

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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House Resolution No. 473



Introduced by Reps. Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, Ronaldo B. Zamora, Manuel Luis T. Lopez,
and Bayani "BF" F. Fernando,

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT TO CREATE, AUTHORIZE, AND EMPOWER A GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION THAT WILL STUDY, REGULATE AND IMPLEMENT A HARMONIZED, COMPREHENSIVE URBAN PLANNING IN METRO MANILA

Whereas, the Committee on Metro Manila Development has deliberated on several plans and programs for Metro Manila by the different primary agencies of government and found, among others, that these lack harmony with each other in terms of functionality and aesthetics, and thus, government spending on them is not optimized, if not largely wasted, because many of them have not solved the issues prevailing in the metropolis such as the mounting *estero* garbage, flood, pollution, illegal settlement, traffic, to name a few;

Whereas, Metro Manila obviously suffers from lack of urban planning that these projects are allowed to be fragmented instead of coherent in many respects promoting human clutters, so to speak, in most of its cities and municipalities;

Whereas, urban planning deals with the technical processes that include designs, social and political considerations, and other features pertaining to land use, urban architecture, nature and natural resources, water and sanitation, people's movement, transportation, and infrastructure;

Whereas, along the development of cities, such as in Metro Manila, human-made clutters have been apparent defeating not only visual aesthetics but also the safety and security of communities and their residents;

Whereas, these man-made clutters are from simple signposts, to human density, new settlements, structure sizes, and peripheral growths;

Whereas, the Philippines as a whole is a disaster-prone country with almost 2% population growth rate annually, facts that must form part of its urban planning especially in major cities if only to capacitate them today and in the future;

Whereas, most cities like those in Metro Manila lack a comprehensive urban planning making the government spend several billions on projects done in patches that failed to eliminate most of its problems over the decades such as floods, illegal settlers, traffic, road safety, etc;

Whereas, along with other cities and its peripheries, Metro Manila, must modernize in urban planning where practitioners will consider maximizing the accessibility of an area to people with different abilities and job destinations, practicing the principle of "inclusive design", anticipate even criminal behavior and consequently "design out crime", and consider "traffic calming" or "pedestrianization" as ways of making urban life more pleasant;

Whereas, the density of an urban environment increases traffic that jeopardizes human productivity and business profitability, and it increases pollution unless properly managed;

Whereas, transportation management, road infrastructure, people's movement, and human settlement must be harmonized in urban designs and implementation;

Whereas, modern approaches to urban planning may only be possible if an agency of experts is formed to study, oversee and/or regulate all plans and programs intended for the cities and municipalities of Metro Manila, thereby rendering a rather holistic and comprehensive livable environment through the aesthetic and functionality values of urban planning;

Whereas, a government body is necessary to be empowered and enhanced, or created, to take care of this dire need of Metro Manila if only to reverse the advent of its urban decay, which is a process where the metropolis or its part falls into the state of disrepair and neglect. This state renders property abandonment, high unemployment, fragmented families, crime, and desolate urban landscapes, among others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives to urge the Committees on Government Reorganization, Housing & Urban Development, and Metro Manila Development, to create an agency of government that will be authorized and empowered to study, regulate, and implement a holistic and comprehensive urban design for Metro Manila. It shall be composed of experts or scientists in urban and regional planning.

Adopted,



WINSTON T. CASTELO



MANUEL LUIS T. LOPEZ



RONALDO B. ZAMORA



BAYANI F. FERNANDO