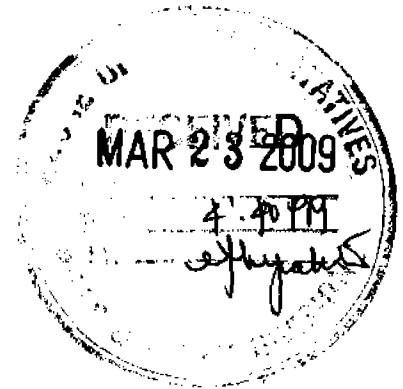


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1066

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INTRODUCED by BAYAN MUNA Reps. SATUR C. OCAMPO and TEODORO A. CASIÑO

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED RIGGING OF THE BIDDING PROCESS ON THE MANILA NORTH HARBOR MODERNIZATION PROJECT THAT IMPERILS INFORMAL SETTLERS, DOCK WORKERS, VENDORS AND OTHER PORT USERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Manila North Harbor Modernization Project (MNHMP) aims to privatize the country's biggest port as mandated by Executive Order No. 308 signed on October 31, 2000, titled "Accelerating the Privatization of the North Harbor." The project seeks to radically change the North Harbor "into another Singapore," a world-class port facility;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Association of Migrant Workers (PAMWA) raised concerns in February 2009 over the possible bid-rigging of the 25-year MNHMP;

**WHEREAS**, the joint-venture of Harbour Centre Port Terminal, Inc (HCPTI) and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) is the lone bidder for the project after other bidders allegedly backed out or were disqualified;

**WHEREAS**, E.O. 308 clearly states that "in order to maximize the benefits of privatization there should be many bidders; the bidding process should be transparent; and the Terms of Reference should include clear commitments, in terms of deliverables, to modernize the North Harbor;

**WHEREAS**, the Manila Regional Trial Court approved last December 8, 2008 the compromise agreement of HCPTI-MPIC and the Philippine Port Authority (PPA) to proceed with the bidding and awarding of the 10-billion-peso project despite having only one bidder;

**WHEREAS**, the HCPTI is accused by PAMWA of not being able to afford the project, citing HCPTI's unpaid financial obligations and the condition of their own Manila Harbor Centre whose funding allegedly came from various government agencies;

**WHEREAS**, HCPTI owner Reghis Romero II is also head of R-II Builders, a contractor entangled in a controversial contract with the National Housing Authority (NHA) over the reclamation and development projects in Smokey Mountain;

**WHEREAS**, PAMWA claims that no private sector watchdog was created for the project, as specified in Section 2 of E.O. 308. The same E.O. mandates the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to appoint an independent watchdog composed of members of the private sector endorsed by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and who represent users of the North Harbor to oversee the privatization and bidding process of the PPA;

**WHEREAS**, the Terms of Reference and Contract of the project do not state what the plans are for the relocation of the informal settlers in the project zone, in violation of Section 28 of the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 (R.A. 7279) which states, among others, that eviction or demolition may be allowed if there is "adequate relocation, whether temporary or permanent;"

**WHEREAS**, the vagueness of the Contract with regard to informal settlers puts at least 849,000 individuals' (141,500 families) in danger of losing their homes and having no relocation sites to go to due to the haphazard implementation of the MNHMP as stated by the urban poor group Kadama in December 2006;

**WHEREAS**, on the other hand, the project's further delay or eventual failure due to corrupt and anomalous practices would also imperil dock workers, vendors, and other port users as it leaves the port in a decrepit state;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Transportation conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alleged rigging of the bidding process and other irregularities on the Manila North Harbor Modernization Project that imperils informal settlers, dock workers, vendors and other port users.

*Adopted,*

  
SATUR C. OCAMPO  
Bayan Muna Party List

  
TEODORO A. CASIÑO  
Bayan Muna Party List