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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR taps PUP students as environment ambassadors

Published October 18, 2020, 2:53 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Manila to tap its students to become the “environment and natural resources (ENR) ambassadors.”

As part of the partnership, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu turned over 100 units of tablet computers to PUP Executive Vice President Alberto Guillo last Oct. 14.



(DENR/ MANILA BULLETIN)

The tablet computers were to be distributed to the ENR ambassadors.

“Behavior change is difficult to achieve so we need the assistance of the education sector to help us effect change in the minds of the students and the youth, and to change their practices,” Cimatu said.

“We will be working together, and with the ENR ambassadors, you can help us in our main effort which is to clean up Manila Bay by cleaning the esteros and rivers that flow into it,” he added.

DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) Director Jacqueline Caanacan and PUP President Manuel Muhi led the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MoA) for the ENR Ambassador Project last Aug. 19.

The project was initiated by DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda, citing the important role the youth play in the promotion of the DENR programs, projects, and activities.

The agreement aims to identify, capacitate, and mobilize qualified PUP students to become ENR ambassadors, making them competent and credible champions of DENR programs on information, education, and communication campaign.

The students will also be tapped in the agency’s advocacy for the protection, conservation, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and development of the environment in Metro Manila, including the Manila Bay region.

As ENR ambassadors, they will teach other students on environmental issues that concern the region, including pollution, resource degradation, and climate change.

They will also mobilize youth support in the cleanup, rehabilitation, and protection of Manila Bay.



Under the MoA, the DENR-NCR will conduct the training of the students to be its partners in the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources.

It will provide appropriate resources for use in their environmental advocacies and to expedite their communication and coordination with DENR.

PUP is tasked to screen, verify, and vouch for the good standing of its students applying as ENR ambassadors.

It will also assist the DENR-NCR in monitoring and evaluating the IEC and advocacy performance of PUP ENR ambassadors and recommend improvements on the project.



PUP students designated as environment envoys

Sunday, October 18, 2020 Cory Martinez



Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Roy A. Cimatu (3rd from left) hands over to Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Executive Vice President Alberto C. Guillo (2nd from right) one of the 100 tablet computers for use of its identified Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Ambassadors under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), ENR Ambassador Project. The DENR implements the ENR Ambassador Project in recognition of the important role the youth play in the promotion of the DENR programs, projects and activities. Others in photo are (from left to right): PUP Vice President for Branches and Campuses Pascualito B. Gatan, DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan, and PUP Vice President for Student Affairs and Services Dr. Zenaida R. Sarmiento. The event was held at the Ninoy Aquino Library and Learning Resource Center in PUP Manila on October 14.

SELECTED students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Manila were designated as environment and natural resources (ENR) ambassadors to help the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the protection, conservation, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and development of the environment in the NCR, including the Manila Bay region. DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the designation of PUP students as ENR ambassadors was made possible through the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the PUP.

As part of the partnership, Cimatu recently turned over 100 units of tablet computers to PUP Executive Vice President Alberto C. Guillo at the Ninoy Aquino Library and Learning Resource Center at PUP Manila.

Cimatu added that the tablet computers will be distributed to those who will be selected as ENR ambassadors.

“Behavior change is difficult to achieve so we need the assistance of the education sector to help us effect change in the minds of the students and the youth, and to change their practices,” Cimatu said.

“We will be working together, and with the ENR ambassadors, you can help us in our main effort which is to clean up Manila Bay by cleaning the esteros and rivers that flow into it,” he added.

Last Aug. 19, DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) Director Jacqueline Caancan and PUP President Manuel Muhi signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the ENR Ambassador Project.

The agreement aims to identify, capacitate and mobilize qualified PUP students to become ENR ambassadors, making them competent and credible champions of DENR programs on information, education and communication (IEC) campaign.

As ENR ambassadors, they shall teach other students on environmental issues that concern the region including pollution, resource degradation and climate change. They shall also mobilize youth support in the cleanup, rehabilitation and protection of Manila Bay.



Under the MOA, the DENR-NCR shall train the students to be its partners in the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources. It shall provide appropriate resources for use in their environmental advocacies and to expedite their communication and coordination with DENR.

The ENR Ambassador Project is a pet project of Benny Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and Supervising Undersecretary for Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service, who cited the important role the youth play in the promotion of the DENR programs, projects and activities.

“These ENR ambassadors will serve as our effective partners and force multipliers in changing behavior of the people towards environmental stewardship,” Antiporda stressed.

During the MOA signing in August, Antiporda turned over 100 units of pocket LTE-WIFI as a form of assistance to the students since most universities and schools have shifted from face-to-face to online learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“By supporting their education, we can harness their skills and transform them into effective environmental educators and champions,” Antiporda said. “In the future, hindi lang ang DENR ang kikilos para sa kalikasan, kundi buong bayan na.”

The PUP shall screen, verify and vouch for the good standing of its students applying as ENR ambassadors. It shall also assist the DENR-NCR in monitoring and evaluating the IEC and advocacy performance of PUP ENR ambassadors and recommend improvements on the project.



DENR, PUP nagkasundong gamitin ang mga estudyante para gawing tagapangalaga ng kapaligiran

By Chona Yu October 18, 2020 - 04:17 PM



Nagkasundo ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Manila na gamitin ang mga estudyante para gawing tagapangalaga ng kapaligiran at natural resources.

Bahagi ng partnership ang pag-turn over ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ng 100 units ng tablet computer kay PUP Executive Vice President Alberto Guillo.

Ipamimigay ang tablet computers sa napiling 100 “environment and natural resources (ENR) ambassadors.”

“Behavior change is difficult to achieve so we need the assistance of the education sector to help us effect change in the minds of the students and the youth, and to change their practices,” pahayag ni Cimatu.

“We will be working together, and with the ENR ambassadors, you can help us in our main effort which is to clean up Manila Bay by cleaning the esteros and rivers that flow into it,” dagdag ng kalihim.

Tungkulin ng mga ENR ambassadors na turuan ang mga kapwa estudyante sa environmental issues gaya ng usapin sa polusyon, resource degradation ant climate change.

Hihikayatin din nila ang mga kabataan na magsagawa ng cleanup, rehabilitation at protection activities sa Manila Bay.



PUP students as ‘eco-warriors’

posted October 18, 2020 at 11:05 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has tapped the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila to mobilize and capacitate its students for the protection and conservation of environment and natural resources.

As part of the partnership, Secretary Roy Cimatu recently turned over 100 units of tablet computers to PUP executive vice president Alberto Guillo.

The tablet computers were to be distributed to the “environment and natural resources ambassadors” of one of the country’s premier state universities.

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As ENR ambassadors, they shall teach other students on environmental issues that concern the region including pollution, resource degradation and climate change, and shall also mobilize youth support in the cleanup, rehabilitation and protection of Manila Bay.

The ENR ambassador project is a pet project of Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and Supervising Undersecretary for Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Benny Antiporda.

“These ENR ambassadors will serve as our effective partners and force multipliers in changing behavior of the people towards environmental stewardship,” Antiporda said.



DENR taps PUP students as ‘environment ambassadors’

October 18, 2020, 4:45 pm



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The ENR Ambassador Project is a pet project of DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and Supervising Undersecretary for Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Benny D. Antiporda, who cited the important role the youth play in the promotion of the DENR programs, projects and activities.

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“By supporting their education, we can harness their skills and transform them into effective environmental educators and champions,” Antiporda said. “In the future, hindi lang ang DENR ang kikilos para sa kalikasan, kundi buong bayan na (not only DENR will act for the protection of the environment, but the whole country).”

For its part, PUP shall screen, verify and vouch for the good standing of its students applying as ENR ambassadors. It shall also assist the DENR-NCR in monitoring and evaluating the IEC and advocacy performance of PUP ENR ambassadors and recommend improvements on the project. **(DENR PR)**



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October 18, 2020 3 min read

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Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/18/denr-taps-pup-students-as-environment-ambassadors/?fbclid=IwAR29usZ4w312js1XEHyaUPfmY5imxZkInMaItHcwKmscL2-KvSPcSipOfZI>



Paglikha ng Environment Protection Bureau isinulong sa Senado



October 18, 2020 @ 1:38 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dulot ng apela ni Secretary Roy Cimatu, naghain ng isang panukalang batas ni Senador Nancy Binay sa paglikha ng Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa pahayag, sinabi ni Binay na sakaling maisabatas ang panukala, tiyak na mapapalakas ang kapabilidad ng DENR na itaguyod ang mandato nito alinsunod sa kahilingan ni Cimatu sa Senado sa deliberasyon ng badyet ng ahensiya noong nakaraang linggo.

Ayon kay Binay, malaki ang maitutulong ng panukala sa implementasyon ng proteksiyon function ng DENR dahil nakakabahala ang pagtaas ng bilang ng karasahan sa sektor ng kapaligiran. “Nakakabahala ang tumataas na kaso ng karahasan na dinaranas ng ating mga environment officers. The case of Forester Danilo Pascasio II is only the latest in a string of acts of impunity committed against those tasked with protecting our forests,” ayon kay Binay. “I believe that this proposed measure would help protect our officers as they protect the environment, that’s why I am urging my colleagues to pass this bill at the soonest possible time,” ayon kay Binay.

Nakabase si Pascasio, isang forest management specialist sa Aurora, na kasalukuyang nasa pagamutan matapos atakehin ng isang illegal logger na kanyang ipinadakip sa ginanap na anti-illegal timber poaching operation.

Ayon sa Global Witness, isang international environmental watchdog, 46 environment defenders ang napatay nsa banasa noong 2019. Naitala ang Pilipinas bilang “pinakamapanganib na bansa” para sa environmental defenders noong 2018.

Sinabi ni Binay na napapanahon na dapat kumilos na ang pamahalaan sa pagbibigay proteksiyon sa ating naturang resources.

“Malaking bahagi ng function ng DENR ang environmental protection, ngunit hindi nila magampanan dahil sa iba’t ibang factors, pangunahin na ang kawalan ng kapasidad. We need a dedicated workforce to enforce our environmental laws—hindi na sapat ang scattergun approach. Our enforcers are outgunned, outmaneuvered, and out-resourced by the entities that violate our laws,” ayon sa senador.



Sakaling maisabatas, pagsasama-samahin at itugma ang lahat ng enforcement functions na ginagawa ng DENR sa iba't-ibang kawanihan at attached agencies nito.

Lilikhain ng panukala ang isang Environmental and Natural Resources Law Enforcement Academy upang sanayin ang mga ENR law enforcers. "The Academy will provide enforcers with basic and advanced training courses on environmental law enforcement. A skills enhancement program will also be included to regularly update the knowledge and upgrade the capability of ENR law enforcers," ayon sa panukala.

Pagkatapos ng pagsasanay, papayagan silang magdala ng armas para sa field operations. "The proposed measure would also mandate the setting up of a forensics laboratory to ensure that evidence gathered for prosecuting environmental law violators is science-based," ayon pa sa panukala.

Bibigyan din ang DENR ng kapangyarihan na mag-isyu ng Cease and Desist Orders, palaysin ang sinuman at magpalabas ng abatement orders, at pagtatanggal, pagwasak at demolisyon ng illegal structures sa loob ng prohibited areas na walang judicial order.

May kapangyarihan din ang EPEB Director-General o kinatawan nikto na magpalabas ng Notice of Violation and Seizure Order. "This legislation will help address the constraints that tie our environmental enforcers' hands and prevent them from fulfilling their mandate. We will not be able to protect our rich resources unless we equip the DENR with the proper tools and authority to do so," giit ni Binay. Ernie Reyes



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE LILIKHAIN

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



NAKATAKDANG lumikha ang Senado ng environmental police sa ilalim ng bubuuing Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) sa pangangasiwa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang protektahan ang ating kapaligiran at natural na yaman.

Sinabi ni Senador Nancy Binay, inihain niya ang Senate Bill No. 1878 para sa paglikha ng naturang kawanihan na may environmental police alinsunod sa apela ni Secretary Roy Cimatu sa ginanap na pagdinig ng badyet ng ahensiya.

Ayon kay Binay, sakaling maisabatas ang panukala, tiyak na mapalalakas ang kapabilidad ng DENR na itaguyod ang mandato nito at malaki ang maitutulong ng panukala sa implementasyon ng protection function ng DENR dahil nakababahala ang pagtaas ng bilang ng karasahan sa sektor ng kapaligiran.

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Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/environmental-police-lilikhain/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2I419xQ9TzPe0M5SVPqO6x86BhzwuJy59Buh-DH5-scF7oyzIwbf6XG6A



SC awaits report on Manila Bay pollution

Published October 17, 2020, 4:13 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta led a group that inspected the dolomite sand beach in Manila Bay last Wednesday, along with Associate Justices Rodil Zalameda, Mario Lopez, Edardo delos Santos, and Ricardo Rosario.

There had been charges that the dolomite beach posed a danger to public health. There were also reports that the recent heavy rains were washing the white bits of dolomite out into the bay. But that was not why the Supreme Court group was there.

They were there because in 2008, the Supreme Court issued a decision calling for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay in a case filed by the Concerned Residents of Manila Bay. After a year of hearings, the Supreme Court directed 13 government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to clean up the bay. They were given 10 years to do it.

Chief Justice Peralta is the only remaining member of the Supreme Court that issued that 2008 decision, the others having retired in the last 18 years. Under SC rules, he said, whoever is still with the court, who had participated in the 2008 decision, becomes the person in charge of the case. "I am now in charge of the case," the chief justice said. That explains why the group that went to visit the dolomite beach last Wednesday was led by the chief justice himself.

Prior to the inspection, Chief Justice Peralta and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu led a meeting at a nearby hotel where the DENR reported on the activities undertaken by various agencies to clean up Manila Bay, including the removal of garbage and wastes from the river systems flowing into the Pasig River, then to Manila Bay.

After the beach inspection, Chief Justice Peralta said he was informed by an engineer that the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay was down to 49 MPN (most probable number) per 100 millimeters, lower than the required 100 to 200 MPN.

In his initial report after getting President Duterte's order to clean up the bay, Secretary Cimatu said the coliform levels had reached as high as 330 MPN, which was why swimming was forbidden in the bay. Eight water quality monitoring stations were set up along the shore of Metro Manila and as of January 28, Cimatu said, bacterial levels at the Rajah Soliman outfall, one of the eight monitoring stations, had improved to 35 MPN. This would be in line with the 49 MPN reported by an engineer to Chief Justice Peralta.

All this must now be presented formally to the court. There is need for an official report on the pollution levels in MPN figures.

The public wants to know if it is now safe to go swimming in Manila Bay. The last time the Department of Health issued a statement on the matter, it advised the public against water-borne gastrointestinal diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, dysentery, and skin diseases that may be acquired from polluted bodies of water. Until its waters are declared safe for recreational swimming, it is best to avoid taking a dip in the bay.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/17/sc-awaits-report-on-manila-bay-pollution/>



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October 18, 2020 | Filed under: Editorial, Opinion | Posted by: Tempo Desk



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Source: <http://tempo.com.ph/2020/10/18/sc-awaits-report-on-manila-bay-pollution/>



Experts, scientists get Robredo's support after Antiporda's 'bayaran' remark

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:15 PM October 18, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Leni Robredo rallied behind the country's scientists and experts after government officials asked them to refrain from publishing their quarantine recommendations and after being tagged as "bayaran" (paid people) over their supposed multi-million consultation fees.

"Di ba iyong research nga, dapat nalalaman ng tao? Dapat nalalaman ng tao, kasi public data naman iyong research," Robredo said during her weekly radio show.

(Isn't it that research should be known by the people? The public should know because research is public data.)

"Ang nakikita ko lang na dahilan kung bakit ililihim, hindi susundin iyong datos, iyong pagdedesisyon hindi nakasunod sa datos," she added.

(The only reason I see for keeping it a secret is when the decision made did not follow the data.)

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque asked the OCTA Research Group which is composed of experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) and the University of Santo Tomas to instead [relay their recommendations to the government's COVID-19 task force](#) instead of making them public.

Roque said this was to let President Rodrigo Duterte [make decisions](#) without pressure from the public.

Also last week, UP experts became the subject of [Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda's ire](#) for allegedly charging millions in consultation fees.

Antiporda later [apologized](#) for his "bayaran" remark against the UP experts, saying he was carried away by his emotion at that time.

"Totally uncalled for...Hindi dini-deserve noong grupo iyong pambabastos na ginawa sa kanila," Robredo said.

(Totally uncalled for...The group does not deserve the rude treatment they got.)

"Kahit nag-apologize na, tingin ko hindi talaga maganda. Hindi magandang example, hindi magandang pag-uugali, iyong kapag napipikon ka nakakapagsabi ka ng mga bagay na dapat hindi mo sinasabi," she added.

(Even if he apologized, I don't think it set a good example. It is bad manners to say things you should have not just because you were upset.)

/MUF

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1349512/experts-scientists-get-robredos-support-after-antipordas-bayaran-remark>



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

Robredo hits Palace, Antiporda for remarks vs. experts

[Christian Deiparine](#) (Philstar.com) - October 18, 2020 - 1:37pm

MANILA, Philippines—Vice President Leni Robredo on Sunday threw her support behind the country's experts and scientists after government said they should not publicize their quarantine recommendations, as well as being called "bayaran" by an environment official.

The week saw Malacañang and Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda drawing flak over their separate remarks hurled at members of the scientific community.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque had told the OCTA Research group to relay their observations privately to government instead of making them public.

Roque said this was to avoid preempting President Rodrigo Duterte from making decisions on the COVID-19 quarantine status in various parts of the country.

In her weekly radio show, Robredo questioned the Palace's move, saying the group's aim is only to help in the Philippines' virus response.

"Di ba nga yung research dapat nalalaman nga ng tao kasi public data naman?" she said. "Ang nakikita ko lang na dahilan kung bakit ililihin [ay] yung pagde-desisyon hindi nakasunod sa datos."

(Isn't research supposed to be made available to all since it is public data? The only reason I see on why it has to be made private is if decision making will not follow from data.)

The OCTA Research, composed of experts from the University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas, had since bucked the government's plea, as they vow to continue releasing their monitoring of the country's COVID-19 situation.

A member of the group, Prof. Guido David, earlier told CNN Philippines this week in an interview that they are not paid by government for the efforts and it is only a form of public service.



UP Marine Science 'undeserving' of Antiporda's rant

Antiporda had accused the UP Marine Science Institute that they were charging the agency of half a billion pesos in consultation fees.

It came after the group's opposition of the DENR's dolomite sand project in Manila Bay, saying it will not help solve its environmental problems.

Sought for comment, Robredo said the official's remarks were uncalled for and should serve as a lesson to those in government and to the public.

"Hindi dine-deserve nung grupo 'yung pambabastos na ginawa sa kanila," she said. "Mahirap na ['yun] bawiin. Sana hindi ganito lalong lalo na kasi public official 'yung nagsabi."

(The group did not deserve this bad treatment. That will be hard to take back. We hope that this will not be the case the next time, more importantly that it came from a public official.)

Antiporda had since apologized for his remarks, but it did not spare him from calls to resign.

"The DENR needs a spokesperson who, instead of antagonizing homegrown scientists, articulately expresses and explains the department's goals and policies," UP's geographic society said in a statement.

Robredo said the agency's "beach nourishment" project could have gone to programs related to responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

"Okay lang sanang gawin in the midst of the pandemic kung marami tayong pera," she said. "Pero kung wala nga tayong pera, marami tayong kailangan gastusan eh hindi natin napagagastusan tapos inuna ito, ano 'yung mensahe sa tao?"

(This would have been okay even during the pandemic if we have a lot of funds. But if we don't have the money, we have a lot to pay for and we can't pay for them, prioritizing this sends the wrong message.)

The Philippines has 354,338 coronavirus infections as of Saturday, October 19, with deaths now at 6,603 with recoveries are at 295,312.



Robredo scores Roque, Antiporda for comments on researchers

Published October 18, 2020 10:40pm

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

Vice President Leni Robredo on Sunday stressed the importance of experts' recommendations amid the coronavirus pandemic as she scored two government officials for their recent remarks against researchers.

“Alam natin kung gaano kahalaga iyong mga rekomendasyon ng mga scientist... Ang pinaka-purpose lang naman nito, maging gabay siya—iyong datos maging gabay sa pagdedesisyon,” Robredo said in her weekly radio show.

Robredo's statement comes after Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque told the OCTA Research group [not to publicize its recommendations](#) concerning quarantine restrictions, and after Environment Secretary Benny Antiporda [lashed out at biologists](#) over the Manila Bay “white sand” beach.

‘No reason to keep COVID-19 research a secret’

Robredo said the public deserves to know experts' latest findings on the country's COVID-19 situation after Roque told them to course their suggestions to the government privately instead.

“Dapat nalalaman ng tao, kasi public data naman iyong research. Iyong UP, public institution na kaya siya nagre-research is to inform people. So hindi ko alam kung bakit kailangang ilihim,” the Vice President said.

“Gusto mo lang itong isikreto kung ayaw mong sundin iyong datos. Pero kung susundin mo naman iyong datos eh tingin ko makakabuti sa ating lahat na alam natin kung ano iyong content ng research,” she added.

Roque later clarified that he does not take issue with researchers making their findings public, but only [wants President Rodrigo Duterte to be free from pressure](#) when making decisions on quarantine classifications.

OCTA Research has since said [it will continue to publish its COVID-19 reports](#) despite Roque's appeal.

‘Uncalled for’

Meanwhile, Robredo denounced Antiporda's “uncalled for” remarks on the UP Marine Science Institute (MSI).

Antiporda claimed that the UP biologists were milking public funds after they suggested that [mangroves instead of crushed dolomite rocks be placed on the Manila Bay shoreline](#).



“Totally uncalled for,” Robredo said. “Lesson ito sa ating lahat—hindi lang sa public officials, pero pati sa mga ordinaryong tao—na hinay-hinay sa pagsalita, kasi mayroon kang mga nabibitawan na mahirap nang ibalik.”

She underscored that the experts did not deserve the disrespect.

“Lahat naman na research would entail expenses. Iyon iyong dahilan kung bakit nagbabayad iyong gobyerno sa research. Pero ito, ito, dahil sa pagkapikon, magsasabi ka ng mga bagay na, una, hindi dini-deserve,” she said.

Antiporda [apologized for his remarks](#) after admitting that he was upset by the experts’ recommendation.

The UP MSI [accepted his apology](#).

“Kahit nag-apologize na, tingin ko hindi talaga maganda. Hindi magandang example, hindi magandang pag-uugali, iyong kapag napipikon ka nakakapagsabi ka ng mga bagay na dapat hindi mo sinasabi,” Robredo said. — **DVM, GMA News**



Robredo says Antiporda 'bayaran' remark should be a lesson to all

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 18 2020 05:11 PM



Vice President Leni Robredo appears before the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to present the proposed budget of the Office of the Vice President for Fiscal Year 2021 on September 14, 2020. *Jay Ganzon, OVP*

MANILA - Vice President Leni Robredo said Sunday Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda's statement describing UP scientists "[bayaran](#)" or paid hacks was "totally uncalled for."

Antiporda has since apologized to the state university, which the UP Marine Science Institute accepted.

Robredo said the incident should serve as a lesson to all.

"Ito totally uncalled for. Totally uncalled for. Lesson ito sa ating lahat—hindi lang sa public officials, pero pati sa mga ordinaryong tao—na hinay-hinay sa pagsalita, kasi mayroon kang mga nabibitawan na mahirap nang ibalik," she said in her weekly radio show.

(It's a lesson to everyone--not just public officials, but also ordinary people--to mind their words, because they may say something they can't take back.)

"Kahit nag-apologize na tingin ko hindi talaga maganda. Hindi magandang example, hindi magandang pag-uugali, iyong kapag napipikon ka nakakapagsabi ka ng mga bagay na dapat hindi mo sinasabi."

(Even if he apologized, it still didn't look good. It's not a good example, it's not good behavior to say things you shouldn't say when you're angry.)

Robredo defended the scientists who she said use funds from the government to do research.

"Sila ginagawa lang nila iyong trabaho nila. Iyong sa atin, lahat naman na research would entail expenses. Iyon iyong dahilan kung bakit nagbabayad iyong gobyerno sa research," she said.

(They're just doing their job. All research would entail expenses. That's why government spends for research.)

"Pero ito, ito, dahil sa pagkapikon, magsasabi ka ng mga bagay na, una, hindi dini-deserve. Pangalawa, mahirap nang bawiin."

(But because this official was ill-tempered, he said something that the group didn't deserve. Second, it's hard to take back.)

Robredo added that the funds used for Manila Bay's beautification could have been used for more urgent needs.

"Nakita natin ngayon, na ngayong ulan nang ulan, nakita natin iyong epekto. Ito iyong sinasabi natin na sana sa gitna ng pandemya, pinag-iisipan iyong paggastos ng pera, kasi maraming marami na pagkakagastusan na mas importante," she said.

(We saw this rainy season its effect. In the middle of the pandemic, money should be spent on more important things.)



"Okay lang sana na gawin in the midst of the pandemic kung marami tayong pera. Pero kung wala nga tayong pera, marami nga tayong kailangang gastusan na hindi natin napapagastusan, tapos inuna ito. So ano iyong mensahe? Ano iyong mensahe sa tao? Hindi talaga maganda."

(It's okay to do this if we had a lot of money in the midst of the pandemic. But if we lack funds and we have a lot of needs, and you prioritize this, what does that say? What's the message to the people? It's not good.)

Antiporda earlier said the P389 million used for the Manila Bay project cannot be diverted to COVID-19 aid as it was bid out "more than a year ago."

Robredo defends UP experts from DENR official's 'bayaran' remark

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 18, 2020 11:48:13 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 18) — For Vice President Leni Robredo, the accusations of Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda against experts from the University of the Philippines of being mercenaries or “bayaran” was “totally undeserved and uncalled for.”

In her radio show on Sunday, Robredo defended the UP Marine Science Institute — a longtime partner of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources — against Antiporda's controversial remarks, following its recommendations on Manila Bay's rehabilitation.

"Hindi dine-deserve ng grupo yung pambabastos na ginawa sa kanila. Sila, ginagawa lang yung trabaho nila," Robredo said.

[Translation: The group did not deserve such abuse that they got from him. They were only doing their job.]

"Alam natin kung gaano kahalaga yung mga rekomendasyon ng mga scientists, mga taong eksperto sa field na iyan. Again, totally undeserved ng UP MSI department yung accusation," she said.

[Translation: We all know how important are the recommendations of scientists, actual experts in that field. Again, UP MSI department totally did not deserve those accusations.]

The UP MSI earlier noted that [the dolomite project in Manila Bay won't help solve the environmental problems in the area](#), and may even pose health risks and threats to the marine environment.

The institute also refuted Antiporda's earlier claim that it has been receiving "half a billion" worth of consultation fees from the agency.

Netizens and various academic organizations eventually called for Antiporda's resignation, [citing his "ill-fitting background" for the job](#), and for disregarding the opinions of scientists.

Aside from his "bayaran" remark, Antiporda also denied that the crushed dolomite laid over a portion of the Manila Bay coastline — under the government's "white sand" beach project — was washed out. What happened, he said, was that black sand from the sea had covered the beach front.

[In an interview with CNN Philippines' The Source](#) last week, Antiporda then made an apology to the whole UP community, but noted that he will resign only if President Rodrigo Duterte says so.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/10/18/DENR-Antiporda-bayaran-remark-undeserved-UP-experts.html>



Robredo: Hindi deserve ng mga eksperto ang pambabastos; public officials dapat maging responsible

By **Bombo Christian Yosores**

-October 18, 2020 | 6:08 PM

Ipinagtanggol ni Vice President Leni Robredo ang mga mananaliksik ng University of the Philippines matapos akusahan na “bayaran” ni Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda.

Magugunitang binatikos ng Environment official ang UP experts matapos kwestyunin ang ipinipilit na white sand beach project sa Manila bay.

“Totally uncalled for. Siguro lesson ito sa ating lahat. Lesson ito sa ating lahat—hindi lang sa public officials, pero pati sa mga ordinaryong tao—na hinay-hinay sa pagsalita, kasi mayroon kang mga nabibitawan na mahirap nang ibalik,” ani Robredo sa kanyang weekly radio program.

Iginiit ng bise presidente na walang karapatan ang sino man na bastusin ang hanay ng mga mananaliksik dahil sa pagtugon nila sa kanilang tungkulin.

Binigyang diin din ni Robredo ang kaakibat talagang bayad ng gobyerno sa mga ipinapagawa nitong pag-aaral sa mga sitwasyon.

“Iyong sa atin, lahat naman na research would entail expenses. Iyon iyong dahilan kung bakit nagbabayad iyong gobyerno sa research. Pero ito, ito, dahil sa pagkapikon, magsasabi ka ng mga bagay na, una, hindi dini-deserve. Pangalawa, mahirap nang bawiin. Sana hindi ganito—lalong lalo na kasi public official iyong nagsabi.”

Ayon sa pangalawang pangulo, malaki ang papel na ginagampanan ng scientists at iba pang eksperto dahil sila ang mas may kaalaman sa sitwasyon kaugnay ng kanilang pagkadalubhasa.

Kaya naman dapat din umanong sulitin ng mga opisina ang ibinabayad nila sa mga researchers na nagbibigay ng angkop na rekomendasyon sa ano mang plano o proyekto.

“Yong pambayad sa research ay pera ng taumbayan. Pangalawa, iyong pambayad sa project ay pera ng taumbayan. Nakita naman natin ngayon, Ka Ely. Nakita natin ngayon, na ngayong ulan nang ulan, nakita natin iyong epekto. Ito iyong sinasabi natin na sana sa gitna ng pandemya, pinag-iisipan iyong paggastos ng pera, kasi maraming marami, Ka Ely, na pagkakagastusan na mas importante.”

Batay sa rekomendasyon ng UP Marine Science Institute, bakawan o mangroves ang dapat na naka-pwesto malapit sa dalampasigan ng Manila bay at hindi pekeng white sand.

Bago naging opisyal ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), naging kolumnista sa diyaryo at mamamahayag sa telebisyon si Antiporda.

Isang taon siyang nag-aral ng BS Medical Technology, pero nagtapos sa kursong BA Journalism. Sa pagsasaliksik ng **Bombo Radyo**, tanging pagiging alternate chairman ng National Solid Waste Management Commission lang ang background ni Antiporda sa larangan ng pangangasiwa sa kalikasan.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/robredo-hindi-deserve-ng-mga-eksperto-ang-pambabastos-public-officials-dapat-maging-responsible/>

Pagbatikos ng isang DENR official sa UP experts, ‘Uncalled for’, ayon kay VP Robredo

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Oct. 19, 2020 at 5:31am



“Totally Uncalled for”

Ito ang pahayag ni Vice President Leni Robredo matapos mabatikos si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda nang sabihing ‘bayaran’ ang mga biologist ng University of the Philippines (UP) na nagmungkahing magtamin ma lamang ng bakawan sa Manila Bay sa halip na tambakan ng dolomite sand.

Sa programang Biserbisyong Leni sa RMN Manila, iginiit ni Robredo na dapat magsilbing halimbawa ito sa lahat na maghinay-hinay sa pagsasalita.

“Lesson ito sa ating lahat—hindi lang sa public officials, pero pati sa mga ordinaryong tao—na hinay-hinay sa pagsalita, kasi mayroon kang mga nabibitawan na mahirap nang ibalik,” ani Robredo.

Binigyang diin ni Robredo na kawalan ng respeto ay hindi deserve ng mga eksperto.

“Lahat naman na research would entail expenses. Iyon iyong dahilan kung bakit nagbabayad iyong gobyerno sa research. Pero ito, ito, dahil sa pagkapikon, magsasabi ka ng mga bagay na, una, hindi dini-deserve,” dagdag ng Bise Presidente.

Una nang humingi ng paumanhin si Antiporda sa kanyang pahayag at tinanggap ito ng UP Marine Science Institute.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/pagbatikos-ng-isang-denr-official-sa-up-experts-uncalled-for-ayon-kay-vp-robredo/?fbclid=IwAR2CVILQHoiolLa17XvszsTRLwfjhntFG-ANvbrDve060YbGwdcGhGjI8pQ>



Sa kanyang radio show ngayong Linggo, sinabi ni Vice Pres. Leni Robredo na nasasayang ang ibinabayad ng DENR sa research dahil hindi naman sinusunod ng kagawaran ang resulta ng mga pagsasaliksik ng Filipino scientists.

Nag-public apology si Usec. Antiporda matapos umani ng batikos sa kanyang pag-atake sa UP Marine Science Institute.



3.6K

1.4K Comments 59 Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2236040973219311&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



ONE News
12h · 🌐

Vice Pres. Leni Robredo says Environment Sec. Benny Antiporda's "bayaran" remarks against UP experts were uncalled for.

Antiporda has since apologized for his statement and called on experts to cooperate with government on the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. (via Philippine Star)

FULL STORY | <https://bit.ly/2H8MrOo>



“
 Hindi dine-deserve nung grupo 'yung pambabastos na ginawa sa kanila. Mahirap na [yun] bawiin. Sana hindi ganito lalong lalo na kasi public official 'yung nagsabi.
 The DENR needs a spokesperson who, instead of antagonizing homegrown scientists, articulately expresses and explains the department's goals and policies.

courtesy: The Philippine STAR//Edd Gumban

VICE PRES. LENI ROBREDO
OCTOBER 18, 2020

OneNews.ph f t OneNewsPH

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269 Comments 3 Shares



Hiling ni Vice President Leni Robredo na maging aral sa lahat lalo na sa mga nakaupo sa pwesto ang naging kontroberyal na pahayag ni DENR Usec. Antiporda matapos niyang tawaging "bayaran" ang mga eksperto sa University of the Philippines.



3K

1.5K Comments 58 Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2236188776537864&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



EDITORIAL

Dumb and docile

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:30 AM October 18, 2020

Though he has apologized to the UP community, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda continues to take potshots at the UP Marine Science Institute (UP MSI).

In addition to calling the UP MSI scientists “bayaran” (paid hacks), an accusation many in the journalistic community to which Antiporda used to belong would find richly ironic, Antiporda also chided the institute for making their criticism public, instead of supposedly writing or texting Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu about their concerns.

Antiporda’s broadsides were occasioned by a statement issued by UP MSI that warned of longer-lasting damage to Manila Bay by the ill-conceived “white sand beach” the department had touted as a “beautification” project. To bolster his charges against UP MSI, the undersecretary cited the “half a billion pesos” that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources allegedly paid the institute since 2016 for consultancies on projects around the country.

Why are the UP experts, who are working for the government themselves, charging the government “extra” for their services? Antiporda posed the question while explaining that since the scientists are being paid for their work with the department, the institute had lost its right to criticize the DENR’s projects.

But a netizen, pointing out that the UP MSI’s collaborations with the DENR involved “valuable research in coral reef restoration and research, giant clam restocking, expeditions to understand processes in our internal seas, Benham Rise and the disputed West Philippine Sea, and so much more,” posits that the P389 million spent to dump dolomite “over a 500 m by 60 m stretch” of the bayside which has been “eroded in a matter of two weeks” is still higher than the total spent to remunerate the UP MSI scientists and experts over a span of a decade, in fact, and not just since 2016.

In light of his attacks on the marine scientists and on science as a whole, as well as his patent ignorance of even the most basic science behind the project, Antiporda, said the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People, “should be removed from his post due to unnecessary and vile antipathy he is courting against the local science community.”

Another group, the Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines, likewise called on Antiporda to resign, “considering your ill-fitting background for the job as well as your disregard for the opinions of other Filipino scientists.” He should formally retract his statements, the group said, and “resign from your position as undersecretary as both a form of accountability and to give way to other better qualified candidates.”

This imbroglio over the dolomite beach, which now sports a darker muddy hue due to what Antiporda preposterously called the “washing in” of the bay’s natural black sand, is indicative of the entire anti-science, anti-transparency, anti-accountability mindset prevailing in the Duterte administration.

In another instance, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque admonished scientists and experts from UP and the University of Santo Tomas comprising the independent Octa Research Group to “desist” from disclosing to the public their projections and recommendations on the COVID-19 pandemic. Roque took exception to the research group’s practice of recommending and commenting on the government’s quarantine classifications instead of, as he put it, coursing these “privately to the IATF so as not to preempt, highlighting the fact that classifications are normally announced” by the President himself.



Reports said the spokesperson issued his admonition to Octa after the research team urged the government to consider reimposing stricter community quarantine classifications or localized lockdowns in Bauan, Batangas; Calbayog, Western Samar; and General Trias, Cavite. The researchers cited the increasing daily attack rate of the new coronavirus in the three areas in the past two weeks. So clearly, there is crucial public interest and welfare at stake in this tug-of-war between Octa and the presidential spokesperson.

Why is Roque so leery of public statements coming from private entities regarding the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic? Obviously, he desires to control the flow of information from government officialdom to the public at large, insisting on the privilege to sit as arbiter over the process of filtering, disseminating, calibrating, and window-dressing information and policy. Such a mindset only betrays the Duterte administration's anti-intellectualism, penchant for ill-advised actions, and aversion to scrutiny that it can't spin or control.

At a time when a drastic public health and economic problem demands serious, thoughtful responses from all sectors and the engagement of a vigilant, well-informed citizenry, what officials desire, it seems, is for the public — the very taxpayers paying for their salaries — to play dumb and docile to their moves.



UNTV News and Rescue

18h · 🌐

Patuloy ang panawagan ng gobyerno sa publiko upang magkaroon ng behavioral change sa waste management issue na pinaniniwalaang susi sa tuluyang pagkakalinis ng Manila Bay.

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Philippines: Environmentalists criticise artificial beach in Manila Bay

Philippines: Environmentalists criticise artificial beach in Manila BayClose

An artificial beach in the Philippine capital, Manila is causing controversy with some environmentalists arguing it is bad for the environment.

The "Manila Bay Sands" project is part of a wider \$20m government plan to clean up Manila Bay.

The white sand is made from crushed dolomite rock which is extracted from large dolomite mines.

The Kalikasan Environment Group says the mining operations are destructive and the synthetic sand can harm marine life.

Despite this, thousands of Manila's residents have been flocking to the beach to catch a glimpse of the city's hottest new talking point.

Produced by Howard Johnson and Virma Simonette



Maynilad recently unveiled its P969.14-million Central Manila Sewerage System Rehabilitation Project in simple rites held at Arroceros, Manila. Leading the event were (from left) Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez, Manila City Mayor Isko Moreno, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer representing Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, MWSS administrator Emmanuel Salamat and Maynilad COO Randolph Estrellado.

Maynilad starts Manila sewerage rehab project

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 19, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. is earmarking nearly P1 billion to rehabilitate Manila's sewerage system.

Maynilad recently unveiled its Central Manila Sewerage System (CMSS) Rehabilitation Project worth P969 million.

The CMSS Rehabilitation project involves the upgrade of approximately 9,600 linear meters of sewer lines within 30 barangays in parts of Sta. Cruz and Malate areas in Manila.

The project is intended to ensure the sewerage system's continued reliability, and to accommodate a larger volume of wastewater generated by the increasing number of households and establishments in the area.

Targeted for completion in June 2021, the project will help sustain sewerage coverage expansion in the west zone and reduce pollution load in the Manila Bay.

Maynilad's CMSS Rehabilitation project also supports the clean-up activities in the city, the priority area of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It is part of Maynilad's long-term wastewater management program, which seeks to protect community health and the environment through the proper treatment of effluents in compliance with the continuing Supreme Court mandamus to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.

The local government of Manila has assured Maynilad of its full support for the project, notwithstanding the possible impact on traffic conditions.

To date, Maynilad has already invested more than P41 billion for the improvement and expansion of the wastewater infrastructure, including the ongoing construction of new sewage treatment plants in Valenzuela, Las Piñas, and Cupang and Tunasan in Muntinlupa.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/10/19/2050530/maynilad-starts-manila-sewerage-rehab-project>



Maynilad unveils sewerage project

Published 4 hours ago on October 19, 2020 02:10 AM

By [Joseph Cortez](#)



West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) formally unveiled last 15 October 2020 its P969.14 million Central Manila Sewerage System (CMSS) Rehabilitation Project in simple rites held at Arroceros, Manila.

Gracing the event were Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer representing DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Emmanuel Salamat and Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso.

Maynilad’s CMSS Rehabilitation Project supports the cleanup activities in the City of Manila, the priority area of the DENR’s Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program. It is part of Maynilad’s long-term wastewater management program, which seeks to protect community health and the environment through the proper treatment of effluents, in compliance with the continuing Supreme Court mandamus to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.

In his speech during the event, Domagoso commended Maynilad for pursuing the rehab project.

“We are glad that Maynilad has a continuing effort to clean the wastewater that comes from our homes before this is discharged into large bodies of water,” he said.

The mayor assured the firm of the city’s full support for the project, notwithstanding its possible impact on traffic conditions.

Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez thanked the DENR, MWSS and the City of Manila for their support of this major undertaking.

“To date, we have already invested more than P41 billion for the improvement and expansion of the wastewater infrastructure, including our ongoing construction of new sewage treatment plants in Valenzuela, Las Piñas, and Cupang and Tunasan in Muntinlupa,” he said.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/19/maynilad-unveils-sewerage-project/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=maynilad-unveils-sewerage-project



Maynilad launches P969-M sewer rehab

October 19, 2020 | 12:03 am



WEST ZONE water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. has launched its P969.14-million Central Manila Sewerage System (CMSS) rehabilitation project, which will upgrade sewer lines in Manila.

The upgrade aims to ensure the continued reliability of the concessionaire's sewerage system and enables the flow of a larger volume of wastewater produced by households and establishments in the area.

It will cover 9,600 linear meters of sewer lines in 30 barangays in some areas of Sta. Cruz and Malate.

Maynilad's sewer rehabilitation project will also assist to sustain sewerage coverage expansion in the west zone concession area, which will eventually reduce the pollution load in Manila Bay. The project's target completion date is around June 2021.

"To date, we have already invested more than P41 billion for the improvement and expansion of the wastewater infrastructure, including our ongoing construction of new sewage treatment plants in Valenzuela, Las Piñas, and Cupang and Tunasan in Muntinlupa," Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez said in a statement.

According to Maynilad, the CMSS rehabilitation project is part of its long-term wastewater management initiative that aims to protect the environment and consumer health, and is in accordance with the Supreme Court mandamus to preserve and rehabilitate Manila Bay.

The water provider said the sewer project also supports the Manila Bay rehabilitation program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Maynilad provides water for areas in the west zone of the National Capital Region such as Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, Manila, Makati, and Quezon City; and parts of Cavite province such as Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has interest in BusinessWorld through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. – **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



Maynilad sets P969-M sewer project

By Jordeene B. Lagare

October 19, 2020

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. recently unveiled its P969.14-million sewerage rehabilitation project that forms part of the clean-up activities in Manila.

Dubbed the Central Manila Sewerage System (CMSS) Rehabilitation Project, this involves the upgrade of approximately 9,600 linear meters of sewer lines within 30 barangays in parts of Sta. Cruz and Malate areas.

“The project is intended to ensure the sewerage system’s continued reliability, and to accommodate a larger volume of wastewater generated by the increasing number of households and establishments in the area,” Maynilad said in a statement.

The project, targeted for completion in June 2021, will help in sustaining sewerage coverage expansion in the West Zone concession area, ultimately helping to reduce pollution load in Manila Bay.

“To date, we have already invested more than P41 billion for the improvement and expansion of the wastewater infrastructure, including our ongoing construction of new sewage treatment plants in Valenzuela, Las Piñas, and Cupang and Tunasan in Muntinlupa,” Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito Fernandez said.

According to Maynilad, the rehabilitation project supports the clean-up activities in Manila, the priority area of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It is part of Maynilad’s long-term wastewater management program, which seeks to protect community health and the environment through the proper treatment of effluents, in compliance with the continuing Supreme Court mandamus to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.

For his part, Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso assured Maynilad of the city government’s full support for the rehab project and appealed for Manila residents’ understanding on its possible impact on traffic conditions.

“Sa mga kababayan ko na nandito, hinihingi ko ang inyong pang-unawa. Bagama’t may sakripisyo ngayon, ang mga anak natin ang makakatikim ng ginhawa sa hinaharap (To our constituents in Manila, I am appealing for your understanding in this project. Although this will entail sacrifice on our part, the future generations of our city will benefit from this initiative in the long run),” he said.



DENR to grant P1m to BPSU for Capunitan project

posted October 18, 2020 at 10:35 pm

by [Butch Gunio](#)

Balanga City, Bataan—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Bataan will grant P1 million to Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU) Office of the Extension Training Services (OETS) for livelihood project of the residents of the seaside Barangay Capunitan in Orion town.

Dr. Hermogenes Paguia, BPSU Vice President for Research, Extension and Training Services, said the scope of the project was finalized in a meeting on Friday between DENR Bataan Division Chief Mila Ramirez and BPSU Office of Extension and Training Services (OETS) Director Dr. Bernadeth Gabor.

Paguia said OETS will consult barangay officials and residents to identify the livelihood activities to be conducted.

It was also agreed OETS will be given leeway in managing the fund, designing livelihood training programs, and establishing support mechanisms for the beneficiaries.

Paguia said Capunitan residents will be organized into an association for project sustainability.

A memorandum of agreement between DENR Bataan and BPSU will be signed. The project is targeted to be implemented in six months.

BPSU President Dr. Greg Rodis is supporting the project, as he has been pushing for sustainable innovations and researches of the university to reach end users through extension works. Butch Gunio

“The innovations and researches we are doing in BPSU will mean nothing if do not reach end users via extension works”, Rodis said.

BPSU is known to have dynamic research and extension office.

Two years ago, a fire gutted the coastal village of Capunitan, rendering about 600 families of mostly fisherfolks homeless.



Isang Leucistic Eurasian Tree Sparrow o mas kilala sa tawag na maya ang namataan sa Las Piñas-Paranaque Wetland Park noong October 10.

Ang nakitang ibon ay mas maraming puting plumage o balahibo kumpara sa normal na maya na mas marami ang brown.

DENR National Capital Region



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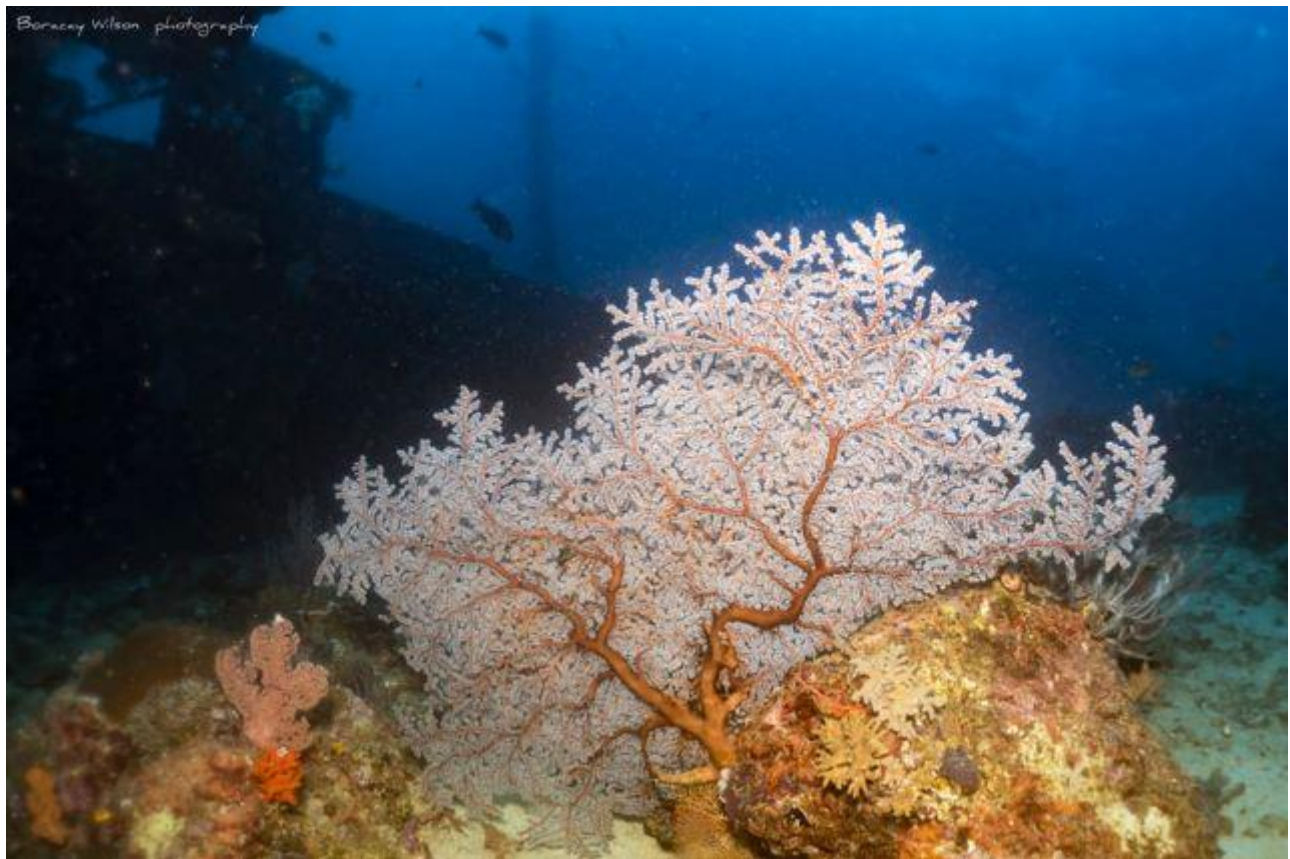


Photo courtesy of Underwater World Dive Center

Litrato ng kakaibang sea coral sa Boracay kinagigiliwan online

Oktubre 18, 2020 1:39pm GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: JUN N. AGUIRRE

BORACAY Island —Kinagigiliwan online ang litrato ng isang uri ng sea coral na mistulang replica ng cherry blossom tree.

Kuha ang nasabing litrato ng isang South Korean na matagal nang naninirahan sa isla.

Ayon sa nag-upload ng litrato, ito ay isang uri ng seafan coral o kilala rin sa tawag na Gorgonian Coral.

Ayon sa nag-upload ng photo, nakuhanan niya ang litrato mga 29 metro ang lalim malapit sa shipwreck sa Camia 2 .

Kinuhanan daw niya ng litrato ang nasabing coral dahil sa kakaiba nitong kulay na mistulang isang cherry blossom tree.

Ang shipwreck sa Camia ay isang diving destination sa isla ng Boracay. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/760360/litrato-ng-kakaibang-sea-coral-sa-boracay-kinagigiliwan-online/story/>

Former dumpsite in Umapad transformed into an eco park

By: Mary Rose Sagarino - Correspondent/CDN Digital|October 18,2020 - 02:52 PM



The former dumpsite in Umapad has been turned into an ecological park filled with trees and green spaces. CDN photo | Mary Rose Sagarino

MANDAUE CITY, Cebu — Mandaue City’s former dumpsite in barangay Umapad is now an ecological park.

Two of the 10-hectare areas were converted by the Department of General Services (DGS) into a forest park.

Engineer Marivic Cabigas, DGS head, said that it started in 2013 when she was appointed by Mayor Jonas Cortes as the landfill manager and was tasked by the Mayor to convert it into a green area.

“Lisod jud kaayo, dili lalim ang pagtrabaho diri, grabe kabaho, sus ginoo ko, kana bitaw mga ilaga, mga ulod naa na dira (before),” Cabigas said.



A billboard at the former dumpsite turned eco park in Barangay Umapad, Mandaue City shows how it was before it was turned into an eco park where mountains of garbage are a familiar sight in the area. CDN Photo | Mary Rose Sagarino

(It was so difficult. It was not an easy job. The odor was really bad. And my goodness, the rats and the worms those are all there.)

The other five hectares are also being developed by San Miguel Corp. (SMC) and will also be converted into an eco-park.

Genibel Jayme, 37, who has lived in the dumpsite for more than 20 years, is thankful to the city government and to Cabigas for giving them a livable environment.

In return, the residents also helped in maintaining the cleanliness in the area and are planting trees there.



A billboard showing how San Miguel Corp. will develop a five hectares of the former Umapad dumpsite into an eco park. CDN Photo | Mary Rose Sagarino

“Grabe to sa una, dili nako mai imagine ako naagi-an before ug karun. Nindot jud kaayo karun murag naa nami ugma ba...kung unsa ang among ikaabag ni ma’am Marivic sa pagpuyo niya no diri. kung unsa ang hangyo niya sa amoa, mag clean drive mi, mananom mi,” Jayme said

(I cannot imagine what we have gone through before and now. It is a beautiful place now. It feels like we have a future...To Ma’am Marivic, whatever we can do to help her stay here, whatever she might ask, if she would want us to do a clean up drive or plant trees [we’ll do it].)



Two hectares of the former dumpsite has been developed by the Department of Public Service of Mandaue City into green spaces of an eco park. CDN Photo | Mary Rose Sagarino

Cabigas said they would soon allocate one hectare of the old dumpsite to the residents for them to plant vegetables and sell it to generate income.

There are 115 houses or 500 individuals living in the area.

The DGS has also built a day care center in the area with the help of the City Social Welfare and Services (CSWS) and also provided a teacher for the children.

/dbs



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Garbage collection privatization

Published 2 hours ago on October 19, 2020 04:00 AM

By [Aldwin Quitasol](#)



The Baguio City Council has requested Mayor Benjamin Magalong Jr. to conduct a feasibility study on the privatization of garbage collection from source to landfill.

Councilor Benny Bomogao said the idea has long been proposed but was never recognized. He said the coronavirus crisis coupled by the increased volume of garbage brought to fore the need to revisit the clamor of concerned sectors.

Bomogao added affected employees will be reassigned to other departments while volunteers may be absorbed as regular employees subject to qualifications and standards.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/19/garbage-collection-privatization/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=garbage-collection-privatization



COA questions 'validity and propriety' of Land Titling Computerization Project

Published October 17, 2020, 11:32 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

The Commission on Audit has questioned the “validity and propriety” of the Land Titling Computerization Project (LTCP) of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) that lacked approval of the President and allegedly deprived the government an estimated P3.12 billion in possible income.

COA has questioned the Build-Own-Operate Agreement (BOO) for the implementation of the LTCP that has so far earned for the private partner of the LRA some P21 billion in just 10 years.

The audit agency’s observations are contained in the recently-released 2019 LRA annual audit report submitted to LRA Administrator Renato Bermejo by COA Director Michael Bacani.

The LTCP introduced the automation of the functions and processes and standardization of the registration procedure for land registration in the country.

COA said the BOO between the LRA and the Land Registration Systems Inc. (LARES) lacked the mandatory approval of the President as required under Republic Act 77198.

“Other necessary documentary requirements were likewise not submitted to the Office of the Auditor, thus, validity and propriety of both the BOO and the corresponding IT service fees collected and released by LRA to Lares, Inc. amounting to more or less P20 billion out of the P21 billion, as doubtful,” COA stated.

The BOO was originally entered into by LRA with the Stradec FF Cruz and CONFAC (SUFC) Consortium, now LARES), in 2000 for the implementation of the agency’s Information Technology Network and Database Infrastructure Project.

In a special audit on the contract that was conducted by COA from 2004 to 2005, the audit agency concluded that the LTCP “was not efficiently and effectively implemented and the interest of the government and the public was not adequately protected” due to the delay in its implementation.

In the 2015 annual audit report, COA observed that various documents covering the BOO were not certified true copies, including the presidential approval of the agreement through then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

In 2019, COA sought confirmation of the presidential imprimatur of the agreement but Malacanang was not “able to provide positive confirmation on the authenticity of the presidential approval dated July 31, 2000” that was ostensibly signed by Zamora.

Originally costing just P3.483 billion, the project was able to earn P21 billion, P20 billion of which was released to LARES.

The LRA management took exception to COA’s doubts on the validity and propriety of the BOO agreement is “without factual and legal basis”.

Officials of the agency also pointed out that all BOO Contracts are presented to the president through the National Economic Development Authority.

“Since the President chairs the NEDA Board, NEDA Board approval already carries with it the president’s approval,” the LRA argued.

In the same audit report, COA disclosed that the LRA has failed to incorporate amendments to the agreement with LARES for the provisions of reasonable rate of return (ROI) to ensure that “no unwarranted benefit is given to the LARES” at the expense of the public.”



“Likewise the absence of a revenue sharing arrangement deprived Government of more or less P3.12 billion of possible income,” the state audit agency noted.

Audit examiners stressed that LRA has continuously failed to assess the “extent of recoupment of the investment” relative to the total IT services fee imposed and collected. They said this is “detrimental to the paying public which the government ought to protect.”

COA also assailed LRA for allowing the use of 12 “outdated” network switches, “causing security vulnerability and possible performance defect due to bugs.”

Further, only two out of 10 software licenses were used for the project.

Among the outdated software installed was the Kaspersky Security version 10.0.0.485.

Passage of National Land Use Act to benefit government food security efforts—Nograles

October 18, 2020



PR

A National Land Use Act (NLUA) is a critical tool needed to ensure the country's food security.

This was underscored by Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, who in a Facebook open forum during the weekend discussed the importance of such a measure and reiterated the Administration's support for its passage.

Nograles, who heads the government's Zero Hunger Task Force, pointed out that "when we talk about food production, food availability, food price stability, and helping small farmers, land is important."

"When unregulated and unrestricted land conversion happens, food security is threatened."

According to Nograles, the government recognizes that the unchecked conversion of agricultural lands could adversely impact the agricultural sector, and, as a consequence, threaten Philippine food security. This, explained the Palace official, is why President Rodrigo Duterte has called on Congress to pass the NLUA.

At the beginning of the 18th Congress last year, the President in his State of the Nation Address included the NLUA among his administration's priority legislative measures

The National Economic and Development Authority at the same time reiterated that a NLUA would ensure the rational and the sustainable use of the country's land and physical resources, as well as harmonize sector-specific land use policies and institutionalize land use planning.



“A National Land Use law can ensure that agricultural lands are not converted, as it will allow us to identify land that will be used for agricultural purposes,” stressed Nograles in Filipino.

The Zero Hunger Task Force (ZHTF) recently launched the country’s National Food Policy (NFP) on World Food Day, which was commemorated last Friday.

The NFP is a long-term, cohesive strategy that involves initiatives for ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Tasked with spearheading the implementation of the NFP, the ZHTF is mandated to review existing laws, regulations, and rules relative to food security, and to recommend measures to improve these.



DOH reports 14,941 new COVID-19 recoveries; total now at 310,158

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:40 PM October 18, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Sunday reported 14,941 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease 2019, bringing the total of recovered patients to 310,158.

In its daily bulletin, DOH likewise reported 2,379 new infections, raising the country's tally to 365,618

The DOH count showed that this increase brought the number of patients with active coronavirus cases to 39,808.

Of which, 82.8% have mild symptoms, 11.5% are asymptomatic, 1.9% experience severe symptoms, and 3.7% are in critical condition.

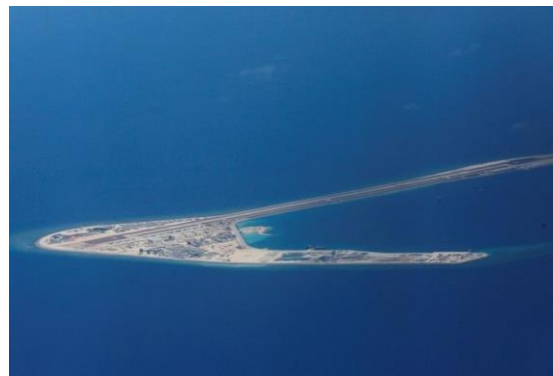
The bulk of the new COVID-19 cases came from Quezon City with 172 cases, followed by Rizal (147), Bulacan (136), Caloocan (117), and Cavite (101).

The DOH likewise reported 50 new fatalities, bringing the death toll to 6,652.

The DOH also noted that 99 duplicate cases were removed from the total case count after validation of data sent by the testing laboratories. Of these, 84 were recovered cases and one death.

Moreover, 11 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

JE



Sen. Risa Hontiveros said she was cautiously optimistic about the President's move but asserted that joint oil exploration should only begin after China acknowledges and abides by the ruling, which recognizes the Philippines' exclusive sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the WPS.

Philstar.com/File Photo

'West Philippine Sea oil exploration OK, but not with China'

[Paolo Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 19, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte's move to lift the moratorium on oil exploration in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) would be beneficial for the country, but the government must bar China from any joint venture to exploit mineral resources in the area until Beijing abides by the 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, senators said yesterday.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros said she was cautiously optimistic about the President's move but asserted that joint oil exploration should only begin after China acknowledges and abides by the ruling, which recognizes the Philippines' exclusive sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the WPS.

"Until China recognizes our victory in The Hague ruling, no negotiation on joint exploration would be productive. We must continue to assert that only the Philippines can conduct exploration in our EEZ. The requirements of the Constitution should be met and our sovereign ownership over the resources in our continental shelf must be recognized," Hontiveros said in a statement.

She noted that the WPS is rich in oil and gas reserves that this is why China is snatching it from the country. She pointed out that the WPS, known to be the "second Persian Gulf," contains as much as 130 billion barrels of oil, which experts say follows Saudi Arabia in terms of wealth of oil reserves.

Retired Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio also said in his e-book "South China Sea Dispute" that the WPS may be rich in methanol, a biofuel that could "fuel China's economy for 130 years."

"We must not easily grant China access to our seas, not only because of her rejection of the 2016 ruling but also because we need to safeguard money and resources that can get us through this pandemic," Hontiveros said.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the lifting was done "in good faith" with consideration to the negotiations between the Philippines and China.

But Hontiveros stressed that the government should maintain that the Philippines, not China, has exclusive sovereign rights over that part of the South China Sea.

"Any admissions and concessions made during negotiations with China would weaken our position in the WPS. We've already won legally and diplomatically, and if the government itself cannot stand by this victory, China will only use this against us," she said.



Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, who chairs the Senate committee on energy, also welcomed the lifting of the moratorium even as he conceded that any joint exploration must also seriously consider the geopolitical situation, particularly the country's territorial dispute with China.

Gatchalian sees the lifting as the continuation of what he thought as Duterte's "historic" speech before the United Nations General Assembly last September where he vowed not to abandon the arbitral ruling.

"This (lifting of the moratorium) is a continuation because of his (Duterte) pronouncements, this is the action we're waiting for because this means private proponents (can start joint exploration)," the senator told radio station dwlZ.

He said the lifting of the moratorium should also be seen in light of projections that the country's natural gas supply from the Malampaya fields is expected to dwindle in five years.

Located approximately 50 kilometers northwest of Palawan, Malampaya is the country's main domestic source of energy fueling five power plants as it accounts for 20.08 percent of power generation in the entire country and 29.3 percent of power generation in Luzon.

It has also provided the government a revenue of P261,681,610,752.59 from January 2002 to Dec. 31, 2019 which is a crucial source of funding for various energy resource development programs and initiatives.

Gatchalian earlier called for an inquiry on the issues surrounding the looming expiration of Service Contract (SC) 38 or the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-To-Power Project given its critical role in the country's energy security.

Along with Senate President Vicente Sotto III and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, he filed Senate Resolution 533 citing the need for Congress to be apprised of the government's plans for SC 38, in the wake of the reported depleting supply of natural gas that is being drawn from the Malampaya gas field.

The surrounding areas of Malampaya is said to be vastly rich in oil and natural gas and exploring it at this point could prepare for oil production by the time its gas supply is depleted, the senator said.

Gatchalian also wants to look into the compliance of the government and the consortium with Presidential Decree No. 87 or the Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972, and the impending sale of the 45 percent stake of Shell Exploration B.V., which is also crucial since SPEX is the operator of the platform.

Aside from the 10 percent stake of the Philippine National Oil Corp.-Exploration in Malampaya, the 45 percent stake, previously held by Chevron, is now under Udenna Corp.'s subsidiary, UC Malampaya Philippines.

"We're looking at the larger picture, which is the energy security of the country. So we have to make sure that whoever takes over that portion of Shell should have the technical capability. They should be able to demonstrate that they can operate this rig competently with technical expertise and in the future, if ever that area has potential, they should be able to demonstrate so they can explore and develop that area," Gatchalian said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/10/19/2050649/west-philippine-sea-oil-exploration-ok-not-china>



LPA could develop into tropical cyclone – Pagasa

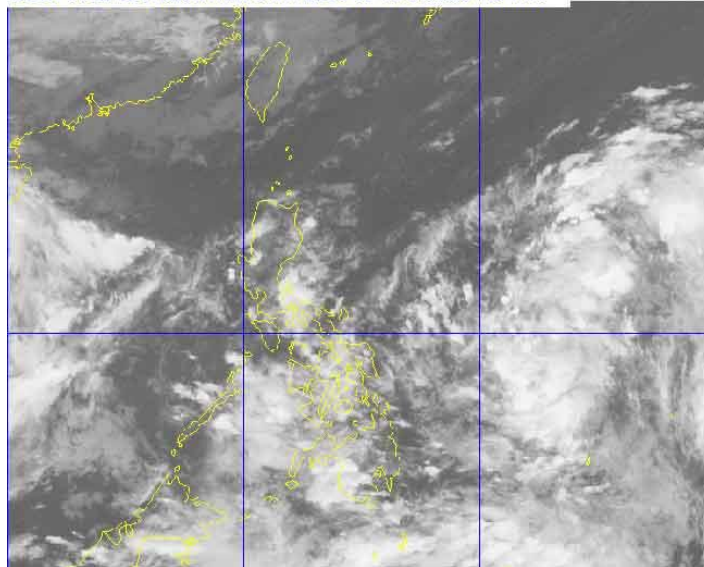
By [The Manila Times](#)

October 19, 2020

A low pressure area (LPA) outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) could develop into a tropical depression in the next few hours, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Sunday.

Weather specialist Loredin de la Cruz said the LPA was last spotted 1,345 kilometers east of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur.

DOST PAGASA HIMAWARI-8 IR1 2020-10-18 6:00:00 PM PHT



Pagasa said Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, Aurora, Ilocos Region and the rest of Central Luzon would have cloudy skies with light rains due to northeasterly surface windflow.

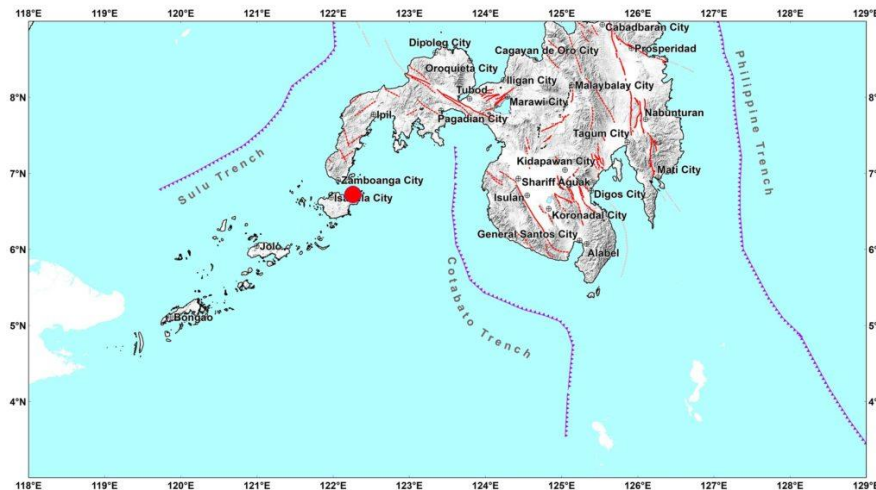
Meanwhile, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), Zamboanga Peninsula, Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers caused by the southwest monsoon and localized thunderstorms.



Zamboang Peninsula niyanig ng 3.8 magnitude na lindol

Balita

By Karlos Bautista October 18, 2020 - 01:12 AM



Niyanig ng 3.8 magnitude na lindol ang Zamboanga Peninsula bago maghatinggabi ng Sabado, ganap na 11:54 ng gabi.

Naitala ang lokasyon ng lindol siyam na kilometro sa hilagang-kanluran ng bayan ng Hadji Mohammad Ajul sa Basilan, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Walang naiulat na nasaktan o pinsala sa pagyanig na may lalim na 25 kilometro. Naitala ang Intensity II sa Zamboanga City.

Ang Pilipinas ay matatagpuan sa tinatawag ng Pacific Ring of Fire, kung saan ang mga continental plates ay patuloy na nagbabangga na siyang lumilikha ng madalas na pagyanig at pag-aalburuto ng bulkan.

Source: https://bandera.inquirer.net/267431/zamboang-peninsula-niyanig-ng-3-8-magnitude-na-lindol?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0y3WpUAIsciZh8ulUeXJNLOLVc9S14s5DIAKPOCqbmamhwI5ZLvDUXb4k#Echobox=1603028790



New satellite survey reveals Africa's deserts actually filled with BILLIONS of trees

16 Oct, 2020 11:06 / Updated 2 days ago



Illustration: © Getty Images / Buena Vista Images

A groundbreaking new study of high resolution satellite imagery using a deep-learning algorithm has found that, contrary to popular opinion, there are at least 1.8 billion trees in the Sahel and Sahara deserts.

A team of 24 scientists from across Europe, the US and Africa found that the so-called sub-humid zone is surprisingly filled with plant life, forcing a rethink of two of the world's major deserts and even public policy on deforestation.

"We were very surprised that there are quite so many trees growing in the Sahara desert," lead author Martin Brandt, an assistant professor of geography at the University of Copenhagen, said.

"Certainly there are vast areas without any trees, but there are still areas with a high tree density, and even between the sandy dunes, there are here and there some trees growing."

The counting of individual trees over such vast areas of land would be a borderline insurmountable task were it not for computer deep-learning techniques.

Some 11,000 high-resolution satellite images, spanning 1.3 million square kilometers (around 500,000 square miles), were fed to a deep-learning algorithm that Brandt himself had to train by individually counting and labelling some 90,000 trees, in a process that took him an entire year.

"The level of detail is very high and the model needs to know how all kinds of different trees in different landscapes look," he said. *"I didn't accept misclassifications and further added training when I saw wrongly classified trees."*

The final count would have taken millions of people years of work, but was completed in a matter of hours, thanks to the powerful algorithm. It contradicts previous studies, which were based on estimates and extrapolations, and mapped close to zero-percent tree cover. In contrast, Brandt's highly detailed, painstaking counting of individual trees revealed a density of 13.4 per hectare.

In even better news, the new study's numbers are likely underestimates, as it excluded trees or shrubs with small canopies, counting only those with an average crown size of 12 square meters.

Experts who reviewed the research said that it will soon be possible to map the location and size of every tree around the world.

Think your friends would be interested? Share this story!

Source: <https://www.rt.com/news/503673-satellite-survey-earths-deserts-trees/>



This file picture taken on August 19, 2011 shows a Chinese white dolphin, also known locally as 'pink dolphin,' swimming in waters off the coast of Hong Kong. Daniel SORABJI/AFP

Hong Kong pink dolphins enjoy comeback as pandemic slows marine traffic

Published October 16, 2020 7:06pm

Rare pink dolphins are returning to the waters between Hong Kong and Macau after the coronavirus pandemic halted ferries, but scientists remain deeply concerned about their long-term survival in one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

The tell-tale flash of pink leaping from the waters alerts Naomi Brennan to the presence of a local Chinese white dolphin and she jots the animal's location into a GPS device.

Conservationists like Brennan regularly board boats in the Pearl River Delta to document how the mammals, known for their eye-catching pink coloring, are faring.

"Today we encountered three different groups of dolphins -- six adults and two sub-adults," she explained.

"They were engaging in a range of behavior, from feeding to travelling and socializing."

For years keeping tabs on the dolphins has been a disheartening task.

The population has fallen by 70-80 percent in the past 15 years in what is one of the world's most industrialized estuaries.

But this year their numbers have bounced back -- and they have the pandemic to thank.

Ferries between Hong Kong and Macau have been suspended since February, providing local marine scientists an opportunity to study how the mammals have adapted to the "unprecedented quiet".

"We're seeing much larger group sizes as well as much more socializing, mating behavior, which we hadn't really been seeing for the last five years or so," said Dr. Lindsay Porter, a Hong Kong-based marine scientist.

According to Porter's research team, the number of pink dolphins has increased by roughly a third in those waters since March.



"These areas seem to be important for feeding and socializing. So it's great that there's this refuge for them," added Brennan, a member of Porter's team.

Megacities and shipping

The Pearl River Delta is one of the most industrialized coastal areas on Earth. As well as Hong Kong and Macao, it includes Chinese mainland megacities like Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Dongguan, and is home to some 22 million people.

And aside from heavy shipping traffic, the dolphins' key habitat has been subjected to a host of large-scale developments, including the construction of Hong Kong's airport on reclaimed land and the world's longest sea bridge connecting the financial hub to Macau and Zhuhai.

A huge new reclamation project is also underway to build a third runway for the city's airport.

According to the WWF, there are only an estimated 2,000 pink dolphins left in the Pearl River Delta -- the minimum number that conservationists believe are needed to sustain the species'.

There is a palpable fear the delta's dolphins could go extinct under the population's current trajectory.

"Dolphins, and especially these estuarine dolphins, have a slow birth rate, a slow growth rate, a slow reproductive rate," said Laurence McCook, head of oceans conservation at WWF-Hong Kong.

"So they need very careful management."

Cantonese heritage

The lack of ferries is a welcome, but potentially brief, respite for the dolphins.

Noise from vessels disturbs mammals that rely on underwater sound for navigation and communication.

The ships also pose the physical threat of striking the creatures, injuring and even killing them.

The rugged southern coastline of Hong Kong's outlying Lantau island provides shelter from typhoons and predators for the dolphins.

But it is also where the ferries between Macau and the financial hub travel.

Conservationists are campaigning to expand an existing marine park to better protect the vulnerable species.

"We've now identified a habitat that could then be reclaimed by them and could really be used to support their population," said Brennan, who believes recent findings could provide an opportunity for conservationists to "turn the tide" for the vulnerable dolphin population.

"The fact that we've seen such a dramatic change, though still early days, from just one of those impacts going away is a really positive shift."



But WWF's McCook warns time is running out for the dolphins.

"They're an icon of the area," he said. "They're a part of Cantonese heritage. They've been around here for millennia."

"It would be a global tragedy to lose this iconic creature from the future of the Greater Bay Area." **-Agence France-Presse**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/760214/hong-kong-pink-dolphins-enjoy-comeback-as-pandemic-slows-marine-traffic/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1JftMqRKt4qaW49CnaxefBEcMZKodTZ1eA1gheTiM71KwBDajRawpYukU