



# Messages



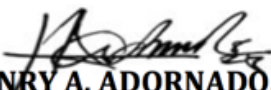
Over the years, there has been a dramatic decline in our mangrove resources. This condition is further aggravated by the occurrence of strong typhoons and other anthropogenic activities. Consequently, the values and importance of mangroves against these disturbances are increasingly appreciated by policy makers and managers.

The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), as the principal research arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is tasked to implement and supervise the Mangrove and Beach Forest Development Project under the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program. Notwithstanding the constraints associated with limited period of implementation, the ERDB is carefully implementing the project through a more stringent site validation and assessment in order to ensure successful implementation of the project and to meet the intended objectives. Implementation is guided by its Technical Bulletins issued by the office to ensure the success.

The ERDB joins in the endeavor and goals of the 2<sup>nd</sup> State of the Mangroves Summit: Southern Luzon. This is consistent with our mission to provide relevant technology and information through research and development of our natural resources particularly mangrove ecosystems. The summit marks the continuous efforts of multipartite collaboration among non-government organizations (NGOs), government agencies, local government units and academic institutions to battle the dwindling condition of mangrove resources in the light of climate change, human-induced degradation and other developments. It is imperative to review the status, what has been done, and what is needed to be done in managing the mangroves to map a clear direction towards sustainable development of this complex ecosystem.

It is our hope that the Summit will continually bring about awareness and active participation of different stakeholders in mangrove conservation and management. Along this line, the ERDB is deeply committed in generating science-based approaches in mangrove rehabilitation and conservation.

Thank you.



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