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**DENR**

# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## ‘New’ Manila Bay to attract tourists, investors: Isko

By Marita Moaje September 10, 2020, 9:11 pm



Manila Bay rehabilitation (Photo by DENR Dir. Tuchie Gaddie)

**MANILA** – Manila Mayor Francisco ‘Isko Moreno’ Domagoso on Thursday thanked the national government for the rehabilitation and beautification of the Manila Bay shoreline, saying it will attract more tourists and investors and will create more jobs for the people.

“*Maganda yun kasi urban eh, highly urbanized tapos bigla kang me beach* (that is very nice because it’s a highly urbanized city then you have a beach) that’s a good attraction for the city, the business, employment and the people as habitants of the city,” Domagoso said in an interview over ANC on Thursday.

Domagoso said the “beach nourishment” project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in a portion of Manila Bay’s shoreline is a welcome development.

“If a year or two or five from now, our next generation will experience what our lolos and lolas (grandparents) experienced in the heyday, times of Manila when the Manila Bay is clean and there is a beach in the area, *siguro yun ang regalo natin sa next generation* (that could be our gift to the next generation),” he said.

He said this is not the first time that crushed dolomites are being used for shoreline beautification, citing the Monte Carlo, Monaco in Europe, the Plantation Bay Resort in Cebu, and several other big hotels that used dolomites for their man-made beaches.

To protect the crushed dolomites from being washed out, Domagoso said DENR has applied engineering mechanisms.

However, he said the city government of Manila will file charges if the rehabilitation of Manila Bay is proven to have violated environmental laws.

He added that Manila is willing to spend money in the future to help preserve the rehabilitated Manila Bay.

At present, Domagoso said the city government has been spending big chunk of its budget for the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) response.

He called on other local government units (LGUs) around Manila Bay to join the government’s Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts by keeping their part of the bay clean.

Domagoso asked the DENR to place a water quality monitoring machine in the area to ensure that the famous Manila Bay is clean. (PNA)





## Isko defends Manila Bay project

[Friday, September 11, 2020 Itchie G. Cabayan](#)



“DON’T make it appear na pinahahalagahan ninyo ang kapakanan namin (Manilans) kesa sa pinahahalagahan namin ang kapakanan namin. Di kayo ‘knight in shining armor.’ We are excited to benefit from it but we guarantee, if there is any violation of environmental protection or laws, we will act but so far, maliwanag na walang panganib.”

Thus said Manila Mayor Isko Moreno as he referred to what he branded as instant specialist experts on the issue of white sand and dolomites and the supposed harm that the Manila Bay white sand project will bring to the residents of the city.

The mayor noted that the project was not thought of or implemented overnight, noting that it actually began as far back as two years ago and that it is also part of the 2020 budget presented to lawmakers, some of whom now express opposition.

“There must be a valid reason to stop this project. Baka nakakaligtaan natin, rehabilitation ito of the entire Manila Bay and you’re talking of Manila alone. It is composed of many provinces, municipalities and cities and this is just the beginning that’s why we are very grateful. The attention of many was drawn because white sand. What if it was black sand?” Moreno said, noting that environmentalists have been fighting for a clean bay for 20 years and it will be unfair to them if the project is stopped. “You have to trust the government. It doesn’t make sense that the DENR tasked to protect the environment will lead in destroying it,” he added, stressing that no less than the Department of Health (DOH) has issued a statement saying the project does not compromise the safety of the public with regard the dolomite issue.

Moreno said he was made to understand that certain measures or engineering works will be done in the area to ensure that the white sand will not be just washed away in case of a storm or big waves.

He added that the entire project entails not only the putting of white sand but also the total rehabilitation of the bay and the installation of a sewerage treatment plant.

According to Moreno, the rehabilitation project had started a few months before he assumed office in 2019 so that he finds it nonsensical for some to say that the money should have been used to buy rice instead of sand.

“It was started two years ago and no one talked about it. If we will experience what our lolos and lolas experienced in the heydays of the Manila Bay which was clean and where there were fishes, siguro ‘yun na ang regalo natin sa next generation. Imagine, a highly-urbanized area with a beach. It is a good attraction for the city, good for business, employment and the inhabitants,” the mayor said.



## Leave Manila Bay ‘white sand’ issue to Manilans – Isko



Published 8 hours ago  
on September 11, 2020 07:16 PM  
By [Pat C. Santos](#)



Manila Mayor Isko Moreno on Friday asked the public to leave the issue concerning the Manila Bay rehabilitation to Manilans.

Moreno said Manilans do know what would be the best for them as he slammed various sectors for riding over the so called “white” makeover of the Manila Bay being pushed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

“Hayaan ninyo kami ang magtakda kung anong mainam sa aming mga batang Maynila,” he said.

“Parang lahat gusto maging expert sa usaping environment,” the mayor said adding that Manilenos are excited about the project as they are about to benefit from it.

Moreno allayed fears that environmental protection or laws have been violated in pursuing the project.

“If environmental protection or laws have been violated, we will act but so far maliwanag walang panganib,” Moreno added.

He also defended the DENR for initiating this kind of rehabilitation project for the Manila Bay.

“You have to trust the government...it doesn’t make sense that the DENR tasked to protect the environment will lead in destroying it,” he added.

And besides, the Department of Health has already issued a statement saying the project does not compromise the safety of the public with regard the use of dolomite.

The DENR filled 3,500 wet metric tons of dolomite on Manila Bay as part of its January 2019 Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

The project being done at a height of the coronavirus pandemic was met by left and right criticisms over the department’s insensitivity and wrong prioritization, aside from health and environment concerns and issues.



## DENR/DOT/DOH vs. legislators/academics/environmentalists

Published September 11, 2020, 3:57 PM

by [Dr. Florangel Rosario Braid](#)



Dr. Florangel Rosario Braid

### PAGBABAGO

That our country has been in a perpetual “conflict state” is a truism which today should not be regarded as inconsequential.

A policy decision area which has faced the country for the past six months of the pandemic is that of trying to balance the requirements of the economy and livelihood versus health rights. We still have to await studies which would show how our policy makers arrived at decisions in this area.

In the meantime, several other “conflict areas“ have emerged, one of which is the recent Manila Bay “beach nourishment” project.

As many know, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had started dumping white sand in the Baywalk strip along Roxas Boulevard saying it wanted to bring the Boracay experience to Manila. But a group of environmentalists and academics from Greenpeace, Oceana Philippines, National Institute of Geological Sciences, among others, and legislators, had raised negative public reaction such as its cost (P389 million) for an artificial sand beach in the midst of a pandemic; that “it could have been used to purchase gadgets and produce modules for students and teachers,” that there were no public consultations or environmental clearance, and that it is unnecessary as the white sand would simply sit on an uncleaned environment and be washed away by big waves during strong typhoons.”

Too, it was not part of the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan adopted by NEDA, or the Manila Bay rehabilitation plan posted on the DENR website. House representatives noted that “without effort to stop the dumping of trash and dirty water into the river tributaries of Manila Bay, the project will merely go to waste. The waters of Manila Bay would remain deadly for as long as the two water concessionaries, failed to deliver on their obligation to build wastewater treatment plants to stop sewage from flowing directly into the bay.”

The Department of Health, which had earlier noted respiratory illnesses from inhaling the dolomite particles backtracked saying it could help lower the acidity of the toxic waters of Manila Bay. DENR noted it could “encourage tourism and the people to care for their environment.” It could “improve Filipinos’ mental health and make Manila Bay one of the most picturesque sceneries in the world,” according to the presidential spokesman.

To all these, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, although apparently supportive of the project, tried to appear neutral as he wished the critics good luck.



## DENR/DOT/DOH vs. legislators/academics/environmentalists

Now, the problem is how to translate all these factors into a decision that is credible and therefore acceptable by a majority. Or to convince the public that the decision had taken into consideration the needs, rights, and welfare of every sector.

Our dilemma today is that current decision-making on many critical policy issues such as these, is primarily based on our capitalist system which scholars describe as having several weaknesses, among them “inappropriateness of many economic policies; inefficient functioning of regulatory systems and lack of accountability; and failure of moral virtues or lack of trust, greed, truthfulness, and illegal manipulation of markets.”

The Writ of Kalikasan, a legal remedy introduced by Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno in 2010, provides protection of one’s constitutional right to a healthy environment. It primarily deals with environmental damage of such magnitude that it threatens health and property. It would be advisable to start here but to go beyond and recognize that the Manila Bay beautification program offers a greater challenge than what the present Writ of Kalikasan now covers. Stakeholders may now desire to expand its scope to include issues such as Ethics of Sustainability. Which would then demand much more comprehensive thinking in that it would weigh economic, social, ecological sustainability, environmental justice, and intergenerational justice factors, thereby balancing various stakeholder rights, an attribute of rational decision-making.

Being one of the most vulnerable countries of the world when it comes to climate change, it is about time that our social and development economists work together in designing appropriate tools and measures for making decisions on conflict situations such as the Manila Bay beach nourishment program.



## Environmental groups bike, jog to protest Manila Baywalk ‘nourishment’ project

Published September 11, 2020, 1:06 PM

by [Minka Klaudia Tiangco](#)

Several environmental groups biked and jogged their way to Manila Baywalk Friday morning to protest the government’s move to dump crushed dolomite rocks in the area.



( Photo from Pamalakaya/ MANILA BULLETIN)

From Rajah Sulayman Park, the activists carried placards calling for the termination of the project towards Manila Baywalk in Malate.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been dumping dolomite pebbles along the stretch of Manila Baywalk in a bid to improve its appearance.



( Photo from Pamalakaya/ MANILA BULLETIN)

But Fernando Hicap, national chairman of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya (Pamalakaya), said the material used is “destructive to the marine environment” and will threaten the livelihood of fisherfolk in the area.

“We demand the DENR to completely terminate the project or face loads of complaints over transgression of environmental laws,” he said during the protest.

“This ridiculous and nonsense project should immediately stop and dump the remaining ‘white sand’ into the trash bin of stupid ideas,” he added.

Despite the DENR’s repeated assurances that the crushed dolomite rocks pose no environmental and health hazards, the fisherfolk group insists that it would disrupt Manila Bay’s ecosystem.



## Environmental groups bike, jog to protest Manila Baywalk 'nourishment' project

Pamalakaya members explained that the proliferation of "alien species" in a certain area would cause imbalance to its endemic fishery and aquatic resources.

Hicap also said that the project may be a "prelude" to reclamation projects in Manila Bay.

"What we fear is not only the health issues being raised by experts, but this project might be in preparation for full-scale commercialization and privatization of Manila Bay to complement several reclamation projects," he said.

"Grand sellout of Manila Bay means massive displacement of coastal communities and widespread environmental destruction," he added.

Members of Anakpawis Partylist, Nilad, Climate Change Network for Community-based Initiatives, People's Network for the Integrity of Coastal Habitats and Ecosystems, and Baseco People's Alliance joined the protest action.

Earlier, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso told critics of the project to trust the government, saying the DENR knows what it is doing.

"In a civilized world and a civilized time, we must be governed by law and order," he said in an online forum Wednesday.

Domagoso urged critics to show proof that the white sand is hazardous so appropriate steps can be taken to address the issue.





## Groups rally vs. DENR 'white sand' project along Manila Bay

Published September 11, 2020 7:31am

Fishers and environmental groups led by Pamalakaya on Friday morning gathered near Manila Bay to protest the Department of Environment and Natural Resource's move to dump crushed dolomite on a portion of the bay's shoreline as part of its beautification project.

According to Bam Alegre's report on Unang Balita, the groups held a program near Rajah Sulayman Park at about 7 a.m. The rallyists also jogged as part of their activity.

According to the groups, they are opposed to the "aesthetic surgery" being done by the DENR on the bay, adding natural rehabilitation would have more preferable.

Carrying placards and observing social distancing, the protesters also questioned the budget used for the project especially amid the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to many livelihoods.

The DENR had earlier said that the budget for the project [was from last year](#).

"Itong budget na ito, ito po ay last year pa, last year na-release, last year din na bid-out, and last year pa nag-umpisa yung proyekto," said DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

He said the Manila Bay beautification project started last year but was suspended early this year due to the pandemic. It resumed in August with the dumping of crushed dolomite on the shoreline to give it a "white sand" appearance. —**KBK, GMA News**



## EDITORIAL - Linisin muna sa basura ang Manila Bay

(Pilipino Star Ngayon ) - September 11, 2020 - 12:00am

Ang Manila Bay ang hantungan ng mga basurang itinatapon mula sa Maynila mismo, Cavite, Parañaque, Bataan at iba pang bayan at lungsod na nasa paligid nito. Kapag masama ang panahon o may malakas na bagyo, itutulak ng alon ang mga basura patungo sa dalampasigan. Isusuka ang mga ito hanggang sa Roxas Blvd. At ang resulta, trak-trak ng basura ang hahakutin ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). Asahan nang pagbagyo, isang malaking basurahan ang Manila Bay. At ngayon, kahit na hindi bumagyo, lagi nang may basura sa Manila Bay.

Kamakalawa, nagsagawa ng clean-up drive ang MMDA at sandamukal na basura ang kanilang nakolekta at hinakot. Pawang mga plastic na basura na hindi nabubulok ang kanilang nakuha sa dalampasigan. Karaniwan na ang mga plastic shopping bags, cups ng noodles, sachet ng shampoo, 3-in-1 coffee, plastic na botelya ng softdrinks, sirang silya, kama, mga kahoy, tsinelas at marami pang basura.

Ang mga basurang ito ang iniaakyat ng alon sa Roxas Blvd. Napakasagwang tingnan na iniawasan ng mga motorista. Asahan na kapag may bagyo, ang mga itinapong basura sa Manila Bay ay ibinabalik sa pinagmulan. Kung ano ang itinapon, iyon din ang ibabalik.

Pero sa kabila na maraming basura ang dapat linisin sa Manila Bay, mas pinrayoridad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang paglalagay ng puting buhangin sa dalampasigan para sa beautification project. Ang proyekto ay nagkakahalaga ng P389 milyon.

Tone-toneladang buhangin na nanggaling pa sa Alcoy, Cebu ang tinambak sa dalampasigan. Ang puting buhangin ay mula sa giniling na dolemite. Ang dolemite ay isang uri ng bato na nakukuha sa kabundukan. Tinitibag ang bundok sa Alcoy at kinukuha ang bato at saka gigilingin.

Marami nang nakatambak na buhangin at sabi ng DENR tuloy ang proyekto kahit sinabi ng DOH na mapanganib sa kalusugan ang giniling na dolemite. Marami pa ang bumabatikos sa itinambak na buhangin.

Malamang na tangayin nang malakas na alon ang mga buhangin. Kung ang mga basura ay dinadala ng alon sa Roxas Blvd. kapag malakas ang bagyo, maaaring ganito rin ang mangyari sa ginastusang dolemite.

Kapag tinangay ang buhangin, sayang ang P389 milyon na galing sa buwis ng mamamayan. Sana nagpokus na lang muna ang DENR sa paglilinis ng basura. Pinaigting na lang nila ang kampanya sa mamamayan na maging responsable sa pagtatapon ng basura.

## Garcia urges Alcoy officials to ‘speak up’ on dolomite issue

By: Morexette Marie B. Erram - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital | September 11, 2020 - 05:17 PM



Quarrying site for dolomite rocks in Alcoy town, southern Cebu | Photo courtesy of MGB – 7

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia called the attention of local officials in Alcoy town, and urged them to shed light on the controversy involving the transport of crushed dolomite rocks for Manila Bay’s rehabilitation project.

Garcia, in a report from the province-ran Sugbo News, told Alcoy Mayor Michael Angelo Sestoso and Vice Mayor Jimmy Abajon in a meeting held at the Capitol on Thursday, September 10, to come up with their statement on the matter.

“What do we expect from the Municipality of Alcoy? In the midst of all of these, dili man mahimo nga ako lang magsige og tingog (it’s not enough I’m the only one who will speak up). Continued silence from Alcoy is very telling,” said Garcia.

Three thousand five hundred (3,500) tons of pulverized dolomite rocks mined in the mountains of Alcoy town were used to transform Manila Bay into an artificially-made white sand beach, a move that was met with widespread criticism.

The Cebu Provincial Government has intervened on the matter, with Garcia calling a meeting with local officials as well as those from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

During Thursday’s meeting, the report from Sugbo News stated that Garcia questioned why the local government of Alcoy was not able to earn more income from the two firms mining and processing dolomite — Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) and Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC).

This after Sestoso and Abajon, [according to the same report](#), told the governor that the operations of DMC and PMSC generated jobs for local residents there.

Garcia said the local government of Alcoy was unable to gain 70 percent of income in the sale of waste deposits.

This could have been done, she added, if the two companies were directed to secure waste disposal permits from local authorities.



## Garcia urges Alcoy officials to ‘speak up’ on dolomite issue

“Alcoy has to come up with a statement. Nga after all kamo mismo nga nag-host niining duha ka kumpanya dugay na nga wala naka-realize sa income nga angay unta madawat sa Alcoy, nga madawat sa barangay,” she said.

(Alcoy has to come up with a statement. After all, you are the town hosting these two companies, and throughout their operations, you were not able to realize the income Alcoy could have earned, the barangay could have earned.)

Reporters on Friday, September 11, tried to contact Sestoso multiple times for his comments but to no avail.

MGB in Central Visayas (MGB-7) earlier confirmed that the raw materials used to fill portions of Manila Bay were sourced from DMC — a mining operator based in Barangay Pugalo, Alcoy town.

They said DMC holds a Mineral Processing Sharing Agreement (MPSA) to mine dolomite, a mineral composed of calcium magnesium carbonate.

PMSC, on the other hand, is DMC’s sole buyer and has been granted a Mineral Processing Permit by MGB. The plant, also situated within Alcoy, processes the mined dolomite rocks which were then sold to markets both locally and abroad.

Alcoy is a fifth-class town located around 102 kilometers southeast of Cebu City. Experts said huge deposits of dolomite rocks can be found in the town’s mountains. /dbs

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/339261/garcia-urges-alcoy-officials-to-speak-up-on-dolomite-issue#ixzz6Xlh4XvlE>

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## DENR agency signs tree conservation agreement

Published September 11, 2020, 11:33 AM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has signed an agreement with the Energy Development Corp. (EDC) for the conservation of the 11 most critically endangered native tree species in the Philippines.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by ERDB Director Henry Adornado and EDC Corporate Support Function Group Head and Assistant Vice President Regina Victoria Pascual.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that through the MOU with EDC, the DENR will be able to “more effectively conserve and propagate native tree species that are vital to sustaining biodiversity.”

He noted the public can expect the DENR to build more partnerships to protect the environment even with the ongoing pandemic.

“Our mandate in the DENR does not stop even amid a health crisis. We can assure Filipinos that we will continue to partner with other institutions to safeguard the well-being of the environment,” Cimatu said.

Under the five-year MOU, the ERDB and EDC agree to collaborate on strengthening the BINHI program, an initiative of EDC that focuses on native tree conservation and aims to rescue and ensure propagation of selected 96 premium Philippine threatened species across the country.

The ERDB-EDC collaboration zeroes in on 11 rarest and most critically endangered tree species — kadalis narig, malayakal, Mindanao narek, pinulog, Palawan narig, narig laot, kanining penaras, Cagayan narek, pianga, mapilig, and Samar gisok.

The ERDB and EDC will conduct in-site conservation or the conservation of species in their natural habitats.

It is considered the most appropriate way of preserving biodiversity for it protects inhabitants and ensures the sustainability of the environment and ecosystem.



## DENR agency signs tree conservation agreement

Among others, the ERDB is tasked to coordinate with potential EDC partners for the identification of different tree species, provide assistance in sourcing and propagation of seedlings, and assist in technicalities and protocols for tree planting.

“ERDB is very much willing to respond to the need to conserve our natural resources by providing full support in developing science-based propagation protocols or information on the selected tree species through our research, development, and extension centers,” Adornado said.

Pascual said the EDC looks forward to a successful partnership with ERDB to rescue and secure the country’s native tree species.

“All the outcomes of our five-year partnership with ERDB will not only enable us to capacitate local government units and other organizations to protect these species,” Pascual said.

“It will result in more of these trees planted and grown and therefore, more carbon absorbed and cleaner air — a positive impact that we all need during this COVID-19 pandemic,” she added.

## DENR, EDC sign pact on saving endangered trees



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)  
September 12, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (DENR-ERDB) has partnered with the Energy Development Corp. (EDC) to conserve the 11 most critically endangered native tree species in the Philippines.

This was formalized after ERDB Director Henry Adornado and EDC Corporate Support Function Group head and Assistant Vice President Regina Victoria Pascual signed a five-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) on strengthening environmental protection amid coronavirus pandemic.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that, through the MoU, the DENR would be able to "more effectively conserve and propagate native tree species that are vital to sustaining biodiversity."

"Our mandate in the DENR does not stop even amid a health crisis. We can assure Filipinos that we will continue to partner with other institutions to safeguard the well-being of the environment," he added.

Under the MoU, the ERDB and EDC will collaborate on strengthening the Binhi program, an initiative of the EDC that focuses on native tree conservation and aims to rescue and ensure the propagation of selected 96 premium threatened species in the country.

The partnership zeroes in on the 11 rarest and most critically endangered species: kadalis narig, malayakal, Mindanao narek, pinulog, Palawan narig, narig laot, kanining peneras, Cagayan narek, pianga, mapilig and Samar gisok.

ERDB and EDC will initiate in-site conservation or the conservation of species in their natural habitats, considered the most appropriate way of preserving biodiversity for it protects inhabitants and ensures sustainability of the environment and of the ecosystem.

The ERDB is tasked to coordinate with potential EDC partners for the identification of different tree species, provide assistance in sourcing and propagation of seedlings, and assist in technicalities and protocols for tree planting.

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Pascual said her company was looking forward to a successful partnership with ERDB to rescue and secure the country's native tree species.

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## DENR, EDC sign pact on saving endangered trees

“It will result in more of these trees planted and grown and therefore, more carbon absorbed and cleaner air — a positive impact that we all need during this Covid-19 pandemic,” she added.

ERDB is the principal research and development unit of the DENR that formulates, implements, coordinates and evaluates integrated research, development and extension programs on environment and natural resources.

EDC is one of the leading renewable energy companies in the country. It has programs to conserve watershed and natural resources within its geothermal reservations.





## DENR issues warning on illegal plant trade

By Racquel Quieta

Published On: September 11, 2020, 06:48 PM

*Plantitos and plantitas, beware! Make sure you don't buy threatened species of plants from poachers.*

[Gardening](#) is among the quarantine-born trends that people are still very much crazy about. [Plantitos and plantitas](#) have all worked on having that green thumb and lately the fad has leveled up to collecting and growing hard-to-grow plants, as well as expensive and rare ones.



Source: @DENR9Official (FB)

Because of this, the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) in the Zamboanga Peninsula decided to ring the alarm on the illegal poaching and selling of threatened species of [plants](#).

In their official Facebook page DENR Zamboanga Peninsula wrote, “The collection of wild flora directly from the forest, especially those considered as threatened species, without permit is prohibited under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.”

The announcement was made by DENR Zamboanga Peninsula Executive Director Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez, who warned plant poachers that they can be charged by her office under this law once they are caught gathering wild plants in the forest without a permit.

Illegal poachers who are caught collecting wild plants classified as critically endangered will face imprisonment from six to 12 years and a fine of PhP 100,000 to PhP 1,000,000.

Examples of critically endangered plants are the Giant staghorn fern or Capa de Leon (*Platycerium grande*), Staghorn fern (*Platycerium coronarium*) and the Waling-waling (*Vanda sandieriana*).

Those that are considered as threatened species are the Green Velvet Alocasia (*Alocasia micholitziana*), Kris plant (*Alocasia sandieriana*) and the Zebra Plant (*Alocasia zebrina*).

For the full list of threatened plants, go to DENR's official Facebook page.



## NWRB cuts allocation for Metro Manila as Angat Dam water level dips

Published September 11, 2020 8:24pm

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on Friday reduced the 46 cubic meters per second water allocation for Metro Manila as the water level at Angat Dam continued to decrease.

According to Raffy Tima's report on "24 Oras," from the dam's more than 180 meters of minimum operating level in early September, the water level has decreased to 178.01 meters on Friday morning.

"Para po mapangalagaan natin 'yung kasalukuyang lebel niya at hindi naman po masyadong mapapeligro 'yung supply ng mga kababayan natin ay minabuti po ng Board na ibalik sa 46 cubic meters per second ang alokasyon ng MWSS," Dr. Sevillo David Jr., NWRB executive director, said.

PAGASA said insufficient rain was the cause of the continuous dip in water level in the country's major dams.

"July dapat mataas na siya pero 'yung southwest [monsoon], 'yung mga bagyo natin halos hindi naman naka-apekto sa mga mino-monitor nating major dams so halos hindi lahat sila tumaas o ang iba nag continuous ang pagbaba, particular nga itong Angat Dam," PAGASA hydrologist Elmer Caringal said.

Despite this, the weather agency sees hope in the following weeks.

"Ang bigay na projected forecast or info ng kabilang division is 380 millimeters of rainfall. Kinompute namin siya, ang magiging total elevation ng Angat by the end of October is 186.23," he said.

Manila Water, which provides water supply to the east zone of Metro Manila, said its customers have yet to be affected by the reduced allocation.

"Ang pinaghahandaan natin ay 'yung halimbawa na patuloy na bababa 'yung lebel ng Angat at patuloy na magbabawas ng alokasyon," Jeric Sevilla, corporate communications head, said.

"Mayroon naman tayo 'yung Cardona Water Treatment Plant natin na may kapasidad na magdagdag ng suplay up to 100 million liters of water per day," he added.

Maynilad, which covers the west zone, said it is still able to provide normal water supply.

"Sa ngayon naman po ay nakakauha pa rin po tayo ng tubig kahit papaano. Aside doon sa alokasyon ng tubig mula sa Angat ay meron pa rin naman stored water mula doon sa Ipo Dam natin," Ronald Padua, Maynilad water supply operations head, said.—**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**



## COA flags ₱12-billion Kaliwa Dam project for absence of environmental compliance, consent from IPs

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 11, 2020 7:01:01 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 11)** - The Commission on Audit (COA) has flagged the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) after it issued a notice to proceed (NTP) to Kaliwa Dam project's Chinese contractor, despite its pending compliance with environmental guidelines and failure to secure consent from affected indigenous peoples (IP).

In the 2019 annual audit report on MWSS, COA said the water agency has issued an NTP to the contractor China Energy Engineering Company, Inc. for the detailed engineering and design and construction of Kaliwa Dam despite the noncompliance with the requirements under the loan agreement.

The New Centennial Water Source- Kaliwa Dam project is a ₱12.2-billion deal seeking to build a water reservoir bordering Rizal and Quezon provinces.

Included in the preconditions of the loan agreement is the receipt of copy of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

State auditors said the ECC has 17 environmental management conditions and four general conditions. It noted that the following conditions must be complied first by the contractor before implementing the project.

Furthermore, the ECC stated that no project shall commence until the proponent has complied with the requirements of the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and the necessary certifications from the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples, including the Certificate of Precondition (CP) after the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) is obtained from affected indigenous cultural communities or groups.

In the report, the MWSS responded that the CP attesting to the FPIC, is still a "work-in-progress" and the memorandum of agreement with the concerned IPs in Quezon and Rizal are underway.

The MWSS also said that it has formed an environmental unit to ensure the compliance with the conditions in Environment Impact Statement and ECC as it is expected to submit a Compliance Monitoring Report to Environmental Management Bureau.

However, COA pointed out that there were no documents presented that will prove the compliance with requisites stated in the conditional ECC, nor reports on the status of compliance with documentary requirements.



## COA flags ₱12-billion Kaliwa Dam project for absence of environmental compliance, consent from IPs

“Such failure of the agency to produce proofs that it has satisfied all the requirements under the ECC renders the issuance of the NTP questionable,” stated COA.

### Dubious consent

COA also noted that the Resolusyon ng Pagpayag (RP) of the Dumagat/Remontado Tribe of General Naka, Quezon, submitted by MWSS, showed deficiencies which cast doubts on its validity.

In the submitted resolution by MWSS, state auditors said it does not mention the name of the tribal leaders or elders who would attest to the identity of the IP member who signed it. The resolution also does not indicate the date when the purported IPs signed the document.

COA also noted the resolution was not notarized.

With this finding, the state auditors said the dubious and questionable character of the consent from IP members is “bolstered by the fact” that during the Senate hearing on Jan; 22, 2020, when several stakeholders and groups from various sectors including tribal groups, raised concerns over the legitimacy and representation of the indigenous were disputed.

“Within these groups include residents who argued that they were neither consulted nor informed on the implementation of the project. The same group also claimed that they were disregarded in the dialogues conducted during the community assemblies,” said COA. “They even questioned the eligibility of the members who signed the IP.”

In response, MWSS said that the FPIC for the Kaliwa Dam project was hampered by protest staged by different interest groups. It added that the agency and NCIP are in the process of securing the CP through the conduct of two FPICs among IP communities in General Nakar, Quezon and in Tanay, Rizal.

In December, President Rodrigo Duterte promised that the government would [pay and relocate](#) affected residents near the project sites of Kaliwa Dam and the Wawa Dam.





## COA kinuwestyon ang notice to proceed ng Kaliwa Dam project na walang ECC

By Karlos Bautista September 11, 2020 - 04:57 PM



Ang mga katutubong Dumagat habang namamangka sa Kaliwa-Agos River sa Barangay Magsaysay, Infanta, Quezon. (Richard A. Reyes/Inquirer)

Kinuwestiyon ng Commission on Audit (COA) ang pagbibigay ng notice to proceed sa P12-bilyong Kaliwa Dam project bagama't wala pa itong environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

Sa kalalabas lamang na 2019 annual audit report para sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, binusisi ng COA ang pag-iisyu ng MWSS ng notice to proceed para sa detalyadong engineering, design at konstruksiyon ng proyekto na iginawad sa China Energy Engineer Company Inc.

Ayon sa state auditors, ang mga rekisitos sa pagkakaroon ng ECC ay di pa natutupad, kabilang na ang free and prior informed consent ng mga katutubong maapektuhan ang kabuhayan at komunidad ng proyekto.

“The Resolution ng Pagpayag (RP), allegedly executed by the members of the tribal groups/indigenous people’s (Ips) living within the MWSS Kaliwa Dam project site, is a requirement for the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and a condition precedent to the issuance of the ECC, is not compliant with the guidelines under NCIP Administrative Order No. 3, s, 2012,” ayon sa COA.

“Hence, (this) renders the project proponent non-compliant with the CC, and thus affects the effectivity of the Loan Agreement and the Commercial Contract,” sabi pa ng state auditors.

Napuna rin ng mga COA examiner na hindi binanggit sa RP na inisyu ng Dumagat/Remontado tribe ng General Nakar, Quezon ang mga pangalan ng tribal leaders at elders na magpapatotoo sa pagkakakilanlan ng mga katutubong pumirma sa resolusyon.

Kinuwestiyon din ng mga auditor ang hindi pagtugma sa petsa na nilagdaan ang mga dokumento at ang kawalan ng notaryo sa mga ito.

Binigyang-diin ng COA na ang umano’y kaduda-duda at kwestyonableng dokumento ng pagpayag ng mga katutubo ay nasuportahan sa isang hearing sa Senado noong Enero 22 nang kuwestiyunin ng ilang stakeholders at tribal groups ang pagiging lehitimo ng mga sinasabing kumatawan sa kanila sa dokumento.



## COA kinuwestyon ang notice to proceed ng Kaliwa Dam project na walang ECC

“Within these groups include residents who argued that they were neither consulted nor informed on the implementation of the project,” sabi pa ng COA.

“The failure to produce a valid Resolution of Consent and the corresponding MOA renders the consent defective and doubtful. This is without regard to the fact that no RP was submitted for the IPs in the Tanay, Rizal area,” ayon sa COA.

“They even questioned the eligibility of the members who signed the RP,” dagdag pa ng report.

Inatasan ng COA ang MWSS na bumuo ng balido at nararapat na resolution of consent na alinsunod sa mga hinihingi ng National Commission for Indigenous Peoples.

Bilang reaksiyon, sinabi naman ng MWSS na ang pag-isyu ng FPIC mula sa mga apektadong indibidwal ay napigilan ng mga protesta ng iba’t ibang interest groups.

Ilang bahagi ng General Nakar at Infanta sa lalawigan ng Quezon ang lulubog sa tubig dahil sa proyekto. Ganundin, maapektuhan din umano nito maging ang Sierra Madre sa Tanay, Rizal.

Samantala, sinabi rin ng mga auditor na ang pagkabigo ng MWSS na i-expropriate ang mga lote para sa right of way ay itinuturing na batayan para tapusin ang kontrata sa ilalim ng bagong batas.

“The expropriation of lots particularly for the right of way affected by Kaliwa Dam Project is still pending, hence considered a ground for the termination of the contract under Section 17.6 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184 also known as the Government Procurement Reform Law,” pahayag ng COA.

“The pending status of the right of way acquisitions and court proceedings for the expropriation of lots to be utilized for the dam site, treatment plants, tunnel conveyance outlet, access roads and other permanent structures can adversely affect the duration of the project,” ayon sa COA.

Ipinaliwanag naman ng MWSS na naantala ang expropriation proceedings dahil sa community quarantine dulot ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Sinabi ng mga state auditor na dahil ang kontrata sa pagitan ng MWSS at ng CEEC ay hindi saklaw ng anumang tratado, kailangang manaig ang mga probisyon ng RA 9184.

Alinsunod sa RA 9184, ang NTP ay kinakailangang ipalabas pitong araw mula sa petsa ng pag-apruba sa kontrata at matapos itong tanggapin ng contractor na itinuturing nang nakasunod sa lahat ng rekisito na itinatakda sa ilalim ng loan agreement.

Ang sinasabing commercial contract ay itinuturing na walang bisa sa kadahilanang hindi nasunod ang mga rekisito.

Ang Kaliwa Dam, na may taas ang 60 metro, ay inaasahang magbibigay ng 600 milyong litrong tubig araw-araw. Ito ay itatayo sa lugar na nasasakupan ng mga lalawigan ng Rizal at Quezon.



## Mendez invests in waste segregation

[Friday, September 11, 2020 People's Tonight](#)



Sorters remove the glass and tin cans before collected garbage passes through the granulated machine. Photo by DENNIS ABRINA

**MENDEZ Mayor Eric Vida** has allocated around P7 million for the purchase of 9 waste segregating equipment which include sorting conveyor, rapid composting machine, plastic shedder and bottle and glass crusher.

Eight mini dump trucks haul garbage daily in 25 barangays of the locality before the LGU acquired the waste segregating machines from the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office.

MENRO Head Amir Ambagan said plastic and granulated wastes were hauled by a cement company for recycling. Kitchen or biodegradable waste will be processed into compost to be distributed to Mendez farmers.

Rejected bottles and glass are fed to the crusher for use later to make hollow blocks.

“Our team operates Monday to Saturday to ensure the garbage collection in the locality is properly implemented. Garbage is collected from households and sorting in Eco Park,” said Ambagan.

“Mendez used to spend around P330,000 a month on waste disposal, now we only spend P165,000 on waste disposal expenses for a month,” Ambagan added.

Mendez MENRO has 18 staffs consisting of dump truck drivers, garbage collectors and sorters also conducting disinfection in their offices, work places and vehicles to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease in the area.



## Village leaders slammed for blocking mine ops



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#) September 12, 2020

**KASIBU, Nueva Vizcaya:** Some 400 residents of the mineral-rich, upland village of Didipio here have called on the barangay (village) council to reverse its recent resolution urging the Duterte administration to junk the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) renewal of OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI).

The majority of the residents who initiated a general assembly on Thursday said the controversial barangay resolution “did not express the will of the people,” as the council failed to conduct any community consultation and that the resolution was “a product of an abuse of authority” among the proponents.

Condemning the resolution were various organizations, including the Didipio Mine Employee Association, Pun-oh-o-haan Hi Kiphodan Labor Union and Coalition of Communities for Sustainable Development.

These organizations also said the majority of Didipio residents actually support the FTAA renewal of OGPI, saying they recognize the responsible operation of the company that been the main economic driver in this far-flung village of the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

“We personally witnessed how the responsible mining operations of OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc. have greatly contributed to the sustainable development of our community. Our youth are now able to enjoy quality education. We now have roads that allow us to transport our agricultural products to the market. A lot of families had regular sources of livelihood from their employment with OceanaGold or its contractors through small businesses and through agriculture,” the group said in a statement.

It added that some of the barangay officials committed abuse of authority in pushing for the stoppage of the operations of the Didipio Mine.

“[We] consider the move of the council as heartless, as the region and the country are still reeling from the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic,” the group said.

In July 2019, the OGPI was constrained to halt the operations of the Didipio Mine because of a blockade set up pursuant to a stoppage order from the local government, preventing the entry of supplies and transport of mineral products.

During the same month, the OGPI’s underground mining activities also ceased because of depletion of mining consumables.

In the last quarter of the same year, milling activities were also stopped. |

During the assembly, the residents also urged the barangay council to dismantle the barricades at the gates of the community in order that the company could transport its remaining copper concentrates.



## Group calls on ADB to stop funding coal energy projects

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lulu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLuluINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:24 PM September 11, 2020



The facade of the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines. AFP PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — A pro-environment group has called on the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to stop funding coal energy-based projects ahead of a virtual meeting hosted by the country, claiming that it is a primary driver for pollution in Asia.

The Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) explained on Friday that ADB's renewable energy investments cannot cover the fact that it has engaged in projects to source energy from fossil fuels.

The second stage of ADB's 53rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, which should have been held in Manila if not for the COVID-19 pandemic, will be [held in a virtual platform](#) from September 17 to 18.

"Thanks to the lenient Energy Policy it adopted in 2009, ADB is guilty of having shaped Asia's energy sector into its carbon-intensive state today," CEED executive Director Gerry Arances said in a statement.

"No amount of renewable energy investments could cover up the bank's role in advancing the myth of clean coal and the fact that half of the total installed capacity of power generation projects it funded the past decade are from fossil fuels," Arances added.

According to CEED, ADB must be responsible for its actions especially since a lot of studies believe that several parts of Asia are susceptible to climate change, including the oft calamity-stricken Philippines.

CEED's comments about ADB and its involvement in the carbon energy sector are not the first: in fact, in June 2016, the Philippines' Climate Change Commission asked ADB and other financing firms to stop bankrolling coal energy, to promote a shift to renewable and clean energy.

In 2018, solar power advocates also urged [ADB](#) to look at the possibility of funding solar energy projects and research, especially since it is seen as a better alternative to coal power plants which are deemed dangerous for the environment.

Just this September, ADB's independent evaluation department called on the regional bank to formalize its stance to [stop funding coal-fired power plants](#).





## Group calls on ADB to stop funding coal energy projects

“The critical reflections we from civil society offer today mirror what the bank’s Independent Evaluation Department reported: that ADB needs a new energy policy that accurately responds to the region’s needs,” Arances noted.

“In doing so it must live up to its role in global energy transformation, which it can begin by completely leaving coal in its dirty past,” he added.

Other stakeholders also believe that if ADB moves to stop backing coal energy, it would have a big impact on achieving goals of limiting global temperature rise.

“The Taal volcano eruption, Australian forest fires, floods in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the typhoons in the USA all struck within a span of 7 months amid COVID-19. If there ever was a time to be climate responsible for ADB, it is now,” Rayyan Hassan, executive director of NGO Forum on ADB, said.

“We as NGO Forum on ADB demand that the ADB Board of Directors and ADB Senior Management take heed of this recommendation and act swiftly towards an immediate end on all coal and coal-related power and forge towards a just transition to limit global temperature rise to the Paris goal of 1.5°C. ADB must end coal, and end it now. We are out of time,” he added.

JPV

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1334355/group-calls-on-adb-to-stop-funding-coal-energy-projects#ixzz6Xloj143v>

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## Philippines' COVID-19 cases top 252,000 with 4,040 new infections

Published September 11, 2020 4:01pm  
By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

The Philippines on Friday announced 4,040 more coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infections, bringing the nationwide tally of cases to 252,964, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

Most of the new cases reported came from the National Capital Region with 1,813, followed by Cavite with 435, Rizal with 218, Bulacan with 195, and Laguna with 171.

Sixty-eight percent of the new cases acquired the virus in the past 14 days. A total of 23 duplicate cases were also removed from the total case count.

The DOH also announced that total recoveries rose to 186,606 after 566 more patients have recovered from the illness.

Meanwhile, 42 more fatalities brought the death toll to 4,108. Among the new deaths, 25 occurred in September, 11 in August, two in July, one in June, and three in April.

There are also 62,250 active cases undergoing treatment or quarantine, of which 88.8 percent are mild, 8.4 percent are asymptomatic, 1.1 percent are severe, and 1.7 percent are in critical condition.

At present, the Philippines has 118 licensed laboratories that have tested a total of 2,817,101 individuals while 47 percent of the country's intensive care unit beds for COVID-19 patients are occupied and 27 percent of mechanical ventilators are in use.

Earlier, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the DOH may release its omnibus guidelines for various COVID-19 testing procedures next week. -MDM, GMA News



## Global death toll sa COVID-19 mahigit 913,000 na

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo September 11, 2020 - 09:48 AM



Sumampa na sa 913,853 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Sa huling datos na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER, pinakamaraming naitalang nasawi pa rin sa US na umabot na sa 196,328.

Sumampa naman na sa mahigit 129,500 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa Brazil.

Ang death toll sa India ay mahigit 76,000 na.

Habang ang death toll sa Mexico ay umabot na sa mahigit 69,000.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 20.3 million na ang bilang ng mga naka-recover na sa sakit.

Habang nasa mahigit 7 million pa ang aktibong kaso.

Narito ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa iba't ibang ng mga bansa:

USA – 196,328

Brazil – 129,575

India – 76,304

Mexico – 69,649

UK – 41,608

Italy – 35,587

France – 30,813

Peru – 30,344

Spain – 29,699

Iran – 22,798

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/263946/global-death-toll-sa-covid-19-mahigit-913000-na#ixzz6XIXQkEZA>

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## LPA, maghahatid ng ulan sa Bicol at Visayas – Pagasa

By [Bombo Dennis Jamito](#)

-September 11, 2020 | 9:58 AM

Patuloy na magdadala ng mga pag-ulan sa malaking parte ng Bicol region at Visayas ang low pressure area (LPA) sa silangan bahagi ng Southern Luzon.

Ayon kay Pagasa forecaster Lorie dela Cruz, huling namataan ang LPA sa layong 135 km sa silangan ng Virac, Catanduanes.

Sa ngayon, maliit pa ang tyansa nitong maging bagong bagyo.

Samantala, isang bagyo naman ang mino-monitor sa labas ng Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

Huli itong namataan sa layong 2,010 km sa silangan hilagang silangan ng extreme Northern Luzon.

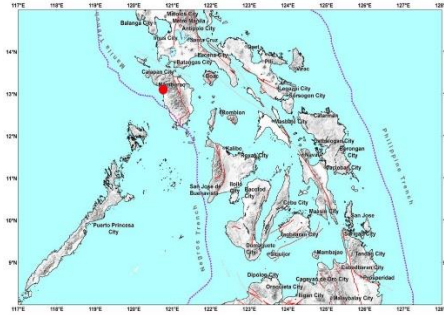
Taglay nito ang lakas ng hangin na 45 kph at may pagbugsong 55 kph.

Kumikilos ang bagyo nang pahilagang kanluran sa bilis na 15 kph.



## Naujan, Oriental Mindoro niyanig ng magnitude 4.6 na lindol

By Ulat ng Bandera at Radyo Inquirer September 11, 2020 - 04:54 PM



Niyanig ng magnitude 4.6 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Oriental Mindoro.

Ang lindol ay naitala sa layong 4 kilometers southwest ng bayan ng Naujan alas 12:52 ng hapon ngayong Biyernes, Sept. 11.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, 26 kilometers ang lalim ng lindol at tectonic ang origin.

Naitala ang sumusunod na Instrumental Intensities:

Intensity III – Puerto Galera, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

Intensity II – Calatagan, Batangas

Intensity I – San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Roxas, Oriental Mindoro

Hindi naman inaasahang magdudulot ng pinsala at aftershocks ang lindol.

Read more: <https://bandera.inquirer.net/264156/naujan-oriental-mindoro-niyanig-ng-magnitude-4-6-na-lindol#ixzz6XITWnxKl>

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## LA NIÑA MAHINA, MAGTIPIID SA TUBIG



September 11, 2020 @ 3:57 PM 14 hours ago

SETYEMBRE na pero wala pang gaanong ulan.

Mayroon namang malalakas na ulan simula nitong nakaraang buwan pero karaniwang nasa isang oras lang at nagpapatuloy ang ganitong kalagayan sa buwang ito.

Dahil dito, ang mga dam ay hindi gaanong napupunuan ng tubig na kailangan nating lahat.

Halimbawa ang Angat Dam na pinagkukunan ng Metro Manila at karatig-lalawigan ng 96 porsyentong suplay ng tubig, hindi pa rin gaanong kargado ng tubig na magtatagal ng kung ilang buwan.

Eh, ito pa ang pinagkukunan ng irigasyon, lalo na sa parte ng Bulacan.

Ang Pantabangan Dam naman na inaasahan ng Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela at Cagayan na pagkukunan ng tubig para sa inumin at sakahan, nakitaan ng dating bayan na pinalubog nang ginawa ito.

Ang ibang lugar sa Visayas at Mindanao, apektado rin ng alanganing pag-ulan at tagtuyot.

### MAGTIPIID, MAG-RECYCLE NG TUBIG

Sabi ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, may darating na La Niña sa Oktubre-Nobyembre 2020 pero mukhang mahina.

Kung magbubunga ito ng mga bagyo, hindi natin alam kung gaano kalalakas na ulan ang parating ng mga ito.

Pero lumalabas na mas pinipili ng PAGASA ang magbigay ng payo na magtipid tayo sa tubig.

At napakahalaga itong alalahanin.

Labis ang pangangailangan ng tubig ngayon, lalo na't naririto sa atin ang coronavirus disease-19 na kinontra natin sa tubig.

Magastos tayo sa tubig dahil sa lagi nating pagligo, paghuhugas ng kamay at paghilamos para mapagpag ang COVID-19 sa ating pagpasok sa trabaho at pag-uwi sa ating tahanan.

Kailangan talaga nating magtipid sa tubig ngunit dapat na haluan ito ng recycling.



## LA NIÑA MAHINA, MAGTIPID SA TUBIG

Halimbawa, matapos nating maghugas ng mga plato, baso, kutsara at iba pa, pwedeng gawing panlinis ng mga lababo sa kusina ang mga may sabon at banlawan ang mga ito ng malinis na tubig na ginamit sa paghuhugas ng mga kubierto na nabanggit.

Pwede ring maligo nang may inaapakang palanggana at ang maiipon dito, siya ang gagamitin na pambuhos ng kubeta.

Hindi basta itapon nang itapon ang mga ito na nakalilikha ng mga pagbaha na may maruruming tubig kung saan-saan.

### MALAKING TULONG VS COVID-19

Kapag makapagtipid tayo at magamit natin nang tama ang mga tubig sa tulong ng recycling, malaki ang maitutulong natin sa mga pasyente ng COVID-19 at iba pang maysakit.

Lalo na ang mga nasa ospital at ginagamot.

Ang totoo, punuan ang mga ospital ngayon at ang tubig bilang panlinis ay labis na kailangan ng mga pasyente at mga health frontliner.

Maya't maya gumagamit ang mga pasyente at doktor ng tubig bilang panlinis ng kanilang mga sarili at kanilang mga gamit.

Kailangan ding palaging malinis ang mga palikuran, bagay na hindi gaanong matitiyak kung walang sapat na suplay ng tubig sa lahat ng panahon.

Itong mga public hospital lalo na, mga Bro, marami sa mga ito ang marurumi ang mga palikuran at sanhi ito ng hindi magandang suplay ng tubig.

Sana, mabago natin ang karaniwang nasasaksihan nating napakaruming palikuran ng mga pampublikong ospital na kinakambalan ng mga sirang bowl, sirang tubo at ibang kasiraan na pinamamahayan ng mga bacteria, virus, fungus at iba pang sanhi ng pagkakasakit.

### AYUSIN ANG MGA SIRA

Pinag-aaralan natin ang mga sirang gamit sa tubig.

Ang patak-patak lang na tagas ng isang faucet ay nakaiipon pala ng isang drum na tubig sa magdamag.

Paano kung marami tayong sirang faucet, koneksyon ng mga tubo at iba pa na nilalabasan ng tubig na hindi natin ginagamit.

Hindi lang tayo nag-aaksaya ng tubig kundi magbabayad din ng mahal.

Medyo mura ang mga residential pero kung ang gusali mo o komersyal o industrial, doble o triple ang sisingilin sa iyo ng mga kompanya ng tubig.

Kaya nga, kasama sa pagtitipid ng tubig ang pag-aayos ng lahat ng sira sa usaping tubig at pag-recycle na rin.



## LA NIÑA MAHINA, MAGTIPID SA TUBIG

Kung magagawa natin ang lahat ng ito, malaki ang maitutulong natin laban sa mga sakit, sa mataas na bayarin at maging sa pag-aalaga ng ating kapalagiran na hindi dapat natatapanan ng marurumi o sobrang tubig na sanhi ng mga pagbahang hindi natin kailangan.

ISANG malaking pagkilala ang tinanggap ng administrasyong Duterte dahil sa sinseridad nito na igawad ang hustisya sa nangangailangan at ang makapagbigay-seguridad sa mga mamamahayag.

Ito ay matapos ihayag ng United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization na itinuturing na nitong lutas na ang kaso ng halos isang dekadang Maguindanao Massacre at patunay na ang hustisya sa bansa ay umiinog para sa seguridad ng malayang pamamahayag sa ilalim ng administrasyong Duterte.

Mismong si UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information Moez Chakchouk, sa pamamagitan ng kanyang liham kay Ambassador Theresa Lazaro, ang nagsabi na kinikilala ng UNESCO ang konkretong pagmamalasakit ng pamahalaan na bigyang hustisya ang pagkamatay ng mga biktima at madakip ang mga salarin at suspek sa Maguindanao Massacre.

Kinumpirma ni Chakchouk na itinuturing na nila ang pagkaka-resolba ng Maguindanao Massacre at isasama na raw nila ito sa UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists at sa “2020 Director-General Report on the Safety of Journalists”.

Sa isang ngang ulat na ipinarating sa ating tanggapan sa Presidential Task Force on Media Security na galing sa Department of Foreign Affairs – United Nations and International Organization inihahayag ng UNESCO ang kahandaan nitong tumulong sa bansang Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalakas ng kakayahan ng hudikatura na maisaklaw ang “international standards” hinggil sa kalayaan ng pamamahayag o freedom of expression.

Ikinagalak naman ito ni Justice Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra, chairman ng PTFoMS na ang sabi ang hustisya sa bansa ay tunay na patas at epektibo.

Ganun din ang kagalakan ni PTFoMS Co-Chairman at Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar na nagbigay-pugay sa desisyon ng UNESCO at sinabing ito raw ay patunay na ang administrasyong Duterte ay tunay na naglalayong maprotektahan ang lahat ng mamamahayag sa anomang karahasan at laging ipaglaban ang malayang pamamahayag.

Atin naman itong ipagmamalaki bilang isa na namang malaking tagumpay ng Administrasyon Duterte sa larangan ng mahusay nitong pakikitungo sa lahat ng media sa bansa mapalokal man o international. Sa pagkakaturong ng UNESCO na ang kaso ng Maguindanao Massacre ay naresolba, maipagmamalaki natin sa buong mundo na walang karahasan na ‘di maparurusahan kung ang mga taga-media ang ginawan nito. Malaking karangalan para sa bansa ang pahayag ng UNESCO ukol sa kaso.

Ito rin ang makapagbabago sa katayuan ng bansa sa tinatawag na Global Impunity Index ng Committee to Protect Journalists, kasabay ng pagtulak ng administrasyong Duterte sa dalawang panukalang batas na makapagbibigay lalo ng proteksyon at lakas sa mga mamamahayag ng Pilipinas – ang Media Workers Welfare Bill at ang Freedom of Information Bill.



## LA NIÑA MAHINA, MAGTIPID SA TUBIG

Kapag ang mga ito ay naisabatas, magiging isa tayo sa mga bansa, kung saan ang malayang impormasyon at pamamahayag at karapatang mabuhay ng mga taga-media ay talagang kinikilala at pinoprotektahan.

Kaya naman natin, kasama ang PTFoMS, sinusuportahan ang proyekto ng UNESCO na “Fostering the Role of the Philippine Judiciary System in Promoting Key Aspects of the 2020 Agenda,” na serye ng online at onsite na mga kurso at pagtalakay, kurso at seminar base sa UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists.

Mapalalakas nito ang ating kapasidad na makipag-ugnayan nang mahusay sa mga internasyonal na komunidad, samantalang ang pakikipag-ugnayan ng pamahalaan naman sa UNESCO ay lalong makapagpapatatag sa PTFoMS na gawin ang tungkulin nito na protektahan ang buhay, kalayaan at seguridad ng bawat mamamahayag na Filipino maging ang mga manggagawa ng sektor ng media.

Habang ang PTFoMS ay naririto, ang mga imbestigasyon at prosekusyon ng lahat ng kaso laban sa media sa bansa ay garantisadong mabibigyan ng hustisya.

## Duterte okays Bayanihan 2



Published 3 hours ago on September 12, 2020 01:10 AM By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



President Rodrigo Duterte has approved the Bayanihan To Recover As One Act or Bayanihan 2 which will provide P165-billion worth of stimulus package to aid sectors hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

This was confirmed to reporters on Friday by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, who previously served as the President’s former top aide.

Go and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana were present when the President signed the Bayanihan Act into law, as shown in Palace photos.

Ratified by both houses of Congress in August, the measure is seen as a life vest for the economy as it includes a P140-billion aid package for industries hit by economic woes due to the pandemic, and a P25.52-billion standby fund that the government may spend in the next four months before the 2021 budget takes effect.

### **Troubled sectors get aid**

The law, which replaces the government’s first pandemic response measure dubbed as Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, also allows the President to realign funds for pandemic-related expenses.

The measure allocates P50 billion to government financial institutions to provide soft loans to businesses and P4 billion for the tourism industry.

The Bayanihan 2 also provides P13 billion to aid displaced workers through cash-for-work and other forms of assistance, while P6 billion would be given to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for cash assistance in areas under lockdown.

### **Frontliners get help**

It also allots P13.5 billion for health-related responses, including the payment of P10,000 special risk allowance to both public and private medical frontliners, P3 billion for the procurement of face masks, face shields and personal protective equipment, and P4.5 billion for the construction of temporary medical isolation and quarantine facilities.

It also set aside funds for subsidies and allowances to qualified students in both private and public elementary schools, high schools, and colleges whose families were affected by work stoppage amid the lockdowns, and a one-time cash aid to displaced teaching and non-teaching personnel.

The Bayanihan 2 Act requires the President to submit a report to Congress monthly until the end of the year.





## Hydroelectric company signs agreement with tribe



By [Dexter A. See](#)

September 12, 2020

**BACNOTAN, La Union:** The Kapangan-based Cordillera Hydroelectric Power Corp. (Coheco) has entered into a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with elders of the Bago tribe, living in Barangay Arosip here, that will allow the company to put up some of the poles of its transmission lines within the ancestral domain of indigenous peoples. Jingboy Atonen, Coheco legal counsel, said the signing of the agreement was achieved after the company underwent the required free and prior informed consent (FPIC) process with the affected indigenous peoples pursuant to Republic Act 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act. Under the law, companies intending to introduce development projects within the ancestral domain of indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities must first secure the consent of the affected indigenous peoples through the prescribed process. Based on the agreement, the indigenous peoples will be enjoying a P100,000 annual financial assistance from the company that will be used for scholarships of tribal beneficiaries aside from provision of funding support for construction of waterworks for the six sitios (enclaves within villages) and rehabilitation of the tribal hall in the area. Atonen said with the consent of the affected indigenous peoples as enshrined in the agreement, the local power company could now construct its 24-kilometer transmission line from its powerhouse in Barangay Badeo, Kibungan, Benguet to the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines, tapping the sub-station in Barangay Narra here that will traverse the town of Santol. Earlier, Coheco was able to secure the consent of the indigenous peoples in Santol that allowed the company to construct the poles of its transmission lines from its powerhouse. Coheco plans to build a 60-megawatt run-of-river hydropower plant that will benefit the indigenous peoples of the ancestral domains of Kibungan and Kapangan, as the power plant is being viewed as a major economic driver in the area.



## Rio Tinto bosses resign over destruction of ancient Aboriginal site

David Millikin, Agence France-Presse  
Posted at Sep 11 2020 03:06 PM



A Rio Tinto mine is shown in this handout photo. *Photo from Rio Tinto website*

SYDNEY - Rio Tinto announced the resignation of its CEO and two top lieutenants Friday over the mining giant's destruction of a 46,000-year-old Aboriginal site to expand an iron ore mine in Australia.

The Anglo-Australian firm faced a growing investor revolt over the destruction of the sacred site in the Juukan Gorge in Western Australia's remote Pilbara region -- one of the earliest known locations inhabited by Australia's indigenous people.

Following a board investigation into the May 24 incident, Rio Tinto said CEO Jean-Sebastien Jacques was stepping down "by mutual agreement" along with the chief of the company's core iron ore division, Chris Salisbury, and corporate relations head Simone Niven.

"What happened at Juukan was wrong and we are determined to ensure that the destruction of a heritage site of such exceptional archaeological and cultural significance never occurs again at a Rio Tinto operation," chairman Simon Thompson said in a statement.

The cultural importance of Juukan Gorge was confirmed by an archaeological dig carried out at one of the caves -- known as rock shelters -- a year after Rio Tinto obtained approval to blast in the area.

The dig uncovered the oldest known example of bone tools in Australia -- a sharpened kangaroo bone dating back 28,000 years -- and a plaited-hair belt that DNA testing linked to indigenous people still living in the area.

An internal company review in August determined that "a series of decisions, actions and omissions over an extended period of time" preceded the choice to go ahead with the Juukan Gorge blasting despite concerns over the fate of the sacred Aboriginal site.

In an initial response, the company stripped millions of dollars in bonuses from the three executives.

But the firm's shareholders and corporate responsibility bodies derided the move as insufficient and called for heads to roll.



## Rio Tinto bosses resign over destruction of ancient Aboriginal site

- 'Crucial first step' -

The National Native Title Council, which represents indigenous landowners, welcomed what it called the "dismissal" of the Rio Tinto executives, but said such staff changes were "only the crucial first step".

"We hope this will send a strong message to the whole mining sector: you need to join the 21st Century and start taking your environmental, social and corporate governance seriously," said NNTC chief executive Jamie Lowe.

Jacques, who has been CEO since 2016, will remain in his role until a successor can be found or until March 31, whichever is sooner, and the other two executives will leave the company on December 31.

In announcing their departure, Thomson said all three executives would be paid undisclosed "separation terms" in line with their contracts, raising the spectre of significant payouts which quickly rankled investors.

"We will ... be looking closely at the separation arrangements, with the expectation that any exit won't provide a windfall," said Louise Davidson, CEO of the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors.

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) for its part expressed concern at how long it took Rio Tinto to act.

"There are in fact two disasters: The first involves the tragic destruction of Juukan Gorge in May; the second is the dishonest malaise of Rio Tinto's board and senior management in the months since," said ACCR legal counsel James Fitzgerald.

- 'Vast distance' -

Rio Tinto initially defended its blasting in the Juukan Gorge as authorised under a 2013 agreement with the state government.

But protests by Aboriginal leaders, who said they had not been informed of the planned blasting until it was too late to prevent it, led the company to issue an apology.

Australia's parliament has been conducting its own inquiry into the Juukan Gorge incident, and Western Australia's state government is reviewing the laws governing mining operations near indigenous heritage sites.

Western Australia Treasurer Ben Wyatt, who is Aboriginal, said Rio Tinto, with dual headquarters in London and Melbourne, had allowed "a vast distance" to develop between its leadership and the Pilbara "where they make 75 percent of their earnings".

"There's no one on that board with any real understanding of the Aboriginal groups who own the country on which they operate," Wyatt, who is also the state's aboriginal affairs minister, told public broadcaster ABC.

"That, for me, screams risk, and it's something I am stunned hasn't been picked up over the years."



Sandra and Daniela Reyes comfort Isaias Reyes while visiting their damaged trailer home after the wildfires destroyed a neighborhood in Bear Creek, Phoenix, Oregon, US, September 10, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

## Half million Oregon residents evacuate as death toll in West wildfires rises to 16

Published September 11, 2020 11:47pm

By ADREES LATIF, CARLOS BARRIA, Reuters

SALEM/MEDFORD, Oregon - Around half a million people in Oregon evacuated as dozens of extreme, wind-driven wildfires scorched US West Coast states on Friday, destroying thousands of homes and killing at least 16 people, state and local authorities said.

In southern Oregon, an apocalyptic scene of burned residential subdivisions and trailer parks stretched for miles along Highway 99 south of Medford through Phoenix and Talent, one of the worst hit areas, according to a Reuters photographer at the scene.

Blazes jumped from wildfires burning through scrub and forest to suburban firestorms as embers blew for miles.

Online video from the Tacoma, Washington, area showed fires starting in a residential area and setting homes ablaze, and locals running from house to house to warn neighbors.

"Everybody out, everybody out," a man screamed as firefighters tried to douse flames.

Since Monday, 11 people have died from fires in California, while four were killed in Oregon and a 1-year-old boy died in Washington state, police reported.

In Oregon alone the number of people under evacuation orders climbed to some 500,000 - about an eighth of the state's total population - as Portland suburbs came under threat as two of the state's biggest blazes merged into one, the state Office of Emergency Management said.

Thousands more were displaced north and south in the neighboring states of Washington and California.

"We had four hours to pack up our pets and a few medications and things like that," retiree John Maylone told a Reuters television reporter from an evacuation center in Fresno, California, adding that he left behind three cats he was now worried about.

Oregon bore the brunt of nearly 100 major wildfires raging across Western states, with around 3,000 firefighters battling nearly three dozen blazes and officials saying about twice as many people were needed.

Police have opened a criminal arson investigation into the Oregon blaze, the Alameda Fire, which destroyed much of Phoenix and talent and started in Ashland near the border with California, Ashland Police Chief Tighe O'Meara said.



## Half million Oregon residents evacuate as death toll in West wildfires rises to 16

At least four Oregon police departments warned of "fake" online messages appearing to be from law enforcement that blamed left-wing anti-fascists and right-wing Proud Boy activists for starting the fires.

The Oregon blazes tore through multiple communities in the Cascade mountain range as well as areas of coastal rainforest normally spared from wildfires. In eastern Washington state a fire destroyed most of the tiny farming town of Malden.

Search-and-rescue teams entered devastated communities in central Oregon's Santiam Valley to look for missing people after a 12-year-old boy was found dead with his dog in a burned-out car and his grandmother was also thought to have died.

Firefighters said unusually hot, dry winds out of the east created firestorms that spread embers from community to community, and then from house to house.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown said some 900,000 acres (364,220 hectares) had burned, dwarfing the state's annual 500,000-acre (202,340-hectare) average over the past decade.

"This will not be a onetime event," Brown told a Thursday news conference. "We are feeling the acute impacts of climate change"

Climate scientists say global warming has contributed to greater extremes in wet and dry seasons, causing vegetation to flourish then dry out in the U.S. West, leaving more abundant, volatile fuel for fires.

In California, the United States' most populous state, wildfires have burned over 3.1 million acres (1.25 million hectares) so far this year, marking a record for any year, with six of the top 20 largest wildfires in state history occurring in 2020.

About a third of evacuees were displaced in Butte County alone, north of Sacramento, where the North Complex wildfire has scorched more than 247,000 acres (99,960 hectares) and destroyed over 2,000 homes and structures.

The remains of 10 victims have been found in separate locations of that fire zone, according to a spokesman for the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

Another person died in Siskiyou County in far northern California, state fire authority CalFire reported, providing no further details. -- **Reuters**