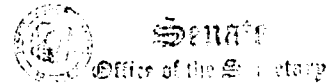


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



24 JAN 10 AM 11:40

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 900

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE UNREASONABLE DELAY ON**  
**THE ISSUANCE OF A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION TO RESERVE THE**  
**LUPANG ARENDA FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING SITE PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 9, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "*The State shall, by law, and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation with the public sector, a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available, at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas.*";

**WHEREAS**, Barangay Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal, commonly known as "Lupang Arenda", is approximately a 171-hectare tract of land, 95 hectares of which are currently occupied by at least 20,000 households;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Proclamation No. 704 (s. 1995), at least 80 hectares of public land located at Sitio Tapayan, Brgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal have been set aside for socialized housing development open for disposition in favor of Pasig River squatters and less privileged families of Taytay, Rizal;

**WHEREAS**, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1160 (s. 2006) reserving 20 parcels of land at the Manggahan Flood Complex for the construction of medium rise socialized and low-cost housing project and its allied structures for the benefit of some 6,700 urban poor families and the deserving landless-homeless employees of the Provincial Government of Rizal;

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, President Arroyo issued Executive Order (EO) No. 854 revoking Proclamation No. 704 (s. 1995) and Proclamation No. 1160 (s.2006) for the obstruction of the Napindan River flow post-Tropical Storm Ondoy;

**WHEREAS**, the existing residents of Lupang Arenda, who are living therein since 1995 or earlier and who are qualified beneficiaries under Proclamation No. 704 (s. 1995) and Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the "Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992", have long been fighting for their rights to be granted ownership to their respective lands;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 157 (s.2008) which prescribes the guidelines, procedures and timeframes in the conduct of evaluation, complete staff work (CSW) and approval of proposed Proclamations for housing purposes, the Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA), on behalf of the Lupang Arenda's residents, filed a request for a Proclamation for housing purposes in 2017;

**WHEREAS**, acting on APOLA's request, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, in coordination with the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR), National Housing Authority and other relevant national and local government agencies, constituted a Pre-Proclamation Committee and conducted CSW, as required under the said Memorandum Circular, in 2017 to 2018;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to EO No. 93 (s. 2019), President Rodrigo Roa Duterte disestablished the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and directed the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development to expedite the relocation of informal settlers and other unauthorized or unlawful occupants along the banks of Pasig River and effectively enforce Proclamation No. 704 (s. 1995), in collaboration with DENR and Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor;

**WHEREAS**, in March 2022, the DENR has successfully distributed 41 original certificates of land ownership to the member-beneficiaries of Samahang Masigasig ng Sitio Tapayan Homeowners Association who are currently occupying a 2.01-hectares land in Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal. The said lot is part of the 5.03 hectares of land being appealed for ownership by the long-time informal settlers in Lupang Arenda who have been complying with the necessary requirements and clearances for titling of the lands;

**WHEREAS**, in an online article dated 09 March 2022, then Acting Environment Secretary Jim O. Sampilna committed to provide the rest of the land parcels, comprised of the remaining 3.02 hectares (319 patents) which are underwater and cannot be titled, through the provision of a certificate of land allocation;

**WHEREAS**, in an online article dated 18 September 2023, members of the APOLA rallied in front of the DENR office to call on government agencies responsible for neglecting their request to provide the Laguna Lake Development Authority the

required clearance to move forward with the proclamation of Lupang Arenda as a public housing area;

**WHEREAS**, in an online news article dated 28 December 2023, Lupang Arenda residents and environmental organizations, Ilog Pasiglahin, and Move As One Coalition, slammed the local municipal council's abrupt passage of a proposed resolution of "no objection" to the construction of the Taytay portion of the Pasig River Expressway (PAREX). The controversial 19.37-kilometer-long PAREX project runs from the Pasig River, reaching the Napindan River near Lupang Arenda, and links to the proposed Southeast Metro Manila Expressway or C-6 project;

**WHEREAS**, Ilog Pasiglahin and Move As One Coalition warned of "considerable harm" from PAREX in Lupang Arenda, such as increased flooding, earthquake risks, reduced river flow, and environmental degradation, which will affect the residents' livelihoods of duck raising along the Napindan River;

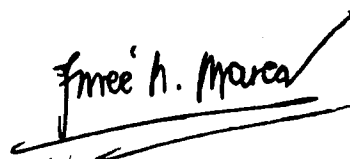
**WHEREAS**, APOLA President Vicente Barlos raised his concerns by stating, "*Mawawalan na kami ng lupa para sa pabahay, babahain at babahain pa kami para doon sa isang proyekto na hindi naman serbisyo kung hindi negosyo*";

**WHEREAS**, Lupang Arenda residents further claimed that the proposed expressway projects will not only intensify the flood risks in the area but will also prolong their decades of struggle for land ownership through executive proclamation;

**WHEREAS**, as of January 2024, no Presidential Proclamation for housing purposes has been issued in favor of the Lupang Arenda residents despite the favorable endorsement for such Proclamation as concluded by the CSW conducted in 2018;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the unreasonable delay on the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation to reserve the Lupang Arenda for socialized housing site purposes.

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**