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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Cimatu impresses Duterte with Manila Bay white sand completion

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:31 AM September 22, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday lauded Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay with its overlay of artificial white sand made of crushed dolomite, which the people are “now enjoying.”

“Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimatu. You know I remember that meeting [in Davao City] — I think everybody was there — when I said: ‘Can you clean this up?’ And the answer was very curtly given. He said: ‘I can work on it,’” Duterte said in a taped speech delivered partly in Filipino.

“People now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand at least,” he added. “He impressed me he accepted my dare. He just said he would do it. And people are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good.”

During the same meeting in Davao City, the President also thanked other Cabinet members for helping him run the country.

“Without you, I would have a very hard time running the country. But because you are there — I’m not saying I have succeeded, that is for the people to assess or give when I’m no longer the president — but what I’m trying to impress also upon the people is that we are doing our job,” Duterte said.

Manila Bay recently had a makeover where crushed dolomite, which looks like white sand, was poured over a portion of the shore.

The project [drew a crowd](#) over the weekend when it was opened to the public with photos showing a throng of visitors not observing physical distancing despite the threat of COVID-19.





## Duterte congratulates Cimatu, says people enjoying white sand at Manila Bay

Published September 21, 2020 10:17pm

Updated September 22, 2020 12:48am

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday congratulated Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on the developments in the Manila Bay, the recent of which is the placement of white dolomite sand on a stretch of the baywalk.

"Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimatu. You know I remember that meeting I think everybody was there when I said 'Kaya mong linisin to?' And the answer was very curtly given," Duterte said.

"He said, 'Kaya.' People now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand maski na papaano," he added.

Duterte said critics would always find fault with what the government is doing.

"Wala naman tayo magawa. You do it, may masabi sila," Duterte said.

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

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources placed 500 tons of crushed dolomite to beautify and rehabilitate a stretch of Manila Bay's shoreline close to the Baywalk strip along Roxas Boulevard.

The dolomite used to beautify the coastline of Manila Bay was [not a health hazard](#) in its bulk state, the Department of Health (DOH) has clarified amid warnings by some sectors that crushed dolomite could pose respiratory risks.

### Mass gathering at Manila Bay

[The DOH expressed alarm](#) over the overcrowding of people along Manila Bay over the weekend to see the synthetic white sand there amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire [flagged the activity](#) which showed people under 21 years old and senior citizens, who are prohibited from going outside due to vulnerabilities to COVID-19, flocking the area without observance of social distancing.

Aside from [foregoing physical distancing](#), some of those who went at the bay reportedly had no face masks or face shields.

The Manila Bay "white sand" beach was opened to the public over the weekend to mark the International Coastal Cleanup Day led by the DENR.

Meanwhile, Philippine National Police chief Police General Camilo Pancratius Cascolan said the [police was not the only one at fault](#) for the failure to observe social distancing at the bay.



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## Duterte congratulates Cimat, says people enjoying white sand at Manila Bay

Cascolan said what happened should be a less for everybody. He also emphasized that command responsibility is being observed in the police force, which was also the reason why Ermita Police chief Police Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Caramoan was [removed from his position](#).

The area was closed on Monday for continued rehabilitation work, and authorities [banned picture taking](#) even from the footbridge overlooking the Manila Bay Sands.

Nationwide, [cases of COVID-19 hit 290,190](#) on Monday with 230,233 recoveries and 4,999 deaths. - NB, GMA News



NEWS 5

photo: PCOO

“

Let us begin by congratulating Sec. Cimat. Now people are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand.

**Maski na papaano wala naman talaga tayong magawa. You do it, may masabi sila. You do not do it may masabi si Leni. What do you want us to do?**

”

**PRES. RODRIGO DUTERTE**  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020



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## Duterte, pinuri si Cimatu dahil sa Manila Bay white sand

By [Bombo Jovino Galang](#)

-September 22, 2020 | 2:41 AM

Pinuri ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu dahil sa ginawang pagpapaganda nito sa Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng paglalagay ng white sand.

Sa kaniyang national address, sinabi ng Pangulo na dahil sa paglalagay ng puting dolomite sand ay dinarayo na tuloy ito ng mga tao.

Kaniya pang inalala noon ang naging hamon nito sa kalihim kung kaya ba niyang linisin ang Manila Bay.

Hindi rin ikinaila ng pangulo ang posibleng pagpuna ng mga kritiko sa nasabing proyekto.

Magugunitang dinayo ng maraming tao ang Manila Bay ng ito ay buksan sa publiko nitong Sabado subalit ito ay kanila ring isinara.

Itinaas na sa level 4 mula sa dating 3 ang coronavirus alert level sa United Kingdom.

Nangangahulugan nito na...



## DENR on Manila Bay Sands overcrowding: Ang dami po talagang pasaway

Published September 21, 2020 4:54pm

By JOVILAND RITA with TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ, GMA News

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Monday said that it has done its part to remind the people who flocked to the "white sand beach" it created to observe social distancing.

Interviewed on Doblol B sa News TV, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said that social distancing was actually observed when people actually got onto the white sand beach.

"Doon po sa area of jurisdiction natin doon sa white sand area, talagang na-implement ang social distancing," Antiporda said.

"Nagpapasalamat po kami sa mga pulis sa local government. Binigyan kami ng suporta. But sad to say, talagang napakaraming pasaway," he added.

On Saturday, the crowd that showed up for the opening of the Manila Bay Sands [failed to observe physical distancing](#). Many were also not wearing face shields.

While personnel were on site to remind visitors to maintain their distance, people were still seen huddled close together while falling in line outside to get a peek into the newly constructed beach.

Social distancing was also not observed on the foot bridge just outside the beach.

On Sunday, [social distancing remained a challenge since people stood close to each other in line](#). Traffic also slowed as the crowds occupied up to two lanes of Roxas Boulevard.

Ermita Police station commander Police Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Caramoan [has been relieved from his post as a result](#).

"Masakit po sa amin 'yun dahil in fairness sa PNP ng Station 5, nagpadala po sila ng mga pulis nila para tumulong. But sad to say, it is not enough. Ang dami po talagang pasaway," Antiporda said.

Antiporda said that the project is not yet complete, but that the DENR opened the spot to the public so that people can make their own assessment of it amid the criticism it received.

[Fisherfolk](#) and [environmental groups](#) have assailed the project, while Buhay party-list Representative Lito Atienza [called it "worthless" and a "complete waste of public funds."](#)

An official from Cebu, where the crushed dolomite rocks were sourced, [said that the provincial board was "left in the dark"](#) as to where the material would be used.

on September 10, just days before the beach was opened to the public, [the DENR ordered another study on the safety of crushed dolomite rocks](#).

### Closed to the public

The DENR said the Manila Bay "white sand" beach will remain closed to the public until the completion of the Manila Bay Beach Nourishment Project.



## DENR on Manila Bay Sands overcrowding: Ang dami po talagang pasaway

The dolomite beach was closed off to the public starting on Monday.

“Hindi muna puwede dahil nandiyan yung heavy equipment. To avoid naman any untoward incident,” Antiporda told GMA News.

During the project’s first phase, around 7,200 square meters of the Manila Beachfront was covered with crushed dolomites, which is only 24 percent of the 30,000-square meter project.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Antiporda could not say when the project is expected to be completed. But he said the department hopes to finish it within the year. — **BM, GMA News**





## Dolomite in Manila Bay a big hit!

By [Valeriano Avila](#) (The Freeman)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am

With so many people stuck in their respective homes due to the lockdown, there is no question that the so-called environmentalists who attacked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for bringing into the Manila Bay Rehabilitation effort dolomite “white sand” from Alcoy, Cebu. I submit that I was in the forefront of this effort as I was invited to the inauguration of Manila Yacht Club Commodore Mr. Bobby Joseph. I went to Manila as I have never been inside the Manila Yacht Club and it was time to go and visit.

I brought along with me my camera crew from MyTV to record this event for our viewers in Cebu. This was the official launching of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay last Jan. 19, 2020 and I was able to interview Atty. Tony Oposa, a fellow Cebuano and environmental lawyer, who sued the various government agencies in the Supreme Court (SC) which led this cleanup event. We parked our car at the Manila Hotel and walked the three-kilometer length of Manila Bay to the Manila Yacht Club. It was the first time I did a long walk since my kidney transplant.

A few months back, I was invited to attend the inauguration of the solar plant that would clean up dirty water into Manila Bay. But I didn't go. Then out of the blue when the environmentalist group learned that the DENR has placed dolomite sand along the Manila Bay walk. Suddenly many people go curious with the negatives proclaiming that dolomite sand is harmful to your lungs. But this issue was immediately addressed by DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu when he told a congressional hearing that dolomite granules, not white powdered sand, were ordered for Manila. Manila Mayor Isko Moreno was also seen answering questions by Karen Davila and he gave her a peace of his mind.

Well, last Friday, they officially opened the Manila Bay walk with the dolomite sand and as I wrote this in defense of Sec. Cimatu last week, what he has done was to bring the white beaches found in Boracay or Sta. Fe, Bantayan to Manila Bay so that the poor people of Manila who cannot afford that luxury would have them right on their doorstep in Manila Bay. Thanks to YouTube, so many bloggers went to Manila Bay to see for themselves the transformation of Manila Bay from a garbage dump into a beautiful white beach. The problem is that Yellowtard critics say that this project cost P389 million when it really cost only P28 million. There's just too much black propaganda out there.

I also saw on YouTube bloggers walking along the dolomite sand and catching fish which was awesome to say the least and their remarks were live fish could never survive in basura. Yes, so many people went to Manila Bay that day as it was really the first time they saw the transition of Manila Bay into something worthy of viewing.

It was then that I read the news that 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 Bay walk, was relieved from his post by PNP chief Gen. Camilo Cascolan.



## Dolomite in Manila Bay a big hit!

What can we say but this report is true and verifiable as so many videos of the place have been taken by bloggers. As mentioned, 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 Saturday morning. But honestly, I don't think that Caramoan could have predicted that hundreds of thousands would swarm into Manila Bay on Saturday and I don't think he even had the number of men available to enforce medical discipline.

As Brig. Gen. Rolando Miranda, MPD director pointed out, "People were just too excited. Everybody wants to see the white sand." The festive crowd spilled over to Roxas Boulevard, causing a brief traffic jam. For me the positive thing to happen because of this white sand project is that it is easier to spot if the garbage has returned to Manila Bay.



## Duterte hits back at critics of the 'white sand' overlaying at Manila Bay

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 22, 2020 12:10:56 AM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 22)** — President Rodrigo Duterte called out critics of the efforts to clean up Manila Bay's Baywalk area, particularly the overlaying of crushed dolomite on the beach.

In his weekly address, Duterte said, "People now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with white sand, *maski na papano. Wala naman talaga tayong magawa*. You do it, may masabi sila. You do not do it, may masabi si (Vice President) Leni (Robredo). What do you want us to do?"

[Translation: People now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with white sand. We can't do anything. You do it, they say something. You do not do it, Leni will say something. What do you want us to do?]

The project has drawn flak from critics, particularly the Vice President, who [said earlier this month](#) that the money used for it could have been put to better use.

She said the ₱389 million fund reportedly allocated for the government initiative to overlay 'white sand' on the shores of Manila Bay could have instead gone to over 80,000 poor families who were left hungry due to the pandemic.

[Other critics](#) also said the project was merely aesthetic and did little to contribute to the rehabilitation and restoration of the area.

Duterte also defended Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and recalled how he gamely said he could take on the project of cleaning up Manila Bay.

"I remember that meeting, and I think everybody was there, when I said, 'Roy, *kaya mong linisin 'to* [can you clean this up]?' And the answer was a very curtly...'*kaya* [I can],'" Said Duterte.

He said he was impressed with Cimatu's answer which he called "very positive."

"People are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good," said the President of Cimatu, and extended his thanks to the rest of his team, saying he could not have done so much if not for their help.



## 'What do you want us to do?': Duterte defends Manila Bay crushed dolomite project

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 21 2020 11:00 PM | Updated as of Sep 22 2020 12:49 AM

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MANILA (UPDATE) - President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said there is nothing wrong with the government dumping crushed dolomite on Manila Bay to create an artificial beach.

This, after throngs of people went to the Manila Bay over the weekend to see the artificial white sand dumped in the area.

"People now really enjoy the reclaimed area with the white sand, maski na papaano," Duterte said during his weekly address to the nation.

"Wala naman talaga tayong magawa. You do it, may masabi sila. You do not do it, may masabi si (Vice President) Leni (Robredo). What do you want us to do?" he added.

(We cannot do anything. You do it, they have something to say. You do not do it, (Vice President) Leni (Robredo) will say something. What do you want us to do?)

The opposition and critics lashed out after the local government of Manila opened the area to the public over the weekend. Photos and videos of visitors showed that physical distancing protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were violated.

Duterte, however, maintained that the government cannot do anything about the virus.

"Ang problema kasi nitong white sand...Ang sabi, we are not doing enough. What can we do with the germ that is flying around? It's the microbe that cannot be controlled by any(one)," he said.

(The problem with this white sand...They said we are not doing enough. What can we do with the germ that is flying around? It's the microbe that cannot be controlled by anyone.)

"Anong gawin mo? Gusto mo i-spray mo from the sky? DDT? Wala naman tayong magawa diyan," Duterte added, referring to the banned insecticide.

(What do you want us to do? Spray chemicals from the sky? We cannot do anything about it.)

Robredo, an outspoken critic of Duterte and his political rival, said later in a statement that spraying pesticide was not what she and the critics were asking for but a government response by "means of medical and non-medical interventions."

"Yung number 1 po, hindi maso-solusyunan sa pag-spray ng pesticide sa Manila galing sa eroplano," she said in a Facebook post.





## 'What do you want us to do?': Duterte defends Manila Bay crushed dolomite project

- [Crowding at Manila Bay 'white sand' shows gov't made right rehab decision: Palace](#)

Meanwhile, Duterte praised Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu for delivering on the president's "challenge" to him to clean up the waterfront.

"I am congratulating Sec. Cimatu. I remember that meeting, and I think everyone was there when I said, 'Kaya mong linisin ito?'," Duterte said.

("I am congratulating Sec. Cimatu. I remember that meeting, and I think everyone was there when I said, 'Can you clean this?')

"Napabilib nga ako when he accepted my dare. Hinamon ko siya. Sabi ko, 'Kaya mo?' Sabi niya, 'Basta trabahuin lang,'" he added.

(I was amazed when he accepted my dare. I challenged him. I said, 'Can you do it?' He said, 'I'll just work on it.')

Following the incident, the Department of Health on Monday warned the public against violating minimum health standards such as the mandatory wearing of face masks in public places.

- ['Nakakabahala': DOH says crowding of people at Manila Bay worrying](#)

A police station commander in Manila was sacked for failing to implement health safety measures when people flocked to the baywalk.

- [Police station chief sacked due to safety protocol violations at Manila Bay](#)

The dumping of artificial white sand in a part of the bay walk drew criticism from some officials and environmental groups, saying it was an unnecessary component of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Malacañang, however, has defended the project, saying funds for it were already allocated even before the health crisis. - **with a report from Anjo Bagaoisan, ABS-CBN News**



## Manila Bay tourists na walang distancing 'patunay na tama' ang dolomite project, ani Roque

By [James Relativo](#) (Philstar.com)  
- September 21, 2020 - 3:10pm



Kuha ng mga turistang bumisita sa Manila Bay nitong weekend matapos buksan ang look na tinambakan ng durog na "dolomite," bagay na ginamit bilang synthetic white sand.  
The STAR/Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Kahit hindi nasunod ang physical distancing kontra coronavirus disease (COVID-19) sa pagdayo ng mga turista, naninindigan ang Malacañang na walang mali sa pagbubukas ng "white sand" beach ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Manila Bay — 'yan ay kahit ginamitan ito ng milyun-milyong pisong crushed dolomite na [itinuturong health hazard](#).

Weekend nang kumalat sa social media ang litrato ng mga siksikang tao na nag-uunahan sa nasabing look, bagay na ikinabahala ng Department of Health (DOH) dahil sa posibleng pasahan ng nakamamatay na virus.

CONTEXT: The line of people wanting to see the government's "white sand" beach project along Manila Bay, which cost P389-million, took up a major part of Roxas Boulevard on Sunday morning.

????STAR/Edd Gumban

Despite the pandemic, the gov't's "white sands" project on Manila Bay attracted crowds of people on Sunday.

The gov't has been urging people to stay at home and to only go out for necessities due to COVID-19 which has infected over 280,000 Filipinos.

????STAR/Miguel De Guzman [pic.twitter.com/oU3FcH7DbF](https://pic.twitter.com/oU3FcH7DbF)

Pero depensa ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, hindi na sila nagulat lalo na't alam nilang magugustuhan ito ng taumbayan.

"Naiintindihan po natin 'yan dahil talagang 'yan naman po ay nagpapatunay na tama ang naging desisyon ng DENR at ng siyudad ng Maynila na lalo pang pagandahin ang Manila Bay," ani Roque sa isang [press briefing](#), Lunes.

Una nang sinabi ni Roque na makatutulong ang white sand beach para mapaigi ang mental health ng taumbayan sa gitna ng pandemya, bagay na nabatikos nang marami.

## Manila Bay tourists na walang distancing 'patunay na tama' ang dolomite project, ani Roque

Sa kabila niyan, nakikiusap ang Malacañang sa publiko na huwag magkumpol-kumpol at sumunod pa rin sa physical distancing habang ine-enjoy ang tanawin para hindi rin magkapasapasan ng COVID-19.

Pinaalalahanan naman ni Roque ang Philippine National Police (PNP) na gampanan ang kanilang papel para mapanatiling magkakalayo ang mga bumibisita sa dalampasigan. Nasa isang metrong layo sa isa't isa ang recommended ng World Health Organization (WHO) kontra sa pandemya.

"Ang panawagan lang po namin sa taumbayan, the surest way po para po kayo ay magka-COVID, 'wag kayong mag-social distancing," patuloy ni Roque.

"Five minutes lang po per group [sa Manila Bay white sand beach]. 50 persons [at a time]."

Aniya, ito ay para mapagbigyan ang lahat na makakuha ng mga litrato, makapag-selfie at malasap ang simoy ng hangin habang natitiyak na ligtas ang kalusugan ng publiko: "Ang white beach naman po diyan is around 7,000 square meters... 'Wag na kayong mag-bathing suit diyan dahil baka lalong matagalan ang mga tao diyan," dagdag ng tagapagsalita ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Aabot sa P349 milyong halaga ang nagastos ng gobyerno para itransporma ang nanggigitang Manila Bay, bagay na [nakapagpakain na sana ng 80,000 gutom na pamilya](#), sabi ni Bise Presidente Leni Robredo.

Hirit naman ng ilang grupo gaya ng Pamalakaya at Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, sana'y ginamit na lang sa pagtatayo ng bakawan (mangroves) ang halaga kung gusto talagang i-rehabilitate ang Manila Bay sa dati nitong ganda.

### DOH: Nakakabahala ito

Hindi naman nagustuhan ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire ang mga kumalat na eksena ng Manila Bay sa nakalipas na dalawang araw, wika niya sa mga reporters nitong umaga.

"Ito ay isang nakakabahalang sitwasyon. Alam nating lahat na di pa nawawala ang virus dito sa atin," sambit ng DOH official.

"Kailangan pa rin nating i-enforce ang minimum health standards. Kailangan nating mapalalahan ang ating mga kababayan na ito ay isang delikadong situation dahil maaaring magkaroon ng pagkakahawa-hawa ng mga mamamayan na pumupunta dyan na di pinapatupad nang maiigi ang minimum health standards."

[Sinibak tuloy sa pwesto](#) ang station commander ng Ermita na si Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, dahil sa kanyang kabiguan na maipatupad ang social distancing nitong weekend sa Manila Bay.

Ayon sa Joint Task Force COVID Shield kahapon, napigilan sana ni Caramoan ang quarantine protocol violations kung nagkaroon ng maagang pagpapalano at pagmamasid ng sitwasyon sa lugar.

Sa huling ulat ng DOH, Linggo, [umabot na sa 286,743 ang nadadali ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas](#) simula nang pumasok ito mula sa Wuhan, China. Sa bilang na 'yan, 4,984 na ang patay. — [may mga ulat mula kay Gaea Katreena Cabico at ONE News](#)

## Crowding at Manila Bay 'white sand' shows gov't made right rehab decision: Palace

Arianne Merez, ABS-CBN News  
Posted at Sep 21 2020 04:36 PM



People troop to Manila Baywalk on Sept. 20, 2020 to get a glimpse of the artificial white sand dumped in the area. *Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA-- Seeing throngs of people at the Manila Bay over the weekend to see artificial white sand is proof that the beautification project is a right decision, Malacañang said Monday, even as physical distancing protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 had been violated.

"Naintindihan po natin yan, dahil 'yan po ay nagpapatunay na tama ang desisyon ng DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) at siyudad ng Maynila na lalo pang pagandahin ang Manila Bay," Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said.

(We understand that because it proves that the DENR and Manila City made the right decision to beautify Manila Bay.)

*Kuha ni Jekki Pascual ng ABS-CBN News umaga ng Sept. 20, 2020*

Roque, however, cautioned the public that the lack of observance of minimum health standards is the "surest way" to catch COVID-19 as he appealed to the public not to crowd in the area.

"Magkakaroon din po kayo ng pagkakataon ma-enjoy [ang Manila Bay]," Roque said.

(You will have the chance to enjoy.)

Following the incident, the Department of Health on Monday warned the public against violating minimum health standards such as the mandatory wearing of face masks in public places.

"Kailangan lang po mapaalalahanan ang ating mga kababayan na ito po ay isang delikadong sitwasyon dahil maaari pong magkaroon ng pagkahawa-hawa ang ating mga mamamayan na nagpupunta d'yan na hindi po pinapatupad nang maigi ang minimum health standards," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

(We just have to remind Filipinos that this is a dangerous situation because they might get infected if they go there and minimum health standards are not imposed.)





## Palace wants ‘strict’ physical distancing at Manila Bay shoreline

By Azer Parrocha September 21, 2020, 9:00 pm



**NEW MANILA BAY.** Visitors want to know what it’s like to be in a “white sand” beach as they visit a portion of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard on Sunday (Sept. 20, 2020). The government has opened a part of the coastline to the public to see rehabilitation efforts being done in the bay. *(PNA photo by Avito Dalan)*

**MANILA** – Malacañang on Monday reminded law enforcement authorities to strictly enforce physical distancing rules on visitors to the “white sand beach” in Manila Bay.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made this reminder after photos and videos showing people standing close to each other along Roxas Boulevard circulated on social media.

The Manila Bay’s artificial white sand beach was temporarily opened to the public on Saturday and Sunday.

“*Kaya nga po nananawagan din po kami sa kapulisan na sana po ay ipatupad natin ang social distancing (That’s why we are also calling on our police force to implement social distancing),*” he said in a virtual presser.

Last Sunday, Philippine National Police (PNP) Joint Task Force Covid Shield Commander, Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, said Ermita police station commander Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan was relieved from his post over his failure to enforce physical distancing rules on visitors to the white sand beach.

He said 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.

### Take turns

Roque also appealed to the public to observe physical distancing as a safety precaution against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

“*Ang panawagan lang namin sa taumbayan, the surest way po para kayo ay magkaroon ng Covid, huwag kayong mag-social distancing (Our appeal to the public, the surest way to contract Covid is to not observe social distancing),*” he said.



## Palace wants ‘strict’ physical distancing at Manila Bay shoreline

Roque, meanwhile, assured visitors that they will eventually have their chance to see the Manila Bay makeover as long as they took turns.

Since the white sand beach is around 7,000 square meters, he said it can accommodate 50 people at one time.

He said each group visitors should have at least five minutes to see the white sand beach and take photos.

*“Kung pupuwede po five minutes per group lang diyan, sapat na po iyan para singhutin ang hangin at saka mag-picture-picture, mag-selfie-selfie (if possible, each group can spend five minutes there, that’s enough time to get air and take pictures, selfies),”* he said.

### ‘Right decision’

According to Roque, the crowd of visitors which flocked to the segment of Manila Bay's shoreline showed that the decision of the government to cover it with artificial sand was a “good decision”.

*“Talagang iyan naman po ay nagpapatunay na tama ang naging desisyon ng (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) at ng siyudad ng Maynila na lalo pang pagandahin ang Manila Bay (That really proves that the decision of the DENR and the City of Manila to beautify Manila Bay is a good decision),”* he said.

Lawmakers and environmental groups earlier criticized the Manila Bay’s beach nourishment using crushed dolomite for allegedly violating several laws.

Malacañang said the project will prevent soil erosion and flooding. (PNA)



## Officials pass blame over beach gathering



Published 5 hours ago  
on September 22, 2020 03:00 AM  
By [Elmer N. Manuel @tribunephil Imer](#)



Onlookers take photographs and selfies at the Manila Bay beach during Sunday's teaser opening that saw crowds gathering along Roxas Boulevard in defiance of physical distancing protocols. The area has since been closed to the public. PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @TRIBUNEPHL\_BOB

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) yesterday stressed it will conduct investigations over the “mass gathering” that happened last Sunday when people converged to view the Manila Bay beach allegedly violating social distancing protocols, In a television interview, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said he will discuss with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu if other higher officials should be held liable over the failure to impose social distancing in the area over the weekend.

“I will discuss first with Secretary Cimatu on what other course of action we will take regarding this matter,” Año said. “We will also really check what went wrong, and for now, we will be looking into it.”

In the aftermath of the “mass gathering,” Ermita Police chief P/Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan had been relieved from his post for failing to control the crowd of onlookers.

As this developed, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda admitted they are not sure if the controversial beach nourishment project will be finished by the end of the year, considering the many delays that has hampered its completion.

In a phone interview, the DENR official said they were eyeing to finish the project by yearend, but this might not be possible due to the delays caused by those who are against it.

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



## Officials pass blame over beach gathering

Meanwhile, P/Brig. Gen. Camilo Pancratius Cascolan, Philippine National Police chief, said the public should be held just as accountable for the overcrowding at the Manila Bay beach which resulted in the obvious breach of health and safety protocols.

The throng of people overwhelmed the number of policemen deployed to the area to enforce safety measures, such as social distancing, after DENR invited the public to view the beach.

“I’d like to be frank. It’s not just the police who erred here. It was really hard on the part of the police, but we could not do anything. The community also needs to learn from what we did. You would probably point at our mistakes and tell us what we did wrong, but please, think of your mistakes, too,” Cascolan lamented during a press briefing in Camp Crame.

“Our policeman shouldn’t have been relieved from his post if we did our part and what was right,” he added.

Caramoan’s axing, the PNP chief stressed, must serve as a lesson, not just to ground commanders, but also the people.

“Let that be a lesson not only to the PNP but to all of us. COVID-19 is not the fight of the PNP alone. This is our battle,” he said.

Meanwhile, P/Maj. Gen. Debold Sinas, National Capital Region Police Office director, said an investigation will be conducted to determine the level of Caramoan’s accountability and if others should also be penalized for the supposed oversight.

On the other hand, Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso has asked the DENR to temporarily close the bay area while it is still under construction to prevent people from trooping to the beach area.

“I already asked the DENR to close it while there is still an ongoing project,” Domagoso said.

“Of course, I understand people are excited to see the white sand, but let us not forget there is still COVID and we must stay safe. It is enough that we have seen it on TV, from pictures and in videos by bloggers. Let us set it aside for now, and we will try put order,” he explained.

Año stressed the authorities should have expected that a lot of people would visit the area after being stuck at home for months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, he noted there was lack of preparation in the opening of the beach.

“The problem is the preparation on how to enforce the minimum health standards despite the DENR and the local government of Manila getting permission for their two-day activity. The immediate agency that should have prepared would be the Philippine National Police,” he added.

The DILG chief stressed more policemen should have been deployed in the area, and that barriers should have been installed.





## DILG looks into white sand mess

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#), [Neil Jayson Servallos](#) (Philstar.com)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am



“I will discuss first with Environment Secretary (Roy) Cimatu other possible courses of action. We will also check what went wrong,” Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said yesterday.  
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will discuss with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) the possible culpabilities of local officials over the botched implementation of health protocols after crowds gathered in Manila Bay’s beachfront on Sunday.

“I will discuss first with Environment Secretary (Roy) Cimatu other possible courses of action. We will also check what went wrong,” Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said yesterday.

Despite restriction on mass gatherings, a large crowd gathered around a portion of Manila Bay to see the beachfront featuring artificial white sand.

Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, commander of the Ermita police station which has jurisdiction over Manila’s Baywalk, was relieved from his post over the incident.

Caramoan’s sacking opened up discussions among netizens who believed that DENR and city officials should be held liable for allowing a public event amid quarantine restrictions.

Año said the DENR and the Manila city government were granted permission for the two-day opening of the beachfront.

The DENR said the decision to open Manila Bay’s beachfront aims to prove that the government was “doing something to rehabilitate the bay.”

### Police, public at fault

Philippine National Police chief Gen. Camilo Cascolan said yesterday the police should not be solely blamed for the incident.

“I’d like to be frank. It’s not just the fault of the police. It’s all of us, right? We should learn from this. As far as the police force is concerned, we always follow the rule of law and when we follow, we have no choice,” Cascolan told reporters.

The incident, according to Cascolan, should serve as a lesson to the public in following health protocols.



## Police, local gov't should have prepared more for Manila Bay 'white beach' opening — DILG

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 21, 2020 11:58:21 AM

Updated Sep 21, 2020 5:44:00 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 21)**— Police and local officials should have implemented additional health and safety protocols ahead of the public viewing of the new “white beach” in Manila Bay, the Interior Department said Monday.

Speaking to CNN Philippines, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año admitted he observed the lack of preparation on the side of the enforcers, as [crowds flocked to Roxas Boulevard over the weekend](#) despite concerns about COVID-19 distancing measures.

*“Sa tingin ko, kulang ‘yung preparations para ma-enforce natin ‘yung minimum health standards,”* Año said in an interview with *The Source*. *“Sana napaghandaan nang husto.”*

*“Ang pinaka-immediate kasi dapat na magpe-prepare diyan, ‘yung Philippine National Police, being the frontliners, and the enforcers... the Philippine National Police should have prepared for that,”* he added.

[Translation: In my opinion, we lacked preparations to enforce the minimum health standards. We should have prepared better. The PNP, being the frontliners and enforcers, are the ones who should have immediately prepared for that.]

The DILG chief said the PNP should have deployed additional personnel in the area. More barriers should have also been placed around the site, he added.

Aside from the police, Año likewise noted that the Manila City government should have prepared better for the site’s temporary opening. He added he will be talking to the Environment Department to discuss other courses of action or sanctions for parties that need to be held accountable.

The commander of the Ermita Police Station has since been [relieved from his post](#) for failure to enforce strict health and security measures to control the crowds.

### Dangerous situation

The weekend viewing of the new “white beach” in Manila Bay drew flak from netizens, who expressed concern over the safety of the visiting crowds amid the coronavirus pandemic. Images showed crowds of people standing close to each other while taking photographs of the new white sand.



## Police, local gov't should have prepared more for Manila Bay 'white beach' opening — DILG

The Health Department also expressed alarm over the “dangerous” event, saying that minimum health standards should remain a priority due to the threat of virus transmission.

*“Kailangan lang po mapaalalahanan ang ating mga kababayan na ito po ay isang delikadong sitwasyon dahil maaaring magkaroon ng hawa-hawa ang mga kababayan nating nagpupunta diyan nang hindi masusunod ang minimum health standards,”* Health spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a media forum.

[Translation: We just need to remind the citizens that this is a dangerous situation, because virus transmission is still possible if they don't practice minimum health standards.]

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said separately that people should still observe social distancing in the area, adding that only up to 50 visitors should be allowed at a time for a maximum 5-minute stay.

*“Nananawagan din po kami sa kapulisan na sana ipatupad po ang social distancing,”* he said during his media briefing. *“Sapat na po 'yan (5 minutes) para singhutin ang hangin at magpicture-picture. 'Wag na kayong mag-bathing suit diyan dahil baka lalong matagalan ang mga tao diyan.”*

[Translation: We appeal to the police to enforce social distancing... The 5 minutes should be enough to smell the air and take pictures. Don't wear bathing suits anymore because people may stay longer.]

A netizen turned up on the beach wearing a red swimsuit on Sunday, which went viral on social media.

Roque said the huge turnout proved that the DENR and the city of Manila made the right decision to take the Manila Bay rehabilitation project a step further by using crushed dolomite boulders as 'white sand' to enhance the area's aesthetics.

Año meanwhile said he expected the new attraction to draw crowds, as he acknowledged that residents of Manila and nearby areas were perhaps “excited” to head out after months of quarantine.

However, he also urged the public to still follow minimum health standards when going out.

The overlaying of the sand with crushed dolomite boulders along an area on the baywalk has ignited public interest and controversy. Environment advocates have strongly opposed the beautification project, noting that it may not only destroy the natural ecosystem in Manila Bay but the source of the dolomite as well.

The DENR earlier argued authorities have studied the project thoroughly before pursuing it.

The Manila Bay “white beach” will again be closed until yearend for the next phase of its development and rehabilitation, Año said.



## Año wants Manila Bay crowd control discussed with DENR chief

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan September 21, 2020, 5:12 pm



**OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING.** Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) remind the public of safe physical distancing measures as crowds flock to Manila Bay on Sunday (Sept. 20, 2020). A portion of the coastline has been opened to the public over the weekend. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

**MANILA** – Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said he will talk with Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu after a huge crowd failed to observe physical distancing during the opening of the artificial white sand beach of Manila Bay on Sunday.

"I will discuss it first with Secretary Cimatu *kung ano pa 'yung magiging course of action namin dito*. We will also really check what went wrong. For now, *mahirap kasing magsalita muna* but somehow, *'yun muna ang actions na ginawa ko* (on what course of action will be taken. We will also really check what went wrong. For now, it's difficult to comment but somehow, that's my first action)," he said in a television interview on Monday.

He said people are really expected to flock the Manila Bay's "white beach" made of crushed dolomite.

"*Siguro dahil sa tagal ng lockdown*, the people wanted to go to the beach. *Nakita nila 'yung Manila Bay, binuksan* for a while, for two days, *at gusto nilang makita* by their own eyes (Perhaps due to months of lockdown, the people wanted to go to the beach. They learned Manila Bay was opened for two days, they wanted to see with their own eyes)," Año said.

Año said authorities, particularly the Philippine National Police (PNP) and local government unit (LGU) should have made enough preparation to enforce minimum health standards.

"*Dapat mas maraming pulis na dineploy saka kailangan din diyan naglagay tayo ng barriers*. Of course the Manila LGU, *siyempre dapat talaga nakapag-prepare tayo dito* (More policemen should have been deployed and put barriers. Of course, the Manila LGU should have also made preparation)," he said.

He reminded the public that Metro Manila remains under the general community quarantine and that they should always follow the health protocols to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

PNP chief Camilo Cascolan said crowd management is not the sole responsibility of the police.



## Año wants Manila Bay crowd control discussed with DENR chief

“I would like to be frank, *hindi lang pulis ang may kasalanan dito, lahat po tayo hindi ba. Dapat matuto tayo* (it’s not only the fault of the police, all of us should take the blame. We should learn from this),” he said. “We always follow the rule of law and when we follow the rule of law we have no choice, it’s command responsibility and I emphasize command responsibility during my first speech.”

Ermita Police Station commander Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan was relieved from his post over the police’s failure to implement strict health safety measures.

Joint Task Force (JTF) Covid Shield commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said 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 as well as close coordination with the local government unit.

“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 said in a statement. **(PNA)**





Ikinatuwa ni Sen. Cynthia Villar ang pagsali ng maraming volunteer at partner organization sa clean-up drive sa Manila Bay. Dagdag pa niya, ang rehabilitasyon nito ay hindi lang para sa pagpapaganda. Si Villar ang pinuno ng Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

**NEWS 5**

**“** Ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay ay hindi lamang para sa beautification. Napakaimportante na ma-preserve ang biodiversity dito dahil maraming kabuhayan ang nakadepende dito. Umaasa sa fish supply ng Manila Bay ang may 300,000 na mangangisda... Kaya naman nagpapasalamat ako sa mga taong sumusuporta sa paglilinis at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. **”**

**SEN. CYNTHIA VILLAR**  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

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## Manila Bay rehab should go beyond beautification – Villar

September 21, 2020 | Filed under: [News](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)

BY VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

The rehabilitation of the Manila Bay should go beyond beautification as thousands of fisherfolks depend on the coastal area for their livelihood, Senator Cynthia Villar said on Monday.

In a statement following the observation of the International Day of Coastal Cleanup, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pointed out that efforts to clean up the Manila Bay is not only aimed at beautifying it.

“Ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay ay hindi lamang para sa beautification. Napakaimportante na ma-preserve and biodiversity dito dahil maraming kabuhayan ang naka-depende dito. Umaasa sa fish supply ng Manila Bayang may 300,000 na mangingisda,” Villar said.

She said “we still have a long way to go before we restore the bay to its pristine condition” since the issuance of the December, 2008, Supreme Court mandamus which compelled government agencies and local government units to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay.

She said the growing number of volunteers and partner organizations should be recognized for the strides made in the rehabilitation efforts.

“Natutuwa ako dahil mas marami na tayo ngayong volunteers and partners sa ating clean up and mangrove planting activities in Manila Bay. Marami sa kanila ang hindi tumitigil sa paglilinis kahit may pandemya,” she said.

Villar has been taking part in the efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay. In coordination with the Department of Health, she had initiated a project in Baseco Compound to build toilet facilities for the residents and address the problem of open defecation in the area.



## Mayor Isko asks DENR to close Manila Bay ‘white sand beach’ to the public

Published September 21, 2020, 7:16 PM  
by [Minka Klaudia Tiangco](#)

Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso on Monday asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to close off Manila Bay to the public after throngs of people visited the area without regard for physical distancing guidelines over the weekend.



(photo by Jansen Romero)

Domagoso said it is dangerous for people to be there because construction works are still ongoing.

The Manila mayor also urged the public not to visit Manila Bay now due to the threat of the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19).

“Pakiusap ko sa mga mamamayan, gustuhin man nating makita ‘yung Manila Bay white sand, eh, siguro may iba pa namang paraan (My appeal to the public is this, although we would like to see the white sands in Manila Bay, maybe there is another way to do it),” the mayor said.

For now, the people should make do with the images of the synthetic white sand in the area that are shown by the media, Domagoso said.

The local chief executive vowed that they will continue to enforce physical distancing and other health protocols in the area.

Originally, Manila Bay was scheduled to open to the public every weekend.

Over a thousand people flocked to Manila Bay to see its synthetic white sand when it was partially opened to the public on September 19 and 20.

Manila Police District (MPD) Director Rolando Miranda admitted that they had difficulty in controlling the “excited” crowd.

The authorities’ apparent failure to control the crowd during the weekend led to the administrative relief of Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan who was the commander of the Ermita Police Station.



## Manila Bay Sands pinalalagyan ng barikada ni Mayor Isko Moreno

By Bandera at Radyo Inquirer September 21, 2020 - 02:17 PM

Hiniling ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na lagyan ng barikada ang Manila Bay Sands.

Kasunod ito ng insidente ng pagdagsa ng mga tao sa lugar nitong nagdaang weekend.

Ayon kay Moreno, hiniling na niya sa DENR na bakuran ang lugar, lalo pa at mayroon pang nagpapatuloy na konstruksyon.

Magugunitang nitong weekend, dumagsa ang mga tao sa lugar na nais tignan ang mas magandang itsura ng Manila Bay.

Sa kabila ng presensya ng mga otoridad, hindi napigilan ang pagsisiksikan ng mga tao at nalabag na ang protocol sa social distancing.

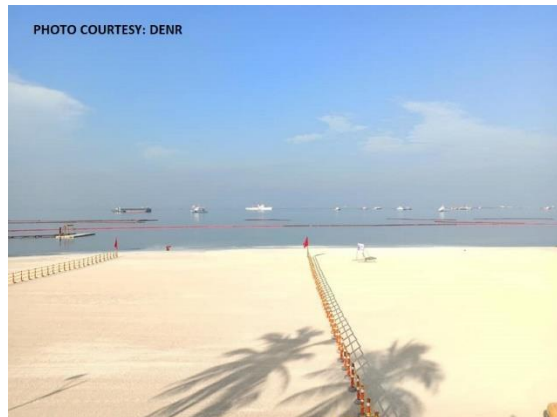
Read more: <https://bandera.inquirer.net/265132/manila-bay-sands-pinalalagyan-ng-barikada-ni-mayor-isko-moreno-2#ixzz6Yi1TM3XJ>

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## Manila Mayor Isko Moreno naki-usap sa publiko na iwasan ang pagpunta sa Manila Bay Sands

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo September 21, 2020 - 11:26 AM



Ngayong may pandemic pa rin ng COVID-19 sa bansa, nakiusap si Manila Mayor Isko Moreno na iwasan muna ang pagpunta sa Manila Bay Sands.

Ayon kay Moreno, mas mainam na sa media na lamang muna makita ng mga tao ang bagong itsura ng Manila Bay.

Mabuti ayon sa alkalde na ipagpaliban na lamang muna ang pagtungo sa lugar para maiwasan ang pagdagsa ng mga tao.

Noong weekend dumagsa ang mga tao sa Manila Bay at nalabag na ang physical distancing.

Nagresulta ito sa pagsibak sa pwesto kay Ermita Police station commander Police Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Caramoan.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/265508/manila-mayor-isko-moreno-naki-usap-sa-publiko-na-iwasan-ang-pagpunta-sa-manila-bay-sands#ixzz6YiTKeh6L>

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## 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.



## Duterte Beach? Google Maps tag appears amid ‘white sand’ mess

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.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1337783/duterte-beach-google-maps-tag-appears-amid-white-sand-mess#ixzz6YyhTkSB>

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## Critics made public visit Manila Bay white sand beachfront – DENR

Criticisms on the government's beach nourishment project prompted hundreds of onlookers to take a peek at the Manila Bay white sand beachfront last weekend, according to an executive of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

It was not the DENR, but it was the critics who were the ones who “invited” the public, as they were triggered by their ramblings about the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny Antiporda said in a radio interview Monday.

The public became eager to visit the area because of the wrongful accusations about the project. They just want to know if the government has been truly honest to the Filipinos, he added.

Antiporda explained that the DENR only allowed entry into the Manila Bay Sands for a limited number of people last Saturday and Sunday.

He said 50 persons were allowed at a time last Saturday, and increased to 80 persons at a time last Sunday, with each batch allowed to stay for approximately five minutes.

Physical distancing was strictly observed at the dolomite-covered area of Manila Bay, he assured, adding that the DENR has jurisdiction only on the entrance going to the white sand beach.

Antiporda said he personally came to the area to request the spectators to observe the government health protocols.

The area is now closed to the public for the Phase 2 of the beach nourishment project.



## Pinoys, celebs join #ManilaBayChallenge



Published 12 hours ago on September 21, 2020 04:15 PM

By [Sundy Locus](#)



Thousands flocked along Roxas boulevard on weekend to have a first-glance and feel of the renovated Manila Bay that features its “white sand beach”. And boom! Sayonara, Boracay!

Manila Bay is giving the favored party island a run for its money as it opened with much aplomb sans social distancing on Sunday.

Dolomite from Cebu had been dumped on a part of the coast of Manila Bay as part of the beautification efforts despite protests from environmental groups.

And lo and behold, netizens flocked to the beach and some even cramped the footbridge facing the bay with onlookers taking out their smartphones.

This prompted the creation of memes where the viral photo of the onlookers on the bridge is seen in one frame while the other frame, either on top or side-by-side features a selfie taken in a beach somewhere else.

Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter were flooded with these memes but it was the memes that feature celebrities that made the rounds.

These include Taylor Swift, James Reid, and Nadine Lustre aka JaDine and BrightWin of the Thai BL drama 2gether.

Here are some of the funniest posts:





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## LOOK: Sunset by the Bay

Published September 21, 2020, 5:34 PM

by [MB Online](#)



the pandemic, promenaders take a break from quarantine life to enjoy a stroll at the much talked about Manila Bay sands, in the process ignoring physical distancing which keeps one safe from the virus. (MANNY LLANES/ MANILA BULLETIN)





## Who's to blame for 'white sands' woes?

-September 22, 2020

*BY VICTOR REYES and Ashzel Hachero*

PNP chief Camilo Cascolan yesterday said the public was partly to blame for physical distancing violations at the "white sands" area of Manila Bay that was mobbed by people over the weekend as he defended a Manila Police station chief who was relieved for failing to enforce health protocols.

While Cascolan resorted to finger pointing, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to temporarily close the area and appealed to the public to temporarily put on hold their plans to visit the controversial site amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said closing the area to the public is necessary since there are still construction works going on.

"I already asked the DENR to close the area, 'yung bakod, since it is still a hard hat area, may construction pa naman sa area," Moreno said after flag raising rites at the City Hall.

"We will try to put order in the area."

The uncontrolled surge of people visiting the area, which had been paved over with dolomite, led to the PNP relieving Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, the commander of Station 5 (Ermita) of the Manila Police District, on orders of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Cascolan, however, had a different take, saying: "I would like to be frank, hindi lang ho pulis ang may kasalanan dito (it's not only the police which is at fault here)."

But Interior Secretary Eduardo Año disagreed, saying the PNP and the local government of Manila were the main culprits.

"The Philippine National Police should have prepared for that," Año said, adding the PNP should have deployed more policemen and barriers in anticipation of the large number of people coming to see the Manila Bay project.

"And, of course, the Manila LGU, dapat talaga nakapag-prepare tayo dito (we should have prepared for this)," added Año.

In a press briefing at Camp Crame, Cascolan said: "Lahat po tayo, hindi ba dapat matuto tayo. (We're all to blame, isn't it? We should learn our lesson)." He, however, said it was only proper to relieve Caramoan for command responsibility.

Lt. Col. Alex Daniel has been designated as the officer-in-charge of the station, according to PNP Deputy Chief for Administration and concurrent Joint Task Force COVID Shield chief Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar.

"Siguro naman ho sasabihin niyo sa amin mali yata 'yun pero dapat isipin niyo saan din kayo nagkamali. (Maybe, you'll say it's wrong but you should think where you made a mistake)," Cascolan added.



## Who's to blame for 'white sands' woes?

Año said the DENR opened the project for public viewing but added this was on a limited basis only.

Año also called on the public to observe physical distancing, noting that Metro Manila is still under general community quarantine.

Photos of people ignoring physical distancing to get a good vantage point at the area were all over the papers and social media over the weekend.

Moreno reminded the public of the dangers of ignoring health protocols, saying:

“Alam ko marami sainyo ang nasisiyahan, nagagalak na ang imposible ay naging posible pero nais kong ipaalala na mayroon pang pandemya. Mayroon pang pangamba at panganib sa lungsod ng Maynila (I know many of you are happy and excited that what was once deemed as impossible has become possible, but remember, there is still a pandemic),” Moreno said.

He told the public to postpone planned visits to the area since they have seen it on various media.

“All of us are taking responsibility for the matter and I think we all learned a lesson here,” Moreno added.

The controversial “white sands” beach at Manila Bay is part of the P389 million beautification project of the DENR that has been slammed by various environmental groups and Vice President Leni Robredo, who said it was insensitive and insulting amid the difficulties posed by the pandemic.

The Department of Health also said the crushed dolomite rocks used by the DENR may pose health problems such as respiratory diseases, though it later backtracked.

The new Ermita police station commander said they will enforce the closure of the area and strictly enforce health protocols.

“I appeal to the public to just wait for the opening so that the guidelines will be clear,” Daniel said, adding more than 20 cops have been deployed to secure the area.



## Sa pagdagsa ng tao sa Manila Bay: ‘Hindi lang PNP ang may kasalanan’

By [Doris Franche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am



Alinsunod sa Bayanihan Act na binuo nang magsimula ang COVID-19 pandemic, bawal ang mass gathering o assembly, pag-oberba sa social distancing, pagsuot ng face shield at face mask at madalas na disinfections.  
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — Tahasang sinabi ni PNP Chief General Camilo Cascolan na hindi dapat sisihin ang pulis dahil may pagkakasala rin ang mga taong dumagsa sa Manila Bay nitong weekend para makita ang artificial White Sand Baywalk.

Ang reaksiyon ni Cascolan ay bunsod ng pagkakasibak kay Manila Police District (MPD) Station 5 na si Police Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan dahil sa command responsibility.

Ani Cascolan, mahirap naman aniya kung sa pulis lang isisi ang pagdagsa ng tao sa Manila Bay kung saan hindi nasunod ang social distancing.

Sinabi ni Cascolan na dapat na naging responsable ang publiko dahil nananatili ang banta ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Giit ni Cascolan, dapat na makiisa naman ang publiko sa mga ipinaiiral na health safety protocols gaya ng social distancing at mass gatherings.

Alinsunod sa Bayanihan Act na binuo nang magsimula ang COVID-19 pandemic, bawal ang mass gathering o assembly, pag-oberba sa social distancing, pagsuot ng face shield at face mask at madalas na disinfections.

Sinabi pa ng PNP chief na ang laban sa COVID ay hindi lang sa pulis kundi laban ng lahat.



## Cascolan: Hindi lang pulis pumalya sa Manila Bay

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 21, 2020

NEWS



Para kay Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Camilo Cascolan, hindi lang pulisya ang may sala kung bakit hindi nasunod ang social distancing sa Manila Bay Sands nitong nagdaang weekend sa kabila ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Ayon kay Cascolan, command responsibility ang dapat na pinairal ng pulis kaya inalis sa pwesto si Ermita Police chief Police Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Caramoan.

“I’d like to be frank. Hindi lang ho pulis ang may kasalanan dito. Lahat tayo. Dapat matuto tayo. Sa amin po sa kapulisan, we will always follow the rule of law,” sinabi ng PNP top cop.

Binuksan sa publiko ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang pinagandang bahagi ng Manila Bay nitong weekend, na nagdulot ng kumpulan ng tao sa lugar.

Sinabi naman ni Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander Police Lieutenant General Guillermo Eleazar, posible sanang napigilan ni Caramoan ang mass gathering kung gumawa ng tamang pagpapalano at regular na monitoring para maiwasan ang ganitong sitwasyon. (Kiko Cueto)



## MGB-7 chief who OK'd dolomite sale retires

By [Le Phyllis F. Antojado](#) (The Freeman)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am



MGB-7 regional director Armando Malicse appears before the Cebu Provincial Board to answer queries on the local sale of dolomite from Alcoy town.

Le Phyllis F. Antojado

CEBU, Philippines — Loreto Alburo, the director of Mines and Geosciences in Central Visayas who approved the permit for Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC) to transport and locally sell crushed dolomite from Alcoy Cebu, has retired.

Sources said his retirement came after he has reached the age of 65.

The change in post at MGB-7 came just three days before the Provincial Board began yesterday its inquiry into the arrangements regarding the extraction and sale of Alcoy's dolomite, which was eventually used as sand alternative to "beautify" the Manila Bay.

The turnover was held at the MGB-7 on Friday, with Engr. Armando Malicse taking over the position vacated by Alburo.

The PB had initially summoned Alburo to shed light on the issues surrounding the sale of dolomite locally, among others, but he reportedly begged off owing to his impending retirement.

### Allowed?

According to Malicse, the selling of dolomite by the firms in Alcoy to the domestic market is allowable.

He said Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) can sell the extracted dolomite in Alcoy for as long it is within the Mineral Production Agreement (MPSA).

"The extraction of the Dolomite Mining Corporation, as long as it is within the MPSA area bounded by a map, it is legal. And if they sell it to somebody, the contract says it's legal, whether it is local or international (market)," Malicse said.

He further said that selling dolomite "is not exclusively for export" purposes.

Earlier, Governor Gwendolyn Garcia issued a cease and desist order against sister companies DMC and PMSC, enjoining from "further transporting and selling dolomite, associated mineral deposits, and other quarry resources in the domestic and local market used as substitutes for sand and gravel, soil conditioner, and other purposes."





## MGB-7 chief who OK'd dolomite sale retires

Garcia had said in previous reports that the MPSA specifically covers the extraction of dolomite, which will be transported internationally as raw materials in making glass and steel among others.

When she called a meeting with the mining firms, Garcia said she learned that the PMSC has been selling dolomites “beyond what has been envisioned in the MPSA.”

Thus, she argued that the firms must secure proper permits from the Capitol.

### ‘Capitol say needed’

During yesterday's session, PB Member John Ismael Borgonia, chairman of the committee on environment conservation and natural resources, said that under the Revenue Code of the province, “there shall be collected corresponding fees at the rates prescribed for the filing of application and issuance of the governor's accreditation for operators, processors, traders.”

He said mining firms shall pay 10 percent of the fair market value of the extraction.

Malicse said he is not familiar with the ordinance since he has just been installed as regional director of MGB-7.

He is “not practically” sure if the issuance of permit for the transportation of dolomite in Manila Bay's case has reached the provincial level since under Philippine Mining Act, the ore transport permit (OTP) can be granted to the firm if the latter obtains endorsements from at least two local government units – either from the town/city, barangay or province.

Since PMSC has been granted a permit by the former MGB-7 director, Malicse believes that the firm has been compliant with the requirements under the Philippine Mining Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Borgonia insisted, however, that the province's endorsement should be sought as well with regard to these permits.

He said there the provincial ordinance should be amended to reflect the need to properly monitor the operations of similar firms.

“Murag man gud ang MGB, 'sa amoa okay ra ni bahala na mo dinha ang probinsya.' Mura'g di sila motabang nato ba. Sa atong nakita kinahanglan mopasar ta og ordinansa nga maghapnig ani,” Borgonia said.

“At least ang MGB, although national government, sila at least mo-honor pud sila sa atong power to tax. Wala man gud nila gi-honor murag gipasagdan lang ta nila ba,” he added. — **JMD (FREEMAN)**



## It's not sand

(The Freeman)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am

The opening of Manila Bay boardwalk to the public after it has been artificially backfilled with dolomite from Cebu drew praises and criticisms. Some say it was a waste of millions in funds which could have been allocated for more pressing concerns, while others say it's a major success that can draw in more tourists.

One observer pointed out though that the public should not be characterizing the white thing as sand. Sand is what you naturally find on the beach, he said. "This one is just crushed rock from the mountain," he added.



## OOK: Crushed dolomite stone

Published September 21, 2020, 5:29 PM  
by [MB Online](#)



This is what the crushed dolomite stone looks like up close and is being used on what is now popularly known as the Manila Bay “white sand”. It is not however advised to walk on the sand barefoot because of its sharp edges. (Manny Llanes)

## PICTURE TAKING SA MANILA BAY ‘WHITE SAND BEACH’ BAWAL MUNA

written by [Judith Estrada-Larino](#) September 21, 2020



Ipinagbawal muna ang pagkuha ng litrato sa artificial white sand beach sa Manila Bay.

Kasunod na rin ito nang pagdagsa ng mga tao sa nasabing lugar nitong weekend kayat hindi na naipatupad ang physical distancing.

Nabatid na maraming pulis na ang idineploy sa mga strategic area malapit sa white sand kabilang ang kalapit na footbridge para mapigilan ang pagbisita ng mga tao sa lugar.

Bagamat uubrang gamitin ang footbridge, hindi naman papayagan ang mga taong tumigil dito at kunan ang artificial white sand tulad nang ginawa ng marami nitong weekend, gayundin sa Baywalk area.

Una nang sinibak ang hepe ng Ermita Police Station na si Police Lt. General Ariel Caramoan dahil sa kabiguang ipatupad ang physical distancing sa lugar.



## DOH alarmed over crowds of people converging in Manila Bay

By [Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco](#)  
September 22, 2020



Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire

The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday expressed alarm after hundreds of people flocked to see Manila Bay's "white sand" over the weekend.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that as soon as they received information and saw pictures on social media of people disregarding minimum health standard protocols, particularly the one-meter social distancing, they called the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"We immediately relayed to the DILG . Kausap ko kahapon [I talked yesterday to ] si Secretary [Eduardo] Año

and we saw, they immediately did some actions on this. They also coordinated with the city of Manila," Vergeire said.

Vergeire reminded that the threat of Covid-19 still remains and the public should be very cautious.

She reiterated that when social distancing is relaxed, just like what happened in Manila Bay, the virus can spread easily.

Although the aim of the project is good, she stressed, such incident should not happen again "for if the public will not observe minimum health standards they may contract the disease."

The Inter-Agency Task Force, she added, will also discuss the incident in today's (September 22) meeting,

"Let us wait on the decision of the IATF on that," she added.

Meanwhile, as of 4 p.m. of September 21, the DOH logged 3,475 cases newly-confirmed cases.

Of the 290,190 confirmed cases, 54,958 (18.9 percent) are active cases, 230,233 (79.3 percent) have recovered and 4,999 (1.7 percent) have died.



## DOH nabulabog sa pagdumog ng tao sa Manila Bay: 'Di pa nawawala ang virus'

ABS-CBN News  
Sep 21 2020 05:43 PM



Watch more in [iWanty](#) or [TFC.tv](#)

MAYNILA — Nagpahayag ang Department of Health (DOH) nitong Lunes ng pagkabahala sa pagdumog ng mga tao sa binuksang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng dinurog na dolomite para magmukha anilang "white sand" ala Boracay.

Binuksan ang "white sand" portion ng Manila Bay noong weekend, kung saan sangkatutak na tao ang pinayagang magpa-picture sa higit P300 milyong halaga ng proyekto.

Sa mga retrato, kitang hindi nasunod ang physical distancing sa ilang pagkakataon.

"Ito ay isang nakakabahalang sitwasyon. Alam natin na hindi pa nawawala ang virus dito sa atin," ani DOH spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire.

Maaalalang ipinagbabawal pa rin ang mass gathering sa ilalim ng general community quarantine, lalo't hindi pa rin nakokontrol ng pamahalaan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 kahit higit 6 na buwan na ang pandemya at tila balik-normal na ang ilang bansa.

- [COVID-19 cases in PH reach 290,190; deaths at 4,999](#)

Pero sa kabila nito, binuksan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), pasimuno ng proyekto, ang Manila Bay, nagresulta sa pagdagsa roon ng mga tao.

Ayon kay Vergeire, kinausap na ng DOH ang mga taga-Department of the Interior and Local Government para ipasilip kung may paglabag sa insidente.

Maaalalang sinibak sa puwesto ang isang station commander ng Manila Police District dahil sa nangyaring mass gathering sa Manila Bay.

"Kailangan pa rin i-enforce ang minimum health standards. Ito po ay isang delikadong sitwasyon dahil baka marami ang mahawa," giit ni Vergeire.



## That fish kill in Manila Bay

September 22, 2020 | Filed under: [Editorial, Opinion](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)



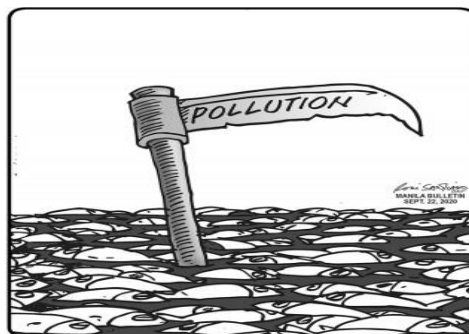
HUNDREDS of dead fish started floating to the surface of Manila Bay near the Baseco compound in Manila Bay Thursday morning, September 17, after a night of heavy rains over Manila.

Because of the recent controversy over the dumping of crushed dolomite to look like white sand along Roxas Boulevard, it was suspected by some that the dolomite had somehow poisoned the waters. But the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) pointed out that the “white beach” project was several kilometers away from Baseco and its floating dead fish.

This is not the first time hundreds of dead fish have come floating to the surface of lakes, gulfs, and bays in the country. Last May, hundreds of tons of tilapia being grown in fish cages in Taal Lake, Batangas, floated dead to the surface due to the depletion of oxygen levels in the lake because of too many fish cages. Earlier fish kills in Taal Lake in 2008 and 2011 were linked to volcanic activity.

Last June, in Laguna de Bay, fish kills were traced also to the depletion of oxygen in the water due, this time, to the mass destruction of fresh green algae. In 2011, oxygen depletion and water climate change were blamed for the death of hundreds of milkfish in Lingayen Gulf, Pangasinan.

Fish kills in the Philippines and in many other countries have been traced to various causes, including infectious diseases, algal blooms, high temperatures, and toxins from water pollution. Pollution has long been established as the major problem of Manila Bay, as a result of human wastes from houses, and other wastes from pig pens and factories dumped directly on streams flowing into the Pasig river, on to Manila Bay.



It is indeed unlikely, as Malacanang claims, that the Baseco fish kill is due to the crushed dolomite being spread along part of the Roxas Boulevard beach area to improve the view of the sunset and help in the mental health of Metro Manilans, in the words of presidential spokesman Harry Roque. Most probably, the fish kill resulted from the pollution that has long been a problem in Manila Bay.



## That fish kill in Manila Bay

The Supreme Court, in 2008, issued a direct order to various government agencies led by the DENR to clean up Manila Bay of all its garbage and sewage so it would again be fit for “swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.” The DENR did take some steps, including appointing river rangers to stop the throwing of garbage and sewage into the streams flowing into the Pasig and into the bay. But the fact is that the pollution continues and the bay remains unfit for swimming.

This is one reason some people criticized the DENR’s white beach project with its P389-million budget. How much has been spent to stop the pollution of the bay?

Public attention is now on the fish kill at Baseco. The investigation will come up with the cause of it all – pollution. The DENR can have its dolomite white beach, but we hope to see it really work on this real problem of Manila Bay.



## EBAK, LASON, POLUSYON AT IBA PA SA APLAYA NG MANILA BAY



September 21, 2020 @ 2:19 PM 17 hours ago

DALAWANG araw nating binuksan sa mga mamamayan ang kahit papaano'y nagawa na ngunit maliit pang espasyo ng pagbabago sa Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Nakapasok at nakaapak nang personal ang mga mamamayan sa nasabing lugar na unang tinanggalan ng basura at may lasong putik bago tinambakan ng dolomite.

Sa pahintulot ng Diyos, matatapos natin ang tinatawag nating rehabilitasyon at pagpapaganda sa nasabing lugar sa tamang panahon.

Darating ang araw na masisilayan natin ang puti ng aplaya ng lugar at matutulad ang ganda nito sa Boracay na isa sa pinakamalinis, pinakamaganda at pinakakilalang pasyalan ng mga turista nating kababayan at dayuhan.

### LIBO AT MILYONG PAKINABANG

Sakaling malinis natin sa polusyon, lason at basura ang lugar na may habang 500 metro at lapad na 60 metro at makumpleto ang paggawa, libo-libong tao ang makikinabang araw-araw sa pamamasyal.

Ang mga kapos sa pamasaha na gustong mamasyal sa Boracay, riyon na lang sa Baywalk magsisipuntahan.

At batay sa karanasan ng mga Pinoy, magkakaroon din ang marami ng tsansa na makalanghap ng hanging dagat na maganda sa kalusugan.

Gamot nga sa matitinding sakit sa baga at iba pang sakit ang hangin at tubig-dagat.

Dahil daragsain ang lugar, tiyak ding milyon-milyong piso ring pakinabang ang makakamit ng pamahalaan at mga establisimyento sa lugar.

Lilikha rin ang lugar ng empleyo sa pagtatayo ng mga may puhunan ng magagandang hotel, restoran, tindahan at iba pa.



## **EBAK, LASON, POLUSYON AT IBA PA SA APLAYA NG MANILA BAY**

### **LOKAL NA OPISYAL AT MAMAMAYAN**

Tulad ng mga magagandang lugar na dinarayo ng maraming tao, maging ang mga walang puhunan, ordinaryong mamamayan at mahihirap ay makaisip ng mga proyektong pangkabuhayan sa lugar.

Baka may magtayo rin ng mga kooperatiba na sasalo sa pangangailangan ng mga mamamasyal at maging ng mga estabilisimyento sa lugar.

At kung magpapatuloy ang mga opisyal na lokal na kagaya ni Mayor Isko Moreno, nakikini-kinita natin kung paano nila isusulong ang mga mamamayan na makipagsabayan at makipagtulungan sa kahit sino para lalong umunlad, gaganda at kapaki-pakinabang ang lugar sa maraming henerasyon na darating.

Malaki ang tiwala nating lahat ang mga lokal na opisyal ng mga nakapaligid na barangay, bayan, lungsod at lalawigang nakaugnay sa buong Manila Bay mula Cavite, Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga at Bataan ay kumikilos para buhayin ang naghihingalong lawa at pagandahin ito bilang isa sa mga ipinagmamalaking lugar ng buong bansa.

Iniluklok sila ng taumbayan sa tiwala at paniniwalang pangunahing nasa isipan nila na protektahan at pagsilbihan sila at hindi pabayaan o pagsamantalahan.

### **BOMBA AT POLUSYON**

Tumulong tayo sa International Cleanup Day nitong nakaraang Sabado at pinili natin ang nasabing lugar na linisin.

Inorganisa ito ng National Cleanup Day Coalition at pang-6 taon na itong isinasagawa.

Dumalo ang maraming tauhan ng ahensya o departamento ng pamahalaan at sinamahan ang mga ito ng mga organisasyong pribado gaya ng Lions Clubs International District 301-A2 at iba pa.

Kabilang sa mga dumalo, siyempre ang kinabibilangan nating Department of Environment and Natural Resources, City of Manila, Metro Manila Development Authority, Dep'ts of Agriculture, Interior and Local Government, Public Works and Highways, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, National Economic Development Authority at marami pang iba.

Alam ba ninyo ang ating natagpuan?

Hindi pa rin matigil-tigil ang pagtatapon ng bomba o dumi ng tao, lason at polusyon sa lugar.

Wala tayong gaanong nadatnang basura sa lugar ngunit hindi kayang tanggapin ng sikmura ang baho sa mismong seawall.

Ang masangsang at mabahong amoy ang palatandaan ng dumi, lason at polusyon sa hindi pa napupunuan ng dolomite at iba pang panambak na dapat ilagay sa lugar.

Kailangan talaga ang pagtutulungan ng pamahalaan at mamamayan upang ganap na magiyera natin ang masamang kalagayan ng Manila Bay.

Bukod sa hindi magandang kalagayan sa mga aplaya ng Metro Manila, hindi natin malilimutan ang rebelasyon mismo ni ngayo'y Bulacan Vice Governor Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado na may dalampasigan sa Bulacan na nakalalason na at hindi pupwedeng pag-alagaan at pangalapan ng mga lamang dagat mula sa isda hanggang sa mga shell, alimango at iba pa.





## EDITORIAL - Lessons not learned

(The Freeman)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am



As of last count there are now over 286,000 cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines.

Despite the rosy picture painted by the government, we have cause to be concerned as reports have it that there have been at least 3,000 new cases reported daily and non-stop since September 8. This only tells us the rate of infections is not slowing down.

Why is it so hard to bring the numbers down? Of course, there is no simple and singular answer to that. But we can cite what happened recently in Manila as one of the reasons why the coronavirus continues to spread; some Filipinos just lack the discipline and sometimes the plain common sense to deal with the virus.

Just in case you haven't heard what happened, this is what took place. The authorities decided to open the section of Manila Bay to visitors so they could appreciate what adding crushed dolomite did to that place. In response, thousands swarmed the attraction, causing a brief traffic jam on Roxas Boulevard.

Then the crowd practically had their run of the place, hanging out, taking pictures; generally having a good time while ignoring every safety protocol that has been taught to them these past few months.

Why do we say some Filipino lack the common sense to deal with this crisis? They go somewhere even when there was no immediate or urgent need to go to that place.

We cannot blame their curiosity for being piqued. The Manila Bay rehabilitation project drew a lot of criticism and attention lately. People most likely wanted to see for themselves what was causing such a ruckus in the news and in social media.

But going to see a new beach is not something urgent or important. Going there did not fulfill an immediate need, but they did so anyway. And they did so at the risk getting infected by a virus that is still making its rounds in the country.



## EDITORIAL - Lessons not learned

Their presence there only showed they favored their curiosity over common sense.

Why do we say some Filipinos lack the discipline to deal with this crisis? Some people in the thousands who were there to gawk at the beach didn't wear any face mask or face shield.

Another thing we can see from footage and photos is that people were not practicing safe distancing.

We cannot definitely say that new transmissions happened when people flocked to see the new beach in Manila Bay, but what we are sure of is that the transmission can happen if people cluster in large groups and disregard social distancing and face mask protocols.

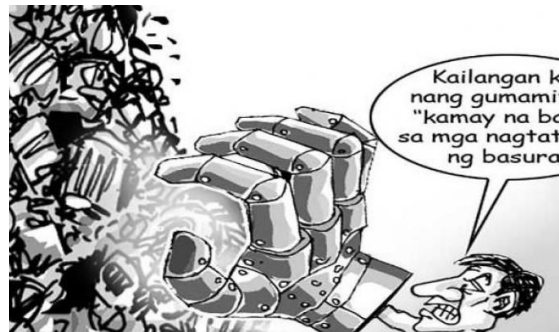
Again, we have to remind people that it takes only one slip for us to fall back into a situation that requires even tighter quarantine restrictions. Sadly, it seems some of us just don't care at all if that happens.



## EDITORIAL - Mas maganda kung walang lulutang-lutang na basura

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am



KAAYA-AYANG pagmasdan ang Manila Bay makaraang tambakan ng puting buhangin. Para na ring nakarating sa Boracay ang magtutungo roon. Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), gumastos sila ng P389 million para sa beautification ng Manila Bay. Galing pa sa Cebu ang buhangin. Noong Sabado, binuksan sa publiko ang Manila Bay. Marami ang dumagsa. Marami ang napa-wow sa ganda ng tanawin. Para na rin daw silang nakarating sa Boracay. Sabik na sabik makayapak sa puting buhangin.

Habang marami ang nagkulumpanan sa magandang buhangin sa dalampasigan, nagsasagawa naman ng paglilinis ang mga tauhan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sa 'di kalayuan. Pinupulot nila ang mga basurang inaanod na pawang mga 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 plastic na grocery bags, sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, at iba pang basura na hindi nabubulok ang lulutang-lutang sa Manila Bay.

Maraming probinsiya at siyudad ang nakapaligid sa Manila Bay – Maynila, Cavite, Parañaque, Navotas, Valenzuela, Bataan at iba pa. Posibleng galing sa mga nabanggit na lugar ang mga basura. Tiyak na pinakamarami ang basura mula sa Maynila. Karamihan sa mga nagtatapon ng basura ay mga nakatira sa pampang ng ilog at estero.

Ang kawalan ng disiplina ng mamamayan sa pagtatapon ng basura ang nararapat pagtuunan ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu. Masasayang lamang ang pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay kung patuloy ang paglutang ng basura rito.

Malinaw pa sa aming isipan ang binitawang salita ni Cimatu noong nakaraang taon sa mga sumisira sa kapaligiran at walang disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura. Nagsalita siya sa isang forum at nagbabala na tapos na umano ang araw ng mga gumagawa ng krimen sa Inang Kalikasan. Tutuldukan na raw niya ang pag-abuso sa kalikasan. Mahigpit niyang ipatutupad ang environmental laws at mga ordinansa.

Pero nakalulungkot na hanggang ngayon, wala pa ring nakitang pagbabago at dumami ang mga nagsasalaula sa kapaligiran. Patuloy pa rin ang pagtatapon ng basura at humahantong sa Manila Bay. Malaking hamon kay Cimatu ang mga lulutang-lutang na basura sa lawa.

## P152 billion sought for climate change adaptation

By [Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (Philstar.com)

- September 22, 2020 - 12:00am



The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the government has allotted P152.35 billion for the government's Risk Resiliency Program under the 2021 budget.

MANILA, Philippines — The government is seeking a higher budget of P152 billion next year to roll out convergence programs on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

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 government has allotted P152.35 billion for the government's Risk Resiliency Program under the 2021 budget.

The proposed budget is 30 percent higher than the P117 billion allocation this year due to the alignment of programs and activities to the priority policies, strategies and projects of the Interagency Task Force Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Plan for the new normal.

Environment Undersecretary Analiza Teh said the proposed funding would be used to build resilient and sustainable communities as the country continues to deal with the 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," 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 2021, 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.



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## P152 billion sought for climate change adaptation

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

The DENR said earlier that addressing climate change remains a top priority for the government even if it is currently preoccupied with controlling the spread of COVID-19.

“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,” the DENR said.





## 25 green sea turtle hatchlings released in Batanes

By Villamor Visaya, Jr. September 21, 2020, 9:57 pm



**RELEASED.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Batanes releases 25 green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) hatchlings along Pahanebneban Beach in Basco town on Monday (Sept. 21, 2020). Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office OIC Victoria Baliuag said the area was identified as nesting site after the first batch of hatchlings was discovered last August 11. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-PENRO Batanes)*

**TUGUEGARAO CITY --** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Batanes on Monday released 25 green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) hatchlings along Pahanebneban Beach in Basco town.

Forester Dionicio Deundo, DENR Technical Services chief, said the 25 hatchlings were discovered by their personnel at past 11 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20, while conducting regular monitoring at the nesting site identified along the area. These were consequently released at 12:27 a.m. after documentation to avoid stressing the species, he added.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Batanes officer-in-charge Victoria Baliuag said the area was identified as nesting site after the first batch of hatchlings was discovered on August 11.

“Since then, we have deployed teams that conduct regular monitoring to protect the hatchlings from predators and to release them immediately after hatching. The area has also been fenced with nets,” she added. *(PNA)*

## 'Plantito, Plantita': Filipinos turn to plants to cope with coronavirus pandemic

Josiah Antonio, ABS-CBN News  
Posted at Sep 21 2020 09:11 PM



Anton Siddayao, a 25-year old government employee plantito, together with his 120 and counting plants. *Photo from his @plantonsdd Instagram account*

MANILA — More than six months into the community quarantine, Filipinos have turned to plants to cope with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

For 25-year old and government employee [Anton Siddayao](#), being a "plantito" helped him focus more despite the situation.

"Tending to them is a temporary distraction from what's happening now, and allows me to focus extra energy on growing plants," Siddayao told ABS-CBN News.

And with the rise of budding "plantitos" and "plantitas," Filipinos also ventured into the plant-selling business to generate income.

Instagram-based plant and equipment seller Jayson Cainglet said that in the three years of their journey in the industry, he saw an increase in the demand of plants in the middle of the pandemic as as people's way of coping.

"Sa mga kwento ng old and new clients, nakaka-relieve talaga ng stress ang paghahalaman. Malaki ang psychic reward kapag nakita mong mayroon kang napapalaki at nabubuhay dahil sa pag-aruga mo," Cainglet, owner of the [City Plants PH](#), told ABS-CBN News.

(From the stories of my old and new clients, taking care of plants relieves their stress. There is a big psychic reward when you see something grow under your care.)

"We are happy na yung pag-aalaga ng plants ay isa sa mga napagtuunan ng pansin ng mga tao," he added.

(We are happy that people ventured to taking care of plants.)



## 'Plantito, Plantita': Filipinos turn to plants to cope with coronavirus pandemic

### Boom of the plant selling business

With experience from the agricultural sector, Cainglet said that he now has the expertise on handling the business they started in 2017.

They have their own contact for suppliers of plants, fertilizers, and pesticides, and even for pots and other equipment needed for taking care of plants, he said.

However, with the pandemic, they had a difficulty sourcing and pricing the plants.

"Nag-increase ang demand, pero unfortunately, nahihirapan kaming mag-source ng halaman ngayon na fair ang presyo. Dahil sa taas ng demand, nagtaasan ang presyo ng mga halaman. Mayroong mga halaman na 200%-300% ang itinaas ng mga presyo, o higit pa," the plant seller said.

(The demand increased but unfortunately we had difficulty sourcing plants with the fair price. Due to the increase of demand, some prices of plants increased to 200 to 300 percent or more.)

Cainglet said they have also received criticisms on social media about the pricing of their goods, which he defended by saying that many small businesses are trying their best to cope as well with the pandemic.

"Hindi naman natin pwedeng ikumpara ang halaman na nakalagay sa plastic or nursery pot na nabili natin sa probinsya, sa halaman na pinalaki at nakatanim na sa paso, at ide-deliver sa bahay mo," Cainglet said.

(We cannot compare plants in plastic or nursery pot that we bought in the province, to plants we took care of in pots and delivered at your home.)

"Marami sa mga online shops na ito, palagay namin, ay sinimulan ng mga tao because they're just trying to cope with the pandemic. Maliliit na players lamang itong mga shops na ito... Sana tigilan na natin ang bashing, lalo na sa small businesses, at lalo na sa panahon ng pandemya," he added.

(Many of these online shops, we think, started because they are coping with the pandemic. These shops are only small players. Let's stop the bashing, especially small businesses, especially in this pandemic.)

The plant seller said they are trying their best to sell plants at the same price prior to the pandemic.

"[Pinipilit] naming hindi magtaas ng presyo. Yung presyo namin ngayon ay pareho lang pre-COVID pandemic. Kaya mayroon kaming handful lamang na trusted suppliers ngayon. Sila yung mga hindi rin masyadong nagtaas ng presyo," Cainglet said.

(We try not to raise the price. The price of our plants is the same pre-COVID pandemic. That's why, we only have a handful of trusted suppliers now. These are the ones that have not really increased their price that much.)



## 'Plantito, Plantita': Filipinos turn to plants to cope with coronavirus pandemic

He added that plant selling should be the passion of the seller and should motivate others to do it as well.

"Ang paniniwala kasi namin, dapat stress-free at positive endeavor ang paghahalaman. Dapat mas marami tayong ma-engganyo na mag-alaga," he said.

(We believe that taking care of plants should be stress-free and a positive endeavor. We should encourage many people to take care of plants.)

"Most plant sellers, I believe, are motivated by their passion and love for plants, while earning income. Dapat huwag mawala 'yung passion and love, while making profit, (The passion and love should not be lost while making profit.)" he added.

### A plantito's journey

Siddayao said that he had other coping mechanisms, like taking care of his dog. But his experience with plants is different.

He said he experiences some mild anxiety attacks caused by work stress. But taking care of plants help him deal with anxiety.

"I am able to focus my attention on taking care of something similar to a pet. Although I have a dog, plants are less of the verbally communicative, and more of the visually communicative," he said.

"I think this has become more effective than any other coping mechanism I have. Aside from the joy of receiving a new plant, I am also connected to more likeminded people who value nurturing and growth," he added.

Siddayao is taking care of 120 plants and counting.

He shared that the "plant community" is also supportive and helpful in improving their craft on taking care of plants.

"The plant community is very supportive to each other, and we share the same sentiment towards joy and love of plants, and awareness to socio economic issues that affect the Philippines' biodiversity through it's flora and fauna, and likewise protecting endemic plants, native to our country," he said.

He added he had learned a lot from the community, not just on how to take care of their plants but also about the environment.

"I hope now, more than ever, as a plant parent, we engage and educate ourselves so that we can save what we can, and address these issues early on, to avoid what is happening now - plant poaching, plant theft, rise in demand for plants, and increase in prices," Siddayao said.



## 'Plantito, Plantita': Filipinos turn to plants to cope with coronavirus pandemic

"It was never a competition, but the awe and joy of taking care of a plant. How these plants eased our mental woes, and have become an engaging community to talk about our planet's biodiversity, and more importantly how to protect our national flora and fauna," he added.

The government employee said that although it has only been five months since he started taking care of plants, he could already recommend the habit to others.

"My friend would ask me if I wanted to purchase plants when he would visit a nursery. And after a few times of buying, I got hooked and could not stop," Siddayao said.

"Yes, i would recommend it, although it's not for everybody. You learn and value patience and the simplicity of owning a plant," he said.

### How taking care of plants helps one's mental health?

Psychologist Renz Argao told ABS-CBN News that taking care of plants is a way of engaging in positive activities that help people cope with the pandemic.

"Taking care of plants have benefits on our well-being through engaging in positive activities that also allow us to cope, especially during the pandemic," he said.

"Taking care of plants is also a way to practice mindfulness and can be a positive distraction from your stressors. It is also a good mental and physical exercise," he added.

Argao said it may have the same benefits as other coping mechanisms, but taking care of plants can improve the physical and mental well-being of a person.

"[The] benefit is similar to other positive or adaptive coping. You can get the same effects from practicing other forms of mindfulness, breathing exercises, or engaging in other activities that you enjoy or like, such as baking or cooking or engaging in sports," Argao said.

"Plants also improve the quality of air which can help physical and mental well-being," he added.



## Total COVID-19 cases reach 290,190 as 3,475 more people get infected, DOH says

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 21, 2020 4:02:24 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 21)** — The Department of Health (DOH) recorded 3,475 new COVID-19 infections, bringing the national tally to 290,190, the Department of Health reported on Monday.

Latest DOH data showed that of the total number, 54,958 are active cases, or about 18 percent.

The department said 2,648 of the new cases occurred within the last 14 days.

Moreover, Metro Manila accounted for most of the new infections with 1,182, followed by Calabarzon with 560, and Central Luzon with 246.

Meanwhile, 400 more patients recovered from the virus, bringing the total recoveries to 230,233, while 15 more died raising the death toll to 4,999.

Of the new deaths, eight died in September, six in August, and one in April. Per location, nine were from Metro Manila, three from Western Visayas, two from Calabarzon, and one from Eastern Visayas.

The DOH noted in its bulletin that it removed 28 duplicates from the total case count, of which 19 were recoveries.

Thirteen cases that were reported recovered were reclassified under deaths (12) and active case (1). As this developed, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported that 21 more overseas Filipinos have been infected with the virus, bringing total tally to 10,411. Overseas Filipinos who recovered are now at 6,619 as 25 more survived, while one death was reported, bringing death toll to 778.

As this developed, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported that 21 more overseas Filipinos have been infected with the virus, bringing total tally to 10,411. Overseas Filipinos who recovered are now at 6,619 as 25 more survived, while one death was reported, bringing death toll to 778.

Globally, the total COVID-19 cases breached 31 million, of which 960,826 died while over 21 million recovered, data from US-based Johns Hopkins University showed.

## COVID-19 cases sa bansa lampas 290,000 na, patay halos 5,000

By [James Relativo](#)(Philstar.com)  
-September 21, 2020 - 3:54pm



Kuha ng mga turistang bumuhos sa Baywalk ng Manila Bay nitong weekend matapos buksan ang look na tinambakan ng durog na "dolomite," bagay na ginamit bilang synthetic white sand.  
The STAR/Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang trend ng pag-akyat ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) infections sa bansa sa pagpasok nito sa ika-28 linggo ng quarantine.

Umabot na kasi sa 290,190 ang kumpirmadong kaso ng nasabing virus sa bansa matapos makapagtala ng karagdagang 3,475 cases ngayong hapon.

Sumabit na riyan ang tally ng Department of Health (DOH) matapos makapaglunsad ng tests sa halos 3.2 milyong indibidwal. Sa kabila niyan, siyam na laboratoryo ang hindi nakapagsumite ng kani-kanilang resulta, Lunes.

"[Over] 28 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 19 were recovered cases," paliwanag pa ng kagawaran sa media.

"Moreover, 13 cases previously reported as recovered were reclassified as death (12) and active (1) cases after final validation."

Kalakhan sa mga sariwang bilang ay produkto ng mga sumusunod na probinsya't rehiyon sa Pilipinas:

- National Capital Region (1,543)
- Batangas (194)
- Rizal (192)
- Cavite (166)
- Cebu (165)



## COVID-19 cases sa bansa lampas 290,000 na, patay halos 5,000

LOOK: DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN #191 As of 4PM today, September 21, 2020, the Department of Health reports the total...

Posted by [Department of Health \(Philippines\)](#) on [Monday, September 21, 2020](#)

Pero hindi lahat ng bilang na 'yan ay may COVID-19 pa sa ngayon. Ang ilan ay gumaling na o 'di kaya't namatay na. 54,958 na lang tuloy ang nalalabing "active cases" sa mga 'yan.

Sa kasamaang-palad, nasawi habang nakikipaglaban sa kinatatakurang sakit ang 15 pang kaso, dahilan para pumatak na sa 4,999 ang total local COVID-19 casualties.

Ligtas naman na sa panganib ang 230,233 pasyente sa ngayon. Mas marami 'yan nang 400 kumpara sa bilang kahapon.

Halos halakati naman ng global "case fatality rate" (3.07%) ang tantos na naitala sa Pilipinas, bagay na napanatag sa 1.72%.

Tumutukoy ang porsyentong 'yan sa mga taong namamatay sa COVID-19 kung ikukumpara sa lahat ng taong nahawaan nito sa isang takdang panahon.

Sa kabila niyan, "needs improvement" pa rin ang bansa pagdating sa positivity rate, lalo na't 10.47% ng mga taong tine-test para sa virus ang nakakakitaan ng naturang karamdaman. Kulang-kulang dalawang beses na mas mataas 'yan sa average positivity rate sa buong mundo, na nasa mahigit 5% lang.

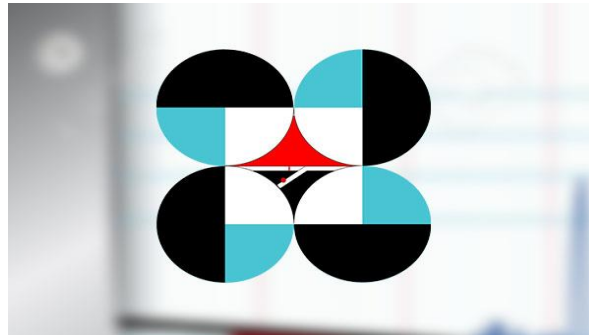
Halos 30.7 milyon na lahat-lahat ang dinadapuan ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). Sa kabilang banda, sumakabilang-buhay na ang 954,417 sa kanila.



## 5.7 magnitude quake rocks Surigao Sur; no damage so far, says NDRRMC



Published 12 hours ago  
on September 21, 2020 04:59 PM  
By [John Roson](#)



No damage has so far been reported following the magnitude 5.7 earthquake and aftershocks that jolted Bayabas, Surigao del Sur, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said.

“Wala pa pong reported damages na ni-relay ang regional DRRM council, we presume na ongoing pa po ‘yung assessment sa lugar,” NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal said.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology initially reported a magnitude 6.1 quake struck the province, but later revised the strength down to 5.7.

The earthquake, which was tectonic in origin, struck 6:13 a.m. in waters some 87 kilometers off Bayabas.

Intensity 4 was felt in Bayabas, followed by Intensity 3 in Tago, Surigao del Sur; Claver, Surigao del Norte; Intensity 2 in Tandag City, Carmen, and Cagwait, Surigao del Sur; and Intensity 1 in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur.

An “instrumental intensity” of 1 was also recorded in Surigao City, as well as in Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental.

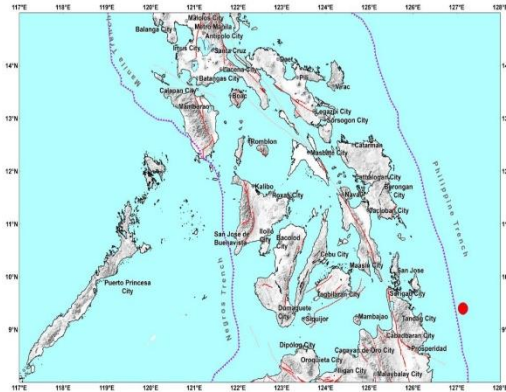
As of this writing, at least 15 aftershocks have been recorded in Surigao del Sur, with one having a magnitude of 5.3 and three that have magnitudes of 4.1 and 4.

Aftershocks are expected following the earthquake, according to Phivolcs.



## Magnitude 4 na lindol, yumanig sa Surigao del Sur

By Bandera at Radyo Inquirer September 21, 2020 - 02:07 PM



Niyanig ng magnitude 4 na lindol sa Surigao del Sur.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, tumama ang lindol sa layong 106 kilometers Northeast ng Bayabas.

Naramdaman ang pagyanig bandang 12:28 ng tanghali.

26 kilometers ang lalim ng lindol at tectonic ang origin.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, aftershock ito ng tumamang magnitude 6.1 na lindol sa Bayabas, Surigao Del Sur noong September 21.

Hindi naman nagdulot ng pinsala ang aftershock sa Bayabas at mga karatig-bayan.





## Multinational to help clean up plastic waste in coastal, island communities in Batangas

Published September 21, 2020 2:36pm

Presented by: Nestlé

Food and beverage manufacturer Nestlé Philippines and marine conservation social enterprise Pure Oceans have entered into an agreement to design, procure, and operate a prototype boat called *Linis Islas Basura Bangka* to transport plastic waste from coastal and island communities in Batangas to recycling facilities.

Under the partnership, Nestlé Philippines is funding the development of the Basura Bangka to support Pure Oceans programs in Mabini and Tingloy, Batangas. Basura Bangka is an innovative mechanism to help address the plastics situation in geographically disadvantaged, coastal and island communities that do not have access to conventional waste management solutions.

### A green roadmap



**Diverting plastic waste from seas and oceans:** Nestlé Philippines and the marine conservation social enterprise

Pure Oceans will design, procure, and operate a prototype boat called Basura Bangka to transport plastic waste from coastal and island communities in Batangas to recycling facilities.

*Basura Bangka* is a component of Nestlé Philippines' high-priority strategy to reduce its environmental footprint and collect and recycle soft plastic waste. The company, together with other stakeholders, is engaged in recovering and diverting such post-consumer waste away from landfills, waterways, and oceans.

Nestlé Philippines recently marked a major milestone in its actions to tackle plastic waste by achieving plastic neutrality in August, recovering 2,400 metric tons of plastic waste equivalent to the plastic used in its packaging for that month in the country. The company's partnership with Pure Oceans is part of its plastic neutrality program, which it is committed to sustaining every month moving forward.

"We are accelerating our actions to confront plastic waste and are committed to making a significant contribution to tackle the plastics problem. Collaboration among stakeholders is

important and necessary. Given the geographical set-up of the Philippines, we need to find waste management solutions as well for coasts and islands. We therefore warmly welcome our

## Multinational to help clean up plastic waste in coastal, island communities in Batangas

partnership with Pure Oceans in our first direct initiative to divert plastic waste from coastal areas and islands,” said Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki.

### Diverting plastic waste from seas and oceans



**Waste on the shoreline in Batangas:** Basura Bangka will help address the plastic waste crisis in geographically disadvantaged coastal and island communities that do not have access to conventional waste management solutions.

*Waste on the shoreline in Batangas:* Basura Bangka will help address the plastic waste crisis in geographically disadvantaged coastal and island communities that do not have access to conventional waste management solutions.

Pure Oceans, led by its Founder and CEO Pia Roxas Ocampo, is based in Mabini, Batangas and works with coastal and island communities on sustainable solutions to the problem of marine plastic litter, aiming to keep reefs and seas plastic-free.

“Nestlé’s support for programs like *Linis Islas* shows a company trying to do better in a changed world, conscious of the impact of their manufacturing choices on the environment and the farthest, most under-served of their customers. *Basura Bangka* is a prototype towards making sure coastal and island communities can thrive in a purer and healthier environment. We hope that solutions like this and support like Nestlé’s will grow and increase further in scale because the challenge of marine plastic litter affects all of us, and so all of us must act,” Ocampo said.

The Philippines, China, and Indonesia have been identified as among the countries where most of the leakage of plastics into seas and oceans happens.

“We are committed to examining all options in facing the issue of plastic waste in the environment and adopting a range of solutions that can make a difference. At Nestlé we are determined to pursue the vision of a waste-free future in the face of difficult challenges. We are

happy to partner with Pure Oceans in this specific initiative, one that helps bring us closer to realizing that vision,” added the Nestlé Philippines CEO.

## 3 Cebu cities push for proper mask disposal



Published 5 hours ago  
on September 22, 2020 03:10 AM  
By [Rico Osmeña](#)



The three major cities in Cebu have separately pushed for an ordinance that prohibits the improper disposal of masks and other coronavirus protective gears and products.

The first to pass and approve the ordinance is Lapu-Lapu. It was sponsored by councilor Ricardo Amores, who is the City Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources chairman.

In an interview, Amores cited Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 which prohibits littering and other acts detrimental to public health.

The public health emergency has resulted in increased consumption and disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as disinfectant and hygiene products to prevent infection and contain the spread of the virus.

“A photo documentation by the zero waste advocacy group EcoWaste Coalition, including posts by concerned local netizens showed used masks, as well as PPE were improperly disposed,” Amores disclosed.

In Lapu-Lapu City, the penalties were pegged at P1,000 for first offense, P3,000 for second offense and P5,000 for third offense.

In separate interviews, Mandaue City councilor Carmelino del Mar Jr. and Cebu City North district councilor Alvin Dizon said proposed ordinances have already been filed.

Del Mar said a resolution has been adopted by the Mandaue City Council and the proposed ordinance will have its first reading on 23 September.

Dizon said that the proposed ordinance has already been referred to the Committee on Laws and Ordinances.

The Cebu City Council, on the other hand, is set to conduct a public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Meanwhile, EcoWaste Coalition coordinator Lito Vasquez said that there are proposals to put up a system to segregate used masks and PPE from the household level to the dumpsite/landfill.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION &  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



September 22, 2020

Date

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## Red tide plagues 12 Eastern Visayas bays

By Sarwell Meniano September 21, 2020, 12:39 pm



**RED TIDE INFESTED.** A portion of San Pedro Bay in Basey, Samar, one of the areas contaminated with red tide. Twelve bays in the region have been contaminated with red tide toxins present in both seawater and shellfish meat. (PNA file photo)

**TACLOBAN CITY** – Five more bays in Eastern Visayas were added to the list of red tide infested areas in the region, prompting the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to issue a stern warning against the consumption of shellfish meat.

In its latest red tide alert issued Sunday, 12 bays in the region have been contaminated with red tide toxins present in both seawater and shellfish meat.

New areas with algal bloom include Villareal Bay in Samar; Cambatutay Bay in Tarangnan, Samar; coastal waters of Zumarraga, Samar; and coastal waters of Leyte, Leyte.

Earlier, BFAR identified red tide contamination in Cancabato Bay in Tacloban City; Matarinao Bay stretching across the towns of General MacArthur, Hernani, Quinapondan, and Salcedo in Eastern Samar; Carigara Bay -- Babatngon, San Miguel, Barugo, Carigara, and Capooacan in Leyte; coastal waters of Guiuan, Eastern Samar; Irong-irong Bay in Catbalogan City, Samar, and San Pedro Bay in Basey, Samar.

Last week, the fisheries bureau has added Maqueda Bay in the towns of Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, San Sebastian, Calbiga, Pinabacdao, and Hinabangan in Samar and coastal waters of Daram, Samar in the list of red tide-infested areas in the region.

“To protect the public, we issue this warning as precautionary advice to the public to refrain from gathering, selling, and eating all types of shellfishes,” BFAR said.

The fisheries bureau also banned the trading and consumption of *Acetes* sp. locally known as “alamang” harvested from said bays to avoid possible shellfish poisoning.

Local government units are advised to regulate the gathering, marketing, and transport of shellfish from the infested areas.

“Fish, squid, shrimp, and crab are safe to eat “provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking”, the advisory added.



## Red tide plagues 12 Eastern Visayas bays

At least two children died and four of their family members were hospitalized last week after eating red tide infected green mussels in Bagacay village, Daram, Samar.

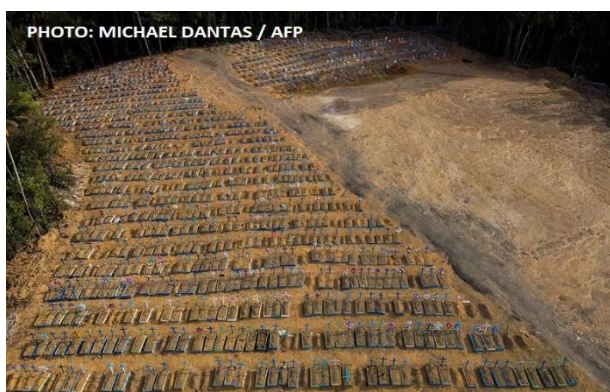
Killed by paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) were an eight-year-old boy and his three-year-old brother while four other family members were admitted at a hospital in Catbalogan City, Samar.

Red tide is a term used to describe a phenomenon where the water is discolored by high algal biomass or the concentration of algae. PSP occurs from ingesting bivalve shellfish (such as mussels, oysters, and clams) that contain toxins. *(PNA)*



## Global death toll sa COVID-19 mahigit 965,000 na

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo September 21, 2020 - 11:44 AM



Sumampa na sa 965,063 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Sa huling datos na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER, sumampa na sa 204,118 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa US.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 136,000 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa Brazil.

Ang death toll sa India ay mahigit 87,000 na.

Habang ang death toll sa Mexico ay umabot na sa mahigit 73,000.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 22.8 million na ang bilang ng mga naka-recover na sa sakit.

Habang nasa mahigit 7.4 million pa ang aktibong kaso.

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

USA – 204,118  
Brazil – 136,895  
India – 87,909  
Mexico – 72,179  
UK – 41,777  
Italy – 35,707  
France – 31,285  
Peru – 31,369  
Spain – 30,495  
Iran – 24,301



## Arctic summer sea ice second lowest on record: US researchers

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Sep 22 2020 03:13 AM

WASHINGTON - Arctic summer sea ice melted in 2020 to the second smallest area since records began 42 years ago, US scientists announced Monday, offering further stark evidence of the impact of global warming.

Arctic sea ice melts in summer and reforms in winter, but precise satellite imagery taken regularly since 1979 had documented how the cycle has been shrinking significantly.

The year's minimum was reached on September 15, at 3.74 million square kilometers (1.44 million square miles), according to scientists at the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) at the University of Colorado Boulder.

"It's been a crazy year up north, with sea ice at a near-record low... heat waves in Siberia, and massive forest fires," said Mark Serreze, director of NSIDC.

"The year 2020 will stand as an exclamation point on the downward trend in Arctic sea ice extent. We are headed towards a seasonally ice-free Arctic Ocean, and this year is another nail in the coffin."

Unlike melting glaciers on land, melting sea ice does not directly contribute to rising sea levels as the ice is already on the water, but less ice means less solar radiation is reflected and more is absorbed by the oceans, warming them.

"The rapid disappearance of sea ice is a sobering indicator of how closely our planet is circling the drain," Greenpeace Nordic Oceans campaigner Laura Meller said in a statement released from a ship on the edge of the sea ice.

"As the Arctic melts, the ocean will absorb more heat, and all of us will be more exposed to the devastating effects of climate breakdown.

"We need to hit the reset button right now on how we look after each other and our planet by protecting at least 30 percent of our oceans by 2030 to help our planet cope with the climate breakdown."



## Botswana's mass elephant deaths caused by bacteria, says gov't

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 08:21 PM September 21, 2020



An elephant stands in one of the channels of the wildlife reach Okavango Delta near the Nxaraga village in the outskirts of Maun, on 28 September 2019. – The Okavango Delta is one of Africa's last remaining great wildlife habitat and provides refuge to huge concentrations of game. (Photo by MONIRUL BHUIYAN / AFP FILE)

Gaborone, Botswana — Hundreds of elephants that died mysteriously in Botswana's famed Okavango Delta succumbed to cyanobacteria poisoning, the wildlife department revealed on Monday.

The landlocked southern African country boasts the world's largest elephant population, estimated at around 130,000.

More than 300 of the pachyderms have mysteriously died since March, with their intact tusks ruling out the hypothesis that they were killed by poachers.

"The deaths were caused by poisoning due to cyanobacteria which was growing in pans" or watering holes, the principal veterinary officer of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Mmadi Reuben, told reporters.

Reuben said the deaths had "stopped towards the end of June 2020, coinciding with the drying of pans."

The first report of unusual elephant deaths on April 25 identified cases near Seronga village, and numbers began escalating the following month.

According to the wildlife authorities around 330 animals have died and blood tests were consistent with the finding that a species of cyanobacteria that produces neurotoxins was the cause.

Tests were conducted at specialist laboratories in South Africa, Canada, Zimbabwe, and the United States.

Officials have ruled out anthrax or human involvement such as poaching, according to Cyril Taolo, deputy director of Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

The government said it was continuing studies into the occurrence of the bacteria.

In the winter, elephants hydrate themselves mainly by eating roots and bark, especially of the baobab tree.

[govt#ixzz6YiSKNyit](#)

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