TUESDAY • The Manila Times • MARCH 12, 2002

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Manila optimistic on ownership claim over QC prime land

"WE CAN prove it."

Manila City Council officer Rodolfo Lapid, a lawyer, said his city government has the documents to prove that Manila owned 2.1 hectares of prime land located within the present boundaries of Quezon City.

This was Manila's reply after Quezon City officials challenged Manila to show the documents proving Manila's claim over Camp Atienza, located near the thriving commercial district of Libis and Katipunan Road in Quezon City.

However, Lapid said they would only present the documents when obliged to do so by the proper agency that would determine which city Camp Atienza belongs to.

Lapid said they were optimistic that Manila could recover the land from Quezon City based on the documents they have.

The controversy over the said land arose after Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna proposed that Camp Atienza be developed into a housing project for homeless people in Manila. Lacuna added that Camp Atienza was originally just a water pumping station serving Manila residents, and that his city government had supervision over the site during the American and Spanish periods. ◆

JONATHAN VICENTE, CORRESPONDENT

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Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

*Manila*Standard

Friday, March 1, 2002

QC slams Manila land claim

Two Metro Manila vice mayors are on a warpath over a 2.1-hectare lot in Quezon City.

Quezon City VIce Mayor Herbert Bautista slammed yesterday the plan of Manila City Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuña to regain parcels of land along the bustling stretch of Katipunan and Libis roads. Manila, Lacuna said, bought the lot from Spain for P10,000 and used it as site for a pumping station of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems.

But Bautista said Manila has no legal basis for its claim."I think the Supreme Court will no longer honor Spanish-era land titles."

He said the city government should not give in to the demand of Lacuña to make Katipunan and Libis roads as part of Manila since it would set a bad precedent.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. declined to comment, saying he would leave it to the court to decide. "Our city has its charter to follow in the same manner Manila has its own, too," he said.

Rio N. Araja

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LOCAL HISTORY

The Manila Times | FRIDAY / MARCH 1, 2002

QC dad to Manila: File case in court for Camp Atienza

JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA, CORRESPONDENT

MANILA should file a case before the proper courts if they really want to reclaim Camp Atienza.

This was the suggestion of Quezon City fourth district councilor Ariel Inton after learning of Manila's intention to claim the 2.1-hectare Camp Atienza in Quezon City as part of Manila.

"We will not give the property in a silver platter, they should file the case before the Quezon City courts," Inton said.

Inton said if Manila had in their possession the authentic land title of Camp Atienza, there is no need for them to reclaim because it is already a proof that they are the real owner of the land.

However, they should pay Quezon City the appropriate real property tax for it.

Inton said it was impossible for Manila to reclaim the land using an old Spanish title. ◆

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LOCAL HISTORY

THURSDAY / FEBRUARY 28, 2002 • The Manila Times •

Editor: FIL V. ELEFANTE

Bistek tells Lacuna: You owned it before, not now

JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA, JONATHAN VICENTE, Correspondents

EVEN if Manila exhausts all its resources, it will not be able to reclaim Camp Atienza in Quezon City, QC Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista said yesterday.

Bautista explained that properties with Spanish titles are not honored anymore by the Supreme Court.

In fact, Manila's insistence to reclaim the 2.1-hectare property could set a bad precedent, Bautista said.

The actor-turned-politician said if QC would give the land to Manila, there is no stopping Marikina to claim the portion of Cubao or San Juan to recover the portion of Aurora Boulevard.

He explained that when a city purchases a land out of its territorial boundaries, the property is owned by the city but not included in its boundary or jurisdiction.

"If QC were to buy a lot for example in Montalban the lot will be owned by QC not part of QC's property," he added.

Let the law decide

QC Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, on the other hand, refused involve to comment on the issue saying he would just let the laws of the cities decide.

"Quezon City has its charter and Manila also have their own," Belmonte said.

Yesterday, Manila City officials challenged the QC government to show evidence that would prove ownership of the 2.1 hectares of prime land inside QC. Camp Atienza located near Katipunan Road in Libis, QC.

Ideal for housing project

Lacuna said the land is ideal for the housing project of the Manila government.

Lawyer Rodolfo Lapid, chief of staff at the office of the vice mayor in Manila, said they have enough documents to show that Camp Atienza actually belongs to the Manila City government.

Lapid said Manila even has the copy of the Supreme Court decision, which authorizes the city of Manila to own and take over the land inside QC.

The official said the city of Manila keeps a number of records since the Spanish and American periods that will ascertain real ownership of the land.

"All we need to do is the follow legal procedure to regain Camp Atienza. The vice mayor is expected to bring up the issue during council session to authorize him reclaim the land," Lapid said.

Camp Atienza was bought by the Manila government for P10,000 and was used as a pumping station of the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System for the water supply of thousands of Manila residents.

Why Camp Atienza?

Camp Atienza was named after the uncle of Mayor Lito Atienza who was then appointed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur as the first executive officer of Manila after the city's liberation from foreign colonizers.

"The Supreme Court decision was handed down in order to allow Manila to own Camp Atienza, even before Manila became a chartered city," Lapid pointed out. ◆

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LOCAL HISTORY

WEDNESDAY • The Manila Times • FEBRUARY 27, 2002

EDITOR: FIL ELEFANTE

QC to Manila: This prime land is mine

JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA, Correspondent

NO WAY!

This was the reaction of the city government to the plan of the city government of Manila to reclaim 2.1 hectares of prime land inside Quezon City.

According to Councilor Jesus Suntay, QC council majority floor leader, it was not right for the city government of Manila to claim the land since Quezon City purchased it a long time ago.

He added that if Manila really owned the land then Quezon City should have been paying tax to Manila.

"It is impossible for the city government of Manila to reclaim the land inside Quezon City's jurisdiction," Suntay said.

Councilor Ariel Inton the city government will surely oppose Manila's claim and it will protect the territorial jurisdiction of the city.

"As far as I'm concern the city have not received any formal notice from Manila, but in case they submitted a formal request we will surely oppose it," Inton told THE MANILA TIMES.

Inton explained that Quezon City holds a torrens title for the said land, which is the legal system the government honors in titling properties. The Manila city government reportedly used an old Spanish title as a basis to its claim to the land.

"This will not hold, our title is now based on the torrens title," Inton said.

Earlier Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna expressed his desire to reclaim 2.1 hectares of land located along Katipunan and Libis inside Quezon City.

Lacuna said Manila purchased the land from Spain for P10,000 and it was used as pumping station by the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System (MWSS).

Inton said they would wait for the formal request from Manila before acting on it.

"If they want the land, they could have it but then they have to bring it to Manila," Suntay said. ◆

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

TUESDAY | The Manila Times | FEBRUARY 26, 2002

Manila keen to recover 2.1-ha prime land in QC

Editor: FIL V. ELEFANTE

JONATHAN VICENTE, Correspondent

MANILA city government has begun efforts to recover 21,000 square meters of prime land located in Quezon City which it bought during the Spanish period.

Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna said he has asked the city council to authorize him to reclaim from the QC government Camp Atienza located along Katipunan Road and Libis.

In an interview, Lacuna said Camp Atienza is owned by Manila which bought the property for P10,000 from a Spanish lieutenant general.

The 2.1-hectare land was used as a pumping station by the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System for the water supply of Manila residents.

"The land was then used as a facility to pump water supply from the Marikina river. It sits in Quezon City but historical records will prove that it was bought and owned by the Manila City government," Lacuna explained.

In the event the city government recovers it, the land will be used to build low-cost housing units for the poor.

Lacuna, of course, is aware that recovery efforts may take some time because of court proceedings.

"We are expecting opposition from the officials of Quezon City but all deliberations will be discussed in proper forum," Lacuna pointed out. ◆

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