

The Past Holds the Solution

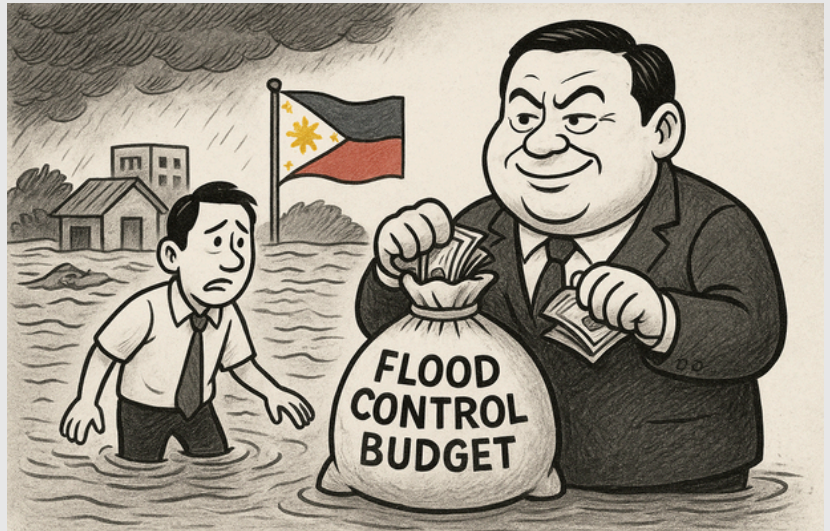
WHY RIZAL'S PLAN STILL MATTERS

"To foretell the destiny of a nation, it is necessary to open a book that tells of her past." Jose Rizal once said.

El Filibusterismo is one of Jose Rizal's most famous novels. The novel gave a solution to the floods that are caused by the rainstorms and typhoons that the Philippines faces. Jose Rizal had an idea in *El Filibusterismo* for controlling the floods in Manila. Rizal proposed the making of a canal that would guide extra water from floods from the city directly into the sea. When Manila would be flooded, a hidden tunnel known as the Manggahan Floodway would move the extra water from the flood into the Laguna Lake. If ever the lake overflows, Rizal had another idea, and that idea was to develop a spillway that would move the water from the lake to the Manila Bay, known as Paranaque Spillway. Rizal's amazing ideas showed how practical and smart he was, wanting to protect the people of the Philippines from future disasters even during his time.



In the 70s, the government tried to make Rizal's plan into a real thing by starting flood control projects based on his ideas. Sadly, the project was not finished, and the Paranaque Spillway was never completed. Until right now, the Philippines still has the very same problem. Every single year, raging typhoons and heavy rain causes floods in parts of the Philippines, breaking homes, taking lives, and making life harder for all of us, especially the people who are poor. Even with the technology we have today, the problem stays because of bad planning, inadequate leadership, and corruption.



According to reports, many flood control projects haven't even started because of corruption. The Chair of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, Rodante Marcoleta, said that around 60 flood-control projects are being investigated because they might be "ghost projects." The economic planning minister also said that 70% of the money meant for flood control was lost to corruption. This means that majority of the money that should have been used to build canals, drainage systems, and dikes was stolen or used for things unrelated to the project. Due to this, many Filipinos continue to suffer when floods happen. Homes are destroyed, families lose everything, and the silence from our government only adds onto it. These floods may be caused by nature, but the suffering they bring is often caused by human incompetency.

This situation is connected to the idea of Humanism. Humanism says that we, have the power and duty to make our society a better place. It tells us that we should not wait for others to take action or fix problems for us. This idea helps us understand that even tiny actions, be it good or bad, can sprout into bigger results.

When people choose to ignore the things they need to do or make selfish actions, it leads to bigger problems like unfinished projects or even the price of a life. However, if people choose to act with care and be honest, even the tiniest of actions are able to lead to great change. As people of the new generation, we play a huge role in solving the different problems we cause. By extending awareness, using our platform to go against corruption, and encouraging others to do what is right the Philippines will have a fighting chance. We are able to use things like social media, school projects, and community programs to spread information and incite honesty and teamwork. Society and leaders should also guide everyone how to make real and positive changes as one. If we all were to have initiative, just like how Rizal did, we can build towards a nation where people care for one another and where no family has to fear losing their home to floods again.