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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Cimatu has done right for Manila Bay

[SHOOTING STRAIGHT](#) - [Bobit Avila](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 15, 2020 - 12:00am

I really don't know why there is a controversy over the use of Dolomite grains, which come from Alcoy, Cebu. That company that creates these Dolomites have been there for over 20 years already. When our biker groups go on a short ride to Alcoy, we already know we've arrived when we reach the Dolomite plant.

Mind you, more than 20 years ago, the high-end resorts in Mactan have been accused of hauling white sand from the sandbars between Cebu and Bohol (which was probably true at that time). However, when the Dolomite plant became operational, many resorts got their white sand from Alcoy and that controversy died down.

Over the weekend, I did see on YouTube the congressional interview of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. Roy Cimatu who answered the questions by congressmen (I could not identify them as they were wearing face masks) and Sec. Cimatu answered all the questions very well. Another YouTube interview that I saw was with Manila Mayor Isko Moreno by former ABS-CBN's Karen Davila who obviously acted like one of the environmentalists. But when Mayor Isko asked her, "Where were you when people complained about how dirty Manila Bay has become" she could not give a proper reply!

What I didn't like was that the group that calls itself the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ), who has condemned the extraction of Dolomite rocks, insists "Manila Bay waterfront was declared a National Historical Landmark by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines in 2012. It is protected by the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009. The act mandates that the bay 'shall be maintained as close to their appearance at the time the area was most of importance to Philippine history as determined by the National Historical Institute'." This has nothing to do with the use of Dolomites!

These so-called environmentalist groups are only there to make noise so they can inform their financial supporters that they are doing something that has made national headlines... and get additional funding in the process.

Incidentally, I just read a news report that the Cebu provincial government would no longer investigate the extraction of dolomite rocks by a mining firm in Alcoy, Cebu that are being used to beautify the Manila Bay as pointed out by Third district provincial board member John Ismael Borgonia, who chairs the committee on environmental conservation and natural resources.

Borgonia said the investigation is no longer needed since the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has already issued a statement regarding the crushed dolomites used as raw materials in filling the stretch of Manila Bay.

The MGB earlier disclosed that a mining firm in Barangay Pugalo was issued a permit to transport the minerals to Manila Bay and that they were "extracted, produced, and shipped out to various buyers following proper regulatory laws and procedures."



Cimatu has done right for Manila Bay

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Then last Sunday night, bloggers produced a documentary along the Manila Bay coast where I saw thousands of people living in Manila enjoying the famous Manila Bay sunset... and someone was interviewing the onlookers on what they think of the controversy... Most of them answered...better white sand than garbage!

Then came the issue brought forth by former three term Manila Mayor and former DENR Secretary Lito Atienza, who is a party-list representative of Buhay who found the cost of putting white sand along Manila Bay too extravagant! A lot of those interviewed remarked questioning what former mayor Atienza has done to clean up the Manila Bay during his three terms as mayor? Mind you, there are so many poor people in Manila who cannot afford to enjoy the luxury of seeing the white beaches of Boracay or Bantayan Island in Cebu. What the DENR has done was bring the white beach to the poor people of Manila. Great job Sec. Cimatu!



DENR tells Manila Bay LGUs: Police ranks of fish pen operators

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

September 14, 2020

Criticized for allegedly prioritizing the P389-million beach nourishment project over the pollution problems hounding Manila Bay, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has maintained that the campaign to rid the bay of garbage is not being taken lightly by the department.

The official said parallel to the overlaying of crushed dolomite over a 500-meter portion of Manila Bay in Manila, coastal and even river and estero cleanup activities are also being conducted in various cities and municipalities in the Manila Bay region, which stretches from Cavite, a province south of Manila and peninsular Bataan in the north.

On top of this, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said they intend to hold a dialogue with concerned LGUs in the Manila Bay region to boost the ongoing cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay and to police the ranks of fish pen operators in their respective localities.

The DENR is the agency tasked to lead the Manila Bay Interagency Task Force mandated by President Duterte to rehabilitate one of the country's most economically important water bodies.

The stranding of some crew ships in Manila Bay due to the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and community lockdowns, Antiporda said, may have been contributory factors in the recent increase in the volume of garbage reaching the shores of the bay.

He speculated that stranded passenger crew ships may be behind the dumping of garbage in open waters.

"There are more than 10 stranded passenger crew ships there and we suspect that these are where some of the garbage came from," said Antiporda.

Antiporda added they also intend to talk to mayors who issue permits for fish pen operations to tackle the environmental problems caused by raising tilapia and bangus, especially after a strong typhoon, that usually result in the destruction of fish pens and fish cages.

"Every time there's a storm, fish pens are swept away by strong wind and waves. The bamboo poles and mesh nets are left in the ocean and add to the garbage problem in Manila Bay," Antiporda said.

"We want to know what are their mitigation measures first and what's their solution to the environmental problems caused by fish pen operation," Antiporda said.

Manila Bay remains a productive fishing ground and some areas are known as Luzon's most productive aquaculture hub. Aquaculture hubs in Cavite, Bulacan, and Bataan are known to produce bangus and tilapia, including mussel and oyster.



DENR tells Manila Bay LGUs: Police ranks of fish pen operators

“We will appeal to the LGUs to tell these fish pen operators to do their part also,” Antiporda said.

With the launching of the Battle for Manila Bay, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Ano had asked LGUs, including barangay units to help conduct cleanups in rivers and esteros to boost the on-going Manila Bay rehabilitation.

So far, Antiporda said the Battle for Manila Bay is succeeding in reducing the volume of garbage that ends up in the oceans.



DENR pinadedeklara sa Manila gov't na 'discipline zone' ang Manila Baywalk



September 14, 2020 @ 9:42 AM 5 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hiniling ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila na magpasa ng ordinansa kung saan idedeklara ang Baywalk ng Manila Bay bilang discipline zone upang mapanatili ang kalinisan nito.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, magpapadala sila ng formal request sa opisina ni Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso.

“We will be sending a request to the Manila City government informing the mayor of what transpired, first. Second, seeking for his assistance in coming up with an ordinance that will declare the whole stretch of Manila Baywalk area as a discipline zone. And of course, necessary fines and penalties should be indicated also in the said ordinance,” lahad pa ni Antiporda.

Kasabay nito ay ipinapapasa rin ang ordinansang pagrereport ng mga paglabag sa environmental laws sa binsidad ng Manila Bay. **RNT/FGDC**



Vendors bawal na sa paligid ng Manila Bay



September 14, 2020 @ 8:20 AM 7 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang hindi na dumihan irerekomenda ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila na ipagbabawal na mga vendor sa paligid ng Manila Bay upang maiwasang dumumi at umihi ang mga ito sa paligid ng baybayin.

Ginawa ni Antiporda ang pahayag matapos mahuli ang isang cigarette vendor na lalaki na umeebak sa Manila Bay nitong nakalipas na Setyembre 12, 2020 na agad naman nitong ipinahuli sa mga pulis.

Sa interbyu kay Antiporda ng isang himpilan ng radyo sinabi nito na imposibleng hindi dudumi at ihi kung saan-saan sa paligid ang mga vendor na nagtitinda sa Manila Bay dahil wala naman comfort room sa paligid nito.

Pinaalalahanan pa ng DENR ang publiko na hindi pa rin maaaring paliguan ang Manila Bay sa kabila ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon dito ng pamahalaan dahil sa mataas pa rin umano ang coliform levels ng tubig nito.

Tiniyak din ni Antiporda na mandato ng DENR na maprotektahan ang karagatan laban sa mga nagnanais na manira at dumumi sa Manila Bay pagdidiin pa ng naturang opisyal.

Nanindigan din si Antiporda na ipagpapatuloy nila ang isinasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay dahil ito ang ipinag-uutos ng Korte Suprema. **(Santi Celario)**



Fears raised regarding Manila Bay project unfounded

Published September 14, 2020, 6:28 AM

by [Manila Mayor Isko Moreno](#)



Mayor Isko Moreno

BATANG MAYNILA

I would like to take this opportunity to disabuse the minds of those who may be misled into believing what seems to be an incessant effort to discredit the Manila Bay project and create unnecessary fear in the hearts and minds of the public, as if the fear we already have to live with every day due to the pandemic is not enough.

Government critics are easy to pounce on the issue and have apparently become instant specialists and experts on white sand and dolomites, with some even becoming health experts and going to the extent of issuing warnings on the supposed hazards that the white sand being used in the Manila Bay project purportedly poses on the health and lives of the public.

First off, the implementation of the entire project did not happen overnight. It actually begun months before I assumed office in 2019. It was also part of the 2020 budget that was presented to our honorable lawmakers, some of whom now surprisingly oppose it.



More importantly, the project involves not only the putting of white sand on the beach but the total rehabilitation of the entire Manila Bay. It entails not only the city of Manila but also other provinces, municipalities, and cities as well and most of all, the installation of a sewerage treatment plant.

I did not turn a blind eye amid the howls of protest as in fact, I sought the expert opinion of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources itself and the Department of Health regarding the issues being raised by critics, specifically the concern that the dolomites might allegedly compromise the safety of the public.

Both departments of the national government offered scientific and research-based answers, effectively debunking the unfounded fears and allegations. The Department of Health (DOH) has in fact issued a statement, saying the presence of dolomites will not in any way compromise the safety of the public, contrary to what is being floated by those opposed to the government and the project.



Fears raised regarding Manila Bay project unfounded

The DOH went on to clarify that dolomite, in its bulk state, is not a known health hazard. It explained further that dolomite in dust form, like any other dust particle, can lead to symptoms such as chest discomfort, shortness of breath, and coughing, for this is our body's normal reaction to irritants.

On the part of the DENR, it said that the dolomite material that is being used in the white beach Manila Bay project is 2-5mm or 100 times bigger than dust and therefore does not get suspended in air.

Moreover, occupational health and safety standards for workers and precautionary measures for the containment of possible dust formation are also being implemented.

Therefore, in terms of the general safety of the public who will be enjoying the shoreline once permitted, the DOH assures that no untoward incidents will occur as a result of the endeavor.

In my own humble opinion, we have to put our trust in the national government. It simply does not any make sense that the DENR, which is primarily tasked to protect the environment, will have the heart to lead in destroying it.

I also hope that those who just want to bash the government in the guise of caring for the people of Manila will stop using us Manilans for their own selfish ends. It is revolting how some try hard to appear like "knights in shining armor" by making it seem like they care about the welfare of Manilans more than we care for our own.

While we in Manila are indeed excited to benefit from the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay since it is being done at no expense to the local government coffers and may generate much-needed tourism and jobs and also rev up businesses in the city, I guarantee that we will definitely act if there is any violation of environmental protection or laws involved which, so far, there is none.

There must be a valid reason to demand a stop to the project. Halting it on baseless fears will be totally unfair for the environmentalists who have been fighting for a clean Manila Bay for 20 years will be unfair.

By the way, I was also assured that an ample amount of engineering works will be done in the area to ensure that the white sand will be fully protected, that it will not be just washed away in case of a storm or big waves, as feared by some.

Notably, the project was started about two years ago and no one really talked about it. Now if we will be able to experience what our "lolos and lolas" enjoyed during the heyday of the Manila Bay when it was clean, totally swimmable, and where there were fishes freely swimming in its waters, that would be priceless.

Having a nice, white sand beach in a highly urbanized area is definitely a good attraction for the city, good for business, employment, and the inhabitants as well.



Fears raised regarding Manila Bay project unfounded

As it is, people already begin flocking in the area to take pictures of the white sand even as the project is still ongoing. Once done, it would be a nice and lasting gift to the next generation of Manilans and hopefully, the next after them.

Gaya ng paulit-ulit kong sinasabi, kailangan ko ang tulong ninyong lahat. Walang magmamalasakit sa Maynila kundi tayo ding mga Batang Maynila. Manila, God first!

For updates on latest developments in the city of Manila, please visit my Facebook account – “Isko Moreno Domagoso.”



KONTING ARAL LANG PO, MGA KRITIKO!

OPINION

On Sep 13, 2020



TIWARIK yata ang mundo ng mga kontra sa ginagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay; o basta na lang makabanat kahit hindi naiintindihan ang isyu ng paglilinis, pagpapaganda ng baybaying bahagi ng Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila.

E, di ba noon, itong environmental organization kuno ang noon pa ay nagwawala sa panawagang i-rehabilitate ang Manila Bay, pero sila ngayon ang talak nang talak, at kontrang-kontra sa pagtatambak at paglalambak ng buhanging mula sa dinurog na dolomite rock, na kung maiaayos, magkakaroon ng “Manila Boracay” ang Metro Manila.

Sabi nila, masisira raw ang marine life sa lugar, ganun?

Teka, matagal nang “sira” ang marine life dahil sa baho, nagtambak na basura, masyadong polluted sa latak ng langis, nabubulok na basura sa ilalim ng buhanging pagka-itim-itim na tulad ng pusali ang lugar na iyon.

Nakalalason ang mga isda, talaba, halaan at iba pang buhay-dagat na mahuhuli sa lugar na iyon sa Bay Walk; sakit sa balat, respiratory diseases ang makukuha ng maliligo sa tubig doon dahil sa taas ng concentration ng bakteryang ebak sa tubig – na mula sa kasilyas ng mga establisimyento, mga pook komersiyal at residensiyal sa Maynila, hospital wastes at duming kemikal na itinatapon sa mga ilog at daang-tubig mula sa mga pabrika, hotel at condominium sa buong Metro Manila.

Lilinisin nga, aayusin ang lugar – may habang 500 metro at lapad na 160 metro mula sa US Embassy at Manila Yatch Club – para muling mabuhay ang marine life doon.

At di lang ngayon naisip ang proyektong ito, dear environmentalist; noon pang Enero 2019 binalak sa utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte kay Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. Roy Cimatu.

Bakit noon ay hindi pumalag ang mga kritiko ni Tatay Digong nang okeyan ng Kongreso at Senado na pondohan ng P389-million ang ngayon ay kinontra nyong Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Insensitive daw ang proyekto sa panahon ng pandemya; ito raw “white sand” na ilalagay sa may Baywalk ay “evil” na sa pananalasa ng COVID-19, imbes na bigas at pagkain, o iba pang mas mahalagang bagay ang gawin, e bakit daw “buhangin” na hindi maisasaing?



KONTING ARAL LANG PO, MGA KRITIKO!

E, naman, yun bang linisin ang environment, gawing malinis ang tubig ng Manila Bay at muling mabuhay ang marine life na ang mahuhuli ay pwedeng pagkain, at ang lugar ay maging sikat na tourist attraction sa Metro Manila, “insensitive” po ba ito, Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Gerona Robredo?

Yung tulay, underpass, ipinaayos na impraestruktura, pabahay, mga kalsadang inaayos kahit may pandemya, “evil” ba ito, Comelec Commissioner Rowena Guanzon?

Wala pa po ang pandemyang ito, inilaan na ang P398-M para sa proyektong ito kasama na ang pagtatambak ng “dolomite sand.” Itong dolomite ay may magnesium carbonite, calcium carbonite, potassium phosphorus na inihahalo sa pagkain ng mga hayop, kaya safe ito.

Sabi ng mga agriculturist, plant-friendly ang dolomite!

Bakit daw hindi muna linisin ang mga ilog, daang-tubig, bago gawin ang proyekto kasi, baka pagbaha, pumasok uli sa lugar ang basura, at mabahong tubig?

Sagot ni DENR Undersecretary at Spox Benny Antiporda, matagal nang pinag-aralan ng mga engineer at tunay na environmentalist ang problemang ito.

Noon pa, tuloy-tuloy na ang paglilinis ng mga ilog, estero, sabi ni Usec. Antiporda, katunayan, sa ulat ni DENR-NCR Exec. Director Jacqueline Caancan, walang tigil ang mga River Protector sa pagsusuri ng uri ng kontaminasyon ng tubig sa mga ilog, lagusang-tubig sa Metro Manila at laging may warning at parusa sa mga establisimyento at mga negosyong lumalabag sa mga batas ng DENR.

Ilang piye ang hinukay sa pasigan at inalis ang maiitim na latak ng basura, nakabaong mga bulok na langis at iba pang sediments bago nilagyan at tinambakan ng dolomite sands ang lugar – na sa kasalukuyan, nalalatagan na ng puting buhangin ang may 120 metro ng 500 metrong Manila Bay na tatawaging “Manila Boracay.”

Walang peligro sa kalusugan ang dolomites, paliwanag ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, kasi, hindi ito naka-cancer na ipinangtatakot ng mga kontra sa proyekto at ng mga instant medical experts.

Ang hazardous, sabi pa ni Sec. Cimatu ay ‘yung pulbos na ang sukat ay 10 to 15 microns, pero ang durog na dolomites na itatambak sa Manila Bay ay “2,000 to 5,000 microns or 100 ulit na mas malaki sa abok.

Hindi sila lumulutang sa hangin, kaya hindi masisinghot.

O, ano namang batas ang sinasabi ng Oceana at ng mga senador, kritiko at mga artistang kontra sa proyektong ‘White Sand’ beach ng “Manila Boracay?”

Nahalalata ang mga kritiko na basta lang banat nang banat, e kulang sa kaalaman at nabubulgar tuloy na shunga!

Para sa inyong suhestyon, reaksyon at opinyon ay mag-email lang sa bampurissima@yahoo.com.



Cebu province won't meddle in Manila Bay project: Garcia

By John Rey Saavedra September 14, 2020, 10:30 pm



DOLOMITE MINING. An undated photo shows the dolomite mining plant in Barangay Pugalo, Alcoy town in Cebu province. Governor Gwendolyn Garcia on Monday (Sept. 14, 2020) said the Manila Bay nourishment project has nothing to do with the cease and desist order she issued last week to two mining firms, which is meant to stop them from selling and transporting the sedimentary carbonate rocks that have high content of the mineral dolomite to the domestic market. *(Photo courtesy of MGB-Region7)*

CEBU CITY – The Manila Bay beautification project has nothing to do with the cease and desist order issued against the two dolomite mining firms in the southern Cebu town of Alcoy, Governor Gwendolyn Garcia said on Monday.

In a press conference at the Capitol, Garcia said the province is not opposed to the nourishment program for Manila Bay, adding that she would not join the discussions as to the propriety of the project.

The concern of the province, she said, are the violations committed by the two mining firms – Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) and Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC) – which may cause environmental degradation in Alcoy town, she said.

“Kining duha ka firms, ilabi na ning PMSC, wa na ni mag-mining, nag-quarrying na ni kay namaligya naman sila locally (These two firms, especially the PMSC, are no longer engaging into mining, they are already in quarrying activities because they are already selling dolomite locally),” Garcia said.

The two companies in Alcoy, she said, were allowed to extract dolomite for export as raw materials for steel and glass manufacturers in Korea and Japan but do not have a permit to sell and transport to domestic markets.

The governor said the province is placing the two companies in Alcoy under tight watch in line with the campaign against illegal quarrying.

She said she sees a high demand for sand and gravel now that the government is implementing its Build, Build, Build program where works for concreting of thousands of kilometers of roads are ongoing.

The governor said the province wants to regulate extraction of natural resources by monitoring if mining firms are religiously following the 10,000 cubic meter limit under the permit issued to them by the government.



Cebu province won't meddle in Manila Bay project: Garcia

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the national government is “not in anyway connected to their provincial internal business problem”.

“If there is anything that we can do to assist them, our MGB-7 (Mines and Geoscience Bureau-Region 7) is available anytime, but if they will be needing the assistance of Sec. Roy A. Cimatu, he is also willing to help just like what he has done to assist Cebu in their Covid-19 problem,” Antiporda said in a message sent to the Philippine News Agency.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque on Thursday last week said Malacañang respects Cebu province’s decision to stop the firms from supplying dolomite sand for the beach nourishment project at the Manila Bay shoreline.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources should coordinate with the Cebu province on the matter. **(PNA)**



Pagkaantala sa paglalatatag ng white sand sa Manila bay, pag-uusapan ng DENR, Cebu gov't



September 14, 2020 @ 12:48 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Kinakailangan lamang na buksan ang line of communication sa pagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Cebu sa harap ng isyung may kinalaman sa ginagawang pagpapaganda sa kasalukuyan sa Manila Bay.

Sa harap ito ng posibilidad na mabitin ang paglalatatag ng dolomite sa look ng Maynila dahil sa iniutos na suspensiyon ng Cebu city government na isuspinde ang quarrying ng mining company na pinagkukunan ng white sand sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, pakikipag- ugnayan lamang sa isa't isa ang kailangan lalo't maituturing na hindi na ibang tao si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu sa mga taga Cebu.

Aniya, noong nagkaproblema ang siyudad ng Cebu na may kinalaman sa pagsirit sa kaso ng COVID duon ay may naitulong naman si Secretary Cimatu.

Aminado ang Sec. Roque na may karapatan ang pamahalaang lokal ng Cebu na mag- isyu ng gayung klase ng suspensiyon ngunit ang pagpigil ng supply ay hiwalay aniya sa isyu ng legalidad na ginagawa ng DENR.

Kaya ang solusyon ani Sec. Roque ay mag- usap ang dalawang panig para maresolba ang isyu. **Kris Jose**



Palace: DENR, Capitol should communicate

By [Le Phyllis F. Antojado](#) (The Freeman)
- September 14, 2020 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — Cebu Province and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should keep an open line of communication to address the issue on dolomite sands extracted from Alcoy town for the “beach nourishment” project at Manila Bay, says the Palace.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the DENR have to communicate to Cebu Province on the issue.

“Ang DENR kinakailangan makipag-ugnayan sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Cebu,” Roque was quoted in a Philippine News Agency (PNA) report.

Roque made the statement after Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia issued an order stopping the extraction and transport of dolomite from Cebu to Manila.

According to the governor, the Province and the local government of Alcoy were blinded by DENR about the project. Garcia issued the cease and desist order against Dolomite Mining Corporation and Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMS) “from further transporting and selling dolomite domestically.”

“Yung pagtigil po ng supply ay hiwalay po sa issue ng legality ng ginagawa ng DENR,” Roque explained, adding that he is confident that the agency will be complying with the local government code which requires public consultation and approval by the concerned LGU.

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Roque said that opening the line of communication between the province and DENR is the solution, stressing that this is not going to be the first time the two agencies will work together.

Roque cited the collaboration between the LGU and DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu in the fight against coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Cimatu was designated by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the government response against COVID-19 in Cebu.

“Kung meron po silang mga concerns makipag-ugnayan lang kay Secretary Cimatu dahil hindi naman po iba na si Secretary Cimatu,” Roque said. — **FPL (FREEMAN)**



The MGB, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said previous studies showed that beach nourishment is not a remedy to the Manila Bay issue.
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

‘White sand not remedy to Manila Bay pollution’

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 15, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government’s move to dump crushed dolomite boulders is not a permanent solution to the problems besetting Manila Bay, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said yesterday.

The MGB, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said previous studies showed that beach nourishment is not a remedy to the Manila Bay issue.

“According to studies and scientific researches, mechanically placed sand on beaches moves as affected by waves, currents, tides and wind and other potential impacts of anthropogenic and natural events,” the MGB said.

Beach replenishment is the practice of adding sand or sediment to beaches to combat erosion and increase beach width.

However, the MGB said it is important to note that beach nourishment does not stop erosion.

“It merely prevents erosion for a short time,” the MGB said.

The DENR has started laying out crushed dolomite along the beach as part of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The MGB cited international studies in California that found out that added coarser sand to some beaches stayed on despite energetic waves.

In one case, the bureau said the sand moved both north and south along the coast that contributed to the closure of a river estuary, causing concentrated pollution and hypoxia.

In the case of the dolomite sand spread along Manila Bay, the MGB said systematic monitoring of monsoon or seasonal currents should be done to follow the general pattern of the direction of movement and deposition of piles of sediments in the bay.

“The process will take some time but regular monitoring and studies will enable the DENR to predict on how the nourished sand will evolve,” the MGB said.

The DENR has clarified that the dolomite spread along Manila Bay is classified as coarse-grained sand, which is two to five millimeters in size or equivalent to 2,000 to 5,000 microns, and therefore almost 100 times bigger than dust.

“Famous islands known for their fine sand such as Panglao and Boracay became world-renowned for their powdery sand, which were derived from weathered coralline limestone and dolomitic limestone, and no health complaint has been filed by tourists and swimmers,” the DENR said.



Beyond Manila Bay, sand extraction endangers billions of people

Published September 14, 2020, 6:57 AM

by [AA Patawaran](#)

We're all going bananas about crushed dolomite on Manila Bay, but Houston, we have a (bigger) problem

There's a war over sand, do you know it? People die for sand, trying to keep it, protect it, preserve it, steal it, and sell it. Reports have it that "hundreds have been killed in battles over sand in the past decade in countries including India and Kenya, among them local citizens, police officers, and government officials," according to Nature.com.

DAGUPAN IS DROWNING

But hundreds of deaths are only a grain of sand in the dunes when compared to up to three billion lives and livelihoods that sand mining is putting under grave threat, those lives and livelihoods along the rivers, from which sand is excavated to meet the demands of industrialization.



SAND MAKERS Indian workers crush stone into sand at an illegal mine near Raipur Village in India, photo taken by Adam Ferguson on 2015

"The land beneath our feet is sinking away," said a 17-year-old girl in India in a video she posted of the sand mafia scooping sand out of the bed of the harbor in her coastal community in Kerala.

On the Riau islands of Sumatra, Indonesia, as stated in a report made by the Indonesian Center for Forestry Studies, dredging of sand, sometimes within meters of the shoreline, has caused extensive damage on the coral reefs and the seabed, some 400,000 hectares of it. Not only has it caused coastline erosion, it has also wiped out the fishing grounds.

In Northern Philippines, coastal towns like Lingayen, San Marcelino, Dagupan, Masinloc, and more are sinking at an alarming rate on account of magnetite mining or black sand mining operations, most of which are "illegal, foreign, and backed by political dynasties in the provinces," claims the Northern Luzon environment and human rights network Amianan Salakniban. In a 2016 study made up north in the Philippines by American geologist **Estelle Chaussard** of the State University of New York and political scientist **Sarah Kerosky** of the University of California, it was found that "sites with subsidence rates of 1.8 and 3.0 centimeters a year are projected to be underwater in 50 to 70 years (while those with) subsidence rates of 4.3 and 4.6 centimeters a year are projected to be underwater in 30 to 40 years." Lingayen is in danger of drowning. Its annual subsidence rate is 4.8 centimeters. So are Santa Lucia and Dagupan, both at 4.3 centimeters.



Beyond Manila Bay, sand extraction endangers billions of people

BLACK [SAND] PLAGUE Video of sand mining in Norther Luzon

And so are many parts of the world, such as in the maze of rivers in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam and Cambodia, along the Yangtze in China or the Ganges where it flows from India to Bangladesh, in Morocco where illegal miners have scooped up stretches of beach in the name of the construction boom, and in Monterey, California, where to this day half a million tons of sand are extracted every year.

CIVILIZATION IS BUILT ON SAND

But sand is all too important, not only to beautify places like Manila Bay. It's no exaggeration to say that all of civilization, going further back than the Old Kingdom of ancient Egypt, is built on sand. There is more and more evidence that the secret to building the pyramids was sand—wet, compact sand—over which sleds of stones weighing up to 90,000 pounds would be dragged from faraway places.



GRAINS OF HISTORY Gizah Pyramids in Egypt, photo by Ricardo Liberato

Sand is everywhere and not just between your toes on the beach or in your eyes in the desert during a dust storm. It's in the laptop you are reading this in, whose CPU needed high grade silica sand to come into being. It's also in the laptop monitor as well as the screens of your smartphone and your smart TV. It's in the microchip contained in the credit or debit card you have at the ready in case some interesting product or service ad pops up on the website. It's in the water tumbler next to you on your desk. And the house you live in, whether you're in a bungalow or a high-rise made of concrete, glass, and steel, could not have been built without sand. Sand is also on the street your house is on. It's on the roads, the avenues, the boulevards, and the highways, as well as the docks and the tarmacs, built to take you from your house to anywhere you want to be out there. Plus, there's sand casting, an industrial process essential for the mass production of metal products or metal parts in such things as bikes, cars, ships, and airplanes, not to mention your app-enabled countertop slow cooker, your single serve coffee maker, your tripod-style desk lamp, and your steel-framed designer chair.



Beyond Manila Bay, sand extraction endangers billions of people

Sand is a vital component of modern living. It's in microscopes and telescopes, in detergents, cosmetics, and toothpaste, even in the solar panels we need to harvest renewable energy. The concrete jungle that is our modern life is really just a ton of sand mixed with other things, such as gravel and cement. In the modern world, we need sand as much as we need water and air.



GLASS WORLD We rely heavily on sand, almost as much as we need air and water

The UN Environment Program (UNEP) estimates that global demand for sand (and gravel) is an average of 18 kilograms per person per day, amounting to 50 billion tons a year. In 2012, consumption was said to have exceeded 40 billion tons, up from nine billion tons in the 1970s. An article published in the E360 newsletter at the Yale School of the Environment in Connecticut claims that “sand mining is the world’s largest mining endeavor, responsible for 85 percent of all mineral extraction. It is also the least regulated and quite possibly the most corrupt and environmentally destructive.”

VANISHING ISLANDS

It's just sand and it's cheap, but it's built our cities, and now that it's running out, it's a matter of life and death. Already with illegal aggregate mining operations identified in over 70 countries, the pressure is on, as waters are becoming turbid, habitats and eco-systems are being disrupted, coastlines are eroding, riverbanks shrinking, deltas sinking, and islands—at least 24 small islands in Indonesia since 2005—vanishing. Also, based on the UNEP findings, “extraction in rivers and beaches has increased pollution and flooding, lowered groundwater levels, hurt marine life, and exacerbated the occurrence and severity of landslides and droughts.”



STOLEN LAND Beach sand is being mined illegally on Morocco's north coast, near Tangier, photo from Coastalcare.org



Beyond Manila Bay, sand extraction endangers billions of people

It's not enough. Global demand for sand and gravel, according to the World Wide Fund (WWF), "has increased rapidly over the past two decades, largely driven by growth in the Asia Pacific region, particularly in China but also increasingly in India. Astonishingly, China consumed more sand between 2011 and 2013 than the US did in the whole of the 20th century." But the world wants more sand, as we do on Manila Bay.

There is marine sand and there is desert sand and there is river sand. Marine sand is complicated. You need to get the salt out of every grain, lest it causes corrosion in buildings and other structures you build with the sand. Desert sand is too smooth, the grains too round, shaped by wind instead of water, so it won't easily adhere to other materials, which is why Dubai, the vast Arabian Desert notwithstanding, has to depend on Australia to supply the sand it needs for its massive infrastructure plans. Of all, river sand is most ideal for construction, therefore the rivers, which make up only less than one percent of the world's land, are the most adversely affected by excessive, unregulated, if not illegal, mining.

Nature does replenish sand. Currents scrape away soil, eat away at stones, pulverize seashells, turn lava into volcanic glass that splinters into bits upon contact with air, and deposit all these sediments beneath the corals, on the banks, in the depths. As they move or melt, even glaciers pick up material that, when they retreat, they leave in valleys and tunnels filled with mounds of sand, gravel, small rocks, and mud. But just like many of our natural resources, finite or renewable, we are consuming sand faster than nature can replace it. Now we're running out of sand.



What to do? The WWF challenges the construction industry, especially in Asia and Africa, to consider alternatives to river-sourced sand and gravel or to alter building designs and methods to reduce extraction of sand to sustainable, more manageable levels. "Europe has shown that developed economies can continue to prosper without resorting to river sand," it said. "Its supplies now come from crushed quarry rocks, recycled concrete, and marine sand."

Sand is too plain, too ubiquitous to get the sort of attention that illegally mined diamonds have. But it deserves just as much attention, because its impact is so tremendous.

—Sumaira Abdulali, environmentalist, India

In the 2013 issue of the *International Scientific and Research Publications*, researchers from engineering and technology institutions in India concluded that "quarry dust can be utilized in concrete mixtures as a good substitute for natural river sand." But there are other potential remedies, the use of recycled building rubble instead of new concrete for new constructions, for instance. In Malaysia, experiments replacing sand and cement with coal bottom ash and fly ash,

Beyond Manila Bay, sand extraction endangers billions of people

the waste from power station incinerators, of which 8.5 million tons are produced every year, have yielded promising conclusions. These experimental concrete mixes have proved useful in such structures as foundations, sub-bases, and pavements.



[T]AND BY The current state of Manila Bay as dolomite sand is being transported to form the man-made beach, file photo from Manila Bulletin

Of course, regulation is vital. Reports have it that, in many developing countries, governments are complicit with the sand mafia, whose operation in worst cases includes intimidation, sometimes even murder, money changing hands, and sexual favors granted in exchange for sand. That be may true, but sometimes it is because those with the power to stop it, especially in remote regions, are not familiar enough with the problem.

SHIFTING SANDS

WWF recommends a “societal shift similar to that required to address climate change.” “It necessitates changes in the way that sand and rivers are perceived, and cities are designed and constructed,” it said. What’s surprising is not how few people know about sand mining, what is surprising is how little even those people know. Public awareness is key to solving a problem of this scope, but to mount an effective information campaign, more scientific research on the impact of sand mining and its many ill effects must be made, the results of which need to be simplified and made resonant to the general public.



HAZARDS OF SAND Dolomite, a material primarily used in construction, poses health risks to both human and aquatic life. File photo from Manila Bulletin



Beyond Manila Bay, sand extraction endangers billions of people

And this is the silver lining to the dark cloud hovering over the white sand on Manila Bay—the conversations it has sparked, along with the clashes and the squabbles. Because yes, sand is worth the fight.

It's not even sand on Manila Bay, of course, it is crushed dolomite, harvested from the coastal town of Alcoy in Cebu apparently without the thorough environmental impact assessments mandated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) administrative order 2003-03 and Presidential Decree No.1586, the Environment Impact Statement System.

I'm doing a quick search on dolomite, but so far, aside from other compliance issues, such as the lack of the required consultation and coordination with the local officials, all I've found is how the extraction has been a big blow to the sanctuary of an endangered bird endemic to the forests of Cebu—the black shama or the siloy.

As the DENR issues the need for deeper studies on the environmental impact of mining these sedimentary carbonate rocks and pulverizing them to the consistency of sugar-white, powdery-fine sand for the P389-million beach nourishment project on Manila Baywalk, so do I need to learn more about dolomite, but that's a story for another day.



Mga kritiko ng Manila Bay 'white sand' project pinalagan ni Pialago



September 14, 2020 @ 11:05 AM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinalagan ni Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) spokesperson at dating beauty queen, Celine Pialago ang mga kritiko ng Manila Bay 'white sand' project.

“Bakit noong madumi ang Manila Bay wala ni isa ang nagmalasakit? Kahit na alam nating mas delikado sa kalusugan ang basura? Ngayong pinapaganda, lahat nangingialam. Wow, a! Just wow!” pahayag nito sa isang Facebook post.

Punto pa nito na isa ang ahensya nito sa mga naglilinis araw-araw ng basura ng naturang lugar.

“30-45 trucks ng basura lang naman ang nakukuha namin noong wala pang rehabilitation sa Manila Bay,” giit ni Pialago.

“Magko-comment ako, kasi MMDA ang isa sa mga ahensya na araw-araw naglilinis ng basura ng mga balahurang Pinoy at mapanamantalang establisyemento,” dagdag pa niya.

Saad pa nito na nitong 2019 pa aprubado ang badget para sa naturang proyekto at hindi ito isinabay sa pandemya.

Umani naman ng sumu't saring komento ito sa mga netizen.RNT/ELM



Manila's new white sand coast is a threat to marine life, groups say

by [Leilani Chavez](#) on 14 September 2020

- *The Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources has come under fire from green groups and government officials after dumping dolomite sand, typically used in construction, on the shores of Manila Bay as part of a beautification project.*
- *Critics say the 389 million peso (\$8 million) project has overlooked public consultations and is missing environmental assessments and certificates, which means its true impact on Manila Bay's marine life remains unclear.*
- *A fisherfolk group says the project is a land reclamation bid posing as rehabilitation, joining several other land reclamation projects along Manila Bay that have already been flagged for social and environmental impacts.*
- *Lawyers say the move violates numerous environmental laws and circumvents a Supreme Court ruling that mandates government agencies to rehabilitate, preserve, restore and maintain the waters of the bay.*

MANILA — Philippine authorities' latest efforts to clean up Manila Bay, one of the country's most polluted bodies of water, has come under fire after they dumped truckloads of white sand over the shoreline at the end of August.

Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno celebrated what he called a long-delayed rehabilitation move, but the artificial sand — crushed dolomite boulders from a quarry in Cebu province in the central Philippines — drew a backlash from environmental groups and public officials.

Environmentalists say the project passed over the public consultation phase and lacked the necessary environmental impact studies. Lawmakers and public officials have called it a waste of resources that could have been diverted to supplement the country's pandemic health response and provide gadgets for public school students grappling with online learning.

"This project is not timely," Gloria Estenzo Ramos, executive director of marine conservation NGO Oceana Philippines, said in an online press conference. "This will be a total waste of people's money. Government resources should be allocated more to helping Filipinos affected by the pandemic."



Around 3,500 wet metric tons of crushed dolomite boulders were shipped for the Manila Bay beach nourishment program. Image courtesy of Nilad Metro Manila Environmental Network



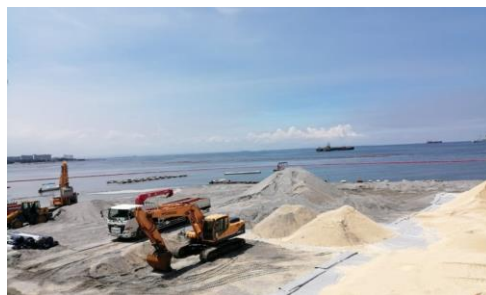
Manila's new white sand coast is a threat to marine life, groups say

The 389 million pesos (\$8 million) project is part of the “beach nourishment program” being carried out by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The program, in turn, fits into a 22-year master plan that aims to bring Manila Bay, the center of the Philippines’ navigational trade and commerce, back to its former glory. In addition to the economic outcomes, the DENR wants to make the water in the bay fit for swimming and to keep heavy metal and waste contamination at a minimum.

Years of unsustainable aquaculture and fishing practices, exacerbated by industrial and waste pollution, have taken a toll on the bay’s marine life and water quality. Fisherfolk living along the 19-kilometer (12-mile) coastline have reported dwindling fish catches; mass fish die-offs and red tide alerts prompted by algal blooms are an annual occurrence.

The state of Manila’s iconic bay birthed numerous rehabilitation campaigns, beginning in the 1990s, mostly centered on cleaning up the area. A landmark 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court mandated government agencies, led by the DENR, to “clean up, rehabilitate, preserve, restore, and maintain the waters of Manila Bay.”

To complement the ruling, President Rodrigo Duterte issued an executive order last year to speed up the rehab. Since then, authorities have [relocated thousands of urban poor residents](#), started planting mangroves, and kicked off numerous cleanups.



The beach nourishment program will be implemented in the 2-kilometer Manila Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard.
Image courtesy of Nilad Metro Manila Environmental Network

But dumping dolomite — most commonly used in construction — on the shore to make it look like a white sand beach is a step backward, groups say. “One of the objectives of Manila Bay rehabilitation is to decrease the amount of heavy metals in its waters,” said Fernando Hicap of the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

“Dolomite contains high amount of heavy metals such as aluminum, lead and mercury, which would contribute to the pollution and acidity of Manila Bay,” Hicap said. “Why is DENR leading a campaign that could increase and cause further harm to the bay?”



Manila's new white sand coast is a threat to marine life, groups say

Impact studies 'not necessary'

Environmental groups are pushing for a science-based justification for the DENR's move, in the form of an environmental impact study (EIS). But DENR undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the EIS and an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) are not necessary.

"It's a rehabilitation program, not a construction," he told *The Philippine Star*, adding the department had studied the project before pushing through with the implementation. Antiporda said engineering interventions are being done to ensure that the dolomite sand overlay will be preserved and that it can withstand the more than 20 typhoons that barrel through the Philippines each year.



Manila Baywalk, a seaside promenade, begins at the US Embassy and ends at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila, Philippines. Image by John Evans via Flickr ([CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/))

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, however, said earlier this week that the project had passed the EIS and that its budget had been approved prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Government claims that these funds could not be funneled to COVID-19 response despite the passage of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, which gave the President legal power to divert national funds for the pandemic.

Oceana's Ramos stressed the importance of the EIS, which has not been made public. "Under the Fisheries Code, Local Government Code and the Environmental Impact Assessment System Act, government agencies are required to undergo Environmental Impact Study process and Environmental Compliance Certificate for this kind of project," Oceana said in a statement.

"Ironically, it is the DENR that does not seem to follow the requirements set by law," Ramos said.

Pamalakaya remains concerned about the artificial sand's potential impacts on Manila Bay's marine life, on which the fisherfolk group's members depend for their daily sustenance. There are fears that the dolomite contains hazardous dust particles and that, once eroded, it will cause marine sedimentation.



Manila's new white sand coast is a threat to marine life, groups say



Manila Baywalk also acts as a seawall. Image by Chewy Chua via Flickr ([CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/))

Fishing is an important activity in Manila Bay, despite its waters containing high levels of coliform bacteria. The area notorious as a pollution catch basin is limited to the water body near Manila's port. Beyond the port, shellfish and aquaculture farms flourish. Last year, a new-to-science sardine species, *Sardinella pacifica*, was identified from the bay. Once rehabilitated, Manila Bay could become a sardine conservation area, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Farther out, near the mouth of the bay, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, the DENR's research arm, also [discovered coral reefs](#) thriving in the bay despite the condition of the water.

This makes the environmental assessment report important, said Rodne Galicia of Living Laudato Si', an environmental advocacy group affiliated with the Catholic Church. "We don't know what's under that sand ... if there are seagrass beds there," he said. "If there are seagrass beds, dredging will obliterate the seagrass. And we don't know yet the impacts on the fisheries sector and other marine life in the area."

It's not just Manila Bay's environment that's at risk, Ramos said. The quarries in Alcoy, Cebu, from which the dolomite sand was sourced are massive operations that have long threatened the region's terrestrial species. Cebu only has 1% of its original forest cover left, yet even this sliver of wilderness is home to one of the highest numbers of threatened endemic species in the Philippines, including the endangered black shama (*Copsychus cebuensis*), a rare and endangered songbird.



Polyps of soft coral *Xenia* sp in Manila Bay. Photo by JIM Padin (2018) courtesy of the ERDB



Manila's new white sand coast is a threat to marine life, groups say

“We found out that dolomite sand is also being used for beach nourishment projects in Cebu and nearby areas,” said Rose-Liza Eisma Osorio, chair of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law and a law professor at the University of Cebu. “It’s being mined in one of the last remaining forest areas in Cebu that hosts endemic species. If this continues, what will happen to our forests?”

At the height of the dolomite issue, the Cebu provincial government said it hadn’t been informed of the Manila Bay project and that it hadn’t issued transport permits for the shipment of boulders to the capital. It subsequently halted dolomite quarrying activities in Alcoy.

Legal recourse

While replenishing the sand on beaches is a common way to combat erosion, studies show that it’s only a short-term solution. Topsoil sand needs to be reapplied and its erosion can cause sedimentation and block estuaries.

It’s an “unsustainable solution to the environmental problems besetting the historic body of water,” environmental youth group Wavefarers said. Instead of quick and aesthetic fixes, the government should have invested in mangrove rehabilitation projects, said executive director Charisse Reganion.

“In conserving Manila Bay and all other environments, DENR must be conscious of actual long-term impacts and not superficial fixes,” Reganion said. “We need a healthy rehabilitated Manila Bay, for the environment and the people.”



Image courtesy of Nilad Metro Manila Environmental Network

For Pamalakaya’s Hicap, dumping artificial sand in Manila Bay is not rehabilitation but a form of land reclamation — the process of elevating existing land or filling in coastal areas such as abandoned fishing ponds to create islands or extend land area. Under the 2008 Supreme Court ruling, “we expected Manila Bay to return to what it was,” Hicap said. “Dumping dolomite, that white sand, is a clear reclamation effort — it’s not rehabilitation.”



Manila's new white sand coast is a threat to marine life, groups say

Pamalakaya has been [actively campaigning against land reclamation](#) in Manila and surrounding provinces. Before the pandemic, 25 reclamation projects had been approved, with most in the construction phase in Manila Bay. While opponents say that reclamation breaches the bay's protected status, the issue has yet to be raised with or deliberated by the Supreme Court.

Cebu-based Osorio said bringing the issue before the court and invoking the 2008 ruling is the best legal intervention to halt the white sand project.

The Office of the Ombudsman's environmental team could also investigate the "alleged bloating of costs and cutting of regulatory corners in the Manila dolomite dump," said Leon Dulce of the group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment.

"This P389-million project represents just 0.83% of the entire P47-billion [\$968 million] Manila Bay rehab program," he said in a statement. "The potential for large-scale corruption, dereliction of duty, and ecological harm is completely unacceptable in these times of pandemic crisis."



Group holds protest vs. Manila Bay white sand project

Published September 14, 2020 11:17am

By TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ, GMA News

A group of fishermen called Pagkakaisa ng Mga Alyansa ng Mga Mangingisda sa Pilipinas (PANGISDA-Pilipinas) staged a protest action on Monday morning in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against the Manila Bay “white sand” project.

Pablo Rosales, chairperson of PANGISDA-Pilipinas, said the DENR must be made accountable for violating its mandate to rehabilitate Manila Bay and implementing a project that may harm the said body of water.

“Isa itong parang kataksilan dahil sila mismong nangangasiwa sa ating kalikasan, karagatan ay nangunguna ngayon sa reclamation project na ito,” Rosales said.

“Walang pera para sa mga mangingisdang nanghihingi ng tulong para sa epekto ng pandemya. Pero meron palang kulang na P400 milyon na gagamitin para rito na ipinambili ng dolomite sa Cebu,” he added.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Saturday [debunked claims](#) by critics that the Manila Bay “white sand” project could destroy the bay’s environment and pose health hazards to people.

Año said in a statement that crushed dolomite is a common material used in beach nourishment in many parts of the country and the world.

Año, who is vice chairman of the Manila Bay Task Force, moreover said “the Department of Health (DOH) has already clearly stated that the dolomite used in Baywalk is bigger than dust, which doesn’t get suspended in air, and therefore is not harmful to people.”

Buhay party-list Representative Lito Atienza on Sunday opposed the DENR’s initiative to decorate the Manila Bay shoreline with white sand using crushed dolomite rocks from Cebu province.

In a statement, Atienza, who also previously served as Environment Secretary and mayor of Manila for three terms, described the DENR’s move as “[worthless](#)” and “a complete waste of public funds.”

That portion of Manila Bay with “white sand” has meanwhile been [attracting curious onlookers](#). —
KG, GMA News



DENR renews call to create permanent bureau to fight environmental crimes

Published September 14, 2020, 1:06 PM

by [Madelaine B. Miraflor](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is not yet off the hook when it comes to the controversial Manila Bay white sand dumping issue, but this didn't stop the agency to renew its call for the creation of a permanent bureau meant to fight environmental crimes.

In a statement, DENR said that instead of creating task forces that are temporary in nature, the agency will be more effective in protecting the environment if it has its own permanent bureau dedicated to enforcing environmental laws and regulations.

Such statement came more than a month after the Global Witness report declared the Philippines as the world's second deadliest country for land and environment defenders, only next to Colombia.

Reacting to the report, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told Business Bulletin is now asking the country's lawmakers to pass a law that will strengthen the legal mandate of the agency for the enforcement of environmental laws.

"The DENR is asking for the understanding of the legislative body to come up with a law creating the enforcement bureau for the DENR," Antiporda said. "We need that legal mandate for stronger enforcement of environmental laws."

Antiporda said that right now, with limited resources and enforcement mandate, DENR's forest rangers can only be given shotguns for precautionary measures, while illegal loggers are complete with high power rifles and dynamites.

This was reiterated by Nilo Tamera, executive director of the DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF) during an inter-agency consultation webinar on the proposed bill creating the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB) held on August 28.

Tamera said that a new task force is created with each new administration, and this has become a "repetitive cycle that negatively affects continuity or sustainability of the DENR's law enforcement efforts".

"That is what we experience here in DENR. There is no sustainability and strong enforcement mandate" Tamera said during the webinar organized by the EPETF and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Protect Wildlife Project.

In November last year, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu formed a technical working group to study and draft a proposal creating an enforcement bureau within the DENR.

Cimatu said that by having a permanent enforcement bureau, the DENR will be more effective in stopping environmental crimes, such as illegal logging and smuggling of wildlife species.



DENR renews call to create permanent bureau to fight environmental crimes

It was just this June when House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda filed House Bill 6973 seeking to create the EPEB under the DENR.

The proposed measure has been referred to the Committees on Government Reorganization and on Natural Resources.

The bill aims to capacitate DENR enforcers through the establishment of an Enforcement Academy, where they can learn skills and techniques normally taught to mainstream law enforcement agents.

At present, the DENR is dependent on law enforcement agencies, particularly the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation, in the implementation of environmental laws.

Once in operation, Tamoria said the EPEB will “level up the DENR as the country’s lead agency for environmental law enforcement.”

For this year, Global Witness fears that things are about to get worse for the environmental and land defenders in the Philippines amid the on-going pandemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown have intensified the problems land and environmental defenders face. Governments around the world – from the US to Brazil and Colombia to the Philippines – have used the crisis to strengthen draconian measures to control citizens and roll back hard-fought environmental regulations,” Global Witness said.

The Global Witness report also showed that over half of all reported killings last year occurred in just two countries, which are Colombia and the Philippines.

The report linked most of the murders to the mining industry, with 50 anti-mining defenders all over the world killed in 2019. Again, the Philippines has most mining-related killings, with 16 deaths.



EDITORIAL - Balik ang bangis ng air pollution sa Metro Manila

(Pang-Masa)

- September 15, 2020 - 12:00am



MAKAPAL na naman ang usok na nakatakip sa Metro Manila. Pinaghalong smoke at fog (smog) ang palutang-lutang sa hangin. Dahil sa smog, hindi na uli makita ang bulubunduking Antipolo kung tatanawin mula sa Quezon City. Naglaho na uli sapagkat makapal na usok na ang nakabalot.

Nang mag-lockdown sa Luzon noong Marso, kasamang na-lock ang maruming hangin na kumukulapol sa Metro Manila. Ipinagbawal ang pagpasada ng mga pribado at pampublikong sasakyan. Pati train, eroplano at mga barko ay hinto rin. Wala ring usok na nagmumula sa mga pabrika, paktorya at iba pang establisimiyento.

At ang resulta ng lockdown, nawala ang air pollution sa Metro Manila at natanaw nang malinaw sa unang pagkakataon ang bundok sa Antipolo. Napakagandang tingnan ang bughaw na bundok. Mayroon palang bundok na matatanaw sa Metro kapag maaliwalas ang panahon.

Gumanda ang kalidad ng hangin sa loob ng dalawang buwan na pagpapatupad na enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) dahil sa COVID-19. Inalis ang ECQ noong Mayo 15 at inilagay sa modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) ang Metro Manila. Lumuwag nang bahagya. Pinayagan na ang mga pribado at ilang pampublikong sasakyan, kasama ang taxi. Hanggang sa madagdagan pa ang mga bumibiyaha at ngayon, may mga dyipni nang pinayagang makabalik sa kani-kanilang ruta.

At ang resulta, bumalik muli ang nakalalasang usok sa Metro Manila dulot ng mga sasakyan. At kapag tuluyan nang inalis ang lockdown at nagbalik na sa normal ang pamumuhay ng mamamayan, tiyak na balik din ang air pollution. Muling bubulwak sa mga tambutso ang maruming usok na lalason muli sa kapaligiran at unti-unting papatay sa mga tao. Ayon sa report, 80 porsiyento na pinagmumulan ng air pollution ay mga hindi namimintinang sasakyan gaya ng mga karag-karag na dyipni, taxi at trak. Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang maruming hangin ay nagdudulot ng noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) gaya ng allergies, acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases. Napatunayan sa lockdown ang katotohanang kapag nabawasan ang mga sasakyan, tiyak na magiging malinis ang hangin. Bakit hindi mag-eksperimento na kahit man lang isang araw sa loob ng isang buwan ay walang yayaot na sasakyan upang mabawasan ang air pollution sa Metro Manila. Manguna sana rito ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na abala sa pagpapaganda ng Manila Bay.



Basura ibinalik na sa South Korea

[Gemma Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - September 14, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Maituturing umano na tagumpay ng Pilipinas ang pagpapabalik sa South Korea ng mga basurang ilegal na ipinasok sa bansa noong Hulyo 21 at Oktubre 21, 2018.

Ayon kay Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar, dapat din salduhan ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) Collection District X na nagpursige para maibalik sa South Korea ang mga basura.

Idinagdag pa ni Andanar na hindi lamang ito tagumpay pagdating sa environmental justice, subalit maging sa medical at health justice sa bawat Filipino.

Ang nasabing mga basura umano ay hazardous materials na itinapon dito sa Pilipinas na posibleng makaapekto sa milyun-milyong Pinoy.



DENR leads conservation of critically endangered tree species

By September 14, 2020

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

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the agreement will enable the agency to more effectively conserve and propagate native tree species that are vital to sustaining biodiversity.

Under the five-year memorandum of understanding, the ERDB and EDC have agreed 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 effort will focus on 11 rarest and most critically endangered tree species including kadalis narig, malayakal, Mindanao narek, pinulog, Palawan narig, narig laot, kanining peneras, Cagayan narek, pianga, mapilig and Samar gisok.

The project will also push for the conservation of species in their natural habitats, identification of different tree species, assistance in sourcing and propagation of seedlings as well as in technicalities and protocols for tree planting.



Pagputol sa 300 taong Toog tree sa Agusan del Sur sinuspinde

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 14 2020 06:51 PM | Updated as of Sep 14 2020 10:56 PM



SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur (UPDATE) — Suspendido muna ang nakatakandang pagputol sa isang tinatayang 300 taong Toog tree sa bayan na ito habang wala pang resulta ang isinagawang pag-aaral ng ilang eksperto.

Agosto 2019 nang bigyan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa rehiyon ng "clearance to cut" ang City Environment & Natural Resources Office (CENRO) sa Bunawan para putulin ang naturang puno sa Barangay Alegria.

Ito'y matapos umanong lumabas sa findings sa biomechanics at structural analysis na nasisira na ang ground cavity ng puno.

Sa ginawang hazard rating na zero to 6, 6 bilang pinakamataas, nasa 5.4 ang hazard rating sa centennial Toog tree. Ibig sabihin, mataas ang potential hazard at may posibilidad na maputol o matumba ito, dahilan para irekomenda itong putulin.

Pero makalipas ang isang taon ay hindi pa rin napuputol ang puno matapos humingi ng public consultation meeting ang mga stakeholders sa lungsod.

Sa pinakahuling pulong, nagkasundo ang CENRO, LGU, at stakeholders na huwag munang putulin ang puno.

"Because there are letters from the experts who are willing to help... na kung puwede sana hindi muna putulin para mabigyan pa ng another examination assessment doon sa kahoy," sabi ni Jerome Albia ng CENRO-Bunawan.

Pero dahil sa limitasyon sa mga biyahe mula Metro Manila dahil sa pandemya, nagsagawa muna ng assessment via Zoom ang mga eksperto.

"The tree will not fall yet. 'Yun ang sinabi pero the virtual assessment is not enough that's why they have a follow-up actual and ground assessment," ani Raul Bunao ng grupong Philippine Native Tree Enthusiast.

Bukod sa ground assessment, hinukay din ang parte ng buttress ng kahoy dahil natabunan ito ng limestone at nakitang malusog naman ang kundisyon ng kahoy.

Setyembre 25 inaasahan ang pagdating sa Agusan del Sur ng mga tree surgeons upang ipaalam ang assessment at rekomendasyon sa Toog tree.

Ang Toog tree ay tinatayang nasa 54 meters ang haba o 177 feet na may edad 300 taon.

— Mula sa ulat ni Charmane Awitan



Police foil illegal logging attempt at Ecija river

[Monday, September 14, 2020](#) [Steve A. Gosuico](#)

GENERAL TINIO, Nueva Ecija – The Nueva Ecija police foiled an illegal logging activity being perpetrated along the Sumacbao River in this town over the weekend amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

This after combined government forces from the police and military and members of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office seized some 7,000 board feet of illegally-sawn lumber worth about P315,000 in Bgy. Pias on Saturday and Sunday.

Provincial police-officer-in charge Col. Marvin Joe C. Saro said the illegal wood shipment was discovered abandoned along the river banks of Sumacbao River.

The successful anti-illegal logging operation was reportedly an offshoot of a tip coming from a concerned citizen.

The raid was conducted by the local police led by Capt. Gregorio Bautista, the 1st provincial mobile force company-NEPPO, Task Force Sagip Likas Yaman, the DENR-PENRO, CENRO and the Army's 7th Infantry Division's 84th Infantry Battalion.

Saro said the seized lumber haul was already turned over to the CENRO-Cabanatuan for proper disposition.



Bagong guidelines sa pagtititulo ng lupa itinakda ng DENR-LMB



September 14, 2020 @ 5:49 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inanunsyo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Land Management Bureau (DENR-LMB) na nagtatakda ng mga bagong guideline sa proseso ng pagtititulo ng lupa sa lalawigan ng Palawan, Sarangani at South Cotabato.

Ayon sa DENR kamailan lamang ay inalis ang suspensyon sa pagpapatitulo sa lupa ang nasabing mga guideline ay magbibigay paraan upang maiwasan ang mga iregularidad.

Sinabi pa ng DENR na isa rito ang supplemental na procedure sa pag-isyu at pag-apruba ng mga survey authority at mga survey plan.

Kaugnay nito pinapayagan ng bagong guideline ang mga kwalipikadong residente ng South Cotabato at Saranggani na mag-aplay ng pagtititulo ng lupa direktso sa kanilang Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs).

Samantala sa Palawan naman tanging sa CENRO ng Culion, Rizal, Busuanga, Roxas, Taytay, Balabac, Narra at Brookes Point lamang makakapag-applay ang mga residente ng pagtititulo ng lupa.

Nabatid pa sa ulat na ang pagpapaliwanag ng MC 2019-10 ni Talabis ay naganap sa isang teleconference na kasama sina DENR Legal Affairs Director, Atty. Norlito Eneran, DENR MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Lourdes Ferrer at DENR Region 12 Regional Executive Director, Atty. Felix Alicer. **Santi Celario**



Southeast Asian box turtle turned over to wildlife experts

Published September 14, 2020, 2:48 PM

by [Aira Magdayao](#)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan – A local environmentalist turned over a Southeast Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*) to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS).



A local environmentalist turned over a Southeast Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*) to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS). (Photo Courtesy of PCSD Facebook page / MANILA BULLETIN)

According to the PCSDS, Rene Maduro of the Yamang Bukid Farm turned over the turtle to the agency.

The Asian box turtle is considered as the world's most heavily trafficked turtle.

Maduro said Yamang Bukid Farm owner George Maria found the turtle along the national highway in Barangay San Carlos when he was on his way home at around 3 p.m. September 11.

Maria brought the turtle home for safekeeping, and later asked Maduro to turn over the animal to PCSDS.

The turtle measured 17 centimeters in length, 12.5 centimeters wide, and weighed 150 grams.

Maduro told PCSDS officials that, as an environmentalist, aware of the importance of the role that turtles play in freshwater habitat, which was why he wanted to turn it over to the proper authorities who know how to handle wildlife.

PCSD considered the Southeast Asian Box Turtle as an “endangered” species under PCSD Resolution No. 15-521



Limited tourism activities at Apo Reef mullied

Published September 14, 2020, 3:54 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

Park managers of Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP), a protected area 33 kilometers off the coast of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, are now considering to limit tourism activities in the area even when tourism fully resumes.



Park managers of Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP), a protected area 33 kilometers off the coast of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, are now considering to limit tourism activities in the area even when tourism fully resumes. (Photo courtesy of ARNP Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN)

The decision came after the number of critically endangered hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Apo Reef doubled during the community quarantine period.

In an interview with The Manila Bulletin, Krystal Dayne Villanada, protected area superintendent of ARNP, said they have recorded 29 turtle emergence from March to August this year, almost doubling the original 15 recorded nests in the same period last year. She said 21 of these were nesting emergence, which meant that the turtle successfully laid its eggs.

The management took this growth as a positive effect, especially during the closure of Apo Reef to tourists amid the travel restrictions imposed by the national government.

Though the area has now partially reopened to local residents following the easing in safety protocols, the carrying capacity continues to be at 52 visitors per day, half of the original 104.

But even when tourism fully resumes, Villanada said they will be exploring the possibility of limiting tourism activities, primarily on Apo Island, the largest among the three islands in Apo Reef, so as not to distort the nesting of turtles.

The main geographical features of Apo Reef are submerged, which makes it also a popular diving spot both for local and foreign divers. The three islands that mark it on the surface, include the Apo Island, Apo Menor (Binangaan'), and Cayos del Bajo (Tinangkapang).

Apo Island is approximately 22 hectares which harbors mangroves and beach vegetation, whereas Apo Menor (Binangaan') is rocky limestone island with relatively few vegetation, and Cayos del Bajo is a coralline rock formation with no vegetation.



Limited tourism activities at Apo Reef mulled

Among the three, Apo Island is a famous beach and camping site, where the majority of tourists would often come onboard boats.

Though considered as another tourist magnet, part of the conservation efforts is protecting the environment where the species thrive, to which Villanada said beach and swimming activities might be soon limited in certain parts of the island.

“Campsite will not be affected. But maybe activities like turning the lights off at an earlier time [will be part of the plan]. Avoiding roaming around the island in the evening will also be implemented because usually the turtles lay their eggs at this time,” she said.

Lights in the island were usually turned off at 10p.m. but she said they might soon adjust it to 8:30p.m. to minimize disturbance.

“These activities will be discussed and presented to the management board during our last quarter meeting this October,” she added.

The Apo Reef, also considered as the second largest atoll-like reef in the Philippines, is teeming with 285 species of colorful marine life, including tropical aquarium fish, snappers and the crevice-dwelling moray under its clear blue waters.

It was declared as a protected area under the category of Natural Park by Presidential Proclamation No. 868 that was issued in 1996.

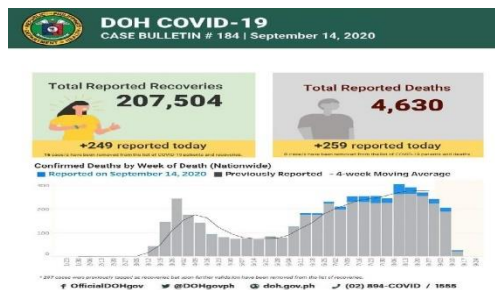
The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) listed the Apo Reef for consideration of UNESCO as a world heritage site.

It was also declared a tourist zone and marine reserve by virtue of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro Sangguaniang Bayan Resolution No. 1108 in 1983.

In 2018, at the time when the tourism department recorded an all-time high tourist arrivals in the country, both foreign and local tourists generated around P8.1 million in revenue from visits to the marine protected area in Occidental Mindoro.

BREAKING: Bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, lagpas 265,000 na

By Angellic Jordan September 14, 2020 - 04:37 PM



Mahigit 4,000 ang naitalang bagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (September 14), umabot na sa 265,888 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 53,754 ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 4,699 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

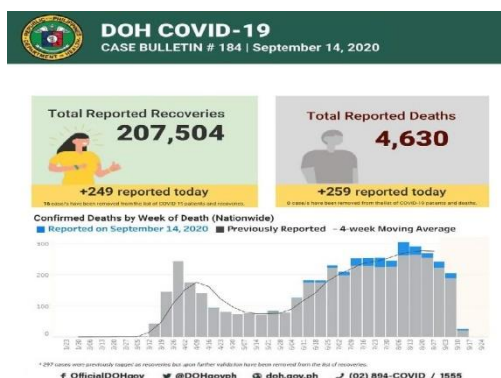
88.4 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 8.2 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.3 porsyento ang severe habang 2.1 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 259 ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 4,630 ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 249 naman ang gumaling pa sa bansa.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 207,504 ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/264331/breaking-bilang-ng-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-lagpas-265000-na#ixzz6Y3VdoVwr>

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259 tigok sa COVID-19; 4,699 dagdag-kaso naitala



September 14, 2020 @ 4:30 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Lalo pang lumubo ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa bansa batay na rin sa inilabas na case bulletin no.184 ng Department of Health (DOH).

Sa pinakahuling tala ng DOH, umabot na sa 265,888 ang kabuuang bilang ng kaso sa bansa dahil sa karagdagang 4,699.

Bahagya naman muling tumaas ng bilang ng aktibong kaso na umabot na sa 53,754.

Nakapagtala rin ng 249 recoveries kaya umabot na sa kabuuang 207,504 ang gumagaling sa sakit.

Ayon sa DOH, mula sa 4,699 na bagong mga kaso, 4,090 nito ang naitala mula September 1 hanggang September 14.

Ang top regions na may mga kaso sa nagdaang dalawang linggo ay ang NCR na may 1,102 habang nasa 1,027 naman mula sa di batid na rehiyon at sa Region 4A naman ay 830.

Ang deaths naman ay umakyat na sa 4,630 dahil sa karagdagang 259.

Nangyari ang 28 o 11% nitong September, 110 noong August (42%), 97 noong July (37%), 22 noong June (8%), tig-1 noong May (0%) at April (0%).

Sa NCR pa rin nagmula ang pinakamataas n bilang ng mga nasawi kung saan mayroon 154 o 59%, Region 7 (55 o 21%), Region 4A (28 o 11%), Region 8 (4 o 2%), Region 5 (3 o 1%), hindi batid na rehiyon (3 o 1%), tig-2 naman sa Region 3, Region 9, Region 10, BARMM habang tig-1 naman sa Region 6 at CARAGA.

Nasa 15 laboratoryo naman ang hindi nakapagsumite ng kanilang datos sa COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) last September 13.

1. Amosup Seamen's Hospital
2. Batangas Medical Center (MON- WED only)
3. Calamba Medical Center
4. Dagupan Doctors Villaflor Memorial Hospital
5. Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center
6. Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium (TALA)



259 tigok sa COVID-19; 4,699 dagdag-kaso naitala

7. Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center
8. Marikina Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory
9. Marilao Medical and Diagnostic Clinic
10. Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital
11. Qualimed Hospital Sta. Rosa
12. Safeguard DNA Diagnostics
13. San Pablo College Medical Center
14. Southern Philippines Medical Center
15. Tropical Disease Foundation

Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden



PUSO, BINUBUTAS NG COVID-19; GUMALING POSIBLENG MAMATAY PA RIN



September 14, 2020 @ 3:40 PM 15 hours ago

Kahit matapos na ang pandemyang dulot ng coronavirus disease-19, may mamamatay pa ring mga biktima ng nasabing sakit.

Ito ang tantiya ng mga doktor at siyentistang nag-aaral kung paano namamatay sa COVID-19 ang mga tao ngayon.

Habang marami ang namamatay sa sakit sa baga, diabetes at iba pa na sinasakyan ng virus ng nasabing sakit at sa atake mismo ng virus, marami sa nagkasakit sa COVID-19 at gumaling na ang mamamatay sa sakit sa puso gaya ng nangyayari ngayon.

PUSO SINISIRA, BINUBUTAS NG COVID-19

Sa maraming bansa, pinapasok ng COVID-19 ang baga ng tao upang sirain ito at sa rami ng virus nito na nilalaban din ng anti-bodies o kontra-virus ng tao, hindi na makahinga ang tao hanggang sa mamatay ito.

Sa kalaunan, natatagpuang sira rin ang baga ng patay na tao.

Sa Amerika at Europa, may mga nagsagawa ng awtopsiya sa mga namamatay sa COVID-19 at natagpuan nilang sira ang mga puso ng mga biktima.

At sa pamamagitan naman ng teknolohiya at x-ray, maliwanag na nasisilip ang mga puso ng mga biktima na may sira o butas kaya.

Napuputol ang mga mahahabang masel o parang nginatngat ng daga ang mga parte ng puso na sira hanggang sa magmukhang may butas mismo ang puso.

WALANG SAKIT SA PUSO

Sa Amerika at Europa marami ang idinideklarang patay sa atake sa puso, hindi sa pneumonia, makaraang tamaan sila ng COVID-19.



PUSO, BINUBUTAS NG COVID-19; GUMALING POSIBLENG MAMATAY PA RIN

Ang natagpuan ng mga doktor at siyentista na pagkasira ng puso ang tiyak na dahilan ng nasabing mga kamatayan.

Kung may sakit ka sa puso, madaling maintindihan dahil masasabi nating sinakyan lang ng COVID-19 ang iyong sakit na dahilan ng iyong kamatayan.

Pero maraming biktima ang namamatay nang walang sakit sa puso kaya nang malamang sinisira ng virus ang puso, dito na kitang-kita kung gaano kabagsik ang nasabing sakit na kaiba sa ibang mga sakit.

Heto ang masakit: natatagpuan ang maraming gumaling na dating walang sakit ang meron nang sakit sa puso at kitang-kita ito sa hindi na regular na tibok ng kanilang puso na sobrang bagal at sobrang bilis naman na dahilan para ikamatay ng tao.

MARAMI ANG MAMAMATAY

Habang sinusulat natin ito, mahigit na sa 29 milyon ang kabuuang bilang ng tinamaan at ang mga dumaan lang sa mga test ang nakarekord dito.

Kasama sa mga nasa rekord ang asymptomatic na positibo ngunit walang sintomas, ang mga may kasong mild at severe o kritikal.

Mula sa 29M biktima, halos 20M naman ang gumaling o nakarekober na.

Gaano ba karami ang mamamatay sa sakit sa puso na nilikha ng COVID-19 mula sa hanay ng mga gumagaling?

Hindi makapagbigay ang mga doktor at siyentista ng saktong tantiya ngunit sinasabi nilang marami.

Ang sinasabi lang nila ngayon, kung matapos na gumaling ang biktima at nakararamdam siya ng bigat ng dibdib at hindi magandang tibok ng puso, huwag siyang lalahok sa sobrang nakapapagod na gawain o ehesisyo.

Ang tinitiyak ng mga doktor at siyentista, magiging biktima o mamamatay ay ang mga mahihilig sa mabibigat na galaw ng katawan ng tao gaya sa sports, dancing at iba pa.

Kung dadagdagan natin ang mabibigat na trabaho, maaaring kasama ang mga nasa konstraksyon, mga may hawak ng mga mabibigat na makinarya gaya ng mga nag-aararo sa mga palayan at marami pang iba.

Payo ngayon sa kanila, sa loob ng anim na buwan makaraang gumaling, magrelaks muna ang mga ito at huwag na huwag sumali sa sobrang mabigat at nakapapagod na trabaho, ehersisyo at iba pa.



PUSO, BINUBUTAS NG COVID-19; GUMALING POSIBLENG MAMATAY PA RIN

PAGGAWA NG BAKUNA

Mungkahi ngayon ng mga doktor at siyentista na isama ang kanilang natatagpuang sakit sa puso sa mga dapat na intindihin ng mga gumagawa ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Para sa atin, mahalagang punto ito at dapat isama sa paggawa ng bakuna ang sangkap na makagagamot sa puso na sinisira o binubutas ng COVID-19.

Ngayon naman, may nagsasabing maaaring sa katapusan ng taong ito, may bakuna na laban sa sakit ngunit may nagsasabi namang maaaring sa susunod na taon na magkakaroon ng bakuna.

Kailangan kasing dumaan sa ikatlo at ikaapat na testing o trial ang mga bakuna bago masabing epektibo ang mga ito laban sa COVID-19 at ligtas ang mga tao na magamitan nito.

Sa ikatlo at ikaapat na trial, libo-libo na ang taong dapat na binakunahan at pumasa na ito sa iba't ibang bansa.

Kasama tayong mga Pinoy sa mga napiling magkaroon ng mga trial at sana marami sa atin ang magboluntaryong mabakunahan at hindi na tatamaan ng nasabing sakit.

Kung magkasakit man tayo, hindi magiging kritikal na sanhi ng kamatayan.

Muli, hindi tayo magsasawa sa pagpapaalala sa lahat na magsuot lagi ng face mask, face shield, mag-social distancing, maghugas lagi ng kamay at mag-ulat sa mga kinauukulan sa suspetsa nating may dala ng COVID-19.



COVID cases sa buong mundo muling nagtala ng 'highest single-day increase' – WHO

By [Bombo NewsCenter](#)

-September 14, 2020 | 1:05 PM

Kinumpirma ng World Health Organization (WHO) na muling nagtala ng highest single-day increase sa loob ng 24 oras sa mga COVID cases sa buong mundo na umabot sa kabuuang 307,930.

Ang unang pinakamataas sa isang araw ay noon pang Sept. 6 kung saan nasa 306,857 cases ang naiulat.

Batay sa official data ng WHO umaabot na sa 28,637,952 ang total coronavirus cases sa buong mundo mula nang magsimula ang pandemya.

Samantala sa nakalipas din na magdamag nasa 5,537 ang naitala na nasawi para madagdagan pa ang total death toll sa 917,417



Earth may temporarily pass dangerous 1.5°C warming limit by 2024, major new report says

By [Pep Canadell and Rob Jackson via The Conversation](#)

- September 14, 2020 - 12:54 PM



Image by Kseniia Zaitseva (@zaitart) via Unsplash

The Paris climate agreement seeks to limit global warming to 1.5°C this century. A new report by the World Meteorological Organization warns this limit may be exceeded by 2024 – and the risk is growing.

This first overshoot beyond 1.5°C would be temporary, likely aided by a major climate anomaly such as an El Niño weather pattern. However, it casts new doubt on whether Earth's climate can be permanently stabilized at 1.5°C warming.

This finding is among those just published in a report titled [United in Science](#). We contributed to the report, which was prepared by six leading science agencies, including the [Global Carbon Project](#).

The report also found while greenhouse gas emissions declined slightly in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they remained very high – which meant atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have continued to rise.

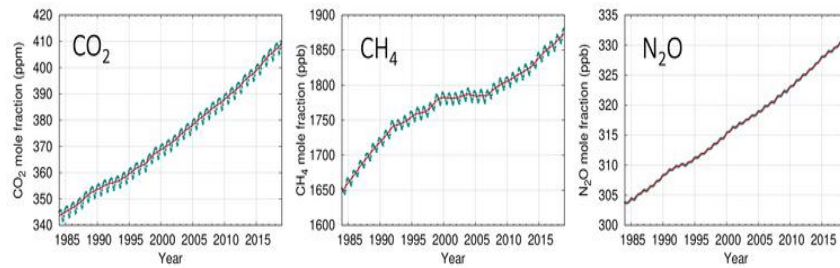
Greenhouse gases rise as CO₂ emissions slow

Concentrations of the three main greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), have all increased over the past decade. Current concentrations in the atmosphere are, respectively, 147%, 259% and 123% of those present before the industrial era began in 1750.

Concentrations measured at Hawaii's Mauna Loa Observatory and at Australia's Cape Grim station in Tasmania show concentrations continued to increase in 2019 and 2020. In particular, CO₂ concentrations reached 414.38 and 410.04 parts per million in July this year, respectively, at each station.



Earth may temporarily pass dangerous 1.5°C warming limit by 2024, major new report says

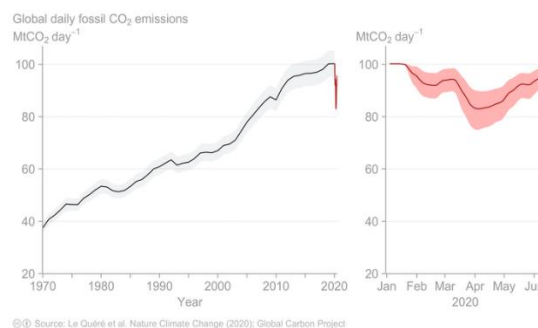


Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) from WMO Global Atmosphere Watch.

Growth in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel use slowed to around 1% per year in the past decade, down from 3% during the 2000s. An unprecedented decline is expected in 2020, due to the COVID-19 economic slowdown. Daily CO₂ fossil fuel emissions declined by 17% in early April at the peak of global confinement policies, compared with the previous year. But by early June they had recovered to a 5% decline.

We estimate a decline for 2020 of about 4-7% compared to 2019 levels, depending on how the pandemic plays out.

Although emissions will fall slightly, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations will still reach another [record high](#) this year. This is because we're still adding large amounts of CO₂ to the atmosphere.



Global daily fossil CO₂ emissions to June 2020. Updated from Le Quéré et al. 2020, Nature Climate Change.

Warmest five years on record

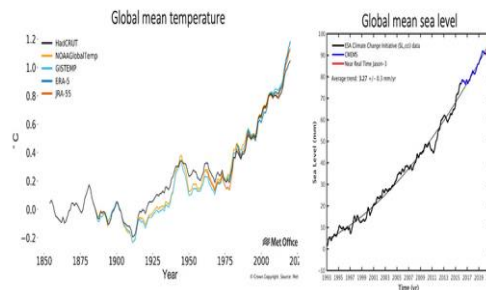
The global average surface temperature from 2016 to 2020 will be among the warmest of any equivalent period on record, and about 0.24°C warmer than the previous five years.

This five-year period is on the way to creating a new temperature record across much of the world, including Australia, southern Africa, much of Europe, the Middle East and northern Asia, areas of South America and parts of the United States.

Earth may temporarily pass dangerous 1.5°C warming limit by 2024, major new report says

Sea levels rose by 3.2 millimetres per year on average over the past 27 years. The growth is accelerating – sea level rose 4.8 millimetres annually over the past five years, compared to 4.1 millimetres annually for the five years before that.

The past five years have also seen many extreme events. These include record-breaking heatwaves in Europe, Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, major bushfires in Australia and elsewhere, prolonged drought in southern Africa and three North Atlantic hurricanes in 2017.



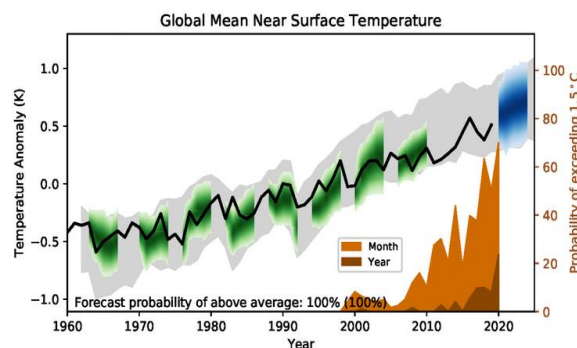
Left: Global average temperature anomalies (relative to pre-industrial) from 1854 to 2020 for five data sets. UK-MetOffice. Right: Average sea level for the period from 1993 to July 16, 2020. European Space Agency and Copernicus Marine Service.

1 in 4 chance of exceeding 1.5°C warming

Our report predicts a continuing warming trend. There is a high probability that, everywhere on the planet, average temperatures in the next five years will be above the 1981-2010 average. Arctic warming is expected to be more than twice that the global average.

There's a one-in-four chance the global annual average temperature will exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for at least one year over the next five years. The chance is relatively small, but still significant and growing. If a major climate anomaly, such as a strong El Niño, occurs in that period, the 1.5°C threshold is more likely to be crossed. El Niño events generally bring warmer global temperatures.

Under the Paris Agreement, crossing the 1.5°C threshold is measured over a 30-year average, not just one year. But every year above 1.5°C warming would take us closer to exceeding the limit.



Global average model prediction of near surface air temperature relative to 1981–2010. Black line = observations, green = modelled, blue = forecast. Probability of global temperature exceeding 1.5°C for a single month or year shown in brown insert and right axis. UK Met Office.



Earth may temporarily pass dangerous 1.5°C warming limit by 2024, major new report says

Arctic Ocean sea-ice disappearing

Satellite records between 1979 and 2019 show sea ice in the Arctic summer declined at about 13% per decade, and this year reached its lowest July levels on record.

In Antarctica, summer sea ice reached its lowest and second-lowest extent in 2017 and 2018, respectively, and 2018 was also the second-lowest winter extent.

Most simulations show that by 2050, the Arctic Ocean will practically be free of sea ice for the first time. The fate of Antarctic sea ice is less certain.

Urgent action can change trends

Human activities emitted 42 billion tonnes of CO₂ in 2019 alone. Under the Paris Agreement, nations committed to reducing emissions by 2030.

But our report shows a shortfall of about 15 billion tonnes of CO₂ between these commitments, and pathways consistent with limiting warming to well below 2°C (the less ambitious end of the Paris target). The gap increases to 32 billion tonnes for the more ambitious 1.5°C goal.

Our report models a range of climate outcomes based on various socioeconomic and policy scenarios. It shows if emission reductions are large and sustained, we can still meet the Paris goals and avoid the most severe damage to the natural world, the economy and people. But worryingly, we also have time to make it far worse.

[Pep Canadell](#), Chief research scientist, Climate Science Centre, CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere; and Executive Director, Global Carbon Project, [CSIRO](#) and [Rob Jackson](#), Chair, Department of Earth System Science, and Chair of the Global Carbon Project, [Stanford University](#). This article is republished from [The Conversation](#) under a Creative Commons license. Read the [original article](#).

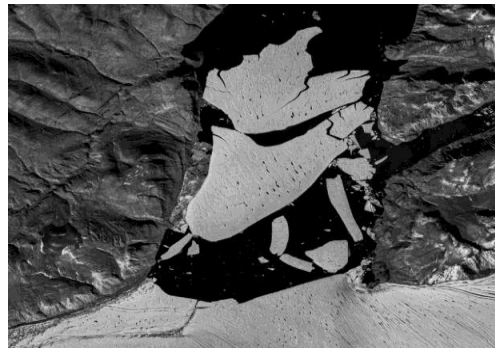


A big chunk of Greenland's ice cap has broken off

[Associated Press](#) / 10:21 PM September 14, 2020

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — A big chunk of Greenland's ice cap, estimated to be some 110 square kilometers (42.3 square miles), has broken off in the far northeast Arctic which scientists say is evidence of rapid climate change.

The glacier section broke off the fjord called Nioghalvfjerdsfjorden, which is roughly 80 kilometers (50 miles) long and 20 kilometers (12 miles) wide, the National Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland said Monday. The glacier is at the end of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream, where it flows off land and into the ocean.



In this image provided by the European Space Agency, ESA, showing the glacier section that broke off the fjord called Nioghalvfjerdsfjorden, bottom, which is roughly 80 kilometers (50 miles) long and 20 kilometers (12 miles) wide, the National Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland said Monday, Sept. 14, 2020. The glacier is at the end of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream, where it flows off land and into the ocean. Scientists with National Geological Survey see it as evidence of rapid climate change leading to the disintegration of the Arctic's largest remaining ice shelf.

(European Space Agency via AP)

Annual end-of-melt-season changes for the Arctic's largest ice shelf in Northeast Greenland are measured by optical satellite imagery, the survey known as GEUS said. It shows that the area losses for the past two years each exceeded 50 square kilometers (19 square miles). The ice shelf has lost 160 square miles (62 square miles), an area nearly twice that of Manhattan Island, New York, since 1999.

"We should be very concerned about what appears to be progressive disintegration at the Arctic's largest remaining ice shelf," said GEUS professor Jason Box.

"Another massive chunk of vital sea ice has fallen into the ocean," said Greenpeace spokeswoman Laura Meller who is aboard the organization's ship Arctic Sunrise at the edge of the sea ice. "This is yet another alarm bell being rung by the climate crisis in a rapidly heating Arctic."

Last week, Ruth Mottram, an ice scientist at the Danish Meteorological Institute in Copenhagen, said, "again this year, the ice sheet has lost more ice than has been added in the form of snow."

"What is thought-provoking is that if we ... had seen this meltdown 30 years ago, we would have called it extreme. So in recent years, we have become accustomed to a high meltdown."

In August, a study showed that Greenland lost a record amount of ice during an extra-warm 2019, with the melt massive enough to cover California in more than 1.25 meters (4 feet) of water.