



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila



**The Professional Regulatory
Board of Architecture
(PRBoA)**

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 07_PRBoA-054

26 July 2007

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the DPWH Secretary
2/F DPWH Head Office
Bonifacio Drive, City of Manila

ATTENTION : **THE HON. HERMOGENES EBDANE, JR.**
Secretary

Arch. EMMANUEL P. CUNTAPAY
Acting Executive Director
DPWH National Building Code Development Office (NBCDO)

SUBJECT : **URGENT REQUEST TO REVIEW AND TO POSSIBLY
RECONSIDER THE COMPOSITION OF THE RECONSTITUTED
BOARD OF CONSULTANTS (BOC)**

REFERENCES : 28 MAY 2007 DPWH Special Order No. 66 issued by the then DPWH OIC
Manuel M. Bonoan

Dear Sec. Ebdane,

Warm greetings from the **Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture** (the "PRBoA")!

The PRBoA, a body under the **Professional Regulation Commission** (the "PRC") is tasked with implementing **R.A. No. 9266** which states that **only registered and licensed Architects** are allowed to sign and seal architectural plans and documents..

The PRBoA would to draw Your attention to the twenty two (22)-member reconstituted Board of Consultants (BoC), which now has at least six (6) seats to be occupied by Civil Engineers (CEs) and nine seats for (9) government offices, at least two (2) of which shall probably be represented by CEs. Only two (2) seats have been allotted for architects.

This situation is materially different from the last forty (40)-member BoC, where eleven (11) architects and seven (7) CEs were members, and where there were virtually no government representatives.

As You very well know, the National Building Code of the Philippines (NBCP, otherwise known as P.D. No. 1096) is basically about buildings and their immediate environments, the recognized domain of architects (and not of CEs) as readily proven by international definitions of the word architect (reference Attachment 2) and as sufficiently defined in legal terms under R.A. No. 9266, its IRR and derivative regulations.

The fact is, all engineering plans must follow the architectural plans first prepared by architects and not by any other regulated professional, a matter that is still contested by CEs to this day. The PRBoA therefore believes that the disproportionate presence of CEs in the reconstituted BoC can be used to subvert the intent of the law, particularly of R.A. No. 9266, its IRR and derivative regulations.

Since the profession of architecture is also currently classified by the Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFFPA) and by the Council for the Built and Natural Environments (CNBE) as a development profession i.e. together with other regulated professions such as the landscape architecture, interior design and the like, there may also be need to consider some BoC representation for the said development professions.

Finally, the PRBoA also believes that there may be need to involve Geodetic Engineers and Environment Professionals i.e. those who prepare Environmental impact Statements (EIS) and Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) documents for securing the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Likewise, if it is the decision of the DPWH to really include government representatives, then representatives from the DENR-EMB, the DILG and the HUDCC (or HLURB) should at least be included.

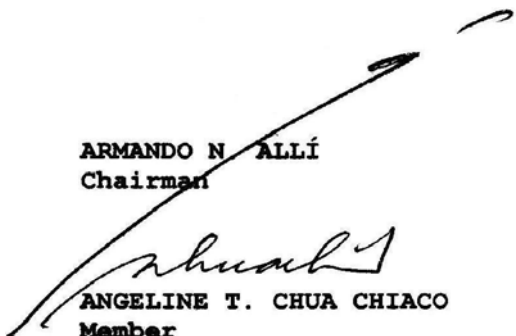
The involvement of more registered and licensed architects from the various existing architectural organizations (UAP, PIA, AAIF and CCAPP) and who are more adept at the planning and design of buildings and their environs, is something that must be seriously considered by the DPWH, particularly if the DPWH intent is to draft a new bill to repeal the existing P.D. No. 1096.

Your understanding and assistance on this matter will also go a very long way in helping relieve the continuing/ decades-long injustice foisted on Philippine architects, presently exacerbated by the flagrant and apparently orchestrated and willful violations of R.A. No. 9266 for the nearly 3 years that it has been in full effect.

Thank You very much.
Yours sincerely,

The Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA)

ARMANDO N. ALLI
Chairman


ANGELINE T. CHUA CHIACO
Member


MARIETTA B. SEGOVIA
Member

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att: a/s

- cc: 1) Office of the PRC Chairperson, Office of the PRC Secretary and the Office of the PRC Legal & Investigation Division;
2) Office of the Ombudsman (Hon. Merceditas Gutierrez);
3) Office of the Secretary of Justice (Hon. Raul Gonzales); and
4) Office of the Executive Secretary (Hon. Eduardo R. Ermita).