

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

489
HOUSE RESOLUTION No. _____



Introduced by

**BAYAN MUNA Party-list Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
ACT TEACHERS Party-list Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS and
KABATAAN Party-list Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION

**URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON**

- **THE HOLISTIC IMPACT OF THE SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION'S 2,500-
HECTARE BULACAN AEROTROPOLIS PROJECT, INCLUDING THE 1,168-
HECTARE NEW MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO BE
CONSTRUCTED AT BARANGAY TALIPTIP IN BULAKAN TOWN, BULACAN
PROVINCE;**
- **THE UNDEMOCRATIC PROCESS OF ITS APPROVAL DISCOUNTING THE
WELFARE OF AFFECTED FISHERFOLK AND POOR FAMILIES;**
- **RECLAMATION PROJECT ON MANILA BAY AND DESTRUCTION OF ITS
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

WHEREAS, in May 2011, a study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that concerned air transport needs within the Greater Manila Area, was submitted to the Aquino government, stating that a new gateway airport was "an urgent need" given that the capacity of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) was "already almost saturated;"

WHEREAS, as response, in October 2013, the Aquino administration requested JICA to conduct a pre-feasibility study to determine the best location of the new gateway airport and it identified two potential sites for the airport, basing on the cost and viability: Sangley Point and Laguna Bay. It did not include the Bulacan side of Manila Bay;

WHEREAS, in June 2014, JICA formally recommended the construction of the new airport at the vicinity of Sangley Point in Cavite City, as its cost was lower compared to the option in Laguna Bay. It began the full feasibility study for the new Sangley Point-area airport, with year 2025 as target date for its opening;

WHEREAS, in August 2015, the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) received the New Manila Sangley Airport feasibility study report, that estimated the cost at between

USD10 to USD13 billion, but the agency announced that construction would not be ahead of the 2016 national elections, but the government would be laying the ground works;

WHEREAS, in May 2014, San Miguel Corporation proposed to the Aquino administration the USD10-billion airport project along the Manila-Cavite Expressway on a reclaimed 1,600-hectare land on Manila Bay, but the government committed to pursue the project studied meticulously by the JICA;

WHEREAS, under the present Duterte administration, in July 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte proposed developing a dedicated runway at the new Manila Airport in Sangley for general aviation activities, and in September 2016, DOTr is still considering the projects in Sangley Point and Laguna Bay;

WHEREAS, in October 2016, SM Investments Corporation (SMIC) announced its interest to invest in All-Asia Resources & Reclamation Corporation's (ARRC) USD20 billion airport and seaport facility on a 2,500-hectare reclaimed land in Manila Bay off Sangley Point, that involved the construction of an underwater tunnel to the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City or an extension of the Manila-Cavite Expressway;

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2016, DOTr announced its plan to redevelop the naval base at Sangley Point by November 2017 to help decongest the NAIA, but on December 15, 2016, the same agency announced that the SMC project is "under review" as it is considered "serious enough" and it will endorse the proposal to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) by early 2017;

WHEREAS, in February 2017, SMC submitted its 1,168-hectare airport complex which is part of the larger 2,500-hectare, P700-billion (USD14-billion) "aerotropolis" or a metropolitan subregion whose infrastructure, land-use and economy are centered on an airport, in Bulakan town, which is linked to the Marilao North Luzon Expressway interchange and MRT 7 which is also a SMC project. In May 2018, SMC announced it does not require a partner to develop the project and their proposal is to operate the airport for 50 years;

WHEREAS, in March 2018, the ARRC and SMIC's subsidiary Belle Corporation submitted their US12-billion airport project called Philippine Sangley International Airport (PSIA);

WHEREAS, in December 2018, NEDA approved the concession agreement between the DOTr and SMC for the New Manila International Airport project, that covers 2,500 hectares of land in Bulacan and cost P735.6 billion (USD13.9 billion);

WHEREAS, in April 2019, the DOTr launched a "Swiss challenge" for the New Manila International Airport and four months later, in August 2019, it approved SMC's project unchallenged;

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources Central Luzon Regional Office (DENR Region III) approved the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the 2,070-hectare land development project of an SMC-contractor Silvertides Holdings in Barangay Bambang and Talipit of Bulakan town;

1 **WHEREAS**, in April 2018, when the project was approved by the NEDA Investments
2 Coordinating Committee, the Alyansa para sa Pagtatanggol ng Kabuhayan, Paninirahan at
3 Kalikasan sa Manila Bay (AKAP KA-Manila Bay), local organization of fisherfolk and poor
4 residents of Barangay Talipit in Bulacan town protested their marginalization or non-consultation
5 of directly affected sectors, and Barangay Councilor and Agriculture and Fisheries Committee
6 Chairperson Roberto Bauza vowed to fight for their rights and continue to oppose the
7 construction of the project;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, various petitions were also launched by the directly affected sectors and advocates
10 against Manila Bay Reclamation, entitled “Save Talipit, Save Manila Bay! No to Manila Bay
11 Reclamation!” and “No to Manila Bay Reclamation, No to Bulacan Aerotropolis;”

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13 **WHEREAS**, in January 2019, when the Duterte administration commenced with its Manila Bay
14 rehabilitation program, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas
15 (Pamalakaya - Pilipinas) strongly warned against the carrying out of reclamation projects already
16 approved by local government units;

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18 **WHEREAS**, Pamalakaya - Pilipinas National Chairperson and former Anakpawis Party-list
19 Representative Fernando “Ka Pando” Hicap highlighted the planned Bulacan “Aerotropolis”
20 project which will involve land reclamation, that will displace livelihood of small fisherfolk, destroy
21 the natural environment of Manila Bay and will cause disastrous flooding that will devastate
22 vulnerable poor sector communities;

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24 **WHEREAS**, the people’s protest against reclamation projects in Manila Bay also resulted the
25 filing of House Resolution No. 2452, urging for the declaration of “Reclamation-Free Manila Bay”
26 and House Bill No. 9067 Declaring Manila Bay as a “Reclamation-Free” Zone, by former
27 Anakpawis Party-list Representative Ariel “Ka Ayik” Casilao during the 17th congress. It was
28 refiled by Bayan Muna Representative Eufemia Cullamat and lawmakers under the Makabayan
29 Coalition as House Bill No. 257 this 18th congress;

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31 **WHEREAS**, also in January 2019, environmental defenders led by Kalikasan – People’s Network
32 for the Environment (Kalikasan – PNE) protested in front of the DENR central office in Quezon
33 City, questioning the Manila Bay rehabilitation program amid no moratorium on reclamation
34 projects including the Bulacan “Aerotropolis” project;

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36 **WHEREAS**, in March 2019, directly affected residents decried withholding of information on
37 the project, as for about three years, they have witnessed repeatedly private personnel surveying
38 lands and that the mayor of Bulacan town ignored them until they held protests demanding the
39 certainty of reported news on the Bulacan “Aerotropolis” project;

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41 **WHEREAS**, on February 4, 2019, the affected fisherfolk first heard the concrete plans through
42 the representatives of Silvertides Holdings Corporation, the SMC contractor, during a “public
43 hearing.” The residents learned that the project will involve reclamation of Manila Bay. The held
44 “hearing,” turned out to be the last requirement for the approval of the ECC;

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46 **WHEREAS**, on July 17, 2019, the affected fisherfolk and poor residents under the Pamalakaya –
47 Bulacan and AKAP KA Manila Bay, protested in front of the DENR central office and SMC office
48 in Mandaluyong City, against their displacement and loss of livelihood;

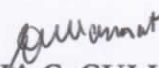
1 **WHEREAS**, on August 15, 2019, they again protested in front of the DENR Region III office
2 to demand the revocation of the ECC awarded to Silvertides Holdings Corporation;
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4 **WHEREAS**, it is obvious, based on the development of the San Miguel Corporation's
5 "Aerotropolis" project and New Manila International project and the process of the Duterte
6 administration's approval, the welfare and interest of the poor sectors are totally discounted, to
7 the point of endorsing reclamation projects, which is a violation of the 2008 Supreme Court Order
8 to "clean up, rehabilitate and preserve" the country's heritage asset Manila Bay;
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10 **WHEREAS**, to date, the struggle of affected fisherfolk and poor residents against displacement
11 of their communities and livelihood, reclamation and destruction of the natural environment of
12 Manila Bay, are being supported by Pamalakaya - Pilipinas, Kalikasan – PNE, AGHAM,
13 Anakpawis Party-list, Bayan Muna Partylist, youth-student organizations, academe and church
14 people and other people's organizations;
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16 **WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the House of
17 Representatives conduct an inquiry on the holistic impact of the SMC's 2,500-hectare Bulacan
18 Aerotropolis project, including the 1,168-hectare New Manila International Airport to be
19 constructed at Barangay Taliptip in Bulacan town, Bulacan province; the undemocratic process of
20 its approval discounting the welfare of affected fisherfolk and poor families; reclamation project
21 on Manila Bay and destruction of its natural environment.
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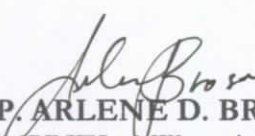
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29 **REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
30 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
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36 **REP. CARLOS ISAGANI I. ZARATE**
37 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
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42 **REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE**
43 *Bayan Muna Partylist*
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48 **REP. FRANCE I. CASTRO**
49 *ACT Teachers Partylist*
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REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIEL Women's Party


REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist