Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 489

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 BULACAN 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 2106, 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;
WHEREAS, in April 2018, when the project was approved by the NEDA Investments Coordinating Committee, the Alyansa para sa Pagtatanggol ng Kabuhayan, Paninirahan at Kalikasan sa Manila Bay (AKAP KA-Manila Bay), local organization of fisherfolk and poor residents of Barangay Talipiptip in Bulakan town protested their marginalization or non-consultation of directly affected sectors, and Barangay Councilor and Agriculture and Fisheries Committee Chairperson Roberto Bauza vowed to fight for their rights and continue to oppose the construction of the project;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2019, the affected fisherfolk and poor residents under the Pamalakaya – Bulacan and AKAP KA Manila Bay, protested in front of the DENR central office and SMC office in Mandaluyong City, against their displacement and loss of livelihood;
WHEREAS, on August 15, 2019, they again protested in front of the DENR Region III office to demand the revocation of the ECC awarded to Silvertides Holdings Corporation;

WHEREAS, it is obvious, based on the development of the San Miguel Corporation’s "Aerotropolis" project and New Manila International project and the process of the Duterte administration's approval, the welfare and interest of the poor sectors are totally discounted, to the point of endorsing reclamation projects, which is a violation of the 2008 Supreme Court Order to "clean up, rehabilitate and preserve" the country's heritage asset Manila Bay;

WHEREAS, to date, the struggle of affected fisherfolk and poor residents against displacement of their communities and livelihood, reclamation and destruction of the natural environment of Manila Bay, are being supported by Pamalakaya - Pilipinas, Kalikasan – PNE, AGHAM, Anakpawis Party-list, Bayan Muna Partylist, youth-student organizations, academe and church people and other people’s organizations;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the House of Representatives conduct an inquiry on the holistic impact of the SMC's 2,500-hectare Bulacan Aerotropolis project, including the 1,168-hectare New Manila International Airport to be constructed at Barangay Talipot 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.

Adopted,

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FRANCISCO M. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist