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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## [Cimatu calls on lawmakers to legislate wetland protection](#)

AUG 30, 2021, 3:46 PM



Santiago Celario  
Writer

*Environment officials said that while there are already existing laws that contain provisions directly or indirectly promoting wetland conservation, not one deal specifically on wetlands.*

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has urged lawmakers to acknowledge the importance of wetlands to combat climate change by having a legislation for the protection of one of the Earth's most valuable ecosystems.

*"There has been no single Philippine legislation that advances wetland conservation and its wise use. While there are already existing laws that contain provisions directly or indirectly promoting wetland conservation, not one deal specifically on wetlands," Cimatu said, following the culmination of two DENR-led events on the conservation of peatlands.*

*"If legislated, the national law on wetland will serve as the mother law for all wetlands in the country including peatlands. This will address the gray areas on our existing policies relevant to wetlands conservation," the DENR secretary added.*





## [Cimatu calls on lawmakers to legislate wetland protection](#)

The agency said there are currently two pending bills for wetland protection and conservation: a substitute bill titled, "An Act Institutionalizing the National Wetlands Conservation Policy"; and House Bill 7206 or the proposed National Peatland and Peatland Resources Act.

Meanwhile, the substitute bill to HB Numbers 3460 and HB 8925 filed by Representatives Mujiv Hataman, Amihilda Sangcopan, Luis Raymond "LRay" Villafuerte Jr., Elpidio Barzaga Jr., and Eric Go Yap, was recently approved at the committee level in the House of Representatives. HB 7206. It was authored by Cavite 2nd District Rep. Strike Revilla and 25 other legislators.

The substitute bill, to be known as the National Wetlands Conservation Act, will apply to the protection and conservation of all types of wetlands in the Philippines, including inland wetlands such as rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps, coastal and marine, and human-made wetlands.

In the case of human-made wetlands, the proposed legislation will apply to those with high biodiversity value, critical wildlife habitat, and are part of the migratory routes of birds and fishes.

In November 2020, the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) partnered with PLDT-Smart in raising awareness on the Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Philippines also hosted the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) last June.

A peatland is a type of wetland whose peat soils consist of carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter. If kept wet, a peatland can store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo said that the public's role in raising awareness for the protection and conservation of wetlands including peatlands is crucial for the immediate legislation of the existing bills.

*"Raising public awareness on both the importance and the threats related to the peatland and wetland ecosystems could be enhanced by gaining public support for the passage of the wetland and peatland bills and intensify the efforts for lobbying," Leonardo said.*



## Batas para sa 'wetland protection' ipinanawagan ni Cimatú



August 30, 2021 @ 5:29 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang kilalanin ang kahalagahan ng wetlands, hinikayat ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatú ang mga mambabatas na kilalanin ang kahalagahan ng paglaban sa climate change sa pamamagitan ng pagpasa ng batas para maprotektahan ang “most valuable ecosystems” sa mundo.

“There has been no single Philippine legislation that advances wetland conservation and its wise use. While there are already existing laws that contain provisions directly or indirectly promoting wetland conservation, not one deals specifically on wetlands,” saad ni Cimatú matapos ang dalawang events na pinangunahan ng DENR tungkol sa pangangalaga sa peatlands.

“If legislated, the national law on wetland will serve as the mother law for all wetlands in the country including peatlands. This will address the gray areas on our existing policies relevant to wetlands conservation,” sabi ni Cimatú.

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroong dalawang bills para sa wetland protection at conservation: ang substitute bill na “An Act Institutionalizing the National Wetlands Conservation Policy”; at ang House Bill 7206 o ang panukalang National Peatland and Peatland Resources Act.”

Sa press release sinabi ng DENR ang substitute bill sa HB Numbers 3460 at HB 8925 na inihain nina Representatives Mujiv Hataman, Amihilda Sangcopan, Luis Raymond “LRay” Villafuerte, Jr., Elpidio Barzaga, Jr., at Eric Go Yap ay pumasa na sa committee level sa House of Representatives. Ang HB 7206 ay inihain naman ni Cavite 2nd District Rep. Strike Revilla at 25 pang mambabatas.



## Batas para sa ‘wetland protection’ ipinanawagan ni Cimatú

Ang substitute bill na kikilalanin bilang National Wetlands Conservation Act ay para sa proteksiyon at konserbasyon ng lahat ng uri ng wetlands sa Pilipinas kabilang na dito ang inland wetlands tulad ng ilog, lawa, marshes at swamps, coastal at marine, at human-made wetlands.

Kaugnay nito sa kaso naman ng human-made wetlands, ang inihaing batas ay para sa may mataas na biodiversity value, critical wildlife habitat at sa bahagi ng migratory routes ng mga ibon at isda.

Noong Nobyembre 2020 nang makipag-partner ang DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) sa PLDT-Smart upang maiangat ang kamalayan sa Caimpugan Peatland sa Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Nag-host rin ang Pilipinas ng 6th Meeting ng ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) noong Hunyo.

Samantala ang peatland ay isang uri ng wetland na ang peat soils ay mayroong carbon-rich dead at decaying plant matter. Kung mapapanatili itong basa, ang peatland ay kayang mag-imbak ng carbon na doble pa sa bilang ng nagagawa ng pinagsamang mga kagubatan sa mundo

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns at concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo, ang papel ng publiko upang maitaas ang kamalayan para sa proteksiyon at konserbasyon ng wetlands kabilang na ang peatlands ay napakahalaga para mas mabilis na maipasa ang mga nakahaing bills.

“Raising public awareness on both the importance and the threats related to the peatland and wetland ecosystems could be enhanced by gaining public support for the passage of the wetland and peatland bills and intensify the efforts for lobbying,” saad ni Leonardo.

Aniya, ang wetlands ay isa sa “most productive habitats” sa mundo na kayang magbigay ng samu’t-saring “direct at indirect benefits” para sa human survival kabilang na dito ay bilang pinanggagalingan ng inuming tubig, pagkain, tirahan at livelihood activities. **Santi Celario**



## Tree-cutting, earth-balling permits sa DENR regional offices na kukunin – Cimatu



August 30, 2021 @ 6:30 AM 24 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang mapagaan ang pagpoproseso at pag-apruba ay inilipat ni ipinagkaloob na ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang karapatan sa regional offices sa pag-isyu ng ilang permits.

Sa ipinalabas na Executive Order (EO) 23 ni Cimatu ay inilipat na sa regional offices ang pag-iisyu ng tree-cutting at earth-balling permits mula sa Undersecretary for Field Operations, Central Office sa 16 na regional executive directors sa buong bansa.

Dahil dito ay mapadadali na ang proseso sa paglilipat ng ng naturally-grown trees sa pribadong lupa, kabilang na dito ang nasa public o forest lands na may approved tenure agreements katulad ng Forest Land Use Agreement, Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism purposes, Special Land Use Permit, at Mineral Production and Sharing Agreement na mayroong inaprubahang Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program.

“We have simplified the process of applying for cutting permits and made it more accessible to private landowners and holders of DENR-issued land tenurial instruments where there are naturally-growing trees that may not need to be cut but only needs to be trimmed,” paliwanag ni Cimatu.



## Tree-cutting, earth-balling permits sa DENR regional offices na kukunin – Cimatú

Binigyang-diin pa nito na ang aksiyon ay magbibigay ng kasiguruhan na walang natural-growing trees, o puno na dati nang nakatanim sa lugar na hindi itinanim ng may-ari na mapababayaan o mapuputol.

“This is especially important in urban areas where we are promoting green spaces,” saad ni Cimatú.

Ipinag-utos din ni Cimatú sa lahat ng DENR field offices na magsagawa ng inventory ng lahat ng naturally-growing trees sa kanilang nasasakupan sa kapwa private at public lands na maaaring maapektuhan ng Tree Cutting Permit application. **Santi Celario**





## DENR farms out issuance of tree-cutting permits to regional offices

August 29, 2021 | 7:50 pm



PHILSTAR

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) transferred the authority to its regional offices to issue permits for tree-cutting and relocation.

The relocation process is known as earth-balling, in which whole trees are dug up from their roots.

In a statement over the weekend, the DENR said Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2021-11 on May 19 which transferred permit authority to the 16 regional executive directors.

Previously, the DENR undersecretary for Field Operations had the authority to issue the permits for tree cutting and earth balling for areas and activities exempted from Executive Order (EO) 23. EO 23 bans the cutting and harvesting of timber from natural and residual forests.

Mr. Cimatu said the order seeks to streamline the process for naturally-grown trees on private land, and on public land covered by tenure agreements such as Forest Land Use Agreements, Forest Land Use Agreements for Tourism purposes, Special Land Use Permits, and Mineral Production and Sharing Agreements with an approved Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program.

“We have simplified the process of applying for cutting permits and made it more accessible to private landowners and holders of DENR-issued land tenurial instruments where there are naturally-growing trees that may not need to be cut but only trimmed,” Mr. Cimatu said.

According to Mr. Cimatu, the order ensures that no natural growing trees, or trees that are grown in a specific area not planted by its owner or occupant, are neglected or unnecessarily cut down.





## DENR farms out issuance of tree-cutting permits to regional offices

Environment Assistant Secretary Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. said the order will improve the Forest Management Bureau's processing of forestry-related permits.

"Other similar orders have already been issued such as the decentralization in the issuance of permits for wood processing plants and importation of wood through DAO No. 2021-05 and DAO 2021-06, respectively, which seek to augment local sources of wood and enable wood-based industries like the furniture-making and trading sectors to generate employment and income," Mr. Amaro said.

According to DAO 2011-11, an applicant must obtain a certification of no objection (CNO) to the tree cutting activities from the barangay captain whether for private or public land.

The CNO must be issued by the mayor and barangay captains if the trees to be affected stand on more than one barangay. It needs to be obtained from the provincial governor or all mayors involved if the trees to be cut stand on more than one town or city.

DAO 2011-11 also requires CNOs to be issued by the resident agrarian reform officer if the affected trees are in areas covered by a certificate of land ownership award. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



## COVID waste pabigat sa hospitals, LGUs



August 30, 2021 @ 7:19 PM 9 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nalikom ang 630,000 metric tonelada ng medical waste mula sa mga ospital sa Pilipinas sa unang anim na taon, batay sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Base sa datos ng Online Hazardous Waste Management System ng DENR mula Enero hanggang Hunyo, nasa 634,687 metric tons ng healthcare waste ang nakolekta sa mga ospital sa buong bansa.

“Unlike the past months or yung nagsimula ang pandemic na dumami ang COVID pero kumonti naman ang non-COVID cases, kaya yung waste namin hindi naman ganung kataasan. Bumabalik na kasi [ngayon] ‘yung mga pasyente. At hindi lang ‘yun. Dahil tag-ulan ngayon, lumalabas yung mga respiratory infections, yung gastrointestinal infections, dengue, trangkaso, influenza. At yun ang nagpapadami sa mga admission ngayon,” saad ni Philippine Hospital Association President Dr. Jaime Almora.

“Nahihirapan kami dahil malaki ang binabayad namin. And lahat ng gastusin ng hospital, lalo ng private hospitals, walang ibang magbabayad niyan kundi ang pasyente. Kung bibili ka ng IV fluid, idadagdag na diyan yung bayad sa pagbabasura niyan.”

Sinabi ni Almora na na nagtakda ang DENR at Department of Health ng mga pamantayan sa mga ospital na ihiwalay ang kanilang regular hospital waste mula sa COVID-19 waste at hazardous waste.



## COVID waste pabigat sa hospitals, LGUs

“Possible kasi, sa laki ng waste na nage-generate at yung manpower, pwedeng nagkasakit rin yan. May possibility ma-neglect, walang gumagawa, tsaka pwedeng naghahalo-halo. Yung fast turnaround ng empleyado ‘pag bago yung personnel, possible na hindi niya habit mag-segregate, kung saan-saan niya tinatapon.”

Samantala, ipinunto ni Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda na bumuo ang DENR noong 2020 ng COVID-19 waste management plan.

“Bago ito pick-upin ng Treatment, Storage, and Disposal facility (TSD facility) from hospital, kailangan may treatment na sila onsite bago nila ikarga doon sa truck. Pagdating sa kanilang facility, either itreat nila ulit, yung tinatawag na thermal treatment kung saan sinusunog especially yung highly contagious na mga hospital waste. And meron din naman tayo na special cell na nakahiwalay sa domestic waste. Ang importante dito ay ‘di to mahalo sa domestic waste.”

“It boils down to the funding. Funds pa rin ang lagi nilang sinasabi, na it was spent for the COVID-19 solution nila wherein nale-left behind naman yung issue tungkol sa basura. Ang sinasabi natin dito, ‘wag ipagwalang-bahala,” dagdag ni Antiporda.

“Thiwalay lang po natin yung galing doon sa nag-positive dahil naka-isolate sa isang lugar o kwarto. Lahat po ng gamit niya na itinapon ay kailangan pong nakahiwalay. Lalagyan lang po natin ng label na ‘COVID-19’ yung basura. Pwede niyong gawin yan. Ibig sabihin, huwag bubuksan, huwag kakalkalin. Kailangan ma-treat ‘yan bago itapon.” **RNT/FGDC**





## Tons of hazardous medical waste burden hospitals

posted August 31, 2021 at 12:50 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said more than 630,000 metric tons of medical waste from Philippine hospitals were collected in the first half of 2021 alone.

Data from the Online Hazardous Waste Management System of the DENR showed that from January to June, 634,687 metric tons of healthcare waste were collected from hospitals nationwide.

In an interview Monday, Philippine Hospital Association President Dr. Jaime Almora said this was expected because hospitals were now overwhelmed with COVID-19 and non-COVID cases.

He added that waste management was difficult for hospitals, since the bulk of the hazardous waste was made up of used intravenous plastic bottles, and there was a separate fee being collected by third-party treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for these.

Almora said the DENR and Department of Health had set rules for hospitals to segregate regular hospital waste from COVID-19 waste and hazardous waste.

But he said with the surge in COVID-19 cases, these rules were probably already being neglected by some hospitals.

Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said the DENR in 2020 created a COVID-19 waste management plan, which covered the segregation and treatment of COVID-19 and hazardous waste.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government released a memo circular instructing local government units to adopt the said plan, but not all LGUs may have followed the protocols.

Antiporda said households with identified COVID-19 positive patients should also be strict in segregating regular waste from COVID-19 waste.

As early as last year, the DOH warned that healthcare facilities that improperly dispose of healthcare wastes and used rapid test kits face sanctions.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said healthcare wastes should be placed in a separate container approved by the environment department because its disposal is different from ordinary waste products.

Vergeire issued the warning after residents in Sampaloc, Manila found a sack of used rapid antibody test kits along M. Dela Fuente Street.

Apart from the test kits, personal protective equipment used by healthcare workers, and other items used for the treatment of patients must be disposed of properly following healthcare waste disposal protocols, Vergeire added.

“They should be placed in a bag with the proper label that they are healthcare wastes and there are designated places for healthcare wastes as approved by the DENR,” she said.



## Tons of hazardous medical waste burden hospitals

She urged healthcare facilities to ensure proper disposal of healthcare wastes, saying these are hazardous and could cause harm to people.

Healthcare facilities that fail to comply with healthcare waste disposal protocols will receive a warning on their first violation from the DOH.

“We will suspend you if you still fail to comply, and, final will be revocation of your license, and aside from that if there are other sanctions for violation of other laws with regard to this healthcare waste,” Vergeire said.

## MEDICAL WASTE NA NAKOLEKTA SA MGA OSPITAL SA BANSANG, LUMOBO PA—DENR

written by [DWIZ 882](#) August 31, 2021



Aabot na sa 630,000 metric tons ng medical waste ang nakolekta mula sa mga ospital sa buong bansa sa unang anim na buwan.

Batay ito sa datos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Online Hazardous Waste Management System ng DENR mula Enero hanggang Hunyo.

Aminado si Philippine Hospital Association President, Dr. Jaime Almora na nahihirapan sila sa laki ng gastos sa waste disposal lalo't kinakapos din sa budget ang maraming ospital ngayong may COVID-19 pandemic.

Bukod aniya sa mga COVID-19, laganap din ang iba pang respiratory diseases, gastrointestinal infections, dengue, trangkaso, influenza, kaya't dumami ang mga admission na nagresulta sa pagdami rin ng basura.

Idinagdag pa ni Almora na dahil sa dami ng medical waste ay maaaring hindi na naihihiwalay ang mga basura ng mga COVID-19 patient kaya't may posibilidad na magkaroon ng hawaan.

Samantala, muling ipinaalala ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda ang kahalagahan ng segregation ng mga basura ng mga COVID patient upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng sakit.—**sa panulat ni Drew Nacino**





## COVID-19 waste now becoming a burden to hospitals, LGUs

April Raffles, ABS-CBN News  
Posted at Aug 30 2021 04:32 PM



The housekeeping staff of the Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center in Marikina City takes care of the hospital's medical waste daily. The increased number of COVID-19 patients and the protective personal equipment (PPE) required for both patient and staff, have led to a dramatic increase in the volume of medical waste. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA -- More than 630,000 metric tons of medical waste from Philippine hospitals were collected in the first half of the year alone, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Data from the Online Hazardous Waste Management System of the DENR showed that from January to June, 634,687 metric tons of healthcare waste were collected from hospitals throughout the country.

In an interview Monday, Philippine Hospital Association President Dr. Jaime Almora said this is expected because hospitals are now overwhelmed with COVID-19 and non-COVID cases.

"Unlike the past months or yung nagsimula ang pandemic na dumami ang COVID pero kumonti naman ang non-COVID cases, kaya yung waste namin hindi naman ganung kataasan. Bumabalik na kasi [ngayon] 'yung mga pasyente. At hindi lang 'yun. Dahil tag-ulan ngayon, lumalabas yung mga respiratory infections, yung gastrointestinal infections, dengue, trangkaso, influenza. At yun ang nagpapadami sa mga admission ngayon," said Almora.

He added that waste management is difficult for hospitals, since a bulk of the hazardous waste is made up of used intravenous plastic bottles, and there is a separate fee being collected by third-party treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for these.



## COVID-19 waste now becoming a burden to hospitals, LGUs

“Nahihirapan kami dahil malaki ang binabayad namin. And lahat ng gastusin ng hospital, lalo ng private hospitals, walang ibang magbabayad niyan kundi ang pasyente. Kung bibili ka ng IV fluid, idadagdag na diyan yung bayad sa pagbabasura niyan,” he said.

Almora said the DENR and Department of Health have set rules for hospitals to segregate regular hospital waste from COVID-19 waste and hazardous waste. But because of the surge in COVID-19 cases, these rules are probably already being neglected by some hospitals.

“Possible kasi, sa laki ng waste na nage-generate at yung manpower, pwedeng nagkasakit rin yan. May possibility ma-neglect, walang gumagawa, tsaka pwedeng naghahalo-halo. Yung fast turnaround ng empleyado 'pag bago yung personnel, possible na hindi niya habit mag-segregate, kung saan-saan niya tinatapon,” he said.

Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management Benny Antiporda said the DENR in 2020 created a COVID-19 waste management plan, which covered the segregation and treatment of COVID-19 and hazardous waste.

“Bago ito pick-upin ng Treatment, Storage, and Disposal facility (TSD facility) from hospital, kailangan may treatment na sila onsite bago nila ikarga doon sa truck. Pagdating sa kanilang facility, either itreat nila ulit, yung tinatawag na thermal treatment kung saan sinusunog especially yung highly contagious na mga hospital waste. And meron din naman tayo na special cell na nakahiwalay sa domestic waste. Ang importante dito ay 'di to mahalo sa domestic waste,” Antiporda said.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) released a memo circular instructing local government units to adopt the said plan, but not all LGUs may have followed the protocols.

“It boils down to the funding. Funds pa rin ang lagi nilang sinasabi, na it was spent for the COVID-19 solution nila wherein nale-left behind naman yung issue tungkol sa basura. Ang sinasabi natin dito, 'wag ipagwalang-bahala,” he said.

Antiporda said households with identified COVID-19 positive patients should also be strict in segregating regular waste from COVID-19 waste.

“Ihiwalay lang po natin yung galing doon sa nag-positive dahil naka-isolate sa isang lugar o kwarto. Lahat po ng gamit niya na itinapon ay kailangan pong nakahiwalay. Lalagyan lang po natin ng label na 'COVID-19' yung basura. Pwede niyong gawin yan. Ibig sabihin, huwag bubuksan, huwag kakalkalin. Kailangan ma-treat 'yan bago itapon.”



## Thousands of seedlings planted in Buhay Forest in Cavite



By [Dennis Abrina](#)

August 31, 2021

**MAGALLANES, CAVITE:** Around 2,000 narra seedlings and 1,750 saplings of fruit-bearing trees, such as mango, calamandrill, guyabano, kasoy and cacao, were planted at Buhay Forest in Barangay San Agustin here on Thursday.

Cavite Provincial Environment and [Natural Resources Office](#) (Penro) chief Ronita Unlayao stressed the importance of ensuring the survival of the seedlings planted.

"[Ang](#) inisyatibong ito ay marapat tularan ng ibang mga tree cutting permittee holders na kung saan ang replacement seedlings ay [sama](#)-samang itanim ng lokal na komunidad at iba't-ibang ahensiya sa lugar. Ito'y upang masigurado na ang pamalit na puno ay mabubuhay at magagampanan ang natatangi nitong halaga sa kalikasan," Unlayao said.

The activity was organized by the [Municipal Environment](#) and Natural Resources Office of Magallanes under engineer [Freddie Sisante](#) with the assistance of Penro-Cavite. Representatives from various stakeholders and partner agencies participated in the tree-planting activity.

The activity was undertaken to promote the [National Greening Program](#) of the department.





## 'Dolomite beach benefits people'

Estimated cost of the project was P389 million, with P28 million allotted for the overlaying of the artificial white sand on a short stretch of the Manila Bay shoreline

BY GAB HUMILDE VILLEGAS  
*@tribunephil\_gab*

Taking a cue from President Rodrigo Duterte, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Secretary Salvador Panelo on Monday defended the government's controversial dolomite beach project that is part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

In his online program "Counterpoint", Panelo said that crushed dolomite is also used in many tourist spots around the world. He said the people will benefit from the project once completed.

Duterte defended Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu's restoration of Manila Bay by putting crushed dolomite along its shorelines.

Estimated cost of the

project was P389 million, with P28 million allotted for the overlaying of the artificial white sand on a short stretch of the Manila Bay shoreline.

Aside from the dolomite beach, DENR also aims to restore the water quality of Manila Bay by conducting clean-ups of estuaries and setting up sewage treatment plants.





## 'Dolomite beach benefits people'



FAMILIES visit the dolomite beach in Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil\_bob





## Manila Bay rehab to cut coliform level from millions to 100

August 27, 2021



The Manila Bay white sand project continues to pique the public's curiosity as bikers and other passersby on Sunday (Sept. 6, 2020) stop and try to take a look at the large heap of white sand at the bayfront. Manila Bay has always been famous for its breathtaking sunset. (PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

By

Alec

Go

The coliform level of Manila Bay in the Baywalk area may be lowered to 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (100mpn/100ml) as projects to rehabilitate the bay continue.

Reporting during President Rodrigo Duterte's Aug. 26 public address, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. Roy Cimatu said the coliform target level may be achieved by October this year.

A DENR report [shows](#) that the coliform level in Manila Baywalk was at 5.75 million mpn/100ml in 2019. This declined to 2.6 million mpn in 2020, and to 7,000 mpn in June 2021.

A record low of 130 mpn was reported in the project's fifth station across Carfel Shell Export and Museum in Manila. However, the numbers increased anew to 7,000 mpn in August 2021.

"Pinakamababa na nakuha namin doon sa may dolomite area ay 130 [to] 140 mpn. Malapit na natin makuha 'yung mission natin 100 [mpn] para makapag-swimming na," Cimatu said.

According to the DENR, the standard fecal coliform level in Manila Bay should drop to 100 mpn/100ml for it to become safe for swimming and other recreational activities.

Cimatu said the coliform level in Metro Manila's waters was the highest at 1.26 billion mpn before the Manila Bay Task Force and the Save Manila Bay program were established. Metro Manila was followed by Cavite, Bulacan, Bataan, and Pampanga.



## Manila Bay rehab to cut coliform level from millions to 100

“Nag-hold tayo ng consultation sa iba’t-ibang organizations para tumulong sa rehabilitation. Ito po ‘yung directive niyo, Mr. President – for the task force to clean Manila Bay, to comply with the Supreme Court mandamus order,” he said.

### Rehab completed programs

The DENR report showed that nine Baywalk geoengineering projects have been finished, 52 esteros were cleaned, four river systems were dredged, and one sewage treatment plant has been established.

Among the geoengineering interventions include the installation of high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes in the Padre Faura outfall and Remedios outfall. This also includes beach nourishment projects involving the controversial crushed dolomite dumping.

“It is considered beach nourishment kasi malaking bagay na nagagawa niya diyan, nililinis rin niya ‘yung tubig, na-prevent rin niya ang erosion at saka ‘yung beach ay... napaluwagan,” Cimatú said.

Read more: [Crushed dolomite dumping in Manila Bay raises more issues, environmental woes](#)

The treatment plant located near the Manila Yacht Club was built to improve the three Baywalk outfalls in Padre Faura, Remedios, and Abad Santos that drain to the bay.

The environment chief said 247,000 cubic meters of waste materials along the coastline of Manila Bay were dredged by the government from January to April 2021. River and estero clean up drives were also conducted in several areas, including Cavite.

### Future

### activities

Cimatú said they plan to place a viewing deck in Manila Baywalk and a swimming area near the dolomite site.

The government has yet to dredge five river systems, build seven sewage treatment plants, conduct 320 estero cleanups, and address the resettlement of 229,948 households.

During his sixth and final State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 26, Duterte asked the DENR to continue Manila Bay rehabilitation which he said has been “long overdue.”

He said “all illegally operating open dumpsites surrounding Manila Bay have been shut down” as of May 21, while 151 of 187 local government units around the bay were given access to sanitary landfills. – *jlo*





## Government selling mining assets to raise cash

The government is pushing through with the privatization of mining assets to raise more revenues, but admitted that the state no longer has any more “crown jewels” left to be privatized.



[BYBERNADETTE D. NICOLAS](#)

AUGUST 30, 2021

3 MINUTE READ



FINANCE Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said they are pushing through with the privatization of government’s mining assets to raise more revenues, but admitted that the state no longer has any more “crown jewels” left to be privatized.

Dominguez said the first one that they are eyeing to privatize is the Basay mine, although he said they still have to deal with several issues before they can push through with its disposal.

“I don’t know yet how much the exact valuation is and how we will bid it out, but that is the first mine we are doing. As you know, when it comes to disposition of mines, it is more complicated than just selling a piece of land or an ordinary asset because when you come to mines, number one, there are lots of claims and counterclaims and challenges to claims. That’s the number one issue. Number two, there are security, physical security issues. And number three, there is a valuation of what you are really selling,” Dominguez told reporters in a recent interview.

Earlier technical studies by the Privatization and Management Office (PMO) showed the Basay mine in Negros Oriental is estimated to contain at least 105 million tons of copper ore and could generate at least P1 billion.

### Land titles, too

Apart from the government’s mining assets, Dominguez also said that PMO and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation are also eyeing to privatize 30,000 land titles.

However, Dominguez said it would be an uphill battle to privatize the remaining government assets, including these land titles.



## Government selling mining assets to raise cash

“Yes, we are continuing to privatize whatever assets that we have. But quite frankly, we don’t have any more crown jewels, okay. that has been privatized by previous administrations already. And the ones we are left with are really the difficult ones to privatize,” Dominguez said.

“I don’t know if you are aware that PDIC and PMO have in excess of 30,000 land titles that are in the process of being evaluated and being privatized, being sold. And these are really difficult assets. These are not chunky assets anymore, like before you had big assets like banks, etc. So we don’t have those big chunks anymore. It’s really the difficult ones to privatize now,” he added.

As for the privatization of gaming activities of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Dominguez said they are currently in talks with them but no conclusion has been made yet.

In June this year, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, is now preparing an inventory of essential mining information on the government’s idle mining assets.

For this year, the national government expects its budget deficit to reach P1.86 trillion or 9.3 percent of GDP, even higher than the P1.37 trillion or 7.6 percent of GDP in 2020.

In 2019, the budget deficit stood at P660.2 billion or 3.4 percent of GDP.

Meanwhile, the national government’s debt this year is also expected to balloon to P11.73 trillion by the end of this year, up by 19.8 percent from P9.795 trillion in 2020. This is also projected to further swell in 2022 to P13.42 trillion.

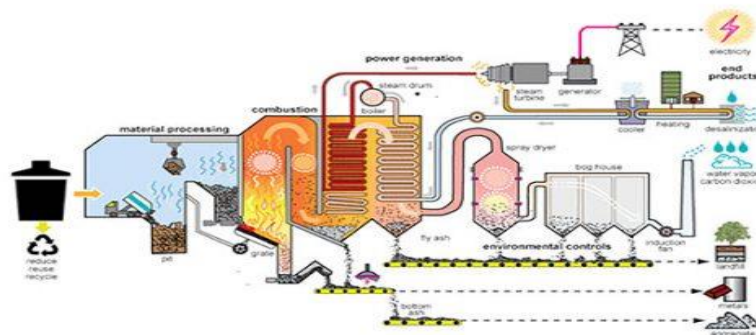
As a percentage of GDP, Dominguez earlier said the debt-to-GDP ratio this year is projected to further rise to 59.1 percent and peak next year at 60.8 percent—slightly above the internationally accepted threshold—before gradually tapering off to 60.7 percent and 59.7 percent in 2023 and 2024.

The Department of Finance sees the national government returning to its pre-pandemic debt and budget deficit levels as early as 2024 or by 2025 if the recommended fiscal measures are passed early by the next administration and if the economy quickly recovers.



## Waste-to-energy power plants may be rated RE for baseload

August 30, 2021 | 7:20 pm



THE DEPARTMENT of Energy (DoE) may reclassify waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities as renewable energy (RE) units capable of supplying always-on baseload power.

The plans were flagged in a draft circular posted on the DoE's website last week, outlining the department's intent to promote the development of the WTE industry.

"This circular is being issued to... promote WTE facilities as baseload renewable energy which can contribute to solid waste management, benefit to the local economy, and create green jobs, among others," the Energy department said.

The DoE is proposing to categorize WTE technology as "another kind of RE source." WTE converts various types of waste material into usable heat, electricity or fuel.

According to its proposed circular, qualified generators using such technology should be considered "must dispatch" units in order to promote investment in WTE development.

Eligible RE plants are identified by the wholesale electricity spot market as "must dispatch" units that enjoy preference in the dispatch schedule.

The DoE said it will hold a series of public consultations on the draft WTE circular on Sept. 3, 6 and 8 for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao participants, respectively. All hearings will be held at 9 a.m.

Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology President Riedo A. Panaligan said that the DoE's proposed rules contradict current law.

"Promoting municipal solid waste (MSW) as feedstock for incineration (or) waste-to-energy goes beyond what is prescribed under the Renewable Energy Act. Burning of MSW also contradicts the



## Waste-to-energy power plants may be rated RE for baseload

Ecological Solid Waste Management Act that espouses source separation, segregated waste collection and treatment. These legal hurdles put participating parties, especially city governments and local government units, at risk for future lawsuits,” Mr. Panaligan told *BusinessWorld* in an e-mail Monday.

He said WTE is the most “inefficient and expensive way” to generate power, based on the experience of developed nations.

“Incineration, if categorized as renewable, will further compete with other genuine renewable energy projects such as solar, wind and biomass for already small incentive support and market share,” Mr. Panaligan added.

A Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) administrative order from 2019 details the requirements that must be met before a WTE plant can be built.

Last month, environment advocates and groups filed a petition with the Supreme Court to nullify the DENR’s guidelines on building WTE facilities, claiming that their implementation will cause “irreparable” harm to human health and the environment. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



## 7th East Asian Seas Ministerial Forum

by  [Village Connect](#)



Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) has kicked off preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> East Asian Seas (EAS) Ministerial Forum during the 13<sup>th</sup> EAS Partnership Council (PC) Meeting held last July. The triennial gathering of ministers and senior government officials from PEMSEA member countries serves as a platform for policy dialogue and strategic direction setting in support of the region's common strategy and the fulfillment of international commitments related to sustainable development. The Ministerial Forum will be held on December 2 during the virtual 2021 East Asian Seas Congress hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

During PEMSEA's 13<sup>th</sup> EAS PC Meeting, council members recognized that the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic calls for a stronger regional partnership as well as transformative solutions to "build back better." Thus, the 2021 EAS Congress and Ministerial Forum are deemed as crucial mechanisms to further advance and scale up actions on Blue Economy and sustainable development in the region.

One of the expected highlights of the Ministerial Forum is the signing of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Declaration which is envisioned to endorse the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 in support of the Ocean Decade and other key international and regional commitments on sustainable development. The 13<sup>th</sup> PC reviewed the first draft of the Ministerial Declaration and approved the workplan and schedule to facilitate the consultation and consensus-building process among PEMSEA Partners for the finalization and approval of the Declaration.

As Chair and host of the EAS Congress and Ministerial Forum, Cambodia's Ministry of Environment (MOE) assured the council members of their strong support and shared their recent efforts and plans to ensure the smooth preparation for the upcoming events. The council expressed its appreciation towards the efforts of the MOE and the PRF in line with the preparations for the 7<sup>th</sup> EAS Ministerial Forum.

PEMSEA has conducted six Ministerial Forums to date: Putrajaya, Malaysia (2003); Haikou City, PR China (2006); Manila, Philippines (2009); Changwon, RO Korea (2012); Da Nang, Viet Nam (2015); and Iloilo, Philippines (2018). Each had milestone Ministerial Declarations that continue to push for a sustainable resources system for the Seas of East Asia.

Source: <https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/7th-east-asian-seas-ministerial-forum/7723>



## MAYNILAD LAUNCHES WEBINAR SERIES FOR GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

[August 30, 2021 Rannie Lao](#)



**West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) recently launched a series of webinars on water supply management and operations for select government personnel, in line with its goal of promoting sustained water education among industry stakeholders.**

Done through its education arm Maynilad Water Academy, the recent webinars conducted were participated in by personnel from the Community Development Division of Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA-CDD), and officials from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and City Engineering Office of the local government of Malabon City.

The photo shows Maynilad Government Relations Head Antonette De Ocampo (middle row, 2nd from left) welcoming participants to the Maynilad webinar for LLDA, which was graced by LLDA-CDD Officer-in-Charge Jaime Mora (3rd row, left). Maynilad will continue holding these webinars over the succeeding months to reach more government offices with its water education drive.

Source: <http://pilipinomirror.com/maynilad-launches-webinar-series-for-government-personnel/>



## BIATF officials seem blindsided by Duterte announcement allowing casinos in Boracay



[BYMA. STELLA F. ARNALDO](#)

AUGUST 30, 2021

3 MINUTE READ



Boracay Island, Aklan

OFFICIALS of the former Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) appeared to have been blindsided by the recent announcement of President Duterte to allow the opening of a casino in Boracay Island.

Despite repeated text messages from the BusinessMirror, BIATF officials have chosen to remain silent on Duterte's flip-flop on his "no-casino" policy. One BIATF source said he didn't want to comment on the issue because, "That's a decision made by the highest official of the land."

Pressed if BIATF officials were aware about policy change prior to Duterte's announcement last August 26, the source said in a mix of English and Filipino, "No. It was an unexpected pronouncement."

In a joint news statement late Monday, the BIATF said, "In line with the President's latest pronouncement that casinos will now be allowed to operate in Boracay Island to augment government funds, [we] will carry out the necessary steps towards this direction."

The group added, it "will ensure that the operations of casinos, as it is with other business establishments in Boracay, will be in accordance with existing laws, and that each line agency will continue carrying out their respective mandates with the goal of ensuring the environmental sustainability of the island."

It also said, "All businesses are reminded to submit to the requirements and accreditation processes, as the BIATF will practice due diligence to ensure that only those who are compliant will be issued the necessary permits."





## BIATF officials seem blindsided by Duterte announcement allowing casinos in Boracay

The latest policy paves the way for the reopening of casinos in Movenpick Resort & Spa (Alpha Allied Holdings Ltd.), Crown Regency Resort and Convention Center, and Paradise Garden Resort Hotel and Convention Center, as well as those in development such as Leisure and Resorts World Corp. in partnership with Galaxy Entertainment of Macau, Allied Global Inc. in Savoy Hotel, and Hotel Soffia owner Archibald Po.

### Island cleanup for naught?

Jose C. Clemente III, president to Rajah Tours Philippines, which sells Boracay travel and tour packages to his foreign clients, was against casinos on the island as well: “Why build casinos when most players stay indoor most of the time anyway? As we have seen, gambling junkets do not usually include families.”

He added, “Sustainability was a problem that was meant to be addressed during Boracay’s initial closure in 2018.

Attention was given to sanitation as well as carrying capacity. With the possible entry of more establishments, all of the efforts to clean the island may be for naught. We all know that casinos need a mass volume of players to be viable. Having casinos may mean the influx of more people on the island which leads to environmental degradation.”

He pointed out there were other places “where casinos could be set up and would be able to handle the influx of junkets and gamblers. There is Clark, Subic, Cebu and others that can generate probably even more gambling revenues due to larger carrying capacities. Why put it on a small island?”

### Back to square one

In a news statement published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on its web site, Secretary Roy A. Cimatu in 2018 held firmly against casinos on the island. “Now that the island’s waters and beaches are back to their pristine condition, we would rather that true nature lovers come and enjoy them....Boracay already has enough hotel rooms. Adding more and filling these with guests will again lead to more trash and more wastewater. Then, we’re back to square one.”

Cimatu on August 26 publicly briefed the President about the accomplishments of the BIATF and DENR. It was during said briefing that Duterte made the remark about allowing a casino to open in Boracay to spur government revenues. A number of island residents and business owners have opposed this. ([See, “Talk of casino spurs alarm: Will Boracay be gaming paradise?” in the BusinessMirror, August 30, 2021.](#))





## **BIATF officials seem blindsided by Duterte announcement allowing casinos in Boracay**

The BIATF, created in 2018 to oversee the rehabilitation of the world famous island, was chaired by Cimatu, and co-chaired by Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat. Its term expired in May this year.

Prior to its closure from April 26 to October 25, 2018, Boracay attracted close to 2 million visitors, half of whom were foreigners. The pandemic interrupted the island's recovery and is currently under moderate enhanced community quarantine due to the increasing Covid cases in mainland Aklan. It has yet to regain enough tourists to support its economy, leading to the closure of a number of businesses, after a series of starts and stops in accepting domestic travelers from Metro Manila.



## ‘Scary’: Boracay community leader oppose Duterte pitch to open casinos on island

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 30 2021 04:00 PM

MANILA – Boracay locals object to President Rodrigo Duterte’s proposal to allow a casino to be built on the island, a community leader said Monday.

Nenette Aguirre-Graf, who owns a business in the tourist paradise, said Duterte’s statement was shocking to them.

“For us, it’s a bit shocking. Because after saying that he hates casino, he doesn’t like gambling, it made us all happy. But now, with this new pronouncement, it’s kinda scary because you don’t know what’s gonna happen,” she said.

Graf said Boracay residents are concerned about how the pronouncement will affect the island’s image as a family-friendly destination.

“Cause right now, ‘di ba, we’re promoting Boracay as a family destination? It’s been like that for years. In fact, we didn’t allow go-go bars and anything that will tarnish the image of the island as a family destination.”

“We all know that what goes with the casino island or having casinos in an island--it goes with, you know, drugs, prostitution, criminality and all those things. And money laundering and many other things that [are] negative,” she said.

Graf said the best thing government can do for Boracay residents now is to vaccinate them.

“Send more vaccines to the island and open it to tourism, and I think we will be able to generate the money that they need, without resorting to opening the island to casinos. I-vaccinate niya kami and we will be okay,” she said.

Graf said not all tourism workers on the island have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

“The goal now is to have 1,000 vaccinated in a day. Hopefully, this week, we can inoculate more people,” she said.

Graf also backs the push to allow Boracay to have a separate quarantine classification from the rest of the Aklan province.

“Because first of all, we’re geographically separated from the mainland. We operate a resort island. We’re not a regular town,” she said.

“We’ve been asking for that separate quarantine since last year. Pero the IATF, especially the provincial IATF, reluctant sila. Parang yung ibang towns ay pwedeng hindi maging masaya, why we have to be treated differently when we all belong to the same province.”

“They have to understand that we make money for the whole province also and for the Philippines,” she stressed.



## Nestle Philippines is the country's Kasambuhay for the Environment



[BYLEONY GARCIA](#)

AUGUST 30, 2021

4 MINUTE READ



As Nestle Philippines celebrates its 110th year in the Philippines, the company is more determined than ever to do its share in tackling climate change, pioneering sustainability practices and pushing its initiatives towards zero net greenhouse gas emission.

With the alarming and long-term effects of climate change already upon us today—increasing water temperatures, heatwaves, and heavy precipitation, as well as melting ice and permanent frost resulting in rising sea levels, among many others—this has compelled Nestlé, as a company, to act responsibly and courageously.

“We all know climate change is one of the greatest threats to life on Earth. So for our part, as Kasambuhay for the Environment, we are deeply committed to attaining our environment goals consistent with the Nestle global ambition of achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2050 at the latest, cutting our emission in half by 2030,” said Arlene Tan-Bantoto, Head of Public Affairs, Sustainability and Communications of Nestle Philippines.

### **Time-bound action plan**

Since making the commitment, Bantoto said Nestle has been “working on a time-bound action plan across our value change including interim targets consistent with the Paris Agreement which aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius.” Achieving this, she said would require radical action across the value chain, something that the company cannot do alone.

“Reducing emissions and reaching net-zero require collaborative approaches with suppliers, customers, academics, policy-makers, and civil society at large,” she said.

Tan-Bantoto said Nestlé is driven by its purpose as a company to unlock the power of food and beverages, to enhance the quality of life for everyone today and the generation to come and these are based on three major pillars.



## Nestle Philippines is the country's Kasambuhay for the Environment

“First, for individuals and families. We strive to make children live healthier lives through our expertise on nutrition, health, and wellness. For communities, we strive to improve the livelihood of coffee farmers and communities that intersect with our business. And finally, for the planet, we strive to ensure zero impact on the environment,” she said.

### Three areas

Tan-Bantoto pointed out that the company has already demonstrated that it has the size and the scale to help tackle climate change. Currently, it is engaged in three areas—transforming operations, sourcing responsibly, and shaping a waste-free future.

Under transformation operations, Nestlé has been able to greenhouse gas emissions in their factories by 40 percent since 2020. This is equivalent to around 23,000 cars in one year. It has also reduced water usage by 24 percent or the equivalent of 350 swimming pools and energy usage reduction by 38 percent or the equivalent of 44.8 million liters.

“We have also switched to clean energy. In fact, all our factories in Luzon and the Makati administrative office run on 100 percent renewable electricity. We only have one more factory to go, in Cagayan de Oro. We hope that the line will be available there so we can switch to renewable energy,” she said.

Under sourcing responsibly, Tan-Bantoto noted that Nestlé is the biggest buyer of coffee produced in the country, the robusta variety, which is the only ingredient in Nescafe. The company prefers to source its raw materials locally.

“By doing so we support our farmers and we promote the planting of more crops which absorb greenhouse gas emissions and reduce carbon in the atmosphere. We continue to work with the farmers on actively managing and restoring soils and improving biodiversity. Through our Nescafe Plant, Robusta farmers in Mindanao are learning regenerative agriculture and sustainable coffee production. Regenerative agriculture is a farming system that aims to conserve and restore farmland and its ecosystem,” she explained.

### Locally sourced

Aside from coffee, the company also sources its sugar locally and it works with small-scale sugar cane growers, millers, and industry stakeholders in Negros Occidental. This way, the company helps to address areas of sustainability and needs within the small planters supply base.

Under shaping a waste-free future, Tan-Bantoto said Nestle Philippines achieved an important milestone earlier this month by becoming the country's first multinational FMCG (Fast-moving consumer goods) company to attain plastic neutrality.

“This means that we are collecting, co-processing, and therefore, diverting from nature the equivalent amount of plastic that we put out in the market. I'm happy to report that we had collected and diverted from the environment 27 million kilos of plastic waste. That's 2,700 dump trucks of waste collected so that they do not end in landfills and eventually in the ocean. This August is our first anniversary to have done this. So, we are very proud of this milestone and we hope that other companies can also follow soon,” she shared.





## Nestle Philippines is the country's Kasambuhay for the Environment

Tan-Bantoto also shared that Nestlé is continuously innovating and developing technology to achieve its commitment to making its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025.

“We try to do as much as we can. And 24/7 our Research and Development all over the world are looking at paperization. Today, we are also very happy to share with you that we are only the FMCG to shift from plastic straws to paper straws. This cost four times more than plastic straws but this helps us divert 600 million plastic straws from ending again in landfills and in the oceans. Our Milo, Maggi Magic Sarap, and Nescafe 3-in-1 used to be in poly bags which aren't biodegradable so they also end up in landfills and oceans. So, we took the initiative to convert it into paper bags. This is not a very easy action. Initially, we also had some pushbacks from stores and merchandisers because they need extra tender loving care in handling these products,” she said.

She added that Nestle is accelerating its efforts to address climate change in the country, reiterating though that such a task would not be possible if they did it alone.

“Maybe we can ask ourselves: are we ready to adopt new ways of thinking to make the investment required of us, to face a hard decision and change on how we do businesses, to embrace new technologies, and to work and help one another? We need to create shared value as we pursue sustainability, to do good not only to ourselves, not only for our business but for the society as a whole,” Tan-Bantoto concluded.



## Embracing sustainability to address climate change



[BYLEONY GARCIA](#)

AUGUST 30, 2021

4 MINUTE READ



Now, more than ever, there is a need to embrace sustainability to address the challenges that Mother Earth faces. The future generation will run out of fossil fuels. Thousands if not millions of animal species will become extinct. We will run out of lumber. We will fill the bodies of water with waste. We will damage the atmosphere beyond repair. All these and more are possible if we don't change and practice sustainable living.

Commissioner Crispian Lao, speaking before the BM Coffee Club online forum titled "Best Practices in Sustainability", on August 26, 2021, said sustainability is looking towards the future, looking towards our grandchildren and the grandchildren of our grandchildren.

"Why? Because their sources are not finite. We need to replenish what we take and then we have to make sure that there is enough for future generations to come," he said.

Lao is the private sector representative from the Recycling Industry Sector, National Solid Waste Management Commission. He is also the founding president of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Material Sustainability (PARMS).

### Climate Change

According to Lao, the world is currently experiencing excessive consumption because of population growth. This and a lot of other factors have led to climate change. He added that climate change in the Philippine perspective would have to focus on energy, agriculture, transportation, and waste industry, among other factors.

"In a country like the Philippines, it is important to look into climate change because it has affected us. Every time the monsoon season comes, we have flooding. You know, excessive rain, even drought, all these become challenges not only for the industry but for all other sectors. The agriculture sector is affected because of all of these," he said.



## Embracing sustainability to address climate change

He happily reported that the Philippines is not a major contributor to climate change globally and that the government has set the ambitious target at 75 percent.

“And being cognizant of how important it is, we are now looking forward to meeting those goals but ensuring that there is financial assistance from the global community for us to set those goals. The government cannot do it alone that’s why collaboration is really important. That’s where the private sector comes in the form of support and development of infrastructure.

For this to happen, Lao said it is important that the country provides that enabling environment for investments to continue to fill those gaps in infrastructure whether it’s energy to ensure that power is available and the cost is brought down and reasonable and power transitions to renewable resources. Agriculture is also important so that there is food security and an efficient public transportation system to lessen traffic.

“Waste management is key and that’s very close to my heart because that’s where I’m coming from. Again we have to look into sustainable consumption and production so that there are not just enough resources for the future but we manage the aspect of waste. And while waste is a small contributor for local climate change greenhouse gas emission, this is something that we can do easily as a country but we need the support of everybody,” Lao explained.

### The 3Ps and the 3Es

When we look at sustainability, Lao said we should look at the 3Ps (People, Planet, and Profit) and the 3Es (Environment, Economy, and Social Equity). He said it is important to blend all of these together “because when you look at economy you don’t look at short-term profits. You still have to care about the environment and it has to be fair to everyone. When you look at the environment, you don’t just look at conservation without looking into the economics and the livelihood and how it affects the people at the lower end of the social class.”

“All of these should have social equity. We cannot continue to have only a few people with the bulk of the resources. Meaning you can’t have people who continue to get rich and the poor becomes poorer. So again, this is what we often call as inclusive growth. We oftentimes have different definitions but at the end of the day, I think the goals are common and the directions have been set already for all of us.” Lao stressed.

He also noted that large corporations and conglomerates, like Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Nestle Philippines, are taking the lead in sustainability.

### Update on PARMS

Lao also gave an update on the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability’s (PARMS) program called “Zero Waste to Nature: Ambition 2030,” a declaration of commitment by global and local manufacturers, together with plastic producers, recyclers, and other members of the waste value chain, to initiate and support efforts to reduce and collect waste, in line with 2025 sustainable packaging commitments of some global brands while adhering to science and local economics.



## Embracing sustainability to address climate change

“Ambition 2030 is realistic. We really can accelerate the program in five to seven years. We have the roadmap ready. Solid waste management is now being addressed in the country. No plastic should go in an open environment by 2030,” Lao said.

Lao shared he is also part of the PCCI (Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry) which recognizes individuals and groups for their excellent experiences and best practices in sustainability. “And we do it on regular basis. Why? I always say that when you talk of sustainability these are items that are always shared and not kept. You know there are no secrets to sustainability. Why? Because we learn from each other and we are happy when somebody takes it one level further and make it better. We all learn from each other, so we will continue to learn from each other,” Lao said.





## Angono LGU marks National Heroes' Day with offering of seedlings, plants, cleaning materials

Published August 30, 2021, 7:17 PM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

Instead of flowers that easily decay, seedlings and fruit bearing plants took the center stage in today's National Heroes' Day ceremony in Angono, Rizal.

Unlike in other towns, Angono marked the day of the country's heroes with plant offering at the foot of Dr. Jose P. Rizal monument at the town plaza fronting the municipal hall.

Mayor Jeri Mae Calderon led the Angono municipal government officials, the Knights of Rizal, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Liga ng mga Barangay (League of Barangays) in Angono in the offering ceremony.



(Photo from Jeri Mae Calderon's Facebook page/MANILA BULLETIN)

Broom sticks and dust pans to symbolize cleanliness were also among the items offered during the event.

The administration of Mayor Calderon has been using fruit bearing plants and other valuable items, instead of fresh flowers, during wreath-laying rites in the town since last year.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/30/angono-lgu-marks-national-heroes-day-with-offering-of-seedlings-plants-cleaning-materials/>



31 AUGUST 2021, Tuesday



**DENR**

**NEWS**

**ALERTS**

**COVID-19**

**NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## Philippines logs new record-high 22,366 COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com)

- August 30, 2021 - 4:01pm



Residents receive their first dose of Moderna vaccine at the "Vaccine Express" of Vice President Leni Robredo's team in San Pedro Laguna on Aug. 28, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Monday reported 22,366 more coronavirus cases, its new record-high number of infections since the start of the pandemic.

Today's numbers pushed the country's total to 1,976,202. Active cases were also up by 5,373 from the 143,221 on August 29. The Department of Health said two laboratories did not submit test results.

- **Active cases:** 148,594 or 7.5% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 16,864, bringing the number to 1,794,278
- **Deaths:** 222, or now 33,330 in total

### Honoring 'modern day' heroes

- President Rodrigo Duterte honored front line workers amid the coronavirus pandemic in this year's [National Heroes' Day](#). It came as hospital personnel in Metro Manila staged protests over their still unreleased benefits.



## Philippines logs new record-high 22,366 COVID-19 cases

- Vice President Leni Robredo, meanwhile, stressed that all Filipinos are called to be a heroes especially during the ongoing health crisis.
- A teachers' group called for a salary hike and release of delayed benefits to health and education workers. It added the government's recognition of "modern day" heroes would be mere [lip service](#) if it fails to do so and improve working conditions.
- Metro Manila will stay under modified enhanced community quarantine until [September 7](#) as the country continues to face the threat of the highly infectious Delta variant of COVID-19.
- Police Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, chief of the Philippine National Police, said over 117,000 quarantine "[violators](#)" were recorded in the last nine days. Some 13,000 of that, he added, is from Metro Manila.





# #OneDENR

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# DOH COVID-19

CASE BULLETIN # 534

## AGOSTO 30, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 7.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
148,594

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 90.8%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
1,794,278

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.69%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
33,330

MGA BAGONG KASO **22,366**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **16,864**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **222**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **1,976,202**

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 28

DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 30  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 28

# 27.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 65,237

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS

# 97.4%

ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!



### KABUUNANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)



**74%**  
Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.4K TOTAL BEDS)



**65%**  
Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.8K TOTAL BEDS)



**70%**  
Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS)



**53%**  
Utilized

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)



**72%**  
Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)



**64%**  
Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)



**72%**  
Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)



**59%**  
Utilized

### KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 95.7%

1.7% Asymptomatic

0.6% Critical

1.1% Severe

0.97% Moderate



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ngayong Pambansang Araw ng mga Bayani, tandaan natin na ang masusing pagsunod sa ating **Minimum Public Health Standards** para sa kaligtasan ng lahat ay ang ating paraan upang maging bayani para sa isa't-isa. Sama-sama nating labanan ang tuluyang pagkalat ng COVID-19 upang matiyak ang **lubos na kaligtasan** ng lahat. Sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS o One COVID Referral Center**. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating Telemedicine Service Providers, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333  
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777  
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](http://kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!  
I-download ang StaySafe App  
O Gamitin ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](http://Staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[f OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](http://doh.gov.ph)

[☎ \(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:028940000)



31 AUGUST 2021, Tuesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/1HblixTa3kg>

MANILA BAYWALK

MANILA BAY ULTIMATUM NI DENR SECRETARY ROY CIMATU! PINULONG NA MGA CONTRACTOR! Miz July

2,477 views • Aug 30, 2021

141 2 SHARE SAVE ...



Miz July

55.5K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Manila Bay Update August 27,,2021 #SaveManilaBay

#Battleformanilabay

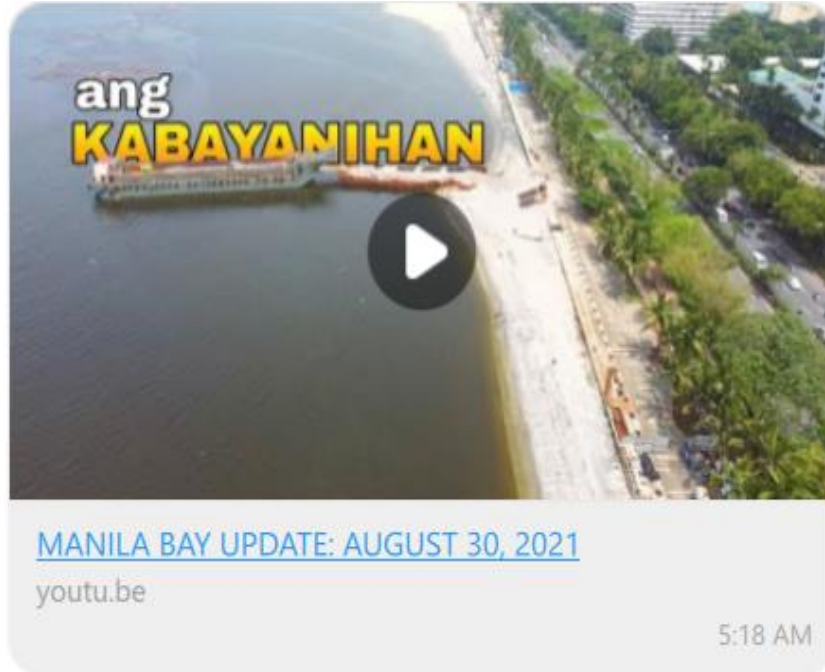
#ManilaBay

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**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/PywmWxDWpCg>

#savemanilabay #dolomitesand #kuyasam

MANILA BAY UPDATE: AUGUST 30, 2021

1,061 views • Aug 30, 2021

👍 28    🗨️ 3    ➦ SHARE    💖 THANKS    ⚙️ SAVE    ...



Kuya Sam

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#savemanilabay

#dolomitesand

#kuyasam

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Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/QMPjP7NbKRE>

#BeachNourishment #DolomiteWhiteSand #Savemanilabay

GANITO PALA DITO! NAGMISTULANG FISHING AREA NA ANG MANILA BAY AUGUST 30, 2021

831 views • Aug 30, 2021

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JANICE LLANDER Vlog  
18K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#BeachNourishment  
#DolomiteWhiteSand  
#Savemanilabay

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**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/6S5t2xU2RY8>

MANILA BAY

Nag-Uumapaw ang kanilang BANGKA! Mga Tao Napasugod! HISTORY in the Making!

19,510 views • Aug 30, 2021

474 16 SHARE SAVE ...



KUYA BOK Vlogs  
110K subscribers

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#ManilaBay #SaveManilaBay #BattleForManilaBay #Alamang





**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/fVcz3B4R73E>

#manilaBayupdate #Dolomitesand #manilaBayupdatetoday  
MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY/AUGUST 30 2021

2,966 views • Aug 30, 2021

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**TROPANG ILONGGO**  
2.19K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

whut's up mga kababayan welcome back to my Youtube channel Tropang Ilonggo.  
ito mga ka tropa may bago na naman tayong update please support may update today and like  
and subscribe

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Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/SVRrfVT22Ks>

#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate

MANILA BAY! LIBO LIBONG HIPON! NAKAKAGULAT NA PANGYAYARI! WALANG HUMPAY NA BIYAYA! SA MANILA BAY!

1,301 views • Aug 30, 2021

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Vincent Tabigue  
145K subscribers

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#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate #DENR #MMDA #DPWH  
#Savepasigriver #Savetullahanriver



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/dRkPfwKOkdU>

#BeachNourishment #DolomiteWhiteSand #Savemanilabay

WOW! FIRST TIME IN HISTORY AT MANILA BAY ITO ANG BIYAYA NA UMAAPAW AUGUST 30,2021

672 views • Aug 30, 2021

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JANICE LLANDER Vlog  
18K subscribers

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Manila bay update august 30 2021

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BOSS MARLON OCAMPO VLOG  
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Source: [https://youtu.be/CMeIBwP6\\_bU](https://youtu.be/CMeIBwP6_bU)

MANILA BAY

**MALA PIRATA SA MANILA BAY UMATAKE NGAYONG NATIONAL HEROES DAY!**

2,609 views • Aug 30, 2021

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122K subscribers

[#ManilaBayToday](#)  
[#BattleForManilaBay](#)  
[#DENR](#)

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Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/gu5M5CtjaBA>

MANILA BAY

LIVE NOW: DPS MANDARAGAT NAPASABAK SA SANGKATERBANG NG WATER HYACINTH!

839 views • Streamed live 23 hours ago

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KHOPARS VLOG ✓  
122K subscribers

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Please click this link:

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Manila bay update august 30 2021

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 **BOSS MARLON OCAMPO VLOG**  
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MANILA BAY  
MANILA BAY TODAY UPDATE | AUGUST 30 2021 LIVE  
3,678 views • Streamed live 19 hours ago

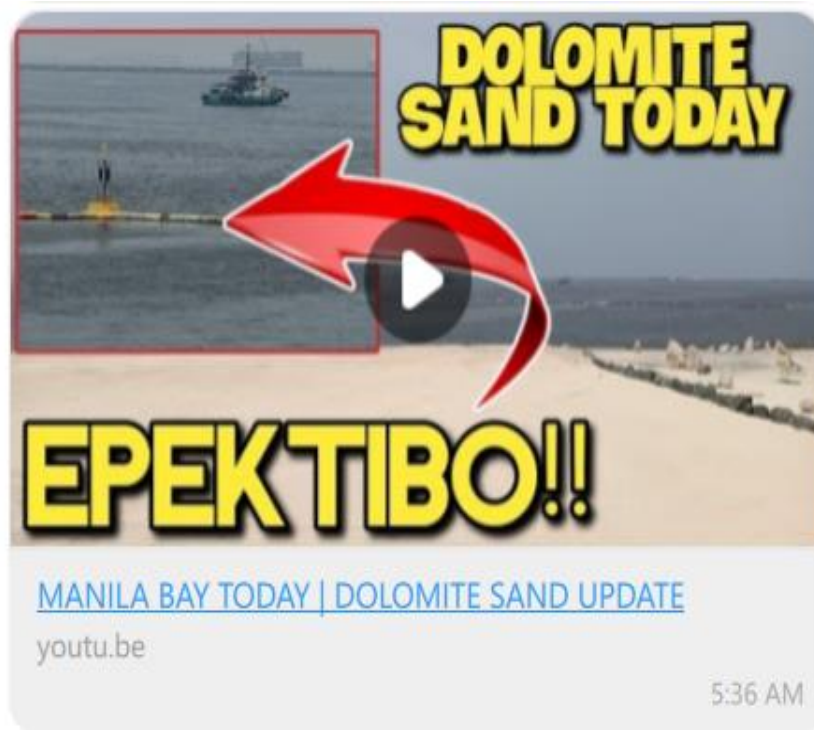
188 3 SHARE SAVE ...

**DADDY D**  
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DADDY D

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MANILA BAY  
MANILA BAY TODAY | DOLOMITE SAND UPDATE

2,172 views • Aug 30, 2021

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Manila Bay Update: August 30, 2021

2,829 views • Aug 30, 2021

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manila bay rehabilitation project ongoing.




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Source: <https://youtu.be/g4ObZrhWnDg>

#manilaBayupdate #dolomitesand #manilaBayupdatetoday  
BUMALIK NA NAMAN MGA BAGONG BISITA SA MANILA BAY AUGUST 30, 2021  
1,930 views • Aug 30, 2021

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Watch happening now at Manila bay

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**Please click this link:**

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Artwork na gawa sa bubog ng bote, handog sa mga frontliners bilang bagong bayani

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PTV ✓  
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