

METROPOLITAN MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROFILE

Physical Characteristics

Metropolitan Manila has a total land area of approximately 636 square kilometers, it lies along the flat fluvial and deltaic lands in the west; and the rugged lands of Marikina Valley and the Sierra Madre mountains in the east; by the Manila Bay in the west, the larger and fertile plains of Central Luzon in the north, and Laguna de Bay in the south. Manila Bay lies to the west and Laguna de Bay to the south-east. It is bordered by the provinces of Bulacan to the north, Rizal to the east, Cavite to the south-west and Laguna to the south. Metro Manila's primary waterway is the Pasig River, which bisects the peninsula.

History

Manila was first founded in June 24, 1571 by Spanish conquistadors, led by Martín de Goiti, Juan de Salcedo and Miguel López de Legazpi. In 1867, the Spanish Government of the Philippines founded the municipalities and territories south of the District of Morong in Nueva Ecija, north of the Province of Tondo and Imperial Manila, and isolated these from their mother province-Nueva Ecija. The Government created the Province of Manila composed of the Province of Tondo to the south and the isolated territories of Nueva Ecija to the north. The parts of Tondo were Navotas, Malabon, and Caloocan; and the parts of Nueva Ecija were Marikina, Balintawak, Caloocan, Pasig, San Felipe Neri (presently called Makati), Las Piñas, which had been known as Parañaque, and Muntinlupa were combined to form the Province of Manila. The capital of the Province was Intramuros, then itself called and considered to be Manila, a walled city located along the banks of Pasig River and Manila Bay in the present Manila.

In 1976, owing a great respect to the history of Manila, President Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree 824, creating the Metropolitan Manila Area. The site of the old province of Manila can no longer be used for agricultural purposes and therefore the term 'province' is not applicable. The decree seceded the 12 municipalities and 3 cities of Rizal, the municipality of Valenzuela in Bulacan, Quezon City and Manila. The Metropolitan Manila Commission was created to administer the emerging metropolis. Marcos appointed his wife Imelda Marcos as Governor of Metro Manila.

Metropolitan Manila is now composed of 16 cities and 1 municipality (the Cities of Manila, Quezon, Pasay, Caloocan, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Paranaque, Valenzuela, Makati, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Taguig, San Juan, Navotas and Las Piñas and the Municipality of Pateros)

Natural Environment

Metropolitan Manila is located at 14°40' N 121°3 E. The metropolis lies entirely on a swampy peninsula with an average elevation of 10 meters. Under the Köppen climate classification system, Metro Manila has a tropical monsoon climate with no distinctive seasons. Together with the rest of the Philippines, Metro Manila lies entirely within the tropics. Its proximity to the equator means that the temperature range is very small, rarely ever going lower than 20°C and going higher than 38°C. However, humidity levels are usually very high which makes it feel much warmer.

Urban Problems

As the population continues to grow, physical development constraints are likely to intensify in these geologically – sensitive areas for want of available land supply. Other problems that the Metropolitan Government is working on are air, land, and waterways pollution, traffic congestion, garbage and waste disposal, unemployment, the problem on informal settlements in Metro Manila, volume of public utility buses and infrastructure development.

Ethnicity and Language

The most common language spoken in Metropolitan Manila is Tagalog (94.34%). English is also widely used and understood, and is the main language of instruction and commerce. The Philippines has other dialects that are commonly spoken, mostly between family members, relatives, or neighbours belonging to the same ethnic group. Among these dialects, the most spoken include Visayan, Ilokano, Bikol , and Kapampangan.

POPULATION

Population (2007)	:	11,553,427
Number of Households (2007)	:	2.3 million families
Population Density (2007)	:	18,246/square kilometers
Ratio of people above 65 yrs old	:	2.9%= 335,049 (2007 census)
Infant Mortality Rate (2007)	:	20.5% per 1,000 births

INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY

	STATISTICS
GDP Philippines (2007)	PHP 6.65 Trillion
GDP Metro Manila (2007)	PHP 2.17 Trillion
Labor Force (2008)	7,596,000
Labor Force Participation Rate (2008)	61.2 %
Unemployment Rate (2008)	13.8%
Per Capita income Metro Manila (2007)	PHP 187,592

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Functions of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority

Since the implementation of Republic Act 7924 in 1995, the law that created the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Authority has since been working for the establishment of the Regional Development Council (RDC) for the National Capital Region. On the 17th of July 2002, Executive Order No. 113, operationalizing the Metro Manila Council as the Regional Development Council for Metro Manila, was approved by Her Excellency during the 14th Joint Meeting of the RDC-NCR and RPOC at the Manila Hotel. RDCs are created to promote administrative decentralization, strengthen autonomy of Local Government Units and to accelerate socio-economic development within the region.

Number of Staff under the MMDA

As of September 2008, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has a total of 6,411 personnel including Job-Order employees. Under the Trabaho-Trabaho Program: PGMA Emergency Employment, the MMDA is employing an average of 8,000 personnel per year. The MMDA is also currently in the process of Reorganization as part of its capacity building initiatives.

Term of Mayor and Election Method

The 1991 Local Government Code provides for the election of local government officials. The governor, vice-governor, city mayor, city vice-mayor, municipal mayor, municipal vice-mayor and *punong barangay* (village head) are elected at large in their respective areas. Elections are conducted through simple plurality every three years. Likewise, members of the local legislative assemblies such as the provincial board, city and municipal councils are elected by district and plurality vote. However, members of the village assembly are elected at large in their respective areas. Representatives and local government officials are allowed a maximum of three consecutive terms before they can again seek re-election

Structure of Subnational Government in the Philippines

The municipalities are the basic units of government in the Philippines, and the *barangays* (villages) are the submunicipal units at the city and village levels. While the provinces have certain supervisory responsibilities over the municipalities, and the municipalities over the barangays, each level of local government performs basic services within its area of jurisdiction.

Under the 1987 constitution, the president and the vice-president are separately elected by a direct vote of the people through simple plurality nationwide. Both serve a term of six years. The president is not eligible for any re-election while the vice-president sits one term out after serving for two successive terms. Since 1935, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has administered all electoral exercises in the Philippines. The Philippine Congress consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Half of the 24 senators are nationally elected at large 17 every six years through simple plurality. At least one term out is imposed on senators who have served two consecutive terms. On the other hand, members of the House of Representatives are elected from single-member districts every three years. This electoral system, combined with a personalist party system, grossly over-represents the largest parties and excludes minor parties.