

The Metropolitan Manila Commission in the Light of the Integrated Reorganization Plan

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Metro Manila, as has been held by a high-ranking official, sets the pace of development for the rest of the nation. In other words, as Metro Manila progresses, so must the rest of the nation. However, experience would highlight that really, Metro Manila has been a victim of urbanization. On it can be found both high-rise buildings as well as squatters, ostentatious lifestyles as well as high crime rates. This could not have been the goal of making the region the trendsetter when it comes to development.

The first reform measure enacted during the time of Martial Law was the Integrated Reorganization Plan, which adopted a regional approach to national development. Such an approach emphasized the need to make use of the unique resources of each region and not only of Metro Manila. As a necessary consequence of such a regional development policy, decentralization of government operations followed.

It is with such a context that the Author concludes the Note. He believes that by analogy, the same principle of regional development applies to the cities and municipalities that comprise Metro Manila, so that in the end, its progress cannot anymore be denied.