



## **Narod Eco**

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Bagama't ipinipilit ng ilang mga makapangyarihan na wala nang búhay ang Manila Bay, malinaw sa ating mga nakararami na buháy ang Manila Bay. Bukod pa sa tanyag nitong takipsilim, ang tunay na halaga nito ay mula sa mga tao at komunidad na nakaasa ang buháy at hanapbuháy dito. Hindi lamang tubig ang nawawala sa walang habas na pagtambak ng lupa at bato kundi ito'y pagbura na rin sa kasaysayan at kultura ng sambayanang Pilipinong labis na nakaugnay sa karagatang ito.

Kung kaya't nararapat na tayo'y kumilos ngayon at ipagtanggol ang Manila Bay, di lang dahil búhay at nagbibigay-buháy ito sa atin ngayon, kundi para na rin sa kapakanan ng ating salinlahi.

Whoever said that Manila Bay is dead probably never bothered to go out to sea with fisherfolks. Those who continue to make a living from the marine and coastal resources in Manila Bay could be earning more, if only the Bay was healthy.

Many of these fishing areas have been dumped and filled with rocks and soil, to be turned into concrete ground for urban spaces. For them, any space that can't be leased or sold is worthless; never mind if these are food sources, community spaces, or crucial for climate change mitigation.

They would have us think that reclamation is a separate issue from rehabilitation, when clearly it's not. The brazenness at which they present such absurdity is just ludicrous, which should insult any sensible citizen. Worse, for them people are just objects that they can remove if in the way of more profit. This is the violence that underlie these projects; a threat to the safety of people, not just from a Big One or supertyphoons, but of power unchecked.

Manila Bay is alive, though its ecosystem is in dire straits. We all need a healthy environment to live, and any computation that puts more value to condominiums, malls, and casinos than to a healthy marine ecosystem is fundamentally flawed.

Let's add our voices and stop this madness. Help save Manila Bay, save the coastal communities, and save ourselves.