

- [Home Category](#)
- [Provincial](#)
- New order needed to save Boracay

# New order needed to save Boracay

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Another presidential order is being drafted to save Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan, from worsening degradation.

Secretaries Wanda Teo of Department of Tourism (DOT) and Roy Cimatu of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced that a draft of an executive order will be presented to President Duterte.

Teo and Cimatu visited the world famous resort island last week, several days after it experienced one of its worst flooding in years.

Flooding is one of the problems attributed to the unregulated development of Boracay, which welcomed more than two million tourists last year. Other issues include illegal construction along forestland, illegal wastewater dumping, bad trash management, overpopulation, and bloody land disputes.

But presidential orders to solve Boracay's mounting problems are nothing new.

In 2008, then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo directed the Philippine Tourism Authority (now the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority or TIEZA) to take over management of Boracay. It also ordered the Malay local government to stop issuing building permits for new structures unless approved by the Aklan provincial government.

In 2013, President Benigno Aquino III ordered the demolition of all illegal structures along Boracay's shoreline.

Cimatu noted there is no need for legislative measures to unify and sustain government efforts to fix Boracay. DENR and DOT will rely on existing laws, but Cimatu admitted there's a need for a "political will" for proper enforcement.

Teo said the proposed presidential order will also include Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and local governments of Malay town and Aklan province.

She also assured business groups Boracay Foundation, Inc. (BFI) and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PCCI-Boracay) that DOT and DENR are serious in finding lasting solutions to the island's problems.

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