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DENR

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 Philippine Star  17h · 

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, and other officials lead the opening of Manila Bay "white sand beach" near the US Embassy along Roxas Boulevard in Manila in celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday.






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Cimatu hopes Manila Bay white sand changes people's behavior on waste management

PUBLISHED BY [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#) 13 HOURS AGO



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu hopes that the sight of white sand beach made of dolomite sediments on the Manila Bay baywalk may help change people's culture and behavior on waste management.

"Napakahalaga na mabago ang kultura at pag-uugali ng mga tao upang tuluyang maisakatuparan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay (It is very important to change the culture and behavior of the people to finally carry out the rehabilitation of Manila Bay)," Cimatu said during the celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day held in Manila Saturday.

It was also during the event that the "white sand" beach was first opened to the public.

He pointed out that "behavior change and sustainment" is the "most difficult" part of the "Battle for Manila Bay" rehabilitation program.

"Gusto kong baguhin ang paniniwala ng tao sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng (white sand) beach dito sa Manila Bay. (I want to change the culture of the people by having a white sand beach in Manila Bay," Cimatu said.

"Sadly there are those who are telling or accusing us of not contributing solutions. Finding fault just wanting to stop this beach nourishment activities here at Baywalk for reasons that are critical rather than environmental. We will not allow them to deter or distract us," he added. "We have nothing to fear as long as we know that we are doing something good."

Cimatu reiterated that the beach nourishment project is critical in rehabilitating coastal areas, such as the Manila Bay, which are generally dynamic areas exposed to constant action of waves, current, tides, and wind.

"I wish to allay fears that the dolomite sand we used for a very small portion along the baywalk has adverse health and environmental effects," he said.



“Even with the COVID-19 pandemic we were able to complete our task of employing genuine engineering solutions that include the current projects in Manila Bay baywalk area,” he pointed out.

Cimatu said trash booms and silt curtains have been installed to prevent garbage from ending up along the baywalk area.

He also proposed to Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, who was present during the celebration of the ICC, the construction of two “modern” comfort rooms and souvenir shop at the Baywalk.

Beach nourishment, dredging, and desilting activities will also continue as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation, Cimatu said.

“The cleanup shall be continuing and sustained by reforming social attitude and behavior towards proactive environmental citizenship and institutionalizing this reforms culturally,” he added.

Cimatu said the construction of a circumferential sewage interceptor and communal septic tank in Baseco, Manila are also underway.

“We are cleaning up not just the coast but also the upstream sources of trash and the cleanup will not end with a short-term slap shot of a trash-free bay,” he also said.

He noted that establishments discharging untreated wastewater into the Manila Bay have been already issued show-cause orders for violation of the Philippine Clean Water Act.

Cimatu also called the attention of establishments along esteros or waterways that are violating the three-meter easement rule. “We will vigorously implement the easement rule,” he said, adding that if these establishments will not shape up, then the DENR will be forced to close them down.



Manila Bay rehab criticisms 'political': Cimatu

By Marita Moaje [September 19, 2020, 4:40 pm](#)



The Manila Bay beach along Roxas Boulevard. (Photo courtesy of DENR)

MANILA – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu stood firm on his position to push through with the Manila Bay beach nourishment project as he took a swipe at critics of the initiative.

“Sadly, there are those who want us to stop the beach nourishment for reasons that are better political rather than environmental. We are not bothered, we have nothing to fear as long as we know that we are doing something good, these are critical in the rehabilitation. The dolomite sand we used is not harmful,” Cimatu said Saturday during the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day at the Manila Bay.

He said the agency is only complying with the writ of mandamus issued by the Supreme Court and with the orders of President Rodrigo Duterte who even launched the Battle for Manila Bay to clean up the area and restore its water quality to a level fit for swimming.

He said more than just dreaming for clean water, the DENR is working hard to make that a reality even amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We are cleaning up not just the coast but also the trash, the garbage so that it will not end at the shoreline,” he said.

He said the priority in the Manila Bay rehabilitation is the coastal cleanup and water quality improvement currently being done.

Another issue to be addressed is the resettlement of informal settlers around the esteros and in the Pasig River who contributes solid wastes in the waters of the bay.

The most difficult part, he said, is educating or changing the mindset that must be learned by the public, especially those who continue to throw their trash everywhere.

“Napakahalaga na mabago ang kultura at pag uugali ng mga ibang tao upang tuluyang masagip ang Manila Bay (it is very important to change the culture and behavior of some people to successfully save Manila Bay),” said Cimatu.

Among the accomplishments done by the DENR so far includes the installation of the first solar-powered sewage treatment plant in the baywalk which can clean 500,000 liters of dirty water daily.

The coliform level in different areas around Manila Bay is now down to hundreds of thousand as compared to millions when they started the rehabilitation.



“Sa baywalk dati 90 million coliforms ngayon 920,000 na lang pero hindi pa pwede mag swim jan (in baywalk before the coliform level is at 90 million, now it is down to 920,000 so this means it is not yet fit for swimming),” he said.

The DENR is set to build other treatment plants for the Paranaque, Tullahan-Tinejeros, and the Las Pinas-Zapote Rivers as all of these go into the bay.

He added that more are still underway as the two private concessionaires committed to putting up sewage treatment plants of their own while other sub-plants in Metro Manila are also being built.

Once finished, these would have a wastewater treatment capacity of 970,000 cubic meters per day, Cimatu said.

Several establishments around Manila Bay were also issued show cause and closure order for violation of the clean water act as the agency will strictly implement the three-meter easement law.

Cimatu cited that the rapid restoration that was done in Boracay and the rehabilitation being undertaken at the Manila Bay is not treated to be plain accomplishments but would rather be a template for other coastal and small island areas.

“The lessons we learned in Boracay are being applied in other eco-tourism sites like El Nido in Palawan, Panglao Island in Bohol and Puerto Galera in Mindoro,” he said.

Cimatu also called on for the responsible use of plastic bags and other single-use plastics which almost always, ends up in our oceans.

After the ICC ceremony, Cimatu invited attendees to try to walk along the bay’s “white sand” to get a feel of the “new beach”. (PNA)



Cimatu: Stop politicizing Manila Bay

posted September 20, 2020 at 01:00 am

by [Manila Standard](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu stood firm on his position to push through with the Manila Bay beach nourishment project as he took a swipe at critics of the government's initiative.



PICTURE-POSTCARD. The government is set to open today (Sunday) to the public a portion of the bay walk area in Manila Bay that was spruced up with crushed dolomite rocks from Cebu. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Saturday allowed a preview of the 'white sand' project to mark the International Coastal Cleanup Day.

"Sadly, there are those who want us to stop the beach nourishment for reasons that are better political rather than environmental. We are not bothered, we have nothing to fear as long as we know that we are doing something good, these are critical in rehabilitation. The dolomite sand we used is not harmful," Cimatu said Saturday during the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day at the Manila Bay.

He said the agency was only complying with the writ of mandamus issued by the Supreme Court and with the orders of President Rodrigo Duterte who even launched the Battle for Manila Bay to clean up the area and restore its water quality to a level fit for swimming.

He said more than just dreaming for clean water, the DENR was working hard to make that a reality even amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are cleaning up not just the coast but also the trash, the garbage so that it will not end at the shoreline," he said.

He said the priority in the Manila Bay rehabilitation was the coastal cleanup and water quality improvement being done.

Those who participated in the ICC Day included personnel of government agencies and members of private organizations who collected trash.

As early as 6 a.m., personnel from the Bureau of Fire Department, Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Health joined other government employees for the cleanup activity on Roxas Boulevard.

Another issue to be addressed is the resettlement of informal settlers around the esteros and in the Pasig River who contribute solid wastes in the waters of the bay.

The most difficult part, he said, is educating or changing the mindset that must be learned by the public, especially those who continue to throw their trash everywhere.

"It is very important to change the culture and behavior of some people to successfully save Manila Bay," said Cimatu.

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He added that more would be underway as the two private concessionaires committed to putting up sewage treatment plants of their own while other sub-plants in Metro Manila were also being built.

Once finished, these would have a wastewater treatment capacity of 970,000 cubic meters per day, Cimatú said.

Several establishments around Manila Bay were also issued show cause and closure orders for violation of the clean water act as the agency will strictly implement the three-meter easement law.

Cimatú cited the rapid restoration done in Boracay and the rehabilitation being undertaken at the Manila Bay would not be treated as plain accomplishments but would rather be a template for other coastal and small island areas.

“The lessons we learned in Boracay are being applied in other ecotourism sites like El Nido in Palawan, Panglao Island in Bohol and Puerto Galera in Mindoro,” he said.

Cimatú also called on residents for the responsible use of plastic bags and other single-use plastics which almost always ended up in the ocean.

After the ICC ceremony, Cimatú invited attendees to try to walk along the bay’s “white sand” to get a feel of the “new beach.”



Egrets are seen on the shoreline of Manila Bay's 'white sand beach' along Roxas Boulevard yesterday. Crushed dolomite has been dumped in the area as part of the government's efforts to rehabilitate and beautify the polluted coastline.

Krizjohn Rosales

After bay rehab, focus shifts to garbage culture

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 20, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Behavioral change may be key to keeping the country's coastlines clean, environment chief Roy Cimatu said yesterday as he led the observance of International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day, with the temporary opening to the public of a portion of the Manila Bay coastline that was cleared of garbage and filled with tons of dolomite to create a beach-like appearance.

In his message, Cimatu said they would have to address behavioral and cultural realities that have made garbage throwing in the country, especially in Metro Manila, so prevalent.

"The cleanup of Manila Bay and esteros will just be continuing. However, we can't help but notice that people also continue to be indifferent on the garbage issue. One concrete example is that when they eat in fast food joints, they just leave the wrappers of what they've eaten on the table and don't even have the initiative to throw it in designated garbage bins," Cimatu said.

"Another thing we observed is that the pandemic made people more careless since the current situation drove almost everyone to have their food delivered or they just bring it home after buying from restaurants, so you can see several plastics still being used," he pointed out.

Cimatu said they would like to make the people realize that it would be much easier to address the garbage problem by volunteering and helping one another achieve a garbage-free environment. He said they would launch a massive education campaign aimed at changing people's attitude and highlighting the importance of waste management.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led a cleanup of the coast of Manila Bay – attracting a few volunteers, mostly government employees.



Cleanups were conducted in small groups, with physical distancing and wearing of face masks and face shields strictly followed.

“Our duty to keep our shorelines, rivers and waterways clean does not stop even with the pandemic. It is a task that we should take on every single day,” Cimatú said.

After the cleanup, Cimatú and some officials – including Manila Mayor Isko Moreno – proceeded to the site of the Manila Bay beach nourishment project to check on the progress of the ongoing operation to fill a 500-meter portion of the bay area with dolomite sand. The area is adjacent to the US embassy.

Critics of the project called it ostentatious and ineffective in restoring the beauty and water quality of the bay, once the country’s pride with its famed sunset. They said dolomite could even adversely affect the quality of water in Manila Bay.

Officials opened the Manila Bay “beach” to the public to demonstrate the viability of using crushed dolomite in rehabilitating and beautifying Manila Bay. The project, which cost more than P300 million, also involves de-silting of the coast as well as some “geo-intervention” to prevent the artificial sand from being washed away.

“We just want people to have a glimpse of this beach nourishment project since there were no construction activities this weekend. It will just be open until Sunday 6 p.m.,” DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.

ICC is the world’s largest volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. Every year, volunteers from over 100 countries engage in clean up of local beaches, rivers, lakes and canals to show their commitment to cleaner waterways.

The Ocean Conservancy, the world’s largest organization involved in protecting the health of the marine environment, has been sponsoring the annual event for the past 33 years.

For over a decade, the Philippines has had the most number of volunteers in the annual ICC Day around the world. Last year, more than 20,000 Filipino volunteers joined cleanup activities across the country.



Sec. Cimat, Mayor Moreno nagsagawa ng inspeksyon sa Manila Bay

By Angellic Jordan September 19, 2020 - 01:14 PM



Nagsagawa ng inspeksyon sina Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimat at Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa Manila Bay beach.

Ito ay kasabay pagdaraos ng ika-35 International Coastal Clean-up Day sa araw ng Sabado, September 19.

Kasama rin nina Cimat at Moreno sina Agriculture Secretary William Dar, DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello, DSWD Secretary Rolando Bautista, MMDA Chairman Danny Lim at iba pang opisyal ng gobyerno.

Nagkolekta rin ng mga basura ang ilang ahensya ng gobyerno at mga pribadong organisasyon bilang bahagi ng cleanup activity sa Roxas Boulevard.

Kasabay ng International Coastal Clean-up Day, pansamantala ring binuksan ang Manila Bay sa publiko sa araw ng Sabado.

Nakiusap naman si Moreno sa publiko na makiisa sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay.

“Matapos gawin at patuloy na gagawin at aayusin, nakikiusap naman ako, ‘yung mga balat ng candy ninyo, pinag-inuman, pinagkainan ilagay niyo naman sa tamang sisidlan. Maging responsable rin tayong mamamayan. Hindi lamang ang gobyerno nagpoprotekta sa kapaligiran... Dumating kayong malinis, umalis din kayo nang malinis,” pahayag ni Moreno.

Source: <https://radio.inquirer.net/265270/sec-cimat-mayor-moreno-nagsagawa-ng-inspeksyon-sa-manila-bay>



Cimatu, Moreno nagsagawa ng inspeksyon sa Manila Bay

Balita

By Ulat ng Bandera at Radyo Inquirer September 19, 2020 - 06:17 PM



Mula sa Facebook page ni Mayor Isko Moreno

Nagsagawa ng inspeksyon sina Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu at Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa Manila Bay beach.

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“Maging responsable rin tayong mamamayan. Hindi lamang ang gobyerno nagpoprotekta sa kapaligiran... Dumating kayong malinis, umalis din kayo nang malinis,” dagdag pa niya.

Source: https://bandera.inquirer.net/264934/cimatu-moreno-nagsagawa-ng-inspeksyon-sa-manila-bay?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0C6um4jBnsk3qA4ffmDcVpmYYF67jtYELY2VjgbhfUEGddNho2kpikTfc#Echobox=1600510949



Mayor Isko: Set aside politics in Manila Bay beautification

Published September 19, 2020, 12:15 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso on Saturday urged the public to set aside politics as various individuals and groups continue to raise health and environment concerns following the dolomite dumping in Manila Bay.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a speech before the start of the International Coastal Clean-Up Day activities and the partial opening of Manila Bay’s “white sand,” Domagoso said the city of Manila should not be dragged into the game of politics as it only wanted development for the Bay.

“Ako naman nananawagan, ‘wag nyo nang idamay ang Maynila sa pulitika ninyo. Kailangan namin nito, kailangan namin ng malinis na dagat, kailangan namin ng malinis na ilog, kailangan namin ng malinis na creek, kailangan ‘yon ng mga susunod na salinlahi namin (I’m appealing not to include Manila in your game of politics. We need this. We need a clean sea, a clean river and a clean creek. This is for future generations),” the mayor said, referring to various developments and clean up drives.

By cleaning Manila Bay and putting ‘white sand,’ Domagoso said, people would no longer need to go abroad as they may soon experience “Brazil’s Copacabana Beach” in the Philippines.

“Let [us] pay the price today so that the next generation will have a better vibrant city of Manila. We deserve it,” he stressed, noting that if the development of the bay area is not done today, “then when is the time to take care of our environment?”

Domagoso has expressed full support for the Manila Bay ‘white sand’ project and enjoined the public to trust the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in this initiative as the local government ensures that any project done in the city is safe before being implemented.

“Umasa kayo na...sa maliit naming kaparaanan bilang pamahalaang lungsod, di rin naman kami papayag na anumang uri ng development we introduce sa lungsod ay makapaminsala sa kalusugan ng tao sapagkat yan ay obligasyon nila, obligasyon namin na mapanitiling ligtas ang bawat tao (You can expect that the city government will not allow any development in Manila will be harmful to the health of the people because our obligation is to ensure the safety of the people),” he added.

“Magkaisa muna tayo. Di kalaban ang DENR... Di kalaban ang pamahalaan. Nandyan lang ho si COVID-19 lumiligid ligid, ‘yun ang tunay na kalaban (Let us unite. The DENR and the government are not the enemies. COVID-19 is in our midst. That is the real enemy),” Domagoso said.



Health Undersecretary Ma. Rosario Vergeire earlier said dolomites, particularly crushed dolomite rocks, may lead to “adverse” effects, mainly on the respiratory system. However, she believed that the DENR would not have allowed it if their study did not find it safe.



Isko hails DENR for Manila Bay project

Published 3 hours ago on September 20, 2020 03:40 AM

By [Pat C. Santos](#)



ONCE the repository of garbage, Manila Bay will no longer be known only for for its sunset but also for its white beachfront.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @TRIBUNEPHL_BOB

Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso on Saturday hailed the efforts of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to clean up and beautify Manila Bay.

Domagoso made the remark in celebration of the International Day of Coastal Clean-up.

Domagoso said previous administrations have neglected to rehabilitate the bay area except on occasions when garbage had to be collected from the bay.

Turning his guns on government critics, Moreno said they are free to express their opinions, but as far as Manilans are concerned, the beautification of the Manila Bay is appreciated and recognized.

“Don’t drag Manila in politics. We need this, we need a clean sea, a clean river, a clean creek so the next generation can enjoy a vibrant and clean Manila,” Domagoso said.

Moreno reminded critics that the government is not the enemy.

“The DENR is not the enemy. The DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government), DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) and DA (Department of Agriculture) are not the enemies. The enemy is perhaps near you, COVID-19. That’s the true enemy,” Moreno said.

“While we respect our different views, we must maintain in our heart and mind that we are all Filipino that has responsibility to the country, community and environment,” he added.

In jest, Moreno thanked those who opposed the white sands on Manila Bay for putting the city in the limelight.

For his part, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the Manila bay rehabilitation project was started two years ago and the dolomite sand at the bay is part of the second stage.

Water treatment plants have been installed in river ways not only in Manila but in other waterways to see to it that water from canals, creeks and the will be filtered and rid of organic dirt before it enters Manila Bay, according to Cimatu.



Meanwhile, various government agencies and private organizations on Saturday spearheaded the Manila Bay clean up and collected trash in the area in observance of International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Personnel from the the Bureau of Fire Department, Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Health joined other government employees for the cleanup activity on Roxas Boulevard.

The local Lions Club, on the other hand, was among the private organizations that joined the activity.

Earlier, the DENR said it is fast-tracking the dumping of synthetic white sand along the shores of Manila Bay for the clean-up day.



Cabinet members sama-samang idinepensa ang paglalagay ng white sand sa Manila Bay

By **Bombo Elmar Acol** -September 19, 2020 | 9:18 PM



Kanya-kanya ng depensa ang ilang cabinet members ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa ginagawang pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay gamit ang artificial white sand.

Ginawa ng mga ito ang pahayag kasabay nang pakikibahagi sa taunang International Coastal Clean-up Drive sa Roxas Blvd., Maynila.

Binuweltahan ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú ang mga kritiko at mga namumulitika sa Manila Bay nourishment project.

Aniya, hindi niya ipapatigil ang paggamit ng white sand sa rehabilitasyon dahil dumaan daw ito sa pag-aaral ng mga eksperto.

Hindi rin daw health hazards ang dolomite boulders.

Tiniyak naman nina MMDA chairman Danny Lim, DSWD Sec. Rolando Butista, CHED chairman Prospero Devera na all out support sila sa clean up drive at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Binigyang diin naman ni Agriculture Sec. William Dar, na hindi ang synthetic white sand ang dahilan ng fish kill sa bahagi ng Baseco, Tondo, Maynila kundi bunsod ng dumi o pulosyon sa dagat.





Sinabi naman ni Labor Sec. Silvestre Bello III sa Bombo Radyo, malaki na ang ipinagbago ng Manila Bay na dati ay amoy burak.

Hindi raw akalain niya na sa kanyang tanang buhay ay magkakaroon ng puting buhangin sa coastal area ng Manila Bay.

Para naman kay DILG Usec. Epimaco Densing, ang nakikita raw na pagbabago sa Manila Bay ang siyang ehemplo sa tamang hakbang ng gobyerno.

Kaugnay nito, todo pasalamat si Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa pagtugon ng national government sa matagal ng suliranin.

Ukol naman sa mga kritiko, sinabi ni Moreno na unang tututol ang lungsod niya kung makakasira sa kalusugan at kapaligiran ang itinambak na white sand mula sa dinurog na dolomite boulders.

Samantala sa dakong hapon ng Sabado napansin naman ng Bombo Radyo na tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang pagpila ng mga tao na ang iba ay nakikiuso rin at nagpakuha ng larawan sa kontrobersiyal na white sand.

Dahil sa pagbuhos ng mga tao hindi na halos nasusunod ang physical distancing.

Ang pagbubukas sa publiko sa Manila Bay white sand ay hanggang ngayong araw lamang ng Linggo ng hapon.



ABS-CBN News

13h

TINGNAN: Isa si Manila Mayor Isko Moreno sa mga dumalo sa pansamantalang pagbubukas ng "white sand beach" ng Manila Bay kasabay ng International Coastal Clean Up Day.

Nagpasalamat ang alkalde sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa ginagawa nitong rehabilitasyon sa dagat.

Pansamantalang mapupuntahan ng publiko ang bahaging tinambakan ng dolomite.

Kontrobersiyal ang proyekto dahil ayon sa ilang eksperto, masama para sa baybayin ang dolomite at aanurin lang ito kalaunan, bagay na pinabulaanan ng DENR. (🗣️: Moreno)

BASAHIIN: <https://bit.ly/2FL4o4x>



Dexter Arboladora and 10K others

2.2K Comments 245 Shares



Bagong mukha ng Manila Bay bukas na sa publiko



September 19, 2020 @ 11:54 AM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Binuksan sa publiko ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang Manila Bay ngayong araw upang masilayan at makapag selfie sa bagong mukha nito na puno ng “dolomite” o white sand kasabay ng isinagawang International Coastal Clean Up Day.

Sa kanyang maikling talumpati, sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, na ipinagmamalaki nito na ang kanilang ahensya ang lead agency para sa nasabing proyekto.

Kaya naman nagpapasalamat ito sa lahat ng mga sumusuporta sa Manila Bay rehabilitation lalo na sa paglalagay ng dolomite sand kung saan makaaakit ito ng maraming turista na maaaring makatulong naman sa paglago ng ekonomiya mula sa pandemya.



Ayon pa kay Cimatu, hiniling nito kay Manila Mayor “Isko Moreno” Domagoso na magtayo ng dalawang modernong comfort room at ang lumang comfort room ay gagawin na lang na “souvenir shop” upang ang mga nagtitinda sa Manila Bay ay makapagtinda at ‘di mawalan ng hanapbuhay.

Dagdag pa ng kalihim, ang pinakamalaking concern ngayon na ginagawa ng ahensya ay ang pag-uugali o behavioral change at cultural change para malaman ng mga tao ang tamang pagtatapon ng basura.

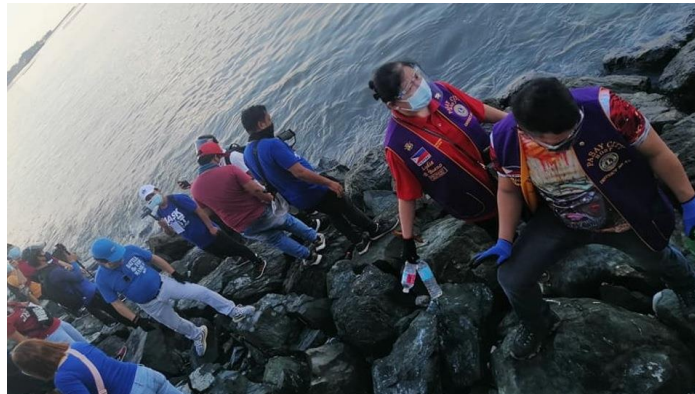
Sinabi naman si DILG Usec Epimaco Densing na suportado ng kanilang ahensya ang proyekto ng DENR dahil ang kanilang ginagawa ay may koneksyon sa ekonomiya.



Punto naman ni Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III na hindi nito inaasahan na makikita niya ang Manila Bay na ganun na ang itsura.

“One day Manila Bay back to each old glory,” ayon pa kay Bello.

Dumalo rin sa naturang aktibidad ang mga miyembro ng Lions Clubs International District 301-A2 Philippines sa pangunguna ni District Governor Benny Antiporda, 2PMJF; MMDA Chairman General Danilo Lim, ang mga kinatawan ng Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Tourism, National Economic and Development Authority at iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno.



PINANGUNAHAN ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary at District 301-A2 District Governor Benny Antiporda ang isinagawang paglilinis sa Manila Bay bilang pakikiisa sa International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Dumating si Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso na nakiusap sa mga bumabatiko sa dolomite white sand na huwag idamay ang Maynila sa pulitika.

“Maraming salamat sa dolomite, napag-uusapan at napo-promote ang lungsod ng Maynila.”

Ito ang pabirong banggit ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso na isa sa mga pangunahing panauhing pandangal sa ginanap na “International Coastal Cleanup 2020” sa Manila Bay ngayong araw.

Ayon kay Domagoso, napakaling bagay sa lahat ng Manilenyo ang okasyong ito dahil ilang dekada na umanong hindi nabibigyang pansin ang paglilinis sa nasabing look.

Pinasalamatan naman ng alkalde si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte gayundin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamumuno ni Sec. Roy Cimatu dahil tinuldukan umano nila ang matagal nang suliranin hinggil sa basurang nakatambak sa Manila Bay na ikinibit-balikat lamang umano ng mga nagdaang administrasyon.

Nanawagan naman si Domagoso sa mga Manilenyo gayundin sa mga dadayo sa lungsod na kung darating kayong malinis sa inyong pupuntahan sa Maynila, umalis din kayo na malinis. Maging responsable aniya tayong mamayan sa ating lungsod.

“Tulong-tulong, pagkakaiba, pagkakaunawaan at pagmamalasakit sa kapwa yan ang paalala sa atin ng Manila Bay,” ani Domagoso sa publiko.



Ayon naman kay DENR Usec Benny Antiporda, bukas ang Manila Bay sa publiko hanggang mamayang alas 6 ng hapon at muli itong bubuksan bukas sa ganap na alas-5 ng umaga hanggang alas-6 ng gabi.

Pagkatapos nito, muling isasara sa publiko ang Manila Bay para tapusin ang paglalagay ng dolomite sa 500 metro.

Ayon pa kay Usec Antiporda, natapos na ang 120 x 60 metro o katumbas ng 7,200 metro kuwadrado.

Mayroon pa umanong 390 metro na kasunod at 'yun ang phase 2 kaya sa kabuuan ay nasa 3 ektarya o humigit kumulang sa 30,000 metro kwadrado ang tatambakan ng dolomite.

"Ganun po kalaki ang white beach natin and looking forward naman na magustuhan ng taumbayan 'to," ayon pa kay Antiporda.

Sa nasabing event, mahigpit na ipinatupad ang social distancing sa mga nagsidalo at nakabantay ang mga kapulisan para sitahin ang mga lumalabag sa health protocols.
Jocelyn Domenden/Lea Botones/ Jay Reyes



Manila Bay's 'white sand' beachfront readied for Sept. 20 public opening

Published September 19, 2020 12:38pm

By JAMIL SANTOS, GMA News

The government is set to open to the public this coming Sunday, September 20, the portion of Baywalk area in Manila Bay spruced up with crushed dolomite rocks from Cebu.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Saturday invited the media, bloggers, and government agencies to take a preview of the newly-improved Manila Bay on the occasion of the International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, as can be seen in photos by GMA News' stringer Danny Pata.



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



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

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756296/manila-bay-s-white-sand-beachfront-readied-for-sept-20-public-opening/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Twitter



Mala-white beach na Manila Bay, 2 araw bubuksan sa publiko

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

- September 20, 2020 - 12:00am



Nakiisa sa isinagawang International Coastal Clean-up sa Manila Bay kahapon ang mga volunteers mula sa ibat-ibang government agencies at private groups. Mahigpit din namang ipinairal ang health protocols kabilang ang social distancing at ang pagsusuot ng face mask at face shields.

MANILA, Philippines — Dalawang araw na bubuksan sa publiko ang Baywalk sa Manila Bay na tinambakan ng artificial white sand.

Kasabay sa pagdiriwang kahapon ng International Coastal Clean Up Day, bukas sa publiko ang baywalk na mala-white beach. Pwedeng magpa-picture o maglakad-lakad ang mga mamasyal basta nasusunod ang health protocols ng pamahalaan.

Ipinagbabawal na maligo sa lugar.

Sinabi ni DENR Indersecrtray Benny Antiporda, bukas ang lugar hanggang alas-6 ng gabi kahapon.

Ngayon araw bubuksan ito ng alas-5 ng umaga hanggang alas-6 ng gabi.

Dalawang araw pa lang muna itong ipapamalas sa publiko dahil muling isasara para tuluyang tapusin ang proyekto.

Sa ngayon nasa higit 100 metro na ang haba nito at ang plano dito ng DENR ay pahabain ng hanggang 500 metro.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/metro/2020/09/20/2043678/mala-white-beach-na-manila-bay2-araw-bubuksan-sa-publiko/amp/>

LOOK: Manila Bay's white sand baywalk temporarily opens to the public

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 19 2020 09:52 PM | Updated as of Sep 19 2020 11:28 PM

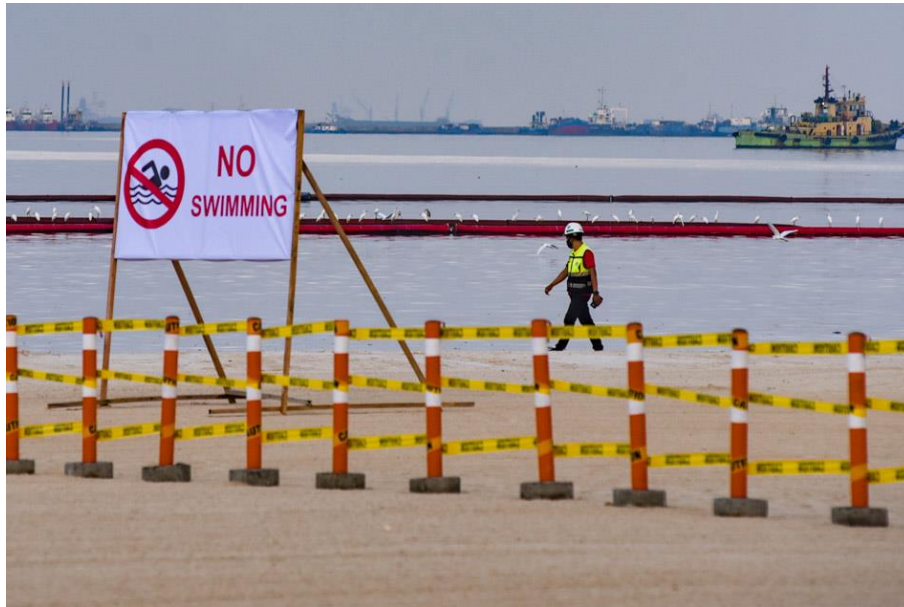
As the world celebrates International Coastal Cleanup Day, personnel of various government agencies and members of private organizations gathered in Manila Bay to collect trash in the area.

Several people and vloggers also flocked to the area's baywalk during its temporary opening to experience the "white sand" seemingly paying no mind to the country's [rising coronavirus cases](#). The "sand," which is [crushed dolomite](#), was spread as part of Manila Bay's rehabilitation efforts and cost [P28 million](#).

The event was attended by MMDA Chairman Danny Lim, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III, DSWD Secretary Rolando Bautista, Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education Prospero De Vera, and Cavite 4th District Representative Elpidio Barzaga Jr.

While a portion of the baywalk will be [open to the public](#) during the weekend, swimming is still prohibited in the area due to pollution concerns.

Here are some scenes from the event.



Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/slideshow/09/19/20/look-manila-bays-white-sand-baywalk-temporarily-opens-to-the-public>



Government personnel join the volunteers collecting trash at Manila Bay on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020 for International Coastal Cleanup Day. **DANNY PATA**

Gov't agencies, private organizations collect trash in Manila Bay for Int'l Coastal Cleanup Day

Published September 19, 2020 10:19am

Updated September 19, 2020 2:35pm

Personnel of various government agencies and members of private organizations went to Manila Bay on Saturday to collect trash in observance of International Coastal Cleanup Day.

As early as 6 a.m., personnel from the Bureau of Fire Department, Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Health joined other government employees for the cleanup activity on Roxas Boulevard.



The cleanup at Manila Bay started at 6 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020. **Danny Pata**

Among the private organizations who joined the activity was a local Lions Club.



Police personnel also joined the cleanup at Manila Bay on Sat., Sept. 19, 2020. **Danny Pata**



Government officials also led a [preview of the Manila Bay "white sand" project](#) which will be open to the public on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Meanwhile, an artist named Bebot Cultura was seen painting by the bay as part of his participation on International Coastal Cleanup Day.



Artist Bebot Cultura from Cagayan De Oro province rendered his vision of a clean and picturesque Manila Bay through his painting during the celebration of the International Cleanup Day on Roxas Boulevard on Saturday, September 19, 2020. **Danny Pata**

—KG, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756285/gov-t-agencies-private-organizations-collect-trash-on-manila-bay-for-int-l-coastal-cleanup-day/story/?fbclid=IwAR0M2LzfzQ_9FerGqvNN2hQ2uBzyA7cgOMq7NnNsBNCYITu36g-k6fg_k4



INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY ISINAGAWA SA MANILA BAY

written by **Ashley Jose** September 19, 2020



Nagsanib pwersa ang iba't-ibang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno at ilang mga pribadong organisasyon sa pagpulot o mangolekta ng basura sa Manila Bay ngayong araw, bilang pakikiisa sa International Coastal Clean-Up Day.

Kaninang alas 6:00 ng umaga, nag umpisa nang mag linis sa manila bay ang mga tauhan ng Bureau of Fire Protection, DPWH, at DOH sa ikinasang cleanup activity sa Roxas Boulevard.

Katuwang din ng mga nabanggit na ahensiya ang Local Lions Club.

Matatandaang binuksan na rin sa publiko ngayong araw ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng pinulbos na dolomite rocks.



Philippine Star
19h · 🌐

⋮

Volunteers from various government agencies and private groups are reminded of the proper health protocols, like social distancing and mandatory wearing of face masks and face shields as they participate in the International Coastal Cleanup at the Manila Bay on Saturday morning.



👍❤️😄 6.5K

538 Comments 366 Shares



GMA News
16h · 🌐

...

YouScoop: Bilang pakikiisa sa International Coastal Cleanup Day, sumali ang grupo ni **YouScoop** Norly Capanzana sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay ngayon araw.

Ngayong araw rin pansamantalang binuksan ang kontrobersyal na Manila bay beach front kung sa publiko. | Courtesy: Norly Capanzana

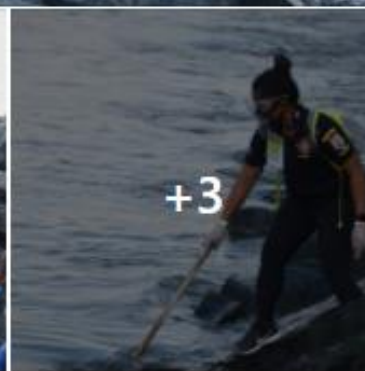
BASA HIN: <https://bit.ly/2RExe9B>

May mga kuwento, photo, o video ba kayong nais ibahagi sa GMA News? Maaari 'yang ipadala sa:

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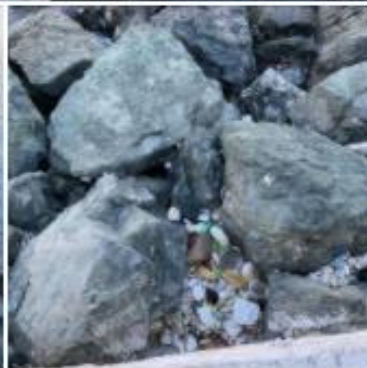
👍❤️👏 7.3K

919 Comments 192 Shares



ABS-CBN News 21h · 🌐

TINGNAN: Patuloy ang paglilinis ng baywalk sa Maynila ngayong Sabado bilang bahagi ng International Coastal Clean-up Day. | via Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News



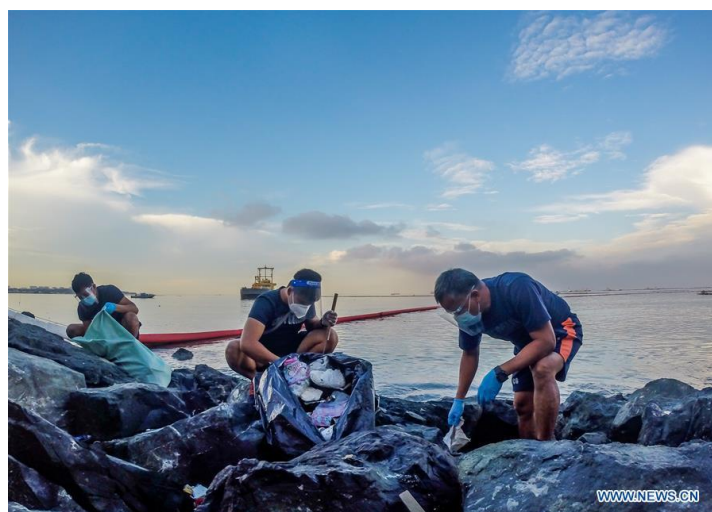
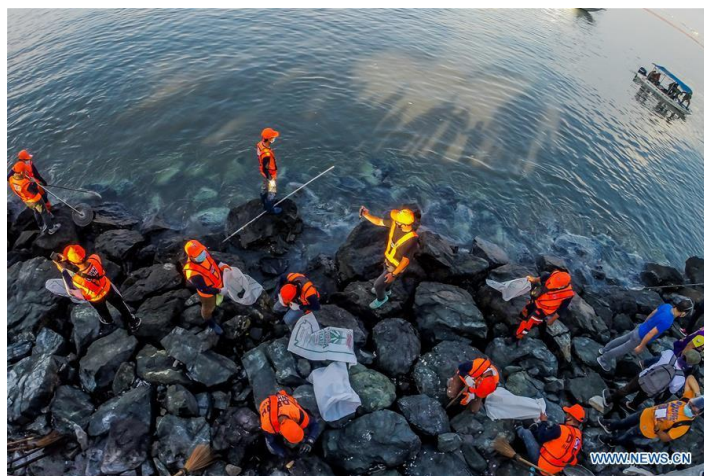
👍❤️👏 9.1K

1.5K Comments 270 Shares



Volunteers collect rubbish along coast of Manila Bay in the Philippines

Source: Xinhua | 2020-09-19 16:02:19 | Editor: huaxia



Volunteers collect rubbish as they participate in an International Coastal Cleanup Day activity along the coast of Manila Bay in Manila, the Philippines on Sept. 19, 2020. (Xinhua/Rouelle Umali)

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/19/c_139381192_7.htm



Lugar sa Baywalk na tinambakan ng white sand, 2 araw na bubuksan sa publiko

Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 19 2020 10:30 AM | Updated as of Sep 19 2020 07:42 PM



Jekki Pascual @jekkipascual · Sep 19, 2020



Replying to @jekkipascual

Marami ang nag-volunteer na mamulot ng basura sa Baywalk; may mga nag-Zumba rin.






Jekki Pascual @jekkipascual

Bubuksan sa publiko ng dalawang araw ang bagong bahagi ng baywalk sa Maynila; hanggang 6pm lng pwede bumisita ngayon Sabado at Linggo.



8:57 AM · Sep 19, 2020 from Manila City, National Capital Region (i)

♡ 4
👤 See Jekki Pascual's other Tweets

MAYNILA— Bubuksan sa publiko nang dalawang araw ang lugar sa Baywalk sa Maynila na tinambakan ng artificial white sand.

Ito ang kontrobersyal na proyekto kung saan nilagyan ng dinurog na dolomite rock ang pampang ng Baywalk para magmukhang white sand beach ang lugar.

Ngayong araw ng International Coastal Clean Up Day, bukas sa mga bisita ang "white sand" na bahagi ng Manila Bay coast at puwedeng magpa-picture o maglakad-lakad. Bawal naman ang maligo dahil marumi pa rin ang bay.

Paalala rin sa publiko na sundin pa rin ang pinaairal na health protocol laban sa pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, bukas ang lugar hanggang alas-6 ng gabi ng Sabado.



Isasara ulit ito at bubuksan muli mula alas-5 ng umaga sa Linggo hanggang alas-6 ng gabi.

Dalawang araw lang ito bukas sa publiko at isasara muli para tuluyang tapusin ang proyekto.

Sa ngayon nasa higit 100 metro na ang haba nito at plano ng DENR na pahabain pa ito sa 500 metro

-- **May ulat ni Raya Capulong, ABS-CBN News**



MANILA BULLETIN

16h · 🌐



LOOK: This is now the portion of the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard that was rehabilitated by DENR. (Photo: DENR) | via Ellalyn Ruiz



Zulfikar-Ali Sergio Bayam, Arvin Royo and 21K others

2.9K Comments 1.8K Shares





PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_bob

ONCE the repository of garbage, Manila Bay will no longer be known only for its sunset but also for its white beachfront.



LOOK | Pansamantalang binuksan sa publiko ang "white beach" sa Manila Bay bilang pagdiriwang sa International Coastal Cleanup Day, via [Hannibal Talete](#)



Ryan McClane Rogel and 38K others

6.1K Comments 3.2K Shares



GMA News ✓
18h · 🌐

LOOK: Pila ng mga taong gustong makapasok sa Manila bay beach front. Pansamantalang binuksan sa publiko ang kontrobersyal na Manila bay beach front ngayong araw kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng International Coastal Cleanup Day. | via [Vonne Aquino, GMA News](#)

RELATED STORY: <https://bit.ly/2FPOSV0>



👍 🤔 😬 Krizelle Aguilar Ely, Manuel Rodriguez II and 31K others · 6.7K Comments 4.1K Shares



ABS-CBN News

17h · 🌐



PANOORIN: Hindi na pumila ang isang grupo ng mga senior citizen na mga taga suporta ni Pangulong Duterte papasok sa "white sand" project sa Manila Bay nitong Sabado.

Nakiusap ang mga ito kung maaari silang paunahin dahil matatanda na sila ngunit hindi sila pinayagan noong una ng organizer dahil hindi pa pupuwede lumabas ang mga senior citizen sa ilalim ng GCQ.

Pinayagan din sila kalaunan na pumasok at makita ang kontrobersyal na Manila Bay white sand. | Kuha ni George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News



▶ 0:04 / 2:12



👍❤️🔥 9K

3.4K Comments 1.6K Shares



ABS-CBN News

14h

TINGNAN: Buhay na buhay ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng artificial white sand ngayong Sabado matapos buksan sa publiko pansamantala.

Abala ang marami sa pagkuha ng larawan sa kontrobersyal na "white sand" sa Manila Bay habang ang iba ay nag-zumba pa sa baywalk. Tuloy din ang paglilinis ng ilang volunteer sa gilid nito.

Bukas ang Manila Bay hanggang 6PM ngayong araw at sa Linggo mula 5AM hanggang 6PM upang makita ng tao ang proyekto ng DENR. | Kuha ni George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News



Kryshlaine Raquel, Ricky Calipay and 95K others

10K Comments 10K Shares



ABS-CBN News

19h · 🌐

...

TINGNAN: Maraming tao ang bumisita sa Manila Bay ngayong Sabado; may ilan ding nag-zumba sa baywalk. Bukas sa publiko ngayong weekend ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng artificial white sand. | via Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News



👍🤔🙄 Kurt Ronquillo, Krizelle Aguilar Ely and 37K others

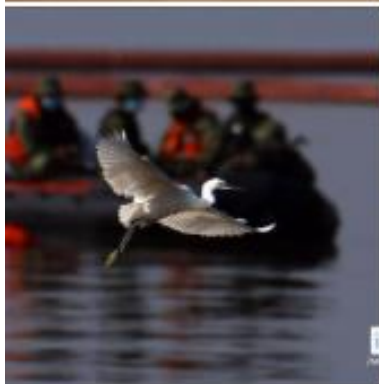
8.8K Comments 8.2K Shares



INQ INQUIRER.net
16h · 🌐

LOOK: A flock of little egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) gather at the shoreline of the recently introduced artificial white sand or crushed dolomite beach along Manila Bay in Roxas Boulevard on Saturday, on #InternationalCoastalCleanUpDay, September 19, 2020.

📷: Niño Jesus Orbeta/Philippine Daily Inquirer



👍👍👍 Melvin Soriano, Florante Lugo Aseo and 28K others

4.7K Comments 15K Shares



Philippine Star

16h · 🌐



LOOK: Migratory birds are seen along the shores of Manila Bay "white sand beach" on Saturday. Authorities opened the portion of Manila Bay to the public in celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day.



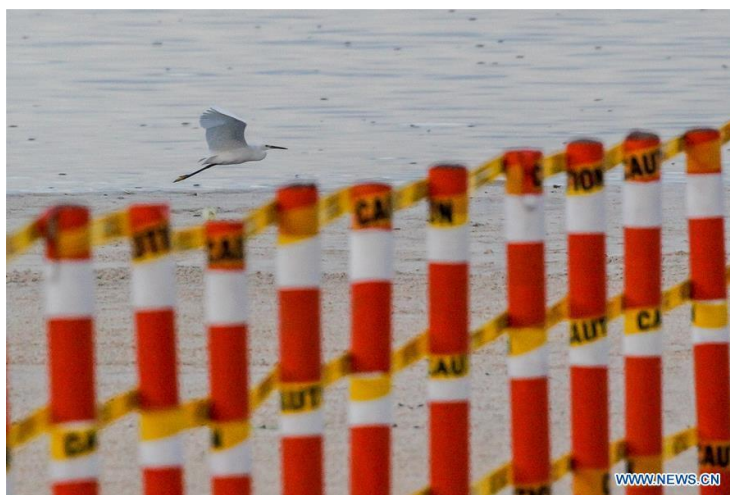
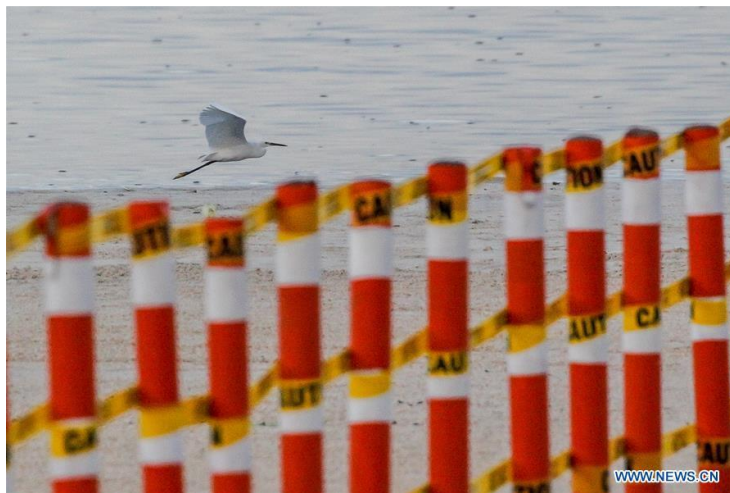
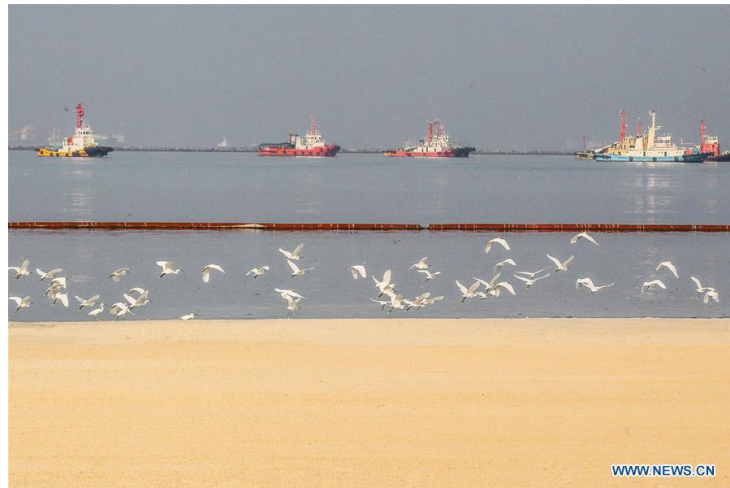
Yeushua Dejesus, Florante Lugo Aseo and 51K others

4.3K Comments 11K Shares



White egrets seen on Manila Bay in the Philippines

Source: Xinhua | 2020-09-19 15:59:27 | Editor: huaxia



White egrets are seen on Manila Bay in Manila, the Philippines on Sept. 19, 2020. (Xinhua/Rouelle Umali)



ABS-CBN News

11h · 🌐



LOOK: The sunset as seen along the new "white sand" project in Manila Bay Saturday. | via George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

READ: <https://bit.ly/32GIB78>



Arvin Royo, Dada De Vera Cendaña and 19K others

2.9K Comments 1.2K Shares



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_bob

ONCE the repository of garbage, Manila Bay will no longer be known only for its sunset but also for its white beachfront.



Health guidelines ignored as hundreds gather at Manila Bay despite quarantine

Published September 19, 2020, 4:57 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Despite quarantine measures that discourage doing non-essential things outside the home, hundreds of people still gathered at Manila Bay to see, touch and walk on the controversial “white sand” as it opened briefly to the public Saturday on the occasion of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day.



(JANSEN ROMERO/ MANILA BULLETIN)

In photos and videos circulating on social media, people were seen taking pictures, holding zumba sessions, among others, while parents tagged their children, even babies, along.

Dozens of senior citizens—who are still not allowed outside their homes according to health guidelines because of their vulnerability to the coronavirus disease—also trooped to the area, holding a tarpaulin with an image of President Duterte.

“Manila Bay ang muling pagbangon sa ilalim ng Duterte administration,” the writing on the tarpaulin read.

Many violated the one-meter physical distancing protocol before the eyes of law enforcers as they took photos and selfies of the supposedly improved Manila Bay.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso led the clean-up activity among other government officials and inspected the Manila Bay beach.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/19/health-guidelines-ignored-as-hundreds-gather-at-manila-bay-despite-quarantine/>



Photo: Danny Pata

Physical distancing not observed during Manila Bay 'white sand beach' opening

Published September 19, 2020 5:49pm

A number of people who showed up for the opening of the Manila Bay "white sand beach" on Saturday failed to observe physical distancing and were not wearing face shields, according to a Super Radyo dzBB report.

The radio report said while personnel were on site to remind the observance of physical distancing, people were still seen huddled and close together while falling in line outside to get a peek into the newly constructed beach.

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

The report added that while the people were wearing face masks, most came without face shields on. Asked why people without face shields were allowed in, the report quoted organizers of the event as saying it was not required in open spaces.

Physical distancing sa tinaguriang "Manila Bay Sands," halos hindi nasusunod. |
via [@VargasMannysen](https://twitter.com/VargasMannysen) pic.twitter.com/3dQlrHlyoN

— DZBB Super Radyo (@dzbb) [September 19, 2020](#)

[Members of the media, bloggers, and government agencies were invited to take a preview](#) of the newly-improved Manila Bay that had been spruced up with crushed dolomite rocks from Cebu.

The event was held on the occasion of the International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday.



In late July, the government said it was [considering requiring citizens to wear face shields while in a public place](#) as an added protection against COVID-19.

On August 15, the national government mandated the use of face shields on top of face masks when using [public transport](#) or when in [workplaces](#).

On August 21, Malacanang said that face shields were also required inside [enclosed spaces and commercial establishments](#), including shopping malls.

In late August, the Palace said the government was still studying if the wearing of face shields should be mandatory in all places.

But some local governments in Metro Manila like in [Pateros](#) and Mandaluyong have started requiring residents to wear face shields in public places. **-MDM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/756320/physical-distancing-not-observed-during-manila-bay-white-sand-beach-opening/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2v67JXCTH UO5uySFzGvkPVjcNbfCnDH1opBA2m5Akf9mMbFfgCSfuZyz8

LOOK: Crowd gathers at Manila Bay's new 'white beach'

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)



Published Sep 19, 2020 9:07:35 PM



Harold Paras, Cris Salvador/ CNN Philippines


Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 19) — A large crowd of visitors was seen at a segment of Manila Bay's shoreline recently covered with white sand, after authorities temporarily opened it for public viewing.


The "white beach" opened Saturday afternoon with people waiting in line to take a peek at the controversial project. Pictures of the throng caught the attention and ire of netizens after noticing that most of the visitors were not practicing physical distancing.



 **ricci**
@ricci_richy 

DENR opened the beach front of Manila Bay today. What happened to social distancing? Did they ask the visitors to log their details for contact tracing? The policemen are there as/for what, audience impact?

Tapos sasabihin nyo pasaway ang mga tao? Make it make sense.



12:08 PM · Sep 19, 2020 

 2.3K  See the latest COVID-19 information on Twit...



Pepec Paloma
@pepcpam

Ay pakkk! Taray may pa ganap keneme para ipagyabang ang Dolomite sa Manila Bay. So ang social distancing deadmatology nalang? Push nyo yan para ang Abo nyo ang next na itatambak jan. ctto.



12:09 PM · Sep 19, 2020



100 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitt...



Lordpoor
@ribsrep

Hundreds of people waiting to enter Manila Bay, encouraged by the government. Pero yung mag-isang naglalaba sa bakura na ginang ipapabarangay.



11:49 AM · Sep 19, 2020



17.3K 3.4K people are Tweeting about this



Meanwhile, some of the residents were pleased with their visit.

"Sobrang ganda. Parang Boracay beach 'yung nakikita din namin," said Cathy Gerona.

[Translation: Very beautiful. It looks like Boracay beach.]

Another said the project would be a good way for residents to enjoy a beach they would not have been able to afford to visit otherwise.

"Okay siya maging pasyalan lalo na sa mga kababayan natin na can't afford na mamasyal sa magandang pasyalan," said Mirabell Malapitan.

[Translation: It is a nice place to visit for residents who cannot afford to go to other beautiful places.]

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the beach will be opened to the public again on Sunday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., with plans to close it afterwards for the next phase of its development. He said they plan to expand the beach by another 380 meters, making it a three-hectare project.

The P389-million facelift, which involved the crushing of dolomite boulders and transporting the materials from Cebu province, was heavily criticized, with groups claiming the project was ill-advised and not beneficial to the environment. Some quarters are even blaming the dolomite for the [fishkill](#) that occurred near the Baseco compound a few days before the project's opening.



Manila Bay 'white sand' dinagsa ng mga pasaway

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 19, 2020

NEWS



39 0

Hundi nasunod ang social distancing ng mga dumalo sa ginawang pagbubukas ng Manila Bay "white sand" sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources(DENR) sa may Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard.

Nabatid na dinagsa ng mga tao, kasama na ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan at miyembro ng media para makita ang itinambak na dolomite sand sa bahagi ng Baywalk.

Ayon kay DENR Usec Benny Antiporda ,pinag -aaralan pa ang paglalagay ng "white sand" sa may 380 metro ng Manila Bay.

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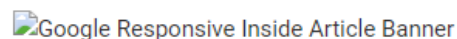
Bagong uri ng halaman nadiskubre sa Mt. Arayat
Sep 19, 2020 0

Sinabi naman ni Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso na kailangan ng Maynila ang isang malinis na dagat.

Bubuksan ngayong araw ,Setyembre 20 ng gobyerno sa publiko ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng dinurog na dolomite rocks mula sa Cebu.

Kasabay ng pagbubukas ng

Manila Bay white sand ay idinaos rin ang



International Coastal Cleanup Day sa Manila Bay kung saan naghakot ng mga itinapong basura sa karagatan.(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



Manila Bay 'white sand' dinagsa ng mga pasaway

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 19, 2020

NEWS



39 0

Hundi nasunod ang social distancing ng mga dumalo sa ginawang pagbubukas ng Manila Bay "white sand" sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources(DENR) sa may Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard.

Nabatid na dinagsa ng mga tao, kasama na ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan at miyembro ng media para makita ang itinambak na dolomite sand sa bahagi ng Baywalk.

Ayon kay DENR Usec Benny Antiporda ,pinag -aaralan pa ang paglalagay ng "white sand" sa may 380 metro ng Manila Bay.

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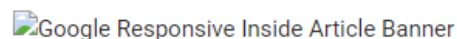
Moreno"Domagoso na kailangan ng Maynila ang isang malinis na dagat.

Bubuksan ngayong araw

,Setyembre 20 ng gobyerno sa publiko ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na tinambakan ng dinurog na dolomite rocks mula sa Cebu.

Kasabay ng pagbubukas ng

Manila Bay white sand ay idinaos rin ang



International Coastal Cleanup Day sa Manila Bay kung saan naghakot ng mga itinapong basura sa karagatan.(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



CNN Philippines

1h · 🌐

LOOK: People gather along the Baywalk in Roxas Blvd. in Manila to get a glimpse of the 'White Sand Beach' this morning, a day after authorities temporarily opened it for public viewing. bit.ly/2HdyM8l

📷: Bangs Bangayan/ Gio Germonio CNN Philippines



Bien Willis Naz, Maribel Molina and 13K others

4.1K Comments 6.6K Shares



Greening Manila Bay

'Nilad para sa Maynila'

By Jonathan L. Mayuga September 20, 2020



Mangroves at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.

The Manila Bay, world-famous for its beautiful sunset, has been in the news in the past days over the so-called white-sand beach-nourishment project.

However, amid the controversial project is the relatively quiet initiative, the “Nilad para sa Maynila,” for a five-year mangrove-reforestation project worth P3 million to bring back the iconic nilad mangrove in the tidal creeks of Manila.



Anilad mangrove plant.

It is part of regreening Manila Bay, as well as to make the place climate-change resilient.

To be implemented by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), the research and development arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the project is in partnership with the local government of the country's capital city, Manila, in support of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

It is the “greening” part of the engineering interventions in Manila Bay, which has gained economic importance with its massive growth and development over the last half century.

However, along with development came the destruction of coastal and marine ecosystems, including the decimation of mangroves in many parts of the Manila Bay region.

What is nilad?

Scientifically called *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, nilad is one of the 40 known mangrove species found in the Philippines.



Like all mangroves, it is a natural filter and a barrier to wave action, and helps in the removal and sequestration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Published botanical literature in the Philippines claimed that Manila got its name from nilad—"Maynila" to mean "dominated by nilad" or "there is nilad"—as the iconic mangrove species once thrived in Manila Bay, according to the Project Brief of the Nilad for Maynila.

Sadly, however, despite the many ecosystem goods and services the species provides, its population along the coast of Manila has been practically decimated.

Enhancing resiliency

The project aims to bring back nilad in the tidal creeks and river mouths in Manila, where they once thrived, and to enhance the city's resilience to the worse impacts of climate change.

The plan involves the planting of young nilad trees grown from areas, such as Pagbilao, Quezon, through earth-balling.

The target launching would be in November as the ERDB is "still preparing the earth-balled planting materials to increase survival," ERDB Director Henry Adornado told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on September 10.

As part of the project, Adornado said they conducted a survey of potential sites in Manila for nilad field planting and identified four potential project sites.

The sites are near Baseco in Tondo; a vacant lot adjacent to a floating restaurant near Hotel H2O in Intramuros; the back of new Sewage Treatment Plant building adjacent to the Manila Yacht Club; and the island or plant boxes along Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard.

Important ecosystems function

Like all mangroves, nilad, which is "endemic to Manila Bay," plays very important ecosystems function, Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon said.

A forestry expert, Calderon, the concurrent director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), said bringing back nilad to Manila Bay will help nourish and revive life in the coastal and marine ecosystems.

Sought for reaction, Calderon told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on September 11 that mangroves are breeding ground of fish and mollusks—including crabs, shrimps and shellfish—hence, making mangrove forest a natural food-production area.

"In our mangrove reforestation project in Cebu, fishermen no longer need to go further out of the sea to fish. They just fish in the mangrove area," Calderon said.

Green and grey intervention

Calling "Nilad for Maynila" a laudable "green" intervention in Manila Bay, he said there are areas in the bay that are naturally inhabited by mangroves, such as nilad.

One of the areas is the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, also known as the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, which was declared a Ramsar Site because it has been identified as a migratory bird site as it is visited by tens of thousands of birds every year.



A Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It came into force in 1975 in Ramsar, Iran.

“There are certain areas where mangroves can survive, especially those with brackish water. It is their preferred habitat. They usually grow in mouths of rivers,” he said.

He said the ERDB has identified areas that are suited for mangrove reforestation during previous studies conducted with DENR-BMB experts.

Regreening Manila Bay, Calderon said, is needed the same way as the “grey” intervention or hard engineering, such as the construction of a breakwater that will cushion the impact of a tsunami or storm surge during strong typhoons as mangroves do not survive in some coastal areas.

Mangroves-rich Pagbilao

According to Adornado a project site of the ERDB in the Pagbilao mangrove swamp, he said, has wildlings and saplings of nilad enough to bring patches of green to Manila Bay.

“Careful consideration will be made not to injure the root system during the extraction of the planting materials,” the ERDB Project Brief of the Nilad for Maynila said.

To diversify the species composition, not only nilad will be earth-balled and used for out-planting and regreening. It will also use the species that live closely with nilad, such as the endangered gapas-gapas and tawalis, the project brief added.

It said the earth-balled materials will be reared in the Pagbilao mangrove nursery for two months for recovery and conditioning. After which, they will be transported to Manila.

Beyond Manila

According to Adornado, while the project is initially set only for Manila, they are eyeing to cover other areas around Manila Bay, such as Parañaque and Cavite, and beyond.

“The City of Manila is just a pilot area for the project. When perfected, we will replicate it in other areas, and encourage other concerned offices to revert back mangrove trees around Manila Bay,” he said.

Adornado underscored the importance of regreening Manila Bay, taking note that mangrove that naturally protects coastal communities have been decimated by destructive human activities over the years.

Nilad, for one, is important because it naturally occurs in the Manila Bay region.

“The entire Manila Bay, spanning from Cavite to Bataan, has about 994 hectare covered by mangroves. We don’t know yet how much of this 994 ha is covered by nilad. But in the coast of Manila City alone, this species is practically not visible despite its historic role in having Manila’s name [taken from it],” Adornado said.

A welcome development but...

Asked for comments, environmental groups welcomed the project but chided the measly budget allotted for what they described as the “right path” to Manila Bay rehabilitation.



Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, a nongovernment oceans conservation advocacy group, said bringing back nilad where Manila got its name is “good.”

“That’s good but they [project proponents] are not supposed to plant them [nilad] in their natural habitat,” said Ramos, who lamented the fact that many mangrove areas are being threatened by destructive development projects in Manila Bay.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-People’s Network for the Environment, said the DENR leadership should fully support the ERDB initiative to restore mangroves in Manila Bay.

He pointed out that more budget should go to mangrove reforestation.

“Imagine the ecosystem restoration that is possible if ERDB’s P3-million budget is bolstered by the P389-million fund allocation wasted on the Manila Bay white sands. It would benefit the Filipino people in terms of food security, pollution and erosion control, eco-tourism, and natural beautification,” he told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on September 15.

Meanwhile, citing a study by Primavera and Esteban in 2008, Fernando Hicap, national chairman of the fisherfolk organization Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), said mangrove planting costs at least \$607.7 or P28,881.6 per hectare.

This means, he said, that the P3-million budget for the project could only plant at least 104 hectares of mangroves compared to the thousands of hectares already destroyed by reclamation projects over the past decades.

“We question the measly budget for mangroves when there is almost a whopping P400 million for a comparatively useless beach nourishment project through dolomite filling,” Hicap said via Messenger on September 14.

“The DENR’s mangrove-patches project reeks of a cover-up of its dolomite white-sand fiasco,” the Pamalakaya leader added.

Such “measly” budget, he lamented, would do little to nothing in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay because reclamation projects that wipeout remaining mangroves are pushing through.

“If the DENR is really sincere in its mangrove reforestation, it must thoroughly study, along with the communities and the science sector, which critical areas should be rehabilitated and the appropriate types of mangroves to be installed. Otherwise, it would be another waste of public funds,” Hicap said.

“Moreover, they should scrap all the environmental compliance certificates issued to big-ticket reclamation projects in Manila Bay,” he said.



Baseco fish kill caused by low dissolved oxygen

Published September 19, 2020, 9:49 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Natural causes led to the fish kill in Manila Bay near Baseco last Sept. 17, results of the water quality test released by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) showed.



(PIA / MANILA BULLETIN)

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said the water quality analysis conducted by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) revealed Friday afternoon that the fish kill was a result of low concentrations of dissolved oxygen in the water.

“Our test results are now out. The dissolved oxygen is only 3 mg/L (milligrams per liter), which caused the death of fish in Manila Bay. DENR's standard dissolved oxygen is 6 mg/L,” Antiporda said.

The EMB and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) have conducted separate water sampling analysis from different locations but both tests came out with the same results.

BFAR conducted water quality testing and fish sample collection at four sampling sites namely, Baseco Beach, mouth of Pasig River, barge docking area, and aplaya.

Its test results released last Sept. 17 found “very low” level of dissolved oxygen at 0.11 mg/L. BFAR's acceptable level of dissolved oxygen for marine waters is 5 mg/L.

Antiporda previously denied claims by some groups that the artificial white sand filling activity using dolomite sediments along the Manila Bay baywalk had caused the fish kill in Baseco.

“Nothing to worry about because the (beach) nourishment area is too far from the area were the dead fishes were. There is no connection between the ongoing nourishment project and the recent fish kill,” he said.

The “insinuations” of some groups connecting the fish kill with the DENR's beach nourishment project had Antiporda looking into the possibility of “sabotage.”



“We are not insinuating na may kriminal dito, but we are (also) not discounting na may ganoong moves na ngayon kasi these are desperate moves, desperate times. Ito na lang ‘yung paraan nila para i-discredit ang beach nourishment project. (We are not insinuating that there are criminals here, but we are also not discounting that such moves can happen now because these are desperate moves, desperate times. This is just their critics way to discredit the beach nourishment project),” he earlier said.

Fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the fish kill is an indication that Manila Bay is degraded as it is.

It reiterated that the Manila Bay’s environmental degradation should be the main concern that the DENR must address, and not through beach nourishment that is only aesthetics but irrelevant to rehabilitation.

The group called on the BFAR to get to conduct water sampling and laboratory analysis for possible water pollution.

Oxygen lack may have killed fish in Manila Bay – BFAR

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

September 20, 2020

THE fish kill in Manila Bay this week might have been due to an “oceanographic phenomenon called the upwelling or overturn caused by the depletion of dissolved oxygen among fish,” the Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) said on Saturday.



A man on a bicycle passes near hundreds of dead fish floating on the barge pool of the Baseco area in Tondo, Manila on Sept. 19, 2020. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on Saturday attributed the fish kill to the lack of oxygen. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN

The DA-BFAR statement comes after an estimated 10 kilograms of fish turned up dead in the Baseco area on Sept. 15, 2020, which environmental groups blamed on the “white sand” dolomite nourishment project by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation.

The DENR denied the link between the two events.

BFAR said many, but not all, fish kills in the summer or under abnormal weather conditions result from low concentrations of dissolved oxygen in the water. The fish kill in the Baseco area occurred days after monsoon rains swept through Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces.

The DA-BFAR tested the quality of water and found very low levels of dissolved oxygen or DO, at 0.11 milligrams per liter. The acceptable level for marine waters is 5 mg/L.

Based on social media reports, residents found fish species like biya, kanduli, asohos and tilapia gasping for air following a heavy rainfall.

“Fish species affected were either bottom and midwater dwellers which easily succumbed to choking as a result of dissolved oxygen depletion,” the DA-BFAR said.

Meanwhile, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said the agency has yet to release a follow up report regarding the clear cause of the fish kill.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/09/20/news/national/oxygen-lack-may-have-killed-fish-in-manila-bay-bfar/769844/>



'Upwelling' ugat ng fish kill sa Manila Bay sa Baseco-BFAR

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

- September 20, 2020 - 12:00am



Ang upwelling ay nagsasangkot ng paggalaw ng hangin na siksik, mas malamig, at kadalasang mayaman na mayaman sa nutrient patungo sa ibabaw ng karagatan, na pinapalitan ang pampainit, kadalasang nakapagpapalusog sa tubig. Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Oceanographic phenomenon o tinatawag na upwelling ang naiisip ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) na dahilan ng pagkamatay ng mga isda sa may Baseco area sa Manila Bay.

Ang upwelling ay nagsasangkot ng paggalaw ng hangin na siksik, mas malamig, at kadalasang mayaman na mayaman sa nutrient patungo sa ibabaw ng karagatan, na pinapalitan ang pampainit, kadalasang nakapagpapalusog sa tubig.

Dahil sa upwelling water activity bumababa ang dissolved oxygen level na mahalaga sa mga isda para mabuhay.

Batay sa pagsusuri ng BFAR sa tubig mula sa Baseco Area, sobrang baba ng level ng dissolved oxygen (DO) sa 0.11 mg/L at ang acceptable level para sa marine waters ay 5 mg/L.

Sa napaulat na fish kill, ang mga residente doon ay nakakita ng mga isdang biya, kanduli, asohos, at tilapia na lumulutang sa baybayin at naghahanap ng hangin makaraan ang malakas na pag-ulan sa lugar.

Ang naturang mga isda ay mga midwater dwellers na mabilis mamatay dahil sa pagbaba ng dissolved oxygen sa baybayin .

Una nang pinaghinalaan ng marami na ang nailagay na dolomite white sand ng DENR sa Manila bay ang ugat ng fish kill sa Baseco area sa naturang baybayin.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/metro/2020/09/20/2043676/upwelling-ugat-ng-fish-kill-sa-manila-bay-sa-baseco-bfar/amp/>



DA: Fishkill Caused By Overturn

Saturday, September 19, 2020 Cory Martinez

THE fish mortality of an estimated 10 kilos of fish in Baseco Area, Manila Bay last Tuesday might have been caused by oceanographic phenomenon called upwelling or overturn that resulted to the depletion of dissolved oxygen.

This was disclosed Saturday by the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources after it conducted a water quality testing in the Baseco area.

Based on the test, the water quality indicated indicated very low level of dissolved oxygen (DO) at 0.11 mg/L. The acceptable level for marine waters is 5 mg/L.

It can be recalled that based on the report, residents found biya, kanduli, asohos, and tilapia gasping for air following a heavy rainfall. Fish species affected were either bottom and midwater dwellers which easily succumbed to choking as a result of dissolved oxygen depletion.

The DA-BFAR explained that upwelling or overturn happens when deep, cold seawater rises or “wells off” from below and replaces lighter and warmer water on the surface after a rainfall event.

The upwelling water activity draws up sediments from the sea bottom bringing up organic load which competes with fishes in consuming available dissolved oxygen. When this happens, dissolved oxygen level which is important for fish to survive becomes depleted.



ANAK NG..., PATI MGA PATAY NA ISDA, ISINISISI SA DENR



September 20, 2020 @ 12:10 AM 8 hours ago

NAGULANTANG ang mga tao nang matambad sa kanila ang mga nakalutang na patay na isda sa Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila na pinapalagay na nagmula sa masamang panahon o kaya'y itinapon na nakalasang kemikal sa dagat.

Agad naglabasan na naman ang mga oportunistang maka-dilawan at ibibintang ng mga lintek ang pangyayari sa dolomite stone bilang sanhi raw ng paglutang ng mga patay na isda.

Buti naman at agad ipinaliwanag ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda sa taumbayan na walang kinalaman o anomang koneksyon sa beach nourishment project ng Manila Bay sa mga naglutangang patay na isda.

Ang sabi pa ni Usec. Antiporda, kung sasabihin naman daw ng taumbayan na ang dahilan ng fish kill ay sa Manila Bay area, napakalayo nga naman dahil nangyari ito sa Baseco Area na may nakaharang na mahabang break water.

At kung ang fish kill ay nangyari sa area ng Manila Bay rehab area, siyento po siyento nga naman na doon daw pupunta ang mga isdang patay (e wala e).

Kaya nga imposible nga namang galing sa area ng Manila Bay rehab area ang mga patay na isda at ang dolomite ang nakamatay sa mga ito.

O para sa mga kababayan natin na nag-iisip na galing sa dolomite stone ang sanhi ng ikinamatay ng mga isda, mapanatag po kayo dahil hindi sa area ng Manila Bay rehab nanggaling ang mga patay na isda at ito ay galing sa Baseco Area. Ok, gets n'yo?.

So wala po kayong dapat na ipangamba...

Mantakin n'yo, maging ang DENR-Environment Management Bureau ay mag-iimbestiga na rin sa nangyaring insidente.

Ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ay magsasagawa rin ng imbestigasyon gaya ng pagkuha ng water sampol at water quality testing sa Baseco area.



Sa isinagawang imbetigasyon ng EMB, natagpuang kulang sa oxygen ang tubig sa lugar.

Pero anoman ang dahilan ng pagkamatay ng mga isda, balewala sa mga residente roon dahil ang iba ay niluluto at kinakain ang mga isda.

Kaya ang masasabi ko lang sa ating mga kababayan, mapanatag po kayo at sinisiguro ko po na hindi ilalagay ng DENR sa kapahamakan ang kanilang departamento.

Doon naman sa mga oportunistang walang ginawang magaling kundi ang mambatikos, hindi yata makukumpleto ang mga araw nito nang hindi magngangangak o magdadaldal kahit mali-mali ang kanilang mga nakukuhang impormasyon...

Aba'y maawa naman po kayo sa ating gobyerno na gumagawa ng mabuti para sa bayan. Kayo naman ay patuloy na nanggugulo at kailan pa kaya kayo makikiisa sa ating gobyerno? Kung patay na ang kabayo? Puro kayo nakaangil!

Gumising naman kayo.

oOo

Anomang puna o reklamo, i-text sa 09189274764, 09266719269 o i-email sa juandesabog@yahoo.com o juandesabog48@gmail.com.



Prelate backs 'Writ of Kalikasan' bid vs Manila Bay project

September 19, 2020

MANILA Apostolic Administrator Bishop Broderick Pabillo supported the planned filing of a "Writ of Kalikasan" over the dumping of crushed dolomite along the coast of Manila Bay.

In a radio interview, Pabillo said he agrees with environmental advocates in questioning the controversial project of the National Government that aims to rehabilitate the Manila Bay.

"There is a principle used in ecology, which is the precautionary principle, wherein if there are any doubts to a particular project's effect to the environment or people's health, it shouldn't push through until those doubts are resolved," said Pabillo.

"We need the Writ of Kalikasan so that this project becomes transparent," he added.

A Writ of Kalikasan (nature) is a legal remedy that provides protection of a person's constitutional right to a healthy environment. Article II Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution states 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."

On Friday, September 18, environmental advocates bared that they are already preparing for the filing of a Writ of Kalikasan before the courts in a bid to stop the project.

Pabillo said such a clarification is necessary to determine if the presence of crushed dolomite can adversely affect the fishes, coral reefs, as well as the fishermen.

"Manila Bay is an active and very alive bay. It has a lot of fishes, seashells, and coral reefs. How will they be affected if you put foreign body there?" asked Pabillo.

He also questioned the absence of the mandatory Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) before the project started.

"Was there an environmental input assessment conducted? There has to be an ECC for this project," said Pabillo.

Earlier, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Public Works and Highways pushed through with the project of overlaying "white sand" on the shores of Manila Bay by using crushed dolomites. **(HDT/SunStar Philippines)**



86 more W. Visayas villages 'cleared' of CTG influence

By Perla Lena [September 19, 2020, 12:38 pm](#)



CLEARED. Cabinet Officer for Security and Development for Western Visayas, Roy Cimatu (left) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) regional head Juan Jovian Ingeniero (right) present two approved resolutions declaring 86 barangays in the region as cleared of the influence of the communist terrorist group (CTG) during the RTF-ELCAC meeting on Sept. 9. A total of 160 barangays in the region have been cleared of the CTG influence. (Photo courtesy of DENR 6)

ILOILO CITY – A total of 86 more barangays from Western Visayas have been declared as cleared of the influence of the communist terrorist groups (CTG), bringing the total number of cleared barangays in the region to 160.

“During the RTF-ELCAC 6 (Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict Western Visayas) meeting on Sept. 9, a resolution endorsing these 86-CTG cleared barangays due to the National Task Force ELCAC was passed,” said Mark Angelo Linas, regional focal person of the Department of the Interior on Local Government (DILG) for the ELCAC, in a phone interview Friday.

The DILG was tasked as head secretariat and chair of the technical working group of the RTF-ELCAC.

Before this, the Peace, Law Enforcement, and Development Support (PLEDS) Cluster passed two resolutions endorsing the 86 barangays as CTG cleared.

“After endorsing these 86 barangays to the national task force, member agencies that comprise the 12 clusters or 12 line of efforts of the regional task force will start implementing the programs, projects, and activities of their clusters,” he added.

He said concerned agencies have been planning and strategizing while the PLEDS cluster is in the process of “clearing the barangays”.

“That is now the go signal for the clusters to implement their PPAs (plans, programs, and projects) once the barangays are cleared already,” he added.

He said the national task force has promised PHP20 million for the barangay development program of each CTG-cleared barangay.

In a press statement, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the 74 barangays that were first cleared of the CTG influence have already an approved budget of PHP1.48 billion for the barangay development program for implementation in 2021.

The fund can be used for development programs such as farm-to-market roads, barangay health centers, school buildings, universal healthcare, crops, livestock and fisheries, and others.

During the Sept 9. meeting, Environment Secretary and Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) for Western Visayas Roy Cimatu stressed the importance of attaining the goals of Executive Order No. 70 or the Whole-of-Nation Approach to end local armed conflict and achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth for the Filipino people and the next generation.



“This is one of the most important programs of the government. Tama na siguro ‘to, it has been 50 years. I was yet a lieutenant when we started fighting to end this armed conflict,” Cimatu said.

He underscored the need to attain peace in communities deprived of the much-needed government interventions that would improve peoples’ lives due to local armed conflict.

Cimatu said village chairpersons should be mobilized to lead development programs in their communities. (PNA)



Manila Water pumirma ng kasunduan sa usufruct

Saturday, September 19, 2020 People's Tonight

Para sa pagtatayo ng Hinulugang Taktak Sewage Treatment Plant



Makikita sa larawan sina (mula kaliwa) DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, Manila Water CEO at President Jose Rene Almendras, Antipolo City Mayor Andrea Ynares, at Manila Water COO Abelardo Basilio, pakaraang lagdaan ang usufruct agreement.

HABANG mahigpit na pinatutupad ang mga protocols kaugnay ng COVID-19, isinagawa ng Manila Water ang ceremonial signing ng kasunduan sa usufruct para sa pagpapatayo ng Hinulugang Taktak Sewage Treatment Plant sa Lunsod ng Antipolo.

Kasama sa naturang paglalagda sina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, Antipolo City Mayor Andrea B. Ynares, at sina Manila Water Chief Executive Officer at President Jose Rene D. Almendras, at Chief Operating Officer Abelardo P. Basilio.

Kinilala ni Ynares ang malaking tulong sa sanitasyon ng itatayong wastewater facility para sa kanyang mga nasasakupan at siniguro ang suporta ng kanyang opisina para sa proyektong ito.

Pinapurihan naman ni Sec. Cimatu ang pagtutulungan ng Manila Water at Lunsod ng Antipolo para sa proyektong ito at binigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng public-private partnership tungo sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan, lalo na ng mga daluyang tubig. Nagpasalamat naman si Almendras kina Cimatu at Ynares, gayundin sa iba pang mga katuwang ng Manila Water sa gobyerno, para sa kanilang pakikiisa sa misyon ng kumpanyang makapagbigay ng serbisyong pang-alkantariya sa kabuuan ng East Zone ng Metro Manila.

Bahagi ng Hinulugang Taktak Sewerage System Project ang pagtatayo ng Sewage Treatment Plant na may kapasidad na maglinis ng hanggang 16 milyong litro kada araw (MLD) ng wastewater at ang paglalagat ng 6 na kilometrong sewer network.

Makatutulong ang sewerage system na ito upang siguruhing malilinis ang wastewater mula sa mga kabahayan sa paligid bago ito ibalik sa Hinulugang Taktak Falls.

Ang pagsisimula ng konstruksyon ay magsisilbi ring malaking tulong sa pagpapabilis muli ng takbo ng ekonomiya ngayong nagsisimula nang muli ang mga proyekto sa imprastruktura. Sa pagtatapos ng proyekto, inaasahang makatutulong ang serbisyong pang-alkantrilyang ito sa panunumbalik ng dating ganda ng Hinulugang Taktak.

Ang Hinulugang Taktak Sewage Treatment Plant ay ang ikalima, at pinakamalaking, wastewater treatment facility na naitayo ng Manila Water sa Lalawigan ng Rizal. Ito ay karagdagan sa 41 treatment facility na naipatayo na at kasalukuyang pinapatakbo sa kabuuan ng East Zone. Sa pagtatapos ng proyekto, aabot na sa 426 MLD ang kabuuang wastewater treatment capacity ng Manila Water.

Kasalukuyan ding nasa pre-construction ang lima pang ibang mahahalagang proyektong imprastruktura para sa wastewater treatment sa loob ng concession area ng Manila Water.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/editorial/miscellaneous/manila-water-pumirma-ng-kasunduan-sa-usufruct/>



The water firm has signed a usufruct agreement with the Antipolo local government to start the construction of the sewage facility which is part of Manila Water's mission to complete wastewater services coverage in Metro Manila's East Zone.

The STAR/Edd Gumban, File

Manila Water to build sewage treatment plant in Antipolo

(The Philippine Star) - September 19, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water has set the ball rolling for the construction of the Hinulugang Taktak Sewage Treatment Plant in Antipolo City.

The water firm has signed a usufruct agreement with the Antipolo local government to start the construction of the sewage facility which is part of Manila Water's mission to complete wastewater services coverage in Metro Manila's East Zone.

The Hinulugang Taktak Sewerage System Project will involve the construction of a 16-million liter per day (MLD) plant and laying of approximately six kilometers of sewer network lines. The sewerage system will help ensure that wastewater from the community is cleaned before discharge to the Hinulugang Taktak Falls. The commencement of the construction will also help jumpstart local economy as infrastructure projects resume.

Once completed, the sewerage services in the area will help restore Hinulugang Taktak Falls to its old glory, Manila Water said.

The Hinulugang Taktak Sewage Treatment Plant is the fifth, and largest, wastewater treatment facility that Manila Water has built within the province of Rizal. This is in addition to the existing 41 wastewater treatment facilities that Manila Water has built and is now operating across the East Zone. Once completed, the total wastewater treatment capacity will be increased to 426 MLD.

Currently in pre-construction stages and are expected to commence construction soon are five other significant wastewater treatment infrastructure projects within Manila Water's concession area.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/09/19/2043448/manila-water-build-sewage-treatment-plant-antipolo>



DENR bats for sustainable bamboo industry in PH

By [Marita Moaje](#), [Philippine News Agency](#) on September 19, 2020



Today we celebrate the 11th World Bamboo Day!

Let this day be an avenue to raise awareness on the importance of bamboo not only economically but also for its impact on the environment and on climate change mitigation. 🌱

👍 377 💬 12 ➡ 195

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday drummed up the importance of bamboo as it aims to establish a sustainable bamboo industry in the country.

“Because DENR takes charge of the raw materials, we would like to raise awareness on the importance of planting and investing on bamboo as we consider it as the green gold of our forest,” Lourdes Wagan, director of the DENR Forest Management Bureau, during the kickoff of the bamboo planting activity held at the Batasang Pambansa in celebration of the World Bamboo Day.

A simultaneous planting activity was also held in 99 sites nationwide.

Wagan said aside from the bamboo’s vital role in soil stabilization, erosion control, sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, it is a vital remediation material that can reduce exposure to toxic environmental contaminants.

Being one of the world’s fastest-growing plants, she said bamboo plantation development can hasten the increase of the country’s forest cover because it grows faster than any other plant and contributes to the improvement of air quality as it produces 35 percent more oxygen than trees.

Wagan said that from 2011 to 2019, the DENR has already established 84,000 hectares of land for bamboo and that next year, the agency is targeting to plant more than 50 percent of their target.

“The department envisions to develop sustainable plantation as an alternative support to the wood industry *kasi ang dami dami nating ngayong ini-import na mga* (because the country now has so many imported) materials and hopefully in the future, we will be entering into engineered bamboo,” she said.

She added that even the mining sectors through the Mines and Geosciences have already committed to establishing at least 14,000 hectares of bamboo plantations across the country.

Under the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), the government’s flagship reforestation initiative, the DENR is set to cover 16,867 hectares of land nationwide with bamboo trees.

Source: <http://www.canadianinquirer.net/2020/09/19/denr-bats-for-sustainable-bamboo-industry-in-ph/>



PNP celebrates World Bamboo Day, plants 500 trees in Laguna

Saturday, September 19, 2020 Gil Aman

Camp BGen Paciano Rizal — Some 500 bamboo trees were planted on Friday between the river of Bgy. Sabang, Pagsanjan, Laguna, and Bgy. Palasan, Sta Cruz, Laguna in celebration of 11th World Bamboo Day with the theme “KAWAYAN: Tugon sa Hamon ng Panahon”.

The bamboo tree planting activity is a project of the Philippine National Police in line with the “*Samahang Pulis Laguna, Kapanalig Mo at MakaKalikasan (SPLaKaM)*” tree-planting project of Laguna initiated by the Laguna PNP under Provincial Director Serafin Petalio II.

The celebration was spearheaded by PLTCol. Pastor Castillo , 0DPDO, Laguna PPO, and participated in by Forester Victor Mercado, chief, CENRO, Sta Cruz, Laguna; PMajor Melisa Malayo chief, PCADU, Chairwoman Justina Magdalena, Chairman Ariel Javier, Pagsanjan PNP personnel, Sta Cruz PNP personnel, PCADU personnel, and some 100 residents of Bgy. Palasan and Bgy. Sabang, Sta. Cruz.

“As human beings, It is our responsibility to took care of our environment not for ourselves but for the benefit of the future generations,” said PLTCol. Castillo.

Laguna PNP manifests this good practice to set as a good example to the Lagunense, public and other local residents, to persuade everyone in caring for our nature and promoting a share of responsibility for the environment.



Ekta-ektaryang lupain, tinaniman ng mga kawayan sa bilang bahagi sa pagdiriwang ng World Bamboo Day

By **Bombo Radyo Cauayan**

-September 19, 2020 | 2:45 AM

CAUAYAN CITY- Isinagawa ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office o PENRO Isabela ang pagtatanim ng punlang kawayan sa halos sampong ektarya ng lupa kasabay ng paggunita sa World Bamboo Day.

Sa naging panayam ng Bombo Radyo Cauayan kay PENRO Marlon Agnar, sinabi niya na isinagawa ang pagtatanim ng mga kawayan sa barangay Batong Labang, Ilagan City.

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

Aniya, nasa 2000 ang kanilang itinanim dahil may 1000 na punla at nasa 1,000 rin na cuttings.

Dagdag niya na sa bawat ektarya ng lupa ay 204 ang maitatanim.

Sinabi ni PENRO Agnar na mahalaga ang pagtatanim ng kawayan dahil marami itong puwedeng panggamitan.



Researchers discover new plant species in Pampanga

By [Ashley Manabat](#) September 20, 2020



The Pyrostria arayatensis, the newly discovered plant species in Mount Arayat National Park.

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—After three years of botanical exploration, a team of researchers from the Angeles University Foundation (AUF) in Angeles City and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in Manila discovered a new plant species—the *Pyrostria arayatensis*.

The new species of plant was discovered in the 3,715-hectare Mount Arayat National Park (MANP) in this province.

Researchers Dr. Marlon Suba, Dr. Axel Arriola, Dr. Grecebio Jonathan Alejandro, Nicolas Raphael Arcangel, Jomari Jalipa, Joaquim Gerardo Jurilla and Jose Manuel Villaseñor discovered the new species in the lowland forest of the MANP while conducting a botanical study.

According to Suba, the discovered species belongs to the family Rubiaceae and is endemic to the Philippines.

He said the study was part of his dissertation in the UST and was published in the international scientific journal *Annales Botanici Fennici* on August 10.

In the Philippines, *Pyrostria* is currently represented by *P. elmeri*, *P. obovatifolia*, *P. oligophlebia*, *P. ramosii*, *P. subsessilifolia* and *P. trifloral*, while the conservation status of *P. arayatensis* is still unknown, the study said.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon, said the discovery of the new plant species is an indicator that MANP has sustained its healthy biological diversity, as rare native plants continuously grow in the area.

“Even at the very start when this group of researchers applied for a gratuitous permit to do their research in the area, we were positive that something good and noble would come out of this,” Moreno said.

He added that preserving the ecological value of MANP is among the priorities of the DENR in the region since diverse flora and fauna flourishes on the mountain while serving as a natural habitat to rare and threatened species of plants and animals.



He reminded the public that not all could do bioprospecting, exploration and scientific research on wildlife in a protected area. They have to secure a gratuitous permit or clearance from the Protected Area Management Board, the governing body in charge of the management and operations of the protected area.

The DENR urged the public to protect and conserve MANP as an important ecosystem in the Central Luzon. It said that any disturbances that threaten its biodiversity is strictly prohibited under Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (Enipas) Act of 2018.

Poaching any wildlife, cutting and transporting of timber and forest products and illegal occupation of lands within the protected area are just some of the activities not tolerated by the Enipas law, and any person found violating its provisions may be penalized or imprisoned, Moreno said.

Statistics show that MANP is home to 49 species of trees and plants, 86 species of birds, 14 species of mammals, and 11 species of reptiles.

Of these, two species of plants are endemic to the area: the flame tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) and the Chamberlain's pitogo (*Cycas chamberlaini*).

In 1933, then-President Manuel L. Quezon signed Presidential Proclamation 594 establishing the Mount Arayat National Park.

Today, MANP became the initial components of the National Integrated Protected Area System Act of 1992, or Republic Act 7586.

It has been endorsed already for legislation through House Bill 4420, establishing MANP as a protected landscape, sponsored by Pampanga Third District Rep. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales, Jr.

The bill is expected to further strengthen conservation efforts in the area and will tap local communities as partners in the protection of MANP.

Image credits: [Dr. Marlon Suba, AUF and UST researchers](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/20/researchers-discover-new-plant-species-in-pampanga/>



Bagong plant species nadiskubre sa Mt. Arayat



September 19, 2020 @ 9:32 AM 22 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nadiskubre ang bagong species ng halaman na *Pyrostria arayatensis* sa Mount Arayat National Park (MANP) sa Pampanga.

Kinilala ang mga mananaliksik na nakadiskubre nito na mula sa Angeles University Foundation at University of Sto. Tomas na sina Dr. Marlon Suba, Dr. Axel Arriola, Dr. Grecebio Jonathan Alejandro, Nicolas Raphael Arcangel, Jomari Jalipa, Joaquim Gerardo Jurilla at Jose Manuel Villasenor.

Paliwanag ni Suba, ang natuklasang species ay kabilang sa pamilyang Rubiaceae at endemic sa Pilipinas. Dagdag niya, ang pag-aaral ay bahagi ng kanyang dissertation sa UST at inilathala sa international science journal of *Annales Botanici Fennici* noong August 10, 2020.

Nagpaalala naman sa publiko ang mga eksperto na hindi lahat ay maaaring gumawa ng bioprospecting, exploration at siyentipikong pagsasaliksik tungkol sa wildlife sa isang protektadong lugar, maliban kung makakuha ng gratuitous permit o clearance mula sa Protected Area Management Board.

Kasabay nito ay hinikayat din ng DENR ang lahat na protektahan at pangalagaan ang MANP bilang isang mahalagang ecosystem sa rehiyon at ang anumang mga kaguluhan na nagbabanta sa biodiversity nito ay mahigpit na ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11038 o ang Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.

Kasalukuyang kabilang ang MANP sa mga paunang bahagi ng National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) na Batas ng 1992 o Republic Act No. 7586. **RNT/FDC**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/bagong-plant-species-nadiskubre-sa-mt-arayat/>



Bagong plant species natuklasan sa Mount Arayat

ABS-CBN News Posted at Sep 19 2020 05:46 AM



Pyrostria arayatensis, ang bagong natuklasang species ng halaman na endemik sa Pilipinas. *Kuha ni Dr. Marlon Suba and Dr. Axel Ariolla*

Isang bagong species ng halaman, *Pyrostria arayatensis*, ang natuklasan sa Mount Arayat National Park (MANP) sa Pampanga matapos ang tatlong taon ng botanical exploration ng isang grupo ng mga mananaliksik.

Ang mga mananaliksik na mula sa Angeles University Foundation at University of Sto. Tomas na sina Dr. Marlon Suba, Dr. Axel Arriola, Dr. Grecebio Jonathan Alejandro, Nicolas Raphael Arcangel, Jomari Jalipa, Joaquim Gerardo Jurilla at Jose Manuel Villasenor ay natuklasan ang *Pyrostria arayatensis* sa mababang kapatagan ng MANP noong 2017 habang nagsasagawa ng botanical study.

Ayon kay Suba, ang natuklasang species ay kabilang sa pamilyang Rubiaceae at endemic sa Pilipinas. Dagdag niya, ang pag-aaral ay bahagi ng kanyang dissertation sa UST at inilathala sa international science journal of *Annales Botanici Fennici* noong August 10, 2020.

Nakasaad sa pag-aaral na sa Pilipinas, ang *Pyrostria* ay kasalukuyang kinatawan ng *P. elmeri*, *P. obovatifolia*, *P. oligophlebia*, *P. ramosii*, *P. subsessilifolia* at *P. trifloral*, habang ang status ng konserbasyon ng *P. arayatensis* ay hindi pa alam.

Ayon kay Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Central Luzon, ang pagtuklas ng bagong species ng halaman ay isang tagapagpahiwatig na ang MANP ay nagpapanatili ng healthy biological diversity, dahil ang mga bihirang katutubong halaman ay patuloy na lumalaki sa lugar.

Ipinaalala rin niya sa publiko na hindi lahat ay maaaring gumawa ng bioprospecting, exploration at siyentipikong pagsasaliksik tungkol sa wildlife sa isang protektadong lugar, maliban kung makakuha ng gratuitous permit o clearance mula sa Protected Area Management Board.

Hinimok ng DENR ang publiko na protektahan at pangalagaan ang MANP bilang isang mahalagang ecosystem sa rehiyon at ang anumang mga kaguluhan na nagbabanta sa biodiversity nito ay mahigpit na ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11038 o ang Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.

Ipinapakita ng istatistika na ang MANP ay tahanan ng 49 species ng mga puno at halaman, 86 species ng mga ibon, 14 na species ng mga mammal, at 11 species ng mga reptilya. Sa mga ito, dalawang species ng halaman ang endemik, ang Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) at ang Chogolain's Pitogo (*Cycas chamberlaini*).

Noong 1933, ang Presidential Proclaim No. 594 ay nilagdaan ng dating Pangulong Manuel Quezon na nagtatag ng Mt. Arayat bilang isang pambansang parke.

Ngayon, ang MANP ay kabilang sa mga paunang bahagi ng National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) na Batas ng 1992 o Republic Act No. 7586.--Ulat mula kay Gracie Rutao

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/09/19/20/bagong-plant-species-natuklasan-sa-mount-arayat>



Marine turtles rescued in Antique, Guimaras

Published September 18, 2020, 6:15 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY—Two marine turtles were separately rescued in Antique and Guimaras provinces, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 6 (DENR-6).



A Hawksbill Sea Turtle was recently rescued in Nueva Valencia town, Guimaras province. (DENR-6 / MANILA BULLETIN)

“We laud the efforts of those who helped in releasing the trapped turtles and we continue to urge the general public to help us strengthen the protection of our marine life,” said DENR-6 Regional Director Francisco Milla Jr.

A Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) was rescued in Culasi town of Antique province after it was found entangled in a fish trap last September 7. Ellen Flor Solis of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) said it was only the second Leatherback turtle that was reported to be rescued in Panay Island

Two days after, a Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) was rescued in Nueva Valencia town of the island province of Guimaras. The marine turtle was also trapped in a net. Combined personnel of the Nueva Valencia’s environment office, the DENR-Guimaras and staff of the the Taklong Island National Marine Reserve (TINMR) helped nurse the turtle back to health before it was released to the wild.

Over the past several years, DENR-6 has closely worked with municipal and city environmental offices across Western Visayas to rescue endangered turtles. Even world-famous Boracay Island in Malay town, Aklan province has seen the re-emergence of marine turtles.



Lute turtle rescued in Culasi; hawksbill on Guimaras Island

By [BusinessMirror](#)

September 20, 2020



The leatherback turtle (left) was rescued at Barangay Malacañang in Culasi, Antique, while the hawksbill sea turtle was rescued at Sitio Banacan, Barangay Cabalagnan, Nueva Valencia, on the island province of Guimaras.

For hundreds of years, marine turtles lived in the vast oceans and they coexist with humans in many countries and shores each time they visit land.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had reported many sightings of marine turtles nesting in Western Visayas.

Boracay Island, for one, has been tagged as the “turtle haven” because of the simultaneous releases and discovery of turtle nesting sites on the island.

A leatherback turtle—the world’s largest known marine turtle and the fourth-heaviest modern reptile behind three crocodilians—was found and rescued at Barangay Malacañang, Culasi town, in Antique province by the Community ENR Office (Cenro) on September 7.

The marine turtle was reported by Mark Jay Ortega as it was tangled in fish traps in the area.

It has a thick leathery skin with longitudinal ridges instead of a hard shell.

Leatherbacks are the only turtle that does not have a hard shell. It has a curved carapace length of 115 centimeters and width of 82 cm.

After tagging, it was immediately released back to the sea. Leatherbacks are also called leathery turtle, lute turtle, or just luth.

Ellen Flor Solis of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) noted that this is the second leatherback turtle that was reported rescued on Panay Island.

Solis has been working with sea turtles rescue for the past 15 years.

Another turnover, tagging and release were done at Sitio Banacan, Barangay Cabalagnan, Nueva Valencia town, on the island province of Guimaras on September 9 to the rescued hawksbill sea turtle.



The marine turtle was caught in a net and was reported to the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office and Provincial ENR Office of Guimaras.

Hawksbills have narrow, pointed beak. Their overlapping scales on their shells form a serrated look and is the turtle's distinctive feature.

Such colored and patterned shells make hawksbills highly valuable and were commonly sold as "tortoiseshell" in markets.

They are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.

Factors that affect their decline include loss of nesting and feeding habitats, excessive egg collection, pollution, coastal development and they are the most threatened by wildlife trade.

The marine turtle was released back to its habitat through the joint efforts of the Nueva Valencia municipal government, Barangay Cabalagnan and Provincial ENR Office, represented by Rhett Arthur Diana, Environmental Management Specialist II, and other staff from Taklong Island National Marine Reserve.

"Turtles are one of the oldest creatures still in existence, with an average life span of 100 years. We laud the efforts of those who helped the release of trapped turtles and we continue to urge the general public to help us strengthen the protection of our natural resources—both in land and water," said DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Francisco E. Milla Jr.

The protection of marine turtles and other animals are part of the Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation which is one of the 10 priority programs of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.



Experts say proposed landing site of Davao-Samal bridge will destroy coral reef, marine life

Published September 19, 2020, 5:14 PM

by [Antonio Colina IV](#)

DAVAO CITY – The multi-billion peso 3.98-kilometer Davao City-Island Garden City of Samal (IGaCos) connector project would cause an “irreparable, irremediable, and incalculable damage” on the corals and other marine life in the Paradise Reef, marine experts said.



The Davao-Samal bridge project threatens the rich marine ecosystem in the Paradise Reef off Island Garden City Of Samal. (Photo courtesy of Sava Paradis Reef / MANILA BULLETIN)

Dr. Filipina Sotto, former head of the marine biology department of the University of San Carlos and Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving commissioner recently led a team of marine biologists who conducted a marine science study on the reef.

As a result of that study, Sotto asked the government to change the final bridge alignment for the project, and choose an area in front of the Bridgeport area instead as the infrastructure’s “final landing site” to avoid destroying the marine life.

She said that the findings of their study found out that the Paradise Reef had the richest marine biodiversity as compared to Bridgeport, which had the “least biologically productive area” among the three stations covered in their study.

Bridgeport is a 12-hectare township project of Damosa Land Inc., owned by the family of former Davao del Norte 2nd District Representative Antonio “Tony Boy” Floirendo Jr., a close political ally of President Duterte.

The location of the township project was identified by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in its 2016 study as the “best site” for the construction of the main bridge and the approach viaduct on Samal Island, she said.

The Rodriguez family, which owns the Paradise Island Park and Beach Resort and Costa Marina Beach Resort, also offered to donate the beach front of El Paril Beach as the “landing site” of the bridge project just to preserve the Paradise Reef.

Joey Gatus, a member of the Federation of Institution for Marine and Freshwater Sciences (FIMFS) and Philippine Association of Marine Sciences (PAMS), said the widespread sedimentation and emission of plumes that may happen as a result of the digging in the seabed would affect not only the reef where the landing site would be put but also the contiguous reefs.



He estimated that the reef within a half-kilometer radius from the location of the landing site would be destroyed, a destruction which cannot be prevented even if the engineers would put a sediment trap to contain the spread of plumes.

“As we all know, Pakiputan strait is really a ‘high velocity’ current. You would expect a wider distribution of those plumes, if not mitigated properly. And, you know, sedimentation or the sediments and corals don’t match together because corals will be smothered and covered by the sediments. So, that particular area, in between, expect those coral reefs to be, conservatively half a kilometer, affected,” he added.

The high current in the strait would carry light sediments across the Davao Gulf.

“But knowing the current system in Pakiputan is quite fast, it means it can carry these light sediments to much wider areas. If they really follow the silt curtain and everything that also would help. But in terms of directly hit, whether you put a curtain or not, there is half a kilometer that would be affected. For those scuba divers take a picture, that might be your last but we’re not hoping for that. We’re hoping to fight it out,” he said.

The construction of the bridge is expected to start in the first quarter of 2021.



Pagadian City joins int'l coastal cleanup drive

By Leah Agonoy September 19, 2020, 6:08 pm



COASTAL CLEANUP. Over a thousand volunteers in Pagadian City join Saturday (Sept. 19, 2020) the observance of the International Coastal Clean-up activity. An estimated 45 metric tons of waste materials were collected in 12 coastal villages of Pagadian City. (Photo courtesy of Gideon Corgue)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – An estimated 45 metric tons of waste materials were collected in 12 coastal barangays as the city joined the observance of the International Coastal Cleanup drive Saturday.

Mayor Samuel Co acknowledged the over 1,000 volunteers who participated in the activity as part of the city's efforts to clean the environment.

Those who joined the activity are soldiers, policemen, personnel from the national government offices, non-government organizations, and civil society groups. The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas-Zamboanga del Sur chapter also participated in the event.

"We have collected a lot and will make sure all the villages especially in the coastal areas to maintain the cleanliness of our coastlines," Co said during the activity.

Melchor Carinel, the chairperson of the local KBP chapter, said their participation shows that local journalists do not just deliver reports but also share their time as part of social responsibility.

Held every third Saturday of September of each year, the International Coastal Cleanup Day aims to remove trash and debris from beaches and waterways, as well as raise awareness on the importance of environmental protection and conservation. (PNA)



Cebu City collects 163 tons of garbage in massive coastal clean-up

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital



The coastal clean-up in Cebu City resulted to 163.15 tons of garbage collected. | Contributed photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The massive coastal clean-up in Cebu City resulted to hundreds of tons of garbage collected in the eight sites where the city government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) worked together.

Department of Public Services head, Lawyer Jigo Dacua, said that after more than six hours of clean-up, the garbage collected filled 163 garbage trucks or a total of 163.15 tons. Most of the garbage collected were silt, plastic bags, and plastic bottles.

The city government departments were assigned in various areas at the mouths of rivers in Lahug, Bulacao, Guadalupe, and Kinalumsan; creeks — Mahiga and Tejero; and the coastal sites of Barangay Mambaling and the South Road Properties (SRP).

Vice Mayor Michael Rama, who initiated the project, said that the clean-up today in line with the celebration of the International Coastal Clean-Up Day is simply the start of a long process of rehabilitation of the rivers and waterways.

“The clean-up is just the start of the many more activities we will do to clean the environment because we need to clean our city so that our future generation will have something to enjoy,” he said.

He said that the real challenge for the city is to start sustainable activities that will not only clean up the rivers, but would also stop people from polluting the rivers anymore.

The vice mayor wants the massive clean-up to be done quarterly as a means to remind the people that coastal clean-ups is not a once-a-year kind of activity, it is a continuous effort.

Mayor Edgardo Labella assured that maintaining the cleanliness of the environment will a priority under his administration and the departments are working to continuously rehabilitate the rivers in the city

“As I look at the sea, I saw the sun rising and then there is a saying in the vernacular nga inig ilog kuno sa kahayag sa kangitngit musiak ang banagbanag and that banagbanag is the hope for a better and cleaner City of Cebu,” he said./dbs

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/340812/cebu-city-collects-163-tons-of-garbage-in-massive-coastal-clean-up>



'Lockdown' lessens pollution in Cebu City

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman)

- September 20, 2020 - 12:00am



Vice Mayor Michael Rama in yesterday's International Coastal Clean-Up activity at Il Corso made special mention to Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu for bringing Cebu City to what it is now in terms of the containment of Covid-19.

Aldo Nelbert Banaynal, file

CEBU, Philippines — Cebu City is expected to keep not only the flattening of the curve of Covid-19, but as well as to sustain its efforts of saving the environment.

Vice Mayor Michael Rama in yesterday's International Coastal Clean-Up activity at Il Corso made special mention to Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu for bringing Cebu City to what it is now in terms of the containment of Covid-19.

"This celebration would not be possible if not for the arrival of the overseer DENR Roy Cimatu, a big hand to the DENR secretary," said Rama.

Rama was with Mayor Edgardo Labella, city councilors, representatives of DENR, barangay captains and other groups.

Aside from matters on Covid-19 though, Rama also brought out the matter with Cimatu to solve issues with regards to the environment.

"No Covid-19 can stop the people of Cebu City in cleaning up. Just don't forget the protocols of Wuhan: Wash your hands, Use your face mask, Have your temperature checked, Avoid crowded places, and Never touch mouth, eye nose," added Rama.

On the other hand, committee on environment chairman, Councilor Joel Garganera, who is also the Emergency Operations Center deputy chief implementer, said the past six months has given a breather to the environment due to lockdown because of Covid-19.



“Six months ago, everything was put to hold, there were no transportation, movement were restricted, mall, stores were closed, in other words we gave a much deserving break (to the environment),” said Garganera.

About 83 percent of pollution in Cebu City is brought by transportation, said Garganera.

Skies were clear, the beaches in pristine condition, the river and even the pier area had no foul odor and that is because there were no smoke belching and garbage had been well-kept, Garganera noted.

“The rivers, coastals and streams are a true reflection of our City, if we cannot clean our river, if we cannot clean our shore, then we cannot clean our city,” said Garganera.

As such, it is everyone’s duty to help keep the environment clean and safe.

Councilor Nestor Archival, co-chairman of the committee, has echoed Garganera’s call to a clean environment and reminded everyone that stream and rivers are the biggest reservoir of water for drinking, and the coastal and the ocean as the biggest reservoir of food from God.

“In returning home, continue to clean the rivers and coastline. Even by doing little things like taking care of the garbage. If we don’t take care of our garbage, it goes basically to our rivers and to the streams,” reminded Archival.

DENR’s Armand Maliksi also added that all participants of the clean-up drive yesterday are expected to trickle down their learnings to the rest of the family members, neighbors and their respective community to be able to sustain their efforts in keeping the environment healthy. — **GMR (FREEMAN)**



Plastic outranks cigarette butts as top coastal trash

By [Anjelica Ibuyan](#)

September 19, 2020

The International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) revealed that 4.772 million pieces of food wrappers were picked up across 116 countries in a single day in 2019, displacing cigarette butts (4.2 million) as the top item collected for the first time in ICC history.

Organized by environmental group Ocean Conservancy, the coastal cleanup gathered 943,195 volunteers around the globe and collected nearly 32.5 million pieces of trash, composed mostly of plastic material such as beverage bottles (1.9 million), bottle caps (1.5 million), and straws and stirrers (942,992).

Food wrappers are usually made of low-density materials and multiple plastic layers that makes them non-biodegradable. Not only is recycling food wrappers difficult, accessible alternatives for the public are also few.

A threat to biodiversity

According to Nick Mallos, senior director of Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas program, the abundance of food-related plastic products paralleled with little alternative packaging and materials is an indication that manufacturers are still more inclined to patronizing single-use plastic.

For instance, a 2017 study calculated that nearly 45 percent of plastic production in the United States, Europe, China and India between 2002 and 2014 were all for packaging.

Unfortunately, only 13 percent of plastic containers and packaging were recycled in the US, according to a report by the Environmental Protection Agency that same year—the lowest recycling rate among containers and packaging.

“As a result, more and more food-related plastics are ending up in our environment, where they persist and threaten wildlife indefinitely,” Allison Schutes, director of Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, said in a statement.

Uptick in plastic use

Mallos emphasized the need for food science and packaging experts to fast track research and development of sustainable packaging. For some environmental groups, this call couldn't come at a better time as plastic use, specifically packaging, bloated amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

While single-use plastics turned out to be lifesavers in this time of crisis, especially for healthcare workers, its impact on the environment — and eventually to us — cannot be ignored.

Lockdown measures limiting movement and access to essential goods and services made other people more dependent on deliveries for various needs, making loads of disposable plastics one of our biggest household wastes than ever before.



Even as governments ease lockdown restrictions, plastic waste continue to find their way into our rivers and oceans without a systematic approach from production, consumption to waste management of plastics.

‘The Story of Plastic’

As part of its #GoingViral webinars for biodiversity and human health, conservation group Haribon Foundation held its second screening of the award-winning documentary “The Story of Plastic” from September 9 to 17.

“The Story of Plastic” takes a sweeping look into the lifecycle of plastic and its impact. The community screening was followed by a virtual panel discussion with experts in the anti-plastic campaign and waste management on September 18.

To find a community screening in your location, visit the storyofplastic.org this International Coastal Cleanup Month.

As the world moves to a new normal, may we leave behind the old normal of environmental apathy. May we care for the nature we share together (and for generations to come) as much as we care for our own health and safety.

After all, a healthy environment means a healthy life for all.

With reports from KITTY GAMBOA



Capitol plans to shut down 2 firms for ‘damaging’ corals

Sunstar19 September 2020



THE Cebu Provincial Government plans to issue a cease and desist order (CDO) against the operations of the Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) and the Philippine Mining Services Corp. (PMSC) in the southern town of Alcoy.

This, after it learned that some parts of the shoreline of Barangay Pugalo have been affected by siltation as a result of their operations.

During a survey conducted by members of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), they discovered that crushed dolomite particles were falling into the sea while being transported to an awaiting cargo ship by a conveyor belt.

This has resulted in damaging some 500 meters of corals, Penro said.

During a meeting with Penro, DMC, PMSC, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) 7 and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 7 on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020, Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia called on the EMB 7 to investigate the matter based on the photos and videos the Penro had taken in the area.

Earlier, the governor issued a CDO against the two firms for selling dolomite in the local market, which violated their contract with the government.

Garcia had said that DMC and PMSC needed to comply with Capitol requirements like securing a governor's permit to operate a quarry and to pay the necessary taxes.

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

During the meeting, environmental lawyer Benjamin Cabrido explained that there are legal provisions that entitle the Province to a share in the proceeds of mineral extraction.

Under Article E, Section 24 of Provincial Ordinance 2008-10, “[The] Province shall impose a tax of 10 percent of the local fair market value per cubic meter for all ordinary stones, sand, gravel, earth and other quarry resources extracted within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Cebu.”

According to Provincial Treasurer Roy Salubre, based on their computation, DMC and PMSC need to pay the Province P726,923.077 for the 7,000 metric tons of dolomite the firms had already shipped to Manila for the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay. (ANV / PJB)

Source: <https://ph.news.yahoo.com/capitol-plans-shut-down-2-140400847.html>



7,500 tons of garbage back shipped back to South Korea

Published September 19, 2020, 10:45 AM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY (PNA) – The 7,500 metric tons of industrial garbage that were dumped in the Misamis Oriental town of Tagoloan have all been shipped back to its place of origin in South Korea after two years, a Bureau of Customs (BOC) official said, calling it a “victory for Filipinos”.



The before and after drone shot of the dumped South Korean trash in Verde Soko site in Barangay Sta. Cruz in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental provided by the Bureau of Customs. BOC-Region 10 says the last batch of the 7,500 metric tons of ‘misdeclared’ cargoes was shipped back to South Korea on Sept. 15, 2020. (Photo courtesy of Engr. Angelo Andrade/BOC-10 via PNA)

In a statement Friday, BOC Region 10 District Collector John Simon said the shipment of the last batch of garbage on September 15 was a way of sending a message to other countries that the Philippines was not a dumping site of their wastes.

Simon also called on other countries to comply with the International Agreement on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal, otherwise known as the Basel Agreement, to prevent environmental crimes.

A final report provided Friday by Engr. Angelo Andrade, BOC-10 information focal person, indicated that the tons of garbage – misdeclared as “plastic synthetic flakes” – were shipped within a period of nine months, beginning on January 13 this year, in seven batches.

“Re-exporting more than 364 containers back to Pyongtaek, South Korea has not been an easy task for the Philippine government as this shipment when apprehended in October 2018 has already entered in Philippine territory in July 2018. The Korean smugglers who were responsible (allegedly) used powerful connections in both public and private sectors to accomplish their (alleged) crime,” Andrade said in the report.

Andrade also noted that volunteer-citizens had to shell out close to P10 million to re-export the trash that entailed the repacking, fumigating 324 containers, and purchasing 20,000 tonner bags, as well as the hauling and transporting of the containers to the docking area.

“In order to fast track the re-exportation several groups volunteered their expertise, resources and technology to mechanize the procedure. The Philippine Sinter Corporation which designed and constructed the steel funnel and ramp to accelerate the bagging and hauling of the waste. The Department of Public Works and Highways lend their heavy equipment and operators to assist in the hauling process,” Andrade said.

Simon acknowledged the assistance of private groups in returning the garbage to South Korea.

“I am proud that in the end we had triumphed over all their difficulties despite our shortcomings, so we expect the Korean government will extend more effort in fighting environmental crime in the Asia-Pacific region,” he said.



Charges were filed against Korean nationals Chul Soo Chu alias Charles Cho, Jae Ryong Cho, and Sena Na for violation of Republic Act 6969 or Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act including violation of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

The suspects remain at-large.

According to BOC-10, the South Korean trash was the biggest volume of smuggled waste that was seized in the Philippines, which became the first country in Southeast Asia to successfully re-export garbage back to its origin.



7,500 toneladang basura naibalik na sa SoKor



September 19, 2020 @ 2:16 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Matapos ang dalawang taon, naibalik na ang may 7,500 metric tons na mga “industrial garbage” pabalik sa South Korea makaraang itapon ito sa bayan ng Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Ang naturang pahayag ay sinabi ni Bureau of Customs (BOC) Region 10 District Collector John Simon kasabay ng pagpapadala ng huling batch ng basura nitong Setyembre 15, 2020 pabalik sa Pyongtaek, South Korea.

Aniya ang nasabing hakbang ay isang paraan ng pagpapadala ng mensahe sa ibang mga bansa na ang Pilipinas ay hindi isang lugar na tapunan ng kanilang mga basura.

Nanawagan din si Simon sa iba pang mga bansa na sumunod sa umiiral na “the International Agreement on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal” o mas kilala na “Basel Agreement” upang maiwasan ang posibleng kaharapin na environmental crimes.

“Re-exporting more than 364 containers back to Pyongtaek, South Korea has not been an easy task for the Philippine government as this shipment when apprehended in October 2018 has already entered in Philippine territory in July 2018. The Korean smugglers who were responsible (allegedly) used powerful connections in both public and private sectors to accomplish their (alleged) crime,” batay sa ulat ni BOC-10 information focal person Engr. Angelo Andrade.

Samantala, sinampahan naman ng kaukulang kaso ang mga Korean Nationals na sina Chul Soo Chu alyas Charles Cho, Jae Ryong Cho at Sena Na dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act 6969 o mas kilala na “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act” gayundin sa paglabag sa Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Ang mga naturang dayuhan ay nananatiling at-large o pinaghahanap pa ng mga awtoridad.

Dagdag pa ng BOC-10, ang basura mula South Korea ay ang pinakamalaking “volume” ng smuggled na basura na napigil ng Pilipinas, kung saan ito rin ang naging unang bansa sa Timog Silangang Asya na matagumpay na na-export muli ang basura pabalik sa pinagmulan nito. **Jay Reyes**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/7500-toneladang-basura-naibalik-na-sa-sokor/>



Making a killing off nickel mining in Palawan

Justin Umali September 19, 2020



These companies represent the last link in the global supply chain between Philippine natural resources and foreign markets. Meanwhile, Filipinos are kept out of any profits and instead get grief, disease, and harassment thrown their way.

By JUSTIN UMALI

Bulatlat.com

SANTA ROSA, Laguna — There is little doubt that the Philippines is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources and mineral potential. The country ranks thirs in gold deposits, fourth in copper, fifth in nickel, and sixth in chromite; and yet, such mineral wealth does not translate to wealth for the common Filipino.

In a semi-feudal economy like the Philippines, natural resources are not transformed by local industries to create raw materials. Instead, these are exported by foreign subsidiaries to overseas processing plants, to be sold back to the country as finished goods. The only winners in such a system are foreign corporations and their local business partners.

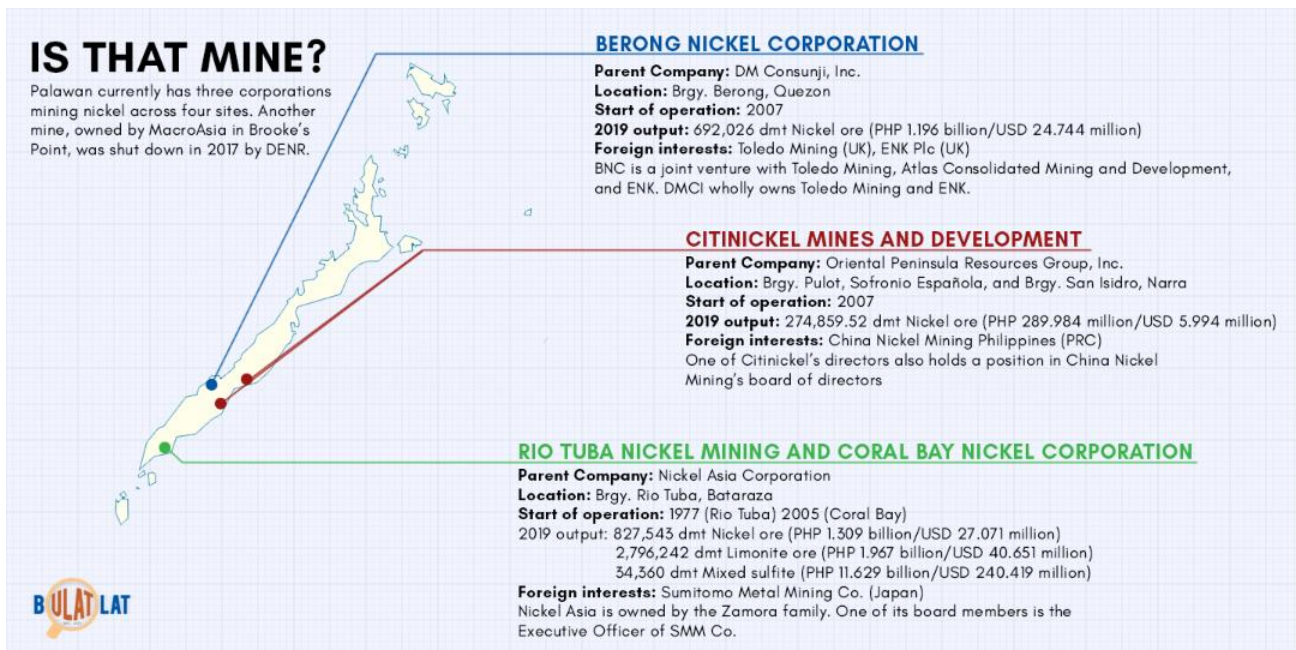
No industry exemplifies this more than mining, where almost all firms are in some way owned by a foreign entity. Nickel production, in particular, remains one of the country's top mineral exports; in 2019, it was valued at P63.71 billion (US\$ 1.32 billion), P19.32 billion (US\$ 399.31 million) of which went to exports. Almost all of these exports went to Japan (PHP 19.23 billion or US\$ 397.63 million).

The province of Palawan is home to some of the country's largest nickel mines. It is also home to a storied history of environmental destruction, imperialist plunder, and people's struggle.

Nickel mining in Palawan

Nickel production in Palawan constitutes roughly 25 percent of total nickel production in the country. In 2019, the mining industry in Palawan P 16.39 billion (US\$ 338.32 million) off nickel and related metal ores alone. Millions more were made from by-products like crushed limestone, milk of lime, and hydrated lime.

Three corporations currently dominate nickel production in the province: Rio Tuba Nickel Mining, Berong Nickel, and Citinickel Mines and Development. Almost all of their nickel goes towards export to parent companies and business partners in China and Japan.



Citinickel has the most holdings of the three. It owns two mines in Palawan, in barangay Pulot, Sofronio Española, and in barangay San Isidro, Narra. Citinickel is a subsidiary of Oriental Peninsula Resources Group, Inc., an investment holding company specializing in mining. One of its directors, Fernando B. Esguerra, also holds a position in China Nickel Mining Philippines Corp.

Rio Tuba Nickel has operated a mine in barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza since 1977. Now, it supplies nickel, limonite, and cobalt to its sister company, Coral Bay Nickel Corporation. Both are owned by Nickel Asia Corporation. NAC is owned by the Zamora family and by Japanese firm Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd. In 2017, San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, brother of NAC founder and Chairman Manuel Zamora, worked against Gina Lopez' appointment to the DENR.

Berong Nickel is a joint venture between British firms Toledo Mining and ENK Plc., and Atlas Mining. Both DMCI Mining owns Toledo Mining while DMCI Holdings owns ENK. The Consunji family, which owns DMCI, also has interests in energy, petroleum, construction, water, and other industries.

These companies represent the last link in the global supply chain between Philippine natural resources and foreign markets. Meanwhile, Filipinos are kept out of any profits and instead get grief, disease, and harassment thrown their way.

Socio-environmental impact

According to indigenous organization Pinagtibukang Kaundang-undangan it Palaw'an (PKP), Citinickel obtained their Memorandum of Agreement with the indigenous Palaw'an community by "violating indigenous rights." PKP also claimed that Citinickel failed to honor the agreement by not paying stipulated royalties or compensating for damages to the environment.

This included a 2014 silt spill which resulted in 14 days of pollution for the Pasi and Pulot Rivers, two important water sources for the residents of Sofronio Española. To this day, both rivers are considered under risk of dying.



The same case can be found in the Rio Tuba mine, which operates primarily in Mt. Bulanjao. According to an Ancestral Land/Domain Watch (ALDAW) Network report in 2009, continued mining operations in Mt. Bulanjao will “irremediably damage the best conserved forest in the southern tip of Palawan, with predictable adverse consequences for the food production capacity of both indigenous Palaw’an and migrant farmers’ communities living at the foot of this mountain range.”

Operations in Rio Tuba have also resulted in widespread environmental damage. Environmental organization Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) said that operations by Rio Tuba and Coral Bay have poisoned the Togupon River, which runs through these companies’ mining operations, with carcinogenic chemicals.

People’s resistance

This cycle of indigenous people’s rights violations and environmental destruction remains supported by successive governments, including the present Duterte administration. Duterte’s focus on the armed conflict has only exacerbated this problem.

Human rights group Karapatan notes that from July 2016 to April 2020, 14 environmental activists and 59 indigenous people have been victims of extra-judicial killings. Most of these killings were preceded by long periods of state-sanctioned harassment and red-tagging courtesy of the National Task Force to End the Local Armed Conflict.

But despite these setbacks, the people’s struggle continues. People’s initiatives against intrusive mining in Romblon and Oriental Mindoro have successfully resulted in moratoria against mining operations in their respective provinces.

The same is true in Palawan. Pressure from local and international organizations has resulted in the Department of Energy and Natural Resources to cancel Ipilan Nickel Corporation’s permit to operate in 2017; a decision that stands until today.

Ipilan Nickel, a subsidiary of Global Ferronickel Holdings, had exclusive rights to mine nickel, chromite, iron, and other mineral deposits in 2,835 hectares of land in Brooke’s Point, Palawan. It used to export its products to Australia and China, through its partner Guangdong Century Tsingshan Nickel Industry Company, Ltd., a ferronickel smelter in Guangdong, China.

Some activists see another path in the struggle for environmental justice. For a time, Rona Jane Manalo was involved in the indigenous people’s struggle for land and rights in Mindoro and Palawan. However, seeing no other recourse in winning fundamental change, she decided to take another path: she took up arms and joined the New People’s Army.

On September 3, 2020, Rjei lost her life after an unfortunate encounter in Brooke’s Point, Palawan. It took her father almost a week before he was able to bring his daughter home. But the struggle that Rjei fought in, and the ideas that drove her to protect those who couldn’t protect themselves continues on.



Red tide spreads to E. Visayas' tahong capital

Published 14 hours ago on September 19, 2020 04:06 PM

By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



JIABONG, Samar – This vibrant town is now eerily silent, the long line of stalls selling tahong and oysters along the national highway are gone in the last three days after the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources local office announced that Maqueda Bay is now contaminated with red tide.

“This is especially difficult for us because this came at the time when there is COVID pandemic,” said Rey Nablo, a 43-year old fisherman.

“There is no construction where we can work and there is not much business activity in Catbalogan either. We will badly need help from the government.”

BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office based in Catbalogan City has issued an advisory on Thursday warning that seawater samples collected on Maqueda Bay is positive of *Pyrodinium bahamense*, a toxic microorganism that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning.

“We are issuing this warning as a precautionary advice to the public to refrain from gathering, selling, and eating all types of shellfishes and *Acetes sp.* locally known as “alamang or hipon” from Maqueda Bay in Samar to avoid possible shellfish poisoning,” said Vicenta Projimo, the provincial fishery officer.

“The BFAR and LGU are closely monitoring the bays of Samar to safeguard public health and to protect the shellfish industry,” Projimo added.

Maqueda Bay covers the town of Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, San Sebastian, Calbiga, Pinabacdao, and Hinabangan in Samar.

Jiabong, a fifth class municipality, is the tahong capital of Eastern Visayas region.

When there is no red tide, at least 200 sacks of green mussels are harvested daily and are bought by traders at P1,500 a sack that they transport to Metro Manila, Cebu City, Davao City and the Bicol Region.

The stretch of the Maharlika Highway at the poblacion is usually alive with a long line of vendors daily selling freshly harvested tahong to motorists at P20 per sando bag.

Tahong has become a thriving local industry for Jiabong that the local government unit has helped develop and upscale this product into tahong chips and nuggets and thus created more jobs for the locals. The town has also introduced Tahong Festival as the main attraction of its annual fiesta.



Tahong forms the backbone of the local economy, not only from the daily income that it brings to the local economy but from the jobs it generated including gathering, hauling, selling, and even in local transport.

For fisherman Nablo, red tide occurrence is a risk of the trade that they are already used to as this happens almost every year. But what scares them is the uncertainty as it happens this year at the time of the pandemic.

“We don’t know until when this red tide will last this year. Sometimes it lasts for three months or even more. What we usually do when there is red tide is work in construction projects either in Tacloban or in Catbalogan,” he said. Other tahong gatherers would work as *kargador* at the market or sideline as pedicab drivers, he added.

“We just hope and pray that this soon will pass,” he said.

3,962 new Covid-19 infections; active cases now 68.6K: DOH

By Marita Moaje September 19, 2020, 6:14 pm



COVID-19 BULLETIN. The Department of Health on Saturday (Sept. 19, 2020) announced 3,962 new Covid-19 cases, bringing to 68,645 the total number of active cases in the country. The DOH also recorded 1,128 new recoveries, raising the tally to 209,885. (Photo courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday reported 3,962 new coronavirus disease (Covid-19), bringing the total of active cases in the country to 68,645.

Of the new cases, 1,440 are from the National Capital Region, 354 from Bulacan, 287 from Cavite, 222 from Laguna, and 213 from Batangas.

In its Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH said among the total active cases, 87.4 percent are considered mild while 9 percent are asymptomatic, 1.1 percent are severe and 2.5 percent are critical.

At present, the country has a total of 283,460 cases.

The DOH announced that the total number of recoveries is now at 209,885 after 1,128 new recoveries were recorded.

Meanwhile, the death toll increased to 4,930 with 100 new deaths.

Of the 3,962 reported cases on Saturday, the DOH said 83 percent or 3,286 occurred within the recent 14 days which is from Sept. 6 to 19.

So far, the DOH said a total of 3,130,345 individuals underwent Covid-19 testing.

Meanwhile, 10 laboratories were reported by the DOH which failed to submit their data to the Covid-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) on September 18.

These laboratories include the Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center, Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Hospital, Kaiser Medical Center Inc., Lanao del Norte Covid-19 Testing Laboratory, Las Piñas General Hospital, and Satellite Trauma Center (GX), Las Piñas General Hospital, and Satellite Trauma Center (RT-PCR), Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Safeguard DNA Diagnostics, Taguig City Molecular Laboratory, and the Valenzuela Hope Molecular Laboratory. (PNA)



One-meter distancing stays – Palace

Published 20 hours ago on September 19, 2020 10:21 AM

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



Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Saturday announced that President Rodrigo Duterte has decided to retain the policy of requiring a one-meter distance between passengers on public transport as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) threat remains.

In a television interview, Roque disclosed that the President has made the decision on Friday after reviewing the recommendations and noted that Duterte's pronouncement came earlier than expected.

"After the President studied the recommendations of both sides, those saying the one-meter distancing in public transport should remain and those saying it can be lowered as long as the use of face shields and masks is required, no words," said Roque.

"The President decided yesterday. The decision is to keep the 1-meter social distancing in public transport," he added.

To recall, the national government implemented last week a reduced physical distancing policy of 0.75 meters from one meter, citing supposed public clamor to ease distancing measures in public transport such as buses, jeepneys, and trains.

Physical distancing and the use of masks and shields are being enforced in public transport to prevent further spread of COVID-19 while movement restrictions have been eased as the pandemic continues.