG tinugon ng University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) ang akusasyon ng isang opisyal ng administrasyong Duterte na 'bayaran' ang kanilang mga eksperto kaya't walang karapatang batikusin ang Manila Bay white sand beach project.

Inihayag ng UPMSI na patuloy ang kanilang komitment upang magamit ng gobyerno ang serbisyo ng kanilang researchers, scientists and experts, kasama ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), upang isulong sa kaunlaran ang bansa,

Inilinaw ng UPMSI na libre ang inilalaan ng kanilang mga eksperto na scientific advice at technical inputs, alinsunod sa mandato ng UP bilang pambansang unibersidad.

Ngunit ang ilang mga kuwestiyon at problema, anila, ay hindi matutugunan kung walang isasagawang field research o laboratory experiments upang makabuo ng science-based answers o local capabilities.

Anila, ang mga gastos sa scientific research and investigation, mula sa paggamit ng mga laboratory at research equipment and facilities, suporta sa research assistants, ay dapat sagutin ng mga kliyente dahil ang UPMSI ay hindi line agency ng sangay ng ehekutibo.

Ang lahat anila ng research and development activities ng UPMSI ay project-based, may espesipikong fund disbursement guidelines at limitasyon.

"The internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) funds of UPMSI are limited to maintaining the laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory."

"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 UPMSI could conduct necessary marine scientific research in Philippine waters.

"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," pahayag sa kalatas ni UPMSI Director Dr. Laura T. David. "UPMSI has had many productive collaborations with DENR, and we recognize DENR's expertise in a wide variety of fields," dagdag niya.

Tiniyak ng UPMSI na ang working partnership nito sa DENR at iba pang ahensiya ng pamahalaan ay magpapatuloy sa mga susunod pang taon upang bigyang proteksiyon ang marine ecology ng Filipinas para sa mga susunod na henerasyon.

(ROSE NOVENARIO)

Source: <https://www.hatawtabloid.com/2020/10/15/bintang-na-bayaran-disenteng-tinugon-upmsi-experts-para-sa-bayan/?fbclid=IwAR2ikRAmJMAC86pMS0537IhQMGDzyQCB36BGDahm3eTnxci0yWzuMp86cTQ>



LOOK | The Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines calls on Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda to retract his remarks against the UP Marine Science Institute and step down from his post.

Antiporda called the MSI "bayaran" after the body made their suggestions on how to move forward with the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"It (MSI) offered suggestions on how to proceed with the rehabilitation going forward, and did not even condemn the government's senseless decision to pour artificial sand over the bay," wrote the UP GeogSoc in a statement. (via News5 / Shyla Francisco)



GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEAR UNDERSECRETARY ANTIPORDA,

We, the members of the Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines (UP GeogSoc), express our disappointment regarding the accusations and ad hominem attacks you made against the UP Marine Science Institute on the value of their work and their role as consultants for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). For decades, the Marine Science Institute (MSI) has been helping fisherfolks and LGUs by developing technologies and conducting various research projects that will benefit communities and promote sustainable fishing practices as well as performing ground-breaking research on Philippine marine life and oceanography. The MSI, as a UP institute, and in its desire to help the government make sound and scientifically-based decisions, has released a position paper regarding the Manila Bay rehabilitation program. It offered suggestions on how to proceed with the rehabilitation going forward, and did not even condemn the government's senseless decision to pour artificial sand over the bay.

Yet you have taken offense over these suggestions and proceeded to baselessly accuse the MSI, even calling them "bayaran." We find this type of behavior unacceptable for a government official, especially considering the DENR, the office you represent, has to make sound scientifically based decisions in its mandate to protect the environment and not cause its further destruction. UP scientists work tirelessly for the benefit of Filipino society, despite being underfunded, yet you, Usec. Antiporda, have seen it fit to attack not only the MSI but the valuable contribution of the scientific work of the Filipino Academe. This anti-science sentiment is disappointing, as the statements from these institutes are not personal attacks towards you nor the DENR, but rather an effort to present the truth and alternatives for better policy-making decisions.

Considering your ill-fitting background for the job as well as your disregard for the opinions of other Filipino scientists, we call on you to formally retract your statements against the UP MSI and to resign from your position as undersecretary, as both a form of accountability and to give way for other, better qualified candidates to work in the Department. The DENR needs a spokesperson who, instead of antagonizing homegrown scientists, articulately expresses and explains the department's goals and policies, moreover this country deserves a DENR Undersecretary who is credible, responsive, and committed to protecting, conserving, and managing our environment and natural resources.

549

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Source:

https://web.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/972008486538371/?app=fbl&_rdc=1&_rdr



UPMSI willing to extend services to DENR

Published October 15, 2020, 6:34 PM

by [Vanne Elaine Terrazola](#)

The University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) said Thursday that it is still willing to extend its services to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) amid allegations made by one of its officials that the institution is milking government funds amounting to P500 million for consultation fees.

“The UPMSI recognizes the DENR as a long-standing partner in its quest to conduct research and render public service to the Filipino. Hence, the UPMSI remains willing and open to extending its services to the DENR, no matter the passing opinions of the day,” the Institute said.

The UPMSI issued the statement after the controversial remarks of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary and spokesperson Benny Antiporda against the Institute’s experts whom he called as “bayaran” or paid hacks during a “Laging Handa” briefing on Wednesday.

Antiporda claimed that the UPMSI, who has been criticizing the Manila Bay beach nourishment project, has been paid P500 million for consultations since 2016.

However, the UPMSI clarified that the amount paid by the DENR, which was far from the alleged P500 million claimed by Antiporda, was used for collaborative projects in the past 10 years when the agency needed the institution’s services.

“Specifically, the correct amount is P364,073,909.40 total for the last decade, spanning ten collaborative projects between the UPMSI and the DENR as well as co-sponsorship support for a scientific symposium. It is simply the cost of the collaborative projects for which the DENR had the need for the expertise of the UPMSI,” it emphasized.

According to the Institute, this P364-million supported projects tasked with nationwide standardized assessments of National Integrated Protected Areas Systems sites, enhancing capacity for management and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems, and strengthening understanding of Philippine waters from the West Philippine Sea to the Philippine Rise in the Pacific.

“This amount covered the cost of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities to fieldwork and support to research assistants. The funds also supported capacity-building of national government agencies and Higher Education Institutions personnel,” the UPMSI explained.

“These costs are typically shouldered by clients requesting the UPMSI’s services, as the Institute has no access to funds that would support the conduct of scientific inquiry on top of the research it is already doing. To reiterate, all of the UPMSI’s research and development activities are project-based, with very specific fund disbursement guidelines and limitations,” it stated.

The Institute also bared that its internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) funds are limited to maintaining the laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory.

The UPMSI also said it welcomes being audited by the Commission on Audit (CoA) “at any time” after Antiporda called state auditors to look into the payments of the government to the university.

“This is only appropriate for any government office or agency, given the understanding that any funding received by the Institute is ultimately channeled into scientific projects meant to protect the Philippines’ marine ecology and to promote the development of the nation — as should be the case for any government office or agency,” the UPMSI said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/15/upmsi-willing-to-extend-services-to-denr/>



Yearly maintenance needed for Manila Bay white beach project – UPMSI

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:51 AM October 15, 2020



(INQUIRER FILE PHOTO / RICHARD A. REYES)

MANILA, Philippines — The government will have to shell out funds every year to maintain the Manila Bay white sand beach project, the director of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) said Thursday.

UP MSI Director Laura David said that this type of beach project requires maintenance as the artificial material being used on such projects only lasts for a certain time.

“All over the world naman po, ang mga reclamation na ganito, dapat mine-maintain. Hindi siya pangmatagalan. May mga lugar na kada taon, nilalagyan ng bagong materyales. May mga lugar na hanggang limang taon umaabot. Pero ganito lang po talaga ang lifespan ng ganitong type ng reclamation,” she said in an interview on ABS-CBN’s Teleradyo.

(All over the world, reclamation projects like this have to be maintained. This will not last long. There are places where every year, new materials brought in. There are areas where these materials last for five year. This is really the lifespan of this type of reclamation.)

Asked if this means then that the government will have to shell out funds for the maintenance of the project every year, David replied: “Opo. Sa Miami Beach po, every year \$5 millions ang ginagastos nila para punuan parati.”

(Yes. In Miami Beach, they spend \$5 million dollars a year.)

David also stressed that the government’s priority in improving the state of Manila Bay should be water sanitation instead of the white sand project made from crushed dolomite.

“Pag binalikan po kasi natin ang mandamus, ang priority po talaga is water sanitation, so waste water treatment, pag-aayos ng sewage para pagandahin ang quality ng karagatan sa Manila Bay. Wala po kasi doon sa listahan ang beautification muna kasi mas marami pa po dapat paglaanan ang pera para maayos ang Manila Bay,” she said.

(If we will look at the mandamus, the priority is water sanitation, wastewater management, and on the sewage so that the quality of water at the Manila Bay will improve. There is nothing there about beautification, because there are other efforts initiatives where funds should be allotted.)

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1348132/govt-will-have-to-spend-for-manila-bay-white-sand-project-every-year-says-expert>



9h · 🌐

On tonight's episode, #TheChiefs talk to UP Marine Science Institute director Laura David, PhD, and discuss ways to rehabilitate Manila Bay amid ongoing criticism over the dumping of dolomite in a small beachfront portion of the area.

Catch the conversation tonight with Luchi Cruz-Valdes, Ed Lingao, Amy Pamintuan, and Roby Alampay at 8:30 p.m. on #SignalTV 8 and 250. #WeAreOneNews

**TONIGHT ON
The
CHIEFS**

photo: News5/Greg Gregorio

**What's a sensible way forward
in rehabilitating Manila Bay?**

Laura David, PhD Director UP Marine Science Institute	Sen. Richard Gordon Chairman Philippine Red Cross
--	--

8:30 p.m., SignalTV 8 and 250 #TheChiefs #WeAreOneNews

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Source:

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Looking out for Benham Rise and giant clams: What UP MSI does besides giving free advice

By Catalina Ricci S. Madarang - October 15, 2020 - 1:43 PM



This June 2016 photo shows technical divers in Benham Bank. (Oceana by UPLB/Facebook)

The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute has been making headlines following its recommendations and criticisms of the artificial white sand beach project for Manila Bay.

Benny Antiporda, spokesperson and undersecretary for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, recently started a word war with the MSI after he claimed that the government pays the organization a lot of money for consultation services.

The institute, meanwhile, said that it does not charge for science-based advice for government. The laboratory work and scientific research it carries out, however, require financial support.

In another exchange on October 14, Antiporda accused UP MSI of being "bayaran," claiming it has been collecting bribes worth P500 million from the government since 2016.

For Antiporda, that the institute has been receiving money does not entitle it to criticize government.

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

Such a remark received backlash within the science community on social media, with many saying that this dismissive attitude toward science a reason why many important scientific endeavors do not flourish in the country and why Filipino scientists opted to work overseas.



But what does this small organization actually do for the university and the country?

The institute has been a partner of the national government for its marine research through the years.

MSI's initiatives through the years

In a new statement on October 15, the MSI corrected Antiporda, saying the amount it received was not P500 million but P364 million.




The money was spent for 10 projects done in collaboration with the DENR, it said, including a "co-sponsorship support for a scientific symposium."

 **UP Marine Science Institute**
on Wednesday 

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

This is to clarify the statement made by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda accusing the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) of charging the DENR half a billion pesos in consultation fees and being, in a word, "bayaran."

Specifically, the correct amount is PhP364,073,909.40 total for the last decade, spanning ten collaborative projects between the UPMSI and the DENR as well as co-... [See More](#)

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The institute further specified where the money went:

- Nationwide standardized assessments of National Integrated Protected Areas Systems sites
- Enhancing the capacity for management and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems
- Strengthening understanding of Philippine waters from the West Philippine Sea to the Philippine Rise in the Pacific
- Cost of scientific research and investigation (the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities to field work and support to research assistants)
- Support for capacity-building of national government agencies and Higher Education Institutions personnel

"To reiterate, 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 (MOOE) funds of UP MSI are limited to maintaining the laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory," UP MSI [said](#).



The FISH-I Technology by Dr. Prospero Naval Jr. of UP's Department of Computer Science and Dr. Laura David of UP Marine Science Institute is a cost-effective and efficient method of performing fish census using a camera and fish video software.

The UP MSI, one of the seven academic institutes of UP's College of Science, has been the premier university's coordinating base for marine research since [1974](#).

Here are [some of their prominent projects](#) in partnership with the government.

Exploration of marine life in the West Philippine Sea, Benham Rise

Scientists and researchers from UP MSI, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture and the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) have conducted explorations at Benham Rise or Philippine Rise for years.



The MV Kasarinlan research vessel of the Marine Science Institute conducted a two-week biological and oceanographic research in the West Philippine Sea in April 2019.

In [2018](#), President Rodrigo Duterte and his close allies made a send-off stunt to the scientists by riding jet skis in the waters of Casiguran municipality of Aurora.

In the organization's response to Antiporda, UP MSI's scientists emphasized that they had been presenting results of their explorations to the DENR via a webinar series.

Conservation of giant clams

In [April 2018](#), the UP MSI-Bolinao Marine Laboratory launched a program that aims to raise awareness about the importance of the world's largest bivalve mollusk called "Adopt-a-Clam: Help Save a Little Giant" in Silaqui Island, Pangasinan.

The facility takes care of six of the 12 species of giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*), locally known as "taklobo," in the world.

Conservation of the giant shipworms or *tamilok*

In [2017](#), the UP MSI collaborated with researchers of the Sultan Kudarat State University (SKSU) to study and preserve the giant shipworms found at a marine lagoon in the province for possible biofuel, which is fuel from biomass.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2020/10/15/178785/up-msi-initiatives-antiporda-denr/>



Coral transplantation, reef ball rehab held in Masbate

Published October 15, 2020, 2:49 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Coral transplantation and reef ball rehabilitation were conducted at the Colorada Marine Protected Area in Aroroy, Masbate to ensure the sustainable management of the province's coastal and marine and resources.

In the activity led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in partnership with Masbate Gold Project, divers of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Masbate and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Mobo conducted the removal of barnacle in reef balls and the transplant of coral fragments.

Reef balls are artificial shelters that serve as a breeding ground to the reef fishes thriving inside the locally established marine protected area (MPA).

PENR officer Tito Migo said PENRO Masbate continues to intensify its conservation and management efforts on the MPAs within its jurisdiction in order to comprehensively manage, address, and efficiently decrease the drivers and threats of destruction of the coastal and marine ecosystems.

CENR officer Jean Imperial also said the coral transplantation and rehabilitation of reef balls aim to synchronize with the mandates and programs of DENR to effectively ensure the sustainable management of the country's coastal and ocean resources.

"The DENR calls for greater commitment in protecting our MPAs, which serve as a critical foundation of biodiversity conservation, protection of endangered species, and contribution to the health of the wider marine ecosystem," she said.

Imperial also said that while it is important to recognize the vital role that MPAs play, "it is essential that we also direct our focus on the many threats they face such as marine ecosystem loss and degradation due to negligent human actions."



5 suspected illegal loggers nabbed

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

October 15, 2020

FIVE suspected illegal loggers were arrested by authorities in the forested areas of Camachin in Doña Remedios Trinidad town recently.

Combined operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) based in Baliwag, Bulacan, the National Power Corporation-Angat Watershed Team and the Philippine National Police of Doña Remedios Trinidad in Bulacan arrested the five suspected illegal loggers during an anti-logging operation.

The area is part of the Angat Watershed Reservation under Proclamation No. 505.

The operation also resulted in the seizure of more than 1,600 board feet of chainsawed dipterocarp lumber worth over P170,000, including three chainsaws and five motorcycles.

The forest contrabands are now under the custody of Centro-Baliwag.

The DENR has already filed criminal charges against the suspects for violating the Forestry Code of the Philippines (Presidential Decree 705) and the Republic Act No. 9175 or the Chainsaw Act of 2002.



Nat'l Museum nagluksa sa pagkamatay ni "Kalibasib"



October 15, 2020 @ 3:24 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines-Nakiisa ang National Museum of the Philippines sa biodiversity conservation agencies sa pagdadalamhati sa pagkamatay ni "Kalibasib" (Kalikasan Bagong Sibol), ang pinakahuling captive-bred tamaraw na naging 'conservation icon' at 'beacon of hope' sa maraming conservationists.

Si "Kali" ay ipinanganak sa Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm sa Barangay Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro noong Hunyo 24, 1999.

Anak ito ng isa sa 20 adult tamaraw na dinala sa naturang pasilidad noong 1980, na nagsisilbing captive breeding program ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources para pangalagaan ang endemic Philippine tamaraw population.

Nabatid na pawang namatay na ang 20 adult tamaraws na bahagi ng programa, kabilang ang nanay ni Kali na si Mimi noong 2011.

Nangyari naman ang pagkamatay ni Kali, 21, noong Oktubre 10 kasabay ng Special Month for Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw in Mindanao sa ilalim ng Proclamation No. 273 na nilagdaan noong 2002.

Ang mga tamaraw ang pinakamalaking endemic mammal sa Pilipinas subalit ito'y mas maliit kay sa mga kalabaw.

Ayon sa mga eksperto ang kanilang lifespan ay mula 20 hanggang 25 taon lamang. RNT

Biopipe PHL organizes webinar to increase awareness on wastewater treatment and reuse

By [BMPlus](#) October 13, 2020

WASTE TO RESOURCE
Wastewater Treatment & Reuse for Business Profitability

14 October 2020 | 3:30 - 5:00 pm (GMT+8)

MODERATOR

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Engr. Rico Ongcoy
Director
Philippine Water Works Association (PWWA)

Atty. Ipat Luna
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Office of Deputy Speaker Leon Legarda

Atty. Juan Lorenzo Tañada
Director, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc.

Mr. Enes Kutluca
Chief Executive Officer
Biospin Global

Mr. Robert Brears
Founder
Our Future Water

Brought to you by **biopipe** Hosted by **WATER PHILIPPINES** Supported by **PHILIPPINE WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION** Organized by **informa markets**

As countries around the world face increasing water stress, innovative sources of water have become vitally necessary. At the same time, poor sewage and wastewater treatment worldwide not only contributes to the strain on global freshwater supplies, but also adds to the global health crisis caused by lack of sanitation.

Though surrounded by water, the Philippines is one such country that has struggled with clean water sources and adequate sewage treatment. Out of 105 million people living in the Philippines, nearly seven million rely on unsafe and unsustainable water sources and 24 million lack access to improved sanitation. Additionally, much of the sewage produced in the Philippines is pumped directly into waterways, contaminating sources of livelihood and the environment.

The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) has mandated that businesses and buildings comply by January 2021 with new discharge standards outlined in the DENR DAO 2016- 08 to clean up surrounding waters and protect the natural environment. Although, this solves the problem of inadequate sanitation, this does not solve frequent water shortages during the dry season.

Instead, businesses and governments must think of innovative solutions to go beyond mere compliance and to find a way to reuse wastewater for secondary purposes. This not only solves problems of inadequate sanitation, but also decreases water costs and reliance on central water supply in water stressed areas.

[Biopipe Philippines](#), in association with Water Philippines and the Philippine Water Works Association has organized *WASTE TO RESOURCE: Wastewater Treatment & Reuse for Business Profitability*, a webinar that assembles industry experts into a thought-leadership discussion to increase awareness and provide solutions and examples of how businesses can move beyond mere compliance with DENR DAO 2016 and increase savings by reusing treated wastewater.



Happening this October 2020 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm, the webinar will be moderated by Engr. Rico Ongcoy, Director of Philippine Water Works Association and will feature the following speakers: Atty. Ipat Luna, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer from Office of Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda; Enes Kutluca, Chief Executive Officer of Biopipe Global; Atty. Juan Lorenzo Tañada, Director for Corporate & Regulatory Affairs from Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc.; and Robert Brears, Founder of Our Future Water.

As the organizer of the event, [Biopipe](#), headed by its 30-year old Turkish entrepreneur, Enes Katluca is continually pushing the technological envelope to provide solutions for the world water crisis. It has an installed footprint in over 15 countries with operations in Turkey, United States, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Ethiopia, South Africa, and the Netherlands.

Limited virtual seats are available for this event. To register, please click this [link](#).



DENR: Suspended mining companies complied with requirements

Anjo Bagaoisan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 15 2020 08:48 AM



MANILA - Has the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) begun to support destructive mining?

Gabriela Rep. Arlene Brosas asked the agency early Thursday if by finally allowing the firms to operate, the department was turning its back on its previous stance regarding their mining practices.

Citing an example in Cagayan, she said a number of the companies were rejected by affected communities for mining without consulting residents.

“Karamihan sa in-approve ng DENR ay may background sa destructive mining, kaya may sapat na dahilan para ipasara ang mga companies na ito,” Brosas said during a budget hearing.

“Hindi ba dapat ang prayoridad ay mapanagot?”

DENR budget sponsor Rep. Teodorcio Haresco Jr. of Aklan said the 26 companies had already complied with its environmental requirements.

“Upon the strict assessment these mining companies have complied with the requirements,” Haresco said.

“Nagbayad na po sila ng penalty, nag-comply na po sila, at mino-monitor sila to avoid this kind of destructive mining in our country.”

The DENR said it was currently upholding its policy against open-pit mining while also reassessing it.

“Right now it’s still being evaluated, but for now it’s canceled,” Haresco said.

This after Brosas brought up the Tampakan mine of Sagittarius Mines Inc. in Southern Mindanao, which she said affected 5,000 indigenous peoples.

The agency said the permit given to the company was merely exploratory and not for a full mining operation, especially since negotiation with the community was ongoing.

Lawmakers also tackled the controversial dolomite white sand beach project during the hearing.

Lawmakers also said the agency should continue to look into the natural effects of land reclamation in Bulacan for the Aerotropolis Airport City project.

Haresco said the clearance given to the project for now was merely for land development. Constructing the actual airport would require another environmental clearance.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/15/20/denr-suspended-mining-companies-complied-with-requirements>



ARAW-ARAW NG PAG-ULAN, PINATAAS ANG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM



October 15, 2020 @ 8:04 AM 22 hours ago

AYON kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay mahigit na sa minimum operating level na 180 meters, ngunit, mababa pa rin kung ikukumpara sa normal high water level (NHWL) na 210 meters, malayo pa rin sa end of the year target na 212 meters.

Base sa ulat ibinigay sa inyong lingkod, ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 183.37 metro noong October 13, 2020, (8:00am).

Ang magandang balita, halos walang tigil ang naging pagbuhos ng ulan, araw-araw na tumataas ang antas ng tubig, sana tuloy-tuloy ang malakas ng pagbuhos ng ulan sa bahagi ng Norzagaray, Bulacan, habang gumagamit tayo ng tubig, bahagya tumataas ang lebel ng tubig.

Ngayong buwan ng Oktubre, binawasan ng NWRB ang paglalaan ng tubig sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

Ang MWSS ay tumatanggap ng 44 metro kubiko bawat segundo (CMS) habang ang NIA ay tumatanggap ng 25 CMS.

Sa kabila ng pagbawas ng 2 CMS sa MWSS, ang mga water consumer sa Metro Manila ay makararanas ng minimal o bahagya lamang kaya hindi natin mararamdaman dahil walang makabuluhang epekto sa pamamahagi ng tubig.

May payo si Dr. David, sa mga tahanan at industriya, dapat samantalain ang malalakas na pag-ulan sa pamamagitan ng pag-iimpok nito sa proseso ng "Rain Harvesting" kung saan ang tubig ulan ay kinokolekta at pwedeng gamitin sa irigasyon, sa mga malalaking industriya at maging sa mga tahanan.

Malaki ang maitutulong ng pag-iipon ng mga tubig ulan lalo pa't may kalakasan ang pagbuhos ng ulan tuwing hapon.

Gawing alternatibong paraan sa paglilinis ng bahay, sa pagdidilig ng mga pananim, pangbanlaw ng mga damit na nilabhan, panghugas, pambuhos sa banyo at iba pa.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/araw-araw-ng-pag-ulan-pinataas-ang-tubig-sa-ang-at-dam/>



CCC urges more action to protect, preserve rainforests

By [Catherine Teves, Philippine News Agency](#) on October 15, 2020



FILE: Opening in jungle canopy at Mount Makiling ([Photo by Andrew Martin, CC BY 3.0](#))

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 (CO₂) 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.

CO₂ 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.



Algo: Avoiding emissions, higher ambition: The Philippines's climate pledge

[JOHN LEO ALGO](#)

October 15, 2020

THE year 2020 presents a moment of truth for climate action. The world has less than a decade to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures and avoid more catastrophic climate change, one of the key goals of the Paris Agreement. Achieving this requires drastic reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while adapting to higher temperatures, sea level rise, and other more extreme hazards.

Arguably, the most important mechanism under this agreement is that countries will commit targets and actions to address climate change through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These pledges are formulated by each country and must be communicated every five years, featuring "increased ambition" or higher targets with every submission.

For the Philippines, one of the countries at highest risk to climate change impacts, developing an NDC that places it towards a low-emissions development pathway while enhancing its adaptive capacity is necessary for building a sustainable future for all Filipinos.

For its initial submission in 2015, the country set an aspirational target of 70 percent reductions in GHG emissions by 2030, albeit on the condition of receiving adequate finance and other means of support from developed countries. These pledges, however, are not enough as they are only aligned with a 2-degree warmer world.

As it prepares to submit its official pledge by the end of 2020, what type of NDC should we expect?

A better path

Strategies for adaptation and GHG mitigation are anchored towards six sectors: agriculture, waste, industries, transportation, forestry and land use, and energy. As the Philippines is a low-GHG emitter and highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, its strategies are anchored towards adaptation. Furthermore, it plans to use the NDC to attract investments needed to build low-carbon, climate-resilient infrastructures and systems.

Aligned with the "whole-of-government" approach that has defined existing national climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, an integrated economy-wide approach must be evident in the country's NDC. Committed targets and measures must reflect the interlinkages between these economic sectors and enhancing their synergies towards reducing emissions and increasing climate resilience. An economy-wide approach also allows cross-cutting issues such as health, education, gender equality, air quality, and youth development to be more effectively addressed.

The Philippine NDC must also embody a "whole-of-society" approach. This should not only involve non-government actors from the planning to monitoring stages, but also ensure that solutions will be implemented in a way that upholds social and climate justice, especially for the well-being of highly-vulnerable sectors such as women, youth, indigenous peoples, and the poor.

In its initial pledge, the Philippines plans to prioritize adaptation measures based on the principle of averting or minimizing loss and damage from climate change impacts; this must remain a central component of its 2020 NDC.

It is also important for the Philippines to set an early deadline for its GHG emissions to peak, following the terms of the Paris Agreement. While the country contributes less than one percent of global emissions, its high vulnerability to climate change impacts and championing of climate justice during international negotiations places a moral imperative on it to not contribute further to worsening this crisis.



It should be noted that as a basis for his hesitation to fully commit to the Paris Agreement, President Rodrigo Duterte insisted that the country should be allowed to pursue its own development pathway and not be restricted due to the pollutive actions of industrialized nations.

The NDC presents an opportunity for the Philippines to show its commitment of carving a better path by setting the year 2030 for its emissions to peak. This would mean an earlier access to support provided by the Paris Agreement in terms of finance, technology, and capacity-building, especially if the country can present concrete projects, technologies, and facilities in its submission.

Such a strong commitment would contribute to attaining global net-zero emissions by 2050, per the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This would not be possible without protecting and enhancing local carbon sinks such as forests, which can remove excess GHGs from the atmosphere and oceans.

Furthermore, emissions avoidance must be prioritized in the NDC, which includes measures such as avoiding the construction of more coal-fired power plants, scaling up renewable energy development, and improving energy efficiency. This is a less costly approach than developing artificial carbon capture and storage technologies, allowing the Philippines to allocate more resources to address other pressing economic, social, and environmental issues.

Enhancing emissions avoidance requires investments in nature-based solutions, which are generally more cost-effective in the long run than engineered solutions. It is a key component of approaches for localizing the NDC, benefiting multiple LGUs through livelihood opportunities, protection from climate-related hazards, lower economic costs, and increased ecological stability.

Protecting forests and blue carbon for both adaptation and mitigation purposes are also highlighted in the country's initial NDC, and must be enhanced in its pending submission.

While the Philippines has existing efforts for mitigation and adaptation, it cannot address all climate change-related issues on its own. This is why it is crucial for the country to declare some of its NDC commitments as "conditional." Yet this support cannot be accessed without concrete plans, programs, projects, and targets for emissions reductions and enhanced adaptive capacities.

As the global focus shifts from negotiating global frameworks to operationalizing the Paris Agreement, so should the national agenda, especially with 2030 quickly approaching. Every second counts as we as a nation aim to not only survive, but also thrive in the midst of the climate emergency. It starts with a strong pledge for a healthier climate and environment, a more resilient economy, and a more sustainable form of development where no one is left behind.

John Leo is the program manager of Living Laudato Si' Philippines and Climate Action for Sustainability Initiative (Kasali). He is a citizen journalist focusing on climate and environmental issues since 2016.



‘STAND FOR TRUTH’

Plant enthusiasts share environmental, health benefits of growing indoor gardens

Published October 15, 2020 11:33pm

For these “plantitos” and “plantitas,” cultivating indoor gardens is not just for aesthetics.

Sharing their thoughts on GMA’s “Stand for Truth,” these plant enthusiasts pointed out the health and environmental benefits of their favorite pastime.

According to Dr. Jerry Cua, being in the medical profession is stressful enough and maintaining a hobby may not be possible. But to date, he has over 100 plants, which he started collecting only in June.

“For someone in the medical field, mahirap mag-maintain ng hobby. It’s helpful to take your mind off work. Pandemic sobrang stressful. This is a good distraction. Relaxing siya, calming effect,” he said.

UP Institute of Biological Sciences Prof. Lourdes Cardenas said plants could also help improve indoor air quality.

“Isa sa tinuturo ko ay paano natin ginagamit yung halaman: maaaring pagkain, pangkulay, medicines,” she said. “Alam naman natin kahit anong halaman, nare-renew niya yung oxygen sa paligid.”

Apart from its known benefits, the botany professor added that they were also studying if plants could be used as treatment for COVID-19.

“‘Yung possibility andun pero maraming dapat aralin,” she said. “‘Yung RNA ng virus, guguluhin niya yung virus, may alkaloids na pwede niyang gawin ‘yun. ‘Yung isang halaman immunobooster. Mahabang proseso pero yung posibilidad naroon.”

Maikka Rustia Piquemal is a plant shop owner and vlogger based in Paris who used to live in New York. Long before the pandemic, Maikka said she had turned to plants to help relieve her anxiety.

“May anxiety ako, part ng therapy is grounding and meditation. Nag-invest ako 5 muna, napansin ko nag-tone down. Umabot sa 100 plants sa Brooklyn,” she said.

“I had to move to Paris to join my then-boyfriend now-husband. Binenta ko ‘yung mga halaman ko, doon ako umiyak, hindi sa mga friends ko. Paglipat ko ng Paris, Day 2, labas ako agad bili ng plants,” she added.

For Louise Mabulo, a farmer and climate activist, this trend was a long time coming.



"Napaka-busy ng tao. Hindi nila naa-appreciate saan galing pagkain nila. When the lockdown happened, valuable pala famers. Noong na-highlight yung baking trend, mga ube keso pandesal, people started supporting local farmers and local ingredients," she said.

Having experienced the onslaught of Typhoon "Nina" in Bicol in 2016, Louise said she knew how important agriculture was to mitigating climate change.

"The Philippines is one of the most susceptible to climate change. With plants to plants, it's aesthetic, but it's also cultivating this appreciation of nature. This sense of responsibility for our plants and how vital they are. That's really important now with climate movement," she said.

"It factors in because it helps with clean air, moisture retention in soil to prevent floods, preventing erosions," she added.

Apart from its environmental impact, Louise said she simply loved planting for the sense of achievement it provided.

"You grew something yourself and you're reaping the harvest. I hope mas maraming tao can feel the same joy in different parts of the Philippines," she said.

Meanwhile, Khevin Yu, a campaigner at Greenpeace Philippines, noted that the benefits of this newfound houseplant craze on the air quality had limitations.

He acknowledged that plants provided clean air in enclosed areas and, in some cases, even reduced volatile organic compounds (VOCs), or chemical vapors emitted by everyday indoor objects, and other forms of pollutants.

But "houseplants will not be enough para bawasan yung air pollutants," he said. "Marumi 'yung hangin sa ating cities and sa provinces na may industrial establishments."

Professor Cardenas proposed scaling up the movement to benefit more areas, and perhaps even industries. "At a household level nakikita natin it brings so much: wellness, cleaner air. Sana i-scale up sa iba't ibang lugar sa Pinas." – RC, GMA News



Ecogroup advises plantitos and plantitas

Thursday, October 15, 2020 Itchie G. Cabayan9

THIS column is for the plantitos and plantitas out there.

As more Filipinos turn to growing plants for food, better household environment, improved mental health or for income augmentation amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a chemical safety advocacy group urged budding plantitas and plantitos to pick and use non-toxic gardening tools.

"Not all gardening tools are created equal. While many tools are lead-safe, there are some metallic tools painted with attractive colors that are laden with lead, a poisonous chemical that is now banned in paints and similar surface coatings," said Thony Dizon, Chemical Safety Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

Dizon explains that a chemical like lead that is linked to mental retardation, anemia, high blood pressure, reproductive disorders, heart and kidney diseases has no place in the 'healthy normal' that we aspire to shape amid the pandemic.

"Whether you are into gardening as a hobby, stress reliever, therapy or business, please make it a practice to use lead-safe tools for a healthier and safer garden," he said.

To determine if common gardening tools are safe from lead, the EcoWaste Coalition purchased 36 products costing P20 to P225 each from various retail outlets in Caloocan, Makati, Manila and Quezon Cities. The test buys were conducted from September 28 to October 1.

The group then screened the gardening tools for lead content using a handheld X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analytical device that can identify and measure lead present in a sample. Among the tools analyzed were a variety of garden cultivator, fork, hoe, rake, shovel, soil puncher, spade, trowel and weeder.

Out of 36 samples, lead in the range of 3,475 to 34,000 ppm was detected in six samples, which are way above the maximum limit of 90 ppm under the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds.

An orange painted hand rake topped the lead-coated gardening tools with 34,000 ppm, followed by an orange painted cultivator with 31,500 ppm, an orange painted weeder with 27,200 ppm, a red painted trowel with 11,200 ppm, a red painted soil puncher with 10,200 ppm, and a yellow painted garden fork with 3,475 ppm of lead.

"We find this worrisome as the lead paint in these gardening tools will surely chip over time and cause the lead in paint to get released into the soil. Children may be exposed to lead if the contaminated soil gets into their hands and mouths, which can happen as they assist their plantitas and plantitos with simple garden chores," said Dizon.

The manufacturers should be responsible enough to have their products analyzed and certified "lead-safe" before putting them in the market as ordinary consumers will have no means to test products for lead content, the EcoWaste Coalition said.

Lead has been listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) among the "ten chemicals of major public health concern" along with other nasty substances like arsenic, asbestos, cadmium, mercury and dioxins.



"At lower levels of exposure that cause no obvious symptoms and that previously were considered safe, lead is now known to produce a spectrum of injury that causes loss of cognition, shortening of attention span, alteration of behavior, dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, hypertension, renal impairment, immunotoxicity and toxicity to the reproductive organs," the WHO said.

"Children are particularly vulnerable to the neurotoxic effects of lead, and even relatively low levels of exposure can cause serious and, in some cases, irreversible neurological damage," the WHO warned.

Aside from cautioning gardening enthusiasts against purchasing lead-painted tools, the EcoWaste Coalition also pitched the idea of reusing discarded materials as gardening implements.

Toward frugal gardening, used plastic bottles and containers can be easily repurposed into a garden scoop or trowel by simply using a cutter, knife or a pair of scissors, the group suggested. So, there!

Beauty – Make a shampoo by mixing 100 g each of amla (Indian goose berry), reetha, and shikakai and boil in two liters of water until the liquid reduces to half. Use this shampoo for your hair for at least one month. Your hair will become thick (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 Johnny Cuaresma of Antipolo, Rizal)—RUSSIAN: We were first in space!/USA: We were first in the moon/ PEDRO: We will be the first to travel to the sun!/USA:You can't go there, stupid! You'll burn!!/PEDRO: We are not stupid. We'll go there at NIGHT!!

Direct Hit entertains comments, suggestions or complaints. Please have them emailed to itchiecabayan@yahoo.com or text 0917-3132168.



Solid waste reduction pushed as La Niña comes

Published 4 hours ago on October 16, 2020 02:10 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Environmental health groups on Thursday reiterated the need to aggressively implement the provisions the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003) as the country braces for increased rainfall during the La Niña months.

Jove Benosa, a Zero Waste Campaigner, made the call after the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration or (PAGASA), confirmed the onset of La Niña this month.

He said renewed community actions can prevent and reduce the generation of garbage during the La Niña months through Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM).

Data from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority previously revealed that the volume of waste generated in Metro Manila is 9,871 tons per day.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission, on the other hand, said that the entire country generates over 40,000 tons of waste daily.

“Flooding and the prevalence of diseases such as cholera and leptospirosis can make the situation worse,” warned PAGASA, as it advised “all concerned government agencies and the public to take precautionary measures to mitigate the potential impacts of this event.”

Meanwhile, Sonia Mendoza, of the Mother Earth Foundation, appealed to local chief executives and barangay leaders to ensure that ESWM in their respective areas is made “the rule rather than the exception,” especially during the La Niña period.



18-foot saltwater crocodile captured in Tawi-Tawi

October 15, 2020 3 min read

One of the residents playfully rests on the back of the 18-foot crocodile apparently exhausted after securing the creature by tying a rope around its snout to avoid causing harm to people.

By Glen Ramos

Residents of Tawi-Tawi caught the social media by storm following the capture of an 18-foot saltwater crocodile along the coastal shores of Simunul in the province on October 14, 2020, at around 4 p.m.

Photos of the crocodile surfaced on the internet since then and today through Facebook users Grace Nuka and Krystian Amri Mufti who first shared the magnificent pictures of the creature through their respective FB accounts.

According to Facebook posts of other residents, the creature was brought to the local government of Simunul and will then be turned over to the local tourism office.

The residents helped secure the animal by tying a rope around its mouth in an effort to prevent it from causing any harm to people.

It was later loaded into a truck and was brought to the care of the local government.

The Balabac Island Groups, which is located at the southernmost tip of Palawan, holds the greatest number of crocodiles and crocodile attacks in the country.

The latest incident was that of a 30-year old local named Boyet Cayao, resident of Sitio Sebaring 2, Barangay Sebaring, Balabac in June 2020.

According to a report of the local government, the victim sustained 22 bite marks on his legs and other parts of the body. He was just about to go up the stairs when the crocodile grabbed him.

According to the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI), there is an estimated wild crocodile population of 519 non-hatchlings in 2019.

Non-hatchlings mean that crocodiles can already compete with other predator and are not prone to environmental stress.

Crocodile is a large predatory semiaquatic reptile with long jaws, long tail, short legs, and a horny textured skin, using submersion and stealth to approach prey unseen. Its skin is very valuable and used as leather for shoes, jackets and bags.



The longest and largest crocodile on record was “Lolong” who was caught in Bunawan creek in the province of Agusan del Sur in the Philippines on September 3, 2011.

Lolong was a saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) measuring 6.17 meters or 20 feet 3 inches from snout to tail and weighed 1,075 kilograms. He died on February 10, 2013, in captivity.

The 18-ft long crocodile caught yesterday along the shore of Simunul in Tawi-Tawi is being lifted by residents away from the water.

A man secures the tail of the 18-ft long crocodile with a rope as the animal was hauled on a truck, to be brought to local government officials in Simunul, Tawi-Tawi on October 14, 2020.

(Photos grabbed from the facebook accounts of Grace Nuka and Krystian Amri Mufti)



Higanteng buwaya nahuli sa Simunul, Tawi-Tawi

Oktubre 15, 2020 9:06am GMT+08:00

Isang dambuhalang buwaya ang nahuli sa bayan ng Simunul sa lalawigan ng Tawi-Tawi.

Iniulat ng "Unang Balita" nitong Huwebes na nagkagulo ang mga residente nang maispatan ang buwaya sa may dalampasigan.

Batang vlogger, biglang dami ang followers nang mag-celebrate kahit 2 lang ang subscribers

WATCH: Estudyanteng hindi nagsuot ng face mask sa klase, sinapak at sinabunutan ng guro

Taong namatay, itinuro ang naiwang pamana sa panaginip?

Nahuli ang buwaya na may habang tinatayang mahigit 18 talampakan.

Ayon sa ulat, dadalhin ang hayop sa tourism office ng Simunul.

Noong Setyembre ng taong 2017, nahuli rin sa naturang bayan ang isang higanteng buwaya. — LBG, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/759953/higanteng-buwaya-nahuli-sa-simunul-tawi-tawi/story/>



TINGNAN: Buwayang may habang 17 talampakan, nahuli sa Tawi-Tawi

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 15 2020 03:50 PM | Updated as of Oct 15 2020 04:00 PM



Dinala na raw ang buwaya sa isang mini-mangrove forest sa Simunul sa Tawi-tawi at maayos ang kalagayan nito. *Bayan Patroller Krystian Mufti*

Nahuli ng mga mangingisda nitong Miyerkoles ang isang buwayang may 17.11 talampakan sa Taytay beach sa munisipalidad ng Simunul sa Tawi-tawi.

Ayon kay Bayan Patroller Krystian Mufti, namataan ng mga mangingisda na pagala-gala ang buwaya sa naturang beach.

Maaari aniyang naligaw lamang ito.



May habang 17.11 talampakan ang buwayang nahuli ng mga mangingisda sa Taytay beach sa Simunul, Tawi-Tawi. *Bayan Patroller Krystian Mufti*

"Siyempre, wala pong buwaya [na] tumitira sa area namin. Siguro, naligaw lang po [yong] buwaya," sabi niya.

Dinala na ang buwaya sa isang mini-mangrove forest sa munisipalidad at maayos ang kalagayan nito, dagdag ni Mufti.

Kasama ng 17-talampakang buwaya sa naturang mini-mangrove forest ang isa pang naligaw na buwaya doon noong 2017. May haba naman ito na 16 talampakan.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/15/20/tingnan-buwayang-may-habang-17-talampakan-nahuli-sa-tawi-tawi?fbclid=IwAR04_uWcZ-u8kqe8Cmpsm_hYTofSFIPoVPysFSKUyrtURw_47G27B7ZFO9w



Putting PNP 'house in order' means ease of doing business with citizenry — Cascolan

[Thursday, October 15, 2020](#) [Alfred P. Dalizon15](#)

PHILIPPINE National Police chief, General Camilo Pancratius P. Cascolan yesterday said his program to put their 'house in order' otherwise known as their decongestion plan will further support President Rodrigo Duterte's advocacy on 'ease of doing business' with all government frontliners.

Since last month, the top cop has ordered the implementation of a Comprehensive PNP Master Development Plan for all police camps including their national headquarters at Camp Crame.

"As part of our first strategic thrust, we have started the process of decongesting and streamlining units and offices at the National Headquarters starting with the Directorates for Police Operations (DIPOs) relocating them to their areas of responsibility so that they will be closer to the public and provide faster and better delivery of their services," he said.

This month, Gen. Cascolan said all DIPOs will be moving to their satellite offices pending the finalization of the Memorandum of Agreements with the donors and the establishment of their camps and facilities some of which will be done with the help of partner agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways and local government units.

He said that the headquarters of other units like the PNP Maritime Group, Highway Patrol, Police Security and Protection Group, Special Action Force, Logistics Support Service, Training Service and Health Service will also be relocated.

"The process for their relocation are also being facilitated in close coordination with the LGUs of Cavinti, Laguna; Bamban, Tarlac; Tanza, Cavite and the Department Of Environment and Natural Resources and Bases Conversion Development Authority," the PNP chief said.

According to Gen. Cascolan, part of the decongestion plan and in support to President Duterte's advocacy on 'ease of doing business', is the relocation of frontline services from Camp Crame to Commercial Malls making them more accessible and more convenient to the public.

He cited the joint efforts of their Advisory Council, the Center for Police Strategy Management and the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management which prompted SM Super Malls president Steven Tan to allocate a space for the issuance of PNP National Clearance in their malls, initially at the SM Mall of Asia, South Mall, Bacoor City in Cavite, Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija and in Mexico, Pampanga.

Gen. Cascolan said negotiations are also being done for the allocation of similar space for the issuance of firearms and security guards licenses in SM Malls.

He also commended the regional directors of Police Regional Offices 1, 2 and 6: Brigadier Gens. Rodolfo S. Azurin Jr., Crizaldo O. Nieves and Rene P. Pamuspusan for immediately submitting their respective Camp Development plans including the required budgetary requirement.

The PNP chief said that the PRO1 in Ilocos-Pangasinan has done a great initiative of even commissioning the assistance of architecture and engineering students in the different colleges and universities in developing their Camp Development Plans.

He also cited the Camp Development of the PRO2 in Cagayan Valley and the Isabela Police Provincial Office which was named after their fallen classmate from Philippine Military Academy 'Sinagtala' Class of 1986, the late Constabulary Lieutenant Rosauro D. Toda Jr.



“For our facilities development aiming to provide more pleasing and work-conducive offices, the Directorate for Information Communications Technology Management and the Information Technology Management Service has near 100 percent completion of both the PNP One Network and the PNP Email System providing almost all PNP personnel with their official email accounts that they should use in their official transactions and communications,” he added.

Gen. Cascolan said he is bent on implementing a 9-point action agenda focused on the highly-ambitious PNP Sustainable Development Program which include transferring police units outside of Camp Crame and bringing them much closer to areas where their services are much needed by the public.

The plan includes relocating the PNP Maritime Group headquarters and their modern patrols boats to an area near the sea and the PNP Highway Patrol Group to a place where they can be immediately reached by the motorists in case of emergency or those applying for motor vehicle clearances.

According to Gen. Cascolan, he wants the continuous full implementation of the PNP Modernization Program 2030 through the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030 aimed at having a highly-capable, effective and credible police force.

“We will first implement this plan in the National Headquarters and then to all PNP camps by decongesting and streamlining units and offices, relocating operational units closer to the public for faster and better delivery of their services,” he said.

Under the PNP Decongestion Plan, the five PNP Directorates for Integrated Police Operations and the PNP Maritime Group, Highway Patrol Group, Police Security and Protection Group, Logistics Support Service, Explosives and Ordnance Division/K-9 Unit, Training Service and Health Service which are all holding office in Camp Crame will be transferred to other locations in order to provide a more efficient service to their internal and external clients.

The plan also includes the decentralization of the PNP One-Stop Shop, the Firearms and Explosives Office, Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies, Directorate for Intelligence Clearance Division, the National Police Clearance office and the PNP-HPG Motor Vehicle Clearance Division.

The PNP Special Action Force headquarters will also be relocated under the plan. At present, the PNP-SAF's headquarters is located at the National Capital Region Police Office headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City.

The transfer of the five DIPOs and national operational and administrative support units to other locations outside of Camp Crame will also address the problem of lack of parking spaces in the national headquarters and at the same time minimize the number of people which adds up to security problems during the 'New Normal' triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/editorial/opinion/putting-pnp-house-in-order-means-ease-of-doing-business-with-citizenry-cascolan/>



BREAKING: Confirmed COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas, umabot na sa 348,698

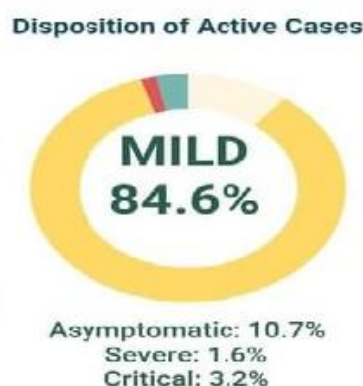
By Angellic Jordan October 15, 2020 - 04:14 PM



2,261 newly-reported cases

Top Provinces by newly-announced cases

NCR	566
CAVITE	174
PANGASINAN	145
NORTHERN SAMAR	104
QUEZON	98



Note: 14 labs were not able to submit data to the COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) on October 14, 2020.

f OfficialDOHgov @DOHgovph doh.gov.ph (02) 894-COVID / 1555

Lagpas 2,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Huwebes (October 15), umabot na sa 348,698 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 48,040 ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 2,261 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

84.6 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 10.7 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.6 porsyento ang severe habang 3.2 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 50 ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 6,497 ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 385 naman ang gumaling pa sa bansa.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 294,161 ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



DOH COVID-19

CASE BULLETIN # 215 | October 15, 2020

Total Reported Recoveries
294,161



+385 reported today

77 case/s have been removed from the list of COVID-19 patients and recoveries.

Total Reported Deaths
6,497

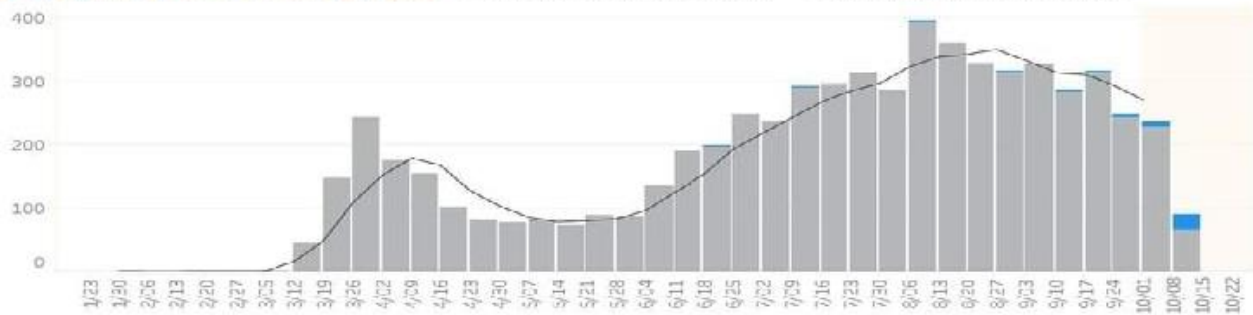


+50 reported today

2 case/s have been removed from the list of COVID-19 patients and deaths.

Confirmed Deaths by Week of Death (Nationwide)

■ Reported on October 15, 2020 ■ Previously Reported - 4-week Moving Average



* 7 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



PH Covid-19 active cases gradually decreasing: Galvez

By Lade Jean Kabagani **October 15, 2020, 6:40 pm**



National Policy against Covid-19 chief implementer and Presidential Peace Adviser Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. (Screengrabbed RTVM)

MANILA – National Policy against Covid-19 chief implementer, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., on Thursday said active cases are gradually decreasing with the government's efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

In a virtual press briefing, Galvez said the recorded 88,000 active cases on August 15, which he attributed as the highest surge of Covid-19, have dropped to only 46,000.

In Metro Manila, he said, the recorded 20,000 active cases in September were reduced to only 7,830 active cases.

"Meaning from 20 percent active cases, now, it's only 6 percent of the active cases," he said.

Galvez noted that there is a "negative growth" of Covid-19 cases within Metro Manila.

He also reported that some 12 cities have recorded 90 percent of Covid-19 recoveries.

Expanded pandemic response

As per the recommendation of experts, Galvez said the government commits to strictly enforce the so-called seven commandments for all public transportation which include wearing of proper face masks, wearing of face shields, no talking and eating policy, provision of adequate ventilation, frequent disinfection, disallowing symptomatic passengers as well as strict observance of physical distancing measures.

Galvez cited that observance of physical distancing is vital in sustaining gains against Covid-19.

He said the government will still implement the Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Recovery strategy under the third phase of the national action plan (NAP 3).

Galvez said the NAP 3 will serve as the country's transition plan going to the new normal.

"We will emphasize more on the prevention and detection side," he said.

He added that the government's "Ingat Buhay Para sa Hanapbuhay" along with the private sector's "Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat" have provided good traction in the country's prevention strategy drive.

Under the detection strategy, Galvez said the government established Covid-19 Coordinated Operations to Defeat Epidemic (CODE) team at the barangay level to maintain active case finding and syndromic surveillance.

They are tasked to immediately separate the symptomatic individuals away from the community, even without testing for Covid-19.



The government, meanwhile, will strictly impose the expanded Oplan Kalinga, which disallows anyone to undergo home quarantine.

They are tasked to immediately separate the symptomatic individuals away from the community, even without testing for Covid-19.

The government, meanwhile, will strictly impose the expanded Oplan Kalinga, which disallows anyone to undergo home quarantine.

"We are encouraging coronavirus patients to avoid home quarantine," Galvez said.

Under the treatment strategy, Galvez said the government will intensify the 'One Hospital Command' policy while strengthening the quarantine measures and minimum health standards in all business establishments and workplaces.

"Our strategy is to open up our economy, to provide sufficient transportation for workers while ensuring health and safety our fellow citizens," he said.

The government seeks to establish strong links and partnerships among LGUs, the private sector, and other stakeholders in a bid to intensify the country's responses to the pandemic.

He said the national government targets to further institutionalize the pandemic response down to the cities, municipalities, and at the barangay level.

The One Hospital Command referral system will be replicated in all regional levels along with the LGUs, health professionals, the business sector, religious and key stakeholders that are working together within the Covid-19 one-stop-shop center, he added.

"We will carry out aggressive contact tracing, testing, treatment, and isolation measures so that we can bring down our active cases to the lowest manageable percentage," Galvez said.

Ways forward

Galvez earlier said political bickering in some LGUs has affected the imposition of pandemic interventions and other efforts to curve the spread of the Covid-19.

"We bridge political division through the unity of efforts and unity of command process," he said.

The National Task Force on Covid-19, Galvez said, has been encouraging local leaders to set aside differences to perform well amid the pandemic.

Galvez said the government targets to reduce active cases and minimize deaths while increasing the recovery rate.

"With all of this, I am confident, we can further reduce the transmission, gradually bring our vibrant economy back as we transitioned to the new normal," said Galvez.

On the other hand, Galvez admitted that the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has a significant part in the country's testing capacity.

Galvez thanked the PRC for its contribution to further expand the country's testing capacity and effective handling of the country's one-stop shops for returning OFWs and seafarers.

He noted that the government is still trying to resolve the matter between PRC and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

Galvez said Dante Gierran, the newly appointed PhilHealth chief, would just "want to make sure that all of this is in order."



"I believed that the major consequence of the Red Cross' stoppage is stemmed to those returning OFWs," Galvez said, in the light of the issue wherein the PRC halted the coronavirus tests that are being charged to the PhilHealth.

Those Covid-19 test samples — deemed affected by the PRC's stoppage, would temporarily be delivered to the government's testing facilities, Galvez said, while PhilHealth is settling the matter with the PRC.

He said LGUs also have laboratories to accept tests for the first and second contacts of the Covid-19 patients, following the decision of the PRC to stop testing the specimen of returning OFWs, those arriving in airports and seaports, those in mega swabbing facilities, and frontline health and government workers. **(PNA)**



MAY COVID-19 NA, MAY LA NIÑA PA



October 16, 2020 @ 12:18 AM 6 hours ago

HUWAG gawing biro ang kambal na dumating na pinagmumulan at pagmumulan ng paghihirap nating lahat.

Ang walong buwan nang coronavirus disease-19 at ang nagsimula nang La Niña na maaaring magtagal hanggang sa unang tatlong buwan ng 2021.

Mismong ang Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration ang nagsabing may La Niña.

ANG COVID-19 AT SAKIT MULA SA LA NIÑA

Kung tutuusin, hindi na natin tatalakayin ito ngayon dahil bugbog nang usapin ito.

Subalit sa pagdating ng La Niña, kinailangan nating magsiguro na huwag hayaan itong makadagdag ng sakit na COVID-19 sa atin.

Sa La Niña kasi, kapag hindi tayo mag-ingat, maaaring magkasakit tayo ng mga sipon, ubo, hika, pneumonia at iba pa na konektado sa ating baga at madaling sakyan ng COVID-19.

Paborito ng pandemya na sumakay sa mga problema natin sa baga kaya hangga't makakaya natin, huwag tayong basta sugod nang sugod kahit saan kung may mga ulan, baha, bagyo at iba pa na dala na rin ng tag-ulan at taglamig na nagsimula nang dumating sa mahal kong Pinas.

Siguro, ang isa sa mga alalahanin natin, kung naging pabaya tayo sa ating kalusugan at hindi natin pinansin ang posibleng pagkakasakit natin sa La Niña at tag-ulan, kapag humalo ang COVID-19 dito, abot-langit ang ating gastos.

Kapag itinakbo ka sa pribadong ospital, anak ng tokwa, swerte mo kung hanggang P500,000-800,000 lang ang gastos mo.

Para sa severe o malala at kritikal na maaari mong ikamatay, ang ganyang gastusan.

Kaya, 'yang La Niña na pupwedeng lumikha n gating sakit na sasakyan ng COVID-19 ay dapat nating pag-ingatan.



BAGYO, BAHA, LANDSLIDE

Gaya ng naranasan na natin, nariyan ang mga bagyong nagdaan na Nika at Ofel at nagkasunod pa.

Sabi ng PAGASA, tatlong bagyo ang darating ngayong Oktubre at heto nga, dumaan na sina Nika at Ofel

At tiyak na may darating pa sa susunod na limang buwan.

Nasaan naman ang ating mga paghahanda?

Sa laban sa baha, halimbawa, nakatulong ba tayo sa mismong ating mga bahay at paligid sa paglilinis ng mga agusan ng tubig at nagpulot at nagtapon na ba tayo nang tama ng ating mga basura?

Kung may mga espasyo naman tayo, kahit papaano, nakapagtanim ba tayo kahit isang puno man lang laban din sa baha at makatipid pa ng tubig dahil hindi na natin kailangan ang magdilig?

Alalahaning ang isang puno ay 75 porsyento ng katawan nito ang may tubig dahil naninipsip ito ng tubig upang mabuhay.

Sa laban sa landslide, nakipag-ugnayan na ba tayo sa ating mga pamahalaang barangay at bayan ukol sa mga landslide prone area, lalo na ang mga nakatira sa kaburolan o kabundukan?

Ang mga nasa tabing ilog o dagat ang mga tahanan at hanapbuhay, kumusta ang mga paghahanda natin sa mga baha na galing sa mga ulan, dam, storm surge at tsunami?

Alam na ba natin kung saan tayo tatakbo na mga evacuation center?

At alam ba natin ang maingat na pagbabakwit dahil maghahalo-halo ang mga may COVID-19 at wala nito?

Tinatanong natin ito dahil nawala sa social distancing ang mga tinamaan ng mga kalamidad sa pagtakbo nila sa mga evacuation center.

KALAHATI SA GOBYERNO, KALAHATI SA TAO

Kung minsan at madala pa nga na ang gobyerno ang sinisi natin sa mga aberyang dumarating sa atin.

Pati nga Diyos idinadamay natin sa pagsasabing kagustuhan niya lahat ang nagaganap.

Ang totoo, kung tao at pamahalaan ang usapan kaugnay ng COVID-19, La Niña, ulan, baha, landslide at iba pa, kasama na ang mga gutom at iba pang paghihirap natin, masasabing hati ang taon at pamahalaan sa responsibilidad.



'Yun bang === hindi pupwedeng iasa ng mga mamamayan ang lahat sa pamahalaan upang maligtas sila sa mga nasabing kapahamakan, sakit at paghihirap.

Gayundin na hindi pupwedeng ipasa ng pamahalaan ang buong responsibilidad sa mga mamamayan.

Pinakamabuting laging hanapin natin lahat ang mga pupwede nating ikontribusyon sa pamahalaan bilang tugon sa obligasyon ng pamahalaan na kupkupin tayong lahat sa lahat ng ating mga pangangailangan.

Lalo ngayong may pandemya na talaga namang naging dagdag-pasanin nating lahat hanggang sa maramdaman nating nasa gitna na tayo ng matinding krisis sa kabuhatan, kalusugan, edukasyon at iba pa.

Ang susi talaga upang mapangibabawan natin ang sobra-sobrang krisis ay pagkakaisa, pagtutulungan, kapatiran, inisyatiba, paniniwala sa Diyos at hindi ang maghanap ng mga ikasisira ng isa't isa.

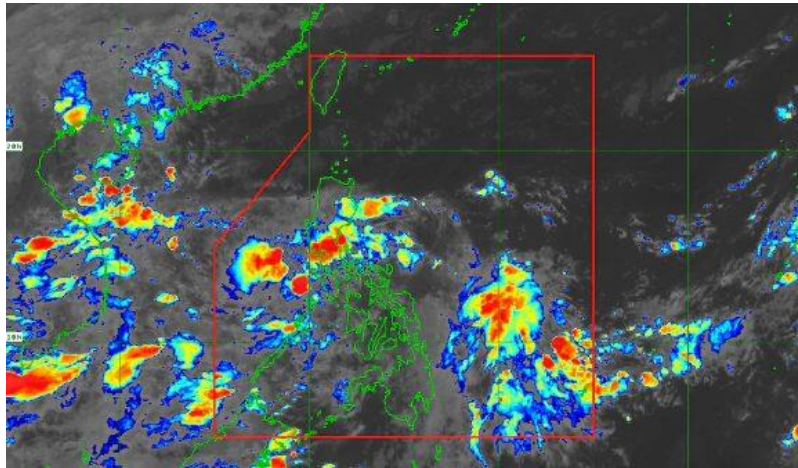


LATEST

'Ofel,' monsoon bringing in rains

Published 23 hours ago on October 15, 2020 07:20 AM

By **TDT** @tribunephil



OFEL's location early Friday based on satellite imaging.

Tropical depression Ofel and the southwest monsoon are expected to bring rains in Luzon and Visayas today, according to PAGASA.

Ofel's rains and gusty winds will be felt in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Bataan.

The two weather systems are to bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, BARMM, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Bicol Region, MIMAROPA, Quezon, Rizal, and Pangasinan.

The rest of the country is expected to be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rains.

The center of Ofel was seen over the coastal waters of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro as of 4 a.m. today. It has maximum sustained winds of 45 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 55 kilometers per hour.

Ofel is moving west-northwestward at 20 kilometers per hour.

Gusty conditions may be experienced over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, Cordillera Administrative Region, Aurora, and the coastal and mountainous areas of Ilocos Norte and mainland Cagayan Valley.

Gale Warning is in effect over the entire seaboard of Northern Luzon and the seaboard of Aurora due to rough to very rough seas making sea travel risky over these areas, especially for small sea vessels.

p/jd

Next pandemic? Amazon deforestation could spark new diseases

Fabio Zuker, Thomson Reuters Foundation

Posted at Oct 16 2020 02:56 AM



A burning tract of the Amazon jungle is seen near Apui, Amazonas State, Brazil, August 11, 2020. *Ueslei Marcelino, Reuters/File*

SAO PAULO - As farms expand into the Amazon rainforest, felled trees and expanding pastures may open the way for new Brazilian exports beyond beef and soybeans, researchers say: pandemic diseases.

Changes in the Amazon are driving displaced species of animals, from bats to monkeys to mosquitoes, into new areas, while opening the region to arrivals of more savanna-adapted species, including rodents.

Those shifts, combined with greater human interaction with animals as people move deeper into the forest, is increasing the chances of a virulent virus, bacteria or fungus jumping species, said Adalberto Luís Val a researcher at INPA, the National Institute for Research in the Amazon, based in Manaus.

Climate change, which is driving temperature and rainfall changes, adds to the risks, the biologist said.

"There is a great concern because ... there is a displacement of organisms. They try to adapt, face these new challenging scenarios by changing places," Val told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.

The Evandro Chagas Institute, a public health research organization in the city of Belém, has identified about 220 different types of viruses in the Amazon, 37 of which can cause diseases in humans and 15 of which have the potential to cause epidemics, the researcher said.

They include a range of different encephalitis varieties as well as West Nile fever and rocio, a Brazilian virus from the same family that produces yellow fever and West Nile, he noted in an article published in May by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

Val said he was especially concerned about arboviruses, which can be transmitted by insects such as the mosquitoes that carry dengue fever and Zika.

'SPILLOVER'

Cecília Andreazzi, a researcher at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), a major public health institute in Brazil, said the current surge in deforestation and fires in the Amazon can lead to new meetings between species on the move - each a chance for an existing pathogen to transform or jump species.

The ecologist maps existing infectious agents among Brazil's animals and constructs mathematical models about how the country's changing landscape "is influencing the structure of these interactions".

What she is looking for is likely "spillover" opportunities, when a pathogen in one species could start circulating in another, potentially creating a new disease - as appears to have happened in China with the virus that causes COVID-19, she said.

"Megadiverse countries with high social vulnerability and growing environmental degradation are prone to pathogen spillover from wildlife to humans, and they require policies aimed at avoiding the emergence of zoonoses," she and other researchers wrote in a letter in *The Lancet*, a science journal, in September.

Brazil, they said, had already seen "clear warnings" of a growing problem, with the emergence of a Brazilian hemorrhagic fever, rodent-carried hantaviruses, and a mosquito-transmitted arbovirus called oropouche.

Brazil's Amazon has registered some of the worst fires in a decade this year, as deforestation and invasions of indigenous land grow under right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, who has urged that the Amazon be developed as a means of fighting poverty.

In a speech before the UN General Assembly last month, he angrily denied the existence of fires in the Amazon rainforest, calling them a "lie," despite data produced by his own government showing thousands of blazes surging across the region.

'BLAME THE BAT'

João Paulo Lima Barreto, a member of the Tukano indigenous people, said one way of combatting the emergence of new pandemic threats is reviving old knowledge about relationships among living things.

Barreto, who is doing doctoral research on shamanistic knowledge and healing at the Federal University of Amazonas, created Bahserikowi'i, an indigenous medicine center that brings the knowledge of the Upper Rio Negro shamans to Manaus, the Amazon's largest city.

He has called for indigenous knowledge systems to be taken seriously.

"The model of our relationship with our surroundings is wrong," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.

"It is very easy for us to blame the bat, to blame the monkey, to blame the pig" when a new disease emerges, Barreto said. "But in fact, the human is causing this, in the relationship that we build with the owners of the space".

Without adequate preservation of forests, rivers and animals, imbalance and disease are generated, he said, as humans fail to respect nature entities known to shamans as "wai-mahsã".

Andreazzi said particularly strong disease risks come from converting Amazonian forest into more open, savanna-like pastures and fields, which attract marsupials and also rodents, carriers of hantaviruses.

"If you transform the Amazon into a field, you are creating this niche" and species may expand their ranges to fill it, she said, with "the abundance of these species greatly increasing".

In the face of deforestation, animals are "relocating, moving. And the pathogen, the virus... is looking for hosts" - a situation that creates "very high adaptive capacity", she said.

But Andreazzi worries about old diseases, as well as new ones.

As the Amazon changes, new outbreaks of threats such as malaria, leishmaniasis and Chagas disease - transmitted by a "kissing bug" and capable of causing heart damage - have been registered, she said.

"We don't even need to talk about the new diseases. The old ones already carry great risks," she added.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/10/16/20/next-pandemic-amazon-deforestation-could-spark-new-diseases>



Volunteers from various NGOs and government offices join hands in a coastal cleanup operation at the Cavitex mangrove park in Parañaque City on Saturday morning, September 7, 2019. GMA News

Big payoff if Nature restored in the right places —experts

Published October 15, 2020 5:35pm

By MARLOWE HOOD, Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Restoring 30 percent of ecosystems long-since converted to agriculture and other human needs could avoid 70 percent of predicted species extinctions and absorb half the CO2 humanity has released into the atmosphere since the industrial revolution, according to an ambitious blueprint for healing the planet released Wednesday.

But it would have to be the right 30 percent to yield maximum benefits, an international team of experts said in a study positioning itself as the scientific cornerstone for a crucial biodiversity summit in China next year.

"Implementing restoration in priority areas would be a major contribution to overcoming the twin climate and biodiversity crises," lead author Bernardo Strassburg, director of the International Institute for Sustainability and an assistant professor at PUC-Rio University, told AFP.

Returning wetlands to their natural state would bring the highest return on investment, both in preventing species loss and slowing the pace of global warming, the study found.

Tropical forests are second-tier priority area, though all types of ecosystems—including temperate forests, savannahs and scrublands—have a role to play.

In all, the regions earmarked for restoration under the plan cover nearly nine million square kilometers, roughly the size of Brazil.

The study also looks at cost, concluding that concentrating investment on key areas would be at least 10 times more cost-effective than randomly distributed efforts.

The United Nations has tagged the 2020s as the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and many companies see the renewal of natural environments as a "low-hanging fruit" far cheaper than engineered or technological solutions, said Strassburg.



"A lot depends on whether countries will choose a green recovery path from the COVID-19 economic crisis," he said.

Economic recovery packages around the world total many trillion dollars so far, but some are more reliant on carbon-intensive inputs and infrastructure building than others.

Failed efforts

So far, efforts to protect and restore Nature on a global scale have failed spectacularly.

The planet is on the cusp of a mass extinction event—only the sixth in the last half-billion years—in which species are disappearing at 100 to 1,000 times the normal "background" rate, most scientists agree.

The UN's science advisory panel for biodiversity warned in a landmark report last year that one million species face extinction, due mostly to habitat loss and over-exploitation.

As climate change kicks in over the coming decades, the pace at which life forms disappear will likely intensify.

"This gets harder if climate change goes towards the worst-case scenarios, but our optimistic assumption is that we will stay on less pessimistic pathways" in keeping with the 2015 Paris Agreement, which calls for capping global warming at well below two degrees Celsius, Strassburg said.

A score of 2020 targets under 195-nation Convention on Biological Diversity designed to protect and restore Nature—including a slowdown in habitat loss—have all been badly missed, according to a UN assessment released last month.

Indeed environmental degradation continues apace across a wide range of measures.

In 2019, a football pitch of primary, old-growth trees was destroyed every six seconds—about 38,000 square kilometers (14,500 square miles) in all, according to satellite data.

Still enough food?

Reverting agricultural land to a wild state in a world still plagued by hunger and anticipating another two billion mouths to feed also raises the specter of food shortages.

"It will not be easy and will require concerted efforts," Strassburg concedes. "But it is feasible."

A modest uptick in the pace of increasing agricultural productivity, a 50 percent reduction in food waste, and a shift in human diets away from meat and dairy would render the plan feasible, the study found.



The highest-priority targets for restoration are concentrated in the tropics and sub-tropics, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, India, The Philippines, Vietnam, the coastal regions of Kenya and Tanzania, Madagascar, east Africa from Gambia to Nigeria, Brazil and central America.

But asking these countries alone to shoulder the burden of "rewilding" cropland is unfair and politically unfeasible, so the scientists modeled a scenario in which all nations restore 15 percent of the priority areas within their borders.

Compared to the optimal plan, benefits for species and climate change were reduced by about 30 percent, while costs increase by half.

The researchers combined mathematically-based modelling and cutting-edge mapping technologies to assess nearly 30 million square kilometers of ecosystems worldwide that had been transformed into agricultural or pasture land.

More than half were originally forests, while a quarter were grasslands and 14% were shrubland. Only two percent were wetlands. —AFP

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/760034/big-payoff-if-nature-restored-in-the-right-places-experts/story/>



Global CO2 emissions show biggest ever drop in first half of 2020

Reuters / 04:37 PM October 15, 2020



FILE PHOTO: The Forbidden City is seen from the top of Jingshan Park during a heavily polluted day in Beijing, China, November 29, 2015. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon

LONDON — Global carbon dioxide emissions fell by 8.8% in the first six months of this year, the biggest drop for a first half-year period, due to the effects of coronavirus-related restrictions, a study showed on Wednesday.

Research published in the journal *Nature Communications* by a group of scientists from China, France, Japan and the United States, said emissions fell by 1,551 million tonnes or 8.8% in the first half of the year, compared to the same period last year.

The 8.8% reduction represents largest ever fall in emissions over the first half year, larger than for any economic downturn. The drop was also larger than the annual decrease during World War Two, although mean emissions are much bigger now than at that time.

The scientists used data based on real-time activity and analyzed the daily, weekly and seasonal trends of CO2 emissions before and after the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn it triggered.

This spring, governments around the world imposed lockdowns to contain the COVID-19 pandemic which curtailed energy use for industrial production and transport. This resulted in greenhouse gas emissions declining.

Warmer-than-usual weather across much of the northern hemisphere also meant that emissions were somewhat lower than they would have been in the same period of last year.

The study said the fall in daily CO2 emissions was most pronounced in April when the toughest restrictions were in place. Emissions began to recover in late April and May as economic activity resumed in China and parts of Europe.

But falls in transport-related emissions persisted.

“By July 1, the pandemic’s effects on global emissions diminished as lockdown restrictions relaxed and some economic activities restarted, especially in China and several European countries,” the paper said.

“However, substantial differences persist between countries, with continuing emission declines in the U.S. where coronavirus cases are still increasing substantially,” it added.

Source: <https://technology.inquirer.net/104759/global-co2-emissions-show-biggest-ever-drop-in-first-half-of-2020>



Australia's Great Barrier Reef might lose ability to recover from warming

By [Reuters](#) - October 15, 2020 - 11:02 AM



A tourist snorkels above coral in the lagoon located on Lady Elliot Island on the Great Barrier Reef, 80 kilometers north-east from the town of Bundaberg in Queensland, Australia, June 9, 2015. (Reuters/David Gray//File Photo)

SYDNEY — Australia's Great Barrier Reef has lost more than half its coral in the last three decades and scientists fear the loss caused by frequent bleaching will compromise its ability to recover.

Record-breaking temperatures that triggered bleaching events in 2016 and 2017 have meant fewer small, baby corals and breeding adult ones, said Terry Hughes, professor at ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University.

"That means the resilience of the reef, its ability to bounce back from recurrent mass bleaching events, has been compromised," said Hughes.

"We used to think the Great Barrier Reef is protected by its sheer size, but our results show that even the world's largest and relatively well-protected reef system is increasingly compromised and in decline."

Bleaching early this year could have caused more damage to the reef's southern region, Hughes said. The reef suffered its most extensive bleaching event in March, the third one in five years.

The Great Barrier Reef runs 2,300 km (1,429 miles) down Australia's northeast coast spanning an area half the size of Texas. It was world heritage listed in 1981 by UNESCO as the most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem on the planet. —Reporting by Renju Jose and James Redmayne Editing by Robert Birsell

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2020/10/15/178773/australias-great-barrier-reef-might-lose-ability-to-recover-from-warming/>



'Big pieces' of Kilimanjaro 'missing' due to climate crisis, says ice climber Will Gadd

By Noura Abou Zeinab, for CNN

Updated 0928 GMT (1728 HKT) October 15, 2020



(CNN) Will Gadd has witnessed at close hand the destruction being wrought by the climate crisis.

The ice [climber](#) has spent his life completing one daring expedition after another in some of the coldest places on earth.

But increasingly he sees his "office" melting away and changing beyond recognition.

Earlier in 2020, Gadd climbed Mount Kilimanjaro's now-melting ice cap for possibly the last time.

"Some of the ice that I climbed just six years ago, in 2014, it is gone," he told CNN Sport.

"It's definitely a very different mountain. It's a bit of an emotional rollercoaster to get there and see the ice that we wanted to climb and then have big pieces of it missing."

Gadd has been dubbed a "Mountain Hero" by the United Nations for his work exploring how climate change has impacted the world's mountains, but the ice climber is above all concerned by how such changes will affect the lives of local people.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/15/sport/will-gadd-ice-climber-climate-change-spt-intl/index.html>



The growing movement to stop climate change

Published October 15, 2020, 4:51 PM
by [Manila Bulletin](#)



One development arising from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is the huge drop in industrial activity around the world, as factories shut down, millions of cars stayed off the roads, and people stayed home in lockdowns ordered by governments to help stop the spread of the virus.

This year, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) led by Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations led by Russia slashed production by 90.7 million barrels per day (BPD), about 10 percent of the global supply.

But with the improving situation, OPEC expects world oil demand to rise in the next few years. It should jump to 97.7 million BPD next year, 2021, OPEC said. It should reach 99.8 million BPD in 2023, and grow to 102.6 million by 2024. World oil demand is expected to plateau in the late 2030s, then begin to decline.

Even as the world's top oil suppliers assessed the situation resulting from the pandemic, a movement was launched by an international group concerned by the world climate crisis. It called on governments and citizens to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half over the next decade and get to net-zero carbon pollution by the year 2050.

The speakers at the TED (Technology-Entertainment-Design) event free-streamed around the world condemned firms that make fortunes from polluting fossil fuels; that would include the OPEC nations and companies. And they called on people to use their voting power to elect officials who prioritize stopping the climate crisis; that would reject United States President Donald Trump who has dismissed the claim that climate change is behind the fires now sweeping the US west.

Pope Francis added his voice to the movement to stop the increasing damage to the environment. The climate crisis is real and must be urgently confronted in ways that are socially just, he said. "The earth must be worked and nursed, cultivated and protected."

The organizers of the event named "Countdown" set a goal of mobilizing governments and citizens to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half in the next decade and zero pollution by the year 2050. Last month, China President Xi Jinping surprised the world when he announced before the UN General Assembly that China will now start cutting its carbon emissions and end its net contribution to climate change by 2060.

These are among the more recent reports related to fossil fuels and climate change around the world. We in the Philippines recognize the tremendous difficulty of lessening our dependence on fossil fuels to run our industries, but we are doing our share through the development of renewable energy such as wind power and sunlight power farms.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/15/the-growing-movement-to-stop-climate-change/>



NGOs and businesses call for UN treaty on plastic pollution

By [BusinessMirror](#)

October 15, 2020

Major businesses issued a call today for a UN treaty on plastic pollution to address the fragmented landscape of regulation and complement existing voluntary measures, supporting the existing call from leading NGOs including WWF and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation for this important international agreement.

In a joint report, *The Business Case for a UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution*, WWF, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Boston Consulting Group conclude that despite a doubling of voluntary initiatives and national regulations over the last five years, plastic waste continues to leak into the environment at alarming rates – with more than 11 million tonnes of plastic flowing into our oceans each year. There is an urgent need to amplify current efforts through a more coordinated and ambitious approach.

The report sets out the opportunity for a new global UN treaty on plastic pollution to significantly accelerate progress towards a circular economy for plastics. Through the establishment of a common structure it would set a clear direction and conditions, giving governments and businesses the impetus to move forward more decisively. The report's authors argue that a global agreement setting out global goals and binding targets, together with national action plans and consistent measurement is needed to harmonise policy efforts, enhance investment planning, stimulate innovation and coordinate infrastructure development. While voluntary initiatives can deliver change among market leaders, an international binding approach is needed to deliver the necessary industry scale change.

Twenty nine major global companies, including Amcor, Borealis, Danone, H&M, Mars, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Tesco, The Coca-Cola Company, Unilever and Woolworths, have backed the call through a business manifesto calling for a UN treaty. The manifesto urges governments to negotiate and agree on a new global agreement on plastic pollution, saying "there is no time to waste". This is the first collective corporate action calling on governments to adopt a treaty on plastic pollution.

"Over the last few years we have seen growing public demand for action on plastic pollution, with some governments and industries starting to implement voluntary measures on this issue, but this needs better coordination, and the international impetus and recognition that a global treaty would generate. While companies have a clear responsibility to address plastic pollution within their own supply chains wider systemic change is vital. The plastic pollution crisis was created in a single lifetime and can be ended in a single decade. But only if we act now, together," said Cristianne Close, Head of the Markets Practice of WWF International.



A resolution to start negotiations on such a treaty is expected to be tabled at the upcoming 5th Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA5). This comes after the Assembly previously has recognised plastic pollution as a global problem and a 2017 UNEA mandated examination concluded that the existing international legal framework governing plastic pollution is fragmented and ineffective. Both the report and business manifesto stress the urgent need to develop and adopt a new global treaty on plastic pollution as soon as possible.

" We have seen important steps taken by businesses and governments in addressing plastic pollution over recent years. More than 500 organisations have signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, setting clear targets to achieve a circular economy for plastic in which it never becomes waste or pollution. But voluntary initiatives alone are not enough to solve plastic pollution and we believe governments and policymakers have a vital role to play. A binding global agreement that builds on the vision of a circular economy for plastic can ensure a unified international response to plastic pollution that matches the scale of the problem," said Dame Ellen MacArthur, founder and chair of Trustees of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

The business manifesto calling for a new treaty is open to new signatories at www.plasticpollutiontreaty.org. WWF, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and BCG are urging more companies to join the call.

" For businesses, a global agreement could alleviate operational complexity, simplify reporting, and critically unlock investment across the plastic value chain" said Jesper Nielsen, Leader of Social Impact & Sustainability Practice in Western Europe, Africa & South America, Boston Consulting Group.

Alongside almost [2 million people](#) also calling for a treaty, more than two-thirds of the UN member states, [from across the world](#), have officially declared that they are open to considering the option of a new global agreement, including [African](#), [Baltic](#), [Caribbean](#), [Nordic](#) and [Pacific](#) states, as well as the [European Union](#).