

13 SEPTEMBER 2020, SUNDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



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Pinangunahan ng ilang opisyal ng DENR ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay bilang paghahanda sa International Coastal Cleanup na gaganapin sa September 19.



👍❤️👏 Josef Calica and 7.4K others

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Nitong Sabado, inimitahan ni DILG Secretary Eduardo Año ang publiko na bumisita at subukin kung ligtas ang dolomite sand sa Manila Bay sa oras na matapos ang proyekto.

NEWS 5 DIGITAL



## PAPASYAL O TATAMBAY KA BA SA "NOURISHED BEACH" NG MANILA BAY?

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Florante Lugo Aseo, Josef Calica and 17K others

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Remate - Ang Diaryo ng Masa

14h · 🌐

Mismong si DENR USEC, Benny Antiporda at Congressman Elpidio Barsaga ang tumingin at nag-inspeksyon ng White Sand Project sa pampang ng Manila Bay.

Kuha ni Crismon Heramis



👍❤️ 21

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# DENR's Antiporda: Manila Bay makeover project began last year, but COVID-19 halted it

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 12 2020 09:50 PM

DENR official says COVID-19 halted bay rehabilitation

The so-called beautification of Manila Bay with the use of crushed dolomite, which gives the area a white sand effect, was a project that began last year, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources official said Saturday.

Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the bay enhancement was merely being continued after Metro Manila was locked down.

"Last year pa nag-umpisa ito. Natigil nga ito noong (enhanced community quarantine), natigil ang proyekto. Automatic tigil lahat, kaya fina-fasttrack ngayon dahil delayed na delayed na iyan," Antiporda said on TeleRadyo.

The project and its timing have been questioned, because it was being done during a pandemic.

But the rehabilitation must go on, Antiporda said.

"Kahit ako, kung papayagan lang ako ng pamahalaan na hindi na magtrabaho, I will stay home . . . But sad to say, we have a mandate to finish this as early as possible because of the mandamus," Antiporda said.

He also reiterated that the P389 million allocated for the project cannot be diverted to be used to help curb COVID-19, as the project was bankrolled and bid out "more than a year ago."

Antiporda said, while dolomite dust can be hazardous to health, the sand being dumped onto the Baywalk cannot be considered "dust."

"Iyan po ay dolostone. Ang sinasabi nila kapag nalanghap natin at pumasok sa бага ay magkakasakit tayo. Totoo po iyon," he said.

"Pero paano papasok sa ilong natin 'yan kung 'yan 5 millimeters ang size? Five millimeters po ang ating inorder at iyan po 100 times bigger than the dust particle na pwedeng pumasok sa бага."



# DENR exec lectures man caught relieving himself on Roxas Blvd.

Published September 12, 2020, 2:50 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Officials and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources caught a man relieving himself near the shore on Roxas Boulevard in Manila while a cleanup of the Manila Bay was being conducted Saturday.

In a video sent to reporters, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda is seen castigating a man after he was caught defecating near the shore of Manila Bay.

“Hirap na hirap kami kakalinis, tinataehan mo? Bawal ‘yun eh. (While we are working hard cleaning the bay, you chose to defecate there? That is prohibited),” Antiporda was seen telling the man.

Antiporda, along with DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones, led the site visit and cleanup of the Manila Bay on Roxas Boulevard in preparation for the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day on Sept. 19.

They were joined by personnel from the DENR Central Office and West Field Office of the DENR-National Capital Region who conduct daily cleanup in Manila Bay.

During the event, Antiporda said they were laying down dolomite stones within the 120 meter by 60 meter priority area, which is part of the Phase 1 of the Beach Nourishment Project of the DENR.

The filling of the controversial “white sand” on the baywalk is being expedited in time for the celebration of the ICC.

The DENR official cited that from around 50 trucks of garbage hauled every day in the past administrations, only two to three trucks of garbage are now being hauled since the Manila Bay rehabilitation was launched in 2018.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/12/denr-exec-lectures-man-caught-relieving-himself-on-roxas-blvd/>



## Kelot huli sa aktong dumudumi sa Manila Bay, sinabon ni Usec. Antiporda



September 12, 2020 @ 5:12 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naaktuhan ng tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang isang lalaking dumudumi umano sa may baybayin ng Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila habang isinasagawa ang clean-up sa Manila Bay ngayong Sabado, Setyembre 12.

Sa ulat, pinagalitan ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang naturang lalaki.

“Hirap na hirap kami sa kakalinis, tinataehan mo? Bawal ‘yun eh,” giit ni Antiporda.

Samantala, kasama ni Antiporda na bumisita sa lugar si DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones para sa clean-up bilang paghahanda sa International Coastal Clean-up Day sa Sept. 19. RNT/FGDC



# Lalaki tiklo matapos gawing 'palikuran' ang bahagi ng Manila Bay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 12 2020 09:33 PM

Nahuli ang isang lalaking ginawang palikuran ang Manila Bay ngayong Sabado habang nagsasagawa ng clean-up ang mga awtoridad.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources spokesman Benny Antiporda, nahuli ito bandang umaga ng Sabado.

"Na-confirm namin na between 7 o' clock o 6 o' clock to 9 o' clock talagang ang daming dumudumi sa Manila Bay na 'yan may nahuli kaming isang mama," ani Antiporda.

Nahuli ito ng mga awtoridad habang nagsasagawa ng clean-up drive sa Manila Bay.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Ano na oras na makumpleto ang proyekto ay mae-enjoy na ang white sand sa Manila Bay.

Giit din nila na ligtas ito taliwas sa mga naging agam-agam sa paggamit ng dolomite na umano'y delikado.

Dumepensa rin si Antiporda sa paggastos sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. — **Ulat ni Henry Atuelan, ABS-CBN News**

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/12/20/lalaki-tiklo-matapos-gawing-palikuran-ang-bahagi-ng-manila-bay?fbclid=IwAR2ZYeMOoKz2SKT2YMsqrSrsftJ\\_EKLIncCvgR-jkvjMtoS4TpyiadIZ14](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/12/20/lalaki-tiklo-matapos-gawing-palikuran-ang-bahagi-ng-manila-bay?fbclid=IwAR2ZYeMOoKz2SKT2YMsqrSrsftJ_EKLIncCvgR-jkvjMtoS4TpyiadIZ14)





## Bay project criticism 'misplaced', budget 'just P28m'

By Maricel V. Cruz

INTERIOR Secretary Eduardo Año defended the Manila Bay beautification project anew, saying criticisms against the program were "misplaced."

Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya also said the project was only worth P28 million, contrary to the P389 million posted in earlier reports.

"Once the project is completed, we invite the public to enjoy the rehabilitated and nourished beach and see for themselves if it is harmful," Año, vice chair of the Manila Bay Task Force, said in a statement Saturday.

The Environment chief said dolomite, which was used as artificial white sand

to beautify the Manila Bay beach, "is a common material used in beach nourishment" in resorts around the world.

Meanwhile, Malaya said: "That already covers the price of dolomite sand, transportation cost, taxes, and other fees. That's the package of the cost including delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay. It's not P389 million but P28 million."

This developed as an opposition leader in the House of Representatives on Saturday thumbed down the construction of the "mini-Boracay" at the Baywalk in Manila Bay, citing health and safety concerns.

House Deputy Minority leader and

Probinsyano Ako party-list Rep. Jose Singson Jr. said he is worried over public health dangers posed by the dumping of crushed dolomite at Manila Bay.

Singson said Manila Mayor Isko Domagoso "may have failed to understand the implications of the public health warnings from experts" with the dumping of crushed dolomite as part of the beautification plan to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"Yorme Isko must realize that people stopped going to Manila Bay because the stink of garbage and human waste have become unbearable. I don't see any reason why they would start going back there if what they will get is a whiff of cancerous fumes," the lawmaker said.



**NOT HARMFUL.** Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (right) and Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga inspect the crushed dolomite used for the white sand project in Manila Bay on Saturday. The P389-million project, which covers a 500-meter stretch of the bay's shorelines with artificial white sand, has received flak from the public because of its timing and health risks. **Norman Cruz**



## Bay rehab criticisms misplaced — DILG

Published 7 hours ago on September 13, 2020 12:05 AM

By [Elmer N. Manuel @tribunephil Imer](#)



Controversial Undaunted by criticisms of the white sand project at Manila Bay, Cavite Congressman and Committee of Environment head Elpidio Barzaga, left and Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, inspect samples of the dolomite sands being dumped at the stretch of bay between the US Embassy and the Manila Yacht Club. PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE@TRIBUNEPHL\_BOB

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Saturday minced no words in defending the Manila Bay beautification project amid ongoing objections, saying that what critics were saying against the program were “misplaced.”

In a statement, DILG Secretary Eduardo Año stressed that the project was part of the government’s program to rehabilitate Manila Bay and even invited the public to see for themselves if what critics say that it is dangerous for their health is true.

“Once the project is completed, we invite the public to enjoy the rehabilitated and nourished beach and see for themselves if it is harmful,” said Año, who is also the vice chair of the Manila Bay Task Force.

The DILG chief noted that dolomite — which was used as artificial white sand in Manila Bay — “is common material used in beach nourishment” in resorts around the world.

Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya disclosed that the project expenditure was only P28 million, contrary to reports.

“That already covers the price of dolomite sand, transportation cost, taxes and other fees. That’s the package of the cost including delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay. It’s not 389 million but 28 million,” Malaya said.

Previously, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had said the white sand project was funded through a special purpose fund under the 2019 General Appropriations Act intended for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

“The project was approved by Congress under the 2019 General Appropriations Act, it underwent competitive bidding under RA 9184 and was awarded prior to the global pandemic,” stressed Malaya.

“The government cannot simply stop a project when it is already under contractual obligation to proceed. We also have a responsibility to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay for ourselves and future generations,” he added.



The DILG official clarified that the project did not affect the government's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response.

"We urge the critics to study the issue first before they make baseless allegations against worthwhile government projects. We welcome any investigation into this project whether in the courts of justice or in the court of public opinion. All this criticism is misplaced," Malaya said.

However, University of the Philippines Resilience Institute executive director Mahar Lagmay claimed that storms and the high tide could wash away the artificial white sand that the government dumped around Manila Bay.

Sand is "always transported from one place to the other" along beaches because "there's a lot of energy that makes the materials move," Lagmay said.

"If you put white sand in that place, chances are during storms and high tide, when waves are high... all of the sand will be washed out and transported," he added.

Cebu, where the artificial white sand was sourced, has since banned the extraction of dolomite.



DILG Secretary Eduardo Año, who is vice chair of the Manila Bay Task Force, said dolomite used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to “beautify” a stretch of the bay’s shoreline – is a common material used in beach nourishment in many parts of the country and the world.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

## DILG chief defends Manila Bay ‘white sand’ project

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 13, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The criticism of the Manila Bay “white sand” project is misplaced, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año said yesterday.

Año, who is vice chair of the Manila Bay Task Force, said dolomite used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to “beautify” a stretch of the bay’s shoreline – is a common material used in beach nourishment in many parts of the country and the world.

“Once the project is completed, we invite the public to enjoy the rehabilitated and nourished beach and see for themselves if it is harmful,” he said in a statement.

Año cited the Department of Health (DOH)’s claim that the crushed dolomite used in Manila Bay is not a health hazard as its particles are between two millimeters and five millimeters, which is 100 times bigger than dust.

The DOH said only dolomite in dust form can be an irritant.

The DILG also said that only P28 million of the P389 million allocated for Manila Bay’s rehabilitation and cleanup in the 2019 budget was used for the dolomite, transportation cost, taxes and other fees.

Following criticism that the P389 million should have been used for the government’s COVID-19 response, the DILG said the bidding and awarding of the contract was done prior to the pandemic.

“The government cannot simply stop a project when it is already under contractual obligation to proceed. We also have a responsibility to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay for ourselves and future generations,” DILG spokesman Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/09/13/2042017/dilg-chief-defends-manila-bay-white-sand-project>



## DILG dumepensa sa Manila Bay beautification



September 12, 2020 @ 1:50 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dinpensahan ng mga opisyal ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang Manila Bay beautification project laban sa mga kritisismo.

“Once the project is completed, we invite the public to enjoy the rehabilitated and nourished beach and see for themselves if it is harmful,” ani Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, vice chair ng Manila Bay Task Force.

Nilinaw naman ni Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya na pumalo lamang sa P28 milyon ang proyektong ito.

“That already covers the price of dolomite sand, transportation cost, taxes, and other fees. That’s the package of the cost including delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay. It’s not 389 million but 28 million,” paliwanag ni Malaya.

“The project was approved by Congress under the 2019 General Appropriations Act, it underwent competitive bidding under RA 9184 and was awarded prior to the global pandemic. The government cannot simply stop a project when it is already under contractual obligation to proceed. We also have a responsibility to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay for ourselves and future generations.”

“We urge the critics to study the issue first before they make baseless allegations against worthwhile government projects. We welcome any investigation into this project whether in the courts of justice or in the court of public opinion. All this criticism is misplaced,” lahad pa nito.

Maaalalang kabi-kabila ang umaalma sa paglalagay ng umano’y white sand sa Manila Bay. RNT/FGDC



## DILG: Dolomite critics misplaced

Saturday, September 12, 2020 | Joel dela Torre



**THE** Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has defended the use of dolomite in the Manila Bay project describing all the criticisms as misplaced. Secretary Eduardo Año who is vice chair of the Manila Bay Task Force came into the defense of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for placing crushed dolomites to beautify and nourish a stretch in the historical bay's shoreline under the government's rehabilitation mission.

Critics claim that the dolomite dumping near the Baywalk strip along Roxas Blvd. is potentially a health hazard and impractical since it is being implemented amid a pandemic.

Año however said that dolomite is a common material used in beach nourishment in many parts of the country and even the world employed in many beach resorts.

"Moreover, the Department of Health (DOH) has already clearly stated that the dolomite used in Baywalk is bigger than dust, which doesn't get suspended in air, and therefore is not harmful to individuals. Once the project is completed, we invite the public to enjoy the rehabilitated and nourished beach and see for themselves if it is harmful," he said.

According to the DOH, only dolomite in dust form can be an irritant and that the size of the dolomite sands in the Manila Bay project is 2 mm to 5mm which is 100 x bigger than dust. It also stated that dolomite in its bulk state is not a known health hazard.

DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, for his part, clarified that — contrary to the claims of critics — only P28 million of the P389 million allocation was used for the crushed dolomite rocks. That amount he said already covers the price of dolomite sand, transportation cost, taxes, and other fees including the package of the cost including delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay. It's not 389 million but 28 million.

"We urge the critics to study the issue first before they make baseless allegations against worthwhile government projects. We welcome any investigation into this project whether in the courts of justice or in the court of public opinion. All this criticism is misplaced," he said.



# Criticisms on Manila Bay beautification 'misplaced,' only P28-M spent for white sand: DILG

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 12 2020 08:18 AM | Updated as of Sep 12 2020 08:20 AM



Members of various environmental groups turn a walk along the bay into a demonstration on September 11, 2020, as they protest against the reclamation project being done on the shores of Manila Bay. The group called the dumping of dolomite to create an artificial white sand beach an “aesthetic surgery” and called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to implement a proper rehabilitation of the bay instead. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - Officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) defended the Manila Bay beautification project anew, saying criticisms against the program were "misplaced."

"Once the project is completed, we invite the public to enjoy the rehabilitated and nourished beach and see for themselves if it is harmful," Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, vice chair of the Manila Bay Task Force, said in a statement Saturday.

Año, a retired general, claimed dolomite which was used as artificial white sand in Manila Bay "is a common material used in beach nourishment" in resorts around the world.

Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said the project was only P28 million, contrary to reports.

"That already covers the price of dolomite sand, transportation cost, taxes, and other fees. That's the package of the cost including delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay. It's not 389 million but 28 million," he said in a statement.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had said the white sand project was funded through a special purpose fund under the 2019 General Appropriations Act intended for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"The project was approved by Congress under the 2019 General Appropriations Act, it underwent competitive bidding under RA 9184 and was awarded prior to the global pandemic. The government cannot simply stop a project when it is already under contractual obligation to proceed. We also have a responsibility to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay for ourselves and future generations," added Malaya.

He also claimed the project did not affect the government's coronavirus pandemic response.

"We urge the critics to study the issue first before they make baseless allegations against worthwhile government projects. We welcome any investigation into this project whether in the courts of justice or in the court of public opinion. All this criticism is misplaced," Malaya said.

But storms and the high tide could wash away the artificial white sand that the government dumped around Manila Bay, a scientist had said.



Sand is “always transported from one place to the other” along beaches because “there’s a lot of energy that makes the materials move,” said University of the Philippines Resilience Institute executive director Mahar Lagmay.

“If you put white sand in that place, chances are during storms and during high tide, when the waves are high... all of the sand will be washed out and transported,” he told ANC.

Cebu, where the artificial white sand was sourced, has [since banned](#) the extraction of dolomite.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/12/20/cost-of-manila-bay-white-sand-project-dolomite-dilg-denr?fbclid=IwAR20CFaWYEILVTWoc05dFxDnJw1sZTQax6sosl1VNFkGRtjvQCNzrHxEz1A>





## DILG's Año debunks claims crushed dolomite in Manila Bay is hazardous

**Published** September 12, 2020 4:26pm

Department of the Interior and Local Government secretary Eduardo Año on Saturday debunked claims by critics of the Manila Bay "white sand" project could destroy the bay's environment and poses health hazards to people.

Contrary to critics' claims, Año said in a statement that crushed dolomite is a common material used in beach nourishment in many parts of the country and the world.

Año, who is vice chairman of the Manila Bay Task Force, moreover said "the Department of Health (DOH) has already clearly stated that the dolomite used in Baywalk is bigger than dust, which doesn't get suspended in air, and therefore is not harmful to people."

His remarks came on the heels of criticisms directed at the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources' project of placing crushed dolomite to beautify and rehabilitate a stretch of Manila Bay's shoreline, close to the Baywalk strip along Roxas Boulevard.

According to the DOH only dolomite in dust form can be an irritant and that the size of the dolomite sands in the Manila Bay project is 2 mm to 5mm which is 100 x bigger than dust. It also stated that dolomite in its bulk state is not a known health hazard.

On the other hand, DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya clarified that only P28 million of the P389 million allocation for Manila Bay's rehabilitation and cleanup project was used for the crushed dolomite rocks.

"That [P28M] already covers the price of dolomite sand, transportation cost, taxes, and other fees. That's the package of the cost including delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay. It's not 389 million but 28 million," he pointed out.

Earlier, the DENR said the source of the funding was a special purpose fund under the 2019 General Appropriations Act intended for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.



Further, Malaya said, “The project was approved by Congress under the 2019 General Appropriations Act, it underwent competitive bidding under RA 9184 and was awarded prior to the global pandemic. The government cannot simply stop a project when it is already under contractual obligation to proceed.”

Aside from environmental and health concerns over the crushed dolomite, critics also pointed out that the multi-million-peso Manila Bay beautification project was insensitive to the plight of millions of poor, jobless, and hungry Filipinos hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some critics also raised the issue that the white sand project was ill-timed as the country is still facing a health crisis and its effects on the economy.

### **Misplaced criticism**

Malaya clarified that the amount allocated by Congress for this project did not take away any funds intended the COVID-19 response of the national government.

“This was sourced from the 2019 GAA, the funds for COVID are in the 2020 GAA, Bayanihan I and now Bayanihan II; hence, this project has no effect whatsoever on government’s COVID response,” he said.

“We urge the critics to study the issue first before they make baseless allegations against worthwhile government projects. We welcome any investigation into this project whether in the courts of justice or in the court of public opinion. All this criticism is misplaced,” he said.

“All of the agencies and organizations who are part of this endeavor have the necessary experience and technical expertise on the matter. We finally have this opportunity to improve Manila Bay for future generations. Let us not squander this opportunity. This is long overdue. We can win the battle of Manila Bay if we stay the course and get things done,” he added. —**LBG, GMA News**



News5

14h · 🌐



Nilinaw din ni DILG Undersecretary at Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya na P28 million lang mula sa P389 million allocation ang nagamit sa dolomite rocks sa ilalim ng nasabing proyekto.

BUONG DETALYE: <https://bit.ly/2ZMKi19>



Josef Calica and 9.4K others

1.3K Comments 348 Shares

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/News5Everywhere/photos/a.182218585268237/2185097024980373/?type=3&source=48>



# MMDA's Celine Pialago slams critics of Manila Bay 'white sand' project

PUBLISHED BY [Neil Ramos](#)  
10 HOURS AGO

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) spokesperson Celine Pialago, a former beauty queen, is among the hot topics on social media of late after she posted on Facebook last September 9 her two cents on the controversial [Manila Bay "white sand"](#) project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



MMDA Spokesperson Celine Pialago (YOUTUBE / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

She wrote, "Bakit noong madumi ang Manila Bay wala ni isa ang nagmalasakit? Kahit na alam nating mas delikado sa kalusugan ang basura? Ngayong pinapaganda, lahat nangingialam? (When Manila Bay was still dirty, why was it that no one expressed concern? Even if we know that the garbage is more hazardous to health? Now that rehabilitation is undergoing, everyone wants to dip his hands into it?) Wow, a! Just wow!"

Pialago had a ready explanation for her rant.

She explained, "Magko-comment ako, kasi MMDA ang isa sa mga ahensya na araw-araw naglilinis ng basura ng mga balahurang Pinoy at mapanamantalang establisyemento [doon] (I'm just giving my comment as MMDA is one of the agencies involved in cleaning the garbage left there by some untidy Filipinos and establishments)."

She added, "30-45 trucks ng basura lang naman ang nakukuha namin noong wala pang rehabilitation sa Manila Bay (We haul at least 30-45 trucks of garbage from the area when rehabilitation of Manila Bay had not yet started)."

She didn't stop there.

Pialago went on to reiterate, "2019 pa aprubado ang budget para diyan, huwag niyong ipilit na isinabay yan sa panahon ng pandemya (The budget was approved in 2019 so don't say the project is being implemented at the height of the pandemic). Goodness!"

Not a few netizens applauded Pialago's all-too blunt comment.



“Well said. It’s about time these critics hear the truth,” said one netizen.

Another one offered, “You are admirable for saying what is on the mind of many who believe the rehabilitation is justified. Don’t mind the critics, they won’t listen anyway.”

However, there are some who viewed Pialogo’s rationalization absurd.

“The question is about priorities, ma’am,” said one irate Facebook user. “There’s a pandemic going on. Let’s be more sensitive to the plight of the people.”

Another took offense with Pialogo’s use of the term “balahurang mga Pinoy (untidy Filipinos).”

Said a kibitzer, “This balahurang Pinoy (untidy Filipino) is paying for your salary!”

Prior to this, several celebrities that include Alessandra De Rossi, Karen Davila, and Gretchen Ho also questioned the project.

Source: [https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/12/mmdas-celine-pialago-slams-critics-of-manila-bay-white-sand-project/amp/#aoh=15999191856697&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp\\_tf=From%20%251%24s](https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/12/mmdas-celine-pialago-slams-critics-of-manila-bay-white-sand-project/amp/#aoh=15999191856697&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp_tf=From%20%251%24s)



# Galit na resbak ni Pialago sa bashers ng white sand: Bakit nong madumi ang Manila Bay wala kayong pake

Balita

By Reggee Bonoan September 12, 2020 - 05:56 PM



MMDA spokesperson Celine Pialago (Photo by Cathrine Gonzales/INQUIRER.net)

Trending ang komento ni Metro Manila Development Authority Spokesperson Celine Pialago sa Facebook kaugnay sa mga tumutuligsa sa proyektong paglalagay ng white sand sa baybayin ng Manila Bay.

“Bakit noong madumi ang Manila Bay wala ni isa ang nagmalasakit? Kahit na alam nating mas delikado sa kalusugan ang basura? Ngayong pinapaganda lahat nangingialam? Wow a! Just wow! (emoji angry),” wika ni Pialago sa kanyang post noong Setyembre 9.

Pinuna ng mga netizens kung bakit mas inuna pang pagkagastusan ng ilang milyones ang white sand project kaysa idagdag sa ayuda para sa mga hindi pa nakatanggap ng tulong pinansyal ng guberno ngayong panahon ng pandemya.

Ang proyektong ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ay naglalayong pagandahin ang Manila Bay sa paglalagay ng puting buhangin sa baybayin nito. Nagkakahalaga ang buong proyekto ng P389 milyon.

Ayon pa kay Pialago, “Magko-comment ako, kasi MMDA ang isa sa mga ahensya na araw-araw naglilinis ng basura ng mga balahurang Pinoy at mapanamantalang establisyemento, 30-45 trucks ng basura lang naman ang nakukuha namin noong wala pang rehabilitation sa Manila Bay.”

“Saka pwede ba 2019 pa aprubado ang budget para diyan, huwag niyong ipilit na isinabay yan sa panahon ng pandemya,” aniya.

“Goodness!”

Pero hindi pinalampas ng ilang netizens ang reaksyon ng MMDA spokesperson.

Ayon sa isang pribadong indibduwal na umano’y updated sa pagbabayad ng buwis, “There’s nothing wrong about sa paglilinis. What’s wrong is the prioritization.”



“What’s more important, money for the people who lost jobs due to pandemic? Or to clean and rehabilitate Manila Bay?”

“And Yes, the term (balahurang mga Pinoy) that she used is ‘unbecoming’ of a government leader. And how sure she is na ‘yung mga trash na nakokolekta nila is galing lamang sa mga Pinoy?”

“Baka nga, 50% doon galing sa mga Chinese na friends ni Digong.”

Mula naman sa isang editor ng publikasyon na mahigit 100 years na, “Di ba puwedeng maglinis lang at ‘wag nang lagyan ng pekeng white sand?”

At tungkol din sa ginamit na terminong “balahura ang mga Pinoy” ang diretsong sabi ng editor, “Pasalamat siya sa mga balahura na nagpapasuweldo sa kanya!”

May taga-MMDA rin kaming nakausap na ang payo naman sa amin, “Not worth our comment. Iba ang mundo niya.”

Baka naman may gustong paliwanag dito si MMDA Spokesperson, Ms Celine Pialago, bukas ang aming espasyo.



## May nakinabang sa 'white sand' project – Comm. Guanzon

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 12, 2020

NEWS



Matinding paratang ang pinakawalan ni Commission on Elections (Comelec) commissioner Rowena Guanzon ukol sa mga opisyal na nagsulong ng 'white sand' project na parte ng Manila Bay rehabilitation plan.

Sa serye ng tweet ni Guanzon, pinatamaan nito ang mga troll na binabanatan siya matapos niyang sabihin na hindi naman nakakakain ang nilagay na puting buhangin sa Manila Bay.

Dito na nagpahapyaw si Guanzon na tinanong ang Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung kumuha ba sila ng mga troll para siya'y banatan.

Sunod nito, giniit din ng Comelec official na hindi malabong may kickback umano ang mga nagpatupad ng nasabing proyekto, kung saan tinag din niya sa kanyang tweet ang DENR.





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para makabili ng 195,000 sako ng bigas at naipamahagi sa libo-libong pamilya na apektado ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Samantala, naglabas naman ng pahayag si Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya na P28M lang umano ang ginastos para sa paglalagay ng white sand sa Manila Bay.

“That already covers the price of dolomite sand, transportation cost, taxes, and other fees. That’s the package of the cost including delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay. It’s not 389 million but 28 million,” pagkalaro ng Department of Interior and Local Government. (RP)

“Trolls, your bosses probably had KICKBACK from that Dolomite project. Sige, the more you attack me the more I will call out your bosses in @denr\_emb,” ayon kay Guanzon.

Sa mga naunang pahayag ng kilala ring abogado, sinabi nito na ang halos P390M na ginastos para sa naturang proyekto ay nagamit na sana

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# Manila expresses thanks over bay cleanup

Published 4 hours ago on September 13, 2020 03:30 AM

By [Pat C. Santos](#)



Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso expressed his thanks to the national government, particularly President Rodrigo Duterte and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The mayor extended his gratitude on behalf of the residents of Manila.

He acknowledged the effort to beautify the bay with the installation of machines that will monitor the water quality from canals, creeks and rivers before discharging into its waters.

The water quality monitoring machine installed at the beach area of Manila Bay regularly checks and monitors the cleanliness of its waters.

This machine will also be used to monitor the water coming from the Pasig River and Baseco, as similar gadgets will be installed at the mouths of these bodies of water.

“We already have the world record for throwing trash into rivers. We passed with flying colors in littering,” Domagoso lamented, as he appealed to the public not to throw garbage into rivers and the bay.

Parroting an old television commercial, the mayor explained the garbage that is indiscriminately thrown comes back in the form of floods caused by clogged sewers and drainage.

Based on information he has received, he said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has already installed a water quality monitoring machine about two kilometers from the shore of the Manila Bay beach area.

The machine will be useful in informing the public whether the measures in the bay cleanup have been effective.

However, the mayor stressed the entire project will not become successful if the public will not do their share and cooperate fully, at least by keeping the beach and its waters clean at all times.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation project received flak during the past days after it was discovered crushed dolomite rock will be used to simulate a white beach.

However, the sand component is only a small part of the P389 million allocated for the entire project.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/13/manila-expresses-thanks-over-bay-cleanup/>



# Manila LGU nagpasalamat kay Duterte DENR sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- September 13, 2020 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno na malaking tulong ang itinayong water quality monitoring machine sa Manila Bay ng DENR na regular na susuri at magmomonitor sa kalidad ng tubig.  
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Pinasalamatan ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na pinamumunuan ni Secretary Roy Cimatu dahil nasolusyunan na ang inakalang pangmatagalang problema sa maruming tubig ng Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni Moreno na malaking tulong ang itinayong water quality monitoring machine sa Manila Bay ng DENR na regular na susuri at magmomonitor sa kalidad ng tubig.

Maaring ganitong uri rin ng makina ang ilalagay sa bunganga ng Pasig River at sa bahagi ng Baseco.

Umapela naman ang alkalde sa mga mahilig magtapon ng basura sa mga ilog, dagat at estero na alalahanin ang old commercial na, "ang basurang itinapon mo, babalik sa rin sa 'yo" na nararanasan naman kapag bumabaha dahil nagbabara ang mga drainage at sewers.

"World record na ata tayo sa pagtatapon ng basura sa mga ilog... flying colors sa pagdudumi," ani Moreno.

Makikita rin aniya ng mga tao na magiging kapaki-pakinabang sa hinaharap ang makina .

"Darating ang oras, malalaman mo, effective ba ang ginagawa? Nao-audit mo, 'di lang puro kiyaw-kiyaw," aniya pa.

Hindi aniya, magiging lubos na tagumpay ang proyektong ito kung hindi makikipagtulungan ang mga tao, kahit sa maliit na paraan lamang na huwag hayaang dumumi ang dalampasigan at katubigan sa lahat ng oras.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2020/09/13/2042042/manila-lgu-nagpasalamat-kay-duterte-denr-sa-rehabilitasyon-ng-manila-bay/amp/>



## Isko thanks DU30, DENR for Manila Bay project

Saturday, September 12, 2020 Itchie G. Cabayan



Mayor Isko Moreno thanks President Rodrigo Duterte and DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu for helping clean up Manila Bay.  
Photo by JERRY S. TAN

**MANILA Mayor Isko Moreno** thanked President Rodrigo Duterte and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) headed by Secretary Roy Cimatu for putting an end to what used to seem like the perennial problem of dirty waters confronting the Manila Bay. Moreno said that a water quality monitoring machine had been installed at the Manila Bay beach area to regularly check and monitor the cleanliness of the bay waters.

The said kind of machine will also be used to monitor the waters of Pasig River and Baseco as they will be installed at the mouths of the said bodies of water.

“World record na ata tayo sa pagtatapon ng basura sa mga ilog... flying colors sa pagdudumi,” Moreno lamented, as he appealed for everybody to stop throwing anything into the rivers or bays.

Citing an old commercial that used the copy, ‘ang basurang itinapon mo, babalik sa ‘yo,’ the mayor explained that the garbage we indiscriminately throw will come back to us in the form of floods caused by clogged sewers and drainage.

Based on information relayed to him, Moreno said the DENR has already installed a water quality monitoring machine about two kilometers from the shore of the Manila Bay beach area.

The said machine, Moreno explained, will be useful in that in the future, the public will be able to know if the measures being undertaken at the Manila Bay are effective.

“Darating ang oras, malalaman mo, effective ba ang ginagawa? Nao-audit mo, di lang puro kiyaw-kiyaw,” he said.

The mayor stressed though, that the entire project will not become successful if the public will not cooperate fully, at least by helping the beach and its waters to be clean at all times.



*The dolomite quarry site in Alcoy, Cebu. Photo from Philippine Mining Service Corporation's Facebook account*

## The power of dolomite: How the mineral is found in cattle feed, resorts, glassmaking and more

We asked experts on geosciences about dolomite and why it's an industry unique to Cebu

RHIA D. GRANA | Sep 12 2020

There is a big chance many of us have only heard about dolomite recently, when the mineral made it to the headlines because of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Manila Bay "beach nourishment" project.

Crushed dolomite boulders exported from Alcoy, Cebu had been spread along the shoreline of Manila Bay to enhance the aesthetic beauty of the bayfront. Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told ANCX last week that putting "white sand" on Manila Bay is the department's way of giving a spark of hope in this time of pandemic—and to also promote cleanliness and environmental awareness.

But what is dolomite, really? What is it made of and what are its main uses—apart from, well, "beach nourishment"?

### Bountiful in Visayas

According to a geologist ANCX spoke to, dolomite is a naturally occurring mineral just like limestone. They belong to the same calcium carbonate mineral family, which are basically formed under marine conditions. This is the reason why dolomite is more abundant in the Visayas region—around Cebu, Bohol, and some parts of Western Leyte—which are considered marine sedimentary basins.

Kevin Garas, a senior geologist at the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) explains that dolomite is formed due to different geological events that occur over millions of years, as well as the introduction of magnesium.

*"Kaya dito sa Pilipinas, kapag sinabing ang bato ay dolomite, hindi ibig sabihin na 100% dolomite mineral lang ang laman. Pwede syang magkaroon ng calcite, dolomite, or other carbonate minerals,"* he tells ANCX in a phone interview.

Garas says older rocks have the tendency to contain more dolomites. *"Ang earth is 4.6 billion years. Sa ibang bansa, dahil iba ang kanilang geologic setting, mas matanda ang mga formation ng mga bato nila—mga 200 million years. Meron pa silang umaabot ng 500 million years. Sa Pilipinas, bata kasi tayo in terms of geology, so this could be the reason why dolomites are not as abundant here,"* he explains.



*Alcoy, Cebu is identified as one of the few provinces in the country with mineable deposits of dolomite.  
Photo by Regel Zamora via Wikimedia Commons*

### A dolomite industry?

Based on a [2018 MGB report](#), there is only one dolomite quarry in the Philippines. Compared to businesses that deal with metallic or non-metallic mines, the dolomite industry is not very popular in the country, notes Garas. “*Dalawang possibilities yan—either kaunti lang talaga ang dolomite sa Pilipinas o pwedeng hindi pa naaral o nadi-discover ang mga dolomite deposits natin. Wala pang ganoong karaming data,*” he says.

According to a [news release published by MGB Region 7](#), Cebu is among the few provinces in the country where economically mineable deposits of dolomite can be found. Dolomite occurs in several of the city’s municipalities but the main deposit is found in the Alcoy and Dalaguete areas.

Currently, Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) is mining/quarrying the dolomite found in the town of Alcoy, particularly in Barangay Pugalo, the news release also mentioned.

Garas says dolomite is more commonly used in the Philippines as a raw material for steel production, glassmaking, and soil conditioning.

“The main ingredient for glassmaking is silica (silicon and oxygen). Other minerals are added to increase the quality of the glass. One of the materials that can be used is dolomite,” he says.

Dolomite is also utilized for soil conditioning—to adjust the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. “*Halimbawa, kung acidic ang lupa, hindi sya magandang taniman, itinataas ng dolomite ang alkalinity nito,*” he adds.

[A 1995 study published on the Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences](#), which Garas led us to, reveals that adding dolomites, among other minerals, to the feeds of young cattle, tend to increase the animals’ absorption of calcium, magnesium, and potassium, resulting in their significant weight gain.

Its more popular use, as we had discovered recently, is as substitute for white sand in a beach nourishment project.

### Used in Cebu resorts

Speaking during the House deliberations on the DENR budget last week, Secretary Roy Cimatu, also responded to inquiries on the now controversial mineral. He said “dolomite will clean the water from acidic to alkaline” referring to Manila Bay’s waters. He also noted that dolomite is already being used in several resorts in Cebu as well as in aquariums.



In the same Rappler story, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones also defended the Manila Bay project saying that the use of artificial sediment and "beach nourishment" have been done in other countries.



*A dolomite rock formation in Japan. Photo by Junpei Satoh via Wikimedia Commons*

The previously mentioned MGB news release notes that on August 26, MGB-7 Regional Office issued an Ore Transport Permit (OTP) to PMSC to transport 3,500 WMT (wet metric tons) of processed dolomite (size -5mm) with cargo destination at Manila Integrated Cargo Terminal, Manila City. This shipment is the reported 'white sand' that was dumped along the Manila Bay shoreline.

According to the MGB Region 7 news release, PMSC-Alcoy Plant has been issued a Mineral Processing Permit (MPP) by the MGB and is on its second five-year term, which will expire in 2023. The MPP has a maximum term of 25 years.

In the Philippines, the dolomites of PMSC-Alcoy Plant are shipped to various buyers/end-users in Misamis Oriental, Pasig City, Davao City, Manila, as well as in the cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu in the Province of Cebu. The company also has markets in Taiwan and Japan. The news release did not specify for which purposes or industries the dolomites are used.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/ancx/culture/spotlight/09/12/20/the-power-of-dolomite-how-the-mineral-is-found-in-cattle-feed-resorts-glassmaking-and-more>



# Dolomite by the bay: all right or not right?

PUBLISHED BY [Dr. Kaycee Reyes](#)



## ***Assessing the health risks of the latest Manila Bay project***



White sand on Manila Bay? Yes, says the Department of Natural Resources (DENR), as its Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project was launched last year with the purpose to improve water quality, rehabilitate and relocate informal settlers, and to educate citizens and sustain law enforcement and monitoring. DENR's decision to enhance the aesthetic of the popular tourist and local spot as part of the project, however, did not sit well with critics and environmentalists alike. Apparently, it is currently being contested not only for its untimely and unnecessary execution but also because the sand being layered is crushed dolomite, which environmentalists say is hazardous to the environment and to people's health. While dolomite is not "real" white sand, does it actually pose a health risk?

Synthetic sand along the bay? Dolomite, or calcium magnesium carbonate, is a type of limestone that is used to produce cement, mortar, concrete, and other materials needed for construction. According to DENR, their plan of using dolomite has already been studied for its safety even before its implementation and approval last year, clearing it from being hazardous or containing harmful chemicals as disputed by environmentalist groups. Material Safety Data Sheets from several international suppliers, manufacturers, and producers of construction materials such as Lehigh Hanson Inc. do state that dolomite contains crystalline silica in dust form (particles less than 10 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter) and may be harmful to respiratory health if taken in at an enormous amount. A significant amount may cause coughing, shortness of breath, chest pains, or at the worst, even silicosis and cancer with constant exposure. The Department of Health (DOH) agrees too, that any type of dust, including dolomite, could lead to symptoms such as chest discomfort, shortness of breath, and coughing. The DOH, however, also notes that the crushed dolomite being layered on Manila Bay is two to five mm in size, or 100 times bigger than dust, and therefore does not pose such a risk. In addition, the DOH says that proper health and safety standards are being observed by workers, and that risks for dust formation are continuously monitored as well. As of this writing, environmental agencies, fisherfolk, and other critics are launching petitions to stop the layering of dolomite on Manila Bay. And to further manage opposing views, the DENR ordered another study to confirm once and for all if crushed dolomite is indeed safe or not.





Manila Bay, one with the most beautiful sunsets, has been deteriorating for decades. Its unsafe and uninhabitable waters have come from water pollution, toxic commercial, industrial and agricultural waste, sewerage problems, and congested canals, among others. Rehabilitation programs such as this, however, give hope for a cleaner and safer Manila Bay in the near future, and it is a good start that sectors continue being actively involved to ensure that marine life will be preserved and maintained and will flourish, while also not posing any risks to humans.

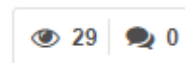
In saving Manila Bay, one thing remains clear: Protecting the environment and people's health will always succeed with community effort.



## White sand sa Manila Bay hind dapat ipahinto

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Sep 12, 2020

OPINION



Nais kong kunin ang pagkakataong ito para payapain ang isipan ng mga maaring naliligaw ng paniniwala sa gitna ng tila walang humpay na kampanya para siraan ang Manila Bay project o lumikha ng walang basehang takot sa puso at isipan ng publiko, na para bang hindi pa sapat ang takot na nararamdaman natin sa araw-aaw dahil sa pandemya.

Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Mabilis pa sa alas-kuwatrong nagsipag-sakayan sa isyu ang mga kritiko ng gobyerno at ang ilan sa kanila ay naging mga instant specialists at experts pa sa larangan ng white sand at dolomites, samantalang ang iba naman ay naging health experts din bigla, kung saan nakuha pa nilang magbabala sa anila ay mga panganib na dala ng white sand na ginamit sa Manila Bay project sa kalusugan at buhay nating lahat.

Una, ang implementasyon ng naturang proyekto ay hindi naman ngayon lamang ginawa o inisip. Nag-umpisa ito ilang buwan bago pa man ako maupo bilang alkalde ng lungsod noong 2019. Bahagi din ito ng 2020 budget na iprinisinta sa ating mga kagalang-galang na mababatas na, nakagugulat din na ilan sa kanila ngayon ay kumontra na.

Mahalaga ring malaman na ang naturang proyekto ay hindi lamang nakatuon sa paglalagay ng white sand sa beach kungdi sa 'total rehabilitation' o pagsasaayos ng kabuuan ng Manila Bay. Hindi lamang sa bahagi ng Maynila kungdi maging ng mga iba pang lungsod, probinsiya at munisipalidad at higit sa lahat, kasama din sa proyekto ang paglalagay ng sewerage treatment plant.



Hindi ako nagbingi-bingihan sa mga bumabatikos at sa katunayan ay lumiham ako para kumuha ng 'expert opinion' mula mismo sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources at sa Department of Health ukol sa mga isyung sinasabi ng mga kritiko, partikular na ukol sa dolomites na diumano ay maaring makompromiso ang kaligtasan ng publiko.

Kapwa nagbigay ng scientific at research-based na kasagutan ang dalawang departamento kung saan maliwanag na napabulaanan ang bawat isyung ibinabato ng mga kritiko bilang walang basehan.

Sa katunayan, ang Department of Health (DOH) ay nagpalabas pa ng isang pahayag kung saan sinasabi nito na ang presensiya ng dolomites ay hindi maaring makasama sa anumang paraan sa kaligtasan ng publiko, kabaligtaran sa pinalulutang ng mga kontra sa proyekto.

Nilinaw din ng DOH na ang dolomite, sa bultong estado nito, ay hindi nagdadala ng panganib sa kalusugan. Ipinaliwanag din nito na kung ang dolomite ay nasa 'dust form' o parang alikabok, ito ang maaring magbunga ng sintomas gaya ng pananakit ng dibdib, hirap sa paghinga o pag-ubo dahil ito ang normal na reaksyon ng katawan sa mga irritants. Sa parte ng DENR, sinabi nito na ang dolomite material na ginagamit sa white beach ng Manila Bay project ay 2-5mm o 100 ulit na mas malaki sa alikabok kaya't hindi ito maaring manatili sa ere o hangin. Bukod diyan, tinitiyak din ng DENR na lahat ng occupational health and safety standards para sa mga trabahador at lahat ng hakbang para maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng alikabok ay ipinatutupad.

Samakatwid, tinitiyak ng mga nasabing departamento na pagdating sa pangkalahatang kaligtasan ng publiko na magtutungo sa pampang kapag pupuwede na, inaasahan na hindi magkakaroon ng anumang di magandang pangyayari bulang resulta ng proyekto.



Manila Bay early morning visitors (Saturday, September 12. DENR)

## Joggers, strollers visit controversial Manila Bay 'white sand' project site

**Published** September 12, 2020 10:07am

Several joggers, random visitors taking their morning walk gather at the view deck of the controversial white sand project in Manila Bay early Saturday morning.

In a post in its Twitter account, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said that its "beach nourishment" project has continued.



On Friday, members of some environmental groups and individual advocates, staged a protest rally against the white sand project, dumping some 500 tons of artificial sand from crushed dolomite boulders from Cebu.



Friday's protesters said they are opposed to the nearly P400 million "aesthetic surgery" being done by the DENR on the bay, adding that natural rehabilitation would be more preferable.

The white sand layering on a portion of the Manila Bay shoreline along Roxas Boulevard is only a part of the P397.8-million Manila Baywalk cleanup plan by the DENR.



—LBG, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/755298/joggers-strollers-visit-controversial-manila-bay-white-sand-project-site/story/>



# Kontrobersiyal na white sand sa Manila Bay, dinayo ng mga riders, joggers

By **Bombo NewsCenter** -September 12, 2020 | 11:00 AM



Kung kahapon mga nagpoprotesta ang nagpakita sa Manila Bay, nitong araw naman mga nagdya-jogging, motorcycle riders, bicycle riders at mga namamasyal ang bumuhos upang makiusyoso sa kontrobersiyal na white sand.

Walang humpay na video, pagkuha ng larawan ang napansin ng Bombo Radyo kasama na ang ilang mga bloggers at mga press photographers.

Kahit mga biyahero na dumadaan sa bahagi ng Roxas Boulevard ay napapatigil na rin upang makiusyoso rin sa pagtingin at pagkuha ng larawan.

Marami sa mga ito ay abala rin sa pag-upload sa kanilang mga social media account sa sikat na ngayon na white sand na mula raw sa dinurog na dolomite boulders mula sa minahan sa bayan ng Alcoy sa lalawigan ng Cebu.



Kabilang sa naabutan ng Bombo Radyo na nagtungo ng maaga sa Manila Bay ay si Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, ang chairman ng House committee on natural resources upang mag-imbestiga rin.

Nakipag-usap din siya sa regional director ng DENR at dalawang undersecretaries.



Nakausap din ng Bombo Radyo si Barzaga at ang sinasabi niya, kung merong hihiling ng imbestigasyon at ihahain sa kanyang komite ay didinggin niya ito.

Una nang umagaw ng atensiyon ang pagtambak ng white sand dahil sisira lamang daw ito sa natural na sistema ng kalikasan sa coastline ng pamosong lugar.





News5

18h · 🌐

Mangilan-ngilang indibidwal ang tumigil sa Manila Bay ngayong Sabado ng umaga para silipin ang paglalagay ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ng dolomite sand sa isang bahagi nito.

🏢: DENR



👍❤️😬 21K

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Source:

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2184824431674299&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus\\_composer=0](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2184824431674299&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0)





# 45% of Filipinos against Manila Bay ‘white sand’ beach project – survey

Published September 12, 2020, 10:15 AM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)

Forty-five percent of Filipinos do not want to turn [Manila Bay](#) into a white sand beach, according to the results of the latest online survey.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Polling and data analytics firm WR Numero Uno Research said this was based on the data it collected from the online survey of 8,305 Filipinos from Sept. 7 to 8.

WR explained the online survey, which was non-commissioned for public consumption, utilized “a non-probability sampling, specifically convenience sampling of users who are willing to participate.”

“The data was generated through survey questions on a mobile application that active users from our data partner’s online community answer,” it explained.

WR reported that 45 percent don’t want Manila Bay turned into a [white sand beach](#).

This is the prevailing public sentiment despite Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque’s statement that it “could help improve Filipinos’ mental health amid the crisis.” Interior Secretary Eduardo Año also said the project “would improve the beauty of the site and provide a ‘safety buffer area’ for visitors.”

The firm’s survey showed only 40 percent agree with the P389 million rehabilitation project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Among the respondents, 15 percent showed that they are unsure whether to support the project or not.

Despite the apparently divided sentiments, WR revealed that 77 percent of the respondents said that Manila Bay would look cleaner if it was turned into a white sand beach, while 23 percent disagree with this view.

In the same survey, 53 percent believe that pulverized dolomite rocks now being used in the rehabilitation project are “not safe,” while the rest believe otherwise.



“Experts and environment advocates have strongly opposed this move, saying that the mineral is not just harmful to public health but could also damage marine life and natural ecosystems in the area,” WR noted.

Though dolomite has been found to “cause skin and eye irritation as well as cancer and respiratory disease through prolonged or repeated exposure,” WR said the DENR has assured that “the project has gone through expert engineering interventions and would not have pushed through should they discovered detrimental effects.”

Using its proprietary digital listening and sentiment analysis tool Pathos, WR also gathered digital sentiments from 207,622 Facebook users from Sept. 7 to 9.

In this survey, 44 percent criticized those against the Manila Bay beautification project; 24 percent criticized the administration for misplaced priorities; 15 percent said the project is a waste of taxpayers’ money; and 10 percent expressed support for the rehabilitation project.

Those who participated in the survey included 54 percent female, 44 percent male, and 2 percent LGBTQ.

They included 25 percent from the National Capital Region, 25 percent from South Luzon and Bicol, 21 percent from Northern and Central Luzon, 15 percent Visayas, and 14 percent Mindanao.

The age groups of the participants included 33 percent between 18 to 25 years old, 33 percent 26 to 33 years old, 26 percent 36 to 50 years, and the rest are over 50 years old.

Most of those who participated in the survey belong to the socioeconomic class E at 42 percent.

The rest include class AB at 2 percent, class C at 12 percent and class D at 34 percent.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/12/45-of-filipinos-against-manila-bay-white-sand-beach-project-survey/?fbclid=IwAR1c4IC9niuywJF-ICgwnMhmdc97SpH4Ejar1zqx9yeKZtCkuYhvF16zPvQ>



# Dolomite threat may force people to stop visiting Manila Bay – solon

Published September 12, 2020, 2:37 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

The P389 million to be spent by the government for the Manila Bay beautification project will just go down the drain if the public will stop visiting this tourist attraction for fear of their health and safety.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

House Deputy Minority leader and Probinsyano Ako partylist Rep. Jose “Bonito” Singson Jr. said the public health dangers aired by medical experts against the dumping of crushed dolomite at Manila Bay is worrisome that people, already distressed by the COVID-19 threat, will stop promenading the area.

Singson said Manila Mayor Isko Moreno may have failed to understand the implications of the public health warnings from experts to be fully convinced that the dolomite dumping should continue.

“Yorme Isko must realize that people stopped going to Manila Bay because the stink of garbage and human waste have become unbearable. I don’t see any reason why they would start going back there if what they will get is a whiff of cancerous fumes,” the lawmaker said.

Moreno and other defenders of the expensive Manila Bay cleanup project have justified dolomite dumping as an important component of rehabilitating the entire Manila Bay.

The city mayor said there is just no “valid reason to stop the project.”

“Let us go back to its principle, this is a rehabilitation of the entire Manila Bay and you are just talking only of Manila alone. Manila Bay is composed of so many provinces and municipalities and cities. This is just the beginning,” Moreno said.

Singson agreed that the rehabilitation of Manila Bay is of utmost importance but stressed that this should not come at the expense of public health and wanton wastage of people’s money.

“Surprisingly, Mayor Isko who was always considered a very pragmatic and down-to-earth public servant seems to have had a dramatic change in character, most probably due to contracting a particular virus called ‘rapku,’” Singson stated.

Singson said it has become a puzzle to many Filipinos why Moreno and proponents of the project continue to defend it despite the fact that public opinion has weighed heavily against it.



Key officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have come up with many reasons to justify the project, including the fact that budgetary allocation has already been programmed, funded, and approved in 2019.

Singson said the justifications aired by the DENR are “absurd,” considering that public health will be constantly under threat if the project is pursued.

The partylist solon noted that experts have already declared that the dolomite cover of the beach will be washed away in time because the material is not natural to the area.



# Alcoy has not earned from crushed dolomite from town

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

- September 12, 2020 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — Like the Cebu provincial government, the local government of Alcoy town did not earn from the crushed dolomite extracted from the town and sold domestically by the mining firms there.

Governor Gwendolyn Garcia said Alcoy could have earned from the sale of waste deposits if the mining firms in the town secured a waste disposal permit from the government.

In a report by Sugbo News, the Capitol-ran news portal, Garcia said Alcoy lost 70 percent of its supposed income from the sale of waste deposits – 30 percent of which could have gone to the town and 40 percent to Barangay Pugalo.

Earlier, Garcia issued a cease and desist order against Dolomite Mining Corporation (MDC) and its sister company, Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC), from further extracting, processing, and selling of dolomite for the Manila Bay rehabilitation project. The two firms are operating in Alcoy.

Garcia issued the order after learning that PMSC has been selling crushed dolomites locally without a permit from the province.

Dolomite is a sedimentary rock composed of calcium magnesium carbonate that is now used as substitute for sand and gravel. It is now being used as filling material for the beautification of Manila Bay.

Garcia met Alcoy Mayor Michael Angelo Sestoso and Vice Mayor Jimmy Abajon last September 10 during which she urged the officials to speak on the issue.

“Ang akong expectation nga mi-fight naman ko para ninyo, mo-fight sad mo para ninyo, kay wala gyud na sila’y gibayad ninyo bisan usa ka dako” Garcia was quoted by Sugbo News as saying.

(I expect – since I already fought for you – you would also fight for yourselves because they have not been paying you even a single centavo.)



The Sugbo News report quoted Sestoso and Abajon as saying that DMC and PMSC have created 300 jobs in the town, as well given the town income. The two officials said they will have to communicate first to the mining firms.

The governor reminded them to always prioritize the interest of the province.

Garcia said the "continued silence of Alcoy is very telling" as the town is the host of the two companies.

"Alcoy has to come up with a statement. Nga after all kamo mismo nga nag-host niining duha ka kompaniya dugay na nga wala naka-realize sa income nga angay unta madawat sa Alcoy, nga madawat sa barangay" Garcia said.

(Alcoy has to come up with a statement that as host of the two mining companies, it has not realized for a long time now that it has not been getting income, for the town and for the barangay.)

"Kay kanang ilang pagbutang anang ilang kumpanya diha dili man kay para mamaligya sila og sand and gravel. Pero karon namaligya naman sila locally. Ang tanang nag-quarry diha nagbayad, apan kini sila nag-quarry operations nga wala'y bayad-bayad kay ang gigamit nila kadtong otoridad nga naghatag og poder sa pagmina ug pagbaligya abroad," Garcia added.

(They did not build the companies there to sell sand and gravel but now, they are selling locally. All those quarrying in the town pay fees but these companies have not been paying because they been using the authority to mine and sell abroad.) — **JMO (FREEMAN)**



## Life goes on for dolomite firms

Dolomite extraction in the towns of Alcoy and Dalaguete started more than 40 years ago.

Published 7 hours ago on September 13, 2020 12:40 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



DOLOMITE works by Philippine Mining Services Corporation in Alcoy, Cebu. / PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PMSC ALCOY FACEBOOK

The cease and desist order issued by Cebu Province against two mining and mineral processing companies in Alcoy town was not meant to halt their entire operations.

Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia clarified that the order was to stop Philippine Mining Services Corporation (PMSC) and Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) from further transporting dolomite to Manila.

The issuance of ore transport permits was also stopped in the wake of the controversial Manila Bay rehabilitation project, which critics said is ill-timed as the country is battling with the coronavirus pandemic.

The order stated PMSC and DMC are prohibited from “further extracting, processing, selling and transporting” dolomite/white sand to prevent “damage to the terrestrial environment in the Municipality of Alcoy.”

“I do not want another Naga landslide,” Garcia said during a press conference, adding she won’t sacrifice people’s lives.

On 20 September 2018, a massive landslide in Barangay Tinaan, Naga City, blamed on extensive mining claimed at least 77 lives and left nearly 2,000 families homeless. President Rodrigo Duterte visited the accident site the following day.

Environmental lawyer and capitol consultant Benjamin Cabrido revealed an increase in the extraction of dolomite in Alcoy as sales increased, with the mineral being made a substitute for sand and gravel.

Cabrido said the companies must declare the “extra” extraction in their annual environmental protection and enhancement program.

He said the firms’ volume of extraction of minerals is specified in their 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement that will run until 2030.

Dolomite extraction in the towns of Alcoy and Dalaguete started more than 40 years ago. It has become a main source of livelihood for residents.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/13/life-goes-on-for-dolomite-firms/>



## Activists bike, jog vs Manila ‘white sand’ project

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:00 AM September 12, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The militant group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Friday held a “jogging and biking vs dolomite dumping” protest along the Manila baywalk in Roxas Boulevard, in protest against the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ “beach nourishment” project which involves the dumping of crushed dolomite “white sand” along the 500-meter stretch of baywalk.

Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chair, said they fear the ill-advised beautification project could be a prelude to reclamation projects which would be destructive to the marine environment, and detrimental to the livelihood of small fisher folk.

Pamalakaya said the project was not part of the 2008 Supreme Court order which directed several government agencies to rehabilitate and restore Manila Bay. —**Patricia Denise M. Chiu**

Source: [https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1334390/activists-bike-jog-vs-manila-white-sand-project?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0SCAmlrW\\_mX\\_zWM0mdVcy1mNlyiKm2JuQrx79CyI1CnVWM\\_kM7Ce7reJc#Echobox=1599863757](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1334390/activists-bike-jog-vs-manila-white-sand-project?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0SCAmlrW_mX_zWM0mdVcy1mNlyiKm2JuQrx79CyI1CnVWM_kM7Ce7reJc#Echobox=1599863757)





# White sand band-aid won't save the bay

[POSTSCRIPT](#) - [Federico D. Pascual Jr.](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 13, 2020 - 12:00am

One does not have to be a seasoned environmentalist to see the folly of spreading fake white sand like a band-aid strip on a short stretch of the Manila Bay shore to clean, beautify and rehabilitate it.

Overlaying a portion of the shore with white sand is akin to attempting to lighten dark skin with an application of whitening cream, except that in the case of Manila Bay, the murky appearance of the beach comes from the grime accumulated over time.

The better thing to do is to clean up, stop the influx of untreated effluents from surrounding inland sources, install more treatment facilities and rally the community in helping restore and conserve what nature has given us. Even now the coliform level near the shore remains unsafe.

Putting a superficial overlay of pinkish-white material, such as the crushed dolomite mined and shipped from Cebu, is not only a waste of time and resources but betrays distorted priorities at this time when other compelling concerns demand focused attention.

Must a beach be white for nature lovers to enjoy it? It's like asking if one must be fair-skinned to be beautiful. Why focus on the color of the sand when there are bigger concerns like pollution, overfishing, degradation of habitats and loss of biodiversity in the bay ecosystem?

There are countless alluring black-sand beaches around the world with their own unique appeal. Closer to home in Albay, a popular beach in Bacacay has been drawing tourists and locals with its fine black volcanic sand associated with Mt. Mayon rising majestically west of it.

Before one or two typhoons destroy evidence of the high-level stupidity of the baywalk project, go and see the mounds of synthetic white sand produced from 3,500 tons of crushed dolomite rocks being laid out for cosmetic effect.

A ranking official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (sir, please raise your hand) said the beauty treatment is part of a P390-million project for the "beach nourishment, coastal restoration and enhancement" of Manila Bay to look like Boracay beach.

Instead of flushing those precious pesos into the bay, the national capital's septic tank, officials should have considered using the millions to improve the treatment of the toxic wastes that households and factories dump into the waterways flowing to the bay, among other measures.

The outlay is actually small compared to the massive damage inflicted on Laguna de Bay, the Pasig River and the bay through decades of neglect, corruption and incompetence of officials supposed to rehabilitate and protect these inter-connected waters – but it would have helped.

Or the money could have been used for regrowing mangrove forests that help maintain the balance in coastal areas. Mangroves in Cavite had been removed to make space for POGO (online gambling) centers. More were cut in Bulakan, Bulacan, where an airport is being built.

The dolomite is being spread on a 500-meter strip of the shore to cover the murky sand. But with the bay still polluted, the new layer will soon be discolored by the filthy waters or carried away in the ebb and flow of the tide.



The dolomite will scatter faster during storms when high waves come crashing on the beach. In tempestuous weather, the angry sea – as if in self-defense – hurls back to the shore the trash and assorted debris dumped into it. Good-bye to the expensive fake white sand.

Citing studies, the Department of Health initially warned that dolomite sand could pose health hazards, such as respiratory problems. But matching press releases with ongoing activities, the DOH said later it was the crushing of dolomite, not the particles themselves, that was hazardous.

Officials left behind by the late DENR Secretary Gina Lopez, the true environmentalist, should take time to reflect on how puny are 3,500 tons of dolomite against the expansive bay waiting to swallow and spread the potentially noxious material where it could harm marine life.

Consider the size of Manila Bay. With an average depth of 17 meters, it is estimated to have a total volume of 28.9 billion cubic meters drained to it by 17,000 square-km of watershed area. (About 49 percent of the water influx is contributed by the Pampanga River.)

In Cebu, Gov. Gwen Garcia has ordered the Philippine Mining Service Corp. and the Dolomite Mining Corp. in Alcoy to stop their activities related to the bay project. She said their lack of an environmental impact assessment violates DENR Order No. 2003-30 and PD No. 1586.

She also said their dolomite mining can damage the ecosystem. Cebu is home to the Siloy or Black Shama, an endangered bird species found only in Alcoy, Argao, and the shrublands of Casili, Consolacion. In 2004 there were an estimated 1,000 to 5,000 of the birds left.

Vice President Leni Robredo said the bayshore project not only lacked the public consultation required, but was also insensitive and ill-timed given the pandemic ravaging the country. The money spent so far could have been used in addressing the scourge.

Fishermen who depend on Manila Bay for their sustenance bewailed the continuing reclamation of critical portions of the bay. The buildup has driven them farther out to sea, resulting in more costly and risky operations.

The fishermen's group Pamalakaya called the project "completely absurd." Its national chairman Fernando Hicap said: "This artificial rehabilitation focuses on aesthetic appearance rather than address the environmental degradation problems of Manila Bay."

In Malacañang, however, presidential spokesman Harry Roque justified the cosmetic project on the bay, saying without explaining the correlation that it might help improve people's mental health during the pandemic.

\* \* \*

Nota Bene: All Postscripts are archived at [manilamail.com](http://manilamail.com). Author is on Twitter as [@FDPascual](https://twitter.com/FDPascual). Feedback can be emailed to [fdp333@yahoo.com](mailto:fdp333@yahoo.com)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/09/13/2041991/white-sand-band-aid-wont-save-bay>



## Malilong: Intentionally? The DENR kept us blind



### FRANK MALILONG

The Other Side

September 12, 2020

HOW do you solve a problem like a dolomite-based white makeover of Manila Bay? It's complicated.

First, you look at the venue. That is where it all began. Manila Bay is unattractive because it is dirty and it is dirty because it does not have a white beach like Boracay's. Or so think planners at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Last year, the DENR set in motion the process of Manila Bay's conversion by proposing in the 2020 budget an allocation of P389 million for "beach nourishment on the Manila Baywalk." Congress passed it without question.

A few weeks ago, pictures of what looked like white sand piles on the baywalk appeared in the newspapers. The inevitable questions followed. What was the government up to? Was it not wasting money that could have been better spent elsewhere?

When the DENR clarified that the "white sand" was actually dolomite sourced from Cebu, more questions arose and the situation became even more complicated. Is dolomite not harmful to the environment? Is it not in fact poisonous?

The mention of Cebu immediately raised alarm bells in the Provincial Government. How could have such a huge amount of minerals been extracted from the island's belly and transported to Manila without their knowledge?

A disappointed Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia took matters into her own hands and after meeting with local DENR officials, stopped, through an executive order, the "extracting, processing, selling and transporting dolomite, associated mineral deposits and other quarry resources" in Alcoy.

The order would have completely shut down the operations of the dolomite mines (and the operators would have deserved it) until the governor, apparently realizing the potential damage that such a closure would cause, clarified that her cease and desist order covered only the further transport of dolomite shipments to Manila.

The DENR cannot be blamed for its determination to finish their "Boracay in Manila Bay" project. Congress gave them the money and they must have already spent a sizeable sum from it. It's too late to stop now; it would be a waste of public money. Besides, most of the objections raised against the project are based on speculation. For example, mounds of dolomite have been stacked along the highway in Alcoy for as long as I can remember. How many residents have died from poisoning?

However, the DENR should have been more transparent by informing the people, without being asked that they're using dolomite, instead of sand in their beautification project. Was it because they did not want us, Cebuanos, to take notice? If so, then there is more reason for an apology to us for causing the transport of a part of Cebu, even how small, without coordinating with our provincial officials.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1870022>



# Huwag piliting maging Boracay ang Manila Bay

By [Pastor Joey Umali](#)(Pang-Masa) - September 12, 2020 - 12:00am

SINO ba naman ang hindi magkakagusto na maging isang bagong Boracay ang Manila Bay na sa mahabang panahon ay nakilala dahil sa burak at basura? Kapag talagang naging malinis at ligtas na languyan ang Manila Bay, may dahilan para magbunyi hindi lamang ang mga taga Maynila, kundi ang lahat ng mga naninirahan sa Metro Manila.

Utang natin sa Korte Suprema ang pagsisikap ng kasalukuyang administrasyon na linisin ang makasaysayang Manila Bay. Noong 2008, bilang desisyon sa isinampang "writ of kalikasan" ng isang grupo, inatasan ng Korte ang 13 ahensiya ng gobyerno na linisin at buhayin ang Manila Bay. Ang "writ of kalikasan" ay nagbibigay-proteksyon sa karapatan ng mamamayan sa isang malinis at ligtas na kapaligiran. Noong Enero ng nakaraang taon, inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang P47 bilyong Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.

Bahagi ng proyekto ang pagpapaganda sa 500-metrong baywalk ng Manila Bay na gagastusan ng P397.9 milyon. Naging kontrobersyal ang bahaging ito ng proyekto dahil sa diumano'y panganib na idudulot sa kalusugan ng artipisyal na white sand na ilalatag sa kahabaan ng baywalk. Ang sinasabing white sand ay mula sa dinurog na dolomite mula sa Cebu. Ayon sa mga eksperto, ang dolomite ay nagtataglay ng crystalline silica na pinagmumulan ng cancer at nagdudulot ng panganib sa balat at mata.

Ang pangunahing problema ng Manila Bay ay ang pollution ng tubig nito na nagmumula sa mga establisimyento sa Metro Manila, sa mga informal settlers sa paligid nito, sa maluwag na pagpapatupad ng batas laban sa ilegal na pangingsda, at sa hindi maayos na pangangasiwa. Ang mga ito ang dapat na bigyang-pansin at paglaanan ng malaking pondo.

Bawat sentimo mula sa kaban ng bayan ay mahalaga para sa ating survival ngayon bilang isang bansa. Importante na bawat hakbang ng gobyerno ay pinag-iisipang mabuti. Laging mas mahalaga ang kalusugan kaysa artipisyal na kagandahan. Ano ba ang halaga ng magandang white sand kung ito naman ay nakapipinsala sa kalusugan? Laging mas maganda ang natural kaysa artipisyal. Bakit natin pipiliting maging white sand ang baywalk ng Manila Bay gayong sa totoo ay hindi naman?

Huwag na nating piliting maging isang bagong Boracay ang Manila Bay. Ang maningning na kasaysayan ng Manila Bay ay higit pa sa kaningningan ng white sand ng Boracay. Sapat nang ito'y maging kasinglinis at kasingligtas ng Boracay para paglanguyan ng mga tao. May mga aligasyon din ng overpricing. Pero kahit wala, ang P397.9 milyon ay marami nang mabibiling gadgets para sa mahihirap na estudyanteng makikipagbuno sa online learning ng DepEd.



Sa ilalim ng “New Normal,” ang pinakamataas na pamantayan ay kung ano ang totoo, natural, at puro. Karaniwan, ang totoo, natural, at puro ay napapatunayan sa liwanag ng araw. Ang mga hakbang ng goyerno ay mapapatunayang totoo, natural at puro sa liwanag ng opinyong publiko. Dahil dito, napakahalaga para sa mga opisyaes ng goyerno ang laging pagiging hayag sa pagkilos at laging pakikinig sa opinyong publiko. Itapon na ang pagiging balat-sibuyas, sa halip, talasan ang pandinig upang marinig ang sinasabi ng mga tao.

May magandang tagubilin ang Filipos 4:8 sa ating mga opisyaes, “Lagi ninyong isaisip ang mga bagay na karapat-dapat at kapuri-puri: mga bagay na totoo, marangal, matuwid, malinis, kaibig-ibig at kagalang-galang.”



## Fighting environmental crime the DENR way

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

September 13, 2020



*An operation against illegal trading of wood lumber/fitches products in Barangay Pangil, Amadeo, Cavite, was held by a team led by National Bureau of Investigation, Environmental Crime Division with the assistance of Forest Rangers from PENR Office in Trece Martires City and EPETF Intelligence Group on May 18.*

A sad news was reported last month about the killing of a tamaraw and the drying of its meat for food in Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park (MIBNP).

Environment Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon described the incident as “unfortunate.”



*Illegal structures and fences/enclosures erected by a fraternity inside the upper Marikina Watershed and Masungi Wildlife Sanctuary in KM 45 Marcos Highway, Pinugay, Baras, Rizal, were demolished on July 30. The team was led by Executive Director Nilo Tamoria (left) of the DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force and Undesecretary Jim O. Sampulna (center).*

The Philippine tamaraw, also known as the Mindoro dwarf buffalo, remains critically endangered. Only around 600 of them are left in the wild, mostly in the hinterlands of Mount Iglit and Mount Baco.

The incident occurred at a time when the economic impact of the new coronavirus disease is taking its toll on poor communities around the MIBNP.

With no source of income, nearby communities are forced to go to the forest to hunt animals, cut trees and harvest wood for fuel, adding more pressure on the environment.

This dire situation mirrors what may in fact be happening in other Protected Areas in various parts of the country.

### Task force dependent

In a telephone interview on August 30, Calderon said this highlights the need to enhance the law enforcement capacity of the DENR once and for all.

“What we really need is to enhance our law enforcement capacities to fight environmental crimes,” said Calderon, concurrent Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



The DENR depends largely on the mandate of special task forces to enforce environmental laws. The DENR is tasked to implement various laws and fight environmental crimes, yet unlike some government agencies, it has no law enforcement unit of its own at its disposal, Nilo Tamoria, executive director of the DENR's Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force (EPETF), said.

Even the Environmental Management Bureau, a line agency of the DENR, which is mandated to enforce laws against pollution, such as the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, have greatly depended on other law enforcement agencies like the National Bureau of Investigation or the Philippine National Police. The same goes with the other DENR bureaus.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau implements the Mining Act of 1995. The BMB implements laws like the Wildlife Act, Cave Act, and National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act and its amendatory law, Expanded-Nipas Act. The Forest Management Bureau implements the Forest Code.

## Not enough

“Every time a new administration takes over, a special task force is created. This is not enough,” Tamoria told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on September 8.

He said the threats faced by DENR employees out in the field are real.

There are incidents that DENR employees get killed by environmental criminals who are often armed and dangerous.

He said the DENR needs a permanent bureau dedicated to enforcing environmental laws and regulations to become more effective in protecting the environment.

## Protection, enforcement bureau

During a webinar on August 28 organized by the DENR that discussed the proposed bill creating the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB), Tamoria said the measure will ensure the sustainability of the fight against environmental crimes and strengthen its enforcement mandate.

“That’s why the DENR secretary has been pushing for the creation of a separate law enforcement bureau within the DENR,” he said.

During the webinar organized by the EPETF and the United States Agency for International Development through its Protect Wildlife Project, key provisions of House Bill 6973 filed by Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda was presented by Tamoria. The proposed measure has been referred to the Committees on Government Reorganization and on Natural Resources.

The bill aims to capacitate DENR enforcers through the establishment of an Enforcement Academy, where they can learn skills and techniques normally taught to mainstream law enforcement agents.

Once in operation, Tamoria said the proposed EPEB will “level up the DENR as the country’s lead agency for environmental law enforcement as it wages war against environmental crimes.”



## Putting focus

When sought for reaction, Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said a separate enforcement bureau for the environment and natural resources will hopefully help in putting focus and providing consistent attention on the implementation of environmental laws, rules and regulations.

“Those who will be tasked to manage the new agency must be familiar with all the ENR [Environment and Natural resources] laws, including those related to biodiversity, as well as the treaties that relate to transboundary violations,” said Lim, a former director of the DENR-BMB said.

Once established, environmental law enforcers, she said, also need to be adept at handling evidence, such as under the Wildlife Act.

“These will involve live specimens and endangered meat and other by-products which may have special requirements, to preserve the integrity of the evidence,” Lim said.

Currently, ACB conducts capacity building programs on the use of various tools for park managers and rangers on wildlife enforcement in Asean Heritage Parks.

## Competence, political will

Sought for comment, Fernando Hicap, national chairman of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), said the proposed bureau for environmental enforcement is nothing but an added layer of bureaucracy, redundancy and if not a milking cow.

“The existing Environmental Management Bureau [EMB] that was mandated to enforce a wide range of environmental laws, can’t even function as it is,” Hicap said via Messenger on September 8.

DENR’s failure to enforce several environmental laws and uphold the protection of the environment “is not because of the absence of a specific bureau, but a matter of competence and political will from the leadership of the department,” he added.

## Environmental policy regime

For his part, Leon Dulce, national coordinator of the environmental group Kalikasan-People’s Network for the Environment said a change in environmental policy regime is needed.

“If we do not change the environmental policy regime that favors big mining, logging and other destructive projects, a new layer of bureaucracy will just implement the same old failed regulations,” Dulce told the BusinessMirror in an interview on September 8.

He said there is a need to study first the fundamental failures of environmental governance in the Philippines instead of enacting the proposed measure.

“We have protected areas and Bantay Gubat [Forest Guards] and Bantay Dagat [Sea Patrol] work forces that are grossly underfunded and under capacitated. We have conflicting land-use claims,” he said.

The country’s natural resource management is focused on exporting wealth instead of planning its utilization for people’s needs he added.





Dulce said environmental defenders are also treated as enemies of the state instead of partners for achieving environmental justice and protection in service to the Filipino public.

“There must be a priority on enacting thoroughgoing reforms focused on policy and practices. The proposed environmental enforcement bureau must be studied within this framework of analysis,” he added.

## Prioritize environment protection, conservation

Dulce said there’s a need to prioritize environmental protection and biodiversity conservation by allocating more funds. With more funds, more protection can be achieved.

“The number of employed forest rangers must be tripled and their salaries, benefits, equipment and capacities bolstered. Sea patrols must likewise be increased in number and capacities,” he said.

The main problem is lack of funding and capacity for our existing environmental work force, he said.

“Our Bantay Gubat and Bantay Dagat are already performing admirably despite the lack of state subsidy so the logical thing to do is to improve support for them. We should work on these fundamentals first before we talk about a new layer of bureaucracy,” Dulce pointed out.

# USAID invests in ultrasound, x-ray machines for diagnostic care of PH wildlife

By: [Carlo Jacob Molina](#) - Social Media Content Lead / [@CarloMolinaINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:37 PM September 11, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has gained the backing of the United States government in its efforts to improve emergency and diagnostic care for rescued wildlife.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has invested in new ultrasound and x-ray machines that will help environmental authorities in diagnosing diseases and injuries of rescued wild and exotic animals.

“We sincerely thank USAID for their support in our advocacy and efforts to conserve, preserve, and protect the Philippines’ biodiversity,” said Dr. Glenn Maguad of the National Wildlife Rescue and Research Center (NWRRC).



Currently, turned over wildlife in Metro Manila and trafficked exotic animals confiscated at different entry points in the country are brought to the NWRCC in Quezon City for treatment and rehabilitation.



The USAID said the new machines will increase the efficiency and accuracy of the diagnosis being done by the rescue center's veterinarians who take care of the animals. It will also improve the management and prevention of diseases.

“With these investments, the center no longer needs to outsource diagnostic services,” the USAID said in a Facebook post.

JPV

Source: [https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1334255/usaid-invests-in-ultrasound-x-ray-machines-for-diagnostic-care-of-ph-wildlife?fbclid=IwAR1zPhIUrWDprbkCsm\\_21oB4MGCMzO0\\_iB-M0KqBNKgFS\\_rRilvt5VX\\_gv0#ixzz6XohZqFTH](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1334255/usaid-invests-in-ultrasound-x-ray-machines-for-diagnostic-care-of-ph-wildlife?fbclid=IwAR1zPhIUrWDprbkCsm_21oB4MGCMzO0_iB-M0KqBNKgFS_rRilvt5VX_gv0#ixzz6XohZqFTH)



# Bill declaring Pantaron Mountain Range as a national park and watershed reservation filed

Published September 12, 2020, 3:37 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

Davao del Norte 1st District Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez has filed a bill, declaring the Pantaron Mountain Range as a National Park and Watershed Reservation to ensure its protection and preservation.



Davao del Norte 1st District Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez TOTO (LOZANO/Presidential Photo / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Under House Bill No. 7501 or the proposed “Pantaron Mountain Range National Park Act”, he pushed for the declaration of the 1.26 million hectare-mountain range as a protected area categorized as a national park and watershed.

“The rich biodiversity and abundant water supply of the Pantaron Mountain Range give us compelling reason to ensure its protection and preservation as a National Park and Watershed Reservation. No less than the Philippine Constitution mandates the protection of nature and ecology through Article II, Section 16 expressly stating that: The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature,” Alvarez, a former Speaker, said in his bill’s explanatory note.

He noted that the Pantaron Mountain Range was home to one of the few remaining “old growth” primary forest areas not only in Mindanao, but in the entire country.

“Major rivers and primary water sources in Mindanao have their headwaters in the mountain range, contributing to the consistent stream of fresh water in the Mindanao region,” he said.

He said the mountain range also serves as habitat to a vast range of flora and fauna, including some rare and endemic species, such as the critically endangered Philippine Eagle, the Philippine Brown Deer, the Philippine Flying Lemur, and the Mindanao-endemic Gymnure.

“Through this measure, the entire area compassing Pantaron Mountain Range will be protected from threats of abuse and destruction and at the same time provide for sustainable development in the area for generations to come,” Alvarez said.

The contiguous mountainous landscape spans six provinces—Bukidnon, Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, and Agusan del Norte, covering around 12 percent of Mindanao.



HB 7501 declares the entire Pantaron Mountain Range as National Park and Watershed Reservation.

The bill provides that the technical boundaries and area description of the Pantaron Mountain Range shall be subjected to actual ground survey and verification to be conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) within 90 days after the effectivity of the proposed Act.

The Pantaron Range National Park and Watershed shall be under the joint administrative jurisdiction, supervision, and control of the DENR and the provincial government of all covered areas, the bill said. It shall be managed in accordance with the 1987 Constitution, and Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018", it added.

Alvarez's bill tasks the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to immediately include in its program the implementation of the proposed Act. The funding of the proposed Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).



# Legarda named as CVF's Ambassador for Parliaments

PUBLISHED BY [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)  
19 HOURS AGO

The 48-nation Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), an international cooperation group of developing countries tackling global climate change, has named Deputy Speaker and Antique lone District Rep. Loren Legarda as its Ambassador for Parliaments.



Rep. Loren Legarda (FACEBOOK / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“Through my acceptance to become an Ambassador for Parliaments of the CVF, I am committing to lend my unequivocal support to make sure that the message of urgent climate action is clear,” she said in a statement, after she was recently appointed as one of the CVF’s ambassadors, along with other five other global advocates against climate change.

Among those who were named as CVF ambassadors were former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed (ambassador for ambition), Kathy Jetnil- Kijiner, Climate Envoy of the Marshall Islands (ambassador for culture), former Minister of Finance of Costa Rica Rocio Aguilar, (ambassador for finance), Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, Founder, LDC, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative (REEEI) for Sustainable Development of the Democratic Republic of Congo (ambassador for renewable energy) and Saima Wazed Hossain of Bangladesh, World Health Organization Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health (ambassador for vulnerability).

“The CVF plays a very significant role in pushing for a more ambitious climate commitment that would deliver beneficial results to vulnerable countries. It is a platform that gives vulnerable countries the voice to urge the rest of the world to take urgent climate action,” said Legarda, a commissioner for the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA).

The House leader conveyed her support to the proposed creation of a parliamentary union among the 48 CVF nations, which is currently led by Bangladesh.

She relayed to Abul Kalam Azad, Special Envoy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Presidency that such proposal would forge “a stronger bond and collective voice to advance the causes of vulnerable nations.”



Legarda, Asia Pacific Regional Champion and Global Champion for Resilience, noted that in 2008, 10 key parliamentarians from across Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe met in Manila aimed at making disaster risk reduction a primary tool for climate change adaptation.

According to her, the “Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation” was launched to call on all parliamentarians in the world to make disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation a national priority and a key consideration in development planning.

In 2010, Legarda said she initiated a three-day United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Consultative Meeting for Asian Parliamentarians with the theme, “Disaster Risk Reduction: An Instrument for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”

It was attended by legislators from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand.

During the meeting, the Asian parliamentarians vowed to lobby for an increase in national investment on disaster risk reduction initiatives and to facilitate direct access to international funds intended for climate change adaptation, Legarda noted.

Source: [https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/12/legarda-named-as-cvfs-ambassador-for-parliaments/amp/#aoh=15999189907859&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp\\_tf=From%20%251%24s](https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/12/legarda-named-as-cvfs-ambassador-for-parliaments/amp/#aoh=15999189907859&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&amp_tf=From%20%251%24s)



# 'Falcata can be harvested even when they're young'

By Rizalina K. Araral / S&T Media Service  
September 13, 2020



*Falcata abounds in tree farms in Caraga Region, Northern Mindanao.*

An initial study by the Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) may have the potential to change the face of tree farming in the Philippines.

Dr. Marina A. Alipon and her team have found that at three years old, falcata trees that are grown from known quality seeds may already be harvested, as their wood is already comparable to that of five- and seven-year-old trees. Right now, farmers usually wait seven to 10 years before cutting down their falcata.

Commonly grown in tree plantations across the country, falcata is the dominant species in Caraga Region in Northern Mindanao. Of about 733, 500 cubic meters of plantation logs produced in 2017, 67 percent were from Caraga, 91 percent of which were falcata.

The DOST-FPRDI researchers found that falcata wood at ages three, five and seven years did not differ from each other. They all belong to the low strength group—which means they may be used for construction purposes where strength and hardness are not required, such as veneer and plywood.

“Our trials show that it may soon be possible to have a much shorter rotation time for growing falcata,” Alipon said.

“So instead of harvesting only once in 10 years, for example, farmers can now harvest their trees three times, which, of course, means more income for them. The key is seed quality, because only superior seeds can produce falcata that grow faster than usual,” she added.





The next step for the research team, she said, is to compare the size of logs produced by younger trees with older ones.

Industrial tree plantations were established in the Philippines beginning in the 1980s as substitute sources of raw materials for the wood industry. They became even more popular after 2011 when the government imposed a logging ban on all natural growth forests.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources estimates that the wood industry needs 6 million cubic meters of raw materials annually, a far cry from the 1 million cubic meters produced, three-fourths of which comes from tree farms.

The DOST-FPRDI project was funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development-Grants-in-Aid.



# Quezon City selected for international air pollution reduction program

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 13, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government was selected to an international program that will provide support and technical assistance on reducing air pollution.

Quezon City is the only Philippine city chosen to participate in the 2020-2021 Air Quality Technical Assistance Program of C4, a global initiative of cities that is focused on dealing with climate change-related issues.

The program will provide participants with support to accelerate air quality improvements, including through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, technical assistance, capacity building and creating new tools and resources.

The project is supported by Clean Air Fund, a philanthropic initiative with a mission to tackle air pollution around the world.

Through the program, C40 will support Quezon City in the conduct of an air quality baseline study by evaluating existing air pollution data and deploying a new network of air quality monitoring sensors.

The city's environmental protection and waste management department will take the lead in project delivery, in coordination with other local agencies and stakeholders.

“Quezon City is very pleased to be in partnership with C40 Cities and the Clean Air Fund on the air quality technical assistance project, which provides integral support towards fulfilling our commitment to better air quality management with the intention of providing cleaner air to our residents,” said Mayor Joy Belmonte.



# Angono SK Council trades recyclable plastic bottles for foodstuff, face mask, face shield

Published September 12, 2020, 8:41 PM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

ANGONO, Rizal – The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Council in this town has led a program of bartering recyclable plastic bottles for rice, canned goods, face masks, face shields, or free printing of school materials.



SK Angono Federation President “BJ Tolits” Forbes shows off some of the sacks full of plastic bottles bartered by neighbors in exchange for rice, canned goods, face shields, and face masks. (Photo from Facebook page of Forbes/ MANILA BULLETIN)

According to SK Angono Federation president, former child actor Bernard Joecel “BJ Tolits” Forbes, he thought of offering the concept of bartering recyclables to his fellow youth sector members in Barangay San Isidro to help the local government’s Zero Basura (Zero Trash) program. This is also to help others through the items traded for recyclables they surrendered to the SK San Isidro office.

Since its launch in August during the Linggo ng Kabataan (Youth Week), the “Barter Recycle” project of SK San Isidro has generated more than 11,000 pieces of recyclable bottles, almost filling up the conference room and SK office.

This is SK San Isidro’s Barter Recycle Chart:

- 5 Bottles = 5 face masks and 1 biscuit
- 10 Bottles = 10 face masks and 1 face shield
- 20 Bottles= 15 face masks and 2 face shields
- 50 Bottles = 1 kilo of rice and 1 canned food

Forbes, who is also an ex-officio municipal councilor, recalled that last month, a mother from a poor family was very happy to have redeemed several canned goods and rice in exchange for the bottles she bartered.

Another resident went to the SK San Isidro office to trade 1,600 empty bottles earning him a box full of canned goods and rice, Forbes said.

“Our aim is for the people of Angono, especially the youth, to see the benefits of waste segregation and recycling right in their respective homes. Imagine what will happen if these empty bottles ended up in our waterways instead?” Forbes said.



He also said that the concept of recycling in communities has long been a practice among his townmates since then mayor, and now Vice Mayor Gerardo Calderon, implemented the Solid Waste Management Program and his Zero Basura project. The town's former dumpsite was transformed into an Ecological Solid Waste Management Park where the Materials Recovery Facility is located.

Several residents turn over their empty bottles daily to the SK San Isidro office for the barter program, which SK Angono hopes to be adopted by other villages and towns in the province.

SK San Roque and SK Kalayaan (all in Angono) have also similar barter program. Aside from face protection, SK Kalayaan offers free use of its printer for students.



## 249,000 Maynilad customers to experience water interruption from Sept. 17 to 19

Published September 12, 2020, 3:41 PM

by [Madelaine B. Mirafior](#)

For three days next week, some 249,000 customers of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) will suffer water service interruption as the company temporarily shuts down its Putatan Water Treatment Plant

Jennifer Rufo, Maynilad Water's head for stakeholders' communications office, confirmed this in a text message, saying the company has scheduled a service interruption on September 17 to 19.

"We're temporarily shutting down our Putatan Water Treatment Plant for maintenance and upgrades, and also doing some network enhancements in Cavite. So it [the water service interruption] hasn't happened yet, though we have issued announcements to affected customers already so they can prepare," Rufo told Business Bulletin.

The water interruption will affect portions of Las Pinas, Muntinlupa, Paranaque, Pasay and Cavite. Rufo, however, noted that customers won't experience interruption for 33 hours straight. Rather, they will have a supply window within the 33 hours while Maynilad's facility is down.

Right now, Metro Manila, home to 12 million people, gets 97 percent of its water needs from Angat Dam, which is being distributed by Maynilad and Manila Water Company Inc.

The 53-year old Angat Dam currently releases 4 million liters of water per day (mld). Of this, Maynilad gets an allocation of about 2,400 mld, while Manila Water Company Inc. gets the remaining 1,600 mld as well as all of the supply coming from La Mesa Dam.

But because the country's population is growing as well as its water demand, Maynilad has built its Putatan Water Treatment Plant a few years ago to be able to tap water from Laguna Bay, the biggest lake in the Philippines and the second biggest inland freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, as well. Rufo said that right now, Maynilad is still getting enough raw water supply but "we're closely monitoring water elevation in Angat Dam, together with the other stakeholders of Angat led by NWRB [National Water Resources Board]".

"Assuming NWRB sees the need to reduce allocation, we have mitigating measures in place. These include our construction of modular treatment plants [MTP] in Cavite, which will get raw water from Cavite rivers," Rufo said.

Last week, NWRB already reduced the raw water allocation for Metro Manila to 46 cubic meters per second (cms) from 48 cms amid the declining water level in Angat Dam.

It was also last week when Maynilad said it is investing P350 million for the installment of two MTPs in Cavite that would be enough to supply the needs of some 50,000 customers in the area.

Tapping rivers in Cavite as an alternative raw water source is part of Maynilad's initiative to provide a medium-term solution to current water security challenges in Metro Manila, the company said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/12/249000-maynilad-customers-to-experience-water-interruption-from-sept-17-to-19/>



# 'Water allocation sa NCR mababawasan kung bababa pa ang tubig sa Angat'

**ABS-CBN News**

Posted at Sep 12 2020 06:53 PM

MAYNILA - Posibleng mabawasan ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila kapag nagpatuloy ang pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat dam at iba pang pinagkukuhanan ng tubig sa Kamaynilaan, ayon sa isang opisyal.

Nitong Setyembre 1, binawasan na sa 46 cubic meters per second ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila mula sa dating 48 cubic meters per second.

Ayon kay National Water Resources Board director Seville David, kapag nagtuloy-tuloy ang pagbaba ng water level sa Angat posibleng bumaba pa ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Kamaynilaan.

“Sa ngayon mini-maintain natin yung 46 pero kung patuloy na bababa ang lebel ng Angat dam mula ngayon hanggang sa susunod pang mga linggo baka kailangan mag-adjust tayo,” ani David.

“Isa sa posibleng mangyari na scenario yung pagkakaran ng mga water interruption.”

Sa tala ng PAGASA-Hydrometeorology Division, bumaba sa 177.51 meters ang water level ng Angat dam alas-6 ng umaga, kumpara sa naitalang 178.01 meters noong Biyernes.

Mababa ito sa minimum operating level ng dam na nasa 180 meters.

Pero sa ngayon, sapat pa ang suplay ng tubig sa Kamaynilaan, ayon sa NWRB.

Plano ng NWRB na magsagawa ng cloud seeding para may bumagsak na ulan sa mga dam.

Paalala rin nila na magtipid sa tubig. — **Ulat ni Raya Capulong, ABS-CBN News**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/12/20/water-allocation-sa-ncr-mababawasan-kung-bababa-pa-ang-tubig-sa-angat?fbclid=IwAR3zau6WNe06dLlonHw6ZGwlPqecVMaOKuiNNEtATnSVpA7a7sR3JCqINog>



# 'Notice to proceed' ng Kaliwa Dam project sinalungat ng COA

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- September 12, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Sinalungat ng Commission on Audit (COA) ang pag-iisyu ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System ng notice to proceed (NTP) ng Kaliwa dam project para sa detailed engineering, design at konstruksiyon ng proyekto na iginawad sa China Energy Engineer Company Inc.

Ito ay makaraang malaman ng COA ang umano'y iba't ibang teknikalidad sa pagtatayo ng proyekto kabilang na ang umano'y kaduda-dudang pagsang-ayon dito ng mga katutubo at indigenous people sa lalawigan ng Quezon.

"The expropriation of lots particularly for the right of way affected by Kaliwa Dam Project is still pending, hence considered a ground for the termination of the contract under Section 17.6 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184 also known as the Government Procurement Reform Law," pahayag ng COA.

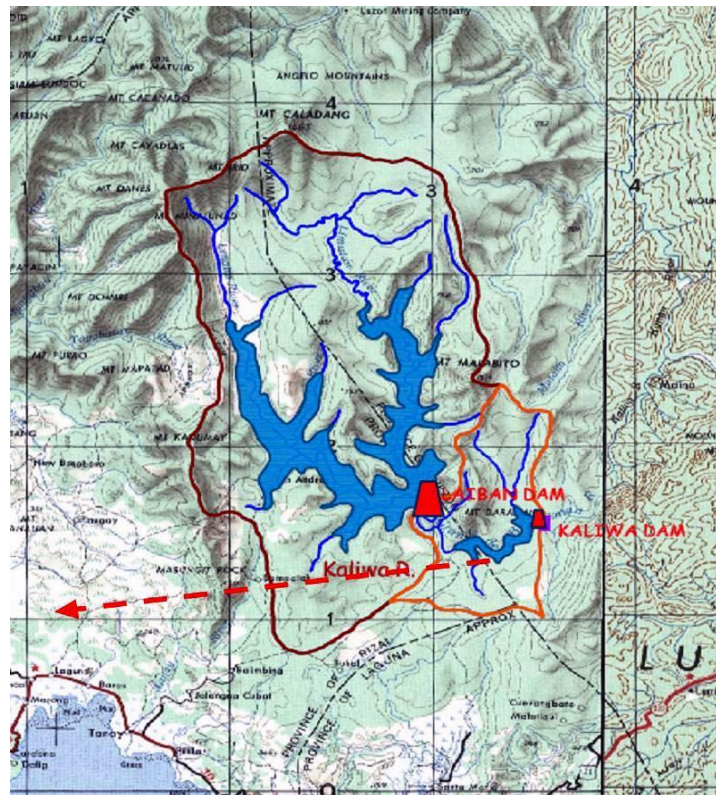
Pinuna ng mga state auditor na dahil ang kontrata sa pagitan ng MWSS at ng CEEC ay hindi saklaw ng anumang kasunduan, kailangang manaig ang mga probisyon ng RA 9184.

Alinsunod sa RA 9184, ang NTP ay kinakailangang ipalabas pitong araw mula sa petsa ng pag-apruba sa kontrata at matapos itong tanggapin ng contractor na itinuturing nang nakasunod sa lahat ng requirement na itinatakda sa ilalim ng loan agreement.

Ang sinasabing commercial contract ay itinuturing na walang bisa dahil ang mga rekisitos dito ay hindi nasunod.

Samantala, ang mga kondisyon para sa pag-iisyu ng Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) ay hindi pa nasusunod kaya hindi maipatupad ang proyekto.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/bansa/2020/09/12/2041878/notice-proceed-ng-kaliwa-dam-project-sinalungat-ng-coa/amp/>



Map of Kaliwa Dam from Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System

## MWSS: Construction of roads to Kaliwa Dam resumed by DPWH, not CEEC

**Published** September 12, 2020 1:44pm

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on Friday said the construction of access roads to the Kaliwa Dam site in Quezon province was resumed by the Department of Public Works and Highways and not project contractor China Energy Engineering Co. (CEEC) Ltd.

This was in response to claims made by Senator Imee Marcos that the [road construction had been resumed](#) despite insufficient government permits.

“Slope stabilization had to be resumed by DPWH, not CEEC, the Kaliwa Dam contractor, to prevent landslides characteristic during these rainy months,” the MWSS told GMA News Online.

“Leaving the constructed roadworks without protection may cause damage to life and property and waste of government money,” it added.

Marcos also said police escorts were guiding the Chinese works of CEEC while constructing the roads. She cited information from indigenous peoples’ community leader Marcelino Tena from Quezon.

However, the MWSS said police authorities provided security and protection to the workers due to threats of terrorist attacks. It also said it did not recognize Tena as the leader representing the indigenous people.





The MWSS also denied it went against its earlier commitment during a hearing last February through its actions as claimed by Marcos, saying that many developments had transpired in securing the Free Prior and Informed Consent.

"The recognized indigenous community organizations have agreed to talk [or] negotiate with MWSS, and they have no objection to the construction of the access road. Slope stabilization of the access road is a necessary action in the interest of the peoples and communities nearby," it said.

GMA News Online has contacted DPWH Secretary Mark Villar and Build, Build, Build Committee Chairperson Anna Mae Lamentillo for comment but has yet to receive a reply as of posting time.

The Kaliwa Dam project, a venture traversing the provinces of Rizal and Quezon, is expected to help meet the growing water demand in the National Capital Region and Southern Luzon. —**Joahna Lei Casilao and Ted Cordero/KG, GMA News**



## 16.6M metric tons ng basura malilikom ng Pinas sa katapusan ng 2020



September 10, 2020 @ 7:32 AM 3 days ago

Manila, Philippines – Tinatayang makalilikom ang Pilipinas ng nasa 16.6 milyong metric tons (MT) ng basura sa katapusan ng 2020, ayon sa ulat.

Batay kay Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, ang Pilipinas ang ikatlong bansa sa Southeast Asia sa pinakamaraming basura.

“This means that the average Filipino adult produces between two to three times their own body weight in trash over the course of a single year,” ani Gatchalian.

Dagdag pa nito, ang 16.6 milyong MT ng basura ay makapagpupuno ng 23,000 swimming pools o 99 Philippine Arenas.

“If we continue down this current path of waste generation, the amount of solid waste we are projected to produce in 2030 is enough to fill an additional 5,435 Olympic-size swimming pools or another 24 Philippine Arenas,” paliwanag pa ni Gatchalian.

Sa panig naman ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), gumagamit sila ng 290 dump trucks para mangolekta ng basura mula sa siyam na pumping stations kada tatlong buwan.

“Ang pinaka-marami po diyan, plastic. ‘Yan ho ‘yung nangunguna. Ngayon ho, may makikita tayong padagdag na mga mask. So ‘yung mga face mask po na surgical, dumagdag po ‘yan, pero hindi naman po ganoon kadami. At lalo na ho ‘yung kitchen waste, ‘yung mga basura ho na galing naman sa bahay,” ani MMDA Assistant Secretary Celine Pialago. **RNT/FGDC**

Source: [https://www.remate.ph/16-6m-metric-tons-ng-basura-malilikom-ng-pinas-sa-katapusan-ng-2020/?fbclid=IwAR1zzEZJnx--c9Vd9RiykJAZsdhoCrWa5PIW7FgkXWDh\\_o9a3atQ4BhjZpc](https://www.remate.ph/16-6m-metric-tons-ng-basura-malilikom-ng-pinas-sa-katapusan-ng-2020/?fbclid=IwAR1zzEZJnx--c9Vd9RiykJAZsdhoCrWa5PIW7FgkXWDh_o9a3atQ4BhjZpc)



# DOH reports 4.9K new Covid-19 infections; active cases now 66K

By Marita Moaje September 12, 2020, 6:43 pm



PH COVID-19 BULLETIN. The daily Covid-19 bulletin of the Department of Health reported 4,935 new cases on Saturday (Sept. 12, 2020). This brings the total tally of active cases in the country to 66,455. (Photo courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday reported 4,935 new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections, with a total of 66,455 active cases.

In its Covid-19 case bulletin, the DOH also reported 659 additional recoveries and 186 deaths, raising the total number of recoveries and fatalities to 187,116 and 4,292, respectively.

Out of the new cases, 2,619 were from the National Capital Region (NCR), followed by Cavite with 343, Laguna with 258, Rizal with 227, and Negros Occidental with 177.

This brings the total number of Covid-19 cases in the Philippines to 257,863.

The DOH noted that of the new cases, 4,034 or 82 percent occurred within the past 14 days from August 30 to September 12.

The regions with the most number of newly reported cases in the past two weeks were the NCR with 2,025 or 50 percent, Region 4-A (Calabarzon) with 872 or 22 percent, and Region 3 (Central Luzon) with 330 or 8 percent.

Of the reported active cases, the DOH said 89.2 percent are considered mild, 8.2 percent are asymptomatic cases, 1.1 percent are severe, and 1.6 percent are critical.

In terms of hospital bed capacity nationwide, 52 percent of 1,800 intensive care unit beds are available, along with 56 percent of isolations beds, and 52 percent of ward beds.

Some 74 percent of mechanical ventilators are also available. (PNA)



# Mga negosyante sa Boracay, umapelang huwag nang ituloy ang temporary lockdown

By **Bombo Radyo Kalibo** -September 12, 2020 | 12:32 PM



KALIBO, Aklan – Nakiusap ang Boracay Foundation Incorporated (BFI), grupo ng mga negosyante sa isla sa Sangguniang Bayan ng Malay na irekonsidera ang inihaing resolusyon ukol sa pansamantalang pagpapasara ng kanilang border.

Ito ay matapos na makapagtala ng kauna-unahang local transmission ng Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) ang Aklan.

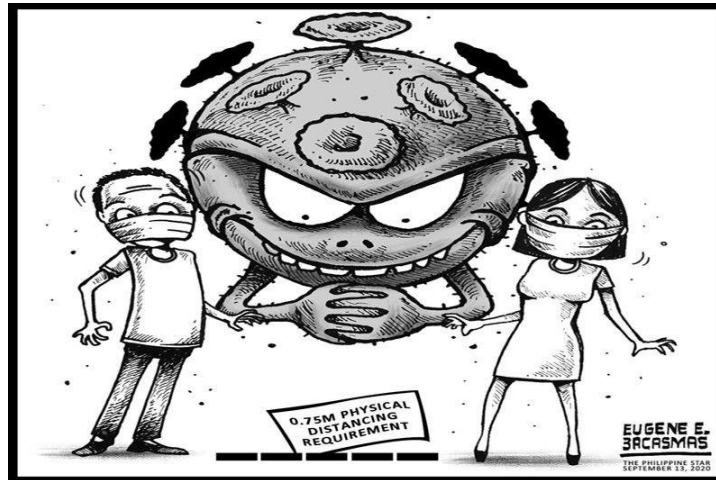
Ayon kay Mr. Edwin Raymundo, presidente ng BFI na sapat na ang mga nakalatag na health protocols sa Boracay at buong bayan ng Malay bagay na walang dapat na ikabahala.

Maliban dito, wala nang naitalang positibong kaso ng COVID-19 ang isla.

Mungkahi pa nito na higpitan na lamang ang lahat ng mga point of entry sa naturang bayan.

Nakatakdang talakayin ng local inter-agency task force against COVID-19 ang rekomendasyon ng konseho.

Samantala, positibo naman ang mga negosyante na matutuloy ang grand opening ng Boracay para sa mga domestic at international tourists sa Oktubre 1 na may temang “Boracay Better Than Ever.”



## EDITORIAL - Wasting the gains

(The Philippine Star) - September 13, 2020 - 12:00am

After six months of economically crippling quarantines, the COVID transmission curve is finally flattening, according to experts from the University of the Philippines.

The challenge is to sustain the flattening, which has been attributed to a handful of basic health safety protocols: wearing of face masks in public, with face shields recently added to the requirement; regular hand washing with soap and water, or disinfection with alcohol or sanitizer; and physical distancing of at least one meter.

The distancing requirement has had the greatest adverse impact on mobility and economic activities. Now the government plans to ease the requirement as early as this Monday, Sept. 14, on mass transportation, beginning with railway services. From one meter, the distancing will be reduced to 0.75 meters, further going down to 0.5 and then to 0.3 to optimize limited mass transport facilities, according to the Department of Transportation.

DOTr officials said the move has the support of the National Task Force Against COVID-19 as well as the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases. Both the IATF and the national task force may want deeper consultations with health experts on this move.

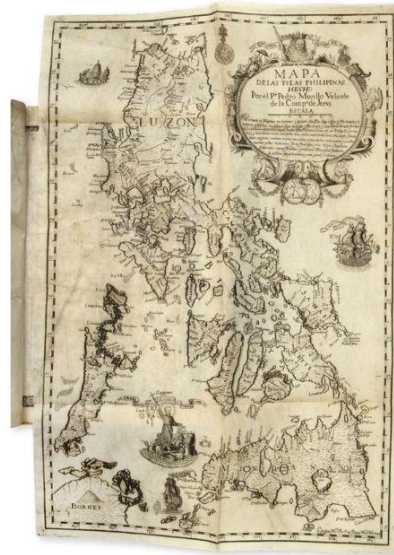
The Department of Health reportedly wants more discussions on the issue, which public health advocates have warned could put to waste the sacrifices people have made in the past six months.

The one-meter distancing requirement is already the global minimum against coronavirus infection; in other countries, up to two meters is imposed. Distancing habits have been formed in the past six months, and these can be quickly broken once closer proximity is allowed by the government in mass transportation.

After the strictest enhanced community quarantine was lifted, the surge in COVID cases was partly blamed on the resumption of mass transportation. While public transport facilities are essential as the economy is gradually reopened, workers have learned to adjust to the limitations, with many turning to bicycles and motorcycles. There are also many public utility vehicles, including buses and taxis, that are still waiting to be allowed to resume operations.

This plan also runs counter to the efforts of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the national task force to ban all home quarantine in an effort to prevent household transmission. Before the plan is implemented, there should be extensive consultations with health experts. Reviving the economy is not possible with sick workers. The hard-won gains of the past six months must be preserved and the flattening of the curve must be sustained.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/09/13/2041992/editorial-wasting-gains>



*The Mapa de las Yslas Philipinas hecho por el Padre Pedro Murillo Velarde de la Compañía de Jesús is the reduced 1744 version. Image courtesy of Leon Gallery*

## This queen of all Philippine maps is historic proof of our rights over West Philippine Sea

And a book version surfaces at Leon Gallery auction this September

E.A. BAUTISTA | Sep 12 2020

A rare volume by the legendary scholar Padre Pedro Murillo Velarde — and with it a smaller but still extraordinarily important version of his iconic map — has surfaced at León Gallery for its upcoming Magnificent September Auction this Saturday, September 19.

The book, titled *Historia de la Provincia de Philipinas*, is a history of the Jesuit order in the Philippines by the priest Murillo Velarde (1696-1753.) It was published in Manila in 1749 in original limp vellum. (The edition at hand is encased in a modern hardbound slipcase.) Consisting of 419 pages it was printed by the gifted Indio engraver D. Nicolás de la Cruz Bagay at the *Imprenta de la Compañía de Jesús*, Manila. Bagay also engraved the included foldout map, *Mapa de las Yslas Philipinas hecho por el Padre Pedro Murillo Velarde de la Compañía de Jesús*, 1744.

A stunning work is the famous full page frontispiece engraving—this time by Laureano Atlas—of the *Virgen de la Rosa* of Makati and the *Virgen de la Paz y Buen Viage* of Antipolo.

This extremely coveted book is titled the *Segunda Parte*, or the sequel of a previously published history of the Philippine Jesuit province—Fr. Francisco Colín's *Labor evangélica* (1663)—which was considered the *Parte Primera* that covered Philippine history from the earliest time until 1616. Murillo Velarde's sequel traced the colony's history from 1616 till 1716 as indicated in the subtitle.

This author also continued Fr. Colin's outstanding work, which was the first book to contain the earliest scientific data on flora, fauna, geography, and languages of the Philippines. The first part of Murillo Velarde's book tackles Philippine colonial history, while the second describes the conquest and missions of Mindanao. The last part deals with the conquest of the Mariana and Palau islands.

The included foldout map, *Mapa de las Yslas Philipinas hecho por el Padre Pedro Murillo Velarde de la Compañía de Jesús* is the reduced 1744 version and almost as renowned and exceedingly rare as the 1734 map of Murillo Velarde, the *Carta hydrográphica y chorográphica de las Islas Philipinas*, known as the "Queen of All Philippine Maps."



This second edition is known for its distinctively charming cartouche dominated by a lion holding aloft a banner, which is flanked on the left side by a berobed Chinese with a parasol and an Aeta with a bow and arrow, and on its right is yet another Cimarrón archer and a Moro with kalasag and spear. The bottom of the cartouche is surmounted by the famous Dos Mundos, signifying the east and west hemispheres that Spain ruled.

The former is represented by an indio with his gamecock and the other by a be-robed European maiden.

This version of its larger sister can also be easily distinguished not only by its smaller size but by the lack of trceries of sea routes and multiple compass roses, which indicated that it was truly more of a map rather than a portolan chart for use of navigators.

Another distinctive feature is the representation of the Jesuit Apostle of the East, St. Francis Xavier, who rides a seashell while holding a trident like Jupiter as he rules the waves. Humorously, a tiny crab to his right returns the saint's lost crucifix, referring to a legendary anecdote.

The engraver of the map is identified on the bottom right corner with the phrase, "Lo esculpió Nicolás Cruz de la Bagay, Manila, Año 1744." The rarity of this map can be gleaned from the inventory of Jesuit properties at the time of their expulsion from the Philippines in 1768: only one large one of 1734 was available, while only six of this very same map were at hand.

This historical icon continues to be an object of fascination due to its continuing relevance. The larger version of this map was presented to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Hague as the major cartographic and historical piece of evidence proving the connection between the Philippine mainland and Scarborough Shoal (also known as Bajo de Masinloc), which is clearly indicated in the map as Panacot island west of Zambales.

The long-simmering dispute between the Philippines and China over the rights on some islands in the West Philippine Sea was ultimately decided in favor of the Philippines on 12 July 2016. The international court rendered a decision that declared that the Chinese claims could not be substantiated and that the Bajo de Masinloc was a shoal visible only at low tide and therefore could not entitle China to claim it as its exclusive economic zone. In the end the tiny island depicted in this map would lie at the very crux of an international dispute.



# Low pressure area, nasa Cavite area na – Pagasa

By **Bombo Dennis Jamito** -September 12, 2020 | 6:06 PM

Asahan ang mga biglaang buhos ulan ngayong gabi sa ilang bahagi ng Southern Tagalog at Metro Manila.

Ang binabantayan kasing low pressure area (LPA) ay namataan sa area ng Silang, Cavite.

Pero mahina lamang ang dala nitong ulan at posibleng malusaw na rin sa mga susunod na oras.

Habang ang bagyo sa labas ng Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) ay nananatili bilang “weak tropical depression” at walang direktang epekto sa ating bansa.

Namataan naman ito sa layong 2,170 km sa hilagang silangan ng extreme Northern Luzon.

May taglay na hanging 45 kph at pagbugsong 55 kph.

Kumikilos yan nang pasilangan hilagang silangan sa bilis na 15 kph.





# Dalai Lama calls for unified global action on climate change

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Sep 12 2020 11:29 PM

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama called on world leaders Saturday to join forces in fighting climate change.

"Now we should pay more attention about global warming," the exiled leader said in a video message to a virtual meeting of Group of Seven parliamentary leaders.

The session was hosted by the speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, a longstanding advocate for the Himalayan region.

National leaders have been meeting less frequently with the Dalai Lama due to pressure from China.

In his video address, the Dalai Lama said people today have more of a sense of shared interest in saving the planet.

"If you look (at) past history, too much emphasis individual nation, individual religion, including color," the 85-year-old Buddhist leader said, according to a statement from the International Campaign for Tibet.

"So it creates a lot of problem. Basically, you see, they are selfish, self-centered attitudes," the 1989 Nobel peace laureate said.

Climate change is affecting some of the world's least powerful people, the Dalai Lama added.

"Due to global warming, too much rain some area. Some area dry. So these people suffer," the Dalai Lama said. "Particularly like in Africa and some area in India and China also."

The impact along economic lines is also imbalanced, he added.

"The rich people, big hotel, not much serious sort of feeling," the Dalai Lama said. "But poor people, they really face serious problem."

Saturday's meeting brought Pelosi together with counterparts from Britain, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.



## Pope: Science and faith can protect environment

ByCatholic News Agency via CBCP News  
September 13, 2020



*Pope Francis (center) discusses Laudato si' (Praise Be to You!) with French ecological experts on September 3.*

VATICAN—Pope Francis said on Thursday that science and faith together can help humanity to overcome ecological crises.

Addressing a delegation of French ecological experts, the pope said that the Catholic Church was committed to defending the planet from exploitation.

“It has no ready-made solutions to propose and does not ignore the difficulties of the technical, economic and political issues at stake, nor all the efforts that this commitment entails,” the pope said in a speech that was handed out to the delegation.

“But it wants to act concretely where this is possible and, above all, wants to form consciences in order to promote a deep and lasting ecological conversion, which alone can meet the important challenges we face.”

The pope told the delegation, which was led by Archbishop Éric de Moulins-Beaufort, president of the French bishops’ conference, that the Christian commitment to the environment was rooted in the Bible.

He wrote: “With regard to this ecological conversion, I would like to share with you the way in which the convictions of faith offer Christians great motivations for the protection of nature, as well as of the most vulnerable brothers and sisters, because I am certain that science and faith, which propose different approaches to reality, can develop an intense and fruitful dialogue.”

“The Bible teaches us that the world was not born of chaos or chance, but of a decision of God, who called it, and always calls it, into existence, out of love. The universe is beautiful and good, and contemplating it allows us to glimpse the infinite beauty and goodness of its Author.”

“Each creature, even the most ephemeral, is the object of the tenderness of the Father, who gives it a place in the world. The Christian can only respect the work that the Father has entrusted to him, like a garden to cultivate, to be protected, to grow according to its potential.”

The pope added: “There will be no new relationship with nature without a new human being, and it is by healing the human heart that one can hope to heal the world from its social and environmental unrest.”

Those present at the audience included the Academy Award-winning actor Juliette Binoche. In a September 2 interview with the French newspaper Le Figaro, Binoche said that, although she was not a Catholic, she was visiting the Vatican “in a spirit of openness.”



“I see this as a moment of sharing. I read the encyclical *Laudato si’* [Praise Be to You!] on ecology and it was a breath of fresh air for me,” she said.

According to *Le Figaro*, other members of the delegation included Audrey Pulvar, deputy mayor of Paris; Valérie Cabanes, a lawyer who helped to found the movement *End Ecocide on Earth*; Maxime de Rostolan, an ecological entrepreneur and founder of the organizations *Fermes d’avenir*, *Blue Bees* and *Communitrees*; Fr. Gaël Giraud, an economist and Jesuit priest; Pablo Servigne, co-author of the book *Comment tout peut s’effondrer* (*How Everything Can Collapse*); and Raphaël Cornu-Thénard, an architect and lay Catholic.

The pope ended his written address by encouraging the visitors to redouble their efforts to protect the environment.

He said: “While the conditions of the planet can appear catastrophic and certain situations even seem irreversible, we Christians do not lose hope because we have our eyes turned to Jesus Christ. He is God, the Creator Himself, who came to visit His creation and to dwell among us, to heal us, to restore the harmony that we have lost, harmony among brothers and harmony with nature.”

Quoting *Laudato si’*, he concluded: “He does not abandon us, He does not leave us alone, for He has united Himself definitively to our Earth, and His love constantly impels us to find new ways forward.”

In off-the-cuff remarks to the French delegation, released later on September 3 by the Holy See press office, the pope spoke of his own “ecological conversion.”

He said: “In 2007 there was the Conference of the Latin American Bishops in Brazil, in Aparecida. I was in the group of editors of the final document, and proposals on the Amazon arrived. I said: ‘But these Brazilians, why do they bother with this Amazon! What does the Amazon have to do with evangelization?’ This was me in 2007. Then, in 2015 *Laudato si’* came out. I had a path of conversion, of understanding the ecological problem. I didn’t understand anything before!”

Discussing the genesis of *Laudato si’*, he recalled a conversation with the then-French Environment Minister Ségolène Royale, who urged him to release the document before a 2015 conference that would negotiate the Paris Agreement on combating climate change.

He said that he contacted those who were drafting the encyclical.

“I called the team that was doing it—so that you know that I didn’t write this myself, it was a team of scientists, a team of theologians and all together we made this reflection—I called this team and I said: ‘This must come out before the meeting in Paris’—‘But why?’—‘To put pressure.’”

He continued: “When I began to think about this encyclical, I called the scientists—a nice group—and I told them: ‘Tell me the things that are clear and that are proven and not hypotheses, the realities.’ And they brought these things that you read there today.”

He added: “Then, I called a group of philosophers and theologians [and told them]: ‘I would like to reflect on this. You work and dialogue with me.’ And they did the first job, then I intervened.”

“And, in the end, I did the final editing. This is the origin. But I want to underline this: from not understanding anything, to Aparecida, in 2007, to the encyclical. Of this I like to give testimony. We must work so that everyone has this path of ecological conversion.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/13/pope-science-and-faith-can-protect-environment/>



# Upcycling Buddhist monk leads push to cut plastic waste in Myanmar

Reuters / 05:05 AM September 13, 2020

YANGON — When a prominent Buddhist monk in Myanmar noticed a surge in plastic waste generated by residents in his Yangon neighborhood during the pandemic, he decided to do something about it.

But Abbot Ottamasara, who runs the Thabarwa meditation center, was taken aback by the response to his request for plastic containers as a substitute for bowls used by his monastery to feed thousands of people in need.

Helped by dozens of volunteers, his team now receives several thousand used plastic bottles a day from the community, with some recycled as food containers and others incorporated into building materials used at the meditation center.



WASTE NOT Thousands of used plastic bottles are handed daily to the monastery run by Buddhist monk Ottasamara, who has called on Yangon residents to help in recycling plastic waste that piled up at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar.

—REUTERS

## 2,500 tons a day

“More plastic waste was being dumped on the street during the pandemic,” said Ottamasara, 51, who launched the recycling drive three months ago after seeing waste piling up on the streets during daily walks to collect food donations.

Authorities do not routinely organize recycling in Myanmar, while around 2,500 tons of trash are thrown out every day in Yangon, often dumped on roads and in waterways, or burned.

“If we [the meditation center] ask for donations, people will keep them clean,” said Ottamasara, who uses one name. “Then we can use these plastic bottles as food containers and it not only saves money, but also tackles the plastic waste issue.”

## Workshops

He estimates 2 tons of plastic waste, or around 200,000 plastic bottles, have been recycled so far, saving around \$10,000.

The 3.6-hectare meditation center hosts workshops to process the plastic waste.

Volunteers use hanging plastic bottles to make sunshades and have even constructed a shelter using car tires packed with plastic waste and cement to form the walls.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1334669/upcycling-monk-leads-push-to-cut-plastic-waste>



## 16 killed in dozens of US wildfires

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

September 13, 2020

**FRESNO:** More than 20,000 firefighters from across the United States on Friday (Saturday in Manila) battled sprawling deadly wildfires up and down the West Coast as the arrival of cooler weather offered hope of a respite.



*INFERNO* Firefighters watch the Bear Fire approach in Oroville, California on Sept. 9, 2020. The blaze, part of the lightning-sparked North Complex, expanded at a critical rate of spread as winds buffeted the region. AP PHOTO

The true scale of the destruction from dozens of massive blazes in California, Oregon and Washington states remained hard to gauge, with 16 deaths confirmed so far this week, but wide stretches still cut off by flames.

“We anticipate that the number [of deaths] may potentially go up as we get back into areas that have been ravaged by flame and obviously, smoke begins to clear,” warned California Gov. Gavin Newsom, as he visited a scorched forest near the raging North Complex Fire.

Ten people have been confirmed dead from that blaze in Butte County, which was driven at unprecedented pace toward the city of Oroville earlier in the week by strong, dry winds and soaring temperatures.

But Newsom said the weather “is beginning to cooperate,” with winds settling down and some rain forecast in the coming days.

In neighboring Oregon, where 1 million acres have burned and three people are reported dead with dozens still unaccounted for, Gov. Kate Brown also expressed hope a corner had been turned.

More than 40,000 Oregonians have fled their homes so far, with some 500,000 under evacuation warnings, Brown told a press conference — clarifying previous higher figures given by state officials.

“The weather system fueling these fires over the past few days has finally broken down,” she said. “We anticipate cooler air and moisture coming in the next few days, which is really good news.”

Dozens of people remained missing in connection with the fires, specifically in Jackson, Lane and Marion counties, Brown said. Earlier in the week, Brown warned that Oregon could expect to see a “great deal of loss, both in structures and in human lives.”

The August Complex Fire this week became by far the biggest recorded blaze in Californian history, ripping through 300,000 hectares of dry vegetation in the state’s north, as multiple fires combined.



But it is just one of around 100 large fires on the US West Coast, and other rapidly growing blazes closer to populated areas have proven deadlier.

“We are at a complete loss for words right now,” Bobbie Zedaker told the San Francisco Chronicle, after DNA tests proved her missing 16-year-old nephew was among those killed by the North Complex Fire.