

## Law and Economic Development in the Philippines

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This Article attempts to apply the economic theory of law in the Philippine context. In the traditional economic theory of law, civil government was established to protect private property ownership. The Author begins by stating that long-term economic development, which is susceptible to risk and uncertainty, can be sustained by external defense, administration of justice, provision of basic infrastructures, taking into consideration factors such as savings, capital accumulation, and productivity in labor. However, it is in this regard that the participation of law and the government is ambiguous.

The Author presents the positive impact of legal services on marginalized groups through studies which focused on the correlation of poverty and the law and recommends the need for an efficient implementation of the law to support development. In the Philippine context, lack of efficient implementation in the Philippine legal system fails to respond to an economy characterized by inequitable distribution of income and a high degree of poverty incidence.

Thus, the Author recommends that resources be devoted to the strengthening of the legal system, particularly targeting the low case disposition rate, a codification and simplification of jurisprudence, and a simplification of legal procedures to expedite resolution of cases.