Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1170

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and FERDINAND R. GAITE,
GABRIELA Women’s Party Representative ARLENE D. BROSAS,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative FRANCE L. CASTRO,
and KABATAAN Party-List Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES
RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
THREAT OF DISPLACEMENT OF THE FISHERFOLK COMMUNITY
IN BRGY. TANZA I AND OTHER BARANGAYS IN NAVOTAS CITY, AMID:

- ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF POLDER DIKE AND DUMP-
  FILLING OPERATIONS;
- PENDING NOTICE TO PROCEED TO THE 650-HECTARE NAVOTAS
  COASTAL BAY RECLAMATION PROJECT;
- AND PUBLIC UPROAR AS NO PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS TO THE
  AFFECTED SECTORS WERE HELD AND NO ALTERNATIVES
  OFFERED TO SUSTAIN THE FISHING LIVELIHOOD OF THE
  AFFECTED RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, Navotas City is dubbed as the “commercial fishing capital of the Philippines” and a
significant share of its population rely on fishing as their primary source of livelihood. Almost all
of its barangays are coastal and communities to small fisherfolk who depend on their use of
municipal boats that they secure along the coastlines of Manila Bay, Tangos River and its adjacent
former fishponds in Brgy. Tanza I;

WHEREAS, the KAMANAVA Area Flood Control and Drainage System Improvement Project
was conceptualized under the Ramos administration after the First Flood Summit organized by
the Office of the President in 1997 and was originally planned to be constructed from 2000 to
2007 and under an Official Development Assistance (ODA) of the Japan International
Cooperation Agency (JICA). Its main features were the 8.6-kilometer ring dikes from Malabon
City to Navotas City, five pumping stations, seven independent flood gates and a navigation tide.
In 2008, the project was at 88% completion, and in 2011 at 99.5% complete, with several
components were dropped from the original plan. The project costed JP ¥ 17.858 M (yen) or
around P38.5 billion as of January 2012, based on an exchange rate of P 1 to JP ¥ 2.16 used by
JICA;

WHEREAS, at present, at least 100 small fisherfolk families of Brgy. Tanza I are being affected
by infrastructure activities that they were not informed of. Road dikes are being constructed and adjacent former fish ponds are being dump-filled by still unidentified contractors, as there is no publicized project details, nor any public consultation were carried out. The small fisherfolks are wary that their municipal boats docked at the nearest bayside are being displaced by personnel, who they claim are with the San Miguel Corporation. Since the past administration, they sought clarification from the Barangay Council but offered no adequate response;

WHEREAS, this climate of uncertainty to the welfare of small fisherfolks of Brgy. Tanza I, is exacerbated by the pending approval of the 650-hectare Navotas Coastal Bay Reclamation Project that threatens the fisherfolk communities, including Barangays Tangos North and Tangos South. The reclamation project is for mixed commercial, industrial, residential and institutional use;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is pushing the 63-kilometer and 16,559-hectare Manila Bay Integrated Flood Control, Coastal Defense and Expressway Project stretching from Bataan province to Navotas City. This included the 1,070-hectare artificial and reclaimed island in Navotas City. The project concessionaire is the Coastal Development Consortium (CDC) consisting of San Miguel Holdings Corporation (SMHC) and New San Jose Builders Inc. (NSJBI);

WHEREAS, the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya, (Pamalakaya) whose National Chairperson is former Anakpawis Party-list Representative Fernando “Ka Pando” Hicap, consulted the affected fisherfolk residents who sought assistance on their plight. For the past years, Pamalakaya has been opposing the planned reclamation project in Navotas City as it certain to displace fisherfolk communities and violate their fishing rights and right to livelihood. Pamalakaya questioned the ongoing reclamation activities in Navotas City amid the 2008 Supreme Court mandamus for the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay. It is also problematic that former fishponds are being dump-filled when the Republic 8550, otherwise known as the Fisheries Code of 1998, clearly states that abandoned, undeveloped or underutilized fishponds should be reverted to their original mangrove state. Ultimately, the absence of public consultations to affected sectors, and the mere publication of the activity, are suggestive of the violations of principles of democratic and transparent governance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the threat of displacement of the fisherfolk communities in Brgy. Tanza I and other barangays in Navotas City, amid ongoing construction of polder dike and dump-filling operations; pending notice to proceed to the 650-hectare Navotas Coastal Bay Reclamation Project; and public uproar as no public consultations to the affected sectors were held and no alternatives offered to sustain the fishing livelihood of the affected residents.
Adopted,

REP. EOPÉMIA C. CULLAMAT  
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE  
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE  
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. ARLENÉ D. BROSAS  
GABRIELLA Women's Party

REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO  
ACT Teachers Partylist

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO  
Kabataan Partylist