

## **News Release**

### **DENR intensifies campaign to clean up Manila Bay**

Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Lito Atienza announced that his department has already issued a total of 96 Notices of Violation (NOV) to establishments/industries surrounding the Manila Bay area for violating DENR standards on wastewater discharge and operating without an Environmental Compliance Certificate as well as other valid permits.

Acting fast on the Supreme Court decision issued in 2008 which ordered concerned government agencies to protect and preserve Manila Bay, Atienza directed his EMB regional directors to issue NOVs against establishments/ industries that violate DENR effluent standards and continue to dump their waste in Manila Bay.

“We want these companies to know how serious we are in improving the state of Manila Bay and protecting public health. Companies that refuse to clean up their acts will be closed down and will never be allowed to operate,” Atienza said.

The NOVs issued by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of DENR covered the period January to May 2009 and came from regions 3, 4A and the National Capital Region (NCR). These three regions were identified contributing to the environmental degradation of Manila Bay. A total of 31 NOVs were issued for Region 3; 22 for Region 4-A; and 43 for NCR. EMB is currently conducting technical conferences with these companies.

For decades, the degradation of Manila Bay continues to take place as it became the catch basin of industrial materials and domestic wastes from the National Capital Region and other neighboring regions.

In a 36-page decision by the Supreme Court last December 2008, the DENR was tasked to fully implement its Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy (OPMBCS) for the rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of Manila Bay.

Through the OPMBCS, the DENR aims to reduce adverse impacts from land-based activities and revive Manila Bay.

The DENR is currently undertaking coordination meetings with concerned agencies and stakeholders for the implementation of the operational plan. ###

