

18 SEPTEMBER 2020, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunainf\_bob

**Unhealthy?** Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda inspects the white sand project at the Manila Bay shore along Roxas Boulevard. In the wake of the controversy generated by the crushed dolomite powder from Cebu.



## Fish kill not because of dolomite — DENR

Published 2 hours ago on September 18, 2020 04:05 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday brushed off insinuations by some quarters that the dead fish found floating at the seawall of Baseco in Tondo, Manila, might be due to the dolomite “white sand”.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda insisted that the alleged fish kill was not directly due to the dolomite crushed dolomite boulders but because of the low level of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the area.

“First of all, there is a divider in the Baseco area and Baywalk area. There is a big breakwater that it will cost you about five kilometers to go to the other side. It’s far away,” Antiporda said in a virtual presser.

“If you notice, the wind blows towards the Baywalk area, towards the US Embassy. Now, if that’s how it goes, then the dead fish should be found in this area, near the pier and not at Baseco. Baseco is at the back of Pier South. Now, how can the dead fish found in Baseco be because of dolomite? That is very erroneous,” he added.

The official then cited that a similar incident took place in the coastline of Las Pinas and Paranaque cities in October 2019 where nearly two tons of various species of dead fish were found afloat.

Antiporda said they will also fly a drone over Manila Bay today, to check on claims by critics that the waters around the bay has already turned white due to the dolomite being flattened along Manila Bay’s shoreline.

It was early morning last Tuesday, 15 September 2020, when tons of different kinds of fish were seen floating near the shore of Baseco “beach.”

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/18/fish-kill-not-because-of-dolomite-denr/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=fish-kill-not-because-of-dolomite-denr](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/18/fish-kill-not-because-of-dolomite-denr/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=fish-kill-not-because-of-dolomite-denr)



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Ipinaliwanag ng DENR ang posibleng dahilan ng napabalitang fish kill sa Baseco, Maynila. Itinanggi naman nitong may kinalaman ito sa beach nourishment project sa Manila Bay.

WATCH: [bit.ly/35JItFH](https://bit.ly/35JItFH)



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/News5Everywhere/photos/a.182218585268237/2191984590958283/?type=3&source=48>



# Dolomite in bay project not related to fish kill incident: DENR

By Marita Moaje [September 17, 2020, 7:30 pm](#)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the crushed dolomite used in the Manila Bay beach nourishment project is not in any way connected to a fish kill reported in Baseco on Wednesday.

This, after groups that posted a video of floating dead fish in the Baseco area reportedly connected the incident to the dolomite used in Manila Bay.

“Very erroneous yung allegation na yun kasi if you will look at the distance talagang napakalayo and at the same time yung direction ng hangin which is habagat ay hindi nagpo-point sa lugar na yun (that allegation is very erroneous because if you look at the distance, the two areas are very far from each other and at the same time, we have the southwest monsoon which means that the direction of the wind does not point to the area where the alleged dead fish floated),” DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.



Showing a map, Antiporda said the Manila Bay beach nourishment project is about five kilometers away from the Baseco area where the alleged fish kill happened.

Aside from the distance and the wind direction, Antiporda added that there is a breakwater between the two areas.

He added that the DENR immediately instructed its Biodiversity Management Bureau to conduct an investigation and look at the possible cause of the reported fish kill.

Antiporda said during early October last year, a similar incident occurred at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) where about two tons of dead fish were found floating.

An assessment made by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) that time, he said, showed that poor levels of dissolved oxygen and higher levels of ammonia and phosphates than the standard level caused the incident.

The DENR, he said, is looking at the same possibility.

Another angle being studied by the agency is whether somebody used cyanide for fishing, which Antiporda said, may have caused the fish kill.

“We will check on the water quality first to see if this was not done intentionally or if there was a change in the salinity of the water. We are now looking at the possibilities,” Antiporda said.

Antiporda added that the DENR is also not discounting the possibility that somebody might be trying to sabotage the situation.



"We want to set the record straight but we are not discounting na me mga ganung moves na ngayon, kasi these are desperate moves eh, desperate times eh, eto na lang yung paraan nila para i-discredit yung ginagawa ng gobyerno kaya sa atin naman, nag-iingat din kami, we're trying to look at all the angles na makita kung ano talaga yung tunay na nangyari (that there may be similar moves. These are desperate times, desperate moves, this is the only way they see to discredit government efforts, so we are also cautious and are looking at different angles so we would know what really happened)," he said. (PNA)

Source:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1115809?fbclid=IwAR2njysk16n3fVuHLtN47PJY8QVISEDw2aMJZo8esFE5Gq0ivVqXM7z11LmE>



A bulldozer is seen working on the "white sand"—actually crushed dolomite rocks—poured along the shoreline of Manila Bay on September 6, 2020.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

## DENR on fish kill cause: Dolomite? Impossible; Sabotage? Maybe

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - September 17, 2020 - 6:49pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources denied Thursday the allegation that the dumping of crushed dolomite rocks along the shore of Manila Bay was behind the fishkill in Baseco.

It is impossible to link the overlaying of artificial sand made from pulverized dolomite rocks to fish dying in Baseco because of the distance to the baywalk area, the direction of the wind and the presence of a breakwater, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.

"If you will look at the distance, it is really far. At the same time, the wind direction, which is habagat (southwest monsoon)," Antiporda told reporters in Filipino.

"There's a big divide, which is a breakwater. So it's really impossible that it came from the beach nourishment area," he added.

Residents of Baseco compound in Tondo, Manila were surprised to see dead fish floating along the sea wall area of Manila Bay, organization Urban Poor Associates posted on Facebook Thursday morning, adding the coastal community was worried the incident might be an effect of the dumping of dolomite sand.

But Antiporda said the allegation was "very erroneous" and that the incident might be an "isolated case"

"If that happened in the nourishment area, would you imagine, the dead fish should be in the pier, the Manila Bay baywalk area," he said.

He said the department is investigating the incident and studying the water quality where the fishkill happened.

**BFAR: Fish died due to dissolved oxygen**

In a statement Thursday, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said it had received report that on the early morning of September 15, residents found biya, kanduli, asohos and tilapia gasping for air following a heavy rainfall, which lasted almost a day.



The bureau's water quality analysis found that the water quality in Baseco areas indicated a "very low level" of dissolved oxygen (DO) at 0.11 mg/L. The acceptable level of DO—the volume of oxygen that is contained in water and important in supporting aquatic life—for marine waters is 5 mg/L.

BFAR said that consuming fish which have died due to dissolved oxygen depletion is not entirely harmful. But it cautioned against consumption of dead fish and other species from the area to prevent possible harm to human health, "especially if these fish have already shown signs of decomposition like bloatedness, disintegration of parts and foul smell."

It added there is no more reported incident of fish mortality in Manila Bay.

Fishkill last year

DENR's Antiporda also pointed out that fish killed happened in Manila Bay before.

Last year, a fish kill incident occurred at Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Eco-Tourism Area on October 10, 2019. An analysis of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau found that three of the stations where water samples were collected was lower than the acceptable level of DO.

Four stations also had traces of cyanide, a chemical used in illegal fishing. "It blocks the absorption of oxygen by cells and causes the species to suffocate and die," the EMB report explained.

"Sabotage, we are not discounting that. We are still investigating," Antiporda said, adding later that there might be desperate moves to discredit the government.

Government officials have said that the project to build an artificial beach along Manila Bay's coastline is part of the government's program to rehabilitate the degraded bay. They also said that the crushed dolomite sand will prevent erosion and neutralize the acidity of the water.

But for environment, fishers and religious groups, the project will pose harm not only to the bay's marine ecosystem but also to communities around the area. The Department of Health, however, said the crushed dolomite rocks used for the project do not pose health hazards.

Critics of the bay also stressed that the project violated at least five laws on the environment and culture and failed to undergo consultation with stakeholders.





## DENR probes Manila Bay fish kill: natural causes, cyanide, or sabotage?

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#) September 18, 2020



*File photo: A resident of Baseco in Tondo Manila tries his luck in catching fish and seems to be carefree on what the rehabilitation controversy as long as he can have food to put on his table for his family at Baseco beach which is part of the famed Manila bay, as the bay's ongoing rehabilitation and beautification project people have different point of view in putting a white sand in it saying it's health hazardous. (Photo by NONIE REYES)*

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is investigating the reported fish kill in Manila Bay.

This, after assorted fish species were spotted floating near the Baseco Compound, some 5.1 kilometers away from the Baywalk area, the site of the controversial P389-million Manila Bay Beach Nourishment Project.

“We are not discounting the possibility that the fish kill was caused by natural causes or possibly cyanide fishing near the area. But we are also not discounting the possibility that it is an act of sabotage to discredit our initiatives in Manila Bay,” Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.

The DENR’s undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns said almost the same time last year, on October 10, a fish kill in Manila Bay was reported.

This was attributed by experts to the drastic decrease in dissolved oxygen level in Manila Bay.

The official dismissed the insinuation by critics of the project that the dumped crushed dolomite may be the reason for the fish kill.

“There are insinuations that the dolomite is to blame. How could that be when the project site is some 5 kilometers away from the fish kill?” he said.

Antiporda, who conducted an inspection on the site, said water samples from the area were already obtained and laboratory tests are being done.

He said he spotted tilapia floating near Baseco Beach.

“We are not discounting the possibility that this is an act of sabotage. I really wish it was not,” he said.

Antiporda said on September 19, the DENR will lead the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day Celebration in the “Boracay-like” Beach in Manila Bay.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/18/denr-probes-manila-bay-fish-kill-natural-causes-cyanide-or-sabotage/>



# DENR blasts claims that dolomite caused fish kill, murky waters off Baseco

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:31 PM September 17, 2020



Contributed photo by Ghine Nequia

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) believes that the claims of fish kill and waters becoming murky white in the Baseco portion of the Manila Bay were not caused by the crushed dolomite dumped near the Baywalk area. DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda insisted on Thursday that it is “very erroneous” to outrightly assert that the dolomite sand was responsible for the death of marine life in the area, as well as allegations of the sand mixing with water.

While Antiporda assured that they would look into the matter and send out drones on Friday to check the situation, he said that DENR personnel who went to Baseco Compound did not see the fish kill.

“What I can say is as of now, these claims are doubtful, quick assumptions that the fish kill was brought by the nourishment is erroneous. Because if that happened due to the nourishment area, would you imagine, the dead fishes should have washed up at the pier, near the Manila Baywalk area, and not in Baseco,” Antiporda said in Filipino.

“That’s our view, immediately saying that dolomite caused the issue is very erroneous. Now, for the satisfaction of everybody, we will fly drones over the area tomorrow to see their claims,” he added.

Instead, Antiporda, who visited Manila Bay in the morning when the report came out, noted that the fishes near Manila Bay were mostly tilapia — a fresh water fish that should have not moved to the salt waters of the bay area.

“When I was at Manila Bay earlier, the fishes I saw there were tilapia. I was confused why I saw one there when the water is salty, it may not be able to live there. A while ago we had people in Baseco, they did not see anything like that which prompted us to investigate what fish was that, how, when, and why it happened,” he assured.

Earlier, photos of Manila Bay [waters near the Baseco](#) Compound surfaced on social media showing waters ranging from a light gradient of brown to flesh colors, while fish seen floating ashore. This occurred after monsoon rains swept through Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces.



In the photos, a lot of netizens claimed that changes in Manila Bay's water may have been caused by the [crushed dolomite](#), which was placed at the Baywalk area alongside Roxas Boulevard to beautify the tourist spot.

However, members of the group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) and other environment organizations and individuals noted the [harmful effects of dolomite](#) on human beings and on the ecosystem, citing United States studies about crushed dolomite being a causative agent for cancer.

Still, Antiporda claimed that it is almost impossible for the dolomite sand to reach Baseco and for the fish kill to be concentrated only in that area when the prevailing southwest monsoon brings wind from the southwestern side up towards the northeastern side. He also cited the long proximity and the two break waters that separate the dolomite overlaying project site to the Baseco area.

In that scenario, Antiporda believes dead fishes should have washed ashore the baywalk area too.

“The distance between the nourishment and Baseco is just five kilometers away, so it is impossible that the fishes ended up there and none here. That is [not due to the dolomite](#). They immediately made that angle, other reporters, that is what they placed but here is our explanation,” he noted.

“So we're looking at the situation that it might be possible that it was the same as last year, a fish kill happened last October 10, maybe this year it was earlier. That's what we're looking at,” he added.

As of now, the posts on the alleged murky white water and fish kill have been picked up by various groups and news agencies to raise questions, whether this was caused by the dolomite dumping issue — a project that costs around P349 million.

JPV



## Fish kill sa Baseco 'di dahil sa dolomite – DENR



September 17, 2020 @ 7:23 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nanindigan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na walang kinalaman o koneksyon sa beach nourishment project ng Manila Bay ang naglutangang patay na isda sa baybayin malapit sa Baseco Compound kaninang umaga, ayon kay Usec. Benny Antiporda spokesperson ng DENR.

Sa ginanap na virtual presser sinabi ni Antiporda, kasalukuyang iniimbestigahan ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ang insidente at kung ano ang sanhi ng pagkamatay ng mga isda sa Manila Bay.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda hindi rin iniaalis ang posibleng sabotaje umano sa naganap na fish kill kung kaya't agad isasagawa ang check water quality sa tubig ng Manila Bay kung saan natagpuan ang mga patay na isda.

“Check water quality first (ng tubig sa Manila Bay),” ani pa ni Antiporda.

Nauna rito, magugunitang nitong nakalipasna buwan ay isinagawa ang paglalagay ng dolomite sa paligid ng Manila Bay bilang isa sa hakbang sa isinagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay at paglilinis sa naturang baybayin.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na nitong nakalipas na taon nagkaroon na rin ng fish kill sa paligid ng Manila Bay kung kaya't mahigpit nilang iimbestigahan kung may kinalaman nga sa dolomite ang naganap na fish kill.

Batay pa sa DENR kabilang sa iimbestihan ng ahensya ang dahilan ng fish kill ay ang dissolve oxygen at water level ng Manila Bay at maaaring hindi ang isyu ng dolomite.  
**(Santi Celario)**



# Manila Bay “White Sand”, sinisi sa pagkamatay ng mga isda sa Baseco

ni [Twinle Esquierdo](#) | September 18, 2020



Sa isang panayam, itinanggi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, at sinabing imposible na ang dolomite ang dahilan kung bakit namatay ang mga isda. Photo: File source

Itinanggi ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na may kinalaman ang Manila Bay “white sand” project sa pagkamatay ng mga isda sa Baseco compound kamakailan.

Ayon sa mga residente ng Baseco, ang dolomite na ginamit sa Manila Bay “white sand” project ng DENR ay nagdudulot ng masamang epekto sa kalusugan.

Ngunit sa isang panayam, itinanggi ito ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, at sinabing imposible na ang dolomite ang dahilan kung bakit namatay ang mga isda.

Aniya, “Erroneous po yung allegation nila kaagad na galing sa nourishment area iyang nangyaring fish kill na ‘yan.”

Ipinaliwanag ni Antiporda na may layong 5 kilometro ang Baseco compound sa nourishment area at bagama’t ang direksiyon ng hangin ay patungong Baseco hanggang Manila Baywalk, may dalawang breakwaters sa pagitan nito.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, kung ang dolomite umano ang dahilan ng pagkamatay ng mga isda ay dapat natagpuan ang mga ito sa iba’t ibang lugar tulad ng baywalk at hindi sa Baseco compound.

Gayunman, ayon kay Antiporda, isinasaalang-alang ng DENR ang mga maaaring maging sanhi ng kanilang proyekto tulad ng pagbaba ng oxygen level. Gayundin, sinisilip na dahilan ng pagkamatay ng mga isda ang epekto ng pagkakaroon ng cyanide dahil sa ilegal na pangingsda.

Sa pagsisiyasat ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), natuklasan nila ang iba’t ibang klaseng patay na isda tulad ng biya, kanduli, asohos at tilapia nitong Martes, Setyembre 15, at ang pagbaba ng oxygen level sa Baseco na 0.11 milligram/liter mula sa pamantayan nitong 5mg/L na parehong nangyari noong nakaraang taon, Oktubre 10, sa Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Eco-Tourism Area na bumaba ang oxygen level sa 0.02 mg/L mula sa 6 mg/L.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/manila-bay-white-sand-sinisi-sa-pagkamatay-ng-mga-isda-sa-baseco>



# DENR says no link between recent Baseco fish kill and Manila Bay 'white sand' project

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 17, 2020 7:35:39 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 17) — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) denied that the recent fish kill that occurred in Baseco compound was caused by the Manila Bay “white sand” project.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told a virtual press conference on Thursday that it was impossible that the crushed dolomite dumped over a portion of the bay on Roxas Boulevard caused the death of the fish.

“Erroneous po yung allegation nila kaagad na galing sa nourishment area iyang nagyaring fish kill na iyan,” Antiporda said.

[Translation: Their allegation is erroneous, blaming the nourishment area over the fish kill incident.]

He explained that the Baseco compound and the nourishment area are 5 kilometers away from each other.

Moreover, he noted that wind direction is also from Baseco to Manila Baywalk and that there are also two breakwaters between the two areas.

If the dolomite caused this, dead fish should be found in other areas like the baywalk and not in the Baseco compound, Antiporda said.

Based on a report from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Baseco residents discovered dead fish of different species like biya, kanduli, asohos, and tilapia at 5 a.m. on Sept. 15.

There are residents associating the fish kill to the dumping of dolomite at Manila Baywalk. This project of the DENR caused health concerns due to possible risks it may cause after being exposed to the product.

Antiporda said the DENR is considering several causes like low dissolved oxygen level and the presence of cyanide due to illegal fishing. He said the result of the water quality test will be released tomorrow.

Initial investigation of BFAR revealed that dissolved oxygen in the Baseco area was at 0.11 milligram/liter from the standard 5 mg/L.

He noted that the same incident occurred last year in Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Eco-Tourism Area on Oct. 10, wherein dissolved oxygen level dropped to 0.02 mg/L from 6 mg/L.

However, Antiporda said the DENR is not discounting the possibility that this was done intentionally to discredit the government. He also questioned the website that posted the situation in Baseco, out scooping other media outfits.



“Hopefully hindi ito sinadya kasi bakit mo iko-connect sa dolomite when ang layo nyan kung di mo sinadya,” he said.

[Translation: Hopefully this is not intentional because why would you connect this to dolomite when they are far from each other if you did not do this intentionally.]

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/9/17/denr-denies-connection-between-baseco-fish-kill-manila-bay-white-sand.html?fbclid=IwAR1s8mhRlnZ6iKrBrJ-jptvGiaIVGMkjkpUz7PqgGOP9IcGpslyDz9SjJIQ>



## FISH KILL | DENR discounts Manila Bay dolomite as the source of fish kill in Baseco

September 17, 2020 , 07:27 PM

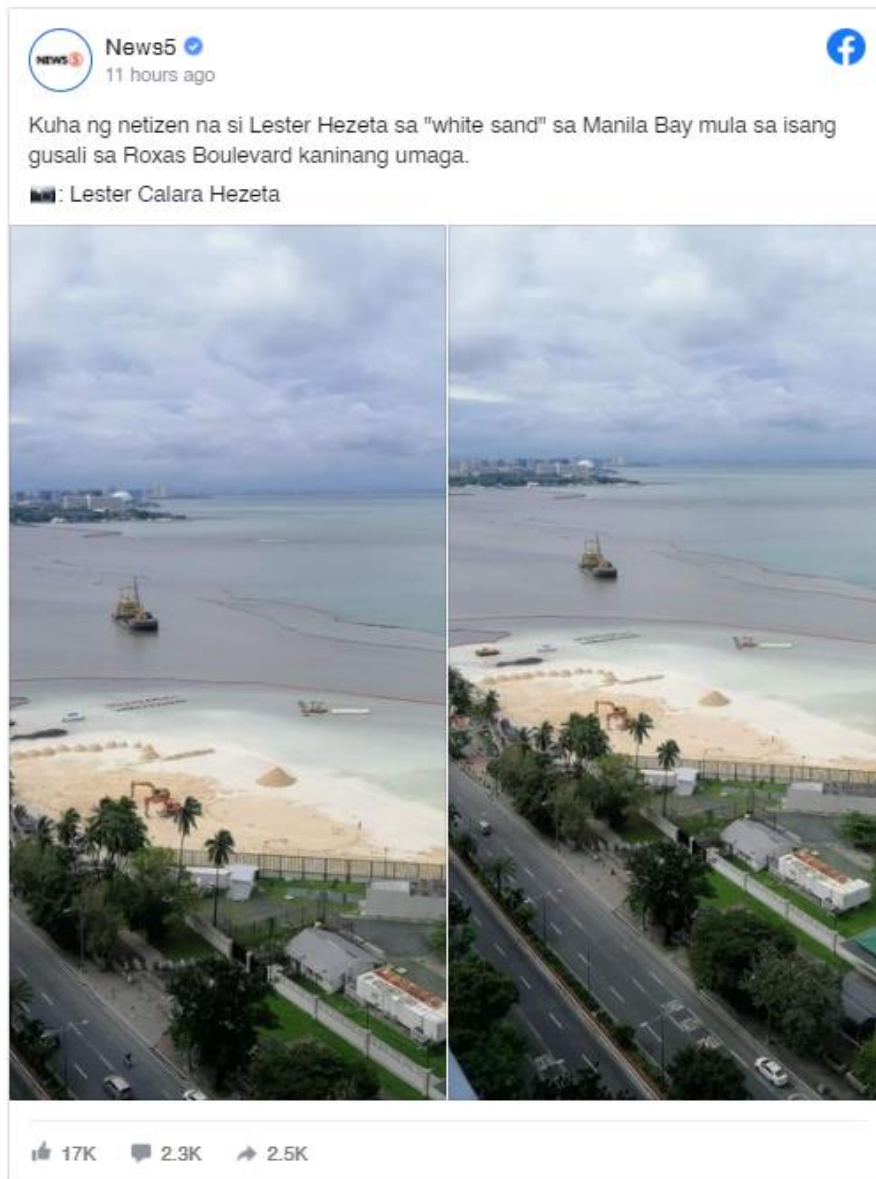
(September 17, 2020) – The environment department discounted crushed dolomite used in the Manila Bay beach nourishment project as the source for the fish kill seen in the nearby Baseco village on Thursday.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told reporters that it was “impossible” to look at dolomite, or calcium magnesium carbonate, as the cause of death of thousands of fishes along the seaside Baseco compound.

“Yung direksyon ng hangin ay hindi nagpo-point out sa lugar na yun. There’s a big divider which is the breakwater. So it is really impossible na dito galing satin yun,” Antiporda said.

He pointed to a map where two breakwaters divided the coastal area between the area where the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was dumping crushed dolomite as “artificial sand” and the area where the Baseco compound was located.

Some groups questioned the use of dolomite as inhalation of its dust particles could possible result in respiratory issues with humans. But the DENR said the dolomite mined in Cebu was thrice the size of a sand granule and would not be susceptible to suspension in the air.







Antiporda also said the windflow from the Habagat, or the southwest monsoon, was directed inland from the Manila Bay.

However, wind direction in the South China Sea on Thursday was actually going westwards.

The southwest monsoon is being pulled by Tropical Storm Noul, known locally as Leon, as it left the Philippine area of responsibility on Thursday.

The DENR added that the fish kill was not a new phenomenon and it had happened before in Baseco October last year due to low dissolved oxygen levels.

"We are not discounting na mayroong sumabotahe diyan. Maaari na mayroon na namang nag-illegal fishing dyan using cyanide," he added.

The DENR has taken a sample of the water and is set to release the results by tomorrow.

*(Reports from Shyla Francisco, Gary de Leon)*



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Iginiit ng DENR na walang kinalaman sa Manila Bay "white sand" project ang naiulat na fish kill sa Baseco area.

**“**  
**Very erroneous 'yung allegation na 'yun in the first place.**  
 If you will look at the distance talagang napakalayo and at the same time 'yung direksyon ng hangin, 'di nagpo-point sa lugar na 'yun. It is imposible na 'yung fish kill nandoon lang sa lugar nila pero 'yung nourishment nandito sa kabila.  
**”**

**USEC. BENNY ANTIPORDA**  
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
 SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

News5Everywhere @news5ph News5.com.ph

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/News5Everywhere/photos/a.182218585268237/2191910444299031/?type=3&source=48>



# Low oxygen levels caused fish death in Manila Bay – BFAR

Published September 17, 2020, 9:09 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has found that the part of the Manila Bay where several kilos of dead fish were found floating has “very low level of dissolved oxygen.”

According to Manila public information office (PIO), BFAR Executive Director Eduardo Gongona said that the water quality in Baseco “indicated very low level of dissolved oxygen (DO) at 0.11 mg/L.” The acceptable level for marine waters is 5 mg/L, he added.

The discovery came after BFAR conducted an initial water quality analysis and collection of fish samples in different sampling sites of the Manila Bay, particularly along Baseco Beach, Pasig River Mouth, Barge Docking, and Aplaya.

“The composite team of Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Central Office and National Capital Region conducted an investigation and collected water samples for laboratory analysis on September 16, 2020 following a report of fish mortalities of around 10 kilograms in Manila Bay, specifically within the vicinity of Baseco, Tondo, Manila,” the PIO said, citing report from Gongona.

BFAR said that while consuming fish which have died due to dissolved oxygen depletion is not entirely harmful, it is still reminding the public to be cautious in consuming dead fish and other species from the area “to prevent possible harm to human health.”

The agency expressed concern “especially if these fishes have already shown signs of decomposition like bloatedness, disintegration of parts, and foul smell, among others.”

“Only those captured fresh and alive are fit for consumption, provided that they are thoroughly washed and cooked,” it said.

BFAR also suggested that a proper disposal of dead fishes and cleaning of the affected area be done to improve the water quality in the area.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/17/low-oxygen-levels-caused-fish-death-in-manila-bay-bfar/>



# BFAR says ‘very low level of dissolved oxygen’ killed fish at Manila Bay

By: [Consuelo Marquez](#) - Reporter / [@ConsINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:32 PM September 17, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on Thursday said the 10 kilograms of fishes found floating in Manila Bay near Baseco, Tondo died due to very low levels of dissolved oxygen.

In a statement, the team of Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Central Office and National Capital Region said it conducted a probe on the collected water samples at Baseco on September 16, Wednesday after receiving a report about dead fishes floating at the area.

Based on the collected samples from Baseco, BFAR said it indicated a low level of dissolved oxygen at 0.11 milligram per liter (mg/L). BFAR said the sufficient level for marine waters is at 5 mg/L.

“Based on the report, at 5:00 in the morning on September 15, 2020, residents found fishes such as biya, kanduli, asohos, and tilapia gasping for air following a heavy rainfall, which lasted almost a day,” read the statement.

“The result of the water quality testing in the Baseco Area indicated a very low level of dissolved oxygen (DO) at 0.11 mg/L. The acceptable level for marine waters is 5 mg/L,” it added.

BFAR has recommended proper disposal of the dead fishes as well as “cleaning of the affected area to improve water quality.” BFAR added that, currently, there are no more reported fishkills in Manila Bay.

Earlier, a netizen shared photos of the Manila Bay’s waters were gradient brown to light brown. The photos showed several dead fishes in the bay as well.

In a separate statement, the Baseco Seaside Neighborhood Association (BASA) feared that the artificial white sand could have caused the fishkill in Manila Bay.

Manila Public Information Office (PIO), meanwhile, said they already referred the matter to BFAR for “investigation and appropriate action.”

In addition, BFAR discouraged consumption of the fish mortalities to prevent risk to public health.

“While consuming fish which have died due to dissolved oxygen depletion is not entirely harmful, the Bureau still cautions the public against consumption of dead fish and other species from the area to prevent possible harm to human health, especially if these fishes have already shown signs of decomposition like bloatedness, disintegration of parts, and foul smell among others,” it said.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1336743/bfar-says-very-low-level-of-dissolved-oxygen-killed-fish-at-manila-bay>



## Manila Bay white sand project minamadali para sa Int'l Coastal Clean-up sa Sept. 19



September 17, 2020 @ 7:04 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Minamadali na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang paglalagat ng puting buhangin sa Manila Bay para sa aktibidad sa Sabado, September 19 kaugnay ng International Coastal Clean-up.

Sinabi ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, na matapos man o hindi ang paglalagat ng mga dolomite sand, tuloy pa rin ang coastal clean-up activity ng pamahalaan.

Inaasahang makikiisa sa naturang aktibidad si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu at mga opisyal mula sa Department of the Interior and Local Government, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority at Manila City government.



Hanggang ngayong Huwebes, may ilang bahagi pa ng Manila Bay ang hindi natatambakan ng puting buhangin na mula sa dinunog na dolomite boulders na galing sa lalawigan ng Cebu.

Idinagdag pa ni Antiporda na makatutulong ang paglalagay ng puting buhangin sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay para maiwasang magkalat at magtapon ng basura sa tubig ang mga tao.

Ayon sa mga opisyal ng DENR, kinonsulta ang lahat ng konsernadong ahensya at mga eksperto bago sinimulan ang Manila Bay white sand project. **RNT**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/manila-bay-white-sand-project-minamadali-para-sa-intl-coastal-clean-up-sa-sept-19/>



## DENR speeds up dolomite dumping along Manila Bay for Int'l Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 19

**Published** September 17, 2020 3:05pm

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is accelerating the dumping of synthetic white sand along the shores of Manila Bay for the International Coastal Clean-up Day on Saturday, September 19.

According to Isa Avendaño-Umali's report on Dobol B sa News TV, Environment undersecretary Benny Antiporda, however, said the activity will continue even if the white sand project is not yet complete.

 **Isa Avendaño-Umali** @Isa\_Umali · Sep 17, 2020

PANOORIN: @DENROfficial Usec. Benny Antiporda at ilang opisyal ng MMDA at DILG, nag-inspeksyon sa "Manila Bay beach" ngayong umaga. Ito ay kaugnay sa International Coastal Clean-up Day sa Sabado. @dzbb 



 **Isa Avendaño-Umali** @Isa\_Umali

PANOORIN: Ayon kay Usec. Benny Antiporda, hinahabol ang paglalata ng puting buhangin sa Manila Bay para sa aktibidad sa Sabado. Pero latag man o hindi, tuloy aniya ang International Coastal Clean-up Day activity ng pamahalaan. @dzbb



10:44 AM · Sep 17, 2020 

 9  See Isa Avendaño-Umali's other Tweets



“Looking forward na talagang tapos na siya. Hinahabol natin but latag o hindi, tuloy ang International Coastal Clean-up on Saturday,” Antiporda said.

As of Thursday, several parts of the shores of Manila Bay remain uncovered with the white sand — made from crushed dolomite boulders shipped from Cebu province.



Antiporda said among those who will participate in the ICC are Environment secretary Roy Cimatu, and officials from the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Manila City government.

Earlier, environmentalists and fisherfolk groups [criticized the project](#), calling it an artificial rehabilitation and a waste of money.

Meanwhile, Antiporda said putting white sand alongside Manila Bay coastline will [discourage people from littering](#) and throwing trash in the water.

Last week, DENR said it [consulted all concerned](#) agencies and experts before starting the project at the Manila Bay.—**AOL, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/756001/denr-speeds-up-dolomite-dumping-along-manila-bay-for-int-l-coastal-cleanup-on-sept-19/story/?utm\\_source=GMAnews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3yZ-Mv4RkeobcqkKEYDSG7Ot4N\\_PFOzS\\_8bQSH0STA7kEeUDf7avyDKzk](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/756001/denr-speeds-up-dolomite-dumping-along-manila-bay-for-int-l-coastal-cleanup-on-sept-19/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3yZ-Mv4RkeobcqkKEYDSG7Ot4N_PFOzS_8bQSH0STA7kEeUDf7avyDKzk)



# Part of Roxas Boulevard to be closed for Manila Baywalk clean-up

By: [Consuelo Marquez](#) - Reporter / [@ConsINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:15 PM September 17, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — A portion of Roxas Boulevard in Manila will be closed to give way for the clean-up of the Manila Baywalk on Saturday, Sept. 19, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said on Thursday.

In a traffic advisory, MMDA said roads along Roxas Boulevard from P. Burgos to Quirino Avenue (both bounds) would not be passable from 6 a.m. until 9 a.m.

Instead, MMDA advised motorists to take these alternate routes:

## Northbound:

1. Osmena Highway, right turn Quirino, straight to Lacson Ave., left turn Tayuman, Capulong St. to destination.
2. Along Roxas Blvd, right turn EDSA, Osmena Highway, left turn Quirino Ext, U.N. Avenue, right turn Romualdez, left turn Ayala Blvd, Finance Rd, P. Burgos, right turn Bonifacio Drive, to destination.

## Southbound:

1. Bonifacio Drive, left turn P. Burgos, Finance rd, Ayala Blvd, right turn Marcelino St, right turn Quirino Ave then left turn Roxas Blvd to destination.

The Manila Bay Walk clean up coincides with the International Coastal Clean-Up Day, which is held every third Saturday of September, which is required under Proclamation No. 470 series of 2003. [ac]

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1336701/govt-to-close-part-of-roxas-boulevard-for-manila-bay-walk-clean-up>





The north and southbound lanes of Roxas Boulevard from P. Burgos to Quirino Avenue will be closed from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. for the 35th International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Walter Bollozos, file

## Portion of Roxas Boulevard closed for Manila Bay cleanup

[Marc Jayson Cayabyab](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — A portion of Roxas Boulevard will be closed tomorrow to give way for the Manila Bay cleanup, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said yesterday.

The north and southbound lanes of Roxas Boulevard from P. Burgos to Quirino Avenue will be closed from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. for the 35th International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Motorists going northbound are advised to take the following alternate routes: Osmeña Highway, right turn to Quirino, straight to Lacson Avenue, left to Tayuman, Capulong street, to destination.

The International Coastal Cleanup Day is held every third Saturday of September pursuant to Proclamation No. 470.



## Roxas Blvd closed on Saturday for Manila Bay clean-up

By John Eric Mendoza

September 17, 2020

A PORTION of Roxas Boulevard will be closed on Saturday morning to give way to the cleaning of Manila Bay as part of the 35th International Coastal Clean-Up Day, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said on Thursday.

In an advisory, MMDA said the road along Roxas Boulevard from P. Burgos to Quirino Avenue — both north and southbound — will be closed from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Motorists are advised to take alternate routes.

Motorists going northbound can traverse Osmena Highway, right turn to Quirino, straight to Lacson Ave., left turn to Tayuman, Capulong St. to reach your destination.

Drivers may also pass a portion of Roxas Blvd, turn right to Buendia, Osmena Highway, left turn to Quirino Extension UN Avenue, right turn Romualdez, left turn Ayala Blvd, Finance Road, P. Burgos, right turn Bonifacio Drive, to reach destination.

Outhbound motorists are advised to traverse Bonifacio Drive then left turn to P. Burgos, Finance Rd, Ayala Blvd, right turn Marcelino St, right turn Quirino Ave then left turn Roxas Blvd to destination.

The International Coastal Clean-Up Day is held every third Saturday of September.

Source: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/09/17/news/latest-stories/roxas-blvd-closed-on-saturday-for-manila-bay-clean-up/769080/?utm\\_term=Autofeed&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1sPufsWAjf5GyEcTlyuSWPtS0NLWGt1PpVd4Tjx8v21dEI3mrNi430s2M#Echobox=1600344982](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/09/17/news/latest-stories/roxas-blvd-closed-on-saturday-for-manila-bay-clean-up/769080/?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1sPufsWAjf5GyEcTlyuSWPtS0NLWGt1PpVd4Tjx8v21dEI3mrNi430s2M#Echobox=1600344982)



## Road alert: Ilang daan sa Maynila, isasara sa pagdiriwang ng Int'l Coastal Clean-Up; alternatibong ruta, alamin



September 17, 2020 @ 6:21 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naglabas ng abiso ang Manila Parking District-Traffic Enforcement Unit kaugnay sa road closure at rerouting ng ilang pangunahing kalsada para sa isasagawang International Coastal Clean-Up sa Manila Bay.

Ayon sa traffic advisory, isasara mula alas-singko ng umaga sa Setyembre 19 ang southbound lane ng Roxas Boulevard mula Katigbak Drive hanggang Pres. Quirino Avenue, Malate, Maynila.

Sarado rin ang northbound lane ng Roxas Boulevard mula Pre.Quirino Avenue hanggang katigbak Drive Ermita, Maynila.

Pinapayuhan naman ang mga motorista na gumamit ng alternatibong ruta.

Ayon sa MPD-TEU, lahat ng sasakyan na magmumula sa Bonifacio Drive na nais gumamit ng southbound lane ng Roxas Boulevard ay kailangang kumaliwa sa P. Burgos Ave. patungo sa kanilang pupuntahan.

Lahat naman ng sasakyang galing sa tatlong tulay na Jones, McArthur at Quezon na dadaan sa southbound lane ng Roxas Blvd ay kailangang dumiretso sa Taft Avenue hanggang sa kanilang destinasyon.

Ang mga sasakyan naman na babagtas ng westbound lane ng P.Burgos Ave, ay kailangang kumanan sa Bonifacio Drive o mag-U-turn sa east bound lane ng P. Burgos Ave. at kanan sa Ma. Orosa st hanggang marating ang kanilang paroroonan.

Kakaliwa naman sa MH del Pilar St. ang mga motorista na babagtas ng westbound lane ng TM Kalaw St. patungong Roxas Blvd.

Lahat naman ang sasakyan na dadaan sa westbound lane ng UN Avenue patungong Roxas Blvd ay dapat kumaliwa sa MH del Pilar St., o gumamit ng Roxas Blvd service road patungo sa kanilang destinasyon.

Habang ang mga sasakyan na babagtas ng westbound lane ng Pres. Quirino Ave ay dapat dumaan sa southbound lane ng Roxas Blvd o kumanan sa Roxas Blvd Service Road hanggang sa kanilang destinasyon.

Lahat naman ng behikulo na patungong Manila Ocean Park ay dapat gumamit ng Kalaw Avenue bilang access road, habang ang Manila Hotel ay dapat dumaan sa Katigbak access road.



Inabisuhan din ang mga may dalang sasakyan na mga participants sa nasabing event na maaring magparada sa Roxas Blvd Southbound malapit sa Manila bay walk activity area ang mga VIPs habang sa Roxas Blvd Service Road Parking area naman dapat magparada ang iba pang sasakyan.

Ang pagsasara at pagbubukas ng mga apektadong lugar ay base sa aktwal na kondisyon ng trapiko. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**



## Roxas Boulevard sarado sa coastal clean up


By Abante Tonite — Last updated Sep 17, 2020

NEWS



16 0

Inanunsyo ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang pagsasara ng bahagi ng Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila para bigyang-daan ang 35th International Coastal Clean-Up Day ngayong Sabado, Setyembre 19.

 Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Simula alas-sais hanggang alas-nuwebe ng umaga ay isasara ang Roxas Boulevard mula P. Burgos hanggang Quirino Avenue.

Pinayuhan ng MMDA ang mga motorist na dumaan sa mga alternatibong ruta para iwas abala sa kanilang biyahe.

Sa northbound: Osmeña Highway, kanan sa Quirino, direktso sa Lacson Avenue, kaliwa sa Tayuman, Capulong Street patungo sa destinasyon.



# Portion of Roxas Blvd. closed to traffic for Int'l Coastal Clean-Up Day on Sept. 19

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 17 2020 04:58 PM



Marine debris end up at the breakwater near the Manila Yacht Club while overlaying of dolomite continues on the other end of the shore as part of DENR's Manila Bay rehabilitation project. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - A portion of Roxas Boulevard in Manila will be closed to traffic on Saturday, Sept. 19 for the 35th International Coastal Clean-Up Day activities.

In a traffic advisory, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said the road closure will affect both bounds of P. Burgos to Quirino Avenue from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Motorists are advised to take the following alternate routes:

## **NORTHBOUND:**

1. Osmena Highway, right turn Quirino, straight to Lacson Ave., left turn Tayuman, Capulong St. to destination.
2. Along Roxas Blvd, right turn Buendia, Osmena Highway, left turn Quirino Ext, U.N. Avenue, right turn Romualdez, left turn Ayala Blvd, Finance Rd, P. Burgos, right turn Bonifacio Drive, to destination.

## **SOUTHBOUND:**

1. Bonifacio Drive, left turn P. Burgos, Finance rd, Ayala Blvd, right turn Marcelino St, right turn Quirino Ave then left turn Roxas Blvd to destination.

Held every third Saturday of September, the International Coastal Clean Up Day is pursuant to Proclamation No. 470 aimed to collect and document trash littering in every country's coastlines.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/17/20/portion-of-roxas-blvd-closed-to-traffic-for-intl-coastal-clean-up-day-on-sept-19?fbclid=IwAR2zarm70ue1KrTgnhZrI6vF7nX4n\\_aXUSLBYGBtTBgDCq8BhdF7RX1mEms](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/17/20/portion-of-roxas-blvd-closed-to-traffic-for-intl-coastal-clean-up-day-on-sept-19?fbclid=IwAR2zarm70ue1KrTgnhZrI6vF7nX4n_aXUSLBYGBtTBgDCq8BhdF7RX1mEms)



# Bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng 'white sand' sandaling bubuksan sa Sabado

**ABS-CBN News**

Posted at Sep 17 2020 04:45 PM

MAYNILA — Sandaling bubuksan sa Sabado ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng dolomite dust para magmukha anilang "white sand" beach ala-Boracay.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), na nagpasimuno ng kontrobersiyal na proyekto, handa na nilang buksan pansamantala sa publiko ang ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay.

"This will be open after the event, pero swimming will not be allowed, puwede sila maglakad-lakad diyan, picture-picture. After, isasara din po ulit dahil tatapusin pa," ani Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

Sabi ni Antiporda, sa Sabado kasi inaasahang matatapos ang "phase one" ng naturang "beach nourishment project."

Ang ikalawang phase naman ang isusunod kung saan tatabunan din ng dolomite ang 380 metrong stretch ng Manila Bay.

Dinurog na dolomite rock ang ginamit bilang artificial white sand sa Manila Bay, na bahagi ng P389-milyon na beach nourishment project.

Marami ang pumuna sa sinasabing masamang epekto sa kalusugan ng paglanghap ng pinulbos na dolomite. Hindi rin anila angkop ang proyekto sa gitna ng pandemya habang hikahos ang maraming Pinoy.

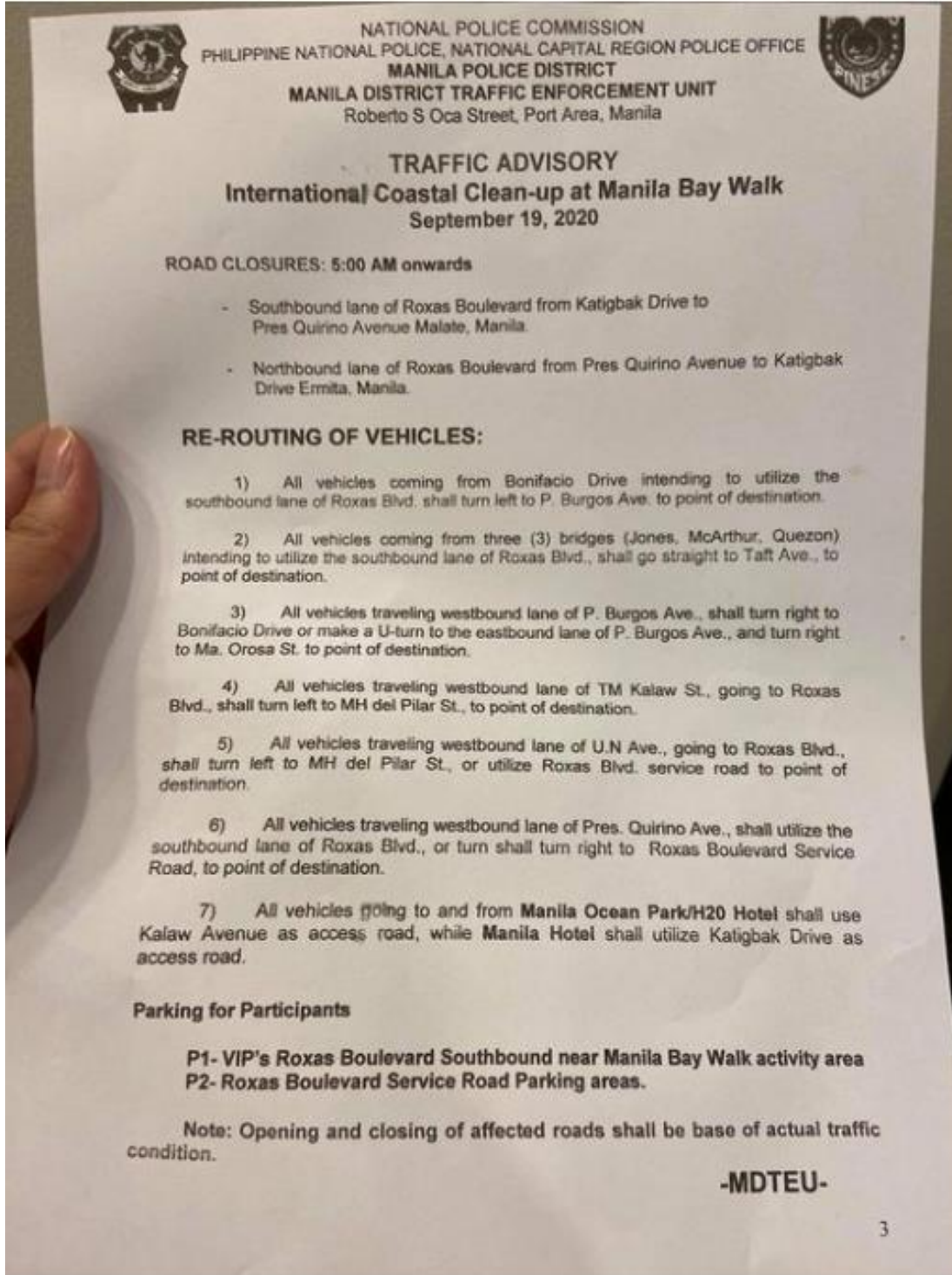
Sinasabi ring maaaring anurin lang ang mga "white sand" lalo na kapag bumagyo. Itinanggi naman ito ng DENR at sinabing pinag-aralan nilang maigi ang proyekto.

—Ulat ni Jeck Batallones, ABS-CBN News

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/17/20/bahagi-ng-manila-bay-na-tinambakan-ng-white-sand-sandaling-bubuksan-sa-sabado?fbclid=IwAR3hQjYnOcLfHXe9eBrRQf4F331\\_11Pepfsu-ugQODub7Fb9ToBRCxs5sGI](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/17/20/bahagi-ng-manila-bay-na-tinambakan-ng-white-sand-sandaling-bubuksan-sa-sabado?fbclid=IwAR3hQjYnOcLfHXe9eBrRQf4F331_11Pepfsu-ugQODub7Fb9ToBRCxs5sGI)



Traffic advisory ng MPD kaugnay sa International Coastal Clean-Up sa Manila Bay walk. Iwasan muna ang bahagi ng Roxas Boulevard sa tapat ng Bay walk sa Sabado. | via Romel Lopez



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13 Comments

Source:

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2191794517643957&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus\\_composer=0](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2191794517643957&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0)





# Food wrappers surpass cigarette butts as top litter item along beaches, waterways

Published September 17, 2020, 2:15 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Surpassing cigarette butts, food wrapper is now the top item collected along beaches and waterways worldwide, according to international non-government organization Ocean Conservancy.



(PIXABAY / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In its 2020 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) report released on Sept. 9, Ocean Conservancy said this is the first time that food wrapper is the number one reported item collected during the ICC. Cigarette butts containing plastic filters traditionally topped the list.

“Food wrappers are a uniquely challenging problem. They are effectively unrecyclable and there are few comparable alternatives that are more eco-friendly. If we happen to use a plastic bottle, we have the option of recycling it or, even better, using a reusable water bottle. We can opt for canvas bags at the grocery store. We can opt for reusable straws, or we can skip the straw altogether if we so choose,” Ocean Conservancy said in a social media post.

Cleanup volunteers across the world collected a record of nearly 4.8 million food wrappers compared to 4.2 million cigarette butts last year, the group said.

They also collected 1.9 million plastic beverage bottles, 1.5 million plastic bottle caps, and 942,992 straws and stirrers. A total of 20.8 million pounds of trash have been collected.

The Philippines’ Climate Change Commission (CCC) also warned the public on the surge of plastic pollution due to the global production and consumption of single-use masks, latex gloves, personal protective equipment (PPE), alcohol and hand sanitizer bottles, and disposable cleaning agents.

In a statement, the CCC pointed out that plastic waste may end up in oceans, break into microplastics, and be mistaken for food by marine animals, such as fish, which humans also consume.

It expressed concern on the increasing volume of single-use plastic wastes from take-out and online shopping deliveries, as the coronavirus pandemic restricted public mobility.

The CCC called on local governments and citizens to help in addressing plastic pollution through proper segregation at source, transportation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste and other waste management activities that do not harm the environment.

It also encouraged households and individuals to refuse disposable plastic cutlery when having food delivered and support businesses offering more sustainable delivery packaging, such as cardboard or compostable bags.



## International Coastal Cleanup Day this Saturday

The 35th ICC, which is organized by the Ocean Conservancy, will be celebrated on Sept. 19. It is the largest volunteer activity in the world devoted to cleanup oceans and waterways.

While organizing coastal cleanup activities for volunteers is impossible due to the pandemic, Ocean Conservancy, and the Philippine's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the public can still contribute to the global movement.

By having "small" cleanups in our own homes, backyards, or community is a significant step to ensure that our trash does not end up in the oceans.

The DENR-National Capital Region DENR-NCR said those who will participate can record and audit the type and number of trash collected and submit it to the marine debris database called "Clean Swell."

This mobile application is developed by Ocean Conservancy to help volunteers easily record and directly upload each item of trash they collect.

The database is used by scientists, conservation groups, governments, and industry leaders to study ocean trash and take action to ensure trash will never reach beaches.



## Manila Bay rehab suportado ng Konseho ng Maynila



September 17, 2020 @ 11:52 AM 17 hours ago

Manila, Phippines – Nagpahayag ng suporta ang Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Maynila hinggil sa pagpapaganda at pagsasaayos sa baybayin ng Baywalk sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard na isinasagawa ng Department of Environment ang Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Batay sa resolusyon na inihain at iniakda sa Konseho nina District 4 Councillor Don Juan “DJ” Bagatsing at District 6 Councilor Salvador “Philip” Lacuna, sinusupportahan nila ang DENR at DPWH ang paglalagay ng beachfront white sand (dolomite) sa baybayin ng Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng kanilang rehabilitasyon upang mapaayos, malinis at mapaganda ito.

Naniniwala din ang mga may-akda na ang ginagawang pagpapaayos ng dalawang sangay ng gobyerno ay walang bahid na pagdududa na makakatulong at makakabuti ito sa publiko.

Ikinatuwiran ng dalawang Konsehal na ang coastline area ng Manila bay, particular ang bahagi ng Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard ay maituturing na “crown jewels” ng Lungsod ng Maynila at isang tourist attraction sa buong mundo kung saan makikita ang pagsikat at paglubog ng araw.

Sa kanilang datos, noong December 18, 2008, nang iniutos ng Korte Suprema ang isang Mandamus sa Manila Bay na linisin, magsagawa ng rehabilitasyon at panatilihin ang tubig ng Manila Bay upang paglanguyan o magamit sa iba’t-ibang sport activity ang lugar dahilan upang simulang linisin at tanggalin ang mga basura.

Hindi rin anila makatuwiran ang ilang pambabatiklos ng ilang sector at sa social media sa isyu ng kung magkano ang ginastos at panggastos sa panahon ng pandemya at nakakasama sa kalusugan.

Gayunman, mismong ang Department of Health (DOH) ang nagsabi na ang paglalagay ng dolomite sa lugar ay hindi nakakasama sa kalusugan dahil ginagamit din ito sa isang tourist destination sa buong mundo. Maging ang ilang ahensiya ng gobyerno tulad ng DILG, DOT, MMDA, Presidential Spokesman, at ilang kongresista kung saan ineendorso pa ang naturang proyekto.

“It is quite saddening to note that certain groups and individuals are noisily opposing such merely to promote a fractured political agenda of divisiveness, hate & polarization by their reckless carping of false facts, fake news & outright lies on the said project.” saad ni Bagatsing.



“Our resolution aims to finally set these unfoundedly misplaced misgivings straight and put to rest any doubt regarding the implementation, as well as, completion of this Manila Bay rehabilitative endeavor.” dagdag pa ng konsehal.

Mismong ang Alkalde ng Lungsod ng Maynila na si Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno Domagoso ay sumasang-ayon sa ginagawang rehabilitasyon at pagpapaganda sa lugar dahil naniniwala itong magiging isang tourist attraction, nagbibigay ang trabaho sa ilan at pagsisimulan ng pagbubukas ng negosyo sa lugar.

“Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the 11th City Council of Manila to Express No Objection, Utmost Support and Appreciation for the National Government’s Manila Bay Rehabilitation and Coastal Beach Nourishment Initiative on the Baywalk Shoreline along Roxas Boulevard in the City of Manila, as currently being implemented by the Environment (DENR) and Public Works (DPWH) Departments.” ayon sa kanilang resolusyon.

Sinang-ayunan naman ng may 34 iba pang Konsehal ng Sangguniang Panlungsod ang iniakdang resolusyon nina Bagatsing at Lacuna. **Jay Reyes**



People gather at a pedestrian overpass to see the controversial sand made of crushed dolomite boulders along the shoreline of Manila Bay while viewing the sunset on September 6, 2020.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

## Certificate of non-coverage issued to Manila Bay white sand project, EMB chief says

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - September 17, 2020 - 9:13am

MANILA, Philippines — The controversial “beach nourishment” of Manila Bay—classified as an “enhancement” project—did not go through the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, the head of the Environmental Management Bureau said.

Projects in the country that may affect the environment are covered by the country’s EIS system. These projects include “proposed major expansion, rehabilitation and/or modification of existing projects as well as resumption of projects that have stopped operations for a prolonged period.”

But William Cuñado, EMB OIC director, said a certificate of non-coverage (CNC) was instead issued to the project by the former bureau chief. EMB is an agency under the DENR.

CNC is issued by the EMB to certify that the undertaking is not covered by the EIS system and is not required to secure an environmental compliance certificate.

“It’s an enhancement project. There’s no need for environment impact study because it’s a nourishment, enhancement [project] of the areas,” Cuñado said in a forum organized by Oceana Philippines Wednesday, adding the “beach nourishment” project of Manila Bay falls under Category C.

Under Category C are undertakings which are intended to directly enhance the quality of the environment or directly address existing environmental problems.

Cuñado's statement was similar to what DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told **Philstar.com** earlier that the project to fill a stretch of Manila Bay’s shoreline with white sand is not covered by the country’s EIS system. But in a statement issued by the DENR Tuesday, it said the project “passed the required environmental impact assessment.”

An environmental impact assessment evaluates the likely impacts of a project on the environment and the surrounding communities and includes mitigation and preventive measures to address the identified consequences of a project.



“It is a rehabilitation project, not a construction project. It’s only a beach nourishment [project] in which we’re beautifying it,” Antiporda said on September 3.

Antiporda, however, said the agency had studied the environmental impacts of the project and that the crushed dolomite boulders would not “disrupt” the coastal ecosystem.

Environmental lawyer Estenzo-Ramos, Oceana Philippines vice president, earlier said the issuance of CNC “is a solid evidence of non-compliance and wilful violation of national laws.”

Publicize studies

Manila Bishop Broderick Pabillo and Infracatch PH convenor Terry Ridon urged the DENR to publicize studies on the project.

“If there are already studies that had been done as some government officials have said, let these studies be openly brought out. If there are yet no studies, then the project should first wait before a study is made and people are assured,” Pabillo said.

“Regardless of whatever it is for as long as the project is located in a historical area, potential tourist spot, it needs to undergo the EIS process. It cannot be exempted. It needs an ECC. Without ECC, the project can’t proceed,” Ridon said.

Groups also called on the DENR to release the project's certificate of non-coverage.

Government officials have said that the project to build an artificial beach along Manila Bay’s coastline is part of the government's rehabilitation program for the entire bay. They also said that the crushed dolomite sand will prevent erosion and neutralize the acidity of the water.

But for environment, fishers and religious groups, the project will pose harm not only to the bay’s marine ecosystem but also to communities around the area. The Department of Health, however, said the crushed dolomite rocks used for the project do not pose health hazards.

Critics of the bay also stressed that the project violated at least five laws on the environment and culture and failed to undergo consultation with stakeholders.

Source: [https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/09/17/2043080/certificate-non-coverage-issued-manila-bay-white-sand-project-emb-chief-says?fbclid=IwAR1zyp9Fk-4E-IB6lRAAdHRK2ulWPMVS4RChnfA27MN73kIKCNb01yrDQLA&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook](https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/09/17/2043080/certificate-non-coverage-issued-manila-bay-white-sand-project-emb-chief-says?fbclid=IwAR1zyp9Fk-4E-IB6lRAAdHRK2ulWPMVS4RChnfA27MN73kIKCNb01yrDQLA&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook)



## Looking for the day's catch

Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 17 2020 08:30 PM



Residents of Baseco compound in Manila try their luck catching fish brought in by the high tide on Thursday. Hundreds of dead fish were found floating at the Baseco portion of Manila Bay earlier in the day, which DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda in a press briefing said had nothing to do with the recent dumping of crushed dolomite along the shore of Manila Bay's baywalk area.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/multimedia/photo/09/17/20/fishing-in-baseco?fbclid=IwAR2a4uz8lFtwdyFnFW0ZavTQSWJNmGCoh9QeOgP2lpEM7S1LTSha\\_5p\\_gMk](https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/multimedia/photo/09/17/20/fishing-in-baseco?fbclid=IwAR2a4uz8lFtwdyFnFW0ZavTQSWJNmGCoh9QeOgP2lpEM7S1LTSha_5p_gMk)



ABS-CBN News

15h · 🌐

LOOK: Men work on the crushed dolomite sand dumping project in Manila Bay on Thursday.  
George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News



👍👍👍 Yen Abaya and 18K others

6.9K Comments 1.2K Shares





## Manila Bay's white sand: Why not?

posted September 17, 2020 at 07:50 pm

by [Bob Zozobrado](#)

The hot issue being debated upon these days is the beautification project of Manila Bay by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The agency has been getting a lot of flak for using white sand from crushed dolomite rocks. As a tourism advocate, I'd like to chime in on the many issues raised on this project.

First, they say it is a wasteful expense made at a time when the money could have been used for the country's current fight against COVID-19. As far as I'm concerned, any beautification project on any of our tourist attractions is never wasteful because our tourism industry is among the top revenue producers for our coffers.

Department of Interior and Local Government Usec. Jonathan Malaya declared that the dolomite sand costs only P28 million and not P389 million, as originally claimed by critics. Besides, the government has never scrimped on budgets needed to equip ourselves against the virus. In fact, the President just approved the Bayanihan 2 (The Bayanihan to Recover as One Act), which is our government's second pandemic relief measure for our country's health and economic problems brought about by this COVID-19 outbreak.



*WHITE SAND, SOON. A view of the Manila Bay, famed for its breathtaking sunset, from Roxas Boulevard prior to the ongoing beautification project. (Photo from Wikimedia Commons)*

If there is a perception that a lot of our medical frontliners have been unnecessarily exposed to the virus due to lack of protective equipment and facilities, it was not because of the government's unwillingness to fund the frontliners' requirements. It could have been caused by an oversight on the part of those at the helm of the Department of Health. If proven, these negligent officials should be meted with administrative sanctions.

And, more than anything else, life has to go on. Just because this pandemic has brought the country down to its knees, it doesn't mean we have to disregard or stop all other aspects of our existence. Since we are already tackling this virus outbreak the best way we can, we should also embark on other endeavors that will help make our country whole again.

Moreover, I learned from an announcement made by Yorme (Manila Mayor Isko Moreno) that this Manila Bay Beautification Project has been budgeted for and approved since before the pandemic. So now would be the perfect time to accomplish it, as we prepare for the re-opening of our erstwhile very profitable tourism industry, which is expected to be either by the end of this year or early next year.

There is also this noise about dolomite sand being a health hazard when inhaled. DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu has already announced that while it is true that dust particles of only 15 microns are hazardous when inhaled for extended periods, the dolomite sand used in Manila Bay is 5000 microns, too big and too heavy to be airborne, making it less likely to be inhaled by anyone.



*A preview of how Manila Bay will look, with all its white sand splendor.*



Others also rant about the artificial sand's ecological impact on marine life. But, how come nobody skewered those in power during those years of neglect which have taken its toll on Manila Bay's water quality brought about by waste and industrial pollution? A 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court to clean up, rehabilitate, and restore the waters of Manila Bay did not spark activities that made it to the headlines.

It was only last year's Executive Order by the President that prompted dedicated efforts to rehabilitate the bay through continuous clean-up drives and the relocation of hundreds of homeless persons who have set up makeshift dwellings along the seawall. This initial move of the authorities to rid the water of some of its pollutants is certainly laudable. Now, I even see a new sewage treatment facility along the boulevard which, I'm sure, will help decrease the water's coliform content to a manageable level.

In reply to those who are worried about the dolomite sand being blown away during typhoons, DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda announced that engineering strategies are being implemented so that the sand overlay will withstand the many powerful typhoons that hit our country.

My parting shot is: Why can't we just leave those in government to do their job?



*Engineering interventions are being done to ensure the white sand overlay will endure strong typhoon winds.*

We still have this aggressive COVID-19 which is worth worrying about, so why don't we just make life easier for us and, instead, show our government officials some support? On my part, I am looking forward to this project's completion which is reportedly scheduled for December.

Incidentally, when Gustave Eiffel built his famous tower for the 1889 World's Fair in Paris, the citizens criticized him for its "strange" design, pelted him and the tower with eggs and tomatoes on Opening Day. When the Rio de Janeiro government officials decided to beautify and widen Copacabana Beach by dumping white sand imported from other parts of Brazil, the city's residents were against what they called an "unnecessary" expense.

The Eiffel Tower is now the most famous and most recognizable tourism landmark in the world. The four-kilometer Copacabana Beach is now Brazil's main tourist attraction and has been named the best beach in the world! So, by next year, I'm sure hordes of tourists, both domestic and foreign, will be seen cavorting on the white sands of Manila Bay. I can almost hear the tourism industry's cash register ringing non-stop! Shouldn't life be this way, by always being more positive and less stressful?

YOUR WEEKEND CHUCKLE

So what if I don't know what Armageddon means? It's not the end of the world!

For feedback, I'm at [bobzozobrado@gmail.com](mailto:bobzozobrado@gmail.com).



## Dead fish in Manila Bay surprises Baseco residents

Published September 17, 2020, 4:41 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Hundreds of dead fish floating in the Manila Bay greeted residents of Baseco Compound in Manila Thursday morning.



(Photo courtesy of Regine Nequia/ MANILA BULLETIN)

Regine Nequia, president of Baseco Seaside Neighborhood Association (BASA), said they were surprised to see the dead fish floating in the Sea Wall area of Manila Bay.

According to a Facebook post made by Urban Poor Associates, a non-government organization campaigning for the protection of housing rights which partnered with BASA, Nequia “immediately asked the fishermen” about the matter upon her discovery.

“[They then] told her that this is the first time they saw it in Baseco Sea Wall,” the group said.

Princess Esponilla, the group’s media advocacy officer, added they are still gathering further information regarding the incident.

“Doon sa area na yun, first time siguro [ng mga residente makakita noon]. Vineverify pa namin ‘to sa mga mangingisda (I think, it’s the first time for the residents of the area to see a lot of dead fish. We’re still verifying the incident through the fishermen there),” Esponilla said.

“Pero noong nagising kanina si Regine, nagulat sya na mayroong puti puti dagat. Usually daw, may mga fish kill, pero ‘di ganoon karami, [at] tuwing Amihan [season lang] (But when Regine woke up earlier, she was surprised to see white particles in the sand. She said, they used to see fish kill but usually, not that many and only during Amihan season).”

Esponilla said her group is not discounting the “possibility” that “dolomite dumping” might have caused the fish kill.

“Sinasabi sakin [ng Oceana Philippines], may posibilidad [na dolomite ang cause]. Pero ang ano talaga natin, ang call is, mag imbestiga yung government bakit may fish kill ang nangyayari at tingnan kung ito ay may kaugnayan sa dolomite dumping (Oceana Philippines is telling me that there’s a possibility that dolomite dumping caused the fish kill. So our call is for the government to investigate about the fish kill that happened),” she added.



The group said that the Baseco Compound community “now worries that this might be the effect of the dolomite or the ‘white sand’” dumped as part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation.

The group said that residents are appealing to experts and government officials “to look at what is happening in the bay area” as many of them, who have lost their jobs, have resorted to fishing in the area as “a viable source of food and income.”

Sought for comment, the Manila City government said it already “officially” referred the matter to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Executive Director Eduardo Gongona “for immediate investigation and appropriate action.”

In October last year, tubs of dead fish and shellfish were washed ashore from the Manila Bay in Parañaque and Las Pinas.

But according to BFAR, low level of water salinity in some parts of the bay caused the death of the shellfish.



# Fish kill sa Manila Bay pinangangambahang dulot ng dolomite 'white sand'

[James Relativo](#) (Philstar.com) - September 17, 2020 - 3:09pm

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated, 6:22 p.m.**) — Namumuting tubig at napupuno ng nangamatay na mga isda — ganyan isalarawan ng ilang grupo't residente ang eksena sa katubigan ng Manila Bay, Huwebes nang umaga, na lugar na pinagtambakan ng kontrobersyal na "dolomite" na sinasabing nakasasama sa kalusugan.

Ito ang ibinahagi ng ngayong umaga ni Regine Nequia, presidente ng Baseco Seaside Neighborhood Association (BASA), sa isang Facebook post, bagay na kanyang labis na ikinabahala.

"Ngayon ka mapapaisip.. namumuti yung dagat tapos ang daming patay na isda, saan to galing?" sabi niya, kalakip ang ilang litrato at video.

"Dati na po nangyari ang ganito dito samin pero hindi po ganyan karami ang patay na isda," sabi niya pa sa hiwalay na panayam.

Hati raw ang opinyon dito ng ilang mangingisda sa ngayon: ang una ay baka dahil daw sa panahon o 'di kaya'y baka "nalason" ang dagat.

Pinaiimbestigahan nila ito ngayon sa mga dalubhasa lalo na't hindi naman daw mga eksperto ang mga nakatira roon.

"[L]ubos na maapektuhan ngayon yung mga mangingisda dito sa aming lugar kasi di natin masabi kung hanggang kailan ito tatagal," dagdag pa ni Nequia.

Hindi ito unang pagkakataon ng fish kill sa Manila Bay. Noong Oktubre 2019, naglunsad din ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources ng imbestigasyon sa "massive fish kill" na naiulat sa Las Piñas at Parañaque at pagkamatay ng mga tahong sa Bacoor City at Sangley Point sa Cavite.

Ayon sa ulat ng [BusinessMirror](#) sa pangyayari, nalaman naman ng Department of Agriculture na may "poor levels of dissolved oxygen, and higher levels of ammonia and phosphates than the standard level" ang tubig dagat noong panahon na iyon.

Mababa rin daw ang level of salinity kaya namatay ang mga tahong.

Sa video ng bagong insidente ng fish kill, makikitang nagsisilutangan ang mga patay na isda, habang nakikitang namumuti ang tubig ilang metro mula sa pinagkukuhanan ng footage.

"The community now worries that this might be the effect of the dolomite "white sand" as part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation," ayon sa Urban Poor Associates sa isang paskil.

"Ms. Nequia and residents living along sea wall appeals to the environmental and government experts to look at what is happening in the Bay area since many of them have lost their jobs, and fishing is the only viable source of food and income among Baseco dwellers."

Bagama't nangyayari raw ang mga fish kill doon dahil sa polusyon, sinabi ni Princess Esponilla, media advocacy officer ng Urban Poor Associates, kung may papel bang ginampanan ang Manila Bay "white sand" sa dami ng namamatay na isda.

"They should also consider the whitish color that seems white sand mixing with the water already," paliwanag ni Esponilla.



Sa ngayon, isinangguni na ng Manila City government ang pangyayari kay Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Executive Director Eduardo Gongona para sa agarang imbestigasyon.

Nangyari ang nasabing fish kill matapos ang ilang araw ng mga pag-ulang idinulot ng bagyong "Leon" na kalalabas lang ng Philippine Area of Responsibility.

### **Imbestigasyon ng BFAR**

Ayon sa pahayag ng BFAR, ika-16 ng Setyembre ay nangolekta na sila ng water samples para sa laboratory analysis matapos ang mga balita ng fish mortalities ng Manila Bay sa gawing Baseco, Tondo, Maynila.

Ayon kay Gongona, Martes pa lang ay nakakakita na ang mga residente ng mga isda gaya ng biya, kanduli, asohos at tilapia sa lugar na tila hirap na hirap huminga.

Isinagawa ang mga pag-aaral sa mga sumusunod na lugar: Baseco Beach Area, Pasig River Mouth Area, Barge Docking Area at Aplaya Area.

"The result of the water quality testing in the Baseco Area indicated very low level of dissolved oxygen (DO) at 0.11 mg/L. The acceptable level for marine waters is 5 mg/L," wika ni Gongona.

"While consuming fish which have died due to dissolved oxygen depletion is not entirely harmful, the bureau still cautions the public against consumption of dead fish and other species from the area to prevent possible harm to human health, especially if these fishes have already shown signs of decomposition like bloatedness, disintegration of parts, and foul smell among others."

Patuloy nila, tanging ang mga isdang nahuli nang sariwa at buhay pa ang "fit for consumption," basta't mahuhugasan at maluluto daw nang maayos.



## Antiporda: Hindi dolomite

Dumepensa naman si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda sa isyu, lalo na't isa ang kanilang ahensya sa mga nasa likod ng paglalagay ng dolomite sa look.

"October 10 last year nangyari din [yan]... Nagsabi sila, namuti yung tubig at 'yun ang dahilan at bigalng naglutangan ang fish. [And now they're] inisuating na nanggaling ito sa dolomite," ani Antiporda.

"At the same time pinag-aaralan natin kung may cyanide yung water at the time."

Dagdag pa ng DENR official, hindi rin nila iniisantabi kung merong nananabutahe ng proyekto ng gobyerno. Aniya, maaaring may nagsasagawa lang ng illegal fishing activities gamit ang cyanide, lalo na't sensitibo ang mga isda dito.

## Health risk ba o hindi?

Una nang sinabi ng Department of Health (DOH) na may mga pag-aaral nang nagsasabing nakasasama sa kalusugan ang "dolomite," bagay na dinurog para magmukhang "white sand" at pinagkagastusan ng P350 milyon ng gobyerno bilang bahagi ng "rehabilitasyon."

Gayunpaman, binawi ito ng ahensya at sinabing ligtas sa kalusugan ang uri ng dolomite na inilagay sa dalampasigan.

Ayon sa DOH, nakasasama lang daw ang dolomite kung pinong-pino ang pagkakadurog na parang alikabok. Pero nasa pagitan daw ng 2-5 millimeters ang laki ng dolomite material, at 100 beses na mas malaki raw sa alikabok.

"Therefore, [it] 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 being implemented," ayon sa DOH.

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

Pero dahil sa mga panibagong developments sa Manila, sinasabi ng DOH na pinag-aaralan na raw ng kanilang technical offices ng ang naturang reklamo.

Matatandaang pinalagan ng Greenpeace Philippines at fisherfolk group na Pamalakaya ang pagtatambak ng dolomite sa Manila Bay, sa dahilang gastos lang ito at marumi pa rin ang tubig.

Ayon kay kay Fernando Hicap, tagapangulo ng Pamalakaya, mas mainam na ibalik na lang at muling itanim ang mga nawalang bakawan (mangrove) sa Manila Bay kung nais talaga nilang ibalik ang dating ganda nito, habang muling binubuhay ang kalikasan.

Samantala, nakatakda namang maghain ng Writ of Kalikasan ang alyansang Manila Baywatch upang kwestyonin ang isinasagawang beach nourishment project sa tabi ng anyong tubig. —  
**may mga ulat mula kay Gaea Katreena Cabico**



# Manila Bay waters near Baseco turn murky white; fish kill seen after monsoon rains

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:57 PM September 17, 2020



Contributed photo by Ghine Nequia

MANILA, Philippines — Several photos of Manila Bay’s portion near the Baseco Compound were found to have turned white on Thursday morning, days after monsoon rains swept through Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces.



Contributed photo by Ghine Nequia

In a series of photos posted on Facebook by netizen Ghine Nequia, Manila Bay’s waters can be seen with a gradient brown to light brown. They also found several fishes dead near the said area.

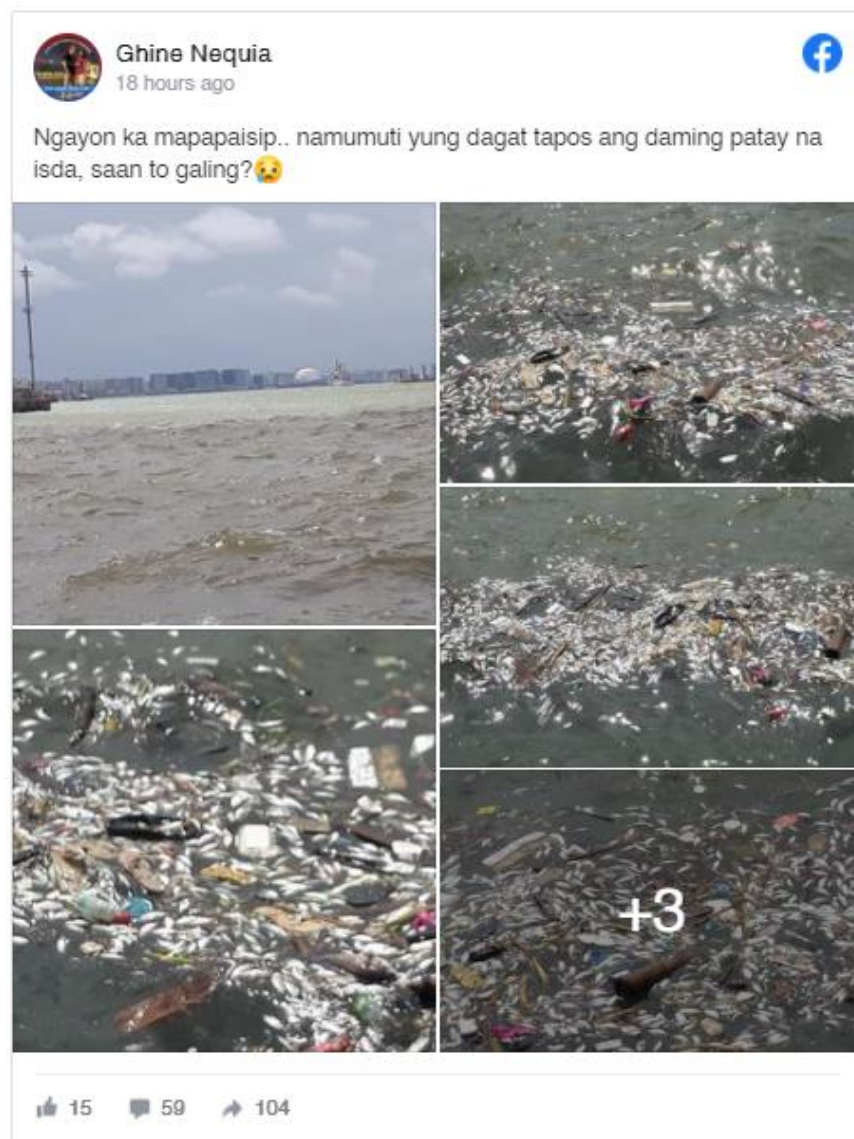
“Ngayon ka mapapaisip.. namumuti yung dagat tapos ang daming patay na isda, saan to galing?” Nequia asked.

(Now you would wonder... when the sea gets white and lots of fishes wash up dead, where did this come from?)

Several individuals who came across the post speculated that the supposed changes in Manila Bay’s color and condition was brought about by the project to dump crushed dolomite near its shoreline alongside Roxas Boulevard, to beautify the tourist spot.

Others, meanwhile, noted that it may be part of a normal occurrence within Manila Bay’s polluted waters.





The group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) and other environment organizations and personalities have [condemned the move](#) to place dolomite sand in the area as it may trigger various health issues, aside from impacting the environment.

As of now, Nequia's post has been picked up by various groups and news agencies to raise questions on whether this was in fact caused by the [dolomite dumping](#) issue, which costs around P349 million.

Source: [https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1336724/manila-bay-waters-near-baseco-turn-white-fish-kill-after-monsoon-rains?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1zFtzgGfEZUXjfu22UYeRMmDI2yZ4-iimSXhTDnn5B0-tB\\_oCXoUQyILs#Echobox=1600337234](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1336724/manila-bay-waters-near-baseco-turn-white-fish-kill-after-monsoon-rains?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1zFtzgGfEZUXjfu22UYeRMmDI2yZ4-iimSXhTDnn5B0-tB_oCXoUQyILs#Echobox=1600337234)



## Dead fish in Manila Bay surprises Baseco residents

September 17, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

Hundreds of dead fish floating in Manila Bay greeted residents of Baseco Compound in Manila Thursday morning.

Regine Nequia, president of Baseco Seaside Neighborhood Association (BASA), said they were surprised to see the dead fish floating in the sea wall area of Manila Bay.

According to a Facebook post made by Urban Poor Associates, a non-government organization campaigning for the protection of housing rights, Nequia “immediately asked the fishermen about the” matter upon her discovery.

“[They then] told her that this is the first time they saw it in Baseco Sea Wall,” the group said.

The group added that the Baseco Compound community “now worries that this might be the effect of the dolomite or the “white sand” put as part of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation. **(Joseph Pedrajas)**



## Fishkill

posted September 17, 2020 at 11:16 pm

by [Norman Cruz](#)



Fish drifted to the shores of Manila due to fishkill along the shores of the Baseco Compound portion of the Manila Bay on September 17, 2020.

# Dead fish at Manila Bay

George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 17 2020 05:41 PM



A boy walks along the breakwater in Baseco Compound in Manila on Thursday as dead fish float along the Manila Bay due to fish kill. In a statement, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Eduardo Gongona said that water quality testing in Baseco showed that dissolved oxygen in the area was only at 0.11 mg/L, much lower than the acceptable level of 5 mg/L for aquatic life. Gongona also cautioned against eating fish that are not caught fresh and alive.



ABS-CBN News

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FISHKILL SA MANILA BAY? Gumulantang sa mga residente ng Baseco sa Maynila ang mga lumulutang na patay na isda mula Manila Bay ngayong Huwebes.

Ayon sa ilang residente, ito ang kauna-unahang beses na nagkaroon ng fishkill sa kanilang lugar at maaari anila na ito'y dahil sa mga kemikal na itinatapon mula sa iba't ibang establisimiyento o ang pabago-bagong panahon. George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News



👍👎👏 25K

14K Comments 12K Shares



# Mayors back Capitol against dolomite sale

By [Le Phyllis F. Antojado](#)(The Freeman) - September 18, 2020 - 12:00am



Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia earlier issued a cease and desist order against Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) and its partner, Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC) after finding out that no public consultation has been done in the Municipality of Alcoy and the Province of Cebu about the transport of the said minerals.

CEBU, Philippines — Cebu mayors have supported the stand of the Capitol against the transport and sale of dolomite in the town of Alcoy.

The League of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP)-Cebu Chapter has passed a resolution supporting the Cebu Provincial Government in its effort to protect the “terrestrial environment of the Island of Cebu and the Cebuanos’ constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology.”

Led by LMP president, Liloan Mayor Christina Garcia-Frasco, all mayors of Cebu Province’s towns, including Alcoy Mayor Michael Angelo Sestoso himself have signed the resolution.

The LMP Resolution 70 said that if left without examination of its environmental impact, the “persistent dolomite extraction in Alcoy and the consequential damage it will cause the environment of Cebu island violate the constitutionally protected right of the Cebuanos and result in irreparable and unquantifiable harm to them.”

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There is also no sign of an Environmental Impact Study on the dolomite extraction in the town.

Through the resolution, the LMP expressed its “vehement and continuing objection” against selling dolomite rocks and other minerals locally which are used as substitutes for sand and gravel, soil conditioner, and other purposes.



The LMP also recommended the Capitol to review the permits of DMC and the PMSC and check whether they have complied with the country's laws and regulations that ensure the replenishment and restoration of the exploited area.

They also wanted to ensure that the mining companies provide their "contribution to the just and equitable share of all local government units and Cebu Province affected by their projects."

Early this month, it was found out that dolomite rocks from Alcoy have been shipped to Manila as filling materials for the beautification project of the Manila Bay. — **GMR (FREEMAN)**





## STAND FOR TRUTH

# Manila Bay's 'white sand' may wash out soon amid the rainy season — geologist

**Published** September 17, 2020 10:26pm

The synthetic white sand dumped along the shores of Manila Bay could be washed out this year or in 2021 amid the rainy season, a geologist said Thursday.

According to a report on “Stand for Truth,” Ezekiel Galanto said mechanically placed sand can be washed out easily due to waves, tides, the current or wind.

“The washing out may take time this year or next year lalo na ngayon ay tayo ay pumapasok sa rainy season, lalo na tayo ay nasa La Niña alert pa,” he said.

Galanto said the washed out artificial sand particles may also block the passage of water that can result in flooding in areas near the bay.

Meanwhile, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda claimed the water cannot easily wash out the synthetic sand.

“Yong sasabihin natin na na-wash away eh hindi po ganoon. Kasi kung washed away siya, dapat wala na tayong nakikitang white sand. Ang nakikita po natin eh although may kaunting erosion pakaunti-kaunti pero hindi siya ganoon kalaki dahil this is protected by a geotube,” he said.

“Mayroon siyang engineering intervention kaya po hindi mangyayari ‘yon. This can withstand the strong wave, but, of course, we cannot compete with nature. We cannot overpower nature. Kapag nature na o ang kalikasan na ang nagalit sa atin, wala tayong magagawa. We need to come up with a solution... to maintain it and to take care of it,” Antiporda added.

Meanwhile, Galanto said a simple erosion can lead to a bigger one which can lead to the washing out of the dolomite sand.

“When that simple erosion patuloy pa rin siyang nangyayari, possibly talaga na ma-wash out ‘yong sand o dolomite sand sa Manila bay,” he said.

Earlier, [environmentalists and fisherfolk groups criticized the project](#), calling it an artificial rehabilitation and a waste of money.

Meanwhile, Antiporda said putting white sand alongside Manila Bay coastline will [discourage people from littering and throwing trash in the water](#).

Last week, [DENR said concerned agencies and experts were consulted](#) before implementing the project at the Manila Bay. -- **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756086/manila-bay-s-white-sand-may-wash-out-soon-amid-the-rainy-season-geologist/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Twitter](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756086/manila-bay-s-white-sand-may-wash-out-soon-amid-the-rainy-season-geologist/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Twitter)



GMA News

14h · 🌐



LOOK: Ang view na ito ng "white sand" sa Manila Bay ay kuha mula sa isang gusali sa Roxas Boulevard kaninang umaga ni YouScoopier Lester Hezeta. Nagkaroon ng inspeksyon ang DENR, MMDA, at DILG sa lugar kaninang umaga para sa nalalapit na International Coastal Clean-up Day sa Sabado.

Kung may balita kayo na nais ibahagi sa GMA News, sumali at ipadala ito sa official YouScoop FB group: [GMA News YouScoopers](#)

Photo: YouScoopier Lester Hezeta



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# PEOPLE'S *Monitor*

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## PEOPLE'S VIEW

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## DENR ISASALBA ANG MGA ENDANGERED NATIVE NA PUNO SA PILIPINAS

MAY labing isang nanganganib nang malipol na native tree species sa ating bansa na siyang tinutukan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sa pamamagitan ng Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) ay nakipag-partner sa Energy Development Corporation (EDC) para sa conservation ng mga ito. Sila ay nakasentro sa 11 rarest at most critically endangered tree species na kinabibilangan ng kadalis narig, malayakal, Mindanao narek, pinulog, Palawan narig, narig laot, kanining peneras, Cagayan narek, pianga, mapilig at Samar gisok.

Ang mag kabalik ay ginawang ganap sa pamamagitan ng isang memorandum of understanding (MOU) na nilagdaan ni ERDB Director Henry Adomado at EDC Corporate Support Function Group Head at Assistant Vice President Regina Victoria Pascual. Dahil na rin sa banta ng COVID-19 pandemic at ipinairal na social distancing sa anumang pagtitipon, ang lagdaan sa MOU ay ginanap sa pamamagitan ng Zoom online meeting noong Agosto 20.

Sa pamamagitan ng MOU sa EDC, mas lalong magiging epektibo ang pangangalaga at pagpaparami ng DENR ng native tree species na napakahalaga sa pagpapanatili ng biodiversity, ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu. Makaaasa ang publiko na mas paiigtingin pa ng DENR ay pakikipag-partner nito sa iba pang mga sektor upang maprotektahan ang kalikasan kahit na pa may pandemya.

Ang DENR at EDC ay nagkasundo sa limang taong panahon sa ilalim ng MOU na magtutulongan sila upang mapalakas ang programang BINHI na inisyatibo ng EDC na nakatuon sa conservation ng mga native na mga puno at naglalayung maisalba at masiguro ang pagpaparami ng piling 96 na Philippine threatened species sa buong bansa. Nakasentro sila sa 11 rarest at most critically endangered tree species na kinabibilangan ng kadalis narig, malayakal, Mindanao narek, pinulog, Palawan narig, narig laot, kanining peneras, Cagayan narek, pianga, mapilig at Samar gisok. Ang ERDB at EDC naman ay magsasagawa ng in-site conservation o ang conservation ng mga species sa kanilang mga natural na habitat. Itinuturing itong pinaka-angkop na paraan ng pagpreserba ng biodiversity dahil pinoprotektahan nito ang mga nananahanan dito at itinutukoy ang pananatili ng kalikasan at ecosystem.

Tungkulin ng ERDB ang makipag-ugnay sa mga potensyal na EDC partners upang matukoy ang iba't-ibang tree species, magbigay ng assistance para sa sourcing at pagpaparami ng mga binhi, at assistance sa mga technicality at protocol para sa pagtatanim ng mga mga puno. Ang ERDB ay ang principal research at development unit ng DENR na bumabalangkas, nagpapatupad, nakikipag-ugnayan at nagsusuri ng mga integrated research, development, at extension program para sa kapaligirin at likas na yaman. Ang EDC naman ay isa sa mga nangungunang renewable energy na kumpanya sa bansa, kung saan kabilang sa kanyang isinasaalang-alang ay ang pangangalaga sa watershed at likas na yaman na nasa kaniyang mga geothermal reservation



Photo courtesy of the DENR office in Central Luzon shows a new plant species, *Pyrostria arayatensis*, which was discovered in Mount Arayat National Park in Pampanga.

DENR office in Central Luzon

## New plant species discovered in Pampanga

[Ramon Efren Lazaro](#), [Ric Sapnu](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 18, 2020 - 12:00am

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines — A new plant species has been discovered in the Mount Arayat National Park in Pampanga.

Paquito Moreno Jr., Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Luzon office executive director, said a team of researchers from the Angeles University Foundation and University of Sto. Tomas discovered the new plant species, which was named *Pyrostria arayatensis*.

The study was published in the international scientific journal *Annales Botanici Fennici* on Aug. 10.

Moreno said the discovery of the plant species is an indication that the national park on Mt. Arayat has sustained its healthy biological diversity as rare native plants continue to grow in the area.

He reminded the public to protect and conserve the park, which is an important ecosystem in the region, adding that any disturbance that threatens its biodiversity is prohibited under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act.

Mt. Arayat is home to 49 species of trees and plants, 86 species of birds, 14 species of mammals and 11 species of reptiles. Two plant species – the Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) and Chamberlain's Pitogo (*Cycas chamberlaini*) are endemic on the mountain.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/09/18/2043218/new-plant-species-discovered-pampanga>



**URBAN GARDENING ISINUSULONG NG DENR REGION 10 BILANG PANTUGON SA PANDEMYA** – Ipinagmamalaking ipinakikita ni Environment Management Bureau (EMB) Region 10 Director Reynaldo S. Digamo (kaliwang larawan) ang mga inaning pechay mula sa EMB urban garden (kanang larawan) na matatagpuan sa EMB Compound, Barangay Puntod, Cagayan de Oro City. Bukod sa pechay, kabilang sa kanilang mga inani ay pipino at okra na ipamamahagi sa kanilang mga empleyado bilang ayuda sa panahon ng pandemya. Ang Urban backyard gardening ng EMB

Region 10 ay sinimulan bilang environmental activity kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng World Environment Day noong nakalipas na Hunyo. Dahil sa tagumpay ng proyekto ay inilunsad ng EMB Region 10 ang region-wide na programang Search for Best Urban Backyard Garden para sa indibidwal at grupo upang makatugon sa gitna ng pandemya. Ang mga nanalo ay inanunsiyo noong Agosto 30, 2020.

# PEOPLE'S Monitor

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## PONDO NG PINOY

"Ano Mang Magaling Kahit Maliit  
Basta't Malimit Ay Patungong Langit".

### GOOD NEWS:

Surely your goodness  
and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the  
house of the Lord  
forever.

— Psalms 23:6



## DENR warns plantitas



DAVAO. An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Davao Region said Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act covers not only wildlife but also plant species.

(Macky Lim)

### [CRISTINA E. ALIVIO](#)

September 15, 2020

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Davao Region warned the public that Republic Act (RA) 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, also covers the plant species, not only the animals, and that violating the law carries huge penalties.

Jayvee Jude Agas, DENR-Davao Regional Public Affairs Office chief, said this law, which has been around for almost two decades, is only often highlighted when endangered or critically threatened animals are involved, making the public unaware that the law covers both the flora and fauna.

"Pero karon man gud nauso ang collection of plants (nga) minsan kay ginakuha na gyud sya sa kalasangan, mao gusto namo ipa-remind sa mga tao na naa puy other plant species na bawal kuhaon or bawal kolektahon (But because plant collection has become the trend nowadays that sometimes people take plants directly from the forest, what we aim now is to remind the public that there are plant species that should not be taken or collected (from its natural habitat)), " Agas said in a phone interview on September 15, 2020.

Among the plants that are prohibited to be taken from the wild as these are either threatened or critically endangered species are Green Velvet Alocasia, Kris and Zebra plants, ferns, Waling-waling, and pitcher plants.

Agas said pitcher plants, which are natural dwellers of Mt. Hamiguitan, are strictly prohibited to be taken from its habitat especially for collection purposes.

But she said they do not encourage the people who already possessed these types of plants to turn these over to their office, since this is also part of urban greening but they are strongly prohibiting them from selling and acquiring more of these types of plants.

"Since endangered sila, naa na sila dapat sa wildlife o sa kinaiyahan, tapos dili siya padaghanon kay ang tendency mamalit na pud sila sa lain which encourages poaching (Since these are endangered, they should be in the wildlife or in their natural habitat and it is prohibited to acquire more if they already have some of these plants at their home as the tendency is they will buy more from another which only encourages poaching)," she said.

Meanwhile, Julieto Dalagma, Matigsalog project coordinator of Bahay Pangarap IP High School Center, urged the public to refrain from taking plants in the forest.



"Hindi naman ako expert pero hindi talaga maganda sa mga tanim ang ipaloob eh wild plants yan na may natural na habitat (I may not be an expert but plants should be kept at their natural habitat)," Dalagma, an IP member, said in online interview with SunStar Davao.

He said these plants provide nutrients to the soil and that the unguarded taking of these kinds of plants from their natural habitat will only result in forest fire as there would be no more provider of moisture and water in the forest.

"Hindi ko pinakialaman ang mga nasa bakuran nila at kanila inalagaan sana naman iwasan ang pagkuha sa mga kagubatan (I hope they can leave the plants in the forests alone just like how their backyard is being left alone)," he added.

As of the moment, DENR-Davao is designing infographics, which they will share on their Facebook page, so that the public will know what are the plants that are prohibited to be taken or collected especially from the protected areas.

Penalties for violating RA 9147 ranged from imprisonment of a minimum of six years and one day to twelve years and/or a fine of P100,000 to P1,000,000, if inflicted or undertaken against species listed as critical; imprisonment of four years and one day to six years and/or a fine of P50,000 to P500,000, if inflicted or undertaken against endangered species; imprisonment of two years and one day to four years and/or a fine of P30,000 to P300,000, if inflicted or undertaken against vulnerable species; and imprisonment of one year and one day to two years and/or a fine of P20,000 to P200,000, if inflicted or undertaken against other threatened species.



# ‘Plant thieves on the loose,’ DENR says amid growing interest in indoor gardening

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#) - September 17, 2020 - 7:12 PM



Image by Brina Blum via Unsplash

The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** recently warned the public against the purchasing exotic plants from poachers amid the rise of indoor gardening as a hobby during quarantine.

The ongoing community quarantine and lockdown in different parts of the country fostered Filipinos to develop various hobbies such as home-cooked meals, baked goods and recently, indoor gardening.

Calling themselves “plantito,” “plantita,” or even “halamom,” some Filipinos in urban cities cultivated their own green sanctuaries for the sake of their mental health amid the raging novel coronavirus pandemic.

Several personalities and influencers have also developed their affinity in growing plants at home. These [include](#) singer-songwriter Abby Asistio, TV host Gretchen Fullido, actress-model Solenn Heussaff and beauty vlogger Anne Clutz, among others.

## Reports of plant poaching

In an interview with Bloomberg, an official from DENR’s **Biodiversity Management Bureau** reported the rise of traders scouring plants from mountains, forests and protected parks due to the demand in the cities.







“Illegal gatherers and collectors are having a fiesta because the market is bigger and prices are more attractive,” [said](#) Rogelio Demallete, an ecosystem specialist at the DENR-BMB.

“People are buying and raising plants because of boredom from the quarantine,” he added.

The City Environment and Parks Management Office in Baguio [also reported](#) that some plants in its parks and greenbelts went missing.

These include nearly wiping out the **monstera plants** in portions of Mines View Park and Burnham Park, **succulents** at the City Hall Park and **rubber trees** at Upper Session Road.

Authorities stated that these are among the plant species selling like hot cakes in the market.

Rhenan Diwas, Assistance City Environment and Parks Management Officer, reminded the public of respecting the natural habitat of plants, particularly wildlife flora and fauna.

“While we appreciate the growing interest of the people in maintaining plants in their homes and we understand the need of some to earn, let us be reminded (of respecting) the natural habitat of these plants,” Diwas [said](#).

“Allow them to multiply in the forest rather than constricted in a pot. Let them grow and bloom in public places for everyone to appreciate. We should learn from this pandemic: it is dangerous to encroach on the habitat of wildlife,” he added.

Demallete also noted that in-demand plants are priced 35% or 40% higher than pre-pandemic period.

A plant hobbyist was cited in the Bloomberg article as saying that a mature monstera cost a hefty P3,000 and a white-leaf monstera often fetches up to P7,000.

Some Filipinos who wished to collect plants in their homes also echoed the concern for the hefty costs of plants, particularly from online sellers on social media platforms.





idk teh ha not all plant sellers naman but the OG plant titas/lolas sa probinsya don't buy plants... naghihingi-an lang mga 'yan  
— omid (@omidong) [September 16, 2020](#)

In line with the cases of plant theft and illegal trade, Demallete said that the bureau's agents are already working closely with the **National Bureau of Investigation** to catch these violators, and protect the country's natural resources from them.

## What the law says

All wildlife resources and their habitats are protected under Republic Act 9147 or the “**Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.**”

Section 8 specifically prohibits possession of wild flora and fauna unless authorized by the DENR or any related government agency.

*“No person or entity shall be allowed possession of wildlife unless such person or entity can prove financial and technical capability and facility to maintain said wildlife.”*

Similarly, in section 23, the collection of threatened species shall only be allowed “for scientific, or breeding or propagation purposes.”

Violators of any of the provisions in the measure may face up to six to 12 years in imprisonment and a fine from P100,000 to P1 million.



COMMENTARY

# Green means opportunity

Published 6 hours ago on September 18, 2020 01:50 AM

By [Concept News Central](#)



One of the good things that sprouted out of the unprecedented mess that is the COVID-19 pandemic is the new entrepreneurship among Filipinos.

From hobbies or skills learned out of sheer boredom during the quarantine weeks arose business ideas that are now taking root and blossoming.

Lately, green thumbs have gained quite some mileage, not just for the lucrative livelihood they found but also for the accompanying “pests” that came with the season.

Before the pandemic, trees were being cut or relocated to give way to urbanization. In fact, agricultural lands were being rumored to be snapped up by capitalists in the name of housing and development. Some billionaires in our midst are said to have been profiting hugely from lands bought at a pittance while farmers get displaced or are told to plant kamote (sweet potato).

The advent of the coronavirus changed some things, however; from the urban populace ignoring nature around them (or what had been left of it) came a sudden surge of interest in gardening, whether for food or for mental wellness.

Ornamental agriculture became a “thing,” with an increasing horde getting into the business of growing plants for decorative purposes and landscape design, to herbal gardens and vegetable farming. New modes of city farming gained more interest, such as hydroponics or aquaponics.

And just like before — after online sales boomed, and also when a significant increase in bicycle and motorcycle usage (to cope with lack of public transportation during quarantine) was noted, government came in with calls for regulation.

Taxing online businesses received a backlash, with government accused of killing micro-entrepreneurs before they can even grow. The issue on bicycle registration also got some of the same reaction, as people are ever more sensitive to shelling out money not just because we are in the midst of hard times, but also because many no longer trust the way government has handled public funds.

In recent news, an agriculturist from the Bureau of Plant Industry, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, thinks an accreditation process should be in place for all seller “plantitos” and “plantitas” out there.

The terms plantitos and plantitas were coined out of the words “plant” and “uncles or aunties” and gained some “cool” factor from the range of personalities that went into the hobby.



Perhaps because the pandemic had been able to spread more seeds of doubt against the capability, efficiency and motivations of our public servants, the mere suggestion of regulation — no matter how well-intentioned — caused some of the optimism gained from ornamental gardening to drop.

It's all very well "to make ornamental agriculture an official, regulated industry within the farm sector," as that report went, but let's ensure this tiny seedling of an industry is nurtured and protected enough to flourish even more.

As it is, there are related issues that have to be dealt with pronto, including the illegal poaching of plants up north, a well-known source of plants that are commercially sold, as well as the protection of the environment.

Some "plant thieves" had reportedly "nearly wiped out the Montsera or Swiss Cheese plants long inhabiting the Mines View Park and Burnbham Park," a CNN article says. It has been enough to cause new terms to grow "a plantdemic" and "plantvestigators" to put a stop to this needless profiteering.

A deluge of plant grabbers and land grabbers may land us all in deep waters. Oh, wait, even those are in contention these days.



## 2 kawani ng DENR tiklo sa pangongotong

By [Raymund Catindig](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - September 18, 2020 - 12:00am

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan , Philippines — Bumagsak sa kamay ng otoridad ang dalawang kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa isinagawang entrapment sa Cabagan, Isabela, kamakalawa.

Ang dalawang suspek ay kinilalang sina Foresters Antonio Aggabao Jr. at Diosdado Medrano.

Sa ulat, kapwa dinakma ang dalawa habang tinatanggap ang P3,000 sa complainant na nag-aplay ng travel permit sa ibibiyaha niyang 800 board feet na soft wood na itinumba sa kanyang lupain sa kalapit bayan ng Tumauni.

Ayon sa pamunuan ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO); nagkakahalaga lamang ng P115 ang permit na ipinagkakaloob nila sa pagbiyahe ng softwood gaya ng Gmelina species.

Nabatid sa NBI na matagal nang ginagawa ng dalawang inireklamong kawani ang modus, subalit ngayon lamang sila nagkaroon ng pagkakataong matimbog ang mga ito.



## 2 CENRO staff huli sa kotong

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 17, 2020

METRO



Photo courtesy of upadainnovations.com



Kulong ang dalawang empleyado ng Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Cabagan, Isabela matapos ang entrapment operation dahil sa sobrang paniningil sa bayad ng permit to travel ng mga ibinabiyaheng kahoy.

Ayon kay CENRO provincial director Tim Rejano, matagal na umanong minamanmanan ang dalawang suspek na nakilalang sina Diosdado Medrano, 55, isang maintenance man, at si Antonio Aggabao, Forester 1, 49, kapwa residente ng Cabagan, Isabela.

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Kinasa ang surveillance operation laban kina Medrano at Aggabao matapos makatanggap ng reklamo hinggil sa pananaga ng bayad sa mga pahinante ng mga truck ng kahoy.

Sinabi ng opisyal na matagal na umano itong ginagawa ng mga suspek at ngayon lang nabigyan ng aksyon matapos silang ireklamo ng mga ilang biyahero na pawang bumibili, nagbibiyahé at nagbebenta ng mga softwood.

Ang dalawang suspek ay dinala sa NBI-Isabela para masampahan ng reklamo. (Allan Bergonia)

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# Dumping waste at Laguna Lake comes cheap

By Peter Tabingo

-September 18, 2020

THE Commission on Audit is putting the squeeze on the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) to collect P144.2 million from business establishments caught dumping dirty water into Laguna Lake.

Government auditors said the LLDA merely collected P22.5million in 2019 when the correct amount should have been P166.7 million.

They noted that under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2016-08 the allowable biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) effluent standard for Manila Bay is 30 milligram per liter (30mg/L).

This was adopted in LLDA Memorandum Circular No. 2017-05 setting a fee of P5.00 per kilogram if the water discharge is “within effluent standards” and P30.00 per kilogram is in excess of the limit.

“Verification of selected assessment/collections of EUF (environmental user fee) ...disclosed incorrect/under assessments resulting in under collection of wastewater discharge fee ...at an estimated amount of P144.205 million,” the audit team said.

Citing an unnamed business establishment, the COA said the registered BOD component went as high as 81mg/L or almost triple the allowable maximum of 30mg/L but the LLDA only collected P5/kg.

Likewise, up to June 6, 2018 it was found that the LLDA collected the fee based on the firm’s self-declared BOD.

However, reassessment of the discharge from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 revealed that the pollutant content was much higher than what was declared and yet the LLDA charged no penalty.

“Aside from the incorrect rate used, it was also noted that the Authority failed to collected the surcharge due to misdeclaration of BOD loading of the establishment,” the audit team noted.

The COA warned that LLDA’s laxity in enforcing its own policies on the assessment of EUF may encourage other establishments to ignore the rules and put the Laguna Lake in worse condition.

It stressed that the LLDA should strictly implement the collection of correct fees for environmental violators to compel compliance with the acceptable BOD levels.

Replying to the audit finding, the LLDA management said that it will “wait for the official reply of the DENR” to the appeal of the establishments before issuing a final computation of the correct EUF.

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_news/dumping-waste-at-laguna-lake-comes-cheap/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_news/dumping-waste-at-laguna-lake-comes-cheap/)



## Coral transplant

*posted* September 17, 2020 at 10:38 pm



Volunteer scuba divers conduct a 'coral transplant' at the Tuka Marine Park and Beach Resort, one of the top beaches and diving tourist attractions in the Soccsksargen region. It involves collecting loose coral fragments due to waves or human activity and replanting them to regrow into new colonies, thus enriching aquatic life. Led by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Sarangani and Municipal ENRO of Kiamba, the two-week initiative successfully transplanted some 1,400 fragments of branching corals 15 feet underwater. Situated at a secluded cove in Sarangani Bay in Kiamba town, the marine sanctuary takes pride in its powdery white sand, crystalline water, and abundant fish species, which make it ideal for snorkeling.





# Mga taga-Pasay, binulabog ng 12-talampakang sawa

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 17 2020 07:14 PM



Nabulabog ang mga residente ng isang barangay sa Pasay City matapos lumitaw ang isang sawa o reticulated python sa kanilang lugar.

Ayon sa opisyal ng barangay, posibleng nanggaling sa estero na malapit sa kanila ang ahas. Nai-turn over na ang sawa sa mga tauhan ng DENR.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/video/09/17/20/mga-tag-a-pasay-binulabog-ng-12-talampakang-sawa?fbclid=IwAR2PHUBEHMRU4iBTRGyQr0vhraEXJU1KcF0WYTk0H69CQz8AuNpnVyK2M5Q>



# COMP says 'sustainable mining' in PHL begins next year via TSM

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

September 17, 2020

The implementation of the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative for member-companies of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) will begin next year.

In a news statement issued on Thursday, COMP said it is now ready to implement TSM, a Canadian mining model, after nearly three years of substantial review of the program's various components to assure applicability to conditions in the Philippines.

Through TSM, COMP aims to drive its members' environmental and social performance and ensure that key mining risks are managed responsibly, and best practices are applied at members' facilities nationwide.

Peter MacArthur, Canadian ambassador to the Philippines, said when TSM was launched by the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) in 2004, the program "was the first mining standard to apply at the facility level, with public reporting, independent verification and civil- society oversight.

Today, the envoy said, TSM helps to ensure affected communities have the data they need to know nearby mines are being managed responsibly and safely for the overall public good.

"A very important aspect of TSM is the way in which it incorporates civil-society oversight through the Community of Interest Advisory Panel, which not only oversees the development and implementation of TSM but also provides a dialogue table between the industry and civil society, resulting in an industry that is more aware and responsive to the views of communities," MacArthur added.

In 2017, COMP signed a mutual cooperation agreement with MAC for the adoption of TSM in response to President Duterte's call for the mining industry to follow Canadian and Australian standards.

"The pronouncements of President Rodrigo Duterte in the beginning of his term served as a wake-up call for the mining industry to adhere to international standards," Nonita Caguioa, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assistant secretary for Mining Concerns said in the same statement.

"In response the government has implemented new mining policies and strict environmental guidelines that are all geared towards the protection of the environment and the mining communities. As we are facing this global pandemic, the government considers the mining industry as one of the primary measures for economic recovery," she said. "This is an opportune time for the industry to adopt the TSM because sustainability should go hand in hand with economic growth."

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo Moncano, for his part, said that this is the first time that TSM has been adopted in Asia.



“We at the MGB are delighted with COMP’s establishment of this [program] and we express our gratitude as you have complied to the call of our President,” the mining official said.

Apart from Canada and the Philippines, other countries that have adopted TSM are Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Finland, and Spain. South Africa, Indonesia, and Laos have expressed strong interest in adopting TSM as well.

“Rest assured that the DENR and the MGB will give their utmost support for the development of TSM,” Moncano added.

“We will also guarantee our role to serve by administering and enforcing more progressive laws and regulations for the mining sector,” he said.

“We all know that mining is finite and temporary use of land for the creation of economic wealth. The challenge [for COMP members] is to ensure TSM will be used properly to achieve sustainable development,” Moncano stated.

MacArthur said investors are increasingly looking at how to measure the environmental and social performance of miners and are turning to standards like TSM.

“In fact, Sustainalytics, a major environmental and social ratings agency, recently developed a new tailings indicator that leans heavily on TSM,” the envoy pointed out.

“The only way a miner can receive the top level of performance in the Sustainalytics indicator is through TSM,” he stressed.

The COMP recently completed the rollout of the TSM initiative among its member-firms in Luzon and Visayas.

It was launched in Mindanao last month.

A total of over 200 individuals representing the country’s biggest large-scale mining projects participated in the Luzon-Visayas and Mindanao TSM rollouts.

The rollouts, held via a videotelephony platform, were hosted by The Embassy of Canada Trade Mission.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/17/comp-says-sustainable-mining-in-phl-begins-next-year-via-tsm/>



# PH completes sustainable mining plan

By ...

-September 18, 2020

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said the completion of the rollout of the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) program will improve members' environmental and social performance.

The TSM will also ensure key mining risks are managed responsibly.

COMP said the TSM program was completed after nearly three years of substantial review of the program's various components to assure applicability to conditions in the Philippines.

TSM is a mining sustainability standard developed by the Mining Association of Canada was first adopted by COMP in 2017.

It requires mining companies to annually assess their facilities' performance in key areas, including tailings management, community outreach, safety and health, biodiversity conservation, crisis management, and energy use and greenhouse gas emissions management.

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_business/ph-completes-sustainable-mining-plan/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_business/ph-completes-sustainable-mining-plan/)



# CCC calls for proper plastic waste management, disposal this pandemic

By CCCPublished on September 17, 2020

MANILA, September 17 -- Amid the existing concerns on health and safety during this COVID-19 pandemic, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) also warned the public on the surge of plastic pollution due to the global production and consumption of single-use masks, latex gloves, personal protective equipment (PPE), alcohol and hand sanitizer bottles, and disposable cleaning agents.

The CCC stated that plastic waste may end up in our oceans, break into microplastics, and be mistaken for food by marine animals, such as fish, which humans also consume.

The climate body also expressed concern on the increasing volume of single-use plastic wastes from take-out and online shopping deliveries. As COVID-19 restricted public mobility, online shopping and food delivery services, often using single-use plastics, have further encumbered our waste management system. With this, the CCC called on local governments and citizens to help in addressing plastic pollution generated during this global health crisis.

The CCC also supported the implementation of Administrative Order No. 22-2013 issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the proper management and disposal of used masks, PPEs, and other considered hazardous (infectious) waste from hospitals, barangay health centers, and clinics. The climate body also stressed the importance of the enactment of the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Act of 2000, which provides guidance on proper segregation at source, transportation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste and other waste management activities that do not harm the environment.

The CCC also encouraged households and individuals to refuse disposable plastic cutlery when having food delivered and support businesses offering more sustainable delivery packaging, such as cardboard or compostable bags.

The CCC expressed that the biggest challenge in adopting a more sustainable lifestyle is breaking old habits and making sacrifices for the climate and environment. But by slowly incorporating sustainable practices into our everyday activities, we would be able to protect both the health of the people, natural systems, and the planet. (CCC)



The CCC called for proper waste management and disposal, especially of plastic products that may end up in oceans and exacerbate the current plastic problem.

Michael Varcas, file

## Pandemic worsening plastic pollution — climate body

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 18, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) yesterday warned against a surge in plastic pollution due to the increased consumption of single-use masks, latex gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) during the coronavirus disease pandemic.

The CCC called for proper waste management and disposal, especially of plastic products that may end up in oceans and exacerbate the current plastic problem.

“As COVID-19 restricted public mobility, online shopping and food delivery services, often using single-use plastics, have further encumbered our waste management system,” said the climate body.

It also noted an increase in production and consumption of alcohol, hand sanitizer and other cleaning agents that are often packaged in plastic bottles.

The CCC expressed support for the recent administrative order issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which provides for the proper management and disposal of used masks, PPEs and other hazardous waste from hospitals, barangay health centers and clinics.

The commission also stressed the importance of fully implementing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which provides guidance on proper segregation, transportation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment and disposal of solid waste such as plastics.

It called on local government units to help address the plastic pollution generated during the ongoing global health crisis, and encouraged the public to contribute to reducing plastic waste.

The CCC advised individuals to refuse disposable plastic cutlery when having food delivered, as well as support businesses offering more sustainable delivery packaging such as cardboard or compostable bags.

“The biggest challenge in adopting a more sustainable lifestyle is breaking old habits and making sacrifices for the climate and environment,” it said.

“But by slowly incorporating sustainable practices into our everyday activities, we would be able to protect both the health of the people, natural systems and the planet,” added the climate body.



## Spawns diseases

A new United Nations biodiversity report warned that the continued degradation of the environment is increasing the likelihood of devastating diseases spreading from animals to humans, like the coronavirus.

The fifth edition of the UN's Global Biodiversity Outlook report, published by the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), provides an authoritative overview of the state of nature worldwide and highlights the links between "unprecedented biodiversity loss" and the spread of disease.

The report notes the importance of biodiversity in addressing climate change and long-term food security, and concludes that action to protect biodiversity is essential to prevent future pandemics.

"As nature degrades," said Elizabeth Mrema, executive director of the Convention on Biological Diversity, "new opportunities emerge for the spread to humans and animals of devastating diseases like this year's coronavirus. The window of time available is short, but the pandemic has also demonstrated that transformative changes are possible when they must be made."

The study acts as a wake-up call and an encouragement to consider the dangers involved in mankind's current relationship with nature: continued biodiversity loss and the ongoing degradation of ecosystems are having profound consequences on human well-being and survival.

This year's study is considered particularly significant because it serves as a "final report card" for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, a series of 20 objectives set out in 2010, at the beginning of the UN's Decade on Biodiversity, most of which were supposed to be reached by yearend.

However, none of the targets which concern the safeguarding of ecosystems and the promotion of sustainability have been fully met, and only six are deemed to have been "partially achieved."

"Earth's living systems as a whole are being compromised," Mrema said, "and the more humanity exploits nature in unsustainable ways and undermines its contributions to people, the more we undermine our own well-being, security and prosperity."

Although the lack of success in meeting the targets is a cause for concern, the authors of the Outlook are at pains to stress that virtually all countries are now taking some steps to protect biodiversity, without which the state of the world's biodiversity would be considerably worse.

The bright spots include falling rates of deforestation, the eradication of invasive alien species from more islands and raised awareness of biodiversity and its overall importance.

However, the encouraging progress can't mask the fact that the natural world is suffering badly, and the situation is getting worse. Financing is a case in point as funding for actions linked to biodiversity has been estimated at between \$78-\$91 billion per year, way below the hundreds of billions needed.

The figure is dwarfed by the amount of money spent on activities that are harmful to biodiversity, including some \$500 billion for fossil fuels and other subsidies that cause environmental degradation.



Contained within the report are several recommendations, or “transitions,” which map out a scenario for a world in which “business as usual” is halted and environmental devastation is reversed.

Under the proposals, ecosystems would be restored and conserved; food systems would be redesigned to enhance productivity, whilst minimizing their negative effects and the oceans would be managed sustainably.

The design of cities also comes under the spotlight, with calls for a reduced environmental footprint in urban areas and “green infrastructure” making space for nature within built landscapes.

The report amplifies the UN’s support for nature-based solutions, hailed as one of the most effective ways of combatting climate change. Alongside a rapid phase-out of fossil fuel use, they can provide positive benefits for biodiversity and other sustainability goals. – **Pia Lee-Brago**





# CCC urges better measures to prevent ozone layer depletion

By CCCPublished on September 17, 2020

MANILA, September 17 -- In observance of the 35th International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) urged better measures that would prevent the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer and encouraged everyone to work together to preserving the life on our planet.

Celebrated on September 16th of every year, the international observance commemorates the signing of the 1987 Montreal Protocol on 'Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer' (Resolution 49/114), which aims to spread awareness on the depletion of the ozone layer and solutions to preserve it, by reducing the production of substances that are supposed to be responsible for the ozone layer depletion.

The CCC noted that the 'ozone layer' is the common term for the high concentration of ozone that is found in the stratosphere above the Earth's surface which covers and protects the entire planet by absorbing harmful Ultraviolet-B (UV-B) radiation from the sun.

It was discovered in the 1970's that humanity was creating a hole in the ozone layer--caused by ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) used in aerosols and cooling, such as refrigerators and air-conditioners--which increases cases of skin cancer and cataracts, as well as damage plants, crops, and ecosystems. Since then, swift global action from among governments and industries has resulted in measures to control total global production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, in consideration of recent developments in scientific knowledge and technological solutions.

With this year's theme "Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection," the observance reminds everyone of the crucial role of the ozone in sustaining all forms of life on Earth and of everyone's responsibility to maintain and preserve its current state for the present and future generations.

As the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis have brought social and economic setbacks for many countries around the world, the CCC expressed that the message of working together in harmony and for the collective good is as crucial now more than ever. (CCC)



# State of calamity sa COVID-19 tiniyak na palalawigin

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - September 18, 2020 - 12:00am



Nakatakda ng mapaso ngayong buwan ang idineklarang 6-month state of calamity ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte noong Marso 16. Nakasaad sa proklamasyon na maaari itong palawigin ng Pangulo kung kinakailangan.

MANILA, Philippines — Tiniyak ng Malacañang na palalawigin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang state of calamity sa buong bansa dahil sa COVID-19.

“It’s on the desk of the President, probably signed by now, [and] on its way down to the Office of the Executive Secretary,” wika ni Presidential spokesperson Sec. Harry Roque.

Una nang sinabi ni Roque na ang rason sa pagpapalawig ay ang kawalan pa rin ng bakuna.

Inaasahan aniya na magkakaroon ng bagong proklamasyon bagaman at hindi pa tiyak kung tatagal itong muli ng anim na buwan.

Nakatakda ng mapaso ngayong buwan ang idineklarang 6-month state of calamity ng Pa-ngulo noong Marso 16. Nakasaad sa proklamasyon na maaari itong palawigin ng Pangulo kung kinakailangan.

Ang deklarasyon ng state of calamity ay nagpahintulot sa pamahalaan para makatugon sa health crisis.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/09/18/2043251/state-calamity-sa-covid-19-tiniyak-na-palalawigin/amp/>



# France, UK and Germany challenge China's claims in the South China Sea before the United Nations

Published September 17, 2020, 11:28 PM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

France, the United Kingdom, and Germany have submitted a joint Note Verbale to the United Nations challenging the legality of China's expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea.

In their submission to the UN on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 (Thursday in Manila), the three powerful European countries highlighted, among others, that claims about Beijing's exercise of "historic rights" over the South China Sea waters do not comply with international law and United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provisions, citing, in particular, the arbitral award on the petition filed by the Philippines against China before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

On July 12, 2016, the UN-backed Arbitral Tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippine petition invalidating China's outrageous "nine-dash line" claim.

France, the UK and Germany are all State Parties to the UNCLOS.

In their submission, the three European countries underlined the importance of "unhampered exercise of the freedom of the high seas, in particular the freedom of navigation and overflight, and of the right of innocent passage enshrined in UNCLOS, including in the South China Sea."

They also emphasized the specific and exhaustive conditions outlined in the Convention for the application of the regime of islands to naturally formed land features arguing that "land building activities or other forms of artificial transformation cannot change the classification of a feature under UNCLOS."<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> China has built several artificial islands in the contested waters of the South China Sea, including landing strips and military installations.

"France, Germany and the United Kingdom hold that all maritime claims in the South China Sea should be made and peacefully resolved in accordance with the principles and rules of UNCLOS and the means and procedures for the settlement of disputes provided for in the Convention," they stated.

As States Parties to UNCLOS, the three western countries vowed to "continue to uphold and assert their rights and freedoms as enshrined in UNCLOS and to contribute to promoting co-operation in the region as set out under the Convention."

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/17/france-uk-and-germany-challenge-chinas-claims-in-the-south-china-sea-before-the-united-nations/>



## California fires hit 3.4M acres of forests

By [The Manila Times](#)

September 18, 2020

**SAN FRANCISCO:** California has suffered 7,860 wildfires, which have burned more than 3.4 million acres (about 13,759 square kilometers or km<sup>2</sup>) this year, state Gov. Gavin Newsom said Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and the United States Forest Service continue to battle the blaze, aided by crews from Montana, Utah, Texas and New Jersey.

The state has more than 17,000 firefighters and 2,200 engines on the fire lines, Newsom said. The August Complex Fire in Mendocino County, the state's largest-ever, continued growing Wednesday. It has burned through 796,651 acres with 30 percent containment.

The Creek Fire, held at 220,025 acres (about 890 km<sup>2</sup>) in Fresno and Madera counties, was 18 percent contained Wednesday morning.

The North Complex fires in Butte, Plumas and Yuba counties remained stable with 1,106 km<sup>2</sup> burned and containment reaching 36 percent, Cal Fire reported.