

# **Title: Marikina River: The River of Life, Sorrow, Fear, and Hope of the Marikeños (1946-2020)**

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September 26, 2009, Typhoon Ketsana affected Marikina City, Philippines, tremendously because of the different factors throughout her history. The land use policies greatly influenced the city's development and policy making. The riverbanks, called "Tumana," were the most fertile part of the riverbanks where people planted their vegetables and other crops they needed daily. Urbanization and Industrialization came to the city, resulting in changes in the land use pattern near the river from large agricultural areas to residential and industrial areas. The drastic changes in the land use patterns were the priority because of the focus of the society and government to be part of urbanization and Industrialization to contribute to the country's economic development. Sadly, they forgot the adverse effects of it on the river. From being a "Functioning River" before, the Marikina River became dirty like a sewer because of rapid urbanization and Industrialization. As a result, the Marikina River became a "Dead River," but because of the political will of the new administration spearheaded by Mayor Bayani Fernando, River development, rehabilitation programs, and comprehensive land-use programs were implemented to revive the river and bring it back to as a "River of Life" and a "Functioning River." The Development and Rehabilitation started but cannot return to the glory days of the river. The river became a "River of Sorrow" during Typhoon Ketsana. On the other hand, it became a River of Hope after the continuous rehabilitation programs of the different administrations of the city that the citizens supported. Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic happened, and the projects and programs were slowed down, and some were halted. Furthermore, during the rise of Covid-19 cases, Typhoon Ulysses struck the city, which brought heavy rains that caused deep floods that made the River Marikina a River of Sorrow and Fear again but with the help of the internet and social media because of the Digital Age, faster dissemination of news and updates about the river made the evacuation and relief operations were easier for the government and the Marikeños.

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901. Historical Geography and GIS

1601. Rural, Agricultural, and Environmental

1801. Urban