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**DENR**

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Cimatu elated by overwhelming support to Manila Bay white sands project

Published September 22, 2020, 7:06 PM

by [Leslie Aquino](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu was elated by the “overwhelming” support of the public who were eager to see the dolomite-covered Manila Bay beachfront last weekend.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu

He also expressed his gratitude to President Duterte for recognizing the efforts of the Manila Bay Task Force led by the DENR to clean up the Baywalk area, particularly the overlaying of artificial white sand on the beach.

“It is very encouraging and fulfilling to get positive feedbacks from the public, much more to receive a commendation from the President. For us, it is an affirmation that we did the right decision to pursue the beach nourishment project,” Cimatu said in a statement.

The DENR chief believes that supportive views outnumbered criticisms over the beach nourishment project, which is an important component of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

“We, in the DENR and Manila Bay Task Force believe in the principle of vox populi vox dei, which says the voice of the people is the voice of God,” Cimatu said.

“The majority of the people have spoken, and they are supportive of the project,” he added.

He said seeing throngs of people at Manila Bay last weekend to get a glimpse of the white sand beach was a strong indication that the project enjoys overwhelming public support.

However, Cimatu lamented the failure of the crowd to observe proper physical distancing with their eagerness to see the white sand beach.

“We are saddened by the overcrowding of people along Manila Bay, without observance of physical distancing. But somehow, we felt vindicated from the accusations and negative claims that the Manila Bay rehabilitation is artificial and harmful to human health and the environment,” he said.

Manila Bay is on its second phase of rehabilitation, the secretary said.

The third phase, according to Cimatu, is the hardest—changing the attitude and behavior of the people towards the environment.

This phase, if successful, would sustain all the efforts that have been done to bring Manila Bay back to its former pristine condition.

Source: [https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/22/cimatu-elated-by-overwhelming-support-to-manila-bay-white-sands-project/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=cimatu-elated-by-overwhelming-support-to-manila-bay-white-sands-project](https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/22/cimatu-elated-by-overwhelming-support-to-manila-bay-white-sands-project/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=cimatu-elated-by-overwhelming-support-to-manila-bay-white-sands-project)



## Sec. Cimatú ikinatuwa ang suporta ni PDU30, publiko sa Manila Bay beach nourishment project



September 22, 2020 @ 7:58 PM 9 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ikinatuwa ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú ang suporta ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa suporta sa Manila Bay beach nourishment project at ng publiko.

“It is very encouraging and fulfilling to get positive feedbacks from the public, much more to receive a commendation from the President. For us, it is an affirmation that we did the right decision to pursue the beach nourishment project,” ani Cimatú.

Ayon kay Cimatú, labis siyang nagpapasalamat sa Pangulo sa pagkilala sa sa ginagawang pagsisikap ng Manila Bay Task Force sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para malinis ang Baywalk area partikular na ang paglalagay ng artificial white sand sa baybayin.

Naniniwala rin ang DENR chief na ang mga pagbibigay ng suporta para malinis ang Manila Bay ang siyang importanteng hakbang sa Manila Bay rehabilitation program kesa sa mga kritisismo laban sa beach nourishment project.

“We, in the DENR and Manila Bay Task Force believe in the principle of vox populi vox dei, which says the voice of the people is the voice of God,” dagdag pa ni Cimatú.

“The majority of the people have spoken, and they are supportive of the project,” lahad pa nito.

Ayon pa kay Cimatú ang pagdagsa ng mga tao para masilayan lamang ang Manila Bay nitong nakalipas na Linggo ang white sand beach sa baybayin ang isang indikasyon ng patuloy na suporta ng publiko sa proyekto.

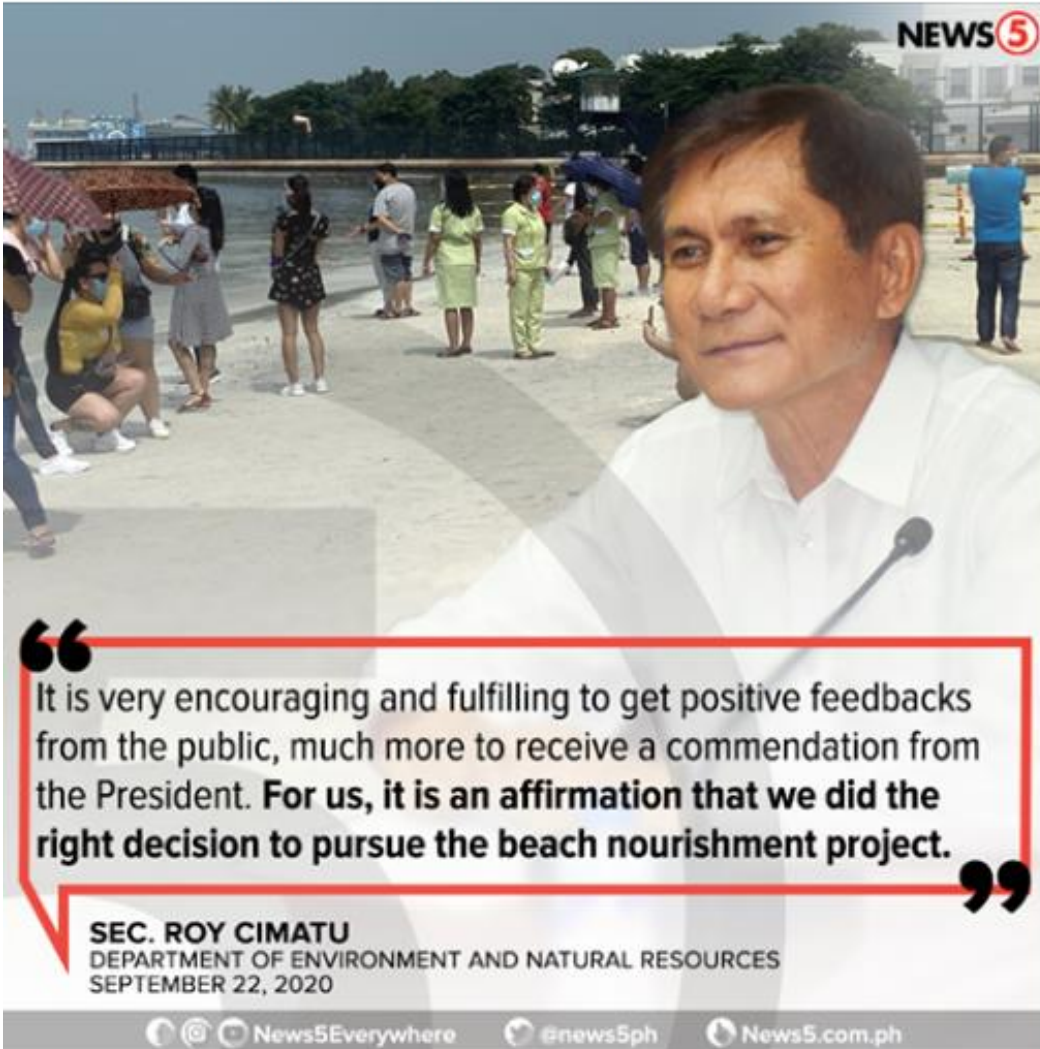
“We are saddened by the overcrowding of people along Manila Bay, without observance of physical distancing. But somehow, we felt vindicated from the accusations and negative claims that the Manila Bay rehabilitation is artificial and harmful to human health and the environment,” diin pa ni Cimatú.

Nabatid pa sa ulat na ang Manila Bay rehabilitation program ay iniutos noong 2008 matapos magpalabas ang Supreme Court ng writ of continuing mandamus na inuutusan ang DENR at iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno para linisin ang Manila bay at i-rehabilitae at ipreserba ang baybayin. (Santi Celario)

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/sec-cimatu-ikinatuwa-ang-suporta-ni-pdu30-publiko-sa-manila-bay-beach-nourishment-project/>



Ikinatuwa ni Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu ang mga naging pahayag ni Pres. Duterte sa Manila Bay beach nourishment project sa kanyang public address kagabi.



Florante Lugo Aseo and 6.8K others

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## Clean-up day

posted September 22, 2020 at 11:04 pm



DENR Sec Roy Cimatu (3rd from left) led the Observance of International Coastal Clean-Up Day, with temporary opening of White Sand Beach , a portion of Manila Bay coastline near the Us Embassy. Photo shows Cimatu with special guests MYC Commodore Robert Lim Joseph, Jr., DAR Secretary William Dar, Cavite Rep. Elipidio Barzaga, Jr., CHED Chair Prospero de Vera, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, DSWD Sec Rolando Bautista and Labor Sec Silvestre Bello, Jr.

## Sec. Cimatu gets overwhelming Support from PRRD for Manila Bay Project

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

### *Sec. Cimatu gets overwhelming Support from PRRD for Manila Bay Project*

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said Tuesday he felt “elated and overwhelmed” by the praise and support the Manila Bay beach nourishment project has received from President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and the general public.

“It is very encouraging and fulfilling to get positive feedbacks from the public, much more to receive a commendation from the President. For us, it is an affirmation that we did the right decision to pursue the beach nourishment project,” Cimatu said.



He also thanked the President for recognizing the efforts of the Manila Bay Task Force led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to clean up the Baywalk area, particularly the overlaying of artificial white sand on the beach.



The DENR chief strongly believes that supportive views outnumbered criticisms over the beach nourishment project, which is an important component of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

“We, in the DENR and Manila Bay Task Force believe in the principle of *vox populi vox dei*, which says the voice of the people is the voice of God,” Cimatu said.

“The majority of the people have spoken, and they are supportive of the project,” he added.

According to Cimatu, seeing throngs of people at Manila Bay last weekend to get a glimpse of the white sand beach was a strong indication that the project enjoys overwhelming public support.

He, however, lamented the failure of the crowd to observe proper physical distancing with their eagerness to see the white sand beach.



"We are saddened by the overcrowding of people along Manila Bay, without observance of physical distancing. But somehow, we felt vindicated from the accusations and negative claims that the Manila Bay rehabilitation is artificial and harmful to human health and the environment," Cimatu said.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation program dates back in 2008 when the Supreme Court issued a writ of continuing mandamus directing the DENR and other agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve the bay.

In more than a decade since the writ was issued, it was only under the Duterte administration that the government finally set in motion an honest-to-goodness undertaking to bring Manila Bay back to its former glory.

Cimatu shared all the praise and recognition the DENR has been getting because of the beach nourishment project to the other mandamus agencies.

*"Di pa tapos ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, ngunit ngayon pa lang nagpapasalamat na ako sa lahat ng hirap at tulong na binibigay ng mga mandamus agencies, kung wala ang tulong ninyo, wala kaming magagawa sa DENR,"* Cimatu stressed.

He specifically acknowledged the critical contributions of the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Laguna Lake Development Authority, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, and the Philippine Maritime Group.

The mandamus agencies did not only vitally contributed in all rehabilitation works in Manila Bay, they also stood by the DENR in its most trying moments when the agency was severely criticized by some critics.

It can be recalled during the International Coastal Cleanup Day celebration on Sept. 19, almost all members of the Duterte Cabinet were there to give their statement of support to the DENR.

Manila Bay is only in its second phase of rehabilitation. The third phase, according to Cimatu, is the hardest—changing the attitude and behavior of the people towards the environment. This phase, if becomes successful, would sustain all the efforts that have been done to bring Manila Bay back to its former pristine condition.



# DENR execs lauded for ‘white sands’ project

By Jocelyn Montemayor

-September 23, 2020

PRESIDENT Duterte on Monday night gave officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led by Secretary Roy Cimatu a pat on the back for the clean-up and beautification of Manila Bay despite criticisms and controversies hounding the project.

Duterte, during his weekly “Talk to the People” public address, said Cimatu earned his administration anew for accepting Malacanang’s dare to clean, rehabilitate and beautify Manila Bay.

“People are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good,” Duterte said, adding: “What I am trying to impress also upon the people is that we are doing our job, period.”

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, meanwhile, praised the controversial Manila Bay “white sands beach” area as he and several officials of the US Embassy visited the area yesterday.

Locsin said he was “stunned” by the beauty of the area. The portion of the bay filled with crushed dolomite rocks is beside the US Embassy compound on Roxas Boulevard.

The controversial “white sands beach” at the Manila Bay is part of the P389 million beautification program of the DENR though it has been slammed by various environmental groups and Vice President Leni Robredo, who said it was insensitive and insulting to spend that amount amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

The “white sands” project, which was opened to the public over the weekend, attracted thousands of people who disregarded physical distancing as they jostled for position to get a glimpse of the controversial area.

The crush of people ignoring physical distancing led to the relief of the Ermita Police station chief, Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, on orders of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Duterte acknowledged criticisms from several sectors about the conduct of the project amid the pandemic but expressed the belief that some people would continue to criticize regardless if the government went ahead and succeeded with the cleanup or if it delayed the project.

“Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimatu... Now, people now 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 (Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimatu... Now, people now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand no matter what. We really cannot do anything. You do it, they will say something. You do not do it, (Vice President Leni) will say something),” he said.

Duterte also acknowledged the support of his Cabinet, claiming he would have a very hard time running the country if it were not for them.

The DENR started in January last year the rehabilitation of the Manila Baywalk area which include cleaning and improving water quality, sewer line rehabilitation, informal settler relocation, public education and law enforcement.

The Manila Bay area covers eight provinces and 178 local government units in three regions of the country: National Capital Region (NCR), Central Luzon, and Calabarzon.





Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the DENR is verifying reports the extraction of the dolomite rocks used at the Manila Bay project had damaged the environment, particularly the corals, in Alcoy, Cebu.

Roque said the DENR will look at possible measures to avoid a repeat of the incident, if it is true, and how to save the part of the environment that may have been destroyed.

He, however, questioned the complaint being raised now since dolomite harvesting had always been part of the jobs in Alcoy.

"This is not the first time that they sold dolomite. The whole municipality relies on the sale of dolomite. That has long been practiced and the main source of employment in Alcoy, Cebu," he said.

The Manila Police District said the public can take pictures from afar of the controversial "white sands beach" but will not be permitted to step foot on the area because it has been ordered closed by Manila Mayor Isko Moreno.

On Monday, Moreno asked the DENR to temporarily close the area to the public while construction activities are still ongoing. – *Ashzel Hachero*



# Duterte impressed by Manila Bay rehab

By Azer Parrocha **September 22, 2020, 11:47 am**



**SELFIE BY THE BAY.** People take selfies at Manila Bay's "white sand beach" on Sunday (Sept. 20, 2020). Crowds wait in long lines to step on the beach which has been temporarily reopened to the public. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday evening praised Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for leading the efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

In a taped public address, Duterte said he was impressed by how Cimatu is able to succeed in yet another challenge to rehabilitate a well-known tourist spot in the country's capital, particularly known for its famous sunset.

"Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimatu. You know I remember that meeting and I think everybody was there when I said, 'Roy, kaya mong linisin 'to (can you clean this up)?' And his answer was a very curtly given, he said, 'Kaya kong trabahuhin (I can work on it),'” Duterte said.

A portion of the Manila Bay was temporarily reopened to the public over the weekend after crushed dolomite was laid on its shoreline near the US Embassy.

Duterte said he was pleased because people are now enjoying the benefits of “the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good”.

“Napabilib niya ako (He really impressed me) when he accepted my dare,” he said.

“Now, people now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand maski na papaano (somehow),” he added.

He also thanked other Cabinet members for helping him run the country.

“Kung wala kayo (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 --- to assess or give when I'm no longer the President,” he said.

During the reopening, throngs of people flocked to the area to take photos and videos. At one point, the people failed to observe physical distancing along Roxas Boulevard, eventually getting viral on social media.

Malacañang said 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 "white 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.

Roque, however, reminded law enforcement authorities to strictly enforce quarantine protocols and urged the public to comply.

He assured visitors that they would eventually have their chance to see the Manila Bay makeover as long as they avoided crowding. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1116174?fbclid=IwAR0v-H6lFHLwzmqQvO3Th6fY6W4WDCEOjClvvXuQTQy3VNyvAwGGixjDAI>

# Duterte praises DENR for controversial Manila Bay 'white sand' project

By [Alexis Romero](#) (Philstar.com)

- September 22, 2020 - 7:56pm



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

MANILA, Philippines — Despite concerns about the alleged health risks it poses and the timing of its implementation, the Manila Bay "white sand" project drew praises from President Rodrigo Duterte, who said that people are now enjoying the beautification project.

Duterte lauded Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for accepting the challenge of rehabilitating Manila Bay.

"Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimatu. You know I remember that meeting and I think everybody was there when I said, 'Roy, can you clean this up?' And his answer was...very curtly given, he said, 'I can work on this,'" the President said during his public address last Monday.

"Now, people now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand," he added.

Duterte said he was impressed by Cimatu when the environment chief accepted his dare.

"It was a very positive statement. It was not even a neutral thing or a thing that would border (on speculation). He did not say 'I can do it if.' He said 'I can do it.' And people are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good," he added.

Duterte also thanked his other Cabinet members, saying he would have a hard time running the country without them.

"I'm not saying I have succeeded. That is for the people...to assess or give when I'm no longer the president," he said.



The Manila Bay area covers eight provinces and 178 local government units in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, and CALABARZON.

## Criticism of the project

The P389-million beautification project, which involves covering a 500-meter stretch of Manila Bay's shoreline with artificial white sand, has drawn flak due to the supposed health problems it may cause and its timing.

Critics of the project claim the funds for the project should have been used to strengthen the government's pandemic response and to assist the poor. Some groups also alleged that exposure to the white sand could harm the skin, lungs, and eyes.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque previously said the white sand project would help control flood and prevent soil erosion. He has also clarified that the project was conceptualized way before the spread of COVID-19.

Duterte chided critics of the controversial project, saying they would say something regardless of what the government does.

"What do you want us to do? The problem is some are saying we are not doing enough. What can we do with the germ that's flying around? It's the microbe that can't be controlled. What will you do? Spray mo from the sky?" the president said.

"They are trying to delude people about — they are trying to picture that there is a failure of government. We have done our best. We have responded to the medical needs of the (people)," he added.

Roque also responded to criticisms that the extraction of dolomite rocks used in the Manila Bay project has damaged the marine ecosystem in Cebu.

"We have not verified that. The DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) will study that and we will check how to address the damage that happened in Alcoy, Cebu," the Palace spokesman said at a press briefing on Tuesday.

"But the people should know that from the start, that has been the livelihood in Alcoy, Cebu. This is not the first time they sold dolomite. The entire town relies on the selling of dolomite. That has been happening for a long time and that's the reason why many have livelihood and jobs in Alcoy, Cebu," he added.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/09/22/2044373/duterte-praises-denr-controversial-manila-bay-white-sand-project/amp/>



## Duterte praises Cimatu for Manila Bay rehab

By Keith Calayag

September 22, 2020

President Rodrigo Duterte praised Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for his determination to clean up Manila Bay following the opening of the artificial white sand beach along Roxas Boulevard last Saturday.



*A man snaps a photo of his wife who posed near the dolomite sand dumped on the Manila Bay shoreline as part of the rehabilitation program being implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. PNA PHOTO*

“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 in his public address on Monday.

“People are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a cabinet member,” he added.

He said critics would always say something regardless of what the government will do.

“Wala naman talaga tayong magawa, you do it, may masabi sila, you do not do it, may masabi si Leni [Robredo],” he said, taking a swat at the vice president.

Robredo earlier questioned the administration’s supposed “insensitive” move to prioritize Manila Bay over aid for poor families amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/09/22/news/latest-stories/duterte-praises-cimatu-for-manila-bay-rehab/770721/?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3ISpfXRaBkfBDIfkNaxwYOHMY2A\\_a9C9i1ReuENPpQBUT0\\_JDsVhXJo#Echobox=1600759641](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/09/22/news/latest-stories/duterte-praises-cimatu-for-manila-bay-rehab/770721/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3ISpfXRaBkfBDIfkNaxwYOHMY2A_a9C9i1ReuENPpQBUT0_JDsVhXJo#Echobox=1600759641)



## Manila Bay white sand ikinatuwa ni PDU30



September 22, 2020 @ 11:56 AM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – “Napabilib niya ako.”

Ito ang inihayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte patungkol kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu matapos na matuwa sa artificial white sand beach sa Manila Bay.

Masaya ang Pangulo dahil ini-enjoy na ngayon ng mga mamamayang Filipino at ilang turista ang benepisyo mula sa determinadong aksyon ng pamahalaan.

Kaya nga agad na binati ni Pangulong Duterte si Sec. Cimatu dahil tinupad nito ang kanyang salita na lilinis ang Manila Bay.

“I remember that meeting and I think everybody was there when I said, ‘Roy, kaya mong linisin ‘to?’ And his answer was a very curtly — very curtly given, he said, ‘Kaya kong trabahuhin,’” ayon sa Pangulo.

Binigyang-diin ng Chief Executive na labis aniya siyang humanga sa kasalukuyang itsura ng bahagi ng Manila Bay lalo pa’t nage-enjoy ang mga tao rito.

“Napabilib niya ako. People are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good,” dagdag na pahayag ng Pangulo.

Sa kabilang dako, tanggap naman ng Pangulo na hindi lahat ng mga Filipino lalo na si Vice-President Leni Robredo ay tanggap ang proyektong ito.

“Wala naman talaga tayong magawa. You do it, may masabi sila. You do not do it, may masabi si Leni,” ayon sa Pangulo.

Binatikos kasi ng mga kritiko ng pamahalaan ang nangyaring pagbubukas ng Manila Bay sa publiko kung saan dinagsa ito ng mga tao.

Samantala, tila ipinagmalaki naman ng Malakanyang ang pagdagsa ng mga tao sa Manila Bay nitong weekend para makita ang “white sand” na isa umanong patunay na ang beautification project ay tamang desisyon.

Ito ang sinabi ni Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque sa kabila na binalaan niya ang publiko kaugnay sa posibilidad na mahawa sa COVID-19 kung ang sight-seeing sa area ay hindi susunod sa physical distancing.

Napag-alaman na ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na sumailalim sa “white sand” makeover ay dinagsa ng maraming tao nitong Linggo matapos itong buksan sa publiko.



Sa mga kumalat na larawan sa social media, makikitang ang karahan sa mga mga ito ay walang suot na mask, face shield, at walang social distancing sa kabila ng banta ng COVID-19.

Dahil sa dito, napuna ang naturang insidente na nagresulta pa sa pagkakasibak sa pwesto ni Ermita police station commander Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan dahil umano sa kabiguan na makontrol ang mga tao. **Kris Jose**

# Pres. Duterte commends DENR Chief over Manila Bay rehab

September 22, 2020



President Rodrigo R. Duterte has commended Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu for his efforts on the beautification of Manila Bay.

The President defended the "artificial white sand" project of the DENR at the Manila Bay stating that it is part of the area's rehabilitation. He was also pleased that the project benefits the public.

"Napabilib niya ako when he accepted my dare. Hinamon ko siya, sabi ko, 'Kaya mo?' Sabi niya, "Kaya ko, basta trabahuin lang. (He impressed me when he accepted my dare. I challenged him, I asked him, 'Can you do it?' He replied "I can, I just need to work it out"). It was a very positive statement, it was even not a neutral thing or a thing that would border to speculative, kaya basta kayanin ko (I can do it). And people are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a cabinet member to do good." - *Report from Mela Lesmoras*





## Duterte napa-wow sa Manila Bay sands

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 22, 2020

NEWS



Bumilib si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu matapos tanggapin ang hamon para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Kaugnay na rin ito ng malaking pagbabago sa hitsura ng Manila Bay matapos linisin ang dagat ng basura at nilagyan ng white sand na ngayon ay dinayo ng maraming tao.

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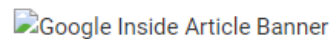


Dekadang nganga sa kuryente, titser na ngayon

Sep 22, 2020 0

Sinabi ng Pangulo sa kanyang mensahe sa bayan nitong Lunes na walang kagatol-gatol na tinanggap ni Cimatu ang kanyang hamon para ayusin ang Manila bay na ngayon ay mayroon ng positibong resulta kahit hindi pa tapos ang proyekto.

"Napabilib niya ako when he accepted my dare. It was a very positive statement. Sinabi niya "kayahin ko", and people are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good," anang Pangulo.



Ipinaabot ng Presidente ang pagbati kay Cimatu sa panimula ng kanyang talumpati dahil sa bagong anyo ng Manila Bay matapos itong lagyan ng dolomite sand at agad na umagaw ng pansin sa publiko. (Aileen Taliping)



# Duterte sees nothing wrong with Manila Bay project

Published 1 day ago on September 22, 2020 03:42 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



Visitors at the “white sand” beach of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard on Sunday, 20 September 2020. (PNA photo)

President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday defended the government’s move to pour artificial “white sand” on the shores of Manila Bay, even if the Department of Health (DoH) expressed alarm that hundreds of people trooped to the area without observing one-meter distancing.

In his public address, the President told his Cabinet members to ignore criticisms on Manila Bay’s beach nourishment project, saying that the opposition would find a way to fuss over the administration’s programs.

“People now really enjoy the reclaimed area with the white sand, maski na papaano,” Duterte said.

“Yung mga dilawan maski anong sabihin mo — gawin mo, masama ka. Hindi mo gawin, masama ka pa rin. E put\*\*\* \*na mo. Anong gustong mo?” he added.

The President also lauded Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú for fulfilling his “dare” to rehabilitate the garbage-ridden Manila Bay, known for its picture-perfect sunsets.

Earlier in the day, DoH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said it was worrying that Filipinos went to Manila Bay over the weekend for a chance to view the synthetic white sand — made of crushed dolomite rocks — along Roxas Boulevard.

Visitors were seen taking pictures and holding zumba sessions even if the government discourages Filipinos from doing non-essential things outdoors amid the ongoing pandemic.

Due to the incident, Ermita Police Station Commander Ariel Caramoan was relieved from his post for supposedly failing to implement safety protocols at the controversial baywalk.

Manila Bay grabbed headlines earlier as environmental groups criticized the move to put pulverized rocks along the shores of Manila Bay, saying it would hurt the natural ecosystem in the area and in Cebu, where the dolomites came from.

A dolomite is a calcium magnesium carbonate used for construction works.

*p: wjg*

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/22/duterte-sees-nothing-wrong-with-manila-bay-project/>



## Locsin, US Embassy officials visit Manila Bay 'white sand' project

Published September 22, 2020 1:55pm

By TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ, GMA News

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin, Jr and officials from the US Embassy met on Tuesday morning at the Manila Bay "white sand" dolomite beach.

The embassy representatives underwent body temperature checks before being allowed to enter.

"We're just settling some things about security, to maintain security," Locsin told GMA News.

"Since it is no longer water, they have to add some security features," the secretary added.

When asked if the US Embassy officials were against the project, Locsin replied, "No, no! Imagine what it does to their property."

Locsin also praised the project, saying Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú was a "genius to think about this. Just think, we never had this. Not even before the war. Was this boulevard ever as beautiful as you can now see?"

President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday also [congratulated Cimatú](#) on the developments in Manila Bay, the most recent of which is the placement of white dolomite sand on a stretch of the baywalk to create a beach.



"Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimat. 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.

Critics have denounced the project though, saying the dolomite is harmful to health.

This was however [debunked](#) by government officials.

The "white sand" portion of Manila Bay was opened to the public last weekend, drawing crowds who [failed to observe social distancing](#).

The area has been closed again to the public beginning on Monday for rehabilitation work on Manila Bay to continue. —KG, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756632/locsin-us-embassy-officials-visit-manila-bay-white-sand-project/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1mOrKOIm6QYg0Rs-uMZNf5qmPR2861cyG57rMw7JfALErnnsfWG4ZI8oM](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756632/locsin-us-embassy-officials-visit-manila-bay-white-sand-project/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1mOrKOIm6QYg0Rs-uMZNf5qmPR2861cyG57rMw7JfALErnnsfWG4ZI8oM)



DFA CHIEF SAYS WHITE SAND PROJECT IS PURE GENIUS

## 'Stunned' by Manila Bay white sand 'beauty,' Locsin eyes 'fixing' of US Embassy moat

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:58 PM September 22, 2020



Lt. Col. Alex Daniel, OIC of Ermita police (left) and DFA Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr. (right) pose for a photo at the Manila Baywalk white sand. Photo from Twitter account of Teodoro Locsin Jr.

**MANILA, Philippines** — Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro "Teddy" Boy Locsin Jr. on Tuesday said he is looking to fix the "moat" or wide trench of the US Embassy after he was stunned by the "beauty" of artificial white sand poured over a portion of the Manila Bay's coastline.

"We filled in moat of US embassy to keep threats at Bay—get it? Will fix that. I was stunned by the beauty and vast possibility for tourism of (Environment Secretary Roy) Cimatu's idea of a white sand beach from end to end," Locsin wrote in a tweet, sharing photos of his visit to the highly-criticized "white sand" at Manila Baywalk.

Locsin did not further explain the adjustments for the moat at the US Embassy. The American Embassy is located along Roxas Boulevard in Ermita near Manila Bay.

Locsin also further praised the DENR as well as DPWH over the white sand project which he branded as "pure genius."

"DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) & DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) show it can be done in half a year. Pure genius. Marine life appearing," Locsin further said.

Lt. Col. Alex Daniel, officer-in-charge of Ermita police, was also seen in the photos shared by Locsin.



**Teddy Locsin Jr.** ✓  
@teddyboylocsin



We filled in moat of US embassy to keep threats at Bay—get it? Will fix that. I was stunned by the beauty and vast possibility for tourism of Cimatu's idea of a white sand beach from end to end. DENR & DPWH show it can be done in half a year. Pure genius. Marine life appearing.



12:57 PM · Sep 22, 2020



574

122 people are Tweeting about this

Over the weekend, a throng of visitors took the opportunity to check the white sand project, thus, risking social distancing protocols which prompted the government to strictly guard the area.

JPV

Source: [https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1338491/stunned-by-manila-bay-white-sand-beauty-locsin-eyes-fixing-of-us-embassy-moat?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR36A-Mt\\_AtDYPgm\\_hQlqdWWffMFBWVGRS28Ro8TI0Qj3v22xthxXCUc0Kg#Echobox=1600762525](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1338491/stunned-by-manila-bay-white-sand-beauty-locsin-eyes-fixing-of-us-embassy-moat?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR36A-Mt_AtDYPgm_hQlqdWWffMFBWVGRS28Ro8TI0Qj3v22xthxXCUc0Kg#Echobox=1600762525)



# Locsin on Manila Bay ‘white sand’ project: This will be a legacy

Published September 22, 2020 11:17pm

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Tuesday hailed the Manila Bay “white sand” project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the “greatest project” he has ever seen.

“This is the greatest project I have ever seen. This will be a legacy. I think [Environment Secretary Roy] Cimatu is a genius to think about this,” he said in the “24 Oras” report of Tina Panganiban Perez.

[Locsin met with members of the US Embassy](#) on the rehabilitated portion of Manila Bay on Tuesday morning.

US Embassy officials told Locsin that they have plans concerning their office along Roxas Boulevard now that the bay has “white sand,” which was made from crushed dolomite rocks.

“We’re just settling some things about security to maintain. Since it’s no longer water, we have to add some security features, that’s all,” Locsin said.

[President Rodrigo Duterte earlier congratulated Cimatu](#) for the rehabilitation project.

Over the weekend, [the bay drew large crowds](#) that were unable to practice social distancing.

[Environmentalists and fisherfolk groups earlier criticized](#) the project as an “aesthetic solution” that “does not solve pollution at the source.”

The DENR, meanwhile, maintained that [the P389-million project will not affect the ecosystem](#). -- BAP, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/756746/locsin-on-manila-bay-white-sand-project-this-will-be-a-legacy/story/?just\\_in](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/756746/locsin-on-manila-bay-white-sand-project-this-will-be-a-legacy/story/?just_in)



# DFA chief Locsin, 'stunned' sa Manila Bay 'white sand' project

By [Bombo Bam Orpilla](#) -September 22, 2020 | 6:46 PM

Todo papuri si Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. sa kontrobersyal na "white sand" dolomite beach sa Manila Bay.

Kaninang umaga kasi ay bumisita si Locsin sa lugar kasama ang ilang mga opisyal ng US Embassy.

Ayon kay Locsin, nabighani raw i to sa ganda ng proyekto at tinawag pa na "pure genius" ang ideyang ito ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

"We filled in moat of US embassy to keep threats at Bay—get it? Will fix that. I was stunned by the beauty and vast possibility for tourism of Cimatu's idea of a white sand beach from end to end," saad ni Locsin sa isang tweet.

Paglalahad pa ng kalihim, nagtungo sila sa lugar upang ayusin ang ilang mga detalye tungkol sa seguridad ng embahada.

Dahil aniya tinambakan na ito ng buhangin, inihayag ng opisyal na magdadagdag daw ang US Embassy ng security features sa naturang parte.

Sinabi pa ni Locsin, hindi raw tutol ang mga embassy officials sa proyekto.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/dfa-chief-locsin-stunned-sa-manila-bay-white-sand-project/>





## Re-open Manila Bay beach after pandemic – DENR exec

September 22, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY JEFFREY DAMICOG

Sunbathing, walking leisurely and perhaps watching the famed sunset at the Manila Bay white sand beach will have to wait a little longer.

This after Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said Tuesday that the re-opening of the controversial "white sand" beach to the public will be only done when the coronavirus (COVID-19) is over.



MANILA Bay (DENR Facebook)

"I will personally propose to Secretary Roy Cimatu, to our Manila Bay Task Force that we will open this after this pandemic," he said during an interview over CNN Philippines.

"I think that's the best time to re-open it," the undersecretary pointed out following the large crowds who appeared over the weekend to visit the artificial white beach in violation of health protocols.

At the moment, the white sand beach area has been closed from the public until the project has been completed.

"I would like to apologize for what happened this weekend," said Antiporda who assured that this will not happen again.

Antiporda stressed that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) did its part in ensuring health protocols were followed when the beach was opened to the public last weekend.

"Our jurisdiction is only in the entrance and the white sand area. So we have done our part social distancing, the health protocol was implemented well," he said.

"Very sad na yung influx nung tao hindi siguro na-expect nung mga authorities," lamented Antiporda who noted that police officials were relieved because of the lack of crowd control.

On the other hand, the undersecretary reiterated the assurance that the dolomite used for the white sand beach is safe and that it will not be washed away by strong storms.

Contrary to allegations, the undersecretary the dolomite at the white sand beach contains no harmful heavy metals.

"We conduct our very own check before the shipment of the dolomite from Cebu to Manila. There's a check already in our regional office. We have a result saying that wala naman siyang heavy metal," he said. (Jeffrey Damicog)



# DOST bares initiatives for Manila Bay rehabilitation program

Published September 22, 2020, 9:57 AM

by [Dhel Nazario](#)

Cleaning up Manila Bay along with the adjacent rivers and tributaries is part of the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) new programs and initiatives pushing for "future-proof" technologies for the environment amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In his latest weekly report, Secretary Fortunato de la Peña mentioned some of DOST's new programs which are the Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, Modeling and Management System for Manila Bay (IM4 Manila Bay) Program and the Charted Dream.

The IM4 Manila Bay program aims to characterize Manila Bay and its watershed and linked environments to provide information for the rehabilitation and management through water quality monitoring and mapping, hydrodynamic and hydrologic modelling, and dredged materials and solid waste management.

Charted Dream project aims to develop technology for the management and utilization of dredge materials from Tullahan -Tinajeros rivers system. The team from the DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) have already met to identify possible sampling sites and are already preparing initial laboratory analysis.

These projects are said to complement the government's current initiatives in cleaning up the Manila Bay and its adjacent rivers and tributaries.

"Sa kagustuhan nating mapaganda ang tubig at ang mga tributaries sa Manila Bay, mangangailangan talaga yan ng dredging (In the pursuit of cleansing the water and the tributaries of Manila Bay, it will really require dredging)," Dela Peña explained.

"Ngayon ano ang gagawin natin sa made-dredge na materials at yan ngayon ang proyekto ng DOST-ITDI, iaanalyze para malaman kung ano ang pwedeng paggamitan ng dredge materials na iyan (DOST-ITDI's job is to analyze and find use for the materials that will be dredged)," he added.

The Tullahan- Tinajeros River system is a 27-kilometer long river system and a major tributary of Manila Bay. It spans from La Mesa Water Reservoir in Fairview, Quezon City, all the way to Manila Bay. It is one of the most polluted waterways in Metro Manila.

The secretary also mentioned other DOST programs such as the Collaborative Research and Development to Leverage the Philippine Economy (CRADLE).



Currently, there are 18 new projects from 18 private companies that have partnered with 11 universities to work in the areas of new pharmaceutical products, research on the dietary fiber of sugarcane bagasse and the natural antioxidant on sugarcane, development of new materials from carrageenan, “soysage”, a sausage derived from okra, and nursery tanks for shrimp production.

Apart from that, research will be conducted on the development of tomography imaging devices, semiconductor packaging and electronics products, and home energy storage and energy management.

The DOST Report is a weekly broadcast of the Science and Technology Information Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-STII) highlighting the various initiatives and innovations of the DOST aired live every Friday through the DOSTv Facebook and Youtube channel.



## 24/7 patrol at Manila Bay beach

Published 3 hours ago on September 23, 2020 03:30 AM

By [Pat C. Santos](#)



The Manila Police District (MPD) is laying down new regulations for those interested in seeing the Manila Bay white sand beach on Roxas Boulevard.

MPD Police Station 5 (PS5) chief P/Lt. Col Alex Daniel said the public will be allowed to take selfies on the beach, provided they do this individually and not as a group.

On the other hand, passersby may stop and view the beach, as long as they do not linger.

The regulations were formulated following last weekend's mass gathering at the area in violation of the physical distancing protocol laid down by the Inter-Agency Task Force.

Although it is just partially complete, the beach area was opened for the public last Saturday and Sunday in time with the celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day.

To ensure the regulations are followed, Daniel has assigned 24/7 police street patrol in the area to prevent people from entering and walking on the beach.

Meanwhile, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso has requested the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to temporarily close the white sand beach area while it is still under construction.

Due to numerous criticisms on social media, Philippine National Police chief Lt. Gen. Camilo Cascolan was forced to relieve former PS5 commander P/Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan for not instituting a plan to prevent the public from crowding during the opening of the Manila Bay beach, which was in violation of regulations on physical distancing.



# 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.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/bansa/2020/09/22/2044217/sa-pagdagsa-ng- tao-sa-manila-bay-hindi-lang-pnp-ang-may-kasalanan/amp/>



# Publiko patuloy ang pagdating sa Baywalk para masilayan ang Manila Bay

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo September 22, 2020 - 10:16 AM



May mangilan-ngilan pa ring nagtutungo sa Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard para masulyapan ang bagong itsura ng Manila Bay.

Ngayong araw, pinagbigyan ang publiko na maka-akyat sa footbridge at makakuha ng larawan.

Pero saglit lamang sila maaring manatili sa footbridge at hindi pwedeng maramihan o sabay-sabay ang pananatili sa itaas.

Inaatasan din ang mga dumarating na pumila at hintayin ang kanilang panahon para makaakyat sa foot bridge.

Isinara naman muna ang bahagi ng Manila Bay kung saan makikita ang puting buhangin.



## PUBLIKO PINAYAGANG MAKAKUHA NG LARAWAN NG MANILA BAY 'WHITE SAND' NGAYONG MARTES

written by **Judith Estrada-Larino** September 22, 2020



Ayaw pa ring paawat ng mga tao para masilayan ang artificial white sand sa Manila Bay.

Ngayong araw na ito ay pinagbigyan ng mga otoridad ang publiko na makaakyat sa footbridge at makakuha ng larawan ng white sand.

Subalit saglit lamang at hindi pupuwedeng sabay-sabay ang pananatili sa footbridge.

Inatasan din ang mga dumarating na pumila muna at hintayin ang kanilang pagkakataon para maka-akyat sila sa footbridge.

Ang bahagi ng Manila Bay kung saan makikita ang puting buhangin ay isinara muna matapos magkagulo at dagsain ng tao nitong nakalipas na weekend, dahilan kaya't bigong maipatupad ang physical distancing.



## Taking pictures of Manila Bay Sands allowed from afar —police

Published September 22, 2020 10:11am

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

The public is now allowed to take pictures of the Manila Bay Sands but only from afar, the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 5 said on Tuesday.

Interviewed on Dabol B sa News TV, MPD Station 5 officer-in-charge Police Lieutenant Colonel Alex Daniel said the public can only take pictures from the sidewalk and not inside the "white sand" area.

"Sa ngayon, ipinag-utos ng ating mahal na Mayor Isko Moreno ang pagsasara ng ating Manila Bay White Sands dahil sa mga nangyari noong nakaraang araw," Daniel said.

He was referring to the overcrowding that happened in the area over the weekend when [social distancing was not observed](#).

"Hindi naman po bawal dumaan doon kasi sidewalk naman po 'yun at may footbridge po dun. Free flow po yung passage natin doon. Dadaan lang po sila at kung magpapa-picture, sandali lang po," Daniel added.

According to Isa Avendaño-Umali's report on Dabol B sa News TV, some people were still visiting the Manila Bay Sands to take pictures.

The police were also advising visitors to fall in line and observe social distancing as they wait for their turn. The visitors were using a footbridge as an observation deck for the Manila Bay Sands.

On Monday, Moreno [discouraged the public](#) from visiting the spot in light of the threat of COVID-19. For Moreno, it is enough that the public had a preview of the Manila Bay Sands through the media.





“Pakiusap ko lang sa mamamayan, gustuhin man nating makita ‘yung Manila Bay white sands, e siguro may iba pa namang panahon,” Moreno said.

“Ipagpaliban po muna natin ang pagpunta,” he added.

While understanding the excitement of the public for the project, Moreno said it must be remembered that the threat of COVID-19 is still present.

Ermita Police station commander Police Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Caramoan has been relieved from his post following the police's failure to enforce social distancing measures in the area during the weekend. —KBK, GMA News



## Selfie lang, bawal istambay sa 'white sand'

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Sep 22, 2020

METRO



Maaari pa rin na makapag-selfie ang publiko sa bahagi ng Manila Bay na nilagyan ng artipisyal na white sands, gayundin ang paglalakad sa Baywalk.

Ito ang nilinaw ni P/Lt.Col. Alex Daniel, bagong hepe ng Manila Police District-Police Station 5, pero hindi umano pwedeng pumasok ang publiko sa loob ng bahagi na may buhangin. Aniya, "Maaari naman silang mag selfie dun, pero hindi pwede ang grupo-grupo at kailangan ay sandali lamang sila sa lugar. Maaari din naman silang dumaan sa sidewalks kaya lamang ay hindi sila puwedeng umistambay."

Una nang hiniling ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno na pansamantala munang ipasara ang Manila Bay white sands area para mapigilan ang pagdagsa ng publiko sa gitna ng banta ng COVID19. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



# Manila Bay is closed to the public anew following numerous violations of health protocols

September 22, 2020 9:02 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)

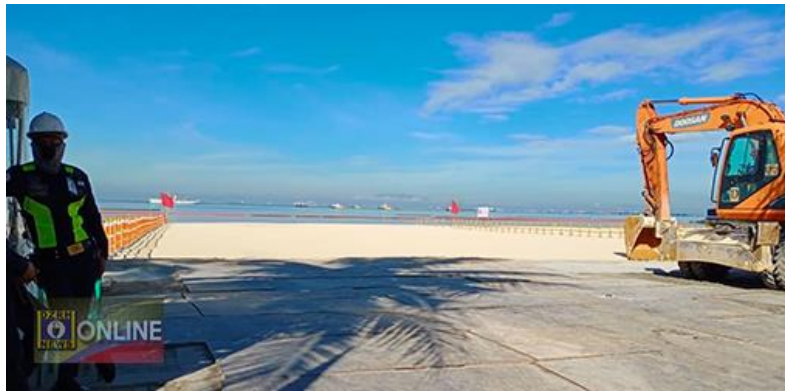


Photo by DZRH Boy Gonzales

Authorities temporarily closed the 'white sand beach' along Manila Bay from the public after people crowded at the area when it opened on Sunday, September 20.

PLtCol Alex Daniel, the new station commander of Ermita police, assured on Monday, September 21, that people can still use the sidewalks and footbridges near the area.

However, Daniel stressed that people should observe the health protocols imposed by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), and avoid crowding.

*"I-close muna natin for public, pansamantala, itong Manila Baywalk para maiwasan natin na malabag yung health guidelines, at IATF protocols, especially sa social distancing,"* the police official said during an interview with DZRH.

Many people gathered near the artificial white sand beach, which used crushed dolomite, to take pictures of the area, and then posted them on their social media accounts.

Netizens called out the government after noticing that the crowd failed to observe health protocols, particularly social distancing, amidst the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Due to the failure of the law enforcement units to enforce health protocols, Philippine National Police chief PGen. PGen. Camilo Cascolan relieved PLtCol Ariel Caramoan as station commander of the Ermita Police.

*"Walang problema magpa-picture. Ang problema nga natin kung magkakaroon ng groufies at saka malalabag natin yung health guidelines, huwag na muna silang pumunta,"* Daniel, the replacement of Caramoan, said.

Daniel said that police will wait for instructions from Cascolan, and the local government unit of Manila City regarding the opening of the white sand beach.

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/manila-bay-is-closed-to-the-public-anew-following-numerous-violations-of-health-protocols/>



NEW	ACTIVE
<b>4,999</b> DEATHS	<b>15</b> NEW
<b>230,233</b> RECOVERIES	<b>400</b> NEW

## More healthcare workers cleared to work abroad

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has allowed more Filipino health workers to work abroad amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Malacañang announced Monday. Health professionals with complete employment documents as of Aug. 31, 2020, are already allowed to leave the country, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said. *Next page*



**OFF LIMITS.** Police turn away bystanders and curious onlookers from the Manila Bay Sands project on Monday, even as people continue to visit the area to see the dolomite-padded 'white sand' along the shore. **CNN Philippines and PNA photos**





## YEHEY, MANILA BAY!



September 22, 2020 @ 12:04 AM 1 day ago

BILANG estudyante hanggang noong dekada '80, karaniwang mababasa sa mga libro ang kagandahan ng Manila Bay at ang nakapagpapakalmang tanawin nito tuwing papalubog ang araw.

Hindi lang basta nababanggit kundi idinedetalye — hindi lang sa mga talambuhay o tula o kuwento, kundi maging sa mga libro tungkol sa kasaysayan, araling panlipunan, wika at siyensya.

Isinilang at lumaki sa Maynila, ang mga pinakanakatutuwang alaala ko noong bata ay kinabibilangan ng pamamasyal sa Manila Bay kasama ang aking ama.

At sigurado akong ang mga lumuwas saglit mula sa probinsya ay pihadong sisilip muna sa lawa bago umuwi sa probinsya.

Iyon ang "crown jewel" ng Maynila, hanggang sa dumating sa punto na maaari nang makamatay ang paglunok sa kahit isang kutsaritang tubig mula rito.

Kilala ng mga bata ngayon ang Manila Bay bilang isang malaking pusali ng sari-saring bakterya, dumi, coliform, kemikal at putik. Namuo na ang mga dumi at basura sa ilalim nito kaya maaari nang maglakad sa ibabaw ng tubig na parang eksena ng milagro. Matindi ang duming nakakulapol sa lawa kaya hindi nangimi ang huling alkalde ng Maynila na magtapon ng mas marami pang basura rito alang-alang sa photo op.

Sa ngayon, nire-rehabilitate ang Manila Bay batay sa isang komprehensibong plano na pinondohan at ipinatupad ng administrasyong ito, sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Dalawang taon na ang nakalipas nang sa unang pagkakataon ay ipinasara ang mga restaurant at iba pang establisimyento na ang mga dumi at basura ay direktang ipinaaanod sa lawa.

Nagkabit ng solar-powered sewage treatment facility at 1.5-kilometrong wastewater interceptor pipeline sa lugar.

Ang mga kanal at iba pang paanuran sa Maynila ay inayos at kinumpuni.



Hinukay ang lawa para iahon ang libo-libong tonelada ng basura at kinumpleto ang lahat ng kinakailangang engineering protection sa ilalim ng lawa.

At mistulang icing sa cake, nilatagan ng puting buhangin — kahit pa peke — ang dalampasigan, kaya mas kaakit-akit pa ngayon ang Manila Bay.

Sinabi na ng Department of Health na hindi delikado sa kalusugan ang dolomite na pinagmukhang white sand kaya hindi nito makokompromiso ang kaligtasan at kalusugan ng publiko. Iyon ang parehong katotohanang nasa likod ng man-made beaches na kilala sa buong mundo, ang Monaco at Plantation Bay.

Maraming beses ko nang binatikos ang administrasyong ito dahil sa sari-saring kapalpak, pero hindi sa pagkakataong ito.

Kinailangan pa na isang Mindanoan na dating mayor, hindi ang sinomang Presidente mula sa Luzon, ang makakita sa halaga ng nabubulok nang Manila Bay upang maipalinis ito at bigyan ng pagmamahal at respetong karapat-dapat para rito.

Nakikiisa ako sa pasasalamat ng mga Manilenyo, at isinasapuso ang lahat ng nakasaad sa City Council Resolution.

Suportado ko ang ama ng lungsod, si Mayor Isko Moreno, sa pagtatanggol sa Manila Bay rehabilitation project sa abot ng kanyang makakaya.

Tama ang lungsod nang sabihin nito: "Higit kailan man, ang matinding krisis na pinagdaraan natin sa ngayon ay ang mismong panahon na dapat tayong magkaisa sa gawa at sa pamamahala, kaya sama-sama tayong naninindigan para sa ating pinuno, ang alkalde ng lungsod ng Maynila, sa lubos niyang pagsuporta sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, partikular na sa paglalagat ng gobyerno ng puting buhangin na magpapaganda sa dalampasigan, dahil ang sinomang may lohikal at makatwirang pag-iisip ay walang dudang mauunawaan ito bilang kapaki-pakinabang na pagbabago, pawang kabutihan ang dulot sa lahat ng aspeto, na karapat-dapat lamang ipagpatuloy."

Para naman sa mga mapagkunwari na bigla na lang nagsisulputan upang kontrahin ang bagong tuklas na ganda ng Manila Bay, bahala na kayo riyang magmaktol at magreklamo.

Basta masaya kaming naibalik ang kaligayahang natatamasa sa pamamasyal bago mag-dapithapon sa puting dalampasigan ng Manila Bay.

\* \* \*

SHORT BURSTS. Para sa mga komento o reaksyon, mag-email sa [firingline@ymail.com](mailto:firingline@ymail.com) o mag-tweet sa @Side\_View.



## ‘The sands of time’

[SKETCHES](#) - [Ana Marie Pamintuan](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 23, 2020 - 12:00am

After arguments over the existence of marine tilapia and the size of sediments that you can inhale, the “white beach” in Manila had its soft opening over the weekend.

Not surprisingly, it was a big hit – judging from the crowds that thronged Roxas Boulevard and waited in line for a chance to spend a few minutes on the dolomite beach and take selfies.

The weekend crowd clearly overwhelmed the Manila police, as images and video posted on social media showed physical distancing flying out the window.

It cost the Ermita police commander his post. He probably thought that since it was a showcase project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), they would be in charge of crowd management.

There were rumors that the crowds were trucked in, to make the case for the soundness of the “beach nourishment” project. But I passed by the area in the afternoon of Sunday, and the people still waiting in long, snaking lines for their chance to enter the beach looked genuinely excited.

\* \* \*

Having grown up on the wrong side of the tracks in the city of Manila, I must confess that my initial reaction to the report of a “white beach” rising along that half-kilometer stretch of Baywalk was excitement. Waikiki in Manila! A piece of Boracay! I considered it good news for the city where I was born and bred, and which I later left to escape urban blight.

It would certainly be better than the Bayfront smelling like urine and dog poop and the shoreline regularly littered with garbage.

Only later, after talking with an environmental advocate who voiced concerns that have since been raised by other critics, did I have second thoughts, wondering about the environmental impact of the project, the cost and the funding priorities amid the COVID pandemic.

I’m pretty sure those crowds that jostled to enter the beach over the weekend had no such second thoughts; their reaction to the project stopped at excitement.

It’s an indication of an unmet demand in Metro Manila and neighboring congested areas for pleasant open spaces. This demand has been heightened by the pandemic, which has created an aversion to enclosed, air-conditioned public places.

No one knows if this quarantine-induced aversion is going to be permanent, but property developers might want to factor this element into their future designs for commercial and industrial projects.

\* \* \*

President Duterte calls the Manila Bay beach project “the sands of time.” Maybe Johnny Mathis’ “Brian’s Song (The Hands of Time)” was playing in his head.

The biggest headache I can see for the government in the beach project is not dolomite pollution of the bay (dolomite, if you google it, is a mineral similar to limestone that develops in the sea), but how to impose a carrying capacity for the small area and limit the crowds.

That crush of people over the weekend was just a prelude. The manmade beach is the only one of its kind in the congested, polluted National Capital Region. The white beaches closest to the NCR are in Nasugbu and Anilao, both in Batangas. And the best beach spots in these areas are private and charge steep fees or are for members only. The Manila Bay beach is free.



For those who thronged the Baywalk beach over the weekend, I doubt if there was a lot of thought put into criticisms that the project is a frivolous extravagance in the time of COVID and endangers the marine environment.

The DENR has explained that funding for the project was approved last year and cannot be realigned for pandemic relief. Fishermen interviewed on TV in the Baseco area ended the argument over the fishkill, explaining that this was a normal occurrence during the rainy season.

In fact their biggest worry, the fishermen said, was not the fishkill, which would end with the ebb and flow of the tides, but the popularity of the white beach. They fret that it could give people ideas about expanding the beach and driving away informal settlers including the fishermen away from the shores of Baseco.

Filipinos who have visited other countries envy the long stretches of public beaches even in key cities. No commercial establishments are allowed to obstruct the shoreline; all such establishments are typically located behind a road that features bike lanes and jogging paths that run parallel to the beach. I've mentioned Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii, but such public beaches can be found all over the planet. Most are breathtaking: the French and Portuguese Rivas; Copacabana in Brazil; South Beach in Miami; Cancun in Mexico; the beach in Tel Aviv, Israel.

It may be too late to do this now along Roxas Boulevard and around portions of the bay. We will have to evict commercial establishments, hotels, the Philippine Coast Guard headquarters and the US embassy.

Only that tiny stretch of Baywalk is left to lay out an artificial public beach where people can continue enjoying the magnificent sunset over the bay with an unobstructed view.

Planting mangroves instead would be fine as well, but do we want to blot out the sunset? Manila Bay has the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area along Coastal Road – a project mainly of Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar. It is open to the public and is now an internationally protected urban wetland.

\* \* \*

Unfortunately, Imelda Marcos soured Filipinos to beautification projects including backyard gardens under her "Green Revolution." Many Pinoys think beautification projects in a land where millions still wallow in extreme poverty are frivolous.

This is partly why little funding and resources are allocated for maintaining public parks and the few patches of greenery around Metro Manila. The government can't even sustain the watering of plants along center traffic islands. The plants dry out or become overgrown, and pretty soon some portions become nighttime shelters for the homeless.

Only landscaping maintained by the private sector for mixed-use properties are properly cared for.

The "sands of time" has been described as an ambitious project. The ambition is not in creating a pristine white beach in the heart of Manila, within pissing distance of the country's biggest seaport and the slums of Tondo. The beach is nearly finished, using Geotube technology that the DENR must properly explain to the public to allay fears about ground erosion.

The ambition – considering the hordes of people wanting to enjoy the beach – is in keeping the area pristine, 24/7, in the years to come.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/09/23/2044416/the-sands-time>





# EDITORIAL - Pinagkaguluhan ang 'white sand beach'

(Pang-Masa) - September 23, 2020 - 12:00am



BINUKSAN pansamantala sa publiko ang Manila Bay white sand beach noong nakaraang Sabado. Kabilang sa mga nagtungo sa beach sina Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu, Manila mayor Isko Moreno at iba pang opisyaes ng DENR. Nasiyahan sila sa magandang beach na nilatagan ng dinurog na dolomite na galing pa sa Cebu. Ang proyekto ay bahagi ng beautification ng Manila Bay at pinondohan ng P389 milyon.

Pero kung nasiyahan sina Cimatu at Isko, mas lalong nasiyahan ang mga taong dumagsa sa white sand beach. Unang pagkakataon na nakakita sila ng puting buhangin. Para na rin daw silang nakarating sa Boracay.

Nagdikit-dikit ang mga tao sa puting beach. Wala nang agwat. May mga grupo na nag-picture-picture o selfie. Nawala na ang physical distancing. Nasira ang health protocol na ipinatutupad.

Ganundin ang nangyari kinabukasan (Linggo). Du-magsa muli ang mga tao at nasira muli ang physical distancing. Binuksan ang white sand beach mula 6:00 a.m. hanggang 6:00 p.m. Sa dami ng mga dumagsang tao, nakapila na ang iba sa Roxas Blvd. Lalo nang nasira ang ipinatutupad na 1 metrong agwat ng mga tao para hindi magkahawahan ng virus.

Hindi pinalampas ni Philippine National Police's (PNP) Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar ang nangyaring pagdagsa ng mga tao sa kontrobersiyal na beach na isang paglabag sa health protocol. Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagkumpol-kumpol ng mga tao.

Agad niyang ipinag-utos na alisin sa puwesto ang Ermita police station dahil hindi nito nagawang ipatupad ang physical distancing sa mga taong bumisita sa beach. Sabi ni Eleazar, hindi naipasunod ni Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan ang strict security at health safety measures. Hindi umano nagkaroon ng plano at regular na monitoring si Caramoan sa sitwasyon. Naiwasan daw sana ang pagkumpul-kumpul kung nagkaroon ng maayos na plano sa lugar. Ipinalit kay Caramoan si Lt. Col. Alex Daniel bilang officer-in-charge. Muli namang isinara ang white sand beach sa publiko.



Nararapat lang na managot ang police official na nakakasakop sa lugar dahil hindi niya naipatupad ang health protocol. Hindi biro ang dumagsang tao sa kontrobersiyal na beach at maaaring nagkahawahan doon sapagkat talaga namang dikit-dikit. Habang ang marami ay nag-iingat at mahigpit na pinatutupad ang physical distancing, may mga opisyal naman na hindi ginagawa ang tungkulin.

Isang malaking aral ang pagsibak sa police official at sana hindi na maulit ang ganitong pagkakamali lalo pa nga at sa panahon ng pandemya.



## Bikini belle

Published 7 hours ago on September 23, 2020 12:04 AM

By [WJG](#)



When the Supreme Court issued a Mandamus on Manila Bay on 18 December 2016, which directed 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve the bay, including restoring and maintaining its waters to be fit for swimming, skin diving and other forms of recreation, everyone supposedly won from a cause favorable to the environment.

That legal victory became a public triumph based on the thousands of people who flocked to the baywalk area last Saturday to walk on the artificial sand laid there to revive a part of the beach where tons of trash always wash up after a storm. The inauguration of the area beside the United States Embassy by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Manila City Hall, followed by its opening to the public, saw awed promenaders, vloggers, reporters and bureaucrats taking unlimited selfies until sunset.

If there are winners in the controversial project, there are also losers. They include critics of the government who earlier claimed that the dolomite sand used to recreate the beach is damaging to the bay and the cost of which should have been spent instead to feed the hungry at this time in the pandemic.

The biggest loser was P/Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, commander of the Ermita police station, which has jurisdiction over Manila's baywalk. He was relieved from his post by Philippine National Police chief Lt. Gen. Camilo Cascolan for failing to enforce physical distancing on the crowd that gathered along Roxas Boulevard to enter the renovated shore.

Lt. Col. Alex Daniel, the Manila Police District's chief comptroller, who replaced Caramoan, was not the biggest winner though even if he benefited from his colleague's relief.

Neither are the dolomite miners in Cebu that supplied the artificial sand for the Manila Bay shore.

The real winner for the day was 46-year-old Renalyn Macato who jumped the gun on everyone else by being the first to be on Manila Bay beach wearing a red swimsuit last Sunday.

Macato's daring photos taken by her friend are trending on social media, and the hands-down favorite among the many memes that were posted by netizens for the #ManilaBayChallenge.

Moreover, the mother-of-three won't even be prosecuted or disqualified to run as the poster girl for the new Manila Bay, even if she was not wearing a mask at the time. Her shoot sans mask and face shield had the permission of authorities at the time, because it was a solo pictorial at a crowdless part of the beach.

There were netizens who were not pleased with the instant fame earned by Macato in her bikini, and she was even mocked by a grandmother from Las Piñas City. But she is unfazed from the cyberbullying and is enjoying the 39,000 shares of her photos.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/23/bikini-belle/>



## Manila Bay rehab not commendable, group says after Duterte praised DENR

Published September 22, 2020 2:21pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

The rehabilitation of Manila Bay led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is not commendable, environmental groups said on Tuesday, after President Rodrigo Duterte praised the agency for the project.

Fisherfolk groups' alliance PAMALAKAYA chairperson Fernando Hicap contradicted Duterte's appreciation of DENR's efforts on Manila Bay, once again stressing that the ongoing rehabilitation is superficial.

"There is nothing commendable on the DENR's thrust on Manila Bay rehabilitation which is actually based on external beautification, rather than a genuine restoration of its marine and fishery resources," Hicap told GMA News Online.

"Moreover, there is nothing applaudable on the DENR's efforts on Manila Bay because they facilitate large-scale destruction of its mangrove forests and seabeds through reclamation projects."

Amid criticism on the Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts, Duterte on Monday [congratulated DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu](#) for leading the campaign.

Hicap said Duterte did not pay attention to the environmental and health concerns that are being [raised by different sectors](#) about the dumping of crushed dolomites on the portion of the bay's shoreline to give it a "white sand" look.

"Not surprising but still disappointing," Hicap said.

"Amid the wide criticism and objection both from the public and experts, President Duterte has still chosen to side with this infamous 'beach nourishment' project," he added.

Hicap also noted that the DENR has been granting environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) to several big-ticket reclamation projects across the Manila Bay. He said this includes the 320-hectare reclamation in Bacoor City, Cavite, and the reclamation for the international airport in Bulakan, Bulacan.



Ocean conservation organization Oceana Philippines Vice President Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos, meanwhile, reminded the government to implement environmental laws after Duterte congratulated the DENR.

“The State agencies need to implement our environmental laws,” Ramos told GMA News Online.

Ramos pointed out that DENR is not exempt, noting that the Supreme Court in the 2008 MMDA Ruling has directed it and 12 other agencies to perform their mandates to protect the environment.

“This is and must be a priority if our people are to survive as we face health, fisheries, climate and biodiversity crisis all at once,” Ramos added. —KBK, GMA News



# DENR inspects Cebu town's marine life for effects of dolomite extraction

**ABS-CBN News**

Posted at Sep 22 2020 06:49 PM | Updated as of Sep 22 2020 07:20 PM



*Courtesy of Cebu Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office*

CEBU - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas on Tuesday inspected the marine ecosystem of Alcoy town in Cebu to check the effects of dolomite extraction.

Alcoy Mayor Michael Sestoso said the heavy siltation of the town's seawater was due to the mining of crushed dolomites that had accumulated over time.

He said though that the mining of dolomite rocks for Manila Bay's beautification project did not have any effect on the local environment.

Dolomite mining, Sestoso said, has become a source of livelihood for locals.

"Seventy to 80 percent of the employees of the dolomite mining is from the town of Alcoy," he said.

The mayor appealed to the provincial government to allow the mining companies to operate because it helped boost the town's economy.

For now, Sestoso said exportation of crushed dolomite is allowed, while selling of the rocks to locals has stopped.

"The dolomite is exported to the countries of Japan, China, Taiwan and South Korea," he said.

An inspection conducted by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) showed the town's corals and seabed had turned white due to heavy siltation.

Cebu province is considering filing charges against 2 mining firms involved in the production of crushed dolomite over their non-compliance with local tax ordinances and requirements.

Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia earlier ordered the Philippine Mining Service Corporation and the Dolomite Mining Corporation to halt their operations.

The governor will allow the companies to resume their operations once they pay local taxes and secure a waste disposal permit as marine biologists are set to examine the supposed damage their mining caused to nearby bodies of water, according to Cebu provincial board member Jimbo Borghonia.

- With a report from DX Lapid

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/22/20/denr-inspects-cebu-towns-marine-life-for-effects-of-dolomite-extraction>



# Dolomite extraction could be damaging Cebu town's corals, marine ecosystem

Published September 22, 2020, 1:34 PM

by [Calvin Cordova](#)

**CEBU CITY**—The municipal government of Alcoy in southern Cebu will be coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after an inspection showed heavy siltation and damage to the town's marine ecosystem caused by extraction of dolomite.



The municipal government of Alcoy in southern Cebu will be coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after an inspection showed heavy siltation and damage to the town's marine ecosystem caused by extraction of dolomite. (Photo via Calvin Cordova / MANILA BULLETIN)

Alcoy Mayor Michael Sestoso said he has yet to see a copy of the report by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) indicating that corals were destroyed within 500 meters of seawater because of heavy siltation.

The heavy siltation has caused the corals and the seabed to turn white, the PENRO report said.

"I will have to ask our MENRO (Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office) with regards to the result of the inspection. I don't have personal knowledge of the reported damage," said Sestoso.

Sestoso said if indeed that corals were destroyed, it would be best to seek assistance from DENR.

If confirmed that the dolomite extraction has caused coral destruction, the mayor said that measures have to be taken to prevent further damage.

"We will request the help of DENR because they are the ones that has the expertise when it comes to marine ecosystem," said Sestoso.

Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia has already ordered an investigation into the damage on the marine ecosystem after aerial photos and videos were presented by PENRO in a meeting with representatives of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) and the Philippine Mining Services Corporation (PMSC) last September 17.

According to PENRO, particles from the crushed dolomite fell to the sea when transported to the bulk carrier vessels through a conveyor belt.

PENRO's report may prompt the provincial government to issue another cease and desist order against the mining firms.



Garcia had previously issued a cease and desist order to DMC and PMSC for selling the dolomite as substitute for sand and gravel in the domestic market, which is not covered by their permits.

Crushed dolomite rocks from Alcoy had been transported to Manila to fill a stretch of the Manila Bay baywalk.

The governor said he had no issues with the two mining firms transporting crushed dolomite for the Manila Bay beautification project but the DMC and PMSC must secure a permit for their quarry operations because what they have was permit is for mining.

“Let me reiterate. We are not against the Manila Bay beach nourishment project. We did not interfere because you (DENR) would always nourish the beach by getting your resources elsewhere. But you are getting resources from the Province supplied by DMC, extracted by DMC, and under the provincial ordinance, our Tax Code, they are supposed to pay 10 percent of the fair market value of quarry resource,” Garcia said during the meeting.





## Group blames DENR, mining firm for death of corals in Alcoy, Cebu

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

September 21, 2020

The fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) is blaming the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and a large-scale mining firm over what the group termed as "environmental degradation" in Alcoy, Cebu.

In a news statement issued on Monday, Pamalakaya National Chairman Fernando Hicap said the extraction of dolomite, part of which were used as dumping material to produce a Boracay beach-like appearance at the Manila Baywalk area are to be blamed for the dwindling marine life in the coastal town of Alcoy.

He said the fact that the DENR allowed this to happen can be considered an abandonment of its mandate of environmental protection.

"The Mineral Production Sharing Agreement between the government and the mining firm involved in quarrying must be revoked, and hold these environmental plunderers accountable," Hicap, a former lawmaker, said.

Citing reports, Hicap said corals within the 500 meters of seawater in Barangay Pugalo, Alcoy, Cebu may have perished because of heavy siltation from the dolomite mines.

The dolomites were used as overlay materials to fill the 500-meter stretch of the Manila Baywalk for the controversial "beach nourishment" project.

Pamalakaya, along with other environmental groups, assailed the project, which they described as an "artificial rehabilitation focusing on aesthetics."

The fisherfolk group is demanding an assessment on the environmental damage the extraction operation has caused and to hold those behind it accountable.

"Both the DENR and the Dolomite Mining Corp. should be held liable over the environmental disaster they have caused. We call for a rapid assessment on the damage inflicted to the corals and how much fine should be imposed to the mining firm and the DENR," added Hicap. "The damage caused by the dolomite extraction could be bigger, far more reaching and strategically fatal to the livelihood of the local fishers and to the fishing environment directly linked to the depleted marine life. It will take one year for a millimeter of coral to go back to its sound condition and it will take 250 years for a meter of coral to mature," Hicap said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/21/group-blames-denr-mining-firm-for-death-of-corals-in-alcoy-cebu/>



Video link: <https://youtu.be/gJXHS9ehMCw>

## Reefs damaged in Cebu allegedly due to dolomite transport

Published September 22, 2020 9:58pm

The extraction of dolomite rocks from Cebu's Alcoy town allegedly damaged the local marine ecosystem, a non-government organization claimed.

In Tina Panganiban-Perez's report on "24 Oras" on Tuesday, Knight Stewards of the Sea Secretary William Villaver said the crushed dolomite spilled into the sea during its transfer to vessels and caused sedimentation on the coral reefs.

"Kasi 'yong corals nabubuhay 'yan, nangangailangan sila ng sinag ng araw. 'Pag matakpan 'yong sinag ng araw by sediments in that area, maraming dust from the dolomite, matakpan 'yong araw so ma-less ang light penetrating to the corals kaya namamatay sila in the long run," Villaver explained.

Aside from the marine ecosystem, the mountains where the dolomite rocks were extracted were fractured.

The Cebu Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, meanwhile, said it was investigating the effects of dolomite extraction.

"We already conducted our assessment a few weeks ago and then we presented the results to the governor and now we will validate our findings," PENRO officer-in-charge Rodel Bontuyan said.

GMA News had sought comment from Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on the matter, but he had yet to respond as of posting time.

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) had clarified amid warnings by some sectors that crushed dolomite could pose respiratory risks. — Angelica Garcia/DVM, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/756734/reefs-damaged-in-cebu-allegedly-due-to-dolomite-transport/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3-z5aQwyoM1JXHuvHmHII5-m-4Whs3KbXvoubobD\\_yOO7VBwYU11tEFug](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/756734/reefs-damaged-in-cebu-allegedly-due-to-dolomite-transport/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3-z5aQwyoM1JXHuvHmHII5-m-4Whs3KbXvoubobD_yOO7VBwYU11tEFug)



# Marine ecosystem sa Cebu town 'nasira' sa pagkuha ng Manila Bay dolomite

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 22 2020 07:40 PM



Nagreklamo ang mga mangingisda sa Alcoy, Cebu dahil nasira ang marine ecosystem sa kanilang lugar nang kuhanin doon ang dolomite na itinambak sa Manila Bay. Nagpa-Patrol, Jeck Batallones. TV Patrol, Martes, 22 Setyembre 2020

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/09/22/20/marine-ecosystem-sa-cebu-town-nasira-sa-pagkuha-ng-manila-bay-dolomite>



# Cebu residents decry environmental damage caused by dolomite mining

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 22 2020 10:57 PM



Video link: [blob:https://www.youtube.com/a6b1e8ad-0a26-45c3-90f4-d1e3797608f7](https://www.youtube.com/a6b1e8ad-0a26-45c3-90f4-d1e3797608f7)

Residents in Alcoy, Cebu complain about the damage caused by mining dolomite in their area. The controversial artificial white sand beach project in Manila Bay also affected fishermen's livelihood in Cebu. - The World Tonight, ANC, September 22, 2020

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/09/22/20/cebu-residents-decry-environmental-damage-caused-by-dolomite-mining>



Binisita ng mga lokal na turistang ito ang dalampasigan ng Manila Bay matapos ibukas ang "white sand beach" nito — bagay na ginawa gamit ang durog na "dolomite" sa Alcoy, Cebu

The STAR/Edd Gumban

## Cebu gov't posibleng kasuhan mga nagmina ng Dolomite na nag-suplay sa Manila Bay

[James Relativo](#) (Philstar.com) - September 22, 2020 - 2:04pm

MANILA, Philippines — Maaaring ihabla sa korte ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Cebu ang dalawang minahan na may kinalaman sa pagkuha nila ng "dolomite" sa isa nilang bayan, bagay na ginamit sa kontrobersyal na pekeng white sand sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Cebu provincial board member Jiembo Borgonia, Martes, hindi raw sumunod sa local tax ordinances at requirements ang Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC) at Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC): "We are on the look on it [kaso] po... kasi itong [PMSC] ay hindi nagbabayad ng local taxes dito sa province of Cebu."

Bukod pa 'yan sa mga diumano'y nasira ng mga kumpanya sa kalikasan dahil sa pag-extract ng dolomite. Wala rin daw waste disposal permit ang PMSC at DMC.

"Yung conveyor ng DMC o PMSC... 'yung kanilang planta patungo doon sa barge, may open na area kaya through the doon, doon naanod ang dolomite," sambit ni Borgonia sa Teleradyo.

"May mga marine biologists na magda-dive this afternoon... to take a look kung may epekto ito sa mga isda... 'Yung mga corals, [wala] na sa kanyang natural color kasi... pumuputi na at tska 'yung mga fish cage."

Aniya, kukuha ng mga litrato't videos ang mga dalubhasa para makita kung sanhi talaga ng dolomite ang nangyayari sa kanilang lugar.

Una nang naglabas ng cease and desist order si Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia para ipahinto ang pagmimina, pagbebenta atbp. ng PMSC at DMC dahil sa sari-saring paglabag.


"Yung mga fisherman natin di na sila maka-fish within the area. Kailangan nila sa malayo kahit marami naman sanang fishes dun. 'Yung livelihood ng fisherman ay talagang naapektuhan kaya sila ang dumulog nung narinig 'yung issue," dagdag pa ni Borgonia.

Aniya, ilang buwan na raw iginigiit ng legal office ng probinsya na sumunod ang dalawang kumpanya sa pagkuha ng governor's permit at sumunod sa ordinansa ngunit tila iniitsapwera lang daw ito.

Nasa 30-40 taon na raw nag-ooperate ang dalawang kumpanya, at sinasabing maaaring magmina hanggang 2030 sa ilalim ng pinasukang Mining Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA).



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

 **Shyla Francisco**  
@ShylaFrancisco

LOOK:Cebu Provincial Govt issues cease and desist order to Philippine Mining Service Corporation and Dolomite Mining Corporation in Alcoy Cebu. This is where the artificial sand (crushee dolomite rocks) for Manila Bay's beautification project came from

@News5PH  
@onenewsph

3:59 PM · Sep 8, 2020

See Shyla Francisco's other Tweets

Una nang pinangambahan ng ilang grupo na naging sanhi rin ng mga dinurog na dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu ang mga nangyaring fish kill at pamumuti ng tubig sa Baseco sa Manila Bay, bagay na pinabulaanan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ika-7 ng Setyembre nang iugnay ng Department of Health sa [panganib sa kalusugan ang dolomite](#) ngunit binawi rin ito kalaunan.

### Duterte sa Manila Bay white sand

Sa kabila ng reklamo ng Cebu province sa mga paglabag sa ordinansa at "pinsala" ng kanilang lugar, tuwang-tuwa naman si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kinalabasan ng white sand "rehabilitation" ng Manila Bay.

Aniya, kinaya raw kasing trabahuhin ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang hamon niyang "linisin" ang look, na nanggigitata sa mataas na fecal coliform level ng tubig.

"Now, people now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand maski na papaano," pagmamalaki ni Digong sa kanyang [talumpati](#), Lunes nang gabi.

Gayunpaman, dismayado si Duterte sa mga nagreklamo hinggil sa proyekto ng DENR na ginastusan ng P350 milyon gobyerno.

"Wala naman talaga tayong magawa. You do it, may masabi sila. You do not do it, may masabi si [Vice President Leni Robedo]. What do you want us to do?" dagdag pa ng pangulo.

Una nang sinabi ni Robredo na [nakapagpakain na sana ng 80,000 pamilya ang gobyerno](#) kung ginamit na lang ang pondo ng Manila Bay white sand beach project sa pagbibigay ng P5,000 subsidyo sa gitna ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2020/09/22/2044301/cebu-govt-posibleng-kasuhan-mga-nagmina-ng-dolomite-na-nag-suplay-sa-manila-bay?fbclid=IwAR23v41ezXs9R0BnH-Blyck5DQMAeDqShQ6985rW6m4c3uKi6N-diLhXhRM>



# Cebu gov't eyes charges vs dolomite mining firms

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 22 2020 10:33 AM

MANILA - Cebu province is considering filing charges against two mining firms involved in the production of crushed dolomite in Alcoy town for its non-compliance with local tax ordinances and requirements, an official said Tuesday.

Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia earlier ordered the Philippine Mining Service Corporation and the Dolomite Mining Corporation to halt its operations.

The governor will allow the companies to resume their operations once they pay local taxes and secure a waste disposal permit as marine biologists are set to examine the supposed damage their mining caused to nearby bodies of water, according to Cebu provincial board member Jiembo Borgonia.

"Yung conveyor ng PMSC, 'yung kanilang planta patungo dun sa barge may open na area kaya through the wind dun naanod ang dolomite," he told ABS-CBN's Teleradyo.

(PMSC's conveyor, their plant going to the barge, has an open area so the dolomite is carried through the wind.)

"Over the years atsaka sa dami ng volume, naspread siya within 5 kilometers away from the area."

(Over the years and due to the huge volume, it has spread within 5km away from the area.)

The dolomite has caused coral reefs to whiten, Borgonia said.

"Yung inisyal naming nakita, di na siya natural color. Whitish na tsaka 'yung mga fish cage at dun sa sea floor kahit di naman white sand ang area," he said.

(Our initial findings showed the corals did not have natural coral and turned whitish, even the fish cages and the sea floor though the area is not composed of white sand.)

"Yung mga fisherman natin di na sila maka-fish within the area. Kailangan nila sa malayo kahit marami naman sanang fishes dun. 'Yung livelihood ng fisherman ay talagang naapektuhan kaya sila ang dumulog nung narinig 'yung issue."

(Our fishermen can't fish in the area, they need to go far even though there should have been a lot of fishes there. Their livelihood was severely affected that's why they approached us when they heard about the issue.)

The two companies, which have been operating for some 30 years, have also refused to pay 10 percent of their gross sale to government for producing the crushed dolomite used in Manila Bay, according to Borgonia.

"As early as August or September, nagsend na ang legal office ng probinsiya sa Sugbu ng demand letter to comply sa provincial ordinances, to ask for a governor's permit, and if they are selling sa local, waste disposal permit," he said.

(As early as August or September, the province's legal office has sent a demand letter to comply with provincial ordinances, to ask for a governor's permit, and if they are selling locally, a waste disposal permit.)

"Parang binabalewala nila ang hurisdiksyon ng probinsiya."

(It's like they don't care about the province's jurisdiction.)

The crushed dolomite project in Manila Bay has earned public criticism as government supposedly violated several laws and reportedly spent millions for its "beautification" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The white beach's opening over the weekend also drew criticism for the lack of physical distancing, prompting the relief of the police station's commander.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/22/20/cebu-govt-eyes-charges-vs-dolomite-mining-firms>






## Manila Bay `white sand' walang ECC

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Sep 22, 2020

NEWS



Pinaalalahanan ni dating presidential adviser for the urban poor na si Terry Ridon si Pangulong Duterte na nilabag ng Manila Bay project ang mga environmental regulations, particular na ang pagkuha ng Environment Compliance Certificate na patakaran pa mismo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

 Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

“Mr President, the Manila Bay white sand project did not comply with environmental regulations. It has no ECC despite being located in an area with tourist potential and unique historical interest,” sabi ni Ridon na dating congressman at convenor ng Infrawatch PH.

Ayon sa ex-solon, ang Manila Bay rehabilitation project ay para mapaganda ang tubig at biodiversity sa lugar at hindi para gawin itong palamuti.

Paalala pa nito sa Pangulo, puno pa ng duda sa overpricing ng proyekto dahil sa aniya'y iisa lang ang bidder, masyadong malapit ang bid sa inaprubang budget, hindi nag-alok ng discount ang bidder bukod pa sa hindi nakipagnegosasyon ang DPWH para mapababa ang presyo.

Sabi ni Ridon, kailangang imbestigahan ang proyekto dahil sa mga katanungang ito.

Dagdag pa niya, tatlong linggo na ang nakalilipas ngunit hindi pa rin isinisiwalat ng DPWH ang mga ginastos sa proyekto at mas magandang ipakita n anito ang mga dokumento tungkol dito at malinawan na kung magkano talaga ang nagastos dito. (Eileen Mencias)



**DOLOMITE SAND SA MANILA BAY, INAANOD?**

Ayon sa ilang netizens, tila "naaagnas" o nawawala na raw ang inilalagay na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay! Ang ganitong pangyayari, inaasahan na raw ng isang environmental organization, samantalang dinpensahan naman ito ng DENR. Normal lang daw ang ganitong erosion at may mga inihandang paraan na raw sila para rito. | [Stand For Truth](#)



**DOLOMITE SAND SA MANILA BAY, INAANOD?**

Ayon sa ilang netizens, tila "naaagnas" o nawawala na raw ang inilalagay na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay! Ang ganitong pangyayari, inaasahan na raw ng isang environmental organization, samantalang dinpensahan naman ito ng DENR. Normal lang daw ang ganitong erosion at may mga inihandang paraan na raw sila para rito. Ang buong kuwento, abangan sa report ni MJ Geronimo | [Stand For Truth](#)

👍👎👏 Arvin Royo and 11K others

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# DENR says garbage collectors are frontliners too, appeals to LGUs to care for them

Published September 22, 2020, 1:51 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Local government units (LGUs) were urged Tuesday to care for garbage collectors as they are frontliners too in the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).



(PIXABAY / MANILA BULLETIN)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) made the appeal as its National Capital Region (NCR) office conducted an online seminar among environment officers of various LGUs in Metro Manila.

DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanca said it is vital for environment workers to be fully aware of the safety and health risks involved as they continue to perform their duties during the pandemic.

“Through the webinar, we were able to inform our environment officers of the safety protocols they must observe to reduce their exposure to deadly viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens,” Caanca said.

During the webinar, resource person Engr. Jean Borrromeo talked about the various protocols to ensure the safety of environment workers while doing their jobs amid COVID-19.

Borrromeo, who is the OIC of the Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division of the Environmental Management Bureau-NCR, said the wearing of complete personal protective equipment (PPEs) is important for garbage collectors, estero rangers, including those assigned to take water samples from waterways.

“It is very important that we wear a complete set of PPEs during fieldwork as we may be exposed to the virus via dust or contaminated wastewater and surface water,” she said.

“Environment workers, particularly garbage collectors, have been classified as essential workers as they work tirelessly to help protect public health and contain the spread of the virus by disposing of everything from household to health care wastes,” DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

“This initiative by the DENR-NCR office is a welcome effort to make sure that we can inform the public about how to properly sanitize and disinfect our surroundings, especially during this time of health crisis when cleanliness is a must to protect everyone from the virus,” he added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/22/denr-says-garbage-collectors-are-frontliners-too-appeals-to-lgus-to-care-for-them/>



## DENR to LGUs: Environmental frontliners must be safe

posted September 22, 2020 at 09:50 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Tuesday advised local government units that the safety of environmental frontliners is a must amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

“Environment workers, particularly garbage collectors, have been classified as essential workers as they work tirelessly to help protect public health and contain the spread of the virus by disposing of everything from household to health care wastes,” Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

He told local officials to ensure the health and safety of environmental frontliners, particularly garbage collectors and estero rangers.

The agency recently conducted a webinar among environment officers of various LGUs in the National Capital Region on the proper handling of solid and hazardous wastes during the COVID-19 crisis.

“This initiative by the DENR-NCR office is a welcome effort to make sure that we can inform the public about how to properly sanitize and disinfect our surroundings, especially during this time of a health crisis when cleanliness is a must to protect everyone from the virus,” Antiporda said.

DENR-NCR regional executive director Jacqueline Caanca said it was vital for environment workers to be fully aware of the safety and health risks involved as they continue to perform their duties during the pandemic.

“Through the webinar, we were able to inform our environment officers of the safety protocols they must observe to reduce their exposure to deadly viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens,” she said.

“It is very important that we wear complete set of PPEs during fieldwork as we may be exposed to the virus via dust or contaminated wastewater and surface water,” resource person engineer Jean Borromeo said.

Borromeo is the officer in charge at the Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division of the Environmental Management Bureau-Metro Manila.



## LGUs told: Protect sanitation crew from Covid-19 infection

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

September 22, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reminded local government units (LGUs) to protect environmental frontliners against the continuing threat of Covid-19 infection.

The DENR recently held a webinar among environment officers of various LGUs where the issue of garbage collectors and estero rangers being exposed to the virus was brought up.

During the webinar, experts reminded LGUs of the proper handling of solid and hazardous wastes during the pandemic.

"Environment workers, particularly garbage collectors, have been classified as essential workers as they work tirelessly to help protect public health and contain the spread of the virus by disposing of everything from household to health-care wastes," said DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

The webinar aims to capacitate Metro Manila LGUs with adequate knowledge and skills to keep environment workers healthy and safe while performing their duties during the pandemic.

"This initiative by the DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) office is a welcome effort to make sure that we can inform the public about how to properly sanitize and disinfect our surroundings, especially during this time of a health crisis when cleanliness is a must to protect everyone from the virus," Antiporda said in a news statement.

## Garbage collectors frontliners din – DENR



September 22, 2020 @ 5:09 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hinikayat ang Local government units (LGUs) na pag-ingatan din ang garbage collectors dahil sila ay frontliners din.

Ito ay batay sa apela ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kasabay ng isinagawang online seminar ng National Capital Region (NCR) office sa ilang LGUs sa Metro Manila.

“Through the webinar, we were able to inform our environment officers of the safety protocols they must observe to reduce their exposure to deadly viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens,” Ayon kay DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan.

Sa webinar, sinabi ni resource person Engr. Jean Borromeo ang ilang protocols para matiyak ang kanilang kalusugan sa kabila ng kanilang trabaho.

“It is very important that we wear a complete set of PPEs during fieldwork as we may be exposed to the virus via dust or contaminated wastewater and surface water,” paliwanag pa nito.

“Environment workers, particularly garbage collectors, have been classified as essential workers as they work tirelessly to help protect public health and contain the spread of the virus by disposing of everything from household to health care wastes,” saad naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

“This initiative by the DENR-NCR office is a welcome effort to make sure that we can inform the public about how to properly sanitize and disinfect our surroundings, especially during this time of health crisis when cleanliness is a must to protect everyone from the virus.” RNT/FGDC



# DENR pushes use of bamboo in urban greening program

By Marita Moaje September 22, 2020, 6:21 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) is pushing the use of suitable bamboo species to promote green spaces in highly urbanized cities such as Manila.

DENR-NCR regional executive director Jacqueline Caancan, in a meeting with Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso on Monday, said the agency prepared a draft Climate Resilient and Localized Urban Greening Plan (CRLUGP) and presented it to the city government of Manila.

Caancan said that the bamboo, "being a fast-growing plant, is also being highlighted in the DENR reforestation program".

In a recent statement by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, he said the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), which is the government's flagship reforestation initiative being implemented by the DENR, is geared towards planting more bamboos in the country.

Calling the bamboo as a "wonder plant," Cimatu said it is not only a sustainable alternative to wood but is also an effective solution to mitigate climate change as it absorbs greenhouse gases, insulates carbon dioxide from the environment, and produces 35 percent more oxygen compared to a tree that is equivalent its size.

Caancan, meanwhile, said the urban greening program presented to Domagoso "contains spatial-based goals, targets, and activities meant to expand and enhance the green spaces of Manila".

Bamboo is widely used in the country in making houses as well as furniture and ornament.

Domagoso expressed his gratitude to the DENR-NCR.

"I have a very clear vision when it comes to the environment. This includes creating about 1,600 hectares of open green spaces in Manila for the city to be ecologically balanced and healthful," Domagoso said in a mix of English and Filipino.

He said this size of open green space is appropriate for the population of the city as well as its land area.

He added that the initiative is to plant suitable species of bamboo in selected roads, areas, and other open spaces in Manila. (PNA)



## 25 green sea turtles hatchlings released in Batanes

Published September 22, 2020, 11:15 AM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

**TUGUEGARAO CITY** (PNA) – 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.



DENR released 25 green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) hatchlings along Pahanebneban Beach in Basco, Batanes, identified as nesting site. (DENR Cagayan Valley via Liezle Basa Inigo)

Forester Dionicio Deundo, DENR Technical Services chief, said the 25 hatchlings were discovered by their personnel at past 11 p.m. on Sunday, September 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.





## Sewerage Treatment Plant sa Hinulugang Taktak inaksyunan

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Sep 22, 2020


NEWS



Photo courtesy of tripadvisor.com.ph



Upang matiyak na de-kalidad at malinis ang dumadaloy na tubig sa Hinulugang Taktak, binili na ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Antipolo ang kapisang lupa na paglalagyan ng Sewerage Treatment Plant sa makasaysayang spot.

 Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Kamakailan ay nagkapirmahan na rin ng MOA sa pagitan nina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Manila Water President Rene Almendras, COO Abelardo Basilio at Antipolo Mayor Andrea “Andeng” Ynares.

Tiniyak ng mayora na matapos ang kasunduan ay mapapanumbalik ang magandang kalidad ng tubig sa Hinulugang Taktak matapos maitayo ang treatment plant sa nasabing lugar.

Kinilala rin ng mayora ang malaking tulong sa sanitasyon ng itatayong wastewater facility para sa kanyang mga nasasakupan at siniguro ang suporta ng kanyang opisina para sa proyekto.

Pinapurihan naman ni Sec. Cimatu ang pagtutulungan ng Manila Water at Lunsod ng Antipolo at binigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng public-private partnership tungo sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan, lalo na ng mga daluyang tubig.

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/sewerage-treatment-plant-sa-hinulugang-taktak-inaksyunan/>



# Maynilad magtatayo ng mga treatment plant para tubig galing sa ilog, puwede na rin mainom

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 22 2020 05:20 PM

MAYNILA - Magtatayo ng 4 na modular treatment plant ang Maynilad na kayang linisin ang maruming tubig sa ilang ilog sa Cavite at gawin itong inuming tubig.

Gamit ang modular treatment facility na gawa sa Israel, lilinisin umano ang tubig sa ilog sa pamamagitan ng prosesong reverse osmosis at ultra filtration para makagawa ng 26 milyong litro ng inuming tubig sa susunod na taon.

"Ito po ay may tinatawag na ultra filtration at mayroon din siyang reverse osmosis membrane, para masiguro namin na whatever 'yong quality ng water dito sa Cavite, kaya siyang i-treat," ani Ronald Padua, water supply operations head sa Maynilad.

Obligado na ang Maynilad at Manila Water na maghanap ng ibang source ng tubig gaya ng Laguna Lake.

Ang problema kasi ay taon-taon tumataas ang demand o pangangailangan sa tubig kaya ang mga water source, tulad ng dam, ay kailangang dumami rin para sumapat ang suplay ng tubig para sa lahat ng mga konsumer sa buong taon.

Lagpas 4 bilyon litro ng tubig kada araw ang ginagamit ng lahat ng kostumer ng Maynilad at Manila Water, na tumataas nang 4 porsiyento kada taon.

Limang taon pa bago maitayo ang Kaliwa Dam na inaasahang magsisilbing alternatibong mapagkukuhanan ng tubig.

"We are looking about 6 to 7 months delay of the project because of the pandemic and other underlying reasons," ani Emmanuel Salamat, administrator ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, na nangangasiwa sa Kaliwa Dam project.

## **TUBIG SA MANILA BAY, PASIG RIVER PUWEDE RING LINISIN**

Kung kapusin ng suplay, kahit ang tubig-dagat sa Manila Bay at maburak na tubig ng Pasig River ay puwedeng linisin ng modular treatment plant, pero mahal umano ang teknolohiya para rito.

Para kay National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David Jr., huling option na lang ang Pasig River at Manila Bay maliban na lang kung tatama ang malaking sakuna na ikasisira ng mga pasilidad.

"For example, in case of a disaster, kung nakikita natin ang pinakamalapit na water source is Pasig River," ani David.

Kung wala namang sakuna, marami pa naman daw ibang ilog o dam na puwedeng pagkuhanan ng dagdag na suplay ng tubig para sa Metro Manila.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/22/20/maynilad-magtatayo-ng-mga-treatment-plant-para-tubig-galing-sa-ilog-puwede-na-rin-mainom?fbclid=IwAR3NAbNhFe3xgLURsNR5pQxIUzlOzIYURD5UX82ge436nSnYBRsGW OzCmBk>




## DMCI-Consunji coal plant inawat

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Sep 22, 2020

NEWS



Naghain ng petisyon sa Regional Trial Court ng Palawan ang mga mamamayan sa lugar at mga civil society groups para ihinto ang pinaplanong 15-megawatt coal-fired power plant ng DMCI ng mga Consunji sa bayan ng Narra, Palawan dahil na rin sa kakulangan nito ng papeles.

 Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Naghain ng petition para sa Environmental Protection Order at Writ of Continuing Mandamus ang mga tao at mga grupo para isyuhan ng Temporary Restraining Order ang proyekto ng mga Consunji.

Sabi ni Atty. Grizelda Mayo-Anda ng Environmental Legal Assistance Center, dismayadong dismayado sila nang lumabas ang balita na binigyan ng Environmental Compliance Certificate ang proyekto at dineklara pang Energy Project of Natinal Siginificance samantalang matagal nang tinututulan ng mga taga Palawan ang coal project.

“The battle of Palawenos against coal has already been a long one and we can neither afford nor intend to lose it. Letting coal in would cost the welfare of our people and of Palawan’s rich biodiversity,” sabi ni Mayo-Anda.

Ayon sa grupo, walang maipakitang patunay ang DMCI Power Corp. na hindi mapipinsala ang kalikasan sa proyekto nito at wala rin itong pinakitang pamamaraan para maibsan ang masamang epekto ng coal plant sa lugar.

Kasama sa pinepetisyon ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Management Bureau Region 4B, ang Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, at ang tanggapan ng alkalde ng bayan ng Narra dahil sa mga desisyon nilang lumalabag sa mga environmental laws at karapatan ng tao sa kapaligirang hindi nakapipinsala. (Eileen Mencias)



"Climate change has worsened the ravages of the pandemic. Peoples in developing countries like the Philippines suffer the most. We cannot afford to suffer more," Duterte said.

## Duterte asks Paris Agreement parties to comply with pact vs. climate change

Published September 23, 2020 2:16am

President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday urged parties to the Paris Agreement to make good their commitment to fight climate change.

In his first speech before the United Nations General Assembly, Duterte said developing countries like the Philippines had suffered the most from the effects of climate change.

"The same urgency needed to fight COVID-19 is needed to address the climate crisis. This is a global challenge that has worsened existing inequalities and vulnerabilities from within and between nations," Duterte said.

"Climate change has worsened the ravages of the pandemic. Peoples in developing countries like the Philippines suffer the most. We cannot afford to suffer more," he added.

Duterte said the Philippines joined the Paris Agreement to fight climate change.

"We call on all parties, especially those who have not made good their commitment to fight climate change, to honor the same," Duterte said.

"We call on all parties to strengthen communities and peoples for preparedness and resilience. We are talking about mankind and Earth, our one and only home," he added. - NB, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/756760/duterte-asks-paris-agreement-parties-to-comply-with-pact-vs-climate-change/story/>



# Greenpeace follows up on CHR petition against 'carbon majors'

Published September 22, 2020, 5:55 PM

by [Ellayn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Various groups led by Greenpeace Philippines marked on Tuesday the fifth year of a landmark Filipino-led petition filed at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), seeking to hold accountable the world's biggest polluting companies for human rights violations due to the impacts of climate change.

According to the Filipino civil society organizations and individuals who filed the petition, the pending resolution will be "key to securing the future of Filipinos post-pandemic."

They are seeking the responsibility of 47 fossil fuel companies, collectively called the "carbon majors," for their contribution to the climate crisis, which resulted in human rights violations.

It is now more timely and relevant as countries examine the need for systemic changes following economic upheavals brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, they added.

Greenpeace Philippines, as one of the petitioners to the case, is hopeful that the CHR will issue a resolution that will support the call for climate justice, specifically holding the biggest carbon polluters accountable, as well as for the government to put climate action and people's well-being at the center of national and local policymaking.

"We commend the CHR for their continued commitment and we look forward to their decision because it could help communities envision a 'better normal,' where people's rights are being prioritized over corporate gains," Greenpeace campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said.

"Communities continue to suffer from the worsening impacts of the climate crisis while fossil fuel companies continue to rake in profits. But the CHR's decision can make a difference as it could inspire other governments around the world to establish a more transparent regulatory environment where climate change and human rights are at the core of corporate due diligence and proactively regulate fossil fuel companies' destructive businesses," she added.



# Gordon backs bill seeking national energy policy, regulatory framework for waste-to-energy facilities

Published September 22, 2020, 1:07 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Senator Richard J. Gordon has expressed support for a bill that seeks to establish a national energy policy and regulatory framework for facilities utilizing waste-to-energy technologies as solid wastes produced by Philippine cities are expected to increase by 165 percent to 77,776 tons by 2025.



Senator Richard Gordon

(Senate of the Philippines / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

During the interpellation after the sponsorship of Senate Bill No. 1789, the “Waste-to-Energy Act” under Committee Report No. 106, Gordon said that it is a very important legislation that senators should ensure that it could immediately be undertaken.

“I congratulate Senator Sherwin Gatchalian for having ushered in a new dimension on how we are going to dispose our garbage and at the same time generate electricity. Ako’y nakikiusap sa lahat na bilisan po natin ito at magawa itong magandang plano na ito. This is an idea that should have come a long time ago. I believe in it and I support it. I certainly want to make sure that this succeeds,” the senator said as he asked to be named co-sponsor of the bill. (I plead to all that we fast track the approval of the measure and implement it.)

Senate Bill (SB) 1789 seeks to ensure protection of the public’s health and the environment through a systematic and comprehensive ecological solid waste management program and to strengthen the government’s commitment to solid waste avoidance and volume reduction by supplementing the latter with other solid waste management treatment technologies to include waste-to-energy.

It also seeks to encourage the development and utilization of environmentally sustainable new and alternative technologies in resource recovery, resource conservation, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste, such as waste-to-energy facilities; and support the utilization of WTE facilities in order to attain sustainable energy and energy security, among others.

Gordon, who was the first to build a solid waste plant in the country when he was mayor of Olongapo City, pointed out that other countries in Asia have already taken leaps and bounds in terms of solid waste management while the Philippines is still hobbling along.

Vietnam produces 70,000 tons of wastes per day but with waste and energy plants in place, it is estimated to produce one billion kilowatt per hour from waste this year and six billion kilowatt per hour by 2050.

Malaysia’s WTE plant will be operational this year while 12 WTE plants will be operational in Indonesia by 2022.



In the Philippines, a \$48-million plant is set for construction in Davao, a \$40.5-million plant is in the pipeline in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and a facility is already operational in Lapu-lapu, Cebu.

“We ought to commend our colleague for having had the vision and energy to transform waste to energy, literally. There really is money in garbage, there’s money in waste. It minimizes our cost in power, it allows for more employment, it allows more money to be used in other productive measures. The Department of Interior and Local Government should make sure that they police local governments to make sure that they succeed right away. Because once people see that something can be done successfully in one locality, that is the point upon which we can turn the curve. We turn the curve into something a lot better for our country,” Gordon said.



## 'Half of PHL needs biodiversity protection'

By [Cai Ordinario](#)

September 22, 2020

MORE than half of the Philippine archipelago should be protected to preserve rare and endangered species and high-biodiversity areas, according to US-based scientists.

The report, "A 'Global Safety Net' (GSN) to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize the Earth's climate," said 54 percent or 15.8 million hectares of the Philippines should be considered protected land or areas.

However, only 15 percent of the country is currently considered protected areas. This means an additional 36 percent should be protected to preserve rare and endangered species and another 2 percent to conserve high-biodiversity areas.

"If we fail to protect lands for ecosystem services and carbon sequestration, we will not be able to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement. The two conventions are intertwined," Karl Burkart, One Earth Managing director, said.

One Earth is one of the institutions that came up with the GSN.

"There is a very finite amount of natural land that could be converted to human use before we lose the 1.5-degree Celsius window. Therefore, we need to protect all remaining natural lands by 2030—approximately 50 percent of the Earth—in order to save biodiversity and stabilize our global climate system," he said.

A group of scientists and experts produced the first comprehensive global-scale analysis of terrestrial areas essential for biodiversity and climate resilience, totaling 50.4 percent of the Earth's land.

It highlights the importance of protecting and restoring the natural world to address three converging crises—climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and the emergence of novel viruses such as Covid-19.

Based on the report, the Philippines is also ranked 45th out of 70 large countries with a protection level of 3. This means only about 30 percent of the country's biologically important land is currently protected.

The Protection Level is a simple score of 0 to 10 based on the percentage of biologically important lands identified in the GSN that are currently designated as protected by each government as recorded in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).





A score of 0 indicates that less than 5 percent of areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are protected. A score of 10 indicates that more than 95 percent of these lands are protected, with a score of 5 indicating that roughly half of important lands are protected.

Those in the Asean-5 that are part of the large country classification include Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Thailand was ranked 19th with a protection level of 6; Malaysia, 42nd with a protection level of 3; and Indonesia, 47th with a protection level of 2.

"The Global Safety Net shows a way forward to conserve wild places and ensure that nature isn't something left in a few remote, far-off places. All of humanity deserve access to nature and the myriad of benefits it provides to our mental, physical and spiritual health," Carly Vynne-Baker, strategic partner at research firm Resolve, said.

The report concludes that an additional 35.3 percent of land is needed to conserve sites of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Some 50 ecoregions and 20 countries contribute disproportionately to the total. One immediate priority identified is the protection of 2.3 percent of land area, which provides critical habitat for the world's most endangered species.

The paper presents for the first time a "common but differentiated" approach for area-based targets under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which will be held next year in Kunming, China.

Each of the world's 846 ecoregions has a unique combination of layers, offering recommended area-based conservation targets for each country.

The two-year research effort builds upon multiple global-scale data sets to identify areas that require conservation beyond the 15.1 percent of land area currently protected.

These are compiled into five main layers at a 1-kilometer resolution: Species Rarity Sites, High Biodiversity Areas, Large Mammal Landscapes, Intact Wilderness, and Climate Stabilization Areas.

The research team was led by the research organization RESOLVE in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, Arizona State University, Globaia, and others with support from One Earth.



Larawan mula sa Samurai Sabad Extreme

EXCLUSIVE

## Pambihirang bowl corals, nadiskubre sa karagatan ng Antique

Setyembre 22, 2020 4:15pm GMT+08:00

Nadiskubre ng mga local diver sa karagatan ng Sebaste sa lalawigan ng Antique ang ilang metrong hilera ng katangi-tanging bowl corals.

Ayon sa grupo ng divers na tinawag na Samurai Sabad Extreme, nagsasagawa sila ng diving sa Sebaste Shoals nang hindi nila inaasahan ang pambihira nilang nadiskubre.

Kinunan nila ng larawan ang naturang corals at ipinasuri naman kay Haron Deo Vargas, isang marine biologist ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Kinumpirma naman ni Vargas na bowl corals nga ang nasa larawan na may scientific name na *Halomitra Pileus*.

Kakaiba daw ang naturang mga corals kaya pinag-aaralan pa ni Vargas ang mga impormasyon hinggil dito.

Dahil sa pagkakadiskubre ng bowl corals, susuyurin pa nila ang ibang bahagi ng karagatan sa Antique at umaasang makakadiskubre pa ng mga kakaiba pang mga marine species doon.--

Jun N. Aguirre/FRJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/756664/pambihirang-bowl-corals-nadiskubre-sa-karagatan-ng-antique/story/>



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

over the town, the Rangers led by Lt. Col. Herbert Dilag discovered the site where Sawadjaan and around 40 members of the terror group have temporary set up camp for the past several days.

Sawadjaan leads the ASG faction affiliated with the Daesh terror group.

Found in the area were the bandits' personal belongings and leftover food.

"We are employing the full force of JTF (Joint Task Force) Sulu's military assets to track down the group of Mandi Sawadjaan. We are winning our peace and development campaign in the island of Sulu. In due time, the dwindling number of the terror group will surely be decimated with the active cooperation and support

terrorist and bomb expert's subordinates neutralized.

**In due time, the dwindling number of the terror group will surely be decimated with the active cooperation and support of the governor and municipal mayors.**

They were the same group behind the bloody twin blasts in Jolo, Sulu last 24 August 2020.

Sawadjaan was also responsible for the deadly twin bombings that rocked the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral, also in Jolo, in January 2019 that killed 20 people and wounded more than a hundred others.

to JTF Sulu for fear of being killed in an armed encounter with the security forces hot on the trail of the Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

Hot pursuit operations are still being conducted by military, utilizing all of the task force's land, sea and air assets.

Civil military cooperation is also being undertaken led by Sulu Governor Abdusakur Tan along with the 19 municipal mayors of the province.



FOODSIDE hawk (*Bubo magirostris*) spreads its wings after undergoing a feather transplant in San Salvador before it is reintegrated to its habitat. MARVIN RECIDON/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE



## RSA's dream: A new airport in Bulacan

By [Susan V. Ople](#)

September 22, 2020



Susan V. Ople

### SCRIBBLES

The Covid-19 pandemic has virtually put foreign and local direct investments on hold, across the world. When people are scared to leave the house, both productivity and profitability suffer, and the cost of doing business is high enough to include one's life.

Yet, no virus can stand in the way of San Miguel Corp.'s plan to build an international airport and airport city within the year. Businessman Ramon See Ang, president and COO of San Miguel, said he is more determined than ever to pursue the construction, development and operation of a world-class international and domestic airport in the rustic town of Bulakan, Bulacan. The conglomerate will shoulder all the costs and assume the risks for the airport project pegged at P734 billion.

"Not a centavo of taxpayers' money will be spent on this project and we all stand to gain as Filipinos. Despite the economic downturn caused by the pandemic that has significantly affected all businesses, including us, we are even more determined now to push through with the airport project. This will immediately generate hundreds of thousands of jobs that so many Filipinos need today, especially those who have lost their jobs, or have come home from other countries because of the economic slump. This is not the time to hold back on investments. This is the time to go all-in for our country," the philanthropist/tycoon known by his initials, "RSA," told this writer.

RSA also gained public admiration for declaring publicly that San Miguel commits to paying the salaries of all of its workers, absorbing the costs despite the sharp downturn in the economy. Recently, he once again made the news when he announced his plans to build a state-of-the-art hospital and research center for infectious diseases. It seems that this man of three letters have an alphabet soup of dreams, and is dedicated towards venturing in uncharted waters for the sake of the common good. That he is a businessman is a given, and making profit while contributing to your country's welfare is a blessing that very few can claim to have.

Despite all obstacles, with some yet to come, the former pilot turned tycoon has set his heart on building the airport in a Bulacan district known for its floods. I live in that district, and have my own nightmares to share about wading in brown, smelly floodwater. My mother and namesake, Susana, who is in her young 90s, cannot even go down to the ground floor of our house during high tide because of the steady and rising stream of water from the street to our living room.

Apparently, the combination of a global pandemic and constant floods are not enough to diminish RSA's interest in the airport project. His company has embarked on a new initiative that involves the planting of 25,000 mangrove trees in a 10-hectare coastal area in my hometown of Hagonoy, Bulacan—the first phase of a total of 190,000 mangrove trees to be planted over 76 hectares in Bulacan and Central Luzon.



" This effort [to plant mangrove trees] is part of our larger flood-mitigation strategy for Bulacan. The first is our P1-billion plan to dredge and clean up the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System. This involves cleaning major river systems and tributaries that have been clogged up with garbage and sediment for so many decades, preventing flood waters from draining into the Manila Bay," Ang said.

The plan also calls for the building of a coastal highway that will also serve as a spillway to keep the waters out. For how can any airport thrive and be of service to anyone, when travelers and planes need to wade through knee-deep if not waist-high waters? It doesn't make sense for San Miguel to pour a trillion-peso in investments in an area that's fit for submarines rather than planes. As designed, the new airport will have four parallel runways, eight taxiways and three passenger terminals. Designed to accommodate at least 100 million passengers a year, the New Manila International Airport will have enough room to accommodate all local and foreign travelers and the families that wish to send them off.

Already, training programs are underway for workers to be absorbed by this massive airport construction project. San Miguel says it is open to hiring qualified ex-OFWs as well as thousands of jobless Bulakenyos. On September 1, the House of Representatives approved a 50-year franchise for the airport. The Senate public services committee chaired by Senator Grace Poe is also scheduled to begin its hearings on the airport franchise.

With RSA's dream moving forward, we can only wish him the best of luck. Personally, to see a non-Bulakenyo stake his money and name and reputation to build an airport in our home province is nothing short of inspiring.

The airport project is a colossal, private investment into the distant future, for our grandchildren and their own children to enjoy and be proud of. To plant its seeds today, when the world's future is at its darkest, is such a daring act of hope by the humblest of men. RSA keeps teaching us to believe in ourselves, in our capacity to dream big, and to make the impossible, possible.

*Susan V. Ople heads the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, a nonprofit organization that deals with labor and migration issues. She also represents the OFW sector in the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking.*



# Miss Earth 2020 pushes through virtually

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 22, 2020 7:43:42 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 22) — This year's Miss Earth Pageant has taken off in a virtual set up, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

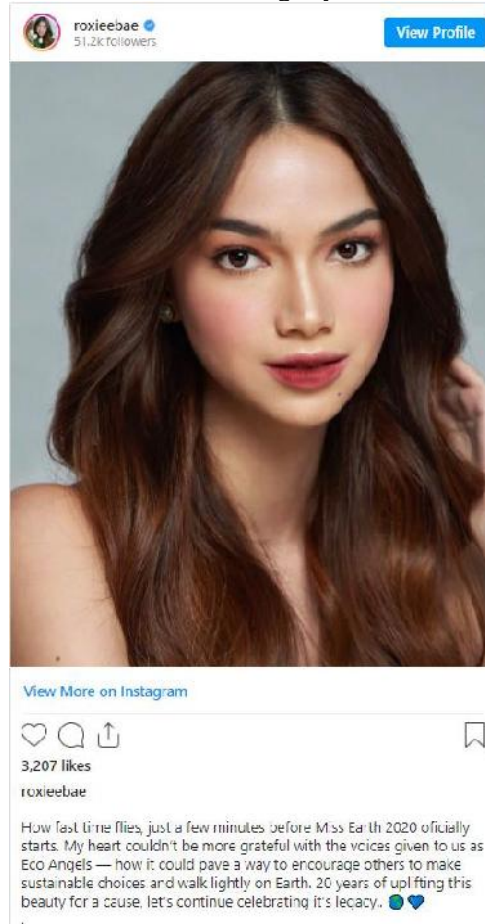
The environmental advocacy-based pageant, which is also celebrating its 20th year, will have its finale aired via television and social media on Nov. 29.

"We decided not to skip this year so we can continue with our mission to raise awareness on the state of the environment," said Lorraine Schuck, executive vice-president and Miss Earth co-founder, in a statement.

Some pre-pageant activities were also launched on Monday including talks on environmental issues as well as events to introduce the candidates and their background.

Miss Earth-Philippines Roxanne Baeyens, who was [crowned in July](#), will represent the country in the international pageant.

"My heart couldn't be more grateful with the voices given to us as Eco Angels - how it could pave the way to encourage others to make sustainable choices and walk lightly on Earth," Baeyens said in a post.



Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/entertainment/2020/9/22/miss-earth-2020-to-be-held-virtually.html>



# NCR is flattening COVID-19 curve –UP expert

Published September 22, 2020 9:21pm

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

Experts from the University of the Philippines on Tuesday said that transmissions of COVID-19 in the country had slowed with Metro Manila flattening the curve of its infections.

“The R for the Philippines is .92 and the R for (National Capital Region) is .83. These numbers are below 1 which is good,” Professor Ranjit Rye of the UP-OCTA Research team told reporters.

Rye said the downward trend had to be sustained for a “few more weeks” before considering a downgrade of community quarantine status in the capital region.

“We caution [the government] with regards to prematurely downgrading the quarantine status of the NCR. This decision should only be made if there is supporting data and only on the advice of health experts,” he said.

Based on UP-OCTA’s research, the Philippines’ positivity rate remained high at 10.4 percent — double the World Health Organization’s benchmark of five percent or lower.

“Case doubling rate is 11 days, which is faring better but still below the (Inter-Agency Task Force) rate of 28 days for (modified general community quarantine,)” Rye said.

President Rodrigo Duterte placed Metro Manila under a less restrictive general community quarantine from September 1 to 30.

Cases of COVID-19 in the country reached 291,798 on Tuesday with 5,049 deaths and 230,643 recoveries.

Metro Manila still logged the highest number of new infections at 583, followed by Cavite with 102, Iloilo with 97, Rizal with 67, and Cebu with 57. — DVM, GMA News



# Duterte affirms arbitral win vs China before UN: It's now part of international law

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:31 AM September 23, 2020



Video link: <https://youtu.be/5esB6C3sgdg>

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte affirmed on Wednesday the Philippines' arbitral victory against China over the South China Sea before the United Nations General Assembly.

“The award is now part of international law, beyond compromise and beyond the reach of passing governments to dilute, diminish or abandon,” he said in a speech that was pre-recorded at the Malacañang Golf Clubhouse in Manila and aired early on Wednesday.

“We firmly reject attempts to undermine it,” he added.

He noted that the Philippines' commitment in the disputed part of the South China Sea was in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Netherlands.

China has consistently refused to acknowledge the 2016 ruling that invalidated its claim in the entire South China Sea.

Its reclamation activities and militarization in the heavily contested area have also raised concerns over peace and stability in the region.

Meanwhile, the President also thanked the countries that backed the Philippines' arbitral victory.

“We welcome the increasing number of states that have come in support of the award and what it stands for — the triumph of reason over rashness, of law over disorder, of amity over ambition. This — as it should — is the majesty of the law,” Duterte said.

Recently, the [United Kingdom, France, and Germany](#) rejected China's expansive claims in the South China Sea through a joint note verbale submitted to the UN.

It was the Duterte's [first time](#) to address the UN.

Duterte was the 12th speaker during the first block of high-level debates after leaders of the United States, Russia, China, and the Republic of Korea, among others.

[atm]

Source: <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/191077/duterte-affirms-arbitral-win-vs-china-before-un-says-its-already-part-of-intl-law>





# Race to save 300 stranded whales

Published 43 mins ago on September 23, 2020 06:00 AM

By **TDT**



Rescuers working to save a pod of whales stranded on a beach in Macquarie Harbour on the rugged west coast of Tasmania. Rescuers faced a race against time to save nearly 200 whales stuck in the remote Australian harbor, hoping to prevent the toll of 90 dead from rising further after managing to free “a small number” of the stranded mammals. BRODIE WEEDING/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYDNEY (AFP) — Rescuers faced a race against time to save nearly 200 whales stuck in a remote Australian harbor on Tuesday, hoping to prevent the toll of 90 dead from rising further after managing to free “a small number” of the stranded mammals.

Scientists said two large pods of long-finned pilot whales became stuck on sandbars in Macquarie Harbour, on Tasmania’s rugged and sparsely populated west coast.

Images from the scene showed a shallow body of water, thick with scores of the large slick-black mammals maneuvering for space.

About 60 people — including volunteers and local fish-farm workers — are involved in the rescue attempt and could be seen wading in the water to reach the whales to refloat them in deeper passages.

Government marine biologist Kris Carlyon said “about a third” of the 270 animals were dead by late Monday, and that rescuing survivors would be a “challenging” task likely to take several days.

But there were hopes Tuesday that early rescue efforts were already paying off, according to the official leading the operation.

“We have now freed a small number successfully that appear to have stayed out at sea, and are now scaling up that approach,” Parks and Wildlife Service manager Nic Deka said.

Though mass whale strandings occur relatively often in Tasmania, such a large group has not been seen in the area for more than a decade.

The animals are only accessible by boat, limiting the number of rescuers who can reach them.

They are battling chilly and rainy conditions as well as the harbour’s unusual tides, which are dictated by barometric pressure.

“In terms of mass whale strandings in Tasmania, this is up there with the trickiest,” Carlyon told reporters in the nearby town of Strahan.

However, Carlyon said many of the partially submerged whales should be able to survive for the several days it would take his team to complete the task, in part due to the inclement weather.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/23/race-to-save-300-stranded-whales/>



# 270 balyena, na-stranded sa Tasmania, 25 mahigit patay

ni [Twinkle Esquierdo](#) | September 22, 2020



Creator: Brodie Weeding | Credit: AP

Na-stranded ang 270 balyena sa sandbar sa Macquarie Harbour ng Tasmania, southern coast ng Australia, at hindi bababa sa 25 ang mga namatay.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Regional Manager North West Nic Deka, na-stranded ang 270 balyena sa magkakaibang sites.

"The main pod that's stranded is on a sand bar that's about 100 meters off the Macquarie Heads boat ramp and there's a further pod on another sand bar several hundred meters further out from there," sabi ni Deka.

Tutulong naman ang mga kawani ng Tasmanian Marine Conservation Program at Tasmania Police upang sagipin ang mga balyena at nagbigay din ng babala sa publiko na lumayo sa lugar.

"We understand members of the public are keen to help but ask people to stay away from the area unless asked to attend," sabi ng mga kawani ng Tasmanian Marine Conservation Program.

"Local police are assisting with on-water logistics and liaison with fish farms and local industry as part of the broader response," ayon naman sa pulisya.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/270-balyena-na-stranded-sa-tasmania-25-mahigit-patay>



# Dahilan nang pagkamatay ng 330 elephants sa Botswana, tinukoy ng mga scientists

By [Bombo NewsCenter](#) -September 22, 2020 | 3:56 PM

Natukoy na umano ng mga eksperto ang dahilan nang pagkamatay ng daan daang mga elepante sa bansang Botswana.

Ayon sa mga scientists nalason daw ang mga elepante sa iniinom nilang tubig sa ilalim ng lupa.

Ang mga elepante ang tanging mga hayop na umiinom mula sa hinukay na lupa na merong tubig.

Una rito, umaabot sa 330 mga elepante ang natagpuan patay sa Botswana, ang tinaguriang world's biggest population of animals.

Kabilang daw sa teorya, maaring nalason ang napakaraming elepante sa neurotoxin na nakahalo sa water holes.

Posible rin daw ang dahilan ay anthrax poisoning.

Lumutang ang isyu sa lason na dala ng tinatawag na cyanobacteria o kaya naman naging resulta ito ng matinding tagtuyot at pagkatapos ay sinundan ng mga pag-ulan.

Ang mga elepante ay itinuturing na kabilang sa pinakamatalinong hayop.



Ang lifespan ng African elephant naman ay maaring umabot ng 60 hanggang 70 taon.

Tinatayang nasa 135,000 ang mga elephants sa Botswana at nagdadala umano ang turismo rito ng halos \$2 bilyon na kita kada taon.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/dahilan-nang-pagkamatay-ng-330-elephants-sa-botswana-tinukoy-ng-mga-scientists/>



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

Published September 22, 2020, 6:25 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

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



Sled dogs wading through standing water on the sea ice in northwestern Greenland, in June 2019 (AFP/MANILA BULLETIN)

Arctic sea ice melts in summer and reforms in winter, but precise satellite imagery taken regularly since 1979 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 preliminary data from scientists at the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Only once before, in 2012, did the sea ice melt further.

"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.

"When the sea ice disappears, the incident sunlight gets absorbed in the ocean, helping to further warm the Earth," Claire Parkinson, climate scientist at NASA, told AFP.

She added that the weak ice coverage this year is "in line with the overall downward trend of the past four decades".

The evidence of shrinking ice coverage — in both thickness and area — in the Arctic and Antarctic is stacking up, though pace varies from one region to another.

## – 'Climate breakdown' –

Antarctic ice melted quickly for three years in a row until 2017, but more recently it has bounced back without a clear explanation.



In the Arctic the reduction has been on a more pronounced downward trend since 1996 in comparison to the previous period, said Parkinson, though there is some variation from year to year.

“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.

“Over the past decades we have lost two-thirds of the volume of the Arctic sea ice, and 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,” she later told AFP from a ship on the edge of the sea ice.

“What we are seeing here in the Arctic is really the opening up of a new ocean on top of the world, which means that we need to be protecting the area.”

The 2015 landmark Paris climate deal enjoins nations to limit global temperature rises to “well below” two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) through a rapid and sweeping drawdown of greenhouse gas emissions.

But emissions have continued to rise since then, and several analyses have warned that without a thoroughly re-tooled global economy prioritizing green growth, the pollutions savings due to Covid-19 will have an insignificant mitigating impact on climate change.

With just one degree Celsius of warming over pre-industrial levels so far, Earth is already battling more frequent and intense wildfires, droughts and super storms rendered more powerful by rising seas.