

**[MANILA CITY ORDINANCE NO. 8491, May 17,
2016]**

**REGULAR SESSION NO. 197
9th CITY COUNCIL**

**Begun and held in the City Council on Thursday,
the twenty-eight day of May, Two Thousand Sixteen**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
IN THE CITY OF MANILA**

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS:

**HON. JOHN MARVIN "Yul Servo" NIETO
Acting Majority Floor Leader**

and

**HON. MARLON M. LACSON
Majority Floor Leader**

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, in session assembled, *THAT*:

SECTION 1. Title. – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Ordinance establishing a Septage Management System in the City of Manila".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.– It shall be the policy of the City of Manila to share in the responsibility of management and improvement of water quality within its territorial jurisdiction. To meet these objectives, the City shall implement measures to prevent and control water pollution to promote public health.

SECTION 3. Sewerage and Septage Management Principles.– Towards this end, the City of Manila shall abide by the following sewerage and septage management principles.

- a. All buildings and structures whether residential, commercial, industrial establishments and government offices or institutions shall be required to have proper sewage treatment or septage management system. Untreated excreta from residential areas without septic tanks and untreated wastewater from industrial and public establishments shall not be allowed to be discharge to open drainage canals or piped drainage systems; and

- b. No wastewater shall be discharged to the environment without any proper treatment.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.– As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows"

- a. **Desludging** – refers to a process of cleaning or removing the accumulated domestic sludge or septage.
- b. **Domestic Sludge.** – refers to a solid particle of domestic sewage which settles at the bottom of the sedimentation tank and is digested by anaerobic bacteria purely from domestic sources.
- c. **DENR.** – refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- d. **DOH.** – refers to the Department of Health.
- e. **EMB.** – refers to the Environmental Management Bureau.
- f. **Septage.** – refers to a combination of scum, sludge and liquid from household septic tanks.
- g. **Hygienic Septic Tank.** – refers to a septic tank with no openings at the bottom of the slab; closed structure so as not to allow the leaching of liquid or solid wastes to the surrounding soil or ground.
- h. **Septic Tank.** – refers to a watertight receptacle, which receives the discharges of a sanitary plumbing system or part thereof, and is designed and constructed to accomplish the sedimentation and digestion of the organic matter in the sewage within the period of detention/retention and to allow the liquid to discharge to a leaching field, sewer lines, a combined sewerage network or directly to a secondary wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the standards set forth by the Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines.
- i. **Septage Treatment Plant.** – refers to a series of structures purely for the process of treating septage (from septic tanks) in order to comply with DENR effluent standards.
- j. **Sewage.** – refers to any wastewater containing human, animal or vegetable waste matter in suspension or solution including human excreta and urine and may possibly contain liquids consisting of chemicals in solution.
- k. **Sewer.** – refers to an artificial pipe or conduit for carrying sewage and wastewater.
- l. **MWSS.** – refers to Manila Water and Sewerage System.
- m. **Wastewater Treatment Plant.** – refers to a series of structures that will process the treatment of sewage, mostly from domestic origin, but may include pre-treated liquid wastes from industries and similar establishments; it

may also accept the treatment of septage, provided there are facilities for accepting it and pre-treating it.

SECTION 5. Sewage Disposal System. – All residential, commercial, industrial establishments and government institution, both old new ones, in the City of Manila are required to have a proper sewage disposal system such as septic tank for residences and sewage treatment facility for public or commercial establishments and government institutions.

- a. **Existing Facilities.** – All residential, houses and buildings must have a hygienic septic tank, as defined in Section 4 (g) above, that is compliant with the national standards. **PROVIDED**, that no structure must be built on top of septic tank to ensure that it is accessible at all times.

Owners of commercial, industrial and institutional buildings or facilities shall have an operational wastewater treatment facility either on-site or by service off-site. The said facility shall conform to the standards of EMB-DENR and DOH.

- b. **New Facilities.** – No building plan for residential dwelling units, commercial, industrial, institutional, or recreational structures shall be approved unless the design of the sanitary plumbing and septic tank and wastewater treatment facility conforms to the specifications as provided by the national standards.

Facilities in sewerred areas utilizing either combined or separate sewer systems are required to provide the appropriate pre-treatment facilities prior to discharge of wastewater to drainage, **PROVIDED**, that the City Building Official shall be required to evaluate the compliance of facilities to the Pre-treatment standards set by DENR.

Communal or shared septic tanks can be used alternatively, whenever feasible, particularly for existing clustered structures that are highly dense and characterized by lack of or inadequate land space. The design and the manifest of ownership and joint maintenance of shared septic tanks shall require approval process by the Building Official of the City.

SECTION 6. Mandatory Desludging of Septic Tanks. – All owners and users of septic tanks shall be required to desludge it on an average of once every three (3) to five (5) years or when the sludge volume is around one third (1/3) of the total volume of the septic tank, whichever comes earlier.

Septic tanks shall be accessible at all times. Further, no structure shall be built on top of any septic tank. Inaccessible septic tanks shall be repaired, upgraded or replaced by a new one as maybe directed by the Building Official to ensure accessibility and for purposes of desludging at the sole expense of its owner or user.

The inspection and opening of septic tanks shall be done by Sanitary Inspector or barangay officials duly authorized by Building Official and/or representative of the MWSS or any of its Concessionaire.

Violation of this provision shall subject the owner and/or user of the septic tank to the penalty as stipulated in Section 15.