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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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SPECIAL ORDER
No. 2021 - 17

JAN 26 2021

**SUBJECT: CREATION OF THE MANILA BAY ANTI – POLLUTION
TASK FORCE**

In the interest of service and in order to expedite the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay and to ensure compliance with the mandate given by the Office of the President to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) pursuant to Administrative Order No. 16, the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF) is hereby created.

The MBAPTF shall be headed by the Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns (SWMLGUC) and shall be supported by the following offices:

- Manila Bay Coordinating Office,
- River Basin Control Office,
- Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office,
- National Water Resources Board,
- Laguna Lake Development Authority, and
- Environmental Management Bureau in Regions III, IV-A and the National Capital Region (NCR)

The Task Force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Ensure compliance of all government facilities, subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, market places, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments within the entire Manila Bay Region relative to their connection on existing sewerage systems or the construction of their individual sewerage plant, whenever is applicable, as well as recommend for the issuance of appropriate orders, imposition of fines, penalties and other administrative sanctions to compel compliance thereof;
- Spearhead the undertaking of remedial measures using engineering and technological interventions to improve the water quality of the Manila Bay, such as sustained and targeted reduction in the coliform level of all major river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay Region;
- Strictly monitor the enforcement of Sections 16 and 19 of Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act, on the conduct of containment, removal and clean-up operations, and the exercise of the supervision and control on all aspects of water quality management in the Manila Bay Region through standard setting, regular monitoring and determination of strategic areas;

- Inspect all sanitary landfills located in the NCR, Region III and Region IV-A which affect the Manila Bay, ensure their compliance with Sections 41 and 42 of Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and impose appropriate sanctions in case of violation; and
- Monitor compliance of all environmental laws, rules and regulations in which the MBAPTF shall also have the authority to issue notices of violation or closure, cease and desist orders, and other appropriate sanctions to violators, including the filing of cases against violators.

The MBAPTF head shall have the authority to call upon the assistance of concerned DENR offices including bureaus and attached agencies for the effective implementation of this Order.

All expenses to be incurred shall be charged against DENR funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order takes effect immediately and supersedes all issuances or orders inconsistent herewith.

ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



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