

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Obviously, changes have happened at the Public Policy, as a look at its cover signals. Now managed by the Center for Integrative and Development Studies (CIDS), the policy-research body of the University of the Philippines, it will appear bi-annually, instead of quarterly and will feature papers focusing on policy issues and concerns, with topics discussed in depth by experts and specialists in these areas.

There are three papers in this issue. The first is a rather controversial article by Nathan Gilbert Quimpo on the implications of the name Philippines on the people's self esteem and sense of personal and collective valuation as well as consciousness and identity. And while he does not simplify the continuing conflict in Mindanao by suggesting its resolution hinges on a name change, he does suggest that the inability of Moslems to identify themselves as Filipinos is based on an association of the name Philippines with a colonial past which they do not share.

The other two papers focus attention on maritime affairs and the archipelagic character of the Philippines. That by Jay Batongbacal considers the role of the Philippines as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implications on national territory and the definition of our national boundaries while Glenn Aguilar highlights the problems regarding marine transport. Arguing for a stricter implementation of the many laws and regulations governing marine transport to minimize all-too-frequent disasters at sea, he also presents the case for more support of research and development to aid legislation and a greater consciousness of and pride in our maritime history and environment inculcated through school curricula.

All three papers, along with a Book Review by Michael Tan, provide more than just pleasurable reading; they inform, provoke and hopefully, will move us towards action.

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