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**DENR**

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Cimatu elated by PRRD support to Manila Bay project

September 23, 2020, 6:11 pm



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu

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

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

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

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

“We, in the DENR and Manila Bay Task Force believe in the principle of vox populi vox dei, which says the voice of the people is the voice of God,” Cimatu said. “The majority of the people have spoken, and they are supportive of the project.”

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

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

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

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

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

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



“Di pa tapos ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, ngunit ngayon pa lang nagpapasalamat na ako sa lahat ng hirap at tulong na binibigay ng mga mandamus agencies, kung wala ang tulong ninyo, wala kaming magagawa sa DENR (The Manila bay rehab is not yet finished, but right now I am grateful for all the support given by mandamus agencies. Without your support we can't do anything here in DENR),” Cimatu said.

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

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

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

Manila Bay is only in its second phase of rehabilitation.

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

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



## Pagguho ng dolomite sa Manila Bay itinanggi ng DENR



September 23, 2020 @ 6:57 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Itinanggi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Spokesperson Usec. Benny Antiporda na gumuho na ang inilagay na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay na bahagi ng beach nourishment project nito.

Ayon kay Antiporda, walang katotohanan ang mga lumabas na ulat hinggil sa pagguho ng inilagay na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay.

Aniya, hindi pa nalalagyan ng dolomite sand ang nakitang itim na buhangin sa isang bahagi ng Manila Bay at iyon ang kanilang nililinis para mawala ang mga dumi at basura bago lagyan ng dolomite.

“Grabe naman yung mga naghahanap ng butas sa Manila Bay project para lang i-discredit ang project na ito,” ayon pa kay Antiporda.

Nanindigan din ang tagapagsalita ng DENR na handa nilang tapusin ang Manila Bay project at tiniyak nito sa publiko na matatapos nila ito sa takdang panahon.

Nakahanda naman umano si DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na ipasara ang dolomite site sa Cebu, kung saan kinuha ang itinambak sa Manila Bay, kung mapatutunayan nilang may paglabag ito sa environmental laws. **SANTI CELARIO**



People stand by the shore of the 'white sand' portion of Manila Bay on Sunday, September 20, 2020. The Department of Environment of Natural Resources on Wed., Sept. 23, 2020, called on critics to withhold their criticisms until the project is finished. **DANNY PATA**

# DENR: We will run after contractor of Manila Bay project if it fails to deliver

**Published** September 23, 2020 2:45pm

**Updated** September 23, 2020 4:01pm

By TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ, GMA News

The Department of Natural and Environment Resources on Wednesday called on critics of the Manila Bay Nourishment Project to delay their criticisms until after the project has been completed as it promised to run after the contractor if it fails to deliver.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda cited in particular criticisms on the alleged erosion of dolomites on a part of the Manila Bay beachfront.

“Yung area na 'yon is under construction pa. Under renovation pa siya, under nourishment pa siya so I don't think it's fair na mag-judge sila kaagad diyan,” Antiporda told GMA News.

**GMA Public Affairs** on Tuesday

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

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

7.8K 4.6K 14K



Also on Wednesday, Antiporda bared plans of the contractor to build a higher fence to discourage the public from taking photos of the white dolomite beach, which leads to violations of social distancing protocols.

Antiporda also assured the public that it will file cases against the contractor if it fails to deliver on the project.

“If in case that we found out na there is negligence, na na-shortchange ang taumbayan sa ginawa ng contractor na 'yan, we will ask the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) to run after the contractor, of course,” Antiporda added.

The "white sand" portion of Manila Bay, where dolomite was used, was opened to the public for the weekend.

Crowds flocked to the area and [disregarded social distancing](#).

The area was again closed to the public on Monday to make way for continued rehabilitation.

### **Damaged reefs in Cebu?**

The Knight Stewards of the Sea earlier claimed that [some crushed dolomite spilled into the sea when it was being transported to Manila from Cebu](#), causing the sedimentation of coral reefs and damaging the local marine ecosystem.

Antiporda said the DENR is now looking into the issue but cautioned the public against believing “false accusations.”

“The dolomite mining has been operating there for 40 years. Hindi po totoo at mali po ‘yung paratang na dahil po sa dinala sa Maynila ‘yan kaya nagkaroon ng ganyang mga problema na sinasabi nilang nasira ‘yung karagatan nila,” Antiporda said on Super Radyo dzBB.

“Titingnan po natin kung totoo but as of now, base sa pag-aaral ng ating mga expert na sinasabing pa’no naman masisira ‘yung corals kung ‘yung sinasabing bumagsak na mga sediments ay kamag-anak din ng coral which is calcium carbonate,” he added.

Antiporda also assured the public that the DENR will hold the contractor accountable if it is proven that it damaged coral reefs in Cebu.

“Pag-aaralan po nating mabuti para ma-satisfy yung ating mga kababayan at ‘wag po magpapaniwala dito sa false accusations,” he said.

Environmentalist and fisherfolk groups previously slammed the white sand project as an [“aesthetic solution” that “does not solve pollution at the source.”](#) — **with Julia Mari Ornedo/KG/RSJ, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756837/denr-we-will-run-after-contractor-of-manila-bay-project-if-it-fails-to-deliver/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Twitter](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756837/denr-we-will-run-after-contractor-of-manila-bay-project-if-it-fails-to-deliver/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Twitter)



# Mayor Isko: Manila Bay 'white sand' project to boost tourism, business in Manila

Published September 23, 2020, 2:15 PM

by [Minka Klaudia Tiangco](#)

Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso reiterated his support for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Manila Bay "white sand" project, saying that it could boost tourism and business in the city, particularly along Roxas Boulevard.



Manila City Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso (MANILA PIO / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

This comes after he asked the environment department to temporarily block public access in the area after hundreds of people came to visit and ignored physical distancing guidelines over the weekend.

"I think all the hotels on Roxas Boulevard will benefit from this, so business will boom," he said in a public briefing on Wednesday.

"Yung ating mga negosyo sa Roxas Boulevard ay magkakaroon ng high demand (There will be a high demand for our businesses on Roxas Boulevard) in a matter of time," he added.

Domagoso also said that the synthetic white sand or crushed dolomite rocks dumped in Manila Bay served as a symbol of hope for the public amid the country's fight against the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19).

However, he appealed to the people to put aside plans to visit Manila Bay, not only because of the pandemic, but also because construction works are still ongoing.

"Alam kong gustong-gusto niyong malaman at maramdaman 'yung talagang kakaibang nangyari sa Manila Bay, na atin namang pinagpapasalamat sa DENR family (I know that you really want to know and feel the extraordinary thing that happened in Manila Bay, of which we thank your DENR family for)," he said. "Konting tiis na lang (Just bear with it for a little bit longer)."

Over a thousand people flocked to Manila Bay on September 19 and 20 to see its artificial white sand after the DENR temporarily opened the area to the public.

The apparent disregard for physical distancing and other health and safety guidelines in the crowd led to the administrative relief of Lt. Col. Ariel Caramoan, who was the Ermita Police Station commander.

Source: [https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/23/mayor-isko-manila-bay-white-sand-project-to-boost-tourism-business-in-manila/?fbclid=IwAR1z-BdvMs8OAgFEgw0L0YpifvzmWxP3q19\\_R\\_fv-Uo-y6AlWi7Ehlp4Ezg](https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/23/mayor-isko-manila-bay-white-sand-project-to-boost-tourism-business-in-manila/?fbclid=IwAR1z-BdvMs8OAgFEgw0L0YpifvzmWxP3q19_R_fv-Uo-y6AlWi7Ehlp4Ezg)



## ‘White sand beach’ good—Moreno

posted September 23, 2020 at 09:35 pm

by [Willie Casas](#)

Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso on Wednesday said the controversial artificial “white sand beach” in Manila Bay was expected to benefit hotels and boost the economy in the area.

Domagoso, during a press briefing, said Roxas Boulevard’s “Manila Bay Sands” -- a play on Singapore’s Marina Bay Sands -- is expected to drive tourists to the area.

Even before formally opening to the public, the beach had actually attracted droves of tourists over the weekend, however, at the expense of social distancing during a pandemic.

“All the hotels in Roxas Boulevard will benefit from this. So businesses will boom,” Domagoso said. Domagoso cited the suggested design of the city government for the development of the Manila Bay area called “The Manila Sunrays.”

Domagoso said the design was an aspiration for the area to have some structures.

Domagoso noted that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which heads the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, had prepared other plans to develop the area.

“In a good weather, someday, somehow, this will continue,” Domagoso added.

The DENR placed 500 tons of crushed dolomites to beautify and rehabilitate a small stretch of Manila Bay’s shoreline, as part of its Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation received criticisms over the issues of the possible health hazards of crushed dolomites and the timing of the project amid the COVID-19 pandemic, among others.

The DENR has defended its decision to spruce up the area with dolomite sourced from Cebu.

Amid criticism, President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday congratulated DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu following the placement of crushed dolomites.

However, environmental groups criticized the DENR’s rehabilitation of Manila Bay, saying it was not commendable.

On Tuesday, fisherfolk groups’ alliance PAMALAKAYA chairperson Fernando Hicap pointed out that the rehabilitation led by the DENR was superficial.

The station commander of the Ermita Police in Manila had been relieved from his post due to the breach in social distancing protocols, as the Department of Health sounded the alarm over the mass gathering at the area.

Despite social distancing violations during a preview of the beach, Malacanang said the huge crowds only showed that the government was right in pushing ahead with the project.

But they urged visitors to observe physical distancing.





## Mga hotel, negosyo sa Manila Bay rehab area daragsain – Isko



September 23, 2020 @ 7:33 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inaasahang daragsain ng mga turista at malaki ang kikitain ng mga hotel at ibang negosyo sa paligid ng tinaguriang “white sand beach” sa Manila Bay.

Ito ang sinabi ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso kung saan ikinumpara pa nito ang Manila Bay white sand sa Marina Bay sands sa bansang Singapore. Aniya, kahit hindi pa ito pormal na binubuksan sa publiko ay dinaragsa na ito ng mga turista basta’t susunod lamang ang mga ito sa ipinapatupad na health protocols.

“All the hotels in Roxas Boulevard will benefit from this. So businesses will boom. ‘Yung mga negosyo sa Roxas Boulevard ay magkakaroon ng high demand in a matter of time,” ani Domagoso.

Ibinahagi rin ni Domagoso ang iminumungkahing disenyo ng pamahalaang lungsod para sa lalong ikagaganda ng lugar ng Manila Bay na “The Manila Sunrays” kung saan magiging panibagong atraksyon ito sa lungsod ng Maynila at inaasahang darayuhin din ng mga dayuhan at lokal na turista na mamamasyal sa siyudad.

“In a good weather, someday, somehow, magpatuloy ito,” dagdag pa ng Alkalde.

Bilang bahagi ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program, naglatag ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng 500 tonelada ng “crushed dolomites” sa maliit na bahagi ng baybayin ng Manila Bay upang mapaganda itong lalo.

Sa kabila ng kaliwa’t kanang kritisismo na ibinato sa tinaguriang Manila Bay white sand, binati naman ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte si DENR Sec. Ro Cimatu dahil sa ginawa nitong pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay kung saan dinumog ito ng publiko.

Ayon sa Palasyo, ang pagdagsa ng publiko sa Manila Bay ay ipinapakita lamang na tama ang desisyon ng gobyerno hinggil sa isinasagawang nilang pagpapalinis at pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay. **Jay Reyes**

Source: [https://www.remate.ph/mga-hotel-negosyo-sa-manila-bay-rehab-area-daragsain-isko/?fbclid=IwAR1JHHvm8SjLYraGknnu0G9iXfWz2E1bT\\_lhAQyKitraNUjgveyo4kJUzKM](https://www.remate.ph/mga-hotel-negosyo-sa-manila-bay-rehab-area-daragsain-isko/?fbclid=IwAR1JHHvm8SjLYraGknnu0G9iXfWz2E1bT_lhAQyKitraNUjgveyo4kJUzKM)



## NEGOSYO SA PALIGID NG MANILA BAY INAASAHANG LALAGO DAHIL SA 'WHITE SAND' — MAYOR ISKO

written by [Krista De Dios-Dagala](#) September 23, 2020



Tiwala si Manila City Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso na mabebenipisyuhan ng kontrobersiyal na “white sand beach” sa Manila Bay ang mga hotel gayundin ang iba pang mga negosyo sa paligid nito.

Ayon kay Moreno, inaasahan niyang makaka-akit ng mga turista ang tinawag na Manila Bay Sands sa bahagi ng Roxas Boulevard na katunog ng Marina Bay Sands ng Singapore.

Nakita na aniya ito sa pagdagsa ng mga turista noong weekend, kahit hindi pa ito pormal na binubuksan sa publiko.

Dahil dito, sinabi ni Moreno na kanyang inaasahan ang paglago ng iba't ibang negosyo sa Roxas Boulevard partikular ng mga hotel dahil sa pagtaas ng demand nito, oras na ganap nang mabuksan ang white sand sa Manila Bay.

Dagdag pa ng alkalde, naghahanda na rin ng iba pang plano ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa pagpapaganda ng ibang bahagi ng Manila Bay.



# Businesses around Manila Bay ‘white sand beach’ seen to boom —Mayor Isko

**Published** September 23, 2020 2:43pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso on Wednesday said the controversial artificial "white sand beach" in Manila Bay is expected to benefit hotels and boost commerce in the area.

At a public briefing, Moreno said Roxas Boulevard's "Manila Bay Sands" - a play on Singapore's Marina Bay Sands - is expected to drive tourists to the area. Even before formally opening to the public, the beach had actually attracted droves of tourists over the weekend, but [at the expense of social distancing](#) during a pandemic.

“All the hotels in Roxas Boulevard will benefit from this. So businesses will boom. ‘Yung ating mga negosyo sa Roxas Boulevard ay magkakaroon ng high demand in a matter of time,” he said.

Moreno shared the suggested design of the city government for the development of the Manila Bay area called “The Manila Sunrays.”

Moreno said the design is an aspiration for the area to have some structures.

He noted that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which heads the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, has prepared other plans to develop the area.

“In a good weather, someday, somehow, magpatuloy ito,” Moreno added.

As part of its Manila Bay rehabilitation program, the DENR placed 500 tons of crushed dolomites to beautify and rehabilitate a small stretch of Manila Bay’s shoreline.

The [project received criticisms](#) over the issues of the possible health hazards of crushed dolomites and the timing of the project amid the COVID-19 pandemic, among others.

The DENR has already [defended its decision](#) to spruce up the area with dolomite sourced from Cebu.

Amid criticism, [President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday congratulated DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu](#) following the placement of crushed dolomites.

For environmental groups, however, the DENR’s rehabilitation of Manila Bay is not commendable.



On Tuesday, fisherfolk groups' alliance [PAMALAKAYA chairperson Fernando Hicap](#) pointed out that the rehabilitation led by the DENR is superficial.

The [station commander of the Ermita Police in Manila has already been relieved](#) from his post due to the breach in social distancing protocols, even as the [Health department has sounded the alarm](#) over the mass gathering at the area.

Despite social distancing violations during a preview of the beach, the [Palace](#) said the huge crowds only showed that the government was right in pushing ahead with the project. It, however, urged visitors to observe physical distancing. **-MDM, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756842/businesses-around-manila-bay-white-sand-beach-seen-to-boom-mayor-isko/story/?utm\\_source=GMAnews&utm\\_medium=Twitter](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756842/businesses-around-manila-bay-white-sand-beach-seen-to-boom-mayor-isko/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Twitter)



Manila Mayor Isko Moreno said in a virtual presser on Wednesday that the artificial white sand of Manila Bay will make businesses in Roxas Boulevard prosper.



John Rich Kyle Pascual and 9.6K others

1.1K Comments 711 Shares



## Manila Bay rehab volunteers praised

posted September 23, 2020 at 11:15 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Senator Cynthia Villar on Monday said the growing number of volunteers and partner organizations who take part in the clean-up and mangrove planting activities should be credited for the strides made in the Manila Bay rehabilitation campaign.

Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, made the remark as the International Day of Coastal Cleanup was observed over the weekend.

"I'm happy because there are many volunteers and partners in our clean up and mangrove planting activities in Manila Bay. Many of them did not stop cleaning despite the pandemic," Villar said.

Almost 12 years after the issuance of the Supreme Court mandamus compelling government agencies and local government units to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay, she admitted that "we still have a long way to go before we restore the bay to its pristine condition."

Five years ago, Villar started a project in Baseco Compound. Together with the Department of Health, she initiated a project that will build toilet facilities for the residents and address the problem of open defecation in the area.

She also built livelihood projects such as mangrove planting, urban garden, recycling, and aquaculture. Baseco residents are now benefitting from these projects as a source of food or as a source of additional income.

The lady senator also continues to be at the forefront of the fight against Manila Bay reclamation. The Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park, a 175-hectare critical area situated south of Manila Bay, is a Wetland of International Importance that was accorded protection against the threat of reclamation through the Villar-authored Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act.

Also in a bid to increase awareness on the importance of this wetland as a sanctuary of migratory birds and haven of flora and fauna, Villar helped build facilities in the area such as a wetland center, visitor's center, bird hides, boardwalk, and view towers, for the convenience of people looking to enjoy the wonders of this park. "The rehabilitation in Manila Bay is not only for beautification. It is very important to preserve the biodiversity here because of many livelihoods are dependent on it. About 300,000 fishermen are depending on their fish supply here, Villar said.

"And of course, Manila Bay is world-renowned due to its beautiful sunset. We want the future generation to enjoy this. I hope that although we are still far from end-goal, we continue to inspire others to help us win the Battle for Manila Bay," she added.

# Galvez on Manila Bay crowding: It won't happen again

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 23, 2020 6:04:12 PM



A task force official on Wednesday vowed that it will prevent other crowd-gathering incidents from happening again, such as the Manila Bay white sand event that led to violations in physical distancing. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 23) — A task force official on Wednesday vowed that it will prevent other crowd-gathering incidents from happening again, such as the Manila Bay white sand event that led to violations in physical distancing.

Carlito Galvez, chief implementer of the National Task Force Against COVID-19, acknowledged that authorities failed to control the situation.

"We have learned our lesson so we will make sure this will not happen again," he told reporters in an online briefing.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently launched a project that covered the Manila Bay Baywalk with white sand made of crushed dolomite minerals.

The agency opened the area for public viewing for a limited time over the weekend which caused visitors to flock to the area in tightly packed lines, waiting to get a glimpse of the beach.

This drew concerns from the public of possible COVID-19 transmission. The DENR later apologized for the crowding while Philippine National Police Chief PGen. Camilo Cascolan [sacked the Ermita police head](#) for failing to enforce security and health measures.

President Rodrigo Duterte on the other hand [defended the project](#) from critics who questioned the purpose of the white sand. He pointed out that people are enjoying the reclaimed area.



# Duterte praises Manila Bay makeover project

by [RITCHEL MENDIOLA](#) SEPTEMBER 22, 2020



**SELFIE BY THE BAY.** People take selfies at Manila Bay’s “white sand beach” on Roxas Boulevard on Sunday, September 20. Crowds wait in long lines to step on the beach which has been temporarily opened to the public for them to see rehabilitation efforts on the bay. | PNA photo by Avito Dalan

**PHILIPPINE** President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday, September 21, praised Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for his rehabilitation efforts in the Manila Bay.

“Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimatu. You know I remember that meeting and I think everybody was there when I said, ‘Roy, can you clean this up?’ And his answer was...very curtly given, he said, ‘I can work on this,’” Duterte said.

The president also noted that the public is enjoying the now-completed Manila Bay “white sand beach” project.

“People now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand at least,” Duterte said.

“He (Cimatu) impressed me, he accepted my dare. It was a very positive statement. It was not even a neutral thing or a thing that would border (on speculation). He did not say ‘I can do it if.’ He said ‘I can do it.’ And people are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good,” he added.

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

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

Duterte acknowledged the critics of the Manila Bay’s white sand project, noting that they will always have something to say.

“We really cannot do anything. You do it, they have something to say. You don’t do it, (Vice President Leni Robredo) has something to say, too,” he said in Filipino.





A crowd of people flocked to Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard over the weekend to witness its brief opening to showcase the artificial “white sand beach” implemented under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ (DENR) P389-million Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

The Manila Bay opened to the public from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, and again on Sunday after the completion of its makeover project that involved pouring piles of crushed dolomite on the stretch of Manila Bay’s shore.

Despite the facelift, the government has banned the public from swimming in the area. The Manila Bay will also be closed starting Monday to continue the DENR’s rehabilitation efforts such as beach nourishment, dredging, and desilting activities.

“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*),” Cimatú said.

“Gusto kong baguhin ang paniniwala ng tao sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng (white sand) beach dito sa Manila Bay. (*I want to change the people’s beliefs by creating a white sand beach here in Manila Bay*),” he added.

Cimatú also maintained that the DENR will continue its work on Manila Bay despite the criticism that the artificial white sand beach project drew earlier this month.

“Sadly there are those who are telling or accusing us of not contributing solutions. Finding fault just wanting to stop [these] 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 said.

“We have nothing to fear as long as we know that we are doing something good,” he added.



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



September 23, 2020 @ 8:25 AM 23 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinuri ni Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. ang Manila Bay “white sand” project ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“This is the greatest project I have ever seen. This will be a legacy. I think Cimatu is a genius to think about this,” lahad ni Locsin.

Ito ay matapos makipagusap si Locsin sa Embahada ng US kung saan matatagpuan ang opisina nito malapit sa Manila Bay.

“We’re just settling some things about security to maintain. Since it’s no longer water, we have to add some security features, that’s all,” dagdag nito. **RNT/ELM**



## Manila Bay rehabilitation program bahagi ng inisyatibo ng DOST



September 22, 2020 @ 2:10 PM 2 days ago

Manila, Philippines – Bahagi ng inisyatibo ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay sa gitna ng pandemya para sa “future-proof” technologies ng kapaligiran.

Sa ulat, binanggit ni Secretary Fortunato de la Peña ang ilang bagong programa ng DOST tulad ng Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, Modeling and Management System for Manila Bay (IM4 Manila Bay) Program at Chartered Dream.

Ang IM4 Manila Bay program ay naglalayong mabigyan ang Manila Bay at watershed nito ng linked environments.

Target naman ng Chartered Dream project na madebelop ang teknolohiya para sa management at utilization ng dredge materials mula sa Tullahan -Tinajeros rivers system.

“Ngayon ano ang gagawin natin sa made-dredge na materials at ‘yan ngayon ang proyekto ng DOST-ITDI, ia-analyze para malaman kung ano ang pwedeng paggamitan ng dredge materials na iyan,” aniya.

Kabilang din sa kanilang mga programa ang Collaborative Research and Development to Leverage the Philippine Economy (CRADLE). **RNT/FGDC**



A bulldozer is seen working on the "white sand"—actually crushed dolomite rocks—poured along the shoreline of Manila Bay on September 6, 2020.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

## Yes, Harry Roque, 'tilapia' can be found in Manila Bay

[Ratziel San Juan](#) (Philstar.com) - September 19, 2020 - 6:44pm

MANILA, Philippines — The recent [fish kill](#) near Baseco and its alleged link to the government's controversial Manila Bay white sand project is only the latest issue to hound the Duterte administration as the COVID-19 pandemic ensues.

Asked yesterday about its reaction to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources not discounting the possibility of [sabotage](#) in the fish kill, the Palace brought its own suspicions to the table.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque on Friday doubted the presence of tilapia in Manila Bay, suggesting that the phenomenon could be part of a smear campaign by the opposition against President Rodrigo Duterte.

“Pero ang nakapagtataka nga, bakit ang tilapia, freshwater fish iyong nakarating sa Manila Bay. Parang imposible naman iyon ‘no dahil hindi po mabubuhay ang tilapia sa saltwater. So ingat-ingat lang po tayo sa panahon ngayon desperado po ang kalaban ng gobyerno, lahat po ginagawa para siraan si Presidente Duterte,” Roque said in a Friday press [briefing](#).

‘FYI’

However, [research](#) from the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute confirms that tilapia do indeed habitate the Manila Bay.

The occurrence of invasive black-chin tilapia "Sarotherodon melanotheron" was first [reported](#) in the bay in 2015 by a group of researchers, including fisheries scientist and marine biologist Mudjekeewis Santos, Ph.D.

“Opo, merong ‘tilapia’ sa Manila Bay...Pero hindi po ito yung tilapia na cultured sa freshwater fishpond sa Pilipinas gaya ng Oreochromis niloticus. Ito ang Sarotherodon melanotheron na may local name na ‘tilapiang Gloria,’ dahil daw sa parang nunal nito sa pisngi, katulad ng kay dating Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo,” Santos posted Friday.

“Bago lang ito nakita sa Pinas at hindi pa alam kung paano napunta ang mga saltwater-tolerant, invasive species na ito sa ating bansa.”

Source: [https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/on-the-radar/2020/09/19/2043680/yes-harry-roque-tilapia-can-be-found-manila-bay?utm\\_medium=talk\\_of\\_town&utm\\_source=vuukle](https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/on-the-radar/2020/09/19/2043680/yes-harry-roque-tilapia-can-be-found-manila-bay?utm_medium=talk_of_town&utm_source=vuukle)



## Manila Bay 'white sand' beach continues to attract onlookers

**Published** September 23, 2020 12:35pm

By TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ, GMA New

Police on Wednesday cordoned off the footbridge overlooking the Manila Bay "white sands" beach to avoid violations of social distancing protocols like what happened over the weekend when it was temporarily opened.

But after pedestrians complained, the police moved the cordon to the top of the footbridge.

But the barrier was not enough to discourage people from taking selfies and photos of the beach on the footbridge steps and even right beside the cordon.



On Monday, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno discouraged the public from visiting the spot in light of the threat of COVID-19. For him, it is enough that the public had a preview of the Manila Bay Sands through the media.

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

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756817/manila-bay-white-sand-beach-continues-to-attract-onlookers/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Twitter](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/756817/manila-bay-white-sand-beach-continues-to-attract-onlookers/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Twitter)



Daily Tribune

September 22 at 7:03 PM · 🌐



SUNSET AND THE WHITE SAND BEACH OF MANILA BAY

People gather near the "white sand beach" of the Manila Bay to enjoy the sunset Tuesday, 23 September. | Photos from Yummie Dingding



👍❤️😄 152

11 Comments 12 Shares



# A glimpse of Manila Bay's controversial 'white sand'

**George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News**

Posted at Sep 23 2020 02:46 PM



A police officer guards a man taking photos and/or videos from a pedestrian overpass, of the "white sand" project in Manila Bay on Wednesday. The Philippine National Police strictly monitored the area after throngs of people troop to see the crushed dolomite-laden area as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/09/23/20/manila-bay-artificial-white-sand-dolomite>



## WHITE SAND PATOK SA PINOY



September 23, 2020 @ 9:25 AM 20 hours ago

DAAN-DAANG kababayan natin ang dumagsa sa kontrobersyal na Manila Bay White Sands beach sa Roxas Blvd. Manila noong Linggo.

Nadiskubre nila ang kagila-gilalas na proyekto ng pamahalaang Duterte bagama't ito'y 24 percent complete pa lamang.

'Di maikakaila ang kagalakan ng mga Filipino ukol sa proyekto ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Masisisi ba ang mga tao na nagsiksikan sa boardwalk at overpass para makapitik ng selfie o groupie sa bagong patok na atraksyon ng bansa?

Sa kamalasang-palad ng mga miyembro ng Manila's Finest na naka-duty noon, sila ang naparusahan sa pagkukumpulan ng mga sabik na tao na 'di sumunod sa social or physical distancing.

Ang reclamation area na tinambakan ng dolomite material mula sa Cebu Province napatunayan na lalong makagaganda sa tanawin ng Manila, ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

Bukod doon, sabi ni Usec. Antiporda na ang white-sand beach ay magbibigay ng pagkakataon sa Metro Manila residents na makaranas ng kalidad na pag-aaliw sa dalampasigan na tulad ng nararanasan ng may-kayang Filipino at mga dayuhan sa Boracay Island and Palawan.

Iyan din ngayon ang best spot to watch the famous Manila Bay sunset.

Ang PHP389-million project ay nagpapatunay na detemindo ang administrasyon ng ibalik ang gloria ng makasaysayang Manila Bay sa tulong ng local governments units ng cities and towns along the coast.

Noong una'y may mga kritikong nagtawa sa planong Manila Bay's rehabilitation na "impossible" raw pagkatapos ng Boracay Island rehabilitation.

Naniniwala ako na ang White Sands project ay patunay na may pag-asa na maibalik ang Manila Bay sa kaaya-ayang kondisyon nito noong unang panahon.





Pagkakataon din ng mga taga-lungsod na makipag-ugnayan sa inang-kalikasaan at matuto ng environmental conservation.

Taliwas sa sinasabi ng mga kritiko na makasasama sa karagatan ang reclamation at dolomite, nagsulputan ang mga kalipunan ng migratory birds sa white sands bilang natural sanctuary.

Masasabing ibinabahagi lamang natin ang mga kapaligiran na ating sinakop mula sa kanila.

\*\*\*\*\*

We welcome your reaction and opinion. Please send to [etulfo2011@yahoo.com](mailto:etulfo2011@yahoo.com) or visit us at Erwin Tulfo Center For Media and Public Assistance, Room 303 Castro Bldg., #58 Timog Avenue, Quezon City (taas ng PSBank).

Source: [https://www.remate.ph/white-sand-patok-sa-pinoy/?fbclid=IwAR3pYuJi0iJau96xpul25ecXxOR0L229JAuFpm02uP6\\_hp6cXeLXVSFw\\_N](https://www.remate.ph/white-sand-patok-sa-pinoy/?fbclid=IwAR3pYuJi0iJau96xpul25ecXxOR0L229JAuFpm02uP6_hp6cXeLXVSFw_N)  
E



## That fish kill in Manila Bay

September 22, 2020 | Filed under: Editorial, Opinion | Posted by: Tempo Desk

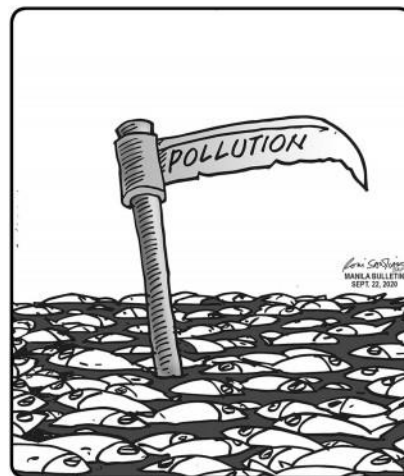
HUNDREDS of dead fish started floating to the surface of Manila Bay near the Baseco compound in Manila Bay Thursday morning, September 17, after a night of heavy rains over Manila.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



# Think tank Infrawatch PH raises more red flags on Manila Bay project

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:00 PM September 23, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Infrawatch PH, a nongovernment policy think tank, raised more red flags on Tuesday on the government’s Manila Bay rehabilitation project, saying that it lacked an Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC) and was probably overpriced, with the lone bidder not even offering a discount.

The project — which involved overlaying a part of its shoreline with artificial white sand made of crushed dolomite — drew widespread criticism, with people saying that the material posed a danger to human health and biodiversity.

Some individuals questioned whether a recent fish kill on the bay was caused by the dolomite. Many others called out authorities for letting huge crowds gather at the site without observing physical distancing in violation of quarantine rules.

On the other hand, President Rodrigo Duterte repeatedly defended and praised the project.

But in a statement, Infrawatch PH convenor Terry Ridon called the attention of the President, saying: “Mr. President, the Manila Bay white sand project did not comply with environmental regulations. It has no ECC despite being located in an area with tourist potential and unique historical interest. Projects in these areas require an ECC prior construction under DENR’s regulations.”

“The urgent objective of rehabilitating Manila Bay was not to give the public a nice place to visit, as the President said,” he added. “The objective is to improve water quality, protect biodiversity and ensure sustainable development. As admitted by DENR officials themselves, beach nourishment is not found in any Manila Bay master plan,” he added.

Several government officials, including Vice President Leni Robredo, slammed the project, saying that the money spent on the project could have been better allocated to the government’s COVID-19 response.

Last weekend, curious people flocked to the area when it was opened, [overwhelming police officers](#) who tried to implement distancing.

Aside from these issues, Infrawatch PH also claimed that there were indications that the project was overpriced.

“Allowing this project to proceed without disclosing its project costs will undermine the anti-corruption drive of the President,” Ridon noted.

“The President should know the following project details: There was only one bidder; There was a mere 2.04% variance from the approved P398-M budget. The winning bidder did not offer any discount from the bid price despite being the sole bidder. DPWH did not negotiate for a lower project price,” he added.



Despite the issues surrounding the Manila Bay rehabilitation, Duterte [praised](#) Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu during his pre-recorded Monday night briefing for fixing the area and making it possible for people to enjoy the famed tourist spot.

Duterte also slammed critics whom he said had done [nothing but criticize](#) whatever project his administration implemented.  
[atm]



# Fisherfolk group calls Mariel Padilla ‘wrong’ over comment vs Manila Bay critics

Published September 23, 2020, 2:00 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

A fisherfolk group has belied the claim made by TV host Mariel Rodriguez-Padilla when she said that “no one was complaining about the trash” in the Manila Bay before it was placed under rehabilitation.

In a photo posted on the Twitter account of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya (Pamalakaya), it showed that several people held a fluvial parade in 2005 to express opposition against a dumpsite in Manila Bay.



(PAMALAKAYA/ MANILA BULLETIN)

“Fishers and coastal residents protested the reclamation for the Navotas dumpsite, which is the culprit for ton-loads of garbage that polluted Manila Bay,” the caption of the photo read.

Pamalakaya said that Padilla was “wrong” when she said that no one complained about the Manila Bay’s trash.

“Noong puro basura walang nagrereklamo ngayon na pinaganda... can you believe it? Ngayon sila nagrereklamo? (When there were still a lot of trash, no one was complaining, (only) now that it’s improved... can you believe it? It’s now that they’re complaining?)” This is part of Padilla’s comment on her husband Robin’s Instagram post regarding the beautification project.

The undergoing beautification of Manila Bay recently became a subject for criticisms after the dumping of the dolomites or synthetic white sand on its beach area.

While there is a need for government officials to “clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay” as ordered by the Supreme Court, critics questioned the timing of its beautification as the country is still battling against the pandemic. They also raised concern over the implications of the dolomites to the people’s health.



## Manila Bay 'white sand' inanod

By Abante News Online — Last updated Sep 23, 2020

ENTERTAINMENT



Hindi pa rin natatapos ang mga isyu kaugnay sa pagbubuhos ng dolomite sand o "white sand" sa Manila Bay.

Ngayon, ayon sa ilang netizen, ay tila raw inaanod o "naaagnas" na ang inilagay na dolomite sand.

Sabi naman ni FuturePediaMD: Dahil panay ang pag-ulan lately, unti-unti nang inaanod ang controversial na white sand sa Manila Bay....Aksaya lang ng pera mga pakshet kayo!"

"Habang unti-unti nang inaanod yong white sand or dolomite sa Manila Bay unti-unti na ring inaanod sa limo tang P15B kupitan sa PhilHealth," birada sa twitter ni @M52732564.

Sinisisi rin ng ilang netizen ang dolomite sa posibleng sanhi ng pagkamatay ng mga isda.

Ani Kalikasan PNE national coordinator Leon Dulce sa panayam sa programang "Stand For Truth", hindi kasi nagkaroon ng masusing pag-aaral at environmental impact assessment ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa proyekto.

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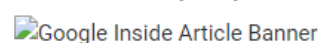
Kim natuwa sa paglayas ni Salvador sa Dos

Sep 23, 2020 0

Dagdag niya, kung pananatilihin ang Manila Bay "white sand" ay magiging magastos ito.

Paliwanag niya, kung gustong panatilihin ang pekeng white sand ay tuluy-tuloy daw dapat na nagtatambak doon ng dolomite sand dahil tuluy-tuloy din

itong malalagas pati na ang pagkasira ng mga bulubunduking pinagkukunan ng dolomite.





Depensa ng DENR, natural lang ang ganoong erosion ng puting buhangin, na pinaghandaan naman umano nila.

Ani DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda sa mga kritiko ng Manila Bay Nourishment Project, hintayin na munang matapos ang proyekto.

“Yung area na ‘yon is under construction pa. Under renovation pa siya, under nourishment pa siya so I don’t think it’s fair na mag-judge sila kaagad diyan,” saad ni Antiporda sa panayam ng GMA.

Plano raw ng contractor na magtayo muna roon ng mataas na harang para mapigilan ang publiko sa pagkuha ng litrato ng dolomite beach na nauwi sa paglabag sa social distancing.

“If in case that we found out na there is negligence, na na-shortchange ang taongbayan sa ginawa ng contractor na ‘yan, we will ask the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) to run after the contractor, of course,” lahad ni Antiporda.

Noong Lunes isinarang muli sa publiko ang Manila Bay “white sand” matapos dagsain at hindi na sumunod ang marami sa social distancing.  
(IS)



# TINGNAN: Sandbags pinalibot sa paligid ng white sand sa Manila Bay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 23 2020 03:00 PM | Updated as of Sep 23 2020 05:24 PM



Nakapalibot ang ilang sandbag sa bahagi ng baybayin ng Manila Bay kung saan nakaimbak ang artificial white sand. *Kuha ni Val Cuenca, ABS-CBN News*

MAYNILA — Makikitang nakapalibot ang mga sandbag sa baybayin ng Manila Bay kung saan nakaimbak ang artificial white sand.

Makikita sa larawan na kinunan nitong Miyerkoles na numipis na sa shoreline ang crushed dolomite na inimbak doon bilang bahagi ng beautification project ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Una nang sinabi ni University of the Philippines Resilience Institute executive director Mahar Lagmay na mataas ang tyansa na matatangay lang ng bagyo at high tide ang buhangin.

Dinayo nitong weekend ang bahagi ng Manila Bay na may white sand nang buksan ito noong Sabado at Linggo. Maraming pumuna na hindi nasunod ang protocols na layong iwasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 sa pagdagsa ng mga nais makita ang lugar.

Sarado uli ito para sa pagpapatuloy ng proyekto.





## White sand

*posted* September 23, 2020 at 10:42 pm



Sandbags were placed along the shores of Manila Bay where artificial 'white sand' were unloaded. ABS-CBN News Photo



 Philstar.com   
13h · 

LOOK: Sandbags were placed along the shore of the artificial "white sand beach" on Manila Bay during the beautification project of the DENR.

Photos and videos of the opening of the "white sand beach" over the weekend showed people crowding and not practicing physical distancing despite efforts to limit the people in the area.

📷: STAR/Edd Gumban



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 **ABS-CBN News** 16h · 🌐

LOOK: Sandbags were placed along the shore of Manila Bay where the crushed dolomite were dumped as part of the DENR's beautification project. Val Cuenca, ABS-CBN News



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# Dolomite mining not meant for Manila Bay project: Cebu town mayor

By John Rey Saavedra [September 23, 2020, 8:22 pm](#)



**DOLOMITE MINING.** An undated photo shows the dolomite mining plant in Barangay Pugalo, Alcoy town in Cebu province. Alcoy Mayor Michael Angelo Sestoso on Wednesday (Sept. 23, 2020) said the residents of his town are very happy that they became a major contributor to the Manila Bay nourishment project using their dolomite. (Photo courtesy of MGB-Region 7)

**CEBU CITY** – Mayor Michael Angelo Sestoso of the municipality of Alcoy in Cebu on Wednesday said dolomite extraction in his town has been existing for 39 years, thus, it is improper to say that its purpose is the beautification project at the Manila Bay.

Sestoso added he cannot recall any single environmental incident from the start of quarry operations of the Philippine Mining Services Corporation (PMSC) and the Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) in their area.

Sestoso issued this statement as he lamented reports quoting “environmentalists” who, he said, erroneously associated the Manila Bay nourishment project to Alcoy’s purported environmental degradation caused by dolomite mining.

“Di man maingon nga ang purpose sa dolomite mining operation sa Alcoy para sa Manla Bay (It’s wrong to say that the purpose of dolomite mining in Alcoy is for Manila Bay),” Sestoso told the Philippine News Agency in an interview.

He said that dolomite mining in Barangay Pugalo started in 1981 and its purpose is to export the minerals to Japan and some parts of Southeast Asia.

The mayor said dolomite is crushed aggregates from boulders mined in the hinterland area of the town but no environmental incident like landslide has occurred ever since. The minerals are used as auxiliary materials for iron and steel, plate glass for construction materials, automotive glass, fertilizer, and soil conditioner.

However, the PMSC is accommodating local orders of aggregates to support construction projects and agricultural farms in Mindanao that use dolomite as soil enhancers or neutralizer to farmlands damaged by fertilizer overuse, Sestoso said.

“We are proud that we have contributed to the beautification project of Manila Bay. The people of Alcoy are very happy that many people visit Manila Bay to see the beautiful sands which are actually the dolomite from Alcoy,” he said. “The Philippines is able to give a good impression to the world because of what President (Rodrigo) Duterte does in Manila Bay”.

The two mining firms have some 571 hectares of mining claims in Barangay Pugalo and some parts of the neighboring Barangay Obong, which is part of the adjacent town of Dalaguete.

Sestoso said that the firms are able to mine "a portion" of their claims.



While they support the Manila Bay nourishment project, the municipality also agreed with Governor Gwendolyn Garcia in stopping the local transport of dolomite pending resolution of the impasse on environmental impact monitoring and revenue sharing scheme.

The mayor said the municipality received around PHP200,000 to PHP300,000 per quarter (around PHP1.2 to PHP1.3 million per year) as their “share from the national wealth” from the dolomite mining.

“We have not received our 2019 share,” he said.

Garcia issued a cease and desist order against DMC and PMSC for their quarry operations of dolomite that is sold to the local market without paying tax to Cebu capitol and the municipality.

Sestoso said if they get a share from the local sale of dolomite, they can fund their social development projects which will help uplift the status of Alcoy from being a fifth class municipality. (PNA)



ABS-CBN News

5h · 🌐

...

TINGNAN: Mga kuhang larawan ng marine ecosystem ng Alcoy, ang bayan sa Cebu kung saan may minahan ng dolomite.

Ininspeksiyon ito noong Martes ng Cebu Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office para malaman ang epekto ng naturang mineral sa karagatan.

Ayon kay Mayor Michael Sestoso, ang siltation sa dagat ay bunsod ng dinurog na dolomite na naipon sa matagal na panahon.

Ang tinatambak na dolomite sa Manila Bay ay mula sa bayan at ipinatigil muna ang pagkuha nito dahil sa kawalan ng koordinasyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pamahalaang panlalawigan. (📷: Cebu PENRO via Board Member Jimbo Borgonia)

Narito ang buong ulat: <https://bit.ly/3kU8tmr>



👍👎👏 2.1K

1.4K Comments 257 Shares



GMA News

8h · 🌐



TINGNAN: Mga crushed dolomite particles, pinulbo ang ilalim ng bahagi ng dagat na ito sa Alcoy, Cebu. Sa kabundukan ng Alcoy kinuha ang dolomite na binarko at tinambak sa Manila Bay upang maging "white sand" beach.

📍: Cebu Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office

Kaugnay na balita: White sand at Manila Bay worth P389M, won't affect ecosystem -DENR  
<https://bit.ly/2FZT3O8>



👍👍👍 Kevin Ferrer and 6.7K others

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Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM

10h · 🌐

Mga kuha sa coral reefs sa Alcoy, Cebu matapos inspeksyunin ng Cebu-PENRO.  
Naapektuhan daw ang mga bahura sa lugar dahil sa dolomite extraction doon.  
Matatandaan na ginamit ang dinurog na dolomite bilang materyales sa synthetic white sand sa Manila Bay.

👤: PENRO-Cebu/Board Member Jimbo Borgonia



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## EDITORIAL - Nagkumpul-kumpul sa puting buhangin

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - September 24, 2020 - 12:00am



Maraming tao ang nasiyahan sa puting buhangin na itinambak sa bahagi ng Manila Bay. Binuksan ang white sand beach noong Sabado at Linggo. Marami ang napa-wow at napa-ah sa ganda na wala raw ipinagkaiba sa beach sa Boracay. Dinurog na dolomite na galing pa sa Cebu ang puting buhangin. Ang proyekto ay bahagi ng beautification ng Manila Bay at pinondohan ng P389 milyon.

Marami ngang dumagsang tao noong Sabado at hindi na ito nakontrol ng mga awtoridad. Nagdikit-dikit na sila at wala nang pagitan. May mga grupo na nag-picture-picture o nag-selfie. Mayroon pang nag-bikini na umagaw ng pansin. Nawala na ang physical distancing at ganap na nasira ang health protocol na ipinatutupad.

Ganundin ang nangyari kinabukasan (Linggo). Dumagsa muli ang mga tao at nasira muli ang physical distancing. Sa rami ng mga dumagsang tao, nakapila na ang iba sa Roxas Blvd. Lalo nang nasira ang ipinatutupad na 1 metrong agwat ng mga tao para hindi magkahawahan ng virus.

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

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



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

Sana, hindi na maulit ang pangyayaring ito na maaaring magdagdag sa kaso ng COVID-19. Mas mabuti naman kung bubuksan ang white beach kapag wala nang problema sa pandemya. Ipagpatuloy na lang ang pagpapaganda at paglinis sa mga nakalutang na basura.



# DENR assures it has played a role in fight vs. COVID-19

Published September 23, 2020, 11:01 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it has ensured to provide its fair share of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) assistance even though it is not tasked to address health and social welfare concerns.



Addressing suggestions that the budget used for the overlaying of crushed dolomite on the Manila Bay beachfront should have been used to feed poor families who were left hungry due to the pandemic, the DENR said it had done its part in a different way—by returning 10 percent of its 2020 budget in support of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act or the Republic Act (RA) 11469.

Ten percent of its 2020 budget amounts to ₱1,436,797,000.

It also said that DENR's central and regional offices and bureaus have initiated programs to support the government's fight against COVID-19, with the assistance amounting to ₱19,546,193.96.

Employees also pooled donations to help Filipinos amid the pandemic. Their donations reached ₱69,568,180.80.

"These donations were utilized for the procurement of personal protective equipment, sanitation, and hygiene kits, food packs, and other necessary items given to frontliners and families affected by the lockdown, including DENR employees," the DENR said.

Apart from monetary assistance, the department noted that DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu rendered service to help contain the COVID-19 crisis in Cebu and Bacolod.

"However, the DENR, DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways), Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, and other agencies tasked to rehabilitate the Manila Bay are not the Department of Health or the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which have the mandates to address health and social welfare concerns," it added.

It said the DENR's mandate is to use its manpower and other resources for the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources, even in the midst of pandemic.

The DENR reiterated that the project's implementation is "not untimely," as it was approved by Congress under the 2019 General Appropriations Act.



“It underwent bidding under RA 9184 (the Government Procurement Reform Act), and the contract was awarded prior to the global pandemic. The government cannot simply stop a project when it is already under a contractual obligation to proceed,” it explained.

It added that the beach nourishment project was conceptualized, budgeted, and approved by the Department of Budget and Management in 2019, “when there was no incident yet of COVID-19 in the country.”

The DENR also denied claims that the project, estimated to cover 30,000 to 49,000 square meters of engineering work, was overpriced.

“One critic divided the ₱389 million budget by 500 linear meters, which is the length and not the area or scope of the engineering work; this erroneous computation resulted to ₱778,000 per meter,” the department pointed out.

It further explained that the budget should be divided by at least 30,000 square meters, the actual work coverage area. This will yield a cost of ₱12,967 per square meter, “which is quite reasonable.”

The DENR reiterated that only ₱28 million of the ₱389 million allocation was used to overlay the crushed dolomite sediments.

It said the ₱28 million covers not only the price of the crushed dolomite but the package also includes the cost of delivery from Cebu to Manila Bay.



## DENR 'di nagpabaya sa kampanya vs COVID-19



September 23, 2020 @ 2:25 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines-Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na tumulong sila sa paglaban sa coronavirus disease 2019 kahit hindi sa kanila direktang nakaatas ang pagtugon sa problema sa health at social welfare.

Sinabi ng DENR na ginawa ng ahensya ang kanilang bahagi sa ibang paraan sa pamamagitan ng pagbabalik ng 10% ng 2020 budget nito bilang suporta sa Bayanihan to Heal as One Act o Republic Act 11469.

Nabatid na nagkakahalaga ng ₱1,436,797,000 ang 10% ng 2020 budget ng DENR na isinauli sa national treasury para magamit laban sa COVID-19.

Naglunsad din ang central at regional offices ng DENR ng programa bilang suporta sa kampanya ng gobyerno laban sa COVID-19 at nakalikom sila ng P19,546,193.96.

Nagsama-sama rin umano ang mga empleyado para makatulong sa mga apektado ng lockdown at umabot sa ₱69,568,180.80 ang kanilang naging donasyon na ginamit sa pagbili ng personal protective equipment, sanitation, hygiene kits, food packs, at iba pang items na ibinigay sa mga frontliner at pamilyang naapektuhan.

Ginawa ng DENR ang pahayag bilang tugon sa mga suhestyon na dapat ginamit sa pagpapakain sa mahihirap na pamilya na lubhang naapektuhan ng pandemya, ang budget na ginamit sa paglalagat ng dinurog na dolomite sa Manila Bay.

Pinabulaanan din nito ang alegasyong overpriced ang proyektong Manila Bay rehabilitation at sinabing P28M lang mula sa alokasyong P389M ang ginamit sa paglalagat ng dinurog na dolomite sa naturang lawa. **RNT**



## Lumber given to NV DepEd

posted September 23, 2020 at 09:05 pm

by [Ben Moses Ebreo](#)

Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Cagayan Valley recently donated lumber to the Department of Education (DepEd) for their school building projects.

DENR Regional Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the 15,000 board feet of forest products were turned over by the FCF Minerals Corporation after these were affected by the development in the mining areas of Quezon and Kasibu towns.

The turn-over of the confiscated common hardwood lumber was made through the signing of the Deed of Donation between DENR Regional Executive Director Bambalan and Schools Division Superintendent Rachel Llana.

“Our common goal is the improvement of government service in this region. Other government agencies can also avail of the confiscated forest products provided they will submit request and indicate the purpose of which the forest products will be used. We just have to make sure that all requirements are in place before disposal,” Bambalan said.

Roscoe Gacusana, representative of DepEd Schools Division Superintendent Rachel Llana expressed their gratitude to the DENR.

“He said the DENR assistance will make our schools conducive for learning. This will be used by 12 recipient elementary and secondary schools for infrastructure projects and school building improvement,” he said.



## Green groups seek halt of DMCI's coal-fired power generator project

September 23, 2020 | 12:06 am

By **Adam J. Ang**

A GROUP of petitioners asked a Palawan court to stop the planned construction of a coal-fired power plant by the power arm of DMCI Holdings, Inc.

Environmental groups and some community leaders in Narra town, which were assisted by the Environmental Legal Assistance Center, filed with the Regional Trial Court in Puerto Princesa on Tuesday a complaint against DMCI Power Corp. for its pipeline 15-megawatt (MW) power plant project.

They are asking the court to issue an environmental protection order that will compel the company to stop pursuing its project. They also seek to cancel the implementation of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) granted by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) in the Calabarzon region.

“The battle of Palaweños against coal has already been a long one, and we can neither afford nor intend to lose it. Letting coal in would cost the welfare of our people and of Palawan’s rich biodiversity,” Grizelda Mayo-Anda, the petitioners’ legal counsel, said in a virtual briefing.

The said order will also mandate the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development to review the strategic environmental plan clearance, which it issued to the power firm in 2015, as well as to prevent various local government agencies, including the Narra mayor’s office, from awarding other permits for the project.

The company secured an ECC for the project last year. It was also considered as an energy project of national significance by the Department of Energy (DoE). The coal-run generator was first opposed in 2012.

The petitioners also wanted the court to issue a writ of continuing mandamus, which will require the EMB to revisit and review DMCI Power’s ECC application, noting the company’s failure to conduct public hearings on the project and to provide clear impact projections, among others.

“Nakita natin ang maraming pagkukulang sa pagsusuri nila (DENR) ng ECC application ng DMCI Power (The DENR’s evaluation of the ECC application of DMCI Power was not substantial),” Ms. Anda said.

DMCI Power is operating four existing diesel and bunker fuel-fired power plants across Palawan. It has three other power generators in Masbate, Oriental Mindoro, and Sultan Kudarat.

The publication reached out to the company for comments, but it has yet to respond as of press time.



One of the petitioners, Cynthia S. Del Rosario of Palawan Alliance for Clean Energy, said the province has “more than enough” of power capacity, which stands at 57 MW, to meet its present demand around 50 MW.

“Sa option na kung kailangan mag-entertain ng bagong service contracts, dapat renewable energy na, (In entertaining new service contracts, they must be renewable energy projects)” she added.

Sustainability think-tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), another petitioner, feared that if the project will go online, it will raise power rates paid for by consumers. It cited the previous P9.38 per kilowatt-hour generation tariff in the supply contract between DMCI Power and the Palawan Electric Cooperative.

“There is no reason why Palaweños must be made to suffer exorbitant rates when renewable energy sources capable of providing cheap and clean electricity abound in our country,” Avril De Torres, the group’s research head, said.

In the first half of 2020, DMCI Power chipped in P256 million in income share to parent DMCI Holdings, Inc., a 10% increase from last year, attributed to higher energy sales in Palawan and lower fuel costs.

Shares in DMCI inched up 0.25% to close at P4.04 each on Tuesday.





# White sand beaches of Boracay ready for more local tourists on 1 October

Published 15 hours ago on September 23, 2020 02:59 PM

By [Raymart Lolo](#)



Boracay Island will start receiving more local tourists from different parts of the country starting 1 October, the tourism department announced on Wednesday.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, the island paradise will start allowing visitors even from areas under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) which includes Metro Manila.

This development came as a result of a special meeting convened by the principals of the Boracay Interagency Task Force (BIATF) led by its Chairperson Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Co-Vice Chairpersons, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ed Ano and Romulo-Puyat, with the Province of Aklan.

The BIATF leaders approved the request earlier made by the Aklan Province to expand Boracay's reopening to domestic travelers in addition to tourists from Western Visayas who have already been permitted to visit the island since 16 June.

Targeting a safe and calibrated resumption of tourism business and operations on the island, the BIATF will impose measures that will ensure safety of the people of Boracay.

This includes the implementation of "Test Before Travel" which requires tourist a negative RT-PCR result 48 to 72 hours prior to travelling to Boracay. Travelers are also advised to go on a strict quarantine immediately after the test and until the time of travel to the island.

The Test Before Travel regulation will allow visitors from destinations under a GCQ classification to visit the island. Age restriction is likewise relaxed permitting travelers below 21 and above 60 years old with no comorbidity.

Airlines are also advised to use the Godofredo P. Ramos Airport in Caticlan, Municipality of Malay, as the only airport of entry in moving tourists to the island.

"We are pleased that the BIATF and the LGUs of the Province of Aklan and Municipality of Malay have agreed to put health and safety as the priority as we carefully and safely welcome more guests to the island." Secretary Puyat said.

"The reopening of Boracay to new market sources signals a gathering momentum for domestic tourism all over the country," she added.

Since the island's reopening to travelers from Western Visayas last June, the DOT has already issued Certificates of Authority to Operate (CAO) to 199 hotels and resorts representing 4,416 rooms.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/23/white-sand-beaches-of-boracay-ready-for-more-local-tourists-on-1-october/>



# Boracay's reopening on Oct. 1 to build momentum for PH domestic tourism — Puyat

Published September 23, 2020, 11:43 AM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

The reopening of Boracay Island to more local tourists on October 1 will further build momentum for the country's domestic tourism, according to Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.



Boracay Island

(TARA YAP / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

This development came as a result of a special meeting convened by the Boracay Interagency Task Force (BIATF) led by its Chairperson, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Co-Vice Chairpersons, Puyat and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año, with Province of Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores Jr. Tuesday evening.

“The reopening of Boracay to new market sources signals a gathering momentum for domestic tourism all over the country. We are pleased that the BIATF and the LGUs of the Province of Aklan and Municipality of Malay have agreed to put health and safety as top priority as we carefully and safely welcome guests to the island,” she said.

During the said meeting, BIATF leaders approved an earlier request of Aklan Province to further reopen Boracay to domestic travelers apart from tourists from Western Visayas that have been permitted to visit the island since June 16.

But the tourism chief said the test before travel regulation will be implemented to allow visitors from destinations with General Community Quarantine (GCQ) classification to also visit the island.

The National Capital Region (NCR), Bulacan and Batangas in Luzon, and the cities of Tacloban and Bacolod are the only remaining areas placed under GCQ.

Age restriction is likewise relaxed permitting travelers below 21 and above 60 years old with no comorbidity.

“Targeting a safe and calibrated resumption of tourism business, several measures have been prescribed by the Task Force that include Test Before Travel requiring a negative RT-PCR result 48 to 72 hours prior to travel to Boracay. Also, travelers will be advised to go on strict quarantine immediately after a test until the time of travel to the island,” Puyat said.

But foreign travelers who wish to visit the island are still restricted as the DOT is concentrating first on the revival of domestic tourism. Puyat also said they have yet to discuss the docking of cruise ships in the island.

Another key agreement advises airlines to use the Godofredo P. Ramos Airport in Caticlan, Municipality of Malay as the only airport of entry in moving tourists to the island.

Meanwhile, the minimum health and safety guidelines (HSG) in place and in accordance with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) and national government mandates will be subjected to continued enhancement. The Province of Aklan had earlier rolled out stringent protocols in receiving guests from Western Visayas as well as strict guidelines in handling COVID-19 related emergencies.



A COVID-19 laboratory is now operating at the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital in Kalibo, Aklan and forms part of the network of facilities and services needed in a safe environment for host communities, business stakeholders, and tourists.

“In fact, the DOT had earlier coordinated with the FILINVEST Corporate City Foundation, Inc, for its donation of an RT-PCR machine to the Province of Aklan. Similarly, we worked with the Tulong Kapatid , the social responsibility consortium of the MVP Group of Companies, for several projects to include the donation of medical equipment and extension of training that will level up the Ciriaco S. Tirol Hospital in Boracay from an infirmary to a level 1 trauma hospital.” Puyat added.

Since the island’s reopening to travelers from Western Visayas last June 16, the DOT has already issued Certificates of Authority to Operate (CAO) to 199 hotels and resorts representing 4,416 rooms.



# Boracay ready for Oct 1 reopening – Año

By Victor Reyes -September 24, 2020

INTERIOR Secretary Eduardo Año yesterday said the tourism island of Boracay is well-prepared for its re-opening on October 1 after several months of closure due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Año said he and Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores discussed the re-opening of the island attraction during a meeting on Tuesday night.

“They are actually well-prepared, including the protocols,” Año said of local and tourism officials during the Laging Handa press briefing.

One of the requirements agreed between the DOT, DILG and local officials is the submission of a “negative” PCR testing result for tourists before they are allowed to enter the island.

“Pagkatapos pagdating doon, mayroon na siyang assigned na QR code, then doon mismo sa Boracay mayroon tayong COVID isolation facility doon (After their arrival there, they will have an assigned QR code, and then in Boracay there will be a COVID isolation facility there),” he said.

“Kung mayroong mag-positive, ito ay dadalhin kaagad dito sa mainland kapag mayroong ma-detect dito na positive or even suspect, dadalhin ito sa Kalibo (Those who will test positive will be brought to the main island. If some is positive or even a suspected case is detected, they will be brought to Kalibo),” he added Año.

Año said he has seen the preparations being done by the concerned agencies for the re-opening of Boracay and concluded they are “well in place.”

Año said tourists from general community quarantine areas are already welcome to go to Boracay. Aklan, the island’s province, is under the more relaxed modified general community quarantine.

Meanwhile, Joint Task Forces COVID Shield chief Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar told police commanders to closely coordinate with local government units as more and more tourist spots are being re-opened.

“Early planning is essential in the success of local tourism. As police commanders, we have the obligation to ensure that there must be a balance between the revival of the local economy and the health safety of the people in this time of pandemic,” said Eleazar.

Tagaytay City has already opened itself to tourism early this month and Baguio City is also re-opening next month.

“We leave it to the LGUs to craft and implement plans for their respective local tourisms. Local police commanders, however, must ensure that they are always updated in the planning and implementation,” said Eleazar.



# Antipolo LGU hopes to restore old glory of Hinulugang Taktak via sewage treatment plant project

Published September 23, 2020, 10:13 PM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

ANTIPOLO CITY – Tourists may soon see a revitalized Hinulugang Taktak as the city government has partnered with Manila Water for a sewage treatment plant project in the said area.



(File photo from Antipolo City government Facebook page: Left- City government's park personnel while on training beside the famed Hinulugang Taktak water falls turned picnic and recreation park in Antipolo City. Right photo shows the 'spider web' hanging trail just above the right side of the water falls, one of the few additions to the attractions at the park)

Mayor Andrea Bautista Ynares recently signed a usufruct agreement with the East Zone water concessionaire, Manila Water, in relation to the city government's plan to put up a Waste Water Management Treatment Plant (WWMTP) in the area leading to the waterfalls.

Present during the signing of agreement were Mayor Ynares, Manila Water president and CEO Rene Almendras, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, and Manila Water chief operating officer Abelardo P. Basilio.

In the agreement, Manila Water agrees to construct the WWMTP within a period of five years from effectivity. Once completed, it shall be exclusively operated by Manila Water in coordination with the city government, according to the office of Mayor Ynares.

The city government said that with the construction of WWMTP, 16 million liters of wastewater can be processed per day.

"The falls will be an attraction in itself since the water is already treated (after WWMTP completion), bringing back the old glory of the famed falls," said former Antipolo Mayor Jujun Ynares III in a text message.

Tree-planting activities and regular clean-up events are regularly held in the vicinity of the waterfalls as part of the local government's rehabilitation initiatives.

Prior to the pandemic, the city government has started introducing attractions such as wall climbing, zip line, spider web, and basketball court in the park area, a protected site co-managed by the DENR, Rizal provincial government, and the city.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/23/antipolo-lgu-hopes-to-restore-old-glory-of-hinulugang-taktak-via-sewage-treatment-plant-project/>



# Climate change must be addressed as urgently as Covid-19: PRRD

By Azer Parrocha September 23, 2020, 1:01 pm



President Rodrigo Duterte (Presidential Photo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte urged on Wednesday parties of the Paris Agreement to honor their commitment to fighting climate change.

“We call on all parties, especially those who have not made good their commitment to fight climate change, to honor the same,” he said in a speech at the High-Level Debate of the 75th United Nations General Assembly.

Developing countries like the Philippines are the most affected by the effects of climate change, which has “worsened” the ravages of the pandemic, he said. “We cannot afford to suffer more.”

He said it was just as important to address climate change as urgently as the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

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

In 2017, Duterte signed the Paris Agreement which aims to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming.

The Philippines earlier pledged a 70-percent cut in emissions by 2030. (PNA)



## Climate change solusyunan tulad ng pagtugon sa COVID-19 – PDU30



September 23, 2020 @ 5:51 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hinikayat ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga bansang kasama sa Treaty of Paris na panindigan at tuparin ang pangako nitong paglaban sa climate change.

“We call on all parties, especially those who have not made good their commitment to fight climate change, to honor the same,” anang Pangulo sa talumpati sa High-Level Debate sa 75th United Nations General Assembly.

Ang mga developing country tulad ng Pilipinas ang lubos na nakararamdam ng epekto ng Climate change, na ayon sa Pangulo ay nagpalala pa sa pananalasa ng pandemya.

“We cannot afford to suffer more.”

“The same urgency needed to fight COVID-19 is needed to address the climate crisis. This is a global challenge that has worsened existing inequalities and vulnerabilities from within and between nations,” ayon pa sa Punong ehekutibo.

Nitong 2017 pumirma si Duterte sa Paris Agreement na naglalayong bawasan ng mga progresibong bansa ang inilalabas na mga gas na nakapagpapalala sa global warming. *RNT*



# Fighting climate change urgent as battling COVID-19, Duterte tells UN

John Gabriel Agcaoili, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 23 2020 04:51 AM



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte addresses the public after holding a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) core members at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang on September 14, 2020. *Ace Morandante, Presidential Photo/File*

MANILA - The urgency required to fight the raging coronavirus pandemic is also needed to tackle climate change that is affecting the world in different but severe ways, President Rodrigo Duterte said in his first appearance at the UN General Assembly.

In a video message to the UN convention that aired early Wednesday (Manila time), Duterte said that global warming and other climate-related issues have "worsened inequalities and vulnerabilities from within and between" countries across the globe.

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

Duterte urged the UN member states part of the Paris Agreement -- which is aimed at slashing greenhouse gases and keeping global temperature increases -- to honor their commitment.

"The Philippines joined the Paris Agreement to fight climate change. We call on all parties, especially those who have not made good their commitment to fight climate change, to honor the same," he said.

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

Duterte in 2017 signed the Paris pact years after nearly 200 countries agreed on a binding global compact to slash greenhouse gases and keep global temperature increases to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius. Manila had promised to cut carbon emissions by 70 percent by year 2030, even if the country is not a major emitter.

Earlier this month, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned world powers to pull together and retool their economies for a green future or humanity will be "doomed."

He said the coronavirus crisis may have put climate to the sidelines as nations launched unprecedented lockdowns to try to slow the pathogen's spread, but the need for climate action was more urgent than ever.--**With a report from Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/09/23/20/fighting-climate-change-urgent-as-battling-covid-19-duterte-tells-un>





# Declare climate emergency to ensure transition to low-carbon pathway', groups urge Duterte

Published September 23, 2020, 4:00 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environmental groups urged President Rodrigo Duterte to declare a climate emergency to ensure that the government will act on the climate crisis with the much-needed urgency he has called during the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday.

**GREENPEACE**

(MANILA BULLETIN)

“We urge President Duterte to issue an executive order to put climate action at the center of all policy decision-making from local to national level. This will ensure the Philippines’ rapid and just transition to a low-carbon pathway through the phaseout of coal and fossil fuel investments,” Greenpeace country director Lea Guerrero said in a statement.

“Aside from calling in countries to enhance their commitments to the Paris Agreement, the declaration must also be a call for climate justice and hold big polluters—fossil fuel and cement companies—accountable for their role in driving climate change, which has placed millions of Filipinos in vulnerable situations with loss of lives, homes and livelihoods,” she added.

Guerrero said President Duterte must use this opportunity to declare a climate emergency that will enable a recovery that will transform our economy and society to tackle the climate crisis and promote positive environmental and health outcomes.

In a separate statement, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities executive director Renato Redentor Constantino said the Philippine government displayed international leadership at the right moment by affirming the need to flatten both the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the climate curves as urgently as possible.

“Duterte’s statement underscores the need for the whole world to act in concert based on science to tackle both the climate and COVID-19 crises. Experts advise physical distancing to prevent the transmission of the virus while a vaccine is still being developed, and scientists have long said we must keep global warming below the 1.5-degrees Celsius threshold to avoid the worst impacts of climate change,” he added. He added that President Rodrigo Duterte’s remarks reflect the climate and energy transition is underway not only in the Philippines but also globally.

“Solutions such as decentralized renewable energy, active mobility and sustainable transport, and mangrove and watershed management can address not only COVID-worsened public health and economic problems in the short term but also climate risks and development challenges in the long haul,” he said.

“We expect Duterte’s remarks to be reflected in the ongoing drafting of the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement, as well as in the national budget deliberations and the policies of the Department of Energy and Department of Transportation,” he added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/23/declare-climate-emergency-to-ensure-transition-to-low-carbon-pathway-groups-urge-duterte/>



## SMC backs govt effort to clean up Manila Bay

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

September 24, 2020

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) President and COO Ramon S. Ang lauded the government's effort to clean up and rehabilitate Manila Bay which required the dredging and removal of silt, trash, and other obstructions from tributaries.

"Government has done a really good job cleaning up Manila Bay. Water quality has improved a lot. But we all need to pitch in and do our part to sustain these initial gains," Ang said in a statement.

"Cleaning the tributaries leading to Manila Bay would entail massive cost and we understand that government has to prioritize more urgent basic needs during the pandemic. We are here to support the government in whatever way we can."

SMC is targeting to dredge a total of 700,000 tons of garbage from the Tullahan River and Pasig River every year in the next 10 years as part of its pledge under the massive P1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros dredging and clean-up project and planned Pasig River clean up.

Cleanup operations in Tullahan continue to remove 600 tons of garbage daily since resuming operations with the lifting of the quarantine restrictions in June.

SMC is also looking to dredge major rivers and water tributaries in Bulacan that lead to Manila Bay.

### Bulacan airport

The proponent of the P734-billion New Manila International Airport in Bulacan, SMC is now preparing for the construction phase.

An SMC hydrology study has identified the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) as one of the major tributaries leading to Manila Bay that will need constant dredging.

Aside from MMORS, SMC also indicated the Malolos stream and the Tullahan River, the latter acting as a spillway for water coming from Angat and Ipo Dams.

"Aside from the dredging and cleaning, the rivers in Bulacan will need to be widened and deepened in order to increase their capacity to carry excess rainwater or water coming from upstream and thus reduce flooding," Ang said.

### Flood mitigation activities

"Flood mitigation in Bulacan is something we committed to the people from day one. It's not just to benefit the airport, more importantly, it will benefit the entire province, Metro Manila, and parts of Central Luzon," he said.

Ang said that on a daily basis, SMC extracts an average of 600 tons of silt and solid waste from the initial 5.25-km part of the Tullahan from Bagumbayan South in Navotas City to Barangay Catmon in Malabon City.



The entire Tullahan-Tinajeros river system stretches 27 kilometers from the La Mesa Dam to Navotas City. As of September 14, more than 29,000 cubic meters of dredged soil and solid waste were collected from the river.

To fast-track operations, SMC acquired larger excavators, a fleet of barges, tugboats, cranes, and dump trucks and is looking to acquire more equipment as the project progresses.

“We are looking to complete the Navotas-Malabon section in two years and we are expecting to dredge a total of 1 million cubic meters from this section alone. From there, we will move to the Valenzuela and Caloocan section of the Tullahan River,” said Ang.

The Navotas-Malabon phase of the dredging project is divided into 5 sectors: Sector 1 from Manila Bay to Tonsuya Bridge; Sector 2 from Tonsuya Bridge to Lambingan Bridge; Sector 3 from Lambingan Bridge to Tinajeros Bridge; Sector 4 from Tinajeros Bridge to Tullahan Bridge, and Sector 5 from Tullahan Bridge up to Potrero. The accumulation of trash and silt has reduced the depth of many sections of the Tullahan River to just one to two meters. A DPWH study stated the need to increase the depth of the Tullahan River to 5 meters to increase its capacity and reduce flooding in nearby areas.

“By dredging, cleaning, deepening and widening these rivers, we will be able to improve water quality enough to attract marine life again and for these rivers to be utilized as an alternative means of transport,” he said.

“This is a sustainable and long-term solution to the perennial flooding in Bulacan. It will be a major, coordinated effort between many stakeholders, local government units, and residents.”

Ang said the airport project will not worsen the flooding as the company has set in place flood mitigation measures that will help the whole province as well. “We will make sure that this airport will live up to its promise to bring positive change in the community and the lives of many Filipinos.”

Recently, SMC also has undertaken to plant a total of 190,000 mangroves over 76 hectares of coastal areas in Bulacan and Central Luzon with Hagonoy town as pilot site.



# SMC to dredge garbage from Tullahan, Pasig rivers for 10 years

September 23, 2020, 3:18 pm



Tullahan and Pasig Rivers

MANILA -- San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is targeting to dredge a total of 700,000 tons of garbage from the Tullahan River and Pasig River every year, as clean-up operations in Tullahan continue to remove 600 tons of garbage daily since resuming operations with the lifting of restrictions in June.

Along with the massive PHP1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros dredging and clean-up project and the planned Pasig River clean up, SMC is also looking to dredge major rivers and water tributaries in Bulacan that lead to Manila Bay.

This will further help the government's flood mitigation initiatives, even as it prepares for the construction of the PHP734-billion Manila International Airport in Bulacan.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang lauded the government's efforts to clean-up and rehabilitate Manila Bay, which entails removing silt, trash, and other obstructions from tributaries that restrict the free flow of water and cause heavy flooding, particularly in northern Metro Manila and many parts of Central Luzon, including Bulacan.

Silt and trash that ultimately end up in Manila Bay have affected the marine ecosystem and traditional fishing grounds.

"Government has done a really good job cleaning up Manila Bay. Water quality has improved a lot. But we all need to pitch in and do our part to sustain these initial gains," Ang said.

"Cleaning the tributaries leading to Manila Bay would entail massive cost and we understand that government has to prioritize more urgent basic needs during the pandemic. We are here to support the government in whatever way we can," he added.

An SMC hydrology study has identified the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) as one of the major tributaries leading to Manila Bay that will need constant dredging.

Aside from MMORS, SMC also noted the importance of the Malolos stream and the Tullahan River, the latter acting as a spillway for water coming from Angat and Ipo Dams.

"Aside from the dredging and cleaning, the rivers in Bulacan will need to be widened and deepened in order to increase their capacity to carry excess rainwater or water coming from upstream and thus reduce flooding," Ang said.

"Flood mitigation in Bulacan is something we committed to the people from day one. It's not just to benefit the airport, more importantly, it will benefit the entire province, Metro Manila, and parts of Central Luzon," he emphasized.



Ang said that on a daily basis, SMC extracts an average of 600 tons of silt and solid waste from the initial 5.25-km part of the Tullahan from Bagumbayan South in Navotas City to Barangay Catmon in Malabon City.

The entire Tullahan-Tinajeros river system stretches 27 kilometers from the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City to Navotas City.

As of Sept 14, more than 29,000 cubic meters of dredged soil and solid waste have been collected from the river.

To fast track operations, SMC acquired larger excavators, a fleet of barges, tugboats, cranes, and dump trucks and is looking to acquire more equipment as the project progresses.

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September 23, 2020 5 min read

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Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/09/23/smc-to-dredge-700k-tons-of-garbage-yearly-from-tullahan-pasig-rivers-for-10-years/?fbclid=IwAR2ZDBQnkVjvRvNhtHiEmDPJV2WNUqrqqnWJV6VcHVEsIfXHrATesri4tFU>



# IATF to decide on next PH quarantine

September 23, 2020

The Department of Health (DOH) will leave the decision to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) regarding the community quarantine classification of the country next month.

“Ito po ay kailangan pa rin pag-usapan sa IATF. Mayroon po tayong ginagamit na mga scientific na batayan para masabi natin kung anong level dapat ng quarantine status sa isang lugar (This needs to be discussed by the IATF. We have scientific bases to determine the level of quarantine status in a particular area),” DOH USec. Maria Rosario Vergeire explained.

As of September 6, the reproduction number of COVID-19 in the country is 0.848. The case doubling time as of September 21 is at 11.02 days while mortality doubling time is at 15.79 days.

The National Capital Region (NCR) has a critical care utilization rate (CCUR) of 58 percent as of September 20, or nearly 10 percent lower than the 67 percent rate last September 2. The CCUR for Calabarzon, Cebu, and Bulacan also declined by one to three percent in the same period.

“Nakikita rin natin na ang critical care utilization natin, once napakataas na nasa danger zone, we are now in that warning zone na lang nasa 58-55 percent nalang tayo. Pero marami pa tayo kailangan gawin (We are monitoring our critical care utilization rate which us now in the warning zone at 58 to 55 percent. But there is still a lot to do),” Vergeire clarified.

UP OCTA Research added that the 28-day case doubling time must be achieved first before going into modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

“Actually hindi pa natin naaabot `yung mga milestones eh that would qualify NCR, for example, for an MGCQ status. May scientific criteria silang ginagamit (We have not yet reached the milestones that would qualify NCR for an MGCQ status. There is a scientific criteria being used). And it is really the slowing down and the management of transmission in the NCR,” Prof. Ranjit Rye elucidated.

As of Sept. 23, there are 294,591 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 2,833 newly reported ones, 231,373 recoveries and 5,091 fatalities nationwide. – *Report from Mark Fetalco*





# Metro Manila 'wag ilagay sa MGCQ

By [Danilo Garcia](#)(Pang-Masa) - September 24, 2020 - 12:00am



Kamakailan lang ay sinabi ni Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez ang posibilidad na pagluwag ng quarantine restriction sa MGCQ simula Oktubre upang makapagbukas pa ng mas maraming sektor ng ekonomiya.

## Panawagan ng Healthcare group...

MANILA, Philippines — Tinutulan ng Healthcare Professionals Alliance Against COVID-19 ang Metro Manila sa pagbaba ng quarantine restriction nito mula general community quarantine (GCQ) sa mas maluwag na modified general community quarantine (MGCQ).

Ito ang inihayag ni Dr. Antonio Dans, convenor of Healthcare Professionals Alliance Against COVID-19 dahil hindi umano sapat na dahilan yung hindi na kaya ng ekonomiya dahil isa na iyong pagsuko at aanhin ang kabuhayan kung wala na ang buhay.

Kamakailan lang ay sinabi ni Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez ang posibilidad na pagluwag ng quarantine restriction sa MGCQ simula Oktubre upang makapagbukas pa ng mas maraming sektor ng ekonomiya.

“Yung internet, napakalaking role niyan. Unang-una yung ating data, di ba huli-huli? Parang tatlong linggo bago makumpleto kung ilan ba ang namatay today kasi manual ang ating data transmission,” lahad ni Dans.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Concerned Doctors and Citizens of the Philippines (CDC-PH) na pinamumunuan ni dating Health Secretary Jaime Galvez-Tan na tanggalin na rin ang mga ‘quarantine’ sa bansa dahil sa tinatawag nilang ‘exaggeration’ sa takot sa COVID-19 at magpatupad na lamang ng mas epektibong healthcare system sa mga komunidad.

Ngunit sinabi ni Dr. Rontgene Solante, head ng adult infection disease ng San Lazaro Hospital na maaari lamang paluwagin ang quarantine kung may malaki nang pagbaba sa kaso ng COVID-19.

Iginiit niya na hindi ‘exaggeration’ o labis ang reaksyon ng pamahalaan dahil sa marami na ang namatay at patuloy ang bilang ng mga nasa ‘severe’ at ‘critical cases’. - **Angie dela Cruz**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2020/09/24/2044648/metro-manila-wag-ilagay-sa-mgcq/amp/>



## Curve not yet flattened even with good signs

posted September 24, 2020 at 01:40 am

by [Willie Casas](#)

The Philippines has yet to see a flattening of the COVID-19 pandemic curve with clustered cases still rising, the Department of Health (DOH) said on Wednesday, even as there are improvements in the country's situation.

"Even with these indicators, we are seeing specific areas that have clustering, there's an increase in cases. So at this point, we cannot really say that there is flattening of the curve," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in Filipino during a virtual briefing.

Vergeire said the Philippines is properly dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, citing improved critical care utilization rates, which includes bed occupancy in hospitals.

"If we try to look at these numbers, we can see it gradually slowing down, slowly decongesting the system and having more capacity to accommodate COVID-19 patients," she said.

### New cases fall below 3,000 for second day

The Philippines logged 2,833 new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases Wednesday, bringing the total to 294,591 infections since the pandemic started, the Department of Health (DOH) reported.

This was the second straight day that newly-confirmed cases were below 3,000. Tuesday's tally was 1,635. The DOH also reported 44 new fatalities, bringing the death toll from COVID-19 to 5,091.

On the other hand, 765 new recoveries were reported, bringing the number of patients who have recovered from the disease to 231,373.

That left 58,127 active cases 86.5 percent of which are mild, 9.2 percent of which are asymptomatic, 1.3 percent of which are severe, and 3 percent of which are critical.

### Anti-lockdown doctors slammed

AN infectious disease expert on Wednesday warned against calls for the lifting of COVID-19 lockdowns nationwide saying this is "very dangerous."

Last week, the Concerned Doctors and Citizens of the Philippines (CDC-PH) launched the #FlattenTheFear campaign, which urges government to end lockdowns and promote intake of proper nutrition to boost one's immune system.

But in an interview on ANC, Dr. Rontgene Solante, head of adult infectious disease at the San Lazaro Hospital, said lifting of virus restrictions should only be implemented once there is a significant drop in COVID-19 cases. "It's really dangerous to look at it," Solante said, noting that promoting vitamins as prophylaxis could give people a false sense of safety.

"It's very dangerous. Premature lifting of the lockdown and taking the prophylaxis, you are facing two very dangerous interventions here that have not been proven at this point when our cases are still ongoing," Solante added.

### Public confidence, readiness key

Public confidence and readiness should determine whether or not the government should ease the lockdown of Metro Manila amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of health workers and a business group said on Wednesday.

The public transport system should be prepared enough to prevent outbreaks of the disease, while retail establishments should have a system to notify customers in case they have contact with a coronavirus patient, said Dr. Anna Ong-Lim, of the Healthcare Professionals Alliance Against COVID-19, in an interview on ABS-CBN's TeleRadyo.



“The question that should be asked is: How is the state of preparation across all sectors? All of them should indicate that we can all do our own roles,” Ong-Lim said.

For his part, Management Association of the Philippines president Francis Lim said the public’s confidence in health protocols should hold “equal importance” with easing restrictions to rescue the economy.  
New testing guidelines out soon

The government will soon release revised omnibus guidelines on COVID-19 testing, detection, isolation, quarantine management, a Department of Health (DOH) official said on Wednesday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire’s statement was made a day after the Lancet medical journal ranked the country’s efforts in suppressing COVID-19 as 66th out of 91 countries.

“The Inter-Agency Task Force has approved a pilot run for the antigen test. When the results are out, we can come out with the omnibus guidelines. The whole document will be updated,” Vergeiere said.

She also assured the public that the DOH would continue working to improve the country’s COVID-19 response.



## BAKUNA SA COVID-19 PINAPAKYAW; MGA KOMPANYANG GAMOT MAPAGSAMANTALA



September 23, 2020 @ 4:24 PM 15 hours ago

NGAYON pa lang ay napakyaw na ng mayayamang bansa ang mga ginagawang bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease-19 at maaaring mawalan na ang Pilipinas ng mabibili.

Subalit sinusubukan pa rin ng pamahalaan na kahit papaano ay makapang-agaw ng bahagi sa mga ibebentang bakuna.

Ang pagkakaalam natin, mga Bro, naglalaan na ang pamahalaang Duterte ng nasa P13-20 bilyong pondo para pambili ng bakuna para mabakunahan man lang ang 20 milyong Pinoy mula sa mahigit 100 milyong kabuuang bilang ng mga Filipino.

### 5.76B DOSIS NAKUHA NA

Kabilang sa iilang bansa na nakakuha na ng bilyon o milyon-milyong dosis ang India – 1.3B, United States – 700M, Japan – 450M, Britain – 250M at Brazil – 220M.

Ang India, may ilang mahihirap na bansa na kasama nito na bibili ng 1.1B dosis samantalang ang Russia, may 1B ngunit kasama nito ang 20 bansa.

Eh, nasa 215 na bansa ang nagnanais na magkaroon ng bakuna ngunit karamihan dito ang halos walang pondo para pambili ng bakuna dahil bumagsak ang kanilang ekonomiya.

Ang US ang pinakaaktibo sa lahat ng nasabing mga bansa para makorner o mabili nila ang gusto nila sa target nilang mabakunahan ang lahat ng Kano mula sa darating na buwan hanggang 2021.

Nag-iistayl-politikong Pinoy si US President Donald Trump sa pagkuha ng bakuna upang marami nang Kano ang mababakunahan bago magkaroon ng Presidential election sa Nobyembre 2020 na kandidato mismo sa pagka-Presidente si Trump.

'Yun bang === kung paano ginamit ang Dengvaxia na pambingwit ng boto para sa kandidato ni ex-PNoy sa halalang presidential noong 2016, ang bakuna sa COVID-19 ang pambingwit naman ni Trump ng boto.

### ISTAYL NEGOSYANTE SA BAWANG AT SIBUYAS

Ang nabanggit na mayayamang bansa ay parang negosyante ng bawang at sibuyas sa Pinas.

Naglalabas ang mga negosyante sa bawang at sibuyas ng sapat na kapital upang makapaghanda ng lupa, makapagtanim ng bawang at sibuyas, makagamit ng abono at ibang pang-alaga sa mga pananim at maibiyahen ang mga produkto ng mga magsasaka.



Ganito ang ginagawa ng mayayamang bansa para matiyak nilang mapapasakanila ang bakuna sa COVID-19.

Lahat ng hakbang sa paggawa at pagdedeliber ng bakuna ay ginagastusan ng mayayamang bansa...bagay na hindi kaya ng mahihirap na bansa gaya ng mahal kong Pinas.

### **ISTAYL DIN NG MGA KOMPANYA NG GAMOT**

Matatandaan ninyo ang reklamo mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na gusto ng mga kompanya ng gamot na magbigay ang pamahalaang Pinas ng malaking halaga para makasiguro ang mahal kong Pinas ng bakuna sa tamang panahon?

Kung hindi, itsapwera ang Pinas at kung meron man ay pawang latak na lang ang para sa atin?

Ang mga kontak ng mga Kano at ilan sa mayayamang bansang nabanggit natin na kompanya ay kinabibilangan ng Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Oxford/AztraZeneca, Novavax, Pfizer/BioNTech, Sanofi/GSK, Merck Sharp and Dohme.

Sino sa mga ito ang nagpipilit na magbayad muna ang Pinas ng advance bago mabentahan at madeliberan ng bakuna?

Kasama ba ang Sanofi na gumawa ng Dengvaxia?

Pera-pera ang lakad ng mga kompanyang ito at alam ba ninyo na biglang sirit ang halaga ng kanilang mga sapi sa kompanya at lalong bigla ang lalong pagyaman ng mga ito dahil sa bakuna?

Ibig sabihin nito na tiyak na napakamamahal ang bakuna ng mga ito dahil in-demand at walang kaibhan sa mga presyo ng face mask at face shield sa kasagsagan ng pandemic na abot-langit ang mga presyo.

### **CHINA, RUSSIA, VCO ANG PAG-ASA**

Dahil sa nagaganap na unahan at pakyawan sa bakuna, higit ngayong umaasa ang Pinas sa China at Russia.

At kakambal ng pag-asa na magkakaroon tayo ng bakuna ang pagpayag ng pamahalaang Duterte na magsagawa ang mga kompanyang Ruso at Tsino ng clinical trial o pagsubok sa mga bakunang ginagagawa ng mga kompanya nila.

At sana magtagumpay ang mga clinical trial na tinatawag na nasa Phase 3 o Phase 4 na.

Nangako mismo ang mga lider ng China na si Xi Jin Ping at Russia na si Vladimir Putin na ang Pilipinas ang nakalista sa mga bansang unang makatatanggap ng bakuna na magagawa nila.

Sana rin magtagumpay ang mga sarili nating pagsisikap na makatuklas ng bakuna gamit ang sarili nating mga sariling yaman gaya ng nanggagaling sa niyog na Virgin Cocout Oil.

*Napatutunayan nang mabisa ang VCO na laban sa virus at ang maganda, punom-puno tayo ng mapagkukunan dahil sa naglipanang niyog sa ating bansa.*

# Duterte lauded for sea stand

## Allies, critics call it a victory for invoking PH arbitral award before UN

posted September 24, 2020 at 02:10 am

by [Rey E. Requejo](#) and [Macon Ramos-Araneta, Willie Casas](#)

Critics and allies alike of President Rodrigo Duterte praised him Wednesday for invoking before the United Nations General Assembly a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration that struck down China's excessive claims in the South China Sea in favor of the Philippines.



*RAPT AUDIENCE. This United Nations handout photo shows President Rodrigo Duterte on large-screen monitors as he virtually addresses the general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on September 22, 2020, in New York. AFP*

Former Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, and Ambassador Lauro Baja, the country's former permanent ambassador to the UN, commended the President for departing from his usual policy of appeasing Beijing in speaking to the UN via a taped message for the first time.

Most Senators also praised the President's speech on the UN's 75th anniversary, as they hoped he would speak with the same clarity on issues to Filipinos.

"I personally commend the strong stand that President Rodrigo Duterte made before the UN General Assembly that the arbitral award in the South China Sea arbitration is 'beyond compromise and beyond the reach of passing governments to dilute, diminish or abandon'," said Carpio, who has been in the forefront of the campaign to protect the country's maritime sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea.

Carpio also lauded the President for acknowledging the countries that have expressed their support for the Philippines' legal victory over China.

Last week, France, Germany and the United Kingdom filed notes verbales before the UN expressing their rejection of China's so-called nine-dash claim over the South China Sea.

Carpio expressed hopes that Duterte would maintain this position for the rest of his term.

"I fervently hope that this is the policy that the Duterte administration will implement across all levels – in the protection of our exclusive economic zone in the West Philippines Sea, in the negotiations for the Code of Conduct, and in gathering the support of the international community for the enforcement of the arbitral award," he said.

Del Rosario said the President should solicit the support of more countries for the Philippines' 2016 arbitral victory against China's claims in the South China Sea.

"The next step is for our President and his administration to put in reality the invocation of the arbitral award," Del Rosario said in a statement.

"Our government should work earnestly to get the support of more countries so that the arbitral award will be raised more emphatically next year for the UN General Assembly 2021," he added.



For the first since the Philippines won its case in the PCA, Duterte declared before the UN General Assembly that the award was “beyond compromise and beyond the reach of passing governments to dilute, diminish or abandon.”

Duterte had earlier set aside the arbitration ruling in favor of friendly relations with Beijing, which has refused to recognize the PCA ruling.

Baja agreed with Del Rosario, saying Manila must follow-up with Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, meanwhile, commended the team who wrote the President’s speech.

“If there’s an Emmy for the UN General Assembly speeches, the one he delivered can win the prize for the best written,” said Recto in a separate statement.

“The team who put policies to prose should be congratulated. What they put together is the template for presidential addresses: cohesive, coherent, and straight to the point,” Recto added.

Recto said the President should speak with the same degree of clarity when addressing the country, as Duterte has been putting out weekly televised public addresses during the pandemic.

“If he was able to convey his thoughts with clarity to the world, all the more he should do the same to his own people at this time when they need hope and direction,” Recto said.

Opposition Senator Francis Pangilinan expressed hope that the President’s strong pronouncement would be matched with strong actions, such as seeking support from the country’s ASEAN allies such as Indonesia and Vietnam, which have stood up to China and opposed its aggression in the disputed waters.

“We also hope he doesn’t change his mind and does a 180-degree turn moving forward,” he added.

Akbayan chair emeritus said Duterte’s invocation of the arbitral award was a victory for international law and Philippine sovereignty “against his own defeatist policy on China.”

“It is solid proof that the international community’s pressure for Mr. Duterte to submit to and recognize International law is working,” Rosales said.

“Yes, history was made, but not by Mr. Duterte, who should have done this a long time ago. History was made by the Filipino people, who, with the strong support of the international community, employed various political and diplomatic means to compel Mr. Duterte to do what is democratically appropriate,” she said.



## Paggiit ni PDU30 sa arbitral win, huli man pero ‘significant step’ – eksperto



September 23, 2020 @ 12:10 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Mas magiging maigting ang gagawing paggigiit ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa legal victory ng 2016 South China Sea ruling, pabor sa Pilipinas.

Ang naging talumpati ng Pangulo sa United Nations General Assembly ay maituturing na “significant step” para muling patunayan ang territorial sovereignty ng bansa.

“[Duterte] could have been more forceful in espousing our cause, in much the same vein as he was forceful in the question of drugs and human rights. But as a fresh step, it’s a significant fresh step,” ayon kay former Philippine ambassador to the United Nations Lauro Baja Jr.

“As a matter of fact, bringing the Philippine victory in the UN arbitral panel is [four] years late. It would have been more effective had it been a year after the award, but again, it is still a significant step in so far as the issue is concerned,” ang pahayag ni Baja.

Si Pangulong Duterte, na nagpartisipa sa unang pagkakataon sa UNGA sa apat na taon niya sa panunungkulan bilang Pangulo ng bansa ay nagpahayag sa international body na hindi papayagan ng Pilipinas ang anomang pagtatangka na sirain at baliwalain ang arbitral tribunal ruling na pabor sa pag-angkin ng bansa sa West Philippine Sea.

“The Award is now part of international law, beyond compromise and beyond the reach of passing governments to dilute, diminish or abandon,” ang naging pahayag ng Pangulo sa kanyang pre-recorded speech sa isinagawang general debate ng 75th UNGA.

Ani Baja, maaari ring mas maging mapilit si Pangulong Duterte na sabihan ang China na “to adhere to a decision by the UN body, to respect the provisions of UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), and to refrain from what they are doing in the area.”

Ang UNCLOS ay isang international treaty na itinatag para ipaunawa ang coastal at maritime boundaries at ayusin ang seabed exploration sa labas ng territorial claims.





Ang arbitral tribunal na namahala sa kaso ng Pilipinas laban sa China ay nilikha sa ilalim ng isang probisyon ng UNCLOS, kasama ang Permanent Court of Arbitration na nakabase sa The Hague serving bilang registry.

Samantala, pinasalamatan naman ni Pangulong Duterte ang ibang bansa na suportado ang tribunal's ruling, na tinawag ng Pangulo bilang "a triumph of reason over rashness, a law over disorder, of amity over ambition."

"The tribunal ruled that there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights over most of the South China Sea using its "nine-dash line" assertion. It also recognized Philippine sovereign rights in marine features within its exclusive economic zone and said Beijing violated those rights by interfering with fishing and petroleum exploration as well as constructing artificial islands," ayon sa ulat.

Samantala, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na hindi siya papasok sa giyera laban sa bansang umaangkin din sa South China Sea.

Sa halip aniya ay isusulong nito ang "diplomatic endeavors" sa gitna ng maritime row.

Matatandaang, makailang ulit ng binalewala ng China na kilalanin ang tribunal ruling at patuloy na nire-reclaim ang isa sa pinagtatalunang lugar para sa military at research purposes. **Kris Jose**



# Bombshell

[FIRST PERSON](#) - [Alex Magno](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 24, 2020 - 12:00am

President Duterte delivered a well-crafted speech, pre-recorded for the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. It was a short speech that covered all the basic policy positions the country stands by: climate change, nuclear disarmament, gender equality, human rights, the description of the COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good and the overlapping territorial claims over features at the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

All the policy positions reiterated by the President were expected, including his complaint about the “weaponization” of human rights issues. The only unexpected element of that speech was the strong position he took on the WPS issues. One normally critical news site described his statements on this matter a “bombshell.”

This was the first time in his four-year old presidency that Duterte took a strong position upholding the country’s exclusive economic zone claims over parts of the WPS. “The Award,” the President declared, “is now part of international law, beyond compromise and beyond the reach of passing governments to dilute, diminish or abandon.”

Duterte’s strong reiteration of the Philippine position on the WPS issues dovetails similarly strong positions taken by major powers only days before. Germany, the UK and France issued a joint declaration invalidating China’s claims to maritime features built up into islands hosting military facilities.

For years, Duterte has been criticized for taking a soft position towards Beijing on the contending territorial claims. His most virulent critics tried to picture him as China’s “puppet.” Others thought that our sovereign claims were being sacrificed on the altar of short-term economic gains.

The President’s articulated position before the UN General Assembly should silence those critics. The Philippine position rejecting China’s “nine-dash line” claims could not have been repudiated more staunchly. The arbitral award could not have been affirmed more clearly. Both former associate justice Antonio Carpio and former ambassador Albert del Rosario praised Duterte’s affirmation of the arbitral award.

For years, Duterte has been promising to take a clearer position regarding the arbitral award at the appropriate time. That time is now. A broad international consensus has formed rejecting Beijing’s ambitious claims. The President’s affirmation of the arbitral award will not sound hollow.

The past few weeks have not been happy for Beijing’s diplomatic apparatchiks. The pandemic originating from the Chinese city of Wuhan has been a public relations fiasco for the Asian superpower. The vociferous American president urged in the same forum that China be held accountable for the pandemic and its mounting economic costs. The US escalated pressure on China by sending two very senior diplomatic missions to Taipei. Britain and France have sent warships to the South China Sea to blunt China’s power projections.

Duterte’s words before the General Assembly will not suffice, of course. Having affirmed the arbitral award, Manila must follow through with a more active assertion of our exclusive economic zone, including our rights to natural resources that the area might yield for our people’s benefit.



## Extradition

When we shifted to a One-China policy over four decades ago, we had to extinguish formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Beijing insists all other nations respect its view that Taiwan is a renegade province of China.

Over the past weeks, tensions have risen between China and Taiwan. Chinese warplanes flew close to the island's frontiers, prompting Taiwanese jets to scramble.

Our downgraded relations with Taiwan create many problems for us. More than hampering trade and investment flows between our country and the prosperous island, Taiwan has become a sanctuary for fugitives who think the absence of formal diplomatic ties insures them against extradition.

The latest case involves a certain David Wong (Wong Ching Yin).

Wong is accused of defrauding a member of the prominent Gaisano clan in Cebu to the tune of P3.2 billion. The investment scam, conducted through Wong's DW Capital Inc., is the talk of the southern city.

Erstwhile investment partner Valerie Gaisano-Sebastian filed a multiple estafa case against Wong. After some delay due to high-powered legal maneuvers, the accused simply disappeared.

Gaisano-Sebastian asked the NBI for assistance. Wong has been included in the Interpol's Red Notice since October 2019. The plaintiff received information the accused is hiding out in Taiwan.

This is where the complications set in.

Instead of full-fledged embassies, the two countries maintain commercial and cultural offices in each other's capital. The Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) in Taipei and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Manila have limited responsibilities. They are, technically, not official delegations.

The limited relations we have with Taiwan get in the way of chasing fugitives who manage to cross borders. Even the Interpol will have difficulties enforcing its Red Notice on David Wong.

The plaintiff has offered a reward of P2 million for information leading to the arrest of the fugitive David Wong. She has asked the NBI to coordinate with Interpol to track down and arrest the defendant. There has been little progress in this effort.

The magnitude of the financial fraud that is alleged in this case is sensational, to say the least. It should be a national concern.

This case should provide enough impetus for the Philippines and Taiwan to review protocols for the extradition of fugitives. Neither should become sanctuaries for fugitives who manage to cross borders to escape law enforcement.

In the same way that this was an opportune time to stand up to Beijing on the WPS issues, it should be a good time to develop more meaningful cooperation with Taiwan without infringing on our One-China policy.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/09/24/2044676/bombshell>



## China eyes climate leadership

posted September 23, 2020 at 07:45 pm

by [AFP](#)

United Nations—Chinese President Xi Jinping moved to seize the climate agenda from the US, vowing that the world’s largest polluter will go carbon neutral by 2060, a target hailed by environmental activists as a major stride forward.

The goals, which included a pledge to reach peak emissions in 2030, are the most concrete yet announced by China, which accounts for one quarter of the planet’s greenhouse gas emissions blamed for fast-rising temperatures.

Speaking to the UN General Assembly, Xi renewed his support for the Paris climate accord and called for a green focus as the world recovers from the Covid-19 crisis.

Under President Donald Trump the United States—the world’s second largest polluter—has pulled out of the agreement, blaming China for the stalled momentum on tackling global emissions.

But in his speech, Xi set China out as a climate leader, saying the Paris accord “outlines the minimum steps to be taken to protect the Earth, our shared homeland, and all countries must take decisive steps to honor this agreement.”

“We aim to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060,” he said in a virtual address.

Xi urged all nations to “seize the historic opportunities presented by the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation.”

But China’s leader did not immediately put meat on the bones of his carbon-slashing commitment. China currently has 135 gigawatts of coal-power capacity either permitted or under construction, according to Global Energy Monitor, a San Francisco-based environmental group.

That equates to about half the total coal-power capacity in the US.

The European Union had been pushing China to be more ambitious by moving the peak emissions date to 2025, arguing that the five year gap is crucial as the planet falls behind in fighting climate change.

The Paris climate deal commits nations to limit global temperature rises to “well below” two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial levels through a rapid and sweeping drawdown of greenhouse gas emissions.

- ‘A defining moment’ –

Joeri Rogelj, a climate expert at Imperial College London’s Grantham Institute, called Xi’s pledge “unexpected and eye-opening.”

“All in all, China’s announcement is a defining moment that resets the ambition of global climate action,” he said.

The 2060 objective is still less ambitious than the 2050 date set by dozens of small states as well as European powers.

Several experts said it was still a significant step to bring new life to the Paris accords.

“This announcement will send positive shockwaves through diplomatic circles and should prompt greater climate ambition from other major emitters,” said Helen Mountford, vice president for climate and economics at the World Resources Institute in Washington.

But she cautioned that the “devil will be in the details” and said that China should set more specific goals in the nearer term.



Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, a Belgian climate scientist and former vice chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a UN expert panel, called Xi's commitment "very important."

But he questioned whether China would follow its own guidelines as it pursues a global infrastructure-building binge -- for example, if it will still back coal plants in Africa.

"If this coherence is lacking, the progress made in China could be lost due to additional emissions by Chinese-built or -funded fossil infrastructure in developing countries," he said.

- Trump on attack –

Xi's tone contrasted sharply with that of Trump, who called the Paris accord negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama unfair to the United States.

Trump says he is standing up for US constituencies such as coal miners and has loosened environmental rules, although individual US states such as California have insisted on fighting climate change on their own.

"Those who attack America's exceptional environmental record while ignoring China's rampant pollution are not interested in the environment," Trump said in a UN speech shortly before Xi spoke.

"They only want to punish America, and I will not stand for it."

China's ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, scoffed at the remarks by Trump, who devoted much of his speech to attacking Beijing over Covid-19.

"The United States should be the last one to talk about climate change," he told reporters.

"They are the one who are disassociating itself from the international efforts on climate change."

The future of the Paris accord will be partly determined on November 3 as Trump runs for re-election against Joe Biden, who has pledged to return the United States to the agreement and move toward carbon neutrality by 2050.



# Oil, gas giants not in sync with global climate goals — report

posted September 23, 2020 at 08:05 pm

by [AFP](#)

Paris, France—Oil and gas giants are far from aligning with the global climate change goals they purport to uphold, and only a government-managed decline of the sector can prevent climate catastrophe, according to an analysis released Wednesday.

“We have seen a wave of announcements from oil companies over the last nine months claiming to be part of the solution on climate, but none of their plans measure up to what is needed,” co-author Kelly Trout, a senior research analyst at Oil Change, told AFP.

Oil majors have touted measures such as reducing the carbon intensity of their products, transitioning into renewable energy, storing “captured” CO<sub>2</sub> underground, and offsetting emissions through reforestation.

The report stacked up the climate commitments of eight oil and gas companies against the Paris climate goal of curbing global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Under the 2015 treaty, nations are enjoined to cap the planet’s average rise in temperature at “well below” 2C, and 1.5C if feasible.

A subsequent report from the UN’s IPCC climate science panel showed 1.5C to be the safer limit by far, and laid out scenarios for achieving that goal by slashing or sequestering greenhouse gas emissions.

The IPCC has calculated that the additional release of more than 500 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere would push temperatures above the 1.5C threshold.

If global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions continue at the recent level of about 40 billion tons a year, this “carbon budget” would be used up in less than a decade and a half.

BP, Chevron, Eni, Equinor, ExxonMobil, Repsol, Shell and Total, all based in Europe or the United States, have to varying degrees laid out strategies they say are compatible with the Paris targets.

## Failing grades

Using the 1.5C threshold as a benchmark, Trout and colleagues graded 10 components of each company’s climate plan along the spectrum of “fully aligned” to “grossly insufficient”.

Pledges to stop approving new extraction projects, for example, were judged “grossly inefficient” in all eight oil giants.

The same failing mark was given across the board for committing to a date to end oil and gas extraction; being “honest” about the high carbon content of gas; and—with the exception of BP—promising to stop exploration.

Even if global use of coal—which powers 40 percent of electricity generation worldwide—were phased out overnight, developed gas and oil reserves would still push the world beyond the 1.5C threshold, earlier research has shown.



# What does carbon neutral mean?

[AFP Relaxnews](#) / 06:34 PM September 23, 2020



The word 'neutrality' does not refer to an absence of greenhouse gases but a balance between the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted and the amount absorbed by natural carbon sinks. Image: Shutterstock/Kletr.

One of the main objectives under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. A necessary condition if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon neutrality designates a balance between anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and the amount of carbon dioxide naturally absorbed by carbon sinks like the soil, oceans and forests.

[A study](#) by the non-governmental organization Oxfam and the Stockholm Environment Institute unveiled on Sept. 21 has found that the richest 1% of the world's population (around 63 million people) are responsible for 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

At the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP21, which concluded with the Paris Agreement on climate change, 195 countries, including the European Union, made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

But what exactly do we mean by carbon neutrality?

The word "neutrality" does not refer to an absence of greenhouse gases but a balance between the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted and the amount absorbed by ecosystems that act as the planet's natural carbon sinks, such as forests, grasslands, soils and oceans.

Collectively, these carbon sinks can eliminate 9.5 to 11 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Global greenhouse gas emissions, however, amount to four times this figure, which were around 43.1 gigatonnes in 2019 including 36.8 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> caused by the use of coal, oil and gas.

To date, the most popular option in the bid to achieve carbon neutrality has been to turn to carbon offsetting, which aims to counterbalance emissions from one sector with reductions elsewhere. This is notably the strategy that has been embraced by large numbers of companies.

Offsetting can notably involve developing the capacity of carbon sinks by, for example, by planting more trees. However, this kind of initiative also has its limits, notably because global warming has increased the risk posed by forest fires, which release large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

It follows that the most effective solutions to achieve carbon neutrality combine the preservation of carbon-absorbing ecosystems with drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. On the level of the planet, this will require a major overhaul of the most polluting industrial sectors, which are energy, textiles, transport, agriculture and construction. *CC*

Source: <https://technology.inquirer.net/104287/what-does-carbon-neutral-mean>



## Rescuers find another 200 stranded whales in Australia

posted September 23, 2020 at 11:00 am

by [AFP](#)

Rescuers trying to refloat a pod of stranded whales in a remote Australian harbour say they have found another 200, taking to 470 the total number that have become stuck.

The long-finned pilot whales are trapped in two separate locations in Macquarie Harbour, on the rugged and sparsely populated west coast of Tasmania, a spokeswoman for the state's environment department told AFP. "It has been confirmed that approximately 200 whales that were undetected up until this point were found" at a spot seven to 10 kilometres (four to six miles) further in the harbour, she said.

Parks and Wildlife Service manager Nic Deka said the second pod was discovered early Wednesday morning by an aerial surveillance crew who believed most had already died.

"We already have staff on the way to make an assessment, but certainly from the air didn't appear to be in a condition that would warrant rescue," he told reporters in the nearby town of Strahan.

"Most of them appear to be dead but we will wait for advice from the ground crew before we make a final call on what we do."

About 270 whales were found Monday, sparking a major effort to free the giant mammals that were mostly stranded on a sandbar only accessible by boat.

At least 90 of those whales have already died, though scientists were hopeful the survivors would hold out for the several days it was expected to complete the rescue mission.

Rescuers spent Tuesday wading in the cold shallows to free about 25 creatures, using boats fitted with special slings to guide them back to the open ocean.

Wednesday's discovery of another 200 whales makes the mass stranding the largest recorded in Tasmania's history.

Officials have now expanded their search area to see if more whales are stuck nearby.

The rescue crew of 60 conservationists, skilled volunteers and local fish farm workers are concentrating their efforts on the roughly 200 whales on a sandbar, where the creatures are partially submerged in water.

"What we do know is the mortality has increased -- that's inevitable -- but there are still a significant number that are alive so we'll continue to work with those," Deka said.

Several of the whales rescued Tuesday re-stranded overnight in line with predictions by whale behaviour experts, but Deka remained upbeat about the rescue mission.

"The good news is the majority of whales that were rescued are still out in deep water and swimming," he said. "They haven't stranded. So we've been more successful than not."

The causes of mass strandings remain unknown, but scientists have suggested the highly sociable pilot whales may have gone off track after feeding close to the shoreline or by following one or two whales that strayed.





## 380 balyena patay sa mass Australian stranding

September 23, 2020 @ 5:39 PM 12 hours ago

Australia – Tinatayang patay ang 380 balyena sa mass stranding sa southern Australia, ayon sa ulat.

“We have got a more accurate count and we can confirm that 380 whales are dead,” ani Tasmania’s Parks and Wildlife Service manager Nic Deka said.

“There’s around 30 left still alive but the good news is that we have saved 50.”

Sa ulat ay dalawang araw na isinasagawa ang rescue operation at ginagabayan ang mga nakaligtas pabalik sa open ocean.

“They’re focused on the job — it’s demanding work, some of them are up to their chest in cold water so we’re trying to rotate the crews,” lahad ni Deka.

“Its very draining physically. It’s also draining emotionally.”

“The good news is the majority of whales that were rescued are still out in deep water and swimming,” giit pa ni Deka.

“They haven’t stranded. So we’ve been more successful than not.” RNT