

News Monitoring CY 2020			
JANUARY 2020			
Duterte expresses reservations over Manila Bay reclamation projects	Virgil Lopez	GMA News	If it's an investment to infuse more money into the Philippine economy, it seems to be OK. But the hugeness of the area you are trying to reclaim to me is almost mind-boggling. I am not ready even to say that I will grant it, not in my time, as long as there is no guarantee that the environment will be protected and the health of the people also safeguarded. -President Duterte
Bacoor City pushes project to reclaim 420 hectares	Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat	Manila Bulletin	These proposed projects will also address flooding in the city as she made sure they are integrated with the various long-term flood mitigating projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). The proposed projects are expected to uplift their living conditions with the establishment of the Fisherman's Wharf along Sinaguelasan coasts which will also develop and preserve the 40-hectare mangroves plantation of the City. The projects are expected to boost the city government's on-going relocation program for the concerned coastal residents and hasten its compliance with the SC mandamus for Manila Bay clean up. City Government of Bacoor
Land reclamation arrests water crisis	Maria Romero	The Daily Tribune	Land reclamation, if properly planned and implemented, could help avert a looming "catastrophic" water crisis in Metro Manila within the next 10 years. the reclamation projects in the government's pipeline could help to "de-stress" the environment. - Architect and urban planner Hilario Ng and his brother Arsenio, a strategic planner and chairman of ATN Holdings
Reclamation projects seen to propel Bacoor into new growth center	Iris Gonzales	The Philippine Star	With the reclamation projects, Bacoor is seen to be transformed into a new center of growth in line with President Duterte's vision to decongest Metro Manila and spread development to other areas of the country.
Atienza: Manila Bay reclamation projects 'bound to wipe out entire ecosystems'		Politics.com	I "wholly supports" President Rodrigo Duterte's stance against the reclamation of 100 square kilometers of the Manila Bay, warning. The proposed reclamation projects from the private sector are just meant to create large tracts of valuable new land and wealth for some oligarchs out there, at the grave expense of the environment. "These unwanted projects are bound to wipe out entire ecosystems, further degrade Manila Bay's water quality and disrupt the food chain in a big way. - Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza
FEBRUARY 2020			
I will only approve government reclamation projects – Duterte	Katrina Hallare	Philippine Daily Inquirer	"There is only one thing that I'd like to make it clear now, during my time: I will only allow, maybe plans, of whatever reclamation if it is in connection with the government project." -President Duterte
Duterte urged to ban all Manila Bay reclamation projects	Jhesset O. Enano	Philippine Daily Inquirer	"President Duterte should prohibit reclamation projects with no exception, as exempting government projects could be an excuse of private development firms ... [to] engage in a joint venture agreement with local governments." -Pamalakaya

MARCH 2020			
Government urged: Stop cleared reclamation projects	Emmanuel Tupas	The Philippine Star	<p>"An explicit and unambiguous policy that stops all proposals and activities related to land reclamation in Manila Bay must be put in place. "The government has a clear directive to rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay through the writ of continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court. Land reclamation directly contradicts that mandate." - Save Our Shores Coalition Against Reclamation</p> <p>"Reclaimed lands are prone to liquefaction, which could result in the collapse of structures built on it. The reclamation will have a significant impact on the marine ecosystem in the Manila Bay, including mangrove and sea grass which scientists believe can significantly contribute to addressing the climate crisis." - Geoscientist Narod Eco, a researcher at the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute</p>
APRIL 2020			
MAY 2020			
JUNE 2020			
Sen. Villar asks DENR to stop reclamation plan in Bacoor City	Vanne Elaine Terrazola	Manila Bulletin	<p>"The reclamation project will potentially cause irreparable damage to the Las Pinas-Parañaque Wetland Park. The project will be building on the buffer zone of this protected area and will destroy the landscape in which the wetland now thrives" - Sen. Cynthia Villar</p> <p>Villar also warned about "massive flooding" as she recalled the Department of Public Works and Highways saying that reclamation in this part of Manila Bay will cause flooding as high as eight meters in Las Piñas City.</p>
Commentary: Reclamation-related floods and increasingly inequitable development		The Philippine Star	<p>Reclamation of mangrove forests turned to fishponds, artificial ports and harbors, and upscale private commercial-residential complexes consistently coincided with the worst flooding. Geologists demonstrated how continuous ground water extraction following reclamations contributed to flooding in the last few decades. Climate change -related global warming led to sea-level rise that made the situation even worse.</p>
DENR issues ECC to 320-hectare reclamation project in Bacoor, 700 fisherfolk families to be displaced	Madelaine Miraflor	Manila Bulletin	<p>"The interests of local political clans in Cavite and private businesses prevail over the interest of thousands of fisherfolk and coastal residents who stand affected by this destructive reclamation project,"</p> <p>- PAMALAKAYA National Chairperson Fernando Hicap</p>
Duterte reiterates opposition to Manila Bay reclamation projects	Genalyn Kabiling	Manila Bulletin	<p>"Kita mo itong land registration? Nag-away-away na sila kasi 1,000 hectares. Mayayari tayo nito. Eh reclamation, marami nang away. Pera eh. Mga 1,000 reclamations, that's billions and billions. But in the process, you will kill the entire Metro Manila. Mahihirapan na ang tao doon and even the canals will no longer have the egress and ingress of water, let alone the absence of the water treatment"</p> <p>"If I do that, of which I am wont to do, I will choke Manila. The entire Manila City will be environmentally at peril. So, pag-aralan ninyong mabuti 'yan. (Study them carefully). For the next administration, whoever gets to be the President of this country, study it very carefully. Because with Manila there, that old city is an old city and it will decay if you add so many things in front of Manila Bay"</p> <p>- Pres. Duterte said during a visit to Sangley airport in Cavite last February</p>

Carpio: Cleanliness of Manila Bay affects health, food security	Gaega Katreena Cabico	The Philippine Star	Carpio also warned of the effects of reclamation in Manila Bay, saying coastal development projects will adversely affect the habitat of endangered species and wetlands and will destroy a major source of fish catch for residents. "Reclamation projects will make coastal areas susceptible to liquefaction during earthquakes and aggravate flooding in low-lying areas." - retired Supreme Court associate justice Antonio Carpio
Geologist warns of adverse ecological impact of Bulacan airport	Reiven Pascasio	VERA Files: Truth is our Business	"Reclaimed coastal areas are very susceptible to liquefaction and enhanced ground-shaking during earthquakes. Construction of the P736-billion international airport in Bulacan province will worsen flooding and accelerate the sinking of surrounding towns. The reclamation project and these geological hazards will not only endanger the airport goers, but will displace other living organisms as well." - Narod Eco, member of AGHAM- Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) and People's Network for the Integrity of Coastal Habitats and Ecosystems (People's NICHE),
JULY 2020			
AUGUST 2020			
Oceana warns against 'ecologically destructive' Toledo reclamation project	Rosalie Abatayo	CDN Digital	"The dumping and filling of the coast of Toledo City should not be allowed because of the huge environmental impact it will cause apart from displacing artisanal fisherfolk. The project will destroy the protected seascape of Tañon Strait that is an important migration corridor and habitat for marine mammals, with at least 14 species found in its waters. This will also endanger the livelihood of small artisanal fisherfolks dependent on the rich fisheries resources of this narrow body of water between Negros and Cebu for their livelihood," - Gloria Estenzo Ramos, Oceana vice president.
SEPTEMBER 2020			
Group tells gov't: Rehabilitate, not reclaim Manila Bay	Morexette Marie Eram	CCDN Digital	"the government should stop the reclamation, and use public funds wisely. This will be a total waste of people's money. Panahon na ng mga bagyo at malakas ang hampas ng alon sa Manila Bay pag may bagyo. The sand will be simply washed away by the waves and will mix with the black sand which is the natural element of this part of Manila Bay," - Oceana Vice President and former CDN Digital columnist Gloria Estenzo Ramos
Not rehabilitation: Dumping "white sand" in Manila Bay goes "against" Supreme Court order - group		ABS-CBN News	"The dumping of dolomite or any material that is not natural to the area is reclamation" - Rodne Galicha, executive director of Living Laudato Si Philippines.

<p>Kalikasan writ eyed against Manila Bay white sand project</p>	<p>Krixia Subingsubing</p>	<p>Philippine Daily Inquirer</p>	<p>* Texas distributor and builder Lehigh Hanson Inc. warned that dolomite could cause skin and eye irritation, as well as cancer and damage to the lungs through prolonged or repeated exposure. Another company, Lhoist North America, warned in its own safety data report submitted in 2018 that dolomite contains crystalline silica, classified as a potential carcinogen when inhaled by humans.</p> <p>* Maritime affairs expert and University of the Philippines law professor Jay Batongbacal said the reports from US contractors about the potential harm the dolomite being poured on a 500-meter stretch of Manila Bay's shore could be ground for filing a petition for a writ of kalikasan, a legal remedy to halt projects potentially damaging to the environment.</p> <p>* Greenpeace Philippines on Thursday said the project was a waste of money because backwash would carry the synthetic sand into the bay</p> <p>* Pamalakaya denounced it as "whitewashing the government's failure to rehabilitate Manila Bay."</p> <p>* Oceana Philippines, said on Sunday that the DENR violated national laws governing ecological and heritage conservation.</p>
<p>Health hazard ng "white sand" sa Manila Bay, siyasatin - Moreno</p>	<p>Ley Baguio</p>	<p>Brigada</p>	<p>Infrawatch PH convenor Terry Ridon, posibleng magdulot ng sakit sa baga o kaya'y magresulta sa cancer ang mga kemikal na malalanghap mula sa dolomite sand</p>
<p>Environmental Ombudsman urged to probe Manila Bay dolomite dumping</p>	<p>Gaega Katreena Cabico</p>	<p>The Philippine Star</p>	<p>* "This P389-million project represents just 0.83 percent of the entire P47-billion Manila Bay rehab program. The potential for large-scale corruption, dereliction of duty and ecological harm is completely unacceptable in these times of pandemic crisis," Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-PNE</p> <p>* Estenzo-Ramos, an environmental lawyer, said that the project should have undergone the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) system like other projects or undertakings which are seen to have a significant adverse impact to the quality of the environment and other consultative and participatory process. DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda earlier said the project is not covered by the EIS system and only a certificate of non-coverage, which is issued for undertakings that are deemed unlikely to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment, was secured.</p>
<p>Robredo slams gov't for prioritizing Manila Bay white sand over aid for poor families</p>	<p>Gabriel Pabico Lalu</p>	<p>Philippine Daily Inquirer</p>	<p>"Napaka-insensitive na gagawin mo yan sa height ng pandemic na ang daming nagugutom. Ang daming naghihirap, gagawin mo yung pag-beautify"; VP Robredo said noting that the government had even reasoned earlier on that it was running out of funds for COVID-19 response.</p>
<p>'White sand not remedy to Manila Bay pollution'</p>	<p>Louise Maureen Simeon</p>	<p>The Philippine Star</p>	<p>The MGB, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said previous studies showed that beach nourishment is not a remedy to the Manila Bay issue. "According to studies and scientific researches, mechanically placed sand on beaches moves as affected by waves, currents, tides and wind and other potential impacts of anthropogenic and natural events," the MGB said. Beach replenishment is the practice of adding sand or sediment to beaches to combat erosion and increase beach width. However, the MGB said it is important to note that beach nourishment does not stop erosion. "It merely prevents erosion for a short time,"</p>

Dolomite in Manila Bay 'white beach' won't cause health risks, DOH now says	Katrina Hallare	Philippine Daily Inquirer	* DOH also said that "occupational health and safety standards for workers and precautionary measures for the containment of possible dust formation" are likewise being enforced in the implementation of the multi-million-peso project, citing information it got from DENR. "Therefore, in terms of the general safety of the public who will be enjoying the shoreline once permitted, DOH assures that no untoward incidents will occur as a result of this endeavor,"
Isko Moreno sees no reason to stop Manila Bay white sand makeover	Consuelo Marquez	Philippine Daily Inquirer	"What will be the major reason to stop? And what are we going to gain when we stop? It is long overdue. Let us be fair to environmentalists who fought for this for 20 years. Nakipaglaban ang environmentalists fortunately for them, Supreme Court decided on the matter," Moreno said over ABS-CBN News Channel when sought for his reaction on calls to stop the Manila Bay white beach project. "Let me confront and let's be straightforward. Ang dolomite makapaminsala? Ang sabi hindi. Sino may sabi? Hindi ako, hindi DENR, DOH ang may sabi," he said.
The white beach of Manila	Florencio Flanza	Manila Standard	This project, I must say, is a gesture of confidence on the part of the government that the Bay will stay clean or be made much cleaner to allow safe swimming. For people to be able to swim safely, however, coliform level must be around 250mpn/100ml. Right now, it is nowhere near that number. DENR should wait longer until the desired water quality has been attained. Not to be a kill joy, but I am saying that more work, more money and longer time are needed to clean the bay to the level that swimming by the public would be safe. In spite of my serious misgivings, the project deserves a chance to be tried. The critics should hold their punches until the project is completed and then see what happens. There may be issues but the public should concentrate more on the positive things that were accomplished since the clean-up was started instead of the negatives. As to the medical concerns regarding dolomite, I am sure that the government agency that will eventually manage the beach will have proper protocols. I hope, however, that the DENR took everything into consideration including the fact that during typhoons, storm surges along Roxas Boulevard reaches the road.
In defense of the Manila Bay Beach project	Andrew J. Masigan	The Philippine Star (The Corner Oracle)	I am personally in favor of the project, given its tremendous benefits to tourism, in uplifting our city and country brand, in enriching the quality of life of Manila residents and because we need more public spaces. In terms of engineering benefits, the man-made shoreline will help mitigate flooding and prevent soil erosion at the breakwater. And since dolomite contains calcium and magnesium carbonate, it will nourish the waters of the bay and stimulate the growth of coral larvae. All in all, it is a win for the environment, the city and our people.
Manila Bay restoration		Manila Standard	The Rotary Club of Manila expresses full support to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' commitment and efforts in the improvement, beautification, restoration and cleanup of Manila Bay.
Manila Bay's white sand: Why not?	Bob Zozobrado	Manila Standard	As a tourism advocate, I'd like to chime in on the many issues raised on this project. As far as I'm concerned, any beautification project on any of our tourist attractions is never wasteful because our tourism industry is among the top revenue producers for our coffers. Besides, the government has never scrimped on budgets needed to equip ourselves against the virus. So, by next year, I'm sure hordes of tourists, both domestic and foreign, will be seen cavorting on the white sands of Manila Bay. I can almost hear the tourism industry's cash register ringing non-stop! Shouldn't life be this way, by always being more positive and less stressful?