



*Republic of the Philippines*  
*Professional Regulation Commission*  
*Manila*

*The Professional Regulatory*

*Board of Architecture*  
*(PRBoA)*

*Office of the PRBoA Chair*



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 07\_BoA-025

30 April 2007

**Mr. Isagani Yambot**

**Publisher**

Philippine Sunday Inquirer (PSI)  
Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.,  
Makati City

ATTENTION : **M. LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**  
**Editor in Chief**  
Philippine Sunday Inquirer (PSI)

SUBJECT : **Official PRBoA Response to Letter Appearing in  
Opinion Section**

REFERENCES : Attachment A) Letter entitled "Calma Deserves  
Recognition" appearing on page A16 of the 27  
April 2007 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer  
(PDI) Opinion Section, authored by Mr. Francis  
Guevara; and Attachment B) Edited/ Abridged Letter  
entitled "Not an Architect" appearing on page A16  
of the 16 April 2007 issue of the PDI Opinion  
Section, authored by the undersigned

Mssrs. & Mesdames,

Warm Greetings!

The Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA),  
chaired by the undersigned thanks the PDI for publishing its  
letter on 16 April 2007. On 27 April 2007, a letter by a  
certain Mr. Francis Guevara, responding to the published PRBoA  
letter, was likewise given space. Hereafter is the official  
response of the PRBoA to Mr. Guevara's letter.

**"Calma Must Submit to State Policy**

State policy is enunciated in the regulatory statutes  
approved for enforcement. In the case of the  
architectural profession, it takes the form of Republic

Act/RA 9266 (approved 17 March 2004 by PGMA), which like other professional regulatory laws that are in effect, are intended to protect life/ property and to uphold public interest at all times. Ranged against standards prescribed by state policy, Mr. Calma clearly fails to satisfy the premier requisites for architectural practice in the Philippines - registration as an architect and a license to practice.

Under the New Civil Code, registered/ licensed architects also mandatorily assume a 15-year civil liability period for each building that they plan/design (plus a 10-year waiting period for a civil suit to be filed, reckoned from instance of design failure) and are held separately accountable to the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA) for their compliance with RA9266 and its derivative regulations. Mr. Calma's lack of registration/ license to practice architecture in the Philippines may mean that he is incapable of assuming such liabilities/ responsibilities nor of complying with the standards of architectural practice, which may then place his "clients" in an awkward position.

The PRBoA is mandated to help enforce state policy insofar as RA 9266 is involved. By whatever title he bestows upon himself, Mr. Calma's continued "practice" of architecture is violative of RA 9266. And just in case they are still wondering, the registered/ licensed architects and/or other regulated professionals who knowingly/ unwittingly aided and abetted Mr. Calma's "practice" may also be made to answer for their acts.

Media exposure and awards of any sort are never guarantees of competence in architectural practice and are clearly not bases for granting a license. If Mr. Calma is as good as he is portrayed in media and in his awards, then he should have no trouble at all in passing the architecture licensure examinations (ALE) like the next one scheduled for late June 2007. Lastly, if Mr. Calma's supporters feel that he is above the standards set by state policy, then they are most welcome to go to Congress or to the Supreme Court to attempt to change state policy. Failing the above, Mr. Calma may need to seriously consider "practicing" his brand of architecture elsewhere because RA 9266 will surely be brought to bear in his case."

May I again request the PDI to publish the foregoing, subject to its editorial policy. Thank You very much for the attention the PDI will give the matter.

Yours sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

**Armando N. ALLÍ**

**Chairman, PRBoA**

cc : Office of the PRC Secretary/ PRC Legal Division  
UAP Operation Watchdog

att : a/s

file: 07\_BoA-025