

21 SEPTEMBER 2020, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



'Keep Manila Bay clean'

Published 2 hours ago on September 21, 2020 04:20 AM

By **TDI**



The opening of the stretch of white sand beach along Roxas Boulevard this weekend saw the public trooping to Manila Bay for some exercise, such as these friends indulging in a Zumba workout. PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @TRIBUNEPHL_BOB

As hundreds of people troop to Roxas Boulevard for a chance to view the Manila Bay's artificial white sand, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reminded the public to avoid littering in the area.

MMDA spokesperson Celine Pialago urged Filipinos to keep Manila Bay clean since the government has spent P389 million to rehabilitate the waterway.

"Local tourists gather at the present Manila Bay to witness the beauty of the dolomite white sand, but we would like to remind them to avoid littering there," Pialago said in an interview.

"That portion of Manila Bay in front of the US Embassy was opened to the public, so the public can see this rehabilitation project. But it does not mean that picnics are allowed, so as to avoid garbage and trash there," she added.

The MMDA official noted those who would violate protocols would face sanctions, adding that government personnel and environmental marshals are roving in the area.

Meanwhile, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda yesterday said the decision to open Manila Bay's shoreline to the public was meant to show the true nature or purpose on why they decided to come up with the now controversial beach nourishment project.

Antiporda made the remark following the criticism hurled by naysayers over the DENR's decision to open the Manila Bay beachfront from 19 to 20 September and provide visitors a chance to see the progress of the ongoing project.

"We were forced to do this because of their false allegations. We need to show this to the people, and let the people defend this. That's why we decided that they see for themselves what this project is about even if it is just partially finished," Antiporda told the Daily Tribune.

However, he stressed they are not encouraging the people to go to the area given the COVID-19 situation affecting the country.

Likewise, the DENR official shared there is a plan to further expand the beach by another 380 meters, with the dolomite sand covering an area totaling three hectares.



He said the project is expected to be finished by yearend.

“We are targetting the end of the year, but I don’t know if we can make it because a lot of hindrance has happened already. That’s why we are considering, we are studying how we can file a case against those who are destroying this project because of the many delays that has happened because of them,” Antiporda said.

On the other hand, Pialago said the MMDA has seen a drastic decline in the amount of garbage that is collected from Manila Bay.

From 30 truckloads of garbage a day, the MMDA is now collecting just one to two truckloads daily, she said.

On Saturday, in line with the International Coastal Cleanup Day, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources opened the controversial “white sand” at the beachfront of Manila Bay to the public, even if the government discourages Filipinos from doing non-essential things outdoors.

People were seen taking pictures and holding Zumba sessions without observing the one meter physical distancing protocol.

Children and senior citizens — who are prohibited to go outside their homes because they are at high risk to the coronavirus disease — also flocked to the area.



Thousands crowd 'white sand' Manila Bay, told to keep it clean

Published 13 hours ago on September 20, 2020 04:59 PM

By **TDI**



As hundreds of people flocked along Roxas Boulevard for a chance to view the Manila Bay's artificial white sand, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has reminded the public to avoid littering in the area.

MMDA spokesperson Celine Pialago urged Filipinos to keep Manila Bay clean since the government has spent about P389 million to rehabilitate the waterway.

"Local tourists gather at the present at the Manila Bay to witness the beauty of dolomite white sand but we would like to remind them to avoid littering there," Pialago told DZBB in an interview.

"That portion of Manila Bay in front of the US Embassy was opened to the public so they can see this rehabilitation project but it does not mean that picnics are allowed so as to avoid garbage and trash there," she added.

The MMDA official noted that those who would violate protocols would face sanctions, adding that government personnel and environmental marshals are roving in the area.

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People were seen taking pictures, holding Zumba sessions, among others, without observing one-meter physical distancing.

Children and senior citizens — who are prohibited to go outside their homes because of their vulnerability to the coronavirus disease — also flocked to the area.

The elderly claimed that they are supporters of President Duterte, as some of them are even holding a tarpaulin with an image of the Chief Executive.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/20/thousands-crowd-white-sand-manila-bay-told-to-keep-it-clean/>



EDITORIAL - Kamay na bakal sa magtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay

(Pang-Masa) - September 21, 2020 - 12:00am



PINAGAGANDA ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Manila Bay. Ginastusan ng P389 million ang paglalalag ng puting buhangin na nanggaling pa sa Cebu. Kamakalawa, ipinakita na sa publiko ang magandang dalampasigan at marami ang humanga. Hindi na raw nila kailangan pang magtungo sa Boracay para makakita ng puting buhangin. Maraming dumagsa sa dalampasigan at ang iba ay nag-selfie pa.

Habang ipinakikita sa mga tao ang magandang dalampasigan, nagsasagawa naman ng clean-up ang Metro Manila Development Authority sa di kalayuan. Pinupulot ang mga basurang inaanod na karamihan ay plastic. Kung hindi pupulutin, tiyak na hahantong sa bagong tambak na puting buhangin ang mga basura. Masisira ang magandang tanawin kapag hindi inalagaan ng pagpulot sa mga inaanod na basura. Ang pinagkagastusan nang malaki para sa beautification ay masasayang lang dahil sa mga basura. Karaniwang supot na plastic, grocery bags, sache ng 3-in-1 coffee, catsup, shampoo, toothpaste, at iba pang basura na hindi nabubulok ang itinapon sa Manila Bay.

Maraming probinsiya at siyudad ang nakapaligid sa Manila Bay – Maynila, Cavite, Paranaque, Navotas, Valenzuela, Bataan at iba pa. Posibleng galing sa mga nabanggit na lugar ang mga basura. Tiyak na pinakarami ang nanggaling sa Maynila. Lahat nang basurang itinapon sa mga estero sa Maynila ay tatangayin sa Manila Bay. Karamihan sa mga nagtatapon ng basura ay informal settlers o mga iskuwater, deretso sa estero ang kanilang basura.



Ang kawalan ng disiplina ng mamamayan sa pagtatapon ng basura ang nararapat namang pagtuunan ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu. Masasayang lamang ang pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay kung walang kontrol ang pagtatapon ng basura.

Natatandaan namin na noong nakaraang taon nagbabala si Cimatu sa mga walang disiplinang nagtatapon ng basura. Nagsalita siya sa isang forum at sinabi niyang tapos na ang araw ng mga gumagawa ng krimen laban sa Inang Kalikasan. Tutuldukan na raw niya ang pag-abuso sa kalikasan sapagkat mahigpit niyang ipatutupad ang environmental laws at mga ordinansa. Pero makalipas ang kanyang pagbabanta, wala pa ring nakitang pagbabago at lalo pang dumami ang mga nagsasalaula sa kapaligiran. Marami pa rin ang walang disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura.

Kailangan nang gumamit ng “kamay na bakal” sa mga nagtatapon ng basura. Gawin ito ni Cimatu para di masayang ang sinimulan.



Manila White Sands dinumog



September 20, 2020 @ 11:37 AM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dumagsa ang tao sa Roxas Boulevard ngayong araw upang masilayan ang dolomite white sand sa baybayin ng Manila Bay ngayong araw ng Linggo.

Bago magbukang liwayway ay marami na ang dumating sa Manila Bay kung nagkaroon naman ng mahabang pila para sa entrada ng pagpasok sa mismong pampang ng Manila Bay o kung saan makikita ang dolomite sand.

Dumagsa rin ang mga bikers sa lugar na namasyal at karamihan din ay may mga kasamang mga bata na nagtyagang sumunod sa mahabang pila makita lamang ang bagong mukha nito sa nagpapatuloy na rehabilitasyong ginagawa ng gobyerno sa pangunguna na nga ng DEpartment of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

May mga nakatalaga namang mga tauhan ng Manila POLice District (MPD) upang mamintina ang kaayusan ng pila gayundin ang mahigpit na pinaiiral na physical distancing.

Mismong si MPD P/Brig General Rolando Miranda ang nanguna sa pagpapanatili sa kaayusan sa mga nagtutungong mgaindibidwal sa Roxas Boulevard.

Kahapon ay inanunsyo ng DENR na bubuksan sa publiko ang Manila Bay ngayong araw upang masilayanang white sand na maaring makapagpaselfie ang mga namamasyal rito na tila nasabik naman ang mga tao kaya dinagsa ang lugar.

Maliban sa pila ay punompuno rin ng tao ang ibabaw ng footbridge para naman sa nais makita ang bagong mukhang Manila Bay ng top view. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**



Manila Bay dinagsa ng namamasyal



September 20, 2020 @ 8:37 AM 23 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dinagsa ng mga namamasyal ang Manila Bay Sands sa Roxas Boulevard.

Mahaba na ng pila papasok ng Manila Bay dakong 5:30 palang ng umaga upang makita ang puting buhangin at kumuha ng larawan sa Manila Bay.

Matatandaang binuksan sa publiko ang Manila Bay Sands nitong Sabado mula 6:00 ng umaga hanggang 6:00 ng gabi.

Sarado ito sa publiko sa Lunes, Setyembre 21 upang ituloy ang rehabilitasyon.**RNT/ELM**



Manila Bay pang-Beach Games

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 20, 2020

SPORTS



Hindi pa man tuluyang nakukumpleto ang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay agad na pinuri ng komunidad sa sports at maging ng ilang opisyaales ng mga national sports association (NSA) na maikukumpara sa isang internasyonal na destinasyon at competition venue para sa Asian Beach Games (ABG).

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“Pwedeng pang beach games!” reaksyion nitong Linggo ni Philippine Sepak Takraw Federation, Inc. president Karen Tanchanco-Caballero, sa tabing dagat na nilagyan ng pinulbos na dolomite na parang puting buhangin.

Naihalintulad ni Tanchanco-Caballero ang lugar sa dinaluhang 2016 ABC sa Da Nang, Vietnam noong habang kausap ang dating miyembro ng water polo squad at ngayo’y national

coach na si Dale Evangelista. (Lito Oredo)

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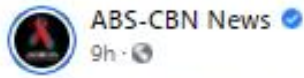
Philippine Star ✓
18h · 🌐

People visit Manila Bay's 'white sand beach' along Roxas Boulevard on Sunday morning. Only 70 persons per batch are allowed to enter the opened portion of the coastline, and they can only stay for three minutes. The area will be closed again tomorrow to pave the way for the continuation of the project.



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Even at closing time, citizens flock to the Manila Baywalk on September 20, 2020, as the dolomite-covered area of Manila Bay temporarily opens to the public over the weekend. (📷 Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News)



👍🥰👎 1.6K

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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10158817625780168&id=27254475167&fs=0&focus_composer=0



Guarding Manila bay

Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 20 2020 11:20 PM



Police guard the entrance to the “white sand area” of Manila Bay, as visitors continued to arrive near closing time on Sunday. The commander of the Ermita police station was sacked on Sunday after failing to implement COVID-19 safety protocols on the hundreds who visited the area.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID JOHN CUBANGBANG FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribuneph1_dvd

Eye candy Maintenance man who is among those who fanned out along the rehabilitated Manila Bay beach ensures that the new city attraction remains a visitors' delight.



Egrets drop by Manila Bay during 'White Sands' project opening

Published September 20, 2020 12:33pm

A flock of migratory egrets dropped by during the Manila Bay "White Sands" project's opening on Sunday, as if drawn in by the fuss over the beach area spruce-up.



They came in a fleet, probably looking for fish in the bay to feast on.



Groups of [people flocked to Roxas Boulevard in Manila](#) before sunrise on Sunday, in a bid to experience walking on the artificial white sand beach in the beautified portion of the Manila Bay coastline along the busy boulevard.



According to GMA News reporter Jonathan Andal, the crowd began to thicken as of 5:30 a.m., challenging the enforcement of social distancing protocol under general community quarantine status of Metro Manila due to COVID-19 threat. —with a report from Danny Pata/LBG, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756364/egrets-drop-by-manila-bay-during-white-sands-project-opening/story/>



Bay visitors

posted September 20, 2020 at 11:00 pm

by [Lino Santos](#)



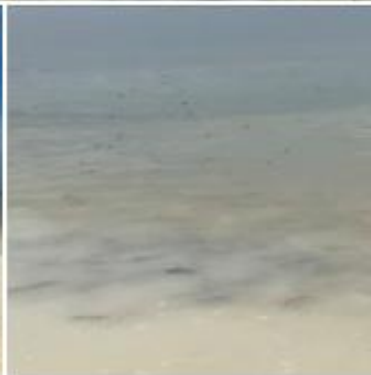
A flock of migratory egrets dropped by during the Manila Bay “White Sands” project’s opening on Sunday, as if drawn in by the fuss over the beach area spruce-up. They came in fleet, probably looking for fish in the bay to feast on.



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Ilang migratory birds at mga isda ang namataan sa "white beach" sa Manila Bay ngayong Linggo ng umaga. | via [Justinne Punsalang](#)



👍❤️👹 Ricky Calipay, Florante Lugo Aseo and 51K others

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Turn to page A2



'Declare speaker's seat vacant'

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID JOHN CUBANGBANG FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_drd

Sunset over crushed dolomite Today's youth will grow into a world where masks are the norm and bayside beaches are likely man-made, but real thrills remain to be a clear blue sky, outdoor play and going barefoot in the sand.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID JOHN CUBANGBANG FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_drd

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LOOK | Kasabay sa pagkamangha sa white sand ng Manila Bay ay nasaksihan din ang paglubog ng araw ngayong Linggo ng hapon.

Kuha ni Crismon Heramis



👍 2



GMA News

12h · 🌐

LOOK: Sunset sa Manila Bay! 🇵🇭

Nakuhanan ni YouScooper Nathaniel Adam Cruz ang iconic Manila Bay sunset nitong Sabado. Dinagsa ng publiko nitong weekend ang "Manila Bay Sands," isang bahagi ng Manila Bay kung saan itinambak ang artificial white sand bilang parte ng rehabilitation program ng pamahalaan. Ibahagi ang inyong ulat sa [YouScoop](#) at sumali sa aming Facebook group [GMA News YouScoopers](#).



👍❤️👏 34K

2.1K Comments 2.3K Shares



Corals in Alcoy destroyed by heavy siltation from fallen crushed dolomites — Penro

By: Rosalie O. Abatayo - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital|September 20,2020 - 05:17 PM



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

CEBU CITY, Philippines —The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) found that corals within the 500 meters of seawater in Alcoy town southern Cebu were destroyed because of heavy siltation caused by crushed dolomites that fell to the sea when being transported to the bulk carrier vessel through a conveyor belt.

The Penro recently conducted an aerial survey in the dolomite extraction in Alcoy following the controversy of the transport of dolomite from Alcoy to Manila for the rehabilitation project of Manila Bay.

The Capitol has since disallowed further extraction, selling, and transport of dolomite locally which is beyond the provisions of its mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) issued by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

“An inspection of the seabed in barangay Pugalo, Alcoy showed heavy siltation and damage to the area’s marine ecosystem, raising the possibility of the issuance of another cease and desist order against the mining firms,” the Capitol said in a news release.

In a meeting last Thursday, September 17, 2020, Governor Gwendolyn Garcia asked the Environmental Management Bureau to investigate the said destruction of the corals following the aerial photos and videos from the inspection showed the damage on the corals.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the EMB, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the mining firm, and the mineral processing company that operates in Alcoy.

“Penro found that particles from the crushed dolomite fall to the sea when transported to the bulk carrier vessels through a conveyor belt. Initial reports indicated that corals were destroyed within 500 meters of seawater because of heavy siltation, causing the corals and the seabed to turn white,” the Capitol added.

Garcia earlier issued a cease and desist order to the two firms for selling the dolomite as a substitute for sand and gravel in the domestic market without securing the necessary permits from the Capitol and paying for the sold dolomites according to the tax code of the province.



Garcia reiterated that the province was not against the Manila Bay beach nourishment project but of the means that the dolomites used there were taken from the province without the firms paying the 10 percent sharing of the province of the market value of the quarry resource.

Prior to the issuance of the CDO, the firms already transported 7,000 wet metric tons (WMT) of crushed dolomites for the Manila Bay project, according to the ore transport permits issued by the MGB-7.

Provincial Treasurer Roy Salubre said the two firms, based on their initial computation, would have to pay P726,923.077 to the province for the volume of dolomite shipped to Manila./dbs



The BFAR said upwelling or overturn caused the depletion of dissolved oxygen, causing mortality of at least 10 kilos of fish in Manila Bay.

Edd Gumban, file

BFAR: Seawater upwelling choked Manila Bay fish

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — An oceanographic phenomenon called upwelling caused the fish kill in Manila Bay along the Baseco seawall in Tondo, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said over the weekend.

The BFAR said upwelling or overturn caused the depletion of dissolved oxygen, causing mortality of at least 10 kilos of fish in Manila Bay.

Photos of the dead fish went viral on social media last week, raising questions on whether the white sand project caused the fish kill.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has denied that the fish kill was caused by the crushed dolomite laid over a portion of Manila Bay for its rehabilitation program, which drew criticism.

Upwelling happens when saturated, cold seawater rises from below and replaces lighter and warmer water on the surface after a rainfall, according to the BFAR.

The upwelling water activity draws up sediments from the sea bottom bringing up organic load, which competes with fish in consuming available dissolved oxygen.

“With dissolved oxygen in the seawater depleted, the fish easily succumbed to choking,” the BFAR said.

The results of water quality analysis conducted by the BFAR in Baseco indicated a low level of dissolved oxygen at 0.11 milligram per liter. The acceptable level of dissolved oxygen for marine water is 5 mg per liter.

Aside from Baseco, the BFAR also conducted water quality tests at the Pasig River mouth area, Barge Docking and Aplaya sites.

Last week, residents of Baseco found biya, kanduli, asohos and tilapia “gasping for air” following heavy rains. The BFAR explained that these are bottom and midwater species, which easily succumb to choking as a result of dissolved oxygen depletion.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/09/21/2043912/bfar-seawater-upwelling-choked-manila-bay-fish>



Leni urges physical distancing as people troop to Manila Bay beachfront

Published September 20, 2020, 3:57 PM

by [Raymund Antonio](#)

Vice President Leni Robredo urged people to observe physical distancing as she lamented that this health protocol against COVID-19 was not observed by people who flocked to the opening of the white sand beach at Manila Bay last week.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Speaking in her weekly radio show “BISerbisyong Leni” Sunday, Robredo noted that physical distancing was not observed when it was temporarily opened for public viewing this weekend.

“Ang daming tao doon sa opening noong sa may Roxas Boulevard...Nakakatakot tingnan kasi walang social distancing, talagang siksik iyong tao,” she said.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DENR) led the event to mark the annual International Coastal Clean-up Day.

Photos of the throng waiting in line caught the attention of netizens, including Robredo, after they noticed that most of the visitors were not practicing physical distancing.

People were seen crowded in the area to take pictures and get a peek into the new attraction on a stretch of the Manila Bay’s shoreline.

Robredo reminded those will visit the dolomite-covered portion of the baywalk to maintain a safe distance from each other to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections.

The Vice President asked government personnel on the site to prioritize public safety.

“Sana bago nagbukas naisipan ito na ito iyong mga hindi na mababawi, eh. Kapag naghawaan hindi na natin mababawi,” Robredo said.

“Sana moving forward, makaisip ng way na kahit may pumapasyal doon siguraduhin pa din iyong physical distancing. Iyong mga namamahala po ng lugar sana bigyan nila ng priority,” she added.



PUBLIKO PINAYUHANG MAGDOBLE-INGAT SA PAGPUNTA SA WHITE SAND AREA SA MANILA BAY

written by Jaymark Dagala September 20, 2020



Nagpahayag ng pagkabahala si Vice President Leni Robredo sa pagdagsa ng publiko sa white sand area sa Manila Bay.

Sa kaniyang programa sa radyo, sinabi ni Robredo na hindi dapat mabalewala ang physical distancing lalo't nariyan pa rin ang banta ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Kasunod nito, pinayuhan ni Robredo ang mga nais mamasyal sa bahaging Baywalk at Manila Bay na magdoble-ingat.

Magugunitang binuksan ng DENR mula kahapon hanggang ngayong araw ang white sand area sa Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng international coastal cleanup day.



Kawalan ng social distancing ng mga pumapasyal sa Manila Bay White Sand Baywalk, ikinabahala ni Robredo

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Sep. 20, 2020 at 1:19pm



COURTESY: MAYOR ISKO MORENO FACEBOOK

Nananawagan si Vice President Leni Robredo sa awtoridad na namamahala sa Manila Bay White Sand Baywalk na maglatag ng polisiya para maiwasan ang pagsisiksikan ng mga nagpupunta sa lugar.

Kasunod ito ng pagdagsa ng mga tao sa temporary opening ng Manila Bay White Sand Baywalk kahapon kung saan halos hindi na nasunod ang social distancing.



Sa programang Biserbisyong Leni sa RMN, iginiit ni Robredo na hindi dapat mabalewala ang physical distancing lalo't hindi pa rin nawawala ang banta ng COVID-19.

Pinayuhan din niya ang mga pumapasyal sa baywalk na magdoble-ingat.

“Yung white sand dun sa Manila Bay, parang nakakatakot tingnan kasi walang social distancing, talagang siksik yung mga tao. Eto yung hindi na mababawi e, pag naghawaan hindi na natin mababawi. Pero sana moving forward, makaisip ng way na kahit may mga pumapasyal dun, siguraduhin pa rin yung physical distancing. Kahit paunti-unting bumabalik sa normal, mas doble-ingat ngayon,” ani Robredo.

Kahapon, kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng International Coastal Cleanup Day, nagtipun-tipon ang ilang kawani ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno para buksan ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na nilatagan ng dolomite sand bilang bahagi ng rehabilitation efforts dito na nagkakahalaga ng 28 milyong piso.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/kawalan-ng-social-distancing-ng-mga-pumapasyal-sa-manila-bay-white-sand-baywalk-ikinabahala-ni-robredo/?fbclid=IwAR08q-2B19dQyrxipYfxQlz5h liNZNbAfJ Lq1liX83fhPTaScktKAU1wY>



Ermita police chief axed for failure to enforce physical distancing in Manila Bay 'white sand beach'

By: [Darryl John Esguerra](#), [Jeannette I. Andrade](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#), [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 06:15 PM September 20, 2020



Throngs of people have gathered along Roxas Boulevard on Sunday, Sept.20, for a chance to view the Manila bay white sand that has been opened to the public this weekend from 6 am to 6 pm. Marianne Bermudez/Philippine Daily Inquirer

MANILA, Philippines — Ermita police station commander Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan was relieved from his post over his alleged failure to enforce physical distancing rules on visitors to the “white sand beach” in Manila Bay.

In a statement on Sunday, the Philippine National Police’s (PNP) Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said Caramoan “should have taken the initiative in planning and implementing strict security and health safety measures for the opening of the cleaned and beautified portion of the Manila Bay.”

“PLt. Col. Caramoan could have prevented the quarantine protocol violations at the Manila Bay if there were prior planning and regular monitoring of the situation in the area,” Eleazar said.

“Clearly, he also failed to comply with the JTF COVID Shield order that was coordinated with the Chief PNP for all police commanders to monitor and immediately take action on violations of the quarantine protocols that are going viral in the social media,” he added.

The Manila Bay “white sand beach” was temporarily opened to the public on Saturday and was again opened from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, following its makeover involving “white sand” from crushed rocks of dolomite which drew the ire of environmental experts for potential harmful impacts.

Photos and videos that circulated on social media showed people along Roxas Boulevard standing close to each other despite the physical distancing rule being imposed amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as they hoped to see the Manila Bay makeover.

Caramoan will be replaced by Police Lt. Col. Alex Daniel as officer-in-charge.

Año to MPD: Deploy more cops to enforce health protocols

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said he had instructed the Manila Police District (MPD) to deploy more police officers at the “white sand” beach to enforce health protocols.

“We have to deploy more policemen there to enforce (health protocols) and the Manila city government has to deploy more marshals,” Año said.



“I instructed the MPD to coordinate and discuss with (Manila) Mayor Isko Moreno on how to establish rules, regulations and protocols to ensure the observance of minimum health standards,” he added.

Año also said that it is possible that the Manila Bay “white sand” beach project will be closed to the public anew as Metro Manila remains under general community quarantine where tourism is still banned.

/MUF



People flock to see Manila Bay's 'white sand' beach yesterday. Inset shows visitors walking along the beach, made of crushed dolomite. Only 70 persons at a time are allowed to walk along the beach and only for three minutes, officials said. The beach, which was open to the public for the past two days, will be closed to visitors starting today to allow the government to continue the 'beach nourishment' project. Edd Gumban

MPD exec axed over Manila Bay beach crowd

[Marc Jayson Cayabyab](#), [Neil Jayson Servallos](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The police station commander in charge of the Manila Bay area was sacked yesterday after crowds that gathered to see the newly opened beachfront featuring artificial white sand failed to observe social distancing amid the general community quarantine (GCQ).

Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, commander of the Ermita police station which has jurisdiction over Manila's Baywalk, was relieved from his post by Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Camilo Cascolan.

The PNP chief held Caramoan responsible for the botched implementation of minimum health protocols as shown in social media photos and videos of crowds swarming Roxas Boulevard early yesterday morning.

"The reason is he (Caramoan) could've prevented that from happening. (Last Saturday), we have seen people flocking already and it has been highlighted to expect that come (Sunday), many people will visit too," Joint Task Force COVID Shield Commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar told The STAR.

Photos from visitors, police and local government showed more or less a hundred people bunched together shoulder to shoulder, taking photos of the beach.

"We can see that there are lapses from the station commander. We want this to stand as a reason for all other station commanders to be aware," he added.

Caramoan will be replaced by Lt. Col. Alex Daniel, who was the Manila Police District (MPD)'s chief comptroller.

Despite restrictions on mass gatherings, close to a thousand people crowded the section of Manila Bay featuring the government's controversial beachfront white sand enhancement and restoration project.

"People were just too excited. Everybody wants to see the white sand," said Brig. Gen. Rolando Miranda, MPD director, as the festive crowd spilled over to Roxas Boulevard, causing a brief traffic jam.

Signs carried by marshalls, reading "Observe social distancing," were ignored by excited promenaders.



Dozens more were perched on top of the nearby overpass for a view of the artificial white sand or dolomite installation spanning 120 meters long and 60 meters wide, starting from the US embassy side-cove towards the Yacht Club endpoint on Roxas Boulevard.

Mayor Isko Moreno had ordered the police to strictly enforce physical distancing and reminded the public to observe health protocols. "There is still COVID-19 in Manila. Practice social distancing while enjoying the view of the white sand," Moreno said.

Some MPD personnel were deployed in the area to ensure compliance with social distancing, but they were overwhelmed due to the influx of people since early morning.

Miranda said order was restored past 8 a.m. after the police strictly enforced GCQ protocols, adding that he deployed Special Weapons and Tactics personnel to disperse the crowd of onlookers on the footbridge.

On Twitter, netizens scored the double standard in implementing the ban on mass gatherings, noting that there were no efforts to record people's information for contact tracing.

The lines would have taken longer if people were required to fill up contact tracing forms, Miranda said.

But Eleazar said there were clear violations of health protocols and that the PNP is now looking at possibly tracing all those people.

"We will still look at (the feasibility of tracing these people) because they were so many (as seen in photos)," he said.

The beach was temporarily opened to the public on Saturday and Sunday following its makeover involving "white sand" from crushed rocks of dolomite which some environmental experts claim to pose potential harm on humans.

The Department of Health has since debunked the claim in a statement it released last week.

Manila Bay closed

The Manila Bay area will again be closed today for further rehabilitation efforts, but the next time it reopens, police vowed better preparations and stricter enforcement of quarantine protocols.

Moreno's chief of staff Cesar Chavez added that onlookers would no longer be allowed on the footbridge starting today.

"While we are happy that the people are enjoying, we should maintain physical distancing because there is still COVID-19 in Manila," Chavez said.

In a speech during the opening of the white sand project last Saturday, Moreno thanked the critics of the dolomite sand project for opening up a discussion about cleaning Manila Bay and defended the national government for its beautification campaign during a pandemic.

"While it is true, and we agree, some of it are superficial (and only for) aesthetic value, the major issue here is to clean up Manila Bay... Let us all unite first. Government is not the enemy. COVID-19 is still out there," Moreno said.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año wants to keep the white sands of Manila Bay closed to the public pending the issuance protocols for visitors.



“At this time, we advise the public to not go (there). You’ll have your time to see Manila Bay,” he said.

Meanwhile, in a dzBB interview, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) spokesperson Celine Pialago urged the public not to leave their trash while visiting the Manila Bay white sand project.

The MMDA also deployed its personnel to issue ticketing violations on those caught littering along Manila Bay, she added.’

Alarm over reclamations

At the Senate, alarm was raised over the possible threats to national security posed by some China-backed reclamation projects in Manila Bay.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said security concerns over the projects — the proposed Sangley Point International Airport and several reclamation undertakings at the Manila Bay — both near the Navy’s base and headquarters — were legitimate, especially that the contractors include the state-owned China Communications Construction Co. (CCCC).

The CCCC is one of the firms involved in the construction of the militarized artificial islands in the West Philippine Sea, and among those blacklisted by the US government and the World Bank for their involvement in the reclamation in the disputed waters, and corruption issues.

He cited reports that the reclamation project would block government vessels’ access to the Navy’s headquarters located on Roxas Boulevard while the proposed airport seeks to drive out the naval base at Sangley Point. – **Romina Cabrera and Paolo Romero**

Source: https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/09/21/2043961/mpd-exec-axed-over-manila-bay-beach-crowd?fbclid=IwAR0q4wfZDiIKDdTS7jNRz4c-y4PQLIZTSA8bUA3aN0z0kCiUq6QmM4X4gFQ&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_term=Autofeed



‘White sands’ protocol violations: MPD exec axed

By Victor Reyes -September 21, 2020



A STATION commander of the Metro Manila Police District that has jurisdiction over the “white sand” area on Manila Bay has been relieved for failing to ensure health protocols were observed by people who trooped to the area over the weekend to see the makeover.

Citing a report from the PNP, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said the station commander, Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan of MPD’s Station 5 (Ermita), should have ensured that measures were put in place to prevent the “very dangerous” incident.

“The PNP Station commander in the area shall be relieved for failing to enforce the minimum health standards. The station commander was relieved for failing to enforce social distancing,” Año said.

“He will be relieved of his position today for failing to enforce the minimum health standard, particularly the one meter distancing,” said Año, a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources allowed the public to see the “white sand” project on Saturday and Sunday, leading to social distancing violations. Thousands who went to the area clearly violated health protocols, as photos taken by media photographers showed.

Año said that while the DENR allowed the public to see the project, it is the responsibility of the MPD and the local government of Manila to “establish measures to ensure no health protocols are violated.”

“More PNP personnel were deployed there to restore order and enforce the one meter distancing. MPD is coordinating with Mayor Isko Moreno to determine the appropriate actions to ensure the observance of minimum health standards to include possibility of closing the area until protocols are properly emplaced,” Año said.

He also urged the MPD to inform the people going to the area to observe physical distancing and other health protocols. “After the warning, the LGU of Manila and the PNP can accost people who are violating (the protocols),” Año said.

He also appealed to the public to strictly follow health protocols when going to the area.

“If possible, we advise the public to stay at home. You will have your time to see Manila Bay. It’s shown on television, you don’t have to go there personally,” Año said, noting that Metro Manila is still under general community quarantine due to the continuing threat of COVID-19.

“We are not promoting anything that will lead to spike(s) or surge(s). We should be responsible in our actions,” he said.



The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, meanwhile, called on the public who will visit the Manila Bay to see the dolomites white sand to be responsible in disposing their trash.

MMDA Assistant Secretary Celine Pialago said the agency will deploy personnel and environmental marshals to secure the place will remain clean from any trash or garbage.

She said ticket violations will be issued to those who will be caught littering in the area.

On Saturday, the MMDA conducted a coastal clean-up drive along Manila Bay, particularly at the Manila Yacht Club area where they collected two trucks of garbage such as stryo, plastic bottles and bags, and other kinds of trash that cannot be easily decomposed. – *With Noel Talacay*



Crowding at Manila's 'white sand beach' prompts relief of Station 5 commander

(Philstar.com) - September 20, 2020 - 6:37pm



People visited the "white sand beach" along the Manila Baywalk on September 20, 2020. Despite attempts to manage the crowd, JTF COVID Shield noted quarantine protocol violations that it said area police should have planned for and managed better.

MANILA, Philippines — The police commander for Ermita should have prevented people from crowding the portion of the Manila Baywalk now covered with crushed dolomite, Joint Task Force COVID Shield said Sunday.

The joint task force, which is in charge of enforcing quarantine protocols, issued the statement after Police Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan was relieved as commander of Manila Police District Police Station 5 over quarantine violations in his area of responsibility.

"Caramoan could have prevented the quarantine protocol violations at the Manila Bay if there was prior planning and regular monitoring of the situation in the area," JTF COVID Shield said.

READ: JTF Covid Shield's statement on the Manila Bay incident this morning. | via [@njservallos](https://twitter.com/njservallos) pic.twitter.com/Pryn1auY2

— Philstar.com (@PhilstarNews) [September 20, 2020](https://twitter.com/PhilstarNews/status/1299999999999999999)

"Clearly, he also failed to comply with the JTF COVID Shield order that was coordinated with [Police Gen. Camilo Cascolan, Philippine National Police chief] for all police commanders to monitor and immediately take action on violations of the quarantine protocols that are going viral in the social media," the task force also said.

People had been flocking to the portion of the Manila Baywalk covered with crushed dolomite since Saturday, when it was opened to the public until the early evening.



Although there were efforts to limit the people inside the beach area — only 70 people were allowed in at a time and only for three minutes — photos taken of the area outside what some have started calling the "Manila Bay Sands" showed people crowding and not practicing physical distancing.

People flock to Manila Bay's 'white sand beach' along Roxas Boulevard on Sunday morning. Officials opened a portion of the coastline to the public to demonstrate the viability of using crushed dolomite in rehabilitating and beautifying Manila Bay. | via Edd Gumban pic.twitter.com/gR5BO19hAI

— The Philippine Star (@PhilippineStar) [September 20, 2020](#)

The crushed dolomite is part of a "beach nourishment" project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that it said is part of the efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

The "beach nourishment" project is not included in the master plan for the rehabilitation of the bay and environmental groups have raised concerns that the dumping could affect the remaining marine life in the polluted area.

The DENR has assured the public that the dumping of the dolomite does not pose any risk to the public or to the marine environment in Manila Bay.

JTF COVID Shield said Sunday that it is calling "on the people who plan to visit the Manila Bay to observe discipline and be mindful of your own safety amid the threat of the coronavirus disease"

READ: [Certificate of non-coverage issued to Manila Bay white sand project, EMB chief says](#)

— **Jonathan de Santos**



MANILA BAY'S 'WHITE SAND' OVERCROWDING

Ermita police chief sacked

By Dempsey Reyes

September 21, 2020

THE station commander of the Ermita Police Station (PS5) of the Manila Police District has been relieved from his post for his failure to enforce physical distancing in Manila Bay, which has drawn crowds because of the controversial “white beach.”

LtCol. Ariel Caramoan, PS5 commander, was relieved on Sunday, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said on Sunday.

“[Caramoan] will be relieved of his position today for failing to enforce the minimum health standard, particularly the one-meter distancing,” he told reporters. “They should have imposed those strict measures [on Saturday] to avoid that kind of situation.”

The dumping of dolomite sand on a stretch of Manila Bay stirred controversy and the “white sand” had attracted crowds.

Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo on Sunday said physical distancing should be imposed.

“Okay naman na pumasyal, okay naman na tignan, pero sana iyong authorities makaisip ng paraan para hindi nangyayari iyong nangyari kahapon. Iyong nangyari po kahapon sobrang siksikan ng tao, nakakatakot iyong hawaan (It’s okay to visit and take a look, however authorities should have found a way to prevent overcrowding),” Robredo said in her weekly radio show BISErbisyong Leni.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) recognized the cleaning operations being done on the bay.

MMDA spokesman Celine Pialago said regular clean-ups continue and authorities nor collect fewer trash because of the relocation of informal settlers living near the esteros.



Bay tourists defy protocols; police chief loses post

posted September 21, 2020 at 01:30 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

The station commander of the Ermita Police in Manila was relieved over the weekend following the policemen's failure to enforce social distancing during the opening of the "white sand beach" on Manila Bay.



SANDS AND SUNSET. The city of Manila, world-famous for its awesome view of the setting sun on the Bay, has an added attraction in the form of 'White Sands' (crushed dolomite) covering a half-kilometer stretch of the coastline, but enough to send tourists coming in droves for a two-day preview. Environment authorities and the city government have temporarily opened the site, setting intervals of three minute on 50 visitors who largely have ignored social distancing and other health protocols, resulting in the sacking of the Ermita police station commander. *YhaMae Vlogs/DZMM Teleradyo (below).*

Manila Police District Chief Rolando Miranda confirmed that Police Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan had been removed from his post.

The Ermita Police has jurisdiction over the controversial beach beautification project.

Thousands of people flocked to Roxas Boulevard in Manila before sunrise on Sunday to walk on Manila Bay's Sands —the white-sand portion of Baywalkviolating social distancing and with some of the visitors even removing their face masks.

Reports said the crowd was already thick as of 5:30 a.m.

On Saturday, thousands of people also flocked to the white sand beach and ignored physical distancing.

As the world celebrated International Coastal Cleanup Day, the staff of various government agencies and members of private organizations gathered on Manila Bay to collect trash.



Several people and vloggers also flocked to Baywalk during its temporary opening to see the white sands.



The sands, comprising crushed dolomite, were spread out on the beach as part of Manila Bay's rehabilitation efforts and cost P28 million.

The event was attended by Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Danny Lim, Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, Social Welfare Secretary Rolando Bautista, Commission on Higher Education Chairman Prospero De Vera and Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr.

The Manila Bay sands drew criticism after concerns were raised on the effect of crushed dolomite on people's health.

The area will be closed starting Monday for rehabilitation work to continue on Manila Bay. The day before, reports said traffic slowed down as people occupied up to two lanes of Roxas Boulevard.

Miranda said Caramoan would be reassigned to Manila Police headquarters but did not elaborate.

In a statement, the Joint Task Force COVID Shield said the decision to remove Caramoan was made by PNP Chief Camilo Cascolan.



Manila Standard

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Rody, solons 'happy' with House gains

By Rio N. Araja

SPEAKER Alan Peter Cayetano would win by a landslide if members of the House of Representatives were to vote on who should occupy the top

congressional post, a staunch supporter said Sunday. Interviewed over Dohol B sa News TV, Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga said if President Rodrigo Duterte would not announce his choice for speaker and lawmakers

Next page



SANDS AND SUNSET. The city of Manila, world-famous for its awesome view of the setting sun on the Bay, has an added attraction in the form of 'White Sands' (crushed dolomite) covering a half-kilometer stretch of the coastline, but enough to send tourists coming in droves for a two-day preview. Environment authorities and the city government have temporarily opened the site, setting intervals of three minute on 50 visitors who largely have ignored social distancing and other health protocols, resulting in the sacking of the Ermita police station commander. **YhaMae Vlogs/02MM Teleradyo** (Inset photo).



Police commander sibak sa kapabayaan sa social distancing sa Manila Bay



September 20, 2020 @ 6:21 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sinibak sa puwesto ang hepe ng Manila Police District- Station 5 sa umano'y hindi pagkontrol sa mga taong dumagsa sa Manila Bay kaninang umaga.

Ayon sa ulat, mismong si PNP Chief Camilo Pancratius Cascolan ang nagsibak kay Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan.

Papalitan naman siya ni MPD-DCD officer-in-charge Lt. Col. Alex Daniel .

Una na ring sinabi ni Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar , JTF Covid Shield Commander, na kitang-kita base sa mga larawan na may pagkukulang ang station commander.

Ayon pa kay Eleazar, napansin na ito kahapon at ngayong araw ay lalo pang dumagsa ang mga tao kaya naman sa susunod aniya na bubuksan sa publiko ang Manila Bay, dapat na magpatupad ng mas maayos na security measures ang awtoridad upang sa gayun ay sumunod ang mga bumibisita sa protocol.

Ang Manila Bay ay dalawang araw binuksan sa publiko at nagsimula ito kahapon kasabay ng International Coastal Clean Up day hanggang ngayong araw ng Linggo, alas-6 ng hapon.

Bagama't may paunawa signages at mga pulis na nagpapatupad ng health protocol, hindi pa rin naiwasan na magkumpol ang mga tao dahil na rin sa kasabikan na masilayan ang dolomite white sand na tila larawan ng mala-Bocaray na anyo ng dalampasigan. (Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden)

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/police-commander-sibak-sa-kapabayaan-sa-social-distancing-sa-manila-bay/>



Manila Bay, dinagsa, hepe ng pulis tanggal

ni [Thea Janica Teh](#) | September 20, 2020



Tinanggal na bilang Ermita Police Station Commander si Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan ng Philippine National Police nang hindi aksiyunan ang pagdagsa ng mga tao sa Manila Bay ngayong Linggo ng umaga.

Iniutos ni PNP Chief Gen. Camilo Cascolan na ang papalit sa puwesto nito ay si MPD-DCD Officer-in-Charge Lt. Col. Alex Daniel.

Samantala, iinvestigahan umano ni JTF COVID Shield Commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar at pag-aaralan kung paano magsasagawa ng contact tracing ang mga pulis sa mga taong lumabag sa social distancing.

Bukas sa publiko ang pagbisita sa Manila Bay upang makita ang white sand, kaya naman magtatalaga na umano si Eleazar ng mga pulis na magsasagawa ng security measures upang maisagawa ang health protocols.



Ermita Police Station chief relieved over Manila Bay crowd

September 20, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

By MINKA TIANGCO



MPD photo

The commander of the Ermita Police Station was removed from his post on Sunday for failure to implement the social distancing rule when nearly a thousand people flocked to Manila Bay to see its synthetic white sand.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Miranda, Manila Police District (MPD) director, said Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan was placed under administrative relief.

Miranda said there were more visitors at Manila Bay on Sunday than on Saturday when it was partially opened to the public.

The crowd caused traffic along Roxas Boulevard that was closed on Saturday for the International Coastal Clean-Up Day.

Cesar Chavez, Manila mayor's chief-of-staff, said they were surprised by the number of people at Manila Bay.

"Nabigla rin kami," he told reporters. "Mukhang mahihirapan kami."

"While we are happy that people are enjoying, we should maintain physical distancing because there is still COVID-19 in Manila," he added.

He said they reminded Miranda twice on Saturday to anticipate the crowd the next day and mobilize the police force to properly implement physical distancing and other health protocols.

Around 80 police officers were deployed to Manila Bay on Sunday morning, the MPD chief said. Chavez also said that they banned people from crowding the overpass near the area.

However, Miranda admitted that they had difficulty in controlling the crowd.

"Hindi maawat ang mga tao, masyadong na-excite," he told reporters.

"Lahat gusto ng share of the pie. Gusto mag-picture, i-post sa social media na 'Nakapunta ako sa white sand'," he added.

Miranda said it would be difficult to arrest health protocol violators so they would just intensify their crowd control measures.

Chavez said that since Manila Bay will only be open to the public on weekends, officials will have time to discuss the incident.

Source: <http://tempo.com.ph/2020/09/20/ermita-police-station-chief-relieved-over-manila-bay-crowd/>



Ermita police chief palpak sa Manila Bay sinibak

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Sep 21, 2020

NEWS



Pinasibak ni Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año si Manila Police District-Station 5 commander

Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan dahil sa kabiguan nitong ipatupad ang physical distancing nang buksan sa publiko ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng `white sand`.

Sa nakarating na impormasyon mula sa MPD, pinalitan umano si Caramoan ni Lt. Col. Alex Daniel na nakatalaga sa MPD-Station 6.

“He will be relieved of his position today for failing to enforce the minimum health standard particularly the one meter distancing,” ayon kay Año.

Sinabi ni Año na kahapon [Sabado] pa dapat nagpatupad ng striktong hakbang para naiwasan ang pagdidikit ng mga taong gustong makita ang `white sand` sa Manila Bay.

“Ang report sa akin ni Eleazar [Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar ng Joint Task Force COVID Shield] na-relieve na kasi kanina pa namin `yan pinag-uusapan,” sabi pa ng kalihim.

Kaugnay nito, nabatid na inutos kahapon ng DILG na magtalaga ng dagdag na pulis para magbantay at magpatupad physical distancing sa Manila Bay. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



PNP chief relieves Ermita Police Station commander for failure to control crowds at 'white sand' beach

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 20, 2020 6:37:28 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 20) — The country's top cop has relieved the commander of the Ermita Police Station for his failure to control the crowds who flocked to see the "white sand" beach on the baywalk along Manila Bay.

In a statement on Sunday, Joint Task Force COVID Shield said it was thankful to PGen. Camilo Cascolan for making the move, saying Ermita police chief PLtCol. Ariel Caramoan should have planned and implemented "strict security and health safety measures" in the area.

There should have been planning and regular monitoring of the area prior to the opening, the statement read, so quarantine violations could have been prevented.

The task force also said Caramoan failed to comply with the order "to monitor and immediately take action on violations of the quarantine protocols that are going viral in the social media."

Speaking to CNN Philippines on Sunday, JTF COVID Shield Commander PLtGen. Guillermo Eleazar said they received word that large crowds were in the area at around 6 a.m, prompting the Manila Police District director and other personnel to respond.

"Ibig sabihin ay dapat palang ma-prevent yan, dapat naisip na niya yan. At hindi 'yung magre-react tayo kapag nangyari na itong sitwasyon na ito," he said.

[Translation: This means it should have been prevented, he should have thought of it. We shouldn't just react after the situation has already happened.]

He said what happened to Caramoan should serve as a lesson to others -- that they should plan and have the initiative to respond to similar situations.

Photos shared on social media showed large crowds of people lining up to get their chance to see the "white sand" beach up close, ignoring reminders to keep the proper distance between themselves according to health protocols.

Caramoan will be replaced by PLtCol. Alex Daniel as officer-in-charge.



The overlaying of the sand with crushed dolomite boulders along an area on the baywalk drew public interest and controversy. The project was [criticized](#) by groups as being merely aesthetic, and that the sand will eventually wash off due to tidal action.

But the Environment Department [defended](#) the project, saying the overlaying of the dolomite materials has been thoroughly studied. It said engineering interventions like "geotubes" had been put in place to help prevent erosion.

It also refuted allegations that a recent [fish kill](#) in a nearby community was linked to the "white sand" project.



Ermita police station commander sacked over Manila Bay overcrowding

September 21, 2020 2 min read

MANILA – Philippine National Police chief Gen. Camilo Cascolan has ordered the police station commander in charge of the Manila Bay dismissed from his post Sunday after his men failed to control the massive crowd that converged to see the newly opened beachfront featuring artificial white sand in Manila Bay.

Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, commander of the Ermita police station which has jurisdiction over Manila's Baywalk, accordingly failed to enforce social distancing amid the general community quarantine (GCQ) prompting Cascolan to fire him from his post.

Cascolan said Caramoan should be held responsible for the botched implementation of minimum health protocols.

Photos of overcrowding overflowed on social media posts aside from videos of people swarming Roxas Boulevard on Sunday morning.

"The reason is he (Caramoan) could've prevented that from happening. (Last Saturday), we have seen people flocking already and it has been highlighted to expect that come (Sunday), many people will visit too," Joint Task Force COVID Shield Commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said.

Photos from visitors, police, and local government showed more or less a hundred people bunched together shoulder to shoulder, taking photos of the beach.

As a result, authorities ordered the Manila Bay closed until after a vaccine against coronavirus is already available.

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/09/21/ermita-police-station-commander-sacked-over-manila-bay-overcrowding/?fbclid=IwAR2cebd6AeGD4tPIEwsMkdUI-1-8SRFvniURb6QClqDhAipK653zloKJSUc>



Ermita police commander sinibak sa pwesto; social distancing sa Manila Bay hindi nasunod

By **Bombo Christian Yosores**

-September 20, 2020 | 5:45 PM



Sinibak sa pwesto ang hepe ng Ermita Police Station na si Commander Ariel Caramoan, dahil sa hindi nasunod na social distancing protocol sa tinaguriang Manila Bay white sand beach.

Kinumpirma ni Manila Police District director Rolando Miranda ang paghahain ng administrative relief sa nasabing opisyal matapos dumugin ng publiko ang atraksyon, nang hindi sinusunod ang panuntunan ng pamahalaan.

Nitong Sabado nang pansamantalang buksan sa publiko ang bagong tourist spot na nagkakahalaga ng P389-million. Ngayong araw din ito nakatakdang isara para matuloy pa ang pagsasagawa ng proyekto.

Ang puting buhangin na inilagay sa dalampasigan ng Manila Bay ay gawa sa dinurog na dolomite boulders mula Cebu.

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), mapanganib ang pinong porma ng dolomite sand kapag humalo ito sa hangin at nalanghap ng tao.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/ermita-police-commander-sinibak-sa-pwesto-social-distancing-sa-manila-bay-hindi-nasunod/>

Police station chief sacked due to safety protocol violations at Manila Bay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 20 2020 06:27 PM | Updated as of Sep 20 2020 08:54 PM



Dozens of people troop to Manila Baywalk on Sunday morning to get a glimpse of the artificial white sand dumped in the area. *Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA (UPDATE) - Manila's police chief on Sunday sacked a station commander for allegedly not preventing violations of COVID-19 safety protocols by people visiting the "white sand beach" area of Manila Bay.



In a text message, Manila Police District Director Rolando Miranda said he issued an administrative relief against Ermita Police Station Commander Ariel Caramoan after authorities supposedly failed to implement safety protocols at the controversial baywalk.

The Ermita Police Station has jurisdiction over the Manila Bay area.

The Joint Task Force (JTF) COVID Shield, meanwhile, hailed the immediate relief of Caramoan.

In a statement, the JTF COVID Shield said Caramoan should have taken the initiative to plan and implement strict security and safety measures at Manila Bay.

"Caramoan could have prevented the quarantine protocol violations at the Manila Bay if there was prior planning and regular monitoring of the situation in the area," the JTF COVID Shield said.



"Clearly, he also failed to comply with the JTF COVID Shield order that was coordinated with the Chief PNP (Philippine National Police) for all police commanders to monitor and immediately take action on violations of the quarantine protocols that are going viral in the social media," it added.

Caramoan will be replaced by Police Lt. Col. Alex Daniel, according to JTF COVID Shield.

Hundreds of people flocked to Manila Bay on Sunday morning to get a glimpse of the artificial white sand, made of crushed dolomite rocks, dumped in the area as part of the beach nourishment project.

-- With reports from **Jekki Pascual and Michael Delizo, ABS-CBN News**



'White sand' sa Manila Bay dinumog

By [Doris Franche](#), [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- September 21, 2020 - 12:00am



Alas-5:30 pa lamang ng madaling araw kahapon nang mag-umpisang bumigat ang daloy ng trapiko sa lugar dahil sa pagdating ng daan-daang tao na nais masilayan ang kontrobersyal na 'white sands' na umano'y maaaring makatulong para sa 'mental health' ng publiko ngayong pandemya.

STAR/ File

Social distancing 'di nasunod

MANILA, Philippines — Muling dinagsa ng publiko ang 'Manila Bay Sand' sa ikalawa at huling araw ng pagpapakita nito sa publiko nitong Linggo bago muling isara at ipagpatuloy ang pagdebelop nito.

Alas-5:30 pa lamang ng madaling araw kahapon nang mag-umpisang bumigat ang daloy ng trapiko sa lugar dahil sa pagdating ng daan-daang tao na nais masilayan ang kontrobersyal na 'white sands' na umano'y maaaring makatulong para sa 'mental health' ng publiko ngayong pandemya.

Ngunit dahil sa rami ng tao, hindi na naipatupad ang isang metrong physical distancing nang magsiksikan ang mga tao sa overpass at entrada ng Manila Bay Sand dahil hanggang 50-70 tao lamang ang pinapapasok kada 3-5 minuto.

Bunsod nito, sinibak ni PNP chief, Gen. Camilo Cascolan sa pwesto ang hepe ng Ermita Police Station Commander Col. Ariel Caramoan.

Ang administrative relieve ni Caramoan ay bunsod na rin sa rekomendasyon ni P/Lt Gen Guillermo Eleazar, Joint task Force COVID Shields commander.

Nabatid na bago pa man ihudyat ang pagbubukas ng white sand area sa bahagi ng Manila Bay ay mahigpit na ang tagubilin ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno na observe social distancing at implement the minimum health requirement.



Nabatid na kahit ipinagbabawal ang paglabas ng mga nasa edad 21-pababa, ilan sa mga magulang na nagtungo sa white sand ay may bitbit na mga anak.

Isang grupo rin ng senior citizen ang dumating at makaraan ang negosasyon ay pinayagan din kinalaunan na makapasok.

Sa ilalim ng panuntunan ng Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Infectious and Emerging Diseases (IATF), ipinagbabawal ang paglabas ng mga senior citizen ngayong pandemya kung hindi 'essential' ang dahilan nito.

Dumating kinalaunan ang mga tauhan ng Manila Police District (MPD) na siyang namahala sa mga tao. Naging mahigpit din ang pagsusuot ng facemask sa lahat ng dumating sa lugar.

Sa kabila ng kaguluhan, napagmasdan naman ang pagdating ng mga 'migratory birds' na 'egrets' sa white sand beach.

Nanawagan naman si Mayor Isko na dumarayo sa Maynila na panatilihin ang kalinisan ng lugar upang hindi na makadagdag sa ginagawang regular na paglilinis.

Posible na ipasara muna ang nasabing lugar para maiwasan na muling malabag ang social distancing lalo na at nasa General Community Quarantine pa ang siyudad at hindi pa rin ito pinapayagan ng Tourism.



PAGDAGSA SA MANILA BAY TINAWAG NA MASSACRE NG ILANG NETIZENS

written by Judith Estrada-Larino September 20, 2020



Tinawag na mass suicide o massacre ng ilang netizens ang pagdagsa ng mga mamamayan sa Manila Bay White Sand sa Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila gitna na rin ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Ito ay matapos hindi na maipatupad ang social distancing dahil sa pagdagsa ng mga nais ma “feel” ang mala-Boracay daw na itsura ng bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Bukod dito nakita rin sa mga kumalat na video ang ilang batang isinama pa sa pagsilay sa white sand na paglabag sa quarantine protocol dahil hindi pa uubrang lumabas o gumala ang ang 21 anyos pababa.

Naalarma ang ilang netizen na mabalewala ang pagsusumikap ng department of health at local government unit na mapababa ang kaso ng COVID-19 dahil sa pagdagsa ng mga tao sa manila bay.

Kaugnay nito sinibak ang hepe ng Ermita Police Station na nakakasakop sa manila bay area matapos mabigong maipatupad ang physical distancing sa mga excited na masilayan ang white sand dito.

Sinabi ni PNP Joint Task Force COVID Shield Commander Lt. General Guillermo Eleazar na dapat ay nag plano si Lt. Colonel Ariel Caramoan para mahigpit na maipatupad ang security at health safety measures dahil sa inaasahang pagdagsa ng mga taong nais tumuntong sa pinagandang Manila Bay.



Manila Bay 'white sand' takaw COVID

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 20, 2020

NEWS



Pinuna ng ilang netizen kung dapat bang tawagin na isang "mass suicide" o "massacre" ang pagdagsa ng mga mamamayan sa Manila Bay 'white sands' kahapon ng umaga sa Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila sa harap ng COVID19 pandemic.

Wala umano kasing naipatupad na social distancing at kapuna- puna rin na marami ang mga senior citizen at ang ilan netizen ay may kasama pang mga bata.

Nagpahayag ng pagkaalarma ang ilang netizen na mabalewala ang pagsusumikap ng Department of Health (DOH) at Local Government Units (LGUs) na mapababa ang COVID19 dahil sa pagdagsa ng mga tao sa Manila Bay para makita at maapakan ang dolomite white sand.

Wala rin nagawa ang Manila Police District (MPD) sa panumuno ni Police Brigadier Gen Rolando Miranda para maiwasan ang pagdidikit- dikit ng mga nakapilang mga usyusero. Sa halip nakitang may picture si Miranda may back ground nang maraming tao.

Gayundin ay walang nagawa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources(DENR) marshall para maipatupad ang social distancing sa mga nagpuntang mamamayan.



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Maging si Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez ay nakunsumi sa kumpulan ng tao sa Manila Bay.

Sa tweet ni Jimenez, nagpatama ito sa mga nais mag-postpone ng voters registration dahil sa mass gathering, ngunit lumusot ang pagdagsa ng tao sa Manila Bay.

Maging si Vice President Leni Robredo ay nabahala sa dami ng mga tao na nagtutungo sa tinaguriang

“white sands” sa Manila Bay.

 Google Responsive Inside Article Banner

Ayon sa pangalawang pangulo, bagaman natutuwa siya na marami ang nag-aappreciate sa pagbabago sa Manila Bay, nababahala naman siya sa dikit-dikit na mga tao na nagtutungo dito.

Sa kanyang programa sa radyo, sinabi ni Robredo na natakot siya para sa mga nagtungo sa “white sands.” (Juliet de Loza-Cudia /Kiko Cueto)



Manila Bay Sands, dinumog, dedma na sa social distancing

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | September 20, 2020



Umabot na ang pila hanggang Magsaysay Center malapit sa Rajah Sulayman sa dalawang araw nang nagbukas ang Manila Bay. Photo: Patrick de Jesus/PTV

Dinagsa ng mga tao ang kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard madaling-araw pa lamang ngayong Linggo para maranasan ang paglalakad sa Manila Bay Sands sa Baywalk, Manila.

Karamihan sa kanila ay dumating doon ng alas-5:30 ng umaga kahit pa magbubukas ito ng alas-6 ng umaga.

Pinapayagang makapasok sa lugar ng 20 hanggang 30 katao lamang. Gayunman, hindi nasusunod ang one-meter social distancing sa lugar dahil sa dikit-dikit ang gustong pumasok sa tinaguriang 'white sand bay'.

Matindi na rin ang traffic sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard dahil sa mga motoristang nakikiusyoso na dumaraan.

Sa ngayon, umabot na ang pila hanggang Magsaysay Center malapit sa Rajah Sulayman at posibleng humaba pa ito. Samantala, dalawang araw nang nagbukas ang Manila Bay Sands subali't walang panuntunang ipinatutupad na safety at health protocol sa lugar tulad ng one-meter physical distancing, pag-fill up ng impormasyon para sa contact tracing at hand disinfection bago makapasok sa lugar.

Panawagan ng mga naroroon, aksiyunan ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Manila City government at iba pang ahensiya ng pamahalaan dahil posibleng pagsimulan ng pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/manila-bay-sands-dinumog-dedma-na-sa-social-distancing>



'White sand' baywalk sa Manila Bay, muling dinumog

Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 20 2020 10:29 AM | Updated as of Sep 20 2020 06:01 PM



Hindi nasunod ang physical distancing sa entrada ng Manila Baywalk. Hanggang 6pm ngayong Linggo bukas ang artificial white sand baywalk para sa publiko. *Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News*

Muling dinumog ngayong Linggo ang "white sand beach" sa Manila Bay.

Mahaba ang pila at dikit-dikit ang mga tao sa entrada ng ipinagmamalaki at kontrobersiyal na baywalk, na nilagyan ng dinurog na dolomite rock bilang artificial white sand.

Dahil sa kapal ng tao, nawala na ang physical distancing at umabot pa ang pila sa footbridge at kalsada.

Marami rin sa mga namasyal ang walang suot na face shield at iyong iba'y nakababa pa ang face mask, sa kabila ng mga paalala sa publiko ukol sa pagsunod sa health protocols.

Dumating din mismo si Manila Police District chief Brig. Gen. Rolando Miranda para tumulong sa pag-aayos ng situwasyon.

Nasa 70 tao lang ang puwedeng pumasok sa beach pero walang contact tracing form na binibigay.

Tatlo hanggang 5 minuto lang bawat batch ang oras na maaaring mamasyal o magpa-picture.

Huling araw na ngayong Linggo na bukas sa publiko ang beach dahil sarado na ulit ito sa Lunes para ituloy ang paglatag ng dolomite sa 500 metro na bahagi ng baywalk.

Samantala, kinumpirma ng Joint Task Force COVID Shield na tinanggal ng Philippine National Police si Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan bilang hepe ng Ermita Police Station.

Ang naturang istasyon ang may sakop sa baywalk.

Tinanggal si Caramoan ay dahil hindi umano naipatupad nang maayos ang health protocols sa baywalk.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/20/20/white-sand-baywalk-sa-maynila-bay-dinumog>



WHITE SAND AREA SA MANILA BAY DINAGSA

written by **Jaymark Dagala** September 20, 2020



Dinagsa ng publiko ang kontrobersyal na white sand area ng Manila Bay ngayong araw.

Ito'y makaraang buksan ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kaalinsabay ng pagdiriwang ng International Coastal Cleanup Week.

Halos hindi mahulugang karayom ang pila ng mga nagnanais kumuha ng souvenir mula sa magandang tanawing hatid ng white sand area .

Gayunman, hindi na nasusunod ang physical distancing dulot na rin ng posibleng banta ng coronwavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Hanggang ngayong araw na lamang bukas ang bahaging iyon ng Manila Bay at muli itong isasara para ipagpatuloy ang ginagawang pagtatambak ng dinurog na dolomite sand sa nalalabing bahagi ng pampang.



LOOK: #ManilaBayChallenge trends as 'white sand beach' draws crowd

INQUIRER.net / 09:51 PM September 20, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila Bay's "white sand" beach drew a crowd along Roxas Boulevard in Manila over the weekend after it was opened for visitors who endured one of the world's longest coronavirus lockdowns.

Photos and videos that circulated on social media showed visitors hoping to experience how it feels to walk on the "white sand" beach while standing close to each other despite the physical distancing rule being imposed to contain the further spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which has already sicked over 286,000 people nationwide.

The incident once again stimulated the humor of netizens and quickly gave birth to a number of witty memes about the #ManilaBayChallenge which has been a viral topic on social media since Sunday afternoon.

Here are some of them:





- Headline
- Editorial
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The Manila Bay “white sand beach” was temporarily opened to the public on Saturday and was again opened from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, following its makeover that involved the dumping of crushed dolomite to form the “white sand.” It did not take long for the “white sand” beach project to reap the ire of environmental experts over its potentially harmful impact.



Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1337741/look-manilabaychallenge-trends-as-white-sand-beach-draws-crowd?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2pbM4stplGYqnQOFmblQ3h-1v8YJjNs6DNdGk3eX0-pUJUf0gyOzPzvLE#Echobox=1600610563



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Daily Tribune

16h · 🌐



WHO CARES ABOUT PHYSICAL DISTANCING?

People crowd the newly-rehabilitated portion of Manila Bay on Sunday, 20 September, to get a glimpse and feel of the artificial white sand beach. | 📷: Bob Dungo Jr. #ManilaBay



👍 😂 🍷 541

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INQUIRER.net

15h · 🌐

TINGNAN: Sa mga larawang kuha ng MPD kaninang 7:20 ng umaga, makikitang dagsa pa rin ang mga taong nais makita ang artificial white sand sa isang parte ng Manila Bay.

Sa kabilang banda, wala pang naiulat na pag-aresto dahil sa posibleng paglabag sa quarantine protocols. | via Tetch Torres- Tupas, INQUIRER.net



👍👎👏 2.7K

1.1K Comments 379 Shares



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...

LOOK: Marami ang nagtungo sa Manila Bay nitong Linggo ng umaga upang masaksihan ang artificial white sand na itinambak sa isang bahagi ng dalampasigan nito.

Nahirapan ang mga awtoridad na mapanatili ang physical distancing dahil sa dami ng tao. Nagdulot din ito ng mabigat na daloy ng trapiko sa Roxas Boulevard.

(Photos courtesy of Danny Pata, GMA News Online)

BASA HIN: <https://bit.ly/3mBUVgP>



👍 🤔 😬 Arvin Royo and 10K others

3.3K Comments 1.8K Shares



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LOOK: Throngs of people have gathered along Roxas Boulevard on Sunday, September 20, for a chance to view the artificial Manila bay white sand that has been opened to the public this weekend from 6am to 6pm. :Marianne Bermudez/Philippine Daily Inquirer



Dexter Arboladora and 9.5K others

3.2K Comments 3.1K Shares



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LOOK: Nagkumpulan sa footbridge ang ilang gustong makita ang artificial white sand beach ng Manila Bay. Hindi na raw kasi makapasok sa beach ang ilan sa kanila dahil sa haba ng pila. | via Jonathan Andal, GMA News

BASAHI: <https://bit.ly/3mBUVgP>



👍👎👏 Cha Bernabe, RC Garcia and 22K others

7K Comments 4.8K Shares



TV Patrol

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Ito ang sitwasyon malapit sa "white sand beach" sa Manila Bay ngayong Linggo ng umaga. Binuksan ulit sa publiko ang bahagi ng baywalk na nilagyan ng dinurog na dolomite. Hanggang 6 p.m. ito bukas ngayong araw. **Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News**



Arvin Royo and 16K others

6.5K Comments 2.1K Shares



Duterte Beach? Google Maps tag appears amid 'white sand' mess

By: [Dexter Cabalza](#), [Patricia Denise M. Chiu](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:42 AM September 21, 2020



PREVIEW Visitors enjoy the “white sand”—actually crushed dolomite—beach on the Manila Bay shore after it was opened to the public for one day on Sunday.—MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

MANILA, Philippines — Is “Duterte Beach” a thing now? It would seem so, if Google Maps is to be believed.

On Saturday, Google Maps was displaying a stretch of the Manila Bay shore as “Duterte Beach.” The pin was geotagged to the Ermita Center Building, helpfully stating that the beach is a “playground.” It has since been edited to read as “Dolomite Beach.”

But who put it there? And why?

Mikael Angelo Francisco, a science communicator and the editor in chief of local science blog Flipscience, surmised that a “naughty” local guide could have uploaded the tag.

Francisco explained that tags on Google Maps, especially searchable ones, are mostly crowdsourced from “local guides,” or Google users who are knowledgeable of local areas. Francisco, who himself has uploaded tags and edited existing ones, said that based on experience, Google does not individually check tags or pins on Google Maps.

“As far as I know Google doesn’t really check it themselves, they don’t have a team that approves it or anything, but if a local guide has enough upvotes which makes him credible enough, the tag appears,” Francisco said, explaining that Google used to have a “mapmaker feature” but that has since been discontinued.

Google Map Maker was a Google-owned map editing service. With Map Maker, user contributions used to increase map quality, and changes to Google Map Maker were intended to appear on Google Maps only after sufficient review by Google moderators, its website said.

But in 2017, Google retired Map Maker and merged it with Google Maps.

And Duterte Beach? As of Saturday afternoon, it had a mere 2.4 star rating, with some commenting that it is a “waste of money and resources.”



But curious Filipinos and a handful of foreign vloggers flocked to Manila Bay on Sunday to see the artificial white sand overlaid on a stretch of the shore as part of the government's efforts to "beautify" the polluted body of water.

Photos showed crowds, while wearing face masks, were not following the 1-meter physical distancing rule, despite the presence of police and marshals.

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1337783/duterte-beach-google-maps-tag-appears-amid-white-sand-mess?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR00RA4MrF1NVOOMHb6ngAiwUnjXhe6reNlwfN2h-jL9V9UsPhDo1dv6yIc#Echobox=1600641885



A white sand beach in Manila Bay?

By: [Gerald M. Nicolas](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:10 AM September 20, 2020

Who asked for a white sand beach in Manila Bay? Definitely not the 15,000 or so families languishing in poverty, hunger, and joblessness in Baseco, the biggest coastal informal settlement in Manila. Of course, the truckloads of crushed dolomite boulders that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) allowed to be extracted from Cebu were not dumped near their community which is also along the bay, but in front of the 500-meter long seaside sunset viewing spot along Roxas Boulevard.

The disbelief among environmental advocates, marine ecology experts, and fisherfolk leaders upon learning about what one of them called a “completely absurd” government project was to be expected. The DENR admitted that the “white sand” will not help improve the water quality of Manila Bay (which should be the point of rehabilitation), which makes the real objective of filling a portion of the baywalk puzzling.

Our fellow citizens in Baseco are asking from the government the same essential things needed by the 7 million workers who lost their jobs and the 5 million Filipinos who experienced involuntary hunger the past few months because of community lockdowns. Daily wage workers appeal for government help as they can't have jobs done from home. The meager “ayuda” that families received has long dried up. Cases of COVID-19 in Baseco are said to be on the rise, yet many are suffering from other illnesses due to poor access to water and sanitation. Unfortunately, not a bucket of white sand can provide cash or food to a family in Baseco.

Residents of the place have more specific, long-term demands. For more than two decades, they have been asking government for more secure land tenure that will give them freedom from threats of eviction and demolition. In 2002, then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared Baseco a socialized housing site. As with many presidential land proclamations, the implementing guidelines that would facilitate the granting of plots to qualified beneficiaries have not been issued, yet government has continued to “develop” the area by reclaiming it with soil, debris, and trash. The expanded Baseco is now home to thousands of families, their members making up the city's workforce. Over time, those who have the means were able to build sturdier houses and add floors, but many are still living in makeshift structures. Gawad Kalinga and Habitat for Humanity have built housing projects, but beneficiaries were not granted land titles in the absence of a legal basis.

Fully aware that Baseco is a poorly reclaimed area that might sink due to liquefaction or get ravaged by tsunami if a major earthquake hits close by, community organizations have been urging the government to reinforce and stabilize the landfill and help them improve their housing structures. They know that land reclamation as massive as Baseco is harmful to the environment, but under present conditions, relocating thousands of families to other places will be a lot costlier if provisions for basic and social services are accounted for. Some have prepared “people's plans” in a collective effort to make their community livable. All they ask from government is support for their community plans in the form of “engineering interventions.”



The folly of tampering with nature

By [Ellen Tordesillas](#) -September 21, 2020



'One does not tamper with God's timeline and design without suffering the dangers of such hubris.'

PICTURES indeed speak a thousand words.

The government opened its showcase Manila Bay white beach last Saturday to impress the public with the beautification that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had done to the historic harbor.

What we saw were hypocrisy and inconsistency.

The comparison of critics of the DENR's dumping of dolomite sand on the shores of Manila Bay to a woman who put on make-up without washing her face was most apt with photos of government personnel gathering trash along the bay, next to the white sand-covered area. They even picked up some dead fish and threw them back to the sea. The clean-up activity was to mark International Coastal Cleanup Day.

In an ABS-CBN's pictorial, there was a sign "Observe social distancing" next to the DPWD-SMDEO traffic blocker and in the background were people standing close to each other.

Defenders of the controversial white beach on Manila Bay were ecstatic about the presence of egrets, mistakenly concluding that they are signs of a clean environment.

Wilfrido Guerrero, in a Facebook comment, said, "The presence of those birds is not necessarily a sign that the waters are clean. Those birds have become scavengers."

There was also a "No swimming" warning not far from the white sand beach, which is an admission that the waters of Manila Bay are unhealthy for such exercise.

A discerning Facebook post by Gerone Jan Baladhay, whose profile says he was formerly editor-in-chief of Fig Magazine, showed contrasting photos of a flock of egrets on Manila Bay last Saturday and an excavated mountain with the caption reminding people that the beautification of that small stretch of Metro Manila had caused the destruction of a mountain from where the crushed dolomite came from.

"You like the view but you forget the bigger picture," Baladhay said.



The dumping of the dolomite sand from Cebu on the shores of Manila Bay, more than five hundred kilometers away from each other, reminds me of a memorable scene from the movie, Jurassic Park, when the scientist and mathematician Dr. Ian Malcolm played by Jeff Goldblum saw the dinosaur theme park that the businessman John Hammond had created.

Malcolm warned Hammond about the danger of tampering with God's creation. God created dinosaurs to roam the world millions of years ago. They have become extinct. One does not tamper with God's timeline and design without suffering the dangers of such hubris. "The lack of humility before nature being displayed here staggers me," Malcolm said. "Don't you see the danger, John, inherent in what you're doing here?"

That's the question that should be asked the people who destroyed the dolomite mountains in Cebu to make the beach of Manila white.

Email: ellentordesillas@gmail.com



The DENR said engineering interventions will be in place to prevent the artificial white sand from getting washed away by storms and high tide. The cost of these interventions will be on top of the P349 million that went into what the DENR calls a “beach nourishment” project. But if the government can spend for the upkeep and protection of pulverized rocks, shouldn’t it shift its gaze to the far more serious needs of people striving hard to improve their lives? Shouldn’t it nourish people instead?

* * *

Recommended by

Gerald M. Nicolas is project officer of the John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues.



Gov't seeks P152-B for climate change, disaster risk reduction

September 20, 2020, 2:48 pm



MANILA – The government is seeking a PHP152.35 billion budget for the implementation of its convergence program on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction next year.

This was according to the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a press release Sunday, the Cabinet cluster said the Duterte administration has allotted PHP152.35 billion for the government's Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) under the 2021 National Expenditure Program it submitted to Congress.

The amount is roughly 30 percent higher than the PHP117 billion allocated for the program this year, it added.

The increase was due to alignment of programs and activities to the priority policies, strategies and projects of the Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan for the "new normal" in the CCAM-DDR sector.

DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change, Analiza Rebueta-Teh, said the proposed funding will be used to build resilient and sustainable communities as the country continues to deal with the coronavirus crisis.

"We are still in the midst of a health crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The country needs programs that will strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of its communities, especially in climate-vulnerable provinces and major urban centers," Rebueta-Teh said.

The RRP aims to increase the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities; ensure the adequate supply of clean air, water, and other natural resources; increase the resilience of critical infrastructures; and enhance knowledge, access to information and institutional capacities of communities.

For next year, the RRP will prioritize 14 climate-vulnerable provinces, which vary in risk factors of rise in sea levels, extreme rainfall and heating events, increased ocean temperature and disturbed natural resources supply.

The provinces are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat.

The program also covers four major urban centers -- Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo and Metro Davao.

Earlier, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said addressing climate change remains a top priority for the government even if it is currently preoccupied on controlling the spread of Covid-19.



Cimatu said the climate emergency is like the Covid-19 crisis “just in slow motion and much graver” for it potentially poses existential risks for future generations.

“The government -- through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR -- will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce the long term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” Cimatu said.

Aside from DENR, other members of the Cabinet Cluster included in the proposed budgetary proposal, are the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense, the Department of Science and Technology, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Department of Energy, the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Public Works and Highways. **(DENR PR)**



Gov't seeks budget hike for climate change programs

Published September 20, 2020, 6:49 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The government is seeking a 30-percent hike in its budget to implement the convergence program on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in 2021, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
(MANILA BULLETIN)

The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), chaired by the DENR, said the Duterte administration submitted its proposal to Congress for the allotment of P152.35 billion for the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP).

The amount is roughly 30 percent higher than the P117 billion allocated for the program this year, it added.

The increase was due to alignment of programs and activities to the priority policies, strategies and projects of the Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan for the “new normal” in the CCAM-DDR sector.

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The program also covers four major urban centers—Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo and Metro Davao.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu earlier said addressing climate change remains a top priority of the government amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



Cimatu pointed out that climate emergency is “just in slow motion and much graver” than COVID-19 as it potentially poses existential risks for future generations.

“The government—through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR—will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce the long term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” he said.

Aside from DENR, other members of the Cabinet Cluster included in the proposed budgetary proposal, are the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense, Department of Science and Technology, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Energy, the Climate Change Commission, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Public Works and Highways.



Govt seeks P152-B fund for environment projects

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

September 21, 2020

The Duterte administration is seeking a budget of P152.35 billion to implement its convergence program on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction next year.

The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said the Duterte administration has allotted P152.35 billion for the government's Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) under the 2021 National Expenditure Program it submitted to Congress.

The amount is roughly 30-percent higher than the P117 billion allocated for the program this year, it added.

The increase in the budget request was due to the alignment of programs and activities to the priority policies, strategies and projects of the Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan for the "new normal" in the CCAM-DDR sector.

In a statement, DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Analiza Rebuelta-Teh said the proposed funding will be used to build resilient and sustainable communities as the country continue to deal with the coronavirus crisis.

"We are still in the midst of a health crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The country needs programs that will strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of its communities, especially in climate-vulnerable provinces and major urban centers," Rebuelta-Teh said.

The RRP has the following objectives: to increase the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities; to ensure the adequate supply of clean air, water, and other natural resources; to increase the resilience of critical infrastructures; and, to enhance knowledge, access to information and institutional capacities of communities.

For next year, the RRP will prioritize 14 climate-vulnerable provinces, which vary in risk factors of rising sea levels, extreme rainfall and heating events, increased ocean temperature and disturbed natural resources supply.

The provinces are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

The program also covers four major urban centers— Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo and Metro Davao.

The DENR has placed climate change a top priority for the government even if it is currently preoccupied on controlling the spread of Covid-19.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/21/govt-seeks-p152-b-fund-for-environment-projects/>



P152.35B for climate change, risk reduction sought

Published 2 hours ago on September 21, 2020 03:24 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



The government is seeking a P152.35 billion budget for the implementation of its convergence program on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction next year.

The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced this yesterday, said the Duterte administration has allotted such amount for the government's Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) under the 2021 National Expenditure Program it submitted to Congress.

The amount is roughly 30 percent higher than the P117 billion allocated for the program this year, it added.

The increase was due to alignment of programs and activities to the priority policies, strategies and projects of the Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan for the "new normal" in the CCAM-DDR sector.

DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change, Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, said the proposed funding will be used to build resilient and sustainable communities as the country continues to deal with the coronavirus crisis.

"We are still in the midst of a health crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The country needs programs that will strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of its communities, especially in climate-vulnerable provinces and major urban centers," Rebuelta-Teh said.

The RRP aims to increase the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities; ensure the adequate supply of clean air, water, and other natural resources; increase the resilience of critical infrastructures; and enhance knowledge, access to information and institutional capacities of communities.

Priority

For next year, the RRP will prioritize 14 climate-vulnerable provinces, which vary in risk factors of rise in sea levels, extreme rainfall and heating events, increased ocean temperature and disturbed natural resources supply.

The provinces are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.



The program also covers four major urban centers — Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo and Metro Davao.

Earlier, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said addressing climate change remains a top priority for the government even if it is currently preoccupied on controlling the spread of Covid-19.

Cimatu said the climate emergency is like the Covid-19 crisis “just in slow motion and much graver” for it potentially poses existential risks for future generations.

“The government — through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR — will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce the long-term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change,” Cimatu said.

Aside from DENR, other members of the Cabinet Cluster included in the proposed budgetary proposal, are the Departments of Social Welfare and Development, Agrarian Reform, Interior and Local Government, National Defense-Office of Civil Defense, Science and Technology, Energy, Agriculture, and Public Works and Highways, the Climate Change Commission and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/21/p152-35b-for-climate-change-risk-reduction-sought/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=p152-35b-for-climate-change-risk-reduction-sought



Gov't seeks P152-B budget for climate change program

posted September 20, 2020 at 11:30 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The government wants a P152.35-billion budget for the implementation of its convergence program on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in 2021, according to Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction, chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Cabinet cluster said the Duterte administration has allotted P152.35 billion for the government's risk resiliency program under the 2021 National Expenditure Program it submitted to the House of Representatives.

The amount is roughly 30 percent higher than the P117 billion allocated for the program this year.

The increase was due to alignment of programs and activities to the priority policies, strategies and projects of the Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan for the new normal in the CCAM-DDR sector.

Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Analiza Rebuelta-Teh said the proposed funding would be used to build resilient and sustainable communities as the country continues to deal with the coronavirus disease 2019 crisis.

"We are still in the midst of a health crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The country needs programs that will strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of its communities, especially in climate-vulnerable provinces and major urban centers," she said.

The risk resiliency program seeks to increase the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities; ensure the adequate supply of clean air, water, and other natural resources; increase the resilience of critical infrastructure, and enhance knowledge, access to information and institutional capacities of communities.

The provinces involved are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat.

The program also covers four major urban centers — Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo and Metro Davao.

"The government—through the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR—will prioritize actions and investments that will reduce the long term health impacts and increase our resilience and adaptive capacity to both the coronavirus pandemic and climate change," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.



GOBYERNO MAGLALAN NG MAS MALAKING PONDO SA MGA PROGRAMA NA NAKATUON SA PAGBABAGO NG KLIMA, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

written by [Gilbert Perdez](#) September 20, 2020



Mas paiging pa ng pamahalaan ang mga programa na nakatuon sa pagbabago ng klima at disaster risk reduction sa susunod na taon.

Katunayan, ayon sa Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction o CCAM-DRR na pinamumunuan ng DENR, maglalaan ng mas malaking pondo ang gobyerno para rito.

Ayon sa Cabinet cluster, tinatayang 152.35 billion pesos ang ibubuhos na pondo ng administrasyon para sa Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) batay na rin sa isinumite nitong 2021 National Expenditure Program sa Kongreso.

Source: <http://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/gobyerno-maglalaan-ng-mas-malaking-pondo-sa-mga-programa-na-nakatuon-sa-pagbabago-ng-klima-disaster-risk-reduction/>



Gobyerno nais maglaan ng P152-B budget para sa climate, disaster risk reduction sa 2021



September 20, 2020 @ 6:01 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Maglalaan ang gobyerno ng P152.35 billion budget para sa implementasyon ng convergence program sa climate change adaptation at disaster risk reduction sa susunod na taon para mapaunlad ito.

Nabatid ito ay ayon sa Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) na pinamumunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon sa cabinet cluster na ang Duterte administration ay naglaan ng P152.35 billion para sa Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng 2021 National Expenditure Program na isinumite sa kongreso.

Ang halagang ito ay mas mataas ng 30 porsyento sa P117 billion na inilaan para sa programa ngayong taon.

Nabatid sa DENR ang pagtaas ay dahil na rin sa pag-align ng mga programa at aktibidad para sa mga priority policy, strategy at proyekto ng Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan para sa “new normal” ng CCAM-DDR sector.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information System and Climate Change Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, ang panukalang pondo ay gagamitin sa pagpapatayo ng resilient at sustainable communities habang ang bansa ay dumadaan sa coronavirus crisis.

“We are still in the midst of a health crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The country needs programs that will strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of its communities, especially in climate-vulnerable provinces and major urban centers,” sabi pa ni Rebuelta-Teh.

Layunin ng RRP na maitaas ang antas ng adaptive capacities ng vulnerable na komunidad; matiyak ang sapat na suplay ng hangin, tubig at iba pang likas yaman; maiangat ang katatagan ng critical infrastructures; at maitaas ang kaalaman sa information at institutional capacities ng mga komunidad.

Para sa susunod na taon, prayoridad ng RRP ang 14 climate-vulnerable provinces na nanganganib sa pagtaas ng sea levels, malalakas ng pag-ulan, mainit na panahon at pagtaas ng ocean temperature na nakapipinsala sa resources supply.



Kabilang sa mga probinsiyang ito ang Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Sarangain, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato at Sultan Kudarat.

Kasama rin sa programa ang apat na major urban centers na Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo at Metro Davao.

Ayon naman kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pagtugon sa climate change ay nananatiling isang pangunahing prayoridad ng gobyerno kahit na abala ang pamahalaan sa pagkontrol ng pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu, ang climate emergence ay katulad rin ng COVID-19 crisis na dahan-dahan at lubhang mapanganib dahil Malaki ang banta nito sa kinabukasan ng susunod na henerasyon. *Santi Celario*



Gobyerno, naglaan ng P152.35-B pondo para sa climate change adaptation at disaster risk reduction

Balita

By Ulat ng Bandera at Radyo Inquirer September 20, 2020 - 04:19 PM

Maglalaan ang pamahalaan ng P152.35 bilyong budget para sa implementasyon ng convergence program sa climate change adaptation at disaster risk reduction sa susunod na taon.

Ito ay ayon sa Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) na pinamumunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sabi pa ng cabinet cluster na ang Duterte administration ay naglaan ng P152.35 billion para sa Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng 2021 National Expenditure Program na isinumite sa Kongreso.

Nabatid na ang hinihirit na pondo ay mas mataas ng 30 porsyento sa P117 bilyong inilaan para sa programa sa taong 2020.

Ayon sa Cabinet cluster, kaya itinaas ang pondo dahil na rin sa pag-align ng mga programa at aktibidad para sa mga priority policy, strategy at proyekto ng Inter-Agency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan para sa “new normal” ng CCAM-DRR sector.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information System and Climate Change Analiza Rebueta-Teh, ang panukalang pondo ay gagamitin sa pagpapatayo ng resilient at sustainable communities habang ang bansa ay dumadaan sa Coronavirus crisis.

“We are still in the midst of a health crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The country needs programs that will strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of its communities, especially in climate-vulnerable provinces and major urban centers,” sabi pa ni Rebueta-Teh.

Source: https://bandera.inquirer.net/265047/gobyerno-naglaan-ng-p152-35-b-pondo-para-sa-climate-change-adaptation-at-disaster-risk-reduction?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0C0sEi4zX71ET7kToouUC-eP-e4zjlaoQAOp-CxVTBkU6i7xuvJwHgVsc#Echobox=1600602343



Manila Water builds 4th STP in Rizal

By ... -September 21, 202

Manila Water Co. Inc. signed an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the city government of Antipolo City last week for the construction of the Hinulugang Taktak sewage treatment plant (STP).

The facility will be comprised of a 16-million liter per day (MLD) STP. It involves laying of approximately 6 kilometers of sewer network lines to ensure wastewater from the community is cleaned before discharge to the Hinulugang Taktak falls.

Once completed, the total wastewater treatment capacity of Manila Water will be increased to 426 MLD.

The Hinulugang Taktak STP is the fifth and largest wastewater treatment facility that Manila Water has built in Rizal, in addition to the existing 41 wastewater treatment facilities that the company has built across the east zone.



Sewage plant

posted September 20, 2020 at 09:14 pm



Manila Water Co. Inc. holds a ceremonial signing of the usufruct agreement to set the ball rolling for the construction of the Hinulugang Taktak Sewage Treatment Plant in Antipolo City. Leading the signing ceremony are (from left) Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Manila Water president and chief executive Jose Rene Almendras, Antipolo City Mayor Andrea Ynares and Manila Water chief operating officer Abelardo Basilio. The project involves the construction of a 16-million liter per day STP and laying of six kilometers of sewer network lines. The sewerage system will help ensure wastewater from the community is cleaned before it is discharged to the Hinulugang Taktak Falls.



DENR warns on illegal harvesting of forest plant species

Published September 20, 2020, 7:18 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Orchids, tree ferns, and molave bonsai, which are very popular garden and house plant species in the Philippines, are among the 10 commonly poached threatened plants in the country, according to a list released by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



(Photo via Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)

DENR regional offices in Mindanao have been on the lookout for poachers of these plant species taking advantage of the popularity of gardening among Filipinos cooped up at home because of the pandemic.

Aside from orchids (Dendrobiums, Hoyas, Lady slippers, Phalaenopsis, Waling-waling), tree ferns, and molave bonsai, the other threatened plants include Cycad, Medinilla, Alocacia, Begonia, Zingiber or wild ginger, and Agarwood, according to the list recently released by DENR-Soccskargen.

DENR-Zamboanga Peninsula also released a similar list as it reminded the public that harvesting of these plants is prohibited by law.

“The collection of wild flora directly from the forest, especially those considered as threatened species, without permit is prohibited under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act,” DENR-Zamboanga Peninsula Executive Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez said.

Plant poachers caught gathering wild plants in the forest without a permit can be charged under this law, she warned.

The DENR-Zamboanga Peninsula advised the public to secure proper permits in the collection and trade of plant species.

Citing the Department Administrative Order No. 2017- 11, Rodriguez said “collection and trade of threatened species are prohibited unless such acts are covered under a permit issued by the DENR and the species are found in areas under a valid tenure instrument or a parcel of land covered by a title under the Torrens System.”



“Furthermore, collection of plant species within Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) sites are strictly for research purposes and would require Gratuitous Permits issued by the DENR,” Rodriguez pointed out.

A complete list of threatened species can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/DENRThreatenedPHPlants>.

If collected wild plants are found to be classified as critically endangered species, violators can face imprisonment from six to 12 years and a fine of P100,000 to P1,000,000 as specified under the law.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/20/denr-warns-on-illegal-harvesting-of-forest-plant-species/?fbclid=IwAR0PaiSOGvxWFyZr5fp3kO3ZoDRkkQNc900GOJgWmdz7IwhksA3w5qoROiE>



2K bamboo itinanim sa kabundukan sa Isabela



September 20, 2020 @ 9:49 AM 21 hours ago

Isabela – Umaabot sa dalawang libong kawayan ang itinanim ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office o PENRO Isabela.

Isinagawa ng PENRO Isabela ang pagtatanim ng punlang kawayan sa halos sampung ektarya ng lupa kasabay ng paggunita sa World Bamboo Day.

Ayon kay PENRO Marlon Agnar, isinagawa ang pagtatanim ng mga kawayan sa bulubundukin bahagi ng Barangay Batong Labang, Ilagan City, Isabela.

Kasama nila sa pagtatanim ang mga people's organization, CENRO Naguilian at ibang kawani ng PENRO Isabela gayundin ang mga opisyal ng naturang barangay.

Nasa dalawang libo ang kanilang itinanim dahil may isang libo na punla at nasa isang libo rin na cuttings.

Kung saan sa bawat ektarya ng lupa ay 204 ang maitatanim.

Mahalaga ang pagtatanim ng kawayan dahil marami itong pwedeng panggagamitan na maging alternatibo sa kahoy o bamboo craft. **Rey Velasco**



Mindoro rangers, wardens risk all to protect tamaraws from poachers amid pandemic

By: [Cody Cepeda](#) - [@CCepedaINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:18 AM September 20, 2020

“Nagsobra po kami sa tiwala.”

There was a despondent air about Geronimo Barcena while recalling the encounter he and his fellow rangers had with tamaraw poachers in Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park, Occidental Mindoro, last August.

The park had been closed to visitors since the community quarantine took effect in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So when they heard a loud bang echo throughout the park around 6 p.m. of Aug. 26, they knew something was amiss.

Barcena and his companions monitored the poacher's movements as they waited for the other rangers to make the long, steep climb up the mountain. The next two days were spent patrolling the area in search of the offender that managed to weasel their way into the park.



(Aug. 4, 2020) A tamaraw at Mt. Iglit-Baco. Image: contributed by Gregg Yan via Philippine Daily Inquirer

The twelve rangers treaded the course of the poacher on Aug. 28 and came upon an area that had been used as a resting site. There, they found drops of dried blood.

They followed the trail of dried blood and a kilometer or so later, were able to spot the poachers. There were in fact three of them, but Barcena said one was able to flee. The other two poachers willingly gave up their shotguns and surrendered upon being surrounded by the rangers.

Discovered with them was a sack of tamaraw meat being sun-dried into tapa (buffalo bush jerky).

“Ang sabi nila pangkain, then yung iba po ay pangbenta,” said Barcena. “Tinanong po namin sila kung may mga tao sa likod nila na nag-utos, kung mayroon pang iba. Ayaw po nilang magsalita.”

(They told us it was for food, then some are for sale. We asked them if there are people behind them who gave orders, if there are others. They refused to speak.)

Unarmed in the face of poachers

Coming face to face with poachers is always a fraught experience for the tamaraw rangers and wardens of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Tamaraw Conservation Program and MIBNP's Protected Area Management Office.

Their lives are on the line. To go up the remote mountainous terrain to patrol for 22 days at a time means accepting the possibility of never making it down.



Whereas poachers brazenly arm themselves with guns, the rangers and wardens are not authorized to carry weapons and do not have handcuffs for restraining. They only use binoculars and a point-and-shoot camera in patrolling and monitoring 2,500 hectares of the 106,665-hectare park where the tamaraws are known to live.

Barcena, who has been a tamaraw ranger for the past 11 years, told INQUIRER.net that they rely on sheer number and strategy instead.

At the time, Barcena said they were ordered by the authorities to bring the poachers back along with their evidence. But the terrain of the park is rugged and the rangers, who have been patrolling 24/7 for the past couple of days, have gone weary.

As they were making their way down the mountain, the two poachers took their chance and broke into a run, disappearing into a jungle.

The problem, Barcena admitted, was they trusted too much.

“Okay naman kasi sila na sumusunod,” he said in disappointment. “Dalawa lang po ‘yung nahuli namin, nakatakbo pa. ‘Yun nga po ‘yung masakit.”

(It’s OK with those who follow. We only caught two and they even got away. That’s what hurts.)

Critically-endangered tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*)

At first look, the tamaraw or *Bubalus mindorensis* can be mistaken for a kalabaw — but it isn’t. It is smaller and has darker, thicker hide. Its horns are shorter and unlike the carabao’s that elegantly curve into a C-shape, theirs form a sharp, severe V. Tamaraws are also endemic, or can only be found, in the island of Mindoro and are considered critically-endangered, the last stage before extinction. Thus far, two tamaraws in the park have been killed since April.

Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park, an ASEAN Heritage site, is home to at least 480 of about 600 of the world’s last tamaraws. But the pandemic, which has upended the tourism activities of the park, has left 32 out of 35 wardens and one out of 24 rangers under threat of losing their jobs.

This lack of income security and implementation of physical distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 have at once limited their manpower on the ground and made the tamaraws more vulnerable to poachers.

Before the pandemic, the rangers and wardens were free to roam the sprawling park and were able to regularly consult with the indigenous Taw’buid, Buhid and Iraya Mangyan that live around the area and who would give them information about poachers. Several of the affected wardens of the park are members themselves of the three Mangyan ethnolinguistic groups.

Neil del Mundo, coordinator of the Tamaraw Conservation Program, surmised that poachers, who are usually lowlanders, have become more aggressive due to the limited patrolling in the park.

Del Mundo told INQUIRER.net that they are currently conducting an investigation due to the recent incident and will be turning it over to the authorities to file cases against the poachers, who the rangers were able to interrogate and identify.

Fundraiser and campaign

The United Nations Development Programme’s Biodiversity Finance Initiative launched the #TogetherforTamaraws campaign last July in a bid to help the tamaraw rangers and wardens in the state of precarity. As of Sept. 10, 81% of the campaign’s goal or \$18,619 out of \$22,980 (approximately P904,500 out of P1.1 million) has been reached.



Ann Dumaliang, managing trustee of the Masungi Georeserve and co-founder of the Philippine Parks and Biodiversity, decided to augment the fundraiser and organized the Tamaraw Society initiative to encourage 20 organizations to pledge P20,000 to the cause.

“Nakakatuwa yung Pilipino (Filipinos were amazing) in the last weeks we’ve been running the initiative. We really felt that there was bayanihan involved and people really understood their individual action means something and it should not be foregone,” she said.

Perhaps the only difficult thing in the beginning, she said, was getting people to understand just how urgent and impactful their contributions can be to the rangers and wardens.

“When you read through it online — it’s a fundraiser, yes — [but] actually every bit of that has an impact on the lives of people on the ground,” she said. “We already know right now, wala silang sweldo. Kapag wala silang sweldo ibig sabihin wala rin silang makakain. Wala silang makakain, wala silang mabibigay sa mga pamilya nila and they’re conserving a critically-endangered species who rely on their patrolling activities for survival. [It’s] very clear for us kung anong mangyayari kapag nawala yung mga tamaraw rangers natin at a time when environmental opportunism is very prevalent.”

(They got no salaries. When they got no salaries, that means they got nothing to give to their families... It’s very clear for us what would happen if our tamaraw rangers disappear at a time when environmental opportunism is very prevalent.)

Even before COVID-19, Dumaliang said they have been pushing for the welfare of the tamaraw rangers and wardens. The rangers only earn around P7,000 to P12,500 a month, while wardens are given an allowance of P3,000.

The rangers serve on contractual basis which get renewed every six months, whereas the wardens are not employees but volunteers to augment the patrolling of the rangers, according to del Mundo. They also do not have the usual benefits and bonuses that come in being regular employees, since the Tamaraw Conservation Program is not an established office by the DENR.

“They [are] pursuing all of this because of the passion that they have for conservation. For doing something as big as conserving a national heritage — something endemic to us, [one of] the largest mammals that we have in the country, not to mention protecting a key biodiversity area — we believe that they definitely deserve more than that,” said Dumaliang.

One need not look far to realize just how critical conservation is crucial to wildlife and the environment. The COVID-19 pandemic ultimately started because of the pillaging of habitats and the natural world, said Dumaliang.

And now, it seems the repercussions are catching up. Almost 900,000 people the world over have died due to COVID-19, as of the World Health Organization on Sept. 9.

“This zoonotic disease, it came because of continuous destruction, unnecessary interaction of wildlife with people, [because] they were driven out of their homes or their homes were destroyed and because of that, we have infectious diseases like this passed on to the population,” she said. “If there’s anything that this pandemic really puts into perspective, it’s how the health of people really relates to the environment they’re moving in.”

A wake up call

What now, then? According to Dumaliang, Filipinos must look at the state of the environment and respect the planetary boundaries of nature if they want to preserve and care for their health.



“We have this belief that we exist apart from nature... One of the best ways [perhaps] for us to overhaul all of this, create lasting change, is really to find a way to instill empathy towards our natural environment. It’s really the level of apathy that we’ve reached because of the lack of interaction that has led us to this point,” she said.

Because of COVID-19, she also hopes that efforts can be done to push for a green recovery. It cannot just be work contained and relegated to the hive mind of scientists or policymakers, but work which involves individual commitments that would eventually lead to collective action.

Meanwhile, Barcena said he would want to see the Tamaraw Conservation Program be recognized as an actual office by DENR, and not just a program. This would benefit him and his fellow wardens and rangers because they would no longer carry the uncertainty of losing their jobs anytime.

He also hoped that more support be given to the rangers and wardens during the pandemic. If not in manpower, then at least in the form of appropriate equipment or gadgets that would better help them track armed poachers without getting too close.

But whatever happens, Barcena and his fellow rangers and wardens are sure of one thing. They are prepared for anything, even if it means risking everything they’ve got, be it their lives.

“Andiyan ho ang puso ko sa tamaraw. Bakit? Kahit buhay ko po ang nakataya, gagawin ko kasi diyan po ako kumukuha ng ikinabubuhay ng pamilya ko saka ‘yan lang po ang dangal ng Pilipino, ba’t hindi pa natin alagaan?” said Barcena.

(My heart belongs to the tamaraw. Why? Even if my life is at stake, I will do it because that is where I derive my livelihood for my family. And the tamaraw is an honor of Filipinos. Why should we not protect it?)

“Sino pa bang mangangalaga sa kanila kundi kami? Sana po dumami pa ang magmamalasakit sa tamaraw. Yakapin po natin ang tamaraw,” he added. “Sana po ang mga hunters ay mamulat sa kahalagahan ng tamaraw upang hindi na sila papatay pang muli.”

(Who will take care of the tamaraws if not us? Hopefully there would be more people who would have concern for the tamaraw. Let us embrace the tamaraw. Hopefully the hunters would open their eyes on the value of the tamaraw, so they would never kill these creatures again.) **JB**



Saving Taal's island horses

By: [Maricar Cinco](#) - Reporter / [@maricarcincoINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM September 20, 2020



PHOTO BY LYN RILLON

BALETE, Batangas, Philippines — It was with a heavy heart that Luisa Silva, 41, sold her third pony last week.

It was a difficult decision to part with her pony — once used for horseback riding activities for tourists who frequented the Taal Volcano Island, or Pulo — to a farm owner who wanted a horse-drawn carriage for his produce.

But Silva needed the money badly, hoping that the P20,000 she got for her young horse would stretch long enough through the new coronavirus disease pandemic, as her family of four—her husband, a teenage son and a year-old daughter—struggled to rethink their lives in a makeshift tent at a resettlement area in the town of Balete, some 60 kilometers or about an hour by boat from their abandoned home on Pulo.

“I hope I wouldn’t have to sell Patricia, [too],” she said, referring to an 8-year-old mare and the last of her horses.

“She is a souvenir,” said Silva of those years when they operated a horseback riding business for tourists on Pulo.

Patricia is now being kept in a farm in another town where Luisa’s husband works as a caretaker, since horses are not allowed at the resettlement site.



DANGER ZONE Taal Volcano Island in Batangas province, Pulo to communities that once thrived there, has been declared a permanent danger zone by the government. Many island residents displaced by Taal’s eruption in January used to earn a living by renting out horses to tourists. — NIÑO JESUS ORBETA



Danger zone

With the government's sights trained on tackling the impact of the pandemic and the decreased volcanic activities since Taal Volcano erupted in January, people began returning to Pulo but only to fish in the waters around it.

Silva's house and vegetable plot on the Volcano Island were most likely still buried deep in tons of ash that had left Pulo bare and gray.

Following the eruption, the government has banned human settlement on Pulo, now a permanent danger zone, and shut down tourism and horseback riding activities that propped up the local economy for the last 20 years.

The Silvas used to own seven horses, but they lost three when they and thousands of families fled Pulo in haste, away from the raging volcano.

Without property titles on Pulo, families on the island considered their horses and fishing boats their prized possessions.

Silva said her family used to earn P500 to P750 from every tourist riding the horse on the uphill, scorching trail of Taal Volcano Island. A horse typically did three trips a day.

Without the tours, the horses are practically useless to its owners.

The number of horses on Pulo varied, but ostlers, veterinarians and local officials said they were between 1,500 and 2,000. It was believed to be the largest group of Philippine ponies raised in backyards and decimated by a single disaster.

The island horses were never registered in public veterinary offices, unlike the imported thoroughbred or racehorses that required papers for transport.

Unlike cattle and hogs, horses are not covered by government indemnity programs.

Animal evacuation

The eruption did not only displace people but also forced authorities to move horses and domestic animals, whose sheer number made it a "daunting" task, said Anna Cabrera, executive director of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

The group, before the Taal eruption, was tapped only to find new homes for cats and dogs.

It underscored the lack of government provision for large animal transport. "The approach of the government when it comes to large animals or livestock is to abandon them and [funds, if any] are simply for 'restocking,' or to pay off the farmers for their losses," Cabrera said.

PAWS has long been pushing the government to include animals in the national disaster preparedness plan.

In Lipa City, veterinarian Samuel Comia said the city government planned to build a permanent animal shelter.

Equine doctors were careful about moving the island horses to mainland Batangas to prevent an outbreak of equine infectious anemia, a viral horse disease, that threatened private stables. Batangas hosts about 90 percent of the population of expensive racehorses in the country.



There were efforts by animal groups and equestrians to rescue the horses left on Pulo but the only well-coordinated mission was done by PAWS and the Philippine College of Equine Practitioners, led by veterinarian Romy Modomo, who brought the horses to Balete.

Although there were some residents who, in defiance of government orders, sneaked into the island to retrieve their horses, playing a game of cat and mouse with the Philippine Coast Guard tasked with ensuring that Pulo would remain uninhabited.



RESCUE MISSION In this photo taken on Jan. 16, ash-covered horses, most of them suffering from burns, are rescued by residents from Pulo a few days after Taal Volcano's steam-driven eruption. — NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Safe from slaughter

From Balete, the horses had to be moved out of the danger zone and PAWS successfully pushed the Department of Agriculture to set up a rescue center at its compound in Lipa.

Comia said 55 horses, 14 cattle, five goats and a pig were treated there for shock, dehydration, ash burns and respiratory diseases for a month.

Private farms in Malvar town and Tanauan City, both in Batangas, and in Alfonso town and Tagaytay City, both in Cavite province, also sheltered some horses. But the survivors were “not even close” to the number of animals that died, said equine veterinarian Jay Tolentino.

At the Lipa center, a horse died of pneumonia, but another gave birth to a foal named “Starla,” after a unicorn from a popular children’s show.

It was also a race to save the horses, some of whom came in very bad shape, from butchers preying on owners who just lost everything, said Tolentino.

At one point, Tolentino said he told horse owners selling off their animals: “If you were only to sell them to the slaughterhouse, then let’s stop all these treatment.”

Meat traders

Some of the horses, like “Kiko” who had to be dug up from the ash, were badly injured and could not be ridden on ever again, making them prey to horse meat dealers.

Cabrera said horse meat buyers went to Batangas offering cash, from P3,500 to P12,000, per horse. To counter the deal, PAWS, through donors, bought 43 horses at P15,000 each. Tolentino also convinced a farm owner in the town of Maragondon in Cavite to buy seven horses.

In the lakeshore village of Ambulong, in Tanauan City, businessmen and members of the Rotary Club bought 28 horses from a group of Pulo residents and farmers, who rescued the animals from Talisay town.



“[The people] were being shortchanged by the butchers, offering them P3,000, some even as low as P2,500 [for a horse]. They didn’t really have much of a choice then because their families were in the evacuation centers and they needed money for their children’s diapers and milk,” said businessman Sherwin Mendoza.

Mendoza said the horses were in the worst condition, “some couldn’t walk anymore or had wounds all over that had [started to produce] pus.” The farmers told him they could not take care of the horses anymore or did not have a place to keep them.

The horse owners offered to sell the animals for P10,000, but Mendoza bought 11 for P12,000 each. He also asked his friends to buy horses.



NEW HOME Sherwin Mendoza’s farm in Tanauan City is the new home of 11 horses rescued from Taal Volcano Island. —LYN RILLON
New lease on life

He said the animals had survived, one of whom already gave birth in his farm in Tanauan. “I’m really not into horses but I just wanted to help,” Mendoza said. “I also told the owners that if ever they needed their horse, say to carry loads [of coconuts or wood], they could come and borrow the animals.”

Since people could not return to the Pulo anymore, Mendoza plans to open his farm with a lakeshore view of the volcano to tourists and offer horseback riding.

In March, the PAWS horses were adopted by wealthy farm owners and animal advocates, among them business tycoon Fernando Zobel de Ayala and celebrity couple Jun Sunga and Vanessa Matsunaga. Others ended up in an ecofarm in Zambales province, while the last ones to leave the Lipa center were adopted by model Joey Mead King.

The horses underwent a wellness program that included deworming and dental floating. At least five horses had already given birth in the farms, meaning they were pregnant at the time of the eruption.

Cabrera said the horses were better off in their new homes, their conditions a far cry from the emaciated animals caked in volcanic ash when they stepped off rescue boats eight months ago.



Plastic wastes exchanged for food, made into bleachers, plant boxes

By: [Immae Lachica](#) General Assignments Reporter/CDN Digital September 20, 2020



RECYCLING PLASTIC WASTES. Plastic bottles with plastic waste inside are exchanged for canned goods and packs of noodles in Pinamungajan town in southwestern Cebu. These plastic bottles will be made into bleachers and plant boxes in the town. | Contributed photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines— The Sangguniang Kabataan in Barangay Lamac, Pinamungajan, Cebu made better use of plastic wastes by exchanging them with noodles and canned goods called “Basura Ilisan Tah.”

But that’s not all, all the collected plastic bottles filled with other plastic wastes will be used in making plant boxes and bleachers to be used in their town.

Joserie Hernane, the SK chairman of Lamac, told CDN Digital that this project was launched in June mainly to help residents in their area to get a hold of a few food items by collecting trash.

And with all the collected plastic bottles with plastic wrappers inside, they can make bleachers and plant boxes with the use of these items.





They have three categories for the amount of plastic and goods that will be exchanged.

The first category is five pieces of 250ml bottles will be exchanged for one variety of canned good and one pack of noodles.

The second category is for three pieces of 500ml bottles, which is will is equivalent to one variety of canned good and two packs of noodles.

The third category is two pieces of 1.5ml bottles in exchange for three canned goods and three packs of noodles.

Since then, the barangay has already collected 190 sacks of plastic bottles and has made bleachers and plant boxes which they placed around the barangay.

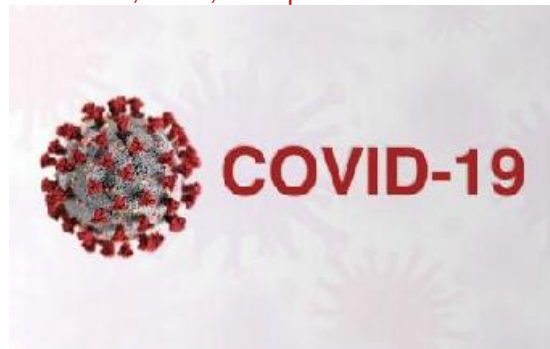
For now, they have stopped accepting plastic bottles since they have run out of funds to buy canned goods and noodles, and instead they are now focusing on making the end product of all the collected plastic wastes in their community.

Way to go, SK council in barangay Lamac, Pinamungajan, Cebu! /dbs



PH Covid-19 cases rise by 3,311; recoveries now 229,865

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **September 20, 2020, 5:56 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday reported 3,311 new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections, raising the country's overall tally to 286,743 with only 51,894 active cases.

Of the active cases, it said that about 86.6 percent are mild, 8.7 percent are asymptomatic, 1.4 percent are severe, and 3.3 percent are in critical condition.

The majority of the newly announced cases are from the National Capital Region (NCR) with 1,435, the provinces of Negros Occidental with 261, Laguna with 231, Rizal with 204, and Cavite with 174 infections.

It also logged 20,021 new recoveries and 55 deaths, bringing the total number of recoveries to 229,865 and the number of deaths to 4,984.

Of the 55 deaths, 33 occurred in September which is 60 percent, 17 in August which is 31 percent and five in July which is 9 percent.

The NCR has 29 deaths or 53 percent, Central Visayas with six deaths or 11 percent, Western Visayas with five or 9 percent, Calabarzon with four or 7 percent, Bicol Region with three or 5 percent, BARMM with three or 5 percent, Ilocos Region with two or 4 percent, Central Luzon with one or 2 percent, Eastern Visayas with one or 2 percent, and CARAGA with one or 2 percent.

"There were 29 duplicates removed from the total case count, and of these, 14 recovered cases and one death have been removed. However, one case was reactivated after further validation, and, 28 cases previously tagged as recovered were 25 reclassified to deaths and three active cases after final validation," the DOH said.

As of Wednesday, the 98 licensed reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) laboratories and 30 licensed GeneXpert laboratories have conducted a total of 3,164,830 tests nationwide.

The DOH said it has a 21,500 total bed capacity dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

Occupied are about 50 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds; 44 percent of 13,900 isolation beds; and 47 percent of 5,700 ward beds.

About 26 percent of 2,100 ventilators are in use. **(PNA)**



Allocation of Bayanihan 2 funds

By Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

September 21, 2020

The long wait is over. President Duterte finally signed Bayanihan 2 (Bayanihan to Recover as One Act) into law on September 11. With this new law, P165.5 billion will be used to strengthen the country's response to the pandemic, including a P25.5 billion standby fund. Here is how the money is being allocated.

A huge part of the Bayanihan 2 funds (P39.472 billion) will go to the capital infusion for government financial institutions. The agriculture sector will get around P24 billion, while P13.5 billion will be used for health-related responses, including the retroactive payment of the P100,000 hazard duty pay for health workers effective February 2020, continuous employment of existing emergency health personnel, augmentation of operations for DOH hospitals, and risk allowances for health workers attending to Covid-19 patients.

P13 billion will be used to implement a cash-for-work program and other support programs, and P9.5 billion was earmarked for the transportation sector. Like the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, the new law provides for an emergency subsidy of P5,000 to P8,000 for affected low-income households in areas under lockdown and those households with recently returned overseas Filipino workers.

At least P6 billion will go to Department of Social Welfare and Development programs, P4 billion for the Department of Education's alternative learning program, and P4.10 billion will go to our tourism industry. Another P5 billion will be spent for the hiring of contact tracers, P4.5 billion for the construction of quarantine and isolation facilities, dormitories for frontliners, and the expansion of government hospital capacity, and P3 billion will be used to procure face masks, personal protective equipment, and face shields.

Around P4.5 billion has been set aside for the construction and maintenance of isolation facilities, including billing of hotels, food and transportation under the government's Covid response program. P3 billion will be used to assist state universities and colleges in the development of smart campuses, P1 billion is being set aside as scholarship fund of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and P600 million will be forwarded as subsidies and allowances for qualified students in both public and private elementary schools, high schools, and colleges, whose families were affected by work stoppage due to the lockdowns. P300 million will be spent as subsidies and allowances of displaced teaching and non-teaching personnel (including a one-time cash aid for them), and P100 million has been earmarked for the training and subsidies of tourist guides.

At least P2 billion will be used to subsidize payment of interest on local government unit loans from Land Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines, P1.5 billion will be used to assist the LGUs, P820 million will go to affected overseas Filipino workers, and P180 million will serve as allowance of national athletes and coaches. P15 million will be used to establish a research facility in UP Diliman, P10 million was set aside to carry out Covid-19 research, and P2.5 million will enable the Professional Regulatory Commission to facilitate computer-based licensure exams.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/21/allocation-of-bayanihan-2-funds/>



Flattening the fear

posted September 21, 2020 at 12:15 am

by [Jonathan Dela Cruz](#)

"We should learn to live with COVID-19."

There is a new campaign worldwide and it's growing. It's called Flattening the Fear and it's meant to provide an alternative way of living in the new normal. Instead of lockdowns and increased restrictions on human activity, this initiative aims to provide protocols on how people can and should live with COVID-19.

In the United States, professionals and doctors belonging to the Job Creators Network Foundation (JCNF) have banded together with ordinary citizens to spread the news – COVID-19 remains but we have to learn to live with it. A noted physician, Dr. Katarina Lindley, President of the Texas ACOFP, and an active JCNF member summed up what this citizens' movement proposes in a letter published by the Texas Public Policy Foundation:

"The messaging from leadership and the medical community should be clear: 'Yes, we have increase in the (COVID-19) cases but we do not have an increase in mortality...We need to protect vulnerable populations, practice common sense and protect ourselves and our families by being aware of the risks while trying to live a normal life. We need to stop fearing the disease, and instead respect it—and learn to live with it. It is here to stay, but we should not allow it to take our freedom and liberties away.'"

That message got amplified, maybe even prompted, by the latest revisions on the facts and figures on the impact of the disease from no less than the US CDC, the body mandated to provide the needed guidance on how to cope with diseases such as COVID, in this wise:

- The COVID-19 infection fatality rate estimate is down to just 0.26 percent;
 - For those outside of nursing homes, the infection fatality rate is estimated to be just 0.13 percent.
 - One percent of counties in the country account for roughly 40 percent of all COVID-19 deaths nationally.
 - Ten percent of counties account for roughly 80 percent of all deaths.
 - Roughly 25 percent of the counties in the country haven't experienced a single coronavirus death.
 - Nearly half of all coronavirus deaths have come in nursing homes.
 - In many states, nursing homes and assisted living facilities account for far more than half of all deaths—around 75 percent in Minnesota and around 70 percent in Ohio.
- Roughly 80 percent of all COVID-19 deaths are among those over 65 years old.
- Those aged under 55 account for just eight percent of all COVID-19 deaths.
 - If you are 34 years old or younger, your probability of dying from COVID-19 as of June 3rd was 0.0005 percent.
 - The overwhelming majority of deaths are among those with at least one other underlying medical condition. Among patients hospitalized with COVID-19, 91.5 percent have at least one underlying health condition.
 - Most ICU beds—in most cases 75 percent or more—aren't occupied by COVID patients.
 - The resumption of elective—yet vital—surgeries is contributing to increased ICU utilization rates around the country.
 - More children die each year from the flu than COVID-19.
 - Children rarely display serious symptoms from COVID-19 or infect others. Some scientists believe children are a "brake" on transmissions.

In the U.S., the probability of being struck by lightning is higher than the chances of a school-age child (5-14) first getting and then dying of COVID-19.

After European schools reopened, there was no observable increase in COVID-19 cases.

- The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Academy of Sciences conclude that children can safely return to schools.

These facts and figures can very well represent what's happening in the Philippines and most other countries worldwide. For if truth be told, this virus will not go away anytime soon. We will really have to learn to live with it just like we have come to live with the common colds, flu and even pneumonia. In fact, there is increasing evidence that COVID-19 is not as deadly as we were once told. After six months of lockdowns complete with the health protocols and, of course, analysis of the DNA, development and, yes, experimentation with possible prophylactics and cures we now have a body of language which can guide us in crossing troubled waters, so to speak, as we transit into the new normal. More and more people are now convinced that this virus need not be looked at as more fearsome than those diseases we have come to live with in times past and even up to this day.



A closer look at the key disease statistics such as death per day should give us a measure of relief. The latest figures indicate that on a daily basis, 211 Filipinos die of pneumonia and flu; 233 of heart disease; 167 due to stroke; 178 to cancer; 33 to vehicular accident; 19 due to suicide and 20 to COVID. On the other hand, the fatality rate for COVID-19 has been consistently below the global rate while case fatality has been equally below that of the global standard. Finally, our recoveries have been on the rise which can only mean that most of those testing positive for COVID-19 eventually overcome the same.

For this reason and bolstered by evidence generated from COVID-19 cases across the country, a group of doctors and concerned citizens have petitioned President Duterte to immediately lift all lockdowns imposed to prevent the spread of the disease nationwide. Instead of various grades of quarantine imposed unevenly for medical, political or financial reasons by different levels of governing bodies nationwide, the 5,000 members of the Concerned Doctors and Citizens of the Philippines led by former health secretary Jaime Galvez-Tan urged Duterte to adopt a national protocol for the prophylaxis and early treatment of COVID-19.

“We proposed to the President to adopt a national protocol for the prophylaxis and early treatment of COVID-19 that aims to reduce hospitalization and prevent loss of lives,” the CDCph said in a unity statement read by Galvez-Tan during the movement’s launch last week. He noted that the implementation of a national protocol for early treatment of COVID is an effective, safe, inexpensive and science-based solution to address the pandemic in the country.

Under this proposed plan, government will focus its efforts on early treatment and home quarantine for most patients and prophylaxis for high risk individuals such as frontliners and the elderly. Another senior member, Dr. Edwin Bien, said anti-viral drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) could be given as prophylaxis to prevent COVID infection. He said hydroxychloroquine is safe if given in correct dosage upon consultation with doctors. Bien said that he has been using and prescribing the drug to his patients and it has been working adding that the adverse effects were due to overdose.

During the launch, other doctors presented data indicating low death rate among COVID patients from countries with access to HCQ. Separate studies have also shown full benefit with early intervention or when treatment is given during the first five days of infection. Hospitalization rate is lower for those treated early. A geriatric doctor, Homer Lim, said even without HCQ, early intervention can help reduce the number of people being hospitalized due to moderate and severe COVID infection. Lim said daily dosage of vitamins D and C can boost the immune system and thus prevent replication of virus when it enters the body noting that lower Vitamin D level has a higher chance of testing positive for COVID and developing severe or critical infection.

With this alternative protocol, the government and our people will no longer have to choose between saving lives and saving livelihood, Galvez advised.

It is time we insist that the restrictive measures such as enhanced police presence, mandated use of double shields (masks and shields) in public or enclosed spaces, use of universities and schools as quarantine facilities, imposing all kinds of restrictions on the opening of retail, tourism and other sectors, restricting public transport and a hundred and more other such measures some of which like the use of barriers on motorcycle tandem riding were eventually set aside, be revisited and, as warranted, withdrawn.

It is about time we have to remind our people that ultimately their health and that of their families, communities and ultimately, the nation’s, rests heavily on their complying with the basic health protocols. And that, if we all want to be freed from any unwarranted restrictions, get back to work and live normal lives under COVID-19 after six months of lockdown, we should all stay the course and take care of ourselves foremost. It is about time we reminded ourselves that like in the past other pandemics have been conquered. It is time to live with COVID-19 in as responsible and proper a manner as possible.

Living with COVID need not be one living in fear. It can be living with the right and new lifestyle, with the proper protocols and with compassionate care for the well being of our families and other people.

Under this new normal, we should not only flatten the curve, we should flatten the fear even more.



WHO naglabas ng alituntunin para sa herbal medicine trials vs COVID-19



September 20, 2020 @ 10:01 AM 22 hours ago

Congo – Naglabas ng alituntunin ang World Health Organization para sa African herbal medicines na maaaring gamot kontra coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

“Phase III clinical trials are pivotal in fully assessing the safety and efficacy of a new medical product,” saad ng WHO.

“If a traditional medicine product is found to be safe, efficacious and quality-assured, WHO will recommend (it) for a fast-tracked, large-scale local manufacturing,” ayon naman kay Prosper Tumusiime, regional director ng WHO.

Nakikipagtulungan ngayon ang WHO sa Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention at sa African Union Commission for Social Affairs.

“The onset of Covid-19, like the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, has highlighted the need for strengthened health systems and accelerated research and development programmes, including on traditional medicines,” dagdag pa ni Tumusiime.

Hindi naman nito tahasang sinabi na ang sinabing gamot ay ang Madagascar drink Covid- Organics o ang CVO na sinabi ni President Andry Rajoelina na gamot sa virus.

“I can understand the need, the drive to find something that can help,” saad naman ni WHO Africa Director Matshidiso Moeti.

Paalala rin nito na hinihimok pa rin ang scientific process na pinangako ng pamahalaan nito na susundin. **RNT/ELM**



Two endangered Javan rhino calves spotted in Indonesian park

Agence France-Presse / 07:24 PM September 20, 2020



JAKARTA — Two extremely rare Javan rhinoceros calves have been spotted in an Indonesian national park, boosting hopes for the future of one of the world's most endangered mammals.

The rhino calves — a female named Helen and a male called Luther — were seen with their mothers in footage taken from nearly 100 camera traps installed in Ujung Kulon national park between March and August, authorities said in a statement on Sunday.

On the westernmost tip of Java in Banten province, Ujung Kulon is the last remaining wild habitat for Javan rhinos.

After years of population decline, the arrival of the new calves brings the total number of the rare mammals to 74.

The sanctuary comprises some 5,100 hectares (12,600 acres) of lush rainforest and freshwater streams.

The Indonesian government has been surveying other areas across Java and Sumatra islands to relocate the rhinos from the danger of Mount Krakatau, an active volcano not far from the national park.

“These births bring a big hope for the continuation of the life of the critically endangered special Javan rhino,” said Wiratno, a senior official at the environment ministry.

Javan rhinos have folds of loose skin giving them the appearance of wearing armor plating.

They once numbered in the thousands across Southeast Asia, but have been hard hit by rampant poaching and human encroachment on their habitats.

/MUF

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1337723/two-endangered-javan-rhino-calves-spotted-in-indonesian-park>