

“Land Deals in PDI Areas – Areas for Agriculture/Food Productivity Continually Decrease”

1. Fort Magsaysay Case (Nueva Ecija)

- 73,000 has. of agriculturally-suited land was classified as public land
- 48,070 has. of which was reserved for military purposes
- 3,100 has. transferred by DND to DAR by virtue of DOT Nov. 5, 1991

Issues:

- a. The military insists that the farmers do not own the land and that the military has the right to do whatever it decided on the land. The military does not recognize the deed of transfer and is pushing for the deferment of continuing implementation of CARP.
- b. The military plans to use the lands as a housing site for retired and active personnel. The military argues that the 3,100 have not been properly segregated because such would require an act by Congress and not just a mere executive order.
- c. The military conducts misinformation campaigns. Soldiers and officers tell farmers that the CLOA's awarded to them are invalid.
- d. The military prohibits farmers to make improvements of their homes and farms.

Militarization in the Area:

Casarial, San Isidro

1. Starting the 2010, sand and gravel for construction were not allowed entry by the military. It had to seek prior permission from the authorities in Fort Magsaysay.
2. CRMPC Chairman Romeo Ambog says that until this writing, all construction materials (for house concreting) need approval from the military before entry to Casareal
3. Romeo Ambog added that it has become part of the normal practice to seek permission from the military for any entry of construction materials

Road Network within Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation

1. A 100-km. long standard-sized national highway traversing Barangay Sagana, Laur (in Nueva Ecija) to Sta. Rosa (part of Bulacan) was constructed by DPWH. more or less estimated to 100 plus kilometers. Because of this easy access, land speculation is heightened in the areas which is seriously affecting the farmlands of farmer beneficiaries.

Sitio Pintol, San Josep, Laur, Nueva Ecija

1. Estenely Figueroa's house was burnt in 2009. Suspects are still not known until now.
2. Incident of strafing and armed harassment took place on 2003 with seven victims reported, and another which took place on 2008 with ten victims reported.
3. House improvements e.g. concreting and fencing by local residents are prohibited by the military.
4. More than 60 people who were originally in position of the lands fled because of fear. They have not yet returned to their respective areas. These farmers have no ideas as to who are presently positioned in their respective lands. They only learned recently that a certain Tenio and a Colonel Savite have claims over the same land.
5. Every year there are incidents of crop burning especially during dry season.

2. Angeles Case (Pampanga)

Land Holdings	Land Area	Status	Remarks
Forfom Property	36 has.	Awarded to FBs	10 has. have been sold by FBs to Houseland Community Dev't. Co.
Unson	108 has.	Awarded to FBs	59 has. have been sold by FBs to Houseland Community Dev't. Co.
Claveria	56 has.	Awarded to FBs	28 has. have been sold by FBs to Houseland Community Dev't. Co.
Lutgarda	164.67 has.	Awarded to FBs	Entry of mining in the area

- 97 has. (out of 200 has. of Forfom, Unson and Claveria land holdings) have been sold by FBs to private company for purposes other than agriculture.

- A mining activity was observed within the vicinity of the Lutgarda. This has largely affected the water source which was supposed to be tapped and harnessed for irrigation of the farm lands covering 164.67 has. Results of the mining activities have jeopardized the potential water development in the area, and thereby reduce options for agricultural development.
- Another disturbing development is the dumping of garbage in the springs and along the creeks which are supposed to be developed as watershed in support to the water supply development for the farmlands.

3. Zambales Cases

a. Industrial Estates and Zones

- The access of the Hanjin Project is in Castillejos the next town after Subic within Zambales.
- Availability of sustainable areas for industrial development other reserve areas in the towns of San Antonio, Candelaria and Sta. Cruz.

b. Contesting with Farmer-Beneficiaries

- The Masinloc Bay is also identified as an interesting spot for an industrial Zone.
- Presence of Masinloc Coal Fired Thermal Plant at Bani, Masinloc that guarantee and generate the needed power to sustain and propel productive activity targeted by the investors.

Zambales is known as an agricultural province. However, government planning documents says it showed a negative structural changes in the primary sector of the

economy (which is agriculture and food production) as an effect of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991. The provincial government is capitalizing on this event to justify the shift of the employment pattern to secondary and tertiary sectors of economy such as manufacturing, industry, and tourism. The provincial government further states that these sectors show a positive result in structural change particularly in the implementation of the ECOZONE development, which is the basic development strategy the province adapts. The province also claims that the ECOZONE gives developmental direction to certain assigned areas, and implemented on particular locality that has advantages in terms of available resources and raw materials with primary focus on tourism, manufacturing, and processing industries, which aim to produce viable high-value products and services.

As a matter of policy and development agenda, there is a rather problematic outcome and impact to note especially on the food producing sector. This “shift” in the development focus of the provincial government is a systematic undermine of agriculture which in effect has become less preferred as compared to tourism, manufacturing and processing. It will not be surprising that farmer-beneficiaries (served by PDI’s programs) located in the municipalities of Masinloc, Candelaria and Sta. Cruz will be affected consequently by the implementation of the Urban Manufacturing and Industrial Parks in these same areas.

This is a classic example of land use conflicts wherein the government’s development strategies do not go in harmony with the ideal land use which is agriculture and food production – a primary function in ensuring food security.

Other Land Use Issues

- Increasing population pressure in protection lands currently being used for production purposes primarily in municipalities of San Felipe, Cabangan, Palauig and Candelaria.
- Conversion of prime agricultural lands into residential, industrial and other non-agricultural uses in municipalities of Subic, Castillejos, San Marcelino, Botolan, Iba and Masinloc.
- Lands suitable to agricultural production remains idle and unproductive in many parts of the Province but wide areas can be found in San Marcelino and Botolan.
- Illegal logging activities still proliferates further decreasing forest cover of Zambales province.

C. Entry of Mining in the Ayta Lands of Botolan

Botolan:

- The areas of Belbel, Maguisguis and Palis are undergoing the processes of FPIC (free prior informed consent) facilitated by the NCIP for the exploration and consequently the extraction of black sands.

4. Palawan Case (Land Deals on Eco-Tourism)

Marcella, Coron

- Enclosure of the 10-km sea shore line in preparation for a tourism resort complex. Its major feature is the proposed zip line connecting Coron to a nearby islet.
- Approximately 100 households whose income depend largely on fishing and seaweeds culture are affected
- The fisherfolks' usual docking areas are no longer accessible due to restrictions
- Harassments and intimidations by private guards are taking place to the detriment of the fishing community