

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 16, February 19, 2019]

EXPEDITING THE REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEM OF THE MANILA BAY AND CREATING THE MANILA BAY TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the Constitution enshrines the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Section 2(c) of Republic Act (RA) No. 9275 or the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004," recognizes that water quality management issues cannot be separated from concerns about water sources and ecological protection, water supply, public health and quality of life;

WHEREAS, Section 2(a) of RA No. 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," mandates the State to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall ensure the protection of public health and the environment;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court in *Metro Manila Development Authority, et al. v. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay, etc., et al.* (G.R. Nos. 171947[^]8, 18 December 2008 and 15 February 2011) issued a *Writ of Continuing Mandamus* that directed concerned government agencies and private entities to clean up, rehabilitate, preserve, restore and maintain the waters of the Manila Bay to a level that is fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation, as well as to fully implement the Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy (OPMBCS) pursuant to Section 19(c) of RA No. 9275;

WHEREAS, the Manila Bay Region encompasses the bay surface area of 1,870 km² and coastline of 190 kilometers, and a total drainage area of about 17,540 km², which spans across Regions III, IV-A and the National Capital Region (NCR), or a total of 178 local government units (LGUs) and 17 major river systems;

WHEREAS, RA No. 7160 or the "Local Government Code of 1991," calls on all LGUs to ensure the general welfare of its constituents, and to share with the national government the responsibility in the management and maintenance of ecological balance within their respective territorial jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the convergence of national government agencies and LGUs in the Manila Bay Region, and the active participation of private and public stakeholders, are necessary to facilitate the robust and integrated implementation of all rehabilitation and restoration efforts at the Manila Bay; and

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President has the power of control over all executive departments, bureaus and offices, and that he shall ensure the faithful execution of laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

Section 1. Creation. The Manila Bay Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby created, to be composed of the following:

Chairperson :	Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Vice	Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local
Chairpersons :	Government (DILG); and
	Secretary, Department of Tourism (DOT)
Members :	Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
	Secretary, Department of Health (DOH);
	Secretary, Department of Agriculture (DA);
	Chairman, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC);
	Chairman, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);
	Executive Director, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC);
	Administrator, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA);
	Administrator, Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS);
	Director, Philippine National Police (PNP) - Maritime Group;
	Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG);
	General Manager, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA);
	Representative of the Manila Water Company, Inc. (Manila Water); and
	Representative of the MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. (MAYNILAD)

The Task Force members may designate an alternate, who must be next in rank to the principal member and must be fully authorized to decide for and on their behalf, to represent their respective offices in the Task Force.

Section 2. Powers and Functions. The Task Force shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Enforce such relevant provisions of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 856 or the "Code on Sanitation of the Philippines," as amended, RA No. 9275, and RA No. 9003 to ensure the complete rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of the Manila Bay;
- b) In accordance with PD No. 198 or the "Provincial Water Utilities Act," as amended, PD No. 856, as amended, and RA No. 9275, require all government facilities, subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, market places, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments, including households, to immediately connect existing sewage lines to available

sewerage systems or sewerage treatment plants (STPs), or to construct individual STPs, whenever applicable, as well as to issue appropriate orders, impose fines, penalties and other administrative sanctions to compel compliance thereof;

c) Undertake remedial measures using engineering and technological interventions to improve the water quality of the Manila Bay, such as sustained and targeted reduction in the coliform level in all major river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay Region;

d) In collaboration with the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, National Housing Authority (NHA) and affected LGUs, and within 60 days from the issuance of this Order, prepare and commence the implementation of a comprehensive plan for massive relocation of Informal Settler Families (ISFs), especially in the priority areas of the NCR along the Manila Bay Region, which shall include: (i) identification of suitable relocation sites; (ii) strategies for economic and social integration of ISFs in the area; and (iii) long term solutions to address ongoing migration into the Manila Bay Region;

e) Prepare a comprehensive plan for expediting the local sanitation program of LGUs within the Manila Bay Region by 2026;

f) Fast-track compliance with the *Writ of Continuing Mandamus* issued by the Supreme Court, including full implementation of the OPMBCS in accordance with its schedule;

g) Ensure that the concerned agencies and LGUs undertake appropriate measures relative to violation of environmental laws such as, but not limited to, demolition, closure or cessation of business and/or filing of administrative action against erring persons or establishments;

h) In collaboration with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Presidential Communications Operations Office and affected LGUs, and in partnership with the private sector and non-government organizations, facilitate a massive information, education and communication drive to garner public support on the Manila Bay clean-up, rehabilitation and restoration efforts, as well as the preservation of the ecosystem in the Manila Bay Region; and

i) Improve resource management of the Manila Bay and create models of inter- LGU cooperation in ecosystem management, with special focus on the Laguna Lake and Pasig River.

Section 3. Duties of Task Force Members. The Task Force members shall perform the following functions in accordance with their respective mandates and as prescribed in the *Writ of Continuing Mandamus* issued by the Supreme Court, as follows:

(a) DENR:

i. Strictly enforce Sections 16 and 19 of RA No. 9275 on the conduct of containment, removal and clean-up operations, and the exercise of supervision and control on all aspects of water quality management in

the Manila Bay Region through standards setting, regular monitoring and determination of strategic areas;

ii. In collaboration with the MWSS, LWUA and DILG, ensure that large-scale enterprises especially factories, manufacturing and processing plants, condominium units and government facilities, among others, shall install wastewater treatment plants or connect to available central wastewater treatment facilities pursuant to Section 8 of RA No. 9275 and Section 28 of PD No. 198, as amended;

iii. Assist in the implementation of Sections 28, 29 and 30 of RA No. 7279 or the "Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992," as amended, on demolition, resettlement and prohibition against new illegal structures along *esteros*, riverbanks, shorelines and waterways in the Manila Bay Region;

iv. Inspect all sanitary landfills located in NCR, Region III and Region IV-A which affect the Manila Bay, ensure their compliance with Sections 41 and 42 of RA No. 9003, and impose appropriate sanctions in case of violation; and

v. Monitor compliance with critical environmental laws, rules and regulations, and issue notices of violation or closure, cease and desist orders, and other appropriate sanctions to violators, including the filing of administrative or other cases against erring government officials.

(b) DILG:

i. Pursuant to Section 20 of RA No. 9275, direct all LGUs in Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan to inspect all factories, commercial establishments and residences along the banks of the major river systems in their respective areas of jurisdiction such as, but not limited to, the Pasig-Marikina-Sⁿ Juan Rivers, Parafiaque-Zapote (Las Pinas) Rivers, and Navotas-fpaiabon-Tullahan-Tenejeros Rivers in the NCR, Meycauayan-Marilao-Obando Rivers in Bulacan, the Talisay River in Bataan, Imus River in Cavite, and Laguna De Bay, and other minor rivers and waterways that discharge water into the Manila Bay and the lands abutting the bay, to determine whether they have wastewater treatment facilities or hygienic septic tanks as prescribed by existing laws, ordinances, and rules and regulations;

ii. Order the LGUs to require non-complying establishments and homes to set up said facilities or septic tanks within a reasonable time to prevent industrial wastes, sewage water and human wastes from flowing into these rivers, waterways, *esteros* and the Manila Bay, under pain of closure or imposition of fines and other sanctions;

iii. Supervise compliance of the concerned LGUs with the mandates of the Task Force; and

iv. Ensure regular monitoring of activities of the LGUs in regulating tourism business and enforcing critical environmental laws, rules and regulations, including local ordinances.

(c) DOT: