

23 AUG 24 P12:23

SENATE
Proposed Senate Resolution No. 759

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
ONGOING AND PROPOSED RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN
MANILA BAY AND THEIR LATENT EFFECTS IN THE
ENVIRONMENT, AND ON THE EVALUATION PROCESS
CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION
AUTHORITY IN THE APPROVAL OF THE RECLAMATION
PROJECTS**

1 **WHEREAS**, the prime duty of the Government is to serve and
2 protect the people¹. In addition, the State shall protect and advance the
3 right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with
4 the rhythm and harmony of nature²;

5

6 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to this duty, any project which may
7 introduce damage to a balanced and healthful ecology must be
8 thoroughly reviewed;

9

¹ Article II Section 4. 1987 Constitution

² Article II Section 16. 1987 Constitution

1 **WHEREAS**, there are a total number of twenty-two (22)
2 approved reclamation projects nationwide with thirteen (13) of them in
3 Manila Bay³;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the United States Embassy in the Philippines raised
6 concerns that some of those involved in the reclamation projects have
7 ties to a firm, which was cited by the World Bank and the Asian
8 Development Bank for engaging in fraudulent business practices.⁴;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, while land reclamation may provide prospective
11 economic benefits, it also poses environmental concerns, such as the
12 change of coastal processes and the potential implications on water
13 quality and marine species;

14
15 **WHEREAS**, fishers' and scientists' groups allege that the
16 Philippine Reclamation Authority should not downplay the impacts of
17 reclamation projects on coastal ecosystems and communities, stressing
18 that the environmental and socio-economic costs of dump-and-fill
19 activities are significant. "The issue is not only about the total size of
20 the entire reclamation projects in Manila Bay, but the ongoing and
21 long-term impacts to the livelihood of fisherfolk, marine biodiversity,
22 and local fisheries production," quoting PAMALAKAYA vice
23 chairperson Ronnel Arambulo⁵;

24
25 **WHEREAS**, it is provided under Executive Order No. 74, s.
26 2019 that no reclamation project shall be approved by the Philippine
27 Reclamation Authority without the required Area Clearance and
28 Environmental Compliance Certificate to be issued by the DENR.
29 Moreover, Philippine Reclamation Authority shall evaluate all
30 proposals for reclamation projects based on their cumulative impacts
31 rather than on a specific project basis;

32

³ Gaea Katreena Cabico. *Only 13 reclamation projects OKd in Manila Bay — PRA*. Philstar.com. August 14, 2023. <<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2023/08/14/2288634/only-13-reclamation-projects-okd-manila-bay-pra>>

⁴ Filane Mikee Cervantes. *House probe sought into Manila Bay reclamation*. Philippine News Agency. August 8, 2023. <<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1207381>>

⁵ *Ibid.*

1 **WHEREAS**, on 07 August 2023, President Ferdinand Marcos,
2 Jr. said that all of the reclamation projects have been suspended and
3 under review, except for one which pushed through because it has
4 already been reviewed⁶;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, although these reclamation projects have been
7 suspended pending review, much environmental damage has been done
8 with the completion of these projects remaining contingent on the
9 results of the review ordered by the President.

10
11 **WHEREAS**, in order to avert the approval of the administration
12 and operation of reclamation projects which are non-compliant with the
13 environmental standards, there is a necessity to call for the review of
14 the evaluation process conducted by the Philippine Reclamation
15 Authority as well as the entire approval process for reclamation
16 projects.

17
18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as it is hereby
19 resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an
20 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the ongoing and proposed reclamation
21 projects in Manila Bay and their latent effects on the environment, and
22 on the evaluation process conducted by the Philippine Reclamation
23 Authority and/or other government agencies in the approval of the
24 reclamation projects.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

⁶ Jocelyn Montemayor. *PBBM suspends Manila Bay reclamation projects*. Malaya Business Insight. August 10, 2023. <https://malaya.com.ph/news_news/pbbm-suspends-manila-bay-reclamation-projects/>