

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 813, October 17, 1975**]

AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FORTY EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT OF 1966."

WHEREAS, rapid expansion of Metropolitan Manila, the suburbs and the lakeshore towns of Laguna de Bay, combined with current and prospective uses of the lake for municipal-industrial water supply, irrigation, fisheries, and the like, have created deep concern on the part of the Government and the general public over the environment impact of such development on the water quality and ecology of the lake and its related river systems;

WHEREAS, inflow of polluted water from the Pasig, River, industrial, domestic and agricultural wastes from developed areas around the lake and the increasing urbanization have induced the deterioration of the lake and water quality studies have shown that the lake will deteriorate further if steps are not taken to check the same;

WHEREAS, floods in Metropolitan Manila area and the lakeshore towns are also influenced by the hydraulic system of the Laguna de Bay, and any scheme of controlling the floods will necessarily involve the lake and its river systems;

WHEREAS, the Laguna Lake Development Authority is empowered under Republic Act No. 4850 to conserve and develop the resources of the Laguna de Bay region to promote socio-economic well-being of the people but in the exercise of these functions, deficiencies and ambiguities in the present provisions of the law were found which impede the accomplishment of the Authority's goal;

WHEREAS, under existing laws, other government agencies have varying degrees of jurisdiction and control of the lake resulting in problems of coordination, planning and management thereby hampering the efforts of the Authority to plan and implement its overall development plans for conservation and utilization of the lake resources in accordance with the provisions of its character;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing consideration, the passage into law of the amendments embodied in this Decree is necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby decree, order and make as part of the law of the land the following amendments to Republic Act No. 4850;

SECTION 1. Section one of Republic Act Numbered Forty-Eight Hundred and Fifty is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared to be the national policy to promote, and accelerate the development and balanced growth of the Laguna Lake area and the surrounding provinces, cities and towns hereinafter referred to as the region, within the context of the national and regional plans and policies for social and economic development and to carry out the development of the Laguna Lake region

with due regard and adequate provisions for environmental management and control, preservation of the quality of human life and ecological systems, and the prevention of undue ecological disturbances, deterioration and pollution."

SEC. 2. The title and paragraphs (a), (d), (f), and (i) of Section 4 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 4. *Special Powers and Functions.* The Authority shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions:

"(a) To make a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural resources and potentialities of the Laguna Lake region particularly its social and economic conditions, hydrologic characteristics, power potentials, scenic and tourist spots, regional problems, and on the basis thereof, to draft a comprehensive and detailed plan designed to conserve and utilize optimally the resources within the region particularly Laguna de Bay, to promote the region's rapid social and economic development and upon approval by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board of such plan, to implement the same including projects in line with said plan: *Provided*, That implementation of all fisheries plans and programs of the authority shall require prior consensus of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to ensure that such plans and programs are consistent with the national fisheries plans and programs. For the purpose of the said survey, public agencies shall submit and private entities shall provide necessary data except such data which under existing laws are deemed inviolable.

"(d) To pass upon and approve or disapprove all plans, program and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region, public corporations, and private persons or enterprises where such plans, programs and/or projects are related to those of the Authority for the development of the region as envisioned in this Act. The Authority shall issue the necessary clean for approved proposed plans, programs, and projects within thirty days from submission thereof unless the proposals are not consonance with those of the Authority or that those will contribute to the unmanageable pollution of the Laguna Lake waters or will bring about the ecological imbalance of the region: *Provided, further* That the Authority is hereby empowered to institute necessary legal proceeding against any person who shall commence to implement or continue implementation of any project, plan or program within the Laguna de Bay region without previous clearance from the Authority: *Provided, furthermore*, That any local government office, agency, public corporation, private person, or enterprise whose plans, programs and/or projects have been disapproved by the Authority may appeal the decision of the Authority to the NEDA within fifteen (15) days from receipt of such disapproval whose decision on the matter shall be final; reasonable processing fees as may be fixed by the Authority's Board of Directors shall be collected by the Authority for the processing of such plans, programs and/or projects: *Provided, finally*, That expansion plans shall be considered as new plans subject to review of the Authority and to payment of the processing fees.

The Authority and national and local government offices, agencies and public corporations shall coordinate their plans, programs, projects and licensing procedures with respect to the Laguna Lake region for the purpose of drawing up a Laguna Lake development plan which shall be binding upon all parties concerned upon approval of the NEDA board.

"(f) To plan, program finance and/or undertake infrastructure projects such as river, flood and tidal control works, waste water and sewerage works, water supply, roads, portworks, irrigation, housing and related works, when so required within the context of its development plans and programs including the readjustment, relocation, or resettlement of population within the region as may be deemed necessary and beneficial by the Authority: *Provided*, That should any project be financed wholly or in part by the Authority, it is hereby authorized to collect reasonable fees and tolls as may be fixed by its Board of Directors subject to the approval of the NEDA Board from users and/or beneficiaries thereof to recover costs of construction, operation and maintenance of the projects: *Provided, further*, That if the Authority should find it necessary to undertake such infrastructure projects which are classified, as social overhead capital projects as determined by the NEDA, the Authority shall be authorized to receive financial assistance from the government in such amount as may be necessary to carry out the said projects subject to such terms and conditions that may be imposed by the government, upon recommendation of the NEDA Board: *Provided, finally*, That such amount as may be necessary for the purpose is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated."

(i) To reclaim or cause to be reclaimed portions of the Lake or undertake reclamation projects and/or acquire such bodies of land from the lake which may be necessary to accomplish the aims and purposes of the Authority subject to the approval of the NEDA Board: *Provided*, That the land so reclaimed shall be the property of the Authority and title thereto shall be vested in the Authority: *Provided, further*, That the resulting lakeshore area shall continue to be owned by the national government."

SEC. 3. Section 4 of the same Act is hereby further amended by adding thereto seven new paragraphs to be known as paragraphs (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) which shall read as follows:

"(j) The provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, to engage in fish production and other aqua-culture projects in Laguna de Bay and other bodies of water within its jurisdiction and in pursuance thereof to conduct studies and make experiments, whenever necessary, with the collaboration and assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, with the end in view of improving present techniques and practices. *Provided*, that until modified, altered or amended by the procedure provided in the following sub-paragraph, the present laws rules and permits or authorizations remain in force;

"(k) For the purpose of effectively regulating and monitoring activities in Laguna de Bay, the Authority shall have exclusive jurisdiction to issue new permit for the use of the lake waters for any projects or activities in

or affecting the said lake including navigation, construction, and operation of fishpens, fish enclosures, fish corrals and the like, and to impose necessary safeguards for lake quality control and management and to collect necessary fees for said activities and projects: *Provided*, That the fees collected for fisheries may be shared between the Authority and other government agencies and political sub-divisions in such proportion as may be determined by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Authority's Board: *Provided, further*, That the Authority's Board may determine new areas of fishery development or activities which it may place under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources taking into account the overall development plans and programs for Laguna de Bay and related bodies of water: *Provided, finally*, That the Authority shall subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines promulgate such rules and regulations which shall govern fisheries development activities in Laguna de Bay which shall take into consideration among others the following: socio-economic amelioration of bonafide resident fisherman whether individually or collectively in the form of cooperatives, lakeshore town development, a master plan for fishpen construction and operation, communal fishing ground for lakeshore town residents, and preference to lakeshore town residents in hiring laborers for fishery projects."

"(l) To require the cities and municipalities embraced within the region to pass appropriate zoning ordinances and other regulatory measures necessary to carry out the objectives of the Authority and enforce the same with the assistance of the Authority."

"(m) The provisions of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding, to exercise water rights over public waters within the Laguna de Bay region whenever necessary to carry out the Authority's projects;"

"(n) To act in coordination with existing governmental agencies in establishing water quality standards for industrial, agricultural and municipal waste discharges into the lake and to cooperate with said existing agencies of the government of the Philippines in enforcing such standards, or to separately pursue enforcement and penalty actions as provided for in Section 4(d) and Section 39-A of this Act: *Provided*, That in case of conflict on the appropriate water quality standard to be enforced such conflict shall be resolved thru the NEDA Board;"

"(o) To develop water supply from ground and/or lake water resources for municipal, agricultural and industrial usages, in coordination with the National Water Resources Council created by Presidential Decree No. 424 dated March 28, 1974 or its successors in interests, and to enter into agreements with municipalities governmental agencies and corporations and the private sector to supply, distribute and market such water;"

"(p) Undertake studies on the improvement and maintenance of the desirable lake water quality of Laguna de Bay, and in pursuance thereof, prepare a water quality management program on a continuing basis, subject to the approval of the NEDA, which the Authority shall carry out with the assistance and support of all national and local government units involved in water quality management."

SEC. 4. Two new sections to be known as Section 4-A and 4-B are hereby inserted after Section 4 and before Section 5 of the same Act which shall read as follows:

"SECTION 4-A. Compensation for damages to the water and aquatic resources of Laguna de Bay and its tributaries resulting from failure to meet established water and effluent quality standards or from such other wrongful act or omission of a person, private or public, juridical or otherwise, punishable under the law shall be awarded to the Authority to be earmarked for water quality control and management."

"SECTION 4-B. The Authority is hereby empowered to collect annual fees as provided for in Sec. 4-J herein, for the use of the lake waters and its tributaries for all beneficial purposes including recreation, municipal, industrial, agricultural, fisheries, navigation and waste disposal purposes. All the fees so collected shall be used for the management and development of the lake and its watershed areas: *Provided*, That the rates of the fees to be collected shall be subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 5. Section 5, Paragraph (f) and (i) of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"(f) To acquire, buy, purchase, hold or lease, such personal and real property as it deems necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business and/or in relation with the carrying out of its purposes under this Act; and to lease, mortgage, sell, alienate, or otherwise encumber, utilize, exploit or dispose any such personal and real property held by it, subject to prior or existing individual or communal right of private parties or of the government or any agency or enterprise thereof."

"(i) To purchase, hold, alienate, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of the shares of the capital stock of, or any bond, securities, or other evidence of indebtedness created by any other corporation, co-partnership, or government agencies or instrumentalities; and while the owner of said stock to exercise all the rights of ownership, including the right to vote thereon; *Provided*, That the Authority shall not invest its funds in any highly risky debt instruments issued without recourse to commercial banks or investment houses as well as in, any highly speculative stocks.

SEC. 6. Section 5 of the same Act is further amended by adding a new paragraph thereto to be known as paragraph (k) which shall read as follows:

"(k) To issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectively carry out the powers and purposes herein provided including the plans, programs and projects of the Authority, subject to the approval of the NEDA, the same to take effect thirty (30) days after publication thereof, in a newspaper of general circulation."

SEC. 7. Section 6 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 6. *Capitalization and Financing.* The Authority shall have an authorized capital of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000) of which the amount of Fifty-One Million Pesos (P51,000,000) shall be subscribed